Abortion wars in Eastern Europe
Women confront unholy alliance of pope, profiteers and latter-day Stalinists

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The Freedom Socialist
Voice of Revolutionary Feminism

Women confront unholy alliance of pope, profiteers and latter-day Stalinists

A revolution in last May, Polish feminists braved the fate of a banished pope and shut down or going bankrupt without being replaced by the expected inflationary shock wave.

In Germany, where the nationalized economy has been dismantled, and in Poland, where capitalism has made vast inroads, women are hurting the worst. As a matter of survival, women there are hitting the streets and forming new organizations to defend their civil rights and social benefits. Often women put the first serious roadblocks in the path of the free-market bulldozers.

The situation of East European women exposes the lie that capitalism is the antidote to Stalinism. Women's absolute need for an alternative solution - democratic socialism - guarantees that the East's titanic battles are far from over.

Reunified Germany: women up against the wall

The importance of the abortion issue became clear during the drive for East and West German reunification last year. The conservative party of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was able to impose all its political and economic demands - except on abortion.

When Kohl insisted that East Germany accept the West German's pro-abortion laws, the explosive response from women forced him to back off in order to avoid killing the entire reorganization deal.

As it now stands, the East's liberal abortion laws are supposed to remain intact until 1992, when passage of an all-German law is scheduled. But Tatjana Buzan, a minister in East Germany's interim government in 1990, points out that this temporary security is illusory, as the unification treaty between East and West actually leaves open the possibility of parliament passing a new abortion provision before 1992.

Women do not trust Berlin - with good reason.

The social safety net that Kohl promised for the transition period has not materialized. Instead East Germany, once the richest country in the Soviet bloc, is now in utter economic chaos. Unemployment is predicted to reach 46 percent by the end of this year. State industries are shutting down or going bankrupt without being replaced by the expected inflationary shock wave. The much-vaunted West German economy is itself long on trouble and short on cash.

The big losers are East German women. Until a year ago, they enjoyed the world's most progressive programs for working mothers. Now they are the majority of Germany's unemployed, affordable childcare is disappearing, and food and rent subsidies are being cut off. And this in a country where single women are raising one-third of all the children!

Defying the pope in Poland

The scenario in Poland is similar. Women there, however, have the advantage of a well-organized and effective women's movement. The main women's movement built by Solidarity has prevented a German-style capitalist blitz.

Nevertheless Poland has adopted the model for other western states moving to market economies, in the face of the economic shock-therapy program mastered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Gas prices alone rose 140 percent in May, in this year's third round of price hikes. Some 40 percent of state enterprises face bankruptcy. Underemployment and layoffs hit women particularly hard. The regime is paying for economic salvation by trying to force women out of Poland's desperately overcrowded labor force and into the kitchen.

But the 'go capitalist' cheers that are running into stiff resistance. Former prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, leading proponent of privatization and IMF booster, suffered a humiliating defeat at the polls last November. Worried politicians of every stripe now scurry to appear pro-lab.

The Catholic Church, however, continues to pursue all its interests of capital. Boldered by President Lech Walesa and Western advisers and investors, the church has become tremendously powerful. Last year it prevailed upon the Education Ministry to reintroduce prayer in the public schools - without parliament even being consulted. But over abortion, the church has met its first major defeat.

The situation of East European women exposes the lie that capitalism is the antidote to Stalinism. Women's need for an alternative guarantees that the Titanic battles are far from over.

During the first half of last year, the church waged an all-out campaign for a legislative ban on abortion that included prison terms for doctors caught performing the procedure.

For months, both pro-and anti-choice demonstrators picketed parliament. More than 2,000 women participated in one abortion rights rally in Warsaw. A new national organization, the Polish Feminist Association, formed to carry on the fight. Surveys showed that Poles, who are 90.97 percent Catholic, favor legal abortion by 63 percent.

Walesa was forced to reverse his initial support of the ban. In May, the lower house of parliament, the Sejm, voted to postpone a debate - indefinitely.

Having failed for the time being to make abortion illegal, Walesa and the church are pushing to make it inaccessibility. Public clinics now require women seeking abortions to obtain permission from at least two doctors. Abortions at private clinics can cost the equivalent of two months' wages.

The government in May also banned four of the seven available types of birth control pills and tripled the price of other contraceptives.

But don't expect to see the women of page 10
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In This Issue

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Marxist scholar
A student of Freedom Socialist Publications from reading
"AIDS Hysteria: A Marxist Analysis," by Professor Stephen
Durham and Dr. Susan Wil-

...Gloria Martin

Justice for Farmworkers!

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Letters
Free Steve Farmer!
Target of AIDS hysteria imprisoned

Welcoming back Steve Farmer.

We want to publish:

The editorial board of
Pensamiento Crítico magazine gives you militant greetings and our
gratefulness for the conti-
nuation endeavor that we have received from you. Thanks to
you, the magazine has been published without interruption
during 13 years. We think we have completed the histori-
fication of offering a quality
informative product and a reper-
ceptive and objective analysis of our politi-
cal and economic facts.
This work needs to be
expansive. That is why we again ask for your generos-
ity and financial support. We need your donation to undertake another

Readers are encouraged to submit
letters, news stories, commentary,
cartoons, graphics, photographs

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AIDS is an epidemic that requires intensive
research and donor help to undertake another

The Free Steve Farmer Defense Fund,
1202 East Pike Street #1007, Seattle, WA 98104

Free Steve Farmer!
Target of AIDS hysteria imprisoned

 theological pamphlet for a scab patrol to whup AIDS pho-

bois and to rally public approval for mandatory HIV testing of any
government target.

