

EDITORS NOTES:

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Subscribers from the 1980s will remember that the fat, article-filled issues of the last few years were never the norm for this publication. This issue is the norm. There are several reasons why I am retreating to a smaller issue. First, both Nancy Ries and I are on well deserved leaves this term. This made it difficult to develop a large scale editing project. Barnb West did the spring issue and I can tell you from experience that two large issues in a row are more work than any volunteer editor deserves. The Spring issue may bring us back to thje extraordinary efforts of the past few years.

As I write this, the U.S. is recovering from the attacks on the World Trade Center and thre Pentagon. The mood in the country is for retaliative violence instead of retributive justice. At my institution and in many other colleges and universities, calls for reason and long-sightedness seem to fall on deaf ears. Ethnic intolerance toward Asians is increasing. As anthropologists who were raised in different societies, we hold diverse views on the tragedy and appropriate responses. Yet, there is one value that we hold in common: the more diverse and tolerant a society, the more mature its vision, the more stable its future, and the more protective of the potential of all of its citizens to reach their potential. The United States is sometimes a model of what such a society can be and sometimes an arrogant and insensitive bully. The radicals who attacked the innocents on September 11 do not offer a social future of more diversity and tolerance. In fact, they offer its opposite. Those of us who are critics of conscience of uglier

tendencies of the U.S. cannot embrace these enemies. Nevertheless, great powers are judged by history in the way they deal with these challenges. In the hope of helping the subscribers of this newsletter to engage in conversation with peers on this issue, I am reprinting a letter from Prof. Jennifer Terry at Berkeley, together with a letter from EEAG member Hugh Gusterson of MIT. I hope it is helpful.

Dear Friends:

I have been talking with some of you and with others informally around the US and overseas about the possibility of starting a group called something like Professors for Peace. Perhaps there is such a group already but I am not aware of it. If any of you knows of such a group, would you please let me know? Some of us may consider joining it or, in its absence, we may consider forming one. In any case, here is the impetus behind the idea I propose to you now.

Basic rationale: It seems obvious to many of us teaching college students right now that they have very little understanding of the history and possibilities of peace movements and that many of them are not so gung-ho about going to war yet they are nearly paralyzed and cannot think of alternatives right now. Also many of them feel personally threatened by the unleashing of bigotry being done in the name of patriotism and national security.

Basic strategy: In addition to teach-ins and courses and public (on and off-line) demonstrations on waging peace in a post Cold War world, Professors for Peace could work in affinity with other anti-racist groups fighting against the

rising tide of hate crimes against people of Islamic and/or Middle East and South Asian origins. I understand that a course on tolerance and hatred is being put together to be collectively taught this Fall quarter at Ohio State University. We could share syllabi and course materials about such courses and teach-ins. And we could form ad hoc watch dog groups to monitor the role of the university in funding and supporting defense contracts and the current mobilization for war. In other words, there is much to be done and we could decide how much we want to undertake and what our coordinated strategies might be. Outreach to you is the first step. We might find that we should organize in local contexts, college by college, university by university. Or we might want to think of other strategies for organizing, such as around particular foci and tasks. Or a combo of these and other kinds of strategies and subgroups. I'm thinking outloud here folks, so please bear with me.

Beyond the Campuses and into the Public Sphere: In addition to whatever we do on campuses, the group could show the larger society that the professoriate has a crucial (and neglected) role to play in shaping public dialogue and debate right now. This could also be an avenue for the voices of profs of color, women, and queers to be heard -- we are almost nowhere to be found in all the pundit shows and "late breaking news" on TV right now. Right now it's mostly the straight white men heroes' show. We need to be more organized, involved, and visible as this country moves toward some racist war. Let me know your thoughts on this and please spread the word to others who you think might be interested.

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Dear Friends,

I'm writing to tell you about a network of faculty and other educators called "Professors for Peace" that is crystallizing across the U.S. and Canada in response to the attacks of last week and the gathering signs that the Bush Administration's response to those attacks may result in much more loss of innocent life and a further wave of resentment against the U.S. in other parts of the world. Jennifer Terry's message below is pretty self-explanatory. If you want to join this network send a message saying "subscribe" to professors_for_peace_subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If that doesn't work, contact Jennifer herself and she can add you to the group. In closing let me say that there has already been some discussion about the network's possibly elitist name, and Jennifer has made it clear that she construes "professors" very broadly and is happy to include all stripes of educators while holding on to both the alliterative title and the cultural capital that still, fadingly, inheres in the title "professor."

Best wishes,

Hugh Gusterson