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# COLONIAL TIMES

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON'S NEW COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



## Public in Dark; Lenders in Free

by Dorothy McGhee

Senator Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), claiming the support of Ralph Nader and the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, on November 18 rammed through the Senate on an emergency voice vote, an amendment to the District's Consumer Protection Bill which makes swiss cheese of the District's already chaotic money lending laws.

The amendment, which one public interest lawyer describes as having been "drafted in the Government Printing Office printing room after it was passed," exempts D.C. mortgage bankers and all other "institutional lenders" from the provisions of the District's money lending laws, retroactive to 1913. The amendment also exempts mortgage bankers from all licensing procedures and reporting requirements.

As Sen. Eagleton was bringing the amendment to the floor of the Senate, one public interest lawyer was being told by a staff member of Eagleton's Sen. District Committee that the

wording of the amendment had not been finalized.

Two senate aides, whose names cannot be used, told *Colonial Times* they heard Eagleton respond to inquiries about the amendment on at least two occasions by claiming Ralph Nader's support. But a spokesman for Nader, Rubin Robertson, later told *Colonial Times* Nader knew nothing about the amendment. Robertson questioned the amendment's retroactive provision which, he said, "wipes out the rights which the law said people had; while this is not unprecedented, it certainly is astounding". Nader does apparently support portions of the Consumer Protection Bill to which Eagleton's amendment was attached.

Eagleton was also heard to claim the support of Neighborhood Legal Services lawyers, who are, in fact, angry about the amendment. Norman Barnett, of Neighborhood Legal Services, says that the amendment threatens 100 to 150 suits they want to bring against fraudulent investors who have been lending money largely to low-income, inner city blacks on grossly inflated second and third mortgages.

The amendment passed unanimously in the Senate with less than two minutes of debate. One senate staffer, explaining how quickly and easily Eagleton got such a far-reaching amendment through the Senate, said, "that's how things operate around here, you take a guy's word for it".

Eagleton introduced his amendment in response to a D.C. Court of Appeals decision of November 10th which indicated that mortgage bankers in D.C. are not, as they have always assumed, exempt from being licensed as money lenders under the District's 1913 Loan Shark Act. The decision cast into legal doubt all loans with interest rates of higher than 6% made by District mortgage bankers on residential and commercial property since 1913. The ruling has been described the biggest legal decision affecting D.C. businesses in decades, since the loans in question total hundreds of millions of dollars.

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## Maryland Food Inspection

### A Test Nobody Can Flunk

by Bill Sievert

It's every student's dream. A test that nobody fails.

In both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, grocery stores are tested for sanitation using just such a no-failure scorecard. They are inspected twice a year in Montgomery and four times in Prince George's, but in both suburban Maryland counties the closing of a supermarket or grocery store for a sanitary violation is unheard of.

And that is not because there are no serious violations.

Montgomery County's Environmental Health Services department simply has set a policy against closing grocery stores that score badly.

"The only grocery store we've closed burnt to the ground," Ardie O'Hanlon, chief of the public facilities section, says with a laugh. "It's almost never reasonable to close a grocery store."

"If there's a problem with bad meat or any bad product, we just destroy it. If we find beef and chicken is cut on the same cutting block without the block being disinfected in-between, then we correct the situation," O'Hanlon says in his office in Gaithersburg.

The county demands that grocery stores be "clean and properly maintained," but still there have been no closings—even on a temporary basis for clean-up as a result of 529 inspections of 200 markets during the past year.

By comparison, the department

ordered the immediate closing of 16 restaurants that did not meet sanitary standards during the same time period. The county's four food inspectors visit 670 restaurants an average of four times annually, with repeated offenders inspected more frequently.

"If a restaurant has a violation that is critical, we'll close it immediately. The difference between a grocery store and a restaurant is that the grocery doesn't prepare food for consumption—except in its butcher shop. All of the restaurants ordered closed within the past year were able to re-open within two weeks, after correcting their health hazards."

In their inspections, both restaurants and grocery stores are graded on a point scale, with higher point totals indicating worse sanitary conditions. The scores are not available to the public. Less serious restaurant offenders receive warnings. A list of those establishments is not available, either.

In inspecting grocery stores, rather than issuing warnings or demanding closings, one or more of the four inspectors take matters into their own hands.

"We pull swollen cans off shelves, check the shelf dates on items marked, and make sure the meats are fresh," O'Hanlon says. "Anything found unacceptable is destroyed."

However, the only motivation given offending groceries to avoid repeats of the same violations is the threat of another inspection later in the year. Repeated violations theoretically could lead to the closing of a store, but that

simply does not happen, according to O'Hanlon.

All inspections of both grocery stores and restaurants in Montgomery County are made unannounced.

In Prince George's County, health inspections had been announced to store managers in advance until recently.

"We've had some changes in the office, and now we go unannounced," says Irene Blade of the field services unit of the Prince George's County Environmental Health Department.

Grocery stores and restaurants both are inspected four times a year in the county, but again closings are "very rare," and for grocery stores they are

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### PORTRAITS OF OUR LEADER

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### CUT RATE PLEASURE

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# Talkin' Union...

A group of experienced organizers working in (and on) the Federal Bureaucracy will conduct an all-day workshop on union organizing on Saturday, December 11. If you're struggling with management, or would like to, or are tired of going to discussion groups or consciousness raising sessions or ad hoc groups for this or that which melt away when part of a problem is solved if not before, and you would like to learn how to organize people into a union, then come to this session. The principles of organizing are applicable to any workplace given adjustments for your particular problems.

The sessions will cover topics like: how to analyze your agency or division and its people, how to make sense out of Executive Order 11491 (legal basis for Federal union organizing), how to find out what bothers people and what they'd like to see changed, how to turn that into an organizational platform and contract demands, how to take on and deal with your management while you're organizing, how to go after Exclusive Recognition in your division or agency, how to use a newsletter to build your local, how to build your local through solving individual grievances.

The people running the session have had lots of experience at this and feel they've learned a few things in the last couple of years which may help. They come from locals which have been winning fights with their managements and from locals which have accounted for 36% of the growth in union membership in the last year in the metropolitan D.C. area.

The workshop will be at 7908 Glenbrook Road, Bethesda, Maryland (Phone 652-9630). Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. and the sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will cost \$3.00 for lunch and all materials. If you'd like to register or would like more information call: Martha Tabor (Local



Captain Richardson

The Secretary at HEW has built himself (at public expense, natch) a special escape hatch to get to the roof of his building from his fifth floor office suite in HEW-North, according to a reliable rumor.

The roof is a pad for a helicopter which can zip him off to the underground city near Berryville, Va. That's where the Capital's elite expects to survive any disaster, natural or man-made, while the rest of us are roasted and toasted by the latest nuclear contraption.

This arrangement is a curious reversal of the long honored nautical tradition by which the captain is the last person to leave his sinking ship. Sea lore also has it that the first to leave a sinking ship are the rats.

2677 - OBO) at 254-5070 or Roy Morgan (Local 41 - HEW) at 962-7273 or leave a message day or night at 223-2087 (Local 1534 State/AID) and your call will be returned.

## Name Calling Campaign

A touch of the old McCarthyism tinted the recent election by American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), in which Xavier M. Vela and his slugs dedicated to change were defeated in their attempts to win control of the National Capital Area Development (NCAD).

NCAD is the advisory council of the 50 AFGE locals in the Washington area.

During the October campaign, Nate Cohen, former president of AFGE Local 2607, urged his union to oppose the Vela slate, claiming it "included well known Communists," whom he refused to name.

Gary Grassel reported Cohen's statements in *The Advocate*, an independent newspaper published by HEW employees. *Colonial Times* in its last issue, reported the defeat of Vela, president of Local 1534 (State Department, AID). Vela had run on a platform which stressed the need for new approaches to labor-management relations in the government and focusing on the importance of organizing employees.

In his story, Grassel also cited a letter distributed to presidents of AFGE

letter was signed by the "Friends of Major H. Travis", vice president of the Pentagon local that defeated Vela.

The letter concluded on this note of enlightenment: "Our Divine Providence has secured our Nation from those who Rule or Ruin; we, the people, must be ever vigilant 'gainst those Godless among us who would first Ruin in order to Rule'."

In the same vein, Grassel cites a letter which Ralph Biser, AFGE Vice-President for District 14 (the National Capital Area), included in an official AFGE mailout. It's called "Odd Symbols by Odd People", and it discusses the peace symbol in very similar language to that quoted in the D.C. Policemen's Association News which was cited in the first issue of *Colonial Times*:

"Do you think the above is really a peace symbol designed to bring peace and harmony to the world? Then you are as ignorant of the Communist conspiracy as they want you to be. And the average American is just as naive."

"It is an anti-Christ emblem. It is known as the broken cross among other things."

## Volume I Number 3

We who put out this newspaper are trying to achieve several goals which at times seem mutually exclusive. We are trying to put out a lively, accurate, timely paper. At the same time we are trying to make it financially self-supporting to the degree that it can survive and improve and support a few people to work on it full-time. And we are determined to work together democratically toward these ends, without poisoning our relationships with the kinds of hierarchy and authority which infect so much of our society.

The first two of these goals are difficult enough by themselves. It has been a struggle simply to write, photograph, draw, edit, typeset, proof, correct, lay out, paste up, etc. the newspaper while we are (as we were this issue) moving our office, setting up our books, establishing our distribution system, buying our supplies, learning who can do what, teaching each other to typeset, proof, paste-up etc., getting our new phone installed, and running back and forth between our office and the typesetting machines (in Washington traffic and parking, would you believe?).

All this would be "easier," of course, and less confused, if we did it the way it is usually done - i.e. if one or two of us were the boss or the owner or the editor and the rest of us were held responsible to them by ties of money, authority and habit. If that were the case, those of us in charge could simply tell those of us not in charge what to do, and fire them, flunk them or load them up with guilt if they failed to perform as scheduled.

This is the way most of us have been brought up to function. Our families, our schools, our jobs, and far too many of our social and political organizations have enforced the habits of authority in us until they have become intimate facets of our daily lives. We are all too eager to ask, "What should I do now, (Papa-Mama, Teacher, Editor)," and just as eager to answer, "Do this, (Baby, Pupil, Reporter)." Our emotional reflexes are wired for these kinds of relationships, and the re-wiring job is a long, painful one which cannot simply be accomplished by declaring, "There

shall be a collective," or "Everyone has an equal voice."

We are not calling ourselves a collective. We are struggling, not always successfully, with the day-to-day process of evolving a sane, human set of working relationships in which everyone does in fact have an equal voice, but we are not all shouting or sitting silent at the same time. We have settled, perhaps temporarily, on an arrangement in which we all meet at the beginning of each issue's production, criticize the last issue, plan the next one as best we can, and get to work. One person "coordinates" the production of two issues in a row, on a rotating basis, and one or two people "coordinate" various areas of news coverage, advertising, bookkeeping, etc. on a more permanent basis. The relationships are flexible, and changing, and they do not fit easily onto an organization chart or into a space this short.

