

Joak Sutter

# AFSC Quaker Service Bulletin

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

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## Maine Indian youth organize

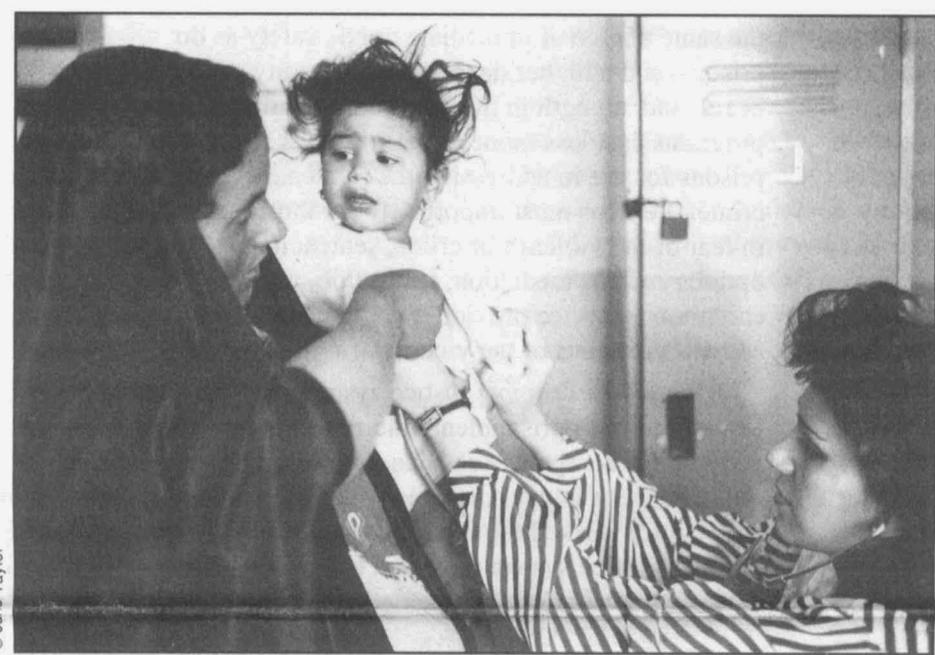
As in other Indian communities throughout the United States, Indian youth in Maine face confounding choices. They are often caught between a traditional culture that defines them and a non-Indian world that may employ them but cannot sustain them. There is also rapid, bewildering change. The struggle for land claims in the 1970s by the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes in Maine resulted in federal legislation that acknowledged the loss of the Indian land base and gave the tribes the financial capacity to purchase additional land in return. The legislation, enacted in 1980, formalized a new relationship between the Maine tribes and the federal and state governments and provided capital to the two largest tribes as compensation.

The changes, accompanied both by a measure of hope and prosperity and by continued racism against Indians, have taken their toll. The cultural conflicts, often internalized, have been reflected among Indian youth by increases in substance abuse and, in too many instances, violence and suicide.

This is the context for the work of AFSC Maine Indian program staff person Jerry Pardilla. Since

Continued on page 6.

## Quaker relief efforts underway in Iraq



© Jane Taylor

Young Iraqi child with a chest infection is brought to an emergency clinic.

Iraq suffered, in the words of a UN team, "near-apocalyptic results" from the bombing during the Gulf war, including the destruction of water, sewer, transport, communications and health systems. Malnutrition and disease are killing people who before the war would have survived. These deaths come on top of the estimated 100,000 Iraqis killed during the war. AFSC work in Iraq starts from its historic role in providing direct material aid to those who suffer as

the result of war. Working in partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee, AFSC in May flew \$200,000 worth of desperately needed medicines to the Kurds and others who fled their homes for safety across the Iraq/Iran border. In early June, AFSC sent Jim Fine, former staff in the Middle East, to Baghdad to begin work on behalf of AFSC and Quaker Peace and Service (England). Since that time Jim has arranged for delivery of tractor parts to the Kurdish area

of northern Iraq and purchased medicines for the children's hospital in Baghdad. In southern Iraq, AFSC has provided oral rehydration salts and chlorine gas for water purification for delivery by UNICEF. Jim also delivered 25 tons of milk powder shipped by the Mennonite Central Committee to the southern city of Basrah.

AFSC has also hired a short-term staff person to serve as a food distribution monitor for the World Food Program in the southern city of Nasiriyah. Arrangements have been made to purchase urgently needed anesthesia for distribution to hospitals by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and medicines for the Basrah Center for Chest Diseases.

### Call to lift non-military sanctions

In August, AFSC Chairperson Dulany Bennett and Associate Executive Secretary Warren Witte visited Iraq. They reported that non-profit agencies and the United Nations can provide only a small part of the food and medical aid which is needed. While providing all the humanitarian help that it can, AFSC has joined with other organizations to call for a lifting of non-military sanctions against Iraq so

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## Free trade agreement intensifies debate

We are facing an unprecedented attempt to reach an agreement among three sharply differing economies in the present trade agreement talks among Mexico, the U.S. and Canada. There are major implications for the people of each country. The Salinas-Bush proposal for a Free Trade Agreement between their nations offered, indeed required, a strenuous response from groups who would not normally be in the debate:

workers and women's groups, immigrant groups, environmentalists. All have a high stake in whether the agreement intensifies and rigidifies present inequities and injustice or becomes a tool for a new kind of development. Based on its experience working along the Mexico-U.S. border, AFSC has been able to add key voices and perspectives to the debates surrounding the negotiations. AFSC has played a role bringing

together labor representatives from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico and assuring that women's experience and perspectives are basic in such gatherings. In talks on the social agenda which AFSC believes must accompany any free trade arrangement, we raise the question of labor mobility and immigration. Maquiladoras AFSC's firsthand awareness comes most vividly from its work along the border with the young

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## Address the root causes of crime

by Linda Thurston, Criminal Justice Representative, AFSC

It seems that every day's news brings us another report of violent crime and each new political campaign brings us calls for ever more punitive solutions to the problem. We are told that crime will end when we finally "get tough with the bad guys." Those of us personally victimized by violent crime are told that seeking longer jail terms and more death sentences will solve our problems. Nowhere in the discussion is there talk of why violence occurs. Nowhere is there discussion of whether more punitive punishments, including the death sentence, actually work to prevent further violence.

