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RESIST

September 1977 — 720 Massachusetts Ave, Room 4; Cambridge, MA 02139 #117

a call to resist illegitimate authority

To Our Readers

We would like to thank the many readers of this newsletter who responded to our appeals for funds over the summer. Because of your generosity, we were able to make several grants during July.

As usual, however, income slowed down over the summer. We now have on hand more than 20 requests for assistance that we would like to support. They range from new community newspapers and health projects to GI support work and prisoners' aid groups. Issues like Puerto Rican Independence, AFGE's military union campaign, forced sterilization and increasing threats to women's control over their reproductive lives are among the many issues being worked on.

The Resist board will be holding its monthly meeting toward the end of September, at which time funding decisions will be made concerning these projects. Many of them need and deserve our support; and we hope that you will contribute as generously as possible so that we may do so.

The best way to support Resist is to become a monthly pledge. More than 100 people support Resist in this way, contributing from \$1 to \$100 per month. Pledge contributions help us to be more financially stable, and to channel more of our energy into fund-raising activities.

Over the summer we have worked on several plans to improve the work of Resist. One major effort has been to find ways to reduce the costs of the organization so that more of our money can go to grants. To help reduce our costs, we are moving the Resist office. Beginning on October 1, we will be sharing quarters with *Dollars and Sense*, an excellent monthly newsletter offering an alternative analysis of the economy. Their office is located in Somerville, Mass. We'll let you know the change of address. For now, keep sending all correspondence to our regular address. Thanks.



Abortion Rights

Barbara Smith

The following speech was delivered at a rally in Boston on Monday, August 8, 1977. Both the rally on the steps of the Massachusetts State House and a march were organized by the Abortion Action Coalition to protest the Federal Government's recent cut off of funding for medicaid abortions as well as legislation before the Mass. Senate which would additionally prohibit state spending for abortions for poor women. Throughout the country women's groups and many progressive forces are beginning to mobilize against these vicious attacks against poor and third world women and eventually all women.

I am speaking today for the Abortion Action Coalition. I am also a member of Boston C.E.S.A., the Committee to End Sterilization Abuse. I am speaking as a Black woman and a Black feminist and my remarks will reflect all of these commitments.

First, I'd like to give some idea of where we are in this struggle at this moment. A lot has happened just in the past week and it's confusing. It's important to know how our rights are being threatened on both a state and a federal level.

This attack upon abortion is one of a series of attacks upon the rights of women, Third World people, welfare recipients, workers and gay people.

The first major threat to our right to choose abortion was the Hyde Amendment passed by Congress last October. The Hyde Amendment prohibits the spending of Medicaid funds for an abortion unless the mother's life is endangered. (They, of course, don't take into account that every woman who is denied access to a medically safe, legal abortion qualifies since her life will definitely be in danger.) A U.S. District judge in New York, John Dooling, then ruled that the Hyde Amendment was unconstitutional and placed an injunction on it, which meant that it could not be enforced. This June the Supreme Court ruled that federal funds need not be used to pay for Medicaid abortions and that it was up to each state to decide whether they would use their own funds. Because of this decision, Judge Dooling was told to

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reconsider his previous decision and on Thursday of last week, he lifted the injunction, which means that the Hyde Amendment is now in effect. H.E.W. Secretary Califano, who is opposed to abortion for any woman, immediately announced the cutoff of federal funds for Medicaid abortions. The same day, state welfare departments were informed. In Massachusetts, Human Services Secretary Jerald Stevens reacted to this cut-off by saying that the state would continue to pay for Medicaid abortions with its own money if the federal government refused. This would cost the state approximately \$900,000 a year. But don't breathe a sigh of relief. This is where the Doyle-Flynn bill that we're protesting today comes in. This bill, if passed, says that state funds *cannot* be used to pay for the abortions of poor women, many of whom are Third World women. Governor Dukakis says that he will veto the bill, but he needs the votes of 14 senators to sustain the veto. This may seem complicated but I think its important to see exactly how they are messing with us and to also see that we are involved in a national struggle.

How can we take a government and a society's pro-life stance seriously when they are the same people who also brought us the neutron bomb?

