6-6-1993

Resist Board Meeting, June 6, 1993

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Dear board member,

There might be a change in the above starting time for the meeting. I just found out that the AIDS Walk is on the same day. Some members might be walking, so perhaps we could start the meeting later. I’ll call folks only if there is any change. Stay tuned.

We have $18,000 to give out this meeting ($500 x 36 proposals.) Since we underspent (by some $3,500) our allotted pool of funds for the last board meeting, we could, if we want, add that amount to our pool of funds for this meeting. If we decide to do this, that would then give us a grand total of $21,500 for this meeting. What say?

As usual, you’ll find the business items for the meeting at the end of the grants agenda portion of this letter. I’ll send you updated info for the requests, plus the references, about a week before the board meeting.

If you have any comments and can’t come to the meeting, please send in your feedback as well as your proxy.

AGENDA

** Any last minute items of information by staff which are important to meeting. A report on any emergency grants given since the last board meeting.

GRANT REQUESTS

Peace/Anti-Militarism

1) Project on Youth & Non-Military Opportunities (Encinitas, CA) - $800 requested to typeset and print a Spanish translation of their local directory of non-military job training and other alternative resources.

Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

2) Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine (Bangor, ME) - Request of $800 toward the purchase of a computer.

Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____
3) Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance (Portland) - $650 requested to fund the establishment of an Alternative Fund for war tax resisters: for a brochure, startup materials and for technical assistance to be provided to the Board of the Fund.  
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

4) AFSC Peace & Justice Youth Outreach Program (Oakland, CA) - Asking for $800 for either a fax machine or for a TV/VCR to be used in their anti-militarism programs.  
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

5) Citizen Soldier (New York, NY) - Request of $800 toward the cost of producing a special issue of their GI newspaper, On Line, which will focus on the issue of gays and lesbians in the military.  
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Central and Latin America and the Caribbean

6) Religious Task Force on Central America (Washington, DC) - Requesting $700 toward the purchase of a computer and a laser printer. Since we just gave them an emergency grant of $150, the maximum we could grant would be $650. 
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

7) Casa El Salvador (Tallahassee, FL) - They are asking for $800 to defray expenses of the printing and mailing of their newsletter and a brochure, as well as expenses of educational events, for fund raising and membership recruitment for their sister city solar energy project.  
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

8) Organizacióon Urakán (Newark, NJ) - A request of $500 toward the expenses of printing their magazine, "Urakan." Since it's in Spanish, I'll ask a board member to review it for a report to the meeting.  
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___
9) Denver Justice & Peace Committee (CO) - Request of $700 to purchase a printer for their computer.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

10) Wisconsin Coordinating Committee on Nicaragua (Madison, WI) - They're asking for $800 toward the non-travel expenses of a tour of the Midwest by a Nicaraguan theatre group in October.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

11) Colombia Vive Committee (Cambridge, MA) - Request of $975 (?) for tapes, dubbing, and mailing expenses for distribution of their video in their African American Project. I'll ask board members to review the tape.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

12) The Guatemala Project (Austin, TX) - They are asking for $800 to produce holiday greeting cards about the disappeared to be sent to the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington, DC.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Prisoners

13) Massachusetts Lifers Organization (Norfolk, MA) - Asking for $800 toward office supplies, postage, telephone, printing and a word processor.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

14) Prisoners with AIDS - Rights Advocacy Group (Jonesboro, GA) - Request of $800 for mailing costs for their newsletter and for correspondence with prisoners.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____
15) Michigan Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (MI-CURE) (Kalamazoo) - $1,060 (?) request to cover the costs of producing their booklet "Advocating for the Incarcerated in Michigan."

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

16) Prisoners Legal News (Monroe, WA) - $800 requested toward the costs of expanding the newsletter from 10 to 16 pages. We turned them down the last time they applied. You will find relevant material and correspondence included with their proposal. They’ve asked us to re-consider.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Gay and Lesbians

17) Momazons (Columbus, OH) - Asking for $800 toward the purchase of a computer system.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

18) Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Campus Center (Madison, WI) - $800 request to host a free American Sign Language class for students and non-students.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

19) Coalition of the Network for Battered Lesbians, Battered Lesbians Support Project of Transition House, Lesbian Caucus of the Coalition of Mass Battered Women’s Service Groups (Cambridge, MA) - $800 requested to cover the costs of a community forum on lesbian battering in June. Also see proposal #21.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

20) Network of Battered Lesbians (Boston, MA) - Request of $800 to help fund an ongoing multi-cultural outreach/education project.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___
Accessibility

21) Coalition of Network of Battered Lesbians, etc. (Boston, MA) - Request of $175 to cover accessibility expenses for the forum mentioned in #19 above.
   Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

Community/Anti-racism

22) Concerned Citizens of Tillery (NC) - Requesting $800 (minus the $150 emergency grant we recently made) toward expenses of their organizing effort against big business hog farms in the state.
   Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

23) Survivors, Inc. (West Roxbury, MA) - They're asking for $800 toward the expenses of a writing project for women on welfare and women who are DPW/DSS case workers.
   Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

24) Contact Center (Cincinnati, OH) - Request of $450 to print a new brochure for the organization.
   Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

25) All Kinds of Families (Boston, MA) - They're asking for $800 toward the costs of their second annual Celebration in September.
   Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

Native Peoples

26) American Indian Environmental Council (Casa Blanca, NM) - Request of $800 for a printer for their computer and for the printing costs of a brochure.
   Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____
27) The Free Association (Pahoa, HI) - Asking for $800 toward the non-travel expenses of organizing and hosting the "Peoples' International Tribunal Hawai'i 1993" in August.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

Women

28) Appalachian Women's Guild (Beersheba, TN) - Asking for $456 for the expenses of producing and mailing their newsletter.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

Women

29) Dorchester Women's Committee (MA) - $800 asked to defray the costs of a computer, printer, software, and training sessions for the group's members.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

Miscellaneous

30) Clergy & Laity Concerned (Eugene, OR) - Asking for $800 toward the expenses of their Youth for Justice program.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

31) Irish Immigration Center (Boston, MA) - Request of $500 for a fax machine.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

32) Missouri Citizen Education Fund (St. Louis, MO) - $800 requested toward the expenses of organizing a project which includes a brochure listing the votes taken by members of the Missouri General Assembly in 1993 on a variety of key issues.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___
33) Support Coalition International (Eugene, OR) - They’re asking for $800 for the non-travel expenses of bringing to Massachusetts their "Leadership Development Campaign" for psychiatric survivors.
Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

34) Michigan Fair Budget Action Coalition (Detroit) - Requesting $931 (?) for the mailing costs of their Alternative Budget Project. A draft of that budget will be reviewed by a board member for a report to the meeting.
Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

35) Center for Vision and Policy (Portland, ME) - $640 asked for expenses of organizing for an environmental summit in Maine in October.
Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

36) Campaign for Voting Rights (Cambridge, MA) - They’re asking for $800 toward the expenses of producing a multi-lingual 6 to 8 page information piece in tabloid form about the Campaign.
Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Office - Staff, finances and other miscellaneous items.

