



### LANGLEY LASSES FETED ON BIRTHDAY

Peninsula professional women and sisters from other services helped Langley Air Force Base WAFs celebrate their 20th anniversary at a Monday luncheon at the installation. Among those on hand were, from the

left, Miss Nancy Ramseur, Christopher Newport College; Lt. Beth Coye, a WAVE stationed in Norfolk; Maj. Mary W. Messinger, WAF advisor at Langley; and Capt. Mary J. Smith, a WAC from Fort Eustis.

Monday, February 23, 1987

CC†/Part II

# Revived Peace Movement Thrives Alongside Military in S.D.



BOB GRIESER / Los Angeles Times

Carol Jahnkow and Allen Stern are staffers at the Peace Resource Center near San Diego State University.

## Resource Center Says 92 Groups in County Now Spreading the Word

By LEONARD BERNSTEIN,  
Times Staff Writer

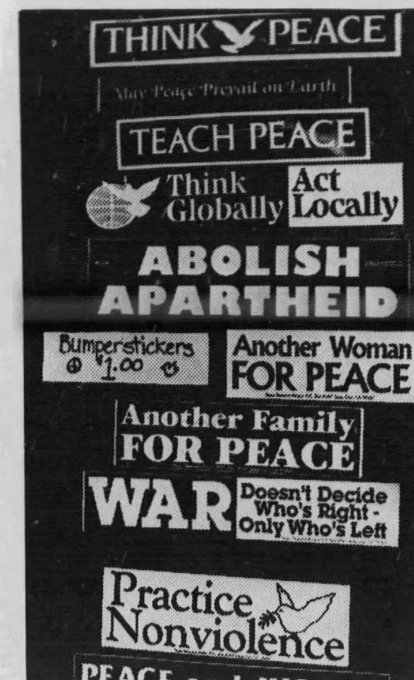
There was a time just a few years ago when the Peace Resource Center near San Diego State University limped along on a shoestring budget, its members never quite sure how long the organization would survive.

"We always had times where we didn't know where the next month's budget was coming from," said Allen Stern, operations coordinator for the center, which describes itself as a clearinghouse for information on peace and social justice activities. "I wouldn't say we were on the verge of closing down. But we were on the verge of not being able to pay the staff."

Those days are over. The center's two employees are making modest full-time salaries, its library of books and videotapes is expanding and the number of names on the mailing list has grown from 600 to about 1,000, Stern said. The center's budget is now a stable \$55,000 per year.

While that figure doesn't rival U.S. defense spending, it is one of many signs to longtime peace activists that their movement is beginning to take hold even in San Diego, home of what the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce calls the free world's largest concentration of military personnel and equipment.

"I think [the peace movement] is growing," said Jim Jacobson, a steering committee member for the 10-year-old Alliance for Survival. "I think there really is a proliferation of organizations in town. It shows that people really want to do something and they're trying. It may be small, little church groups, but at least



BOB GRIESER / Los Angeles Times

Bumper stickers at the peace center.

they're trying."

"You're finding that, at a real institution-level, people are beginning to look at these issues and integrate them," said Carol Jahnkow, peace education coordinator for the Peace Resource Center. "I think it's giving the peace movement some depth."

In recent years, the number of peace and social justice organizations in the county has blossomed to 92, according to the Peace Resource Center's mailing list. One of them, San Diego's dormant nuclear freeze organization, has been revived under the

Please see PEACE, Page 4



# PEACE: Push for a Nuclear Freeze Now Led by a Retired Navy Officer

Continued from Page 1

direction of a retired career Navy officer, Beth Coye. The membership of many peace groups is climbing.

Others are encouraged by last year's decision by the San Diego Unified School District to adopt a nuclear age education curriculum, by a newly established coordinating council of peace group leaders, and by the participation of 43 San Diegians in the protest at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site on Feb. 4 and 5.