Our right to abortion is still in jeopardy and from the Supreme Court to Jimmy Carter to Henry Hyde to Joseph Califano to John Dooling to Charles Doyle and Raymond Flynn, it's up to white men to decide. Well, it's not their right to decide. It's ours.

This attack upon abortion is one of a series of attacks upon the rights of women, Third World people, welfare recipients, workers and gay people that have characterized this recent period of history. It is frightening how the right has banded together to take away the gains people struggled to win in the 60's. They are trying to erase that struggle and to erase us. And these forces are all the same people. They just change their hats and their names. The anti-ERA Phyllis Schlafleys, the anti-busing ROAR Louise Day Hickses, the anti-gay Anita Bryants are all the same people and they are definitely out to get us.

It's us who are going to die from illegal abortions, not them. In 1969, 75% of the women who died from abortions were Third World women. H.E.W. estimates, is not ashamed to estimate, that 250-300 women will die every year as a result of the Hyde Amendment and that 250,000 women will be hospitalized with serious medical complications as a result of illegal abortions. They talk about right to life. Whose life? Clearly not the rights of poor, Third World women to life. The fetus fetishists get all teary eyed and sentimental about the right of every embryo to live. They say that abortion is murder but they will be responsible for the murder of countless women if the Doyle-Flynn bill is passed. Babies and human life

are not their concern at all but the oppression and control of women. They know that when a woman is in control of her reproduction she is in a much better position to control and make decisions in other areas of her life. The patriarchs will not allow this. Patriarchy does not allow this.

Another disastrous result of the denial of the right to abortion will be an increase in sterilization and sterilization abuse of Third World women. The very same women who will no longer have access to abortion if the Doyle-Flynn bill passes and the Hyde amendment is enforced are already in the most danger of being sterilized against their wills. H.E.W. already spends more money for sterilization than it does for abortion and the amount is likely to increase. Poor women will be forced to "choose" sterilization as a last resort for limiting their families if abortion is no longer available. This is truly genocidal because sterilization means that you are permanently unable to reproduce instead of being able to choose the time when you may have children in the future.

No existing contraceptive method is foolproof no matter how conscientiously used. If the government and compulsory pregnancy forces were really serious about this issue they would be working day and night and pouring millions of dollars into developing a contraceptive method that is both medically safe and effective. And even then abortion would be necessary in some cases as back-up measure. But, of course, they aren't serious except about curtailing the rights of us all. How can we take a government and a society's pro-life stance seriously when they are the same people who also brought us the neutron bomb, a bomb that kills people and leaves property intact?

They know that when a woman is in control of her reproduction she is in a much better position to control and make decisions about other areas of her life.

The Supreme court decision of 1973 said that it is between a woman and her doctor to decide if she wants to terminate a pregnancy. It does not say that every American woman must undergo abortion, it merely says that if she wants to have an abortion, as women throughout the ages have in a valid attempt to control their fertility, she will not have to die in the attempt.

The Doyle-Flynn bill, the Hyde Amendment and the Supreme Court decision are nothing but sexist and racist attacks on poor people. I don't know how many of you knew Fannie Lou Hamer, a poor Black woman, a civil rights activist and a freedom fighter. She died this year and I just found out this week that in the early 60's she was a victim of forced sterilization. She used to say, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired." I think we are all sick and tired of being sick and tired. It's time for the oppressors who are trying to control us to get real sick and real tired. We demand a women's right to choose. Defeat the Doyle-Flynn bill.

The Vicki Gabriner Case

Leslie Cagan

"I don't think we should talk about that; this phone's tapped." Vicki Gabriner not only said those words in the national office of Students for a Democratic Society in February of 1970, but she has also had the rare opportunity to listen to the FBI tapes of that and other conversations recorded from the SDS phone.

Vicki had access to those tapes when Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity granted a motion on her behalf during pre-trial activity in a case charging her and her co-defendant, Jimmy Reeves, with passport fraud and conspiracy to commit passport fraud. (Jimmy was charged with having applied for a passport under a false name in January, 1970; Vicki with having signed an affidavit saying that she had known the applicant for a period of 2½ years. Vicki was not arrested until May of 1973 at her home in Atlanta by 7 FBI agents at 7:00 a.m.)

