

Good news! You can vote for a left alternative to Bush and Clinton!

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Oregon Nazi uses SLAPP suit to deter gay rights advocates

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# The Freedom Socialist

*Voice of Revolutionary Feminism*

August-October 1992

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## The fire this time

# L.A. rebellion unveils the shape of tomorrow



**"Riot is the language of the unheard."**

—Dr. M.L. King, Jr.

BY MONICA HILL

"Hell no! We won't take it!" Wednesday, April 29, 1992. Following the acquittal of four cop-terrorists who bludgeoned Rodney King senseless last year, enraged youth from the ghettos, barrios, and housing projects of Los Angeles ignited the biggest and most multi-racial riot/revolt in the U.S. in this century.

It was violent and compassionate, chaotic and orderly, surprising and predictable. It exposed the powers-that-be and intimidated the power that *could* be.

It was a rebellion against police brutality — and much more. It was a shout of fury against the economics and politics that have impoverished, drugged, brutalized, exploited and marginalized Blacks — and in addition to Blacks, all people of color, women, and gays. It was an explosion against a system in which previously comfortable workers are afflicted with debt, anxiety, and living stan-

dards in free fall, while the most oppressed workers are living in hell. One-third of the half-million people in South-Central L.A. officially live in poverty.

The uprising was a violent rebuke to a violent ruling structure, an outcry loud enough for the whole world to hear. It was a defining moment in U.S. history.

And it is far from over. It was still echoing in July, when Washington Heights in New York City went up in flames for two days after a white cop shot and killed 23-year-old Jose Garcia, a Dominican-American. Neighborhood residents, who are mostly Latino immigrants, said, "¡Basta! — Enough!" in the language of arson and guns.

**No peace possible without justice.** Forty-five people died during the three days of rioting in Los Angeles, 11 more than were killed when Watts blew up for six days in August 1965. At least 11 were slain by the incredible array of police and troops called out — a total of 20,238, including 5,000 L.A. cops; 9,975 National Guard; 3,313 federal troops;

and 4,273 others.

Though the media portrayed L.A. as out of control for days on end, almost all the looting and burning was already over before troops appeared on the streets on Friday afternoon.

Nevertheless, the dusk-to-dawn cur-

few was not lifted until after Sunday night. Schools were closed for three days. The city shut down the South-Central post offices, held repair crews back, stopped bus service, blockaded freeway access, and closed the beaches.

Seventeen thousand people were arrested; 4,000 were arrested during Watts. Forty-five percent of those arrested were Latinos, several hundred of whom were then illegally deported by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**Two nations, rich and poor.** This was no race riot. Blacks, Latinos, whites, men, women, kids and parents — all joined in.

Many of the torched or raided shops were owned by Korean Americans. Undoubtedly, anger over insensitive or racist treatment by some merchants contributed to this destruction. But mainly, the businesses that were hit were hit simply because they were there. "It was a riot of have-nots venting their frustration," said one Korean grocer.

The Kerner Commission, which studied the riots of the '60s, reached the famous conclusion that the U.S. was split into "two societies, one black, one white." The L.A. riots of 1992 roiled from and reveal an even more fundamental division: two societies, one have-nots, one haves.

**Not just an L.A. thing.** The protest spread overnight to cities across the country and even around the world: Toronto, Berlin, Melbourne.

• In San Francisco, Mayor Frank Jordan responded to outpourings of disgust at the verdict with a state of emergency, a curfew, and full-throttle repression of the right to assemble. (Please see Merle Woo's account on page seven.)

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## Weed and Seed: Bush cultivates scheme to nip urban revolt in the bud

BY LINDA RICE



"Los Angeles could happen here." These words, spoken at a Seattle demonstration to protest the acquittal of police who beat Rodney King, could apply to practically any U.S. city.

No one knows this better than the boys in the White House. Their miserable status-quo empire is crumbling and they're getting nervous. No wonder they dream up a program like Operation Weed and Seed.

This poisoned apple is the Bush administration's plan to head off the

inner-city revolt that promises to erupt with rapid-fire intensity in the '90s. Weed and Seed is the first step toward placing all social programs under law enforcement control and implanting a policy of domestic counter-insurgency, perfected by the military and CIA to quell rebellion in places like El Salvador.

The \$500 million program was to encompass 17 cities, including Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, and Seattle. Its supposed mission: to "weed" drugs and gangs out of targeted neighborhoods, populated mostly by the poor and

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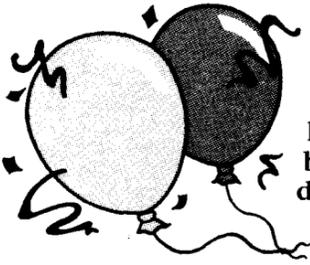
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### Freeway Hall Case victory 8



One more Reagan-era nightmare is over. The malicious charges by Richard Snedigar against his radical ex-cohorts have been thrown out. The defendants are free at last!

### Bay Area arrests 7

Merle Woo, one of hundreds arrested in San Francisco demos after the King beating case verdict, reports on fruitless efforts by cops and politicians to make the city a protest-free zone.



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## In Next Issue

- **War in Eastern Europe:** An exploration of the ethnic strife tearing apart Yugoslavia, Russia, and many of the new Eastern European republics.
- **American quincennial:** The anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas is sparking both jingoistic celebrations *and* renewed resistance to exploitation and genocide. Alaskan native Debra O'Gara will report.

**On the cover:** The drawing used to illustrate our front page, "Invitation to the Dance: Central District 1973," is by internationally respected Seattle artist Selma Waldman.

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## Letters

### Women leaders, Lenin and Trotsky

I think there is sound reason to believe Lenin and Trotsky turned their backs on democratic socialism in the early period — they had to survive first. Shooting the number of people they shot can't be blamed on Stalin, and if [FSP] thinks democracy is marked by the execution of opposing viewpoints then our definitions deeply vary.

To write that [the Russian Revolution] was led by women is a re-writing of history to fit the current feminist viewpoint. Yes, women in breadlines revolted — but so did troops at the front. The leadership both of Kerensky's movement and "Lenin and Trotsky" was hardly marked by leading roles for women.

Of course, we agree on Stalin — but it is the continuing unwillingness to examine problems involved with basic Leninist theory and Trotskyist theory — as if only with Stalin did things go wrong — that divides us so deeply. Oddly, some of those leaving the Communist Party are better able to see the flaws in Lenin than the Trotskyists.

**David McReynolds**  
**War Resisters League**  
**New York City**

*Women did initiate the insurrection that resulted in the tsar's overthrow. While all the opposition parties were telling the workers that they would lose a confrontation, the women textile workers disagreed. Their International Women's Day demonstration sparked the revolution — and changed world history utterly. Leadership is not exclusive — both women and soldiers can lead! Trotsky tells the inspiring story in his History of the Russian Revolution.*

*Lenin and Trotsky did not engage in the "execution of opposing*

*viewpoints." They straightforwardly fought and shot people who acted against the revolution. They were battling to defend rule by the majority — workers and peasants. Stalin, by contrast, murdered millions to ensure the survival of the privileged ruling-caste minority. —Ed.*

### Human race, racism, and class

I work on our prison newspaper as a staff writer. I'm beginning to awaken to the fact that for the human race to continue in harmony, we must have an alternative to our current system. I hope to be able to convince my brothers and sisters in the Afro-American community of the need for socialistic cooperation in order to re-vitalize the urban ghetto. There's more to the struggle than black and white issues. Racial tensions in the world are due to the imposed class structure of the plutocracy.