The "issue coordinator" is going to write this "house column" each time to tell you something about the particular issue and the newspaper in general. The column will try to reflect our common views, but it is not a "collective" or "official" expression.

In this issue we paid particular attention to beefing up our front page with "hard" news which we gathered ourselves, rather than just analysis of news which was already out. We got rid of the "Arts Farts" column, which had concerned a lot of us and a lot of readers, but we didn't get rid of its author completely, as David Riley's piece on page 13 will tell you. We slimmed down to our bantam fighting weight of 16 pages and tried to spend the time we saved on less pages by getting our heads and our office in better shape.

We think we can do it. We want to hear from you on how you think we can do it better. And we want you to come in and help.

Barring natural or un-natural disasters, we'll be back with our next tough, sensitive, daring, cunning, delightful, persuasive, repulsive, sassy, wicked issue on December 22, just hours before the biggest religious consumer event of the year. See you then. -Bill Hobbs.



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# Free Choice — An Idea Whose Time Has Come

by Christine Duewel  
and Cindy Zerkowicz

On Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. a 10-year-old girl ran naked along a freeway near Rochester, N. Y., fleeing an abductor. At least a hundred people saw her. No one stopped to help. No one called the police. Her body was found in a nearby field on Thursday, Nov. 18. She had been raped and strangled and her skull was fractured.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, 3,000 women marched from the Ellipse to the Capitol demanding greater control over their bodies. They wanted an end to restrictive abortion laws, no forced sterilization of poor women, and improved contraception.

Most of us there didn't know about Carmen Colon being raped and murdered. But we all knew that as women we are victims of the way of thinking that killed her. That way of thinking sees women only as bearers of children or pleasure objects for men, not as full human beings freely choosing our own fates.

Not all the marchers were personally affected by the abortion issue—there were gay women, older women and a surprising number of men. As people gathered at the Ellipse to start the march, banners identified groups from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Chicago, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, even Texas.

Women from Murray, Ky. said they had a long way to go, although they are now organizing on all the campuses. Their biology textbooks will not show a naked female body. Cynnie Sloan commented, "We think it's really important for women from the South to be here because we need it the most."

People from many different places said similar things: the laws in their state are bad, but they are organizing; many more women and men had wanted to come but couldn't afford to.

Women's National Abortion Action Council (WONAAC), sponsors of the march, had expected more people. But there was no lack of spirit. Doris Long, of WONAAC's Black Task Force, strode through the crowd, bullhorn in hand, shouting encouragement.

The march began. Women from

various contingents grouped behind their banners, everyone walking fast to keep warm in the cold weather, shouting slogans: "Not the church, not the state, women must control our fate," "3,579 Lesbianism's mighty fine," "Sterilize the FBI." A brief breaking of ranks occurred as women stormed the steps of a movie theatre whose marquee advertised "The Sex Machine." Then they continued to the Capitol.

The New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band opened the rally with fine, feminist music. The audience laughed and shook their heads in amazement at the words. Soon, influenced by cold weather as well as the beat people were up dancing, swaying and waving their fists. Later a group of women joined hands to circle dance and then snaked through the crowd.

The fourteen speeches were short, articulate and emotional. Marge Sloan, of Chicago Gay Women's Caucus, exclaimed, "She blesses us, I'm sure." Lana Clarke Phelan, co-author of an abortion handbook, threw a coat hanger out to the crowd, saying we would no longer need them.

Shirley Wheeler, convicted in Florida of manslaughter for obtaining an abortion, received a standing ovation when she read a short statement about her case. She faces up to 20 years in prison.

Black speakers said they would not stay "prone and pregnant" for the black movement, that they wanted to be leaders of the movement, not just breeders. They emphasized the special problems poor black women face trying to control their bodies, whether because of forced sterilizations or expensive illegal abortions.

Several speakers attacked Nixon's self-proclaimed concern for the "sanctity of life" in the abortion issue, while thousands of men and women in Southeast Asia and thousands of women at the hands of back-street abortionists are killed every year. (Illegal abortion is the third most lucrative racket in the U. S., after gambling and prostitution, according to Lana Clarke Phelan.)

Abortion law repeal marches also took place in San Francisco, England, Canada, New Zealand and France. The march in Paris drew 5,000. Messages of support came to Washington from women and feminist groups throughout the U. S. and Europe.

At a news conference the next day, WONAAC leaders described the march as "fantastic," having "a beautiful spirit." They felt the spirit generated made up for the small numbers, and that many women who still lack strength to stand up and support such an issue openly were with the marchers in their hearts.

WONAAC now plans a national conference for January or February to assess the abortion law repeal movement and plan further action. Class action suits are increasing and the introduction of repeal legislation in both the Senate and House is being discussed. Dr. Barbara Roberts, WONAAC's national project director, says "We are an idea whose time has come."

(People who want to help WONAAC or its local chapter, Washington Action Coalition, WAA, can call 347-0946 or go to the office at 917 15th Street, N.W., D.C., 20005).



## Cops vs. Cowboy Hats

The District Building's Special Police, in a valorous defense of the dignity and decorum of the City Council, arrested and removed from the City Council chambers last November 23 a man who was audacious enough to wear a cowboy hat.

Larry Kamens of the D.C. Statehood Party was sitting in the City Council chambers, the offending hat on his head, waiting to testify on proposed landlord-tenant regulations. District special policeman R.H. George and J. Forte approached and asked him to remove his hat. Kamens declined to do so until they showed him in writing the regulation which stipulated that he could not wear a hat. The policemen would show him no regulation. When he repeatedly refused to remove his hat, they proceeded to pick him up, not intact, and carry him from the

chambers. The City Council had not even convened.

A lawyer, Florence Roisman, who was also waiting to testify, approached Stirling Tucker and asked him to intervene in the preposterous affair, but Tucker refused, saying it was none of his affair. Ms. Roisman, a faculty member at Catholic University Law School, then established a client relationship with Kamens as the police were frisking him in the elevator on the way downstairs.

Ms. Roisman complained that she should be allowed to see her client as the police were closing up Kamens in a back room, and when she refused to go away, she herself was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Down at the Fifth District Police Station on 5th St., S.E., Officer J.E. Harris wouldn't let Ms. Roisman see her

lawyer, husband Tony Roisman, who arrived at the station house, until she answered questions on an identification card. Ironically, Harris had just advised her of her right not to answer questions without first consulting a lawyer.

The police then informed Kamens, whose hat was still on, and Ms. Roisman that they could either pay a fine or go to jail—not mentioning that they also had the alternative of posting collateral and requesting a court date, which they promptly did.

When Tony Roisman inquired about the grounds for Kamens' arrest, he was shown a set of proposed regulations which would forbid men to wear hats in the City Council chambers, he said.

Kamens later said, "the police knew they were dealing with people who knew their rights. What happens to the people who don't know their rights?"





## People's Festival

Adams Community School (one of about ten community schools in the entire country) celebrated its second annual People's Festival, November 19th. The school was noisy and alive with a standing-room-only crowd of over 650 parents, children and community people who filled the school's auditorium to see a program of international songs and dances performed by the elementary students.

Classrooms throughout the building had displays illustrating the histories, habits and dress of a variety of countries.

There was a description (more like a found poem) of Haiti:

Haiti is a jaunty meringue  
and sweet black coffee  
warm friendly people and

dreamy five flies unique  
waterfront casino brie  
thru king mountain scenery  
and gim-clear water swirling  
over exotic Reef's unbelievable  
shopping values in both  
native and imported items, at a  
fraction of stateside prices

At the People's Festival, parents and teachers, working together, ran an African Shop and a White Elephant Sale to raise money for the school. In the cafeteria, were a hundred different dishes prepared by parents, representing foods from around the world: China chicken, Polish bigos, Bengali padom, Asian bean cakes, etc. etc.

There was an unusual feeling of cooperation and cheer at Adams Community School.

# 460 Arrested In Daily Death Toll

Each day between November 8, when the Daily Death Toll began, and November 25, when it ended, between 105 and 26 people would lie down in front of the White House and represent those killed that day by American bombs, bullets and napalm in Indo-China. Their slogan was "300 a day" because that is how many are still dying daily as a result of the war that is "winding down."

Each day's delegation came from a different place — Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Boston, Washington, and as far away as Madison, Wisconsin — to lay their "dead" on Mr. Nixon's doorstep. A total of 460 people were arrested in the protests as the "corpses" would block the White House entrance.

The Daily Death Toll project was sponsored by Clergy and Laymen Concerned and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist group.

Most people elected not to bail themselves out and spent two days in jail awaiting trial. For many, the time spent in the overcrowded lockup was an education. It allowed them to draw the connection between repression in Indo-China and in American jails. Most of the prisoners were blacks who were unable to bail themselves out before trial on even minor offenses.

"It's another example where our

leaders are willing to spend more on control and punishment than they are on dealing with the root causes of injustice," one woman said.

On the first day of the protest, a three-judge Appeals Court suspended an Interior department rule prohibiting demonstration by more than 100 people in front of the White House. The government argued against the move by saying that although the groups involved were non-violent, their presence represented a "clear and present danger" to the life of the President because there might be "an Oswald type" among them.

After a brief memorial service the first day, the demonstrators went to the affluent neighborhood of Republican leader Hugh Scott (R. Penn.), and resumed their corpse-like posture on his front lawn. Mrs. Scott came out and talked with some of the participants. Her husband was for peace in Southeast Asia, she insisted, but "peace with honor."

The demonstration was ironic, one participant thought. "It takes less than 90 minutes to arrest more than 100 of us on a misdemeanor while Nixon and Kissinger are still at large planning and executing more killings. They should be the ones arrested."

## 58-year Reprieve for Money Lenders

Continued from page 1

Because of the failure of the city's daily news media to report the court's decision promptly and accurately, the public had no chance to compete with the mortgage bankers' in determining what the government would do about the situation. The *Washington Post* did not report the decision until November 17, a week after it had been handed down. Public interest lawyers had no time to mobilize around this information, because Sen. Eagleton, on the day following the *Post* article, pushed through the Senate his amendment bailing out the mortgage bankers. The mortgage bankers had already had a week to lobby on the hill and to model an amendment to their liking. Explaining the *Post's* delay on the D.C. Court of Appeal's decision, metropolitan editor Harry Rosenfeld told *Colonial Times* "we didn't understand the decision until then."

The District of Columbia's money lending and usury laws are antiquated. And traditionally, Congress, instead of revising the laws, has granted exemption upon exemption to them. There are, for instance, special regulations for institutions like banks, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, and for certain credit arrangements like auto loans and credit unions, among others. Eagleton's amendment perpetuates this legal briar patch by extending further exemptions from D.C. law to mortgage bankers.

Mortgage bankers are essentially middlemen. They consolidate capital from lenders such as insurance companies and pension funds who want to invest their money at an attractive

rate of return, but who don't want the dirty work of administering the loans. Mortgage bankers, who are considered more flexible and a more ready source of mortgage money than commercial banks or savings and loan associations, then loan the money to individuals and institutions seeking mortgages. They also service the loans, collecting payments, foreclosing when necessary, and taking their fee out before repaying the original source of the funds.

