

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



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8 WALKERS ARRESTED

A demonstration at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear power plant site on Sunday February 22 (near San Luis Obispo) resulted in the arrest of eight Continental Walkers: Blaine Metcalf, Steve Leeds, Harvey Rosenberg, Michael Donovan, Cynthia Crowell, Hal Aronson, and two others (who non-cooperated).

They were charged with trespassing and failure to move for a police vehicle, PG & E (the coastal utilities company) and law enforcement officials pressed for reduction of charges as a result of the publicity that the demonstration made (AP wire story carried in numerous papers on the West Coast). Blaine, Steve, and Harvey pleaded no contest to charges of disturbing the "peace" and were fined \$125. Mike and Hall received similar fines, but spent 5 days in jail instead. Charges were dropped against Cynthia.

Mothers for Peace in San Luis Obispo planned and organized the demonstration as part of a long term campaign to stop the construction of power plant. The Diablo Canyon plant has received alot of national publicity lately after it was discovered an earthquake fault was nearby.

NEW SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship (61 Gramercy Park N., NY, NY 10010), and the Lutheran Peace Fellowship (168 W. 100 Street, NY, NY 10025) have joined as national sponsoring organizations of the Continental Walk.

VISA FOR JAPANESE WALKERS

Three of the first contingent of Japanese Buddhist monks who have joined the Continental Walk have visas which expire March 17. They want very much to stay with the Walk the whole way and in this country until October 18. The U.S. Immigration Service (425 I Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20536) has refused to issue even applications for new visas. We ask all who can help contact your Congressperson and write the U.S. Immigration Service at once. The names of the three monks are Rev. Kunio Sato, Rev. Hiroshi Sera, and Rev. Hitoshi Tsuchiya.

BOMBAY (INDIA) NEWS PRAISES WALK

The current events column on the editorial page of the "Bombay News" carried an item describing the Continental Walk. It warned people not to take the Walk as a frivolous adventure by a few young people, but as a serious event.

IDEAS

CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS

Blaine Metcalf suggests that one of the ways to broaden the base of support for the Walk would be to demonstrably communicate our concern; e.g., by each walker carrying a sack and picking up litter along the road side, or volunteer on a rest day at a local free clinic or recycling station, or set up first aid and help centers (as the Chinese did on their Long March).

NATIONAL DEBATE

Joan Cavanagh and people at the Jonah House community (1933 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217) are pushing for a national debate on nuclear policy. They are seeking to have Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld or Kissinger to discuss publicly U.S. policy on first strike, etc., on the campuses, in the churches, and in public halls; that he debate with political scientists, theologians, and others. Those interested in this debate idea, write Rumsfeld (or Kissinger), and drop a line to the Jonah House.

It has been suggested that such a national debate might well be part of the scenario when the Walk reaches Washington, D.C. Reactions?

NOTES

EL TEATRO CAMPESINO

El Teatro Campesino, which started out as the theater of the farmworkers' movement, is very supportive of the Walk. They will be travelling from March 15 to the end of May through the Southwest, Midwest, and Northeast and will help out when and where they can with performances. Interested organizers should contact Felix Alvarez (promotional director), El Centro Campesino Cultural, Box 1274, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045 (408-623-4508).

LOCAL UNION ENDORSES WALK

The United Stanford (University) Employees (local 680 SEIU, AFL-CIO) has voted (February 3) to endorse the Continental Walk. Dennis Davie, one of their stewards, is a long distance walker.

APRIL 4 FUND RAISING EFFORT

On Sunday April 4, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, sympathetic churches around the country will be asked to take up a collection for the Continental Walk. SCLC will approach the churches in its constituency with an April 4 fund raising appeal to help with the Southern branch of the Continental Walk. Nationally, we will be asking all churches we contact to also take up a special collection for the Walk--the money received to be split between national organizing and organizing on the Southern route. All who have church contacts, please help us spread the word.

LIST OF ORGANIZING OFFICES

In the next issue of the Walk NEWS, we hope to carry a list of Walk organizing offices on the main route and all the branch routes. We would also like to include a one sentence summary of the focus on your part of the route. Please send us details as soon as you receive this Newsletter.

ARMBANDS

Snow Mountain (216 Roberts Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060) has arm bands available for 15¢ each. They are 20" long on unbleached muslin. They were made from a hand-cut linoleum block and oil base printing ink. When sending in orders, specify the primary color, as well as number desired. Snow reports they are very effective for the Walk.



ORGANIZING

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

March 4 at 7:30 Daniel Ellsberg will be appearing at a community meeting in West Los Angeles for the Walk. On March 7 the Continental Walk will go 10 miles from

Woodswood in McArthur Park in L.A.

A 10-mile feed-in route from Santa Ana to Anaheim will begin March 6, with a March 7 car caravan from Santa Ana to L.A.

On March 12-13 a 16-mile feed-in from the Mexican border to San Diego will proceed a March 14 car caravan from San Diego to Riverside.

SANTA CRUZ

Snow Mountain reports that "we had peace and social justice groups set up booths in a large auditorium type room where fair-goers could wander, discuss, pick up literature, etc. Then in 4 other side rooms we scheduled workshops--including slide shows, movies, puppet show, singing and discussions. These were very well attended. Our soup and salad dinner went very well, too. Almost all the food was donated and the soup was cooked the day before. Everyone had plenty and we served over 100. Later we had a poetry and music program with our local artists. There was alot of inspiring material. The finale was a rock n' roll band whose music revived our tired souls to the point where we pushed the chairs and tables aside and danced with great joy and abandon. When it was time to close, everyone helped clean up and we were done in 15-20 minutes! Perhaps the most exciting aspect was that everything rolled extremely smoothly! People volunteered to help, took responsibility and when something needed doing, one had only to mention it and it was done--all in a tremendous spirit of love and community--wow! what a day!

"Our Santa Cruz walk committee is continuing to meet. We plan to send out a newsletter advising our mailing list folks of upcoming events and encouraging them to keep working for disarmament and social justice. We are also planning a party for our committee! Also, each of us has found a particular interest among the groups and causes at the fair and we'll be working on our issues and sharing with each other about them."

CHICO

A group in Chico, California, has started a weekly vigil as a way of showing moral support with the Walk. They're called the Chico Peace Endeavor, and on January 31 started a weekly vigil for disarmament.

THE UPPER SOUTH

AFSC is convening a meeting of North Carolina groups about the possibility of a Walk coalition to help organize through the state.

Some interest has been expressed in doing a branch route from Tennessee, perhaps from Chattanooga or even Oak Ridge. There are already people interested in doing long distance walking.

In the Roanoke Valley (Virginia) area a Walk committee has already been formed--composed primarily of AFSC people. Some B-1 people in Charlottesville (Virginia) and CFP/AFSC folks in Richmond are interested in tying into the Southern route of the Walk, as well.

WISCONSIN

Two routes through Wisconsin are in the planning stages: one from Minneapolis through Madison to Chicago and the other from Milwaukee (or even Green Bay). A planning meeting is scheduled for March 13 in Madison. So far, people have expressed interest in peace conversion, tax resistance, military spending and unemployment, ROTC, housing, prisons, and amnesty.

KANSAS

Kansas is beginning to develop a network of organizers. A regional meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2 to 5 pm, at the United Ministries Center in Emporia (1305 Merchant Street).

CHICAGO

Long-time peace activists Larry Scott and Brad Lyttle will give two presentations on March 14 near Chicago to initiate discussion on organizing in the Chicago area. A nonviolent training weekend will be held April 2 to 9 at the Downers Grove Meeting House.

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