**Paul X**  
**Kincheloe, Michigan**

### Fed-up Matriarchist

I am a sort of post anti-Vietnam-War, pro-McGovern political burnout case and am sick and tired of the ONE PARTY (Democans and Republicrats) system. I am also a Matriarchist. Please send me your magazine or anything.

**Mike Kulik**  
**Plattsburgh, New York**

### Sandy Nelson case update

Sandy Nelson and her defense committee are gearing up to take the Tacoma *Morning News Tribune* to court. To get the case filed by late summer, we're going to

need lots of help. A volunteer attorney and other legal workers are what we need most.

This suit promises to be a vital, ground-breaking fight for all workers' rights off the job. In 1990, Sandy, an award-winning journalist and organizer for Tacoma Radical Women, was transferred from reporter to copy editing because of her political activities. For two years, she, her defense committee and thousands of petition-signers nationwide have been agitating to get Sandy reinstated, but her boss won't budge.

Through this lawsuit, we plan to get Sandy back in the newsroom. Journalists must be free to be involved in their communities. Fair and balanced news depends on reporters who are politically knowledgeable and invested in the world around them.

If you would like to volunteer to help us win this important First Amendment case, call Sandy Nelson at (206) 752-3678.

**Lee Linthicum**  
**Chair, Sandy Nelson**  
**Defense Committee**  
**Tacoma, Washington**

*Readers are encouraged to submit letters, news stories, commentary, cartoons, graphics, photographs, and pertinent resource information on world and national affairs.*

## Announcement

Radical Women delegates will embark on a tour of Eastern Europe and the republics of the former USSR in fall 1992. If you live there and would like to make contact, or you know of groups or individuals RW should meet with, please write to the Radical Women National Office, 523-A Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94100.

## Intimidation lawsuit launched against gay rights organizers

BY MATT NAGLE

The Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), a Portland-based group of fundamentalist Christians with a wide-ranging fascist program, has launched a new effort to destroy the lesbian/gay and anti-Nazi movements. It has brought a \$14 million SLAPP suit against Portlanders combating the OCA's drive to outlaw homosexuality at the ballot box. (SLAPP stands for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation.)

Their statewide initiative, Measure Nine, will be up for a vote in November.

The lawsuit, filed by anti-abortion vigilante Paul deParrie, accuses 21 organizations and individuals of plotting to incite a riot and commit burglary, assault,

fraud, and intimidation against OCA petitioners at a Fred Meyer store. Those charged include Portland Radical Women and its organizer, Adrienne Weller; Queer Nation; Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon; the Fred Meyer Corporation; the Portland police chief; and the entire city government.

How absurd! This sinister harassment suit is pure fabrication intended to intimidate, bind, and gag the OCA's activist enemies. Already deParrie has filed demands in court for his opponents' meeting minutes, tax records, internal correspondence, and lists of contributors.

Today, the U.S. Supreme Court has abortion rights hanging by a thread and has ruled that banning crossburning is unconstitutional; the Bush brigade slams single mothers and Black fami-

lies as "lacking values"; the U.S. military still gives lesbian and gay soldiers the boot.

Disastrously, while the right wing is trying to drive us back to segregation, closets, and the kitchen, many lesbian and gay bureaucrats are more concerned with keeping the revolutionary "riff-raff" out of "their" bailiwicks. In this vein, RW Organizer Weller was thrown off an anti-OCA steering committee just weeks before deParrie lodged his suit.

Movement misleaders are breaking apart the bonds of solidarity just at the time that the rightwing xenophobes are *breaking down the doors* of groups resisting the bigots. The office of Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon was raided and ransacked in June.

Enough is enough! We can't obliterate fascists "the nice way." Organizing behind closed doors spells failure. We need a *united front* which welcomes the leadership of radicals, people of color, women, Jews, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgenerals.

A multi-frontal political attack in the streets, in the press, in the courts, and at the ballot box will beat these guys if we mobilize *together*.

To help in the anti-OCA work, call Radical Women at (503) 289-7082 or write to 7038 N. Fairport Place, Portland, OR 97217. □

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# How the alternative candidates stack up

Looking for a reason to vote in the presidential election? Well, here's the Freedom Socialist Party ratings of the third party/independent candidates who are running in many or all states.

We support Black organizer Ron Daniels, but with one major criticism: We think he should deliver the *explicit* anti-capitalist critique his platform implies.

A former Rainbow Coalition director, Daniels decided that working within the Democratic Party is a dead end. His right-on-the-mark solution? Form an independent, workingclass party integrating all the movements.

But why stop there? Many of Daniels' constituents are already calling their enemy by its name — capitalism — and it's

a candidate's job to get out there and *lead*.

Where Daniels isn't on the ballot, we recommend a vote for the Socialist Workers Party.

Looking past the immediate candidates, a positive development this year is the mounting interest in an independent party among activists of color, feminists, and progressives in the labor movement.

The almost-candidacy of capitalist titan Ross Perot, notwithstanding all its racism, sexism, etc., had its vital, optimistic side. It showed how completely eager voters are to pitch out the Democrats and Republicans.

We look forward to seeing this demand for choice focus on *anti-capitalist* candidates and develop into something big!

Party/Candidates	Anti-capitalist?	Feminism	People of Color and Jews	Sexual Minorities	Labor/Economy	Miscellany
<b>Ron Daniels, President</b> <b>Asiba Tupahache</b> Vice President	Not stated — but program demands greater control by workers over business.	Stand for total equality for women, especially on the job, and reproductive rights.	Call for reparations for Blacks; Native American sovereignty; end to anti-Semitism and all racism.	Strong, vocal support for lesbian and gay rights.	Say full employment with good jobs, wages, and benefits is a basic human right.	Running a serious grassroots effort. A+ on environmental issues.
<b>Socialist Workers Party</b> <b>James Warren, President</b> <b>Estelle DeBates,</b> Vice President	Yeah, but their campaign lit leaves what socialism is entirely to the reader's imagination.	Their program for women is limited to abortion rights and affirmative action.	Mention only Black rights, and that gets short shrift. Jews get a nod as scapegoats.	Gay liberation? What's that?	Brochure omits their traditional call for nationalizing industry, a crucial plank.	Only revolutionary socialists in the arena. Despite inadequacies, still worth voting for.
<b>Socialist Party</b> <b>J. Quinn Brisben, President</b> <b>William D. Edwards,</b> Vice President	Yes — but also anti-communist. Consider Trotskyists the same as Stalinists.	Support women's most basic rights, nothing that NOW and the Democrats don't do.	More wishy-washy liberalism. Don't even use the words "racism" or "anti-Semitism."	See comments to left.	Party of the left-leaning labor bureaucracy and careerists.	Campaign strikes no sparks. Zzzzz.
<b>New Alliance Party</b> <b>Lenora Fulani, President</b>	No — although they bill themselves as "pro-socialist" to selected audiences.	Pro-choice. Period.	Total opportunists; Louis Farrakhan cheerleaders. Ignore Asian Americans completely.	Now claim to be for gay rights, but in the '70s tried to convert gays to hetero through therapy.	Vague to the max. More jobs, "more democracy" are the answer.	NAP is poison. Good rap hides complete viciousness towards the Left, other movements.
<b>Libertarian Party</b> <b>Andre Marrou, President</b> <b>Nancy Lord,</b> Vice President	Believe in less government and more free market — "let capitalism be capitalism!"	Only campaign-lit mention of women tells us Marrou's wife is "still in awe of him."	Favor open borders, but just to attract unskilled labor at starvation wages to lower prices.	Side-step the subject.	"Real," untrammelled capitalism will fix everything.	Running in all 50 states. Characterize pollution as a violation of private property rights.
<b>Populist Party</b> <b>Bo Gritz, President</b> <b>Cy Minnet, Vice President</b>	Ku Klux Klan's electoral arm. Want "America first" — meaning white Christian patriots first.	Call feminists "far-left zealot feminists." Urge women to return to the home; dream on, fellas.	Blame Blacks for Black-white conflict. Would halt immigration, destroy all Native treaties.	Believe gays are scum; a nasty case of projection.	Against unions, affirmative action. Want to pump up America with heavy tariffs and the like.	"Rambo" Gritz is court-ing fed up white workers with tales of his Vietnam War exploits.

