

rpecNEWS

The Newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

June 1999

Ken Willis New Executive Director of RPEC

by Novella Ruffin

April 16, 1999 was a day of renewed enthusiasm and energy at the RPEC office. This day marked the first as Executive Director for Ken Willis.

Ken's enthusiasm was felt among office staff and Executive Board members as he eagerly began his first day by familiarizing himself with RPEC reading materials and resources and contemplating the possibilities for strengthening the physical arrangement and attractiveness of the office. Ken's many artistic skills and abilities will certainly add to

the beauty of the office.

Ken brings an extensive background as a spiritual builder who is familiar with the needs of Richmond City and surrounding Counties. He is a native Richmonder. His experiences are diverse and include work in ministries to the poor, needy, homeless, and strengthening families through spiritual guidance. He has traveled on Volunteer in Mission assignments to Mexico and Africa as part of his work with the Methodist Church.

Ken looks forward to working to

establish a more solid funding base for the Center, to developing more public awareness of the Peace Center programs, opinions and services, and to developing a Board "which can truly serve as a model of bias awareness, mutual respect, inclusion, and genuine friendship to the many communities we seek to reach, educate, and serve."

Ken's experience and background are consistent with the mission of RPEC. The Board members, staff and friends of RPEC extend a big welcome to Ken and look forward to his energetic and

Crisis = Opportunity for Peacemaking

by Ken Willis

More news of the bombings in Kosovo, follow up reports on the Littleton school shootings, the sobering impact of two executions back-to-back in VA in April and another scheduled for May, the sudden realization of the complexities involved in dealing with any aspect of racial relations in modern society, the very real possibility of being a victim of some violent act, and the awesome task of helping people (myself included) cope with any or all of these issues. The list is definitely one that reflects the many dangers that face us all from day to day.

And yet, it also reflects great potential avenues for relevant service and growth for each individual and for RPEC.

I am reminded that the Chinese symbol for "crisis" combines both the symbol for danger and the symbol for opportunity. Thus, in the midst of the tragic events of daily life lie also new opportunities for RPEC to advocate in favor of and serve as a model for alternative solutions to society's ills that seek to promote freedom, harmony, justice, and peace for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to

the RPEC community for allowing me to serve as the new Executive Director of the Peace Center and to participate with you in this great effort. Let me remind you of these words from Jesus, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." I look forward to meeting and working with all of you who support RPEC, for you truly are children of God, and my brothers and my sisters as well! Keep up the good work you are doing, for the world is a better place because of it

In Peace,

Oregon Farmworker Tell His Story

On the evening of Friday, April 23rd twelve people from Richmond met with an Oregon farmworker and two others in a delegation touring the East Coast.

They were encouraging participation in a boycott of NORPAC products being organized by the farmworker union, PCUN (Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste; in English, Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United).

PCUN board member Leonides Avila -- a native of Oaxaca, Mexico - spoke movingly of his personal experience as a farm laborer in the fields of Oregon. He contrasted working conditions on farms under contract with PCUN and those operated by NORPAC where exploitation and intimidation reign.

Avila explained how farmworkers in Oregon have struggled for years to reach collective bargaining agreements with NORPAC, the largest farm cooperative west of the

Mississippi River. NORPAC is a huge corporation controlling everything from growing and processing to marketing and distribution. It has actively resisted efforts by the PCUN farmworker union to organize its employees.

"Not a single grower in the NORPAC cooperative has signed a contract with the union," Avila told the audience. "The growers refuse to bargain in good faith. That's why PCUN has called for a boycott of FLAV-R-PAC and Westpac, the grower's own brands."

Also speaking were Antonio Torres, a PCUN organizer and a student leader at Western Oregon University, and Trim Bissell, national coordinator of Campaign for Labor Rights which organized the speaking tour.

The purpose of the speaking tour was to mobilize students on college campuses to get the boycotted products out of their schools' food services.

The tour also sought to reach people in faith-based health care and other institutions in order to get their food services to respect the boycott.

PCUN had also been calling for a boycott of Gardenburger. This company was using the NORPAC distribution system, even though alternatives were available. Gardenburger's contract provided profits that enable NORPAC to weather the FLAV-R-PAC boycott.

