

REMEMBER TO SEND
HOLIDAY GREETINGS
TO THOSE IN JAIL!

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL NO-NUKES PRISON SUPPORT COLLECTIVE

A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR JAILED AND IMPRISONED ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVISTS

No. 9

December 12, 1981

Women's Pentagon Action

Over 3000 women gathered in Washington, D.C., on November 15 and 16 for the second Women's Pentagon Action. A weekend of workshops on feminist, peace and anti-nuclear issues culminated on Monday, November 16, with a march to the Pentagon, where somewhere between 65 and 102 women were arrested for blocking access to two entrances to the five-sided citadel of doom. Organizers are not certain exactly how many women were arrested because during processing of those initially detained at the Pentagon, government authorities quickly freed over 20 women on a 'citation release' of questionable legality. Among those formally arrested, some have had their cases transferred to a jurisdiction near their homes, as allowed by federal criminal procedures.

During arraignments and processing that night, many women pled no contest, and others bonded themselves out. Three women refused to cooperate with authorities by not giving their names. In all, 44 women spent the first night in jail, and most were released within ten days, having been sentenced to that length of time or less. On Wednesday, November 25, five women with 15-day sentences and four who had received 30-day terms were awakened at 3 am and transferred to the Federal Women's Prison at Alderson, WV. In a repeat of their treatment last year at the first Women's Pentagon Action, the women were handcuffed and placed in leg shackles for the eight hour bus ride to Alderson.

Immediately upon arrival at Alderson, the five women with 15-day terms were placed in isolation cells for "administrative expediency" according to officials. One of these women informed prison authorities that she is hypoglycemic and needs to eat every few hours. Her pleas were ignored, and by her last day at Alderson she was so ill she needed to be taken to a hospital for the completion of her sentence.

The four women with 30-day terms were placed in the minimum security section of the prison until Friday, December 4, when they were told to take an I.Q. test. The women refused, questioning the necessity of the tests, and were immediately placed in disciplinary isolation for the weekend. To the surprise of prison authorities, word of this move quickly reached the women's supporters in Washington, D.C. Within hours a phone-tree was activated and over the weekend calls poured into the prison demanding

(continued on page 2)

White House/Tax Day

Actions at the Blight House during the 1981 Holy Week and tax day presence have resulted in 6 Jonah House people being held at the D.C. Detention Center, 1901-D St., Washington, D.C. 20003. Sally Kearsley was given 30 days and Louie de Benedette 4 months for holding banners saying, "Send my children dreams not nuclear nightmares" and "Why work and pay for mass suicide." John Shiel was sentenced to 10 months and Karl Smith and Mike Miles each to 6 months for pouring blood on the Blight House. George Veasey was given an additional 90 days for blood pouring and is serving 6 months for praying.

Jonah House suggests that the judge to contact to express support for resistance to the Bomb is Hizzoner John Hess, Superior Court, District of Columbia, 500 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

Phil and Liz McAlister-Berrigan's new baby is Kathleen Elizabeth. This is the third child, not the first as reported last month. Apologies to Jerry and Frida, congratulations to Liz and Phil, and welcome to Kathleen!

Arms Bazaar

At last word, the Dec. 8 trial of Marsha Timmel and Rosemary Maguire is still in progress. During the summer Arms Bizzare in Washington, they blocked the entrance to the driveway with some 50 other people, some from the Sojourners Community. Those who pled guilty received sentences of up to 30 days.

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Inside & Out

PANTEX

Larry Rosebaugh is scheduled to be released from Metropolitan Correction Center in Chicago on December 15, after serving over ten months for his part in the February 10, 1981 prayer pilgrimage to the Pantex nuclear weapons assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas. His release will leave Ladon Sheats, 11388-077; Box 7; Terminal Island, CA 90731, as the only one of the six people arrested there remaining in jail. Ladon is scheduled to be released on December 24.

PLOWSHARES EIGHT

John Schuchardt; Western SCI; Box 9901; Pittsburgh, PA 15233 (serving 3-10 years).

Elmer Maas; Graterford SCI; Box 244; Graterford, PA 19426 (serving 1½-5 years).