## Dateline Australia

# Enemies of Equal Opportunity adopt "reverse discrimination" tactics

BY ALISON THORNE

I've got mixed feelings about Equal Opportunity legislation in the state of Victoria. Seven years ago I had the thrill of winning a case before the EO Board. I won acknowledgement of my right to be a teacher *and* a radical. But despite this success, I have to recognize that the current law is increasingly being used by reactionary misogynists to attack the feminist movement.

**From reform to...what?** The Equal Opportunity Act, introduced in 1977 as a consequence of the women's liberation movement, outlawed discrimination on the grounds of sex and marital status.

In 1984, the Act was expanded to outlaw discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, and political beliefs and activities. A report by the Law Reform Commission, which the government refuses to implement, recommends further amendments to add coverage for lesbians and gay men and ex-prisoners and to outlaw age discrimination.

The Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women have been part of the political organizing in Melbourne to force the government to enact the proposed changes. But it is time to do more.

Equal Opportunity laws were designed to help level the playing field for long-discriminated-against groups. For centuries, women, indigenous peoples, people with dark skin, sexual minorities, and others have faced abuse and super-exploitation in every area — economic, social, political, legal, cultural, domestic.

Now people who would like to see Equal Opportunity destroyed are using the letter of the Act against the spirit of the Act. Anti-feminists have begun to use it against women. It is in danger of being turned on its head altogether.

### Turning our weapon against us.

This trend was graphically expressed after my local Brunswick City Council decided to introduce two weekly women-only sessions at the area swimming pool.

A council study had shown that the lion's share of local recreational funding went to provide facilities for men. It found that the pool is under-utilised by women because macho attitudes and sexual harassment by some male patrons create a hostile atmosphere.

In addition, Brunswick is a multi-cultural workingclass suburb with a large Muslim population. Since Islamic law forbids women to swim in men's presence, an entire section of the population was denied access to the pool.

So the proposal for two weekly two-hour sessions for women was a laudable attempt at affirmative action.

But the plan was stopped by the EO Board on the grounds that it would discriminate against men!

Bizarre and tragic? Yes. An isolated incident? Unfortunately, no.

Earlier this year, Dr. Alex Proudfoot, a senior officer with the Department of Health, complained to the Federal Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission that the Canberra Women's Health Service is unfair to men because its purpose is to deal with *women's* health needs. Proudfoot was defeated, but the reverse discrimination cases mount. Moongala, a Melbourne women's education cooperative, is being taken before the EO Board because it won't let men join the collective, although they may use many of the services.

**Equal Opportunity requires affirmative action.** The outlook for Equal Opportunity, particularly dim now, was far from rosy before.

Like most reforms under capitalism,

Equal Opportunity has been only halfway legislated and halfway implemented. The rules of evidence make it incredibly difficult to prove discrimination. Add to this an enormous number of bodies exempted from the Act and it is easy to see why discrimination has not decreased.

And now we are at the point where the very programs feminists are organizing for are rendered unlawful by the legislation we won in the '70s.

It's time for a new strategy. No piece of legislation can possibly redress the sickening inequities that are central to capitalism.

ism. But that doesn't mean we give up on working for reforms.

In this case, Equal Opportunity must be preserved and extended by *incorporating the concept of affirmative action within it*. We need to demand laws that explicitly state that there can be no equality for historically oppressed groups without *special efforts* — special services, training, education, and hiring concessions.

Real equality on this planet will only be achieved when social and economic *power* rests equally in the hands of all who create the wealth. But the reforms we achieve now will help us bring that day forward. □

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Radical Women

An international socialist feminist organization in the front lines of the fight against racism, sexism, fascism, anti-gay bigotry, and labor exploitation.

Join us!

# The Fire This Time



## ...rebellion

from page 1

• In Portland, Oregon, a crowd of 2,000 protested the verdict at a rally originally initiated to show outrage over the beating of a Black man by Nazi skinheads, an assault that the police refuse to prosecute as a hate crime.

• Two nights of riots and a week of rallies ensued in Seattle. Students shut down freeways. The Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women were two sponsors of a broad-based press conference that called for dropping felony charges against all those arrested.

• In New York City, five demonstrations materialized in two days. Police completely cordoned off an interracial rally called by the Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence. At a May Day coffeehouse hosted by FSP and RW, a discussion of the institutionalized violence of the system versus the individual violence of looters took center stage.

**"Law and order" no solution.** As upheavals broke out all over, politicians of all colors began backing up President George Bush's law-and-order line — ignoring the fact that *troops* didn't stop the L.A. rioters; they *stopped* themselves.

A martial crackdown will do no more to solve the problem now than it did in 1965 or 1967. The cities are in flames because people are poor; they have no jobs, no health care, no way up or out; they are constantly discriminated against, harassed, and insulted; and they are *fed up* with police brutality.

Capitalism is out of time, and all the king's horses and all the king's men can't

put this broken Humpty Dumpty back together again.

**In our hands is placed the power.** The job of cleaning up and creating something new is in the hands of the people who have long suffered with things as they are. Los Angelenos showed this understanding as they worked together across color boundaries to douse fires, get care for the injured, stretch electrical cords across streets to keep neighbors' refrigerators going, and share food and shelter.

The looters and the people who swept up — and they were sometimes the same people — show two sides of the same resolve: The exploited and oppressed see the necessity to take matters into their own hands.

The most impassioned and explicit demands for radical change come from women of color, enraged at the systematic, callous brutality against themselves and their sons and daughters.

What's needed are more leaders bold enough to say, Let's stop messing around. Let's tell the truth. Let's forget about trying to save ourselves by backing Democrats or building up black capitalism with no capital. Let's get rid of the profit system and go for socialism.

And these leaders *will* come forward, because the situation demands it. One step taken: the Crips and Bloods, L.A.'s two major gangs, are observing a truce. They have come up with a program for reconstruction called "Give Us the Hammer and the Nails, We Will Rebuild the City."

The vision exists. The vehicle for making that vision come to life could be a massive new multi-racial, feminist, anti-capitalist party.

Let's organize a real challenge to this damned government; let's turn riot into revolution. □

**The war in the Persian Gulf has evolved into the domestic war in U.S. inner cities, where poverty, racism and sexism combine to create more casualties daily.**

## Race liberation de revolutionary int



How can racism be ended? What role does race liberation play in the fight for the liberation of all? Below are excerpts from *Freedom Socialist and Radical Women* documents addressing these questions, plus a set of demands for action. For ordering information, write to the FS Business Office, 5018 Rainier Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98118.

### Racism: a key class question

"Race exploitation...is arbitrary and perverted... It has caused all of American society to become organized around race relations, and, therefore, around prejudice.

"Segregation is absolutely required for the perpetuation of racial exploitation, and because of this...the [Black] movement for nearly two centuries has directed its main line of struggle against segregation...Separatism, by its very nature, cannot participate in this real struggle.

"...The [Black] question is the key question for the proletariat. Independent labor political action can be accomplished only through class consciousness, which, in turn, can only be realized through the destruction of race-conscious white supremacy."

