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THE MONTHLY PLANET

AUGUST • NINETEEN NINETY-THREE • VOLUME NINE • NUMBER FOUR

TOP TEN



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STORIES



OF 1992

THE MONTHLY PLANET

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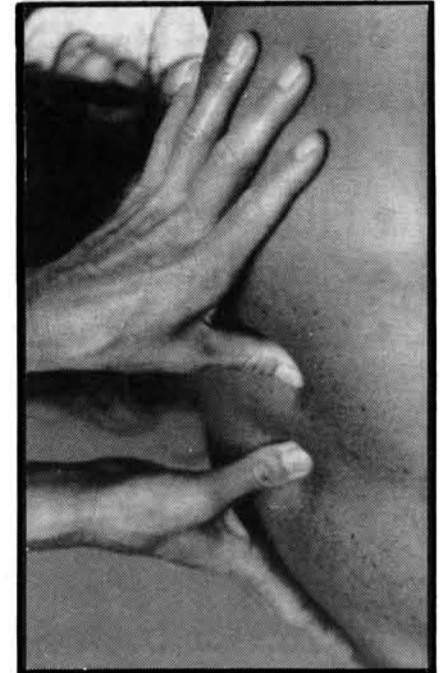
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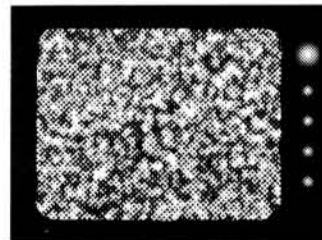
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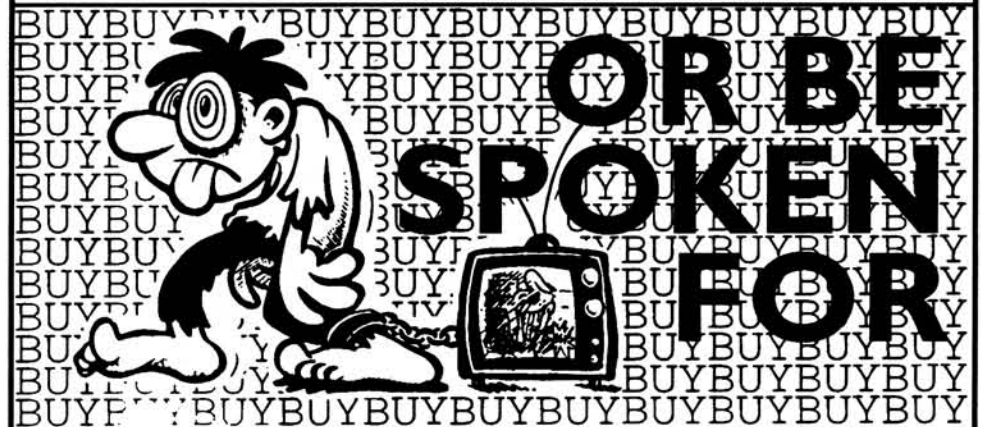
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"Don't just try to influence the media - be the media"

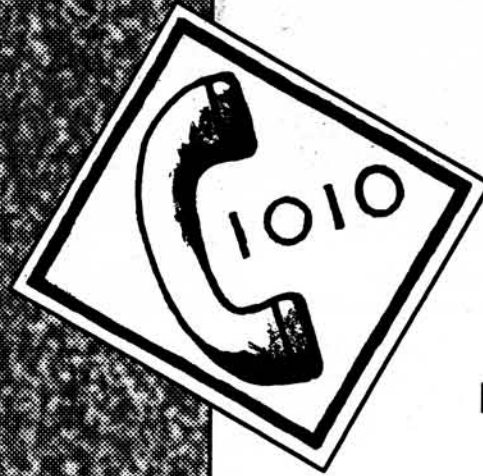
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DEADLINES for the Sept. Monthly Planet (Publication date: Sat., Sept. 4th, 1993)

Display ad deadline: Tues., August 24th, 5 p.m.

Calendar item deadline: Wed., July 28th, 5 p.m. (no phone calls, please)

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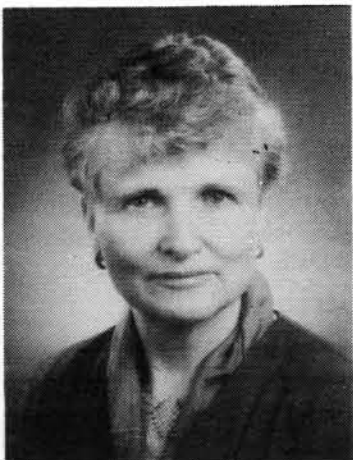
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Interdependence

Summer is a delightful time to travel into nature and become more aware of the interdependence of all things. A very special peace come as we walk through our beautiful redwood forests or on our wild and lovely beaches. Without the oxygen that the trees give forth, we humans could not exist. The carbon dioxide which is waste to us nourishes our friends, the trees. From the seas, all life emerged. Its creatures nourish us. Our very being is replenished as we walk through nature and take in its beauty. As mice in a crowded maze, we would become more and more crazy without the restorative powers of the natural world. John Muir is quoted as saying, "I only

went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out 'til sundown, for going out I found, was really going in."

Joan Forest is a licensed marriage, family and child therapist who has studied at the jung Institute in Switzerland and who works at Redwood Therapy Center, 6005 Highway 9, Felton, a peaceful 15-minute drive from Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, and accessible to all locations in the San Lorenzo Valley. She offers a sliding fee scale and takes insurance. Call Joan at 335-4210 for individual appointments or for information about her work.

WRITE TO THE PLANET!

Send your typed, double-spaced (or legibly written) letters to *The Monthly Planet*, Box 8463, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 or fax them to (408) 429-8889. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH PLAN IS THE BEST

Recently a friend asked me, "Where do you look for automobile ratings when you're trying to find the best deal on a car?" I replied that I usually go to the library and check *Consumer Reports*. He then pulled out a yellow paperback book called *How to Resolve the Health Crisis* put out by *Consumer Reports* and explained what they clearly advocate is a single-payer-type health care plan as a solution for the US. For me, this was yet another confirmation of my already growing belief that the single-payer plan, based on the Canadian health care system, would be the most cost-effective and equitable plan for Americans.

I've been interested in the single-payer system since it was introduced to me by Bill Monning during his recent congressional campaign and have kept my eyes and ears open for more information, only to find that one rarely hears about it via the mainstream media. Perhaps this lack of interest is due to the fact that large insurance companies have spent \$153 million since 1980 in PAC money to influence elected officials and protect their profits.

Health care insurance is of great concern to me since I have two part-time jobs, neither of which covers me, and I have two grown children newly entering the work force who are freelancing in their fields (video production and theater) and can't afford to pay for health care. I pay an exorbitant price for coverage for myself because I am of an age where I need to use it frequently, while they, on the other hand, go uncovered and neglect their health care because they can't afford to go to doctors.

Recently, I've learned that there is a bill before Congress called the American Health Security Act of 1993 (the McDermott bill) scheduled to take effect January 1, 1995 if approved, detailing a workable, affordable single-payer system based on the proven Canadian model, which makes health care a right rather than a privilege. (Happily, I just heard that Sam Farr decided to sign as co-sponsor of the bill with the other 81 congressional sponsors!) I believe it is critical that we educate ourselves about this bill and

FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Letters to the Editor



TARMO HANNULA/MONTHLY PLANET

pressure our representatives to support it.

A grassroots organization is forming locally to present educational forums on the subject and to mobilize lobbying, and I decided to become involved. If you would like to find out what you can do, or would like to be on a mailing list to stay informed, contact the Alliance for Progressive Policy at 422-5377 or 427-3965.

Sheila Carrillo
Santa Cruz

WHILE CLINTON DROPS BOMBS, THE US DECAYS

As we write this, the radio booms with President Clinton explaining why he is 'tomahawking' Iraq, in revenge for some supposed attempted murder of former President Bush...but in reality, for the enjoyment of blowing up babies from a few miles away?

President Clinton seems certain that blowing up billions of dollars of military junk upon the helpless noncombatants of Iraq is prudent fiscal policy. I hate to suggest that this man I voted for has lost it.

Now we are being asked to go along with the destruction of the community colleges in California (127,000 students lost in the last year from stiff fee hikes); the near collapse of the State University system; the immediate firing (or retirement) of 10,000 teachers at the University of California, and loss of classes accordingly, meaning that there will be very few of our non-rich youth graduating, a huge percentage of our young and

finest minds being turned to flipping burgers for a dead-end career, while we all watch the impending collapse of our fire departments, police, sheriffs, and criminal justice system — does any elected official dare say that bombing Iraq to bits is destroying America?

Does any elected official say that the Pentagon rules the White House and Congress, and must be brought back to sanity?

Who in Congress dares speak against more nuclear testing, and stop it?

What will we do if and when the Chernobyl disaster hits America at the two nuclear facilities built just like it — Hanford, WA and Savannah, GA? As the north wind blows past my home as we write this, will it be bringing radioactive fallout from Hanford to Santa Cruz, or bringing fresh air? Who cares to close these deadly nuclear facilities?

Who knows, when purchasing foods from the Chernobyl-irradiated Scandinavian nations, that we are irradiating ourselves?

When the 8.0 earthquake scheduled for the San Francisco Bay Area hits the Concord Naval Munitions Depot with its thousands of nukes mixed up with hundreds of thousands of non-nuke explosives, what will happen if they go off like the Depot blew up during WW II? Supposing the nukes (or their radiation) are dumped into the adjacent San Francisco Bay, contaminating it and the Pacific Ocean, destroying our fish

crops for eternity; or expelled into the jet stream, irradiating America's croplands and cities? Who cares to get Congress to stop this madness?

It seems clear that we are under the thoughtless control of the rich, who lack any concept of common decency or love of mankind, and can only conceive ways to plunder the Federal and State Treasuries, bankrupt our nation, destroy our education system, and plunge us into the Dark Ages again.

How many of us know how to find non-irradiated water and food when these patriarchal oligarchs allow nukes to blow by carelessness or while in a drunken rage?