Farmer's bout with the sys-
tem began four years ago when he was accused of paying to take pictures of a 17-year-old boy who was1


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Judges decline to dismiss case, but praises FSP defense of constitutional rights

Valerie Carlson (left) argues the court to dismiss Richard Snedigar's malicious suit against the Freedom Socialist Party. Snedigar's attorney Michelle Pailthorp takes notes.

Snedigar's strategy: old dog, no game. As Carlson told the judge, the defendants are ready. They are waiting in trial order to decisively expose and embarrass the defendants and case team have nothing to move the suit forward...

Plaintees stand up for the First Amendment at the touring Bill of Rights exhibit sponsored by the Philip Morris company, the corporate hypocrites who back homophobic Senator Jesse Helms.

We've paid an exorbitant price for defending First Amendment rights. We look forward to total vindication and going on with our political work.

Picketers stand up for the First Amendment at the touring Bill of Rights exhibit sponsored by the Philip Morris company, the corporate hypocrites who back homophobic Senator Jesse Helms.

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To explain why she sought to postpone the dismissal hearing, Pailthorp offered the following excuses, eliciting chuckles from the defendants' supporters who were crowded into the courtroom: Wampold is out of town, the files are under lock and key, and no one else in the law office can read his writing anyway. There are indications in the flurry of paperwork Pailthorp submitted to respond to the dismissal motion that Snedigar is looking for another attorney to replace Wampold. Her lawyers now believe that this suit is not the smart career move they may have imagined it would be when they launched it at the height of the Reagan era. After the hearing, Downing and the other defendants look glumly at the dismissal notice.
six irreverent decades as a revolutionary feminist

"W"hen you try to re-form the system, you're going to lose. It's only a matter of years before all the rights you gained are taken away. It just doesn't work. The only way to make change is to just do what you have to do," she says. "This is the ultimate, the only way to make change and keep it is to have a revolution."

This is Gloria Martin, co-founder and organizer of Seattle's Radical Women. Straight to the point. Complete conviction. Ready to stand up to challenge. Small wonder, then, that Radical Women is one of the top radical groups of working-class women, the oldest and only revolutionary feminist organization remaining in the U.S. in the '70s. Though other groups disbanded or turned "respectable," the organization remained tough and clear in its socialist and democratic principles and goals of working-class women, is the oldest and only revolutionary feminist organization remaining in the U.S. in the '70s. Though other groups disbanded or turned "respectable," the organization remained tough and clear in its socialist and democratic principles and goals.

Making a revolution, Martin was born in 1916 in Missouri and raised in Nashville, Virginia until her family moved back to St. Louis when she was eight. Her father, a closeted gay man, was institutionalized for a "double life," says Martin. At the age of 14, Martin dropped out of high school to work and help her family survive the Great Depression. She did not stop learning, though. Martin devoured every book she laid her hands on. But it was through talking to people, not through reading, that she became interested in the theories of socialism.

In her early 20s, Martin joined the Young Communist League (YCL), a Communist Party affiliate. She cherishes having had the experience of organizing in the Black neighborhoods of St. Louis, where she and Black friends and comrades challenged the Jim Crow segregation laws at restaurants and swimming pools.

But during World War II, Martin became disgusted with the YCL's reneged political ideas and campaigns—implacable unionism, the fight to end segregation, etc.—in order to follow the twists and turns of policy in the USSR. This conviction exercise climaxed in all-out YCL and CP support for the war and the U.S. government. Martin left YCL over this issue as well as the CP's entrenched sexism.

Birth of socialist feminism. In 1950, Martin moved to Seattle. At the Central Area Movement Program, she initiated and administered poverty projects, making bonds with her female Black counterparts and organizing she still enjoys today. Her experiences there reinforced her belief that the success of struggle for change depends on the unity of women of color, a central tenet of RW.

As the 1960s came crashing in, Martin was in the middle of it all, leading women with movement. She was voting in two referenda as often as with pro-war patriots at the countless demonstrations and marches.

Martin didn't mourn over the sexism—she organized the help and others to bring together women of the Marxist "old guard" with the newer Trotskyist one, part of the movement which opposed Stalinist installments of Mos­scovite-­cratic cues in the USSR and at heads of all the world's Communist Parties.

Fraser had been a leader of a group within the Socialist Women's Party pushing the SWP to uphold democracy inside the party and to designate as a "perverse" the oppression of women and people of color. This faction broke from the SWP to launch the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) in 1966. In 1967, Martin, Fraser, and some Negro Women from a Detroit-based Socialist Society established Radical Women. Fraser formed RW to offer women training as political leaders. Here, in contrast to the male-dominated culture, women can learn from each other, assert themselves, and develop an agenda that puts female demands first.

But RW is not separatist. It organizes all the movements in a unique way by teaching men, through discussion and example, to be feminists. Men are always encouraged to participate in RW events and campaigns. And one of Radical Women's foremost principles is that no group will win liberation in isolation from the struggles of others.

In its youth, RW caused consternation. Members marched with guns on Armed Services Day to protest the Vietnam War. They organized a coalition of Black and poor women and socialists of all colors which protested abortion state-wide several years ahead of Roe v. Wade. They served as defense council for the Black Panther Party. They made waves by es­tablishing lesbian/gay rights—everywhere, not just where it's cos­mopolitan.