Denil O. Nichols, president of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Metropolitan Washington, has been quoted saying mortgage bankers are responsible for about a half of all mortgage loans in commercial property in D.C. and for about 20% of the District's residential mortgages, including many insured by the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) and the Veteran's Administration (VA). Mortgage bankers have been responsible for about \$65 million in loans within the District since January 1, 1971 alone, as well as for about \$150 million in the suburbs. This is obviously an enormous amount of financial power to go unlicensed, free of the type of reporting required of banks, savings and loan associations or insurance companies.

According to D.C.'s 1913 Loan Shark Act, if you lend money at more than 6% interest here, you have to be licensed as a money lender. But because of the welter of overlapping exemptions and the lack of enforcement by the D.C. government, there are only 5 registered money lenders in the city. Instead, small loan companies ring the city in Maryland and Virginia suburbs.

Banks, saving and loan associations

and real estate brokers, among others, have been specifically exempted by Congress from the original 1913 law. Mortgage bankers, who were not in existence at the time of the 1913 law, have traditionally claimed exemption by obtaining real estate broker's licenses or simply relying on the D.C. government's quaint custom of not enforcing that part of the law. But the D.C. Court of Appeal's decision of November 10th casts into question the mortgage bankers' exemption from licensing and, in the process, all loans exceeding 6% made by them since 1913.

In the week after the D.C. Court of Appeal's decision, before the city's news media had bothered to inform the people of it, D.C. mortgage bankers had the opportunity to canvas the Senate District Committee and to lobby for an exemption. In the press, there were thinly veiled threats from the mortgage bankers that they would move out of the city, and would stop all further mortgage loans. The mortgage bankers said they would foreclose on any borrower who stopped payment on their now questionable mortgages. There was the spectre of thousands of suits from people trying to regain property which has been foreclosed in the past.

The mortgage bankers' success in lobbying illustrates once again how things work on the hill. Institutions with the time, money and lawyers get what they want. Public interest groups do not have these resources.

Rep. Wright Patman (D-Texas), chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, has fortunately prohibited a fast passage of Eagleton's amendment through the House. Patman

takes the innovative position that Congress should "gather all the pertinent data before suggesting a retroactive excuse going back several decades on mortgage lending."

The House District Committee has finally held the first hearings in its history on consumer protection in D.C. (an incredible fact in itself). Fairfax Leary, a professor of law at Temple University and one of several lawyers working with Ralph Nader, testified that there should be "restrictions based upon the character and fitness of the people to be licensed as money lenders". At the same time, Leary complained about the effect of granting exemptions in a piecemeal fashion to D.C. law which creates socially undesirable "pools of special interest in certain lending fields, with exemptions from the interest rate limitations applicable to other lenders". He held that the language of Eagleton's amendment was "too broad" and suggested, among other things, "a limitation of mortgage bankers to those recognized as such by a federal agency."

But even now, the city cannot be assured that mortgage bankers will be subjected to any licensing or reporting requirements. Supposedly sympathetic lawmakers, including the District's own delegate, Walter Fauntroy, are not taking the initiative in preparing effective legislation. They are waiting for someone to do that for them. As a spokesman for Fauntroy's office, Harley Daniels, told *Colonial Times*, "no one has put a proposal on my desk; I'm waiting for a proposal". The mortgage bankers have plenty of proposals, and that's how things operate in colonial times.



# Consuming



## Jolly Green Giant's Food Freeze Farce

By Mal Kovacs

While shopping recently at "my" local Giant at Wisconsin and Newark Streets, NW, I followed the suggestion of a large Giant sign on their front door to request "ceiling price information available at manager's office."

I asked the Giant store manager for the price ceiling information sheets, but he said he couldn't show them to me, since they were confidential. He said he would look up prices on individual items for me.

I asked him why this ceiling price information was withheld by Giant. He said that it is kept in his hands so that their competitors don't get it. But it's common knowledge, I suggested, that Safeway and other stores already compile lists of Giant's prices. Yeah, that is true, he admitted.

The Giant manager then explained how all chains have people to go check on the prices of their "competitors". He said that A & P, as the biggest national chain, set the price trends which Giant, Safeway and other stores follow in the Washington area. All of which leaves the big chains fully in the know and the public in the dark.

I asked him if the price freeze on food would continue. Yes, he said. I asked him which categories of food were exempt from the price freeze. Seasonal foods like fruits and vegetables? Yes, he said, these items were exempted by the Federal Government. What else is exempt? I asked. Oh, dairy goods and meats, he added.

You know, he said, "anything that is derived from nature is exempt from the price freeze."

## Flunk-Free Food

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practically unheard of.

The ten Prince George's inspectors—eight of them are women—are not authorized to order an immediate closing of a store.

Blade explains that if a store receives too high a point score from an inspector, it is given thirty days to correct the sanitary hazards. If the store does not comply, one or two follow-up letters are written. Finally, if there is still no compliance, a closing hearing is held to determine if the store should be allowed to remain in operation.

"There aren't very many (stores or restaurants) that get as far as a hearing before they have complied," she says.

There is no list available to the public in either county of the stores or restaurants that have been closed for reasons of sanitation or health.

"Ours is just for office use," O'Hanlon says.

"We don't disclose how many are closed in a given year or which ones," says Blade. "I mean, if you ran a place that had cleaned itself up, you wouldn't want your name publicized either."

At the moment, neither county reports any grocery stores or restaurants closed, and information about offenders with high scores that have not been closed is not available to the consumer.

In the District of Columbia, a list of sanitation ratings of all grocery stores and restaurants has been made public by the Environmental Health Administration and has been publicized in the daily newspapers.

"Our role is not to give a bad public name to offenders, but to get them to correct their offenses," O'Hanlon says. "A lot of people feel that there should be Grade A, Grade B, and Grade C establishments. We don't feel that way. They all should be clean, wholesome, and uncontaminated."

He notes that, as a rule, chain operations are better maintained than independent ones.

"Some private operations are top-rate, but they have more of a choice as to whether they want to cooperate or not (in maintaining sanitary conditions)," he says. The manager of a Safeway or Hot Shoppes is forced to cooperate, because he has "higher-ups looking over his situation who don't want their chain to get a bad reputation."

Both counties report that they do respond to citizen complaints concerning sanitary hazards.

"If we get a call saying the meat at Safeway is bad, we'll go take a look," says Blade.

Among the more common of the serious offenses found in area stores according to O'Hanlon, are:

- Foods kept at improper temperatures;
- Unfresh meats and produce;
- Swollen cans among the canned goods (which can be an indication of botulism in the product.)

• Cutting blocks that are used without proper sterilization. Dishwashers that do not sterilize properly are a common sanitary hazard in restaurants.

"Of course, some violations are worse than others," O'Hanlon reports. "Dirt in the corner is not as serious as dirt on the meat cutting block. This type of offense is particularly bad, because the public cannot be aware of it."

Consumers who discover what they feel is a hazard in a grocery store or restaurant can call 864-3874 in Prince George's County and 926-0495 in Montgomery County.

And consumers who would like to know how their neighborhood market compares in its sanitation rating to others in the county might call the same numbers and begin prying for a little of that non-public information.

## Dead Cow Story

The Supermarket Committee of the Virginia Citizens Consumer Council has announced the results of a survey comparing ground beef labelling and pricing practices in Northern Virginia supermarkets. The survey was conducted by VCCC student intern Sharon Crowell.

While the Committee was encouraged to see stores change from the old labels (chuck, round, sirloin), which were in most cases meaningless and misleading, it reported that there is still a great difference between chain standards. The new labels, regular, lean, extra lean and superlean, and prices are based on the percentage of fat contained in the meat.

"Depending on where you shop," said Supermarket Committee chairman Lynn Jordan of Springfield, Va., "your lean may be another's super lean, with prices varying as much as 40 cents per pound for the same meat."

While Mrs. Jordan feels the new labels are a step in the right direction,

state standards and regulations requiring numerical labelling of fat percentages are needed. (Since most ground beef is prepared at local stores, USDA regulations do not apply.)

In the past, ground beef labels were supposed to indicate the source of the meat, such as chuck or round, but most times the meat did not come from that part of the animal. A survey done in September found that most supermarkets were using the labels inconsistently. Meat was sometimes labelled by its source, sometimes by fat content and sometimes by availability (1/3 chuck, 1/3 round, 1/3 sirloin).

Consumers who did purchase ground beef by its source or price were misled by false standards, as the nutritional value of all sources of beef, when ground, is the same. Tenderness, juiciness, flavor and nutritional value depend on the percentage of fat contained rather than the source of the meat.

### A GUIDE TO FIGURING OUT HAMBURGER LABELLING:

GROUND BEEF/ FAT CONTENT/ PRICE PER POUND

% FAT	Grand Union	Safeway	Giant	Consumers	A&P
25%		LEAN	REG.	BEEF	
		.89 c	.59	.79	
22%		LEAN			
		.89			
20%	REGULAR	EXTRA	LEAN		BEEF
	.79	.99 c	.79		.79
18%		EXTRA		CHUCK	
		.99		.89	
15%	LEAN	SUPER	EXTRA		CHUCK
	.89	\$1.29	.98 b		.89
10%	EXTRA			"90-10"	ROUND
	\$1.09			\$1.09	\$1.19
0%	SUPER a				

a. specially ground, price depending on the cut of meat

b. \$1.19 if shaped into patties

c. Safeway uses a range: 22-25% is lean, 18-22% is extra-lean, 18-15% is super lean. (These prices were taken between Nov. 10-17.)



# Washington Journalism Review

## Trickie Calls Quickie — Press Fumbles

by Steven d'Araiz

For several months, the White House had been telling the press to expect a dramatic announcement on the war on or before November 15. Instead of giving the press a chance to prepare, however, the 25-minute press conference was hastily called on November 12 and it turned out the news was not very dramatic — 45,000 troops are coming out in the next two months, leaving a sizable 130,000 man force still there. The press was caught with its pants down.

Most of the questions turned out to be insipid. Peter Lisagor of the *Chicago Daily News* asked: "Mr. President, to be clear on the ceasefire, that includes Laos and Cambodia as well as South Vietnam?" Perhaps Lisagor, a veteran correspondent, is hard of hearing and missed it when the President said he favored "a ceasefire for all of Southeast Asia." Or maybe he has a shaky understanding of geography. Anyway, it was a wasted question and was not untypical of the way the press conducted itself.

Besides the flabby questions in the areas the press touched, a lot of areas were simply avoided. For example:

—On November 10, AP quoted the Chief North Vietnamese delegate in Paris as having said all U.S. POWs could be home by Christmas if the President had set a date for total U.S. withdrawal. No one asked whether the POWs should be home for Christmas.

—While the U.S. negotiating stance — that the U.S. plans to keep a residual force in Vietnam until the POWs are released — and the DRV-PRG position — that no POWs will be released until we've set a date for total withdrawal — are not diametrically opposed (we could set a date and they could agree to a timetable for POW release ending when all U.S. forces are out) no attempt has been made by the government to resolve these two positions. No one asked about this.