I’ll send you references and additional material before the board meeting. I hope to see you at the meeting.

For peace and justice,
Nancy Moniz
Resist staff
RESIST SUB-COMMITTEES

Cheryl Smith (?)

Personal Committee (3/89) - Ken Hale, Tess Ewing and Renae Scott

Board Search Committee - Pam Chamberlain, Louis Kampf, Tatiana Schreiber and Nancy Moniz.

Finance Committee - Louis Kampf, Pam Chamberlain and Nancy Wechsler.

Newsletter Committee -

25th Anniversary Committee -

Ken away June 17 thru June 21
July 3 thru July 5

Meeting during week of June 22
Resist Board Meeting
June 6, 1993
Renae Scott’s in Cambridge

PRESENT: Nancy Moniz, Tatiana Schreiber, Pam Chamberlain, Renae Scott, Louis Kampf, Larry Goldsmith (chair), Tess Ewing, Nancy Wechsler (minutes), Ken Hale, and Cheryl Smith by proxy.

Emergency Grants made since last board meeting: Nancy Moniz reported that the following two emergency grants were made since our last board meeting: Human Rights Action for Health Care—an emergency grant of $150 toward the expenses of a "Health Care is a Human Right—Not a Business" national rally on April 26th; and Concerned Citizens of Tillery—an emergency grant of $150 toward the expenses of transporting local low-income senior citizens to a rally at the state capitol in support of a bill to prevent huge corporate hog farms from locating in rural areas.

GRANTS: We gave out a total of $17,281 to 24 groups. That is $719 less than allocated for this meeting. We had also not spent all that was allocated at the previous meeting (by about $3500), so we now have a "pool" of about $4200.

1. Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Encinitas, CA) YES to a grant of $800 to typeset and print a Spanish translation of their local directory of non-military job training and other alternative resources and for staffing.

2. Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine (Bangor, ME) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the purchase of a computer.

3. Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance (Portland) NO GRANT. They had requested $650 to fund the establishment of an Alternative Fund for war tax resisters; for a brochure, start-up materials and for technical assistance to be provided to the Board of the Fund. Question raised re: if this would violate our 501c3 status. Question raised re: maybe they needed a loan. Maybe New England War Tax Resistance CC could loan them the money to start up. Question raised about war tax resistance as a strategy at this time. Question raised as to whether there was a class bias in this type of organizing-- available to those who can afford to down load their property, keep income level very low, and make a moral statement. We had enough questions that we decided not to fund. We should suggest they contact other War Tax Resistance groups for a start up loan, or the alternatives funds in Ithaca.

4. AFSC Peace and Justice Youth Outreach Program (Oakland, CA) Yes to a grant of $800 toward (both or either) a laser printer and/or TV/VCR to be used in their anti-militarism programs.

5. Citizen Soldier (NY, NY) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the cost of producing a special issue of their GI newspaper, On Guard, which will focus on the issue of gays and lesbians in the military. Louis reported on On Guard. He commented that there were articles on many different issues. Decently written. Question raised re: their position on the existence of the military. Kate Gyllensvard read their pamphlet "Khaki Closet." Doesn’t deal in depth with lesbians in the military. They should look more closely into this. We should send them the June issue of Sojourner. A question was raised about the size of their budget. Should we bend the rules because of our historical special relationship with this kind of work? We agreed to do that, but let them know that their budget is
getting a bit high for our guidelines. Also let them know we'd like to see more mention of lesbians in the paper.

6. Religious Task Force on Central America (Washington, DC) Yes to a grant of $650 (since we had already given them an emergency grant) toward the purchase of a computer and laser printer.

7. Casa El Salvador (Tallahassee, FL) Yes to a grant of $800 to defray expenses of printing and mailing their newsletter and brochure, as well as expenses of educational events, and for fund raising and membership recruitment for their sister city solar energy project. Question raised as to where they are getting their money. They are doing a lot of work. Reference said they don't do enough public events. Brochure good in terms of mobilizing people. Refugees and solidarity activists seem to work well together.

8. Organizacion Urakan (Newark, NJ) NO GRANT. They had requested $500 toward the expenses of printing their magazine "Revista Urakan." Question raised why people hadn't heard of them. Ken reviewed magazine (it is in Spanish). They are working toward unification of different independenista groups. They want to have a unified independenista movement. Ken liked magazine. Do they do anything besides put out this magazine? Decision: No. There are many positive things about the magazine, and we hope you increase your organizing in the U.S. If you can do that, then come back and re-apply.

9. Denver Justice and Peace Committee (CO) NO Grant. They had requested $700 to purchase a printer for their computer. They don't have a position on reproductive rights because of wide range of opinions in group. Don't have a position on gay issues, either. Decision: NO. We had serious concerns that they don't have a position on reproductive rights and that they didn't participate in the campaign to defeat the anti-gay initiative.

10. Wisconsin Coordinating Committee on Nicaragua* (Madison, WI) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the non-travel expenses of a tour of the Midwest by a Nicaraguan theatre group in October. Question raised re: budget. This grant is not for travel. We decided to make this a *SALZMAN grant, since last year's SALZMAN grant was returned to us by the group. (They weren't able to do the project.) We hope to be able to give out a second Salzman grant later this year as well.

