

# "FAMILY FORUM"—BUILD UP FOR WAR!



"I am seeking to rally together the people of this country, who still believe in decency, the family, morality, the free enterprise system and all the ideals that are the cornerstone of this nation."

-- Jerry Falwell

On July 13, as the country gets ready for a patriotic summer of conventions and rooting for the home team at the Olympics, Phyllis Schlafly, Jerry Falwell, and a whole contingent of right wingers are coming to San Francisco. Here, in what they call America's "Sodom and Gommorah," they will be joined by members of the Reagan administration to hold Family Forum III. Several days later on July 17, the KKK is scheduled to march downtown. These people are coming to organize for war, for racist terror, for a new, All-American fascism. As women and as lesbians fighting for our liberation and the liberation of all people, we will be there to say NO! We won't allow them to hold their marches and rallies in peace and quiet. We are determined to show the rest of the country that we will resist.

"The future of freedom and liberty in the U.S. is being determined in Central America. We either stop them in El Salvador or we stop them in El Paso." -- Jerry Falwell

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The U.S. is gearing up for war. We know it. Talk of the invasion of El Salvador is becoming commonplace. Reagan and the CIA are trying to destroy the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. The economy of this country is rebuilding itself through war production. As the deficit grows to monumental proportions they need more bombs, more planes, more tanks. And they need more popular support.

We have to take this movement for power by the rightwing seriously. These are not isolated fanatics. Wrapped in the American flag, they represent the core of Reagan's support network. Jerry Falwell alone controls 392 T.V. and 500 radio stations and has millions of supporters. This veneer of respectability allows him and his cohorts to organize more openly than the Klan. But their message is basically the same. Where Falwell and Schlafly rant about the homosexual menace, the Klan calls for the death penalty for gay people. The Christian fundamentalists who attack Black people as "welfare cheats", who think that 50% of Black youth are unemployed because Black people don't like to work, are just as racist as the Klan. They all envision a nation where social services are nonexistent, where Black, Mexican and other colonized people live at the bottom, invisible. A vision, ultimately, that means genocide.

These are the people who have the audacity to talk of morality. Who tell us we're shirking our sacred duties as women when we demand abortion rights, health and childcare. Who say lesbians and gay men have no right to exist and should have nothing to do with children. These are the people who dare to talk of the "sanctity of human life" while their leaders, like Jesse Helms, operate as publicity agents for D'Aubisson, head of the death squads in El Salvador.

In order to get America ready for war they have to create a war psychology. Reagan and the right wing have identified the white nuclear family as the necessary core of support for their invasions and wars. Here, husband, wife and children pledge allegiance to God, Home and Country. Just like in Nazi Germany, the shoring up of this kind of family is key to building a patriotic consensus. It socializes the next generation with the values it embodies. It lives and breathes on white supremacy. It is based on men having complete control over "their" women and children, including the right to rape and beat them. When we hear of Family Forum III, we know this is the type of family they have in mind.

The right wing wants a woman to be totally subservient to her husband and the flag. Thus we see anti-abortion laws, the family protection act, anti-gay hysteria and a general rise in violence against women. For those of us who aren't quite content with this, the more liberal forces offer something else. We can look to more nontraditional jobs, even join the police or the military. Others can join the corporate and political scenes. The Democrats are openly courting women. A lot of lesbians and gay men think we can win gains by participating in the Democratic Party. And we might just gain something -- IF we heed the iron rule: Don't demand too much. Look for solutions only WITHIN the system. But Democrat or Republican, this system is only going to get worse.

But we can demand a different kind of world. Our options are neither the closet nor the mainstream. As lesbians we threaten some basic notions of the American family and womanhood. We break the myth that women are defined by our relationships with men. As women we are seeking to create new kinds of families based not on control, but on resistance and struggle.

We who are fighting for women's and gay liberation come out of a tradition which saw our futures completely tied to those of peoples around the world. We saw the examples of women and men in Vietnam, of Black people in the U.S., all willing to fight for freedom. We realized that only by changing the system completely could we ever begin to gain control of our own lives. We challenged the stereotypes of sexual identity. We openly talked about relationships between women and between men. We defied society's ideas about what was right and proper and were willing to take whatever consequences in order to break new ground. We committed civil disobedience, we demonstrated, we fought in the streets. Out of this, a movement which could fight for our liberation was born.

Today, we look at revolutionary Nicaragua and see a people struggling to build socialism. We see a country where women are being mobilized as never before. Where sexually exploitative advertising is outlawed. Where children don't have to beg or go homeless. This is just the beginning of a long process. New relationships are being forged and the foundations of a truly non-oppressive society are being laid. We can look at the women and men of the FSLN in Nicaragua and the FMLN in El Salvador and know these are the examples we want to follow.

Schlafly and Falwell say we represent a threat to the American Way of Life. We want no part of the American Dream because we know it's been a nightmare. We are determined to build a movement that can be part of defeating this system. We want Nicaragua to flourish, El Salvador to be free. We want colonized people from Puerto Rico to Palestine to win their independence. We want to build a new society for ourselves and our children.

As Women,  
As Lesbians,  
As Anti-Imperialists,  
We Want to Build a Movement  
for the Liberation of All People!  
Support Revolution in Central America  
and Around the World!

**Demonstrate! DEMONSTRATE! Demonstrate!**

Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, Moral Majority  
Not Welcome in San Francisco!

Thursday, July 12, 4-6 pm,  
Holiday Inn, Powell & Sutter

Sponsored by the Coalition Against the Moral Majority



**Don't Let the Klan March!**

Tuesday, July 17, Noon,

Downtown SF (Place to be announced)

Sponsored by the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee

Women Against Imperialism is building an ongoing Women's Campaign to Confront the U.S. War Machine. Contact us for more information or to get involved: Women Against Imperialism  
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