1990, April

Raleigh News & Observer editor gives Central American solidarity activists reason to launch an alternative paper

There are many in our community who are politically involved in the struggles of our Central American neighbors. They are acting out of a strong moral conviction that human rights abuses have been committed and the fingerprints of the U.S. government are frequently evident. The mass media seldom cover the seamier sides to U.S. involvement in Central America and the implications are usually off-limits for extended discussion.

David Kirsh, a staff member of this paper and author of “Central America without Crying Uncle,” recently submitted a piece on U.S. complicity with the Salvadoran death squads to the News & Observer. Opinion page editor Steve Ford refused to run it because, “there are too many facts.” When asked if the piece could be re-submitted without so many facts and more in the mold of an opinion piece, Ford responded, “I doubt that would do it. How would you substantiate what you are saying?”

1990, May

Greens call for action

UNC sits on toxic dump

Possible chemical substances buried in the landfill include poisons...pesticides, mercury, and heavy metals.

By Timothy M. Haster

“Ignorance is bliss,” but not when it comes to hazardous waste.

While the Marine Corps has notified a lawyer representing several of the conscientious objectors in the brig that their applications will no longer be processed, Amnesty International has declared many of these men “prisoners of conscience.”

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Two marines refuse war’s immorality

While the Marine Corps has notified a lawyer representing several of the conscientious objectors in the brig that their applications will no longer be processed, Amnesty International has declared many of these men “prisoners of conscience.”

Michael Marsh, a representative of the War Resisters’ League, says conditions in the brig are “no less than in any prison. They don’t have any freedom or privacy whatever.” Marsh worries about their physical and mental well-being. Normally prisoners in the brig are allowed to go outside for an hour or so of exercise each day. But Marsh says, “For a good portion of the summer they weren’t allowed outside at all.” Guidelines little change since the prisoners will not be allowed out when the temperature rises above 90 degrees or when it rains. “There in Jacksonville this summer? Hot. And when it’s hot, it’s hot!”

The CAC (Government Accounting Office) agency with power similar to that of a congressional committee and empowered to report to Congress has initiated an investigation into whether the procedures and regulations for people applying for conscientious objector status during the Gulf War were violated by the military. Representative Ron Dellums (CA) and John Conyers (MI) plan to introduce a bill that will change the process of applying for conscientious objection.