The root causes of violence and crime in our communities lie in poverty, racism, and social inequality; yet discussions of ways to fight crime seldom give attention to the roots. Most often, we react to a crime by stressing arrest, conviction and long-term imprisonment. Our system of justice seldom asks why the assault or robbery occurred. The system seldom allows us to ask what else might have been done other than locking away the drug user, the young person caught up in a gang war, the woman arrested for prostitution.

Mediation, restitution, drug treatment, day reporting, fines, community service, supervised probation, mental health counseling, job training — all have been used, successfully, in response to crime. All are being used, in limited ways, in

criminal justice systems throughout the United States and in other countries. Examples include the Crime and Justice Foundation Court Mediation Program in Boston, Mass., which organizes voluntary mediation to resolve criminal charges at the pre-trial stage; the Community Service Program in New York City, a two-week program of closely supervised community service, designed for repeat property offenders; the Sentencing Resource Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, an intensive, highly structured residential program for pregnant, convicted women with substance abuse problems who would otherwise go to prison.

These alternatives to incarceration provide the same degree of immediate public safety as do prisons, and a higher degree of community safety, health and strength in the long run. Alternative programs cost less money, freeing funds spent on prisons for use in addressing the root causes of crime. Perhaps most importantly for those living in fear of the violence of crime, sentencing options such as mediation, restitution, and community service provide opportunities to address the needs of the victims of crime.

Because the criminal justice system is so committed to imprisonment, alternative programs struggle for acceptance and funding. In response to government budget cuts, many organizations which once worked for fundamental change in the criminal justice system have had to shift empha-

sis to provision of direct services formerly available through government funded agencies. Instead of supporting each other's work, service programs and advocacy programs are forced to struggle for shrinking resources.

The American Friends Service Committee is one of the few remaining organizations to maintain both a commitment to fundamental change of the criminal justice system and attention to the root causes of crime and violence. This work, by AFSC and other organizations, must continue if we are to end the violence in our communities, if we are to end the reliance on prisons, if we are to create a justice system that works, that is truly just, that restores our communities to wholeness.

AFSC carries out programs on the criminal justice system throughout the United States. In addition, Linda Thurston has been deeply involved in the past year in a special project to bring attention to the 200th anniversary of the creation of the penitentiary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Linda has traveled throughout the country speaking and has participated in many media interviews about the issues she addresses in this editorial.

For a copy of *A Call to Action: An Analysis and Overview of the U.S. Criminal Justice System* (\$4) or more information, write to: Criminal Justice Program, Community Relations Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.



"... We form a circle of hope. We pass the flame to one another. If my candle goes out, yours will light it. Together we make a brighter light... And each promises something of its own: that darkness is not the last word."

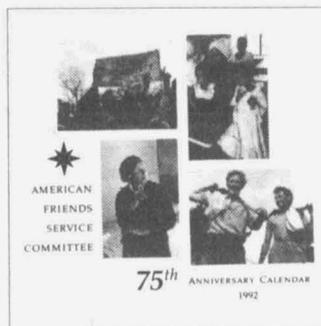
—David McCauley, AFSC

## The AFSC Holiday Gift Card and Calendar

Remember your friends and relatives this year with AFSC holiday gift cards and calendars. Your gifts to others through the American Friends Service Committee offer encouragement and hope, the means to achieve self-reliance and much-needed income, an opportunity for peace... intangible gifts that say that in the days ahead "darkness is not the last word."

Through the Holiday Gift Card Plan you send friends and relatives the message that you have given a contribution to AFSC in their names. This year's four-color gift card, designed by Kate Chamberlin, includes the quotation by David McCauley and the message: "This card represents a gift in your name to the American Friends Service Committee for its programs which alleviate suffering and work for justice, reconciliation and peace." Please note the requested minimum is \$6.00 per card.

The AFSC's 1992 Wall Calendar is a year-long gift for yourself or a friend. This year it is a photographic journal of 75 years of Quaker Service... a celebration of the highlights of AFSC's lifetime from its founding in 1917. The calendar opens up to 22 x 11 with space for you to record your special events, and to be reminded of the holidays and holy days of all major religions. The cost of \$10 includes postage.



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# AFSC supports Gulf War conscientious objectors

From its founding in 1917, during the First World War, to the present, the AFSC has been closely involved with those whose conscience has led them to refuse to participate in war. In recent times, by means of draft counseling, we have supported young people who sought to obtain conscientious objector status rather than bear arms. The Gulf War, however, was fought not by a conscript army but by the regular armed forces and the reserves. Those in uniform have rights of conscience, too, as even the armed forces recognize by making provision for conscientious objector discharges. Trained military counselors, while few in number, have an important role to play in a time of crisis when servicemen and women face the concrete choice of taking the lives of those who have been labeled enemies.

AFSC staff, in addition to direct counseling and counselor training, have attempted to assist objectors in getting their message out to others who face the same choice. One of



© Paris Gray

Gulf War conscientious objectors hold a press conference at the AFSC in Philadelphia, Pa. this summer. From left, Eric Hayes, Erik Larsen, Taham Jones and Stephanie Atkinson, who has been working as an AFSC intern since leaving the military.

the speakers at AFSC-organized events this summer was Eric Hayes. Eric, a senior at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and president of the Black Student Association, was imprisoned in solitary confinement for 40 days by the U.S. Marines when he refused to deploy for war duty. Eric says, "This was not a war to defend the

United States, nor to gain freedom for the Kuwaiti people. The reason was oil. The killing of people was so unnecessary. And the war did not solve any problems. It only left hundreds of thousands of people dead, maimed and starving."