Where events ignited, Radical Women hit the scene and vice versa.

Martin's book on the early years of FSP and RW, Socialist Feminism: The First Decade, describes why RW never lost touch with the "gynocentric" collapse of other organizations. The Marxist and feminist analysis and guidance provided by a rock-solid core of FSP women, Martin says, "enabled us to recuperate from internal deflections and external blows."

Radical Women looks forward, Radical Women has never been broader, stronger, or more respected throughout the world than it is today. Martin and others have taken its credo to Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, South Africa, China, the Middle East, and Western Europe, among other places, building lasting comradeships with women of all colors and cultures. A delegation to Eastern Europe is being planned.

Linda Avellin, Seattle RW's assistant organizer, says the orga­nization succeeds because "We don't water down our pro­gram to make it more palatable. RW always says what needs to be said."

Averill came to RW from the pole-step-down mobilization when Jimmy Carter reinstated draft registration in 1980. Like Martin and Fraser before her, Averill was fed up with the sexism that stifled her voice in other groups. As Martin's assistant, Averill has grown politically and personally. And she has seen the numbers of branch members grow, as Martin involves every "old-timer" in a permanent re­cruitment drive that has lately been signing up one new sister per meeting.
Too hot for Newsweek

The truth about Trotsky

Who was Leon Trotsky, and why are people like Newsweek writing about such remote historical figures? After decades of being written out of Soviet history, his relevance is now elevated to the world's press, over the past couple years they have retold the story of Stalin's agents, they went on to say:

Mexico: Hot to Trotsky (August 27, 1990). Unemployed dictator in search of a state, his name, Stalin's, remains in the news. The current regime is as threatened by the legacy of Trotsky as Stalin was. It has already ignited political fires that Gorbachev can't put out. National minorities demand sovereignty; working people protest the harsh realities of perestroika; artists and intellectuals demand creative freedom; and women are approaching open revolt against their burdens of unemployment, blatant discrimination, and shoddy, scarce consumer goods.

In the current stirrings of interest in Trotsky and his writings will mushroom as Soviet citizens move forward to an all-out confrontation with retrogression and repressive regimes. Five decades after his assassination, the beginning of World War II, Trotsky drafted a message to Soviet workers, soldiers, peasants, and sailors called "You and the Decade," by American philosopher and educator John Dewey.

Trotsky mobilizes against Stalin. As the contours emerged of this horrendous degeneration from the original aspirations of the revolution, Lenin and Trotsky opposed Stalin's alliance against bureaucracy, which were weakened by Lenin's stroke in 1922 and by his death two years later. Trotsky carried on the fight, building the Left Opposition within the Bolshevik Party. The opposition movement campaigned unabashedly for the ideal of democracy and social justice. Young people especially responded to the anti-bureaucratic cause.

Left Oppositionists denounced Stalin's remissions of all evil, a policy which was weakened by Trotsky's death. They considered his battle against the rise of bureaucracy in the USSR his most important contribution. The opposition movement he built in the Soviet Union should rightly be seen as the progenitor of the anti-bureaucratic attitude of the perestroika era of the 1980s.

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Of all evil, Trotsky's ideas - especially his analysis of Stalinism - still haunt us. Trotsky mobilizes against Stalin. As the contours emerged of this horrendous degeneration from the original aspirations of the revolution, Lenin and Trotsky opposed Stalin's alliance against bureaucracy, which were weakened by Lenin's stroke in 1922 and by his death two years later. Trotsky carried on the fight, building the Left Opposition within the Bolshevik Party. The opposition movement he built campaigned unabashedly for the ideal of democracy and social justice. Young people especially responded to the anti-bureaucratic cause.

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The USSR never realized socialism, not even in the 1930s, with their trumped-up charges and coerced "confessions" by former-Bolshevik leaders, the tip of the iceberg of bloody repression. It is political terror that laid the foundation for Stalin's bureaucratic cause.

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Yolanda Alaniz

"It's high time for a Chicana council-member committed to the needs of the poor, underpaid, and unrepresented."

ALANIZ, 41, comes from a farmworker family in Eastern Washington. She graduated from the University of Washington in 1977. A strong voice for immigrant rights, she is a longtime organizer on behalf of people of color, women, lesbian/gay, labor, and justice in Latin America and worldwide. She is co-author of "The Chicana Struggle: A Racial or National Movement?" an historical analysis of the nature and direction of Chicano efforts to end discrimination in the U.S.

A DEFENDANT in the Freeway Hall Case, she fights for free speech and privacy rights of social-issue organizations.

She is a BOARD MEMBER of the Hispanic Association of City Employees and member of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Employees Local 17. Past member of the Seattle Women's Commission and former president of the Union Workers Union-Independent, she was well-equipped to campaign for domestic partnership rights for city workers.

HER PAST EMPLOYMENT includes Seattle Rape Relief, Seattle Department of Human Rights, Office of Women's Rights, and driver for the Senior Services and Center "Meals on Wheels." She is also employed at the Water Department as a Customer Service Representative. She is on the Video Disc and play Terminal Committee, a labor-management group that studies VDT's and makes recommendations on preventive care for workers using them.

She is a SINGLE MOTHER and a veteran activist for quality childcare. She has also fought against the forced sterilization of women of color and is a staunch supporter of abortion rights.

She has a strong record of being a leader in local and national labor movements, including those of the poor, the retired, the unemployed, the disabled, students - especially not of those of color.