In "The Cost Of Conscience" article by Pete Shanks, (June 1993 *Monthly Planet*), he says, "The state religion of America is, of course, consumerism." I'd rephrase that: The Religion of America is Death. Worshipping consumer products is not what is going on, but the worship of the president, Congress, Pentagon, state governor, and legislators is — since WW II they have ruled without question while destroying innocent peoples around the world and setting nuclear weapons/power plant time bombs to irradiate America and the world for hundreds of thousands of years to come, without question or doubt by taxpayers asleep in the pews.

Sincerely,
Ernest and Lilly Requas
Santa Cruz

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

I was driving through the town and county of Santa Cruz recently and I picked up your newspaper. I was happy to see that people are still dedicated to issues that are not "trendy" and popular. Keep up the good work. I also liked the way that you provided information of other groups.

I was in Santa Cruz for several hours, but I had a great time reading and having pizza at "Upper Crust" on Highway 1. We live in the town of Walnut in Southern California, but I thought you people do a great job with the city.

Anoop Bhagava
Walnut

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DISPUTE AT KUSP



QUEER PROGRAM BUMPED

By Shelly D'Amour

Patrons of this year's KUSP (88.9 FM) Chomp and Stomp fundraiser discovered that there was a lot more "stomping" going on at the station than they might have realized. Visitors to the popular event were greeted with a lively informational picket, organized by the volunteer staff and supporters of Radio Q.

Radio Q — that's Q for 'queer' — is the station's only scheduled gay and lesbian programming; that is, it was until last month, when station management pulled the program from the schedule, replacing it with other public affairs programming.

Radio Q was created in 1990 by co-producers Peter Brown and Gabriel, and program host Wendy Chapkis, who noted that there was no gay-oriented programming at KUSP. The group approached station management and was given an hour-long slot at noon on the last Friday of each month, as part of KUSP's "Catch of the Day" — a weekly public affairs program with alternating hosts and themes. Radio Q featured music, news, commentary and interviews specifically geared toward the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community of Santa Cruz. For the past year and a half, Radio Q's monthly show also included a 30-minute broadcast of "This Way Out," a gay/lesbian news program transmitted by satellite out of Los Angeles.

Disputes between Radio Q and station management have occurred periodically over the past three years, concerning whether the sometimes explicit subject matter discussed on the program was appropriate for daytime radio. In February, station manager Marcia Kraus decided to pull 20 minutes from Radio Q's pretaped show. The edited portion featured the reading of a December 1990 article from *Esquire* magazine, which contained graphic sexual language.

Ms. Kraus defended her decision to pull the material, citing her concerns over possible FCC violations. The station began to press Radio Q to move their show to an evening slot after 8 pm, a period which the FCC defines as a "safe harbor" for material. Radio Q programmers agreed to move their more controversial material to an evening time, but insisted that the station maintain the news and public affairs portion of their programming on air during day time hours. In a July 31 interview on KUSP, programmer Wendy Chapkis explained why: "The gay and lesbian community feels very strongly that we not be pushed into the night, not be pushed into a position where it appears that gay and lesbian issues are by themselves so controversial and so offensive that they cannot be aired before the children go to bed, or before the nighttime descends and it's dark and closeted."

Station management responded that while they were sympathetic to Radio Q's concerns, the program schedule was very tight, with lots of competition for a limited amount of air time. This assertion angers Gabriel, who feels that the issue is not a shortage of air time, but a lack of commitment on the part of KUSP to make it more available

to local minority communities. "Of course there's no room, unless you make a commitment to make room. One hour a month is not enough. I don't buy into the argument that this is the only hour that multiculturalism has to fight for."

On July 1, Chapkis, Brown, and Gabriel were informed by station manager Kraus and then-news director Spencer Critchley that the Friday "Catch of the Day" program had been canceled, and Radio Q had been dropped along with



WILTON WOODS/MONTHLY PLANET

Radio Q supporters demonstrate at KUSP's Chomp and Stomp fundraiser on July 11th.

it. In its place would be a weekly half hour public affairs program "Top Story," coupled with "Latino USA," a 30-minute news program transmitted via satellite from Austin, Texas. Radio Q took their concerns to the KUSP board meeting in July, which established a committee comprised of station management, members of Radio Q, and interested board members to "work together to everyone's satisfaction until this is resolved," according to board member Howard Feldstein. According to Gabriel, Radio Q and station management are now close to an agreement which would provide day time gay/lesbian news and public affairs, as well as a monthly evening spot for Radio Q's own local programming.

The placement of "Latino USA" into Radio Q's previous time slot is in itself controversial. Some critics of the move feel that this action on the part of KUSP appears to pit members of the minority communities against one another. Also, the addition of "Latino USA" represents yet another satellite import into a schedule which is experiencing a steady dwindling of locally-oriented public affairs programming.

Santa Cruz Latina activist Gloria Nieto feels that gays and Latinos deserve better treatment from KUSP. "I don't see how piping in a national program helps the Latino community. I was embarrassed to think that a local station in this town views that as the core programming for Latinos in this area. The Latino community deserves better than that. The gay and lesbian community deserves better than that. To me, it seems that KUSP has offered these, however many hours of programming they offer a month, and says: 'OK, here's one hour that we're going to take Radio Q off because that's the only hour that we can put "Latino USA" on.' As a Latina lesbian, it slices me down the middle."

KUSP board member Bill Belton feels that while "Latino USA" may be a fine program, "my concern is that I wished the program had been generated out of Santa Cruz County. If we're going to do a program with a Latino emphasis, I don't know why we didn't develop such programs right here locally."

Gloria Nieto agrees, and states that no one from KUSP contacted her, or others that she knows who are active in the Latino community, to solicit their opinions on what kind of programming the local Latino community would like to see.

The arguments around local gay/lesbian and Latino programming are emblematic of the larger philosophical struggles occurring at KUSP. Over the past several years, the station has been moving steadily away from its traditional image as "alternative" radio for the Santa Cruz area. "We have taken steps to eliminate certain words," says station manager Kraus, "'downtown', 'here', 'local.' We don't talk about doing 'local' news because that word doesn't mean anything to anybody." Ms. Kraus stated that the station is creating an identity for itself as a regional public radio station. "Thirty percent of our paid subscribers are from Monterey County," she said. "Using [words like] local to refer to Santa Cruz is bordering on insulting for people from the Big Sur, Monterey area."

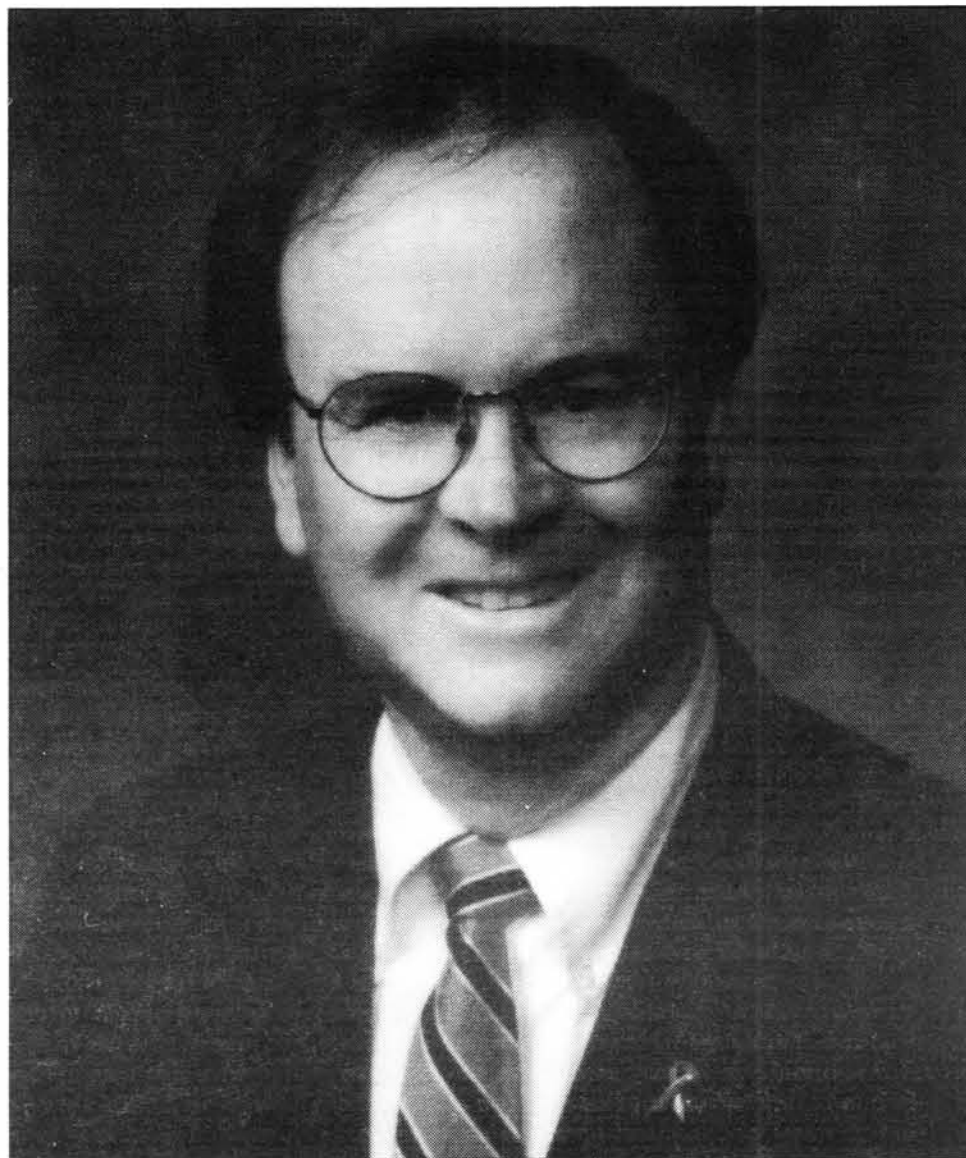
Kraus feels that the station should be moving in the direction of bringing in members of the community and training them to be producers, who would then produce stories on items of regional interest that would be aired throughout the various KUSP programs. This is a distinct departure from the more traditional community radio approach of allotting so much program time to the various constituency groups that make up the listening community. This approach, Ms. Kraus feels, can "ghettoize" various elements of the community by sequestering them to certain slots on the program schedule where their message can be ignored by listeners who choose not to tune in during that time period.

