Readers' Letters

Please take my name off your mailing list immediately. I wish you people all the worst as you try to get a larger share of the pie through working in the Democratic Party. No, I'm not getting a passport to anywhere. Thanks for the insult.

Miltan Shiro Takei
Santa Barbara, CA

Richard Vattuone's concern for the unborn is oh-so-touching. I wonder how many unwanted pregnancies he has experienced.

His desire not to be linked with those dreadful right-wing types is also oh-so-touching; but it won't wash.

In his anxiety about the rights of the unborn, he seems to have forgotten one little thing: the rights of women. Vattuone, without even consciously realizing it, probably, has assumed that men will continue to define women. This is still a universal assumption, and this writer has not met one man, ever, who did not consciously or unconsciously ascribe to it.

When Vattuone experiences pregnancy and childbirth, THEN he will be fit to define the issue. Since he is so religious, I can remind him that it is God who made us the way we are; he just can't face the *fact* that the future of the species is in the hands (and wombs) of womb-men. (Sic.)

Joanne Forman
Taos, New Mexico

For better or worse let me say that the "Pie Shop" is one of the few left journals I read from cover to cover. There is a tone I think that sets the "Pie Shop" apart from the others. I find it difficult, for example, to read the journals involved in a kind of left internecine warfare with all the cries of "sell out" and "compromise" and "betrayal." Shrillness I guess is just not my thing.

I can easily forsee the "Pie Shop" giving good coverage to, say, the dichotomy surrounding left attitudes towards the general unemployment and massive lay offs. On the one hand, the left decries the dehumanizing nature of factory work and speed ups, and "worker alienation" is almost a constant on the left. Yet when 500 people are let go in Pittsburg, traditional left journals howl, and when several of these jobs are restored, they seem jubilant about a victory "for the people" who picketed, complained, wrote lettes, etc. What, one might ask, is so great about returning to the same "dehumanizing," "alienating" job?

I've personally appreciated the occasional long piece in the "Pie Shop" concerning left thrusts by relatively unknown groups like the Federation for Progress. Which group is parent and which group is offspring is best left to the left rather than allow the Jerry Falwells to publicly make the definitions. The latter way misleads the public into believing that all coalitions are "Communist" and the term "Communist" must then mean the CPUSA . . . I'm always passing issues along even though I want a complete set of my own.

George Beach
West Medford, Massachusetts

Please continue to send me "The Whole Damn Pie Shop." I eagerly look forward to receive each issue of your newsletter. By doing so, I am reminded and learn about individuals and groups in San Diego who continue to fight the growth and power of the rightwing in the United States; and who are continuing to work in solidarity with the struggle of oppressed people inside and outside the United States for justice, equality, liberty, and human dignity.

What makes your newsletter particularly worthwhile to activists inside and outside of San Diego is your serious attempt to ask some really difficult questions and suggest some answers about the trajectory of U.S. society, economically, culturally and politically. Your analysis from participants of the strengths and weaknesses of various movements, particularly the Rainbow Coalition, disarmament, anti-draft and Central American solidarity organizations, has been unsurpassed in any newsletter or journal that I read. Your critiques of the Marxist-Leninist sects that have dotted San Diego has also been right on target.

Specifically, I agree that the Rainbow Coalition and the Jesse Jackson campaign is the most positive political development in the U.S. in the last few years and should be supported enthusiastically, although not uncritically. It has mobilized the Black population across class lines and united many different sectors of the Black movement; from the churches, grassroots organizers and organizations, socialists, nationalists and many elected officials and civil rights organizations. The unity has not just been around Jesse Jackson but around a program that although reformist, challenges U.S. militarism abroad and calls for more jobs, income and

continued on page 16

Table of Contents

Reagan and Civil Liberties . . . . . **page 4**
by Kathy Gilberd

1984 Cruise Missile . . . . . **page 5**
by Michael Steinberg

The Question of Fascism . . . . . **page 6**
by Robin Greyson

Fascist Trends in America . . . . . **page 7**
by Frank Gormlie

Thoughts Out of Season . . . . . **page 14**
by Rick Nadeau

The Whole Damn Pie Shop

Sponsored by-monthly as an independent left and progressive newsletter by Borderlands Education Committee, *The Whole Damn Pie Shop* is a forum for open discussion. As such, signed articles do not necessarily represent views of the staff.

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Advertising rate: $3.00 per column inch for camera ready copy.

Typesetting by Line Graphics.

