

# COLONIAL TIMES

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON'S NEW COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



**"CONGRESS SLASHES WELFARE PAYMENTS BY  
11 MILLION...BUT INCREASES WELFARE INSPECTORS  
BY 45!"**

see our report p. 3

## How To Take Over U.S. Cities

by David Morris

The word politics is synonymous with compromise, deceit, sell out, co-optation. Elections are masquerades that the few are forced to perform every so often in order to appease the frustrated masses. Slogans are the common currency of politics, three or four letter pithy sayings (LBJ for the USA, Nixon's the One) tied to reality with only the most gossamer thread. We are urged to vote, to cast our for our candidate. We express our opinions by pulling down a lever which both records the vote and opens the curtain behind.

Our generation deserted electoral politics four years ago. We went out on our own and in the process, transformed the face of America. Think about it. Four years ago. The Panthers were just emerging, the Left was without a news service and there were precious few consistent underground newspapers. Dylan was in the hospital, and we all had the lurking hope that as long as RFK was

around all would somehow right itself in the end.

But when King and Kennedy were mowed down, when the Panthers were harassed, when the McCarthy campaign was first figuratively, then literally, beaten at the convention, we struck out on our own. Free clinics sprang up, as did abortion referral services, women's groups, job co-ops, food co-ops, farm communes, news services, local lobbying groups, medical collectives, radical economists, lawyers, film makers.

Yet while we were creating new institutions, real wages declined, unemployment rose, hundreds of thousands died in Vietnam, local police budgets and capabilities zoomed, more people were forced from their homes by urban renewal, the water got dirtier, and the highways more numerous. By ignoring political power we limited our possibilities. It's now time for the youth, for the Left, for the

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# COLONIAL TIMES

Volume 1 Number 5

This "house column" is written each time by the issue coordinator.

Last week, a woman with a BA in journalism and a score of fancy recommendations called the *Colonial Times* office and asked for the personnel department. Now, it happens to be the case that whoever answers the phone at C.T. is ipso facto the personnel dept., and, for that matter, the newsroom, the editorial board and the sales dept. as well.

As I was explaining our situation to this incredulous woman, I realized that there might be a widespread misunderstanding of what *Colonial Times* is, of what its resources are and who are its staff.

It isn't easy to explain; we have no organization chart or hierarchical structure to describe us. We are, most essentially, an informal but dedicated group of people held together by a common desire to get out a hopefully decent newspaper.

Our staff box lists 28 workers. This "staff" consists of whoever has worked on that particular issue. That is, whoever has donated time to write, type, help with production, take photographs, sell ads, ad infinitum.

Our "staff" has expanded and hopefully will continue to do so as people contact us wanting to write articles or to help in whatever way they can.

At this time, no one is paid. People give time according to their various interests and abilities. The great majority of workers listed in our staff box hold full time jobs elsewhere.

Defying the traditional mechanisms of the newspaper business, there is no editor, president or chairman of *Colonial Times*. The only formal position is the "co-ordinator" (a rotating position at that) who is charged with making sure that those things happen which are necessary to getting the paper out: that writing is done, that production is completed etc.

We are a sort of media Rube Goldberg machine that does miraculously and sometimes joyfully produce a paper which we hope you enjoy.

There are, of course, difficulties in operating in this fashion, and we are still creating our own methods of operating. Our staff will be going on a weekend retreat in January from which we hope

to emerge firmer, stronger and altogether more coherent. You know, like Clark Kent.

Our resources (read finances) are, at the present, tenuous (read constant, imminent bankruptcy). There was once a cruel rumor circulating that *Colonial Times* was operating on a large and generous budget. I am unhappy to say that this tantalizing fantasy is not true.

We are sustained financially by the generosity of our subscribers, by a few responsive advertisers

who are willing to take a chance on a new but obviously worthwhile publication, and by a few loans that have fallen gratefully into our laps.

It is, of course, in the area of financial hocus pocus that we will live or die a miserable death. In the immediate future, we will be putting even greater effort in this area.

In this issue we bring you David Morris' thoughtful piece "How to Take over US Cities" on the potential of local electoral politics. Citizens of D.C. read it and weep, because we are denied most of the forms of self government that he describes. Mal Kovacs, however, does make some positive suggestions on page 8 as to what we in D.C. can do in the meantime.

For any of our readers who are still unconvinced that this city is in real trouble without a responsible, elected government (assuming for the moment that an elected government is at least potentially responsible), read Sharleen Kranz and Alan Fechter's article on D.C. Welfare. It is a depressing portrait of colonial rule: of unresponsive congressional rulers and politicking bureaucrats over whom we have no electoral control.

This issue also brings you other dirt: Bill Hobbs' article on the incredibly irresponsible advertising policies of Washington's two media behemoths: *Washington Post* and the *Evening Star*.

And we have some good news too, namely Bill Sievert's description of some new D.C. consumer protections that have been recently passed by Congress. We also have for you resource guides to both area consumer groups that you can join and area women's groups.

If you like what we're doing, then subscribe, support and come help us.

Dorothy McGhee

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# OEO Puts Squeeze On Union Organizer

by Sharon Rose

Wayne Kennedy, a leading organizer of a rank-and-file movement in the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), has been threatened with dismissal by the regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Chicago, for publicly supporting Chicago's Urban Indians in their fight for better living conditions and jobs. The union has countered by calling for the ouster of the OEO regional director, Wendell Verduin. The issues go far beyond these two individuals and promise to drastically effect the future of federal unionism.

Kennedy, 35, is chief steward of Local 2816, AFGE, the union of OEO employees in Chicago; first vice president of the Chicago council of AFGE locals; and president of the national council of OEO locals, AFGE.

Kennedy thinks that public employees should be allied (ultimately in the same organization) with the workers, consumers and community groups which they serve. Thus Kennedy helped organize a press conference on Nov. 10, 1971 for Mike Chosa, leader of the Indians who occupied Federal land at the Argonne Laboratory last August. At the press conference, Chosa explained his position to a group of workers in the Federal agencies which the Indians say have been stalling in answering their demands for Federal land and for job training programs.

Two weeks later, Verduin, OEO's Chicago regional director, notified Kennedy that he would be dismissed for having "committed actions which created the appearance of making and which were an attempt to make a Government decision outside official channels," and for "use of language and statements which affect adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Government."

Ironically, Kennedy received the notice of dismissal at the same time as his authorization to return to national negotiations between AFGE and OEO management here. AFGE, representing 1,800 of OEO's 2,280 employees, has exclusive bargaining rights for OEO. Thus OEO management must bargain collectively with AFGE and submit to a Federal Impasse Panel all unsettled demands.

In the negotiations still underway AFGE is proposing a contract which begins with this preamble .

The poor and the disadvantaged of this country and the rich and wealthy elite have nothing in common. There will be no peace as long as hunger, poor educational and health facilities, racial prejudice, and lack of jobs are the order of the day for millions of Americans.

The thrust of the proposed contract is for joint decision-making by labor and management. One proposal is for employees to evaluate their supervisors, as well as the other way around. Other features are: maternity leave chargeable to sick leave, annual leave, or to leave without pay, the mother to be returned to the position she would have been entitled to had she not been absent; day care centers funded 50-100 per cent by the employer; an OEO employee housing development corporation to provide low cost housing to those agency employees who need it most; free work site medical services to include the dispensing of birth control information, devices and abortions upon employee request.

Union leaders insist that Verduin's threat to fire Kennedy is a thinly veiled attempt at "union busting". They have countered by calling for Verduin's resignation, listing 33 charges, including "failure to secure a fair share of OEO funds for Chicago region grantees," "cronyism," and "willful discrimination against Latin Americans, Blacks, American Indians, and women, perpetuating and reinforcing racist and sexist patterns in the office." On December 13, the Chicago local filed an unfair labor practice complaint against Verduin, charging that he had refused to discuss with the Union his announced intention to fire Kennedy.

Around the country, leaders of OEO and other AFGE locals are busy rounding up support for Kennedy. Martha Tabor, Vice-President for external affairs of local 2677 at the OEO headquarters office here, told *Colonial Times*, "We're fighting because our contract is meaningless if our leaders can be fired."

On December 17, Tabor's local brought Indian representative Chosa to Washington to discuss his stand against the government. At the meeting the membership voted to "unequivocally denounce Verduin's actions" and called for his removal. Tabor said that they are asking all Federal union locals to pass similar statements of support, and groups and individuals to call or write Congressmen on Kennedy's behalf.

December 27, Verduin was quoted in the *Chicago Sun-Times* as saying his staff is becoming demoralized by Kennedy's accusations that OEO is not doing all it can for the Indians.

Reached by phone in Chicago last week, Kennedy denied that and Verduin's other charges. He said that he will go to court to defend the constitutionally guaranteed right of free speech of Federal unionists.

"The government is trying to restrict the activities of its employees more because potentially they have more power. Eventually, they have the power to control the policies of their agencies. The Pentagon papers and the *Anderson* papers are just the beginning. Everyone in the Federal Service can become Ralph Nader through his union," Kennedy said.



## D.C. Welfare

# A Strange Code of Justice

by Sharlene Kranz  
and Alan Fechter

The masters in the big house on the Hill have once again put the welfare slaves in their place, by slashing \$11 million in public assistance monies from the D.C. budget.

This cut creates the real possibility of reduced welfare checks for D.C. recipients and threatens the city's ability to accommodate future rises in the welfare case load, which has been increasing at a rate of nearly 1,000 a month.

The city's current allocation for welfare payments stands at \$67 million. But to maintain even the present level of welfare payments (estimated from November, 1971), the city needs \$78 million. No one knows how the city is going to meet the demands for welfare support.

As to when the cuts will begin to be felt by welfare recipients, Robert Gardner, Assistant Director of Administration in the D.C. Department of Human Resources says, "Never... we hope."

January checks have been mailed at last year's level, but D.C. officials are still searching for sources of additional funds. Gardner mentioned the five percent reduction in staff across the D.C. Government as one source of new revenue. Other sources being considered are reallocation of funds from other programs, and a future request to Congress for supplemental funds.

But, even if the city succeeds in maintaining current payment levels, the welfare of recipients, who are already receiving only 75% of 1970's estimated cost of living, will decline because inflation has eroded the purchasing power of their payments.

The Congressional process leading to the cuts in the welfare budget winds through the proverbial looking glass and down a twisting, tortuous path, strewn with pages of Congressional hearings, official budget submissions, statistics of all shapes and sizes, and a menagerie of politicians and bureaucrats — some mad-hatters, others more or less honorable, and still others who appear to be more Machiavellian than the Prince himself.

The final approval of the appropriation for the D.C. budget came in late December, an incredible six months into the fiscal year for which the appropriation was applicable. Here the fine hand of Rep. William Natcher can be seen: while the Senate completed its hearings in May, the House hearings dragged on into November. The delay was due to the tug-of-war between Natcher and the City over the Metro and the Three Sisters Bridge.

During the budget hearings, the D.C. Government originally requested a total of \$86 million for public assistance programs, almost \$30 million more than last year's spending level. The bulk of this increase, \$15 million, was to be used on an anticipated increased caseload — from 30,000 to 36,000 cases. \$5 million was requested for a cost of living increase in monthly checks, and another \$5 million was earmarked to supplement the incomes of full-time working mothers who are heads of AFDC families (Aid to Families with Dependent Children).

Subsequently, the D.C. Government discovered that its estimate of case loads had increased drastically, like Alice after

drinking the potion, from 36,000 to 40,000 cases. At the same time, however, the government reduced the funding request by \$8 million (from \$86 to \$78 million) because the average number of persons per case had been decreasing, and because they dropped the cost-of-living increase request.

The House and Senate subcommittees cut the welfare appropriation to \$64 million. But the conference committee, largely through the efforts of Senator Percy, restored some funds, authorizing \$67 million for Fiscal Year 1972. This is \$10 million more than last year, but down \$11 million from the modified D.C. request. The D.C. Government will therefore not be able to fund a cost-of-living increase for welfare recipients or to supplement the incomes of full-time working mothers who head AFDC families.

The District's erratic forecasts did little to enhance its credibility in Congress' eyes. In explaining why the Senate subcommittee decided to cut the welfare budget rather than other items

these allegations. Upon questioning during the hearings by Rep. William Scherle, she estimated that \$6.8 million was paid annually as overpayments or to ineligibles. This estimate was clearly on the minds of the committee members when they took action on the public assistance budget.

Human Resources Administrator Joseph Yeldell, Thompson's boss, charged in December that the \$8 million fraud estimate was fabricated by Thompson, and attributed to her \$8 million of the slash from the public assistance budget.

But this month, District officials are again singing a different tune: Henry Ronson, SSA staffer, speculated that overpayments and fraud might total as much as \$7.8 million. And budget analyst Conner Copple estimated the loss is less than \$5 million.

Who can we believe? Congress chose to believe the worst.

One wonders why Thompson, the head of the Social Services Administration, provided Congress with

### WELFARE IN THE COLONY

Who receives public assistance in the District of Columbia? There are five categories of assistance provided by the City.

1. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) goes to mothers with children under the age of 18. The City's expenditures for AFDC are matched by the Federal Government on a 50-50 basis. During the last month of 1971 the average monthly caseload was 16,471 or approximately 61,329 children per month receiving benefits under AFDC. The average monthly payment to a family is \$208.34.

2. Aid to the Blind was received by approximately 213 persons each month. The average monthly grant is \$108.65.

3. Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled was received by approximately 7800 persons each month. The average monthly payment is \$107.34.

4. Old Age Assistance, a supplement to social security, was received by an average of 3500 persons each month; the average monthly check was \$93.61.

5. General Public Assistance, which is the only one of the five categories completely funded by the City and not receiving Federal matching funds, reported an average monthly caseload of 2250 persons, each receiving approximately \$110.20.

The grand total of recipients during 1971 reached almost 100,000 persons per month, or 6.7% of the D.C. population. Public assistance's \$57 million expenditure was 6.2% of the 1971 District budget.

Only 12% of those on public assistance are potentially eligible for training and employment, according to the City. The other 88% are either children, the elderly, blind or disabled, or mothers of preschool children. That is, of course, assuming there were jobs in the economy for them.

in the D.C. budget, Sen. Inouye said, "I may be naive, but I do get a bit confused about these firm estimates that are coming from the city."