Don Oberdorfer, the *Washington Post* reporter who covered the conference said the question has been asked at previous press conferences and it got "a non-answer."

"That's no reason not to ask it again," Oberdorfer admitted.

—In the same vein, James Naughton of *The New York Times*, noted that, "We've (meaning the government) never responded to the Communist peace proposal and we've (meaning the reporters — note the parallel structure) never asked about that."

—No one asked how Nixon, who, in an attempt to rally the country, has

stressed the POW issue, plans to obtain the POWs release when setting the date is a prerequisite of the other side. Perhaps he has in mind another brilliantly planned and executed Son Tay type prison raid, but meanwhile every four days another POW is added to the list, 400 since Nixon took office.

—There was no reference to the Cornell Air War Study released a few days earlier which disputes Nixon's contention that the war is winding down. It estimates the U.S. will have dropped 300,000 tons of bombs this year and says Nixon has dropped 2.9 million tons — more than the total for both World War II and Korea, while in

comparison, LBJ, who started this grim business dropped 1.4 million tons. The war will continue to cause destruction and death even though U.S. ground forces are in a "defensive" posture, the study notes. (For an excellent summary of the facts, see Mitgang's article in "The Week in Review," NYT, Nov. 21.)

—There was no attempt to get a statement on the bombing of civilians. Although there have been an estimated 325,000 civilians killed in Indo-China and six million homeless, according to Kennedy's Sub-Committee on Refugees, the U.S. does not admit to bombing civilians, which is a war crime under Nuremberg rule six, clause C.

—Someone should have asked the President, "If the North Vietnamese agree not to harass withdrawing American troops and to release the POWs, would you remove all U.S. forces even if it means the Saigon dictatorship would fail?" Apparently the answer is no, since Nixon did talk about "continuing our role of leaving South Vietnam in a position to defend itself from Communist takeover." He apparently believes Vietnamization will work, though many Asian specialists doubt it. This leads one to wonder, if the Saigon regime government did collapse, would the President re-escalate the war?

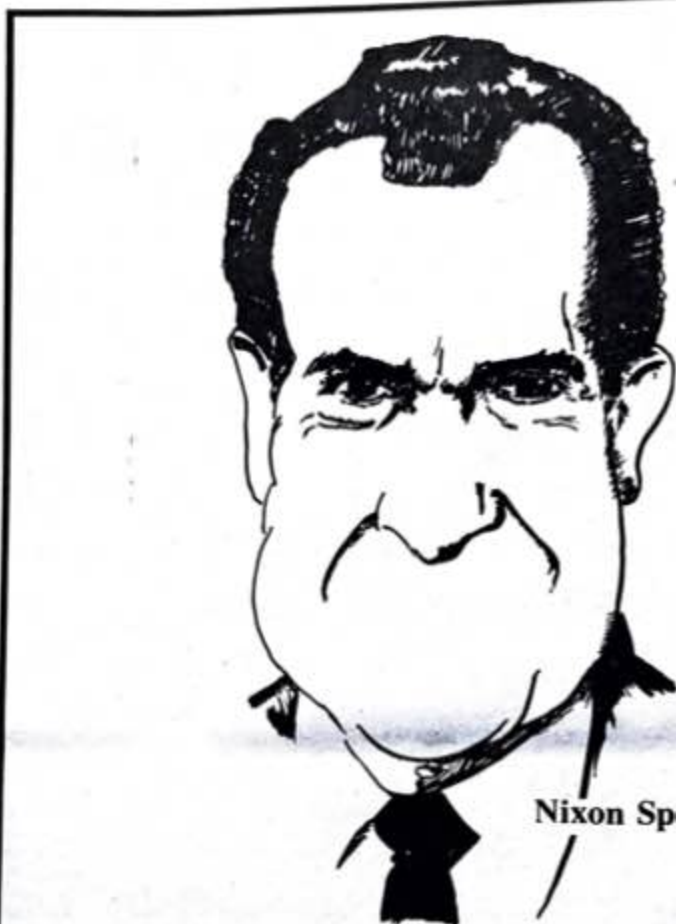
The White House had been hoping

the November press conference as a major event and some t.v. people expected a full-dress t.v. conference since Nixon hasn't had one in months. Oberdorfer said he had expected an announcement of a seven to eight month withdrawal schedule, as was made the last time around. But all of a sudden here Nixon was with his fourth quickie unscheduled appearance in a row. Why?

"There was nothing very dramatic in his statement. From his point of view, perhaps it was a logical decision to go easy with it. Also, it fits if he has concluded the war is winding down and another television announcement would increase the focus of that as an issue," *Time* man Naughton conjectured.

"The weight of what he said was negative. There was no breakthrough in Paris, no breakthrough on the POWs. There was no negotiated settlement. He was not withdrawing all forces at this time. It was all very gloomy," said one t.v. commentator who asked not to be named.

So, Nixon caught the media off guard with no time to prepare questions in advance. "I'd hate to say it was impromptu because the President was certainly prepared," Oberdorfer said. "We should have been better prepared," Naughton admits.



Nixon Speaks Out

© sketch by mikelbank

### THE CHUTZPAH AWARD

Here is Nixon's best statement at the November 12 press conference: "Cambodia is the Nixon doctrine in its purest form."

I spent a month in Cambodia in 1967. It was a very beautiful country. Foreign diplomats there told me it was the most prosperous, best administered country in Southeast and possibly in all of East Asia. The country was protected by its neutrality and a pact with the NLF that permitted the use of its remote Eastern border areas as a sanctuary. Then Norodom Sihanouk was toppled, probably, I.F. Stone has suggested, with CIA help. Since the military coup and the disastrous American invasion — the South Vietnamese left clinging to American helicopter skids, you remember — the country has been devastated and now most of it is under rebel control. — S.S. d'A



# Howard University Takes Over WTOP-FM

Story and Photo by Robert Hinton

The Washington metropolitan area will have its first black-owned broadcast facility on December sixth, when WTOP-FM (96.3) becomes WHUR-FM.

In December, 1970, Washington Post publisher Katherine Graham announced that Post-Newsweek Stations was giving its local FM outlet to Howard University. She reportedly said the gift was motivated by her concern for the "lack of ownership of broadcast facilities by minority groups," in Washington.

In an unsigned article in the January 1971 issue of "The Black Communicator," the newsletter of The Urban Communications Group, it was speculated that the gift was "a move calculated to dispel criticism of unresponsive programming and personnel policies" at Post-Newsweek, coming from Washington's black community.

The "truth" lies somewhere between.

Phil Watson, who will be general manager and program director of WHUR-FM said recently that there are several factors that explain why a profit-oriented organization like Post-Newsweek would give away a "property" worth three quarters of a million dollars.

Watson said that there are two as yet ill-defined policies of the Federal Communications Commission that play a part in the gift.

The FCC has expressed opposition to the concept of one media owning another, supposedly competitive, media in the same "market": i.e. a newspaper owning a radio or television station in the same city.

The Commission has also come out against "the concentration of media," i.e. the same person or group owning both a radio and a television station in the same market.

Both Post-Newsweek and the Evening Star Broadcasting Companies (WMAL-TV-AM-FM) violate these policies, but it is reasonable to assume that the FCC, with a conservative Republican majority would choose to make an example out of the big successful liberal Democratic Post rather than the small not-so-successful conservative Republican Star.

Watson also said that the WTOP television station and the all news AM radio station were so successful that the FM outlet had never really been developed.

There is an unconfirmed rumor floating around the Washington Post that the FM station was actually losing money.

Graham's humanitarian explanation is supported partially by her reputation as a concerned liberal and partially by the fact that Howard's communications-conscious president James Cheek, has gotten her very much involved with Howard University.

In addition, Post-Newsweek has gained more than three quarters of a million dollars worth of publicity and goodwill in Washington's black community by transferring this FM license to Howard University.

Also important is the fact that Post-Newsweek can now write-off a three quarter million dollar gift to a tax deductible institution.

The transfer of the WTOP-FM license will take a lot of pressure off everyone in Washington connected with broadcasting - from Post-Newsweek to the Federal Communications Commission.

With a black-owned radio station in Washington, the chances that black groups will raise new challenges to the licenses of the white-owned stations is not eliminated but reduced; and any small chance that the F.C.C. would support such a challenge is made even smaller.

When Dr. Cheek was president of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, he was responsible for that school establishing an FM radio station.

When he came to Washington, there was one non-commercial FM radio channel not being used, 89.3. But the F.C.C. had already closed out any other applications for that channel and had designated Pacifica Radio (WBAI-New York, etc.) and the National Education Foundation (Washington's Christ Church in drag) as the parties to compete for that license.

Howard submitted an ill-prepared and late application for the channel, which was thrown out.

The University appealed to the F.C.C., asking for a waiver of the closing date so that Howard could become the third party in the competition for 89.3. The Commission refused again by a 4 to 3 vote and Howard went into the courts, where the case was still pending when Post-Newsweek offered to transfer its license to the school.

A hearing is scheduled to begin in February 1972 to decide which of the two parties, Pacifica or Christ Church will get the 89.3 license.

Regardless of Post-Newsweek's motivations or the effects of the transfer on the Washington Broadcast market, both Howard University and

Washington's black community will benefit from the transfer of the WTOP-FM license.

Howard receives a cornerstone for its very ambitious plans for a school of communications granting a Ph.D.

Washington's black community will at last have a broadcast outlet that reflects a more healthy self-image than the "colored jitterbug" image coming now from the white-owned "soul" stations.

The problems that arise around the license transfer come from Howard's ambiguous status as a private university that receives about half its income from the same federal government that must license it to run a radio station.

This problem is compounded by the fact that Howard officials will continue running the station as a commercial, rather than non-commercial (educational) station.

The owners of the other commercial stations in town exerted pressure on the F.C.C. to grant Howard a non-commercial license. They didn't want the competition of a black owned commercial station in a black city.

Watson cites several reasons for remaining commercial: (1) Black people can't afford to "play" radio, like predominantly white universities; (2) non-commercial stations tend to be bland and esoteric; (3) a commercial station can choose to direct its programming at a particular audience (Spanish-speaking, classical music lovers or black people); (4) and very importantly; commercial stations can editorialize.

He says there is no need or desire for the station to make a profit. The commercials used will be carefully screened.

According to Watson, there is enough of a potential black FM audience in the Washington area to

make such a station viable.

He says surveys show that 84 per cent of the black households in The District have radios that can receive FM. That's 537,712 people by whitefolks count (The Census). In five years, according to Watson, all car radios manufactured will be AM-FM.

When WHUR-FM comes on the air next week, it will be a marriage of news "when it happens, not just on the hour or half hour; black analyses of governmental actions and policies; revived radio drama and all the myriad forms of Afro-American musical and poetic expression.

The transmitter and antennae for WHUR will remain at WTOP's Broadcast House for some time and will be operated by remote control from what are now the studios of WETA, Washington's Educational Television Station.

