

NEWSLETTER

of the NATIONAL NO-NUKES PRISON SUPPORT COLLECTIVE

A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR JAILED AND IMPRISONED ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVISTS

No. 6

June 20, 1981

PEACE WITNESS IN D.C.

Yes, Washington is hopping this month, and not just with reaganoids goosestepping to the tunes of Fiddler Haig. Jonah House, a Christian Resistance community in Baltimore, and the Community for Creative Non-Violence have issued a "people's invitation to pray at the White House". Since June 2, and continuing through July 3, people have entered the White House on the public tour line, and at some point inside the building, stopped or stepped out of the line to witness for the immediate victims of the Reagan military budget--the old and infirm, the mentally incapacitated and the physically disabled and the dispossessed.

As of June 17, some 69 people had been arrested as they engaged in this peaceful protest at Reagan's door, including Dr. Benjamin Spock and Mary Morgan, his wife; Dick Gregory, Philip Berrigan, Carl Kabat and Peter De Mott, recently released from prison in Connecticut. (see page 3)

On June 17, in a protest intended to highlight the medical needs of Vietnam era veterans suffering from the effects of Agent Orange, eight people were arrested inside the White House, four men and four women, including 3 veterans and a Gold Star Mother. The action occurred on the 26th day of a fast begun by Vietnam veterans at a VA hospital in Los Angeles, and now brought to Washington. They have been fasting to demand that the government agrees to accept responsibility for the thousands of veterans who are suffering ill effects from exposure to toxic defoliants during the war.

Of all those involved in the month of actions, so far only one woman has spent three days in jail. Sentences have ranged from suspended jail terms plus probation to community service work. Press coverage nationally has been very sparse, but the actions have touched the hearts and minds of each tourist in line or passing by the gates of the White House during the actions.

Contact Jonah House; 1933 Park St; Baltimore, MD; 21217.

editorial

Most of the imprisoned activists noted on these pages have acted on a deep religious faith, a faith usually reflected in their statements about the action. It would of course be incorrect to say that most who would engage in or support civil disobedience and non-violent direct action are spiritually motivated. Perhaps a more common bond between us is a respect for the sanctity of all life and concern for our children's future.

There is a simple explanation for why so many in jail now are also committed Christians. A hallmark of a spiritual life for Christians is direct service to others. Many communities--some actual households--of Christians live/work together for the expressed purpose of serving the poor and homeless through soup kitchens and shelters, or providing hospitality to friends and families of prisoners visiting loved ones inside. The pre-existence of such communities, like Jonah House, the Catholic Worker houses, and the various regional "Life Communities" provides the necessary support network to take care of the day-to-day essentials, such as feeding the pets and kids and paying the rent for those in jail. The disruption of our "normal" lives (if any of us can be said to live a normal life with the spectre of nuclear annihilation goading our souls) is the reason most often cited for not considering civil disobedience as a part of ones activism.

If civil disobedience is to grow as a tactic in our struggle against nuclear death (and I believe it must, if we are to secure survival for our children), then we must prepare for this to happen. We must begin building lives and communities which can accommodate the harsh demands of non-violent direct action.

Millions of people who are seriously concerned about impending nuclear holocaust may not possess the religious motivation to place their lives on the line in the struggle to preserve all life. But in our towns, and among our friends, we can start to consciously build support communities--from households to affinity groups to city-wide networks--which can provide for the needs of those among us who are personally prepared for C.D.

It may not be necessary that each of us occupy a plant site, blockade a nuclear shipment or destroy actual weapons parts--though many more of us must. Such actions, while necessary and inevitable, cannot be successful without a few supporter-ers who stay clear of arrest and feed the pets. But our future life, and the lives of generations to come demands that we work now to establish the physical support networks which will assist those who do take such action.

Jonah House has also coordinated many other actions over the past few months. Ten people were arrested on April 15, Tax Day, as they broke from the White House tour line to anoint the pillars of the mansion with blood and unfurl banners across the driveway.