Carl Kabat; Rockview SCI; Box A; Bellafonte, PA 16823 (serving 3-10 years). Carl writes that "the best support possible is people saying NO to death and YES to life... We know that people die in war and it should not be a surprise if people suffer for peace."

ROCKY FLATS

Ron Boyer and Peter Jamieson have been released after serving four months in federal prison for their July 4, 1981 trespass at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Denver, Colorado.

WHITE HOUSE

Peter DeMott has been moved to Box 1000, R5/6; Montgomery, PA 17752.

Surry Saboteurs Released

Jim Merrill and Bill Kuykendall were convicted in the fall of 1979 of sabotaging fuel rods at the Surry, Virginia nuclear power plant where they were employed in an effort to draw attention to gross safety problems at the nuke. They were sentenced to two years each in prison, and began serving their sentences in the fall of 1980. Jim was released last August 28, and Bill was set free on September 10. Jim's parole officer placed a special restriction on him to avoid contact with Bill, yet Bill's officer made no similar prohibition.

Bill wrote in mid-November: "Wednesday, I begin new work. I will be starting one day per week as chaplain's assistant in the city jail here. [Newport News, Virginia] I'm looking forward to it very much. I must confess that being incarcerated changed my point of view about prisoners and prison conditions greatly. I hope to have time to spend a lot of time counselling with the inmates. The most dehumanizing thing I found while locked up was that no one listens

Women's Pentagon Action (cont.)

that the four be released from isolation. The following Monday, December 7, the prison admitted that the test was only required for prisoners expected to stay for at least one year, and the four were released back into minimum security. They are due to be released on December 15.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, the three 'Jane Doe's' were hauled back in front of a magistrate after 12 days in jail. They then gave their names and received sentences of 15 days with credit for time served. Trials for small groups of those released on bond at the beginning are still being held, and are scheduled into January. Three women who were arrested twice on November 16 are due to stand trial on December 15, and each faces a possible total sentence of 60 days in jail. Most other women have received sentences of 10 days or less for first offenders and 30 days for repeat offenders.

As we go to press, only one other woman, besides the four at Alderson, is currently in jail. She received a 30-day sentence on Dec. 8. She is being held somewhere in the D.C. area and is due to be released January 7. Our source didn't have her name, but letters supporting her and other women facing trial and sentencing can be sent to the Women's Pentagon Action; Box 9306; Washington, DC 20005; (202) 483-4284.

While most sentencing has been fairly consistent, U.S. Magistrate Quinn Elson; 333 N. Fairfax St.; Alexandria, VA, has earned a reputation for erratic and inconsistent sentencing. His attitude in court is described as "elitist" and he has handed down longer sentences to those women who do not impress him with their articulateness or educational background. Those who do impress him receive only time served or suspended sentences. That the women who appear in front of Judge Elson are willing to sit in jail for their acts of conscience is indisputable. What disturbs these women and their supporters is his lack of any sound and consistent policy for sentencing those involved. Letters questioning his sentencing standards should be sent directly to him at the above address.

Our next issue will carry an update on the results of pending trials.

to inmates. They may speak (down) to an inmate but communication is strictly one-way. I counselled several men while I was there who were on the edge of breaking because of this.... Food for thought: the actions of men reflect their inner light. Restricting actions only leads to frustration and the light finds new ways to express itself. Change the light within the man and his actions will change accordingly. Nuclear Industry heads are men with lights inside too."

General Electric Five

Thelma Stoudt, William Hartman, Janice Hill, Roger Ludwig and Robert M. Smith, all of the Brandywine Peace Community, 51 Barren Rd., Media, Pa. 19063 are out and awaiting a March 15 trial for an Oct. 29th action at the G.E. Re-Entry Division Headquarters in Philadelphia, where research is done on the Mark 12A warhead. Like the Flowshares Eight, this group walked past security guards, poured their own blood in a restricted area and knelt in prayer. They are charged with burglary, criminal conspiracy, criminal mischief, criminal trespassing and defiant trespassing and could receive sentences of up to 51 years.

Separate contempt charges stemming from a 1979 injunction against the Brandywine Community resulted in sentences of an \$150 fine or 60 days in jail.