Grady Williams, budget analyst for the City, explained that the revised figures presented last November were based on more recent statistics and experience that were not available at the time the initial estimates were presented. This is a nice way of saying they had forecast badly.

While Inouye may be right in his lack of confidence in the city's ability to estimate firm statistics, and the city may have perfectly valid reasons for the revisions they presented to Congress, it is a strange code of justice that punishes welfare recipients for the alleged sins of welfare administrators.

In addition to their lack of confidence in the budget estimates presented by the local government, Congressmen rationalized these cuts by alleging misuse of public assistance funds.

Winifred Thompson, Director of Social Services, did little to assuage

information so imprecise and so potentially damaging to her own budget requests. Thompson, long-time czarina of the District's welfare programs, has been playing the Congressional hearing game for years. The spectre of welfare-fraud-scoundrels who need to be ferreted out was sure to motivate Congress to enhance her staff with additional investigators, and it did.

The House hearings demonstrate this mutually accommodating relationship well:

Mr. Scherle. *Miss Thompson, is there any request in this budget for additional personnel to assist you?*

Ms. Thompson. *No.*

Mr. Scherle. *Why?*

Ms. Thompson. *Because the requests of the Department had to be curtailed considerably because of the financial situation in the District of Columbia. All Requests were cut.*

Mr. Scherle. *I can understand that. But by the same token, sometimes you are penny wise and pound foolish. From our standpoint, when we deal with*



Glynn Gamz

*taxpayers' money we are trustees of that money. You in a certain sense of the word are, too.*

Ms. Thompson. *Yes, sir.*

Mr. Scherle. *We should make every effort to make sure the people who receive these funds are entitled to them. Would we be further ahead if we gave you more personnel to do your job better and look into these things a little more thoroughly? Would you object?*

Ms. Thompson. *No sir; I would not. I would feel much more comfortable.*

Mr. Scherle. *How many more would you like?*

And so, Thompson gained 45 investigators while welfare recipients were denied \$11 million.

### Choose Your Welfare

The men responsible for the under-funding of the public assistance programs are hard-nosed protectors of the taxpayers' dollars when it comes to spending money to provide welfare to D.C. residents. But their zest for frugality diminishes when it comes to measures affecting the welfare of other interests.

*Colonial Times* checked the voting records of these legislators and discovered how this cast of characters has acted with respect to subsidy questions for groups other than the D.C. welfare population.

The Chairman of the Senate subcommittee is Daniel Inouye, 47, the ranking Democrat. Inouye diligently led this year's hearings through 3 weeks of witnesses, lamenting all the while the lack of home rule that made the whole process necessary. Inouye's other votes have favored subsidies for the SST contractors, for Lockheed, for defense contractors. He probably will be best remembered, however, for holding the line on chauffeurs in the Nation's Capital.

The subcommittee's ranking Republican member is Charles Percy of Illinois, a boy wonder of the business world when he was named to the Board of Bell & Howell at the age of 23. Percy voted against subsidies to SST contractors and to Lockheed, but voted for welfare to defense contractors.

62-year-old J. Caleb Boggs has been in the Senate since 1961. He approves of welfare for SST and defense contractors, and for Lockheed, but took a small part in the hearings on welfare aspects of the District budget.

Joseph Montoya (D-N.M.) and Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) took no part in the D.C. budget hearings, obviously believing them to be an unimportant part of their Senatorial responsibilities.

On the House side, the D.C. subcommittee has nine members, five of whom are Democrats.

Chairman William Natcher of Kentucky has been in the House for 18 years. Natcher voted for welfare for the SST, the defense establishment, and the farm sector, but against Federal education funds and an amendment to restore D.C.'s \$34 million share of the

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# Glut: You Eat What You Are

by Bill Sievert

**GLUT** - "To swallow, esp. greedily. (Merriam-Webster).

When you begin to list the lasting services the alternative community has created for the people of greater Washington, you can count them on one hand and have fingers to spare.

There's the Free Clinic. There is also the Runaway House which has in recent years spun off two group foster homes for teenagers as well as the Job Co-op and the People's Law Institute. There has always been some kind of alternative newspaper on the streets, as well as a "Switchboard". But with these few exceptions, the only long-lived service to grow out of the struggling counter-culture so far has been GLUT, the food cooperative.

Now in its third year, GLUT (the work is not an abbreviation for a series of words and means nothing more than the dictionary would suggest) services 750 to 800 households a week. It pulls in about \$6,000 worth of business each week, and that includes absolutely no profit.

In fact, GLUT currently is in the red, due particularly to the costs of renovating its new warehouse. Staff members say the only sure way out of the financial bind is to attract more households to make use of the coop.

The co-op staff ordered several ten-pound buckets of cottage cheese, but did not realize until people began picking up their

The co-op's purpose is to offer the community a workable alternative to the profit-craving Safeway and Giant food chains which control the great majority of the city's supermarket outlets.

Although many people remain unaware of GLUT's existence because it has no advertising budget, the co-op is open to everyone - families, groups, and individuals.

"Things are running more smoothly now than ever. We could add four times the volume we now handle," says Dan Kravitz, one of seven full-time staff members. "We want to be swamped."

The co-op staff has not always been able to think so positively about mass participation. GLUT was created in July of 1969 as a small buying club for a handful of communes, particularly people involved in operating the Free Clinic and, later, Switchboard.

The operation was primitive with canned goods the principle staple. Once,

**BEAT THE . . .**



orders that it had nothing in which to divide the curd. As a result, customers were sent home carrying little packets of cottage cheese in saran wrap.

Today, the operation has grown from "half-assed to half-vast," as a copy of the co-op's newsletter, *The Digest* put it last spring.

A central warehouse has just opened in Prince George's County, a truck has been purchased and is being used for distribution, and 22 neighborhood buying clubs have been created.

The buying clubs throughout the metropolitan area allow more personal service and make for more personal involvement in the operation of the cooperative. In the buying clubs, each member household takes a turn processing and filling the orders (at the warehouse) of the other club members. The clubs average about ten households, although some are considerably larger and some smaller.

In addition to buying clubs, there are larger central buying centers in seven locations - including five area campuses - where anyone may place an order. (A list of the centers and buying clubs follows this article).

The co-op now offers an almost complete line of foods, including meats, produce, nuts, eggs, cheese, breads, drinks, cider, coffee, dry milk, and an increasing list of special goodies including organic honey and peanut butter. Whenever possible, the co-op deals in organic foods.

Orders are placed and paid for approximately a week in advance of food pick-up at any of the buying clubs or buying centers. For several months GLUT experimented with a cash-and-carry

## SEE CENTERFOLD PIX

distribution system, but its workers found it impossible to guess the buying habits of the users.

Despite the added paperwork involved, the advance-order system is proving successful. Most of the co-op's customers have adjusted to planning meals a week in advance, and more people are using the co-op than ever before.

The advent of the central warehouse, which recently passed its health inspection in Prince George's County, has been a major boon to the co-op in terms of storage and processing of foods. Located in a former independent grocery store with a walk-in cooler and plenty of bin space, the floor bustles with activity during the Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday operations.

Volunteers spent several months cleaning up and renovating the warehouse at which storing, cutting, bagging, deliveries, and pick-ups are all handled. The warehouse is located just over the District line at 4005 34th Street, Ranier, Maryland. (That's straight out Rhode Island Avenue, two blocks into Maryland. Make a left on 34th).

GLUT prices (updated on each weekly order form) include a 10 percent surcharge over the actual wholesale cost of the food to pay for the costs of operation of the co-op and the unavoidable two percent D.C. sales tax. (The co-op does accept food stamps). Seven employees receive salaries of only \$40 a week for four days of work.

Even some of its most regular customers are unaware of where the co-op actually gets its foods. The simplest answer is that the food comes from all over a four-state area, primarily from food



**A SATISFIED CUSTOMER**

wholesalers and directly from farms.

According to Dan Kravitz, foods come to GLUT from the following sources, among others:

\* Pre-packaged dry goods come mostly from a wholesale grocer in Pennsylvania; others from D.C. wholesalers.

\* Luncheon meats come from a Rath's plant and a wholesale delicatessen in York, Pa.

\* Cheese comes from a local distribution outlet for Land-o-Lakes.

\* Fruits and nuts come primarily from three wholesalers in New York (up to almost two tons a month).

\* Organic beef comes from a cattleman in Pennsylvania; other meats come from an independent butcher locally.

\* Produce comes mostly from local produce wholesalers, although the co-op has been involved in several farming projects in the area that have supplied organic vegetables and fruits, too. Much of the co-op's organic produce comes directly from a farm in Pennsylvania.

\* Eggs come straight from the farm, including one farm operated by an American University student; and bread comes both from *Better Foods*, a Pennsylvania Mennonite distributor, and from the Pepperidge Farms thrift store in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Much of the distribution is accomplished via the co-op's new six-ton, twelve-foot van. An unpaid volunteer makes weekly runs of up to 14 hours to pick up foods from distributors and farms in Pennsylvania.

GLUT has worked with several farms near Washington that are operated by co-op members and friends. The farms raise organic produce which is sold often on a cash-and-carry basis, at buying centers. Last summer, a co-op-operated garden near Sperryville, Virginia turned out green beans, lettuce, peas, kale, zucchini, yellow squash, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, and more - even flowers - for GLUT users.

If the co-op staffers do not feel they can beat the price, quality, or freshness of an item handled by retail grocery stores, they usually do not handle it.

But the list of such items has become smaller and smaller as the co-op has continued to expand into the Washington area's largest successful alternative community service.

(The GLUT Warehouse phone number is: 779-4978).

photo by Sidney Tabak

# Consuming

## Consumer Bill Really Does Protect ...

### Sometimes

by Bill Sievert

"From a substantive point of view, it leaves a lot to be desired. But politically, and personally, I'm delighted," says attorney Benny Kass of the safeguards he authored into the D.C. Consumer Protection Bill which was recently passed by Congress.

"It took nine years of work to get what we have now," Kass adds with a touch of elation. The bill provides a dozen basic protections for persons who buy goods in the District of Columbia.

Sponsored by Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), the bill has been a considerable source of controversy because it gives increased protection and higher interest rates to banks, mortgage bankers, credit card companies, department stores, and small loan sharks—mostly at the expense of the consumer. (See *Colonial Times*, numbers 3 and 4.)

Many people feel that the only reason the consumer protection provisions were passed this year, after a nine-year battle by Kass and other consumer advocates, is because this time they were attached to the vote-getting protections given to those institutional lenders.

### Guide to Consumer Groups

## Putting Our Mouth Where Our \$ Is

by Laura Horowitz

In an age of big business, big government, big gyps, and big lies, the best way for individuals to defend themselves is to organize. In no arena is this more true than the marketplace, where the odds are stacked against the individual consumer.

Although one person can have some impact, the power of numbers, especially when translated into shopping dollars, is the ultimate consumer weapon. When carefully used, it can have a revolutionary effect on the practices and prosperity of business enterprises.

Since the D.C. area's consumer protection laws and agencies are scandalously weak, it is not hard to operate an untouchable, rip-off business here. When customers have no way to fight back, it is easy to exploit and mistreat them. When individual consumers are backed up by groups which are willing and able to provide advice, help, publicity and legal action on their behalf, businessmen are far

In any case, the bill actually does provide the public some serious new rights and an increased incentive to take legal action when they feel they have been wronged by business.

Among the major protections provided under the new law are:

**A THREE DAY COOLING-OFF PERIOD FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES:** This means that if a high-pressure salesman comes to your home and convinces you to purchase \$300 worth of pots and pans, the contract does not become valid for three days, giving you the opportunity to think over what you have done and cancel it if you like.

**UNCONSCIONABILITY IS MADE A PART OF CONSUMER REMEDIES:** This means that the ethics of an act of selling can be a legal consideration. If, for example, you are an aged woman on the verge of blindness and on welfare, and a magazine salesman convinces you to purchase \$150 worth of magazines from him, you can sue him if you wish, as he never should have sold them to you.

**IN CONSUMER SUITS, IF THE CONSUMER WINS HIS OR HER CASE, ATTORNEY FEES WILL BE ADDED TO THE JUDGMENT:** In addition to getting your money back from the guy who sold you that faulty washing machine, the seller must pay your attorney's fee, if you win.

**CREDITORS ARE PERMITTED TO CHARGE THE DEFAULTING CONSUMER ONLY UP TO 15 PER CENT OF THE UNPAID BALANCE FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES:** A company who takes legal action against you to

collect on an unpaid electric toothbrush worth \$10 can charge you only \$1.50 to pay the firm's legal costs. In the past sellers could charge you up to as much as their total legal fees and their some (particularly among companies with attorneys on retainer) even to collect on a very small item.

**CREDITORS ARE RESTRICTED TO EITHER REPOSSESS OR SUE FOR DEFICIENCIES ON GOODS (FOR OTHER THAN AUTOMOBILES) WHERE THE PURCHASE PRICE IS \$2,000 OR LESS. THEY CANNOT DO BOTH:** This means that if you default on your payments for that color t.v. set, the dealer you purchased it from can either sue you for the remainder of the price of the set you have not paid, or take the set back, not both. Formerly, seller could do both.

**REFERRAL SALES ARE PROHIBITED:** This type of sale usually promises that if you find other buyers for that tape recorder you want, the purchase price for you will be reduced. This policy has been subject to great abuse and often puts friends and relatives in the position of forcing unwanted goods on one another.

**GARNISHMENTS ARE LIMITED, AND THE DEBTOR CANNOT BE FIRED JUST BECAUSE HIS WAGES ARE GARNISHED:** If a company earns the right to garnish (attach) your wages because of a bad debt, it does not give your employer the right to fire you. In the past, he could. In addition, the amount from your check that can be garnished has been reduced considerably by the bill.

**DEFAULTING CONSUMERS (FOR OTHER THAN AUTOMOBILE PURCHASES) ARE GIVEN THE**

**RIGHT TO CURE THEIR DEFAULT:** If you miss a number of payments, you can pay up all you owe (including any legal deferral charges) and prevent any punitive action from being taken against you.

**BALLOON PAYMENTS ARE CURTAILED:** Situations in which the last payment on a contract is excessively high—higher than previous payments—frequently forcing you to take out a second mortgage, loan, etc. are prohibited.