WETA-TV was originally located on the Howard campus in order to assist the University in developing a program in broadcasting. WETA has never found time to do so and Howard President, Dr. Cheek has ordered the facility off campus by December 31st.

The dean of Howard's School of Communications is Tony Brown, former executive producer of NET's Black Journal.

Howard's broadcast plans call for the campus to be wired for CATV so that the school can develop its own television production program and become in effect "a broadcast journalism laboratory."

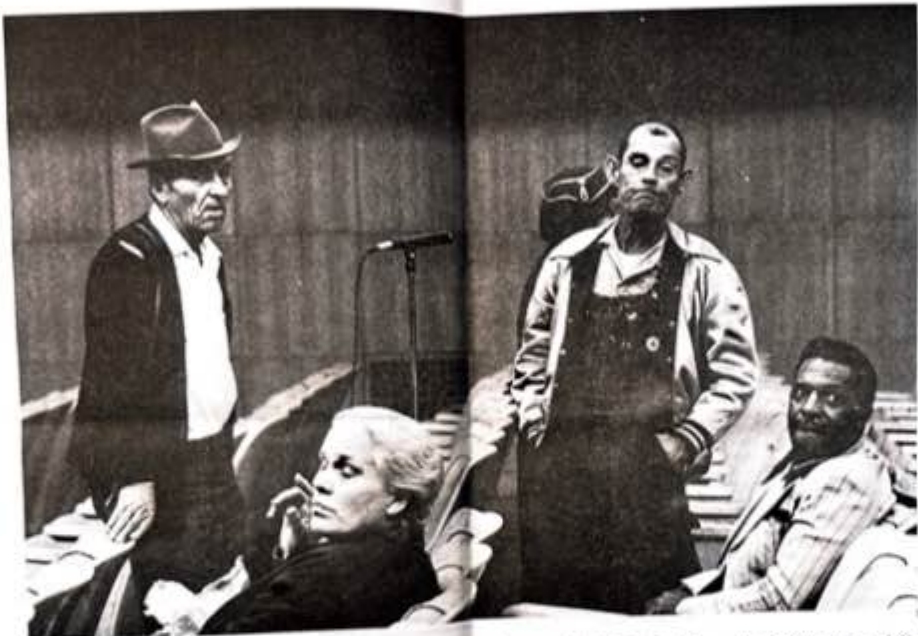
Watson, who was assistant manager of KPFF-FM, Pacifica's Los Angeles station and creator and director of KPFF's Watts Bureau, says there will be no anti-white rhetoric on WHUR: "there won't be time for hating whitefolks - it'll be time for nation building."



J. B. Hutto and the Hawks



## WAITING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE



While there is nothing particularly new about any of us waiting, Ron Hoffman's photos of Appalachian miners, their wives, widows and welfare recipients are eloquent at capturing it.

These people were at HEW on November 7 to ask for care and protection from the federal government—their rights constitutionally. It is not significant to me that they came, got frustrated and angry about waiting in an auditorium alone and went to the Office of the Secretary, or that, after listening to a variety of lesser bureaucrats, they saw Richardson. What is significant is that they had to come to Washington to be seen.

They may or may not be heard; it is always a gamble. The system—the rules—decide what will be done for all of us. What is just is proscribed, and even if he cared about these people's welfare, Richardson couldn't act unless there were extenuating circumstances—if they owned a large mine or controlled their region. But then they wouldn't have had to come.

None of this means the Appalachians didn't know this—they're not stupid, few of us are—but they must survive and if they are to survive, they must act.

James True  
If you want to know more about them or to give money, write: Political Action Committee of the Appalachian Mountain, CPO 2307, Berea, KY, 40403.



PHOTOS BY RON HOFFMAN

PRINTS BY CAL HOFFMAN



## design lines

by j. daniel johnson

## The Euram Building

Great Vagina! was my first mental exclamation at first sight of the new building. It was July and Fitzhugh was driving me around D.C. in search of an apartment. All the sexuality ever discussed concerning architecture was exposing itself right out there at 21 Dupont Circle. Being penetrated not once but twice by cylindrical elevator shafts in its internal courtyard. Obscenely beautiful! was all I could say as we drove away glancing back again and again.

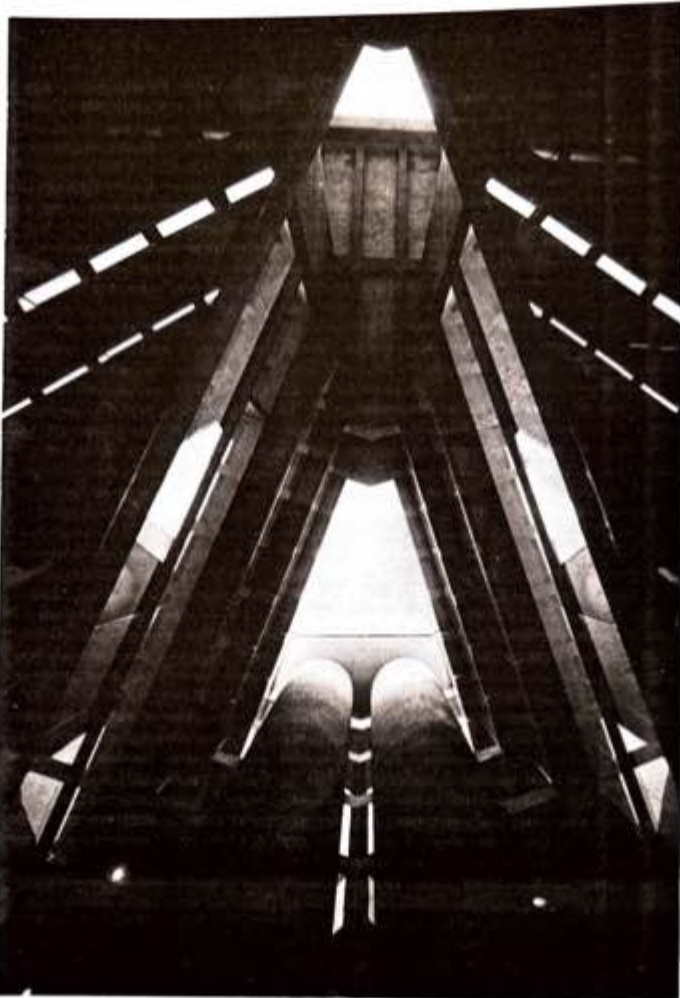
It wasn't until three months later and many excursions past the Euram Building that I got to meet the architects, George Hartman and Warren Cox, the creators of this monumental wetdream which recently won an architecture award from the Washington Board of Trade.

Their office on Thomas Jefferson Street in Georgetown is unmarked on the exterior, but the minute I saw the white painted walls and spotlights, I knew I had arrived. You can always tell an architect's office by the white paint and spotlights.

Sitting... perusing architectural models, browsing through magazines, listening to birds chirping outside in the garden, and doing other things that people do while waiting in an architectural office. Outer door opens... enter a medium slim man of continental posture, wide tie, wide smile and an extended hand.

George Hartman explains that he is a Princeton graduate (1960), while Warren Cox completed Yale in 1961. Hartman then went with a Princeton group to do excavations in Sicily to complete his thesis, while Cox became technical editor for the architectural magazine *Forum*. The two joined the firm of Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon, then left to hang their own shingle.

Since 1965 they've done residences, dormitories, campus planning, interiors, and they've collected design awards. "Light and space are the elements we like to explore," Hartman explained about the firm's style, "because those are the elements you live with within the structure. We don't get into fine detailwork; the Euram Building at 21 Dupont Circle is simply a clear structure with the wide horizontal concrete beams going from brick pier to brick



pier, supporting the smaller beams which in turn support the floor slab.

Then all the openings are sealed with glass. The ends of the smaller beams give the massive concrete horizontals a perforated dash-line effect and serve visually to lighten up the structure. Those perforations are actually clerestory-like windows. The simple structure and seal solution is a lot easier

than calculating a curtain wall. Besides, *Mies van der Rohe* did curtain walls very well. Everyone else doing curtain walls, seems to be doing them less well."

Hartman compared the Euram Building to its neighbor, the Dupont Circle Building between 19th Street and Connecticut Avenue. The apex site plans of both buildings were met with a "V" open/light court building plan. New

York's Flatiron Building, also having an apex site, has no open/light court. The Dupont Circle Building has its light court enclosed on two sides. The Euram Building is enclosed on three sides but punctured at the apex and the roof to permit access to inner space by people and light.

I asked if the building's design had changed radically since the preliminary sketch phase.

"First the corbelling (staggered floor levels, in this case) was on the outside facade," Hartman began illustrating on yellow notebook paper "then we decided to put the stagger on the inner court facade leaving the outside as flat surfaces."

Hartman and Cox seem to have developed into an architectural design of delayed surprise. Behind their not-so-quiet exteriors are these passionate inner spaces. This became very evident as Hartman brought out photographs of their previous work.

Concerning the care and maintenance of the inward staggered windows, Hartman said, "that's a tricky process of lowering the scaffolding, attaching suction cups to the windows and pulling the scaffolding inward. We realized this as a problem of design, but not enough of a problem to stop going."

The Euram Building's top floors belong to the owners, an Italian investment firm, "euram" being a contraction of European/American. So far the building has been leased to law firms. I'm hoping that more creative ventures will lease the remaining two floors, and maybe a small restaurant or ice cream parlour will lease the shop spaces that open onto the court. The idea being that eventually the shops may set up tables in the court.

The people in the surrounding community really welcome the building. It would be nice if the building opened up its urban court space and welcomed the community.

(NOTE: A number of people on the *Colonial Times* staff found the first paragraph of this article offensively sexist. A number of others felt it was a valid description of the building and the writer's reaction to it. It was decided to run the article intact, but with this note.)





# Millhouse: Tragi-Comic Story of Our Leader

by Bill Hobbs

It would be perfectly easy to sit through Emile de Antonio's film *Millhouse: A White Comedy* and simply have a great, vindictive jolly old time taking in all the film clips of the laughable, despicable things Our Leader has said and done for the past 25 years.

Nixon's political past is loaded with statements and incidents which are quite properly the butt of derisive laughter. De Antonio has collected many of the "best" of these moments and put them together in a historical narrative told by interviews with journalists and others involved in one way or another with Nixon's various campaigns. It is Nixon's career told as a nasty joke, and that is certainly one good way of telling it.

I first saw the film at its "premiere" showing here last summer at the American Film Institute. De Antonio was present and answered questions from the audience afterwards, including a few from people who were bothered by the film's overwhelmingly critical tone—its lack of "balance." De Antonio said frankly that he wasn't trying to present a "balanced" analysis.

The film is just what its title says it is—a "White Comedy," a bizarre, pointed piece of "black humor" in the style of a Lenny Bruce routine, made "white" because it is not a darkly exaggerated version of reality but reality itself—the filmed story of the world's leading white man. It is like a full-length movie version of a good political cartoon, and as such I enjoyed it immensely.

