

Winter 1988



"Working for Peace and Justice"

GROW. NOTES

The Grass Roots Organizing Workshop

Governor Guilty!

FREE SPEECH COSTS GOVERNOR \$50,000

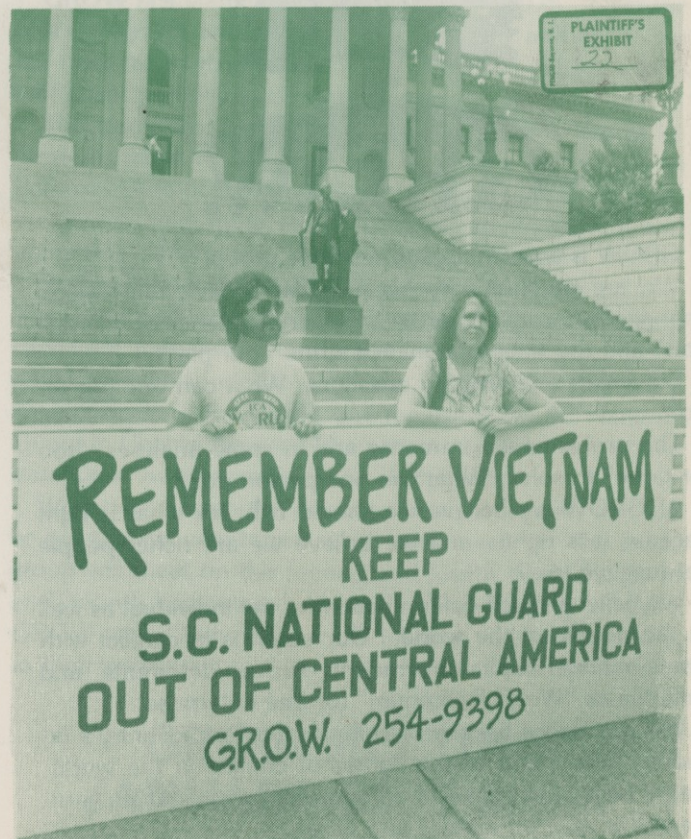
"REMEMBER VIETNAM. KEEP S.C. NATIONAL GUARD OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICA" was the message on the sign scheduled to be put on the State House lawn June 10, 1987

An hour before the sign was to be erected, the Grass Roots Organizing Workshop (GROW), was told that their permit had been revoked because they had not waited the necessary 30 days for permit approval.

"We weren't surprised about the last minute obstruction. In fact, knowing Governor Campbell's record of supporting the Contras when he was in Congress, we were surprised they ever granted a permit," noted Brett Bursey, GROW's Program Director

On the 29th day of the 30-day waiting period, GROW received notice that the regulations governing use of the state house grounds had been changed and signs would no longer be permitted on the capitol lawn. Historically, two locations had been designated for non-profit organizations to place signs on the state house grounds in downtown Columbia. The United Way, the Childrens Trust Fund and the Wildlife Agency are some of the organizations that have displayed messages on signs.

"We had plenty of reason to believe that their new policy was based on the content of our sign, and was, therefore, unconstitutional," said Bursey. The ACLU took the case and hired two long time GROW supporters, Bob Guild and Robert Hallman, to represent GROW. Civil charges were filed in Federal Court charging Governor Campbell and other



GROW supporters Sue Bowman and Rev. Sam Stone with sign.

'Free Speech' Continued . . .

members of the Budget and Control Board (who govern use of the grounds) with conspiring to violate GROW's constitutional rights.

After four days in federal court, and the unprecedented compulsory appearance of the Governor the federal judge issued a directed verdict of guilty.

"Although we had sworn testimony contradicting Campbell's version of his involvement, we decided not to call the Governor a liar on the witness stand, hoping that the judge and jury could see the truth for themselves," said Bursey. "He is such a charming and convincing prevaricator that we were worried after his appearance."

During his testimony, the Governor admitted that he could have been the one that brought up the notion that "Bursey thought that people who fought in Vietnam were war criminals." Campbell went on to acknowledge that his brother died in Vietnam, but denied that his personal opinions about Bursey and Central America had anything to do with his decision to do away with signs. Campbell argued that the decision was based on aesthetics.

After the judge's ruling that the defendants were guilty of violating GROW's civil rights, the state offered to settle the question of damages. "We didn't really expect to win, much less be offered money for our pain and suffering," Bursey said. GROW accepted an offer of \$50,000 for court costs and damages.

"We believe that the monetary damages underscore an important lesson for elected officials who let personal opinions and prejudices influence the execution of their offices," GROW attorney Hallman said.

According to Bursey, GROW's \$20,000 portion of the settlement will be used to pay bills and make a downpayment on a new, two-color printing press. "We are delighted that Bob and Robert are finally being paid for their work on GROW's behalf. They have both helped us out for years in and out of court with never a thought about being paid," Bursey said.