This case was delayed for a lengthy period of time from 1974 to 1976 because the presiding judge, W. Arthur Garrity, was overseeing the struggle in the Boston school system. During that time, neither the Court nor the U.S. Attorney's office did hardly anything to move the case on. In spite of this, Garrity continually denied defense motions for dismissal of the charges based on denial of a speedy trial. (The alleged act occurred in 1970; the indictments and arrests were 3½ years later, in May 1973; the trial and conviction were 3½ years after that, in January 1977.)

When Garrity finally got around to remembering that this was the oldest case on his docket, he began to move with speed. In the jury-waived trial, he convicted Vicki and Jimmy of fraud and conspiracy on a series of inferences strung together and unsubstantiated by evidence. A month later both were sentenced to one year's probation. The only evidence is that the passport was applied for and an affidavit signed. This does not prove willful fraud and conspiracy. Although the burden of proof is supposed to be on the prosecution, and the accused innocent until proven guilty, as usual, this was not the case. And it should be noted that the passport in question was *never* issued or used.

Both defendants had been active with Weatherman-SDS in 1969-1970 — a time many remember for the intensity of the anti-war activity throughout this country. Their case only begins to make sense in the context of that mass social upheaval experienced in this country during the final years of American

involvement in Southeast Asia, and the urgency with which the federal government pursued many political activists. The case was initiated during the Nixon administration by the Internal Security Division of the Justice Dept, the same agency which developed the many political conspiracy cases which were aimed at destroying anti-war and Third World groups. Along with the political use of the criminal justice system, disclosures over the past few years point to a very broad campaign of government harassment (including illegal surveillance) to intimidate activists.

Vicki is appealing the conviction, stating: "In effect, the apparently light sentence is an attempt to undercut the impact of the political prosecution/persecution this case represents. I see fighting this conviction as a small battle in the larger struggle against government repression.

There are countless "little" cases and "small" acts of harassment which this government continues to get away with. It is only by fighting them on every one that we will begin to be a force that can counter their repression.

Vicki's decision to appeal is based on several things. To begin with, there are a number of legal issues: 1) selective prosecution (the government knew that she had been in Weatherman-SDS before they moved on this case); 2) insufficient disclosure of illegal government surveillance (the government has never admitted tapping any SDS phone other than that of the national office); 3) a conviction in the jury-waived trial based on insufficient evidence (during the trial, the government presented *no evidence that Vicki wilfully lied on the affidavit and no evidence to prove the existence of a conspiracy*); 4) the possibility of new evidence not known during the trial.

There is some hope that the government might be forced to release yet more of the illegal phone taps, thus forcing into the open more of the picture of government repression. It is politically important to challenge the government's attempts to harass us, spy on us, prosecute and persecute us. There are countless "little" cases and "small" acts of harassment which this government continues to get away with. It is only by fighting them on every one that we will begin to be a force that can counter their repression.

But taking on that struggle cannot be done alone. We are starting to learn that we can not ignore repression, just as we can not turn our backs on our collective history. Vicki talked about her history in her pre-sentencing statement to the court: "I was born in 1942... into a progressive middle-class Jewish envi-

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Texas Farmworkers

Liberation News Service

[Editor's Note: The march of the Texas farmworkers is supported in part by a recent Resist grant.]

They pulled out of Austin, Texas, two months ago, headed for Louisiana, Mississippi, and points east and north. On foot. Final destination — Washington DC.

By mid-August, the group of about 40 Texas farmworkers and their supporters was marching through Georgia on its way up through the southeastern states, still on schedule to arrive in Washington by Labor day, still going strong. With them, they were carrying the political demands and convictions that have kept their March for Human Rights going for more than 1,000 miles — demands for collective bargaining rights for farmworkers, and repeal of the section in the Taft-Hartley Act that allows so-called “right to work” laws.

Except in California, farmworkers are excluded from the right to hold union elections, guaranteed to most workers since 1935 under the National Labor Relations Act. The marchers are calling for passage of a national law similar to the California statute providing for union elections, finally won by the United Farm Workers Union.

They are also demanding repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows states to pass “right to work” laws and deny workers the right to organize a union shop.

States where union shops are banned clutter the bottom rungs on graphs showing levels of workers' wages and benefits, and they have become havens for runaway shops. To dramatize their demand for repeal of 14(b), the Texas farmworkers are marching through eight of the 20 “right to work” states in the country.