But most significant, peace workers say, is the fact that dedicated activists who have kept the movement alive for two decades are being joined by an entirely new clientele, as groups like Mothers Embracing Nuclear Disarmament (MEND), Physicians for Social Responsibility and Beyond War attract middle-class and upscale converts to anti-nuclear activism.

That development, perhaps more than any other, sparks optimism among some activists who believe that, until self-interested and powerful people join the movement, it will not have the strength or credibility to accomplish its goals of total or partial nuclear disarmament.

Joann Lundgren, coordinator of the Beyond War chapter in San Diego, describes the targets of her group's organizing effort as "the educated middle class. We're after those people who are able to respond to an educational program."

"We feel we've got to get the opinion leaders in the city or in the country because they have such a tremendous influence and because we don't have much time," said Lundgren, whose organization promotes the belief that war has become an obsolete method of settling conflict.

"I believe we are at a turning point in our world," said Coye, who took over San Diego's nuclear freeze organization after 21 years as a Navy officer and was the daughter of a highly decorated Navy war hero. "We will go one way or another. The two symbols are the mushroom cloud and the planet. The citizens must wake up and push us in favor of the planet."

Though Coye, who retired with the rank of commander, was familiar with nuclear armaments during her career—which included three tours as an intelligence officer—it wasn't until after her retirement that she went through something of an awakening of her own. After hearing a presentation by a Beyond War lecturer, she decided to get involved.

"You close your eyes and you listen to that and say, 'That's enough, I've got to turn it around,'" she said.

The 2-year-old MEND organization has become the local symbol of the peace movement's new participants. While the Peace Resource Center operates out of two cramped rooms lined with books and bumper-stickers in a church-sponsored cooperative, MEND is based in a spacious, pastel-colored La Jolla office formerly occupied by a physician.

Launched with a \$1-million gift from the family of founder Linda Smith—daughter of Joan Kree, a major stockholder in the McDonald's restaurant chain and owner of the San Diego Padres baseball team—MEND has a full-time staff of seven people, including one in Washington, and a \$400,000 annual budget. The image is professional, down to the cut of staff members' clothes.

Executive Director Jonna Faulkner notes that MEND's La Jolla office is the base of a national organization that has a budget and headquarters much the same size as other groups located in Washington or New York. MEND's first local chapter, also in San Diego, has no office, is run entirely by volunteers and has raised \$2,600, she said.

Sull, San Diego chapter President Kay Rose acknowledges that there is "a real professionalism in the peace movement now . . . [a] business-like way that the work is being carried out."

Both women believe that their organization, which appeals to "mothers and other nurturers," was formed at the right time to reach people who had never before become directly involved in disarmament work—either out of ignorance of the issues or fear. MEND is attracting "people who have very centered, not extreme, views," Faulkner said. "Family people. Normal people."

Such people have realized that "there may not be a future. There may not be a world for our children to inherit. There may not be children," she said.

Others trace the growth of the peace movement's new branch to fear of what some see as bellicosity by President Reagan, the proliferation



DAVE GATLEY / Los Angeles Times

Beth Coye took over San Diego organization seeking a nuclear weapons freeze after retiring from the Navy as a commander.

tion of nuclear weapons (there are about 60,000 in the world now), the ground broken by the national Nuclear Freeze movement of the early 1980s, and the glimmer of hope for progress offered by the recent talks between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

MEND is credited with organizing the largest San Diego protest march since the Vietnam War on Aug. 6, 1985, when 10,000 people gathered for a "walk for peace" in Balboa Park on the 40th anniversary of the nuclear destruction of

Hiroshima. It claims a local membership of 300, a national paid membership of 1,000 and a mailing list of 10,000.

But even taken together, the peace movement's accomplishments are dwarfed by the impact of the county's most dominant institution, the military. Activists agree that the county's economic and political ties to the Navy and Marines make their task a gargantuan one.

"You would think from the outside looking in that this was going to be difficult. Our experience, in



BOB GRISSER / Los Angeles Times

A collection of buttons proclaims anti-war message in display at the Peace Resource Center.

fact, is that it wasn't," she said.

