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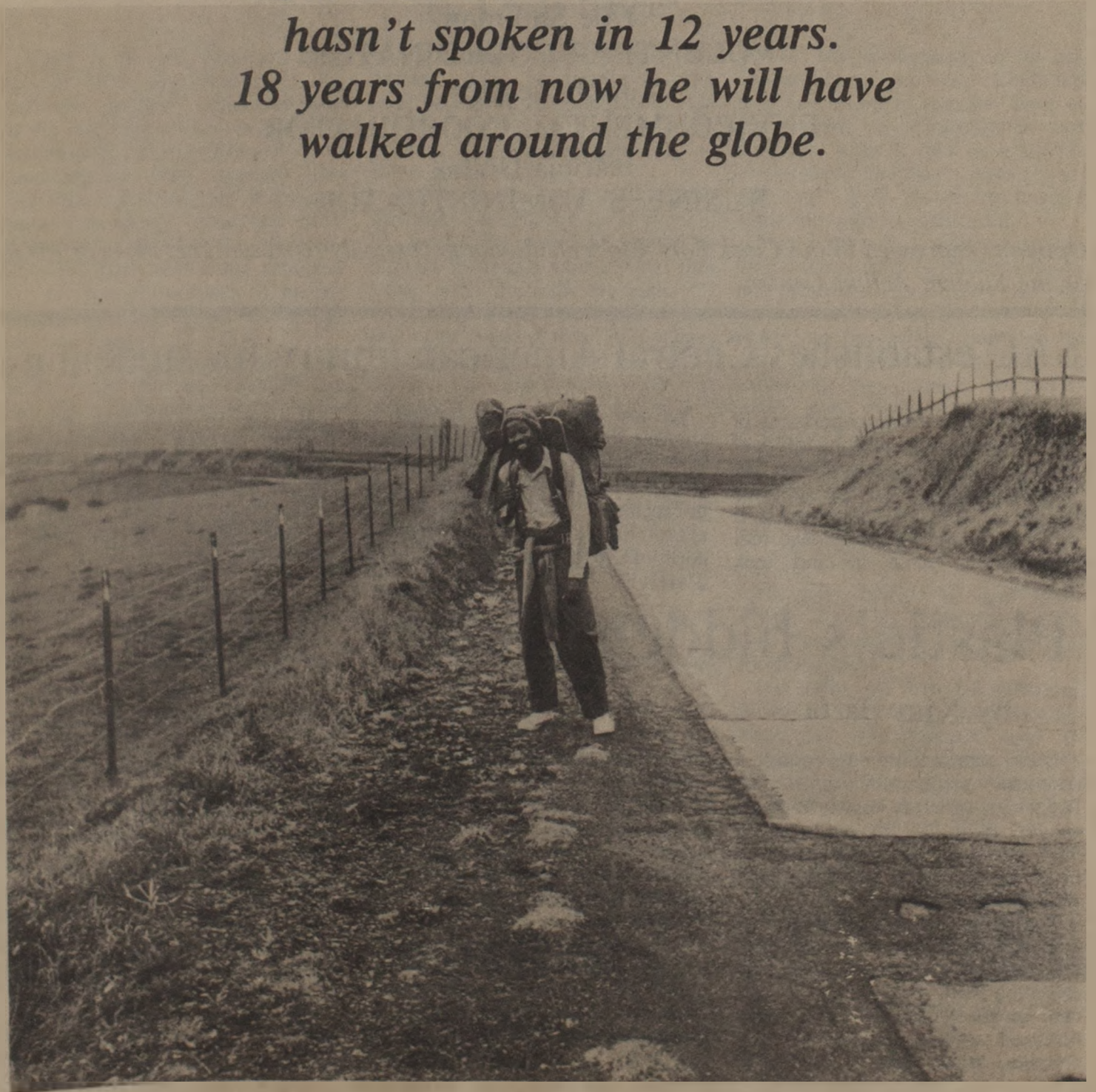
# C CLARK FORK Currents

Vol. 1, No. 2

December, 1984

Published by the UM Student Action Center

*Um Student John Francis  
hasn't spoken in 12 years.  
18 years from now he will have  
walked around the globe.*





# Clark Fork Currents

## Published by the University of Montana's Student Action Center

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*Opinions expressed in the Clark Fork Currents do not necessarily represent the views of ASUM or the Student Action Center.*

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## SAC establishes Central American library for student use

Given the extreme importance of the situation along with the influx of concern from the student body we are establishing a Central America library. If you are concerned and want more information please feel welcome to come in and look around.