FSP candidates exist to preserve the capitalist system, including its worldwide imperialistic offshoot. So both parties get behind wars for oil, campaigns to put cops on every corner, and other related atrocities. Alaniz and Durham assert that the profit system can't be reformed to meet the needs of workers, the retired, the unemployed, the disabled, students - especially not of those of color and lesbians and gay men in these groups. That means the answer is socialism.

The campaign gives Alaniz and Durham a unique, respected, and powerful forum to educate about socialism - to discuss the women and people of color and gay men in these groups. That means the answer is socialism.

The reason the Democrats and Republicans can't represent the interests of working and poor people because the two parties are caught in the pockets of big business. A recent survey by the Kettering Foundation shows that the reason people don't vote is not apathy, but anger about being "locked out" of the system.

The reason the Democrats and Republicans exist is to preserve the capitalist system, including its worldwide imperialistic offshoot. So both parties get behind wars for oil, campaigns to put cops on every corner, and other related atrocities. Alaniz and Durham assert that the profit system can't be reformed to meet the needs of workers, the retired, the unemployed, the disabled, students — especially not of the women and people of color and lesbians and gay men in these groups. That means the answer is socialism.

But if the system's diseases can't be cured short of revolutionary change, why are radicals running for office? The campaign gives Alaniz, Durham, and FSP a unique, respected, and powerful forum to educate about socialism — to discuss the women and people of color and gay men in these groups. That means the answer is socialism.

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Making headway against the Democrats, Alaniz and Durham are running for two of five council positions open this year. After a September 15 primary, the top two vote-getters in each position will be on the ballot in the general election on November 5. Alaniz' main opponent for Position #5 is Sue Donaldson, a liberal incumbent who supports the drug-trafficking lottery ordinance, which is being used to harass people of color, especially the youth of color, throughout the city. Durham is competing for Position #1 against a pack of four Democrats — liberal lawyer Margaret Pageler, law-and-order small-businesswoman Jan Dragos, State Representative Dick Nelson, and neighborhood activist Earl Bellik.

Despite pledged differences, all are Democrats sup- porting a 10-hour day and a higher minimum wage. They will also continue the current policy of balancing budget shortfalls through layoffs and taxes on homeowners. Durham is a member of this crowd, Alaniz and Durham are making quite a splash, and they are receiving wide media coverage. At rallies, picket lines, community festivals, street fairs, and political events, supporters sport flashy Alaniz-and-Durham T-shirts, picket signs, and buttons. The brochure outlining their platform (see below) has been distributed throughout the city. Durham is competing for the mayoral seat, this fall, while Alaniz is running for the council.

A non-stop round of events by the candidates at meetings of labor and community organizations has helped to win dozens of endorsements. Endorsers include AFSCME Local 435, Bill Andrews, Alaska Tlingit activist; Asian Lesbians Outside Asia, Janice Bell, Co-Director; Mothers Against Police Harassment; Joe Cervantes, Chicano community activist; Citizens for Non-Violent Action Against Racism; TRIM Coalition, member of the IBEW Local 40 Executive Board; Christina Gallegos, President, Hispanic Advocates for Alaniz and Durham. The SWP chose only to run against these two socialist feminist women! Why didn't they file for positions not being contested by socialists? Pure sectarianism, especially galloping because the SWP for years has urged its supporters to vote for SWP candidates, since they offered a clear anti-capitalist choice, even though their campaigns were half-hearted and their program woefully incomplete. FSP attempted to contact the SWP ahead of time in order to avoid competing in the same races, but the SWP didn't respond. The SWP's move is breathtakingly

Stop Crime At Its Source

Adding more police won't affect gangs. Robberies and assaults stem from the lack of decent jobs, healthcare, and housing. Thousands of Seattleites are forced to steal.

Jobs, social services, housing, and training are the solution. Fund libraries and open neighborhood youth centers for arts, crafts, sports, recreation and education!

And legalize drugs. Take the profits out of crime and let the community control drug distribution and treatment of abusers.
Seattle war parade? No tank you!

SEATTLE IS A MAVICk town. Protest is a city tradition. It was in Seattle in 1919 that the Industrial Workers of the World led the country's first general strike. Seventeen years later, the area's reputation for sedition activity prompted Postmaster General James A. Farley to propose a toast to the 47 states and the Soviet of Washington.

On January 14, the night before Bush's war deadline, Seattleites lived up to their reputation. A four-day movement for peace in excess of 100,000, poured into the city's vibrant gay and lesbian community. Earlier that day, hundreds marched in the freeway, in an exhilarating re-enactment of a 1970s Vietnam War action. The next day protesters stopped freeway traffic twice.

This torrent of antiwar sentiment troubled Norm Rice, Seattle's liberal Black Democrat mayor. He met with movement leaders and promised a mammoth Homefront, the Seattle war parade.

When the bombing ended, his staff - largely ex-radicals - came up with a plan for Seattle's "Official Homecoming Tribute" to U.S. soldiers. This would be a unity event bringing together the left and the right - the pacifists and the military, the Seattle Church Council and Operation Homefront - under the tag "Support our troops."

There were a few problems. Promoter Alan Silverman had headed Operation Homefront during the war. He'd also invited a couple of Moonies from the American Freedom Coalition (AFC) - in a move to pernicious extragaluasia. AFC raised big bucks for Ollie North. Among its leading lights are ultra-reactionary General John K. Singlaub, fundraiser Richard Viguerie, and fascist widow of the Nazi puppet government in the Ukraine during World War II, Slava Stetsko.