**A LENDER WHO MAKES A DIRECT INSTALLMENT LOAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENABLING A CONSUMER TO PURCHASE GOODS OR SERVICES IS SUBJECT TO ALL CLAIMS AND DEFENCES OF THE CONSUMER AGAINST THE SELLER ARISING OUT OF THE PURCHASE OF THE GOODS OR SERVICES:** A department store lends me \$200 to buy a t.v. and then sells my promissory note to a bank or to some financial institution. I stop payment on the loan when the t.v. breaks. In the past the financial institution holding my loan could sue me for payments even though the t.v. is broken. Now they have to take my side.

In addition to these provisions, the bill places new limitations on debt collection practices. These include that no debt collector shall:

Use any fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading representation or means to collect or attempt to collect claims or to obtain information on consumers;

Unreasonably publicize information relating to any alleged indebtedness or debtor;

Attempt to use threat or coercion to collect debts.



more likely to act fairly.

For many years, consumer crusaders worked unheralded. Until Ralph Nader came along, their efforts were largely ignored by advertiser-cowed mass media. Today, however, with Nader as Pied Piper, the consumer bandwagon is rolling and reform efforts are meeting unprecedented though spotty success.

Food-clothing, shelter, transportation—people's daily needs—are what the consumer movement is all about. Rich and poor, black and white, city dwellers and suburbs all need these things.

Whether shopping with food stamps or Bankamerica cards, on Seventh Street or at Tyson's Corner, area consumers consistently run into inferior merchandise, incompetent service, outrageous prices, credit abuses, misleading advertising, and frustrating run-arounds.

It's high time the business community's arrogance and power were balanced with some grass-roots consumer power. After all, it's our

money that supports the supermarkets, drugstores, landlords, utilities, shopping centers, and even government agencies. It's time to make them responsive to our needs. Let's put our mouths where our money is for a change.

A good move in this direction would be to join one of the existing consumer groups working on local and national problems. All the groups would welcome your participation and can probably be of concrete help to you in your marketplace forays.

The list that follows will introduce you to some of the active groups in this area. Pick out one or more and, as one group's brochure urges, "become a consumer in action."

**Committee on Consumer Protection (Ad Hoc Committee)** 1225 19 Street, N.W., Washington 659-3436. Benny Kass, Chairman.

A loose-knit confederation of community and consumer groups which speaks out from time to time on issues of importance, especially credit. Informally operated. Consumer

**Education and Protective Association, Inc. (CEPA)** 4512, 9 Street, N.W.

Washington, 291-3342. Ila Bullock, President; Howard Frazier, National Director. \$2 fee to join, plus \$1 permonth dues. Newsletter costs \$3 per year.

Newest and most militant of the local groups, CEPA has recently started a small metropolitan-area chapter. Most of its local members are inner-city residents who have had consumer problems. The group meets every Monday.

CEPA, which has active chapters in several other cities, is the only local consumer group to use picketing as a regular part of its complaint-handling strategy. Its representatives first help consumers try to negotiate settlements, they turn to picketing only if more conventional efforts fail.

Locally, CEPA has concentrated on automobile dealers and home mortgage

*Continued on Page 16*

# Washington Journalism Review

## Post & Star Fiddle While Ads Deceive

by Bill Hobbs

The Attorney General of Maryland and a group of consumers in Washington have recently released the results of two separate surveys which both show that a number of chain and independent drug stores have used Washington's daily newspapers to get deceptive information to the public.

The newspapers involved — specifically the *Post* and *Star* — have passed on some of the information about these advertising deceptions to their readers in the form of brief news stories. But the information has made no impact on their own advertising policies or practices.

The advertising directors of both papers profess to be unaware of a pattern, or an allegation of a pattern, or even a specific instance of deceptive advertising in their papers by the drug stores. But stories on just such deceptions have appeared in their own pages, and even more detailed information than they published has been available to the papers.

The *Post* reported on December 21 that Maryland Attorney General Francis B. Burch had warned at least eight drug stores in the Baltimore-Washington area against using deceptive advertising practices. "Among the practices cited by Burch as being deceptive were having an insufficient supply of advertised sale

items on hand, exaggerating the potential savings of a sale, failing to mark down sale items so that customers were charged the regular price, and offering smaller quantities of items on sale than advertised," the *Post* said.

### An Unasked Question

Although the reporter for the *Post* apparently didn't bother to ask, the Maryland Attorney General's office readily volunteered information about where the deceptive advertisements in question had appeared. Alan Terl of the Attorney General's office told *Colonial Times* the investigation and survey of drug stores was "based on checking their ads in the daily newspaper spreads — which would mean basically the *Post* and the *Star*."

Even more specific evidence of deceptive drug store advertising was reported in the *Post* on December 6. A story headlined "Peoples Sale Ads Assailed" said, "A survey of 21 of the 38 Peoples Drug Stores in Washington indicated that 10 of them either did not stock an item that had been advertised as on sale or did not sell the item at the sale price." The *Post*'s report said the sale was "advertised in Washington newspapers on Sept. 19," and the news release which the *Post* received from the Consumer Affairs Committee of the D. C. Democratic Central Committee said specifically that the items were

"advertised at special prices in the *Washington Post* on September 19, 1971. All items were advertised on page K16."

Nearly half (10 out of 21) of the stores surveyed by the consumers to check the validity of the ad in the *Post* either didn't have the item in stock or sold it at more than the advertised sale price. But Joseph Lynch, the Advertising Director of the *Post*, told *Colonial Times* this week, "We rely on the honesty of the merchants" that advertise in the *Post*.

The survey by the Democratic Consumer Committee showed a specific instance of advertising by Peoples in the *Post* where there was an insufficient supply of advertised items, where the potential savings of a sale were exaggerated, and where Peoples failed to mark down sale items so that customers ended up being charged the regular price. (See the details of this survey on page 7.)

### Paid To Know

These are precisely the types of deception which the Maryland Attorney General's office found being practiced by a number of drug stores advertising in the Washington papers.

But the *Post*'s Mr. Lynch, the advertising director of the biggest retail advertising outlet in the Washington metropolis and a man who is paid to be

up on the latest local advertising developments, hadn't heard of any specific complaints about Peoples' advertising or about a pattern of deceptive drug store advertising when *Colonial Times* called him this week.

Perhaps he had not been reading his own newspaper's news pages. After all, he could have missed the stories on the advertising deceptions. They were much smaller and much less eye-grabbing than the advertisements in which the deceptions originally appeared.

Lynch did say, "We get almost no complaints" from consumers about deceptive advertising. When we do get one, we go directly to the merchant. We give them the name and address and telephone number of the person complaining and let them deal with it directly." He said the paper does not and has no plans to do any independent checking of the accuracy of claims which drug stores or other merchants make in advertisements in the *Post*.

### Star's Position

The *Star*'s position on this question is hardly any different. Its news pages also reported, albeit inadequately, the D. C. Democrats' consumer survey which documented the deceptive Peoples advertising, and reported the Maryland Attorney General's finding that this type of deception was quite common. The drug chains and large independent drug stores commonly publish the same ads in the *Post* and *Star* simultaneously.

Like Mr. Lynch at the *Post*, however, *Star* Advertising Director Jack C. Schoo said he was quite unaware of any problem with Peoples advertising in specific or with drug store advertising in general. "When we take an ad from Peoples, it is assumed those items are available at all stores unless the ad states otherwise," Schoo said.

Like Lynch, Schoo relies on the honesty of the merchants and doesn't have any present means or future plans for independently checking the veracity of the ads his paper prints. "We assume that a reputable firm has what they claim to have. The paper wouldn't check this itself. We don't have the staff. We're a sales organization," he said.

### No Guarantee

Thus at present the readers of advertisements in the *Post* and *Star* have no guarantee whatsoever that items advertised on sale in the papers will actually be available, that they will be on sale if they are available, or that their original "value" is what has been advertised. There is specific, concrete evidence of these types of deception in some cases, and there is strong presumptive evidence that a pattern of such deception exists. But the newspapers keep presenting the advertisements to the public on the bland assumption that they are not deceptive.

The *Post*, in fact, in a backhanded way, has specifically denied responsibility for inaccurate advertisements. In one of its "F.Y.I." For Your Information editorials on October 31, 1970, the paper said, "We print things in news columns which, while neither libelous nor unlawful nor in bad taste (in our judgement), some people will consider to be scurrilous or defamatory or untrue. Why should not

### Flip A Coin Dept.

## Same story, same day...

**Washington Post**

### Learning With Pay A Failure

By Lawrence Feinberg  
Washington Post Staff Writer

A program in which students were paid to go to summer school in Washington's inner-city did not lead to better attendance or higher achievement, a group of evaluators has told D.C. school officials.

The evaluators added that the elaborate record-keeping, including daily time-cards for each student, reduced the time that teachers spent on planning academic work.

They said money did not appear to motivate students to do school work who were not motivated for other reasons. But, in at least one case, they said, it lured students away from another nonpaying school program.

The summer school for pay, which was called the "Earn and Learn" project, was part of the D.C. model cities program financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**The Evening Star**

### 'Earn-and-Learn' Judged Success

By BETTY JAMES  
Star Staff Writer

The controversial, federally funded "earn and learn" program, offered in two District schools last summer, has been judged a qualified success. But it was hurt by the public's negative attitude toward paying students to go to school.

This attitude and other handicaps must be overcome if the program is repeated next year, Gilbert A. Diggs, assistant superintendent for the model school division concluded.

A report prepared by General Learning Corp. and Diggs' interpretation of it were released yesterday by Dr. Hugh J. Scott, superintendent of schools.

The pioneer "earn-and-learn" program was initiated by D.C. Model Cities and

administered by the schools.

Use of the \$554,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provided all funds, was approved by the City Council six days before the program started July 12. Final details were developed under "intense time pressure," the report says.

Only \$46,252.92 was spent, however.

Half of the students who applied were disqualified because they didn't live in the model cities' geographical area, the District's inner city. Classes were held at Dunbar High School, 1st and N Streets NW, and Hamilton Junior High School, 6th Street and Brentwood Parkway NE.

Of 1,271 enrolled, only 159 withdrew or were dropped, according to the reports. The students were paid \$1.00 an hour for time spent in class.

For a variety of reasons, the education potential of the "extremely ambitious" program design was only partially realized, the report concludes. Cited as causes in the report

December 24, 1971

*continued on page 7*

# Did you miss these items?

These three items appeared just as they do here in a Peoples Drug Store ad in the *Washington Post* on September 19, 1971. But when the Consumer Affairs Committee of the D.C. Democratic Central Committee took a survey in Peoples stores themselves to see whether the "PRICE BLASTING DISCOUNTS" advertised actually existed, here is what they found.



47.6 percent (10 of the 21 stores surveyed) either did not have this J&J Baby Shampoo or charged more than the advertised \$.81 when the surveyors bought it. Seven charged \$.18 for it (indicating that it wasn't really a "1.29 SIZE" anyway), and 11 charged the advertised \$.81.

One store of the 21 surveyed didn't have this J&J Baby Powder at all. Surveyors didn't actually purchase this one, but none (0%) of the stores surveyed had the \$.81 sale price marked directly on the item. One was marked \$.87, one was marked \$.109, six were marked \$.16, and one was marked \$.29. The rest weren't marked.

Four of the 21 stores surveyed (19%) did not have these J&J cotton swabs at all. None of the stores had the advertised \$.87 sale price marked on the item. Ten were marked \$1.23 and one was marked \$1.69 (that must have been the one the ad was referring to). The others had no price markings.

## Post hard on Kissinger, soft on Peoples

*continued from page 6*

the same rule apply in that part of a newspaper which is set aside for ads?"

The editorial was referring to the right-wing political smear ad against Sen. Joseph Tydings which the *Post* had just printed, but it is clear that this same general policy applies to commercial advertisements of loose accuracy as well.

### Chest Beating & Nobility

This stance is particularly odd for the *Post* because the *Post* is the paper which has been doing the most chest-beating and patting itself on the back lately for being so hardnosed about its coverage of "off the record" statements from the White House. The *Post* is very noble about not wanting to pass on any of Henry Kissinger's come-ons, trial balloons and other misleading slop to readers of its news pages. But it doesn't seem to be worried at all about passing on Peoples' Drug

Store come-ons, trial balloons and misleading slop to readers of its advertising pages.

This kind of double standard in journalism contributes heavily to the situation recently described by John Rothchild in the *Washington Monthly*: "As the average man gets more skeptical about the affairs of the world, he takes more of his daily life on blind faith. For example, he has probably read some of the Pentagon Papers, but not his Allstate liability policy. He doesn't accept what Nixon says about the economy, yet he accepts without question what some strange mechanic says about his cam shaft."

But before we go off just getting mad at the *Post's* complicity in this situation, we need to remember that the *Post* is better than many other papers. The *Post* has at least tried to stop playing Kissinger's games, even if it still doesn't mind playing Peoples' games.

And the *Post* editorial department is even aware of some problems with advertising. An editorial on November 18, 1971 said that, "In countless products and services, no real difference in quality exists, so the ad agencies strain to attract the customer with the use of boasts, pitches and come-ons. Ads compete, not products. But does

the performance always fulfill the promise?"

This editorial hasn't stopped the *Post's* advertising department from continuing to print boasts, pitches and come-ons whose performance doesn't always fulfill their promise. But at least the *Post* has a *double* standard. Some papers don't have any standards at all.

## People Who Live In Glass Houses ..

A note to Bernard Nossiter of the *Washington Post*, who in the December 26 edition of the paper commented upon the "antiseptic pages" of Lester Markel's *New York Times Sunday Magazine*:

Have you ever looked at *Potomac*?

# Taking over US cities

continued from page 1

remnants of the old movement to form a cohesive group and re-enter the political arena.

But on what level? And how? And especially, why? One possibility is to work through the existing party structures. For those of you interested in that option stop reading right now! The rest of this article is for others.

The second possibility is a new national party, a fourth party. But the feeling in many circles is that national politics does not lend itself to effective democracy, that national candidates by the very nature of a national political campaign are forced to talk in slogans, to examine issues superficially, to thrust an image rather than a program on the voters. Furthermore, national elections are win-lose propositions. Either you win all or you disintegrate and try again in three years. There are rarely any vibrant, local issues and therefore no local action groups that can be spawned through the national campaign. Millions of dollars are spent getting national exposure and slogans are utilized because time means money.

