Youth Against Militarism Project

In May, the second issue of **We the Students, the Youth Against Militarism Newsletter,** was completed. Sean Kline, a key volunteer for the project, worked with students to plan, write, edit and lay out the paper. Below are a couple of excerpts from the newsletter which contained articles, poetry, reviews, opinion pieces and letters to the editor. If you would like a copy, send a dollar and your name and address to the attention of Youth Against Militarism at Friends for a Nonviolent World.

GREAT NEWS! The Youth Against Militarism Project just received news that the Headwaters Fund approved of a second grant for the project. This will fund the project for $4000 for 1989-90 school year and $2000 for the 1990-91 school year. The staggered grant will support the project while we develop a grass roots funding base. We will still need to raise $5000 and $8000 for each of those respective years. The Headwaters money will enable us to hire staff for the project which has been run entirely by volunteers in the past.

If you have fundraising ideas or would like to give a special donation to the project, above your regular contribution to FNVW, please contact Jeannette Raymond who will be acting as fundraiser for the project at (612) 823-4036.

We will also be hiring a half time staff person to start Sept. 5th. Please contact 870-1501 if you would be interested in the position.

THE STEEL UMBRELLA

The steel umbrellas above my
dictated mind have dissolved, and
little red drops are making
their way down my face, to
touch me with the end of
evolution.
To put that wonderful gift of
death into my rotted hands for
me to unwrap, and smile as it
explodes and turns everything
red.
Growing, like blood.
And I do not see the
expressions of the child without
a face, or the pain of the men
without bodies, but something
else.
The insanity of the one who
started it all, that wonderful
red, glowing gift from a man
whom I call President.

Elise Brunelle (Hopkins High School)

Chilly Draft

Patriotism is a most subtle form of slavery. How is it slavery? Well, it establishes a general slant to our thinking that produces blind obedience to the command of the people in power who use these chains to their political success.

Nixon and Reagan are wonderful examples of experienced "red-baiters" who have used the Communist "Threat" for political advantage. Ronald Reagan used it for the past eight years to justify the massive buildup of the armed forces at the expense of our people and economy. Both men attained the presidential office by accusing the previous presidents of being "soft on communism".

The flag and related images have provided the means for Ronald Reagan to utilize this military machine most effectively to silence opposition at home. When U.S. Navy aircraft bombed Libya, a sense of pride in America shivered through the nation and Ronald Reagan's popularity soared. The same is true for the invasion of Grenada. The main reason these events occurred was not national security, but the need for jingoistic activity in support of Ronald Reagan.

The idea of patriotism and "pride in our country" has allowed our leaders to force us to do things which we may not have wanted to do if it were not for the fetters of patriotism on our minds. Would you support a dictator who tortures people? Would you consider killing dissenters appropriate? The United States government has considered these actions acceptable in the past and does now. When the story leaks via the press, the practices are defended as being necessary to national security. All who question this belief are labeled as "...radical people whose interest is not the survival of the United States or democracy; their interest is in mischief." U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop said this and his sentiments have been echoed by administrations whose actions have been questioned.

Patriotism is the chain which fetters our mind and freedom of thought. May we please cast off this chain? May we please think freely?

Jim Holthaus (Wayzata High School)

Peacefest 1988

The rains could not wash us away. It rained the second afternoon of Chicago's Peacefest, the annual music festival that took place in Chicago's Lincoln Park for its second year.

Peacefest was the brainchild of Wayne Kusy, a member of the Chicago band, Heavy Mental. The idea of an outdoor musical festival to promote peace in the world is not a new one, yet one that is sometimes ignored. Kusy recognized that music is very political and a vehicle for messages of peace and good will to spread. Ironically enough, Peacefest was held in Lincoln Park where twenty years ago protestors during the Democratic Convention were senselessly beaten by Mayor Daley's world famous police force.

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Now that the yippies are yuppies (not all, but some!) Kusy's idea was welcomed as a refreshing change from conventional commercial music fests. The festival was held July 29, 30, and 31. The concerts lasted all day and many people camped out in the park. The festival is free and many local as well as national acts were billed. Among the acts: ID Under, The Occupants, Friends of Betty, Ultraviolet, Sponge Tunnel, Barbie Army and Kusy's own Heavy Mental.

However, music is not all there was to this experience. There were booths set up displaying information on groups ranging from Greenpeace to the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. There were also speakers from the various organizations, and many political poets on stage. People of all ages, races, and interests from all over gathered together for three days of understanding and peaceful celebration. The festival is held every summer, and if you are interested in getting involved or spreading the word you can get in touch with: Wayne Kusy, Persistant Productions Ltd., P.O. Box 777, Evanston, Illinois 60204 (312) 772-1780.

Many folks from Minnesota, including me, attended last year's Peacefest, and I encourage more people to attend next year!

"Give Peace a Chance!"

Christine Feldman (Central High School)

UNTITLED

For us, the future seems so
bright,
Our possibilities endless.
We imagine a continuity in our
lives, comfort, happiness, good
fortune.
But I have to wonder
Will we ever see the end of
these destinies?
Do we not have the power
to shortchange our very own
lives?
The horizon onto which we, the
young, look is a sunrise:
hope, dreams, goals
But there's a black cloud
Threatening to storm on our
future.
Waiting to destroy us.
Will we allow this to happen?

Carrie Bulger (Central High School)

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT

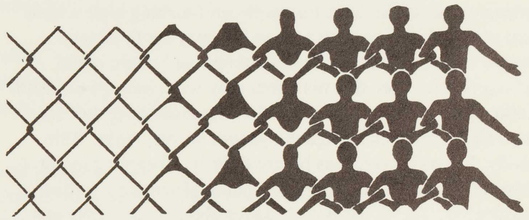
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
BEING ALIVE,
BEING BORN,
BORN AFRICAN,

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
BEING IN LOVE,
AND CHOOSING TO LOVE,
YOU - MY AFRICAN PRINCESS,
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT,

AND I WILL ALWAYS,
LIVE,
BELIEVE,

AND FIND PEACE IN IT.

Armand Hicks (Jefferson Alternative High School)
Copyright-X Poem



"Legs Against Arms" Expands Fundraisers

In its ninth year of commemorating the destruction of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings, The Legs Against Arms Run of Remembrance is expanding. On Saturday, August 5, 1989, F.N.V.W. and Twin Cities INFACT will conduct two events at the same time, same place and on different roads.

Run of Remembrance: People running or in wheelchairs, using roller-skates or roller-blades will participate in the ninth annual race on the Lake of the Isles Parkway. Registration is at 8:00 AM and the race begins at 9:00 AM. There will be 5K and 10K courses on the Parkway. See enclosed green flier for all the details.

Walk of Remembrance: A new effort to increase fundraising is being added this year. In order to increase participation, a First Annual Walk of Remembrance will start at Newton Avenue on the walking path around Lake of the Isles. Registration begins at 7:30 AM and the walk starts at about 8:30 AM. Participants will walk the two loops for a 10K walk (less, if they wish). We are asking each participant to collect pledges for each kilometer they walk. See the enclosed lavender flier for details. Join us!

John E. Martinson