—**Revolutionary Integration: The Dialectics of Black Liberation**, by Richard Kirk and Clara Kaye [Fraser], 1963

"Revolutionary Integration...demonstrates that the paramount historic direction of the Black movement has always been toward integration. This primary thrust for integration has been connected to the quest for revolution, and not for assimilation into white bourgeois, racist, capitalist, and imperialist America.

"A people living for victory through struggle must develop the highest political awareness... Separatist theoretical and tactical errors will pit Black against Brown against Yellow against Red, destroy critical political alliances, and allow sexism, homophobia, and a wholly anti-workingclass ideology to sneak in the back door."

—**Revolutionary Integration: Yesterday and Today**, by Tom Boot, 1982

"The political economy of racism lies in its profitability, in the demand of the capitalist class for vast reservoirs of readily available labor whose depressed status insures low wages. Poverty is the buttress of the capitalist system, and racism is a handy tool for assigning chronic poverty and

availability for exploitation to working class."

—**"American Ghetto 1972"**

"The United States used racism, Blacks, Asians, Mexican and catapult from the status of an dominating imperialist power to overemphasized that first slave nation, and today racial discrimination of U.S. capitalism. And racism is a way short of socialist revolution."

"The paramount...form of Chicano subjugation, has always been segregation and discrimination aimed and apart by force, but cultural easier for the capitalists: separate ruling class by urging workers segregate themselves.

"We emphasize...that the race problem. It is not Chicano culture racism that holds back the work."

—**The Chicano Struggle: Movement?, Part II**, by Yolanda Cornish, 1984

"If the general radical movement it needs in this epoch, that fulfilled by Third World women."

"Since [women of color] must due to their triple oppression, 'multi-issue' in their political and ethnic group brothers. They not of movement is necessarily independent stand how the various aspects of social evil leads them into a social know the face of capitalism and

—**Race and Sex, 1972: Colli** by Dorothy Mejia Chambliss

"We only have to look at the ties in this country to see how to incinerate our hopes, turning drugs, gangs, crime and suicide."

"But that is only half the story communities which refuse to sur

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## ...Weed & Seed

from page 1

people of color, then to "seed" these areas with social programs.

The government hopes the enticing seed will make the lethal weed palatable. But the planned community programs are mere band-aids for a cancer-level problem. And they are to be administered by cop agencies and funded in large part by reshuffling funds from the parsimonious store of already allocated government block grants — the only federal money that starving cities get!

**A cop on every corner.** Liberals and the media are downplaying the dangers of the operation. But when Black community activists in Seattle did some investigating, they discovered that Weed and Seed will

bring in the FBI and DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) and take away basic civil rights, all under the direction of the U.S. Department of Justice:

• Those arrested in designated areas, including juveniles, will be immediately imprisoned and prosecuted under *federal* law, not local.

• First-time drug offenders will rarely get reduced jail time, probation, or community service. Those with no previous criminal record convicted of selling cocaine will serve 21-27 months. By contrast, the racist thugs who murdered Chinese-American Vincent Chin in 1983 were let off with a \$3,780 fine!

• The Immigration and Naturalization Service will collaborate with police to deport refugees and immigrants.

• Homes or buildings can be seized if drug activity is *suspected*.

• Families who don't cooperate with the authorities can lose social security, welfare, and benefits.



Ricky Flores / IMPACT VISUALS

# United front rousts the Nazis in Simi Valley

BY BOB PRICE



Seven white supremacists from the Mississippi-based Nationalist Movement retreated like school-yard bullies on June 16 in Simi Valley, California when 700 anti-Nazi demonstrators showed up to protest their pro-police rally. The Nazis gathered outside the courthouse where Rodney King's Los Angeles Police Department attackers were acquitted to show their support for the verdict.

The Ad Hoc Coalition Against White Supremacists joined together individuals, families, and organizations like Mothers Against Supremacists, Black Employees' Association, Radical Women, and the Freedom Socialist Party in a militant, multi-racial united front inclusive of all ages, sexualities, and physical abilities. We built interracial solidarity against white supremacy and racist police terror

and together prevented the Hitlerites from marching that day. They had come to recruit; what they got was a rout!

As we planned our rally, the media and police focused on the potential for violence. They peddled the line (echoed by the Anti-Defamation League) that if the supremacists are ignored, they'll go away. But experience has shown that only large, loud, disciplined counter-demonstrations of *our strength* will prevent the Nazis from growing. When left unopposed, the fascists flourish first in the shadows — and then in the light of day.

The Simi Valley police chief used scare tactics in an effort to scuttle the rally, issuing a press statement advising all residents to stay home. But what the cops didn't count on was that residents were *outraged* by the media's portrayal of their community as a haven for bigotry and by the audacity of the supremacists to plan a march there. The townspeople wanted to show the Nazis that they were not wel-

come in Simi Valley. So did the rest of the country: messages of solidarity rolled in from all over the U.S. and even from Australia.

The bigots could not even begin their march. We anti-Nazi demonstrators staked our claim on the courthouse steps and held our ground. By being organized, standing shoulder to shoulder, linking arms, and chanting, we proved once again that with commitment and strong, principled leadership on our side, the white-power aspirants can be intimidated and demoralized.

By building a nationwide movement around this strategy, we can squash white supremacy from L.A. to the White House and take our cities and government back from racist hooligans! □

**Bob Price has been active in the movements to promote Left unity and to oppose fascism. He is a college teacher in San Francisco.**

# Depends on Segregation

massive sections of the... by Sam Deaderick

against Native Americans and Mexico to oppressed colony to the world. It cannot be, and then race segregation, are intrinsic features not to be expunged in any

ack oppression...and of been segregation... Seg- to keep workers isolated tionalism makes it even ism aids and abets the of color to voluntarily

problem is totally a white al nationalism but white ng class." **Racial or a National da Alaniz and Megan**

ent is to find the leader- historic role can only be struggle on three planes, ey tend to be far more roach than their class or nly see where each type ndent, they also under- ppression are intercon- egmented approach to alist awareness, for they ill have none of it." **on or Comradship?**

ople of color communi- profit system continues o many young people to a way out. y... The other half is of nder, of everyday people

ack women hold feds at bay. A ade of purported war against drugs and e — really a war against unemployed th of color and the rest of the poor — has duced not victory, but a record prison ulation. Proportionally, more Blacks are rcerated in the U.S. than in South Africa. ut as is typical in wars, misery has sprung n a Pandora's box against the system. In ttle, for example, a broad, grassroots ement led by Black women like Harriet den of Mothers Against Police ssment has forced Mayor Norm Rice, a kliberal, to postpone acceptance of Weed Seed.

The message is clear: This racist drug war got to go. The honest answers to the pblems in our cities are jobs, education, an to economic redlining, civilian review ds to stop police brutality, legalization community control of drugs, and free, moralistic drug abuse treatment. We an *end to the system* that makes drugs

who strike, protest, organize, petition, hold on and resist...

"What goes around comes around. The establishment has created an implacable enemy of those it treats worst: women of color. And we are not just vying for ourselves; our fight indicates the way forward for all those who'd like to see a world where working people are more important than corporate profits..."

