

CHINATOWN COALITION for INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

CELEBRATE INT'L WORKING WOMEN'S DAY



Join Us in Celebration:

ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
DAY CARE COMMITTEE AGAINST BUDGET CUTS
STUDENT RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOP

DATE: SAT. MARCH 6, 1976
PLACE: JHS 65 - Eldridge and Canal St.
TIME: 1:00 EXHIBIT 2:00-5:00 CULTURAL PROGRAM
DONATION: \$1.00 ADULT 50¢ CHILDREN
DAYCARE PROVIDED

International Working Women Day is a day for the commemoration of the glorious struggle of oppressed women throughout history and the women who are still struggling for our liberation in all parts of the world. Through our March 8 celebrations, we should learn from the experience of the International women's movement, unite with the broad masses of oppressed women to fight for equality of men and women, fight for our democratic rights and fight against all oppression. Under the current economic crisis, working women must step up our effort to unite with all oppressed minorities and working people.

Women in Chinatown are oppressed both on their jobs and in the family. The majority of Chinatown women are working in the garment sweatshops and provides a pool of cheap labor for the big banks and corporations! Abuses of workers' rights in the factories are rampant such as unhealthy working conditions, sweatshop wages, and long hours. Feudal ideas are still prevalent in the community, i.e. "Housework is women's work." Any woman who stands up to fight is labelled as deviating from her role of a woman, i.e. "She's not a real woman." As the economic crisis deepens and the monopoly capitalists intensify their attack on working people, oppressed minorities and women bear the brunt of the attack in terms of lay-offs, unemployment, higher prices, closing of hospitals, and daycares. Those who are in control and power, maintain their position by dividing people against one another. If people see the source of their problems, people will fight more against it. This is exactly what they don't want to happen!

What's one way of dividing people? Pit men against women! Make people believe that men are superior and women inferior. This leads to chauvinism and the subjugated role of women in our society. Because of this situation, the Chinatown Coalition is united under the following principles:

(1) Unite to fight for the democratic rights of all working people, women and oppressed minorities.

(2) Seeing the women's question not only as just men oppressing women but seeing it as part of the class question.

This means that we see that women's oppression is caused by the unequal and exploitative nature of our economic system.

In this society, capital, machines, factories -- everything that is used to produce goods -- are controlled by a handful of big shots who control the big banks and corporations.

We see that the economic system exploits us, working people, minorities, and women, and that the root of women's oppression lies within the economic system.

We also see that we must change ideas that are harmful to women. Men and women together must struggle against the ideology of male chauvinism which justifies keeping women out of jobs and divides men and women. Male chauvinism fosters myths that women are inferior in intelligence and ability, and that women's destiny is to just have babies, care for them, and to serve men. But just as the ideology of racism serves only the bosses by dividing white and Third World workers so that they don't see who the real enemy is, so does male chauvinism

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DEMANDS OF THE COALITION

1. Fight against the government's efforts to intensify the burden of a decaying economy on the working people.

End all lay-offs, and cuts in our vital services such as: Day care, Education, Hospitals, other services.

2. Fight for the rights of all women.

Paid maternity leave
Equal pay for equal work
Free and quality daycare for all
Defend women's right to self-defense against sexual attack
Free and safe abortions. And end to forced sterilization of women

Defeat the ERA and super-seniority policies that pit women against men and divert our struggles

3. End all repressive legislation that split and harass the working people.

Stop the S₁ Bill
Stop the Taylor law that denies workers the right to strike.
Stop the Wagner Bill
Stop the Rodino Bill

4. Stop all pornography and other chauvinist and degenerate culture used to pacify and undermine the working people.

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CULTURE and FASCISM

Remember back in the 1960's a film called "I am curious (Yellow)?" That was the first 'pornographic' film to hit the general American public. Hundreds of demonstrations were mounted across the country, protesting the decadence of the film. But look at our movies today. Walk down to your local theatre where films like "The Story of O," "Defiance," "Deep Throat" are spreading the poison of sexism. These pornographic films, which degrade women and treat them as objects of sexual sadism, ultimately ingrain in the minds of people the idea that men are superior to women. This pits men against women. But it doesn't stop here!