11. Colombia Vive Committee (Cambridge, MA) NO GRANT. They had requested $975 for tapes, dubbing, and mailing expenses for distribution of their video on their African American project. Video was watched by Larry, Tatiana, Louis and Wechsler, and also by Nancy Moniz. Larry gave a report from the group showing: video was superficial, not very substantive. Didn't talk about politics. No historical or political background. It is intended for H.S. students, but it didn't seem as if it would keep their attention. Good camera work. No real analysis. Accompanying guide would really have to fill in lots of blanks. It would be confusing to H.S. students. Discussion: Do we want to ask them to come back for guide? or go elsewhere for funding? What is their plan on how they are going to organize around this? If they are going to use this Pam would like to help them figure out how to use it. Decision: NO, because video isn't effective tool. We are supportive of their work, and educating and bringing this issue forward. Supportive of your work with African American students. We should suggest they come back to us for some other aspect of their work. We discussed whether or not one of us should speak directly to them. We decided to put in the letter that if they would like to talk with one of us, we'd be glad to do that. We then wondered if some of the problem with the video was that it was actually put together in Columbia, and that it didn't seem like it was made with a
12. The Guatemala Project (Austin, TX) NO GRANT. They had asked for $800 to produce holiday greeting cards about the disappeared to be sent to the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington, DC. Good group, but this seems like just an annoying tactic/project. Just to get under their skin. Say no to this project and suggest they come back to us with another project. Write encouraging letter. We just didn’t see this as the most effective tactic. Maybe another project that brings attention of particular prisoners to light. This current project isn’t very focussed.

13. Massachusetts Lifers Organization (Norfolk, MA) Yes to a grant of $800 toward office supplies, postage, telephone, printing and a word processor. We decided that this would be our 1993 Mike Riegle tribute grant. Tatiana and Larry reported on group. They had both been to one of their all day awareness projects. The group has helped encourage people on the outside to organize.

14. Prisoners with AIDS- Rights Advocacy Group (PWA-RAG) (Jonesboro, GA) Yes to a grant of $800 for mailing costs for their newsletter and for correspondence with prisoners. We should encourage them to check out getting 501c3 status. It is possible they can get it and it would help them receive other foundation support.

15. Michigan Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (MI-CURE) (Kalamazoo, MI) NO Grant. They had requested $1060 to cover the costs of producing their booklet "Advocating for the Incarcerated in Michigan." This is the third (?) time they have come to us. This proposal is closer to what we would fund than the others, but not quite there yet. They are taking the first 1/2 step. But just putting out literature is not itself organizing. You have to do follow-up. Continued discussion about whether or not this project was organizing. There is a possibility of organizing with this-- they need plan to follow-up among the families of prisoners. They are giving a tool to prisoners to work with their families to organize. It would be better if they made some political points about the system, not just state what it is. Tell them they need follow-up workshops, and that they are getting closer to what we fund.

16. Prison Legal News (Monroe, WA) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the costs of expanding the newsletter from 10 to 16 pages. We had turned them down previously due to lack of references and their editorial support for the Shining Path of Peru. We have since received some references, and have corresponded with them about the Shining Path. They sent in another proposal and asked to be reconsidered. Discussion: They hadn’t written any new articles on Peru until April 93 issue. No critique of Shining Path, but support of prisoners. Discussion: Ed and Paul seem to disagree about the Shining Path, but Ed won’t really write what we does believe. Larry is very impressed by their publication. Decision: Yes. Tell them that while we continue to disagree with you on your editorial on Peru and the Shining Path, we think you do good work and are funding you for this request.

17. Momazons (Columbus, OH) NO grant. They had asked for $800 toward the purchase of a computer system. Publication reminded people of Lesbian Connection. Allows for different voices to be heard, but no editorial voice. Provocative. People are coming from all over the map. Question raised about them considering themselves a national newsletter/organization. Decision: No. Newsletter is interesting, more a forum than an organizing tool. Possibly you should apply to the Chicago Resource Center.
18. Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Campus Center (Madison, WI) NO Grant. They had requested $800 to host a free American Sign Language class for students and non-students. Discussion: They are an official campus organization. Can't they get money from campus for this? Can't they charge for it? They should be able to raise the money elsewhere.

19. Coalition of the Network for Battered Lesbians, Battered Lesbians Support Project of Transition House, Lesbian Caucus of the Coalition of Mass Battered Women's Service Groups (Cambridge, MA) Yes to a grant of $800 to cover the costs of a community forum on lesbian battering in June.

20. Network of Battered Lesbians (Boston, MA) Yes to a grant of $800 to help fund an ongoing multi-cultural outreach/education Project.

21. Coalition of Network of Battered Lesbians, etc. (for the Coalition) (Boston, MA) Yes to an accessibility grant of $175 to cover expenses for the forum mentioned in proposal #19 above.

We discussed 19, 20, and 21 together. Question raised whether 19 and 20 were the same group. Question on what networks money is for-- what will our money be used for specifically? Seems like general operating expenses. Let's tell them we want it to go for written multi-cultural outreach materials.

22. Concerned Citizens of Tillery (NC) Yes to a grant of $650 (they had received a $150 emergency grant already) toward expenses of their organizing effort against big business hog farms in the state. Question raised re: large amount of foundation support. But their constituency is not one which could afford, necessarily, to support the group. We should tell them that we may not be able to continue supporting them in the future, since they have been so successful at raising other foundation money. Tatiana is interested in an article for the newsletter on this organizing.

23. Survivors, Inc. (West Roxbury, MA) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the expenses of a writing project for women on welfare and women who are DPW/DSS case workers. Positive feelings about newspaper. Good project.

24. Contact Center (Cincinnati, OH) Yes to a grant of $450 (as requested) to print a new brochure for the organization. Question raised could they get the money elsewhere. Didn’t seem that radical. No position on reproductive rights. Where in Cincinnati can they get money? Good reference. Not impressed by brochure, but it's a start. Suggest they use union or minority owned print shop.

25. All Kinds of Families (Boston, MA) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the costs of their second annual Celebration in September. We would like to see more follow-up, see more goals implemented. What exactly is the ongoing work? What happens in-between the events? Working with diverse "families" raises good and tough issues.