—**Women of Color: Front-Runners for Freedom,** by Nancy Reiko Kato, 1990

## Action needed now!

- Fund the cities by dismantling the war machine and taxing the rich — not the poor!
- Stop government aggression against people of color! End police brutality! In every city, create independent, elected civilian review boards to prevent police abuse. Keep federal troops, the FBI and the INS out of our communities.
- End race and class bias in the courts. Represent people of color, the poor, and women on all juries. Pay union wages and provide childcare to people on jury duty!
- Provide guaranteed annual incomes for the poor. Supply government-funded jobs and training for the unemployed. Reinstitute affirmative action in education, training, hiring, promotion, and seniority systems. Levy financial penalties against employers who discriminate and allow bigotry to flourish at the workplace.
- Establish free, quality, multi-lingual, multi-cultural childcare, education and social services. Expand library services and develop neighborhood youth centers for arts/crafts, sports, recreation, and education.
- Stop crime at its source by attacking poverty! Legalize drugs under community control — take the profits out of dope and treat the abusers!
- Renovate abandoned buildings to house the homeless; expand low-income housing.
- Nationalize healthcare and rush emergency funding into AIDS prevention, research and treatment. Institute nationwide programs to reverse the horrifying death rate of infants of color! □

and crime the only means of survival for the most desperate. Let's weed out capitalism and plant the seeds of socialism! That's the only real solution! □

# Underlying the revolt is a toxic U.S. economy

BY SHEBA HAVEN



Guerry Hodder / FS

If the collective reality called "America" were a real woman she could be said to be suffering from an incurable, chronic, autoimmune (self-

allergic) disease known as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. This disease strikes mainly young women and causes arthritis, pneumonia, heart disease, dementia, and a host of dysfunctions. If each symptom is treated separately, the patient most often succumbs to a painful death. Events following the Rodney King case verdict are symptomatic of the "allergy" the majority of Amerikkka's citizens have to their current economic system. Racism, sexism, ageism and rampant homelessness are all symptoms of the causal disease, capitalism. The corrupt system of international capital that the U.S. heads up causes the flight of jobs out of the country and the increase of specialized tax breaks for the very rich — and for those same corporations which have taken away U.S. jobs through runaway shops, speedup, and using technology to replace workers. The wages and benefits of workers decline at a pace only equaled by the increase in the pay packages of CEOs. If Rodney had been driving a BMW, wearing a three-piece suit, and tall enough to play professional sports, it is unlikely he would have been the target of such hostility. In Amerikkka today those African-American males who partake of corporate profit rarely experience the violent day-to-day reality of the majority of their brethren. But some have. Arthur McDuffie was

an African-American insurance executive who was fatally beaten by Miami police 13 years ago. When an all-white jury acquitted the four cops brought to trial for his death, Miami burned three days and nights. Today few people even know who Arthur McDuffie was. The basic organizing which could have later — now prevented the brutalization of Rodney King in the streets and in the courts was not done.

And then as now, the masses of poor people have opted out of participating in electoral politics.

People felt, "Why should I?" Few candidates have been honest representatives of working and poor people. Even those whom we wish we could expect better from because of their color or gender end up dancing to the same old Democrat tunes.

But today we have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the past. There exist veterans of the struggle who are still strong and new people bursting with the potential to become sharp organizers. If they come together they will become a dynamic leadership able to create a dynamic challenge at the ballot box.

Two things the forces of oppression fear above all others: mass participation in electoral politics and broad-based coalitions. The two go hand in hand and are the only forces which can overcome the decadence of Amerikkka, the *Material Girl* with an arsenal.

Even the timid can register and vote. Even the boldest *must* register in order to sit on a jury. Exercise your political power, put the power structure on the run, and in the words of Malcolm X, "Wield your ballot like a gun." □

**Sheba Haven, a former member of the Black Panther Party, is active in the homeless movement in Oakland, Calif.**



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## Editorials

### International solidarity key to fight against U.S.-Mexico "free trade"

**THE DEBILITATED AND** disaster-plagued condition of the world economy is sending multinational corporations scrambling for ways to squeeze more from workers' labor globally. "Free trade" is one.

Having signed a free-trade agreement with Canada in 1988, the Bush administration is now negotiating a deal with Mexico that would open up Mexico's state-owned oil resources and 28 million low-paid workers to almost unrestricted Yankee exploitation. Both countries would remove trade barriers, allowing companies to turn Third World workers into slave labor and make big profits selling cheaply produced goods to U.S. consumers.

**IN THE NAME OF** healthy competition, this accord would privatize and deregulate the Mexican banking, insurance, transportation, and communication industries.

Large companies would swallow small ones, resulting in worsening service, working conditions, and wages.

The spewing of pollution and toxic chemicals from *maquiladora* assembly lines would be accepted practice, ruining Mexico's land and water and contaminating food: environmental genocide.

The threat of jobs moving out of the country would intensify pressure on U.S. workers to accept takebacks and pay cuts.

All workers on both sides of the border, from Alaska to the Yucatán, would lose.

**DECENT WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS,** and environmental standards will only be achieved when *workers* control what we as workers produce. To win that control, we need a working class unified across borders. We need to abolish the border patrol and open the borders so that those who labor can travel where they please and where they need to in order to survive — capitalists already do!

Because migrant workers come from Mexico and Latin America to the U.S. to find jobs, they lead the way in forging international allegiances. This is especially true of Chicanas and Mexicanas, like those in Watsonville, California who are organizing a boycott of Green Giant/Grand Metropolitan to publicize the abuses experienced by toilers on *both* sides of the Mexican/U.S. border.

Latinas who fight racism, sexism, and economic exploitation, all at once and wherever they occur, demonstrate the kind of workingclass solidarity necessary to invigorate the labor movement worldwide and defeat "free trade." □

### State-approved racism in Canada must stop

**IN MONTREAL, RODNEY KING'S NAME** is Marcellus François, a 24-year-old Haitian immigrant shot to death by police.

In Winnipeg, it's J.J. Harper, a Native leader killed by police.

In Vancouver, it's Zhang Feng Hua, a Chinese immigrant whose ruthless beating by cops was caught on home videotape.

In Toronto, it's Raymond Lawrence, a 22-year-old from Jamaica murdered by an undercover cop just three days after the verdict acquitting King's attackers. Lawrence's death sparked a demonstration of almost 3,000 people on May 4 and a rally of more than 2,000 three days later.

These men are just four of the many Black, Latino, Asian, and Aboriginal victims of the racist cop assaults sweeping Canada.

The germ of this epidemic is nurtured in Canada's shattered economy. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Tory regime is responding to recession and this year's 31.4-billion-dollar budget shortfall with social and political violence — layoffs, skyrocketing taxes, scapegoating of immigrants, and repression.

To inoculate themselves against Mulroney's plague, those most vulnerable to it must address both the economic and the political; cause and effects; disease and symptoms.

Opposing police brutality is one part of the prescription. The other is demanding jobs, pay equity, affirmative action, repeal of the free-trade pact with the U.S., and equal rights in every sphere for racial minorities, immigrants, women, and lesbians and gays.

A national, anti-capitalist coalition dedicated to these goals would go a long way toward curing Canada of its ills.

**THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT** paid Mary Pitawanakwat to fight racism — but she took her mandate more seriously than they intended. An Ojibway Native, she was fired in 1986 from her job as a social development officer with the Department of Secretary of State in Regina, Saskatchewan, in retaliation for her protests against racist and sexual harassment she experienced there.

Mulroney's administration has obstructed redress for Pitawanakwat since she first lodged complaints in 1984. She deserves reinstatement, payment of lost wages and benefits, and compensation for suffering.

A Human Rights Tribunal will rule on Pitawanakwat's case in October. Supporters of Pitawanakwat worldwide have let the tribunal know that they expect justice. If you would like to add your voice to this chorus, write to the Mary Pitawanakwat Defense Committee, P.O. Box 33042, Regina, Sask., Canada S4T 7X2. □



### FSP dropout clique excuses self-exile with anti-party hysteria

BY GUERRY HODDERSEN

**T**his political season, nothing will get you into more trouble than being a Leninist — an advocate not only of overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with socialism, but of the necessity for a theoretically advanced and highly disciplined leadership organization to help push the private property system into the permanent past tense.