But these weren't the only problems the military wanted. The sun's radical heritage: a 1970s Vietnam War action. The next day protesters stopped freeway traffic twice.

Seattle war parade? No tank you!

T he Australian Labor Party (ALP) is on the ropes. These days among workers, students and welfare beneficiaries, but party leaders aren't singling the blues. They have new pals: media magnates, multi-millionaires and high-flying entrepreneurs. A judicial inquiry in Western Australia has only begun to unmask just how special these new friendships are and how costly they have been for Australian workers.

Australian Labor Party sells out. The '80s were Labor's "fabulous years." R.J. Hawke was elected prime minister in 1983, when Labor was in power in almost every state in the country. On promises to be the most efficient managers of capitalism, Labor won the hearty support of the Australian ruling class. U.S. capitalists also embraced Prime Minister Hawke; he'd already proven his loyalty as the CIA-connected head of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

True to his promises, Hawke's government presided over massive pay cuts, public sector job cuts, increased hospital waiting lists, reintroduction of university fees, deportations, abolition of unemployment benefits, cutbacks of aged and disabled pensioners' benefits, smashing of militant unions, privatization of key public services, and the continued oppression of Aborigines. In addition, Labor strengthened Australia's role as an imperialist power in the Pacific, betrayed the Revolutionary Alliance, the Tinniee and the West Papuans who fought for liberation, and committed Australian forces to the Gulf War.

Little wonder, then, that working people in this country have well and truly had it with Labor.

The price of betrayal. The ALP has paid a price for its treachery. Its political position is at its lowest level ever. Dozens of rank-and-file activists quit the party and set up new left and right parties. An ALP decision to mine uranium, despite heavy opposition from the Labor Party, the council and the community, caused the first mass exodus in the party's 90s. The organization of transport, telecommunications and state-owned banks has pushed many others.

Today the membership base necessary to supply the funds for party activities in the next several years - a number of unions have disaffiliated from the party, some of the largest won't sign up, and others, while formally affiliated, refuse to pay extra dues to fund election campaigns. Rank-and-file unionists do not want their money to go to a party which has shirked their living standard.

Corruption in high places. Now comes a Labor scandal known as "WA Tornados." The Labor government of Brian Burke in Western Australia was elected in 1983. Strapped for funds, party leaders ran the state to serve the interests of a few friends and former associates. Burke's "Tornados" openly opposed the mayor's event, did the Church Council pull out.

The parade was postponed once and then canceled, making Seattle's "Official Homecoming Tribute" to U.S. soldiers and the military-cum-Moonies-and-Nazi committee.

Even so, the Labor government's favorite cause was at stake. The Royal Commission into WA Homelessness was in town this year, the truth is being revealed about where the Labor Party gets its dough and about the Hawke government's intimate links with big business.

The Labor Party's special fundraising function and prime ministerial fishing trip did nothing to improve the government's image. Only the tabloids regularly. So do stories like this.

The Labor Party is planning a new leadership bid and the ALP received some pretty healthy donations — in the millions and the gold tax was dropped. Very neat.

Attempts by the Federal ALP to distance itself from the fiasco in Perth are futility, and the ALP's focus on now-failed Western Australia tycoons to
Voices of Color

Jews on the Left: Don’t turn right!

(Editor's note: The author thanks the Freedom Socialist Party for permission to use figures and graphs in this essay.)

I wish to address my antiwar landman, my fellow Jews, now being pressed to favor some of the arguments that have been made by the U.S. and Israeli governments.

Thousands of Jews marched in protest against Bush’s Gulf War. We were in the streets before the January 17 onslaught and after, while hundreds of thousands of others gathered in Iraq and occupationally Scud-ridden Tel Aviv. When a quarter-million people rallied against the war January 26 in Washington, D.C., more than 50,000 were Jews (Washing­ton Post). I was one of the many who participated in the antiwar movement in the other Washington. But the Likud and Israeli right­wingers have equated opposing the war to being anti-Semitic. Kindly stop sending me your anti­Semitic mail.

The FS isn’t anti-Semitic. All Jews are Jew hatred. The FS comrades promote Jewish liberation and fight discrimination against Jews as vigorously as they fight all bigotry. The letter writer falsely equates resistance to Zionism with anti-Semitism. Don’t be fooled.

Zionism is a rightwing theological entity based on Jews’ alleged “historical right” to an exclusively Jewish Palestine. It arose in the 1800s as a reaction to pogroms and discrimination, but remained a minority movement until the Holocaust. After World War II, the victorious nations embraced the Jewish wish. Zionists would have two functions: it would be a dump­ing ground for the Jewish refu­gees spurned by Western coun­tries, and it would be a breakwater against the rising Arab revolution.

Revolutionary socialists like Leon Trotsky warned that a Zi­onist state would be a Jewish humanity on its head — neglecting a nation’s tradition dat­ing back thousands of years — and turn into a death trap for Jews.

They were right. Today, Israel is a militaristic, racist, theocratic state. Because of the history of the Zionists and its utter depen­dence on the West, it could not be otherwise. Its economic func­tions only through ceaseless in­vasion, brutal occupation, fascism, or both. It did not organically evolve, rather, it was created by the expansion and suppression of the indigenous peoples, which spawned a resistance that makes this “haven” the most danger­ous place on earth to be a Jew.

Many Israelis fight for demo­cratic reforms, but their struggle cannot be realized short of a radical transformation to a secular, multi-ethnic, socialist country freed from the necessity to serve as the military, political, and economic outpost of Western imperialist in the Middle East.