Leading the march are members of the Texas Farmworkers Union (TFU), formed two years ago after splitting off from Cesar Chavez's California-based United Farm Workers.

“Chavez wanted to organize California first, to make it a masterpiece,” explained longtime Chavez associate Antonio Orendain, now head of the TFU. “But California is not going to be finished for five or ten years. The farmworkers in Texas replied, ‘When are you going to do something for us?’ And as a result we formed the new independent union.”

The following interview with one woman marcher was taped by former LNS staff member Laurie Leifer as the group passed through Georgia.

Can you tell me first about who you are and how this all got started?

My name is Lucina Chavez and I'm one of the original marchers that began this “March for Human

Rights” on June 18 in Austin, Texas. The March for Human Rights is scheduled to run for 80 days keeping a pace of 20 miles a day, in order to reach Washington D.C. on Labor Day, September 5.

The people who are behind this march, the people who are sacrificing, the majority is people from Southern Texas. They're people that are from the Rio Grande Valley, that's known to the growers as the Magic Valley and is known to the workers that have to live and work there as the Valley of Tears. They are members of the Texas Farmworkers Union.

The purpose of the march is to remind President Carter that human rights are really important. He is raising it around the world with other nations, and rightfully so. But we feel that the American farmworker is in the best position to remind the president that there is a large segment of society here in the United States that is denied human rights.

The particular issue that we're speaking to is that we feel the right to sit down with your employer and to bargain with him is a human right. And it's a right that has been denied the farmworkers of this country since 1935 when they were excluded from the National Labor Relations Act. Of course that's nationwide except in California, where Cesar has been able to obtain that right for the farmworkers there.

You just pick up speed. . . . You don't even recognize how fast you've been walking until you meet normal people again.

How did you get involved with this march?

I'm a displaced Texan — born in Mexico, raised in Texas, then California, now I live in Chicago. It's just a cause that I feel really strongly about, because the issues that they are addressing themselves to are the questions of collective bargaining and repeal of Taft-Hartley 14(b). And that's something that affects us all, especially those of us in the north that are daily losing jobs because industry flees south to states where they have “right to work” laws in effect.

So what's happened since you started the march?

God, it's been incredible. It's been quite an experience. The hospitality from the very beginning has been profound. In particular, we were very much impressed by the people of Louisiana. In the sugar cane belt (they call it the “cane curtain” from south of Lake Charles, Louisiana, to just past Morgan City), that area there is primarily plantations with black farmworkers. When you hear of a farmworker in the United States, you just tend to think of Chavez and the Mexican farmworker. You don't think of these other minorities that are doing that same kind of stoop labor and that have the same desires and ideals and aspirations which all revolve around a better livelihood.

A long, hot road for union rights in the South

The only bad experience which happened to us was in Mississippi — Pearl River County, right outside of Poplarville, which we understand is probably the most reactionary county in the south. We were arrested there, a mass arrest of 40 people.

We were on the highway, keeping the same kind of discipline that we kept all along in every other city and county, marching along the highway, single file, right off on the shoulder. And they just pulled us over and said that we were obstructing traffic. That was the main thing. Our photographer was arrested because he was taking pictures of all the arrests in progress. The charges leveled against him were resisting arrest and interfering with the arresting officer, something along those lines. And all he was doing was taking the pictures.

It was interesting, because they took us, they booked us, and within an hour we were out. We were able to make a couple of calls like to friends back home, legislators in Texas. And they immediately mobilized some kind of a nationwide defense for us. So that people started calling the jailhouse and the arresting officer denied everything, denied even that we'd crossed through Poplarville, that we had ever been in Pearl River County.

The American farmworker is in the best position to remind the president that there is a large segment of society here in the United States that is denied human rights.

We were released, the charges were dropped, the bail was dropped, the whole thing. We just got out there and the minute we walked out of jail, we got on our bus and drove right back to where they stopped us from marching and picked it up.

That was the only experience and it was a good experience because we saw that in fact we had the support of the people, of a great majority of the people across the country. They went to bat for us, so to speak, or else we'd probably still be there.

Are there many other women marching?

Yes, oh yes. The women, we definitely march. And we have adolescents who march with us. I would say the youngest who marches consistently is about 11 or 12.