26. American Indian Environmental Council (Casa Blanca, NM) Yes to a grant of $800 for a printer for their computer and for the printing costs of a brochure. Nancy Moniz asked them for a better income statement. They faxed her something, but it was not complete. No real income and expense statements. Need more sophisticated accounting. How does printer tie in with youth project?
27. The Free Association (Pahoa, HI) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the non-travel expenses of organizing and hosting the "Peoples' International Tribunal Hawai‘i 1993" in August. Question raised as to their being pro-independence. This group is multi-racial. Questions raised about goals.

28. Appalachian Women's Guild (Beersheba, TN) Yes to a grant of $456 (as requested) for the expenses of producing and mailing their newsletter. Renae looked at newsletter. Who is newsletter going to? Good fact sheet on Medicaid. Good "Did you know" section. Didn't feel like Survival News, didn't feel like it was coming from poor women.

29. Dorchester Women's Committee (MA) Yes to a grant of $800 to defray the costs of a computer, printer, software, and training sessions for the group's members.

30. Clergy and Laity Concerned (Eugene, OR) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the expenses of their Youth for Justice program.

31. Irish Immigration Center (Boston, MA) Yes to a grant of $500 (as requested) for a fax machine. Question raised as to their budget and ability to get money from large foundations. Pretty social servicey. Important, but not Resist. Fax machine is for more political stuff. These are progressive people. Is organization more radical than it appears? Most, but not all work, is social servicey. Fax machine is to do coalition work. People impressed by coalition work they were doing.

32. Missouri Citizen Education Fund (St. Louis, MO) NO grant. They had requested $800 toward the expenses of organizing a project which includes a brochure listing the votes taken by members of the Missouri General Assembly in 1993 on a variety of key issues. Discussion: electoral, vague on reproductive rights. Seems like their sister organization supports it, but they left vague if they had a position. Write a nice letter saying we support their work, but that this is the kind of project we don't ordinarily fund.

33. Support Coalition International (Eugene, OR) NO grant. They had requested $800 for the non-travel expenses of bringing to Massachusetts their "Leadership Development Campaign" for psychiatric survivors. We had funded them before for a demo. Reference was not positive. Doesn't seem like they are building an effective movement. Not clear enough about your goals.

34. Michigan Fair Budget Action Coalition (Detroit) No Grant. They had requested $931 for the mailing costs of their Alternative Budget Project. Budget is good, issue is mainstream. Not a Resist priority. They should be able to get funds elsewhere. No, but send nice letter.

35. Center for Vision and Policy (Portland, ME) No Grant. They had requested $640 for expenses of organizing for an environmental summit in Maine in October. Proposal vague. Lacked detail we need. Didn't see the organizing part of it. Initiated by a few individuals, not the organization. References raised some serious questions.

36. Campaign for Voting Rights (Cambridge, MA) Yes to a grant of $800 toward the expenses of producing a multi-lingual 6 to 8 page information piece in tabloid form about the Campaign. Worthwhile, but not necessarily Resist priority. They've gotten some grants. Question raised as to whether they could get other money. Is this at all winnable? It's been done in other municipalities. Is this a priority to organize around? What is point? For immigrants to be visible-- not just the voting part.
RAISE/PENSION/LEAVES: The staff brought some proposals to the board in regards to benefits. Every year we get a cost of living raise in January, and an anniversary raise in May. We postponed getting the May anniversary raise to have a discussion about whether or not our salaries were appropriately high without the raise, or whether or not there was some other benefit that might be more beneficial to the staff. Particularly we started to consider pension plans and sabbatical leaves. Several groups offer some kind of paid sabbatical leave. The board was encouraging of the idea of looking into a benefits package that might include child care, pension, sabbatical, raises-- with the possibility of cafeteria style choosing. Staff requests a meeting with the personnel committee to go over these issues and come up with a proposal: Personnel committee: Ken, Tess, and hopefully Cheryl will be willing to join. Tess requested info on pension plans. It should be noted that different staff have different priorities as to benefits, and that we do not all agree at this moment as to how to move forward.

Board Outreach: We need to start thinking about this again, especially with Larry moving to Philadelphia for the year (see below), and still no Latina/o person on board.

Intern: Staff interviewed one person who was interested in interning this summer. Felt he wasn’t the right person. We need help with a lot of the shit work, and interns want to learn something. Board/staff lunch agreed to ask Kate G. to work an extra day a week this summer to help Nancy Moniz and Tatiana with some catch-up work and new projects. She works one day a week covering for Wechsler’s parental leave. Wechsler will start back 4 days a week after labor day.

Finances:

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New and Noteworthy: Pam Chamberlain’s new address as of the end of June (?): 36 Hallworthy St., Cambridge, MA 02138. She’s got her old phone number back: 617-864-2992.

Larry Goldsmith will be going to Philadelphia for one year starting this summer. He has a job there for the year. He plans on coming to NY board meetings, and hopes to come to some Boston meetings. We all told Larry how much we would miss him, and how much he had contributed this year. Best of luck in Philly.

Of Note: Renae mentioned that the last issue of Sojourners (magazine out of D.C.) was focussed on racism and was very good.

Next Board Meeting: July 25th. Ken Hale is checking to see if it can be at his house.
To: the Board of Resist  

Subject: Staff raises or benefits proposals for 1993

At the board/staff lunch in April, it was decided to delay this discussion until the June 1993 Resist Board Meeting. The usual practice has been to consider raises etc. to take effect on the official staff anniversary at the beginning of May. Also the usual practice is to consider raises of between $0.25 per hour and $0.75. This time there are other options to consider, since there was a question of continuing to give annual raises. Attached you will find a proposal by Yana for a sabbatical leave. Other options are a pension plan for staff (comparative figures below) and a raise (costs for raises included below and in the leave plan.) The options for the Board to consider are: raise, pension plan, leave plan, or none of the above.

1) Pension Plan costs (either 401 (b) tax deferred or SEP):

   Possssible options (either 5% or 3% of annual salary):

   For Tatiana: gross annual salary: $11,000 x 5% = $550/year  
                x 3% = $330/year

   For Nancy M: gross annual salary: $31,500 x 5% = $1,575/year  
                x 3% = $ 945/year

   For Nancy W: gross annual salary: $25,240 x 5% = $1,262/year  
                x 3% = $ 757/year

   (Note: the Board could choose any % it would like; the above percentages are just to give some idea of costs.)