However, only days after their visit to Richmond, PCUN received written confirmation from Gardenburger that it had cut all business ties to NORPAC. This means the Gardenburger part of the boycott had ended. With Gardenburger's decision, NORPAC has now lost an account which represented a substantial source of income.

For more information about the PCUN boycott of NORPAC, contact the Campaign for Labor Rights at (541) 344-5410 or CLR@igc.org.

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Where Have All the Directors Gone?

by John Gallini

Since our founding in 1980, RPEC has been led by seven coordinators/directors who have moved on to new adventures and ministries. In a sense, they represent one of the significant contributions of RPEC to peace in our world, as they take with them skills and values shaped by their time with RPEC. We thought folks would be interested in a brief update on where they are now and how their lives had evolved.

Steve Hodges (1980-84)

Diantha and Steve Hodges and their children left Richmond in the late '80s for mission work in Korea. Steve spent his childhood in South Korea where his parents were United Methodist missionaries. After three years in Korea, they returned to the U.S. and in 1991 settled in Hancock County, Tennessee, just south of the Tennessee-Virginia border.

Their new ministry is called "Jubilee Project", a mission project begun to help community residents gain the skills, experience and hope necessary to provide for the needs of one of the lowest-income areas of Appalachia. Jubilee Project includes a community development component, a youth organization for recreation and employment, and a cooperative of traditional craftpersons. Steve is also working with a group of students and farmers exploring alternative crops other than tobacco. Some of the economic development projects include a small business incubator

and classes to develop business skills.

Diantha is an occupational therapist, childbirth educator, as well as a trained midwife. Her work at Jubilee includes facilitating community involvement in health-related issues, conducting leadership development programs and helping oversee building renovation.

They have been in their new, ecologically designed, home for several years, as they work to complete it (kitchen cabinets are a recent addition). The three girls, Hope (17), Joy (15) and Sarah (13) are all doing well in school and Hope has been accepted at Earlham College for the fall.

Wendy Northup (1984-90)

After leaving the Peace Center and building on the skills she developed in conflict resolution, Wendy went to work for the City of Richmond writing and then supervising a violence prevention program in the Richmond Middle Schools. This program, RIPP (Responding in Peaceful and Positive Ways), underwent a number of revisions and changes, but it is still a "going" program in the Richmond schools and the evaluation results are still very positive. It is in the process of being published in book form.

In 1994 she went to work for Henrico County Mental Health managing their prevention programs. These are primarily substance abuse and violence prevention programs in Section 8

housing communities in Henrico County. In addition, Wendy is trying to bring about county-wide planning for youth of all ages to keep their environment a healthy place in which to develop.

Wendy served a three year term on the Peace Center Board and continues to stay involved as an AVP trainer. She has also steered good staff members to RPEC as CCRC trainers. She writes: "The most important thing I learned at the Peace Center was the importance of bringing together widely different groups of people to join in a single cause. I continue to try to do that around children's issues."

Elaine Shurie Ogburn (1984-87)

Elaine and Wendy accepted the responsibility for leading RPEC together, with Elaine covering the office parts of the task while Wendy handled the more public roles. Elaine moved from RPEC to the YWCA here in Richmond where she stayed for 8 years, most of that time as Office Manager. In 1989 she married Tom Ogburn and in 1995 they had a child, Becky, who has Downs Syndrome and who now keeps both Elaine and Tom quite busy.

In addition to her family responsibilities, Elaine manages to participate in the leadership team of Pax Christi Richmond and to volunteer with the New Parent Committee of the Downs Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond.

(Continued on page 4)

Where Have All the Directors Gone?

(Continued from page 3)

Candace Mayer LaRue (1990-93)

When Candace (then Candace Powlick) left RPEC she moved to New York State to work with the National AVP Program. Subsequently she joined the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) as Director of Training and Community Resources. CCA works with individuals who are in some way involved with the criminal justice or juvenile justice system, to provide alternatives to incarceration and a wide array of prevention and intervention services.

