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Funding social change since 1967

RESIST

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A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

September, 1993

A RESIST 25th Anniversary Event

An Act of Resistance: Making Community(ies)

brought to you by the
ARTS/RESIST PLANNING
COMMITTEE

It seems like a long time ago when we were sitting around at a RESIST board meeting thinking about the fact that our 25th anniversary was coming up and we ought to commemorate it somehow. Since then, we've celebrated our history with articles in the newsletter, a huge party at the Villa Victoria Cultural Center last November, and a display of some of the work of groups we fund has been on exhibit all summer at the Harvest Cooperative Supermarket in Central Square, Cambridge. Now the year of remembrance is coming to a close and our grand finale event will take place this October at the Mobius Gallery in the Fort Point Channel area of downtown Boston near South Station. For those readers who are new to RESIST, a capsule version of our beginnings:

RESIST was founded in the fall of 1967 in opposition to the war in Vietnam. RESIST began by supporting acts of civil disobedience and pledging (by issuing a "Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority")

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From Roberta Hayes' "Haitian in America," a series of photographs and oral histories that will be part of RESIST's 25th anniversary art show.

An Act of Resistance: Making Community(ies)

Where: Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston, MA

When: October 6th - 23rd, 1993

Reception and Artist Talk: October 6th, 5 - 8 PM

Related Events:

- October 14th, 8 PM, [Tentative] Gallery Talk on Mail/Fax Art;
- October 15th, 8 PM, Videos made by RESIST grantees;
- October 16th, 8PM, An Evening of Haitian Culture.

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Authority") to help individuals who refused to go to war, and organizations working to stop the bloodshed. Once RESIST began funding the growing anti-war movement, the founders quickly realized that being against the war implied supporting new domestic policies as well. Over time, RESIST's grant-making activities have diversified to include work for reproductive rights, lesbian and gay rights, solidarity with indigenous peoples' struggle for cultural survival and land rights, AIDS/health/disability education and activism, and many other grassroots social justice projects.

RESIST has funded cultural projects as our vision of what "social change" means has evolved. The projects we have supported range from video and slide shows to help groups with their educational and organizing efforts, to an artist's comic book detailing strategies of resistance to the 500th anniversary of Columbus' 'discovery' of the 'new' world.

By choosing to sponsor a show of "political art" as the final event of our anniversary year, RESIST recognizes that cultural work can and should be the focus of serious debate on issues central to democratic societies. Cultural and artistic expression is a powerful avenue for communication, a force for personal and communal liberation, and an integral element of healthy societies. At the same time, as the editors of the journal *Third Force* recently noted, "there are also powerful social pressures that act to de-politicize art and to rob politics of artistic expression." [For a number of viewpoints on the relationship between grassroots politics and art in communities of color, see *Third Force*, "Art, Culture, and Organizing" July/August, 1993. Address: 1218 East 21st Street, Oakland, CA 94606.]

Aware that much of current activist work lacks significant artistic involvement, the ARTS/RESIST planning group hopes "An Act of Resistance: Making Community(ies)" will give both artists and activists an opportunity to look at similar issues from varying perspectives — personal, historical, crit-

Dear RESIST,

We are extremely pleased with the grant award toward our poster and membership campaign....

The mural to be featured in the poster is being painted at this very moment, when most of LA is aghast at the light sentences meted out to the officers who beat Rodney King. Thanks to your generosity, a unique labor statement about this whole experience will have wide and long-term visibility. The poster can be expected to go a long way toward building a sustaining membership base for LaMP (the LaBOR aRT & MURaL PRoJECT).

In Solidarity,
Christine Gauvreau
LaBOR aRT & MURaL PRoJECT
New Brunswick, NJ

Dear RESIST,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Lifers' Organization, I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to RESIST for the Mike Riegle Tribute Grant for 1993 and the check for \$800.

The receipt of this particular grant carries with it a special meaning to us. We remember Mike well. At our 1992 Criminal Justice Seminar held here at MCI-Norfolk, we devoted a minute of silence to his memory. We also remember his kindness and concern to those of us who languished in Ten Block at Walpole for years. We have fond memories of Mike and the other folks at the [Red] Book Store who did their very best to help us keep our sanity through their donations of much appreciated books. Nor shall we ever forget the dedication of Mike to the struggle for justice for other oppressed people.

With approximately 1,027 men and women imprisoned in Massachusetts under life sentences, much work needs to be done. The grant by RESIST will go a long way in helping us achieve our goals and objectives. THANK YOU.

Most Respectively,
Patrick O'Shea
Massachusetts Lifers' Organization
Norfolk, MA

ical, and ideological — and to share ideas, perhaps even develop collaborative projects. Unlike many "political art" exhibits, the intent is not to show work *about* politics, but rather work that is *engaged with* political activism.

Works were selected by a jury of Boston area artists and activists (many of whom are long-time RESIST supporters). A Call was issued for art that addresses relationships between *resistance* to various kinds of repression and the act of *building* stronger, healthier, more diverse communities.

ARTS/RESIST

The ARTS/RESIST planning group first began talking last summer, when we met at the home of (then local, now moved to Baltimore — we miss you!!) performance artist Kathy Marmor. Included in our initial discussions were: activist/photographer Ellen Shub; Judy Branfman, a multi-media artist, activist and arts administrator; painter and illustrator Natalia Raphael; RESIST supporter Lee Cranberg; tex-

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LETTERS

AS YOU TO RESIST



ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITY

Funding social change since 1967

For information and grant guidelines write to:
Resist, One Summer St., Somerville, MA 02143

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Just Say Yes:

The Coalition for Positive Sexuality

CAROL HAYSE and members
of The Coalition

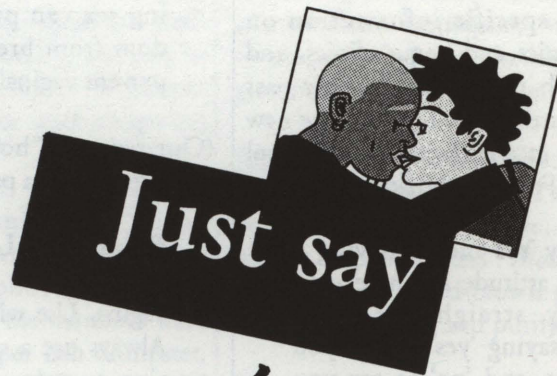
"Hey! Look at this! Turn to page 12!" "Saran Wrap? What's that for?" "What are they doing!" It's 7:30 AM, and about 12 members of the Coalition for Positive Sexuality (CPS) are standing in front of a Chicago public high school, handing out astrobrite green booklets titled Just Say Yes. The front cover pictures two couples kissing — very 'industrial', very hip, very gender indeterminate. As we hand out the booklets, along with condoms, we say, "Safe sex and birth control information?"* "Would you like a condom with that?" Most students take the book without much interest, even grudgingly; it is a little later, when they're hanging out with other students on the steps or at the curb, that they begin to respond and share it with their friends. A slow buzz can be heard as the crunch of students at the school door grows larger. Once word gets around, students shyly, or sometimes boldly, come up to us and ask for a copy. Some people request condoms in their favorite color. Some gather around trying to get a feel for who we are and what brought us here; and some even ask us questions.

Most mornings, a school administrator will appear at the door of the high school. She or he will exhibit behaviors ranging from equanimity, to threats, to near apoplexy. One principal waved his arms wildly and tore his hair. Another called the cops to harass us.

Just Say Yes is a sexuality education booklet dealing with issues of self-respect and respect for others, sexual consent, birth control, safe sex practices, abortion, STDs and HIV, and sexual violence. It is unapologetically pro-sex, pro-lesbian and gay, pro-

woman, and pro-choice. We wrote Just Say Yes in teen-oriented language — some of it perhaps a little raw — which clearly positions its readers as thinking persons who are confronting important choices about sex and sexuality, and who deserve information and support with which to make those decisions. At the back we compiled an extensive resource section giving phone numbers and addresses for information on rape and incest, AIDS and STDs, women's healthcare, and social service agencies for young people of color, lesbians and gay men.

The Coalition for Positive Sexuality was created by people from ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), ECDC (Emergency Clinic Defense Coalition, a pro-choice organization), Queer Nation (a group working for queer civil rights), No More Nice Girls (a feminist theater group), and some high school students. Our acronym, CPS, is a tongue-in-cheek pun on the abbreviation for the Chicago Public Schools, and an announcement about our pro-sex stance. We first came together in the Spring of 1992, believing that ACT UP-style activism could be applied to prevention education among those subject to the next "great wave" of HIV infection, unwanted pregnancy, and STDs — that is, teens. We are a small group of about 20 people; we are high school students, PhD



Yes



CPS Coalition
FOR
Positive
Sexuality

Graphics reprinted from Just Say Yes.

candidates, teachers, and white/pink collar workers from diverse social backgrounds. Our ages range from 17 to 48.

Most of us are lesbian and gay and several of us are people of color. In our first meetings we articulated two main purposes: to get meaningful, effective, peer-oriented information into the hands of teens; and to create public debate about the lack of meaningful sexuality education in the schools. We passed out our first booklets in November of last year. In January, after getting feedback from high school students (we conducted four focus groups, in addition to listening to lots of informal responses), AIDS and women's health service providers, and other activists, we revised and augmented the entire book. We added an introductory page that explained all that "just say yes" means, step-by-step instructions for putting on

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a condom, specific information on abortion clinics and bogus clinics, and much, much more. Finally, this past April, we starting handing out the new *Just Say Yes* at a different high school every week. From the booklet:

Just Say Yes means having a positive attitude about sexuality—gay, straight, or bi. It means saying 'yes' to sex you do want, and 'no' to sex you don't. It means there's nothing wrong with you if you decide to have sex, and nothing wrong with you if you decide not to. You have the right to make your own choices, and to have people respect them. Sex is enjoyable when everyone involved is into it, and when everyone has the information they need to take care of themselves and each other.

Just Say Yes maintains this frank, friendly, and uncompromising tone throughout the sections on sex, respect, safe sex practices, birth control, AIDS/HIV, HIV testing, STDs, pregnancy, and abortion. A few samples from the different sections:

Pro-Sex: Most messages we get tell us that sex is something dirty that we shouldn't talk about or an act of violence. Most of us learn that our bodies, and our sex, are things to be ashamed of. Most of us learn that sex means a man on top of a woman, and that the only other choice is abstinence. But sex can be lots of things. Women have sex with women, men have sex with men, women have sex with men — and sometimes the best sex is with yourself!

Our descriptions of the contraptions that safe sex can involve are upbeat, honest, and blunt.

Birth Control: Condom/Rubber: Looks like a rubber sock for a guy's dick. Use with sper-

micide. Using a lubricant during sex can prevent the condom from breaking and help prevent vaginal soreness...

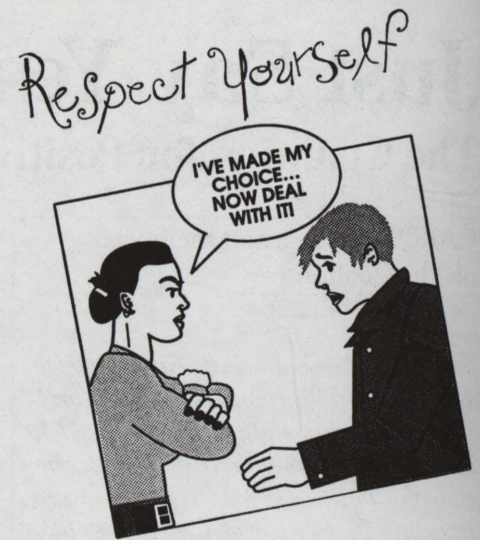
(Our ten-step "how to put on a condom" guide has a page to itself.)

Diaphragm: Looks like a small rubber frisbee you put in your vagina. Use with spermicide.... Always use a condom in addition to other forms of birth control.

Just Say Yes is consciously woman-oriented, both acknowledging young women's sexuality and providing information which has been denied them because men have controlled definitions of our sexuality:

The CLIT (CLITORIS) is the main sexual pleasure spot for women. To find your clitoris, feel inside the top of your crotch for a button-like thing. Rubbing or licking the clit gives women pleasure, and makes the clit hard. In fact it is the way most women cum... Remember women: **THE CLIT IS IT!**

But *Just Say Yes* is and probably will always be work-in-progress; even this summer we are coming up with more revisions. Some of the feedback we get in the mail and on our voicemail reflects our own ongoing discussions: the "language debate," for example. How do we use language that represents real teen communication but doesn't come across as condescending, and doesn't play into homophobia, misogyny, and so on? Penis or dick? Lesbian, gay, queer, homosexual? We've decided to interchange penis and dick, since dick is not commonly used pejoratively. We decided not to use queer, dyke, or fag because, while we ourselves have appropriated these words and reconfigured their meanings, in high schools they are almost always the terms of vicious homophobia. Related to the language debate is a fundamental decision that this booklet is primarily



Respect yourself! There's a lot of pressure to be cool and to fit in. It's hard to be different from your friends, or to make different choices. But what your friends choose to do may not be what **you** want. Whether you call yourself lesbian, straight, bi, or gay, people are more complicated than these categories and more interesting than those lines.

Demand Respect

Graphics reprinted from *Just Say Yes*.

about sexual behavior, not labels or categories. Thus the pro-sex section (the booklet's most controversial page) uses gender-neutral words like "you," "your partner."

The Media Hate Us and Love Us

We have earned considerable media attention (all the local TV news, The Jerry Springer Show, *The Windy City Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Defender*, *The Reader*, *The Advocate*, *Young Sisters and Brothers*, and smaller publications have run stories), which assists us in our effort to stir up public debate about the lack of decent sexuality education in the public schools. Some of the media attention is pure sensationalism, some of it pure gay-baiting. Generally the schools and some parents express indignation that their control over teenagers is being circumvented.

While there are plenty of attacks launched against our booklet, our tactics, and our very existence — there is very little that either the media or our opponents can say about the realities

that motivated us to do this work in the first place.

Our actions have been called "offensive" and "shocking." The truth is, what ought to be deeply offensive and shocking to all of us is the litany of health problems besetting young people in Chicago and all over the US. One fifth of all newly-diagnosed people with AIDS are in their 20's, which means they probably contracted HIV in their teens. In Chicago, in 1992 50% of new cases of people with AIDS were African Americans and 16% were Latinos. In 1991 the number of women with AIDS had doubled over the year before. Nationally, one in six sexually active teens is infected with an STD every year—that's 2.5 million teenagers. The US has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any industrialized country, over 1 million teenage women per year; Chicago itself has the fourth highest rate in the US. One in four girls and one in six boys in this country are sexually assaulted by age 18.

Given this context, it is difficult to understand how schools and parents can continue to hide the information that may save children's lives. Many parents insist that we should have asked their permission before distributing *Just Say Yes*. Our response is that 75% of women and 86% of men are sexually active by age 20, without asking or even informing their parents, and it is important that they know how to take care of themselves. We believe that ignorance is not bliss, but rather information is (a component of) power; that adult hypocrisy is intolerable to teens; that teens have a right to make their own choices, and they should be informed so that those choices are healthful and respectful; that the numbers of teens who have unwanted pregnancies, HIV, or STDs demonstrates pretty clearly that "just say no" or scare tactics or whatever other anti-sex methods schools and many parents employ simply aren't working.

We urge parents to educate their teens, and we urge the schools to do so; but we know that as long as rape and HIV and unwanted pregnancy are a part of young peoples' lives, their parents and schools are failing them. And



Photo: Jeanette May, a member of CPS.

Members of the Coalition for Positive Sexuality hand out *Just Say Yes* to Chicago high school students.

we refuse to wait — teens need condoms, information, and support NOW. One student, carrying her baby, refused a copy of *Just Say Yes*, saying we should have come to her school a year ago.

We offer *Just Say Yes* as an example of comprehensive and practical information. It's OK for people to disagree with the contents or the tactics; at least they are discussing safe sex. One parent told us that her daughter left the booklet on the coffee table and it prompted a long overdue discussion of their respective morals and sexual awareness. We are encouraged by that.

The educational potential of *Just Say Yes* lies not in the actual booklet, as arduous as our editorial meetings were, but in the ripple effect of conversations and arguments that *Just Say Yes* initiates. Teens are our most powerful resource for educating teens.

Local and National Context

Sexuality education in the Chicago public schools ranges from nonexistent to barely-there-and-ineffective. The "Family Life Curriculum" contains misinformation about AIDS, fails to answer the students' real questions, and attempts to discourage students from having sex. An optional unit on birth control, homosexuality, and abortion is rarely used, according to our School Board sources.

The peculiarities of Chicago's political structure has affected the way we have chosen to work so far. The School Board is completely independent of the municipal government. Although it was previously powerful, it is now being disassembled into Local School Councils (LSC's), made up of community members elected at large, which actually run the schools. Although it is considered an historic effort at school reform, the new situation makes it impossible for a small group like ours to create curriculum change by attempting to influence a central structure, because there is none. We would have to go to each school to convince its LSC to institute progressive sexuality education. Such an effort would take years and hundreds of thousands of dollars, clearly beyond our capability.

Another tricky aspect of the local political scene involves our relationship with the constellation of agencies which receive funding through foundations and the City. Although we have several natural allies among the non-profits dealing with AIDS and teen pregnancy, most feel unable to publicly ally with us, since many get major chunks of their budget from the City, and part of our work has involved exposing deficiencies in the Public Health Department's response to AIDS.

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As a result we have spent a lot of time xeroxing the booklets ourselves, scrounging up small donations from community members, and selling *Just Say Yes* to non-students for a nominal fee. It's not very efficient fund-raising, but it can be fun and its gotten the word about our work around Chicago.

The national political backdrop shows the power and danger of organizing associated with sexuality. Illustrative is the fact that Randall Terry's Operation Rescue (OR) has publicly announced that it will spin off a major campaign to prevent lesbians and gays from entering the military and that OR, along with other groups of the religious right, will attempt to place a right-wing ideologue on every single school governing body in the country. In Oregon and Colorado the bugaboo of "pedophilic teachers assaulting your children" was used effectively by Christian rightists to institutionalize hatred toward lesbians and gay men.

In New York the recent struggle around the so-called Rainbow Curriculum displayed the power of the right wing to use anti-queer sentiment to organize against a multi-cultural curriculum. A few lines mentioning gay parenting, in a 400-page curriculum, were the basis of a successful appeal to people of color to vote against the plan.

In this context, the responses to our work that we find most difficult to address are not those due to garden-variety homophobia, sexphobia, and ageism. Rather, they are objections we receive from some African American parents asserting that gayness = Black genocide; that gayness is being brought to the Black community by outsiders like us; that our Black members must have been ideologically kidnapped, and so on.

It is difficult to accept and respond to accusations of racism. We are keenly aware of the ugly history of the Tuskegee project and the ongoing abusive birth control testing performed on women of color and third world women — as well as of the frightening and rapid spread of HIV in African American communities.

In a city where 82% of the high school students are people of color, many of the recipients of *Just Say Yes* are Black teens. Within CPS we are addressing the concerns of some African Americans by working to increase our own membership both in numbers and diversity, and by talking with Black teens who support the project and have comments on the book itself. We're also developing a Spanish translation, working with Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and a South American from various Latino organizations to ensure that *Just Say Yes* will meet the needs of teens from these groups.

The fact that the right wing is (sometimes successfully) linking race and sexuality to create a wedge between potential progressive allies in community struggles gives greater urgency to the efforts of lesbians, gays, sexuality educators, parents, students, and other activists to clearly put forth our message. It is crucial that we draw the connections between our own work and struggles for economic justice, racial equality, and other anti-discrimination efforts.

As AIDS, reproductive rights, and queer activists, we have tremendous political wisdom and experience to offer. We know that an adequate response to AIDS is not just based on individual choices and a "just say no" mentality, but on collective community action. We know that the right to abortion is an aspect of healthcare, and that healthcare is a fundamental human right. We know that gay rights organizing is a powerful weapon against the right wing. And in our own group, we see the benefits and strengths of inter-generational organizing; our different perspectives on sexuality and effective education and activism have made CPS a diverse group in unusual and productive ways.

In the coming year, thanks to grants from RESIST, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and Crossroads, we will continue to pass out *Just Say Yes* until we have visited all 77 public high schools. We will continue to put pressure on the Chicago Department of Health for condom distribution and

massive public education about safe sex, and we will work especially hard to build coalitions with other organizations for health, with lesbians and gay men, and with people of color—both here in Chicago and nationally. But our dilemma remains how to share our wisdom in ways which effectively project our message: how to ally with folks who share our vision of economic and social justice but may have an emotional response to the topic of sexuality; how to speak frankly to teens, but also maintain our ability to speak to their parents; and how to express our commitment to the health of African American and all young people, and to anti-racism, at the same time as we break the life-threatening traditions of silence around topics of sexuality. ◇

Carol Hayse has been a progressive activist in Chicago for nearly 30 years, working for reproductive rights, lesbian visibility, and against AIDS. To order a copy of Just Say Yes, please drop a note to CPS, 3712 N. Broadway, #191, Chicago, IL 60613.

* The use of the term "safe sex" rather than "safer sex" reflects consensus reached within CPS. The group believes "safer sex" implies that no sexual practices are truly safe and that abstinence is the only way to be really safe. CPS, however, wants to challenge the notion that "sex" is limited to a few restrictive possibilities by putting out examples of many kinds of sexual practices that really are safe — *i.e.* they want to expand the notion of what "sex" can be.

Art

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tile artist and RESIST board member Meridith Smith; multi-media artist, curator/organizer, and graphic designer Jeremy Grainger; textile artist Kati Towle; Rachel Weiss, an arts curator and administrator specializing in cross-cultural presentations; and RESIST newsletter editor and 25th anniversary coordinator Tatiana Schreiber.

We also consulted and received support from a number of other artists and activists including Catherine Smith Mayes, the director of the Starr Gallery in Newton; photographer Bill Short; documentarian Willa Seidenberg; and artist Napoleon Jones Henderson. Later we were joined by photographer and

audio-visual producer Debra Samdperil and painter/multi-media artist and curator Jo-Anne Green. Also joining us as a member of the selection committee was artist Stella McGregor, director of the Space Gallery.

Organizing and working on this project has been an exciting and sometimes frustrating experience as we tried to actively solicit work from a broad range of communities, and select work that met our criteria for "art engaged with political activism." Many of the organizers are artists, and we struggled with our differing values and sensibilities about activist art. None of the folks who ended up being most active on the committee submitted their own work to the show, but their varied backgrounds and experience contributed to the complex vision that informed the final selections. The RESIST staff and board would like to express deep appreciation to all the people who volunteered so much time and energy to this project. Special thanks go to Jo-Anne Green who ably coordinated the selection process.

The Artists

Artists invited to participate include:

Anonymous, a group of artists who alter/change existing billboard advertisements, which they call "Billboard Modifications", to uncover their subliminal messages. The documentation of three 'before' and 'after' billboards will be exhibited. They include altered advertisements for "*United Colors of Benetton*" and "*Aruba*".

Joe Briganti whose video "*Columbus: A Journey of Rediscoveries*," was made in response to the world-wide quincennial celebration of Christopher Columbus' 'discovery' of the New World. Briganti embarked on a personal journey where he examined ingrained teachings and ideas about Columbus, and traveled to San Salvador and Ohio to witness the hype and illuminate the fallacies propagated about Columbus.

Annette Dupon's series "*Children Should Be Seen...*" is part of a series of

images which addresses current social, religious, and political issues, and challenges traditional thinking and teachings. She combines layers of photographic type and color laser images on paper.

Lydia Eccles will exhibit her "*Peacekeeper Comforter*" which is made of sewn documents, photographs and magnetic tape. All of the materials were retrieved from a Draper Lab dumpster. The documents include Draper's MX Missile and Trident Missile contracts, as well as documents from Hughes, Raytheon and GE. The quilt is stuffed with shredded blueprints. Eccles will also exhibit "*Shelf-Life*", purchased products with erasures, and "*Diet Coke, Diet Pepsi*," partially erased soda cans.

Buffalo Gals work in public and commercial environments to intersect with the insignificant (un-politicized) forms of daily life. Their goal is to interrupt the "mass 'communications' monologue". They produce placards, T-Shirts and leaflets to confront and inform the public; for example, their "*Safer Sex*" campaign which included the installation of placards inside MBTA trains. Buffalo Gals will present their current undertaking, the "*Noise Project*," which protests the proposed installation of 145 advertising video monitors in MBTA stations. Metrovision's ad campaign includes the slogan "And... the commuter can't change the channel", a tactic known in the trade as "ambush media." Buffalo Gals will produce a series of stickers, fact sheets and placards to be placed in subway cars.

Roberta Hayes' series of photographs and oral histories "*Haitian In America*" will be exhibited. In addition she will coordinate an evening cultural event which will involve children and adults from the Haitian community and will combine dance, music, and poetry.

Karen Kimmel and The Dispersion Project will exhibit a participatory piece about AIDS Awareness. The 'tank' replicates an anaerobic chamber, a sealed environment for the purposes of

containing potentially hazardous fluids and materials. Participants will be asked to place their hands inside a pair of gloves and to perform a specific task.

Anne Rocheleau will exhibit "*Memorial for the Iraqi People*," a mixed media piece consisting of cellophane, roses and images of people, and "*Motor Oil and Medicinals*," a hand-blown glass bowl, containing healing and purifying herbs.

Ellen Shub, activist photographer will present work spanning two decades of resistance and action in Boston and around the country. Her work documents people who share a common struggle and commitment to "living with resistance consciousness" and achieving social justice and peace.

Sarah Slive's two handmade books contain xerox transparencies, writing and hand sewing. The images were collected on a trip to San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador, while visiting as a teacher delegate to the repopulated community. "Some of the horror and the depth of the loss caused by the war was revealed by the children and their young teachers. An awesome strength of determination was revealed as well." The book "*San Jose Las Flores, Abril 1991*," is an attempt to show the beauty of life in a community that has not only survived, but flourished in the face of war."

Making Communities Via the Network

"**An Act of Resistance: Making Community(ies)**" will also include **Mail and Fax Art** from around the world. This component of the event was coordinated by planning committee member Jeremy Grainger. In an effort to expand the range of media and artists involved in the show, the organizers have asked for artists' contributions by mail and fax. Mail art, 'networking', or 'correspondence art' is, like RESIST, a product of the social upheaval of the sixties. Artists like Ray Johnson and other members of Fluxus, a loose network of international avant garde collaborators, sometimes created

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small, often post-card sized works, sometimes collaged or rubber-stamped, that were exchanged world-wide utilizing the mail as a distribution system. The movement valued small, diffuse, innovative work that by its own existence critiqued the dominance of popular culture and of "high art."

With the advent of new technologies like the photocopier and the fax machine, and the proliferation of global telecommunications, practitioners of this medium seek to link people and their ideas on a grassroots level through direct exchange. Whether you think of yourself an artist or an activist, the ARTS/RESIST planning group hopes that you will consider contributing something via the 'eternal network'. Mail Art should be addressed to: P.O. Box 1136, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA. Fax Art should be sent to 617-451-2910. Fax artists may begin sending work on October 5th, and are encouraged to send work during our opening reception, October 6th, 5-8 PM, EST.

Evening Entertainment

The show will include several evening events. On the night of our opening reception, members of the Buffalo Gals will talk about "The Noise Project" protesting the installation of advertising video monitors in the subways. On Thursday, October 14th, we have tentatively scheduled a talk about Mail/Fax art and networking. Friday, October 15th, will be an evening of film and video produced by groups that RESIST has funded, including "Deadly Deception," which received an Academy Award. And Saturday, October 16th, artist Roberta Hayes will coordinate an evening of art, music and dance by Boston-area Haitian teens and adults.

We'll also have on display the panels featuring the work of many groups around the country funded by RESIST.

We encourage everyone to come to the show and to as many of the evening events as you can. **See you there!** Call the gallery for hours and directions.

Mobius Phone: (617) 542-7416.



We Thought You Might be Interested...

In each issue of the newsletter, we try to let readers in on some of the many useful resources that come through our office. In most cases we try to review the book, film, or manual before we include it here, but occasionally we'll print something that just looks good based on the PR sent with it, so please call the groups listed below for more info before making a purchase. And if you've got a resource you think other RESIST readers should know about, please write and let us know. THANKS!

Children, HIV and AIDS

"Children, HIV, and AIDS," lists national resources for teenagers, teachers and parents including curriculum guides, AV aids, hotlines, and organizations. The bibliography is printed in *Rethinking Schools*, May/June 1992. Subs: \$10/yr or \$18 for 2 years for an individual, \$25/year for institutions, and \$8/yr for students or unemployed persons. \$2/sample copy. Write: *Rethinking Schools*, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Peacework Special Issue

"Violence, Nonviolence, and the 20th Century" is a special issue of *Peacework*. There's an introduction by Howard Zinn, and a preview of the 21st century by RESIST board member Renae Scott, as well as articles on how U.S. peace and social

justice movements responded to the challenges of each decade by Gerald Gill, Michael True, Harriet Hyman Alonso, David McReynolds, Marjorie Swann, Greg Williams, Pat Farren, Betty Zisk, Melissa Everett, and Joseph Gerson; 24 pages; \$1.50 each, 2-9 copies/\$1.00 each, 10 or more/.75 each. Write: *Peacework*, American Friends Service Committee, 2161 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

New Book on Hawaiian Sovereignty

He Alo A He Alo: Face to Face — Hawaiian Voices on Sovereignty: A new book edited by the AFSC-Hawaii Editorial Committee has recently been published. Roger MacPherson-Furrer, of AFSC's Hawaii office says the anthology is a source for dialogue on the issue of Hawaii self-determination. AFSC staff gathered interviews, essays, poetry and art from a broad mix of Hawaiians concerning the loss of sovereignty, and how that has affected native people, as well as what it would mean to regain control over the land. The role of non-Hawaiians in supporting this effort is discussed, including the position of the state government. The book is available for \$12.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling, from AFSC, 2426 Oahu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822. For more info, call (808) 988-6266.

GRANTS

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ing a new brochure. The newsletter, in addition to providing information and referrals, will also be a forum for youth poetry, art, and stories. RESIST's recent grant went toward the expenses of the brochure and newsletter.

Delaware County Youth Organizing Project (YOP)

*P.O. Box 1075,
Chester, PA 19016.*

The Delaware County Youth Organizing Project (YOP), still less than a year old, was formed to train high school students to do community organizing. The Project has a 12 member adult board (ages range from 18 - 52) and works with student participants. The project grew from a 1991 conference organized to help students respond to the Gulf War. So far, YOP has conducted two community organizing trainings, one for middle class students at a suburban high school, and the other for students at an inner city high school in Chester, Pennsylvania, the most economically depressed city of its size in the U.S. YOP has also sponsored two dinner discussions between high school students and community activists. One discussion focused on housing/homelessness and the other on youth and militarism.

The goals of YOP are to train students in basic organizing skills including choosing an issue, building a campaign, running meetings, planning events, fundraising, and direct action; to provide technical assistance to student organizations; to involve students in the work of local community organizations; and to build a county-wide progressive student network linking students of different racial and class backgrounds around issues of common concern.

Youthlink is a program of YOP that will focus on bringing high school students and local community groups together to work on specific projects. YOP believes this will strengthen Delaware County's peace and justice movement by diversifying its constituency; provide training to youth; and enable students and activists of different backgrounds to learn from each other.

Youthlink will develop a county-wide mailing list of progressive students and provide them with regular information about local, regional, and national efforts to address economic and racial justice, envi-

ronmental, and foreign policy issues. More dinner discussions are planned that will give students concrete information, help them understand the experiences of local activists, and provide encouragement to young people as they explore their own roles working for change. At the same time, community activists will have the opportunity to gain new perspectives on their work, and recruit new members. Topics that might be addressed include social/welfare policy, theories of social change, and the history of student movements.

Finally, Youthlink will bring together a small, diverse group of students from

around the county to participate in an intensive action/reflection program. Participants will each choose a community organization to work with, and will also meet with each other and a YOP staffperson to share experiences and ideas. In addition to discussing the actual issues and activities of the organizations, members will consider decision-making and leadership styles, organizational structures, and development. The purpose of this action/reflection group is to develop a core of student leaders to build a base for county-wide efforts. RESIST's recent grant went toward the Youthlink program.

RESISTERS in ACTION

Illinois Activists Organize to Preserve Nicaraguan Mural Art

Though not currently a RESIST grantee, we thought readers might be interested in a project of the Peoria Area Peace Network of Illinois. The group is assisting the Movimiento Continental Indigena, Negro y Popular to preserve and protect threatened mural art in Nicaragua. Following the Sandinista revolution, Nicaraguan painters participated in a flowering of mural work throughout the country, creating as many as 300 murals and involving artists from many parts of the world. In the last three years, however, many of these works have been destroyed, painted over by order of the government. Others have been lost in the rush to privatize businesses, and still others, having been created in less than ideal conditions, are in need of restoration.

The Peoria Peace Network hopes to raise \$4,600 dollars to purchase paints, brushes, protective varnish, and to provide modest honoraria for the artists. For more information, write Peoria Area Peace Network, P.O. Box 1433, Peoria, IL 61655, or call (309) 637-0411.

Concerned Citizens of Tillery wins International Award

RESIST grantee, the Concerned Citizens of Tillery, recently received the 1993 Healthier Communities Award, honoring communities that have created new strategies to improve the health and well-being of their members. The group is a broad-based organization in a small, rural community in North Carolina. The primarily African American citizens of the area organized first to save their local school and then branched out — eventually building a free health clinic, establishing a community center, developing a farmers' cooperative, developing literacy and leadership programs, improving nutritional quality for school children, and mobilizing community action against environmental threats.

The award from the Healthcare Forum recognizes communities that have taken individual and collective responsibility for improving people's health and well-being, and creating a more caring health care system. RESIST is proud to have been able to support this important work.

Flood Damaged Activist Organizations Need Extra Help

Finally, we'd like to remind RESIST readers that a broad range of activist organizations that we fund have been badly affected by the massive flooding that has devastated the Midwest this summer. We've received word from some of our grantees that even if they are not themselves directly affected, their fundraising efforts are seriously hampered because potential donors have all they can do to recover from their own losses. In this difficult time, we extend our sympathy to all those affected and urge RESIST supporters to consider sending an extra contribution to groups in the flood-ravaged areas if possible.

GRANTS

In each issue of the newsletter we highlight a few recent grants made to groups around the country. In this issue we feature grants to groups working with youth. The information in these brief reports is provided to us by the groups themselves. For more details, please write to them at the addresses included here.

Student Action Union

515 South First Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904

The Student Action Union (SAU) was founded in July of 1988 at a Student Unity Conference at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. That conference was a follow-up to the historic National Student Convention which took place at Rutgers University earlier that year and brought together over 700 student and youth activists from around the country with the goal of developing a new student movement.

The SAU, based in Philadelphia, now has over 300 members nationally with chapters on some 20 campuses. The organization works in alliance with other progressive groups, both on campus and in the community, to address social justice issues related to race, gender, privacy, economic inequality, sexual orientation, peace, the military on campus, university governance and policy, labor, and other areas. The group works for democratic control of the university, and the development of organizing and direct action skills that will carry student and youth campaigns beyond the institutional setting and into the broader society.

SAU called the National Days of Action for Access to Education and Educational Democracy; coordinated student and youth opposition to the Persian Gulf War; worked with the Progressive Student Network to support the Pittston Coal Miners in their 1989 strike; helped found a gay, lesbian and bisexual group at Marshall University; campaigned with local high schools to ban military recruiters from Philadelphia high schools; defended women's health clinics from anti-choice demonstrators in Indiana; and participated in and supported a number of other student campaigns and protests.

Currently the group is planning a national conference to take place in New Brunswick. The Rutgers chapter is developing a newsletter, working on housing issues for low-income students, and working on non-violent approaches to student security. RESIST's recent grant will be used for a New Brunswick-based project that will challenge the current relationship between the U.S. Armed Forces and high schools/boards of education. The SAU will work with area high school students who wish to challenge the presence of military recruiters in their schools. The project involves expanding existing research in this area; organizing high school groups to challenge the situation in their schools; developing alliances with teachers, guidance counselors, and other sympathetic school authorities; and working with labor unions and non-military employers to provide alternative career paths for students considering the military.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH)

P.O. Box 66574,
Houston, TX 77266-6574.

The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) was established in 1987 when a group of area teens approached the First Unitarian Church to ask for a place to meet. After its initial incarnation the group disbanded for a time and was reestablished in 1991. Its purpose is to help lesbian and gay adolescents reach their full potential and to provide a safe haven for youth where they are free from persecution or humiliation because of their sexual orientation. HATCH provides peer support and counseling, programs on health issues, career counseling, and cultural events. The group also provides education on lesbian and gay issues to school personnel.

HATCH operates a 7 day a week drop-in center including a library and music room; transports youth to meetings and community events; maintains a youth hotline; provides a Care Team to adolescents with AIDS; and provides community outreach to high schools, churches, families of gay youth, and law enforcement personnel through its speakers bureau. Currently nearly half of HATCH's members are people of color and more than half are poor or working class.

Among the weekly peer-support groups HATCH runs are an addiction group, a women's group, and a parents' group. HATCH's speakers bureau attracted 350 youth to community presentations in 1992 and the group also held its first annual Youth Service Awards for outstanding contributions to the organization. The awards went to two youth and two adult facilitators. HATCH is currently planning to contact 26 school districts in the Houston area to address concerns of lesbian and gay youth. The group's work with school systems includes developing workshops for administrators, teachers, and counselors; and providing direct intervention and advocacy for students who request help from HATCH.

In order to become better known in the Houston community and to reach youth who are at risk for substance abuse, dropping out of school, STD/HIV infection, suicide, and loss of hope, HATCH is starting a monthly newsletter and distribut-

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Join the Resist Pledge Program

We'd like you to consider becoming a Resist Pledge. Pledges account for over 25% of our income. By becoming a pledge, you help guarantee Resist a fixed and dependable source of income on which we can build our grant making program. In return, we will send you a monthly pledge letter and reminder, along with your newsletter. We will keep you up-to-date on the groups we have funded, and the other work being done at Resist. So take the plunge and become a Resist Pledge! We count on you, and the groups we fund count on us.

Yes! I would like to become a Resist Pledge. I'd like to pledge \$ _____ / _____ (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, 2x a year, yearly).

Enclosed is my pledge contribution of \$ _____.

I can't join the pledge program just now, but here's a contribution to support your work. \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Resist

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