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RESIST

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A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

October 2003

Pockets of Resistance Rise in South

Activists Get Ready “the Day Before”

ANNE BRADEN

Scott Douglas, an old friend and co-worker of mine who directs Greater Birmingham Ministries in Alabama, calls the current period “the day before” in the South—the day *before* Rosa Parks refused to move on the bus, the day *before* the four students sat down at a lunch counter in Greensboro, the day *before* the young people of Birmingham marched *en masse* into the fire hoses.

Douglas is an African American whose agency has been the catalyst for numerous diverse coalitions in Alabama. He is convinced that the South is on the verge of another upsurge like those that shook the country in the past, because of intense local activity on critical justice issues in so many communities.

Angela Brown, based in Atlanta and working through the Youth Task Force with African-American youth across the South, agrees. She says “pockets of resistance” are mounting major struggles in multiple communities.

“African-American young people are a sleeping giant that is waking up,” Brown says. She thinks there are more young people active for social change in the South today than in any earlier period.

Brown believes the ferment is not known in wider circles because the establishment media systematically ignores or downplays protest movements. Active people themselves don’t even know about it be-

cause their intense schedules leave no time to find out about other communities.

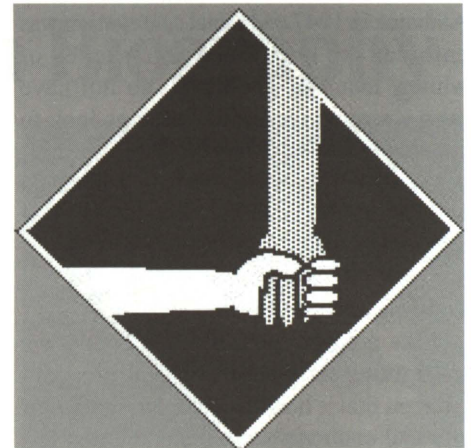
I know that from my own experience. I have been active in struggles against racism (which I prefer to call white supremacy) for 55 years, both here in Louisville and regionally. But for 10 years, I’ve been so overwhelmed by intense battles in Louisville that I have not kept in touch regularly with people across the South.

In conversations with people in widely scattered communities, the same pattern prevailed. People were so pressured by work at home that they had only a vague sense of important developments everywhere, and most did not know details even from other communities in their own state.

Talking Across Barriers

Communication systems are weak or non-existent among people working for justice, and there seems to be no one group or cohesive force that can pull people together into a united, powerful movement. Several national groups are doing an amazing job of mobilizing great numbers of scattered people through e-mail and the Internet, and these new means of communication offer a great weapon to people outside the mainstream. But most of the people we work with don’t have computers yet, and even if they do, checking e-mail regularly and visiting web sites is not part of their lifestyle.

Angela Brown’s impressions are based mostly on her knowledge of the African-



American community, because that is where she works. She knows a similar ferment is stirring among white youth on college campuses—she is glad it’s happening—but her contact with it is peripheral, and those activities seem irrelevant to her life and work.

This reflects a pattern prevalent in all the communities I’m in touch with, including Louisville, where I live. The pattern has existed for a long time, except for brief periods from the 1950s onward when there were conscious efforts to overcome it. It has always been the Achilles’ heel of the Southern movement, and it is today. We have white movements and people-of-color movements, with occasional token cross-fertilization both ways. I think this pattern prevails across the country, and we will never win and change the direction of the

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country that way. The situation won't change unless whites take on the issue of white supremacy aggressively and take more widespread visible stands against its current manifestations.

In Louisville, for example, the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression constantly seeks to bridge this chasm. The Alliance has a constituency and leadership that is predominantly African-American; among its 31-member board, eight of us are white. We constantly seek more white allies, and we also reach out to the Latino population, which is growing rapidly here.