After 4 years with CCA, Candace is getting ready to move to a new position as Director of Development at an organization called ARISE. Both are in Syracuse, NY, about ten minutes from where she lives. ARISE provides a number of services for people with disabilities including recreational activities, career services, and advocacy, as well as technical assistance to businesses and organizations on meeting the needs of their clients and staff who have disabilities. She continues to remain active in AVP on the local as well as on the state and national levels.

Candace was married to Peter LaRue in 1996. Her daughter, Kristen is attending Wells College as a freshman. Candace writes, "The gardening season has not started here yet <sigh> but I do, of course, have a beautiful garden. I certainly miss all my friends in Richmond, and do not get to visit nearly as often as I wish I

could."

Sarah Foster (1993-94)

Sarah left RPEC to continue her ministry in Africa. She and her husband John, along with K. Nyaywa-Dall, had co-authored a workbook, "An Introduction to Pastoral Counseling: From Africa For Africa". They returned to Africa in 1993 and 1995 to fully field test the book, and it has been well received throughout Africa.

Her most recent project is a new book, "Beechers, Stowes and Yankee Strangers: The Transformation of Florida", published in March of this year. The book shows the influence that Harriet Beecher Stowe and her brother Charles had on the formation of modern Florida, and has received front page attention from the Miami Herald.

Sarah is now Professor of Anthropology at Florida A&M University.

Chris Klug (1995-97)

When Chris left RPEC, he moved to Iowa to join Bev Mabee. They have now bought a home on 8 acres "in the woods" near Tipton, IA. Chris is the Bereavement Coordinator at Iowa City Hospice, and Bev is an Alternative

Healthcare Specialist at the University of Iowa Hospitals and clinics.

Chris continues to lead 3 to 4 week Intercultural Education programs in India, where participants can explore alternative ways of thinking and living, rooted in the ideas and practice of Mahatma Gandhi. His most recent trip was this past January. Chris writes: "I continue to be rooted in a daily practice of yoga and meditation which Bev and I share. I trust that this practice helps my heart to be open and suffering to be healed."

Aqueelah As-Salaam (1997-98)

Aqueelah left Richmond to become Executive Director of The Institute of Southern Studies in Durham, NC. The ISS was founded in 1970 and works to identify systemic problems - and innovative solutions - in four fields: economic justice, environmental justice, civil rights, and political accountability. Among her recent projects is "Uprooting Injustice", a report on the working conditions for North Carolina farm workers and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee's Mt. Olive Initiative. ISS is also working on a



**For July Newsletter
June 20**

Letters

The Little Flower Catholic Worker Farm
2780 Hadensville-Fife Rd. Goochland, VA (804) 457-2631

April 29, 1999

Dear Friends,

We are writing to let you know that on April 27 Judge Buchanan sentenced Bill Streit to 5 months in jail for a symbolic pouring of blood at the Pentagon during last December's Faith and Resistance Retreat on the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Bill gave a powerful courtroom witness, describing our country's addiction to violence, decrying the bombings in Yugoslavia and the continued sanctions against and bombings against Iraq and offering a strong analysis of the high school bombing in Colorado. He compared his nonviolent act of resistance to the "tough love" used in confronting addicts.

"Our addiction to violence is destroying us," said Bill. Everyone looks in horror at the bombings in Colorado, yet what example does our country give to our own children?"

"My wife heard a story on NPR about a teacher who went into the cafeteria during the bombing and saved some children by putting himself between them and the kids who were doing the shooting. The teacher was killed. He is now being eulogized as a hero. Yet whom does the Pentagon resemble - The unarmed teacher or the children shooting wildly in all directions?"

"Why can't we be like that teacher? Why can't we stand unarmed between the victims and aggressors in Yugoslavia? Sure, it's dangerous. We might be killed. We might be jailed for our nonviolence. But violence will only beget more violence. . ."

"I wish this bombing would stop, Judge. I don't like to do this. To tell you the truth, I'd rather be home shoveling manure in the garden than standing before you now. I don't like going to prison - that can be a violent place too. I don't like to be separated from my family. But as long as the bombs continue to fall, you will continue to see me here. . ."

"I just hope that my small act, and whatever jail time you give me will help bring about an end to the violence."