Gabriel feels that public radio should strive to incorporate all the diversity contained in the community. "There's plenty of room for us all...What I want is not only for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities, but for all the diverse communities, that are so marvelously represented in Santa Cruz." ■

Shelly D'Amour is the legislative editor of *The Monthly Planet*.

Under Pressure, Clinton Extends Nuclear Testing Moratorium

SHELLY D'AMOUR



Congressman Sam Farr, recently elected to represent the 17th district, has just been appointed to the powerful Armed Services Committee.

Great News! On June 29, President Clinton announced his decision to extend the current moratorium on US nuclear weapons testing through September 1994.

Congress enacted the historic test ban last October, declaring a complete cessation on US underground nuclear weapons testing for a period of nine months, to be followed by up to 15 tests over a three-year period, and then a permanent ban in 1996. Up until the day of his announcement, President Clinton gave strong indications that he would not renew the moratorium, but would press instead for nine additional "safety" tests. In a recent speech to workers at the Los Alamos nuclear weapons lab in New Mexico, Clinton expressed his commitment to ensuring the "safety and reliability" of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Pressure on Clinton to resume testing came from Great Britain (which uses the US testing facility in Nevada), the National Security Council, the Departments of State and Defense and — apparently — his own vice president. Sources privy to the internal deliberations stated that Vice President Al (environmentalist) Gore lobbied the president right up to the end to abandon the moratorium and resume testing.

Pressure to maintain the test ban came from key members of Congress, the professional arms control community, grassroots activists, and one surprising source — the Department of Energy, which operates the test site. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary withdrew her support for continued testing after consultation with experts whom she had invited to Washington in June to debate the issue.

The president was apparently persuaded that a resumption in testing at this point would encourage other nuclear nations — all of whom are voluntarily observing the moratorium — to also resume testing. "The price we would pay in conducting those tests now, by undercutting our own nonproliferation goals and ensuring that other nations would resume testing, outweighs these benefits [of testing]," stated Clinton in his announcement.

The test ban will continue in effect until at least September 1994, as long

as other nations do not test. To date, only Russia has given its guarantee that it will not break the moratorium as long as the US observes it. Funding to maintain the Nevada Test Site facility will continue, however, as part of an effort to soothe Nevada lawmakers worried about potential loss of jobs, and congressional hawks determined to maintain testing "readiness." Defense bill conferees will debate a compromise over the House-approved figure of \$222 million to maintain the test site through next year, and the Senate figure of \$428 million. The Clinton administration supports the \$428 million figure.

The moratorium extension comes at a particularly crucial time. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will expire in 1995. If the US is to assume a leadership role in negotiations to renew the treaty, it is imperative that it begin to build credibility on this issue among the international community.

The end of nuclear testing is part of a package of objectives identified by the arms control community as being crucial toward achieving nonproliferation goals. Members of Congress are attempting to incorporate these objectives into a series of bills this year. One such piece of legislation, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Policy Act of 1993 (HR

2076), calls for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by 1995, extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency, and ending production of all weapons-usable fissile material.

Another important component in strengthening nonproliferation involves efforts to restrict and monitor international arms sales. The House recently passed an amendment to the State Department Authorizations bill, authored by Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA), that would: require the president to report how sales of conventional weapons impact regional tensions; call on the president to renew the stalled arms sales restraint talks in the UN Security Council; discourage the US from transferring weapons to countries that do not participate in the UN arms register; and reaffirm the president's obligation to submit an unclassified report of expected arms sales for the upcoming year. The bill now moves on to the Senate, where it will be heard in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI).

Another bill, to be introduced by Rep. Lane Evans (D-IL), seeks to extend the current ban on the export of US-made land mines until an international conference is convened to establish controls. Additionally, Rep. Tom Andrews (D-ME) will shortly introduce an amendment to the Defense Authorizations bill that would prevent the transfer of economic conversion funds to bankroll loan guarantees for US arms sales overseas (an idea being promoted by the Aerospace Industries Association).

Finally, Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to members of the House, calling on the president to place limits on weapons sales to countries that have poor human rights records. The letter currently has 85 signatures.

Continuation of the testing moratorium marks a tremendous victory for peace activists, who have labored in this effort for over 40 years. *New York Times* writer Douglas Jehl observed that if all parties hold to the testing moratorium, "1993 will be the first year since 1945 without a nuclear explosion anywhere in the world." The task at hand is to build toward a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a renewal of the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
ACTION: Call the White House comment line at (202) 456-1111 and express your thanks to President Clinton for extending the nuclear testing moratorium.

MILITARY SPENDING BILLS

House and Senate Armed Services committees have completed action on the fiscal year 1994 Department of Defense Authorizations bill, which sets the spending limits for specific programs contained within the military budget. The House approved a total of \$262.8 billion; and the Senate approved \$261.6 billion, about 4 percent less than last year's budget.

Unfortunately, items contained in the bill continue to reflect Cold War-era priorities. Dubbed "Jurassic Pork" by some members of Congress, these "dinosaur" weapon systems were designed to fight an enemy that no longer exists. However, funding and production of these budget busters — Star Wars, the Trident II (D-5) missile, and the F-22 Fighter — continues.

President Clinton is asking for a renewal of this year's \$3.8 billion for the Star Wars program (now renamed the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, or BMDO). The House Armed Services Committee approved \$3 billion and the Senate Armed Services Committee approved \$3.45 billion. Several members of Congress are ready to introduce amendments once the bill reaches the floor.

In the House, Reps. Martin Meehan (D-MA), Richard Durbin (D-MN), and Barney Frank (D-MA) will offer an amendment to cut Star Wars funding to \$2.5 billion. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and House Armed Services chair Ron Dellums (D-CA) are expected to propose an amendment to reduce Star Wars to \$1.5 billion. A more modest proposal for reducing Star Wars is likely to come out of the Senate.

Senators Jim Sasser (D-TN) and Dale Bumpers (D-AR) are expected to introduce an amendment to reduce the Star Wars budget to \$3 or \$3.3 billion.

The House committee approved \$1.1 billion for Trident II (D-5) nuclear missile production for next year, while the Senate approved \$1.2 billion. Rep. Timothy Penny (D-MN) has introduced a bill to terminate all funding for D-5 missile production as of October 1. The "Missile Production Termination Act" (HR 790) currently has 26 cosponsors. Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR) may take up similar legislation in the Senate. Although designed to counter Soviet nuclear attack, the Trident II remains an extremely popular weapons system in Congress. Prior to his death, Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY) led the battle for many years in the House to eliminate

funding for the D-5, with limited success — usually garnering less than 100 votes each time.

The administration is also requesting \$2.3 billion for the F-22 tactical aircraft fighter. The Pentagon estimates spending about \$96 billion over the next 10 years on this program. There are no specific pieces of legislation aimed at reducing or eliminating this program at this time.

ACTION: Call or write your representative and senators and tell them to support these amendments, and work toward elimination of these dangerous and outmoded weapons systems. If you live in California's 17th congressional district (formerly represented by now-Budget Director Leon Panetta), newly-elected Representative Sam Farr (D) needs to hear from you. Farr has been appointed to the powerful House Armed Services Committee, which reviews and amends funding requests for most military programs.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Quietly, and with little fanfare, Congress is in the process of shutting down the Selective Service system, a move which will eventually bring an end to mandatory draft registration. On June 28, the House approved \$5 million for the purpose of closing down the Selective Service. A Senate appropriations subcommittee will soon take up the same legislation. If the legislation passes both houses, Rep. Peter DeFazio will introduce a bill to officially end draft registration.

Mandatory draft registration was re-instituted by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, designed to "send a message" to the Soviets. In the wake of the post-Cold War era, many members of Congress appear (finally) willing to lay the Selective Service to rest, at least for now. The Selective Service currently receives almost \$29 million in funding, about half of which is used to operate the registration

program.

ACTION: Contact Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and ask them to support congressional efforts to shut down the Selective Service agency and end mandatory draft registration.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Economic assistance funding for Nicaragua is on shaky ground in the Senate, where it is facing strong challenges from conservatives unhappy with the Chamorro government.

On July 28, by a vote of 77-23, the Senate approved an amendment to the fiscal year 1994 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill which would suspend US aid to Nicaragua until conditions outline in the bill are met, which have to do with Nicaragua's alleged role in international terrorism.

The amendment was sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), who has for some time been trying to find support for cutting off aid to Nicaragua, mostly due to his dissatisfaction with the Chamorro government's continued association with the Sandinistas. In May, an explosion in Managua uncovered a large weapons cache, together with forged passports, and other documents that detailed an international kidnapping ring.

The Helms amendment garnered the somewhat reluctant support of such prominent liberals as Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA). However, the vote on this particular amendment may be nothing more than symbolic, because the amendment is not considered germane to the jurisdiction of the bill, and will probably be removed by the conference committee.

We can expect, however, that conditions on aid to Nicaragua will be written into the fiscal year 1994 Foreign Aid Authorizations bill. Senator Dodd has indicated that he will author a set of conditions — the details of which are unknown at this time — to the bill while it is in committee. However the language of the bill will more likely reflect a process whereby aid to Nicaragua will continue to flow uninterrupted unless the conditions are not met. The language of the Helms amendment stated that aid would not be resumed until all of the conditions are met.

On El Salvador, key members of the foreign aid committees in Congress are reacting critically to a report released in July by a special government panel which assessed the conduct of the State Department and US embassy personnel in El Salvador during that country's civil war. The panel was convened by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, following release of a March 15 UN Truth Commission report, which examined the conduct of the Salvadoran government and military in 32 specific cases.

The Christopher panel report states that the US reported "honestly and fully" on human rights abuses committed during the war, although it points the finger at higher members of government as having "distorted" information for political purposes. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), chair of the subcommittee on Foreign Operations, stated that the report "glosses over the lies, half-truths and evasions that we came to expect from the State Department over that period." Copies of the report, entitled "Report of the Secretary of State's Panel on El Salvador," are available by calling the State Department at (202) 657-6576.