Letters to G.E. about the "good things" they "bring to life" should be sent to Lad Warzecha, General Manager, G.E. Re-Entry Division, 32d and Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

On October 30, the day after the G.E. action, Rick Sieber and his brother Pat, a Franciscan priest, poured blood and ashes and knelt on the G.E. steps. At their trial at which they pled guilty to one misdemeanor and one summary offense, the judge noting Pat's collar asked if he were a clergyman. He then said that the only time he had sent a priest to jail (the Berrigans), he had not been able to sleep for a week. Therefore, he accepted their plea and let them go.

Trident Resistance

Dean Hammer and Ann Montgomery (both also of Flowshares 8), Art Laffin, Chris Grannis, Elin Schade and Judy Beaumont are out on bail for a Nov. 9th action at the Electric Boat Administrative Building, Groton, Conn. The 6 threw blood on a mural of the (bloody) Trident and ashes on the floor.

On Dec. 2, all pre-trial motions, including a request for a jury trial, were denied, and the judge excused himself from the case. The defendants are now working with three attorneys, including Ramsey Clark, on new motions, and the trial has been delayed.

Charges were dropped against 5 women who blocked buses on Nov. 11 and 10 people who blockaded the motorcade at the launch of the U.S. Florida on Nov. 14 in Conn. It was mentioned that the State Police were unusually rough, e.g. dragging people by their noses, necks and hair, and seemed to be most interested in intimidating the resisters.

It has been suggested that, in addition to sending letters of support to imprisoned resisters, it is also important to contact the managers of weapons factories and the judges who hand down the "little packages of death." The purpose of this contact is to return the focus where it belongs --

The keeper death
would make contented
cage dwellers
of us all --
would turn all
life
joy
goodness
into furniture,
fixtures,
consumer items,
private possessions --
would gladly give us
everything
(finally)
but access to the truth
access to ourselves
access to the Other
the unchangeable One

(by Roger Ludwig of the G.E.5)

On Dec. 5 at the Army-Navy game, Pat and Rick Sieber walked out onto the field, poured blood and knelt in prayer to protest the football "war" game. A hearing on one misdemeanor and one summary offense will be held Dec. 16.

S.A.C. Protesters Sentenced

In Omaha, Nebraska, Frank Cordaro, John Hutchens and Bill Douglas were sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay for the sign at the Strategic Air Command headquarters, which they had corrected in an action last December 28. They had repainted the part which read "Peace is our Profession" to read "WAR is our Profession".

At their sentencing, they told the judge they didn't intend to pay for the sign. The judge ordered them to do so by next September, and then left the courtroom. At a meeting with their probation officer, the three refused to sign an agreement to pay for the sign as a condition of probation. The probation officer called the judge, who responded that the three didn't have to sign the agreement, and that they only had to report to the parole officer periodically. When Frank refused to go even this far in cooperation with his 'punishment', the judge was again called. Finally, Frank was placed on unsupervised probation for the year.

Please see "Future Actions" on page 4 of this issue for information about an upcoming action at S.A.C.

Note to Letter Writers

on the criminality of the war industry and the complicity of the courts which march in lock-step with the State into nuclear suicide. It should be pointed out that, in all instances, it is the Bomb which should be on trial. We must insist that the courts respond conscientiously to this truth.

FUTURE ACTIONS

S.A.C.

There will be a "Feast of the Holy Innocents" gathering and Peace Witness at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. A day and a half retreat will be followed with an action on Monday, December 28. Both the retreat and action are being planned from a faith perspective and a Christian context.

If you'd like to write some words of encouragement to be shared at the retreat, or would like more information about the retreat and action, contact The Catholic Worker Community, P.O. Box 4551, Des Moines, Iowa 50306, 515-243-0765.

Jonah House/Pentagon

Jonah House is inviting people to their traditional Christmas gathering at the Pentagon, Dec. 27- Dec. 30. Sleeping accommodations will be provided at St. Stephen's Church, 16th and Newton, N.W., Washington, D.C. People should bring sleeping bags and food to share and can contact Jonah House, 1933 Park Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21217 to make arrangements. Gaudete Center, Madison, Wisc. will pick up centrally located people between Wisc. and D.C. and provide free transportation. Call 608-257-4996 if you would like a ride.