Judge Buchanan responded that Bill caused a hazard to Pentagon employees and that since he couldn't be deterred, he'd just have to be prevented for a while. She sentenced him to 5 months, and denied his request for self-surrender.

Without self-surrender, he may spend all of his time in county jails. We had hoped that with a longer sentence, he'd be able to self-report to a federal prison as he has in the past. Now, visiting will be through glass, and he may be moved to a different county jail at any time

Those of us remaining at the Little Flower miss Bill already. The Frankel-Streit's cabin sits half-finished. space, already at a premium, will be even tighter with the birth of the Harper-Winder's new child due just before Bill's release date. Our ministry at a nearby women's prison is just beginning and it's crunch time for the garden. We are down one car and short on funds.

We are writing to thank you for your concern for Bill and your support of our work. Anything you could do to help us during these next five months would be greatly appreciated. We could specifically use prayers, letters of support for Bill, (send them c/o us for now), money to cover costs of travel to visits and collect phone calls from jail, a good used car, help with childcare, gardening, and dry-walling the cabin, and letters of support for Isaac and Anna, especially from kids whose parents have done time.

We miss Bill, but we celebrate his courage and commitment. We know that "doing time" bears much fruit, tangible and intangible, and offers the opportunity to strengthen our extended community.

Thanks for being part of the cloud of witnesses!

P.S. Letters encouraging the judge to advocate that Bill serve out his sentence at Petersburg Federal Prison Camp may be sent to the address below. Bill may receive letters, money orders, and books direct from the publisher at the address below for the time being. Check with us if uncertain of his status.

Judge Theresa Buchanan
Alexandria Federal Courthouse
401 Courthouse Sq.
Alexandria, VA 22314

William Streit
2001 Mill Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Two Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Speak at U of R



Oscar Arias Sanchez and Jose Ramos-Horta Challenge U.S. Priorities



by John Gallini

...military spending represents "the single most significant perversion of world priorities."

On March 23, before a packed auditorium at the University of Richmond, Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez challenged us to share "One Man's Vision for Peace". Arias is the former President of Costa Rica and recipient of the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize. Three weeks later, Jose Ramos-Horta, 1996 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke on "Human Rights: Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Asia Pacific Rim".

The two speakers were part of a series put together by the UR Office of International Education, in response to an initiative of the RPEC Program Committee to bring Gayle Kaylor to Richmond to address the situation in South Africa today. The series included six programs dealing with "Transitions to Democracy" in various regions of our world.

Dr. Arias first described as a "moral crisis" the situation in the world where:

- 1.5 billion have no clean water
 - the 3 richest persons in the world have combined assets greater than those of the 48 poorest countries
 - 20% of the world's population consume 80% of the world's goods.
- He urged public officials to

embrace their moral obligations and adopt a human agenda for leadership. By this he means developing a moral vision, having the courage to articulate the things that people need to know, and alter the dominant values which are based on selfishness and militarism so that we can view global systems from the perspective of society's least fortunate.

Arias urged that public policy must grow out of ethical considerations, and suggested several programs:

- * forgive the debt of the poorest nations,
- * commit the resources needed to cure disease in the Third World,
- * channel 10% of world military spending (\$80 billion per year) to social needs,
- * establish an International Code of Conduct for arms trade (his current project).

He suggested that military spending represents "the single most significant perversion of world priorities."

* * * * *

the current trade in arms is a major factor in the instability throughout our world.

Jose Ramos-Horta has been a tireless champion for human rights and self-determination in his native East Timor, a former Portuguese

colony. From 1975 to 1985 he was the permanent representative to the United Nations for the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor.

Ramos-Horta spoke of the colonial history of his country and the 1975 invasion by Indonesia with the tacit support of President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. He described an arms trade, which supported the corrupt regime of Suharto and kept the people of East Timor under control. He also commended the Clinton administration for its efforts to restore self-determination to the people of East Timor. Perhaps the highlight of his talk was the announcement that in the past week he had reached an agreement with the leader of the armed resistance in East Timor to cease all military actions in the country. It appears this will lead to a vote this summer to determine the future of East Timor.

