AILANTHUS MEMBERS ARRESTED

On Wednesday afternoon, December 19th (Hanukkah), seven members of the Ailanthus community were arrested at the Draper Weapons Labratory. As the employees were leaving work, five of us walked through the revolving door of the Visitors Entrance. We immediately walked to the far side of the lobby so that we would not inhibit anyone's movement. We lit Advent candles, sang hymns, prayed silently that our hearts and those of others would be converted. The other two members of the community remained in the courtyard, distributing leaflets. After twenty minutes, all were arrested by the Cambridge Police. Our trial is scheduled for March 11th.

Rosalie Faulkner Schofield, Ph.D.

I entered Draper to call into the full light of consciousness the weapons work done there. I know that for one to radically confront the question of what work at Draper is about -- death -- is to open oneself to the pain of inner choas because it raises a deep moral question which runs deeply counter to our culturally accorded sense of self. The question further calls into question our security, prio rities, our defensive understandings,and our lifestyle-- all of which are integrally connected to our work. Ultimately the question of our work raises the radical human question " Who do I understand myself to be?" " Am I a sojourner on this earth for a short time or do I think and act like I will live forever here?" How am I called to live?" The questions bring discomfort which arises out of the fear that there is no deeper ground for our identity than the one provided by a particular culture. We resist the question and respond with anger or laughter at its threatening articulation.

Bob Hillegass

Ultimately, if we are not going to blow ourselves up, we and other nations are going to have to give up our obsessive drive for security through suicidal weapons. We are going to have to put our trust in something more reliable, more secure. By risking arrest at Draper, we bear witness to the only Power on earth strong enough to tame the Bomb. Both powers, God and the Bomb (the Ultimate Love and the Ultimate Violence) reside in the human heart. History is compelling us to choose between them.

Jo Connelly

My name is Jo Connelly,I'm 28 and I've been coming to vigil Monday mornings for almost two years now. I left my job as a social worker last summer after I discovered that many of the teens I counseled believe that we adults will blow up their world--that nuclear war will happen in their lifetime. I came to believe that I needed to work harder for peace for those teens and for all children. I believe that we are gambling with the end of all life when we design nuclear weapons. Jesus taught us that only love will end hatred and that we must love our enemies. So, on December 19th, I knelt inside the lobby at Draper with my candle, praying that each of us -- you who read this as well as myself should trust and turn to the light,that impossible light of love. The light that might seem impractical at best, impossible at worst but that light which is our only hope.