2) Raise of $0.25/hour:

   For Tatiana - increase of $182/year
   For Nancy M. - increase of $520/year
   For Nancy W. - increase of $416/year

   (Note: please see costs of a $0.75/hour raise in the Leave proposal attached.)
Sabbatical Leave Info

Some preliminary info pertaining to a sabbatical leave benefit:

I will be getting some information (including cost/benefit analysis of leave policies) from the Family and Work Institute in NY, and will also talk to Gordon Gotlieb at the UUSC.

So far I have talked to Loie Hayes at South End Press about their policy. Collective members there currently earn 27,500/yr. Each full-time collective member is eligible for a 12 month leave at 1/2 pay after working five years full time, exclusive of time off for parental leave or personal leave or periods of part-time work. (they can take shorter periods of personal time off without pay with collective approval). [They don’t have permanant part-time collective members.] Only one collective member can take a sabbatical at a given time, and distribution of leaves goes by seniority. There must be majority consent to the leave so as not to endanger the health or survival of the business. Health insurance is continued during the leave. They do not necessarily replace workers who are on leave. Loie said SEP doesn’t have this but that many places require that you must return to work for at least 12 months following the leave, or return the pay.

Preliminary data:

Our current salaries: 15.17/hr

Yana (14 hrs/week) gross = 212.38/wk or 11,043.76/yr + health insurance at 2372.16/yr + 77 (workers comp). Total = 13,492.92.

Nancy M (40 hrs/week) gross = 606.80/wk or 31,553.1/yr + health insurance at 2372.16/yr + 220.87 (workers’ comp) = 34,146.13.

Nancy W (32 hrs/week) gross = 485.44/wk or 25,242.88/yr + health insurance at 2,289/yr + 176.70 = 27,708.58.

We have four weeks paid vacation and 16 health/personal days.

Our sabbatical leave policy would be the same for all permanant employees, based on their average salary in the preceeding two years. Each staff member would be eligible for the leave after six years of work at the hours they generally work, i.e. the above, exclusive of parental and personal time off. The following are the costs for six months at 1/2 pay, with health insurance continuing and utilizing a replacement worker at $12/hr. [We may decide that we should pay a replacement worker more, and/or provide benefits.]

Yana: 2,760.94 + 1,186.00 = 3,946.94
(replacement worker at 12/hr = 4399 (including workers’ comp)
Total cost including replacement for six months = 8,345.94 as compared to 6,746.46 if the worker did not take a leave, so actual cost = 1,599.48.

Nancy Moniz: 7,888.40 + 1,186 = 9,074.4
(replacement worker at 12/hr = 12,567 (including workers' comp)
Total cost including replacement for six months = 21,641.4 as compared to 17,073.06 if the worker did not take a leave, so actual cost = 4,568.34.

Nancy Wechsler: 6,310.72 + 1,144.50 = 7455.22
(replacement worker at 12/hr = 10,054 (including workers' comp)
Total cost including replacement worker for six months = 17,509.22 as compared to 13,854.29 if the worker did not take a leave, so actual cost is 3,654.93.

If we took a full year off with 1/2 pay and full health insurance, the costs are:

Yana = 7,894.04
replacement = 8,797 for total of 16,691.04 compared to 13,492.92. Actual cost is 3,198.12.

Nancy Moniz = 18,148.96
replacement = 25,135 for total of 43,283.96 compared to 34,146. Actual = 9,137.96.

Nancy Wechsler = 14,910.44
replacement = 20,107 for total of 35,017 compared to 27,708.58. Actual = 7,308.42.

We could also consider a leave policy with no pay, but continued health benefits, or no pay and half-benefits, etc.

For comparative purposes, if we raised our salaries by approximately 5% or .75 (to 15.92/hr) it would cost:

Yana: one year, 546 dollars.

Nancy W: one year, 1,232.08.

Nancy M: one year, 1,560.5.

If you average the cost of sabbatical leaves over six years, it actually comes out rather close. For example, the cost for me for the one year leave at 1/2 pay, per year over six years, = 533.02, as compared to a one year raise of 546 dollars.
References for the June 6, 1993 Resist Board Meeting:

1) Project YANO - In the past, we received excellent references for this group. I talked with Margarita Ramirez of the Liberty Hill Fund for this request. She said that LHF has funded the group and "think highly of them... great work... consistent, innovative... Their outreach is to a diverse community and they have a real commitment to that diversity." Highly recommended.

2) Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine - I called Kathy McInnis of the Haymarket/HE board who said that they've done "a lot of education on tax resistance and on Bosnia... have minimal organizing focus but doing real good political education... very small membership... print a lot of materials... do public speaking... Maine is not very diverse so the group reflects that. They are trying to diversify and there is a potential with the military bases in the area, and with Native Americans there... do tremendous outreach... workshops four/five times a year... know they really want to computerize since they do things by hand now or on borrowed equipment... worthy of funding since there are no other folks doing peace education in their area."

3) OR Community for War Tax Resistance - I first called Linda Reymers of McKenzie River Gathering in Eugene who hadn't heard of this. She suggested that I call Michael Sonnleitner of the Peace House in Portland. He did know of them. They have been meeting on a monthly basis for a couple of years. Part of each meeting is educational. Last Tax Day they organized a protest and worked with other groups on it. It's a small group, from 10 to 20 people come to meetings. Some of the people are associated with other groups such as OR FOR. National FOR didn't want to be publicly supportive of this because of their tax-exempt status; same with other large organizations. This group doesn't get a lot of outside financial support for that reason. Michael thought that the Fund is a good idea because there isn't one in place in their area; people have to go to Colorado or national organizations. He said that he supports funding their request.

I had some questions about this: could we fund the start-up of a fund to resist taxes. I called Ellie Rozinsky, our auditor, and she thought not.

4) AFSC/Peace & Justice Youth Outreach Program - I talked with Linda Lucero of Vanguard Foundation who said that VF has funded this group in the past. She thinks "they're great! The contact person used to be on the VF board, dedicated, great working with youth, an African American, strong leader for youth. VG did an interview and were very impressed by the youth themselves... gay & lesbian and women's repro rights are issues emphasized in their programs... the program works in coalition with other youth groups." Linda highly recommends funding.

