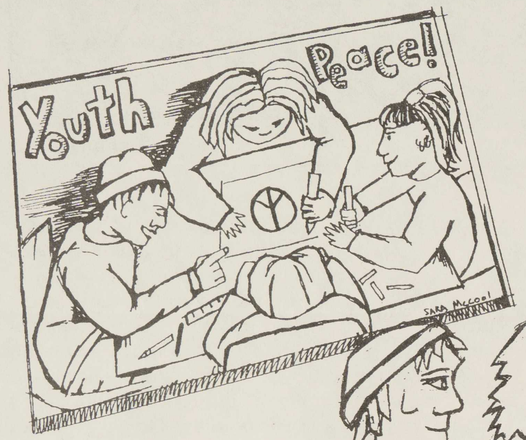
Young People Working Together for Peace



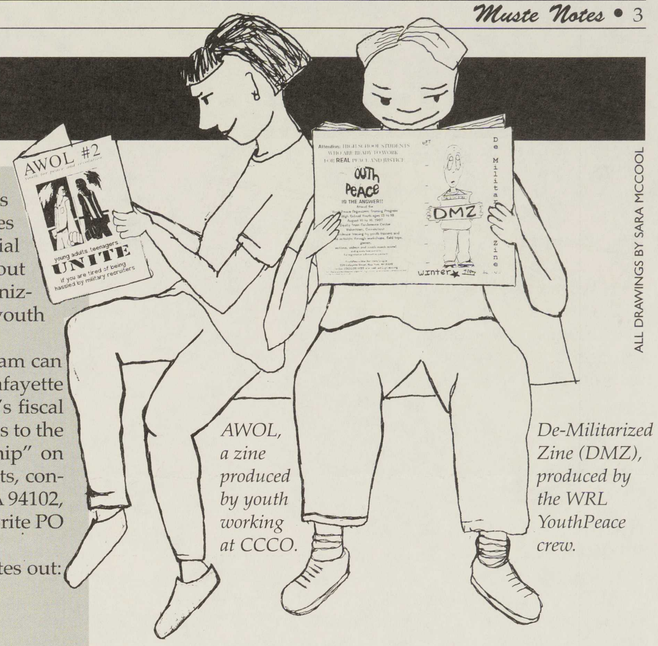
In September 1996 the Muste Institute gave grants of $1,500 to the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) and $1,000 to the San Diego-based Project on Youth and Nonmilitary Opportunities (Project YANO) for work with youth against militarism. In February 1997, the Institute granted $1,000 to the YouthPeace program of the War Resisters League (WRL)—specifically for scholarships for low-income youth to attend an organizers' training for high school students in August 1997. The Muste Institute also supports YouthPeace by managing the Ruth and Harrop Freeman internship program for WRL. The Freemans made generous bequests to create endowments for this program at WRL, CCCO and a number of other organizations, in order to provide stipends to encourage young interns.

The Muste Institute is proud to be supporting young activists, and we are especially glad to see the organizations we fund actively cooperating with each other. For example, Project YANO and CCCO have worked together to produce and distribute a literature bag for peace groups to use at career fairs. CCCO also helps to promote Project YANO's multimedia computer program "CHOICES," which educates young people about the realities of the military, alternatives for financing college, and careers in peacemaking and social change. In addition, CCCO has been spreading the word about YouthPeace's new zine *DMZ* and the YouthPeace 1997 organizers' training by promoting these WRL programs in its own youth zine, *AWOL*.

Tax-deductible contributions to WRL's YouthPeace program can be made through the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012. (The Muste Institute acts as WRL's fiscal sponsor.) If you want your contribution to go for scholarships to the YouthPeace Organizers Training, write "WRL-YP scholarship" on the memo line. For information about CCCO's youth projects, contact CCCO directly at 655 Sutter, Suite 514, San Francisco, CA 94102, phone 415-474-3002. For information about Project YANO, write PO Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023, or call 619-753-7518.

If you have access to the World Wide Web, check these sites out:

- WRL – http://www.nonviolence.org/wrl
- CCCO – http://www.libertynet.org/~ccco
- Muste Institute – http://www.nonviolence.org/ajmuste



AWOL, a zine produced by youth working at CCCO.

De-Militarized Zine (DMZ), produced by the WRL YouthPeace crew.

ALL DRAWINGS BY SARA MCCOOL

Literature bag produced by Project YANO and CCCO. ▶

Why Youth Peace?