The next day, Theresa Guisti, a former Sister of Mercy; Macy Morse, a New Hampshire grandmother, and Tom Reed of Jonah House entered the State Department building, and miraculously penetrated its corridors to the very door of Alexander Haig's office. "In the spirit of the Roman Catholic Rite of Exorcism, we prayed and fasted for three days prior to our act of peacemaking. Into the Secretary's office we carried the tools, the sacramental signs, of exorcism; a cross, a candle, holy water and a prayer of exorcism. Finding our roots also in the long history of non-violent resistance to the war in Vietnam and the nuclear arms race, we carried too our own symbols and signs of exorcism: Blood and ashes." A police officer standing guard at the final hallway leading to Haig's office for some reason left his post moments after the three had passed by and greeted him. They retraced their steps, "entered the hallway to Haig's suite, and lit a candle to light our way into the darkness where genocide is daily planned. We poured ashes and blood, recited our prayer of exorcism, and received a hearty beating with a billy club by the officer who had left his post." Two other friends arrived on the scene as legal witnesses as the violence began, and the five were arrested for disorderly conduct and, in the case of the first three, destruction of government property, a felony. The felony charges were later dropped, and all are free awaiting trial except John Schuchardt, one of the legal witnesses (see page 2). The following day, Good Friday, 5 people were arrested during a blood pouring protest at the Pentagon, resulting in thirty day sentences for two of the participants, and ten days for a third.

PANTEX PRAYER

PILGRIMS MOVED

The six activists convicted for their February 10 prayer pilgrimage to the Pantex Nuclear Weapons assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas, have been moved to federal prisons across the country. If letters of support written to them have been returned to you, you can send them again to: Larry Rosebaugh; FCI; Terre Haute, Indiana 47808 (1 year sentence), Ladon Sheats, 11388-077; M-C-8 Box W; Lompoc, CA 93438 (1 year sentence), Mary Sprunger-Froese, 11387-077; FCI Women's General; 3150 Horton Rd.; Ft. Worth TX 76119 (8 months), Kathy Jennings, 11390-077; Box A; Alderson, WV 24910 (8 months), Steve Clemens, 11389-077; Texarkana FP; Texarkana, TX 75501 (6 months), Vince Eirene, 11385-077; Allenwood FPC, Montgomery, PA 17752 (6 months).

contents

Peace Witness in D.C.....	1
Pantex Pilgrims moved	1
Editorial.....	1
S.A.C. Resistance	
Nebraska.....	2
Montana.....	2
Rockwell/Pittsburgh.....	2
Rockwell/El Segundo.....	2
Plowshares 8.....	2
Trident Resistance	
Lockheed.....	3
Groton.....	3
Bangor.....	3
Peltier Update.....	4
Philip Brasfield.....	4
Others Inside.....	4
T-shirts?.....	4
Graphics Needed!.....	4

S.A.C. RESISTANCE

NEBRASKA

A series of trials scheduled this month for several people arrested at the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha has been postponed until late July and early August. (NNNPSC #5) Activities designed to bring public attention to the horror of SAC's ultimate function--directing nuclear war--continue, coordinated by SAC/Strategies and Action for Conversion; Box 238; Omaha, NE 68101, a coalition of mid-west peace activists.

Most recently, several people were detained for part of the day on Sunday, June 14, when the Command hosted an open house of sorts, apparently trying to enhance their public image. The activists had entered the public event wearing pro-survival T-shirts, and were detained after they attended a service at the base's chapel. No charges were filed in the incident, but several more people were given "ban and barring" letters forbidding them from returning to the base uninvited. More information about the continuing activities can be obtained from the SAC/Strategies and Action for Conversion, and by subscribing to Via Pacis, the newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, Box 4551, Des Moines, IA 50306.



EDITORIAL (cont.)

