

Before Hooty was retried and acquitted, very little attention had been paid to Norma Jean's situation. We believe this is a product of the sexism, as well as the racism, that pervades every aspect of life in the united states. Norma Jean Croy is in prison today because she is an Indian woman and because she is a lesbian. The racist forces which perpetuate the genocide of Native American Peoples are the same forces which prevent Lesbian and Gay Liberation.

Being an out lesbian behind prison walls can be a life and death struggle. As lesbians and gays we support Norma Jean Croy. Her fight for freedom from prison is our fight for freedom too. We feel we need to tell the public about Norma Jean Croy's situation to expose one of the many injustices perpetrated by the u.s. government. There are many people in prison because of poverty, racism, homophobia and political repression. As the u.s. economic and social structure deteriorates, racist and sexist terror escalates. Anti-lesbian and anti-gay violence and repression are on the rise all over the country. All the while social services and jobs are replaced by war and jails.

Update on the Case of Norma Jean Croy, August 1992. At Norma Jean Croy's fourth parole hearing on July 16, 1992, attorneys submitted over 175 letters of support, including several job offers and places of residence in the Bay Area. The three-member board paid little, if any, attention to these letters. Norma, who has been imprisoned for 14 years, was denied parole for another two years.

"From the beginning of the hearing, it was clear that the panel had already decided to deny Norma parole for another two years. The Board refused to consider evidence of Norma's innocence which has been presented at her brother's 1990 retrial. It ignored Judge Stern's statement, and the declaration of the jury foreman, that had Norma been retried with her brother, she would also have been acquitted of the charges. In short, it was an outrageous abuse of power."

- Diana Samuelson and James S. Thompson, attorneys for Norma

The attorneys intend to file an administrative appeal of the Board's decision. Anyone may write directly to the Board of Prison Terms at 545 Downtown Plaza, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 to express their opinion about this decision.

Norma's petition for a new trial is currently pending before the California Supreme Court. Persons interested in keeping informed on future developments in Norma's case should send their name and address to the Norma Jean Croy Defense Committee at 473 Jackson Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111.

The International Tribunal. Convened by the American Indian Movement (AIM), the International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples and Oppressed Nationalities in the u.s.a. will bring together people from the northern and southern hemispheres, Africa, Asia and Europe. During October 1-4, this unique global gathering will hear testimony and hold discussions about the massive, systematic violations of human rights and international law against people of color. Special emphasis will be placed on the impact of the columbian legacy for people of color within the u.s.

labor donated

FROM THE ARAWAK INDIANS TO NORMA JEAN CROY

500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

1492-1992

**Lesbian and Gay Benefit for Norma Jean Croy
Native American Lesbian Cultural/Political Prisoner
and
International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples
and Oppressed Nationalities Convened by the
American Indian Movement (AIM)**



**Saturday, September 19, 1992
7:00 p.m.**

**Women's Building
3543 18th Street, San Francisco**

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

- **OPENING CEREMONY: KYOS FEATHERDANCING**
- **PATRICK HOOTY CROY**
- **MIRAGE: HAPPY/L. HYDER AND SHARON PAGE RITCHIE**
- **MARY MIDGETT - THE SEXPERT**

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

- **JACQUELINE ELIZABETH LETALIEN WITH KYOS FEATHERDANCING AND VICKY DELLO JOIO**
- **JUDY TALAUGON**
- **DEBBIE FIER TRIO AND CAROLYN BRANDY**
- **TOM AMMIANO**
- **ASL INTERPRETERS: JUDITH LERNER AND ELIZABETH FIDES**

Sponsors: Gay American Indians, Norma Jean Croy Defense Committee, *Out of Control* - Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners, Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention, Revolting Lesbians, The On Our Rag Collective and individual members of the Lesbian and Gay Communities of the Bay Area

The sponsors wish to thank Ester Hernandez, Reneé Moreno, Miriam Abrams, Cayenne, Judith Lerner, Vikki at *The Bay Times*, Laurie Bradford, Alliance Graphics, all of the performers, all those who donated food, all of the volunteers and the audience.

Write to Norma Jean Croy:

Norma Jean Croy, #14293
B08-02-014, Central California Women's Facility
P.O. Box 1508
Chowchilla, CA 93610

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT:

500 years of genocide. This year, 1992, the United States government is celebrating 500 years of genocide. Five hundred years ago the Native people of this land welcomed some strange, white people who got off three large, odd boats. The newcomers, led by Columbus, could not have survived without the Indians' help, yet their kindness was mistaken for weakness by the Europeans, who began to destroy the Native nations of the Americas.

The behavior of the Europeans was criminal: trespassing, theft, murder, and a total disrespect of women, including rape and a refusal to recognize Indigenous women leaders. (Many of the Indian nations, for example the Mohawk, were matrilineal.) The European rulers were continuing behavior begun in Europe, where millions of women (and some men, often gay men) had been murdered in the witch-burnings. Peasant rebellions had been brutally suppressed, and the property of Jews (driven out of southern Europe during the Inquisition) had been stolen and then used to finance the exploration of the "new world."

The colonizers were driven by a greed that continues to the present. Carrying on in the tradition of Columbus, the U.S. government gave the Indians blankets full of smallpox, and forced them to relocate to lands considered worthless. They also attacked language and culture, developing a protracted psychological warfare that scars us all. And the outright murder of Indian people by U.S. "law enforcement" agents still continues.

500 years of resistance. This year, we celebrate 500 years of resistance by Indigenous people. In the early 1500s, an Arawak woman named Anacaona led an uprising against the Spanish. From Anacaona to Crazy Horse to Leonard Peltier, Native people have fought for the survival of their lands, their culture, and their people. Sometimes resistance has meant refusal to move from sacred lands, like at Big Mountain. Sometimes it means keeping traditional music and stories alive, and sometimes it means armed struggle for survival.

Tonight we celebrate 500 years of resistance. The money raised from tonight's event will go to two places: to the International Tribunal, convened by AIM (the American Indian Movement) and to Norma Jean Croy.

Norma Jean Croy is a Native American lesbian imprisoned since 1978 for a killing she did not commit. Both she and her brother, Patrick Hooty Croy, were shot in the back by police. In self-defense Hooty shot back and an off-duty, drunken officer was killed. Hooty was given the death penalty and Norma Jean, who never even touched the weapon, was given a life sentence. Both are still living with bullets lodged near their spinal cords.

Due to public pressure, Hooty Croy was retried. The jury recognized the history of racism and Indian-killing for sport in Northern California. Hooty was acquitted on grounds of self-defense in May 1990. Despite Hooty's acquittal, the government has refused to release Norma Jean Croy.