In this day of Soviet Disunion, most of the Left seems to have concluded, wrongly, that Leninism equals Stalinism and leads inevitably to purges, the crushing of democracy, leadership cults, and rule by heavy-handed bureaucrats. Conventional wisdom says that to be pro-democracy, you must be anti-Leninist.

During the Freeway Hall Case, which we just won, the Freedom Socialist Party heard a lot of this sort of redbaiting. Our biggest crime, according to ex-member Richard Snedigar, is operating through democratic centralism. Those holding minority opinions are expected to abide by majority decisions, arrived at through full and open discussion. This, Snedigar said, proves that FSP is a cult. (Please see page eight.)

Snedigar's discredited maligning of the party has now been picked up by three of its former leaders — Tom Boot, Roanne Hindin, and Constance Scott, all National Committee members from the San Francisco Bay Area. The three resigned from FSP in October 1991, alleging that the organization functioned like a gulag controlled by the National Office (N.O.) in Seattle. As they tell it, life in the FSP was akin to working in a wild mix of the New Alliance Party, one of Ross Perot's fascistically run corporations, and a Stalinist prison camp.

However, when they left, they claimed they had no differences with the party majority over our basic program. They said they just wanted "the right to dissent, criticize, question."

But they always had that right. What they really wanted was a *different kind of party*, decentralized and non-democratic, where they — as leaders — were free to behave and to run the Bay Area branch by different standards than those set and adhered to by the party as a whole.

**Lure of upward mobility.** In 1990, Scott, who was the National Organizer for FSP's sister organization, Radical Women, came into a large inheritance.

Hindin and Boot were her housemates. Without discussing their plans with me, the National Secretary of the party, the three used the money to buy a house and relocate from San Francisco to Berkeley.

In doing this, they broke with two long-standing party traditions. First, FSP members, especially *leaders*, who receive financial windfalls usually donate a third or more to party or RW funds to help alleviate the always acute money crunch. Second, local leaders consult with me and their branch members *before* moving to a new city. We evaluate the impact such a move would have on the party's political work and reach a joint decision. This never happened in San Francisco.

When confronted by the N.O. on these breaches of FSP practice, they launched a diversionary attack on my organizational style.

Soon after, they acknowledged that they had broken with our way of operating. Scott summed it up in a memo as "challenges to national control of the Party by factionalizing for local control." They agreed that they had been functioning as a petty-bourgeois clique — an unprincipled alliance based on personal ties and

**What they really wanted was a party in which they, as leaders, were free to behave according to different standards.**

organizational gripes. They agreed to begin working more collaboratively with both the N.O. and local members.

But before a year was up, they had re-cast the conflict as one featuring Brave, Independent-Minded San Francisco Branch Leaders vs. National Party Hacks.

**Alienation blooms into antagonism.** They discovered this new depiction of events rather suddenly between June and October 1991, when they found themselves in a *minority* about the way to deal with instances of racist insensitivity by a few members toward Asian-American comrades Nancy Reiko Kato and Nellie Wong. Kato and Wong believed an educational and corrective approach was warranted; they developed and led a highly successful race-relations seminar in

Seattle attended by national branch representatives.

But Scott, Hindin, and Boot (two white women and a Black man) saw the incidents as an excuse to keep bashing the N.O. When Bay Area members Kato, Wong, Moisés Montoya, and Merle Woo told them to knock it off, the trio labeled their local comrades as all dupes of whipcrackers at the N.O.: the coordinator of the National Comrades of Color Caucus, Yolanda Alaniz; the party's founder and National Chairperson, Clara Fraser; and me.

**Unity and discipline or federation and free-for-all?** The concept of being a loyal minority was absolutely foreign to these increasingly self-centered narcissists. If *they* were in a minority, then democracy had to have been extinguished throughout the organization!

When they found almost no support for the war they had created with the N.O., they left the organization as fast as they could, rejecting the N.O.'s invitation to conduct an open debate within the party on disputed questions. (They did, however, mail a several-pound anti-party diatribe to every FSP and RW member five months *after* they made good their escape.)

A few hangers-on in San Francisco went with them, citing reasons such as, "I've had misgivings about living as a revolutionary for some time."

Racism also speeded their exit. The white women simply could not stand criticism or taking leadership from people of color. When Bay Area branch members, who are mostly people of color, disagreed with their Olympian dictates and demanded accountability, Scott and Hindin split, taking with them a politically dependent man of color, Boot, and thousands of dollars of RW and FSP funds. On their way out, they engaged in an orgy of adolescent tantrum-throwing and door-slammings.

The Freedom Socialist Party does not expel people over differences of opinion, but we do expect our members, and particularly our leaders, to be responsible, even when they have a minority point of view. We believe in the necessity for a highly motivated, loyal, and committed cadre of revolutionaries to help bring to birth the new world from the ashes of the old.

That's Leninism and Trotskyism, and we are proud to be a continuation of this tradition. □

Voices of Color

Turning rage into resistance

Show of solidarity challenges San Francisco cop crackdown

BY MERLE WOO



Late in the afternoon on May 8, more than 1,000 people gathered at Mission Dolores Park in San Francisco for a rally and march called by Roots Against War (RAW), a youth of color organization, and other groups. The event was held to support the L.A. rebellion against the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King and to protest the massive arrests of demonstrators on the same issue in S.F. on April 30 and May 1.

The cops, who consider that the Simi Valley verdict gives them carte blanche, were ready. Anticipating a slew of new arrests, they had even appropriated a squad of old red and orange Muni buses and painted them black and white, the San Francisco Police Department colors!

When my colleague Moisés Montoya and I arrived at Dolores Park, we could see a line of cops getting into place along the top of the hill, forming a threatening silhouette that blocked the setting sun.

Periodically, SFPD sound trucks blared the message that the rally had to stop and we had to begin our march. The cops' aim was to stop our ideas from getting out by disrupting the rally. We ignored them.

Most of the speakers were angry people of color. They brought out that there have been thousands of Rodney Kings; democracy and equality are a cruel hoax. Poverty, unemployment, homelessness and racism must go, they said.

A young Black woman from the East Bay Coalition for Justice called for a general strike.

I spoke, saying that we are seeing the start of a class war — not a race war. Together, workers and poor people of all colors are the majority, and we will win against the rich ruling class.

Four other Asian American women, two of them lesbians, declared that they will not be left out of movement leadership, patronized as "model minorities," or used as a wedge by whites against Blacks. The multi-racial crowd roared in approval.

And we began to march, chanting "No justice, no peace!"

**Stripped of our rights, our solidarity grows.** One block away from our goal, Duboce Park, a barricade of cops in riot gear forced us to reverse direction. Then a troop with their batons swinging rushed the crowd and divided us.

Several hundred protesters wound up in a parking lot. The more than 500 who were jammed together on the sidewalk across the street, including Moisés and me, were arrested.

When an impromptu open-mike speak-out developed, about eight cops violently seized the man carrying the sound system

and arrested him.

We were bound with cutting plastic handcuffs and crammed into buses and vans. My van-mates and I bolstered each other up by singing, "We Shall Not Be Moved," "Solidarity Forever," and the "Internationale."

We were delivered to Pier 38 and dumped into a filthy warehouse there. Five hundred of us shared two telephones, two portable toilets, and two water dispensers.

The group discovered that the cops planned to bring heavier charges against those who had also been arrested the week before. Moisés and I

pletely weighed down by cops and black-robed judges. The students who produced it recognize that there is no righteousness in our social/economic system.