Erik Larsen, a Marine reservist from Hayward, California, has been charged with desertion in war time.

He is expected to be tried next month on the charge which carries the maximum penalty of death. "Why did I refuse? I was religiously opposed to the war," says Erik. "The U.S. was in the Persian Gulf for the wrong reasons. And for those reasons they left over 200,000 dead, mostly civilians."

Harold Jordan of AFSC's Youth and Militarism Program reports that an estimated 2,500 service members sought CO status. Many of these service people, when they realized that their claims were being ignored, refused to report to duty or went AWOL (Absent Without Leave). Thousands more also refused to report or went AWOL, without filing a claim.

This summer, the largest group of COs, about 40 Marines, was held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where Eric Hayes was imprisoned. Harold reports that more Marines are being brought to Camp Lejeune as they are picked up this fall. Many of the COs report severe punishment, harsh duties, harassment and physical abuse.

"Ironically, some of the service people who have rejected the violence of war have received more stringent sentences than GIs recently convicted by the military of manslaughter, assault and armed robbery," says Harold.

Harold Jordan and Leonard McNeil of AFSC's Youth and Militarism Program in Oakland, California report that AFSC has also been very involved in organizing to restrict military activities in high schools. In recent months the school boards of Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles have voted to place some restrictions on military recruiting activities.

"Many of these young people join up because they are led to think of the military as a vocational training institute where one can earn money for school," says Leonard McNeil. "This was the first time most young service members faced the possibility of being forced to kill on command."

"And frankly, I don't think there is a place for Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) in a high school environment. Killing should not be taught in the high schools and the blind obedience that is the military practice is in direct opposition to the true values of education," continues Leonard.

To send a direct letter of support to a resister or for more information about the program's activities, including national work to demilitarize the schools, contact: National Youth and Militarism Program, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Phone: 215-241-7176.

## Editorial

# Religious Freedom

The United States Supreme Court dealt a major blow to the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom in a landmark 1990 case. The U.S. Congress is now attempting to repair the damage through legislation.

AFSC rarely lobbies actively on behalf of specific legislation and we have seldom used the pages of *Quaker Service Bulletin* to promote a particular bill. Yet in this circumstance the stakes are very high — for the AFSC and for all who cherish religious liberty. I urge you to support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1991.

In the 1990 case *Smith v. Oregon*, the Supreme Court ruled that freedom of religious practice is protected by the Constitution only when it is also protected by some other provision of the Constitution. In essence, in a hotly disputed 6-3 decision, the Court made this country's unique protection of religious practice little more than a legal footnote. It overturned, in almost every instance, the long standing principle of court balancing of religious rights against government interest in cases where the law infringes on religious practices.

Legal scholars and religious leaders from across the widest possible spectrum of political and

theological thought were appalled by the sweep and possible consequences of the Court's ruling. Legislation was quickly introduced (and reintroduced in the current session of Congress) that would restore the concept of balancing in cases where the law conflicts with religious practices.

Readers of *Quaker Service Bulletin* may be aware that the American Friends Service Committee is directly affected by this Supreme Court decision. Provisions of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act require AFSC as an employer to inspect documents and refuse employment to those the law denies legal status. The American Friends Service Committee Board of Directors determined that its underlying religious principles, which have led the organization for 75 years to serve and protect the rights of immigrants, refugees and displaced people, do not allow AFSC to fulfill the law's requirements. The AFSC Board concluded it cannot be an agent of a policy that seeks to drive people out of this country through denial of a livelihood.

AFSC went to court on the basis of the First Amendment to seek relief in a situation in which it faced a choice between disobedience to its religious principles or substantial legal penalties. More than 100 other religious organizations supported

our claim of exemption from the law's provisions.

The *Smith* decision has led, at least to date, to court rejections of our First Amendment claim and has denied us our day in court. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in its denial of our appeal noted that, prior to *Smith*, it would have considered our case on different terms. This likely would have meant that we would have had the opportunity to present our case in court.

The AFSC joins the wide array of religious organizations that are supporting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in the conviction that religious freedom for all is in jeopardy when there is no protection against government infringement on the practice of religious belief.

I urge you to write your representative in Congress and urge him or her to support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1991.

Feel free to write to me if you would like more information on the bill. I would also be happy to provide you with further information on AFSC's legal challenge to employer sanctions.

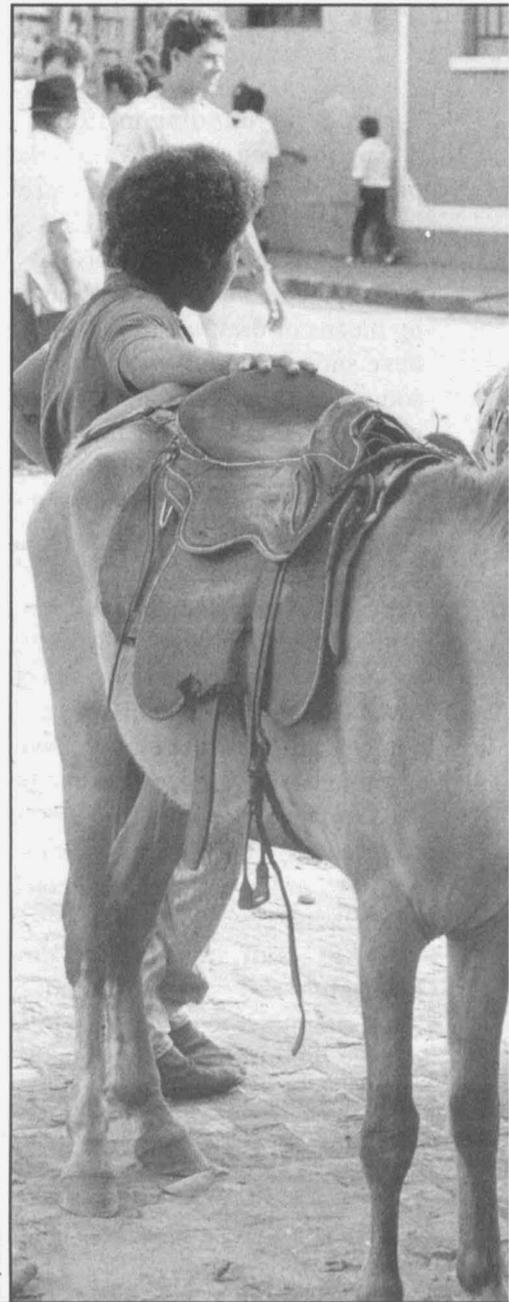
Asia A. Bennett  
Asia A. Bennett,  
Executive Secretary