However, MEND and San Diegians for a Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze are two groups that pledge a commitment to a strong national defense, a position that divides them from leftist and religious peace activists. Their reluctance to address the relationship between nuclear arms and, for example, U.S. military activity in Central America also causes some disagreement within the county's peace movement.

The new activists "gradually are going to have their eyes opened to how different issues are related and linked, and how it's necessary to think about a broader range of issues, not just how we can get a comprehensive test ban treaty," said Rick Jahnkow, co-founder of the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft.

Jahnkow's group recently devoted an issue of its newsletter, "Draft Notices," to the obstacles interfering with peace organizing in San Diego, which the committee calls "America's Finest Militarized Zone."

Organizers cited small turnouts at events, the lack of resources and

publicity, the failure of groups to work closely together and present a more unified image, the public's failure to see the urgency of issues and burnout as their greatest frustrations.

Many activists believe they are saddled with a totally unsympathetic local media, led by the San Diego Union and Tribune. Plus, the generally comfortable life style in San Diego makes it difficult to politicize residents until issues affect them personally, they said.

Even success has had its drawbacks, because the growing number of groups has fragmented the

movement and cluttered the calendar with fund-raising and education events, they said.

But such factors only highlight San Diego's special need for the kind of work these peace groups do, organizers said. It may be easier to organize in more liberal towns, but not quite as important, they said.

"It's the whole reason why we're involved in the first place," Jahnkow said. "If it weren't difficult, if there weren't a concentration of defense spending, we wouldn't have a reason to exist. That's the challenge and I accept it. That's why we're here."

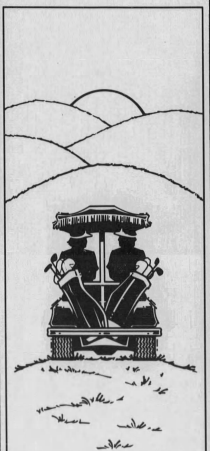
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INDEPENDENT COAST OBSERVER

PAGE 3-SPLASH

## Author to discuss political topics addressed in book

Retired U.S. Navy Commander Beth F. Coye will discuss her book on Saturday, April 18, 5:00 p.m., at Gualala Books.

*My Navy. Too*, a political novel based on real experiences, is the story of one woman's career in the U.S. Navy during the 60s and 70s, the era of the Vietnam War, the women's movement, the Cold War and, later, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" political debate. In Coye's novel, Navy officer Tucker Fair-

field confronts the current political issues of gender and homosexuality in the military. Coye and her five co-authors have used a letter/journal format to produce an easy-to-read and compelling story.

The public is welcome to join Gualala Books in welcoming Coye and discussing the political topics addressed in her novel. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call 884-4255.

## May fundraiser to feature art exhibition and auction

Picasso, Goya and Warhol are among the world-famous artists that will be represented at the Celebration of Art Collectors Show and Auction, set for Saturday, May 23.

tiques, furs, an automobile, vacation accommodations and other jury-selected items. The event is a fundraiser in the effort to meet the \$25,000 two-for-one challenge grant



Beth Coye, retired U.S. Navy Commander, will discuss the political topics addressed in her novel *My Navy Too* at a reading set for Saturday, April 18, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Gualala Books.

*Out and About*

house Brewing Co. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. For more information call

# Chaplains in military fear fallout from repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell'

By Ann Rodgers  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

During Beth Coye's 21 years in the U.S. Navy, she never considered approaching a chaplain about the dilemmas she faced as a closeted lesbian forced to dismiss other gays from the service. The retired Navy commander grew up attending Navy chapel with her military family, but didn't trust them with her secret.

Today, Ms. Coye, a former Episcopalian, is a Unitarian on the Forum on Military Chaplaincy, a gay rights group advising the Pentagon on the impending repeal of its ban on gays.

Training for the repeal must be under way by Tuesday. The repeal becomes effective 60 days

after the Pentagon certifies readiness.