Like Oscar Arias, Ramos-Horta believes that the current trade in arms is a major factor in the instability throughout our world. He is working with Arias on an International Code of Conduct in Arms Transfers, which will obligate governments who wish to purchase arms to uphold internationally recognized standards of democracy, human rights, and peaceful international relations.

Guatemala Trip Planned for August – spaces available

St. John's United Church of Christ is planning a trip in mid August to build "health stoves" and plant trees in areas of Guatemala devastated by Hurricane Mitch. We currently have a few spaces open for anyone interested in joining us.

Part of the reason Hurricane Mitch caused so much damage is because the mountains of Guatemala have been deforested. When torrential rains come, huge mudslides can wash away everything in its path. "Health stoves" are part of a response to this because they use less fuel than the traditional open pit-cooking fires. In addition, they ventilate the smoke outside the huts. In a traditional cooking fire there is no ventilation so the smoke fills the hut. Open pit fires are also linked to one of the leading causes of mortality, upper respiratory infections. The stoves are built with a chimney that carries the smoke out of the house. The stoves also make



good economic sense as small projects because they save the family a great deal of income in fuel and medical cost. An average family will spend half their annual income on firewood. These stoves will allow families to spend money on education and development.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$850 plus a \$100 donation for building materials and supplies (tax deductible). Tentative date for the trip is August 15-22 (there is a possibility of going the week before if the group decides). Extended trips are also available to learn more about the ecology of Guatemala. The trip includes visits with indigenous organizations involved in development projects. Saturday morning before leaving will be spent at Lake Atitlan and Saturday afternoon relaxing in Antigua.

Please call Jennifer at 230-6105 for more information

RPEC Radio Free Richmond:

Republicans take it to the next level:
"I've had all the diversity I can stand," said Senator Conrad Burns (R-Mont), Chair of the Senate Telecom Subcommittee speaking at the latest National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) annual conference in Las Vegas this April 1999.

This was Conrad's way of agreeing with the NAB (the main lobbying arm for the big chain radio stations) and the National Public Radio position that opening up the airwaves to the people was a mistake.

The Federal Communication

Commission has proposed the "Low Power Radio Service" (LPRS) that would (depending on what rules are adopted) open three to 58 new slots on Richmond's FM dial. The NAB and NPR don't want the competition, especially from 58 completely new owners with completely different values and cultures from "the club".

They claim interference will damage listener's ability to hear their stations, but then propose a system of digitization of the radio waves (called IBOC, In Band On Channel) that would

(Continued on page 12)

Contributor's Corner

Recyclables = \$ for RPEC

How many times have you heard the old saying, "killing two birds with one stone"? Well, I once had a seminary professor who put a more positive spin on this same thought. She often encouraged her students to find ways to "feed two birds with one morsel of bread."

Following this line of reasoning, RPEC supporters now have a way to do something good for the environment and the Peace Center at the same time. We have an account with the Southeast Paper Recycling Co., 1350 N. Myers St. in Richmond (359-1080 for



directions). They will accept newspapers, cardboard, office and computer paper in quantities of 100 lbs. or more and aluminum cans in any quantity. Simply drop off your recyclable items M-F between 8:00 AM & 4:00 PM, and let the person at the customer service window know that you want to donate the proceeds to RPEC. They will send us a check at the end of each month.

Please ask your employer to consider donating to this effort.

Thanks for your support of the RPEC.

Ken Willis

Thoughts on Columbine High School Violence

by Andi Monson

In today's world, few things are guaranteed. yet one would think that safety in schools would always be a given. Unfortunately, the past few months have proven that even this scenario has ceased to exist. Parents have now begun to fear sending their children to school, for they go with the knowledge that other children are carrying guns and knives to the same schools. Students go with the fear that the littlest transgression against another student will end their care-free days of living. And the solution to this problem seems so far away. I never gave much thought to violence in my own school. In middle school, the fights seemed immature and trivial. There was always some group of kids upset with another group of kids, and there were always fanciful stories of how one guy decided to take his anger out on another guy's face. But, even in my worst dreams, I never imagined that I would have to go to school constantly looking over my shoulder for potential danger.