# B R A Z I L



Luzia da Silva and Regina Camargo, AFSC agronomist, examine a vegetable plant for pests. Luzia, a former teacher, has become a monitor for the agricultural program in N.E. Brazil, visiting local farms and evaluating agricultural experiments.



Regina Camargo interviews farmers at a local show gaining useful information from the AFSC report the show should cover.

Terry Foss, AFSC

Terry Foss

**B**razil has enormous natural resources and abundant arable land, but these resources are concentrated in the hands of a few people. Brazil is the world's second largest exporter of food, yet two-thirds of its people live in poverty. According to OXFAM-United Kingdom, seven out of ten deaths of Brazilian children under five are the result of malnutrition. Pressures have accelerated as international lending agencies, once encouraging of large, expensive projects, have in the last decade called in the loans, creating a tremendous squeeze on the economy.

For the last five years, Brazil has been recovering from the effects of more than twenty years of a military dictatorship. Grassroots organizations, many supported by the Catholic church, continue to struggle nonviolently for the rights of the people, including the right to keep or obtain land.

An AFSC delegation visited Brazil in 1980. Deeply impressed by the large nonviolent, grassroots movement and encouraged by local clergy, AFSC began work in the Northeast in 1981 and expanded to include the city of Sao Paulo four years later.

Currently AFSC's all Brazilian staff work in three programs in Brazil, and AFSC continues to work on educational outreach and linking

groups through its participation in the Washington D.C. based Brazil Network.

### The Northeast

In Brazil's Northeast, an AFSC agronomist works with rural unions, grassroots women's and community organizations, and alternative technology centers in support of peasant farmers and groups of landless peasants seeking to maintain or gain control over lands they need to subsist. Projects include gardening, composting, water catchment, small animal husbandry, as well as experimentation with new crops and reviving some traditional ones. Emphasis is placed on work with women active in the rural unions. (Rural unions in Brazil draw their membership from peasant farmers, small landholders, sharecroppers and farmworkers.)

With two other technicians, AFSC staff produce a weekly radio program on topics such as alternative technology, nutrition, the use of natural pest control and cooperative marketing of crops. The use of local actors/actresses in a radio drama format has made the program a favorite in the countryside.

The *Escola Quilombos dos Palmares* (EQUIP), partly supported by AFSC, is now into its third year as a training center for leaders of the grassroots and union movements in a nine-state area. Through sharing their local experiences, participants are together able to develop a regional and national

understanding of problems and potential solutions.

One important focus of the EQUIP's work in the last two years has been preparing grassroots leaders to responsibly exercise power and authority in local municipal offices to which they might be elected.

AFSC recognizes the importance of linking: building connections between grassroots groups which are addressing similar problems and giving the groups the chance to develop creative ways to address those problems. Last year AFSC sponsored a visit of peasant farmers and agricultural technicians to Nicaragua and El Salvador, where they met with counterparts working on occupational safety and health issues, cooperatives and appropriate technology. In June, a group of Central Americans visited Northeast Brazil, hosted by this same group. In both cases, AFSC staff serve as organizers, working with local groups to select participants and arrange the itinerary.

AFSC has also facilitated contacts between the Afro-Brazilian and Afro-American communities, particularly as part of the 1988 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery in Brazil. The Brazil Network, in collaboration with the Ford Foundation, recently facilitated the visit of a delegation of Afro-Brazilian lawyers, educators, and a Congressperson to counterparts in the U.S.

### Health Education Training

The Health Education Training Program in Sao Paulo has, over the last four years, developed a methodology for enabling poor women from the neighborhoods of Sao Paulo to become community health agents. The women learn how their bodies function and how to better safeguard the health of their families and communities. Discussions draw on everyday experience, complemented by technical information. Women are trained in practical skills such as taking blood pressure, charting children's development, AIDS prevention. Sexuality, childbirth and family planning are major areas of interest. In addition to developing skills, the women are assisted in finding ways to put their skills at the service of the community. Blood pressure days are offered at local churches and community centers with the women giving explanations on the causes and control of high blood pressure, a serious health problem for the poor in Brazil; presentations on AIDS, including information on transmission and prevention, are given to church and community groups.

After completing the training course, many of the women begin



High blood pressure is a major problem in Brazil. Here future health agents from the local community learn to take blood pressures. Later the women will offer this service at "blood pressure days" at churches and community centers.



Two trained health agents lead a discussion for a local community on the precautions they should take in giving care to a family in which several members have AIDS. Cida Soliani, AFSC staff, looks on from far right.

to find out if they have been  
and if there are new subjects

teaching other groups of women or teenagers with the support and guidance of the AFSC staff. These health education agents meet to share their experiences, discuss problems and learn from others doing similar kinds of work. These activities not only offer a service to the community, but help the women develop organizational and analytical skills so that they are better able to organize to improve the local health system.