You read the newspapers, watch the news on t.v. You hear about thousands being laid off their jobs. You're worried since you might be the next one. What's causing this? If you see films like the "Exorcist" and other "devil films," it is implied that evil spirits are the root of our problems. So what do you do to fight back and release your frustrations? Movies like "Death Wish" and "The Wild Bunch" have the impression that you should get into simplistic, glorified individual acts of violence: "Shoot a 'petty mugger' since he is trying to rip you off." That's the alternative that mass media feeds us. Notice that every other program on T.V. is about cops. And what about S.W.A.T.? This mindless program openly promotes brutal and fascist police tactics. And look at the rash of Black exploitation films, which degrades the dignity of Black people and pits Blacks against whites. Why are we bombarded with these messages? Why has so called culture in this country degenerated into this? Let's look behind the scene and see who is responsible.

What's behind decadent culture?

The media is a multi-million dollar business run by shrewd bankers eager for quick profits. These bankers are keenly aware that the capitalist system is in a state of chaos and decline. Last year, the capitalist system plunged into its worst recession since WW II, throwing millions out of work. Thousands of workers fought back through militant actions and strikes. The big bankers and corporations can't have this. This resistance would threaten their position of power and profits. One way

of stopping people from seeing the cause of unemployment, inflation, budget cuts, etc. is to divert the heat away from themselves.

What decadent culture does.

Messages from the mass media influence our lives more than we think. Look at our kids for example. They watch t.v., go to movies. Kids go around admiring certain "individuals" that they see. They believe that it's cool and hip to be like that. "Push a woman around, beat up anyone on the street for kicks." That's the message of a decadent culture!

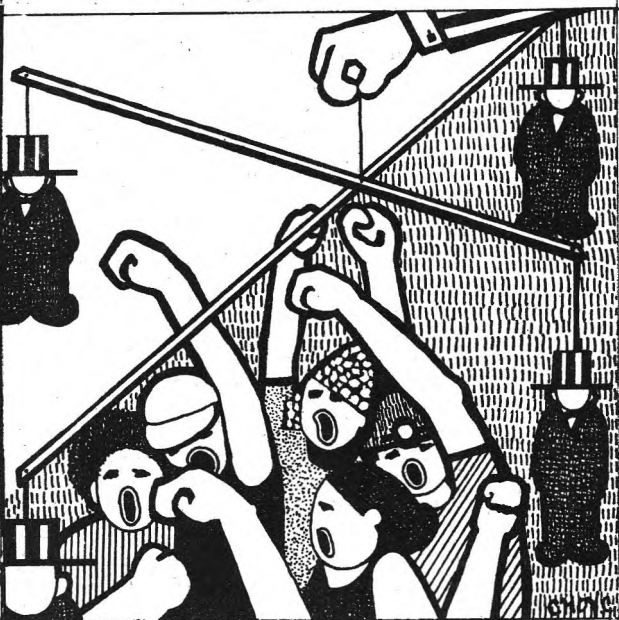
Take pornography and even those "R" movies which portrays women as sex objects. We are fed ideas about sexual superiority and fantasies. This creates splits between men and women. Women do not want to be treated like this and neither do men. Ultimately this divides the sexes. The same goes for the Black exploitation films. The anger of Black people fighting against oppression is directed towards whites in general. This does not deal with the reality that Blacks and whites, as well as other groups, suffer under the same oppressor. In other words, this type of decadent culture divide working people and the sexes. Pitting us against one another.

Decadent culture & fascism

Decadent culture helps pave the way to fascism. As the capitalist system begins to collapse, the banks and corporations rely less on reforms and more on out and out repression. Decadent culture helps prepare people to "accept repression and fascism."

By glorifying and romanticizing open fascist actions and violence on t.v. and in the movies, people are told that these things are good. The bankers try to make us believe that is "all right" to smash people's heads with clubs or shoot people down. Decadent culture tries to fool us into accepting these tactics and also making us fear them. These films and t.v. shows attempts to stop our militant actions and demands for our democratic rights. We must not be fooled and brainwashed by this type of culture, but we must be aware and understand it. We must organize and fight even harder for our democratic rights and for the equality of women in this society. What does all of this add up to? FASCISM. (cont on p. 4)

REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION WE MUST DEFEAT!