The judge has not yet ruled on allowing GROW's sign to be placed in front of the state house for the two weeks the original permit requested. Motions have been filed and a ruling is expected in the next few weeks.

"It is important that all the fuss over the sign not be allowed to obscure the original issue GROW was trying to raise," Bursey observed. "The use of the South Carolina National Guard as a tool for political and military schemes in Central America should not be left up to Carol Campbell. The public needs to be informed and the issue debated."

A recent federal appeals court ruling upheld the right of states to refuse to allow their National Guard to be ordered to Central America by the Pentagon. Governor Campbell had filed papers with the court supporting the Pentagon's position.



Merll and Brett with check for \$20,000 moments before it was all spent. "After we paid bills and put a down payment on a new printing press we only had enough left over for a six-pack."

A FUN AND EXCITING WAY TO KEEP YOUR BRAIN FROM TURNING TO MUSH

Grow Study Group Reorganizes

GROW first started as a study group in 1975. Over the years programs and participants have come and gone, but the need for us to get together to study and debate important issues remains as urgent as ever.

The study group helps us to understand how we as individuals relate to critical issues. We strive to develop an understanding of problems like racism and sexism in practical terms, and study social, political, environmental and economic dilemmas with an eye towards action.

Some of the topics dealt with over the past year include: The historical lack of democracy in S.C. government, capitalism, socialism, communism, the need for a Palestinian homeland, racism and the confederate flag, new developments in the USSR, and the use of the SC National Guard in Central America (the notion to put the sign on the statehouse lawn came from the study group).

We want to open the group to new participants and will be considering new topics at our next meeting. The study group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month beginning January 25. This meeting will be at GROW at 7:30pm. Call for the location of future meetings as they may move to different participants' homes.

GROW MEETING JANUARY 25, 7:30pm

GROW Building: Topics for future meetings will be discussed, call 254-9398 for info.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA		87-22
Office of State Treasurer		539
GRADY L. PATTERSON, JR.		109374320
COLUMBIA, S.C.		
ORGANIZATION NO.	VENDOR NUMBER	DATE
F12	WARR C F12881130600030	120278
PAY TO	AMOUNT	
GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZING WORKSHOP	\$*****20,000.00	
PAY - \$*****20,000.00		
CONFIDENCE ACCOUNT		
THE SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL BANK		
COLUMBIA, S.C.		

Grady L. Patterson

LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

The Natural Guard Fund, an environmental foundation hosted by GROW, has entered into an agreement with officials of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge to assist in the preservation of the Cape Romain Lighthouses.

The first lighthouse, built in the 1820's to warn ships bound for Charleston of the Cape shoals, was replaced by a much taller structure in the 1850's. The light was maintained by families who lived on the island until 1947 when the facility was abandoned. The lighthouse, as tall as a 14 story building, is a massive brick structure with a metal spiral stairway.

Lighthouse Island is six miles off the coast, thru marsh, due east of McClellanville, SC, 30 miles north of Charleston. The island is at the top of the largest coastal wilderness area on the east coast. The Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1936 and has been designated as a wilderness. The Refuge is beautiful beyond description and the wildlife abundant beyond belief.

The Natural Guard will be clearing undergrowth, building a dock and cleaning the interior of the lighthouse for the first few months beginning in January. The initial work will be hard and conditions tough, but volunteers are welcome. Financial donations to the "Lighthouse Fund" are tax deductible. T-shirts with the lighthouse drawn by Joe Byrnes are in the works and free with donations of \$10 or more.

For more information call Brett at 254-9398.



GROW is a revolutionary resource group.

We are revolutionary because we believe that radical changes are needed to protect the very existence of "civilization" and the stage on which it struts our planet.

Big stakes and weighty questions. What can one person do?

The problems are immense and in some analyses, "too far gone" to solve. What can one person do?