## City Power

But there is an area where all the factors seem positive. The cities of America, those blighted, condemned areas where 80% of this nation's population are huddled together, where national issues are translated into local reality, where national programs are translated into local actions. In the cities we can win.

Last year there were approximately 7.5 million students attending some 2500 colleges and universities in the United States. With 18 year olds having the right to vote, and with many states, through either court battles or attorneys general rulings giving students the right to register at their college residences, students right now have the power to elect a mayor, a city council, a municipal judge, a sheriff, justice of the peace, school board.

The first reaction, predictably, is a bored, "Who cares?" Try to turn on any self-respecting university student to an election of Board of Aldermen, or of city council and the response might border on the snide, if not downright comic. However, there are great, often untapped powers in local government, even though situations vary from locality to locality. Yet a city council, for instance, can float bonds, can buy food from local food cooperatives, controls zoning ordinances, urban renewal plans; it sets minimum wage and maximum hour laws. It has, usually, the right of eminent domain, which traditionally means that lower income housing is torn down to permit new highways or high rise apartments to take its place.

The government consists of a gang of men exactly like you and me. They have, taking one with another, no special talent for the business of government. They have only a talent for getting and holding office. Their principal device to that end is to search out groups who pant and pine for something they can't get and to promise to give it to them. Nine times out of ten that promise is worth nothing. The tenth time it is made good by looting A to satisfy B. In other words, government is a broker in pillage, and every election is a sort of advance auction sale of stolen goods.

H.L. Mencken

Yet it could encompass the takeover, in the public good, of local utility companies. Or it might be used to take over high rise apartments and convert into public housing or day care nurseries.

Sometimes the city has an income tax, a useful means, if used effectively, of distributing income. If local banks are using the city's money to invest in slum housing or other socially distasteful ventures the city could withdraw pension funds or other monies and deposit them in neighborhood credit unions which were under the control of the people. The city could begin really enforcing existing legislation concerning health and welfare, begin checking on the price and quality of food, housing violations, etc. Undoubtedly in most cities in this country if the health inspectors were replaced by new ones enforcing the laws on the books most restaurants would be forced to close, causing the city's inhabitants to either question the laws or modernize the existing facilities.

A city administration controlled by the people of the city can aid immeasurably in local efforts.

Tenant strikes, boycotts, local labor disputes, all can be won with the help of the city government. Sometimes city councils have the right to appoint the police chief. The implications are enormous. Yet even in those cities where this right is reserved for the city manager the city council can often control the police budget and either reduce it considerably or eliminate it completely — or create an entirely new police force.

## Happy Fantasies

Scenario I—Neighborhoods request the city to close off certain rarely used roads through the community. Six feet of topsoil is brought in from rural areas and covers the pavement. The neighborhood uses its garbage and leaves for compost for a huge garden and park. The unemployed and elderly tend the garden and the food grown is sold in community stores for lower prices and is of vastly superior quality than chain stores have, with money going to a community fund which helps those most in need.

Scenario II—Several cities, instead of legalizing the use of marijuana, which would lead to federal intervention, abolish the existing narcotics squads and fire undercover agents, while sending directives to police men to concentrate on heroin pushers, with community cooperation, rather than marijuana smokers.

Scenario III—A nationwide railway strike occurs and freight is tied up. The union is ordered back to work and the leadership complies but the rank and file stay out. National Guard units and army troops are called in but in certain key cities the city administration calls on all city inhabitants to refuse services to guard units and to stop the trains from rolling through their particular stockyards until railroad workers have their demands met.

## On the The Move

In Seattle an 18 year old running on a Socialist ticket gained 5% of the primary vote for city council. In Madison, the Wisconsin Alliance is gearing up for local candidates and state wide office, encouraging the formation of a "workers party." In Ann Arbor the Radical Independent Party will be running a slate for city council, and has already broken down into committees concerned with abortions, prisons, child care. In Crystal City, Texas, the Chicanos have taken control of the city administration and are working at programs oriented towards the Spanish speaking sections of the city. In Berkeley the radical coalition last year won three of four at-large city council seats and will probably win a clear majority next year.

ironically, is for a radical public accountant, someone who can make sense out of the jungle of past and present budgetary practices. Or a city planner or economist who can ferret out tax injustices or make some sense out of low cost housing and construction techniques. Or lawyers who can read a city charter and figure out what the real powers of a city administration are.

One problem has been how to relate to groups other than students. Although students will represent the bulk of a new party's constituency, blue collar workers, welfare mothers, the unemployed, the elderly must also be brought into the coalition. With the increasing unionization of professionals, with the growing working class proportion of the student bodies, and with the growing scarcity of jobs for college graduates, the objective gap between town and gown may not be as wide as it once was. Yet there are real conflicts. For instance, university lands are notoriously undervalued so that their tax assessments are low. By raising this assessment the city could gain greater revenues, but the university could respond by increasing tuition, thus setting off the students against the town. It is a delicate task to develop new balances of power.

Councilman Clod says:  
"Honest to Pete! It's  
the hippies that  
are the cause of it  
all. Who else could  
it be?"



LNS

## Student Elections and Municipal Elections

Some people who are excited about the idea of local party formation have been discussing the possibility of first concentrating on student government elections this spring. Usually student government contests are campus oriented, are personality contests, and revolve around one or two issues. They could, and should, be transformed into political arenas, with students recognizing that soon the student government president will be an important power in the city, that the university represents an important, and sometimes dominant, power in the city in terms of finance and employment. A campaign could illuminate (as is being done in Cambridge) the role of the university in local planning boards, in tax assessments, could discuss the possible utilization of university facilities (both physical, financial, and intellectual) for the betterment of the surrounding areas.

## Do It!!!

Obviously it's a big job. We can do it half-assed—and learn. We can become mesmerized by national politics and ignore the local scene. We can become so immersed in local politics that we forget that people are the ones who make a revolution and that local politics merely provides them the space and opportunity. We can forget the whole thing and light out for the farms (which in many cases are located not far from a small city). Or we can put together a professional, people-oriented, local issue campaign. We can use our creativity, our skills, our energies, our music, our bodies. It probably takes no more than \$5 or 6 thousand to run an effective local campaign in a city of around 40,000. If the Jefferson Airplane, or the Dead, or the Who gave a benefit supporting the local political group the publicity and funds generated could probably run campaigns in a number of nearby cities.

One final point. I've left it for last because I hate to argue from the negative. Philadelphia and Minneapolis, with their tough cop mayors, are the obvious alternatives to indifference on our part. We have the choice of an open, neighborhood-controlled municipality or a police-led dictatorship. If we refuse to support the one, we will undoubtedly get the other.

Those interested in getting together to talk about local parties should contact David Morris at 483-3238.

## Obstacles

Not all is rosy, however. There are problems, big ones. But most of those so far encountered come from within the ranks of the Left and the youth, not from the outside. The main problem is that we've been talking in grand terms about revolution for so long that we are unprepared when power beckons. The most obvious lack is of skilled technicians. As one radical leader has noted, "We have to overcome the almost pathological fear of anyone who possesses intellectual tools. We need to understand that the tools themselves can be used to help people." Unfortunately this advice is often ignored.

We talk of Mao's long march but ignore the technicians he must have had around who could figure out how to feed and clothe and house such an army, the teachers who must have been brilliant adaptors to outside and mobile classrooms, the bureaucrats who understood the need for flexible organizations.

The most crying need among local parties,

# D.C. - How Can We Free Ourselves?

by Mal Kovacs

"FREE D.C." remains a slogan instead of a battle plan. Washington's moves toward self-government are still tiny at best. At the beginning of this important election year for District citizens, we need to begin to re-think and to discuss what plans we wish to pursue in the hard fight for self-government. This article raises several electoral and non-electoral suggestions. We welcome your own comments on what should be done.

The Fauntroy machine looks like a sure winner in its bid to re-elect the non-voting delegate and in Fauntroy's favorite son strategy in the May Presidential primary.

The favorite son tactic denies DC citizens the right to indicate their preference for the Presidency in the spring primary. In so doing Fauntroy makes himself an ally of anti-District and anti-black Congressmen and White House staffers. Fauntroy's staff has boasted of their success in keeping out of the city virtually every Democratic candidate for President, including fellow black Shirley Chisholm.

Even the pro-Fauntroy *Washington Post* has been bothered by this closed kind of politics. Many Democratic party liberals, including Joe Rauh and Ken Bode, have publicly criticized Fauntroy for this move.

The Fauntroy machine has already begun ward-level "elections" for

delegates on the favorite son slate, which promises to be a collection of campaign loyalists.

How to challenge or at least to embarrass Fauntroy is a major problem for us. He is very popular—probably unbeatable—but this is based on a sympathetic media image and good machine work rather than Fauntroy's own policies and results.

Better Democratic results may come out of suburban jurisdictions: Howellites in Virginia will be fighting for delegate positions and several progressive youth candidates have announced in Montgomery County, including a politically active 18-year-old Montgomery College freshman, Ken Silverman.

One proposal for immediate action is to "elect" our own government this spring, including a mayor, not a commissioner, a city councilman from each ward, and, in the spirit of Statehood, two Senators and Congressmen. A good precedent for this kind of election is the referendum on the Three Sisters Bridge that was held three years ago. At that time, bridge opponents set up voting booths outside of hundreds of regular polling places in the city during school board elections.

Thousands of people voted in that mock election. It is very possible that even supporters of the Fauntroy slate in the May primary would also vote in this

election.

And the victories by liberals and progressives in the last school board election suggest that other progressives could get out a considerable vote and raise the bigger issues than Fauntroy's popularity.

A follow-up to this proposed election would be that the newly-people's un-officials would serve as a shadow government to the shadowy city government we've already got. The shadow mayor (Booker? Barry? Hobson?) and shadow representatives could use their election as a mandate to press for real representation. By virtue of their election and their stature as community leaders, their legitimacy will be a dramatic contrast to the colonial hacks appointed by President Nixon.

Timing is important: it might be much better to hold this local election during the less hectic and more visible spring primary rather than to get lost in the fall Presidential election.

A major non-electoral proposal for us to consider is to incorporate the demand "No Taxation without Representation!" This issue worked well for our forefathers in colonial times and it is just as real an issue for us today.

If well-known blacks like Channing Phillips and Jerry Moore can threaten civil disobedience to get more Metro contracts for black companies, they can

surely provide the public leadership for thousands of black and white professionals and middle-class people to refuse to pay DC taxes on April 15, 1972, three weeks before the spring primary. When the wealthier classes have made clear their refusal to pay DC taxes until there is real representation, we might then get tens of thousands of lower level black government employees to also refuse to pay. People like Marion Barry and Reginald Booker could be important movers in the black community on this issue. Professional groups like Statehood Party, ADA, DC Democrats, *Colonial Times* and the *DC Gazette* could help to mobilize white participation.

Nixon and the likes of Rep. Anchor Nelson will continue to give us the run-around for years and all we'll get for our patience will be another study commission rather than self-government. The DC Republican Party has hardly any voters. The DC Democrats are divided and on their way to becoming a Fauntroy machine.

We need to shake up the parties and the governments by creating our own bases of power in neighborhoods coalitions that extend across the city. The broad coalition that was formed around the Three Sisters Bridge struggle now lies dormant, but it can be revived and expanded in the fight for self-government.

## REVOLUTION Yankee Doodle Style

by Mal Kovacs

A fine new group of thoughtful radicals, the People's American Revolutionary Bi-Centennial Commission, has begun issuing graphics and reports, posters, pins and bumper stickers on less well-known revolutionary events and characters in American history.

Their material is a refreshing turn away from the counter culture's usual rejection of American history as irrelevant and embarrassing. They show us that we don't have to look to places as far away as Korea and Bolivia for revolutionary inspiration. They help us to see the continuity of our present struggles with earlier radical movements in America.

They have already done a number of lively profiles: radical activist Sam Adams, the Sons of Liberty, the Committees of Correspondence, a very radical Helen Keller (!), and the story of America's first intervention in Vietnam in 1845.

The People's Commission is one radical response to the Nixon administration's officially sponsored

Bi-Centennial commission which plans a year-long "Honor America Day" for 1976, a flag-waving celebration of the status quo. Even moderate Republican Sen. Charles Mathias of Maryland, who was a co-sponsor of the legislation which originally established the government's commission five years ago, is critical of the Nixon commission for its failure to include a critical perspective on our past (or present) and for its exclusion of minority groups from commission membership.

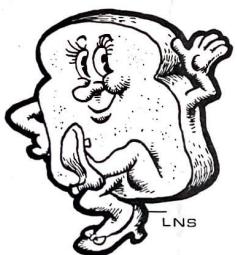
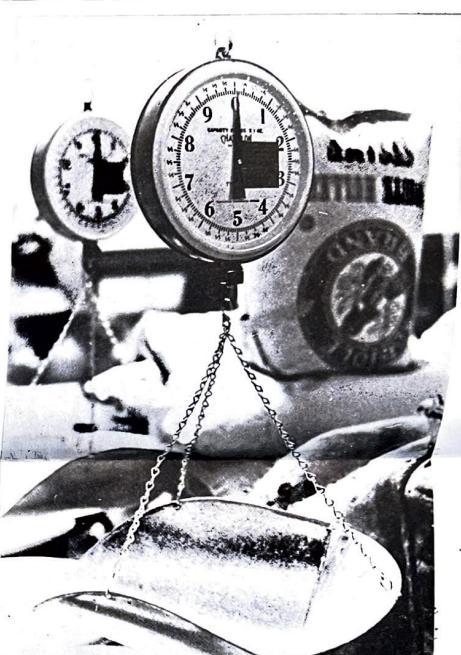
The government is already laying plans to have massive militaristic and jingoistic displays in the Washington

area. The People's Bi-Centennial is making its own plans with exhibits on American ethnic, labor and women's history, and proposals for making a new America. One of the major DC targets is the more than 17 million tourists who visit Washington every year. (50 million visitors are expected in 1976.)

The Bi-Centennial Commission is looking for local people to start a DC Bi-Centennial group to work with community groups, schools, tourists, and others. You can reach them at 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036, telephone: 833-9121.



SAM ADAMS, Revolutionary Patriot



**GLUT**  
The Food Co-op  
Photographed by Sidney Tabak

January 14, 1972

# Palestinian Artist: Art and Ideology

**Kamal Boullata** is a Palestinian artist living in Washington. Born in Jerusalem, he studied in Europe, then returned home to teach in a teachers' training school. In June, 1967, he was in Beirut, and the Israeli occupation forces denied him permission to return to Jerusalem.

Boullata then came to the United States on a grant from the Quakers. He has spent the last three years exhibiting and lecturing on campuses throughout the country.

His posters appear on the walls and streets of refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and his work is often sold to raise money for refugee children. He is on the editorial board of Free Palestine, and has illustrated a collection of poetry, *A Lover From Palestine*, published by Free Palestine Press.

His article, 'Toward a Revolutionary Arab Art', appeared in *Palestinian Resistance to Israeli Occupation*, (Medina University Press, 1969), and he is the editor of a collection of articles, *Art and Confrontation*, (Graphic Society, New York). We talked with him last week in Washington.

**Sharon Rose**

*You have said that you refuse to allow yourself to be defined simply as an artist. Could you explain that?*

**BOULLATA:** Within this system everything is put into boxes - artists work only for art, politicians work in politics, students only study. That is what fragments society rather than uniting it. I cannot see a student who is not political. Whether or not he is committed to radical politics he is political.

It is the same with art. Throughout history artists have been political? although they may not have joined a party or whatever, their work has always paved the way for peoples' movements. So I do not see myself as an artist alone, but as a political being who happens to be an artist.

*In this country there have been artists who have been active in the antiwar or civil rights movements, but their work continues to have little relationship to those movements. Why is that?*

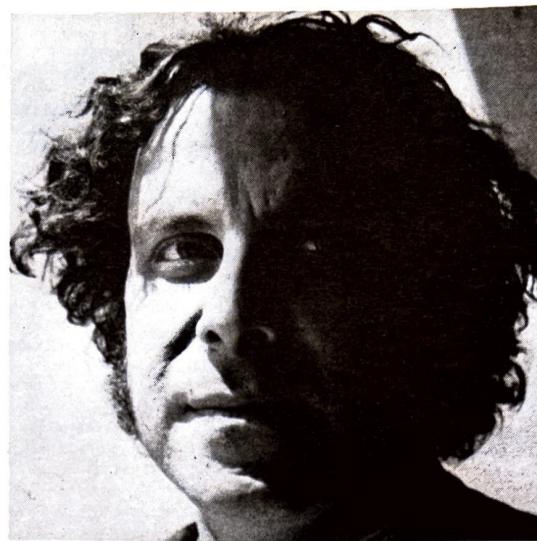
**BOULLATA:** In order to create a political art you need to be a very sensitive person, a person who feels people, feels the problems of the times, and who goes into them, and brings a completely new art.

The thing we don't have is this quality of the artist. The so-called top artists here paint Coca-Cola bottles and Campbell's Soup cans and all that, and then they give a statement against Cambodia and Laos. It's easy. But to bring that into actual art - that's much harder.

The place where art is hanging is very important. In the studio, in the place where the man makes a frame for it, in a museum, on the street of the ghetto, it looks different in each of those places. Today's artists paint with the concept that their painting is going to end up in a museum.

I wish we could talk about what the artist does, and then what aesthetics do, and what the museum does with it. Like when Picasso painted the Guernica, as a result of the Spanish Civil War. This was a painting where the artist felt a great commitment to humanity and he painted that picture against war and for humanity.

It was a very political statement. He was speaking in universal and allegorical terms. But when this painting hangs in New York and people watch it, they



have been tuned to look at this painting and not think of Vietnam but think of the aesthetics, of the lines, of the colors, of this and of that. All that Picasso did is not there. It is only the skeleton which is there.

The spirit of the painting is not there. Why? On TV we watch every day people being killed, in photographs. Now art is a dramatization of reality - but what more dramatization do you want than a photograph? There is nothing more. A moving photograph is it. Now people see every day a child being napalmed to death on TV and they will be sipping a Coke. The whole visual experience changed and because of that the vocabulary of art has to change. How I can't tell - I can only do it.

*Can you talk about your decision to remain an artist instead of becoming a guerilla fighter?*

**BOULLATA:** Guerrilla warfare is waged by the people of the Third World (a part of whom are the people of Palestine) as a war of survival. The weapons the enemy uses are the most sophisticated and brutal. The great leaders of the Third World tell their people that the first task is to endure suffering. This is a war to preserve life.

At such a time when weapons have changed drastically, concepts like courage and honesty are different. In the past, for example, it would be courageous for a man to go out to war and die a heroic death. Today a guerilla fighter who dies like Che is stupid - it's not courageous to die. So it is a protracted long war of endurance. This is the time of Jonah, not of Joan of Arc.

So while I'm painting resisting everything around me, in my work being a witness to brutality - that is an act of survival.



from *A Lover From Palestine*

Many artists are seemingly afraid of being defined as propagandistic. The argument is that you lose your personal creativity if you allow yourself to be a propagandist.

**BOULLATA:** The general view is that if it's not 'art for art's sake' it's going to be rubbish. I can't understand that. Take, for instance, the colorist school out of Washington. These are people that live in a city where the majority are black and they are white, and there is a war going on in Vietnam.

These are people who sit in their studios and paint lines and dots. What are they doing? Art in this respect becomes the armchair of comfortable people - the people who buy it. And it becomes a monopoly and it becomes a money investment and it has nothing to do with art.

*But many artists say they are expressing their own emotions, vibrations - whatever you want to call it.*

**BOULLATA:** This is very political. This is extremely political if you are only concerned about your emotions and are not concerned about others. This is also a political stand. It is said all the time that the artist can only express for himself, but if this is true, why does he share his painting, or his poems?

I don't mean I think art is there to ease the pain. We are not talking about toothache - we are speaking about guts and blood being spilled on the street. So it's not to ease - there is no place for ease - there is place only to change.

We can't afford to create merely a window to look out to escape from reality. We have to create a new reality which is art, and even if that means the abolition of all art for the change of life, then let it be. In time many arts have died - opera died. So what if painting dies. Opera died. Cinema was born!

*How do you look at art in Washington?*

**BOULLATA:** If you are really asking me whether I go to galleries in Washington or to museums - no, in more than a year I haven't entered a single gallery. But everytime I eat at McDonald's on my way back I stop hours on Corcoran Street to see a mural painted in an alley by black artist.

In Washington I don't have friends who are artists - my friends are political activists and students. Most artists belong to an upper class elite. Others, many of whom I have met, write or paint as a therapeutic escape. It is too often self-indulgent.

They are victims of a system that separates art and politics. Every creative act is a political act whether we like it or not. We live in a political system - we either submit or resist.

*How, then, can an artist struggle against this?*

**BOULLATA:** First, in the Third World we don't have galleries. So the revolutionary artists don't have to create galleries. They can paint on the streets, and in that respect it's easier for us.

In Europe in 1969, artists fought in the streets against the galleries and a whole new art came out which we cannot judge because we are too close to it. In America what I see is to fight the establishment of the art market.

If we spend the next ten years not painting any pictures but working in a struggle to fight galleries everywhere, and to create new places for art, that is a revolutionary thing in America.

# Looking for the Cadillac my Pappy used to Have

by Michael Lally

"Hi. I'm from *Colonial Times* in Washington, and I was wondering, uh, what's your reaction to this show?"

1: "I don't know yet." A Woman, about 19. "I'll have to think about it." She's studied about half the 500 envelopes. "Give me time to think about it."

I ask her what she knows about "conceptual art." "Well, it's the idea that counts, right?" I shrug my shoulders. "What do you know about 'conceptual art'?" she asks. I confide in her, "This is my first time."

2: Another woman, mid-twenties, works for a halfway house in Baltimore. "I love it," and laughs as though she means it.

3&4: "At first I thought," a young man, eyes invisible on the other side of dark glasses, "you know, when are they gonna take this stuff down and put up the show."

I asked them both, but he's talking, she's just sitting there in one of the theater seats. "But after I dug that this was the show, I mean I like it, you know? I like it."

She is asked directly. "I'm too tired to think about it."

5&6&7&8&9: Well dressed, as they used to say, two diamonds on one hand, three on the other, big enough for me to spot clear across the room.

She has just turned down an offer for a paper cup full of free wine, or pepsi, turned it down for her daughter, her two sons in their camel hair coats, and for her husband who, she says, has mixed enough drinks for the evening. He smiles and consults with one son about which envelope the son will pay a dollar to have mailed to himself at Notre Dame.

Eventually she manages to usher her family away but not without a final smile for the friendly freaks at the free wine or pepsi table. "Thank you for having us..." she says.

One of the freaks is Jim Flaining editor of Salt Lick Press and magazine, pushing

22, creator of the exhibit, 'environment' he calls it: "500 ENVELOPES, A CONCEPTUAL ART SHOW." It's at the theatre project in Baltimore.

He's big, with shoulder length hair pulled back, western style shirt, and cowboy boots and denims. He came to Baltimore, and Antioch, from Texas, with a two year interlude at a Catholic College in Southern Illinois. He is surprisingly soft-spoken.

"What do you know about conceptual art?" I ask him. "More than you think."

He goes back to explaining to some newcomers how they can reserve an envelope for only a dollar, and have the new issue of his magazine *Salt Lick* and all the poetry, commentary, and recipes therein, along with several original photograph post cards, placed in that envelope and mailed to them within the month. I go back to "reactions."

10. "Well, to me, it's like reading a magazine." We're near the entrance and some envelopes with scenic views pasted to them. Any better? Worse? than her favorite magazines? "About the same." 11 & 12. A middle-aged couple, simply dressed, make it past the lobby into the 'environment.' I watch them scan the first rows of envelopes attached back to back on the wires stretched across the otherwise empty black frames. By the time I reach the spot, they have turned around and walked out.

11 & 12. I catch a freak couple as they're leaving. Again the male responds immediately.

"I didn't like it, man," tugs on his moustache. "I felt like it was a big commerical trip. Get me in there, give me some free wine, and then try to sell me some crummy magazine for a dollar."

No mention of the envelopes. The sister with him looks tired. "But," she takes the cue and moves toward the W. Preston Street entrance, "I thought the music was good." He follows her out.

The music was supplied by John McLaughlin, Miles Davis, etc. Jim's records, on his stereo, set up in the theatre project's sound booth. Along with the subdued lighting on the black walls, ceiling, and floor, a mellow atmosphere was "created" for the 500 8½ by 11 manilla envelopes stamped with SALT LICK PRESS, 721 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, and pasted with cut outs from magazines, advertisements, year book photos from the forties, random snapshots, medical textbook illustrations, hot rod pin ups, publicity photos of Marilyn Monroe from the fifties, news photos from the past five decades, a ten year old Barry Goldwater in modest bathing garb, animal pictures, including a whole series on Dr. Fair the famous veterinarian, exclusive photos of the Great Dane watch dog of John D. Rockefeller from which Dr. Fair removed a cancerous tumor, some tumors, etc.

The "environment" opened at Baltimore's theatre project Friday evening, Jan. 7th. I watched at least 50 people wander through it. Some looked slightly nervous about soiling their evening attire, about sampling the free wine, about being had. Most were young freaks.

At least a dozen gave their dollar to get the chance to receive their favorite envelope in the mail. I'm expecting one any day with a picture of William Saroyan sitting on top of a ladder eating a banana.

A handful of people took off their coats and settled in for the evening, sipping wine, chatting, reapproaching the envelopes from various directions.

Jim explained that actually one envelope would have been closer to true "conceptual art." He called the show a 'spin-off.' And said the envelopes "are personalized art pieces the public can afford and relate to, and they recycle some normally abandoned materials."

I thought about that and the recent trend in some American poetry, like

A REVIEW OF 500 ENVELOPES,  
A CONCEPTUAL ART SHOW

Ted Berrigan's *SONNETS*, where he manages to re-use throughout his poems Rimbaud's *DRUNKEN BOAT* almost in its entirety, as well as lines, paragraphs, cut-outs and cut-ups from *Reader's Digest, True West, etc.*

Then I thought about Frank Zappa's music, and wondered if he didn't employ a "recycling" of "normally abandoned materials" too, as well as his original material, etc.

And after a few more etcs., I decide I agree with most people I talked to that evening. I like the idea, and since this is "conceptual art," that means I like the show. But since these envelopes will all be sent out anyway, eventually, with their cut out pasted on, and the magazine with several original photo post cards inside, it doesn't matter much how we react to the "show."

The real show is when one person picks up his mail the day the envelope arrives, and no matter what the reaction, the 'concept' has been successful.

13. Just before closing, one last, lone middle-aged man walks in. As I approach him I notice a home made badge pinned to the lapel of his black raincoat. It says "Pollution stinks but flowers ain't half bad."

He waits for me to finish admiring his badge and then he answers. "The immediate one that caught my eye was that mother owl." He gestures toward the first frame and an envelope with a nice color photo of a mother owl about to land at her nest where three baby owls wait. It looks like it might have been cut out of a National Geographic. "Beautiful, isn't it," he says. I hadn't noticed. But I do now. And, of course, he's right.

We're standing before some hot rod pictures, one of an early fifties Henry J, nosed, decked, chopped, and lowered, as we said at the time. The man half smiles and says quietly, "Right now, I'm lookin' for a 1930 Cadillac my pappy used to have."

## Emergency: Teenage Dance Hall Blues

by Robert Hinton

Emergency, the Georgetown rock club, closed down New Years Day - apparently the victim of "haphazard management" and legal hassles.

Shreibman was Emergency's manager during it's first eight months and again for the last few.

The club, which sold no alcoholic beverages was started in August 1969 by a corporation of twenty-one persons, half of whom were under age twenty-one.

Michael Shreibman, a promoter of rock concerts in the area, was given stock in exchange for taking on its management.

He said last week that the club failed because during the last year or year and a half it seemed to be managed by "whomever walked through the door." People came to Emergency to find it filthy, with trash cans sitting in the middle of the floor and the air conditioning not working.

Shreibman says his first term as manager ended because the club's board of directors didn't want to guarantee

the groups playing there a specific amount of money, but rather wanted them to take a percentage of the gate.

"They didn't like the acts walking away with 50 to 60 per cent of the money coming in."

This according to Shreibman, would mean that 95 per cent of nationally known groups and a lot of local bands, wouldn't play there.

