

The Midwest Pacifist Commentator

Recently I have read three editions of a nonviolence newsletter/ broadsheet that I have really enjoyed. The Midwest Pacifist Commentator is written and published by Brad Lyttle who is a long-time participant in the United States Nonviolence Peace Movement. Brad uses simple story telling to share his recent experiences at major nonviolent action projects:

- 1) Israel Peace Walk, June 1992
- 2) Healing Global Wounds, September, 1992
- 3) Solidarity for Peace in Sarajevo, December 1992 (There is another recent edition which I haven't read which reports the war tax resistance project that centred mainly around the house owned by Betsy Comer and Randy Kehler that the US Tax Department confiscated.)

The Israel Peace Walk involved over 130 people who walked from Israel to the

West Bank for six days. Healing Global Wounds involved mass actions initiated by the Western Shoshone against continued nuclear weapon testing on indigenous land. The Solidarity for Peace in Sarajevo involved sending approximately 500 people to the besieged capital of Bosnia as a witness for peace.

The stories are fascinating, weaving organisational detail with reflection and evaluation and even glimpses of the activist-as-tourist. He details all those little things I always wanted to know about big actions that are usually only summarised in shorter articles. And he includes, in full, agreements, focus of action, aims and objectives and project public-statements.

The stories are also dotted with the names of participants, supporters and advisers which not only gives a personal feeling to

the stories but aids our political work by helping us know who was involved. This strengthens formal and informal global networks as we become better informed about who is doing what.

Brad's evaluatory comments are informed by many, many years working in the nonviolence movement. In 1961, he helped organise the San Francisco to Moscow Peace March.

You can receive the Midwest Pacifist Commentator directly from Bradford Lyttle, 5729 S Dorchester Ave., Chicago, IL 60637.

Or if you send \$3.00 per issue to the Commonground Centre for Nonviolence, P.O. Box 474, Seymour, Vic 3661, we will send you a copy for your region.

Margaret Pestorius

NvT

Dear NvT,

I only say it once every year when I renew (which is not enough, I know), but well done! Informative, insightful, inspiring.

Andrew Donovan

NvT

Dear NvT,

I was more than a bit taken aback by James Langley's notice about "Sexual Treachery" in NvT #33. To me "undertakes to instigate conflict" sounds a lot like New Age jargon for "threatens to pick a fight". That seemed to me a bit over the top for a journal of nonviolence, so I searched for some explanation of what sort of "Sexual Treachery" could raise him to such a pitch of righteous anger.

It turns out that James is not concerned about male activists "bonking" more than one partner, only about their lying to one sex partner about the existence of the other. This includes lying by omission (in other words, not confessing straight away, the same day). James feels that he can't trust a person who would tell such a lie, and questions their place in the movement.

Dear NvT,

I really feel I must respond to James Langley's letter in NvT #33 "instigating conflict" with those who commit "sexual treachery".

The tendency of those in the pure nonviolence movement to take up positions above the clouds, in terms of morality, has been something I have found to be hypocritical and embarrassing. James' fascination in the sex lives of people in "the south of this land" draws me to conclude he is a sexual pervert of some description. The complexity of sexual

Sexual infidelity has a pretty long history, and so does lying about it. Neither is it confined to the male sex, even if James hasn't heard of any such occurrences. Most people would be reluctant to rush in to such a private area as the relationship between lovers. By taking up the cudgels in defense of the sexually deceived, James succeeds in making himself look like a sort of White Knight of Monogamy, or perhaps a Big Brother of the Bedroom.

I'm concerned that this sort of immoderate rhetoric can give an impression of

relations at this time deserves a lot more sensitivity and understanding than James' "notice".

I am, according to James' morals and definitions, a sexual traitor, and I do stress James' morals. My advice to James and others of his ilk who want to thrust their morals on those who neither adhere to or are interested in his way of life, is to stop wasting time, come down from above the clouds, back onto the ground where you are needed.

Charlie Daniels

NvT

cultism or fanaticism about nonviolence in general. For myself I am quite unconvinced about the linkup of sexual dishonesty with patriarchy and/or disempowerment. If people feel that unrealistic and abnormal standards of sexual conduct apply in the movement, and that they risk being confronted about behaviour which would be considered extremely private elsewhere, then they won't participate and the movement will be the poorer for their absence.

Brian Currie

NvT