And the fundamental right to protest — our constitutional freedoms of speech and assembly — is seriously at risk.



Merle Woo

Emily Woo Yamasaki/FS

As more and more cops shoot people in the ghettos and barrios, crack demonstrators' heads, and raid homes, cars, and work places with impunity, one has to wonder — is a police state on its way?

Cops go berserk for a reason. They are used by the state to protect private property, prop up the status quo, and stifle dissent. If the men with the piles of money are feeling threatened, the men and women in blue will be slipped off the leash. A police state is in place when all of society's important institutions are under the control of the cops and the military.

That day is not imminent in the U.S. We have the opportunity now to seize the initiative, move onto the offensive, and tip the scales with the mass of those for whom justice is long overdue.

New radical leadership is coming from young people of color, especially the women, and lesbians and gays. In fact, the sexual-minorities community gets the credit for S.F. Police Chief Richard Hongisto being fired after he threatened martial law following the first post-verdict protests.

The fight is on. Moisés and I are plaintiffs in a class-action suit over the arrests and are organizing for a civilian police review board that is independent, elected, and authoritative. We're also in a defense committee pushing for amnesty for all the arrestees — no matter what the charges!

As Bay Area activists mobilize against the crackdown, confidence is building that no cop tactics can defeat a community that asserts itself, sticks together over principles, and watches out for its most vulnerable members. Stop cop terror. Justice now! □



Moisés Montoya

Doug Barnes / FS

**Cops think that the Simi Valley verdict gives them carte blanche.**

**Changing how the scales are weighted.** A huge painting at an intersection at San Francisco State University shows a scale of justice with one side com-



Clara Fraser

Beware of the Arkansas Traveler

**SLICK WILLIE** and the Democratic Leadership Council of plutocrats and militarists pose a more sinister threat than the punctured Perotians could ever hope to. Billy Boy and his blood-and-Gore running mate should scare the blinders off every alleged radical who compulsively endorses the Democracies on the demented grounds that independent left politics are "sectarian."

The Hollywood extravaganza that entertained us in the Madison Square Garden parody of a convention was a rude wake-up call to all populists, humanitarians, progressives, and social justice advocates, not to mention — er, ah — radicals.

Never since the halcyon days of Rooseveltian demagoguery have the Democrats so blatantly telegraphed their essential nature, to wit: They are owned lock, stock, and howitzer by giant corporations and imperial special interests. The party chauffeurs are contemptuous of and insulting to the disenfranchised, the disinherited, the disenchanting, and the validly dyspeptic challengers of the world according to George and Barbara and Danny and Marilyn and Bill and Hillary and Al and Tipper and Ron and Nancy and the Kennedys and all such sainted family-values exemplars.

Oi gevalt, what a crew!

Clinton and his handlers brassily and crassly shlepped a menagerie of bemused, confused, and euphoria-suffused delegates right over into the ideological camp of the Republican "enemy" without so much as a perfunctory, "Sorry, kid — this hurts me more than it hurts you."

**THE CONVENTION CIRCUS** was an excruciating exercise in routing the radicals and liberals and making them hail their oppressors. One flamboyant ethnic militant of the '60s dreamily told the press that everyone was happy because "victory" was in sight.

One can only gasp in disbelief. A victory for whom?

For Jesse Jackson and his rainbow of the disaffected, who were humiliated and rebuked by Deacon Clinton for fraternizing with a brilliant, dynamic, honest, courageous, stunningly articulate and talented young Black female artist, Sister Souljah, one of the new leadership voices to emerge from the flames of Los Angeles?

For the feminists who were powerful enough eight years ago to place Geraldine Ferraro on the ticket but have now sacrificed a qualitative program for women's rights to the false glamor of an expanded quantity of women running for office? These congressional candidates are fated to turn out little better than their male partners in legislative crime. And even the ballyhooed pro-choice plank is but another dabble in wishy-washy moderation.

A victory for the lesbian and gay politicians who had to be satisfied with a couple of impassioned pleas by people with AIDS for enlarged research-and-treatment funding, while not one word was heard in four endless days and nights about the terror perpetrated against sexual minorities by homophobists of both parties?

A victory for the trade-union movement, unseen and unheard at the festivities? Franklin Roosevelt at least had to "clear everything with Sidney" (Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers). Clinton clears things only with the engorged employers and global industrialists whose ill-gotten gains boosted him to front-runner status so early in the game.

Would a Democratic triumph bring relief to students, seniors, physical minorities, the homeless, Chicanos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Jews? Or respite to the earth? Gore claims that his vaunted "salvage of the environment" is an investment that will make money — which can only mean that every cleanup will generate even more exploited and injured workers.

**WITH SUCH A VICTORY**, who needs defeats? Friends, trust me — this is the best time of all to desert the Democratic ship, when it has a chance to win. The shelf life of the working class grows shorter in direct proportion to the opportunities beckoning for Democratic Party chicanery.

A party that has drifted hook, line, and sinker into the still waters of suburbia has no moral or logical right to claim to represent the dispossessed. It cannot hear, much less express, the wrenching cries of pain from the volatile ghettos and workplace pressure chambers of the inner-city tinderboxes overrun by the violent, the drugged, and the hysterical human output of a society where the decisive input into government is reserved for mercenary monsters and their opportunist or naive hangers-on.

**SOUTHERN-FRIED BILLY WANTS** a new pact between the Democrats and the "Uhmurican peepul." But one definition of "covenant" is a suit to recover damages for violation of a contract — and that's the kind of covenant that workers should lodge against the deceitful, duplicitous, and depraved Democrats, who have promised reform for lo these 60 years but contrived instead to entrench a vicious private-profit system.

Instead of selling its soul to the Democrat devils, the working class, which is not middle class, has to form its own massive coven — an extended Labor Party whose goal is to hurl the moneylenders and their bias-mongering media guppies from our seats of government and opinion molding and our job sites and our lives. A vote for the Democrats is a vote for self-extinction, and if that isn't sectarian, you can have my very own recipe for chocolate chip cookies. □

# Victory at Last!

## Freeway Hall defendants clinch right to be radical!

BY DAVID JONES

**O**n April 27, in Seattle, the Freedom Socialist Party and legions of First Amendment supporters proved that when a movement group is SLAPPed — hit with a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation — it can slap back and win!

In a packed King County courtroom, Judge Dale Ramerman finally called a halt to the eight-year-long effort by ex-FSP member Richard Snedigar to get back a donation made 13 years ago. Snedigar's accusation that the party and nine individual activists solicited the contribution through deceit or coercion was baseless, Ramerman found.

The party's refusal to meet Snedigar's

demands for confidential FSP records helped foster a climate of resistance to repression, drew together a strong web of people determined to protect the right to challenge the status quo, and also achieved new constitutional protections in Washington state. These are priceless gains

at a time when more and more rightwingers are using SLAPP suits against radicals, whistleblowers, and community organizers. (Please see article about Oregon Citizens Alliance on page two.)

**Snedigar's vendetta: McCarthy would be proud.** Snedigar's lawsuit amounted to an anti-feminist and anti-socialist tantrum of epic proportions. He set out to destroy the FSP and with it the rights of all organizations to meet, hold free-wheeling discussions, and make decisions without state or state-supported interference.

The story begins in 1979 when, with help from his roommates, Snedigar gave \$22,500 to a fund set up after FSP received notice of eviction from its headquarters.

Snedigar thought that he could buy

power. So when party members didn't let him determine which building to buy to replace its headquarters, he was insulted. He quit the party in 1980, refusing to give any reasons.