Livermore Lab

The ad-hoc Livermore-Neversmore Group; 2110 1/2 Ashby Ave.; Berkeley, CA 94705 (415) 841-7994 is helping to organize and can provide information about plans for direct action against the Livermore Nuclear Weapons lab starting as soon as January, 1982, if interest is strong enough.

Prison Lit Review

The following brief reviews of prison literature were supplied by Terry Messman-Rucker and were compiled while he served a six-month sentence at Boron, CA, for an action at Malstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana.

In the Service of Their Country, War Resisters in Prison - Willard Gaylin, M.D.

Gaylin interviewed several Vietnam draft resisters and his book reveals the ups and downs of prison life: living from day to day, torn between hope and depression, these resisters describe the dehumanization of the American prison system and discuss their coping mechanism. These pacifists were in prison for several years, not the several months faced by most anti-nuclear resistance.

Walk to Moscow

On August 6, Jack Chalmers, of a "Walk to Moscow", was arrested while leafletting at the Strategic Air Command near Omaha, Nebraska. He was originally charged with "impeding traffic" and "obstructing a peace officer". Later on, his charges were lowered to "disobeying a lawful order". He requested his trial date be set for Pearl Harbor Day, December 7. Charges were dropped when the arresting officer failed to show up for the trial.

Chris O'Rourke, also of a "Walk to Moscow", was arrested while leafletting at a Rockwell Plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On September 17 he was found innocent of "disobeying a police officer" and all of his bail money was returned.

Leonard Peltier

Leonard Peltier's lawyers are about to file a Writ of Habeas Corpus in a last ditch effort to get a re-trial on the original charges. (see NNNPSC #4) In an attempt to build consciousness and support around this, his Support Group is planning to release a monthly newsletter to keep people informed on the developments in the case. Because of this and past support actions, they are seriously in debt.

If people would be interested in helping to raise funds, the Leonard Peltier Support Group has a slide show, "Free The People", available for use. They suggest arranging a house party, or setting up a speaking engagement at your school or church. Any questions or donations should be sent to the Leonard Peltier Support Group, P.O. Box 176, Mohegan Lake, N.Y. 10547.

Letters and Papers from Prison - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Bonhoeffer writes of the struggles of faith in prison. Imprisoned by the Nazis for conspiring against Hitler, Bonhoeffer wrote an eloquent wedding sermon, bleak descriptions of life in prison, shining affirmations of the Spirit which is present even amid suffering, and prison poems of stark beauty:

"struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing my throat, yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds."

(from the poem, "Who Am I")

Absurd Convictions, Modest Hopes - Conversations between Daniel Berrigan and Lee Lockwood

Daniel Berrigan describes four months underground eluding the FBI after his conviction for burning draft records at Catonsville. Berrigan also talks of living a life of Christian conscience during 17 months at Danbury prison, months which he filled by creating poetry, teaching classes and organizing hunger strikes. A witness of compassion and courage.

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Holiday



Ideas

In this, another holiday season saturated with consumerism, try an alternative. Give a meaningful gift to family and friends that will last all year long. Buy them a subscription to a movement publication. Here's just a few suggestions...

WIN Magazine, 326 Livingston St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217, 212-624-8337, stands for Workshop In Non-violence. They publish twice-monthly, except for monthly in January and October, with support from the War Resister's League. Subscriptions are \$20 per year. Well worth it, for extensive coverage of varied movement issues. Included are articles, poetry, reviews, and regular columns such as "Prison Notes" and a recipe column called "Serve the People".

Akwesasne Notes, Mohawk Nation, via Rooseveltown, N.Y. 13683, 518-358-9531, is the official publication of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. They publish five times a year, and subscriptions are \$6, or \$12 to be on the special "Express" list. They cover Native American issues in depth, including resistance at Big Mountain (AZ) and the Black Hills (SD), as well as fully detailed coverage of Leonard Peltier.

The Peacemaker, P.O. Box 627, Garberville, CA. 95440, is the publication of the Peacemaker Movement. It is published once a month, and subscriptions are \$10, or free to prisoners. Its coverage consists of peace-related issues, with readers contributing and sharing both their information and ideas.

WISE, 1536 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-387-0818, distributes an international publication which covers nuclear issues throughout the world. A subscription for 6 issues costs \$10.