Louisville is a sharply divided community by race, which is reinforced by geographic and economic division. Its West End is predominantly African-American; the farther east you go, the whiter and richer it gets. The town is more deeply divided now than when I moved here from Alabama in 1947 and racial segregation was enforced by law. Today, multitudes of whites, many of good will, do not have even a remote idea of how things look to people in the West End. There, average citizens on the street feel that their lives do not matter to decision-makers and that they are expendable.

Fighting an Uphill Battle

Like progressive forces nationally, we are fighting an uphill battle against a government that is hostile to human rights. Our city and county governments merged last year, a move we worked hard to defeat, but we claimed only 48 percent of the vote. The change essentially disempowered the African-American community politically, and we've already been pushed back, losing strong civilian police review legislation and a living-wage ordinance adopted by the previous city government. Meantime, in the West End, great numbers of people are struggling just to survive, even if they work two jobs. And in the last four years, our police department has shot and killed six African-American men. The last one, killed in December 2002, was handcuffed when he was shot, which produced a huge outcry in the black community and among its white allies.

While demonstrations over this were growing each week last winter in downtown Louisville, in the East End a new peace movement was emerging, especially among young whites. White peace activ-



The Kentucky Alliance marches with other groups to protest the killing of an unarmed black man by police. Photo courtesy of Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression

ists working in close alliance with black justice movements saw an opportunity to bridge the gap, and we knew if that was to happen whites had to see their interest in supporting the struggle of the black community. We, and people we work with, set out to convince people, and over the next few months a significant number of peace activists took part in the demonstrations demanding police reform. We always stressed that this was not a matter of "I'll scratch your back, you scratch mine." Rather, we said, it's the same issue. Our main problem in Louisville is that the life of a person of color does not matter to those in power. It's the same problem in Washington: to those making decisions, the lives of those being killed in Iraq don't matter because they are not white.

We did not create a revolution here in Louisville, but we made progress. We have a potent ally for this work in the Fairness Campaign, the community's lesbian and gay rights organization, a very unusual group. It was started 10 years ago by whites active first in anti-racist work, and they took that commitment with them into their new organizing. As a result, Fairness became a multi-issue organization, and it has created a new army of young whites who are visible in local anti-racist struggles.

Specific issues feeding new ferment vary from place to place. Angela Brown says much activity among African-Ameri-

can students is going into voter registration and participation drives: young people are realizing that they must have political

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For information and grant guidelines, write to: Resist, 259 Elm St., Suite 201
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power to survive. Another major concentration of the Youth Task Force is prisons and prisoner rights, because a whole generation of people of color is being destroyed by being warehoused into crowded prisons. In Georgia, young people mounted a campaign for legislation to stop the state from trying youth under 18 as adults and putting them in adult prisons. The measure got to the floor of the state legislature, shepherded by its youngest member, a 24-year-old African-American woman (who had won election in an 85 percent white district near Atlanta). In its prison work, the Youth Task Force is building relationships with Latino youth, who are also filling the prisons.

In Alabama, people in the grassroots coalition Scott Douglas works with went door-to-door in support of a tax reform measure that would have lowered taxes on poor and working people and increased them on big business. The plan, which also called for funding education and other human needs programs, was developed by the coalition and had the support of the governor, who can perhaps be described as a maverick right-wing Populist Republican. It failed at the polls but got 34 percent of the vote, and the struggle will go on.

One of the most significant developments in the South is the new Environmental Justice Movement. Over the past 10 years, an organization I work with—the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic & Social Justice (SOC)—has been the catalyst for this movement of many local groups, led by totally new organizers who became active because they are sick and dying from toxic pollution. Despite the Bush Administration's hostility to the environment, these groups are building mass memberships, holding big demonstrations across the Deep South, and winning local victories. This issue has also become large in Louisville, where members of a new coalition are going door-to-door in the black community, recruiting new activists.

The Southern Environmental Justice Movement is led by the African American Environmental Justice Action Network (AAEJAN), which now has 80 local affiliates. It is also working with Latino, Native-American, and low-income white communities. (SOC helped set AAEJAN in motion, which has since spun off as an independent entity. SOC did the same thing

with the Youth Task Force.)

I have no crystal ball to indicate how all this ferment will come together. SOC is creating one tool. At a recent historic meeting in Memphis, we converted ourselves from a loose network into a membership organization. Our vision is to bring the grassroots base we have built through the Environmental Justice Movement together with SOC's regional network of local activists on a wide range of crucial issues, and many people are inspired by that vision. If we can follow through well, SOC can be a major linking tool, but we certainly cannot do all that is needed by ourselves.

One thing I'm sure of is that when a cohesive regional force reemerges, it will come not from planners sitting in a room but from a local movement, and it will be local groups that lead it. This means that we must build local beachheads in every

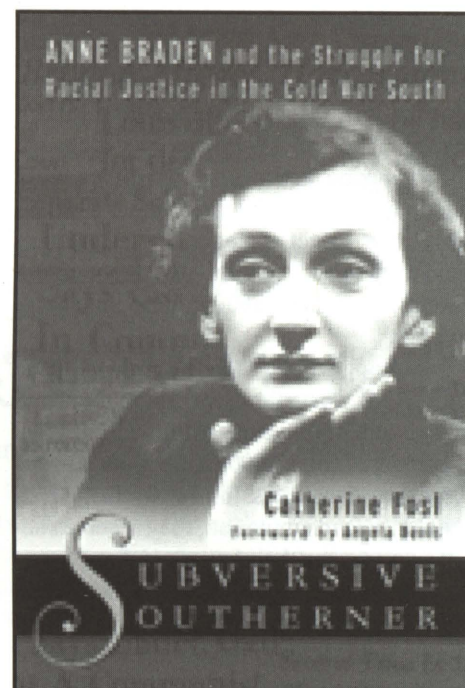
community where we can. And it means going door to door as the Youth Task Force is doing in Atlanta, as the tax-reform coalition does in Alabama, and as the anti-toxics activists are doing in Louisville. Yes, we can reach lots of people through the Internet, but if we want to *organize the unorganized* and not just *reshuffle the organized*, we must reclaim the old-fashioned tradition of knocking on their doors.

A long-time Southern activist, Anne Braden works with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic & Social Justice (SOC). The Alliance is a current RESIST grantee, and SOC is a former grantee. For more information, contact the Kentucky Alliance, PO Box 1543, Louisville, KY 40201; kyall@bellsouth.net.

Anne Braden Biography

DARRYL LORENZO WELLINGTON

Anne and Carl Braden were two of the most active and determined white anti-racist crusaders of the 1950s and beyond. Catherine Fosl's *Subversive Southerner* traces the life story of Anne Braden, the archetypal "subversive Southerner," from her upbringing in Kentucky to her years in the desegregation struggle to her activism in the 1980s as a supporter of Jesse Jackson's Presidential campaigns. The Braden couple entered the national spotlight in 1954 because of an incident now known as the Wade Case. The Bradens purchased a house in a segregated area of Louisville for an African-American family named Wade. Local racists targeted the house and burned a cross in the front yard. Finally, the Wade home was destroyed in a bomb blast. The criminals were never brought to trial; instead, the Bradens and several other anti-racist activists found themselves accused of conspiring in a Communist plot against the state. Carl Braden received a 15-year prison sentence for "sedition," which the Supreme Court overturned within months. "The unique thing about the Cold War in the South was that [fighting it] was inextricably tied to the battle against white supremacy," Anne Braden says. "That was the reason for all the hysteria against us in Louisville. It was



anti-red and anti-black hysteria wrapped up and thrown at us." *Subversive Southerner* is an excellent and inspiring read.

This review is reprinted from The Progressive (March 2003): www.progressive.org. Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Social Justice in the Cold War South, by Catherine Fosl (Palgrave Mcmillan, 2002)

Student Activists Say “Boot the Bell”

Student / Farmworker Alliance Calls for Taco Bell to Pay Fair Wages

BRIAN PAYNE AND
CAROL SCHACHET

It all started in February of 2000, when disgruntled farmworkers conducted a 320-mile march across the state of Florida to draw attention to their working conditions and wages. Within a year, a group of students from across the state of Florida joined together to form the Student / Farmworker Alliance (SFA), raising awareness on their campuses about farmworker issues and joining farmworker-led actions for change. Today, SFA has grown to become a national network of student and youth activists on more than 300 universities and 50 high schools, who together with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) are challenging the fast food industry to take responsibility for the sweatshop working conditions where their tomatoes are produced.

The CIW is a grassroots farmworker organization based in Southwest Florida. Since 1995, the CIW has used a wide range of organizing tactics—petition drives, work stoppages, even a 30-day hunger strike—in efforts to get the attention of growers and to change the exploitative labor conditions in the state’s \$600 million tomato industry.

Although doing society’s most vital and necessary work, farmworkers make an average of \$7,500 yearly (United States Department of Labor 2000). Their work is physically brutal and stressful. For wrecking their health to feed our nation, they receive sub-poverty wages, barely able to feed themselves and their families. In addition, farmworkers receive no benefits of any kind: over 20 years of stagnant wages, no right to organize without fear of retaliation, no right to overtime pay, no health insurance, no sick leave or pension. In the worst cases, farmworkers suffer under cases of modern-day slavery (the CIW has participated in the prosecution of five modern-day slavery cases in Florida since 1997).

When growers continued to ignore Immokalee workers’ demands for open dialogue, the CIW asked Taco Bell, a major buyer of Florida tomatoes, to use its influence to get growers to agree to discussions



with the farmworkers about working conditions. To date, Taco Bell has refused to take responsibility for workers’ wages and working conditions, saying that they only sell tacos and burritos and that they are not the workers’ employer. (Growers sell the tomatoes to brokers who then sell them to Taco Bell.) Yet it is clear that Taco Bell has the power to act to improve the situation of tomato harvesters. In fact, Taco Bell’s parent company, YUM! Brands, Inc. freely admits that it has the power to set industry standards and regulate its suppliers. On its website, YUM! says, “As a major purchaser of food products (in this case, poultry), we have the opportunity, and responsibility, to influence the way animals supplied to us are treated.”

In April of 2001 workers and students declared a national boycott of Taco Bell.

SFA Organizes for Consumer and Worker Rights

Through their work together, SFA and the CIW have come to recognize that the exploitation of young consumers and of farmworkers are in fact intertwined. Workers from the CIW, over the course of many years of grassroots organizing, have followed the path of the produce they pick to the door of the fast food industry. In doing so, the Immokalee workers have found that these food service giants not only derive

tremendous profits from their poverty—in the form of cheap ingredients kept cheap through starvation wages for farmworkers—but also are, in large part, responsible for the sweatshop conditions in Florida’s fields. The unequal buying power of the major fast food chains creates real pressure on growers to squeeze costs, and so has contributed significantly to nearly 25 years of stagnant farm labor wages.

In turn, fast food corporations have been able to plow their artificially high profits into resources for marketing, resources spent to brand their products with a particular focus on the youth demographic. Spending more than \$3 billion a year collectively in marketing, the fast food industry targets 18-24 year-olds by marketing an image of cheap, tasty, aesthetically pleasing food, effectively masking the reality behind their products. As such, the industry has had a significant negative impact on the lives of millions of workers and consumers, laying the framework for sweatshops and slavery in the fields, environmental degradation, unhealthy lifestyles, and a culture of consumerism.

In order to confront these issues, SFA organizes around two inter-related initiatives: reflection and action. This ideal of students and workers struggling side-by-side, combining reflection and action to effect positive change can best be seen through the last major action in the Taco Bell Boycott—a 10-Day Hunger Strike in front of Taco Bell headquarters from February 24 to March 5, 2003. From the Fair Food Summit in Immokalee over Thanksgiving Break 2002, to the date of the hunger strike, hundreds of students and youth from around the country organized alongside the workers to raise awareness about the upcoming hunger strike and to prepare the logistics for the 10 days of action.

Over the course of the 10 days, students and workers participated in workshops in the streets in front of Taco Bell headquarters on topics ranging from free trade to the history of hunger strikes. At the same time, students, youth and workers struggled together to organize and animate dozens of presentations and protests at surround-

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ing high schools, universities, churches and union rallies. All told, students and youth organized more than 100 solidarity actions across the country during the 10 days of the hunger strike, including close to 50 students and youth who fasted for five days or more.

By focusing on both external and internal organizing before, during and after the hunger strike, SFA succeeded in not only raising awareness among thousands about the relationship between the fast food industry and farmworker poverty. SFA also succeeded in finding common ground among students, youth and farmworkers in the struggle against corporate globalization.

Boot the Bell

One of the major strategies of SFA in the Taco Bell Boycott is the "Boot the Bell" campaign. The idea of this campaign is simple: get wage-slavery off campuses by removing Taco Bell vendors. This simple idea has quickly transformed into a nationwide movement—already 17 high schools and universities have either removed Taco Bell or prevented Taco Bell from coming on to their campuses, including University of Notre Dame and West High School in Denver, CO. Over 30 university and high school campuses are currently mobilizing similar campaigns.

Mother Jones recently announced that the "Boot the Bell" campaign at the University of Chicago rated as one of the top 10 student activist groups in the country. According to *Mother Jones*, the U of C activists "scored one of the first victories of the national 'Boot the Bell' campaign. Because Taco Bell's tomato suppliers are said to exploit migrant farmworkers, Chicago students lobbied the university to sever its ties with the chain. On Halloween, 60 students, many dressed as tomatoes, marched on administration offices. In November, U of C's food-services manager declined to renew the Taco Bell contract." (*Mother Jones*, Sept./Oct. 2003).

Global Justice Organizing

Through the Taco Bell Boycott, SFA and the CIW are making the connections between the global reality of an expanding capitalist economy and the local reality of exploitation in the fields of Florida. As a result, farmworkers who have been displaced from their homelands, who have



Activists call for a boycott of Taco Bell to boost farmworker wages. Photo courtesy of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers

been enslaved in the fields of Florida, and who suffer the reality of sub-poverty wages every single day all in the name of corporate globalization, are at the forefront of the growing global justice movement in the United States.

In the same vein, SFA is working hand-in-hand with a number of South Florida-based grassroots organizations, including the CIW, Miami Workers Center (a RESIST grantee) and Power U, to mobilize a grassroots-based response to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) ministerial meetings happening in Miami in November 2003. The goal of this effort is to ensure that the communities that are most directly affected by corporate globalization—poor communities and communities of color—play a leading role in building the movement to not only oppose, but to

create alternatives to corporate globalization.

What can you do?

Taco Bell could nearly double the picking piece rate paid to farmworkers by agreeing to pay just one penny more per pound for the tomatoes it buys from Florida growers. Student activists believe that Taco Bell, as part of the

"world's largest restaurant system" can easily afford to pay one penny more. But even if they passed the cost on to the consumer, it would still be less than 1/4 of 1 cent more for a Chalupa.

Would you be willing to pay 1/4 of 1 penny more for your Chalupa if it meant that farmworkers could earn a living wage?

Brian Payne is an organizer with the Student Farmworker Alliance. Carol Schachet edits the RESIST Newsletter. Information for this article came from the Student Farmworker Alliance and the Coalition for Immokalee Workers. SFA received a grant from RESIST last year. For more information, contact SFA, PO Box 603, Immokalee, FL 34143; www.sfalliance.org.

Plan to RESIST

There are many ways to extend your support of RESIST, including:

1. Make a tax-deductible contribution today. Send a check, make a credit card gift, or sign up for the pledge program (see page eight).
2. Donate stocks or other securities. As a non-profit organization, RESIST does not have to pay taxes, and you can deduct the contribution. That way more money goes to stopping wars than starting them.
3. Include a bequest to RESIST in your will or life insurance policy. That way, you can receive income tax deductions on your insurance premiums while you support social change.
4. Designate RESIST as a beneficiary of an IRA or pension plan.

For more information, contact
RESIST • 259 Elm Street • Somerville, MA 02144
617-623-5110 • resistinc@igc.org



Activists Won't Hold Their Breath

Kingsport, Tennessee Citizens Work for a Cleaner Environment

RACHEL BLISS

Kingsport Citizens for a Cleaner Environment was founded in late 2000, when people here became concerned when the Willamette pulp mill (later bought out by Weyerhaeuser) got a permit to increase its emissions even though it operated in our downtown. Ironically, Kingsport was already designated as an Additional Control Area which, according to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, is an area identified at sometime by the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board as not meeting an ambient air quality standard, thus requiring the implementation of additional pollution controls.

Incorporated in December 2001, KCCE works with local leaders, regulators, and manufacturers in the region to develop strategies for a cleaner environment and better job development. We are committed to improving, protecting, and preserving the community in which we live, work and play, so that children can live healthier lives.

Organizing in Conservative Areas

In conservative Kingsport, those who are outspoken against current policies don't go to the streets to protest. Instead, we go to hearing rooms, to our computers and to the front doors of our neighbors.

We look at permits and listen to arguments around possible governmental decisions. We reason and offer better ideas. We get our neighbors to echo the same concerns to elected decision-makers. If decision-makers are regulatory staff, we quote the codes and laws. We make formal appeals, while being civil to those who disagree, letting them know that as humans we can make whatever decisions that have to be made even better.

Through dialogue and diverse opinions, usually the best solutions come about. For example, because of modeling work done by a regional consultant, KCCE showed that a local paper mill's future sulfur dioxide emissions were at hazardous levels (up to 300 percent above acceptable limits). The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) required the company to raise its smoke stack



Family members of Bravone Lee, who was a victim of asthma, gather at a KCCE tree planting in May 2003. Photo courtesy of KCCE

20 feet higher to decrease the extreme amount of sulfur dioxide that would hit Kingsport's downtown, schools, and neighborhoods. We didn't get all that we wanted, but we did get a healthier decision than if we had all sat back and believed in the company's erroneous depiction.

A few years ago, KCCE convinced TDEC to test Cloud Park, our city park for nearly 50 years, after a city alderman pronounced it "contaminated." He, other aldermen and the mayor were prepared to give our park to Willamette for \$1 a year, in exchange for 33 acres of flood plain outside the city for a soccer field. After urging from KCCE, the TDEC and the State Department of Health tested the park and found no damaging contaminants. The alderman resigned and we kept our park.

Mobilizing Across Constituencies

Because of our diverse membership, including students, retired people, independent-, small-, and self-employed business people, and other concerned citizens, we can ponder issues and propose strategies that are workable, make sense, and can become small steps along the road to community improvement.

For example, KCCE recently convinced the state environmental authorities to re-

visit Weyerhaeuser's wastewater treatment permit. And the Atlanta Region IV Office considered our Citizens' Petition under Title 505 of the Clean Air Act, in which we are asking the EPA to require Weyerhaeuser to provide better means of modeling and monitoring its air emissions under its operating permit. We should hear results on that soon.

We don't try to get the baby thrown out with the bathwater—working to increase employment and improve on what institutions or conditions now exist while also insisting on reducing air and water pollution. In 2002, KCCE fought alongside people on Lomax Street who were regularly flooded by broken water mains and sewers. After five months of constant speeches at Kingsport Board of Aldermen meetings, residents were reimbursed by the mayor and aldermen. The city replaced "Old Faithful" water pipes early in 2003 instead of late 2004, as previously pronounced. But there are still horrible odors, and there is still the telecommunication cell tower, the construction dump across the street from their front doors. In addition, many of these residents, all of them white Appalachians, have multiple chronic health problems and children who are mentally retarded. Recently we held a meeting in the neighbor-

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hood to organize a KCCE chapter. The group now has officers, and they have detailed the issues—air pollution and odors—that are most important to them. We will be working with these neighbors in the years ahead to tackle one issue at a time, even parts of an issue at a time.

In the predominantly African-American South Central part of Kingsport, we are planning a similar organizational meeting, where most seem to be concerned about concentrations of chronic health problems. People in South Central are also unhappy with harassment from local law enforcement, youth who feel they have no future, and other racism-related issues. Even though KCCE is an environmental group, we are also about protecting and improving regions where people live, work, and play. In this neighborhood, residents see our mission statement in a whole other light, which we must honor and deal with in ways they feel comfortable.

We have planted trees in honor of two African-American young women who succumbed to asthma in the last two years. This turns out lots of their family, friends, and students, which in turn gives us a chance to show the connection of health and environment.

Before we do anything, we concentrate on not letting an issue take precedence over a relationship. We have found that relationships have to be nurtured before we can bring about any kind of lasting change.

Moving Forward Across Boundaries

For the next year and beyond, KCCE is considering taking action to reduce odors in Kingsport, especially those produced by our city's sewage treatment plant by getting the city to plant odor-absorbing trees. We also will release the results of our "Smells of Kingsport" survey and eventually seek to get an Odor Ordinance passed. As part of this effort, we will continue to monitor emissions from major factories in town. Members will contact decision-makers in these companies so we can tour their factories to see their operating conditions. We will also ask them to come to KCCE meetings and explain their operations. We want to organize a new technical review team to advise KCCE members regarding comments about emissions and discharge controls proposed by companies as new permit applications are published. Lastly,

In Kingsport, we may not use words like environment or pollution, but we do use words such as stinking or poisoned air....

we hope to initiate environmental forums and a speakers' bureau to reach and motivate civic and other groups in the area, as well as the general public.

At the same time, our work extends beyond Kingsport. For example, we are collaborating with the Sierra Club's Tennessee chapter (State of Franklin Group) and as KCCE's director, I have attended its leadership training for community organizing. With support from the Sierra Club, KCCE and the Coalition for Jobs and the Environment sponsored its first region-wide conference, the Clean Air Conference.

Partnering with organized labor, we are analyzing the possible affects of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) on our country's environmental health. And we ponder energy issues with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, as well as transportation issues with Citizens for Responsible Roads.

In Kingsport, we may not use words like environment or pollution, but we do use words such as stinking or poisoned air,

clean versus dirty, jobs, feeling good, sicknesses, our homes, family, backyards and neighborhoods, and fun times.

If we can mobilize people around these issues, we are well on our way to creating a larger movement for social justice. Historically, it has been difficult to mobilize poor people around environmental issues, but they want something done when they have sick relatives or their children see raw sewage in their backyards. No fancy words, just action. This rings true with all social justice work. What is my self interest? How does war or a living wage affect me? As we relate to those personal selfish issues, we build relationships. Combine those with victories, and we are all on our way to creating a larger movement for social justice.

Rachael Bliss is the Program Director of the Kingsport Citizens for a Cleaner Environment, which received a grant from RESIST this year. For more information, contact KCCE, 108 East Main St #113, Kingsport, TN 37660.

GRANTS

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to all its full-time employees, and persuaded the City Council to pass a budget amendment that raised the wage level for all direct city employees to \$8.50/hour plus healthcare. Currently, RCLW is pushing for a city ordinance ensuring that all who work for the city through service contracts also be paid a living wage.

Georgians for Choice

*PO Box 8551, Atlanta, GA 31106;
www.georgiansforchoice.org*

GfC, a statewide coalition for women's freedom, has been a collective voice for reproductive rights since its formation in 1986. Over the years, members have worked collaboratively on numerous issues, including sexuality education,

family planning options, education and access, abortion policies, legislation and access, services for low-income women, and support for women seeking fertility services.

GfC creates programming framed by the social, racial and economic justice issues inherent in women's health. When policies are created that limit the right to choose, young women, low-income women, refugee and immigrant women, and women of color see their access to services diminish to the highest degree. For these reasons, GfC launched The Access Project, which aims to 1) produce a comprehensive access guide to women's healthcare, 2) translate the guide into languages relevant to populations in Greater Atlanta, and 3) distribute the guide to service providers, community organizations and community leaders.

GRANTS

RESIST funds radical organizing for social change throughout the United States. In this issue, we feature several of the groups from the US South that recently have received grants. For more information, please contact the groups directly at the addresses listed below.

South Carolina Progressive Network

PO Box 8325, Columbia, SC 29202;
www.scpronet.com

The South Carolina Progressive Network was started in 1995 to support each others' work and to build a "new majority" in South Carolina. At the time the Network formed, the Christian Coalition was taking control of the government and progressive activists experienced rollbacks in the gains that took generations to secure. As a multi-issue and multicultural group, the Network seeks to build and maintain a strong statewide solidarity movement to offer community activists a holistic perspective that could look beyond single issues. The goals of South Carolina Progressive Network are to promote human, civil, and workers' rights, envi-

ronmental protection and government reform through education and action.

Currently, the Network's 54 organizations have a collective membership of about 80,000 people. In recent years, the Network has sponsored public hearings and town meetings to discuss hard problems such as racial profiling, workplace discrimination and campaign finance reform. Members also organized rallies, pickets and marches to protest injustice, and press for legislative action.

Appalachian Focus

Route 2, Box 68AA, Middlesboro, KY 40965

Founded in 1997, Appalachian Focus works in Central Appalachia to secure a positive social and economic environment for workers in the coal fields. Appalachian Focus provides educational experiences as well as solutions regarding all aspects of the social, economic and environmental conditions in the central Appalachian coal fields; and engages in continuing research on matters affecting these conditions. The people most immediately and directly affected by the issues

are central to the organizing. Among their active projects is a long-term Community Health Assessment and Medical Monitoring, which examines the communities that were exposed to hazardous activities. Appalachian Focus has also worked with the Urban Appalachian Council in developing community leadership and providing education and research to the inner-city neighborhood of Lower Price Hill.

Prison and Jail Project

PO Box 6749, Americus, GA 31709

The Prison and Jail Project is working to eliminate the racist and dysfunctional prison/jail system in southwest Georgia. The Prison and Jail Project organizes at the grassroots level to bring folks together who have not had a voice, to build a coalition of people—imprisoned and free—who can speak out for change in the system and for justice. Prison PJP advocates on behalf of prisoners and their families; monitors conditions in the jails and prisons; works to increase the public's awareness of these conditions and the system's inadequacies; and explores the viability of various alternatives to incarceration. They also focus on monitoring the death penalty cases in the region and organizing folks to speak out against capital punishment.

Richmond Coalition for a Living Wage

224 S. Cherry Street, Richmond, VA 23220; www.rclw.org

Formed in 1999, the RCLW is a coalition of nearly 30 faith, labor, university and community groups committed to reducing poverty by advocating for living wage legislation at the municipal level. Committed to building and strengthening a diverse coalition that prioritizes leadership from the people who are most directly affected by economic injustice in the Richmond area, RCLW mobilizes low-wage workers and people living in poverty. In 2001, RCLW convinced the Richmond School Board to pay a living wage

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We'd like you to consider becoming a Resist Pledge. Pledges account for over 30% 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 also keep you up-to-date on the groups we have funded and the other work being done at Resist.

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Resist • 259 Elm Street • Somerville • MA • 02144. Donations are tax-deductible.

So take the plunge and become a Resist Pledge! We count on you, and the groups we fund count on us.

I'll send you my pledge of \$_____ every month/quarter/six months/year (please circle one).

Enclosed is an initial pledge contribution of \$_____.

Please automatically deduct my pledge from my credit card (below).

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