ACTION: Contact your senators and ask them to reject amendments aimed at curbing economic assistance funds to Nicaragua. On El Salvador, your message should be: No military aid! California Senator Dianne Feinstein now sits on the subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which reviews and amends foreign aid bills before they pass to the Senate floor. She definitely needs to hear from you. ■

Shelly D'Amour is the legislative editor of The Monthly Planet.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

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(202) 456-1414

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SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

367 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841 / (415) 433-1333

CONGRESSMEMBER SAM FARR

1216 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515
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(17th congressional district)

CONGRESSMEMBER NORMAN MINETTA

2350 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2631 / (408) 984-6045 (15th congressional district)

HOUSE MEMBERS

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2131 (switchboard)

SENATORS

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3121 (switchboard)

WHITE HOUSE

(202) 456-1111 (comment line)
(202) 456-2461 (public fax line)
(202) 456-1414 (switchboard)

**Vice President
Al (environmentalist)
Gore lobbied
the president
right up to
the end to
abandon the
moratorium
and resume
testing.**

Save Our Libraries

Nine out of 10 Santa Cruz County libraries are facing imminent closure unless the California Senate passes emergency legislation which would provide for additional funding.

The recently-approved California state budget transfers a total of \$2.6 billion in property taxes statewide to assist the ailing school system. In Santa Cruz County, this means a shift of \$1.2 million in revenues away from the county's library system. Since the library system also receives a percentage of matching funds from the county, the loss is potentially as high as \$1.8 million — about 42 percent of the library's current budget.

Serious financial difficulties have already forced the library system to cut back on services at all branches, including reduced hours, and closing one or more additional days per week.

The California state legislature is currently considering a bill (SB 566) which would allow the various county boards of supervisors to establish assessment districts to raise the needed revenues. The state Senate has already approved the bill, and the Assembly is expected to take action on it in August.

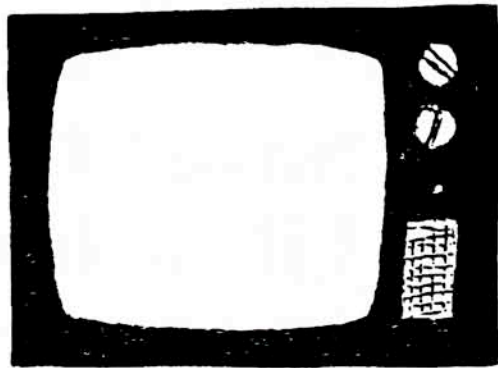
It is unclear what action the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will take. Supervisors need to hear from you NOW! Contact: Fred Keeley, Jan Beautz, Gary Patton, Walt Symons, and Ray Belgard to express your views on the cutback in county library services. Call them at 454-2200.

THE TOP TEN CENSORED

Sonoma State University's *Project Censored* is a national research effort which assembles a panel of media experts to locate important news stories that have been suppressed or ignored by the mainstream media. Now in its 17th year, the project is still going strong under the direction of founder Carl Jensen, professor of communication studies at SSU.

The top censored story of 1992 revealed how the nation's major news media traded their traditional adversarial watchdog role for profits and deregulation during the Reagan/Bush era. Jensen said the media sell-out story, written by nationally acclaimed media critic Ben Bagdikian, also explained why a number of other critical issues were overlooked, underreported, or censored in 1992.

Project Censored publishes its findings annually, and once again, we at *The Monthly Planet* are proud to bring these reports to our readers.



The Great Media Sell-Out

The most ignored story of 1992 examines what's gone wrong with the national news media. Writing in *Mother Jones* (May/June 1992), Ben Bagdikian studied the cozy relationship between the corporate media and the White House during the Reagan years. He found that Reagan policies helped encourage the concentration of media control, in the hands of a few giant corporations. The owners of media conglomerates explicitly ordered editors and reporters to focus on upbeat stories. In the midst of this *journalism of joy*, "for almost ten years, the media remained silent on the obvious — that Reaganite politics were taking a frightful toll in human suffering and crippling the economy."

The story about the capitulation of the nation's watchdog press during the Reagan/Bush administrations confirms that the nation's major news media have overlooked, underreported or censored information about high crimes and misdemeanors on the part of the administration, in return for *permission* to create giant, monopolistic media empires.

Research completed in 1982, for Bagdikian's book, *The Media Monopoly*, found that some 50 corporations controlled half or more of the media business in the US. The fourth edition, published in 1993, reports the number has dropped to 23. Bagdikian has repeatedly warned that the basis for all liberty — freedom of information — is in danger of becoming centrally controlled information.

No wonder corporate crime rarely makes the front page — and the absence of such coverage is *Project Censored's* choice for the second most underreported story.

Corporate Crime Escapes the Rap

While the press continues to alarm the public with stories of street crime and violence, corporate violators run rampant. Russell Mokhiber, writing in *Multinational Monitor*, takes *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen to task for writing that "young black males commit most of the crime in Washington." Mokhiber looks at several corporations, all operating in Washington — all convicted of environmental crimes — whose actions endanger far more people than do street criminals, black or white. He challenges that Cohen's statement ignores corporate criminology research revealing that corporate crime and violence inflict far greater damage on society than all street crimes combined.

Street crime is obviously cheaper and more sensational for the media to report while corporate crime requires investigative initiative on the part of the media and rarely produces interesting visuals. Major media are allied with the corporate criminal hierarchy through common interests or interlocking directorships.

Mokhiber points out that "no major newspaper in the US has a reporter covering corporate crime full-time. We've all heard about the police beat; but how many of us have heard about the corporate crime beat?"

Censored Election Year Issues

While the candidates and the media had us focusing on alleged infidelities, family values and rap music lyrics, these important issues played second fiddle:

•George Bush and Iran/Contra. A flurry of press activity four days before the election was the only mainstream media follow-up on lingering questions from the 1988 campaign.

•Bush's Team 100. A series of articles by Peter Overby, in *Common Cause* magazine, documented the 249 wealthy donors who gave at least \$100,000 each in 'soft money' to the 1988 Bush-Quayle effort and correlated the companies benefiting from the regulatory slowdown of Quayle's Council on Competitiveness.

Soft money — huge campaign contributions that are channeled through a legal loophole, in effect violating federal election law — has been one of the most underreported aspects of national politics during the past four years.

Overby states: "The \$100,000 contributions and the influence we traced to their donors signal that government is for sale. Even Bush spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater conceded, 'It's buying access to the system, yes.'"

Overby also notes that although Bill Clinton has expressed support for campaign finance reform, the Democrats raised more soft money than the Republicans during the last campaign.

•Homelessness. Despite a critical status report by the National Conference of Mayors, the candidates barely mentioned it and the press did not pursue it.

•Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness. Many questionable (and unpublicized) actions stemmed from this committee, whose intent was never really made clear. For instance, the Clear Air Act allows polluters to increase emissions if the appropriate state agency does not object within seven days. After these revisions were enacted, it was discovered that 11 big air-polluting firms

donated \$788,270 to Bush and to Republican committees. The media muted the event.

•George Bush's real record in the Gulf War, as reported in Mike Royko's *Chicago Tribune* column. Instead of focusing on the technological wonders of US weaponry, Royko notes that the war tripled the death rate of Iraqi children.

•Where was Bill? Covert operations run from a clandestine airfield at Mena, a small town in western Arkansas, included guns, drugs and other activities related to the Iran/Contra travesty. Even though this trafficking occurred during Clinton's administration as governor of Arkansas, and could not have happened without his knowledge, it attracted little attention from the mainstream media.

US Is the Top World's Arms Merchant

With the end of the Cold War, the hope was that US arms production and sales would be reduced and replaced with non-military production, but this has not happened. Instead, the US has now become the world's unchallenged weapons producer and supplier.

Frederick Clairmonte in *World Press Review* (Sept. 1992) and Tristram Coffin in *The Human Quest* (July/Aug. 1992) place global arms spending in the 1980s at nearly \$1 trillion annually — or, about \$2 million a minute. The two leading arms merchants were the US and the former Soviet Union. The US military-industrial complex has rushed to fill the vacuum left by the demise of the Soviet Union. The American people should know that we alone are now the world's leading merchant of death.



Iraqgate

The secret sale of military materials to Iraq, the attempted cover-up, and efforts to intimidate the investigation by US Congressman Henry B. Gonzales (D-TX) have been all but ignored by the mainstream press.

Except for conservative columnist William Safire, mainstream media never explored Gonzales' allegations that Bush and associates secretly sold nuclear, biological, chemical, and missile-related weapons materials to Saddam Hussein. An open investigation of

STORIES OF 1992

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PROJECT CENSORED

the secret international money transfers by the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) of Chicago would reveal hundreds of prominent political figures in several countries to be involved in criminal activities ranging from treason to assassination, according to Kevin Sanders who investigated the "Chicago Connection" for the *War & Peace Digest*. Iraqgate, one of the top ten censored stories of 1992, should be one of the top ten biggest news stories of 1993.



"We Are Winning the War on Drugs" Was a Lie

Mike Males, in "Drug Deaths Rise as the War Continues" for *In These Times*, says too many news outlets just said yes to the "war on drugs." When George Bush gave a special address on September 6, 1989, about the seriousness of the drug problem in the United States, the media and the public responded with alarm. By the end of that month, 64 percent of the public believed that drugs posed a greater threat than nuclear war, environmental degradation, toxic waste, AIDS, poverty or the national debt.

Today's drug statistics are startling:

- During a single week of the present-day drug war (as opposed to the "pre-drug war era"), there are 15,000 more arrests, 5,000 more pounds of cocaine seized, 10,000 more people sent to drug treatment and 100 more drug-related deaths.

- Prescription drugs rather than street drugs are most lethal, accounting for more than 8,000 deaths annually, while street drugs account for 3,000 deaths. Also overlooked is the "legal-drug" death toll: 400,000 annually from tobacco, 100,000 from alcohol.

- Teenagers are often portrayed as the most at-risk group for drug abuse. However, of the 13,000-plus drug abuse deaths in 1990, adults aged 20 to 59 accounted for 11,000.

- Marijuana, LSD and other hallucinogens account for fewer than five deaths a year but make up more than half of all drug arrests.

- Prescription drugs cause more than half of all drug deaths but comprise only 10 percent of all drug arrests.

- While adults over the age of 25 account for two-thirds of all drug deaths, they account for only one-third of all drug arrests.