S1 BILL -- presently being pushed in the Senate, it is an attempt to legalize much of the repression that has been done semi-undercover by the FBI, CIA, and police. Its main features are (1) imprisonment or death for anyone having "secret" government information, even if it was not declared secret when it was originally

obtained (2) Any meeting, demonstration, or group of people can be declared a "riot" if interpreted as such by the police; those "offenders" subject to fine or imprisonment. (3) It will make wire-tapping without court approval legal (4) It limits the prosecution of public officials who have committed crimes (5) Revives the Smith Act which allows 15 years, \$100,000 fine for anyone advocating destruction of the government, limiting any kind of protest action.

TITLE 20 -- a federal law which stipulates that 50% of daycare families have to be welfare recipients. This means that the government has "freed" large numbers of welfare mothers to work for their checks at slave wages through forced government work programs such as WIN. Also makes it impossible for a family of four to get daycare if family income exceeds \$11,400 a year. This means ineligible mothers will be forced to stay home with their children. And those families on the brink of ineligibility will be forced to freeze their wages. Also provides for an elaborate computer system with detailed information on daycare families, to track down parents who have been forced to "separate" to maintain their eligibility. This is a fascist method of harassing people and of controlling their lives.

THE RODINO BILL -- a bill in Congress being pushed by forces who want to blame illegal aliens for the scarcity of jobs. The bill will

celebrate... cont. from p.1

divide men and women. Our unity in spirit and action is what the bosses fear most!!

Our principles of unity point out clearly that there is only one true road in the fight for the liberation of women. At present, the women's movement in the U.S. is still dominated by a few middle class women who see men as their enemy. They advocate an "autonomous" women's movement divorced from the day to day realities of working people in America. They raise demands such as the Equal Rights Amendment

We feel that men are not our enemy. Most men are also working people that are oppressed by the same economic system.

The only true road for us is to take up the fight of all working people against exploitation and oppression. We must fight for our rights as workers and as women. As members of oppressed minorities, we must also fight against national oppression. The list of demands raised by the Chinatown Coalition represents an outline of what we see as a fighting program for a new women's movement that must be rooted deeply in the masses and realities of our lives.

The May struggle last year against police brutality shows the strength of women when we are united. It shows that without the active participation of women, our democratic rights struggles will not bear fruit



Let us take these lessons to heart. We must unite and get organized. We must learn not to be disheartened by the day to day battle for survival. But we must see it as a further reason to fight back even harder!! We must see that the women's movement is part of a larger movement against all oppression. We must see that our interest as oppressed women is identical with the interest of all oppressed minorities and working people. We must see that our struggle is part of the struggle of women in Third World countries against colonialism and imperialism

Let us study these lessons closely and take up the fight, uniting with all our brothers and sisters. It is in this spirit that we dedicate this issue.

harass Third World people, esp. Asians and Spanish-speaking people at their jobs; the bill tries to split working people by blaming Third World people for the economic crisis. Taylor law - a N.Y. state law which forbids public employees from striking, which is the main weapon of the working people in America!

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, 1857, women garment workers staged a demonstration on the Lower East Side, demanding equality for women and protesting low wages and the 12 hour work day. In 1908, on the same day, women garment workers again marched together to demand an end to child labor and to demand the right to vote.

In 1910, March 8th was declared International Working Women's Day to commemorate the struggle of working women all over the world in their fight against economic and political oppression and women's oppression.

This March 1976, we come together again, women and men, not only to remember the past, but to affirm our unity and strength to fight for our democratic rights today.

ERA: SHAM REFORM !!

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the state or any subdivision thereof on account of sex." - ERA

This is an empty and vague reform when looked at closely. For example, look at the words "equality of rights under the law." What rights?? Are the liberal politicians and feminist groups who are pushing the ERA talking about the right to a job, decent housing, daycare, health care, and education?? Oh, no! They are talking about vague "pie in the sky" rights. They say this vague reform will solve the oppression that women face because of their sex. But we ask: how does ERA solve sex discrimination when it doesn't talk about issues vital to working women??