We are unfortunately limited in our resources so if you are willing to lend us any books to add to our library for a while it would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have any spare change to donate to making additions to the library we would be grateful.

Bill La Croix has been central in helping establish this library on campus. We would like to thank him for his efforts and sacrifices.

The library is located in room 105 of the U.C. Our number is 243-5897.

## Plastic's hidden danger: DEHP

by Kim Barta

DEHP—Di (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate

Many plastic containers contain a chemical compound known as D.E.H.P., which is known to cause cancer. It is also known to cause liver damage, testicular atrophy, birth defects, gene mutations and toxicity in fetuses.

The particularly scary aspect of D.E.H.P. is that it migrates from the plastic product to the surrounding area. It is used in 30 percent of all P.V.C. products. Four hundred million pounds of the chemical were used in 1981 sup-

porting a 175 million dollar a year business.

One E.P.A. study showed that people who ate foods that were stored in plastic containers made with D.E.H.P. had up to 16 times more D.E.H.P. in their blood than before.

Food containers are not the only products which contain D.E.H.P. Other products range from car upholstery to garden hoses to luggage. The biggest use of D.E.H.P. is in plastic building

products such as water lines, vent pipes and flooring.

Particularly susceptible are children who suck on products which contain D.E.H.P. like pacifiers, bottles, mattress covers, plastic pants and toys. Other susceptible victims include patients receiving frequent blood transfusions - the plastic bags and tubing contain D.E.H.P.

D.E.H.P. can also leach into the soil, water and air from discarded products in waste dumps.

# Planet Walker

*There are three parts to the riddle of John Francis—Why doesn't he speak? Why does he travel by foot? and where is he going?*

*Find out why his mission is important for all of us.*

by Lance Grider

There is an old Twilight Zone episode that goes like this: An eccentric gambler wagers a desperate man that he cannot go without speaking for an entire year. The impoverished man accepts the challenge and is encased in glass in the wealthy man's house. His every movement is watched by his gambler-host, who taunts and ridicules him for the entire year in an attempt to get him to break down, cry out, and lose.

But finally, at year's end, the gambler concedes and rewards the man his million-dollar stake. How had he managed to keep his silence in the face of such fierce hostility? Pulling down the neck of his sweater, the former captive reveals the scar of a severed larynx.

The point is chillingly made: man is a social animal who needs to communicate to others. Only an act of self-mutilation can curb this urge.

However, submitted for your approval is another case, that of John Francis, 38, currently a graduate student in environmental studies here at the University of Montana.

This coming February 22 will mark his twelfth year of silence. There are no scars on John Francis's neck; he has learned to speak without making noise.

In 1972 in Inverness, California, a small coastal town an hour north of San Francisco, two tanker ships collided, resulting in a massive oil spill. Francis, a resident of the community, decided to take a

strong personal stand against the damage done by man's favorite fuel: he vowed never again to ride in any motorized vehicle. He became what the ancients used to call a *pedestrian*.

A few months later, on his 27th birthday, he took a vow of silence. He was exasperated at having to explain to people who offered him rides why he had to walk. "I realized that I was doing too much talking in general, that I had always talked too much and that the more I talked, the less I said," he has written.

So now two parts of the puzzle of John Francis have fallen in place - he doesn't talk, he just walks. Either accomplishment, carried on for twelve years, would be enough for the average person to retire, write a memoir, and try to plug it on Johnny Carson's show.

But John Francis still wasn't satisfied.

So, in 1983, he decided to literally walk around the globe.

It is a journey which will take him, he estimates, 18 years. It will take at least another two or three years just to make it across America. And then he will sail (and that is the *mandatory* way) to South America, Europe and Asia. He will not return home to Marin County, California, until after the year 2000.

Francis came to Missoula from Port Townsend, Washington, after building his own boat and sailing across Puget Sound.

Born in Philadelphia, Francis was an award-winning scholar in high

school. He participated in an advanced bio-science class, which led to a few years of medical work in laboratories in Philadelphia and Chicago. After a year as a VISTA volunteer in Chicago's poverty-ridden South Side, he left the East in 1968 and went to California.

There he was a railroad brakeman and manager of an avant garde jazz group until the oil spill changed his view of life forever.