This is where we see NNNPSC coming into the picture. We want to help spread the word about such communities, to facilitate letter-writing support for those inside, and serve as a clearinghouse for information about jailed activists around the country. In the process, we also hope to educate a few anti-nuclear activists about the reality, the social poison, of the modern prison system.

We value your comments on our work, and suggestions to improve it. Please write and let us know what you think. And while you're at it, remember that the NNNPSC Newsletter is free, but we survive on your donations.

-jack joppa

ROCKWELL / PITTSBURGH

A trial date of July 1 has been set for Tim Speery and Jesse Hunter, Pittsburgh activists who were arrested April 24 at the headquarters of Rockwell International (power tools, atom bombs and breeder reactors), in Pittsburgh. Letters of support for their action--in which they simply entered the building during the course of a demonstration outside its doors--can be directed to them c/o the Thomas Merton Center, 1111 E. Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

ROCKWELL / EL SEGUNDO

At their arraignment in May, eleven (of 51 total) protesters who were arrested at the Rockwell western headquarters in El Segundo, California during an April 27 action were sentenced to the time they had served--3 days. The judge indicated an understanding for the motivations of the protesters and remarked that he didn't want to impose severe jail sentences for the trespass convictions and thus be on the receiving end of letters from people in the community protesting his callousness and lack of understanding for the peaceful objectives of those arrested.

The effectiveness of written appeals to the conscience of women and men in positions of power cannot be discounted!

Of the remaining 40 arrested, 20 plan to plead guilty at their arraignment on July 7, and according to a lawyer for the group, are expecting to be given the option of paying a fine or performing community service. A few involved are expected to insist on serving their sentence in jail. The remaining 20 will take their cases to trial, a date for which will be set July 7. For further info, contact the Catholic Worker House; 632 N. Britannia St; Los Angeles, CA 90033.

MONTANA

Encouraging words about our reprint of John Schuchardt's essay on perspectives on going to jail for civil disobedience have come from Terry Messman-Rucker, who is due to be released July 2 from Boron Federal Prison, Camp; Box 1000; Boron, CA 93516. Terry is serving a six month sentence for trespassing at the Malstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana, an SAC command post. He writes: "People need to begin seriously sharing their prison experiences if civil disobedience is to escalate and become a long-term method of resistance. If we don't begin supporting each other and learning from each other the resistance community will continue to have a high burn-out rate."

"Prison takes a toll, exacts a punishment--even an easy, minimum security camp such as Boron. Learning of the resistance movement in various parts of the country is the best possible antidote to the feeling of prison isolation."

Meanwhile, Darla Messman-Rucker, Mark Anerlik and five other Montanans who had been arrested during actions at the Malstrom Air Force Base on Easter weekend, (NNNPSC #5) plead guilty or no contest and were given suspended sentences by a federal magistrate. Five others of the ten arrested on Easter Sunday are free and awaiting trial.

Rev. John Lemnitzer has been released from the Federal prison camp at Leavenworth, KS, and is back in Missoula. He had served a 90 day sentence for his part in the 1980 Easter Peace action.

John is interested in helping prepare a 'guide to camp' for resisters which would include miscellaneous information about various federal prison camps where resisters may get sent. He thinks it would be helpful in getting oriented if one knew what to expect in the way of living conditions, prison mail and visitation policies and general atmosphere of the institution. He has offered to prepare a guide to Leavenworth, and would like others who have done time at different joints to contribute a few words about their alma mater. If you can help with this project, please write to Rev. John Lemnitzer; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; 2512 Sunset Lane; Missoula, MT; 59801.

John will be leaving his parish at the first of August and devoting his energy to the establishment of a Lutheran Center of Peace and Non-Violence. He has received seed money from the Lutheran Church of America Synod convention to begin work on this project. The center is envisioned as providing resources and programs for bringing effective peacework into individual parishes.

PLOWSHARES 8

Still, no sentencing date has been set for the Plowshares 8, who were convicted last March 6. (NNNPSC #4) Sentencing is expected sometime in July, after a decision is made on motions filed for a mistrial.