The ERA makes no specific promises. Infact, it makes it easier for politicians to take away protective legislation (for example, the right to rest periods at work, sanitary facilities, rights that women have fought hard to get. Politicians can distort the "equality of rights under the law" clause to justify wiping out laws that protect working women, but do not protect men, or they can reduce men's salaries to "be equal" to women's lower salaries. This was done in a major factory in California where the state ERA was passed. No, ERA does nothing to answer our demand for democratic rights of all working people, oppressed national minorities, and women, nor does it improve our deteriorating standard of living. It merely allows politicians to justify lowering both men and women's rights, to give men and women equal rights to be oppressed by the law!!

WHY IS ERA BEING PUSHED NOW?

The liberal politicians and trade union mis-leaders are pushing the ERA at a time of severe economic crisis, when rights and gains of the past are being taken away. Day-care centers are closing, welfare mothers may be forced to work for slave wages to get their checks, schools continue to deteriorate, and massive lay-offs continue.

As people get angrier and angrier, the bosses must find a way to pacify our anger. The bankers think ERA is a way to fool us into thinking we are getting rights when we are actually not. And where they can, they will use ERA and other empty reforms to bolster their own profits, to refuse women maternity leave, harass working, and pit one sector of the working people against the other (e.g. men against women). ERA is a diversionary tactic, which misdirects our anger and channels it into meaningless legislation.

Also, we must see through the tactics of the conservative politicians, who are against the ERA and are putting out a scare campaign to frighten and confuse women. They claim that if ERA is passed, the family will disappear, women will be forced to pay 1/2 the support for the family, men and women will be forced to use the same bathrooms, etc. etc. What this kind of nonsense does is make women afraid to fight for their true rights. We will not be fooled by the liberals or the conservatives who both want to misdirect our fight for our genuine rights by using the sham of ERA.

We also see that any genuine demand, such as the demand for quality education, is twisted, turned, and eventually used to divide the unity of working people. Liberals have concocted the forced busing plan in Boston, under the guise of "integration," which twists the original demand for quality education and subverts the demand for de-segregation. What does forced busing mean for Blacks in Boston? Just that poor Blacks are being bused to poor white communities, and vice versa. Furthermore, this distortion of democratic rights serves to divert Blacks and whites into fighting each other, rather than realizing their common enemy. Like the forced busing plan, the ERA is a sham which serves no one but the ones in power. Feminists such as Gloria Steinem help the bosses by undermining real women's rights and creating competition with men.

We do not see men as our enemies. We do not want to take their jobs away. On the contrary, we see that working men are also oppressed; men and women must unite to fight together to guarantee jobs for all.

The ERA does not guarantee women day care, paid maternity leave, defend our right to protection against sexual attack. It does not guarantee us jobs or quality health care. It does guarantee us that the bosses will try to divide us.

We oppose this empty, diversionary and dangerous reform. Women and men must unite to fight women's oppression and the exploitation of all people. We must expose the sham called ERA!

WORLD WAR III!?!?

THIS ARTICLE WAS SUBMITTED AS A GUEST ARTICLE BY THE CITYWIDE ANTI-IMPERIALIST COALITION TO THE CHINATOWN COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY.

SUPERPOWERS OUT OF ANGOLA

The U.S.S.R and the U.S. are making a big grab for power in Africa. These two superpowers are trying to take the heroic struggle for liberation of the Angolan people, and turn it into a war of contention between the two superpowers.

The Russian and Cuban governments have sent the Cuban army to fight in the interest of Russia. The U.S. and South African governments have sent in South African mercenaries to fight in their interest. Neither side is fighting for the interests of the Angolan people. Both the U.S.S.R. and U.S. would like to have Angola in their own control because it is strategically located in Africa and rich in resources. If either of the superpowers gets control of Angola then they can and will set up military bases to then exploit the other African countries.

This meddling by the two imperialists is strangling the Angolan peoples' liberation movement. Already, more Angolans have now been slaughtered in this devastating five month old fratricidal war than during the entire war of resistance against Portugal. Only the unity of all three factions, in a coalition government, can defeat the treacherous interference of the two superpowers and stop the slaughter of the Angolan people. The Angolans fought for political and economic independence from Portugal; they didn't fight to become mere puppets of the superpowers!

WHAT IS A SUPERPOWER?