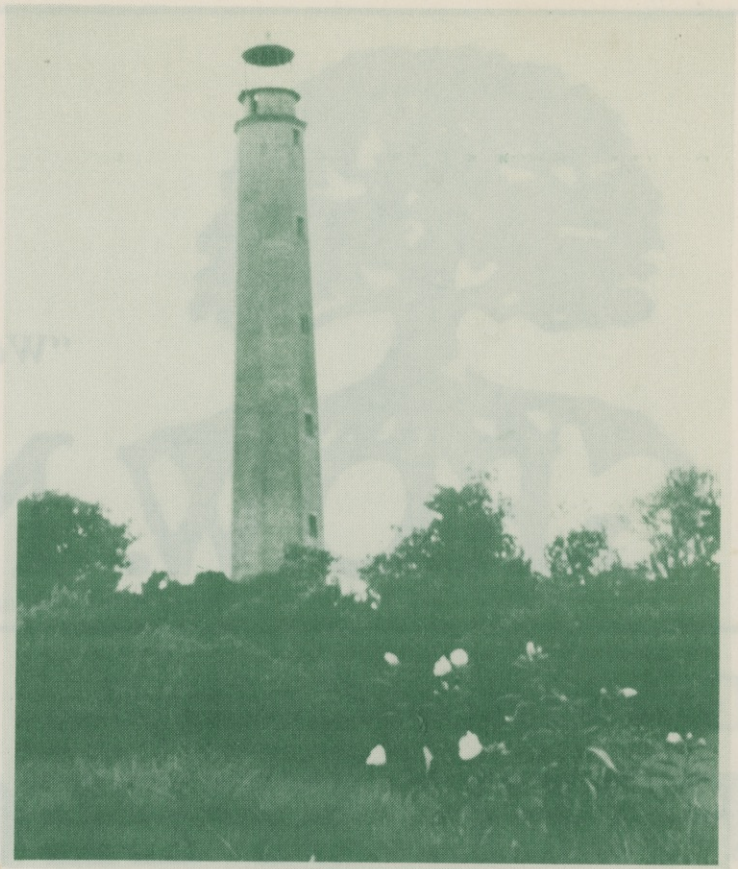
At GROW we believe we should fight for what is right because it is right and we believe we are richer people because we try.

We believe in self determination for the individual as well as the people of the world. Our vision is in conflict with Trans-national capitalism, racism, nuclear deterrents, and America as "World Policeman" for free enterprise.

We are angry because we know that our country's influence fans many of the flames of conflict in the world. Angry because in spite of all common sense our environment is written off a piece at a time.

Angry because we know our country can do better

Hopeful because we are going to try.



Cape Romain Lighthouse

**WHAT'S WAR REALLY LIKE?
Walk a Mile in My Shoes:**



'Interview a Vet Contest'

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO), an agency for military and draft counseling is offering a unique contest open to people between the ages of 15 and 23. It has two parts: 1) interview a Vietnam Vet and 2) write something, or create a work of art or your music that is based on your interview. The deadline is March 15, 1989, and essays, artwork, music, and videos are all accepted. Two grand prizes of \$500 are offered and (20 \$100 prizes). To enter write for the "Interview A Vet" contest booklet from:

CCC

2208 South Street

Philadelphia, PA 19146

Before you register for the draft, contact CCCO to learn about your options.

Good News Sources

Nicaragua Network News

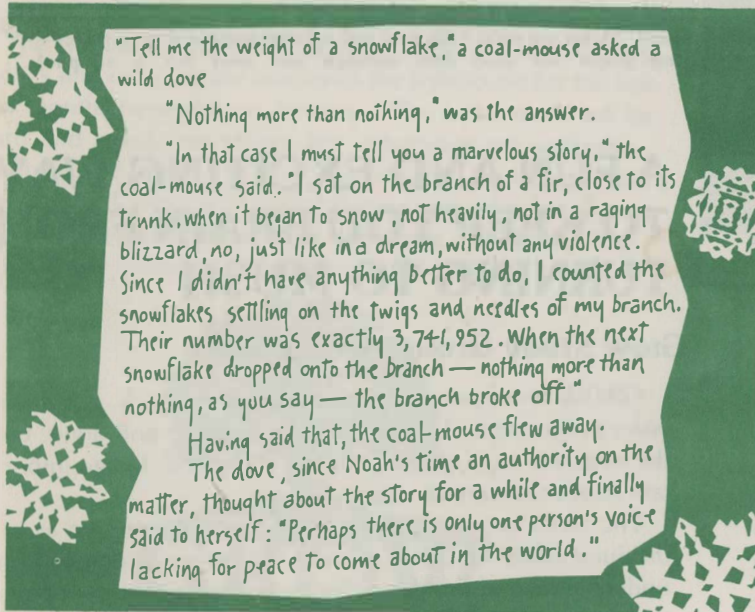
\$10 year 2025 I Street NW 212
Washington, DC 20077

Committee in Support of the People of El Salvador (CTSPES)

One year subscription to "ALERT" news from El
Salvadore \$15 CTSPES, PO Box 12056, Washington, DC
20005

The Guardian

America's oldest and best progressive weekly newspaper
-must reading 6 month subscription \$18.
Guardian, 33 West 17th, New York, NY 10011



GROW T-shirts Available

We have a limited supply of red, black and blue GROW T-shirts on hand. The GROW tree is on the front and back with the slogan "Working for Peace and Justice." \$10 each if you pick them up; add postage if we ship.



In a 'Kinder and Gentler Nation' jobs, education, healthcare and a clean, nuclear free environment should be the right of every person.



Grass Roots Organizing Workshop
The Natural Guard
18 Bluff Road
Columbia, S.C. 29201
803-254-9398



Non-Profit Org.
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
P-A-I-D
Permit No. 332
Columbia, SC

"A Kinder, Gentler Nation"