Based on the extensive notes staff took in the first years of the program, a working technical manual for the education of the health education agents has been developed. From this manual, a series of units on particular health problems, starting with blood pressure, will be published and distributed widely in the next year.

Additionally, the women were interviewed throughout the first years of the course about their experiences. Their stories of how the program taught them concrete skills and also changed their view of themselves and their lives have been published in a 100-page book (in Portuguese). The book, describing personal stories, difficult moments, and well-earned successes, has been

used by newer participants and by other groups and individuals inquiring about the program.

### Brazil Network

AFSC joins with other individuals and organizations, particularly through the Brazil Network, to create opportunities for exchange

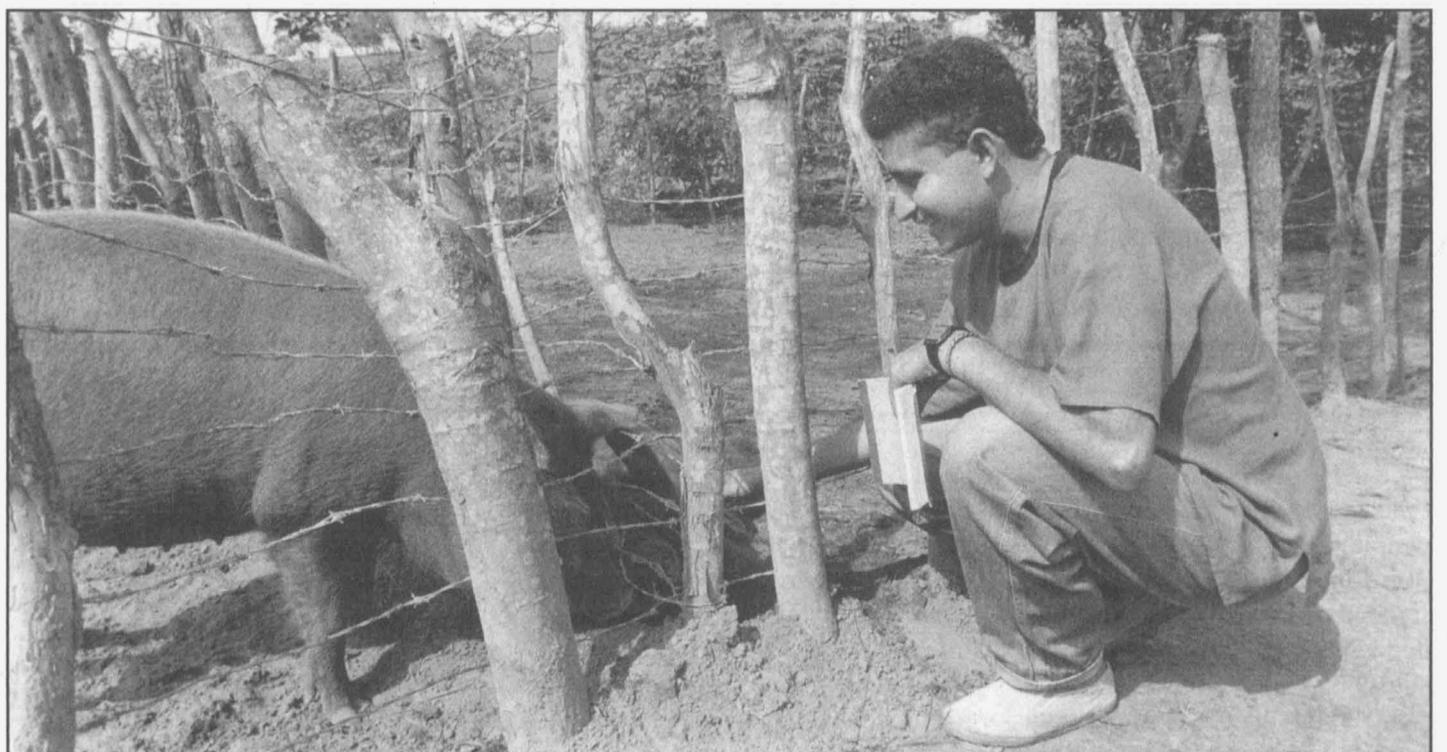
and cooperation between Brazilians and North Americans who are working within or in support of grassroots movements in both countries.

To receive *CONTATO*, the newsletter of the Brazil Network, write to: 815 15th St., N.W., Suite 426, Washington D.C. 20005

(202) 783-5293.

by Barbara Smith,  
International Division

For more information about AFSC's work in Brazil, contact the: Latin American/Caribbean Program, International Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila. PA 19102. Phone: (215) 241-7148.



Agricultural technician Camelo da Rocha checking the development of a new type of pig that the project introduced in the northeast. The Sorocaba pig is heartier and more resistant to disease.

# Middle East Editorial Project

A national AFSC media project is focused on informing writers about one topic: the Middle East. The Editorial Project for Middle East Peace is currently monitoring and evaluating the positions of 70 daily newspapers on the Persian Gulf crisis, the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict and the civil war in Lebanon.

"Despite their influence, editors of major U.S. newspapers have not been singled out by any other organization for focused educational and advocacy work on Middle East peace," said Sue Sturgis, project staff. "Published editorials can create a framework for discussion of the issues and can provide a forum for new ideas and proposals."

Papers being monitored include the *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, as well as the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *Hartford Courant* and *Toledo Blade*. Volunteer monitors are still needed for 30 papers (especially papers in the southern part of the U.S.) which will bring the total of papers studied to 100.

The large network of volunteers monitor newspapers daily for staff-written editorials on Middle East issues, and these are sent to AFSC's national office in Philadelphia, Pa. At the national office, the editorials are categorized by topic and position and entered onto a computer data base.