We have one pregnant woman — she's due in three weeks — who of course does not march. She and some of the small children just ride along in the vehicles. We always keep a water truck and another truck that pulls a little trailer with cooking materials.

When we get to a big city and all the publicity is out there, then we let the smaller children march too. They deserve it. They've been with us all along. But it's just not necessary to have them out there marching. And it



gets pretty hard.

We get up around 4 a.m. every day and start marching by 5:30. At first, at the very beginning of the march, on some days we were even out there marching by 4:30 or 5:00. It always was pitch black. But now people are getting tired. We're in our fiftieth day. The discipline is still incredible and we have no problems in terms of that. but nevertheless, we do as much as we can not to inconvenience the people, even if it's only 15 more minutes of sleep.

We march about two and a half or three miles an hour. In the cities, when our supporters come out to march with us, they can't keep up with us. They say we're crazy. But you just pick up speed, and almost the only way to keep cool is to keep this speed going. You don't even recognize how fast you've been walking until you meet normal people again.

What do you think will happen when you get to Washington?

Well of course we are asking for an audience with Carter. As of the last I heard, he has not even responded to our request. We did send a letter, asking him to meet with us, based on the history and the goals and objectives of the march. What we do once we get up there is something we'll have to decide on the spot. Because we really haven't thought, well, what happens if he won't meet with us. We have all the confidence in the world that he can't turn his back on us.

Students across the country are standing up to the attack on the right of working class and Third World people to go to college.

The Right to an Education

Liberation News Service

It was the month of April, 1969. Armed black students at Cornell University occupied the student union building in an act of self-defense against university harassment of blacks and policies that excluded blacks from getting a decent higher education. Two days after the occupation, a meeting of 8000 Cornell students and teachers prevented the university from backing down on concessions to the blacks students, who went on to win increased admissions and programming.

Also in April, 1969, black and Puerto Rican students barricaded themselves inside the City University of New York (CUNY) and closed down the school. They were demanding that the school's admissions policy reflect the population of the city's high schools.

Black students at Alabama State College, Atlanta University, Hampton Institute and the University of Arizona were also demonstrating for their rights that month.

By the end of 1969, students across the country had begun to reverse admissions, aid and programming policies which had for so long limited third world people's access to higher education.

But less than a decade later, slashed budgets, increased tuitions, cutbacks of financial aid, new admissions restrictions, limitations on special programming and firing of the most progressive staff members are quickly eroding the earlier gains. Remaining benefits are being kept alive only with constant student vigilance.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

While the number of black and Latin students enrolled in college nearly tripled from 1964-5 to 1974-5, the enrollment still did not reflect their numbers in the general U.S. population. College age black and Latin people represented 16% of the population of that age group, but only 11% of all students enrolled in college. And with new admissions restrictions, the as yet unpublished figures for the past two years are unlikely to see the percentage go upward.

The University of Illinois is now considering an admissions policy that would drastically reduce the enrollment of third world students. By the school administration's own figures, at least 41% of the black students, 31% of the Latin students and 9% of the white students admitted in the fall of 1976 would not be admitted under the new plan. Black and Latin

students currently make up nearly 30% of the 20,000 students at the college.

Previously, the university admitted a large number of students ranked in the top half of their class — which meant that victims of poor quality high schools had at least a fighting chance to get into college. The proposed admissions standard, called the Selective Index, would place heavier emphasis on the notoriously biased national college testing scores.

The University of California system, which includes over one hundred thousand students statewide, is also considering a proposal to raise the levels of national test scores and high school grade point averages required for admission, in order to decrease the number of entering students.

The Committee Against Institutionalized Racism (CAIR) at the U. of C. at Santa Cruz, in large protests last spring, pointed out that these tests "have proven to be culturally biased and racist as well as inadequate indicators of individual academic potential. This plan will serve to systematically exclude working class, third world, and Native American people."

The students are demanding that their college vote down the proposal, and that since there has been a drastic decline in the number of third world students at USCS, the special admissions program, now admitting 4% third world students, should expand to 8%.

The City University of New York (CUNY), a system with over 150,000 students, is considering implementation of a "Junior Skills Test" which the Board of Education expects would force out 15% of the present student body. It would be taken the junior year of college, and all who failed it would be forced out of school regardless of their grades.