On June 16, John Schuchardt, who is awaiting sentencing for the Plowshares 8 action, was sentenced to the maximum--1 year-- for his part in a blood-throwing protest at the Pentagon over 2 1/2 years ago. He is presently at the Washington D.C. Jail; 1900 D St. SE; Washington DC 20003. Please send John words of support. He has written an excellent essay--"A perspective on going to jail for civil disobedience", which is available on request as a reprint from NNNPSC; Box 1812; Madison, WI 53701.



flyer enclosed

Enclosed with this issue is a flyer and order form for Barred From Prison: A Personal Account of Canadian prison activist Claire Culhane's efforts to expose the workings of the British Columbia Penitentiary and aid the prisoners, focusing on the 1976 uprisings there. The cast in her true story is Canadian, but the roles and situations are repeated daily in this country as well. Prospective prisoner advocates wanting to know what to expect when they challenge the workings of the "corrections industry" will find this book valuable. The Prisoner's Rights Group, 3965 Pandora St., Burnaby, BC Canada furnished the flyers for this mailing.

TRIDENT RESISTANCE

LOCKHEED

Only Larry Purcell; Elmwood Men's Facility; 701 S. Able St., Milpitas, CA 95035, remains in jail, of the four religious activists who climbed the fence of the Lockheed factory in Sunnyvale, California, entered the building and poured their blood on sections of the Trident missiles under construction there. Dan Delaney, Chris Selvig and Larry Ferlazzo have all been released.

Larry Purcell expects to be released about July 24. He has been working as an advocate for other prisoners in the jail as 'president of the inmate council'. Larry and Dan Delaney and Dan's wife Chris, who with their two children visited Dan weekly during his 2½ months in jail, have written about the (financially) poor people who fill our nation's jails and their families, the "crimeless victims" who must endure similar pressures of institutionalization as their loved ones inside.

Larry Purcell: "In the past two months:

- "Inmate Legal Services" has decided that due to a financial crunch they will take no new cases--
- The public defender's office just announced that it cannot afford to help inmates with "modification motions" which can reduce sentences by ½ of the full time--
- Our work furlough program charges inmates 1 hour pay per day. Inmates used to pay \$5.35 per work day if that was their hourly pay. As of April 1, 1981, the work furlough men must all pay \$23.50 per day to this county for the privilege of working. Most men can't afford it--that's roughly \$460 a month to the county...after that the men send money home. Some men get billed for \$18 per day and will have huge bills to the county when they leave jail--
- It's clear that this jail is for and filled with the poor--it's clear that these people will pay for the tax cuts...the program slashes...and the continued expansion of weapons production."

Dan Delaney:

"We are surrounded by the poor here. The middle class is noticeably absent. I have to admit now, from experience, what I have been reading for some time: jails are built and maintained for the poor exclusively. They were never intended for anyone else. The whole business, including the courts, is a hypocrisy, a "criminal injustice system", because of our refusal to mete out justice equally to all classes of people.

Chris and I have known for some time that the families of those in prison also have to "do time", but now we know it firsthand. This facility is about 120 miles from Sacramento, each way. For Chris and our two kids to visit me once a week for the 2½ hours allowed is a whole day's work, and then some. We went into this thing together with our eyes wide open, and we have had to suffer the imprisonment together equally. The cost has not been that high, and the likelihood is that we will probably come back for more in the future. It has not been easy, nor fun, nor are we "anxious" to do it again right away. But it has made a marvelous spiritual impact in our lives, in the lives of our children, and in the lives of many who are close to us. In sharing the shame of jail with the poor and with their poor families, we find ourselves will-nilly coming much closer to them than ever before."

Chris Delaney:

"For the four and a half years that we've been ministering to the families of prisoners I have been inspired by the courage and quiet suffering of these good people. But ever since Dan has been in jail for his part in the Lockheed action and I have had a few experiences in common with them, I feel that my feelings of compassion have become intensified. I'd like to share a few of these experiences with you.