And so he devised the plan he calls Planet Walk. In addition to travelling, he planned to paint, write, play music and study all along the way.

He stopped long enough in Oregon (in 1979, before The Journey began) to pick up a General Studies Degree in science and mathematics at the Southern Oregon State College.

He has written for and been written about in newspapers from San Francisco to Spartanburg, South Carolina.

He funds his trip by soliciting donations from major backpacking equipment manufacturers and by a quarterly publication, Planet Walker, published in his home town of Inverness. It features reports of his progress and that of other like-minded individuals on similar (but shorter) treks.

When he leaves Missoula in the spring he will be on an independent study program from the University.

(Cont'd next page)



It comes as no surprise that Francis - all six feet two of him - is a gentle, self-effacing man, who manages to communicate through sign language, pantomime and his banjo.

He may not speak, but he most definitely communicates.

As natural as it is to speak, so it is to curse and condemn. Of what value is not talking? And why should walking make the world a better place? Is he trying to say I'm not as good as he is for not doing what he does?

"All I can do is make my changes

and live my life by those changes," he has written. "Planet Walk is my further effort toward furthering world peace by increasing the awareness of the earth as a planet - broadening understanding of international concerns while seeking to foster international friendship through personal contact."

Logically, there is no "sense," no "motive" for Francis' silence.

Except when it is seen as, yes, the act of one man on behalf of all of us. There is a self-mutilation of the spirit we all participate in when we go with the flow.

Those who are willing to stand apart point out to us that it just doesn't have to be *this* way, or *that* way.

We communicate with others when we make our vitality visible and our thoughts become deeds.

And by his deeds, Francis' voice rings loud and clear.

*If you would like to help John Francis, subscribe to his quarterly Planet Walk, \$20 per year, from Planet Walker, Box 700, Inverness, CA 94937.*

# Investiture: How the wealth of the many is exploited by the few

*Opinion by Kim Barta*

Many of the concerns we have - regarding peace, a healthy environment, the basic right for all people regardless of sex, race, creed, handicap, or geographic location to pursue a fulfilling life-style - are frustrated not by a general lack of concern among the masses of our society but by the control of power among the few.

In general, the common banks of this nation are supporters of the few by loaning money to them. Much of the money you have "invested" in

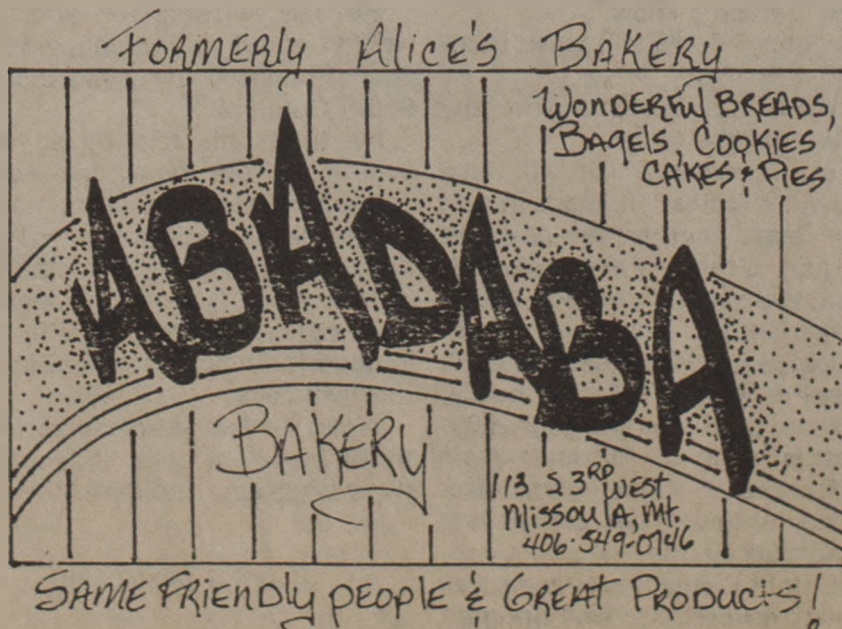
the bank is likely going to build a nuclear power plant, a Trident submarine, a coal-fired generator, or perhaps to develop a mine near a wilderness area.

One effective way to help limit these abuses of our money is to hit the people with the power in the place where it hurts the most - the pocketbook.

There are several investiture companies springing up now that invest only in socially responsible companies, as in the areas of edu-

cation, alternative energy and low-income housing. The rate of return on your dollar is often higher than what you get from the bank or from other investiture companies.