Trashing Federal Regulations for Profit

While polls show the general public firmly opposes deregulation when the purity of air, water, food, drugs, and other necessities are involved, President Bush proposed a total 210-day moratorium on new federal regulations during 1992 and big business reciprocated with campaign contributions.

The media had a field day when Dan Quayle misspelled potato. But reporters were mostly silent about the former vice president's behind-the-scenes attempts to gut federal regulations on big corporations. Christine Triano and Nancy Watzman in "Bush's Regulatory Chill: Immoral, Illegal, and Deadly," March 23, 1992 for *The Nation* and Arthur E. Rowse in "Deregulatory Creep," May 1992, for *The Progressive* investigate the relationship between deregulation and corporate campaign contributions and the resulting impact of deregulation on health and safety.

According to Rowse, the news media have done little to find out why the public seems to be so anti-Washington while demanding more government protection for public health, safety and consumer rights.

Government Secrecy Makes Mockery of Democracy

Writing in *Issues in Science and Technology* (Summer 1992), Steven Aftergood chronicled the out-of-control growth in classified and top-secret documents. By last year, he reported, the US government was classifying more than 19,000 documents a day. This excessive classifying can be traced to Friday, March 11, 1983, when Ronald Reagan issued an executive order to "stem the flow of leaks of classified government information." "Since the national security classification system is based on Executive Order, not statutory law, it can be unilaterally altered by the president." Aftergood suggests the Clinton administration take the initiative.

Advertising Pressure Corrupts a Free Press

The free press in America isn't free at all — at least from the influence of advertisers on the content of the news. A report written for the Center for the Study of Commercialism by Ronald K.L. Collins documents the ways in which advertising corrupts the press.

Many media critics have accused the press of being vulnerable to advertiser pressure in the past. Until now, however, there hasn't been broad evidence of how the dynamic works. When the Center for the Study of Commercialism invited 200 media outlets to a press conference in Washington, DC, on March 11, 1992, there was a total media blackout surrounding the findings of the report. Not a single radio or television station or net-

work sent a reporter, and only two newspapers bothered to attend.

One reporter is quoted, "Stories are being killed... watered down; and saddest of all, stories are not even being attempted because reporters know they'll never make it on the air."

"The First American metaphor of a marketplace of ideas can only be realized where there is some critical distance between the forces of the marketplace and the freedom of press...especially ideas critical of the marketplace."



Post-Cold War Black Budget Is Prospering

The end of the Cold War did not end the secretive Cold War mentality of the Pentagon; today, a massive amount of money is still being spent to fuel the national security machinery.

The Defense Department's secret budget soared during the Reagan years, as reported by Tim Weiner in *Mother Jones* (March/April 1992). Not even Congress knows what's in this \$36 billion budget.

Iran/Contra exposed the inherent dangers of unexamined secrecy. It is within Congress' power to demand disclosure of data on the cost and character of secret programs. The secrecy system itself defies the Constitution, which requires the government to publish a complete and accurate account of all federal spending. ■

Censored: The News That Didn't Make the News and Why, the 1993 *Project Censored* yearbook (ISBN 1-882680-00-6), published by Shelburne Press, Chapel Hill, NC, is available in bookstores across the country. The book features the top 25 "censored" stories of 1992, a chronology of censorship from 605 BC to 1993, and a "censored" resource guide to alternative publications and groups. It includes an introduction by Hugh Downs, host of ABC's "20/20," and cartoons by Tom Tomorrow, whose series "This Modern World" is syndicated to over 60 newspapers.

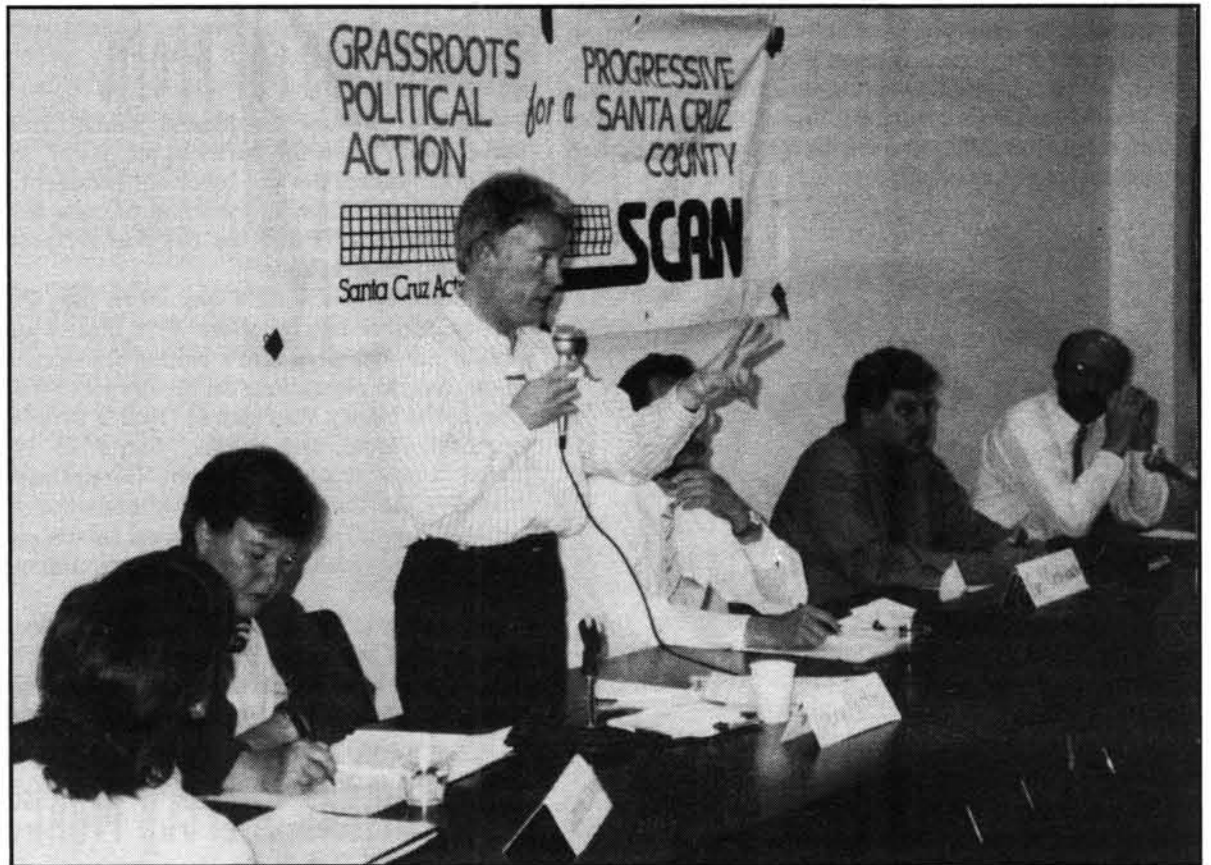
America's Censored Newsletter, the first and only publication to monitor news media censorship and self-censorship on a regular basis in America, is published by Censored Publications. Based on *Project Censored*, the newsletter reports monthly on the issues the mainstream media ignore, overlook, or censor. For an annual subscription, send \$30 to Censored Newsletter, PO Box 310, Cotati, CA 94931.

Anyone interested in nominating a "censored" story of 1993 can send a copy of the story (include the date and source) to Carl Jensen, *Project Censored*, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. Deadline for nominations is November 1st, 1993.

Thanks to the folks at *Connections* newspaper for their help with this story.

Assembly Candidates Speak at SCAN Forum

On July 28th, the Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN) held an election forum, inviting all the candidates running in the special election to fill the 28th District Assembly seat in California. The candidates are: Carl Cieslikowski (R); Susanne Espinoza (Peace & Freedom); Dave Hope (D); John Laird (D); Jerome McCready (American Independent); Bruce McPherson (R); Gary Patton (D); Carolyn Plummer (D); and Susan Whitman (R). Five of the nine candidates attended. The following is an edited transcript of the event. The election will be held on Tuesday, August 31st.



ASHER BRAUNER/MONTHLY PLANET

Candidates (left to right) Susanne Espinoza, Gary Patton, Carl Cieslikowski, Dave Hope, and John Laird at the SCAN forum on July 28th.

Opening Statements

SUSANNE ESPINOZA: ...I'm running for the Assembly because I haven't heard a voice for working class interests in the legislature, even though we've had all these budget-cutting horror stories, I haven't heard anyone propose anything like closing the tax loopholes in the state that big corporations and the rich are getting away with — and this is from California Tax Reform Association — about \$4 billion...I haven't heard anyone talk about such sensible things as cutting salaries...of public executives at the top. Working people have taken cuts disproportionately, so I would propose targeting people who make \$75,000 a year for a 5 percent cut and 1/2 percent per thousand on up from there...This could have prevented the

higher education fee hikes last year. I think all of those should be rolled back. We should aim for cutting the salaries of the people at the top, and restore the workers' salaries that were cut...I see my candidacy as predicated on opening up the process of democracy by providing a voice for working class interests...I think this tax shift caused some interesting things to happen around the state. Several boards of supervisors in other counties have pledged to defy that tax shift. It's time to stand up...Our county has not joined those other counties...If all of the counties would join together this would be really effective.

GARY PATTON: ...Politics is about choice, and I am asking you to choose me tonight for your endorsement and support. I've been very honored to represent this community on the board of supervisors, and I want to tell you that among the choices you have...I don't believe you will find a person who will work harder or be more responsive, who has more commitment to commu-

nity-based politics than I do. Or any candidate who will be more effective at initiating what I think are necessary and transformative changes in state government...I started with a citizen movement to take back local government, Lighthouse Field, in the early '70s. On the board of supervisors in 1975 I was the third vote that invested the wealth of this community in community-based organizations to deliver human services, those organizations that today are the foundation of what is wonderful about our community in terms of its ability to serve the people...In 1980 we had a board with Joe Cucchiara, Robley Levy, and Gary Patton that adopted a coastal plan, a general plan that protected our environment; that did incredible things with pay equity...that started a whole progressive tradition that has been carried on today with actually quite a different board. I have worked with different people and I have been effective in compromising and getting together with people and making the government work...In this district...the

number one priority has to be economic recovery for this region...and I'm going to represent this district in making it happen. But it is not going to be a short term, a bad economic development strategy. It is going to be founded on basic respect for our natural limits and our environment, and there's no candidate that can do that better...I think that we need to invest in people, and that means education; we desperately need that, and I am committed to it. And finally we need fundamental reform of our governmental structure and budget, including political reform. I am not taking political action committee contributions, because it is time for ordinary people to know that they have their politicians in their control, and they are not on retainer with a...set of special interests. We need budget reform. I sponsored the alternative budget, testified in Sacramento - I'll bring it to fruition...