A superpower is an imperialist power that seeks to carve up and dominate the world. Today, the forces of

the U.S. and Soviet Union are squared off, each ruthlessly grabbing for economic control of world markets to bolster their failing economies.

It is not surprising that both these countries are furiously scrambling for economic control of Africa, the Middle East, and other countries to prop up their collapsing economies. However, liberation movements all over the world are beginning to rise up and expose the superpowers' preparation for world war!

DANGER OF WORLD WAR

The U.S. economy is suffering the worst recession since World War II. High unemployment, deteriorating living condition, and inflation are due to the recession. Russia's economy is also suffering because the U.S.S.R. commitment is to what is most profitable for its state capitalism. Russia's wheat crop has failed for the last four years, Russian workers have been demonstrating against some of the shortages. That is why the U.S.S.R. has been making these giant wheat deals with the West

EXPOSE DETENTE

Beneath all the empty words about "peace" and "disarmament" these two giants are concealing a deadly arms race, both are arming to the teeth. For example, a close look at the SALT talks shows that instead of promoting disarmament, it is just a cover for massive re-armament. This phoney talk about "peace" conceals preparation for World War!!!

Why is Detente so important to the powers? Because the U.S. and U.S.S.R. are forced to, by their failing economies, to play for time to build up their forces. This situation is not new,

For example, in World War II, the Western powers had a detente with fascist Germany, but then as now detente was a cover for massive re-armament of both powers. The strategy then was that Germany pretended to be arming against Russia. England and the other Western powers, through concessions like the Munich pact (Sept. 29-30, 1938) -- permitting the immediate occupation of the Sudetes territories of Czechoslovakia by Germany -- tried to maneuver Germany to attack Russia in order to buy time to build up their own war machine. But the cover was exposed when Hitler attacked the West first, then struck Russia, which was then a socialist country and the leader of the worldwide workers' movement.

Today, Russia is an imperialist power. Again, the West and the Soviet Union desire markets, especially Europe because of its high concentration of industry and its strategic location. Russia needs Europe to further build up its war machine to extend its global conquests.

U.S. imperialists want Russia to attack socialist China in the hope that both countries will destroy each other, and this will also give the U.S. imperialists more time to prepare for war. Detente conceals preparations for world war by the two superpowers.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Liberation forces around the world are beginning to fight back against the imperialistic designs of the two superpowers! We working people in America too, must rise up and expose the sham of detente and the preparations for world war. And we must see that the women's struggle is inseparable from the struggle to prevent world war and to fight for our democratic rights.

Women in this country have played a major role in building the anti-imperialist movement in the 1960's. We have fought long and hard for women's democratic rights like daycare, equal pay for equal work, etc. We must once again rise up, unite with all progressive people, to build the anti-superpowers movement! Let us unite to defeat the treacherous plans of the two superpowers! Expose Detente! Fight Superpower Contention! Expose the Danger of World War!

WOMEN UNDER SOCIALISM

Working women of this country face many hardships due to their status as women and as workers. Their status and role is constantly reinforced every day of their lives. On the job, many women are forced to work for low wages and long hours. At the end of the working day, women are expected to go home to make sure that the apartment is clean and the dinner is cooked. If the woman is a mother, she has to worry about whether her children can have day care and she is expected to be the only one responsible for their care. Time permitting, she may watch T.V. and is reminded that she is responsible for the "ring around the collar" and the husband is justified for sneering down upon her for not washing his shirt clean.

"Aren't women expected to cook, clean and care for the children and men?" "Isn't that their duties as women?" If we examine the situation and lives of women in other countries, we get a totally different picture.



women from mozambique

TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

In China, many of the older women remembered what it was like before the revolution and founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Women had no rights and were only useful for producing children. They were considered the property of the man's family. Young girls were often sold to wealthy merchants and forced into arranged marriages. Many of the elder women still have the physical remnants of their bound feet.

In the old Mozambique, as well as in many other countries of Africa, customary initiation rites taught young girls to be submissive towards men. Women were bought and sold for the traditional "bride-price." Polygamy and premature marriage were common practices which alienated and confined women to the services of men.