"Junior Skills" is an English and mathematics test, which would immediately put at a disadvantage students in other fields, and students for whom Spanish or Chinese, not English, is their first language.

THE COST OF EDUCATION

In addition to the tightening admissions policies at many schools, increased tuition and cuts in financial aid are hitting hardest the third world and working class students across the country. Average tuition, room and board will cost \$3,005 this year at public four-year colleges, and \$4,905 at private schools. A growing number of colleges have joined the elite schools that will cost more than \$7,000 for 77-78.

And there is evidence that scholarships awarded on the basis of high school grades, or "merit", has been growing in comparison to aid on the basis of need. A 1975 Stanford University study showed that more than half of the private and public schools out of 850 tallied, gave scholarships to students who would not have received aid on the basis of need.

Lack of financial aid and increased tuition costs mean many third world and working class students can no longer afford a college education. A staggering 35,000 students (18%) were forced out of the City University of New York (CUNY) between September 1975 and January 1977. The university itself has admitted that the imposition of tuition fees in September 1976 for the first time in the school's 129-year history was the main factor in the reduction of the student body.

Also abandoned has been the policy of open admissions, won after massive black and Latin protests in the 1960's. That policy allowed New York City high school graduates to enter the college system regardless of their grades, and offered them tutoring services.

"The people who were dropped were the poorest — mainly Asians, blacks and Puerto Ricans," a CUNY student told LNS. In addition, the 1977-78 CUNY budget "is posited on an anticipated reduction of approximately 12,000 full-time students from the 1976-77 enrollment," according to a January report from University Chancellor Robert Kibbee to the Board of Higher Education. Furthermore, CUNY has just voted to end all financial aid to part time students in its four year colleges.

Education for the many is a thing of the past and education for the few is the plan of the future.

"The entire mission of CUNY is being redefined," said a protesting student. "The policy of open admissions has been replaced by mass exclusion. Education for the many is a thing of the past and education for the few is the plan of the future."

Across the country students have been fighting tuition increases and financial aid cuts: University of Miami students occupied the president's office in April to protest a \$200 tuition hike and over a thousand students signed a petition against a tuition hike at the University of Nevada.

After the 1969 rebellion at Cornell University, the administration said it would aim to build a third world student population paralleling that of the U.S. population. But while in 1970 the black students represented 9% of the Cornell student body, the figure has already dropped to 5-6%.

"People can't afford it and we can't get enough aid," a black Cornell student told LNS. And in the past six years, Cornell's financial aid office has failed to update its cost of living figures.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

In 1968 and '69, many of the country's 2,500 colleges and universities set up third world studies programs. But since their inception, most have suffered from insufficient funding and are continuing to come under attack.

Some programs dissolved in their first few years due to small budgets and vaguely defined political goals. Now, approximately 200 schools have black studies programs and over 1,000 offer at least one black studies course. But there are few black studies departments; most programs are interdisciplinary.

The program at Cornell University, considered one of the more strong and stable, is now being weakened. In the fall of 1975 its third world studies center, COSEP (Committee on Special Education Programming) had its power severely undercut when its functions were divided up and reassigned to various departments within the university.

The budget of the tutorial program, considered of utmost importance for third world students from poorer high schools, was cut and tutorials for individual courses were left to the discretion of each department, rather than COSEP.

Students at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee had to fight hard last spring to keep the university from closing their Afro-American Studies Department, which was set up in 1969. They held a rally, signed petitions, and went to the administration to ask: "Why are there only 14 courses [in Afro-American Studies] when there used to be 28? Why can't you get a degree in Afro Studies? Why have teachers been denied tenure?" The widespread opposition to the planned university cutbacks forced the school to keep the program and hire four new teachers for the spring.

Large demonstrations this spring at the University of Hawaii forced the school to make the Ethnic Studies Program (ESP) a regular program after it had existed for 7 years with only provisional status.

"It has been an uphill battle all the way," ESP Acting Director Davianna McGreggor-Alegado said when the announcement was made. "Despite adverse conditions the program has continued to grow. It has developed significant resources and curriculum on the untold history of Hawaii's multi-ethnic people."