When I first heard about the shootings in Colorado, my first reaction was slightly blase. I don't think that the actual situation had even registered. and it didn't begin to register until I saw the various news coverages on the event. I do remember crying as I witnessed one girl recount how she was forced to watch a fellow student get shot in the head. I do remember the pain I felt in my stomach as I listened to parents begging the police to allow them access to their children's bodies. And I remember the anger. Oh, do I remember the anger. In the beginning, my anger was more directed towards the media. I thought, "why can't they let these people alone? Why do they not understand how difficult this is for everyone?" Ev

everything surrounding Littleton seemed "My challenge to you: go out into the world tomorrow and smile at everyone you meet."

to be twisted in a sort of melodramatic way. It seemed as if the victims had become characters in some lame attempt at an action film. It seemed as if the perpetrators had become national scapegoat for America to blame it's short-comings on. It seemed as if all the notions I built my world on turned out to be only superficial thoughts of an idealistic child.

As the tragedy at Littleton expanded, my anger turned towards the boys who had taken it upon themselves to play god. I could not even begin to fathom how one could assume the role of life-giver and life-destroyer. To me it seemed so stupid. how could these boys believe that hatred and violence was the only solution to the problems of teen-age teasings and banterings? How could they accept the ideals of a man such as Adolph Hitler? A man who, a few decades before, destroyed the lives of innocents without a second thought. And that is where I thought it ended. I believed that I had the right to to judge these boys based solely on their actions at the school. I believed that I could determine what was right and true and justified. But, I was wrong.

A few days after the initial coverage on Littleton began, I was asked by my pastor to write something pertaining to the perpetrators. It would be used in a memorial service we were holding the coming Sunday. "Sure," I thought. "no problem." Yet, I had no earthly idea what to write or where I should begin. I sat in World Cup (a coffee shop in the city) for hours on end attempting to articulate the pain I felt for the victims.

But that wasn't the point. It wasn't my job to remember the victims. That was being handled by someone else. It was my job to remember the gunmen. The only thing I felt towards them was anger. So I searched a little deeper.

I delved into myself, back to the times when I had been the butt of cruel jokes. I focused on how I had felt when someone told me that I wasn't worth it. When someone took it upon themselves to deface my dreams with a laugh or a comment directed towards my lack of potential. Then I understood. I knew how deeply words cut and how the wounds never heal. And I wrote that.

I don't condone the actions of the boys in Colorado, nor do I believe that they were in any way justified. But, before the world arms themselves with nails and hammers, they may want to stop and think. Stand in one spot and think back to the last time you put someone down purely for the fun of it. Try to recall the amount of pain that was apparent in that person's eyes. and then tell me if you are still ready to crucify those who lash out at the people who continually hurt them. Tell me if you are still able to look yourself in the mirror and honestly say that you can't do anything. Because, in my mind, I believe you can. I believe we all can. And it isn't as hard as one might imagine. All it takes is for people to stop hating. Stop the hatred that is based on race, creed, sexual orientation, and belief. My challenge to you: go out into the world tomorrow and smile at everyone you meet. You'd be surprised just how much a genuine smile can heal. And perhaps, your smile will also serve to heal yourself.

Andi Monson, age 16, is a junior at the Governor's School for Government and

David and Goliath

by Tom Cleary

It was a rainy morning in Richmond, Va. on April 29, 1999. Owners of Philip Morris arrived for a buffet breakfast as the Annual Stockholders Meeting was held at corporate headquarters on Commerce Rd. A line of sleek cars moved slowly through the security gate. Along the road leading up to the gate was a large group of people with signs. Each sign was the outline of a State or Country where demonstrations were being held this day. There were more than 50 signs.

All this was the work of INFACT, a corporate watchdog organization with affiliates all over the world including Richmond. Members of the organization were inside the meeting and would speak to the CEO, Jeffrey Bible, at the time for public comments from



stockholders. A large Billboard truck was driving up and down in front protesting the marketing of cigarettes to children and urging people to boycott Kraft products especially Kraft Macaroni and Cheese. Radio reporters and TV crews were interviewing the protesters and covering the activities inside the meeting. Meanwhile in most States and many outside countries similar demonstrations were being held.