Opportunity beckoned. The strong public opposition to the Gulf war gave U.S. Jews a golden anvil. We could have used it to forge movement soli­darity against divide-and-con­quer tactics.

Jews could have taught the Arab masses — non-Western crusaders — that was the end of sabbath and the shields and emirs. We could have ar­gued that deserving the region’s Jews depends not on Israel’s allegiance to imperial­ism, but on revolutionary unity between Arab masses and Jewish workers.

Who better than U.S. Jews to assert the need to include Pales­tinian demands in any peace agreement? Or to put up the myth of Israeli “right” during the war by invading Israel’s role in intelligence-gathering and strategy-development? Who better to combat the anti-Arab racism that eventually infected the antiwar movement itself? Or to castigate the big money in United States and Israeli charities but censured the unthinkable Iraq devastation and loss of life? Or to expose as humbug the complicity of Saddam and his regime.

Of all the countries that have not admitted responsibility for making its column available to people rallied against the war, the U.S. is the most.

John Judis, social democrat and in These Times writer, defines Bush the “rational anti-Zionist, a religious moralist who left the Left or left the world behind to purge it of both anti­Semites (mean­ing anti-Zionism) and what he calls the “wrong kind of Americanism.”

The magazine editor Michael Lerner asserts that Jews join with other patriots who, in his words, prove that Zionism is America’s “higher moral pur­suit, our way of life.”

Our fate is everyone’s.

We Jews who felt genuinely am­bitious about fighting the war while weung­lessly to protect the safety of Holocaust survivors, refugees, and displaced persons in Israel should know that there is a solution — but it requires rejection of the Zionist crap. Most Israelophiles that you cannot base a safe and just society on the oppression of another people. But Jews have been conditioned to believe h is苓ently different. Believe me, it isn’t. A West Bank resident.

Saving Jews is important.

Saving Iraqis. Kurds, Moslems and Palestinians is important. Who can know whose child will grow up to curse or AIDS Jew-hating teenagers in the West to further their proud history of struggle and advocacy for the oppressed and to insure that humanity achieves its interna­tionalist, democratic, and culturally liberating potential.

The solidarity of progressive U.S. Jews with their natural workingclass allies Jews in Arab­­ers, Israelis, and U.S. people of color is the road to making permanent change that will save everyone on this planet.

Hanging in there! Become a prominent Left Jew spokes­person yourself.

—Henry Noble

Henry Noble, a Seattle computer programmer, is the author of The best tradition of Jewish Marxists. He entered radi­cal politics as a Vietnam War protestor more than twenty years ago.

November-September 1991 Freedom Socialist

Jews on the Left: Don’t turn right!

Excerpts from an Affidavit (and a Life)

By the Washington Public Disclosure Commission

After the Washington Public Disclosure Commission in Re: Application of FSP for Campaign Disclosure Exemption

Clara Fraser declares as follows:

I AM THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON of the Freedom Social­ist Party. I joined a socialist youth group in the 1930s and was engaged in radical and labor organizations throughout high school and college. In 1944, I joined the Socialist Workers Party and stayed with it until 1966 when.

I have firsthand experience with government, police and em­ployers spying on, infiltrating, firing, intimidating, and discrimi­nating against individuals and organizations. I know that public disclosure of the contributors to Advocates for Alaniz and Durham — FSP candidates for City Council — will have a seriously chilling effect on people’s willingness to give money to our campaign and result in harassment.

I can readily testify to the power of redhating, blacklisting, slander, threats, and enforced isolation to silence activists, send sympa­thizers underground, and shut organizations.

I have been subjected to considerable personal retaliation for my beliefs, associations, and activities. Job losses: antagonism from school administrators against my role in the as­semblage; avoidance by certain friends, associates, coworkers, neigh­bor and relatives; attempted FBI invasions of my home; extensive (absolved) police surveillance; espionage; character assassination on the job and in the media; punitive income tax demands of federal and involved.

FOR TEN YEARS I was fired from Boeing for my views and leadership in the 1948 strike, I was unable to hold a job for more than six months before a politician or government out­tilted my employer of my ideas and associations.

I have only my good conscience and skills enabled me to work at all.

I did political discrimination end with the McCarthy era, as exemplified by my political ideology and sex discrimination case against Seattle City Light (1975-82). The punitive harassment of my supportive coworkers at City Light prevails to this day.

MY FBI FILE contains names of people signed antiwar and other petitions. Informants stole our mailing lists and turned them over to the FBI. Names of persons who signed nominating petitions to get our candidates on the ballot were promptly turned over to the FBI state officials. FBI agents harassed our supporters, mak­ing it extremely difficult to obtain the required signatures.

OBTAINING A LAWYER, or help from public organizations, con­tinues to be difficult. Only a very few lawyers assisted us. I had to search long and hard for a good and honest attorney to represent me in my divorce/custody trial, which featured flagrant political slander, red-baiting and feminicide.

Leaking an attorney. I had to resort in 1971 to defending myself for a 50,000 man-hours charge, a political charge for a FSP candidate for U.S. vice president, uniformed Seattle police openly photographed supporters entering and leaving my meeting, causing a number of them to walk out of fear for my welfare and safety.

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After years of failure to locate a lawyer, I had to drop a 1971 sex and political ideology discrimination claim against Seattle Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), a federally funded anti-poverty program, for wrongly firing me.