Ms. Coye knows that many chaplains fear the repeal, and she wants them to know that it won't restrict what they teach about sexual morality.

Others express concern for the consequences of the repeal on openly gay service members, saying they fear that some conservative chaplains might not minister compassionately to them.

Ms. Coye tells those on both sides to be patient with each other.

"We need better ways to communicate and learn from each other, or we will have more difficulty than we need to," she said. "I'm very hopeful that the repeal will create a much better atmosphere in the military and

for the country. But we need to do it right and well."

The majority of 3,000 chaplains are theologically conservative Christians, many of whom worry that they will be accused of hate speech if they preach that

SEE **CHAPLAINS**, PAGE A-8

## Black History Month

The road to freedom was arduous. Local records show that many slaves' children were indentured servants into adulthood. **The Region, C-1.**



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PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE ■ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011 ■ WWW.POST-GAZETTE.COM

# Military chaplains fear fallout from repeal

CHAPLAINS, FROM PAGE A-1

same-sex relationships are sinful. But a Pentagon study found only 2 percent would leave due to a repeal.

"Our chaplains feel that this is God's calling on their lives. A change in a law or in a policy isn't going to have an impact on that," said Mike Ebert, a spokesman for the North American Mission Board, which endorses Southern Baptist chaplains for the military. Every chaplain must be endorsed by a religious body.

His agency opposed the repeal and has asked chaplains to report any infringement on their ministry.

The military's bottom line is that no chaplain will be penalized for teaching that gay sex is sinful.

"Service members must not be required to change their personal views and religious beliefs," said the Support Plan for Implementation of the repeal. "They must, however, continue to respect and co-exist with others who may hold different views and beliefs."

The plan tells trainers for the repeal to "use language that is respectful of all perspectives. ... This includes gay and lesbian individuals as well as people of faith who have moral concerns with repeal, all of whom can be stereotyped in a negative way."

Nevertheless, the *Pray in Jesus Name* Project, which supports conservative chaplains, has called the Pentagon guidelines the "plan to purge Christians" from chaplaincy.

"Now the Obama Administration is officially on record pressuring chaplains to quit the service if they cannot 'reconcile' with homosexual sin that violates their Christian conscience," said a petition on its website.

The "purge" is a clause that says chaplains have an option to leave the military that isn't open to others who object to serving with gay troops. They can ask their faith group to withdraw its endorsement, which would trigger a discharge.

Retired Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lee, a former Army chaplain who endorses for six conservative Presbyterian bodies, is less alarmist, but shares the concern that protection of religious freedom may erode.

"The fundamental issue for

us is morality, but the debate is being purposely framed as a civil rights or a discrimination issue," he said.

Homosexuality is "just another sin that affects soldiers, airmen, guardians and Marines. However no other category that we would declare as sin is ... claiming civil rights to be a serial adulterer."

Any charges of hate speech will "depend on how the chaplains handle themselves," said the Rev. John Gundlach, a retired Navy chaplain and endorser for the United Church of Christ, which affirms gay sexuality.

"They are entitled to preach whatever they think is necessary in the context of a worship service, but they certainly wouldn't be allowed to go around speaking against homosexuals in terms of their daily rounds in command. That would be counterproductive to good order and discipline. You don't go around speaking against your fellow soldiers."

The chaplains' motto is "we provide for our own, we facilitate for others and we care for all," he said. "If a Southern Baptist chaplain does not feel that he can provide [gay affirmative] counseling, that chaplain still has the obligation to refer or to facilitate the providing of service by someone who is willing to do that."

Rabbi Alvin Berkun, a retired Navy chaplain and rabbi emeritus of Tree of Life Congregation in Squirrel Hill, doesn't believe much will change. He chairs the group that endorses Conservative rabbis as military chaplains.

"This doesn't mean that chaplains suddenly have to be supportive [of same-sex relationships], but it does mean that they have to accept them as legitimate service members and minister to their needs, which they have done for decades," he said.