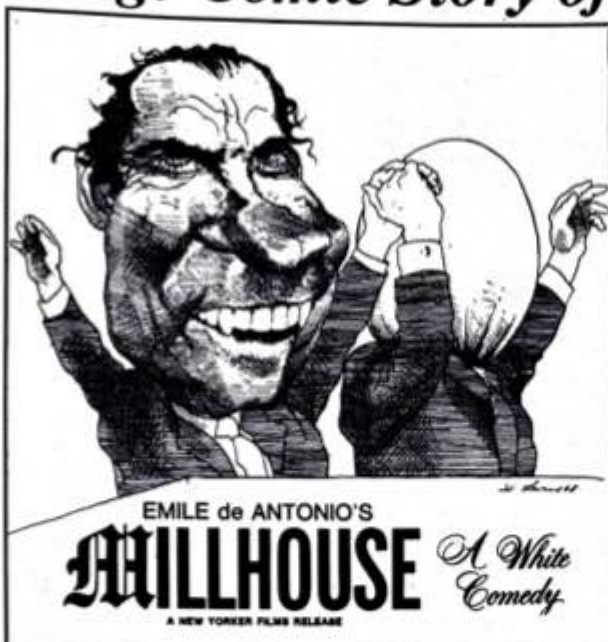
*"...he can't make up his mind whether to let loose with a good lecherous leer or pucker up with a display of Presidential dignity."*

But there is another way to watch it too. Almost in spite of itself, the film is capable of evoking some sympathy for Richard Nixon and revealing some larger truths about what the American political process does to the people who manipulate it from the top as well as to the rest of us.

The first time through it is easiest just to laugh at the sort of greasy, graceless way Nixon kisses his ballot and sticks it in the voting box during his 1950 Senate campaign, or to chortle hatefully at his performance in the infamous "Checkers" speech. These moments are laughable because they are so awkwardly out of proportion. You know that he is faking, just going through the motions, because the motions are so wooden. He couldn't possibly believe himself.

He emotes a note of quavering sincerity as he says, "And you know, the kids love (quaver) that dog, and I want to say this right now, that regardless of what they say about it, we're going to keep it." But this momentous information is imparted with the exact same tone he used a second before to tell us that, "Believe it or not, the day before we left on this campaign trip we got a message from Union Station (quaver) in Baltimore saying they had a package for us." He says "message from Union Station" as if he were saying "message from God." It sends a chill up your back.

The second time I saw the film, however, I was less caught up in the humor and hostility of it and began to get glimpses of a Nixon who was not just an awful, power-driven boor. There is some genuine pain in his eyes,



particularly in the early days. You get the idea he would really rather not be here in front of all these people, that he senses his own failings and out-of-placeness and imagines everyone else can sense them too.

His response, however, is not to learn to relax and be himself, but to work

moments de Antonio has worked into the film remind you that Nixon is apparently always burdened with his drive to live up to his pre-cast role as a man and a politician. Everything he comes in contact with has to be organized, politicized, transformed into material for his continuing performance. He is like Midas, but his curse is politics, not gold.

At one point, for instance, he is seated in the front row at a gala White House preview of Bob Hope's annual all-American bring-the-female-meat-to-the-male-cannon-fodder tour. A young woman is gyrating passionately through a hot song and dance routine directly in front of the President, and

the camera focuses in on his face. It is intense, but oddly un-defined. It looks to me like he can't make up his mind whether to let loose with a good lecherous leer or pucker up with a display of Presidential dignity. So he just sits there with his gears grinding, trying to keep it all under control. It is funny, of course, but sad too.

Unfortunately, it is also profoundly dangerous, as de Antonio's very finely chosen last scene reminds us. Nixon is at the Smithsonian, standing at the head table of another "gala affair" (the Inaugural Ball?). You can see Nixon's mind focus on the fact that the music is Guy Lombardo's, and the instant he does this fact becomes another piece of grist for the political mill he operates out of his mouth. Smiling, happy, a little self-conscious, he tells a little anecdote about how he and Pat were dancing to the music of Guy Lombardo on V-J day when World War II ended, and adds, "I just hope we're dancing to his music when we end the next war."

Guy Lombardo, nice music, fond memories, Hiroshima, people dying, war. It all flows together and comes out with a bland grin. His own emotions, private moments, family—his whole life is material to be fit to the needs of his political mentality. It is little wonder that he should be able to consider other people's lives in the same way. For his sake and our own and the rest of the world's, he needs to be electorally retired next year to a comparatively harmless law practice and a much-deserved rest.

In the meantime, Emile de Antonio's film is well worth seeing. It has left the Outer Circle 1 now, but it will undoubtedly be back in town somewhere before too long. An ad for it in the current issue of *Ramparts* says that 16 MM and college TV distribution information on the film can be had by contacting National Talent Service at 115 E. 62 St., New York, N.Y. 10021 (212) 832-3911.

## Inauguration Out The Window

In the morning,  
a foggy sunless chill.

Outside,  
trees with no leaves  
branching, barren  
cracks in a scuffed sidewalk  
these trees  
outlined against downtown,  
big dreary vacant pile of  
grey and off-white offices  
up against the misty flat unbroken sky.

Over them,  
the helicopters  
chopping their chop  
constant whirring thud-chop  
against the air —  
deliberate drunken insects,  
preening, hovering, chopping.

Every now and then you can see one wink  
an angry red police light  
in the winter sky.

Richard run-of-the-Millhouse,  
I do solemnly swear.

But even in the later years there is evidence of the strain the whole thing puts on him. The off-his-guard recent

• Bill Hobbs  
January 20, 1969



# THANKSGIVING—HERE NOT THERE

by John Berkowitz

It will be hard to tell others why I'm here, not there, on this particular day. Twenty-three times before on this day I returned, but on this the twenty-fourth time I choose to remain where I am. There are feelings of anxiety and confusion and uncertainty pushing at me from inside... (Is it really going to be better here? Are we all really close enough to make it any different from being there? Am I still only running away from what makes me feel bad or have my feet just begun to grow roots into the ground I choose to live on, the ground that lets me feel good and comfortable and true to myself?)

I used to like the parades that Macy's—the biggest store in New York—staged down Sixth Avenue. It usually blew cold and windy and faces grew numb, but the fragrance of roasting chestnuts and hot chocolate, and the young children riding high on father's shoulders to see better gave me a rush of warmth and good feelings.

But once a few years ago, as I watched the giant helium-filled balloons go by, I looked closer and felt a sour bitter taste well up into my mouth. They had sewn huge American flags onto the arms and chests and backs of all the balloons—Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Superman, too. And the sidewalk vendors were hawking small flags on sticks—the kids held them and waved them like a kind of fluttering popicle—and I suddenly realized that the flags were selling better than the hot roasted chestnuts.

Not long after, I began to find out more about what kind of person Walt Disney was, and about who ran Macy's Department Store, and even about Bert Parks who rode on the float with you guessed it—Here She Comes—Miss America. And all those elegant floats and high school marching bands... that never once broke step or cadence to play a song by Joan Baez or Pete Seeger... just to remind all the frozen minds behind the frozen faces that were salivating at the sight of the spectacle, that there were such places as Saigon, Mississippi, or even the burnt-out tenements and burnt-out lives of Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and the lower East Side, a few blocks away.

I also used to like the spectacle called Thanksgiving which my family staged. It seemed warm and close to be among so many people and relatives, and it was one of those rare times in the year that we

could actually use all that fancy furniture in the living room with the bright ornate chandelier. I usually got a few gifts, like neckties or books, and all my favorite food came out of the kitchen in the hands of the black woman named Estelle and the black man named Roscoe, who would smile at the floor while everyone in the dining room complimented them on how delicious the turkey was—and what did you put in that marvelous stuffing, Estelle-Belle?

For a long time though, I knew that I didn't like wearing that 3-piece heavy suit which made my thighs itch when I sat down, or those long, black shoes that tied so tight and cramped—I recall going to the bathroom for a while just so I could loosen them. I also remember having little if any feeling toward many of those so-called relatives and close friends—Aunt Evelyn and Uncle Nellie and GrandPop B—I resented my parents' insistence on kissing everyone hello and goodbye, even cousins of mine who I hardly ever saw and didn't really like. And I never much liked the kind of talk that went on—never went much beyond how nice you look tonight, isn't she darling in that blue dress, how's school going, what colleges are you applying to again? O, they're very good schools, but you've got to try and get that Math grade up higher—and did you hear about Betsy's friend Sarah? She's getting married next Spring to so and so who's going to Law School at Columbia... A fine boy... and I remember how painful it became... after dinner the men would gather at one end of the room to talk seriously over cigars and brandy. My father and uncle would sit close to me and ask me earnestly how school was going, what team I was trying out for, what my plans were for the summer and my life ahead. I told them just what they wanted to hear... all the while burying the fears and frustrations and loneliness I was actually feeling off at the best schools. Wishing desperately I could just be with my father alone, having him just to myself for a while without all these other people, so I could tell him who I really was and what I was really feeling. But I never told him, and he never guessed it, because he always considered fifteen minutes after dinner to be enough time to get serious with me, enough time to "really tell your old Dad what's on your mind." And then someone would call him, and he'd squeeze my knee up as he got up and he'd go off and be a charming host and entertainer and patriarch—and I would have to swallow hard.

More recently, I have continued to wear the three-piece suit and tie shoes to my family gatherings, but the reluctance and resentment inside showed through in the form of boredom and sadness—and I wore my hair tied back neatly (so as not to offend too terribly much) with a piece of leather tong. I hardened myself to not expect much for myself—I no longer even tried to get into a genuine meaningful conversation with a sister who I didn't even know or a cousin whose life was in turmoil. Once, at Christmas, though, I tried reading a poem after dinner, it was about a Christmas tree that two little children loved dearly. Everyone listened to it, greeted it with a kind of uneasy silence, then a "Very nice" here and a "How sweet" there... And then everything went on as usual and I went into a delightful reverie of poems and trees, while Aunt Evelyn told me with such sincere creases in her forehead that she thought Woodstock was "just wonderful," but why did they have to take off their clothes? Doesn't that hurt your cause?

But I also began to look hard at the people and things around me in those rooms. That chandelier, that dress, that fine china, that mink coat—the money that paid for those things could buy a lot of simple necessities like food and clothes and parks and doctoring for a lot of people who can't gather in a warm place on Thanksgiving and stuff themselves. Images went racing through my head of small, beautiful almond-eyed people our country was supposed to be saving—living inside abandoned sewer pipes, picking through garbage dumps for scraps of food and tin, shining shoes and scrubbing laundry and pimpling dope and younger sisters for the chance to survive and eat maybe just an old discarded can of C-rations or Spam....

And then there was Estelle and Roscoe with their eyes glued to the floor as they served coffee with cream or sugar. How fortunate they were to eat the exact same meal as all of us—turkey and gravy and everything. But they ate it in the kitchen—apart from us—and I wondered where they would rather be, who they would rather share that meal or any meal with on that evening, if they didn't have to work that night just so as they could eat a meal, any meal, the next night. And I could only lower my eyes, too, from the well-intentioned uncomprehending glances of all those around me under that chandelier, so they wouldn't see that I was holding back a torrent of angry tears.

