

## A WURM mom speaks out

Contributed by Kathy McCutcheon

As a proud mom and member of WURM (Women opposed to the Unethical Racism against Microorganisms, which is a sister organization to PULSE) I feel it's important that my kids understand the problems we face with the unethical treatment of germs. Our biggest problem is ignorance and simply being uninformed.

I feel it's my job to give my kids as much information as I can. I'm pleased that they are so receptive to this cause and have themselves become very concerned over doing what they can.

{lightbox title=WURM's Washington DC protest for germs, 2005}images/stories/germ-protest.jpg{/lightbox}

[click to enlarge image](#)

Unfortunately I, as well as my kids, out of our devotion to this cause, face obstacles nearly every day. People tend to shy away from us and it's simply because they don't understand. My extended family is very unsupportive. At first they used to just make fun of us but now they've started having get togethers, making sure that we don't know about it.

They simply don't want us around and quite frankly if that's their attitude I don't want to be around them.

My mother-in-law is convinced that I'm only using this as an excuse so that I don't have to clean my house or take care of my kids the way she thinks I should.

Since I started supporting the Lysol boycott and pledged to stop using antibiotics she refuses to even speak to me. I can't say I'm too disappointed about that one.

My children also have to face their own problems at school. I've

had to deal with the administration on more than one occasion because a teacher insisted that one of my kids do something while knowing I didn't approve such as washing their hands. A lot of other kids make fun of them telling them that they have "cooties". My kids try and explain that calling a germ a "cootie" is racist and that germs have every right to be free from name calling and to live on this planet as we do. Unfortunately it usually doesn't do any good. These kids have been brought up in racist homes by racist parents and taught to say and believe ugly things. It's all they know.

We must get the word out. We must make sure that people are aware and informed. We cannot sit back and let this unethical treatment continue just because people are ignorant to the facts.