The results of the monitoring for each newspaper will lay the basis for

specific educational efforts to build support for peaceful resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East. Information will be sent to editorial writers, and meetings with the editorial staff will be set up with AFSC staff, local community leaders and prominent Middle East experts.

"Several mailings have been sent to the newspapers being monitored," Sue Sturgis said. Editorial boards have received AFSC's "Lessons of the Gulf War" pamphlet, information on the continuing sanctions against Iraq, and a mailing on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. Additionally, AFSC staff who are about to visit a newspaper to talk about the issues can be prepared by staff on what positions the paper has taken in its editorials. This fall, when Jim Fine returned from three months in Iraq, he was able to study all of the editorials from the *New York Times* before he met with its editors. This preparation gave him a clearer understanding of the paper's position on humanitarian aid and lifting of sanctions and helped him choose which points to stress in discussion.

For more information on the project or to volunteer as a monitor, contact: Sue Sturgis, Middle East Desk, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Phone: (215) 241-7172.

by Marianne McMullen, Editor, *Peace and Justice Journal*

"We put our faith in people and community and in the human capacity to respond creatively."

Corinne Johnson, AFSC, International Division

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FALL, 1991

# Maine youth..... from page 1

early 1990, Jerry has been working on developing and strengthening Indian youth programs. Jerry worked initially with a youth group at Pleasant Point, one of the two Passamaquoddy reservation communities. The youth group, which began with access to a tribal building and a few dedicated volunteers, developed a range of recreational and cultural activities with little official support. The growing numbers of participating youth taxed the facilities and the limited resources. Over a number of months,

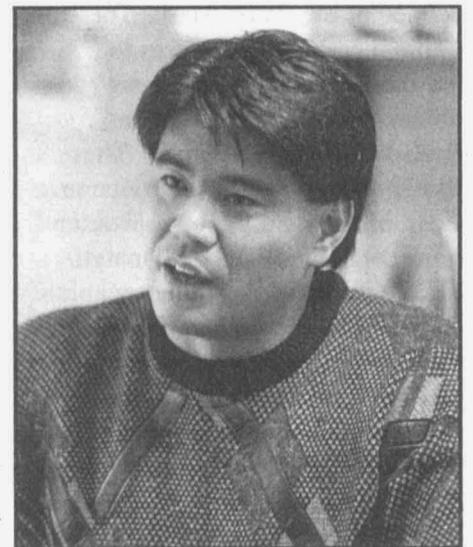
Jerry assisted the youth-led group in getting organized. They then sought and received formal recognition and the commitment of resources from the tribal council.

As this phase in the growth of the Passamaquoddy youth council comes to a close, Jerry is now working to strengthen other Indian youth groups and increase inter-tribal youth organization. There are six communities with which Jerry has worked, all at varying stages of development and support. The most recent of these have been the Houl-

ton Band of Maliseets in the most northerly part of the state, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and a youth group affiliated with the Central Maine Indian Association, an off-reservation Indian group based in Orono.

The long-term AFSC program plan is to assist in the continuing development of Indian youth groups led by Indian youth, to strengthen the Indian youth network within the state, and to make links with youth groups, both Indian and non-Indian, outside the state.

by Ed Nakawatase, Community Relations Division



Terry Foss, AFSC

Jerry Pardilla.

# Iraq..... from page 1

that the nation can sell oil in order to buy the food and medical supplies its people need.

Jim Fine returned from Iraq late in September. He immediately visited UN and U.S. government officials and media representatives, speaking about the needs of the Iraqi people. At the time of Jim's return, the UN was debating whether to allow the sale over six months of up

to \$1.6 billion of embargoed Iraqi oil. Part of this money would go immediately to reparations, the other to human needs. However, the UN's own staff had calculated that Iraq must spend \$2.65 billion over four months to meet minimum needs for food, health care, water and electricity.

AFSC and other organizations called for a plan to allow the sale of

enough oil to cover the urgent needs of civilians, allowing for strict monitoring and for payment of reparations after the most urgent needs are met.

"Relief agencies cannot begin to meet the need in Iraq," said Jim Fine, "and they don't need to. Oil sales can cover the medical and food needs of the country. But the U.S. and its allies in the UN must allow this to happen. We cannot continue to fight a war against

unarmed civilians though starvation and disease."

For updates on AFSC's humanitarian work in the Middle East, write to: Bill Pierre, Middle East Desk, International Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

To learn more about work in the United States for Middle East peace, write: Myron Arnowitz, Middle East Program, Peace Education Division, AFSC.

Housing activists are delving into local and state proposals that will set the framework for affordable housing for the next five years. The plan they are analyzing and responding to, known as the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), is a key requirement of the National Affordable Housing Act, signed into law last fall.

AFSC staff and committee members working on issues of housing and homelessness in cities and rural areas met this past spring to address the issues the CHAS process raises and the opportunity it affords for input by low income people and advocates. The outcome of the meeting was a plan of action for AFSC toward a basic goal of establishing the concept that housing is not a commodity, but a human right.

A set of CHAS "guiding principles" was developed for use by housing advocates in evaluating whether state and local CHAS plans meet the most urgent housing needs. The guiding principles stress: increased opportunity for public participation, especially from poor people; targeting of resources to families in greatest need; use of community based nonprofit developers to develop, rehabilitate and manage housing; promotion of tenant leadership in management of housing; support for cooperative and not-for-profit ownership; promotion of racial and economic integration in housing so that it leads to access to decent jobs, good education and better public services.