Philip Morris is not happy with these INFACT actions. They are especially concerned about the boycott of Kraft products. As far

back as 1993 in a secret memo they wrote "This group could be real trouble." INFACT was "real trouble to Nestle when their boycott resulted in Nestle's stopping a campaign to market formula to nursing mothers in poor countries. It was "real trouble" to General Electric and forced them out of the Nuclear Energy business. Their present "Hall of Shame" includes Waste Management, Columbia/HCA, Dow Chemical along with Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco. RJR has now decided to spin off Nabisco. This is due in great measure to the action of INFACT supporters.

INFACT suggests that people who are concerned about the marketing of tobacco to children here and around the world to boycott Kraft products especially Kraft Macaroni and Cheese. Presently there is a great increase in smoking all over the world. Of course, children have been targeted. We should also protest the use of huge funds to influence Congress. The INFACT group will be signing up boycotters on the streets of Richmond. INFACT considers the recent settlement between Big Tobacco and the States to be one which tobacco companies like since it leaves them free to market tobacco as they wish in developing countries. Unless concerned people force the government to place strong restraints on the industry, the money chase will destroy millions of at risk children all over the

THANKS

Thanks to the following businesses, organizations and individuals for supporting the Spring Dance Concert with their ads in the Program Booklet.

Please stop by to see them and let them know you appreciate their support.

- Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream Store at 6940 Forest Hill Ave.(clip coupon)
- Dot's Back Inn
- Ellwood Thompson Market
- Narnia
- Plan 9
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Ukrop's
- Banditos Burrito Lounge
- Davis & Main
- 43rd Street Gallery
- Main Street Grill
- Parcel Plus
- Discount Office Products
- Greenwood United Methodist Church
- Family Education Center
- Office of Justice & Peace, Catholic Diocese of Richmond
- Virginia Organizing Project
- Southern Exposure
- Pax Christi Richmond
- Don Ayers
- Anita Holloman
- Terrie Pendleton

Stop the Bombing!

Join others at Thursday noon demonstrations against the bombing of Yugoslavia at the Federal Court house building at 10th and Main - for as long as the bombing continues.



RPEC Board of Directors

The Board met on Monday, May 10 and welcomed new Executive Director, Ken Willis. The Financial Report included preliminary figures on the Spring Dance Concert Fundraiser. To date, it netted \$715. More ticket money is expected. As to overall income, we are below budget in individual contributions, which is not unusual for this time of the year. A Fundraising letter will be sent out in May.

Tawana Fortune was elected to serve as Vice Chair. She will also join the Executive Committee composed of Novella Ruffin, Chair; Julian Ferras, Treasurer; and Terrie Pendleton, Secretary.

The Peace Essay Contest judging is scheduled for May 12. There are nearly 300 entries.

The Board discussed concerns about the lack of official response in local schools to the Colorado school shootings, and the need for students to have an opportunity to talk about their fears. A letter will be sent to area school principals letting them know that the Peace Center is a resource in working on the issue of school violence. A program in the DC school system called the Lion and Lamb Project was suggested as another resource.

Ken Willis highlighted the need to keep in touch with the media. He suggested reactivating the Membership and Transforming Relationships Committees, and noted that the Strategic Plan is a good tool to help focus the work of the Center.

Committee Minutes

The Report from the Board Retreat will be discussed at the June meeting.

The need for Peace Center Position Papers was identified. This will be discussed more thoroughly in July, identifying issues and prioritizing them. Work will begin immediately on a position paper on School Violence.

Board members were asked to contribute to the Fundraising Cookbook by June 30. The next meeting is Monday, June 14 at 6:00 p.m.

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Program Committee

Program Committee met on April 29. Items for the June newsletter were identified. Coming issues will include articles on 3rd World Debt Forgiveness, Chiapas and Sweatshops.

The Center will help publicize Millennium 2000 at Nevada Test Site on December 29-January 2; its purpose is abolition of nuclear weapons.

A Faith in Action meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8-10 re the death penalty.