GROTON

Five Connecticut resisters, who had been charged with disorderly conduct for pouring blood at the gates of the Electric Boat shipyard in Groton on April 25, have had those charges dropped. Liz Lynam, Christopher Grannis, Arthur Laffin, Vicki Kroon and Elaine Martin were told by prosecutor Harold Dean and Judge Francis Quinn that they (the officials) refused to have the court used for political reasons, and so no further statements were allowed in court.

We would like to remind the judge that the necessity of protesting the nuclear arms race (and attack submarines like the 'Corpus Christi' which was being christened the day of the action) cannot be as easily dismissed as the charges brought against those protesting.

PETER DeMOTT

Peter DeMott (NNNPSC #4) was released from prison during the first week of June, after serving nearly six months for ramming a van into a Trident sub under construction at Electric Boat. Peter went quickly to Washington, DC, where he was arrested among the many taking part in the daily witnesses at the White House this month (see page 1).

BANGOR

A former 'resident' at Boron is Jim Douglass, who was released on May 15 after serving 4 1/2 months of a six month sentence. He had been jailed this time for contempt of court, after refusing to pay a fine which was part of the sentence he received for crossing the fence at the Trident submarine base in Bangor, Washington. He is now back home in Washington, not far from Bangor, "the prettiest ground zero in all the world."

First, I see the importance of the "visit" in prison life. It is the focal point of several lives from week-to-week or month-to-month. It is very precious! It is very intense and very exhausting! I now understand what it is like to undertake a five hour round trip for a half hour visit and discover after a two hour wait that I've missed my visit because my husband had been transferred to another facility that very morning. I understand the anger and frustration of having a two and a half hour visit cut short by one and a half hours to make way for other folks. I understand how court schedules and legal intrigues can affect a family's emotional well-being. I understand the pain of seeing my husband being led into court with manacled hands. And, finally, I understand the hurt and worry after a "bad" visit when my husband was tense and upset by his own worry and pain."

Chris and Dan run the House of Hospitality in Sacramento, catering to those visiting prisoners at Folsom Prison. Donations to help support their service can be sent directly to the House of Hospitality; 619 12th St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

Also, please send a note of support to Larry Purcell if you haven't already, and remember in your thoughts and actions not only he and the other resisters in jail, but the countless tens of thousands who not so willingly share the privation of prison with them.

SUPPORT NNNPSC

— I want to receive the NNNPSC Newsletter and take part in the support actions mentioned there.

— I can help coordinate support activities in my area.

— I can provide NNNPSC with information about future actions and jailings in my area.

— I want to pledge \$___ per month to support NNNPSC (printing, postage and telephone expenses, stationary and supplies--all labor is voluntary)

— Here's my donation of \$5 \$10 \$20 \$___

— I'm interested in working much more with NNNPSC. Talents/skills/ideas to share? Please note below.

— I'd like to correspond with other prisoners (other than radioactivists)

Return Coupon to:

NNNPSC Box 1812 Madison, WI 53701 or NNNPSC Box 1221 Eugene, OR 97440

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PHILIP BRASFIELD CONVICTED AGAIN

Philip Brasfield, a peace activist and writer who in 1977 was wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to death (later converted to life in prison), and whose poetry we featured in NNNPSC #4, was again convicted on retrial of the murder he was charged with. Despite a great amount of frustration and anger over his second conviction on circumstantial evidence, Philip retains hope for the future, and strength reinforced by the faith in his innocence shown by the many who have written him. Philip edits Communitas-A Newsletter of Hope, and can be reached by writing c/o Communitas; 315 E. Lynn St.; Slaton, TX 79364.