When this policy was adopted, the club was forced to rely on "weaker local bands," that too few people wanted to come see.

Shreibman says there was one period, from January to April 1970 when Emergency was doing well economically, with a turn-over of 400-500 people on an average week-end night.

This level of support, if continued would have allowed Emergency to book well known bands desiring to build solid local followings (and thus willing to lower their prices). Then good but unknown local groups could be put second on the bill to get the exposure necessary to develop.

Despite the clubs inadequacies, many groups, including Crank, Fat City, Claude Jones and Sageworth (and Drums) developed largely through Emergency.

When the club was beginning to experience seemingly fatal problems, Shreibman says the only band willing to perform with no monetary guarantee and few questions asked, was Crank.

Claude Jones might have been more helpful but just as the group and the club began during the same period; grew and faltered during the same period; they went down together, the same New Years Weekend.

Emergency's other major problem was legal. The club, because it didn't sell booze, had no liquor license, but only a "public hall" license.

The Citizen's Association of Georgetown went on record supporting the idea of a club for young people but said they objected to Emergency having a public hall license because it didn't have a parking lot.

Emergency found a parking lot but

the Citizen's Association, then changed its tune and said the parking lot was more than the 800 feet away allowed by zoning regulations.

Shreibman says the zoning board had traditionally measured the distance by "Walking up to the corner and crossing at the cross-walk." but he added, there is no legal requirement for them to do that.

By that measure, Emergency's parking lot was 817 feet away. "As the crow flies the parking lot is only 600 feet away."

By January 1st, when Emergency closed, the issue had not been settled. Shreibman feels that if it had been settled in the club's favor he might have been able to go out and raise the kind of money that would have kept it alive.

But Emergency is closed, apparently for ever, and Claude Jones has broken up and the Washington rock scene finds itself in another pile of ashes it must rise out of just as Emergency, in a sense, rose out of the ashes of the Ambassador.

Rock on.



Ian, Ian, Kay and Margaret McNett

photo by Bill &amp; Chris Hobbs

## MOUNTAIN SCENERY

The path uphill, around the pine —  
One common thought,  
'tis yours and mine;  
Much could be said about this place,  
This blessing to the human race.

It stands in majesty alone,  
And better even than a throne —  
The carpenter built it for two,  
And backward glanced,  
with pride to view.

'Tis rough, from mountain  
lumber made,  
Beneath the forest's cooling shade, —  
Concealed with brush,  
before and 'hind,  
Long may it stand and serve  
mankind.

- J. W. Yeagley

## Neo-American Gothic

## Sir Thomas Crapper and the Night Sky

by Kay and Ian McNett

Last summer we moved to the country as full-time residents. Our rented farmhouse, compared to our former Takoma Park home, is a bit primitive. We have electricity in the part of the house we use the most, but we heat individual rooms with kerosene and wood stoves. We have cold running water indoors, and must heat all water for washing. We take our baths in a big, old-fashioned galvanized tub. The lack of more luxurious accommodations doesn't really bother us. It is more than compensated for by the opportunity to live a rhythmic, rural life in the shadow of Old Rag Mountain.

But the facility that consistently amuses many city friends and offends the more squeamish ones, is our outhouse. For the first group it is a symbol of roughing it. For the others it is just plain unsanitary and trashy. One relative times her visits according to her bodily needs so she can avoid using it.

Admittedly, most of us have had little experience with the outdoor plumbing. Sure, we've used latrines while camping and chemical toilets at rock festivals and demonstrations — all roughing-it experiences. But generally we've grown accustomed to using a clean, white, porcelain throne (now available, of course, in any number of colors with matching carpets for the throne room).

"Toilet" is really a euphemism. We recall the first time we watched a plumber remove the throne for repairs in Takoma Park. Beneath the throne, we realized, there was just a hole.

Still, this elaborate shit hole with all its fancy plumbing has become an indicator of civilization and prosperity

in America. At least its absence is a sure sign of poverty. Enterprising reporters describing the environment of the poor always notice its absence by euphemistically referring to "no indoor plumbing".

It's true. Poor rural folk don't have flush toilets. The same is true of some of our neighbors who aren't among the hard-core poor. They've found, as we have, that "indoor plumbing" is not necessary for the good life.

Practically speaking, in this day of ecological awareness, the outhouse (or some urban equivalent) is a far simpler solution to waste disposal than the flush toilet. After all, with the outhouse, solid wastes are simply returned to the earth which is prepared to break them down and use the nutrients in soil building. China, Japan, and Korea have been using human fertilizers for centuries. Now, Robert Rodale in *Organic Gardening and Farming* magazine writes about a Swedish dry toilet built into the basement of a house. Garbage and human wastes go into the box and out comes the finest and most sanitary compost.

The flush toilet, on the other hand, washes our wastes into the lakes and rivers. To prevent their total destruction requires billions worth of sewage treatment plants. And, thanks to the sanitary engineers, we drink the water once again. A costly and inefficient process that leaves the sludge behind. So we dump that in the ocean.

Yes, indeed, "we can go to the moon but haven't figured out a sensible way to go to the bathroom," writes Rodale in the November issue of the magazine. His article, "Goodbye to the Flush Toilet", may well become the manifesto

of the return-to-the-outhouse movement. (All bad puns intended.)

The bit of information we enjoyed most in the article was the discovery that the flush toilet was invented during the Victorian Age and sexual revolution notwithstanding, we're still all Victorians when it comes to facing our own shit. And the inventor of the water closet was — are you ready — Sir Thomas Crapper.

But beyond ecology, there are more poetic reasons for our fondness for the outhouse. One of the best things is that it gets us outside in all seasons, all kinds of weather, and all times of the day and night.

It's hard to pick a favorite time. A drink of fresh country air, chilled to 17 degrees Fahrenheit at daybreak, is certainly bracing. It really wakes us up. It's also challenging to make a dash through the rain over a slippery path at night, guided only by the uncertain beam of the flashlight whose batteries always seem weak.

It helps during these times to remember the ecological and historical information about the outhouse.

We also have a good view from our outhouse. We can watch the sun come up rose and salmon in the morning or see the Piedmont foothills tinged with gold at sunset.

And one early morning in July, we found the weathered gray outhouse surrounded by a blaze of blue. Chickory was in bloom. But without the outhouse to get us out-of-doors early we might have missed it. It starts opening at daybreak and closes and dies under the full impact of the sun.

The best time, though, is at night. The finicky and frightened among our

guests; and children do not agree. They would do almost anything to avoid going to the outhouse after dark.

But we have learned to appreciate again the sights, the sounds and the smells of night — the feel of it. In the darkness, all senses are heightened. It is best to sit with the door open and let all the out-of-doors flow in upon you.

In June, we could sit and watch the fireflies make sparkling diadems on our maple trees. And later on, the sides of the path to the outhouse were jeweled with glowworms.

In the spring, we hear the silvery tinkle of peepers and in the fall, we smell the dry husky odor of dying things. We hear also the rhythmic chirp of the crickets and the guttural buzzing of the cicadas.

And then there's the night sky.

While living in the city we didn't see the Milky Way for years. We forgot about it; almost came to believe it really was a candy bar. But on the way to the outhouse on a clear, moonless night the Milky Way is a blazing reality overhead. And sitting with the door open we sometimes see a meteorite streaking fire on the sky.

Yes, night is the best of all times. With your ass in the shithole and your eyes on the stars, you come close to the essence of the human condition.

# Directory of Area Women's Groups: sisterhood

by Christine Duewel

In a study done at the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center, 94.9 percent of working women surveyed were underpaid. The average woman received \$3,458 a year less than her job was worth on the basis of six performance and achievement variables.

The median woman should have received 71 percent more than her current income to make that income equivalent to a man with the same scores on the predictor variables.

Yet only 7.9 percent of these women reported they felt in any way discriminated against on their job. And even fewer women complain of discrimination or unfair treatment in other aspects of their lives, despite massive evidence to the contrary.

Women, it seems, have learned to take what's given them.

Fortunately things are changing. Women are getting together, learning the facts of their situations from each other, and beginning to fight for equality and respect. In the Washington area there are an increasing number of women's groups appearing, some within the last few months. Most of them, hopefully, are listed below. If you are ready to join the struggle, they need you. If you are still protesting that nothing is wrong, you need them.

Most women don't have much money. Therefore, most women's groups have to depend largely on volunteer help and generous donations. It's not that they want to perpetuate the ideal of the noble female volunteer. They want to pay women. But sometimes they can't.

Many groups consist of a nucleus of several or even one woman with a full-time job during the day, working every evening and weekend on what she really wants to do. As a result it's often hard to get hold of people. They don't often have offices, much less executive secretaries.

Many of the groups do not yet have organized structures or established projects. Many appear to be doing similar things (one women thought this might be good for preventing some power hassles). Their ideologies vary from conservative to radical. Find the one or ones that suit you best, then support them. A house united cannot fall.

## GENERAL FEMINIST GROUPS

### International Institute of Women Studies

The Institute, a non-profit independent research center, is a new venture in research on the nature of women — it's being conducted by women! They want to be a clearinghouse for scholarly information on women between the academic disciplines and an intellectual center of research and thought on women.

If you are knowledgeable in some academic discipline — law, physiology, anthropology, etc. — and would like to do research on women in your field or be available as an information source, for consultation or seminar participation, let them know.

They also need people to write, edit and review books and movies for their publication, *Journal of the International Institute of Women Studies*. They want to upgrade the level of reporting on women's studies from patronizing to constructive.



P. Picasso

The Institute is presently offering four courses on women, and plans to have more available next fall.

Something exciting to put on your calendar — an international conference on women to be held in D.C. as soon as Simone de Beauvoir, in whose honor it will be held, sends word when she can come. They hope to have other prominent women scholars present, such as Germaine Greer and Kate Millett. The conference will include seminars, speakers, and scholars from various disciplines and countries working to assess the present state of research on women and to evaluate research priorities.

205 Dupont Circle Bldg, 1346 Conn. Ave., D.C. 20036. 833-2630.

### National Organization of Women (NOW)

NOW is an active, outspoken group, effecting change in many areas. They work within the system and are not as radical as some feminists wish. Activities include weekly lobbying on Capitol Hill for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), lobbying for more women in government and better laws, pickets, a speaker's bureau, boycotts and leafletting campaigns against local sexist groups and actions, TV and radio monitoring for sexist ads and programs, and letter writing campaigns and court actions against the offenders.

There are five chapters of NOW in the area — the National Capital Area Chapter (DC), two in Prince George's County, one in Montgomery County and one in Northern Virginia. They stress consciousness raising and political action.

On the second Saturday of every month the Capital Area Chapter has a general meeting at Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Conn. Ave., N.W., at 10 a.m. with business discussions and a woman speaker. It's a good way to get acquainted with NOW.

Membership in NOW is \$15 a year, including subscription to their newsletter *The Vocal Majority* (see Publications section).

NOW Natl. Capital Area Chapter, 938 Natl. Press Bldg, 529 14th St., N.W., D.C. 20004. 783-3539.

### Washington Feminists

A group of D.C. women meeting every other Thursday for a discussion and for actions, more radical than NOW. Their general format is three or more large meetings on the same topic: first discussed on a personal level, then analyzed sociologically, then approached for possible actions.

They also have several action groups, including a not very active abortion project. There are generally about 50 women at meetings and over 100 on their mailing list.

Call 347-3776 for information and location of the next meeting, or write 609 21st St. D.C.

### The Women's Phone — 232-5145

An information source for women. They keep lists of old and new women's liberation discussion groups, women's organizations, a medical referral list (abortion, gynecology, etc.), and local women's activities.

They also publish a monthly (approx) *Women's Liberation Newsletter*, available from P.O. Box 13098 T St. Station, D.C. 20009. Subscription — \$2.

The Women's Phone is having trouble finding enough people to man the phones. They would like to keep it staffed four or five days a week all day long, with people working three hour shifts. Unless they get more help soon they may close the phone. They also need help on the newsletter.

A meeting to be held on Sunday, Jan. 15, will determine the Women's Phone's fate. Be at the Women's Phone, 1724 20th St., N.W. (top floor) if you want to help keep it alive. Or call them

### Campus Groups

These groups are generally open to women in the community.

**Georgetown University** — There is presently a walk-in center in the Healy Building, no phone. Things could change somewhat next semester. Call 337-4111 for information.

**George Washington University Women's Liberation** — 676-7564. Seminars, abortion counseling and referral; 483-4632 for abortion and health information.

**Montgomery College, Rockville Campus** — 762-8035, the Student Activities Office, will get you in touch with their women's group.

**Georgetown Black Women's Caucus** — 624-8377, Black American Law Students Association will give you the information.

**University of Maryland Women's Center** — 454-5411. Abortion counseling and women's activities.

### HEALTH GROUPS

**Healthwitches** A group of women who came together to write a book on women and health, which is hopefully being published. They decided to form self-help health care groups to provide medical survival skills for women in the areas of gynecological exams, vaginal infections, VD, pregnancy, abortion etc. There are presently five groups doing this. They can be contacted through the women's phone 232-5145.

**Women's National Abortion Action Coalition (WONAAC)** — WONAAC is concerned with abortion law repeal, repeal of restrictive contraception laws and no forced sterilization of poor women. They were the organizers of the Nov. 20th march in D.C. to dramatize these demands. On the weekend of Feb. 11-13 they will hold a national conference in Boston to determine how best to continue the anti-abortion law campaign.

The local WONAAC group is working for D.C. repeal, health and gynecological facilities on local campuses, and are supporting opposition to an injunction by a Catholic group against the present New York state abortion law. They will hold a meeting on Jan. 29 to plan for the national conference.

WONAAC is affiliated with the Young Socialist Alliance. They can be contacted at 1346 Conn. Ave., no. 318, D.C. or at 785-4769.

(Next issue — political groups, employment & legal aid groups, publications)

## D.C. Welfare

continued from page 3

cost of building the Metro. Natcher also chaired the conference committee which settled on the final version of the D.C. appropriation. His view of welfare seems to be summed up by this statement during the house hearings: "I, for one, believe that you have hundreds on the rolls — it might even run into the thousands — that are not entitled to welfare payments."