If you are interested in socially responsible investiture and would like to invest your money, promote socially responsible investiture in the community, or just want more information, contact us at the Student Action Center at 243-5897 or stop by room 105 of the U.C. Building.



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# The Montana Legislative Watch

## *Six vital issues that affect you and how YOU can affect them*

by John Zelazny

The 1985 session of the Montana State Legislature will convene this January in Helena. Once again, environmental issues will be at the forefront of consideration. The laws affecting use and protection of Montana's natural resources will likely be altered. Whether or not these alterations will be in all Montanans' best interests depends upon everyone's input.

You can influence this process by being informed and acting in an organized manner. Among the issues to be considered this winter are the following:

**Changes in Energy Policy** - The utilities would like to see the role of the elected Public Service Commission diminished and provisions in the Major Facilities Siting Act (especially determinations based on public need) removed. Some would have the governor-appointed Board of Natural Resources exercise the power of determination based solely on environmental standards. This would severely limit public involvement.

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*"Given enough student response, the SAC environmental program coordinator will supply regular legislative updates and arrange for organized action in response to key legislation."*

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**Resource Taxation** - The governor's legacy program would take funds from the Resource Indemnity Trust tax and put the money towards hard-rock mining impacts in the interest of future generations. One likely consequence is funding of research and development for new methods of extraction techniques, a subsidy of mining corporations in essence. A similar case is the Coal Benefaction idea, which would take coal-severance funds

and use them to subsidize industry's efforts to alter Montana coal into a more profitable form.

**Water** - Always a topical issue, Montana's water is a largely undefined resource which is treated as though limitless. In the scurry to supplement state revenues through water marketing (via coal slurry and other areas), we may very well sell ourselves short. The amount of importance attached to in-stream reservations and water quality is sure to conflict with the need for water by extractive industries which supply state revenues. Montana is in critical need of a responsible, long term water policy - and your input can help achieve this.

**Toxics** - Montana has no right-to-know laws for workers and communities exposed to toxics by state programs. The upcoming weed-eradication program, running into the millions of dollars, will result in massive amounts of herbicides applied to Montana lands. The impacts of chemical saturation of the environment are still largely

unknown, and yet the state plunges ahead. This is a case of the symptoms being treated while the real problem - public involvement in state programs funded by resource revenues - is largely ignored.

**Tailings Ponds** - There are no state standards governing the impacts of tailings ponds on the environment.

**Mining Impacts** - The Montana Dept. of State Lands does not have one field officer to investigate

mining impacts in Western Montana. This is especially serious in terms of small-scale placer mining impacts on Montana watersheds. Current regulations allow for substantial alterations of streams which are highly destructive to habitat and require hundreds of years to restore naturally. Several organizations, including the Montana Environmental Information Center and the Northern Plains Resource Council, will be very active in the legislature.

Given enough student response, the SAC environmental program coordinator will supply regular legislative updates and arrange for organized action in response to key legislation. If you would like to be involved in such action, or would be interested in such updates, then please fill out the following form and either drop it by, mail it to the address supplied, or call the Student Action Center at 243-5897.

Name .....

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Phone No. ....

\*Grade Ranking .....

Major .....

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University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812  
Interested in:

☐ Legislative Update

☐ Active Involvement

\*non-students are also welcomed to reply.



# The Web of Peace

*Opinion by Doe Shulman*

*If our species is to survive,  
it must replace  
the illusions of separateness  
with the emotional experiences  
of acceptance, cooperation  
and togetherness.*

*Ken Keyes, jr.*

People power is what this nation is all about. The greatest changes of our society have come about not by a sympathetic government but by a government pressured by mass revolutions of people. The revolution that created our independence, the fight for black freedom, the women's movement, the civil rights movement, the labor movement and the anti-Vietnam war movement have all in turn created some of the most important freedoms we have today. People taking to the streets is democracy in its most true and potent form and has been as long as this country has existed.

The peace movement today is a worldwide movement and it is the largest movement ever. It displays the interconnectiveness of many diverse groups of people. Environmentalists, no-nukes groups, animal liberationists, anti-intervention groups, sanctuary groups, women's groups, religious groups - to name a few - all play a vital role in the web of peace.

Increasingly the unity of the groups has become an important factor in increasing power, and purpose. All these groups are united by their independence and distrust of the government. They do not believe everything the media says and they don't believe that the government has its motivation centers tuned in to justice, compassion, fairness and nonviolence.