Editorial

Defeating Reagan

A Priority for the Left

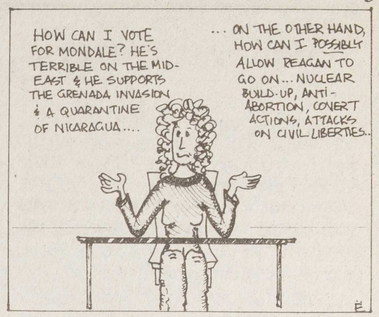
As the "Pie Shop" goes to press, the 1984 Presidential election is but a few days away. And however bleak the choices may seem, the defeat of Ronald Reagan must certainly be a top priority for the American left and progressive community. The only way this can happen in the immediate future is the election of the Mondale-Ferraro tickets.

We believe that a Democratic presidency would provide greater space for a left opposition both in this country and internationally. We urge an objective alliance with those who would lose if Reagan is returned: Black people, other oppressed nationalities, women, labor and environmentalists. This is also an alliance with the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada and other countries who would be hurt if he is re-elected. Although we realize that the Democrats are partially responsible for the conditions that allowed Reagan to be elected in the first place, and we are very cynical about the Democrats' abilities to handle domestic and international crises, voting against Reagan is but the most immediate step to ensure our continued efforts to change America. And voting Democratic is not the same as agreeing to Democratic policies. We can vote Democratic this time around and continue to apply pressure for peace and social justice in the streets, in our communities, in the plants, factories and offices where we work, in our churches and on the campuses — no matter who wins.

Despite the threat of what another Reagan administration would do, the "Pie Shop" has been criticized for advocating that progressives and leftists work with the Democratic Party in ousting what amounts to the most reactionary administration in modern U.S. history. The basic assumption behind this criticism is that there is no real difference today in 1984 between the Democratic and Republican parties. Yet we do think there are enough differences to warrant our position, especially in the absence of a strong left.

In terms of foreign policy, the Democrats would lessen U.S.-Soviet tensions, the worse they have been for over 20 years, and undercut the omnious threat of nuclear war and the probable extinction of the human race. Under a possible new detente, the entire world would breathe easier. Although Mondale's talk of a quarantine of Nicaragua and his recent endorsement of the Grenada invation are nauseating and depressing, over-all his positions on Central America are less militaristic and certainly not as confrontational as Reagan's. If re-elected Reagan will intensify and broaden the war in that fiery isthmus. There will probably be another Vietnam war and a repressive government clamp-down on Americans who oppose it. At the very least, a Mondale-Ferraro administration will allow the peoples of Central America more time and breathing space, which could give them a better chance to decide their own future. And even though Mondale's positions on the Middle East are just as one-sidely pro-Isreal as Reagan's, if not more so, the Jackson campaign and his supporters opened up some dialog among Democrats for a more balanced view that recognizes the rights of the Palestinians and provides for a better chance for peace in that region.

Domestically, the Democrats win hands down compared with Reagan's policies. On the issues of civil liberties, racial equality, workers' rights, women's rights — particularly



around abortion, gay rights, welfare and education, religious tolerance, and environmental concerns, the Democrats clearly stand on the higher ground. If Reagan is re-elected, it means that the most right leaning elements in the Republican party will have ruled and defined the parameters of political discussion for 16 of the last 20 years. The social gains of the last fifty years will be overturned, for finally, it will mean a more repressive America.

Those who argue that there are no real differences between the parties would be hard put to explain the significance of both the Jackson campaign and the Ferraro candidancy. Is it possible to imagine a Jesse Jackson running as a candidate within the GOP, traveling to both Nicaragua and Cuba during the campaign? Would it have been possible for the Republicans to field a Jerry Ferraro campaigning for women's issues? We think not, Constituencies within the Democratic Party force it to make liberal commitments and at least discuss issues from a progressive stance. These forces hopefully have a piece of Mondale's ear.

Going to the polls in November and voting against the right is the very least we can do. ▣

What If They Gave an Invasion and Everybody Took to the Streets . . .

In the event of a U.S. military invasion or major escalation in Central America, CISPES, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, has come up with an emergency response plan. It's to go into effect the day that people hear news of intervention:

— call the CISPES office at 231-4984;

— plan to meet that night at the Grass Roots Cultural Center in Golden Hills (1947 30th Street) at 7:30;

— picket the next day at noon at the Reagan Re-election Headquarters if before the election, and if after, the site will be changed; in any event, CISPES advises us to call and meet as planned.