Later, the Seattle Human Rights Department (HRD) attorney handling my City Light case was pressured away from us. The re­placement attorney dumped my case after the deposition process. The third attorney walked off the case at a critical juncture in the trial and had to be ordered back. Both private attorneys who repre­sented me in Superior Court and City Light, then the court, refused to separate harassing lawsuits that arose out of their public­ity with me. One HRD investigator who handled my retaliation case after I won and returned to work was fired immediately after finding my favor, and others were pressured.

BECAUSE OF THE BARM caused by disclosure of names of supporters and defenders, I have adamantly refused to do this for any other campaigns. Courts, the Washington Public Disclosure Commission, and the state Supreme Court have ordered me to disclose information that would identify FSP members and supporters.

I was gratified when my right not to betray sacred confidences was upheld by the state Supreme Court in February 1990. The FSP should not and indeed cannot be made a guinea pig to test the confiden­tiality of donors as a condition of participating in the electoral process as a minor party.

Bureaucratic insistence on disclosure would totally exclude us from the supposedly democratic process of electoral politics and would force the FSP and its candidates to turn into a front­line political candidate for the minor party.

(Editor's note: The Seattle Times on August 15 front-page the FSP request to be exempt from turning over names of contributors. A com­panion story featured a large photo of Alaniz and Durham and lauded their platform for being serious, tough, clear, rational, and humorus.)
...Australian Labor Party

from page 8

The 1987 ALP federal election campaign amount to flush out the wrong trade union would have that kind of money to give.

Time for a real workers' party. Evidence from the Perth inquiry will haunt Whitlam and Co. for a long time to come. Meanwhile, Labor governments, especially in the economically depressed state of Victoria, are placing their budgets with increased taxes and charged to pay for their services and job losses of monumental proportions — all while supplying hefty tax breaks for their mates” in the corporate boardrooms.

The Australian Labor Party is a party for capitalist interests. Its leadership, its structure, and its program are based entirely — again — for example, has just brought a million-dollar house on Sydney's most exclusive street — and the ALP will go on to lengths to preserve the system. Workers have seen this coming for some time and are turning their backs on the world's first Labor Party.

Now there is talk of forming a genuine "workers' party," a party which challenges the system rather than lining its pockets with hands from the wealthy. The Women's International Communist Party — including the ALP's rich benefactors — is the cause of that path to the consolidation of the one-party rule.

...East Europe

from page 1

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a milestone in women's liberation. Women worked long hours then which still being fought for under capitalism today. Abortion, divorce and homosexuality were legal. Health was nationalized. The new government pledged itself to establish women's rights, and many of the women's rights movements that sprung up during the revolution were legalized. Healthcare was nationalized. The women's movement was the focal point of the revolution, producing a political cocktail which only now some of their leaders have learned from our own experience.

...Freeway Hall Case

from page 3

ACT UP last year began a well-publicized boycott of Philip Morris products (Miller beer, Marlboro cigarettes) because of its propping-up of Helms. In retaliation, Helms' campaign committee stirred up a federal investigation of ACT UP and many groups supporting the boycott, claiming that these groups had violated Federal Election Commission rules.

"If we allow the government and Jesus Helms to use the Philip Morris boycott as a pretext to destroy our organizations, we won't have any basis from which to organize against the right wing," said Peterson at a soapbox rally just outside the doors of the Senate.

She added, "We learned from our own experience that through good faith, you can beat back those challenging institutional rights. And you can even gain ground for others to stand on."

New and faithful support on the way to turn the pressure on management. Demand that Nelson be reinstated to her reporting position and give a $200 donation.

...candidates

from page 7

Irresponsible and destructive. In splitting the socialist and political parties against the capitalist-party politicians, it becomes a decade-long tradition of Trotskyist collaboration with other forces in the electoral arena. The SWP is following the path of the German Socialist Party. Stalinists who allowed Hitler to rise to power in 1933 by splitting with the Communist Party to beat the fascists at the polls.

What happened then could happen again: the rise of fascists is not an academic question. When it comes to the front lines against the nascent Nazism movement across the U.S., in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, JSP helped lead United Front Against Fascism.\n
...Sandy Nelson

from page 12

Sandy Nelson

"A posthumous gem from one of America's finest avant garde/poetical writers signed up: Manning Marable, African-American scholar who pens a col-

..."
1. February 1986
Dreams this terrible week.
Su and I are standing on an open porch waiting for people to arrive. In every direction, a pure and fierce and gentle snow is falling.
I'm dancing a kind of waltz-polka, faster, faster, till I spin off from my partner, off balance, careening.
A tiny dog yaps at my heels, harassing, covered with seaweed.
won't let me BE.
Someone turns a waterhose full in my face, washes me down concrete steps. In the dream I think, 'What did I do to deserve this?'

2. March 1986

When I was a kid someone would say, ok, what would you choose, death by fire or water?
Pragmatic, I would never play that game. Now I have to. A new twist, the bribe is life. Life by fire, death by percentage, life by water, drowning all your cells just enough.
Remission is disappearance for the time being.
Cure is death by other causes.
My chances for recurrence are 35% without chemo, half that, with. A clear choice. Till you add barbarities of treatment. Would you prefer to chance diabetes or heart failure, dizziness or seeing halos round the moon?
I've never been the least religious.
Now they're tossing halos round my neck like horseshoes, and I'm the pole, no angel, stiff and afraid, arm protective of the missing breast.

3. April 1986

Trying to guide a horse and a lion to safety, yarn about their necks, hands tangled in their manes. The animals are wild, want to wander through the woods, directionless, but we must go toward home. Rough, make-shift tools, the wild animals of the body.
Vigilance, consciousness, the ability to fight. Understanding in order to fight.

An evil woman kept changing shape.
She kept striking when I turned my back.
When I looked again, she had taken all the tires off my car.
I knew it was her because she wore One earring, icy blue, shaped like a wind chime, irregular, jagged.
I faced her down.
We stared at one another.
I knew I couldn't look away.
This was a contest and I must not even blink. We stared and stared finally, she changed into a yolk-like substance and disappeared into water, dissolved.
I had won, for this moment.

Trying all angles, everything I can think of, not giving up, keeping steady in the assault of the chemo that drains your energy out your feet till you can't move. I fight the chemo more than the cancer.
I don't trust in my weapons entirely. The cell model helps, but it is abstract, a picture, distant.
The reality is very complex and my mind clamors to alter it into something concrete: wicked witches, lions and horses, seaweed dogs, men stalking me, and me, always turning, straining to see, to see and to engage in whatever fight is required

4. May 1986

Here, on that new strange plain where my left breast is no longer where the angry scar blanches out to a thin reminder
Here, my heart is closer now to my lover's ear, listening to the sun lazing its warm palm on my pale skin, closer now to the traffic blare to shouts of street people to the rasp of each day, the rough, practical tones.
My heart is closer now. Hear its steady, stubborn drum.

This poem is from a collection called Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking. Please see facing page for order blank.

Mary Pitawanakwat suit

The same day Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signed an international treaty to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, his government fired Ojibway Mary Pitawanakwat from her office in Regina, Saskatchewan, in retaliation for her protests against racial and sexual harassment on the job.

Pitawanakwat was first brought her discrimination charges to the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 1984. Now, after she has spent seven years circumventing legal stonewalling and hurdles, her charges are finally scheduled to be heard by a human rights tribunal in October.

Others might have given up, but Pitawanakwat, a single mother of two, is a fighter. When friends jokingly tell her she has a "bad attitude," she smirks broadly and retorts, "Thank you!" Mary is also a tireless organizer and speaker who denounces what she describes as the anger at the stupidity of a thoroughly racist and sexist bureaucracy with an ironic sense of humor.

These qualities and a strong defense committee have kept her going in what has become a marathon battle to regain her job. In two years, her case has forced the federal officer administering programs to Aboriginal people that Pitawanakwat is fighting, the federal department responsible for organizing a national anti-racism campaign makes the outcome of her case of critical significance for everyone concerned with the alarming rise of racism across North America.

Government denial, diversification

Government internal records indicate that more than six years with the government agency, Pitawanakwat was given the borough with "poor job performance" following her complaints about an unratified "ethics code," "the rule of law," "no accountability," and "the second-rate status we've lived with because [indigenous] people won't take their rights.

Pitawanakwat's defense fund should be sent to the Mary Pitawanakwat's human rights complaint and action for her protests against racial and sexual harassment.

In June of this year, Pitawanakwat spoke on her case in San Francisco at the Bay Area headquarters of the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women. Solidarity statements were delivered by representatives of FSP and IW, the Inter-Union Treaty Council and the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

Pitawanakwat's case is one front in the recent mobilization by Canadian Native for first-class citizenship, equal, and sovereignty. In fact that Pitawanakwat's case is meeting street confrontations at the Mount Currie Indian Reserve in British Columbia and last summer's standoff between Mohawks and the provincial police at Oka, Quebec.

During a recent visit to Seattle, Pitawanakwat told the "same struggle that was uncovered by the crisis with the Kenaiakwak people. The government is going to have a lasting and permanent effect for the upcoming generation. I think the struggle to be even more intense because if we don't wake up the second time that we lived with for centuries.

Woman warrior in forefront of Aboriginal upsurge.

In a nation reeling from a financial mess, yet taking action for a war of nerves. After issuing its report in August 1989, the inquiry turned up office memos indicating that one official had referred to indigenous people as "lazy." The second report, which required a mastectomy in December 1990, Pitawanakwat is raising two children, Brock, 15, and Robyn, 13. Yet she continues her efforts to win re-education, she said, "in a way to work toward a discrimination-free society for my chil- dren and to protect my right to work.

Mary Pitawanakwat's defiance and persistence in the face of judicial stalling, government threats, and physical ailments is an inspiration to other indigenous people and all civil rights warriors.

Finding allies is gratifying, she said. "Significant numbers of non-indigenous people are supportive because they see justice for us lies in with a more egalitarian society for all people.

Supporters can protest the Canadian government's attempts to subvert Pitawanakwat's human rights complaint and demand her immediate reinstatement with back pay by writing to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, 1100 Ch. de la Commer, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G6.

Two-faced bosses not bound by "objectivity.

The rule of "no political involvement" used against Nelson applies to journalisms to lower echelons, but not to the higher-ups with their editorial, much sought political endorsements, and speeches at public affairs.

During the forum, Nelson explained the chimera of objectivity which MNT and media owners cannot widely exploit to maintain the status quo and all its trappings.

Sandy Nelson vs Morning News Tribune

Sandy Nelson's high-profile defense is getting results. In her most recent evaluation, management judged her work "satisfactory," and MNT has now promoted her to a new job.

The original battlefront, however, Nelson's boss informed her that she would reinstate her to the newsroom only if she gives up all her political work. Nelson says, "No way!" She wants what's rightfully hers -- a seat and a byline.

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