LIBERATION THROUGH REVOLUTION

The women in China and Mozambique, as well as in other countries such as Guinea-Bissau, Cambodia, Vietnam, North Korea, Albania, suffered different practices of oppression under the old traditional society. However, there was one common link that went beyond their differences- the realization that their oppressor was not men but the system of exploitation (feudalism, imperialism, and neo-colonialism) which oppressed both women and men.

Seeing that their liberation could not come under the old system, many women took active part in overthrowing the old society. Many of them organized fighting women's brigades and took over the responsibilities of factory and agricultural work. Women in these countries stood side by side with the men fighting for their country's liberation from those who wished to exploit their country's resources and people.

With the attainment of liberation, these new societies guaranteed equal rights for women and men in their constitutions and new marriage laws. The enactment of new laws however did not mean that women were totally equal overnight. Traditional attitudes, practices and beliefs ingrained in people all their lives are very hard to change. It has been demonstrated by the history and daily experiences of these women that a consistent struggle had to be carried out against remnants of women's oppression from the old society.

WOMEN UNDER SOCIALISM

One of the first steps towards women liberation was to begin along the road of economic independence. It was realized that if a woman had to depend upon her husband for a livelihood, she cannot gain true equality. Women were encouraged to enter new areas of work and began to take on work which was once considered "men's work."

Great difficulties were faced by these women as traditional ideas and practices still prevailed among both men and women. Some men still felt that women were incapable of doing intense and heavy agricultural and factory work. In many socialist countries, it is not uncommon to see women designing machines and buildings, casting iron, operating large cranes and plowing large areas of land. Not only are women working in these new areas but they are often the leaders of the factories and farms.

Another step towards equalization was the encouragement given to women to assume important political responsibilities, not only on the national but also on the village level. For example in Tachai, China, young women took the initiative and leadership in rebuilding an area devastated by a flood.



The participation and responsibilities held by many women in the economic and political areas has laid the foundation for the development of a new image of women and their role in society. This has been reinforced by the literature and art of these countries. Many examples can be found in the artwork, literature, movies and plays where women are portrayed as leaders and strong individuals who serve the needs of the country. This helps in the changing of the traditional ways and in the shaping of the new woman in their new society.

Though traditional beliefs about women still exist in these countries, great progress has been made in advancing the role of women in a relatively short period of time. Many lessons can be learned from their experiences. Of great importance is the realization that men are not the ultimate source of women's oppression. We must understand and fight against a system that exploits both sexes. We must always be on guard against ideas and practices that exploit and degrade women. This is a long struggle, a struggle that must be undertaken to achieve full liberation, not only as members of a particular sex but as a class. It is a struggle of not only men but also women. For we must remember that "WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE SKY."

CULTURE & FASCISM

FASCISM

Historically, fascism in Germany was ushered in through culture. Hitler was a master of manipulating culture. He ordered German history to be rewritten to justify his theory of the superiority of the Aryan race. His effective use of films and culture were used to convince the German people of the virtues of blindly worshipping militarism and of unleashing open terror on minorities and dissidents, especially the Jews. Finally, he perfected the art of demagoguery, which played on the hopes and fears, the emotions and the ignorance of the people in order to benefit the rich and powerful. This is the role of a fascist culture.

Can we depend on liberal capitalists?

No. Liberal capitalists and big politicians often talk about reforms to change the system. But the liberal capitalists are cut out of the same cloth as the big monopolists who run the media. Reform and repression are two tactics that the big monopolists, liberals or not, use to maintain their power. In Germany in the 1930's, for example, many progressive people were fooled by the "liberal" Hindenburg. They voted for him saying "Hindenburg is better than Hitler." They failed to see that liberals and out-and-out reactionary politicians serve the same masters. One of the first acts of Hindenburg was to appoint Hitler chancellor.

How can we fight back?

The capitalists want to divert the outrage of working people against inflation, unemployment and budget cuts into escapism, militarism and chauvinism in order to usher in fascism. How do we fight?

The Chinatown Coalition for IWD should first expose the dangers of decadent culture. We must educate all working people to the dangers of fascism and fascist culture. We must begin to promote working class culture. We must help create a culture which unites instead of divides, which serves the interests of all working people, rather than a small handful of profit hungry bankers. We must begin to organize and mobilize working women and all oppressed people to protest the use of decadent culture and to expose the danger of fascism.