CARL CIESLIKOWSKI: ...I'm running because I believe that there is an assault upon our resources, and by resources I mean education, housing, environment, you name it...I think that in the decade of the '90s, it's going to require a complete dedication and unabashed spirit to do something about the problems that beset our country and our state today. There are basically three reasons why I'm running. I've been in government for 20 years, and I, like you, have been the brunt of unfounded and unparalleled attacks upon us as citizens. Just about every time you pick up the paper there is another regulation or something else to ban this, to ban that...I'm also running because I want to try to restore public confidence in our political system. A poll in California said that 9 out of 10 Californians have now lost faith in the way in which government works...The third reason I'm running is because of our children...They have no hope for education or jobs. They have no hope...When they wanted to close the Salinas municipal pool I got a number of people together and we kept that pool open. When my country asked me to go to Vietnam, whether or not I liked it or not...I went because I thought that I was doing the correct thing at the time. And when the board of supervisors in Monterey County tried unfairly to redistrict Monterey County, I stood up with a bunch of other citizens, and within 30 days got 16,000 signatures. I am the only law enforcement official in the state of California that has spoken out on a failed drug policy. How is it that we as citizens can allow 18 new prisons to be built in the last 12 years, with five more on the drawing board, 40 conservation camps, and yet we have not built an institution of higher learning in the state in 27 years - UC Santa Cruz...The last thing I just want to mention...is the PACS. I am totally against PACS; I will not take any PAC money.

DAVE HOPE: I come from a long family of fighters. This is the last surge on my part for our family to try to bring about some change in the environment. My father was a long-time

warrior in trying to bring about forest practice reform...I picked up that gauntlet and have spent time working both in the woods and with local government to bring about change in forestry. And in that same process I also realized that working with the County of Santa Cruz in watershed management, was another indicator as to the health of the community...I've realized that natural communities are free. They all support themselves...they cost taxpayers nothing because they all are self-sustaining - the ecology runs itself. We have lots of environments out there that we've completely altered, and it costs us billions of dollars to keep them running the way we think they should run...What we need to do is to get out and inventory this whole state and decide what...we need to say to keep this place running for free...I have gone to Sacramento as the President of the Salmon Restoration Federation. I have sat in committee meetings and I just become incensed at the kind of ridiculous comments these people put out. They have no idea about what they are talking about, and they want to make things so complicated that the public is not allowed to understand the kind of wool that is being pulled over their eyes...I've worked with prisoners. I think that the system of using prison labor has saved the county over a million dollars, and they have been able to put together a great watershed management program in this county...The other issue that I think that is most important...is tax reform...Tax inequities that come out of Proposition 13 are absolutely abhorrent to me. We also have a problem in that...we do not receive back to Santa Cruz County the funds that San Francisco receives. Our 23 cents on the dollar doesn't compare to the 80 cents on the dollar that comes to the general fund of San Francisco. These kinds of problems that were set up by the government need to be straightened out first before we ask for new taxes...

JOHN LAIRD: ...I'm a 25-year Democratic activist in Santa Cruz, and we've worked together on community-based problem solving in that period of time...We worked together to found the Santa Cruz AIDS Project...to offer people education and prevention and client services in this community. I was one of the group of people that started the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union to make sure that women and low income people and worker-owned businesses had access to credit in an institution that was one person, one vote. We worked together to expand the Child Care Council, and extend facilities for child care and offer increased opportunities in a sitcare program, and I was one of a group...that put on the ballot an offshore oil measure...that the people vote on zoning changes for onshore support facilities and educate other cities and counties so that 26 cities and counties adopted that in five years and we beat the oil companies in federal district court...I have a platform that really reflects on that in terms of the special interests...Special interest money from tobacco companies has

stalled legislation that would protect people in the workplace from second-hand smoke, and I'm recognized for it by the fact that I'm going to be endorsed by the author of that legislation in the Assembly. I'm talking about the state budget and the fact that local money should stay local, state money should fix state problems and it should be done with a simple majority vote with a complete reexamination of the state budget so that education and health care can adequately be taken care of. I'm talking about opposing the school voucher measure which would gut public education and turn it into a second-class system for the poor, and I've been recognized for that leadership by the endorsement of the California Teacher's Association...We need to bring those educational institutions into Fort Ord for true conversion to peacetime use...and replace those jobs that are leaving Fort Ord with good ones...This is a candidacy that would be the first openly gay legislator in the state of California, something that 12 states have done, something that earned me support of Baymet, and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and people up and down this state that see it as a historic opportunity to break stereotypes and bring change...I am running a grassroots-oriented, issue-oriented winning campaign...

Fort Ord

Given the amount of base closures, what ideas do you have regarding military conversion? In particular, what is your vision for Fort Ord?

PATTON: The United States government has recognized, which major corporations should be made to recognize, that when they pull out of a community it can be devastating economically. We have an historic opportunity here to convert a military installation in Fort Ord into the foundation of a learning and technological crescent that will spread from Santa Cruz all around the Bay to Monterey. I favor the institution of a well-based, environmentally sensitive plan in education and in allied clean industries that will allow us over the next 20-25 years to make this a place where not only is there new knowledge-based industry...but where we will have information and knowledge as one of our major exports... There is federal money available if the state is willing to match it. The fact is we can achieve, through the State University system, a campus that is worth something like \$600 million. We will get a \$500 million dollar set of infrastructure land, and \$100 million worth of investment to start a university if we are willing to make the investment...I am absolutely dedicated to that and I think that it's very very important that we get it.

CIESLIKOWSKI: ...I just want to acquaint people with some of the facts. We're looking at 20,000 acres at Fort Ord. Monterey County has three major

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industries: agriculture, military and... tourism, which when you take the military away like Fort Ord it creates a tremendous void...in terms of our economy. We have about 6,500 units on Fort Ord right now and most of the troops are leaving. We have about 5,000 people from the civilian sector that have left...I am in favor of Cal State coming there. Within a couple of years we could have 2,000 students, up to 2,500 students. We're also looking at a basic agricultural center which I am in favor of. There is also the possibility of a wildlife reserve there which I am also in favor of. And of course all of the various things we could bring in because of the marine sanctuary...I think therein lays our strength to diversify in Monterey County, thereby affecting the rest of the bay area.

HOPE: I had a golden opportunity to tour that base and it is truly a multi-use piece of property. There is wonderful opportunity for open space, there is wonderful opportunity for the university there, and with all the toxics there there obviously could be a ten-year study on how to clean it up, too...One of the new burgeoning fields now is cleaning up toxics. If we were to jump on that piece of ground real quick with a good study of that we could actually find that that is a benefit, because...those people dumped everything everywhere...Cal State is a perfect campus there, with a bay on one side and the toxics on the other...you've got the best and the worst of it all...I've been on the Fish and Game Commission for years. When we look at what kinds of knowledge we have about the resources in the bay, it's been absolutely horrible for me to talk to the Fish and Game Department and realize they don't know anything about halibut, yet they are going to let otter trawl nets sweep through the spawning grounds. They take 45,000 pounds a year. Its only one tenth of what they net. Ninety percent of what they are catching they are throwing overboard. They don't even know what these animals are...So this campus here has a critical opportunity to give us some understanding about what is going on out there in the bay, what these animals need to live on, and to stop harvesting before they become extinct. This kind of stuff will benefit the whole state. This is not just the bay...I think it's a great opportunity to give back to the community.

LAIRD: ...As you can hear, we're all committed to make Cal State University work there, and also a UC connection with the Long Marine Lab and take advantage of the sanctuary in terms of marine sciences...It is going to take a lot of leverage to make that happen and a lot of hard work with the state as a partner. We have a chance with the federal level if Sam [Farr] can continue to carry Leon's bill for some transition money, for some conversion money to get some assistance. At the state level we don't have an assemblymember. We have a senator who leaves in 1996 and it's really going to take a lot of pressure to make sure there is state support within the budget to make...that hap-

pen...Buildings at UCSC...are 3, 4, and 5 million dollars a building. Having a campus that is one dollar for a turn key is something that the state university system ought not to turn down, and there ought to be leverage legislatively to make happen...What we need to do is, process wise, use that leverage and make sure there are clean and environmentally sound jobs that we produce from that leverage through the state legislature.

ESPINOZA: I think also that it's a wonderful idea to convert Fort Ord to a peaceful use. What I've heard is sort of a hodgepodge of interests that have been mentioned: that Cal State have some classrooms, and University of California have some land...I would be in favor of having one quality comprehensive enterprise there. At University of California at Santa Cruz they have a small Agro-Ecology program...but it needs to be expanded. It needs to have a large area like Fort Ord. It needs to be able to address a lot of problems: safe and sustainable agriculture, alternative building materials - they can research...hemp fiber, which has a lot of possibilities...I think a hodgepodge of things is not going to be as successful in the long run. It's going to have possibilities of squandering funds and not being as successful...as one really good quality comprehensive program there...

Affordable Housing

Given that Santa Cruz County is the second most expensive place to live in the state and country, how would you deal with the problem of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing and living wages?

CIESLIKOWSKI: ...I am a Vietnam Veteran. There is a high percentage of Vietnam Veterans in Santa Cruz County and Monterey County that don't have a place to live. So I think it's incumbent upon a caring society to provide those facilities for people to, like Clinton says, "get a leg up." It's not that we are going to maintain people, but a caring society does make sure that we do things of that nature. My veterans group in Monterey County...has secured three buildings at Fort Ord for that very reason...Unless we get housing costs under control...businesses will forever lament some of the problems that we have...As long as you have the regulations that exist, as long as you have the bureaucrats that make it difficult for people to build affordable housing in certain areas we'll forever lament those problems...Housing is something we are going to have to work on if we're to move business forward. And as business gets healthy we increase our job population. The state of California lost 1.4 million jobs in the last couple of years. We can't afford to lose any more.