The oldest Congressman on the subcommittee is **Glenn Davis** (R-Wis.). Davis voted against additional spending for education, against the D.C. subway funds, against a ceiling on defense spending, and for welfare to Lockheed. During the subcommittee hearings on the D.C. appropriation, however, Davis

was less concerned about the welfare of illegitimate children receiving AFDC than about their legitimacy. From the hearing:

**Mr. Davis.** What percentage of them are illegitimate?

**Ms. Thompson** A large number of them

**Mr. Davis.** Is the illegitimate rate here still continuing to go up?

**Louis Stokes** (D-Ohio), the only black member of either subcommittee, took little active part in the process of determining the public assistance budget.

**Robert Giomo** (D-Conn.) was for restoration of the District's subway funds. Yet he voted for the SST, the Lockheed loan, and against limiting defense spending or agricultural farm subsidies.

**John Myers** represents Covington, Indiana, where he still operates a livestock farm. The 44 year old Republican opposed subsidies for the SST, but voted against additional education funds, against limiting defense spending or farm subsidies, and against the D.C. subway appropriation.

**William Scherle** (R-Iowa) is another farmer; Scherle, 48, dominated the hearings on the welfare budget with his bombastic tirades against the welfare rascals who cheat his fine, upstanding constituents of their hard-earned income.

Scherle's major contribution to the hearings was to keep the help wanted ads of the *Post* continually on display. Waving them through the air, he demanded to know, "Why are there all these jobs and nobody to fill them: Mr. Chairman, it is a little disgusting."

**David Pryor** (D-Ark.), **K. Gunn McKay** (D-Utah), **Robert McEwen** (R-N.Y.), and **David Obey** (D-Wis.) are also on the House subcommittee, but were not significantly involved in the D.C. appropriations hearings on welfare.

continued from page 5

foreclosure procedures. It has uncovered foreclosure cases where city families lost or almost lost their homes at auction sales without any notice of the impending sale.

Though the literature it used in picketing Wilson McIntosh Buick-Opel on behalf of a consumer was attacked by the judge, CEPA recently won an important court victory for consumers when its right to picket a merchant was upheld.

### Consumers United Together (CUT)

3212 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington 20001. 723-3215. Polly Quick, staff advisor. Optional \$3 contribution. Members receive NCIC newsletter and publications.

CUT is an offshoot of and works closely with the Howard University based Neighborhood Consumer Information Center. It is made up largely of inner-city residents who have had complaints.

A loosely structured group, CUT tries to help consumers do something about their own problems and improve business-consumer relations. Its activities include discussion groups, testimony, meetings, complaint investigation and reporting.



### D.C.

**Citywide Consumer Council, (DCCCC)**  
745 50 Street, N.E., Washington, 298-2600. M. Paul Smith, President. \$1 dues per year. No newsletter.

This organization grew out of groups originally set up through the consumer program of the United Planning Organization's Neighborhood Development Centers. DCCCC works with, but is independent of, UPO.

DCCCC holds open meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month. At some of its major meetings, it has had hundreds of consumers turn out.

The group's major activities include disseminating information about the marketplace and what consumers can do. It has fought utility rates hikes and is affiliated with the Consumer Federation of America.

**D.C. Democratic Central Committee Consumer Action Committee (Democratic Committee)** 3005 Audubon Terrace, N.W. Washington, 20008. Ann Brown, Chairman. No dues. Democratic party newsletter reports on committee work.

The members of this small but highly visible committee work on projects primarily relating to pricing and quality in drugstores and supermarkets. They have conducted several store surveys and exposed discrepancies found among stores and examples of outdated food on sale. The group testifies before the City Council and Congress.

Membership is restricted to members of the Democratic Party, a requirement which excludes only about 20 percent of the population in the heavily Democratic District of Columbia. **Greenbelt Consumer Services (GCS Co-op)**, 8457 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901. 588-8055. Robert Dressel, Chairman of the Board. Victor Smith, vice-president for member relations. Minimum stock purchase of \$10 (one share) required to join. Monthly newsletter.

This group has achieved the consumer's dream—running its own chain of supermarkets (Consumers Co-ops), furniture stores (Scan), pharmacies, and service stations. One of a number of large cooperatives operating in the country, GCS has 37,000 members in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia. Nearly all its stores are in the suburbs.

Through a structure of councils, a Congress, and a board elected by the members, consumers control the policy of GCS's stores. Although the board members are committed, the Coop doesn't always outsell or undersell its competitors, but it's trying. Consumers supermarkets were first in the area with unit pricing and have open dating.

**Maryland Consumers Associations**  
P O Box 143, Annapolis, Maryland 21404. 434-8882 (local number). Irving J. Rotkin (Silver Spring), President. Dues-\$5 per year. Newsletter published at least quarterly.

Most of MCA's individual and organizational members are in the Washington-Baltimore area. The group's major activities have centered around legislation and testimony before state and local consumer protection agency representatives. It holds an annual meeting and monthly board meetings (first Tuesday of the month) which are open to the public. Affiliated with Consumer Federation of America.

**Virginia Citizens Consumer Councils**  
P O Box +3103, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. 549-4220 (Dial-a-Consumer recordings), TE6-4388 (local number). Doris Behre, President. \$3 dues per year. Ten newsletters a year, with enclosures.

One of the largest and most active local groups, VCCC has a broad program with major efforts devoted to utilities, supermarkets, price comparisons, complaints, toys, consumer education, and legislation. VCCC has both individual and organizational members.

Most of the group's active members and meetings are in Northern Virginia. Open board meetings are held the second Monday of each month, with several committee meeting scheduled in between. The group's 1972 annual meeting will be in October in Alexandria.

To raise money and help consumers speak out, VCCC sells protest stamps and buttons which warn, Consumers Care, Let the Seller Beware, and thank you stamps which say, When

## Area Consumer Groups

**Business Cares, Consumers Are Aware.** VCCC also has a discount consumer book order service. Affiliated with Consumer Federation of America. **Washington Urban League Consumer Task Force (Urban League)** 1424 16th St. N.W., Washington 20036. 265-8200. Marianne Freeman, Consumer Affairs Specialist. \$3 dues per year, to join Urban League. Urban Action newsletter includes consumer information.

Any of the Urban League's 20,000 members in the metropolitan area may join the group's consumer task force, which meets as needed. Urban Leagues consumer projects have included working with senior citizens to extend reduced bus fares, helping eliminate deposits before gas service can be started, and fighting harassment by bill collectors.



Other groups. In addition to the local groups mentioned here, there are several consumer aid agencies in the area that welcome volunteers, but which are not grass-roots membership organizations which consumers can join. Government funded projects and business groups fall into this category.

Several environmental groups are also working in consumer areas like product safety, ingredient labeling, recycling, and pollution. They are not listed here because Colonial Times has a separate column dealing with ecology activism.



contemporary clothing  
candles ~ pottery ~  
jewelry ~ leather goods  
macrame ~ ceramic pipes  
and bongs ~ silkscreen  
tie-dyes ~ beadwork  
frankincense ~ comix ~  
oils ~ rolling papers ~  
and smoking supplies

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SATURDAY: 10am-6pm  
SUNDAY: 1-5pm

HAND-THROWN POTTERY

## SEPARATION/SEARCHING

Explosions expansion carries me on into bits  
and pieces, reaches of my past life.

When I have fallen where will I be?

Somewhere I feel a magnet drawing the fragments  
together...

Will they fit or will some part be irretrievably  
lost?

People learn to live in pieces -- I've known  
that way

But the glassblower will open the sticky ball and  
this time...

this time...

this time...

the bulb will be whole.

## WOMAN

A man on the street asked who I was -- so I  
opened my fat lip and told him in one long blazing  
breath that I was the madonna of the universe, the  
Venus de Milo with arms, a million legged MOTHER  
the growing from the pavement of this fucking city,  
the Great Pretender, a racoon-tailed bunny exploring  
(mostly me) and he'd better get the hell out of  
my way!

## MARRIAGE

Mind tripping backwards I pass you in corners and  
centers of my life, and a question never asked comes...  
who are you?

But there isn't time for questions of you, I'm tired  
of waiting's binding pressures, and I push past you...  
to me.

## ABORTION

Time coming -- sterile room, sterileman,  
kind aide trying to soothe an agony waiting to happen  
Rough hands, machine noises, me machine,  
pain impaling; help me help mehelpmehelphelp  
and time coming.

And now it's over and I walk to a room more  
comfortable than the first, filled with the same women  
sitting in the same relaxed manner, talking of plane  
rides home and -- Christmas shopping.

Me crying -- inside screaming to split the world  
but not outside to disturb their recovery  
Michelle, life sister, dying on the couch  
knowing her/me as we pain  
and me crying.

Life ebbing -- flowing out in rivers of red never  
to know, what -- whoknowswhatknowswhatwhyknow  
Friends loving, tears coming, tension relaxed  
by love taking as it gives  
but life ebbing.

And we laugh, Michelle and I, at questionnaires  
that list words we might be feeling now -- 1.hurt  
2.angry 3.relaxed 4.relieved 5.alone 6.happy 7.sad  
8910etc.etc.etc. --and say yes and walk into  
sunshine warmth billowing us into lives of questioning  
angrying, crying  
are we free now/ever?

## POEM TO JOHN

Mad abstract paintings flash on the backs of  
my eyes  
and I know I could paint them if I tried, but  
instead I let them lead me into fantasies of you.

All the "what ifs" of my life surround me and  
try to bounce me against the ceiling...  
if only I could act them out -- floating freely  
about the room gently touching you[  
until falling softly we know the madness, joy  
and love of each other.

Death waiting -- my god they all look  
as if they wait to have their nails done.  
Sunday best and upholstered couches,  
bright happy paintings on the wall

and death waiting.

Me waiting -- and what did you expect  
a room full of weeping women?  
Nervous lovers, worried friends  
leaving to make space for more patients  
and me waiting.

Hours passing -- thoughts streaking through the  
jumble avoiding the one that counts too much  
Time magazines, newspapers, and (yes even)  
Vogue...soothing minds  
and hours passing.

Technicians talking -- how to survive--next time--  
vacuum cleaners on a carpet cleaning, what? dirt?  
Diagrams, models and comparing it to (HELP ME)  
vacuuming the rug!  
and technicians talking.

Where are you? I need you/me...

by Susan Fowles

# FREE CLASSIFIEDS

FURNITURE RESOURCE INDEX to be compiled on the purchase of good, inexpensive furniture for the Washington area. Could be used by public housing residents, students, transients, etc. The index would include stores, furniture descriptions, photos, comments. Send ideas and suggestions to: Daniel Johnson, PO Box 21026, Washington, DC 20009.

PROJECTOR, Camera and Editor for sale. 8 mm. Perfect condition. All for \$50.00. Call 229-6943 after 7 p.m.

SKI RACK for Porsche, \$50. 424-5150 for Carlos or Pat.

TYPING AND EDITING done in my home. Call 337-1393 after 6 p.m.

ECOLOGY VOLUNTEERS wanted to help process bottles, jars, newspapers and aluminum at Rock Creek Recycling Center. Call 833-1778 to volunteer.

VW REPAIR and tune up, engines, transmission and miscellaneous repairs. Call Mike at 483-3770.

ROOM AND BOARD for person to instruct my 9 and 10 yr-old sons in guitar, and prepare evening meal (organic OK if you're into that) Bowie, Md. Call Jeff at 262-1394.

BUY OR SELL: Used Kawasaki 90 parts. Call Lorraine at 265-2894.

ACCOUNTANT WANTED: Full-time. Call the Job Co-op for information, 265-7850.

REVEREND SISTER MARY: Christian Reader and Adviser, will help you solve your problems no matter how great they are. I guarantee to help you solve love, marriage and business problems. Guaranteed results in 3 days. Come or call: 544-5006. Will answer one free question by phone. 808 G St., SE. By appointment only.

FEDERAL CITY COLLEGE Media Services requests donations of books, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers or any other media. To arrange pick-up of materials call Veronica Reeves at 727-2464.

ROOMMATES: 1 or 2 wanted to share huge Capitol Hill apartment with young movement activist. \$225 rent (includes all utilities) to be shared by occupants. Call Bill 546-8840 or 546-6231.

WORK AREAS for rent in the Community Building. Space for workshop, store, or office available to non-profit or non-rip-off business. Call Deacon at 387-6688. Rents negotiable and cheap.

JAGUAR MK 10, beautiful condition - Buick engine and transmission - power everything - airconditioned. Yours for \$2,000. Ask for Carlos or Pat at 424-5150.

KING SIZE WATERBEDS. Still just \$16. Earth Works, 1724 20th St., N.W.

GARAGE FOR RENT In Mt. Pleasant. Store your car off the street or rent work space. Cheap. 232-9246.

SWITCHBOARD still needs volunteers. If you've called Switchboard lately and gotten a recording it's because you haven't volunteered to work three or four hours a week on the phones. If you want to help, come to Switchboard any Monday night at 7 p.m. 1724 20th St., N.W.

## Anti-Draft Conference

A conference on the continuing effort to end the draft will take place in Washington January 25-26. Sponsored by the National Council to Repeal the Draft, the conference is called "The Draft in 1972: The Impact of Changes in the Law Prospects for Repeal."

The changes in draft legislation, the role of resistance, military manpower planning, future legislation, and the draft as an election issue will be discussed.

Rep. Paffen Mitchell (D-Md.) will be the featured speaker at a luncheon on January 26. Several legislative aides will discuss various aspects of the draft on January 25th, and the conference will end Wednesday afternoon with lobbying visits to Congressmen and Senators.

The conference will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 3rd and A Sts., S.E.. There is a \$5.00 registration fee, and an additional \$3 for the Wednesday luncheon.

## Welfare Vigil Set

A vigil for welfare reform will begin on the Senate steps on Tuesday, January 18--the day Congress reconvenes. It will continue at least one day a week until the Senate votes on a welfare bill.

Sponsors of the vigil include the National Council of Churches, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Health and Welfare Council of Washington, and the D.C. Welfare Rights Organization.

In addition to the vigil, activists will be lobbying, leafletting, talking with tourists, and presenting films about welfare in one of the Senate Office Buildings.

Susan Finzel at the D.C. Health and Welfare Council is the local coordinator of the vigil and other protest activities.

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help...