5) Citizen Soldier - I first talked with George Vickers who said that he didn't know much about them recently, but found them "quite effective" in the past. I then talked with Betty Kapatanakis of the North Star Fund. She said that NSF had funded this group in the past for a video for youth, a pamphlet "The Khaki Closet" and another project. Betty said they're doing very good work. Their pamphlet on gay and lesbians and the military is one of a kind (we have a copy, published in 1992 and somewhat dated for the present situation). They have a consistent and good staff. I asked Betty where the group was on the issue of gays and lesbians in the military and she said they are "somewhere in the middle on the issue." They don't try to encourage or discourage people from joining but rather see the reality of the existence of the military and the fact of gays and lesbians already in the services. The group tries to provide information to service people and to reveal and expose
the reality of military service to youth, as well as providing information on service people’s rights. Betty recommends this group.

6) Religious Task Force on C.A. - For a reference for their emergency request, I had called Lisa Fithian of the Washington Peace Center. She said that "We like them!... know them quite well... worked with them a lot... filling a special void in the wake of the demise of the Central America movement (she said something about CISPES maybe folding, and that the Chicago Rel. TF on CA has folded???)... They do work with a special sector but also put out a newsletter that provides analysis of C.A. which is useful to the whole movement, especially important because they cover the whole region, not just one or another of the countries." Lisa said that they’re good on abortion rights, the radical sector of the religious community. Highly recommended.

7) Casa El Salvador - Bruce Gagnon of the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice suggested I call Roger Peace of the Tallah. Peace Coalition. Roger said that this group is "doing a good job... the energy project is new but the group’s been around a number of years... work hard at fund raising and educational projects... with the war dying down, there has to be a different tone of work... good folks, they’ll do this project... they definitely do reach out to other groups but, since they’re a small group, they do have to focus on their own issue... there are a number of Latinos in the group as well as gender diversity... have sensitivity on racial issues... in the past supported the FMLN and did fund raising for the Bravo Fund... really try to get the political message out through public events." Roger did say that he wished they would do more public events but, overall, would give them "a positive recommendation."

8) Organizacion Urakan - I asked George Vickers to check on this. I sent both Ken Hale and George copies of the magazine for a report for the board meeting. I haven’t heard from George V. yet, so I called other sources. Jim Burchell of the C.A. Network in NJ hadn’t heard of this and referred me to Dennis Johnson of AFSC/Newark and to Zobeida Roan of the NJ Puerto Rican Congress. Neither had heard of the group or magazine. The Puerto Rican Congress in Philadelphia hadn’t heard of this also. I then called the groups that this group listed as references. Nothing there since either no one answered at the numbers or the numbers had been disconnected.

9) Denver Justice & Peace Committee (CO) - Mike Rocque of the Chinook Fund said that they’ve funded this group in the past, "done good work... have a lot of members, volunteers and contributors... primarily a white group... do good solidarity... nothing too controversial, do pickets... do primarily all Central America work... have religious elements in the group but the group is not anti-abortion... group was not one of the groups involved for or against the Colorado gay rights initiative last November."

10) Wisc. Coordinating Council on Nica. - Wisconsin Cmty. Fund last gave them a grant in 1991. Folks there said the group is well thought of; has a very good reputation, been around a while, members are activists in the community and network with other Central America groups. WCF didn’t fund them this year because the WCF board is now more interested in environmental issue groups and is pulling back on funding Central America groups. Steve Starkey at WCF did say that this group does very good work, active, well known and respected, work very hard. He recommended that Resist fund their request.

I talked with Steve Starkey of WCF for this request. He said that he agrees with
his assessment of last year and added that this group was one of the top ten for a grant this year but wasn’t funded because their board felt that other groups on the agenda need the money more than they did. He said also that a large part of this group’s balance sheet is restricted to the Nicaragua Loan Fund, which they administer. Steve said that this is "a terrific group."

11) Colombia Vive Committee - I talked with Mario Davilla of AFSC who knows of the group and who worked with them on projects. He said that AFSC has a good working relationship with the group and feels the group "has a clear interest on doing work on issues of racism and on drugs in Colombia and how those issues impact on the peoples of Colombia and the US... group makes good connections between various issues." Mario said that he has seen the video and feels that it makes good points. He likes this group.

12) Guatemala Project - I called Charlotte McCann of the Central America Documentation Exchange in Austin about this. She said that they’re "a small but incredibly hard working group... done a lot to publicize the situation in Guatemala. Guatemala’s been eclipsed in the news and this group has done a lot of good work, including a news conference recently, and had a video showing... work well with other groups... scheduled a benefit in May to raise fund for projects... draws on all segments of the Austin community... very positive recommendation."

13) Mass. Lifers - For their last request, Larry Goldsmith suggested I talk with Chris Dodson who had served on their board. She said that their work "has been wonderful... legit work... recognized by the Department of Corrections as being a stabilizing force.... not considered to be a controversial group... have a focus on community service projects... also co-sponsor poetry readings... organized around political education of families and larger prisoner constituency... don’t reach beyond this... They feel the climate is not productive for going out to the general public... They’re not funded by the system... For fund raising, they collect dues, do mailings and funds go to things like the Carole Matei Fund... a good place for younger guys coming into the system to get some assistance for directions in which to go... Group provides opportunities for them and can assimilate younger minority lifers... Good people... important influence... doing good things."

For this request, I talked with Larry G’s contact, Fran Roznowski, who knows of the group through her work with Latino prisoners at Norfolk. She said that "a lot of what they do is the education of prisoners on their rights... a lot of this group have strong legal backgrounds... also do counseling on the long-term realities of lifers... there are restrictions on organizing in prisons... this group does a Legislative Awareness Day once a year in the prison which brings several hundred people together (prisoners’rights advocates, legislators and prisoners) to talk with one another... have speakers... an important forum, unique in Massachusetts... very successful... definitely a political part of their work."