Cushing Dolbear, member of the AFSC National Community Relations Committee, was one of the national housing experts at the consultation. She noted that finding and keeping decent housing is extraordinarily difficult for the

## Activists study housing plan

poorest families: while the cost of housing is rising, their real wages and incomes are falling. More than 5 million households are caught in this squeeze, and every year thousands more are pushed into homelessness. Almost half of all poor households pay 70 percent of their income for housing. The problem of homelessness is likely to grow worse, even if all the resources available through the new law are strictly targeted.

Ed Gramlich of the Center for Community Change emphasized that the resources provided under the law are intended for poor people. He cautioned that state and local governments have a lot of flexibility and can divert resources away from this purpose. It is up to those most directly affected by the crisis and their allies to use the CHAS process to make officials accountable.

Housing advocates from Maryland and Washington D.C. urged

AFSC to get fully involved in CHAS coalitions and to support monitoring efforts. AFSC committee members who were already working to affect CHAS felt that the guiding principles were a useful starting point in what will be a long and important struggle. Every year for five years, the CHAS must be updated, providing new opportunities for community input.

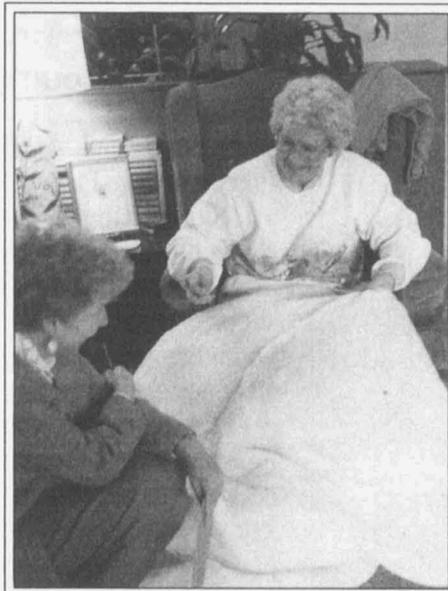
To receive more information about the new law and how you can get involved in your area, write: Carolyn Farrow-Garland, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 or call 215-241-7200.



## Quaker Quilters

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., eight to twelve women gather in a suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin home to start their day's work. One or two begin to stitch at sewing machines; another sorts six 1/2 inch squares of fabric into color coordinated piles; still others lay out sheets of polyester batting on floors and tables. Partners in AFSC's Material Aids Program, they call themselves the Quaker Quilters.

The group got its start six years and over 400 quilts ago. Organizer Winifred Woodmansee first brought the women together to produce comforters and clothing for the AFSC. Ann Hill made her home and sewing machines available and trained the others in quilt-making techniques. The rest is history.



Ann Censotti

Wisconsin Quaker Quilters at work.

The Quaker Quilters actually make much more than quilts. They produce stacks of knitted afghans, sweaters and scarves; hand-sewn children's clothes and mended used clothing. Three or four times a year, 1000 lbs. of their creations are shipped to AFSC's Material Aids Office in Philadelphia, Pa., for distribution around the world.

The Milwaukee volunteers search the neighborhood for materials for their work. Over the years, they have collected fabric remnants from local clothiers and interior decorators. An area knitting mill donates cap, scarf, and mitten seconds. After the millworkers saw the quilts produced by the women, they began picking up extra yarn from the factory floor and saving it for them. The quilters make an art of recycling; leftover scraps of batting and material are lovingly stitched into stuffed animals.

Milwaukee's Quaker Quilters are modest about their efforts. "We like each other's company," observes one. However, thanks to their weekly work, a Palestinian grandmother will soon pull a colorful comforter over her ears, a Nicaraguan youngster will try on a handsewn t-shirt, and a Sioux mother will wrap a hand-knit scarf around her neck in the frosty South Dakota air.

by Paula Amann,  
Chicago, Illinois AFSC

## Free trade.....continued from page 1

women who work in the foreign-owned plants (*maquiladoras*) there. *Maquiladoras* are examples of an aspect of the global economy a free trade agreement could intensify or reform. Reforms, to be effective, would be required in all countries involved.

AFSC staffperson Ed Krueger, who has worked along the border for ten years, testified recently before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committees on Labor and Human Resources and on the Environment and Public Works. He told the story of 16-year-old Maria, drawn to a border *maquiladora* from her home in Mexico's interior. She dreamed of a clean American factory, saving money to return home and set up a small store. Her experience in an American-owned electronics factory shattered those dreams: her wages are such that she has debts, not savings. (She takes home \$27 from

a 48-hour week.) She works with solder, containing 50% lead. The label on the solder spool says that lead can cause birth defects and urges her to wash her hands before eating. The label is in English, which Maria does not understand. No one has translated the warning. No one has offered her protective gloves.

Ed Krueger concluded this report to the Senate subcommittee saying: Maria is not one woman, but many. "Her story is repeated a thousand times a day, every day."

Over the last ten years, AFSC has worked slowly in the communities to support the formation of independent organizations of Mexican workers who now challenge practices and win small but significant victories.

### Coalition forms

These organized Mexican workers now represent the base, the

source of understanding, for a new binational *Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras*. The Coalition includes over 60 religious, labor, women's and environmental groups.

Working from the experience of the Mexican women in the factories, the Coalition has developed Standards of Conduct for U.S. corporations, calling on them to adopt socially responsible practices founded primarily on Mexican health and labor law.

In addition, AFSC carries on public education work in the U.S. on the meaning of the "global factory." Our message is that moral behavior knows no borders, that what hurts people "there," hurts people "here." A new social and economic order can have no permanent suppliers of cheap labor, no areas open for environmental degradation. There must be investment policies that respect development needs and a social charter that deals in all participating countries with work site conditions,

collective bargaining, health and safety and the environment.

A leading Mexican thinker has said, "a short sighted, narrow trade agreement will only bring prosperity for the few and a loss of hope for the many." An opportunity for another outcome lies before us.

by Barbara Moffett,  
Community Relations Division

### The Global Factory:

An Analysis for a New Economic Era, AFSC's materials on the pending Free Trade Agreement, information on AFSC's work at the border and congressional testimony are available. Write: Mexico-U.S. Border Program, Community Relations Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Phone: (215) 241-7134.