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FRI-SAT.  
JAN. 14-15

William Wyler's  
*The Collector*  
(1965) Terrance Stamp  
&  
Peter Brook's  
*Lord of the Flies*  
(1963) From William Golding's  
Novel

Plus Chapter 5 Flash Gordon

SUN-MON.  
JAN. 16-17

Roman Polanski's  
*Rosemary's Baby*  
(1968) Mia Farrow  
&  
Roman Polanski's  
*Cul de Sac*  
(1966) Donald Pleasance  
Plus Chapter 6 Flash Gordon

TUE.  
JAN. 18

Robert Wiene's  
*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*  
(1919) Conrad Veidt  
&  
Karl Freund's  
*The Mummy*  
(1932) Boris Karloff  
Plus Chapter 7 Flash Gordon

WED.  
JAN. 19

Georges Franju's  
*Judex*  
(1966) Written by and Based  
on the Original Silent Serials  
of Louis Feuillade  
&  
Carl Dreyers  
*Vampyr*  
(1931)  
Plus Chapter 8 Flash Gordon

THUR. THRU SAT.  
JAN 20-22

George A. Romero's  
*Night of the Living Dead*  
(1968) Duane Jones  
&  
Don Siegel's  
*The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*  
(1956) Dana Wynter,  
Kevin McCarthy  
Plus Chapter 9 Flash Gordon

SUN. THRU TUE.  
JAN. 23-25

Jacqueline Bisset  
in Paul Wendkos'  
*The Mephisto Waltz*  
(1961) Alan Alda,  
Barbara Perkins  
&  
Roman Polanski's  
*Fearless Vampire Killers*  
(1967) Sharon Tate  
Jack MacGowran  
Plus Chapter 10-11 Flash Gordon

WED.-THUR.  
JAN. 26-27

Rene Clement's  
*Rider on the Rain*  
(1970) Charles Bronson,  
Marlene Jobert  
&  
Richard Fleischer's  
*10 Rillington Place*  
(1971) Richard Attenborough  
Plus Chapter 12-13 Flash Gordon

**CIRCLE THEATRE**

2105 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Phone: 337-4470

# CALENDAR

NOTICES for the Calendar should be mailed to *Colonial Times*, PO Box 21026, Washington, D.C. 20009.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

SEALS & CROFT at Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

MUSIC for Chorus, Organ & Bass presented by Oratorio Society of Montgomery County at National Presbyterian Church, Nebraska Avenue at Van Ness St., NW 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$3.50 general, 1.50 students.

JULES AND JIM, a Truffaut film, will be shown on Channel 26 at 8:30 p.m.

FOLK CONCERT: Pam Ostergren, old-time music. 8:30 p.m. at Smithsonian History and Technology Building Auditorium. Non-members \$1.

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE begins a five-day special presentation of films starring Henry Fonda. Tonight at 8 p.m. "Twelve Angry Men" and "The Oxbow Incident."

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE with Henry Fonda opens at Kennedy Center. 3-week engagement. Tickets \$4-8.

BOSTON SYMPHONY at Kennedy Center. 8:30 p.m.

PATTON at Univ. of Md. Student Union, 3 pm and 9 pm. 75 cents.

MILHOUSE at Univ. of Md. Zoo-Psych Building. 7pm and 10 pm, free.

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE shows "Grapes of Wrath" at 8 pm.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE, "My Darling Clementine" at 3 pm and, in person at 8 pm, Henry Fonda will discuss his career and introduce excerpts from his films.

POTTER'S HOUSE music: Denis Kiely and Myke Malament, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL—"Sexism in the Movies" at G.W. Student Union, 5th floor. 3 p.m. \$1.00 donation.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 17

SUGAR, musical presented by David Merrick opens at Kennedy Center for 3-week engagement. Tickets \$3.50-11.00.

BILL WITHERS opens a week-long engagement at the Cellar Door in Georgetown.

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE shows "Mr. Roberts" at 8 p.m.

FABRANGEN COFFEEHOUSE speaker: Virgil Keels, author of book on the U.S. prison system. 1627 21st St., N.W. 8 p.m. Free.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

POTTER'S HOUSE speaker is Dr. William Stammeyer. Topic: "A Lay Expert's Worries about Soviet Weapons." 1658 Columbia Rd., N.W. 9 p.m. \$1.25 includes coffee.

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE presents "The Best Man" at 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

FILM: "Race to Extinction" explores the Mayan civilization of Mexico. 12:10 and 1:10 p.m. in Natural History Building Auditorium, Smithsonian. Free.

ART SHOW OPENING at the Art Barn, Rock Creek Park, Hours 1-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., and 10-5 Saturday and Sunday.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

FILMS at the National Collection of Fine Arts, continuous from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Paint" and "Generation". Free.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

ROCK REVIVAL show produced by Murray the K at Concert Hall, Kennedy Center. 7:15 and 10 p.m. Tickets \$5-7. Featuring Chuck Berry, Coasters, Shirrelles, Drifters.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

FILMS at National Collection of Fine Arts. Free. See Jan. 20 for details.

ICE CAPADES at Washington Coliseum Matinees on weekends.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

LECTURE: "A Historical Perspective on the Jewish Community Experience in the First Century" by Prof. Jacob Neusner. Washington Hebrew Congregation. 10:30 a.m. Free.

OPEN DISCUSSION at Quaker House. Free. 10 a.m.

POTTER'S HOUSE music: Brass Trio (trumpet, horn and trombone) 7:30-11:30 p.m. 1658 Columbia Rd., N.W.

FREE CONCERT: Members of the Wolf Trap Company perform selections of opera and light opera. 4 p.m. Department of Commerce Auditorium.

WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL at G.W. Student Union. 3 p.m. \$1. donation.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 24

FABRANGEN COFFEEHOUSE speaker from Quicksilver Times. 1627 21st St., N.W. Free. 8 p.m.

MUSIC: Malcolm Bilson in a concert featuring the works of Haydn, Mozart. 8:30 p.m. Hall of Musical Instruments, History and Tech. Bldg., Smithsonian. Tickets \$4.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

CONFERENCE sponsored by National Council to Repeal the Draft. See article in this issue for details.

POTTER'S HOUSE speaker: Philip Hochberg on "Cable TV". 1658 Columbia Rd., N.W.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

FILM: "Horseman, Pass By" About the poet Yeats. Noon and 1 p.m. Natural History Auditorium, free.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

FILM at Smithsonian. See Jan. 26 for details.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

VIRGINIA WOMEN's Political Caucus all-day workshop in Northern Virginia. To find out place, time and program, call Glenda Surovell, 768-2733.

BALLET FOLKLORICO OF MEXICO at Kennedy Center. Tickets \$5.50-7.50. 8:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

BALLET FOLKLORICO OF MEXICO at Kennedy Center. 8:30 p.m.

ANDRE WATTS, Pianist. Concert Hall, Kennedy Center at 3 p.m.

POETRY READING at Folger Library. "An Evening of Canadian Poetry." 8 p.m. Free.

LECTURE: "Bible and the Space Age" at Washington Hebrew Congregation. 10:30 a.m. Free.

POTTER'S HOUSE presents Theresa O'Rourke, Irish Poet. 7:30-11:30 p.m.

NORDIC DAY: An afternoon of ice skating and ice hockey demonstrations on the Reflecting Pool at the Lincoln Memorial. Scandinavian folk dances will be performed by groups in native dress. Free. Noon-5 p.m.

WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL at G.W. Student Union, 5th floor. 3 p.m. \$1. donation.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 31

FABRANGEN COFFEEHOUSE presents the "Fabrangen Fiddlers". Music, food. 8 pm, free. 1627 21st St., N.W.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

MOBY DICK, a play by Jack Aranson opens at Ford's Theatre for two weeks. Tickets \$6.00 and 7.50.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LECTURE at Folger Library: "Women in Renaissance Florence." 8 pm. Free.

FILMS at National Collection of Fine Arts. Continuous 11 am to 3 pm. Free.

JOSE FELICIANO in concert at Kennedy Center. 8 p.m. Tickets \$4.50-6.50.

## Wolf Trap Auditions

Audition applications are now being accepted from singers and dancers for the expanded Wolf Trap Company to be assembled next summer.

Students pursuing musical careers are offered fellowship cash grants averaging about \$1,000 upon acceptance for the summer residency program.

Regional auditions for the greater Washington area will be held February 26 and 27 at the Department of Commerce Auditorium.

For information and appointments, contact Mrs. Jane Flowers, Production Coordinator, Wolf Trap Foundation, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna, Va. Or Call 938-3804.

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*A Review of Zappa's 200 Motels*

# Beyond Suzy Creamcheese

by Michael Everette

Frank Zappa, who gave the world *Suzy Creamcheese* and *Concentration Moon*, has now given us a film so far out in both cinematic and musical terms that its greater significance is just likely to be overlooked by all but confirmed Zappa fans and hard core surrealists.

*200 MOTELS* is nothing less than a full scale assault on contemporary music and film structures. And in terms of production techniques, being the first feature length motion picture produced entirely on video tape, it may well signal the end/beginning of an era in film production.

Given that the Mothers of Invention have created a unique niche for themselves somewhere on the more bizarre fringes of Rock, their film is a surprisingly smooth and logical extension of their concerts and recordings of the past seven years. In fact, the visual images which bombard the viewer at a staggering rate are not unlike the Mothers' album covers which have provided consistently lurid visual accompaniment to their music. This is not altogether surprising since Cal Schenkel, the Mothers' "Graphic Engineer", who was responsible for most of those album covers, also had a hand in *200 MOTELS*. The film's structure (or non-structure) correlates precisely, frame by frame, with the music, most of which was created in advance of the film itself.

Nominally dealing with a rock group's life on the road, Zappa himself describes his film as a "surrealistic documentary", at once a reporting of real events and an extrapolation of them. Thus unencumbered by plot, the action flashes through a Rauschenburg-like world of impressionistic sets and psychedelic montage. Images advance and dissolve, phosphoresce into garish colors, then mutate into rippling moire patterns. Figures jerk across the screen, reverse themselves, multiply into separate figures, then disappear under a barrage of superimposed images. Strange newt-like creatures swarm mechanically through a bewildered orchestra. A love sick nun is pursued through the studio and groped shamelessly while two omnipresent groupies discuss ca-ca and wee-wee.

Unhappily Zappa himself appears in the film only occasionally and then very briefly. From time to time we catch a glimpse of him directing the whole circus with what seems like the self-assurance and single mindedness of a freaked out Tchaikovsky. While outrageously contemporary on the one hand, Zappa, in both his personality and his work, shows a striking similarity to that peculiar group of self-proclaimed madmen and visionaries that coalesced earlier in this century first under the banner of Dada and later of Surrealism.

*200 MOTELS* is too intricate, visually and musically, to be totally credited to the talents of one person. Shot in a London film studio in seven days, it draws on such diverse talents as the London Philharmonic Orchestra,

appropriately disheveled in their role as concentration camp inmates; Ringo Starr, who plays Zappa, and once made up, bears a confusing resemblance to him? Theodore Bikel, whose Satanic presence lends an occasional thread of continuity to the film; and, of course, Zappa and the Mothers themselves.

Shot and edited entirely on video tape, *200 MOTELS* is fundamentally different from all films that precede it. Only when the creative work had been completed was the tape transferred onto film for eventual release. Technically then, *200 MOTELS* is a sort of hybrid motion picture form which, like it or not, marks a distinct milestone in film history.

In recent years it has become increasingly apparent that the video

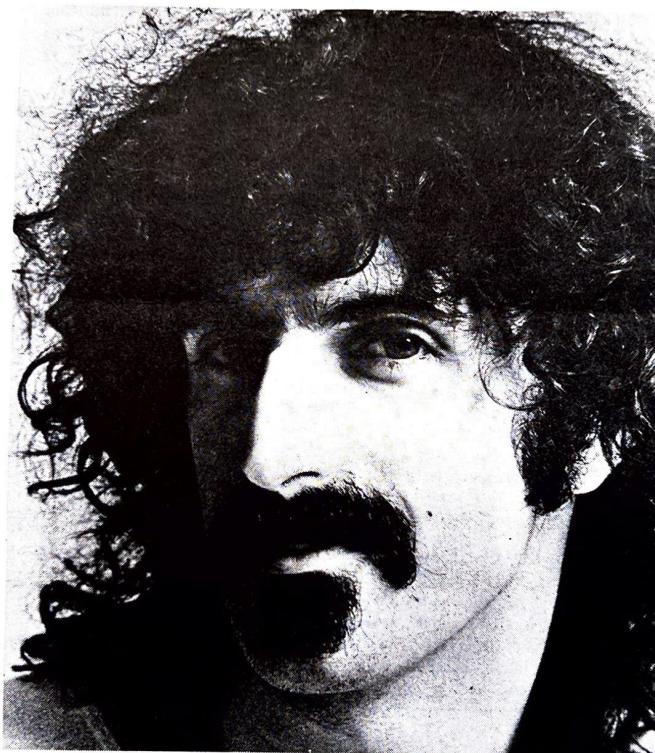
process contains the technical potential to do all that the photographic process can now do, and then some. At this stage of its development however, electrography falls far short of duplicating the fine resolution and subtle range of color available through photography. Rather, video brings to motion pictures its own peculiar style and characteristics. Among these are a virtually limitless array of visual effects, shapes, colors, textures, super-impositions, and dissolves, most of which can be precisely controlled and executed while shooting.

Many of these effects are unique to video and cannot be duplicated on film. Most visual effects which are available in film are created in the laboratory and are costly and time consuming. Maybe the most important advantage of video over film is the ease with which it can be edited. To edit a comparably intricate motion picture in film with literally thousands of separate cuts, would require at the very least, many months of painstaking labor in the cutting room. In contrast, video editing for *200 MOTELS* took all of eleven days.

The economies resulting from such drastic cutting back of costly production time can't possibly escape the notice of budget-minded producers. With *200 MOTELS* scoring well at the box office we might expect to see more video-to-film productions in coming seasons.

But video has its characteristic disadvantages as well. Picture resolution, even with the superior European system, falls far short of the film image. And the scanning lines, though they don't really detract from this particular film, are still visible. Further, video is not able to handle high contrasts in lighting as well as does film, thus it is largely limited to the studio where lighting can be more precisely controlled. And video color is weird to say the least.

No doubt about it though, this latest innovation in visual media seems made to order for Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention. Whether its technical capacities will extend beyond the trippy and surreal remains to be seen.



Frank Zappa

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