For four years Snedigar pouted over personal and political grievances. Then, just after party founder and national chairperson Clara Fraser won a marathon discrimination battle against Seattle City Light, Snedigar turned to the bourgeois courts to get revenge against his socialist former colleagues. Attorneys Michelle Pailthorp and Thomas Wampold, seeing an opportunity to ingratiate themselves with the city fathers wounded by the Fraser victory, filed his lawsuit in 1984.

Snedigar's charge that he was duped into giving money to a trumped-up eviction emergency was a smoke screen. He wanted to wreck the party financially, ruin the credibility of its largely female leadership, intimidate its members, scare off supporters, and thwart FSP's political work by tying it up in litigation.

Snedigar's strategy was to insist that the party disclose lists of members and supporters, then meeting minutes. When the FSP adamantly refused, a judge put the defendants in default, where they lost the case without ever going to trial.

FSP appealed, enlisting the aid of renowned constitutional rights attorney Leonard Boudin. Boudin and attorney/defendant Valerie Carlson argued before the state Supreme Court that disclosure demands like Snedigar's chill free expression

and association — and can kill minority parties, any group with voluntary membership, and unions. The high court's 1990 ruling established new privacy guarantees for organizations, overturned the default judgment, and cleared the way for trial.

**"I was a communist dupe."** On the stand, Snedigar attempted to sway the judge with anti-red stereotypes. He characterized the FSP as a Stalinesque cult because some members live together in collective homes. He painted the party's women leaders as mad Marxist matriarchs who lorded over all decision-making and activity.

But during

cross-examination, Snedigar acknowledged that the party is democratic and that giving the donation was his own idea. He said his *only* grievance was that a hall wasn't purchased before 1985, blurted out that the party should have bought even a "tar paper shack" rather than continuing to search for something suitable.

The more he talked, the more he contradicted himself.

Of the eviction fund's many contributors, Snedigar could produce only one

**"The struggle for human dignity is only lost when you give up. The FSP didn't give up."**

**— Perry Watkins, Black gay activist and Sergeant First Class (Retired), Tacoma, Wash.**

fink, ex-member Ann Manly, who complained of a talking to by the local organizer after she, in her words, "breached discipline" — broke with party policy over a small organizational matter.

**Defendants clear party name.** The FSP presented its case primarily through questioning the defendants. They were represented by three dedicated lawyers who have pursued the case with panache and tenacity from the start: Valerie Carlson, Fred Hyde, and Dan Smith. Some highlights of the defendants' testimony:

• Eldon Durham, an anti-war protester since World War II and retired Presbyterian minister, and Doug Barnes, New Freeway Hall manager, described the crumbling state of the old hall and the exhaustive search for a successor.

• Gloria Martin, co-founder of Radical Women, and Guerry Hoddersen, FSP National Secretary and anti-Nazi organizer, set the record straight about FSP's character and goals. Hoddersen said she hoped the FSP would be "part of a very large movement to turn this country around and provide shelter for the homeless, rights for workers, funds for the disabled and working mothers, civil rights and civil liberties, and all the things that people want but can't get under capitalism."

• Yolanda Alaniz, a Chicana feminist and single mother who won 28,000 votes last year as an FSP candidate for Seattle City Council, discussed the limitations the harassment suit imposed on her other political work.

• Clara Fraser, a lifelong Trotskyist blacklisted during the McCarthy era, explained that to meet Snedigar's demand to return the money he and other donors gave would have "destroyed the fund and telegraphed that we'd been guilty. To fold our tents and creep silently away is not exactly what we had in mind."

• Fred Hyde, a state administrative law judge and delegate to the King County Labor Council, showed how Snedigar's lawyers unrelentingly abused the legal process by trying to get the defense team thrown in jail, making a bid to put Carlson's solo practice into receivership, and giving case documents to a reactionary who was attempting to get Hyde fired.

Judge Ramerman's decision exonerating the defendants brought the courtroom joyously to its feet. However, Ramerman ignored the massive evidence of Snedigar's malicious intent and refused to

award damages to the defendants.

**How this battle was won.** When Snedigar and his lawyers launched their suit, they hoped the defendants would be too cowed to fight back; they believed that the FSP, as an

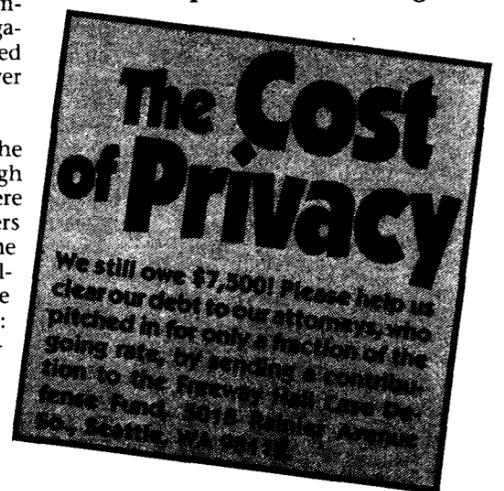
avowedly revolutionary group charged with financial malfeasance, could attract little support anyway.

But each defendant was ready to go to jail to defend the right to organize. Moreover, the family of Sam Deaderick, a Marxist writer and gay rights pioneer, steadfastly remained a party to the suit after his death in 1991.

And leaders and rank-and-filers from every arena rallied around strongly. Labor, the Left, civil libertarians, people of color and Jews, feminists, lesbians and gays, Gray Panthers, kids and teenagers: they all came to court, gave money, walked picket lines, spoke at press conferences, endorsed, signed petitions, mailed news releases. An indefatigable defense committee headed by labor activist Karrie Peterson organized all this commotion. Throughout, a special ally was the National Lawyers Guild, which provided unflagging legal and moral support.

For every activist and unionist, the winning of the Freeway Hall Case should be a source of pride and optimism. □

**Writer David Jones recently moved to the Northwest from the East Coast, where he organized for causes from peace to women's rights.**



### In the judge's opinion...

The quotes below show the good and bad features of Judge Ramerman's decision. On the one hand, Ramerman recognized unequivocally that the defendants' financial dealings with Snedigar were beyond reproach.

But on the other, he made unwarranted and unfair concessions to Snedigar. The judge dismissed the FSP's counterclaims, ignoring Snedigar's go-for-the-throat tactics and countless deliberate attempts to violate the First Amendment.

Ramerman was also swayed to an extent by the Snedigar team's depiction of the party as "cult-like." The high levels of commitment and mutual respect among leaders and members that the FSP shares with well-functioning unions, some churches, and many other groups takes on in Ramerman's findings a slightly sinister cast, and Snedigar's lie about the party's degree of involvement in members' domestic affairs is presented as fact.

It all goes to show that in the capitalist courts, radicals, no matter how hard they try, can't quite get an even break.

#### On the plus side...

"In soliciting gifts, including plaintiff's [Snedigar's], defendants presented the facts as they understood them. They did not misrepresent or coerce or take advantage of weakness."

"Defendants' efforts to find a new headquarters building were never abandoned, and the funds ultimately were used properly."

"Plaintiff was intellectually, emotionally and financially independent of the party... Defendants did not dominate him."

"Plaintiff...did not act under undue influence; his judgment was not impaired; he was not unfairly persuaded."

#### Where the judge went wrong...

"The party attempted to exercise considerable discipline over...the living arrangements of party participants."

"The plaintiff's claims were filed and pursued in good faith."

"Plaintiff...had no improper motive; he believed he was entitled to his money back because more than four years had passed and it still had not been used."

"Plaintiff...did not misuse the court's process or seek to use [it] for an end other than that for which it was designed." □