BY SARA MCCOOL
FREEMAN INTERN AT WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

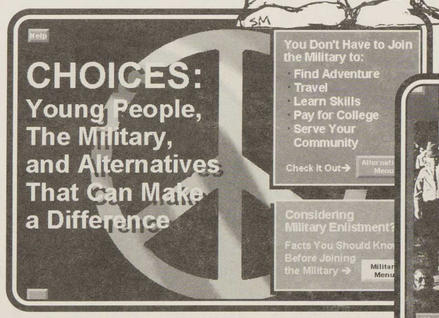
YouthPeace is a national campaign of the War Resisters League coordinated by Malkia M'Buzi Moore, committed to promoting nonviolence in young people's lives. YouthPeace is also an active local group of young people that meets weekly at the WRL office to work on various political issues and actions. Most recently the YouthPeace crew has put out the first issue of its national (maga)zine entitled *DMZ* (*De-Militarized Zine*). This first issue covers issues ranging from youth and the death penalty to women in prison. *DMZ* also has reviews of music and books. The NY area YouthPeace crew also goes to local demonstrations—recently we went to one against police brutality and another in support of rent regulations. We are currently working on the second issue of *DMZ* and attempting to get submissions of writing or art work from youth around the country. We are also planning the week-long national YouthPeace Organizers' Training Program for this coming August. The program will include workshops, films, field trips and role-play games for high school age organizers and activists, to help them become better at working for social justice.

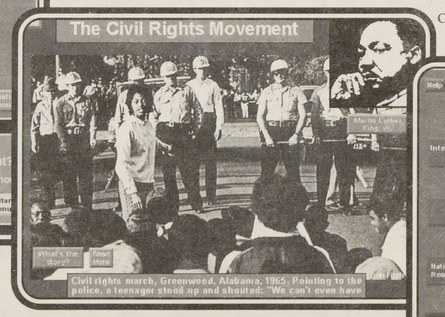
Working with YouthPeace as a Freeman intern this past semester has been exciting, as well as frustrating. One of the most important things that YouthPeace is doing is getting in contact with other youth groups. The more young people get in touch with each other and know about what everyone is doing, and what resources are already available, the more effective we can become. One thing that young activists of today have on their side is that communication is easier and more available to the people, especially email, which makes things happen more efficiently and faster.

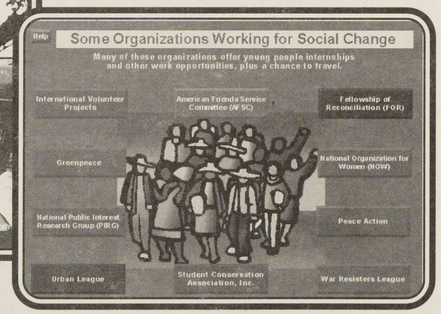
The Youth Summit that took place April 12-13 at Hampshire College in Massachusetts was a chance for me to talk with other youth activists and find out their concerns as well as how we can help each other. Basically the overwhelming goal is to get things done, rather than just advancing one organization.

Through my experience talking with young activists and being one myself, I have found that the problem is not lack of motivation or interest as much as a lack of knowledge about effectual activism. The YouthPeace Organizers' Training program is integral for helping young political activists recognize tools for successful change. The Organizers' Training can help young activists continue with their work and not give up in the face of obstacles set up by school, the law, older people and other young people. When I was an activist in high school I was not aware of all the rights and resources I had. The Organizers' Training can also help in dealing with other people and how to maintain a group that works on consensus. Because these are things young people are not taught in school, political youth groups tend to fall apart around power struggles or the opposite: lack of initiative.

The military has been very effective at targeting kids. Now we are out there too, letting kids know that we are targeting them because we are interested in what they can do besides be a part of the war machine.

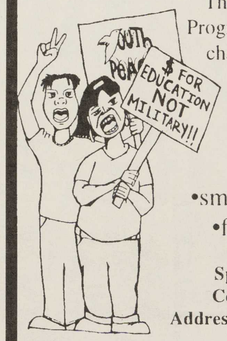






▲ *A few of the screens in Project YANO's multimedia computer program "CHOICES." The CHOICES program can be downloaded for free from ftp://ftp.igc.org/pub/Choices/chcs1w3.exe*

YouthPeace Organizers' Training Program



The YouthPeace Organizers' Training Program offers diverse young people a chance to share experiences and explore nonviolent strategies for change through:

•workshops
•videos •games •art
•small group discussions •role play
•field trips •and much more!

Sponsor: War Resisters League
Contact: Malkia M'Buzi Moore
Address: 339 Lafayette St., NY, NY 10012
Phone: (212) 228-0450
Fax: (212) 228-6193
Email: wrl@igc.apc.org
Application Deadline: June 15, 1997