14) PWA-RAG - We’ve received good references for this group in the past. This time I talked with Jackie Walker of the National Prison Project of ACLU. She said they’re "great... continue to provide info to prisoners who wouldn’t usually get that information... They’re swamped with requests and correspondence, and can use as much support as possible... group puts out important stuff." Jackie said that she doesn’t see any redundancy with other groups or newsletters. She feels that there "could never be enough information out." Recommended.

15) Michigan CURE - Penny Ryder of AFSC-MI/Criminal Justice Program said that AFSC helped to develop this group because grass root organizing was needed and AFSC
couldn’t. They do work with the group, networking. MI CURE has only been in existence a couple of years but already has over 600 members, mostly due to the organizing skills of their staff, who travel all over the state. “They are the best organized and growing chapter of any I know in the US... have chapters in various parts of the state.” Penny feels that the brochure "is for the empowerment of prisoners... prisoners have no idea about what the PSI would do to them in the future. Since they would now have this info on their rights, the brochure is important to organizing people to act in their own behalf in prison."

16) Prison Legal News - Bonnie Kerness of AFSC/NY Metro. Criminal Justice Program said that she feels "that their newsletter is important. I’ve talked with prisoners who’ve used the newsletter and they feel that it is an important resource for them and with information not readily available elsewhere. I think highly of them." I asked her opinion of the editorial in the newsletter on the Shining Path. She said that she felt that it was not appropriate, and didn’t belong in such a newsletter. She also said that, in spite of that, she does very much support the newsletter in general.

17) Momazons - I talked with Jennifer Firestone of the Fenway Community Health Center. She works on this issue and knows of the group. She’s been receiving their material for a while. Her "big confusion is that they seem to be so local; I don’t understand their need to be national. They want to have their newsletter be a national connection for lesbian parents. The newsletter is good; I’m impressed with it... group is totally sincere and hard working.... genuine folks, definitely doing their outreach, getting themselves known... in Columbus, they do service and activities similar to FCHC." Jennifer mentioned two other national organizations, the Lesbian National Defense Fund (which does legal advocacy), and the Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (which organizes gay parents for political clout); both have a different focus than this group, whose focus in more on communication and networking. Jennifer doesn’t feel there is a redundancy among the three but "in the best possible world, there would be one organization with these three as components." In general, though, she did like this group.

18) Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Campus Center - Steve Starkey of the Wisconsin Community Fund said that it’s a reasonably new group, more political than the 10% Society which only does social events. This group has been working on issues of racism and of the ROTC on campus. Also doing networking with off campus groups and working on other issues than solely gay ones. There are people of color involved in the group. He didn’t know if they could or couldn’t get funding for this particular project from the University. He thinks this is a good group.

19) Coalition - Please see #18 below.

20) Network of Battered Lesbians - Renae Scott said that she’d worked with this Network and helped them set up. She said that they’ve come a long way in a short period of time. Renae said she’d learned a lot from working with them and feels they’d do what they say about the conference. They went from a volunteer operation to paid staff and office in less than two years. Have a newsletter, hotline, support groups and work with other violence against women groups to bring up their issue. Renae will say more at the board meeting.

21) Coalition - Please see #18 above.

22) Concerned Citizens of Tillery - Christina Davis-McCoy of NC Against Racist &
Religious Violence said that this group is doing ongoing work. Their Nubian project for youth was very good. They work on environmental racism issues also and are starting to be recognized nationally. They're the only recognized organizing committee in the area and are trying to meet many needs. They worked with NCARRV on an HIV/AIDS conference recently and the group is carrying on that education in their community. Instrumental in forming coalitions in the area. Since local institutions have retreated on their responsibilities and funding for local issues, grass roots groups like this have been forced to take on those issues. Christina feels strongly that this is a worthy project to fund.

23) Survivors, Inc. - Last time I talked with Ann Witham who said that the group is very well respected. Their newspaper "is basically a model for welfare rights papers" around the country. It’s done by predominantly people on welfare and provides skill building. They pay authors and train people. They "cover the world of poverty rights... well respected around the country as well." Ann travels and has heard folks in California, Milwaukee and New York, among others, talk about the paper. She said that they have a good mailing list and have subscribers; good distribution to agencies for low-income people and low-income areas. She highly recommended funding.

For this request I talked with Tommie Harris of Haymarket and Wanda Wong of the Boston Women’s Fund. Tommie said that she feels that their newsletter is "a great tool for organizing low-income people... do a good job... work in coalitions... good resource." Recommended. Wanda said that they feel that this is a good group and doing well. Recommended.

24) Contact Center - I talked with Laurie Thomas of Justice Watch. She said that they’ve seen this group "out in the neighborhood working for a long time... appreciate them greatly... working on issues including displacement and General Assistance cuts... fighting a lot of gentrification in the neighborhood which is a sharp crisis here... doing a welfare rights coalition... forefront of organizing... issues they deal with also effect people coming out of prison... group is multi-ethnic, -racial and -cultural: African Americans, Appalachians, women, men etc., all neighborhood people." Laurie highly recommends this group.

25) All Kinds of Families - I called Tommie Harris of Haymarket as a reference for this group’s last request. She said that their board decided to make a "mid range grant" to this group because they were quite excited about this. "The group is doing really good work, good politics, good diversity in the group’s board and in the groups in the coalition." Recommended.

I talked with Tommie again for this request. She agreed with her comments above... "a good group, working on progressive family politics... do a lot on the issue of unity." Recommended again. I also talked with Margaret Cerrulo who said that AKOFA made good connections with some groups like Mass.HC Coalition and TEA which are eager to hook up on the issue. AKOFA wants to build stronger networks and Margaret is optimistic about that. Their last event was very diverse. Margaret feels that the group has the infrastructure but need staff and more funds to follow up with networking and development.

26) American Indian Environmental Council - For their last request I called Lynda Taylor of the SW Research & Info. Center who said that this is a good group with an excellent contact person. Lynda’s done a lot of work with her in the past, "a top activist... does a lot of work also with women and youth." She’s seen the group’s work of organizing in local communities, very committed to grass roots work in the Indian community, good newsletter. Lynda had done a training session on electoral
issues with them. They connect issues of racism and the environment, involved with cross-cultural communications; they work on inter-community issues and involve youth; work well with environmental and other groups. She recommended funding the group. I called her again for this request. She agreed with her comments above and said that the group continues to do good work.