SURVIVAL GAMES

A friend who has spent several days in jail for blocking the railroad tracks into the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant wrote last month that while reading NNNPSC #5, "I got to thinking about what support I will want when I am imprisoned again. The biggest problem I had was that my reasons for being there and the prison experience were so different from other prisoners that I was not able to form a common bond (in the time I was there). A prop which I think would help would be to have a packet of games to share with the group. I am thinking of cooperative games, like "Spaceship Earth" in which everyone wins or loses together; or games with social messages like "Class Struggle" or games to teach about anti-nuke, like my "radiation game" or perhaps games involving physical contact to help break down the homophobia of an isolated single-sex group without implying homosexuality". Such games could be especially valuable for those among us spending our first sentence in jail and a bit uncertain of how to break down the barriers of mistrust which permeates the prison environment.

If you have knowledge of games which might be suited to this purpose, or would like to develop them, please contact Paul Bendt, RR4 Box 192, Golden, CO 80401. Paul is willing to work on the development of appropriate games in a format which will be easy to mail and acceptable to the authorities.

FASTING FOR PEACE

As an alternative to civil disobedience, another powerful form of direct action is political fasting. The Non-Violent Tactics Development Project, 1414 Kincaid St; Eugene, OR, 97441, is encouraging an international period of fasting August 6-9 to commemorate the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in repentance for the continued build-up of nuclear weapons world-wide.

T-SHIRTS ?

We have begun to receive requests from prisoners for anti-nuclear t-shirts to supplement their drab prison garb in those prisons which will allow personal clothing. Does your group or organization have any t-shirts which it would like to donate to prisoners who want to carry their anti-nuclear message inside? Please contact NNNPSC to arrange for direct donations to those requesting t-shirts. Thanks!

NATIONAL NO-NUKES
PRISON SUPPORT COLLECTIVE
BOX 1812
MADISON, WI 53701

-OR-

Box 1221
EUGENE, OR 97440

PELTIER UPDATE

Leonard Peltier has been released from the "control unit" of Marion Federal Prison, Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959. Most of his "privileges" have been restored for the time being, and his lawyers are now preparing a writ of habeas corpus to be filed in his case sometime this fall. They are basing much of their case on over 10,000 pages of documents obtained from the government under the Freedom of Information Act, which his supporters say show more evidence of government misconduct and manipulation of evidence than has previously been documented.

Standing Deer, another Indian prisoner who was bribed into betraying Peltier in an assassination plot before befriending Peltier and acting as his bodyguard (NNNPSC #4), is reported doing well and recovering from having his appendix removed in late March. Standing Deer a/k/a Robert Wilson; Federal Prison; Lewisburg, PA.

SUPPORT ACTION: A congressional subcommittee has agreed to investigate Leonard's case, and the massive government misconduct which resulted in his sentence of two life terms. Letters supporting his case and a congressional investigation are still needed, and should be sent to Rep. Donald Edwards, Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, A407 House Office Building, Annex 1, Washington, DC 20515. Copies to Rep. Peter Rodino, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, and Rep. Ronald Dellums, 2464 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

The Emergency Response International Network is a telephone-activated network geared to respond to emergency situations which threaten Indian peoples on this continent and demand a rapid public outcry against the threatening actions of governments or corporations. If you are interested in becoming part of this network, please respond to ERIN, c/o Mohawk Nation, Via Roosevelt-town, N.Y. 13683.



OTHERS INSIDE (that we know of)

Bill Kuykendall, #122627; New Kent Correctional Unit #16; Star Rt; Box 80-A; Barhansville, VA 23011

Jim Merrill, #122618; State Correctional Unit, Chesterfield, VA

(Bill and Jim are serving two year sentences for sabotaging new fuel rods at the Surry, Virginia nuke, in an effort to draw attention to gross safety violations there)

graphics needed!

WANTED: Original graphics and drawings, preferably movement oriented, by persons who have been jailed for anti-nuclear activity.

NNNPSC desires donations from activist/artists to illustrate notecards for a fundraising project. Our Newsletter is free and we'd like to keep it that way!

For more information and to donate work, write:

NNNPSC
Box 1812
Madison, WI 53701