HOPE: ...There is a wonderful opportunity for low-income housing at Fort Ord. There are housing units that exist, and...conservation is wanting to best use what has already been developed. That piece of land has a lot of opportunities for people to move on and rebuild their homes in the way that they would like to. That's the kind of low-income housing that I've seen work...A bill needs to be initiated where we give start-up loans for groups of people that want to come together to build houses on their own. I think when a person invests some time of his own in building a house he also commits himself to the future of maintaining that home...In several other states where groups of 5, 10, or 15 people get together and they are able to pool their funds and with a small start up-fee from the state, they are able to come together and build a small subdivision of their own and live together and be able to have some sweat equity to put it together. I actually worked on one unit with Jimmy Carter which was a very successful project...This type of system works quite well, and that kind of low-income housing where people actually are involved in it...is the kind of low-income housing that will live forever, that people are proud of.

LAIRD: I think the state needs to make sure that it plays its role in the social safety net that had a lot of holes cut in it during the Reagan years...I think that needs to be an important state commitment. Right now, as part of the so-called relief of local mandates, the real thing that local governments are relieved from is providing general assistance - that basic floor that tries to give people some help when they're dealing with housing issues. The state needs to keep property tax money in the local areas so they can afford general assistance and fix state problems with state revenues at the state level. There are state grants, such as what was lost for the Satellite Shelter Program, that have to really be guaranteed through state government so that there is state support for basic services that deal with the issue of homelessness. And with regard to affordability and wages, one of the things that local governments have dealt with wonderfully...is prevailing wage, which guarantees a living wage to working people in the trades. And it's under attack by Pete Wilson at the state level, and that's something that needs to be protected...The whole basic array of state services, such as job training, and ...food and basic housing support...need to be protected in terms of the state's cuts...

ESPINOZA: At the risk of sounding overly simple, I think the state should put construction companies to work building shelters. It could be done if there was the will to do that...The funding could come...from closing the tax loopholes for the rich and big corporations - that's \$4 billion, almost - and cutting the salaries of top public employees. We just simply have to say we have a priority to put everyone to work, or put more people to work, and

that's going to get the economy moving. I really believe that the state could fund such a program as that, by putting the construction companies to work building shelters for homeless people in every community...

PATTON: Santa Cruz County has an affordable housing program hitting moderate income persons by making developers...provide a minimum share for just ordinary income people. The state of California could adopt that program and would increase by about 15 percent the number of houses that would be available...to moderate income people...Second, we need massive...subsidies for housing for people of lower income...Both the state the federal government have been withdrawing their support for housing. There are self-help projects that are making state lands available and there are all sorts of subsidy programs, particularly for rental housing that if we would fund them again would begin to address the housing problems of people with lower incomes...Third, in terms of homelessness, again, the state is withdrawing it's support...and homeless shelters are shutting down. Governor Wilson is even closing the armories, public buildings that are available in winter storms and cold...The state needs to reinvest in all of those things. Finally...not only do we have prevailing wage rules in the state right now...but we need a minimum wage that provides a decent wage in this state...I think we need to look at the basic structure of who's getting paid for what in the society, and be willing to try to get a living wage for people...

Education vs. Prisons

Lack of funding for higher education has reached crisis proportions. At the same time funding for prisons has increased. How do you feel about these priorities and what legislation would you enact in response to them?

LAIRD: I think they're obviously skewed priorities, especially if we spend \$22,000 a year to keep somebody in prison and \$4,200 a year to educate somebody in K through 12, and not dissimilar amounts for higher education. The real issue is reordering the priorities of sentencing in terms of incarceration...violent criminals having the first priority - reducing the mandatory sentencing that's causing nonviolent people to fill up the prisons at the expense of those, because it's gone from 30,000 in 1982 to about 140,000 now, with no significant change in the crime rate. If there's more priority on education...putting money in to keep student fees down and education institutions actually growing to meet the need rather than being cut, that's a better prioritization for this society...

ESPINOZA: I think that prison building should be stopped; it's like a cycle that has to be broken. We're dependent on them now...Take the money that would go into building prisons to use in a jobs program...I think there are a lot of people there for crimes that are really not that bad. They should be rehabilitated...The reason that they can't do that, I suspect, is because there are so many people without jobs out there...

PATTON: ...I have, at the local level, stood against prison construction in our community, saying we should invest our community's resources in preventative work, investing in people to keep them out of those prisons which don't...reform anybody, but simply concentrate all of the things that are wrong and make them worse...Prisons are the fastest growing part of our state government when our state government is shutting down libraries here and everywhere else in the state...We can take the \$25,000 that it takes a year to keep a person in prison, and take ten people at \$2,500 a year and put them in intense community supervision in our local communities. We...can run a program like that, and we can do better with a lot less. We need more money in the University system. We can't cure it that way but we need to cure it with basic tax reform.

CIESLIKOWSKI: Well I think it would be nice for the prison industry to have to have a bake sale to build

more prisons in this state, while education had all the money they wanted. Need I say any more?...In 1980 we had 22,000 people in our Department of Corrections; we now have 113,000, at a cost of about \$24,000 a copy. It costs \$1 million just to build a prison cell, and yet we haven't built a university. We have the money, we just don't have the right priorities. If you want to...keep the libraries open in Santa Cruz County - nine out of ten are going to be closed - tell Henry [Mello] not to build a prison in Monterey County.

HOPE: ...For 15 years I've worked with prisoners, and before that in college I worked with an Outward Bound juvenile delinquent program. It works. I have 15 crew members that I just left out in the woods that were doing stream restoration work, instead of sitting in a prison fidgeting to death, and it costs 15 percent less for them to be out in the woods working. I've run this program for 15 years. I've saved the county millions of dollars...I've also worked with the programs up in northern California...with the adult CVC men's colonies...All of the funding for schools and universities need to be rolled back to 1975 funding levels, and that all the money can be taken from the prisons...What you do when you educate people is you take them out of prisons in the future, and what you do when you work with people in prisons is you give them a life, and you also take care of lots of environmental work that needs to be done, and I've accomplished it... ■

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LITTLE POLITICAL DISSENT ON US. ROLE IN SOMALIA

BY ERIK LARSEN

It used to be that when US combat troops were dispatched overseas, students and peace groups across America would hit the streets *en masse* to condemn US foreign policies of aggression. However, in the years following the Gulf War, university students and peace groups have taken a diminutive role in opposing military intervention, especially those missions launched by the United Nations Security Council. As the US mission in Somalia incurs a growing civilian body count, Americans, while perhaps

organize Somalia protests, advocates a return to national teach-ins where historians, human rights experts, relief workers, journalists, clergy and student activists hold seminars to discuss non-military solutions to international problems. It was this teach-in format which played a major role in mobilizing large numbers of people during the Gulf War.

Steve Slade, who has spoken to groups around the US about Somalia, remarks that people are shocked to discover that there are US oil connections with the Somali

American embassy...with Bush's special envoy using it as his temporary headquarters," the *Los Angeles Times* reports. Conoco has been champing at the bit to resume its Somali oil enterprise ever since the World Bank, in a 1991 study, listed Somalia at the top of Africa's up-and-coming petroleum-producing countries.

The *Times* also reported that Conoco, in an in-house publication, reprinted excerpts from a letter of commendation to Conoco oil executive Raymond Marchard from Brig. General Frank Libutti, military aide to envoy Robert Oakley. "Without Raymond's courageous contributions and selfless service the operation would have failed," praised Libutti for the oil official's role in helping the Marine Corps set up its command and control operations in Mogadishu.

Since the 1988 Iran/Iraq War, the international community has recognized the need to seek alternative energy resources. In that conflict, oil tankers in the Persian Gulf became military targets, choking the flow of oil to worldwide markets. Thus, US oil interests, in concert with the US government, continue to advocate aggressive policies of oil resource protection, the main justification for the Persian Gulf War. Strategies for securing further oil resources include domination of politically destabilized, oil-rich nations such as Somalia, where internal chaos facilitates submission of its citizens to the will of US and multinational business interests.

Somalia, a Muslim country, is located on the Horn of Africa at the entrance to the Red Sea and Suez Canal, and lies in close proximity to the Saudi Arabian Peninsula. Somalia has three seaports, two major airports and six other airstrips with paved runways which, combined, make Somalia a desirable geo-strategic military location. In 1960, Somalia won independence from Britain and Italy, and northern and southern Somalia united to form one country. Since that time, Somalia has been mired in international conflict, border skirmishes with its neighbors, and Cold War politics preventing it from achieving its full potential as an independent state.

Independence has also heralded a surge of nationalist fervor, manifested in an intensified political debate over expanding Somalia's borders. A united Somalia in 1960 began eyeing three African countries which have sizable Somali ethnic populations, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya, in order to create one Somali nation. After seven years of bloodshed along its borders, the elected government of Prime Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Egal began to make peace with the three countries. The peace overtures angered Somali military leaders who wanted to continue the fighting, and in 1969 Major General Mohammed Siad Barre led a successful coup against Egal, initiating a reign of terror in Somalia that lasted over 20 years.

Barre played the USSR and US interests against one another during the Cold War in a bid to fuel his fantasies of a united Somali nation and in the process created the dreaded National Security Service, Somalia's secret police,



PETE LASELL/MONTHLY PLANET

not entirely supportive of this event, seem paralyzed by the complexities of such missions which combine humanitarian goals with military force.

"It's strange, but a lot of people are unsure about what angle to take on Somalia, especially with Clinton, a Democrat, in the White House," says Steve Slade, an organizer for the Santa Cruz chapter of the anti-war group Out Now!

Out Now!, one of the few national groups to help

government. According to a January 18 *Los Angeles Times* article, nearly two thirds of Somalia was under contract in 1991 for petroleum development by four American oil companies: Conoco, Amoco, Chevron and Phillips. The companies stand to gain millions of dollars in oil concessions once "order" is restored to Somalia.