The disobedience to authority is an important and empowering factor not only in today's peace movement but in all the previous great social movements of our

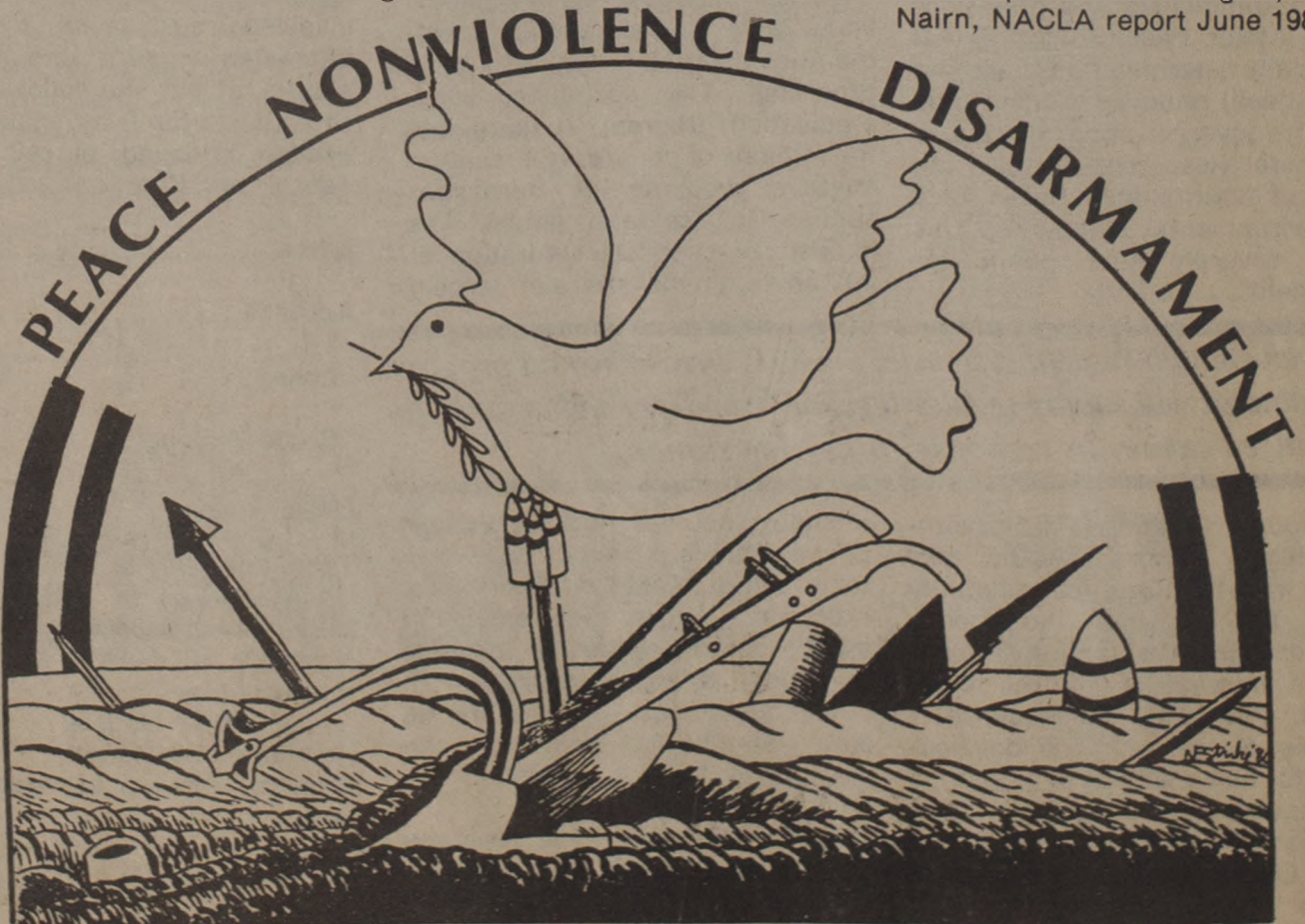
history. Today the peace movement also realizes the importance of learning, practicing and teaching the strategy of nonviolence.