The training materials include an example of a complaint against a chaplain for preaching that homosexuality is a sin. The official response upholds the chaplain.

"This situation is an excellent opportunity to have a discussion with the [accusing] service member about religious respect and the proper boundaries of religious expression within the military. ... [T]he service member may request assistance from the chaplain's office in finding a different religious service to



Bob Pernel/Mail Tribune

Beth Coye tries on her bucket hat, part of the uniform she wore as a U.S. Navy commander before retiring in 1980. Ms. Coye is a member of the Forum on Military Chaplaincy, a gay rights group advising the Pentagon on the impending repeal of its ban on gays.

attend," the guidelines said.

Rev. Lee said early indications is that the training is "somewhat benign" but he anticipates problems later on.

"I'd like to be proved wrong, but you don't have to look very far to see where people would like to go," he said.

He cited two federal court cases that upheld the expulsion of Christian students from graduate counseling programs because they had sought to refer gay clients to other therapists who could affirm their sexuality. He believes the precedents could eventually apply to chaplains.

"There are chaplains who are concerned that they will be discriminated against. While I sympathize with that fear, it's an interesting conundrum when they're presenting it under the rubric of discriminating against someone else," said the Rev. Sarah Lammert, the endorser for the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Rev. Lee says the conservative chaplains won't deny pastoral care.

"We already take care of gay people. The question isn't will chaplains take care of gay people, but will the homosexual community allow us to preach and teach

## Liberal faiths recruiting chaplains

By Ann Rodgers  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Rabbi Alvin Berkun loved his career as a Navy chaplain, but resigned during the Vietnam War.

"I felt I had to speak out against the war, and I couldn't do that in uniform," said the Pittsburgh rabbi who remains a chaplain endorser for Conservative rabbis.

He joined an exodus of liberal and centrist clergy that created a tilt toward conservative Protestants in the chaplains' ranks.

Some of the liberal seminaries banned chaplain recruiters, while conservative schools promoted chaplain training.

But, with the repeal faiths that affirm gay sexuality are seeking a comeback. Due to the impending repeal, Yale Divinity School is reconsidering its ban on recruitment, said seminary spokesman Gustav Spohn.

The endorser for the Unitarian-Universalist Association, the Rev. Sarah Lammert, plans a recruiting push for chaplains.

"If I'm wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan I assume, with this repeal, that my partner in life can come see me in the hospital. I would hope that any of our chaplains would attend to that person. But I'd like to see more chaplains who can honestly affirm that experience," she said.

The Rev. Kristen Leslie,

professor of pastoral care and theology at Eden Theological Seminary, is starting a track for chaplains at the United Church of Christ school in St. Louis. Many liberal seminaries eschewed chaplaincy training because they opposed militarism, she said.

"We seemingly made little distinction between those making the decision to go to war and those being sent," she said.

Chaplains from other denominations are inquiring about transferring to the United Church of Christ, said the Rev. John Gundlach, the denomination's endorser.

"They no longer want to be part of denominations that discriminate," he said.

Retired Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lee, the chaplain endorser for six conservative Presbyterian denominations, would welcome liberal colleagues to whom evangelical chaplains could refer gay troops.

"We celebrate that people of vastly different theological perspectives are in military chaplaincy," he said.

"We learn to respect each other and work around the differences. The chaplains are all about hope and encouragement and blessing, even in the middle of serious theological differences."

Ann Rodgers can be reached at [arodgers@post-gazette.com](mailto:arodgers@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1416.

and counsel people, with [their] permission?" he said.

He can't imagine any chaplain refusing to comfort the gay partner of a soldier wounded in battle. Sexuality "doesn't matter to the chaplain in that setting," he said.

"There are all kinds of ways that chaplains are trained to pro-

vide for that couple. It's not a question of how will our chaplains deal with this, but how will the [gay] community deal with this? When it comes to taking care of people, chaplains will do it."

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