When 28,000 US Marines invaded Somalia last fall, the Bush administration transformed the Conoco corporate headquarters in Mogadishu into a "...de facto

to silence internal opposition to his expansionist policies. In the 1980s the Reagan and Bush administrations, at the behest of the conservative Heritage Foundation, made Somalia and the Horn of Africa foreign policy priorities. This action was devised as a stopgap measure to prevent "communist expansion" into the Middle East and Africa. It was during the Reagan and Bush years that the issue of humanitarian relief to starving Somalis gained the world's attention.

Relief agencies poured into Somalia in a massive "hearts and minds" campaign reminiscent of Vietnam War civilian relief projects to win political support as well as the hearts and minds of rural Vietnamese. According to Alex Waal and Rakiya Omaar, two Somalis who worked for the human rights organization Africa Watch, aid groups like CARE and Save the Children created a cycle of dependence on imported food which helped tie Somali nomads to government refugee camps. Barre used the pretense of drought conditions to market a "paper famine" culminating in huge relief efforts to bring in food for nomadic peoples forced to settle in refugee camps. From the refugee camps, Barre's government conducted political education campaigns and recruited soldiers to fight a war against Ethiopia, then supported by the Soviet Union. During the 1980s Somalia received an average of \$100 million a year in economic and military aid from the US, making it the third largest US aid recipient, after Egypt and Israel.

But in the late 1980s the Somali dictator lost favor in Washington when he initiated a systematic reign of terror against political opponents in Somalia. As the Cold War began to wind down, the Bush administration released documents revealing atrocities committed by Somali security forces in a bid to rid itself of any death squad liabilities. Without outside aid, popular resistance groups armed themselves and began to attack Barre's security forces.

In 1991 Barre was driven from Somalia. One year later, the same resistance groups that drove Barre from power turned against each other in a civil war, vying for control of the country's oil resources. The United Nations waited a year before responding to the violence which created truly massive starvation among nomads already dependent on food aid. The US also hesitated to act until the warring factions began to lose popular support as starvation and casualty numbers took their toll. Without strong support of the Somali people, President Bush's media campaign against "young gun-touting drug pushers and warlords" was an effective tool to convince both Somalis and Americans of the need for military intervention. (Ironically, Bush employed the same rhetoric used when he sent in troops to quell riots in Los Angeles last year.)

The UN invasion of Somalia, termed *Operation Restore Hope*, is now eight months old but cracks are beginning to show in the allied coalition, a result of the resistance UN troops have encountered amongst Somali civilians. Many Somalis view the troop presence as a means to quash Somali independence from colonial rule, and have begun to target UN peacekeeping forces. Twenty-

On July 13, Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, stood on the Senate floor to question the billion-dollar price tag of maintaining troops in Somalia, and called for the outright removal of US combat forces.

three Pakistani soldiers were killed in a June 6 ambush. Since then, six others have become casualties in small hit-and-run skirmishes. The US has retaliated each time with a rapid response team consisting of Cobra helicopter gunships, and a blitzkrieg-like column of armored personnel carriers. One US Marine was quoted in *New Yorker* magazine as saying, "I think every Marine came here with the idea that he might get a chance to get a confirmed kill."

According to *The New York Times*, Italian forces have taken a different approach to their peacekeeping role. On July 15, Italy threatened to withdraw its 2,600-person

contingency from Somalia out of a concern that the original relief mission had degenerated into a combat operation. "The UN mission is moving towards a military intervention almost as an end in itself against the wishes of those who are carrying it out," said Italian Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

On July 13, Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, stood on the Senate floor to question the billion-dollar price tag of maintaining troops in Somalia, and called for the outright removal of US combat forces. "The US has been in Somalia for over six months. The duration of the stay was expected to be a

short time. Now seven months down the pike we are introducing combat forces and conducting gunshot attacks," said Byrd. "Any future action and participation in the newly expanded mission should be specifically endorsed by the Congress or we should pack up and go home. I vote for the latter."

In what appears to be a vacuum of political dissent in the US, "the humanitarian justification under the UN flag will most likely be the M.O. [method of operation] for military actions into the 21st century," says Steve Slade of Out Now!. "But I see the mood of the country turning a corner. The more the information gets out, the more people will organize and question US policies." ■

Erik Larsen is a Marine Corps veteran and a student at UCSC majoring in Community Studies. During the Gulf War he was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience after the Marine Corps threatened him with the death penalty for refusing to deploy for desert training.

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California SANE/FREEZE is an activist-oriented peace group working to put people back in charge of our country's spending priorities. If you're disgusted with the fact that the U.S. is the #1 weapons trafficker in the world then work with us to change it. If you are worried by the fact that the weapons industry is the single largest lobbying force on Capitol Hill then work with us to counteract their power. We're hiring women and men now to do community organizing and empowerment work. 1993 represents an amazing opportunity for social change...it is not a guarantee! We need to speak up and get others to speak up as well. If you would like to work in a progressive atmosphere and develop activist skills you'll use the rest of your life, then call us today. FT, PT, paid vacation, full medical and dental coverage, travel.



Work for Social Change!

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INDEX FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

2020 VISION 372-8918
P.O. Box 5781, Carmel 93921 • David Watkins

ADELANTE 724-2997
18-B West Lake Ave., Watsonville 95076

ADVOCATES FOR NISEN MARKS STATE PARK
P.O. Box 461, Aptos 95001-0461

AFL-CIO ORGANIZING COMMITTEE 475-1335
2920 Soquel Ave., #4, Santa Cruz 95062

ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL 427-2160
P.O. Box 1516, Santa Cruz 95061 • Jody Hansen

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37 Sudden, Watsonville 95076

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271 Water St., Santa Cruz 95060

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411 Cedar St., SC 95061 • Bob Taren

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P.O. Box 2960, Santa Cruz 95063

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2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062

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1208 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville 95076

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920 Kennedy Dr., Capitola 95010 • Robin Brooks

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112 Hebard St., Santa Cruz 95060

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Rabbi Andy Silver

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Steve Brooks

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P.O. Box 664, Santa Cruz 95061 • Gordon Smith

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509 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060

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515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 • Ned Van Valkenburgh

WELFARE PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP 458-9070
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P.O. Box 7184, Santa Cruz 95061 • David Winters

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1000 Mission St., Santa Cruz 95060

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106 Comstock Lane, Santa Cruz 95060

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P.O. Box 944, Santa Cruz 95061

WOMEN'S CRISIS SUPPORT & SHELTER SERVICES 425-5525
1025 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Sara Lively

WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER 427-3500
250 Locust St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Ciel Benedetto

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P.O. Box 4014, Felton 95018

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245 - 24th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062 • Alice Davis
For Watsonville's WILPF chapter, see Liga Int'l De Mujeres

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F-5 Koshland Way, Santa Cruz 95064 • Marc Krnzl

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107 California, Watsonville 95076

YOUTH SERVICES (SANTA CRUZ) 425-0771
117 Union St., Santa Cruz 95060

YWCA, SANTA CRUZ 426-3062
303 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz 95060 • Barbara Young

To update this information, or to add your organization, call The Monthly Planet at 429-8755.

PEACE & JUSTICE CALENDAR



Calendar items must be typed or legibly written and sent (along with any photos) to *The Monthly Planet*, P.O. Box 8463, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, or faxed to 429-8889. We do not take calendar items over the phone. We must receive your listing no later than 5 pm Wednesday, August 25th for inclusion in the September 1993 issue (publication date: Saturday, September 4th).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Rally at Diablo Canyon, calling for "peace without nukes." Walk from Avila pier to the gates of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant, San Luis Obispo. 12 noon. Rally on the beach following walk featuring speakers and entertainment. Sponsors: Mothers for Peace and others. Info: (805) 546-0376.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Lanterns for Peace, a Hiroshima-Nagasaki observance. Atascadero Lake, San Luis Obispo. 7 pm. Sponsors: Mothers for Peace and others. Info: (805) 546-0376.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

Nonviolent Direct Action at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant, San Luis Obispo. Starts at sunrise. Call in advance for nonviolence training. Sponsors: Coalition Against Nuclear Waste, Life on Planet Earth, Students for Social Responsibility, and Green Party. Info: (805) 772-5193 (SLO), (619) 234-6546 (San Diego), or (818) 287-9737 (LA).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14- FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

United for Change is an intensive program of leadership development and nonviolence training for community organizers and activists. This six-day program will include examination of prospects for political and economic change, exploration of nonviolent social change theory, learning skills, written materials, hands-on experience, and more. The deadline for applications is June 30. For an application or information contact the Resource Center for Nonviolence at 423-1626.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Support Aaron Ahearn. Protest the Navy's court martial of Santa Cruz environ-

mental objector Aaron Ahearn. He faces a six-month prison sentence for refusing to dump raw sewage and garbage into the ocean. At the Santa Cruz Surfer Statue, West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz, 2 pm. Sponsors: Aaron Ahearn Fund, Resource Center for Nonviolence, and other groups. Info: 423-1626. (See next listing.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

Support Aaron Ahearn. Protest the Navy's court martial of Santa Cruz environmental objector Aaron Ahearn. (See previous listing.) Alameda Naval Air Station, Main Gate, 6:30 am. Sponsors: Aaron Ahearn Fund, Resource Center for Nonviolence, and other groups. Info: 423-1626.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

The New Coalition for Jobs, Justice and Peace West Coast march and rally; 30th anniversary mobilization. Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco. 10 am assemble at Panhandle, Fell and Baker; 11 am march to downtown San Francisco; 12 noon rally at Civic Center Plaza. National convenors: Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Dr. Joseph E. Lowry. Info: (415) 928-0466, (408) 299-2347, or (510) 232-8796.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

"Cuba: the End of a Revolution?" A public talk by Saul Landau, author and senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz, 7:30 pm. \$4-10 sliding scale. Sponsors: Christic Action team, Cuba Education Project, Center for Political Ecology. Info: 426-2292. Call to confirm time and location.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

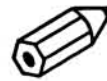
"A Call to the Desert" is being put out from Western Shoshone Spiritual leader Corbin Harney. The Alliance of Atomic Veterans, American Peace Test, and the Nevada Desert Experience, in conjunction with the Countdown '93 campaign to end Nuclear Testing forever, is coordinating groups and individuals interested in coming to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site to celebrate, mourn, and look to the future. For information contact American Peace Test, P.O. Box 26725, Las Vegas, NV 89126 or call (702) 386-9834.

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