

Take It to the Limit

ALAN GILCHRIST'S POSTER GREW BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS

Nearly four decades ago, the National Moratorium Committee spurred hundreds of thousands of people across the country to participate in demonstrations against the Vietnam War. But few know that they also tapped Alan Gilchrist, today a 61-year-old Rutgers–Newark professor of psychology, to churn out thousands of copies of an anti-war poster in a makeshift print factory he set up in the basement of Conklin Hall.

In 1968, Gilchrist, then a 25-year-old with long, red hair and a shaggy beard, was making scientific instruments in a Conklin Hall shop and spending his free time protesting the war. He even traveled to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago to march in a demonstration that turned violent. “I decided to make a poster to promote a local antiwar rally,” he recalls. “Even though I wasn’t an artist and had no printing experience, I was determined to create an image around the idea of ‘swords into plowshares.’”

The silk-screened poster caught the eye of the Moratorium Committee, which invited Gilchrist to Washington, DC, and hired him to mass-produce it. Despite his lack of experience, he boldly told the committee that he would be able to deliver as many as needed. “But each poster was made

by hand, and I had no idea how I was going to [do it],” he says.

After jerry-rigging a printmaking machine, he hired a couple of dozen students at \$3 an hour to work with him after hours in the shop. But his printing days weren’t destined to last. “After making 15,000 posters, we made [another] 2,000 in advance, anticipating our next order,” he recalls. “But suddenly, the committee folded.” Alluding to the leftover posters that sit in his attic to this day, Gilchrist says, “Considering what’s happening in Iraq, maybe I should pull them out and put them to use.”



Alan Gilchrist still has 2,000 of these posters in his attic.

Good to Know

BIG IN CRIME The Rutgers–Newark doctoral program in criminology has been ranked fourth best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report Graduate School Rankings*. The School of Criminal Justice program, first established in 1972, currently enrolls 64 Ph.D. students.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE Two FAS–New Brunswick faculty members and a Rutgers alumna received Guggenheim Fellowships last spring to continue their exceptional work. **John Belton**, professor of English and cinema studies; **Dorothy Hodgson**, associate professor of anthropology; and artist **Chakaia Booker (LC'76)** were among the 186 scholars, artists, and scientists who won awards. Belton researches the evolution of digital cinema and Hodgson is a specialist in the indigenous rights movement in Africa. Booker is a New York City artist who transforms found objects into sculpture.

COUP FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES The top journal in women's studies, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, will release its first issue at Rutgers this fall after moving from UCLA. Founded 30 years ago at Barnard College by **Catharine Stimpson**, a former member of the Rutgers faculty and a dean at New York University, the journal is now edited by **Mary Hawkesworth**, a professor of women's and gender studies at FAS–New Brunswick.

IT HAPPENED HERE Two new bronze plaques from the American Chemical Society commemorating the discovery of streptomycin—the first effective treatment for tuberculosis—now designate two buildings at Rutgers as National Historic Chemical Landmarks. The plaques hang in Martin Hall at Cook College, where the research took place, and at the Waksman Institute of Microbiology on the Busch campus, originally built with royalties from the streptomycin patent.