27) The Free Association – Hank Rosemont called from Hawaii with an enthusiastic reference for this group: "first rate group... small group of Hawaiian, Asian- and Japanese-Americans, no Haoles, live simply but know how to do politics right... doing a lot of homeless work (organizing, squatting, etc.)... doing neat things, pressing government agencies... super neat group... highly respectful of elders... gender diversity... good environmental politics... all the other groups like them... I give them absolutely the highest marks..." Hank's contacts said that people are excited about the Tribunal, important event. This group is playing an important role. The conveners are Hawaiian, Japanese, Asian. Hank feels that this could be a candidate for a Salzman grant. He strongly recommends funding this group.

28) Appalachian Women's Guild – Wendy Johnson of the Appalachian Community Fund said that ACF has funded this group in the past. She said that "they are doing a lot of really good work in the area... community based projects for low income women in a very rural area... a place with nothing happening there except this project... group is doing empowerment projects, as well as setting up direct services." Recommended.

29) Dorchester Women's Committee – We've gotten high recommendation for this group in the past. They especially work well with women of color groups such as Comite Mujeres Puertorriquenas, the Association of Haitian Women and the Palestinian Women’s Committee, all of whom gave top rating to this group's work. Last time I talked with Eleanor Roffman of the Palestine Solidarity Committee. She said she's worked with DWC in different capacities over the years and now works with them through the local Grassroots Network and PSC. She thinks that their work has expanded greatly over the last several years; they've integrated international connections with their community work. Eleanor has had "very positive experiences with them... they continue to do very good work with a clear analysis... one of my favorite groups... any time I've worked with them they've followed through... multi-racial.... a great group."

I called Tommie Harris of Haymarket this time. She said that this is "a great group.... excellent work.... a lot of coalition work... good events... work a lot with many groups on many issues." Recommended.

30) CALC/Eugene, OR – This group has been funded by Resist in the past. I've always gotten excellent references. Diverse programs, very good politics. Last year I talked with Linda Reymers of McKenzie River Gathering Fund who said that this group is, besides working on many projects, an "incubator of projects" for South Africa, Central America, Witness for Peace, etc. A lot of the independent groups in the area got started at CALC because the group has resources to use. This is a unique and excellent group. The best." Linda, this time, affirmed her comments of last year and said that the diversity and quality of their work is well known in the area, a number of their projects are very successful, a great group. She again recommended funding.

31) Irish Immigration Center – Franz Charlot of the Haiti Communication Project said that his group worked with them on a Haiti Human Rights Conference; they were one of the planning groups. He feels that they have a broader politics than
immigration or service issues. He knows that they've participated in demos and conferences. Some of the people in the group that he knows seem to be "good political people." Their newsletter will have an interview with him.

32) Missouri Citizen Education Fund - Maggie Fisher of the St. Louis Interfaith Task Force on C.A. said she has "great respect for the contact person of this group; clear analysis of issues... experienced organizer... The group has decided to go the route of organizing around the state legislature... helped to elect two progressive women to the state legislature last year." Maggie feels that this project is a major need as a resource for organizing. She said that the atmosphere in the government there is improving, have a good governor and mayor, an she has hope that the state legislature will be influenced. She said that this Fund is a good coalition of groups including poor people and labor groups. Maggie recommended funding them.

33) Support Coalition International - I talked with Linda Reymers of McKRG about this group also. She said that they had never funded the group. "Well intentioned but sometimes not very strategic in how they work.. they act as if anyone working with psychiatric survivors who doesn't work directly through SCI is the enemy, as is the case with some shelters in the area which are doing incredible work... The group doesn't think through strategies, any target possible for them... they want visibility, like Earth First, where there is a commonality in terms of strategy, somewhat anarchistic." Linda said that she'd have to give "a negative review, can't imagine that McRG would fund in future."

34) Michigan Fair Budget Action Coalition - Jane Slaughter of Labor Notes said "good people. I know their director and that she/they are working real hard on the issue... don't know recent specifics but my impression is that they are getting the right people together... formed after the governor made some horrible cuts in the budget... (the group) has a handle on the issues... good people, important issue."

35) Center for Vision & Policy - I asked Kathy McInnis about this one. She said she had "mixed feelings... the essence of what they do sounds good on paper but, to tell the truth, they haven't done a lot... had a thing recently on economics that wasn't too successful, also an event on the Wobanaki that the Native Americans hated: a lot of white folks involved, wasn't accessible for the disabled or elders, ... have a class bias to low-income people who can't pay to attend conferences, last in line, treated differently than people who pay...didn't involve Native Americans in planning, saying that Indians couldn't come to meetings to plan things because of their economic situation, etc. to which the Indians said, if you feel that way, why don't you come to us? They had to fight to get a Native American woman on a panel, but the group had two new agers on the panel... The group seems to live and die to do conferences... vague, no agenda for social change... get a lot of grants from humanities organizations.... live off the grants they get..." Kathy said that she resents their giving the appearance that they reflect a broad spectrum of the community when there is no people of color or Native American input. In case you hadn't guessed, she does not recommend funding this group.

I wanted to check with Native Americans about some of the comments made by my contact, Kathy McInnis. I called Daisy Goodman with the Wobanaki in Vermont. She didn't know of them but suggested I talk with Claire Boldeck of the Central Maine Indian Association, one of the groups that the Center said was committed to participating in the conference. Claire said that the Center called, but that the Council is not participating in the conference. They are "reticent about participating with groups we don't know... There's a big issue in Maine (among
Indians) about some New Age folks setting up Native experiences, so we're very leery about the issue... Someone told me these folks might be of that category... I do know some people at the Center, not evil, decent people, but have questions about the trend... Another issue is groups charging for spiritual events. Native Americans don't." I couldn't get any more information from Claire since she didn't know more, or about the previous conferences the Center had held.

36) Campaign for Voting Rights - I talked with Oscar Chacon of Centro Presente about this. El Centro endorses this but hasn't been able to become more active around the issue yet. They very much support this, believing that it is an important issue since many people in Cambridge (including some of Centro's clients) don't have the right to vote or know how to go about getting those rights, even though they do pay taxes. Centro Presente's all for this.