# In brief



## Black farmers, AFSC launch city marketing plan

Black farmers have been losing their land at a disproportionately high rate and no more so than around the town of Lyles Station in northern Indiana. Early in 1991, the Lyles Station women's group, made up of women from the local farm families, met to plan a way to overcome these hard times. The women asked AFSC to work with them in contacting the Neighborhood Youth Brigade from the inner city of Indianapolis and Legal Services of Indiana, Inc. for funding and help in establishing direct markets for their produce: melons, sweet corn and tomatoes this first year and other crops as they expand. Most of the farm families at risk are interested and enthusiastic. It could be the answer to bank foreclosures and a second chance for this community of black farmers.

When Evalyn Kellum, AFSC staff of the Indiana Farm Response Program, met with a group of farmers four years ago, one was Dr. Virgil Clift, a retired minority studies professor from New York University, who had returned home to farm his family's land and raise beef cattle. Dr. Clift said, "I feel this is very appropriate that Quakers should come to meet with us at this time. Quakers have played an important role in the establishment of this community by helping some of our ancestors get here, and I think it is providential that they be here now."

This summer's project teaming the farmers with the inner city youth in Indianapolis was a success. The young people sold melons, sweet corn and tomatoes. The families are moving ahead with plans to make this a year-round effort through crop diversification.



Susan Gray, member of the Youth Advisory Council, introduces Alessandro Kendall at Youth Awareness Day.

Terry Foss, AFSC

## 1991-92 Alternative Gift Catalog

This shopping list for the world, produced by the non-profit group Alternative Gift Markets, Inc., offers gifts for our planet and for people facing disasters, presents that nourish self-dignity and well-being. This year's catalog features the AFSC-supported fish farming project with the Akwesasne Mohawk nation in upper New York and Canada. One hundred percent of the funds donated are used directly for the projects described. Last year AFSC received over \$13,000 for our rehabilitation project in Cambodia.

For a 1991-92 Alternative Gift Catalog write: Alternative Gift Markets, Inc., 9656 Palomar Trail, Lucerne Valley, California 92356, or call toll free 1-800-842-2243.

## New Literature Resources Catalog



Just out, fall 1991. For a free copy of the 30-page catalog describing books, pamphlets and audio-visuals from AFSC

programs, write: Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Phone (215) 241-7167.

## Lancaster County Freedom Riders retrace Civil Rights Movement steps

For two years AFSC's Lancaster County Freedom Ride Project has taken young people on a 1,200 mile tour of historic sites of the civil rights movement and given them a chance to meet with civil rights leaders and attend workshops on nonviolence. This exposure has helped young people learn about racism and racist attitudes and behavior.

This July, the AFSC area office in Lancaster, Pa., which sponsored the trip, sent fifteen young people and three adult chaperones on the tour. The group traveled with approximately 100 other participants (ages seven to sixty) from across the U.S.

Sandra Fluck, director of the AFSC office,

describes the tour: "The first stop for the two chartered buses from Nashville was Birmingham, Alabama. The week-long itinerary included Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, Jackson and then to Memphis for a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum.

"The Freedom Tour highlights included talking with some of the 1961 Freedom Riders, visiting the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, joining rallies at the churches that played a central role in the civil rights movement and hearing James Farmer and John Lewis address the Freedom Riders Commemorative Conference at Tougaloo University."

## Peace and Service Caravan journeys through New Mexico, Colorado

This past summer, Intermountain Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quaker) and AFSC co-sponsored the second annual peace and service caravan to AFSC projects in New Mexico and Colorado. "Our ages spanned 60 years and three generations," said project coordinator Cynthia Taylor.

Cynthia writes: "The first stop for the ten of us was Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian Church Conference Center in northern New Mexico. By dark we had arranged our tents and built a good campfire.

"Tuesday was one of our four workdays. Fred Vigil, AFSC staff from Espanola, New Mexico met us in tiny Abiquiu, where we learned about the importance of water to people in this area. Fred works on land and water rights for northern New Mexico communities. We heard the history of the village and some of us dug weeds around the old church. Others

mopped floors in the school building. After lunch in a shady picnic area in the canyon, we came back down slowly, tracing the flow of the *acequia*—the ditch of water that keeps the town alive. Several times we walked into heavy brush to see the turns and gates. It's astonishing to see something in the United States that is 400 years old and still functioning! Keeping a ditch open and healthy and protected from developers is a communal effort. (The *Milagro Beanfield War* isn't totally fiction.)

"After a week with AFSC staff in Denver, we participated in two vigils at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility. It is scheduled to reopen this year despite serious environmental hazards. As we were driving back to Denver we passed a dairy farm close to the plant! As peacemakers we have lots of work ahead of us."

## Baltimore AFSC holds Youth Awareness Day

Alessandro Kendall, a third grader in the Baltimore, Md. public schools, was honored at AFSC's Youth Awareness Day and received a Medal of Gallantry from Veterans for Peace at his school assembly this year. Alessandro had been jeered by his classmates when he refused to write letters to U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia this past winter. But since that time, the students and faculty of the school have been challenged to accept a student's right of conscience.

The 1991 Youth Awareness Day was organized by a group of ten students in the

Baltimore area (the Youth Advisory Council of the Youth and Militarism Program). Now in its sixth year, the annual youth day is designed to inform teenagers about current political and social issues and show them ways in which they can get involved and make a difference.

In addition to holding workshops on international issues and a panel discussion on racism, the students invited former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark to give the keynote speech. Ramsey Clark described his trip to Iraq before the war and the enormous destruction he encountered there after the war.