

Dear Friends,

This is the anniversary (first) of the Psychology of War and Peace and to commemorate, I am sending out the first of what I hope will become an annual letter to its illustrious alumni/ae. The course grew in its second year - and so did I. There were twice as many students, more community involvement and more involvement (and change!) in the students. As has become the custom, there were four teaching apprentices.

Evelyn Gonzalez and Deirdre Wilson led a large group on Central America. The group educated itself with great diligence on the history and political economy of the conflicts in Central America and they organized a day of awareness on campus which included films, teachins, and a letter-writing campaign to Congressmen. Their final report was a prize-winner!

Sandy Banks led a group on labor and peace which produced the most surprises and long-term results. They started by working with District 1199 (health care workers at CVH) on the '84 elections. Finding that only a handful of the thousands of Hispanic residents are registered to vote in Middletown, they became involved in helping to organize for an Hispanic Center. The work will continue next spring in a group tutorial on community development with from 6-10 participants.

Ginger Thoet led the other group which worked with NRG and STAND to educate around the nuclear freeze at Wesleyan, Including a showing of the film "The Last Epidemic."

There was a tighter linkage of theory and practice this year with a rather extensive required reading list and a new type of discussion format (discussions at the Tuesday meetings of the work-groups with designated reporters who initiated general discussion at the Thursday meetings of the entire class). We began with four general, but incomplete theories of the causes of war: aggression instinct theory; patriarchy theory; imperialism theory; and the "communist menace" theory. The reading on aggressive instinct theory which I published in the major Soviet psychology journal this spring is enclosed with this letter. Later in the course we read in the psychology literature, especially the work of Robert Lifton, and, of course, we spent lots of time with Sandino's Daughters (Thank you, Chino: and Maria!). As always, I emphasized the psychology of consciousness development.

In some respects the work of the course was built around the '84 elections which gave us the clearest electoral choice of war and peace that our generation has ever seen. We all worked on the elections in one way or another, and after Reagan was elected, as Crystal Turner said in the final report, "we got drunk," either literally or figuratively. But every day after that I wore my "We Shall Overcome Reagan" button to class (I have an "Impeach Reagan" button just waiting for a chance to wear it!) and soon we were back at work reinforcing the coalitions that had begun to form during the election campaigns so that they can bring us to peace someday. As Ian Rubin said in the final report, "there were lots of chances to become pessimistic, but we came through the course more optimistic than when we started."

I hope that this letter will contribute to a process of building a bridge between the course and its alumni so that we make an educational process in which there are no categorical distinctions between students and graduates, pupils, TA's, and professors. We should all be learning from each other in a process that is not confined to the classroom or the semester, but is rather a lifelong commitment. There was a beautiful example of this at one point in the course when two

Wesleyan Students, Andy Orta and Amanita Duga, who had spent considerable time in Central America, came and conducted a class on their experiences which were remarkably similar to those described in Sandino's Daughters. Not only the students, but also I and the TA's learned directly from these "students."

I hope that we will all see each other (or that the crowd will be so big we can't.) at the huge Washington rally planned for April 20. It promises to be the most important single event of the peace movement this spring, and has already attracted the widest list of sponsors ever put together for such a mobilization. Whether at April 20 or somewhere else, I would like to keep in touch with all of you. I get to see Chino Ayala and Nilza Padilla around New Haven and Nick Lahage and Carlton Levine at Wesleyan, but I haven't heard from Dora, Cathy, Julia, Tory, and others. Send me a letter or come visit! After all, it's going to take more than a semester to make a contribution to transforming the dream of peace with justice into a new world in our time!

Peace, David