Hostos College, part of CUNY and the only bilingual college in the east, was established at the insistence of New York's Spanish-speaking community in the late '60's. The very existence of the school was put in jeopardy by the CUNY administration in 1975 and students have since had to stage a number of demonstrations to resist severe cutbacks.

Students at the Atlanta Junior College are currently fighting for credit to be given to Special Studies classes (to make up for inferior high school education) and for more black studies courses. They confronted the Georgia Board of Regents in July for refusing to eliminate the systematic exclusion of black and other third world students. While about 60% of the Atlanta population is black, only 15% of the students at Atlanta's Georgia State University are black.

FIRING PROGRESSIVE FACULTY

A popular tactic of university administrations in

Defending the Right to an Education

cutting third world programming is to fire or deny tenure to the most progressive staff members in these departments. At the University of California at Santa Cruz last spring, demonstrations called for the reinstatement of Phil Mehas, "the one financial aid advisor who has shown his true concern for the welfare of native American students at UCSC."

Increased tuition and cuts in financial aid are hitting hardest the Third World and working class students.

A May rally at the California State campus in Los Angeles demanded the reinstatement of Pan African Studies instructor Clotide Blake (after 8 years of teaching) and four other progressive faculty members. And it took months of protest at the University of California before black activist Harry Edwards was reinstated as a sociology professor this spring.

THE BAKKE CASE

In addition to the battles being waged on individual campuses to force administrations to provide decent educations for third world and working class students, a focus of national protest this fall will be the Bakke case. The Bakke case is now being brought to the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the validity of special admissions policies for third world people.

It stems from a suit brought by Allan Bakke, charging that he was denied admission to the University of California at Davis (UCD) medical school in 1973 and 1974 because he is white. Referring to an admissions policy which allows 16 out of 100 admissions openings for students of "disadvantaged" backgrounds, he contends that third world students less qualified than himself gained entrance to the school.

If this California decision is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, it will lay the basis for dismantling special admissions programs nationwide.

Bakke planned his suit "against" the university by working in collusion with a UCD official, with the express purpose of denying minority special admissions, the *Los Angeles Times* has revealed. The California Supreme Court upheld Bakke's contention that the special admissions program for third world students at UCD medical school is "unconstitutional."

If this California decision is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, it will lay the basis for dismantling such special admissions programs nationwide. The National Lawyers Guild noted the spiralling potential in the Bakke case, characterizing it as "giant steps backward."

Demonstrations against the Bakke decision were held throughout the California university system last spring, and many of them focused on cutbacks hitting third world students, and university investments in the South African apartheid government as well.

National protests are scheduled for this fall, and, as one student organizer for the Bakke demonstrations asserted, "Our school held a people's court which sentenced the university to another year of campus activism. I think we're going to carry out that sentence."

The Vicki Gabriner Case (continued from page 3)

ronment. Some of my earliest memories are of air raid drills... the Army-McCarthy hearings... and the execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg... These have left an indelible mark on me which I... intend to keep with me forever... Like many others of my generation, I... spent the 60s and early 70s as a political activist [in the civil rights and anti-war movements]... Since the late 60s, I have come to understand myself as a member of an oppressed majority and minority: a woman and a lesbian. I have fused this new understanding with my old beliefs... working to build the lesbian-feminist/feminist community/movement."

When the criminal justice system strikes out against one of us, it is reaching for us all.

Many of us have changed since 1970. After the sentencing, Vicki said, "My politics and I have changed considerably since 1970. However, the process of listening to the tapes, feeling the humiliation of dealing with the Probation Department, sitting in the courtroom, rekindled my anger at the way this government deals with human life, reconfirmed my commitment to the principles and ideals that moved me in 1970, and made me ready and wanting to come out fighting."

Sometime this fall, oral arguments will be heard in the Federal Appellate Court in Massachusetts. When the criminal justice system strikes out against one of us, it is reaching for us all. It is only by pooling our resources and lending our united support that we will help each other in our battles against this type of harassment.

As is true with all legal fights, this appeal has its costs — time and energy have been spent to help Vicki win the appeal. And there are financial costs... something you can easily help with. If you are able to make a donation (or should you want more information about this case) please write to..... Vicki Gabriner Defense Fund, PO Box 5533, Atlanta, GA 30307.