So, you see, for the first time I am here, not there, on this day that our customs and our history call Thanksgiving. I have done with parades, with chandeliers and three-piece suits, with tight shoes and empty conversation, and with Estelle and Roscoe. If my family wants it that way, I say they should have it, but I will go elsewhere and find a different way. I go where there are candles and kerosene lamps in place of chandeliers, where flannel shirts and homemade skirts replace pin stripes and Saks Fifth Avenue, where full, thick bread and stuffing and pies and turkey come from the kneading/rolling/cracking/mixing/baking of our own hands, and where there is no one but ourselves to clean up afterward. I go where there will be others who are seeking to put back that lost sense of genuine feeling and meaning into our rituals: others who will not drop the name of God like an old friend on the social register, and then make a mockery of the concept of God by gorging their complacent selves and drowning whatever sense of spirituality might still lie within them. But instead, I seek others who will constantly invent the meaning of God in whatever we do and in whatever we create out of ourselves, each on his own and all together. What we are all groping to slowly comprehend is that God can be sung, or baked or danced or laughed or eaten or hammered or sewn or hugged—and yes—even seen by gazing deep into the eyes of all things as well as all beings. I do not want to go back to where I have to lower my eyes to be thankful; I want my eyes to be open and wide and to be able to see all that is before me, to be thankful, and be glad.







## Q.T. Debate: Art & Politics

### To Our Readers:

Q.T. Winkle is the pseudonym for someone whose art column in the first issue stirred up a lively debate on the connections between art, politics, and lifestyles. In his replies to the two letters we printed in the second issue, Winkle made it clear he doesn't think there are any important connections.

Both letters end by asking us not to print Q.T. Winkle because he doesn't understand what art is in its fullest sense and because he doesn't deal at all with the problem of art in society. He is not "radical" in the sense that we said *Colonial Times* would be: going to the root of our problem as much as possible.

We haven't offed Q.T. altogether. We are doing away with his title, "Art Farts," which many people, including ourselves, find offensive. And by printing other people's reviews, we are getting rid of the false impression given by the first two issues that Q.T. Winkle is the art critic for *Colonial Times*. We welcome any volunteers or suggestions of people to do reviews.

Q.T. Winkle knows something about art, he writes well, and he is able to criticize the Washington art scene from close up, which is why he wants to remain unidentified. We think we should continue to run his articles, along with others, and where his views are particularly narrow in focus, print articles with another perspective alongside his, or specifically solicit replies to his.

Winkle's assumptions about art are very different from mine, and I think from those of most of the *Colonial Times* staff. He believes that art and politics are basically unrelated, and that we must tolerate the egotism of great artists because they give us great art. These are the assumptions by which the Western art world has generally lived for a thousand years or so. But we don't have to live by them.

Art and politics are connected because people's insides and their outsides are connected, because the psyches are affected by their situation. Masses of people deny or minimize the connection; they make politics irrelevant or incidental to the art in their lives, or art incidental to their politics. Such habits, coming from laziness and cultural conditioning, result in our lives being fragmented and insulated in one world or the other.

Winkle insists on calling the political content of Picasso's *Guernica* incidental. But even though (or perhaps because) Picasso probably never marched a step or wrote a line against the horrors of war, *Guernica* is a political as well as an artistic creation. It has certainly been to the painting's millions of viewers, and I think it is true for Picasso too, although perhaps not explicitly or even consciously.

Winkle lives for art and the development of art. That is why he can excuse the egos of great artists who make great strides in the advancement of art, and why he has trouble seeing artists in eskimos, children, and all of us. There is a much broader concept of art which Winkle doesn't understand, which Shirley True described in her letter, and which Henry Miller has discussed. (See *Henry Miller on Writing*, p.149)

"The highest art," Miller says, "is the art of living . . . The fear which writers or artists in general have when confronted with this view is that art would disappear. Dear Art! As if anything could destroy it. How do you destroy the cornerstone of life? Why worry? True, we may eliminate the hot-house geniuses - but on the other hand we might, once again, endow everything we see, do, touch, or think about with art. We may all become, or re-become, artists! That is the kind of immolation (of the artists) I believe in."

David Riley

## Marge Piercy Reading: Unlearning to Not Speak

By Christine Duenkel

A poetry reading can be a person reading their poems, neatly fenced off behind a podium, maintaining correct speed and volume and remembering to keep eye contact with the audience sitting in orderly rows below, clapping when appropriate.

Or a poetry reading can be an experience. When Marge Piercy read her poetry at Trinity College on the evening of November 4, it was an experience.

She walked in, quick and intense, a lot more nervous than her exuberant poetry would lead you to expect. She is 35 years old, about 5'4" tall, with long flowing black hair and generous features, wearing a floor-length loose black dress trimmed in braid. She looked like a full-blooded Cherokee just come down from the mountain, ready to share her personal vision with the tribe.

The reading was held in a huge reception room, awkwardly formal. Marge Piercy was the first woman poet to read at Trinity, an all women's school, without being accompanied by men poets. About three hundred of us were there, most of us young and female. We sat on the floor, crowding about Marge, trying to let her know we were on her side.

Soon there was no question of that. She read slowly and fluently, adding sensitivity to the written words. And the poems came alive.

Some of the poems were familiar, from her two poetry books *Hard Loving* and *Breaking Camp*. Others were new. There were poems about our society: how it exploits, alienates and wounds the living things within it, how we must get together and fight for a better world. Some poems were personal: poems of friendship, love, marriage, and the difficulties of such commitments. There were several poems about animals: the cats of New York City, a wounded sea bird, even body crabs.

Many of the newer poems were feminist. The seemed especially powerful and angry, showing woman as "masochist . . . bitch . . . born to suffer . . . on her back to the world," or as a window shopper for some meaning in life, consumer and consumed, "bartering ourselves for nothing." Piercy feels women must learn to accept our "own true hunger and pleasure and rage." Women must "unlearn to not speak," and men must "learn to bother to listen."

Marge Piercy has long been involved in the political youth movement, including SDS, against the power structure of our society. One poem, "The Council," told how meetings ought to be run. It could apply to poetry readings too. People should sit on the floor, on the earth. (Marge stood for awhile, seeming uncomfortable, and then sat down.) There should be no platform, no stage and no lights.

The audience at Trinity was the first to hear selections from a sequence of eleven poems patterned on the laying out of the Tarot pack, and expressing Piercy's hopes and fears for the future of the Movement and society. The emphasis is on the need to help each other and to hope.

All of Piercy's poems stress the need to change, grow, let go, open ourselves, be unafraid to love. They are humorous, angry, sexy poems, coming from gut level as well as from her head, packed with powerful images, nouns and verbs. Their rare energy and anguish never turns to hatred or despair. They attack war, greed, repression because these things destroy love, flowers, people dancing naked, life. And Marge Piercy celebrates life.

Piercy stopped reading several times, only to have the audience insist on hearing more. She finally ended when her voice gave out and answered questions instead. She asked us not to raise our hands to speak, we weren't in school. We forgot and she reminded us.

She is now living in a small town in the Cape Cod area and is very active in a woman's group there. Her second novel, *Dance the Eagle to Sleep*, about a youth resistance movement, was written in New York City. The energy expended in writing and coping with city living left her exhausted and in poor health, "burnt out."

She feels living in the country, for the first time in her life, has been a very healing experience. She has not rejected the movement, but feels it must continue on a personal, local level. She doesn't believe in large organizations of any kind. She is working on a "big, fat novel" that will be "very much a woman's novel."

A man present injected a bad feeling into the room when, smiling and addressing the "sisters," he reported he had heard from a friend that Piercy's women's group was "cliquish." He said this was a friendly criticism. Marge Piercy had by now entirely lost her voice, so she didn't say much. Others did. After this we couldn't seem to recapture what we had been feeling. No one really wanted to leave, but the experience was over.

### THE BONSAI TREE

by Marge Piercy

The bonsai tree  
in the attractive pot  
could have grown eighty feet tall  
on the side of a mountain  
till split by lightning.  
But a gardener  
carefully pruned it.  
It is nine inches high.  
Every day as he  
whittles back the branches,  
the gardener croons,  
It is your nature  
to be small and cosy,  
domestic and weak,  
how lucky, little tree,  
to have a pot to grow in.  
With living creatures  
one must begin very early  
to dwarf their growth:  
the bound feet,  
the crippled brain,  
the hair in curlers,  
the hands you  
love to touch.



## Lorton Lifers Organizing

The Lorton Lifers, an organization of inmates at the Lorton Correctional Institution, has been working with a group of Washington area citizens to organize a prison reform group.

At a meeting at St. Stephen's church on November 22, four Lorton inmates outlined their goals for the citizens group.

Walter Parman, who has completed seven years of a 20-life sentence for first degree murder, explained why the Lifers have chosen to set themselves apart as a group from the rest of the Lorton inmates.

Michael Edwards, a Washingtonian, said: "Although the lifers have the best records of any inmate, we are excluded from most programs at Lorton. I have been told it would not be useful for me to learn a trade now, or to go to school, because it would be twenty years before I could use my new skills. We wonder about the word *rehabilitation*."

Walter Cunningham, who has finished eight years of a 20-year to life sentence for murder, pled for a "change in the prison system."

"Our prison system has been a failure," he says. "Most inmates are in prison because we are poor. We know middle and upper income persons can go to their community for help in a crisis, to schools or to a psychiatrist. But poor people end up in an institution, and we are tired of it. We know we're here because we did wrong, but we are human beings, and that is



why we are bringing this issue to the public."

"By helping us you are helping yourselves," replied Parman.

We want to get some of the profits from the goods we produce in the prison; we want to earn a minimum wage for our work so we can support our families.

Robert Williams, another inmate, added to this list of demands. "We want furloughs to see our families. We want halfway houses with community involvement."

The Lifers have sponsored four seminars at Lorton this year, inviting hundreds of citizens from all parts of the Washington area. They are involved in a soon-to-start Channel 14 TV 26 week series on citizen involvement.

The citizens group is involved in lobbying and legislation, public tours of Lorton, enriching the prison library to include books on law and criminology; increased vocational training and setting up neighborhood meetings at which Lorton Lifers will speak.

Anyone interested in the Lifers can call Ricky Stroud, the community liaison, at 384-6451, or can write Michael Edwards 149418, Box 25, Lorton, Va. 22079.

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## Area Ecologists Need Your Bod!

by Chris and Ed Zahniser

Last year the Niagara Mohawk public utility company in New York state was forced to stop herbiciding its right-of-ways because a young organic gardener contacted the right cog in the bureaucracy. A cease and desist order stopped the company, within 24 hours, spraying in an area larger than Yellowstone National Park.

A few people have been assaulting the methodical disregard for environmental planning in the Washington metropolitan area. Although citizens are still largely ignored in metropolitan "planning," environmental activists are beginning to have some impact.