New program ideas include the history of Yugoslavia, avoiding war, a follow-up on FOR and Nation Article concepts, continue collaboration with University of Richmond, program on racial



diversity that would acknowledge the many different races in our community.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22. Call the Center for more info.

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Conflict Resolution Committee

Conflict Resolution Committee met on Thursday, April 22. Material on Anger Management will be considered next meeting. All will bring resource materials. SafeNight training is scheduled for Saturday, May 15. The community gatherings or youth parties will be held on June 5, with conflict resolution being a part of each party.

The Trainers gathering was postponed until September. Information will be sent out in advance in hopes of getting a good response.

Upcoming workshops include Conflict Resolution with Falling Creek Middle School students who are writing a play; Peer Mediation at Meadowbrook H. S.; Sowers of Justice meeting in Charlottesville with conflict resolution for children; Bellemeade Community center - work with staff and volunteers.

Another AVP coordinator is needed. Dennis Shannon will be asked to assume this responsibility.

Next meeting is Thursday, June 22 at the Ecumenical Resource

June '99**CALENDAR****Meetings of Local Groups**

- Every Wed.** **General Strike**, 8:00 PM. Call 355-6914 for details
- Every 3rd Wed.** **Amnesty International**, 7:00 PM at Friends Meeting. 4500 Kensington Ave. Call 320-9488
- Every 2nd Thurs.** **Virginians Against Handgun Violence**, 7:15 PM., Jewish Community Center, B. Phillips-Taylor, 737-2975
- Every 3rd Friday** **Sufi Dancing: Dances of Universal Peace**, 7:30-9:30 PM except Oct. Round House, Byrd Park. 353-4901
- Every Thurs.** **Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY)**, 7:00-9:00 PM. Call support line: 353-2077 for more information; 353-1699 for the administrative line.
- Every 3rd Sat.** **Virginians for Justice**, 12:00 noon at the office. A political advocacy group working towards equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens of Virginia. Open to the public. Contact number is 643-4816.
- Every 3rd Sun.** **Richmond Community for Ethics and Meaning**, at First Unitarian. 1000 Blanton Ave., 5-8 PM, Susan at 784-4069.
- Every 4th Sat.** **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Elaine Ogburn for details - 320-4514.
- Every 2n Mon.** **Virginia People of Faith for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**, 4:45 PM
Catholic Diocese Conference Room, Floyd and Cherry, Kathleen Kenney, 359-5661

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 5** **Saturday, Sowers of Justice Assembly in Charlottesville** with Jim Wallis as featured speaker. Contact: Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Office of Justice and Peace, 359-5661.
- June 5** **March on the Pentagon**, to call for the end of the bombing of Yugoslavia. At Noon at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and will include a march from there to the Pentagon.
- June 15-16** **Annual Meeting of Virginia Peace Centers**, Tabor House, Lynchburg

RPEC World Wide Web Address:
<http://www.rpec.org>

Radio Free Richmond

(Continued from page 7)

"fatten" their current signals on the FM band. This would create the exact same effect as opening up the LRPS slots with the current analog FM you hear today. So they talk with forked tongue.

Please call your representatives and senators. With friends like Burns, why do they need enemies? Because the mainstream media won't report on that kind of bald-faced admission of real motivations.

Since this is probably one of the FEW places you will hear of this, our elected representatives should know that we know. Ask them to support an LPRS and support it with strong local ownership provisions to keep the "Big Boy Broadcasters" from snapping them all up.

For more information, call 649-WRFR or Wwfr@aol.com or surf <http://>

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR RECIPE SUBMISSIONS TO RPEC COOKBOOK

This is a reminder for all you people who have intended to send in your favorite recipes for the cookbook that the Peace Center is planning to publish as a fund raiser. To give the committee time to review recipes and plan how they will go into the cook book, plus get everything to the printer, we need your recipes by June 30. That's a little less than a month away!!!



There are several ways you can get the information to us:

E-mail: rpec@richmond.infi.net

Fax: (804) 358-2213

US Mail: Cookbook, c/o RPEC

14 North Laurel St.

Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: 358-1958 for info

Please don't forget to include your name and telephone number just in case there is a question. And for all the Peace Center friends who have sent us recipes, THANK YOU.



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