Is it really proper that the United States is helping the people of El Salvador by sending them weapons when 80 percent of the population is malnourished? \*\* Is Duarte really representative when there were over six thousand people for every one polling place? \* Is our government truthful when it claims Nicaragua is frightening its neighbors when in reality preparations to blockade and invade Nicaragua have already been implemented by the United States? \*

What are we going to believe? What are we going to read to inform ourselves, and most importantly what are we going to *do*? . . . The Peace Movement Awaits YOU!

\*\* Casa El Salvador - San Francisco

\* John Stockwell, ex-CIA director of covert operations in Angola; Allan Nairn, NACLA report June 1984





# Nicaragua: How the U.S. raised its own banana republic

Opinion by Co Carew

A United States presence in Nicaragua has existed since the early 1900's, when the United States ousted Nicaragua's president and created a puppet regime. The new U.S.-backed regime safeguarded the interests of U.S. mining, fruit companies, and the new military strategic post.

Nicaragua is strategically important for inter-oceanic travel and military campaigns (the Bay of Pigs invasion was launched from Nicaragua's shores). The Marines occupied the country from 1911 to 1933 to enforce U.S. control.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's a great leader emerged committed to improving the plight of the poor, and to finally free them from the U.S. stronghold. His name was Augusto Cesar Sandino. He led his people to fight the Marines until Franklin D. Roosevelt finally withdrew them.

Before the Marines departed, the United States established a National Guard in Nicaragua, and the Marines hand-picked Anastasio Somoza Garcia to head it. "On February 21, 1934, Sandino was invited to dinner by Nicaragua's President, Sacasa. After the meal a picture was taken of the small Sandino and the large Somoza in an embrace of friendship. This turned out to be a 'Judas Hug,' as Sandino

was murdered by Somoza's men on his way out, an action that had been cleared with the U.S. Ambassador."\*

Somoza was assassinated 22 years later; his eldest son Luis took over Nicaragua. Luis died in 1967 and his brother Anastasio Somoza Debayle inherited the small country.

Somoza created a country of extreme poverty while he accumulated 20 percent of the arable land of Nicaragua and 25 percent of its industry. Witnesses recall that more than 600 planes landed in Managua following the disastrous earthquake with relief aid, food, clothing and medical supplies. Most of the supplies never found the people as Somoza sold the goods and pocketed the money.

For 45 years Somoza and the U.S. power and money that backed him brutally ruled the region.

In July, 1979, the king was de-throned by peasant leaders and the Nationalist philosophy became the foundation of the revolution. Carlos Fonseca Amador, the mind behind the revolution, founded a liberation front named in honor of Sandino, the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN). Fonseca was killed in 1976 during the revolutionary war.

Today, Honduras, a bordering country of Nicaragua, is being used as a base for operations to conduct a covert plan to destabilize the Nicaraguan government. The United States has supplied arms to the Honduran army and counter-revolutionaries. These forces, or *contras*, include former Somoza supporters and some Miskito Indians whose home is the border frontier area.

The United States has been involved in Nicaragua for almost a

(Cont'd on page 8)



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# The Age of Hype

by John Moore

Now in my seventieth year  
I bring a jaundiced eye to what I see.  
Truly my narrowing world seems now  
to be my idiot's box of our time's ills:  
the car-bombed cities of old rubble,  
the burnoosed terrorists hiding out  
under the guise of Liberation Fronts  
while the children's bones show  
and their drawn faces tell us to run  
and hide somewhere else.

While  
the peace-keepers make platitudes  
to fool the folks back home  
by their television smiles,  
they go through the motions of  
daytime soap-operas where  
beautiful people hop into each others' beds  
to make babies the old-fashioned way.

Tune in next year  
to be prepared for this new age.  
We must trust the news  
from whatever front.

We must follow  
our President when he cancels out  
whatever obvious truth hides  
behind his double-talk so smooth  
you'd think he invented Hollywood  
so that he could star forever  
in a country run by the old truths  
of all the Grade B movies ever made.

Tune in next week for Technicolor  
coverage of the End of the World.  
But don't forget your vitamins;  
they may yet save us all.

*(John Moore taught American literature at the U of M for 35 years.  
He continues to live in Missoula and writes poems, essays, and novels.)*

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## Nicaragua (cont'd)

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century now. It is time to get out  
and allow Nicaragua the freedom  
for self-determination. I urge you to  
write Senators John Melcher and  
Max Baucus and express non-sup-  
port for U.S. intervention in  
Nicaragua.

Senator John Melcher  
253 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

\* information obtained from "Nica-  
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