This article outlines activities of seven small but energetic Maryland, Virginia and D.C. groups. In future issues *Colonial Times* will present current information on how people can dig in to improve metropolitan environmental quality.

The groups presented here need citizen energy. When they get up against the wall—or the bulldozers—they may also need bodies. They have established contacts and allies and already managed to throw several monkeywrenches into the carefully laid (often concealed) plans to rip off the environment for private developmental gain or bureaucratic expediency.

Other environmental groups with activities that need coverage should contact the authors at 927-5312 or call *Colonial Times*, 965-4695. In the meantime, the groups listed here need your help.

These seven groups obviously haven't cornered the market on environmental activism in the Washington area, but they are among the most active.

Prince Georges Environmental Coalition (PGECC) provides a coordinating umbrella over groups working on transportation, sewage, clean air, pesticide, watershed, recycling and overpopulation problems in the area. Current projects, according to Rhea Cohen and Bob Mueller, include a recent rally against the extension of I-95 into D.C. and successful litigation to halt the crossing of sewage pipes over Piscataway Creek. Mueller says his motto is "Not one more square inch of concrete." Cohen appeals for support testifying at Maryland State hearings on Air Quality Regulations in December and January. This is an active, effective group with snowballing contacts. They will assign new members to specific projects of their choice, and members receive a monthly newsletter and special notices of upcoming events. PGECC needs help to make their groundwork develop into an even more effective front against environmental exploitation. Contact Rhea Cohen, Chairman, at 345-1052, or send \$2 with your name, address, and phone number to Irene Hensel, 6 Orange Court, Greenbelt, Md. 20770.

The Northern Virginia Wilderness Committee (NVWC) fights the highway and bridge choke syndrome and struggles to maintain open space. They are opposing the Outer Beltway, Three Sisters Bridge and highway connections, which Tina Zen will explain further if you call her at 343-3250 or 522-8370. "People in power are aware problems exist and are subject to influence," she says "but unfortunately money and

influence are coming from anti-environmental sources." NVWC needs people to help fight VEPCO power sites which threaten needed open space, to advocate sane treatment of the Potomac River and the C&O Canal, and to make field trips to study proposals to protect wild areas within reach of D.C.

Environmental Action, Inc. lobbies to promote environmental concerns in the widest sense in D.C. and environs. Currently their focus is on Clean Water Bill; last year it was on the Clean Air Act. Seven staff members at ENACT are paid (sometimes) and need help to get the word out. Call Peter Harnik at 833-1845, or come to Room 731, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

Maryland Wilderness Association (MWA) "tends to focus on state-wide issues," says Dick Calhoun. They just sponsored a research trip to Seneca Park to observe the havoc which run-off from nearby developments is wreaking on this beautiful public park 20 miles outside of D.C. proper. Ray Paige (493-5630) can tell you what the MWA is doing in Montgomery County and how people can help them do it. They are currently concentrating on protecting Assateague Island, wetlands protection and zoning-land use planning standards. Call Calhoun at 948-2116 or write MWA, 9625 Alta Vista Terrace, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

D.C. Wilderness Committee's "biggest issue now is the C&O Canal," according to Miles Denny-Brown. He will explain more about what needs to be done to protect this invaluable environmental asset if you call him at 524-4587. This committee fought hard against the SST, raising money to counter eco-pornographic ads placed by big business. They are in the thick of local issues including the expressways problem and the Neabasco Creek controversy. Their coordinator of local environmental issues is Charles Leik, 528-1186.

Washington Ecology Center has sponsored a number of the environmental bike-ins. This D.C. member of a nationwide network of similar outfits also testifies at hearings, maintains a speaker's bureau, library of environmental clippings and a free newsletter. They will send people a Washington Eco-Tactics Guide for 50 cents from their office at 2000 P Street, N.W. WEC sponsors The Washington Recycling Center in the Maintenance Yard at Rock Creek Park, in-between fighting the transportation mess and doing various research projects, especially on solid waste disposal (and prevention). Their phone is 833-1778.

Metropolitan Washington Coalition for Clean Air knows that the prime fouler of the air is transportation. We all know this, but call Jack Winder at 785-2444 to find out how you can quit just gasping about it and begin to change it. They maintain an office at 1714 Massachusetts Ave., where they need help on research and action projects. Members receive a newsletter and other mailings on current issues and topics. Their primary goal is effectively mobilizing citizen pressure.



# CALENDAR

NOTICES for the Calendar should be received by us Mondays before a Thursday publication date; the next deadline will be December 20. Call or mail notices to: Sharlene Kranz, Colonial Times 1065 31st St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

CONCERT: "Guess Who" at Maryland University's Cole Field House, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$3, \$4, \$5.

CONCERT: "Sageworth and Drums" at Walt Whitman High School, 8 p.m.

FLEA MARKET AND BAZAAR sponsored by Women Strike for Peace, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Methodist Church, Grubb Road at East-West Highway, Chevy Chase. Call 926-8448 for info.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

CONCERT: Roberta Flack at Baltimore Civic Center, 8 p.m.

MARY WELLS appearing at the Stardust Inn in Waldorf, Md.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

FABRANGEN COFFEEHOUSE: Loren Weinberg of the D.C. Statehood Party 8 p.m. 2158 Florida Avenue, N.W. Free; coffee and pastries available.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

POTTER'S HOUSE: "The Angela Davis Story," Edell Lydia, speaker. 8:30 p.m. \$1.50 includes coffee. 1658 Columbia Road, N.W.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

CONCERT: Quicksilver Messenger Service at Painter's Mill, 8 p.m. Tickets \$5 and \$6.

DISCUSSIONS: Labor History: Political Action and Class Consciousness, with Karl Hess and Alfred Henley. 7:30 p.m. Institute for Policy Studies, 1520 N.H. Avenue, N.W.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Joanne Malone speaks on "Prisons" at the Quaker House, 2111 Florida Avenue, N.W. 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

FILM: "The Inner Revolution", film promal therapy with Dr. Arthur Jamov, author of *The Primal Scream*. Trippier Theater, 6:20, 8, and 9:40 pm. Benefit Children's Free Community. See December 6 for further information.

PLAY: "The Killing of Sister George" at G.W. University's Marvin Theater, 8 pm. \$1.00 for students? \$2.50 general admission.

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FILM: "Boys in the Band" at G.W. Lisner Auditorium, 7 and 9:30 pm. 50 cents.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

PLAY: "The Killing of Sister George" (see Dec. 10) at 2 pm and 8 pm. PLAY: "Pygmalion" at Catholic University, 8:30 pm

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

PLAY: "Pygmalion" at Catholic University, 2:30 and 7:30 pm.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

FABRANGEN COFFEEHOUSE: Speaker: Rabbi Steven Schwartzchild on "marxism and Judaism." 2158 Florida Avenue N.W. 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

POTTER'S HOUSE: Steve Pollak, legal counsel to Congressman Andrew Jacobs will discuss "Civil Rights: A History of School Desegregation." 8:30 p.m. 1658 Columbia Road N.W.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

CONCERT: Brewer and Shipley at Constitution Hall, 7:30 pm. Tickets \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5.50

DISCUSSION: Labor History: Industrial and Financial Monopoly Developments 1900-1914. Karl Hess and Alfred Henley. IPS, 1520 N.H. Avenue N.W. 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

DISCUSSION: Inmates from Lorton speak. Quaker House, 2111 Florida Avenue N.W. 8 p.m.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

NLF BIRTHDAY PARTY, Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown, 4-8 p.m. Dancing, puppet show, country music, Earth Onion, songs, films. Bring food to share.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

FABRANGEN COFFEE HOUSE: Speaker: Marchant Wentworth, Research Director at Washington Ecology Center. 8 p.m. 2158 Florida Avenue N.W. Free.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

POTTER'S HOUSE: Rev. John T. Waller, Suffragan Bishop of Washington, "The Church's Role in an Urban Community." 8:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

DISCUSSION: Labor History: Trade Unionism and World War I. IPS. 7:30 p.m.

# Cop Cheap Tickets

by Sharlene Kranz

You can go to the theatre or a movie in Washington without giving up your week's grocery money, but you'll have to work at it.

The Kennedy Center makes lower-priced tickets, usually 50% off, available to most performances except for the Founding Artists series, Saturday nights, or when the commercial demand is overwhelming (for example, when Mass was in town). If you are a student under 26 years of age, a serviceman, or over 65 years, you must go in person to the Kennedy Center Discount Box Office in the Hall of States with a student ID, service ID, or a Medicaid card or other proof of age to purchase tickets. All area campuses have student-ticket applications for the Kennedy Center available and this you must take in person to the box office also. For best information on tickets for a particular performance, call the Box Office, 254-3600 before you go there.

Arena Stage and the Kreeger Theatre in Southwest offer student tickets at \$2.60 for all seats at all times; bring your ID to the box office. Call (638-6700) before you go to avoid wasting a trip.

Ford's Theatre offers a \$3.00 ticket for matinees to students and senior citizens with appropriate IDs; these are sold at Sears, Woodies, and Ford's Box Office. Military discount of \$1.00 off the regular \$5.50-7.50 ticket price is available, but at matinees only. Call them at 347-6260 for ticket information.

Theatre Lobby discounts 50 cents off its regular price if you show a student ID except on Saturday nights. And for students, the Back Alley Theatre drops a dollar off its regular \$3.00 ticket price.

The Washington Theatre Club offers students a \$2.00 price on all seats at all performances; quite a bargain considering their regular tickets sell for up to \$6.00.

The National Theatre has no discount policy for anyone at any time.

Several area movie theatres have introduced a discount pricing policy in

off-peak hours. In general, though, the discount is in effect before 6 p.m. on weekdays; in some suburban theatres the low prices are available at all shows on weekdays. The Circle Theatre offers a book of 10 tickets for ten dollars (compared to their regular \$1.75 admission). The Biograph offers a discount book of ten admissions for \$10.40, a saving from their regular \$2.50 admission price. The KB and Roth movie chains offer no discounts for anyone.

The American Film Institute at L'Enfant Plaza sells a student membership for one year at \$5.00 which then entitles you to unlimited admissions at \$1.25; your guests pay \$1.75; children under 12 pay 50 cents. Or, a special one-month membership is available for \$1.50.

College productions are a good way to see well-known plays and musicals at a fraction of their downtown price. Catholic University's Hartke Theatre charges CU students \$1.50 less than the regular admission of \$4.00. American University theatre offers student tickets for \$1.00; AU students can attend Sunday matinees free. The University of Maryland productions are \$1.00 to the public, 50 cents for U. Md. students.

# Word From Free Clinic

The board of the Free Clinic now has 4 community people who represent community interests at board meetings held every 2 weeks. Soon the board will be considering a new statement of purpose for the Free Clinic, a new contract with the Junior League and a contract for supplies with the Public Health Department. If you have any feelings about any of these issues or any other issues, feel free to contact any of these community representatives: Margie (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.); Super (anytime), 483-8000; Tim (evenings), 547-8506; Bob Rosen (after 5 p.m.), 265-2894. (Margie's phone: 265-7850).

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