

Organizers Index

Welcome and Farewell

During the early months of 2005, Western States Center said farewell to Tarso Ramos, David Rogers, and Selena Mason. Tarso will live and work in Brazil after more than twelve years with the Center, while David's move takes him just across town to serve as Associate Director of Western Prison Project. Administrative Director Selena Mason is relocating to Houston.

Kalpna Krishnamurthy, our new Field Director and Director of the RACE Program, grew up in Oregon. A former campus organizer, she comes to Western States from the Third Wave Foundation in New York City after working as National Organizer for the Ms. Foundation's Take Our Daughters to Work Day, and as a Public Policy Associate at Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health. Kalpna joins the staff full-time in May after a previously planned trip to India.

New Trainer/Organizer Lucilene Lira was born and raised in the Brazilian Amazon. Most recently a Field Organizer and Labor Educator at the Labor Education and Research Center at Evergreen State College in Olympia, she coordinated an annual leadership program for union women. Lucilene spent her earlier years as a union and community organizer in Brazil and continues to be deeply involved in world trade issues.

Compost piles generated by University of Wisconsin sit in: **2**

Compost piles at University of Oregon sit in: **0**

Girls participating in Take Our Daughters to Work Day: **11 million**

Self-defense classes and workshops taught: **50**

Out of every 10 women, number who will have an abortion: **4**

Activists participating in last year's March for Women's Lives in DC who attended her reproductive health and justice training: **1,000**

Percent of foundation dollars going to programs for women: **7**

Years as Executive Director of the Third Wave Foundation: **2.75**

Millions of dollars raised for programs supporting young women: **\$1.2**

Cats in household: **2**

Ratio of family in U.S. to family in India: **1:10**

Times name (Cúll-puh-nuh) is mispronounced: **countless**

Kalpna Krishnamurthy



Years organizing river dwellers, fishermen, rubber tappers, landless farmers and rural communities affected by dams in the Amazon: **5**

Anti-globalization marchers in Porto Alegre in 2003: **120,000**

United Nations International Conferences attended: **1**

Times participated in the World Social Forum: **4**

Times arrested: **1**

Years lived in the United States: **16**

Languages spoken: **3**

Percentage of Brazil's population that is black: **49**

Undocumented Mexicans living in the United States: **4.2 million**

Mexicans with legal status in the United States: **3.1 million**

Times mistaken for Mexican: **countless**

Half brothers and sisters: **17**

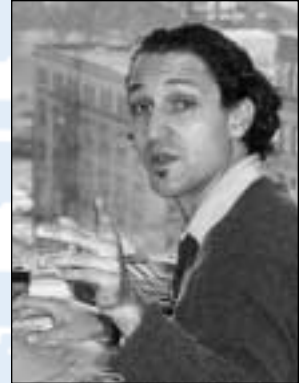
Children: **2 very handsome boys!**

For a personal account of Lucilene's organizing in Brazil, see page 16.

Lucilene Lira



Tarso Luís Ramos



Job titles held at Western States Center: **5**

Days worked at Western States: **4,573**

Days lived: **13,627**

Days since family fled Brazil's U.S.-backed military dictatorship: **13,268**

Nationalities & passports held: **2**

Continents visited: **5**

Trips to Alaska for Western States Center: **5**

U.S. states traveled: **47 of 50**

Brazilian states traveled: **12 of 27**

Gross domestic product of Brazil, in billions: **\$493**

Foreign debt of Brazil, in billions: **\$215**

Average wage of blacks on the dollar to whites, U.S.: **.55**

Average wage of blacks/browns to whites, Brazil: **.40**

Ramoses at last family reunion: **203**

Caetano Veloso songs on portable music player: **114**

Prince songs on portable music player: **301**

Years working with social change organizations: **15**

Dismantling Racism trainings conducted: **31**

Times evacuated Western States Center's 11th floor office for fear of earthquake: **2**

Percent of Oregon Governor's proposed budget increase for the Department of Corrections: **34**

Percent of proposed increase for K-12 schools: **1.7**

U.S. hourly minimum wage: **\$5.15**

Hourly minimum wage in Haiti: **\$0.30**

U.S. Federal Prison minimum wage: **\$0.12**

Number of John Coltrane CDs collected: **19**

Consecutive hours spent watching the 3rd season of 24: **14**

Months fanatically following the Trailblazers: **63**

Quarts of organic strawberries produced in 2nd year of garden: **23**

David Rogers



Years at the Center: **Almost 6**

Number of grandchildren: **6**

Hours spent sleeping in bathtub at Las Vegas conference to escape snoring roommate: **6**

Center job openings for which she's interviewed candidates: **15**

Exit interviews conducted: **7**

Pairs of shoes/boots sent ahead to Houston: **60**

Matching shoes/purse combinations worn to work at Western States Center: **20**

Drafts of proposed policy regarding staff members serving on boards circulated before giving up and turning it over to Tarso: **4**

Times eaten lunch from the food carts on 5th Avenue: **countless**

Selena Mason