Prison Visitors Wanted

Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS), a nationwide program for prisoners in U.S. federal and military prisons is seeking additional volunteers to visit at the following prisons: Ashland, KY; Atlanta, GA; Butner, NC; Big Spring, TX; Bastrop, TX; Chicago, IL; Danbury, CT; El Reno, OK; Elgin AFB, FL; Englewood, CO; Leavenworth, KS; Florence, AZ; Lewisburg, PA; Lompoc, CA; Lexington, KY; La Tuna (El Paso) TX; Marion, IL; Morgantown, WV; Maxwell AFB (montgomery), AL; Memphis, TN; Norfolk, VA; New York, NY; Otisville, NY; Petersburg, VA; Ray Brook (Lake Placid), NY; Safford, AZ; Sandstone, MN; Springfield, MO; Seagoville, TX; Terre Haute, IN; Talladega, AL; Texarkana, TX; Terminal Island, CA; Boron, CA; and Ft. Worth, TX.

PVS is an independent organization, sponsored by 35 national religious bodies and socially concerned agencies. It is unique because it has access to all U.S. Federal and Military prisons. The focus of PVS's visitors is on those prisoners with acute need for human contact: those serving long sentences, those in military confinement, those without visits, those in maximum security institutions, and those frequently transferred across the country from prison to prison.

If you are interested in becoming a PVS visitor, or know of someone who might be, please contact the PVS national office. PVS visitors are all volunteers and are expected to visit at least once a month and follow up on prisoner needs.

Prisoner Visitation and Support, 1501 Cherry St. Philadelphia, PA 19102; (215) 241-7117

The Progressive, 409 E. Main, Madison, WI. 53703, 608-257-4626, is published monthly, and covers various movement issues. A one-year subscription costs \$17.

Also, The War Resister's League, Dept. W, 339 Lafayette St., N.Y., N.Y. 10012, 212-228-0450, has put out their traditional Peace Calendar and Appointment Book. Entitled "Dancing In The Streets", this calendar includes the words of 56 socially significant songs. It's a desk calendar (5 1/2 x 8 1/2) with a page for every week. \$5 each, or you can get four for \$18. (N.Y. residents please add 8% sales tax).

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NNNPSC NEWSLETTER

_____ I CAN HELP COORDINATE SUPPORT ACTIVITY IN MY AREA

_____ I CAN KEEP NNNPSC INFORMED OF LOCAL ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIONS AND JAILINGS

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE \$ _____ PER MONTH TO SUPPORT NNNPSC

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH PRISONERS OTHER THAN RADIOACTIVISTS

_____ HERE IS MY DONATION OF

\$50 \$20 \$10 \$5 \$ _____

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....ZIP.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

PLEASE RETURN TO:

NNNPSC
BOX 1812
MADISON, WI 53701

NNNPSC Who We Are, What We Do

The National No-Nukes Prison Support Collective is a support network for jailed and imprisoned anti-nuclear activists. With information and funds provided by subscribers-members, we publish this Newsletter, which (we hope) provides comprehensive information about the arrests and jailing of anti-nuclear activists around the nation. People receiving the Newsletter are asked to write letters of support to those behind bars, and, when necessary, letters protesting the treatment and conditions of confinement to appropriate authorities.

Our goals include:

- Fostering a wider public awareness of imprisoned nuclear resisters, their motivations and their actions, through both movement and straight media.
- To build a link between the anti-nuclear movement and the prison movement, with the aim of educating radioactivists about the daily destruction of lives in the prisons of this country.

In any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are jailed or imprisoned. In jail, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Support for the imprisoned activist is essential to the success of the movement for a nuclear-free future.

To continue this work, we need donations for postage, printing and a few long distance phone calls. The Newsletter is free, and all labor is volunteered. We just want to get the word out, and help others show their support.

If you are interested in active support of jailed resisters, primarily through letter-writing, please let us know. A coupon for this purpose is included inside.



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

ATTENTION!! IS YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CROSSED WITH A RED LINE?
IF SO, WE MUST HEAR FROM YOU OR YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM
OUR MAILING LIST. NO MONEY REQUIRED--JUST USE THE COUPON
INSIDE AND LET US KNOW TO KEEP YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED