



# NORTHWEST AS ACT



VOLUME 1  
NO. 1

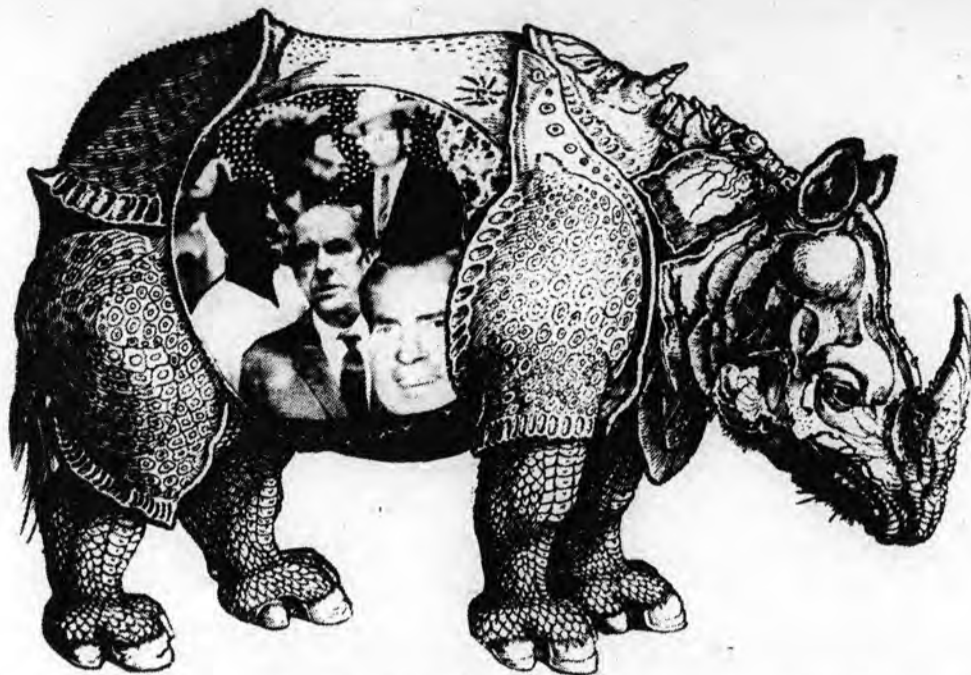
*"In the beginning was the word . . ."*

MARCH 17, 1969  
BELLINGHAM, WASH.



photo by greg gable

## **OF FLAGS AND FREEDOMS** **and** **TWO INTERVIEWS WITH NLF**



## THE NEWS FRONT

### FLAG FIGHT

At about 12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 13, a group of students, estimated between ten and twenty in number, covered on the SDS literature table at Western Washington State College. A standard, bearing the flag of the National Liberation Front, which was the property of SDS, stood on the table. Without warning, several students grabbed the flag and the standard to which it was affixed, and splattered kerosene on the flag, the table, and a few bystanders. One of the group tore down the flag, and, in the process, a girl was hit in the chest with the standard.

A struggle ensued for possession of the flag. Three from the group of assailants surrounded one SDS student and kicked him while he was on the ground holding onto a portion of the flag. Meanwhile, another of the assailants unsuccessfully attempted to set fire to the flag. The girl struck by the standard was sent to the hospital with two fractured ribs.

The incident was followed by a confrontation between Student President Noel Bourasaw and Glen Dobbs, head of Students for Responsible Expression (SRE). Dobbs was shooting pictures of the incident, including some of Bourasaw near the disputed flag when he was asking SDS to remove the flag to avoid further violence. Bourasaw became enraged at Dobbs and confronted him concerning Dobbs' intended use of the photos. Dobbs was conveniently on the scene when the incident occurred, with a camera, and a conservative state senator, Sam Guess.

On Thursday night, there was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of WWSC. The meeting was attended by only three trustees, and state Senator Sam Guess.

On Friday morning, a letter from the trustees was circulated around the campus. The letter charged that SDS had "calculated" the violence. It said that the display of the NLF flag was "the direct cause of the violence and physical injuries." The letter forbade the "display of that flag and also the display of any other materials calculated to, and found by the president to, endanger the peace of the campus."



At Friday noon, SDS held a press conference in the Viking Union lounge, attended by several hundred students and faculty members. A press statement was issued which included:

-A statement of the facts of the violent incident.

-A denunciation of the local press which took pains to quote the local American Legion commander's opinion and Glen Dobbs of the SRE. The SDS people, the objects of the violence, had not been sought for comment, nor was it made clear who initiated the violence. The splattered kerosene and the attempted flag burning were also ignored.

-A refusal to press charges against the violent students, saying instead that the students were not their enemies. Their enemies were the war profiteering military-industrial complex and bought-off politicians. SDS said police action against

the students would do nothing to help them achieve their ends.

-A statement supporting the NLF and the Vietnamese people against U. S. aggression. The statement said SDS did not oppose the American G. I., but only those in power who send him to battle in Vietnam.

-A statement affirming SDS's right to fly the flag guaranteed by the First Amendment, irrespective of their rationale for doing so.

-A statement saying SDS's reason for not flying the flag that same morning was to avoid further violent confrontation with fellow students.

Student President Bourasaw then read a letter he sent to the Trustees, accusing them of inciting the potential of further violence and asking them to rescind their order.

The press conference was highlighted when two black students gave angry speeches during a questioning period, one who denounced the American flag, and another who screamed "If you want to tear the NFL flag down again, you'll have to tear me down with it."

At 1 p.m., in defiance of the Trustees order, SDS held a flag flying rally in "Red Square," the school plaza, with black students leading the way to the plaza and carrying the NFL flag.

Once in the square, SDS leaders were told by Acting Dean of Men, Dr. Peter Elich, that they must remove the flag. The SDSers refused on the basis of the right of free speech and were told to hand in their student I. D. cards so they could be identified for disciplinary reasons. They did so. So did an estimated forty to fifty other students in complicity with SDS.

The dean refused to comment on a red flag bearing the image of Che Guevara, a flag which symbolizes the same basic struggle as the NLF flag, that struggle going on under the common masthead known as the Third World.

Highly reliable administration sources have indicated that there is a suspicion that the trigger incident, involving the attempted flag burning, was staged in a right wing conspiracy against SDS. One administration official was reported to have said he was "almost certain" it was a plot. The theory is being investigated.



# "Let Us Go!"

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[Editor's note: LNS correspondent Hugo Hill is, to his knowledge, the first reporter to visit the Thien-An concentration camp in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam.]

QUANG NGAI, South Vietnam — The 12,000 people who were dragged out of Ba Tan Gan peninsula and imprisoned in the Thien-An concentration camp have not resigned themselves to their U.S. decreed fate. They are showing how a people's struggle can still be waged despite the lack of material means.

A couple of days ago, when I returned to the camp for my third visit, I found a well-organized militant mood. Children and old women were crowded at the main gate harrassing the Vietnamese puppet guards.

"We want to go home. We can't live like this. Why don't you let us go?" one old woman said as she tugged at a young soldier's sleeve.

Others joined in: "Let us go! Let us go!"

Confronted by this hostile crowd, the soldiers panicked and began pushing the people back inside. One guard picked up a long switch and flailed at the children, who deftly dodged the slashes while falling back to a safe distance.

Another guard pointed his M-16 over the heads of the people and emptied the magazine into the air.

After a brief breathing period, the prisoners again edged their way back to the gate and resumed the psychological pressure. "Let us go! Let us go!" And the whole scene was repeated.

All around the perimeter of the huge camp similar actions were being carried out. While the men and the younger women remained in their tents, the very old and the very young alternately pleaded with the guards and harrassed them.

At times the shots fired into the air made it sound like a battlefield.

For one accustomed to the "refugee"

scene, Thien-An is strikingly unusual. Ordinarily, people who have just had the entire material basis of their lives destroyed sit brooding in their huts, devoid of hope. Of course, they shield the NFL cadres in their midst, and occasionally they slip away at night, but they don't carry out organized action against their oppressors.

But the people who were moved out of Ba Tan Gan have had a lifetime of organized resistance. With or without arms, they know how to struggle.

And now tension is increased because a few days ago 200 of the inmates slipped through the barbed wire and past the sentries for a daring escape.

No one will talk openly about the incident, so it's impossible to know exactly what happened. Some sources in Quang Ngai say the people were recaptured; others say the escape was successful. Those still in the camp say nothing at all.

After observing the action at the gate for about an hour, I decided, unwisely, to gauge the mood of the camp by walking through it. Along with a European visitor and a Saigon University student, I elbowed my way past the guards and walked by the crowd.

What a brazen insult for an American to go rubbernecking at that oppressive suffering!

The adults glared silently as the children became the vanguard. Before I had advanced fifty yards, I had a dozen kids pulling at my arms, digging into my pockets, and nearly ripping my clothes. I felt like Gulliver in Lilliput.

I walked on, being pushed and pulled this way and that by the little bare-bottomed guerillas. And suddenly — squish. My right foot was ankle deep in soft yellow shit.

I looked down and saw that the load had been concealed with a sheet of paper.

If I had seen it ahead of time, I would

have thought nothing of it. And my tiny tormentors had led me straight into it. They probably chose me rather than the European because I was wearing only sandals.

Now I noticed that scattered up and down the main thoroughfare were a number of other suspiciously bulky pieces of paper. With no shovels to dig holes and no bamboo for punji stakes, the people were fighting back with the only material resources they had, their own excrement. [I now claim to be the only New Left journalist to be a victim of People's War.]

When I left by the main gate a few minutes later the psychological war was still going on. The old women were pleading and pushing, the children were chanting and heckling. And the guards were nervously reloading their rifles and beefing up the barbed wire.

The Thien-An concentration camp is no light matter. With little food and no potable water the people can not long survive in that congested squalor. The hot season is beginning in Quang Ngai province, and on that scorched stretch of sand there is no relief from the weather.

U.S. military might has not succeeded in terrorizing the people into timidity. Next it may be AID's turn to try to pacify them with some bigger crumbs. If that doesn't work, the Thien-An inmates will either rise up and escape to liberated territory, or die.

The night before visiting the camp, my European companion, who is just passing through Vietnam, had asked me, "How does the Saigon government fit into the overall picture? How does it maintain its authority?" Now, after watching the confrontation between the people and the puppet troops, I asked him his own question back. He shook his head in bewilderment and said, "If you had told me this last night, I wouldn't have believed it."

## Free Press Fallacy

WASHINGTON (LNS) — Judge James H. Pugh has ordered the Montgomery County grand jury to investigate the "subversive activities" of the Washington Free Press.

According to the Washington Post, the Judge claimed that the underground paper "advocates the destruction of the state and the destruction between [sic] of schools of this county and the duly constituted law enforcement agencies thereof."

He instructed the jury to indict the staff, publishers and printers of the paper if they found a violation of Maryland law, which makes it a felony to attempt "any act intended to overthrow, destroy or alter, or to assist in the overthrow, destruction or alteration" of the state by "revolution, force or violence."

## Look At This Shit



A dangerous pollution and health hazard situation was discovered last week in South Bellingham. A broken sewage pipe was found to be spilling human dung, toilet paper, and other waste into Padden Creek which empties into Bellingham Bay.

The scene of the blight is under a bridge at 12th and Cowgill Sts. It is directly across the street from Fairhaven Junior High School. Children have been seen playing in and around the creek.

Further inspection of the area revealed other sewage lines lying exposed. Erosion, apparently was the cause of exposure. The pipes appear to be outdated and in poor repair.

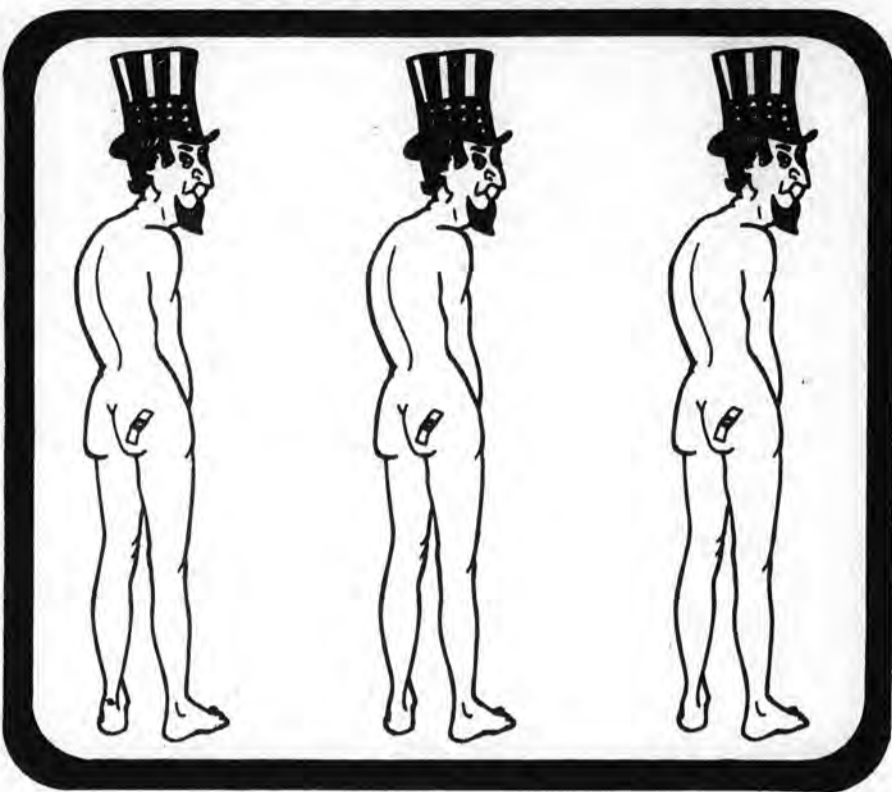
Investigation showed that the largest of the sewage veins follows the course of Padden Creek down to the Uniflite boat Company, then changes course and empties into the bay just south of the Port property.

Forty yards offshore, where the pipe terminates, hundreds of seagulls can be seen scavenging for waste. One observer speculated that the gulls probably carry the sewage bacteria far and wide in the Bellingham area.

On longtime resident of the area revealed that the sewage pipe in question doesn't go through the sewage treatment plant. Thus, a continuous flow of untreated waste pollutes the bay.



# GLASS HOUSES



Bills of concern to civil libertarians have been introduced and are being considered and lobbied in Olympia's marble legislative palace, according to an American Civil Liberties Union bulletin.

Summarized below are the major bills affecting ACLU objectives. Also indicated is the ACLU policy and action on the bills and ACLU suggestions for concerned individuals.

**ABORTION** - This bill would legalize abortion before the time of quickening if performed by accredited M. D. in approved hospital. ACLU supports.

**ACLU Position** - Remove criminal sanctions. Law and standards governing this medical procedure should be the same as all such procedures. Present law unconstitutional. It discriminates against poor, invades marital privacy and deprives women of life and liberty.

**ACLU Action** - Policy paper presented. The bill has broad support, including medical profession, but much more effort needed to blast it out of Senate Rules Committee. Letters, calls to Lt. Gov. John Cherberg (rules chairman) and writing legislators suggested.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT** - Would abolish death penalty.

**ACLU Position** - Capital punishment opposed as cruel and unusual punishment, denial of equal protection of law, and removal of due process guarantees.

**ACLU Action** - Testified at a Feb. 27 hearing. Public urged to indicate bill support to Sen. Wes Uhlman (a sponsor), and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**MARIJUANA** - Eliminate unconstitutional criminal penalties and declare current law illegal invasion of privacy.

**ACLU Action** - Testimony in support of a call for research on marijuana use, condemnation of bill's advance indictment of drug as harmful. ACLU opposed a bill which worthily declares for end to long jail sentences for first offenders but goes on to decree harsh felony terms for second and subsequent offenders. Encourage legislators to adopt positive, drop negative features.

**STUDENT EXPULSION** - Provides for ouster of college students who engage in protest demonstrations which "... disrupt the normal education process."

**ACLU Position** - Our Academic Freedom Committee opposes unconstitutional restrictions on protest. The bill uses vague terms and the penalty invokes cruel and unusual punishment.

**ACLU Action** - They will testify before the Senate Higher Education Committee. The public can request negative votes.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER** - Authorizes each county to set up public defender office to represent indigent persons in court.

**ACLU Policy** - Supports public defenders for poor persons whose cause may be so hated or, because of racism, cannot find lawyer to serve them.

**OBSCENITY** - This "obscenely" vivid bill a collector's item. Defines "guilt of obscenity" and outlines "guilt of dissemination indecent material to minors" - each offense a gross misdemeanor. Most terms, even then explained, to vague to be constitutional.

**ACLU Policy** - Union opposes all obscenity laws in belief that free speech and press is guaranteed by First Amendment to all expression because no definitive proof has been adduced to prove obscenity creates a clear and present danger to the community. Position presented to legislature.

## SDS Leader Visits Campus

by skip richards

Karl Wolff, past president of the Socialist German Student's Alliance (SDS), spoke on campus at Western Washington State College recently. Held up at the University of British Columbia and at the U. S.-Canadian border, Wolff arrived late and spoke in a room at the Viking Union. In attendance were number of Students for a Democratic Society (American SDS), Students for Peace in Vietnam and the Silent Majority.

Wolff began his talk by noting the contradictory nature of the U. S.

Canadian reaction to the activities of the German students. On his speaking tour across Canada and the U.S. he had found that the two countries that had fought so hard to eliminate fascism in Europe were basically ignorant of its re-emergence in West Germany, and that Canadians and Americans were more concerned with student violence than with the ever-growing Neo-Naziism in their West European ally.

He described the nature of the re-emergence of fascism, and noted that the tactics were more subtle now, such as

press control. The Springer press manipulates "public opinion," turning it against the students often. The old authoritarian of Germany is operating too - there is simply no popular participation in any level of decision-making anymore. What ever popular sentiment the authorities cannot manipulate, they actively suppress, Wolff claimed.

Wolff then reviewed the history of the encroachment of fascism, and the important role of the old left and the liberal intelligensia. For each move towards fascism by the government, the left opposition would protest feebly, then give in, only to protest again more feebly the next encroachment, until the opposition worked itself into a position of complete irrelevance. As examples of this, Wolff cited the step-by-step rearmament of West Germany, and the wishy-washy liberal position on the Berlin crisis.

So in 1963, in response to these developments in Germany, and touched off specifically by the 65-66 recession and the assassination of a student, the radical students first set up critical universities, wherein the traditional role of the professor, and all the traditional subject matter was challenged in classrooms by cadres of highly educated familiar with radical alternative views. Professors would be interrupted mid-lecture, and pre- and post- lecture discussions would be held without authorization.

At this time, the press started its smear campaign against students and repression grew stronger. Revision their plans, the students decided to extend the critical university into a parallel or counter institution; to this end about half of the universities in West Germany are shut down, while radical education classes are held instead.

Later, when Rudi Dautschke was wounded in an assassination attempt, the students blamed the Springer press, and set up blockades to its distribution. This in turn caused a heavy government crackdown - some SDS leaders received ten year prison terms. In reaction to this, the SDS decentralized its organization, and began to emphasize local-level mass mobilization. Wolff said that 60 per cent of the students were actively behind the SDS.

Opening it up for questions, Wolff handled them all well - from a critical question concerning the responsibility of the Berlin crisis (Wolff had facts supporting the argument for Western responsibility), to a request to tell about his experiences in Bulgaria, where he was thrown out of the country by the Communist Bulgarians for staging a Vietnam protest in front of the U. S. Embassy in Sophia.

Wolff pointed to this experience as an indication that the eastern countries had failed to rid themselves of an authoritarian, outmoded bureaucracy, and had also failed to instill the proper level of class consciousness in their workers, so that a return to the old market system to provide incentives has been necessary.

When asked about the viability of a student-worker alliance, Wolff said that there aren't any essential differences between the educated, technological workers called students, and other workers. So the question becomes one of whether an alliance between university workers and factory workers is a good idea.

He thought it was, with some reservations. He said that SDS'ers should support worker demands and actions, "...but not every wage strike that comes along." The American National SDS, which has adopted a resolution calling for the formation of a revolutionary youth class, has a good analysis, Wolff said, adding that in his experiences in Germany, only the young factory workers

were at all receptive to really revolutionary ideas.

When asked to compare the U. S. and Germany, Wolff noted that in Germany, repression, authoritarianism and the internal contradictions of capitalism were far more obvious, and therefore easier to point out and struggle against. In the U. S., however, the exploitation and repression are more subtle, efficient and effective, hence more difficult to mobilize people against.

Wolff said that the use of drugs may have a supportative role in the American movement, since drug use tends to break down the dehumanized, brainwashed system so that young people can be free to see their real position in society.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Everyone knows the war is going to end. You can't get an argument anywhere around the country now on Vietnam."

- HUBERT HUMPHREY

### Free U Has 30 New Courses

Registration for spring quarter of the Northwest Free University will continue through April 11, according to Dr. Bernard Weiner, coordinator of the school.

Since it's opening in the fall quarter, the Free University has sponsored more than 100 new courses, and has enrolled over 700 students - many from the Bellingham community as well as from the student body and faculty of Western Washington State College. The classes are non-credit, non-graded, and meet informally in homes for the most part.

The Free U is offering 40 courses spring quarter, 30 of which are completely new. Among the new courses include American Foreign Policy After Vietnam; Astronomy; Birding in Northwest Washington; Creative Writing Workshop; Edible Wild Plants and Their Preparation; Flying Saucers; History of South America; Journalism of Norman Mailer; Utopias and others.

Three courses will be offered without the usual registration fee. These include American Indian History: The Nooksack Tribe in Particular; Effects of Population Expansion on the American Environment; and Underground Newspaper Production.

The Free U board of trustee feels that the school has a moral obligation to "...participate actively in improving the quality of life" in the Bellingham area, hence the initiation of the people-to-people forums winter quarter and the financial underwriting of the three courses spring quarter.

"The class on the Nooksack Indians will allow many white people, especially teachers, to learn for the first time about an important minority culture right on our own doorstep about which most of us are totally ignorant," Weiner said.

Effects of Population Expansion will deal specifically with local problems associated with industrial growth, more cars, air and water pollution, college students, housing problems and racial tension.

The newspaper class will help work on the establishment of the Northwest Passage in anticipation that the new paper might "...help ignite a journalistic spark" and fill the "...need for more varied and creative communications media" in the Bellingham area.

Spring quarter catalogs and registration forms are available at the Aardvark Book Shop, 1222 N. State, the Viking Union at WWSC and by writing P. O. Box 1255 in Bellingham. Registration will run up to spring break at WWSC and will start again the first of April. Classes begin the second week of April.

# Trustee Autocracy Contagious

by pam and adrian abel  
 HOUSTON — Students and faculty of Rice University here have forced the resignation of newly selected president Dr. William H. Masterson.

The Board of Trustees of the prestigious, low-enrollment school named Dr. Masterson president on Feb. 21. In doing so, the board ignored all established selection procedures.

Campus unrest, a new thing at Rice, has been fermenting over the last few months. And, as one trustee put it, Rice needed "a strong hand on the tiller."

Thus the selection of Dr. Masterson, a wealthy member of Houston's ruling class, now serving as president at the University of Chattanooga.

A student-faculty presidential selection committee had previously suggested five names for president. Masterson was not on the list. When Masterson was chosen, student reaction was immediate and extensive. At a convocation the next morning, the vote was 951-7 against the appointment.

More than a thousand students (dressed in "coat and tie" at the wishes of student leaders) then marched through the campus to a building where Masterson was giving a press conference.

A teach-in was held until Masterson emerged. Masterson then spoke to the masses, announcing that there was no widespread opposition to his appointment. The crowd responded with cries of "bullshit" and "strike."

## COPS CUSTOM CHALLENGED

CHICAGO (LNS) — With characteristic unbogged broadmindedness, Chicago police have apparently not confined their professional attention to hippies, commies and niggers.

Members of the Illinois Association of the Deaf have filed suit in Federal Court, in an attempt compel Police Superintendent James B. Conlisk, Jr. to instruct his men on the proper handling of deaf mutes.

According to the New York Times, the suit charges that "It is the custom or usage of some Chicago policemen at this time to beat up any citizen who does not answer questions by policemen or who do not immediately obey an order made by a policeman."

Later, at a joint meeting, SDS members hassled with the Student Association. SDS wanted to raise the larger political issues involved in the appointments, such as the enmeshment of the Rice administration in Houston's power elite and the Brown and Root Corp. But Student Association leaders won out, and Masterson the man (and the method of his selection) became the sole focus.

On Feb. 25, Masterson telegraphed that the Board of Trustees still wanted him to be president, but that he had decided to stay at Chattanooga, where he had been made Chancellor.

Rice, long quiet, has in recent weeks seen a teach-in on ROTC and campus defense contracts, action around military recruiters and discussion of a student-faculty-run Black Studies Social Relations Department.

And now, student and faculty pressure has countered Masterson's appointment as president. This issue has run its course. But Rice is still seething, and the gut issue of secretive elitist decision-making will continue to be raised by more than a "small minority of dissident students."

## FIVE DAY OUTLOOK

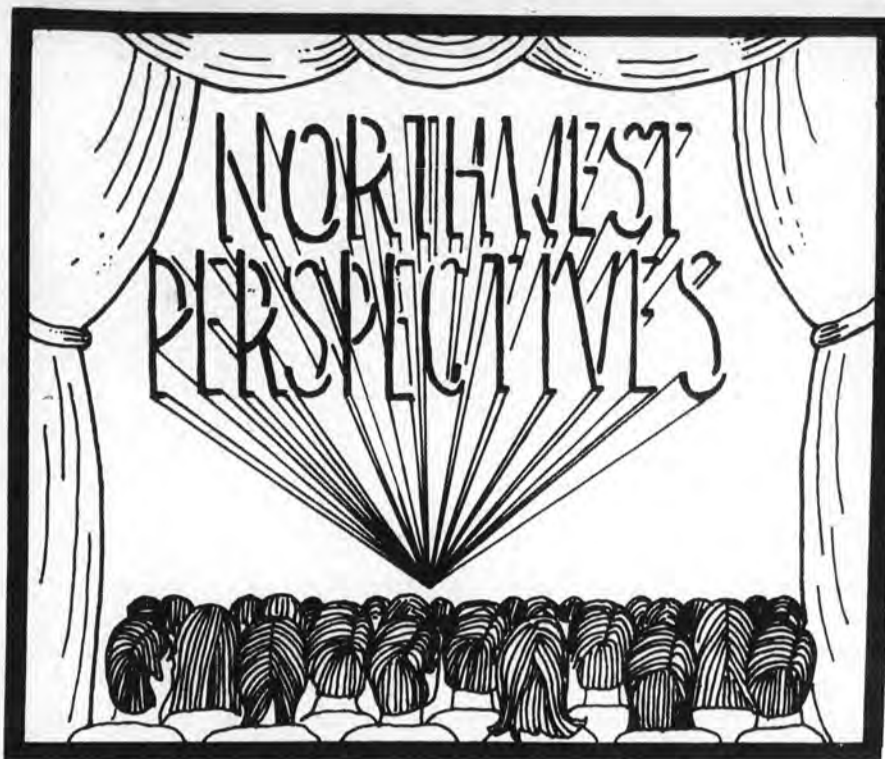
Western Washington temperatures will average near normal. Rainfall is expected to be below normal.

Bellingham Bay will continue to be filled with 30,000 pounds of suspended solids from Georgia Pacific and 70,000,000 gallons of untreated sewage (dwarfed by local food processing plants).

Beaches will continue to be littered with flotsam from United Boat Works.

Little deviance in the pollution trend is seen.

Geometrical thinking  
 For rectangle minds  
 And souls that rise  
 From equation.  
 Angular vision  
 For logarithm eyes  
 And sex for multiplication.



When in the course of inhuman events it becomes necessary to raise a voice for the freedom and dignity of the individual, a collective throat cries and beckons those who share understanding to unite as one body:

- A body born from every race of people, all knowing that color is best experienced in the mind.
- A body rising from oppression, suffering, and frustration, and knowing that a nation's evolution begins first in dreams of the people.
- A body owing allegiance to the individual, showing respect to those phenomena he chooses to include within his realm of experience.
- A body holding with joined hands the presupposition that human rights should precede property rights.
- A body knowing that man's freedom can only be felt when material deprivation is in the memory of his past.
- A body believing that the cause of freedom justifies necessary means against all institutions and social forces that seek to deny that freedom.
- A body perpetuated by the common ties of brotherhood and committed to the right of life.

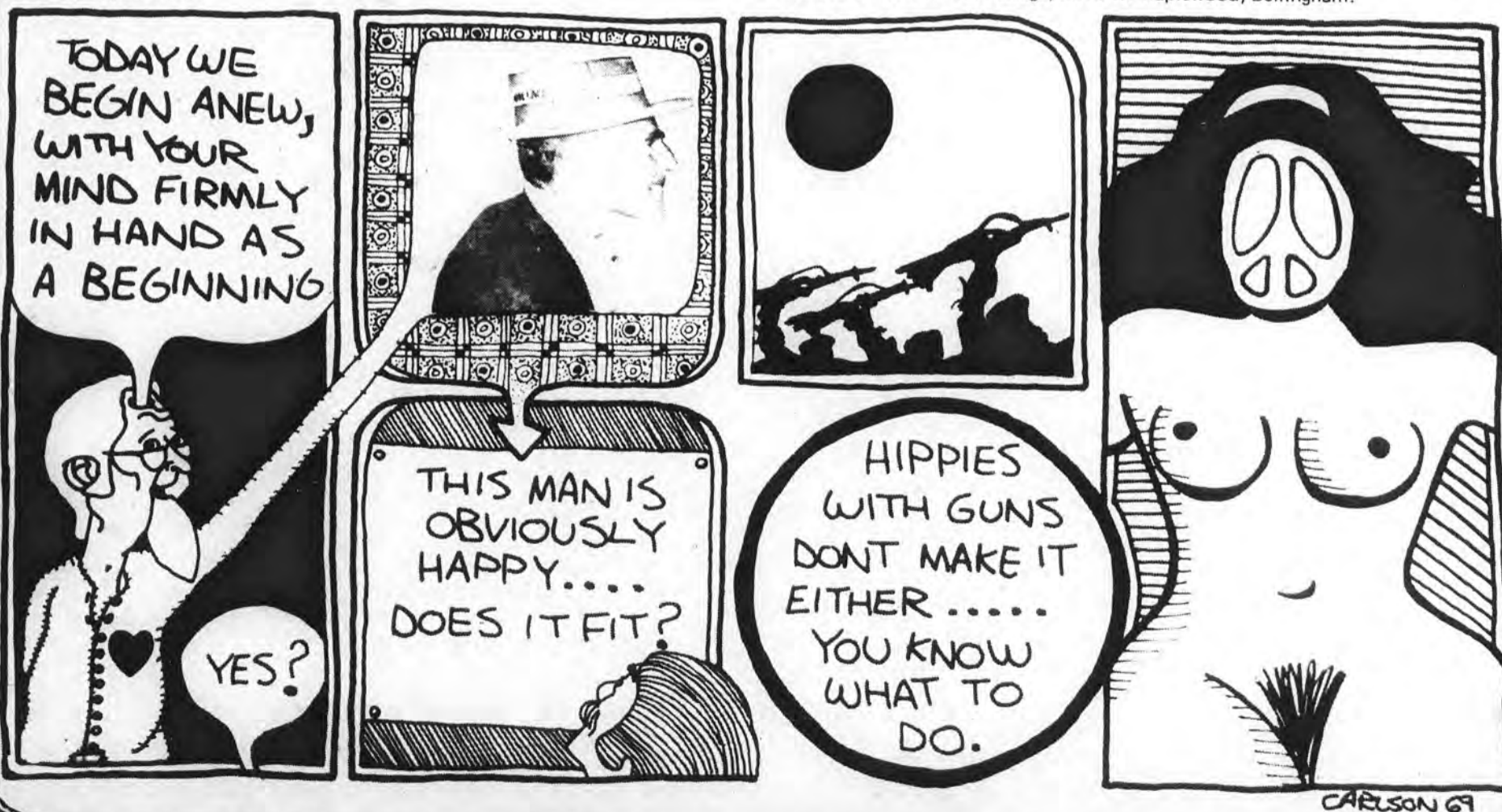
Northwest Passage is looking for a home. Not just any office space will do though. It has to have just the perspective we want.

We have decided against locating in downtown Bellingham for several reasons. We want to be in a place where, when "there is a change felt in the rhythm of events", we will be in a position to evaluate such a shift. This means that we need a relatively calm place to live. Besides, we wouldn't be able to stand the downtown's sulphuric atmosphere created by the Georgia Pacific smokestack.

A place in any outlying area near the city would be good. Preferably commercially zoned. A large house, semi-rurally located, would be better.

The editors of the Northwest Passage welcome question and comment on anything in or out of print. We aren't going to try to establish a dialogue between people in the community who hold divergent views, as that sort of thing will come naturally to a newspaper of this sort anyway. We do welcome criticism and volunteers for help in publication.

If anyone gets violently ill from anything published, we send godspeed and love. If anyone agrees with anything printed, we send our sympathies. Address all letters to the Northwest Passage, 2616 W. Maplewood, Bellingham.





## Two Interviews

*Northwest Passage, in an attempt to assess the prospects for peace in Vietnam and in the world, probes the roots of conflict in Vietnam, which we feel is a terrifying symptom of U. S. foreign policy in general.*

*Here, we present two unpublished conversations done in late 1966 with leading figures of the National Front of Liberation of South Vietnam. Accompanying the interviews is an introduction by noted journalist-writer, Wilfred Burchett, written to the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. Burchett conducted one of the interviews and acted as interpreter in the other for Lawrence R. Sefton, a representative sent to Vietnam by the I. L. W. U.*

*Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the N.F.L., explains the aims of his organization and sets down the conditions for a political solution of the war.*

*Nguyen Van Hieu, central committeeman of the N.F.L., says the nature of the war is one of national independence, and that the origins of the present situation lie in the years of terror under the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorship from 1954 to 1960. Diem repudiated the 1954 Geneva Agreements which provided for general elections to be held in 1956 to reunify Vietnam, elections which never occurred.*

*It is interesting to note that the Diem regime was supported by the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration. Is the return to power by Richard Nixon, with his Eisenhower oriented administration, an indication of the course of American foreign policy in the coming four, long years?*

by wilfred burchett

When I returned from Western Europe on November 11 and heard that a representative of the IL & W Union and the "Dispatcher" was in town, wanted to see me and was leaving for home next day, I set everything else aside, home-welcoming ceremonies included, to meet and, if I could, to help him. I attached a lot of importance to the fact that a Union of the calibre, prestige and fighting background of the IL & W, had decided to look into the situation in Southeast Asia. If more working class organizations did the same, in the spirit of objective inquiry and took appropriate actions, then such situations as that in Southeast Asia, might never arise.

I felt it important that your delegate, Lawrence Sefton, was able to hear the viewpoint of a leading member of the National Front of Liberation of South Vietnam (the Viet Cong as they are known in the West). I have nothing to add to the exhaustive explanation given by Hieu of the NFL's policies, attitudes and views. I was glad to be able to give Sefton, also, the text of an interview I recently had with the President of the NFL, Hguyen Huu Tho.

I have not made any secret of the fact, in my writings, that I support the NFL. This is not because of any slightest spark of anti-American feeling on my part. During World War II, I spent a great deal of time with U. S. servicemen. As a correspondent for a leading British newspaper, I accompanied U. S. Marine troops into action during many of the Pacific island-hopping operations.

Before that I was with the late Lt. General Stilwell in the Burma-India campaign and we came to be good friends. Later I was aboard U. S. aircraft carriers as an observer on a number of combat missions during the war in the Pacific. My relations with U. S. servicemen were always of the best. I greatly appreciated the courage of the Marine troops and Navy pilots; their high morale and good spirits.

I am convinced that this was because they knew they were fighting in a just cause; defending their own country against an enemy which had treacherously attacked Pearl Harbor and thus the U.S.A.; they were united with other allies in an antifascist, anti-Nazi, anti-imperialist struggle. They supported this war with all their heart and so did I.

But the war in which the U.S.A. is engaged in South Vietnam is not a just war; not one that I can support. I oppose U. S. participation in this war and I oppose the participation of my own Australian government in this war. Which does not make me anti-American, nor anti-Australian.

I have made four visits to the areas controlled by the National Front of Liberation in recent years and during this year alone, I have made two visits to North Vietnam. I have found not a trace of anti-Americanism as such, but very great anger against those responsible for the destruction and sufferings visited upon them. The people have a determination to fight until the last to defend their country, north and south of the 17th parallel, against what they consider is just one more attempt by a foreign power to subjugate them.

For centuries they have fought against Chinese, Mongols, French, Japanese, and now American invaders. In this I support them and will continue to do so. If the United States today or tomorrow, were the victim of a similar invasion, I would be there amongst you, defending your war of resistance. For me, it is as simple as that.

As Mr. Hieu expressed it in his conversation with Lawrence Sefton, this is not an ideological war but one for national existence.

Sooner or later I believe the American working class will play a role in halting this unjust war' unjust for the Vietnamese people who are victims of the use of military force and a destructive power unsurpassed in any war until now.

Notes of Conversation between Lawrence R. Sefton, Local 51, Port Gamble, of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and M. Nguyen Van Hieu, member of the Central Committee of the National Front of Liberation of South Vietnam.

**SEFTON** — Could you tell me something of the Trade Union and general set-up in South Vietnam?

**HIEU** — One thing is that 90 percent of our population is made up of working people, peasants and workers. Of our population of 14 million in South Vietnam, only 3 to 4 million live in the towns. Of these about 200,000 urban workers. Many of the rest in the towns are in the servicing category, small business people, traders, etc. Our's is the typical situation of a former colony. For 80 years Vietnam was a French colony. This explains the weakness of industrial activity from which stems the very weak numerical importance of industrial workers.

**SEFTON** — Could you say something specifically about the Trade Union situation?

**HIEU** — We of the National Liberation Front — as you say the Vietcong — control the countryside, the US-Saigon regime nominally control the cities. In our Liberated Zones, the workers are organized in trade unions, these are mainly plantation workers. Their unions are affiliated to the NFL. The peasants are also

continued pg. 13

Interview given by Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the National Front of Liberation of South Vietnam, to Wilfred Burchett, on August 24, 1966.

**QUESTION** — What is the fundamental aim of the struggle by the National Front of Liberation. Has this aim been modified by the massive commitment of US troops in South Vietnam and the bombardments of North Vietnam?

**REPLY** — Our unswerving aim is to ensure the complete failure of the American imperialists' war of aggression; to overthrow the puppet government in Saigon; to set up a government of broad national union, a democratic government which would include the representatives of all social sections of the population, the various nationalities, religious beliefs; political parties, patriotic personalities; to win back the sacred, national rights of the South Vietnamese people and achieve independence, democracy, an improvement of the people's living conditions, peace and neutrality and advance towards the peaceful re-unification of the Motherland.

The intensification and extension of this American war of aggression has confirmed the absolute correctness of our former evaluations as to the nature of the war and the aims of American imperialism.

As nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, no matter how barbarous the methods of war employed by the American imperialists and the

continued pg. 13

# AFRICA RIPPED OFF BY U.S. "AID"



*In the first of a two part series on economic and political development in Africa, "foreign aid" programs are revealed to be actually "foreign investment" programs, which do little to help materially underdeveloped countries to establish themselves as independent entities in the world. In fact, "foreign aid" tends to, directly or indirectly, make for ever increasing dependence on and control by those countries "giving" such "aid."*

by skip richards

## The Basics: Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism

The relationship between the U. S. and the Union of South Africa has to be placed in the larger context of the general relationship of the western developed nations to the former colonial areas now called the Third World. Most all of the Third World is nominally independent, most Third World countries are represented in the UN, yet poverty and politico-economic instability are their most common characteristics.

Explanations for this condition range from the common "They're backward, that's all," to sophisticated analyses showing that by such-and-such a date industrialization will have solved many of the present problems.

The response of the western powers to the cry for help from the Third World has resulted in a rash of economic and cultural aid programs, collectively known by the phrase, "foreign aid to undeveloped countries".

Implicit in this phrase, and in the programs themselves, is the assumption that these countries merely lack the sort of development of the west, and that all they need is help in reaching the maximum stage of such development possible under their situation, at which time the problems will be solved.

Two questions arise here; To what extent is the above assumption true? and To what extent is development being furthered by the current western programs?

This section, on colonialism and neo-colonialism, shall address itself to the second question rather specifically, while the article as a whole will concern itself with the South African case. No attempt will be made to answer the first question, which would require a complete volume, at least.

First, some background: Africa was colonized by the Dutch, the British, French the Portugese, and other Europeans, starting at the beginning of the age of exploration, around the trun of the sixteenth century. From the very beginning, the aim of each nation was settlement, trade expansion, economic control over natural resources, and the European balance of power, and brought prestige to the colonial power.

Most of Africa was not colonized until late in the colonial period, and rapidmoving events in the rest of the world were soon to bring about the transformation of Africa into a collection of small, newly-independent states with mixed racial and cultural groups thrown together in a most arbitrary fashion. African independence was often gained with bloodshed, but Africans, many of them having seen the lengths to which western men will fight for freedom, were dedicated to political independence and willing to sacrifice for it.

Africans looked forward to the times when they

could determine their own foreign relations, own economic systems, and their own internal political affairs. That this was in large measure not to be the case did not occur to them until much later, when the essential situation had become immutable.

Could they have known what Leonard Woolfe did in 1968, when writing "Empire and Commerce in Africa, A Study in Economic Imperialism," they could have forseen the trouble. Commerce is the greatest of political interests, writes Woolfe, and he says the highest standard of value in western life is commercial profit. From this it is easy to understand the points made by Kwame Nkrumah, recently deposed leader of Ghana, in his book Neo-Colonialism.

For while the African states are nominally independent, the condition of the economies forces them to become dependent upon western shipping, trade, investment, and loans. Hence, the western powers retain, often, indirect economic control over the essential political and economic policies of the "underdeveloped countries." This, Nkrumah calls Neo-Colonialism.

*Neo-colonialism is based upon the principle of breaking up former large united colonial territories into a number of small non-viable States which are incapable of independent development ad must rely upon the former imperial power for defence and even internal security. Their economic and financial systems are linked, as in colonial days, with those of the former colonial ruler. (Nkrumah, p. XIII)*

Nkrumah points out also the inherent advantages in indirect, economic control for the foreign policy of the neo-colonialist state:

*For those who practice it (Neo-Colonialism) it means power without responsibility and for those who suffer form it, it means exploitation without redress. In the days of old-fashioned colonialism, the imperial power had at least to explain and justify at home the actions it was taking abroad. In the colony those who served the ruling imperial power could at least look to tis protection against any violent move by their opponents. With neo-colonialism neither is the case. (Nkrumah, p. XI)*

The practice of neo-colonialism does not need the official sanction of the government of the western power involved, since in capitalist countries businessmen are free to invest in foreign countries as much as they please. But official sanction is involved in several ways, the most important of which is the complex of programs of the western powers for aid.

Speaking of the U. S. aid programs, a U. S. official said that the basic policy of U. S. aid is "...to employ United States assistance to aid-receiving countries in such a way as will encourage the development of the private sector of their economies." (Nkrumah, P. 55). Thus, Mkrumah is led to remark that "Before the decline of colonialism, what today is know as aid was simply foreign investment." (Nkrumah, p. 51).

So what is wrong with foreign investment? To take an example, first, in 1926 the Liberian government, needing to pay off a debt incurred in 1912, got a loan from the Firestone Corporation of America.

"The loan offered by Firestone was in the region of 5 million, at an interest rate of 7 per cent, but by 1945 still only half of this amount had been subscribed ....It was under pressure of these debts that Liberia was obliged to cede large concessions for

rubber planting to Firestone, and later to the Goodrich Rubber Company." (Nkrumah, p. 81).

But the story does not stop there. Out of \$160 million dollars in rubber taken from its Liberian fields, Firestone has only had to give the Liveryian government \$8 million. The taxes on this \$160 million represented only one third of the average net profit. Conditions such as these exist all throughout the rest of Africa and the other underdeveloped areas.

Thus Nkrumah writes "in most African countries the rate of rise in the domestic product had barely kept pace with the rate of population growth of two and a half to three per cent. It is the less developed countries that continue to carry the burden of the increasing development of the highly developed." (Nkrumah, p. 66)

The exertion of subtle, indirect power over the African countries, through the medium of economic investment, is accomplished in various ways. Nkrumah calls these the "mechanisms of neo-colonialism," and, in general, they can be outlined thusly:

Western capital's control of world market, and prices, so that as prices for primary products go down, prices for manufactured goods go up; since the west is the manufacturing sector and Africa is a major supplier of raw materials, this price structure favors the west, whose manufactured goods the African states must buy.

Western control of shipping has, over the years, caused the African states to become indebted to western shippers.

High interest rates on loans, which furthers African indebtedness to the west.

High profits on investments (aid worth approx. \$6 billion put in between 1960-62 produced, in 1961 alone, \$11.8 million in profits).

Control of or influences over African policy, finances, and use of loans by aid agencies.

Aid is sometimes contingent upon the signing of treaties which give the donors nation certain exclusive economic rights, lowered tariffs, protection of donor's private investments, or which assure that monetary aid will be used to buy donor's goods.

International labor organizations, such as the AFL-CIO affiliate, the African-American Labor Centre, which pushes as major policy the increase of American private investment.

Concessions to the donor state (in an aid agreement) of military bases, land, or exclusive western rights to "information service" operations. (Nkrumah, pp. 241-247).

In summary, the basic conditions in Africa that stimulate western investment are the existence of vast amounts of valuable, often strategic, raw materials, and an unlimited supply of cheap labor to extract and process those raw materials; and the basic conditions leading to neo-colonial western dominance of these countries is the extreme instability of the little states, coupled with the commercial profit interests of the western powers.

The answer to the question of the relevance of the present aid programs in bringing about needed change can be answered unequivocally in the negative. There are problems here that appear to defy the solutions offered by the present western world view. Next issue part 2 The South African Case

## Digger Bread

Every time we make this bread, it's a big hit around our house. Have a big hit around your house. You will need two coffee cans for two loaves. The same cans are used for measuring and baking. It's a good idea to use the three pound size for measuring and the one pound size for baking, since the small tins bake most thoroughly without burning.

Do up the wet mix first:

½ cup lukewarm water (but not over 85 degrees, as the yeast would be killed).

1 cake or 2 packages of yeast (the cake works faster; if the recipe is doubled or tripled this is still enough)

1 tablespoon of flour

1 tablespoon of honey or raw sugar

Mix all of these in the can. If you wish, you may add a couple spoonfuls of honey, molasses, brown sugar, or dextrose. A well-cooked potato put through a blender and incorporated into the water at this stage can take the place of the milk below.

Mix the dry ingredients while the wet mix stands:

1 level can of whole wheat flour. Nasty old white flour will never do!

Rye flour must be mixed with other flour or gluten because the loaf it makes is dense and does not rise well. Coarse ground flours, like stone ground and meals, also must be mixed with fine ground flour, or gluten. (Note on gluten: this is the substance that holds the dough together and contains the yeast bubbles when the bread rises. It is developed naturally by kneading.)

Add to taste any of the following:

Salt — add a tablespoon or so.

1/8 can of powdered milk

Handful or two of raisins

Something weird, wheat germ, soya flour, food supplements, nuts, dried dates, etc.

Mix the dry ingredients in a hug bowl or pan. Combine the dry and wet mixes and blend until it is uniform. Toward the end of this process such things as ripe bananas or sliced peaches may be thrown in. Let the dough rise in a warm place until it has risen by half. The top of a stove with the oven on is about right. Sometimes this takes an hour or two. Take this opportunity to grease the cans and light a joint.

Kneading —

After the dough has risen, sprinkle some flour on a counter or a table top. Be sure to keep the flour on the kneading surface, dough, and your hands! Turn the dough out on the floured surface. Knead by pushing down the top and folding the edges up onto the top again. Kneading usually takes 10-15 minutes. A well-kneaded dough is rounded and springs like a plump babe's little bottom.

"Why does a poor man make good bread?"

"Because he needs it a lot."

Be sure all cans are well greased. Divvy the dough, knead the halves into balls and put into the cans.

Let rise again until dough has almost doubled in volume (about 45 minutes to an hour). Now you may switch to the baking portion of this here recipe.

Baking —

Put can upright in an oven preheated to 390 degrees, and bake for one hour. The larger cans take longer to bake. After baking, let the cans cool for 5 to 10 minutes. With pot holder in hand, twirl bread in the can. It will glide right on to the counter or whatever. Eat healthy!

## A Rooster and his Bill



Bill Wright, 22, well-known Bellingham railroad man, has proven to friends and neighbors that roosters can be better pals than dogs. Founder and minister of one of the first Universal Life Churches in town. Bill welcomes us to his house in Happy Valley with a friendly smile and a jug of Henry McKinna. Sitting on the arm of his chair was a very mellow looking rooster.

NWP reporter — How is your rooster called?

Bill — We know him as Sir Charles.

Reporter — How would you describe his physical body?

Bill — Sir Charles stands about two hands high (lengthwise) and he is garishly and ostentatiously colored.

Reporter — Does he live in the house?

Bill — No. He stays mainly in the garage on the rafters and shits on the roof of my jeep.

Reporter — How did you score the rooster?

Bill — I bought him from the neighbor kids for a dollar.

Reporter — What's his bag?

Bill — He hates other roosters but really digs the hens. He's possessive and pretty uptight around humans.

Reporter — What are his eating habits?

Bill — He eats about ½ cup of seeds a day, but he won't eat stems and leaves.

The conversation slowed proportionately to the level of Bill's jug, and out railroad man offered us a clue to his everyday

feelfine — "I preach and teach. Down home livin'. And I like trees."

## OUT OF THE MOLASSES JUG



The molasses jug begins to pour today. We'll just tip it a bit, showing you how we live, helping you to fatten your bellies, comfortablize your homes, care for your animals and bring you folks closer together.

There's been a neap of grinning and feelfine around here, and we want to tell about it. This is your newspaper, so please get in touch with us to chew the fat about the way you live.

It's time to get away from pretense and down to the nach'l life. Look your neighbors in the eye, and if they don't look back, give them a big hug and they will next time. Isn't that what it's all about?

By the way, please dig our pages — they'll kick us off the staff.

## WANTING

by steve alaniz

I had two pair of eyes

Two green ones and two blue

Hungry eyes, and I juggled them through books and bottles and glasses

And like marbles used them in games

But in the end I gave them back

Put them in the sockets where they belonged

Screwed them in so they could see

But they quickly capped themselves

With a misty glass

And looked away

## SONG

by frank kathman

Coming alone in the late night  
with touch like red blossom  
in wind,

and hand, lady, you

lift me

from the center

of my solitude

and so

into the storms of you,

where are grown

your own

most fragile petals.



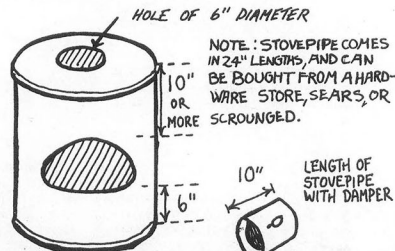
by g. jamison lathrop

For those of us who can't afford to call a plumber each time a faucet leaks, it's nice to have some knowledge of simple home remedies. The Passage will carry this column in each issue with ideas on repairs, projects and answers to readers' questions.

So for those of us who like fireplaces, a reasonably efficient freestanding type can be made from an old steel drum. The trick is fairly simple. Just cut a couple of holes in the drum, stuff a piece of stove pipe in one of them, and you're in business. The catch, as always, is how and where to cut and stuff.

Choose your drum with the greatest consideration given to availability. If you can be fussy, a small (25 gal.) drum is preferable to the larger type.

For the how, if you have a few bucks, you can have the holes cut in an welding or sheet metal shop. If you want to do it the hard way, then punch or drill holes like . . .



Man does not live by bread alone. He also lives by nuts and berries on occasion. Through this column an attempt to explain the nutritional needs of a body and to show free or cheap ways to meet these needs will be made.

Vitamin C heals bones and wounds, helps maintain good vision — takes the red out. It can prevent or cure chemical poisoning, prevent fatigue. Any foreign substance reaching the blood is toxic to some degree. Vitamin C acts as a detoxifier but is destroyed itself. Every drug destroys Vitamin C, including such "harmless" drugs as aspirin. This destruction can last for weeks.

But don't despair. All fresh growing food contains Vitamin C. Two of the richest sources are not only free but also can be picked outside

your door (or at least my door). Rose hips and pine needles. Brew the pine needles into tea, or add a few to your next pot of wild seed tea. Rose hips are the bright orange or red seed pods from wild roses. They are covered by a soft coating. These tender seed covers can be eaten raw after discarding the seeds.

Pine trees grow all over the place (or at least they do up here in God's country.) There may be one in your front yard right now. Say hello. Wild roses grow in open fields from the sea to the highest mountain peaks and should be harvested in late summer and fall. Both should be eaten when freshly picked or made into wine or into jellies.

Ah, I see the pine needle and wild seed tea is ready. Drop by again. Peace.

Cut here until the desired openings have been made. The edges can be smoothed with a half-round file.

For the smoke vent, insert a piece of stove pipe in the top of the drum (see diagram) and seal with fireclay (optional). The stovepipe should be at least six inches in diameter. The joint can be dressed up by using a stovepipe collar. The grate can be made from any grate thing you can find or make or can be purchased ready-made.

Set the fireplace on any fireproof surface you can imagine, or suspend it. One word of caution — be sure to leave adequate airspace around the fireplace to insure fire safety.

Send any questions and suggestions to the Passage office at 2616 West Maplewood.





# HIP POCRATES



**QUESTION** — An old lover of mine was fond of a certain trick taught to her by an old lover of hers — which involved the placement of an ice cube in her vagina and then copulation.

Certainly an exciting experience, but I have two questions:

- 1) Could this harm her?
- 2) Could this be used as an effective means of contraception as well as groovy orgasms?

Love,  
Ice Is Nice

**ANSWER** — Depending on ice cubes for contraception is uncool. If you're not more careful now your old lady will be with child when the frost is on the pumpkin . . . but

I don't know of any other harm that could result from this practice unless you empty a whole ice tray. If I didn't have to mail this column out tonight I could, after reflection, go into an entire ice trip. "Ice box" is only one possibility.

**QUESTION** — I am pregnant and do not intend to take any trips during the first three months. My friends say after that organic psilocybin would not be harmful. Is this so?

How are trips on a natural substance different from synthetics?

**ANSWER** — Your friends may mean well but they are not basing their advice on any known facts. It's true that the first three months (first trimester) of pregnancy is the most critical time in the development of the fetus. But some substances can cause changes even late in pregnancy. Tetracycline, for example, taken by the expectant mother can cause changes in the bones and teeth of her unborn child.

In the absence of information about psilocybin in pregnancy you should not take this drug or any other while you are carrying your child.

I assume that by "organic" psilocybin you refer to an extract from Mexican "magic" mushrooms rather than the compound synthesized in a laboratory (incidentally, psilocybin was synthesized by the Swiss chemist Hoffman, who also first reported the psychedelic properties of LSD). Reports of "organic" mescaline have reached me, i.e. mescaline extracted from peyote rather than produced wholly in a laboratory. Unless you have actually seen these chemicals being produced you have no way of knowing whether they are "organic" or synthetic or even the drug they are said to be. Moreover, there is no evidence that extracted chemicals cause different trips from those entirely synthesized. Some people whose judgement I respect state there are subtle differences between peyote and mescaline and between psilocybin and magic mushrooms. But the "organic" vs. synthetic question may be just a chuck used to sell drugs comparable Madison Avenue gimmicks.

Phocomelia or "seal limbs" was a birth defect rarely seen until the recent thalidomide disaster. Because it usually occurs only once in 100,000 live births, six recent cases in young mothers who took black market drugs early in pregnancy have prompted an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and the Justice Department's Division of Drug Abuse. Three of the mothers took green and white capsules while three others took yellow and white tablets. The contents of the tablets and capsules are still unknown.

**QUESTION** — She said it made gaps in her mind — "the way grass does": smoking thyme with a pinch or oregano. Will such smoking produce permanent "gaps"?

**ANSWER** — Well it might affect her basil metabolism . . .

DEAR DR. HIP POCRATES is a collection of letters and answers published by Grove Press. \$5.00

Dr. Schoenfeld welcomes your questions. Write to him c/o P. O. Box 9002, Berkeley, Calif. 94709.



## GAIL AND ALL THE PEOPLE

by phil jenkins

Gail and all the people came by today to find out what was real  
And we talked and we told them that we didn't know but we heard  
that somebody threw it away and nobody has seen it since  
With that we smiled, we just had to, you know  
Man, I don't know  
This new years eve will be tomorrow night and  
Wow, said Bill, cause that's what it is to be now, and stand exposed to feeling  
With your smile under your arm  
And you find no other face to put on and  
Man, you're lost, little girl  
Then with a pow over the shutters came life  
And he said for us to all touch one another and be friends  
Cause that's all what it's about man--  
Or so he said—but that's life  
And so we loved each other all two times  
And the fire said it was warm, thats all he knew how to do  
So he finally went away sniffing charcoal and mumbling in his beard  
So Gail and me and all the people just sat and we turned inside out  
to see if he knew  
Knew! man, inside said, I know, but that is only a now I know and  
nows don't exist for people to believe in colors and souls,  
nows don't exist for people to believe in colors and souls,  
Or for any other animals, for that matter  
God, I don't know  
Then the man came by and boy did he have a lot to say  
about heat and fire and inside time and  
All the life and the rest of them, but when he got it out of his  
mouth it turned out to be merely what they weren't,  
And it was past, gone, so he gave up and went home until  
8 a.m. tomorrow morning  
But that left us plenty of time  
The people said we should let that do and we did and that  
really did it.  
Things just ain't the same since Jesus died two thou ago  
He had meaning there but they should have kept it there  
They let it go so they don't have it anymore  
Somebody read to us where God was born today and  
that was groovy, if you can dig it.  
So all is as all will be but it hasn't been because  
that belongs to past--  
The ones we met today played in our game  
of licking existance with our tongue of life and we all  
left with a good taste, and the taste said man I really don't care  
anymore  
All parties must end so Gail and all the people checked out  
And went and became themselves somewhere in yesterdays and  
tomorrows and I am left here along with my  
And I stand naked to feeling and come to establish the so  
that there was only me all along and I had just  
made everybody's trip for them but man that's all  
And I melt in beauty with my smile for life, my love for  
the parties called people  
And again I rush toward the shores of my bottomless sea,  
retreat to dysentery to see  
There's nobody sittin' here but me  
Cause that's what it's all about man--



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REQUIEM FOR AN AMERICAN SUICIDE, 1968

by bernard weiner

Frustration. The world  
 Moves too fast.  
 Her solutions are obvious  
 (Do something--immediately!),  
 But that causes pain,  
 And costs money  
 And loss of habit, psychological security,  
 Or whatever else ties people to their nose.  
 To die by sleeping pills?  
 Too tame. Doesn't square with tradition.  
 (America has always been a land of  
 violence.)  
 So, walking into the hygienic bathroom,  
 She grabs a razor blade  
 And sloppily slashes  
 The veins--  
 Her's and the others--  
 And watches the blood  
 (Jesus Christ, it comes out fast!)  
 Redeem her soul,  
 Until she collapses on the cold tile floor.

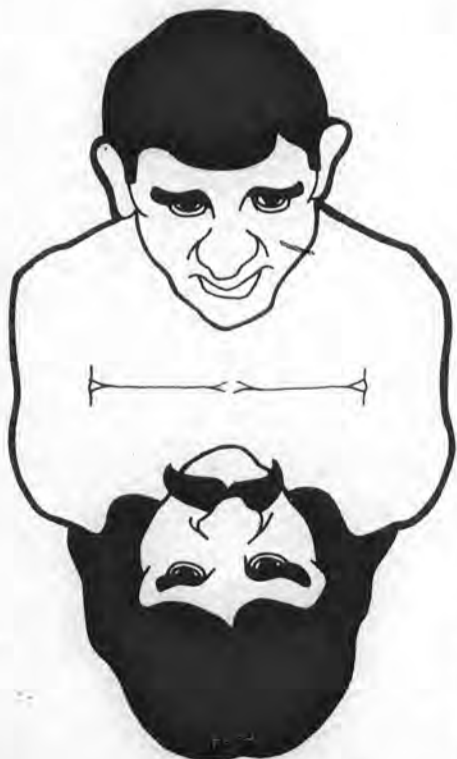
The odd part about it is  
 That she didn't know she  
 Was committing suicide.  
 She said she thought God wanted her  
 To red-water the daisies.

THE DECISION

by frank kathman

Winter passing in.  
 A few leaves  
 Gracing the many branches,  
 yellow on gray,  
 a beauty.  
 But there is a sadness  
 In what is left behind  
 In the change.  
 Time will pass into joy.

And so we commit ourselves  
 A moment:  
 a space  
 in the forest  
 by the river.  
 Difficulty.  
 And then, ourselves.  
 We do not linger:  
 It is enough for now  
 just to know.  
 We go back to the others.



Community School Gives No Excuses

by jackie green

To put it mildly, we at the Community School have been having one HELL of a time documenting our student's achievement. Fortunately, some of our children are gifted writers, so the public accepts that as proof that something is happening. But when we tried to get photographs of "Community School children in action!" we ran into some problems.

When photographers are reached the school and said, "O.K., where's the reading, writing and 'rithmetic?," we stood one foot and then the other.

"Yeah, Sharon did some reading two days ago."

"Didn't Eric do some math last week?"  
 Reassured, we look at one another —  
 "It's happening! Yeah, the kids are learning. Doing really great!" — About this time the photographer was about out of his mind.

"I know the kids are learning," he said.  
 "And you know the kids are learning. But the public doesn't. We gotta have pictures to show it."

I got very sly the "week of the photographer." I would sneak up from behind a kid, and if I caught anyone learning, I would dash over to the Western Front office and say, "Grab your camera! — One of the kids is LEARNING!" The photographer's face would light up and we would run off to the college library or thereabouts to catch the "learning in action."

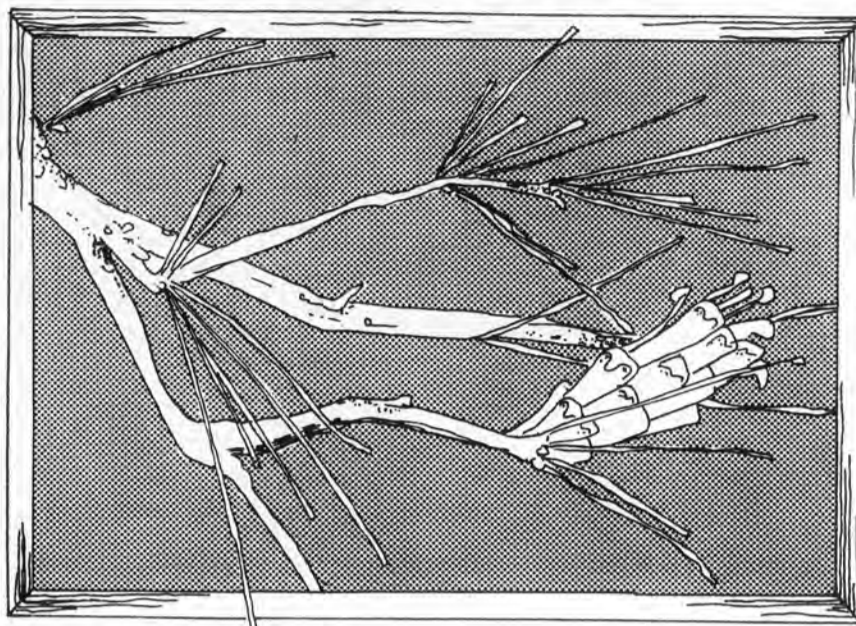
It was an exhausting week, but it got me to thinking. When and where do our kids learn? They are almost all doing better than if they were in the public schools, but none of us seem to know exactly how they got that way. This phenomena drives home the fantastic fallacy of orderly, quiet school rooms in which children are not allowed to go to the bathroom without asking the teacher. (We all have stories to tell about how someone messed his pants in class because the teacher didn't believe he really had to go.)

When I taught in high school, I was plagued with bad dreams of how the principal would walk in some day, see my class out of order and fire me, that reason being that students can't learn unless a class is quiet and orderly.

Students sleeping in class are just as suspect. It doesn't matter if they were up all night studying. It is time for class. Time to learn and they should be fresh and ready! It doesn't matter if research has proved the lecture method to be practically ineffective. You are to be there! (Heil, Hitler!) Some teachers get so frustrated when their students don't learn at the designated time and place that they either vent their frustration malevolently or punish themselves needlessly.

The only recourse we see to autocratic educational methods at the Community School is to set up our own disorderly system and prove that freedom, trust and confidence given to the student results in a happier child. We are tired of paying lip service to standards we think are anachronistic. With our present enrollment approaching 20, we feel that enough support is behind our non-graded system to warrant continuance of a progressive program with no excuses given to anyone anymore.

PINE TREE



by bill savage

When a biological organism becomes too complicated, that is, to the point where it can no longer sustain life naturally, it destroys itself. "Naturally" is of course by the grace of God, and the "biological organism" is the United States of America.

One of my ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence and his name is pretty near the last so I figure he was one of the cats they dragged in from the bars when everybody official had signed and there was still room in the bottom right hand corner. This could be attributed to poor planning or I suppose inexperience. Anyway my ancestor was granted space by the new nation.

My mother came from Boise, Idaho and my father came from Kennedy, Alabama. When they met neither of them knew what they were getting into so they finally got divorced leaving me with time to figure it out. Now there is very little space and less time so from this consequence of nationalism I am forced to clarify why . . . .

Right now the world is full of more hate than it has ever had before. This I suppose is the necessary consequence of progress. Reform or revolution just put this hate into somebody else's hands usually the winner and he's usually the winner because he's strongest and he's strongest because he has to be and he has to be because of fear. He is more afraid. Historians like to call this fear — enlightenment or foresight or perhaps advancement, but this is their problem.

Right now we are engaged in a great civil war. Psychologists term it schizophrenia. It is being fought by the Northern psychosis and the Southern neurosis. The north is psychotic for the same reason we killed all the Indians. The Southern neurosis is basically sexual maladjustment, or in other words racism.

Now this war has little chance of success because it is a civil war and when a war is civil it has little chance of success. So we must necessarily lose this war as we have lost any other war in the past, if for no other reason than human lives are lost. And when human beings are killed we can't really speak of progress. And anyway as was mentioned before: progress breeds hate. So all this manifest destiny boils down to a cauldron or "melting pot" a rather grotesque image for such a young ambitious country.

So what we are forced to speak about is the "Thing". Now we have all heard about speaking softly and carrying a big stick. A woman knows what this means, but unfortunately it was uttered by a man more tuned to leading charges than making babies. And when a should-be bedroom policy becomes a shouldn't be foreign policy, promiscuity will surely be the result.

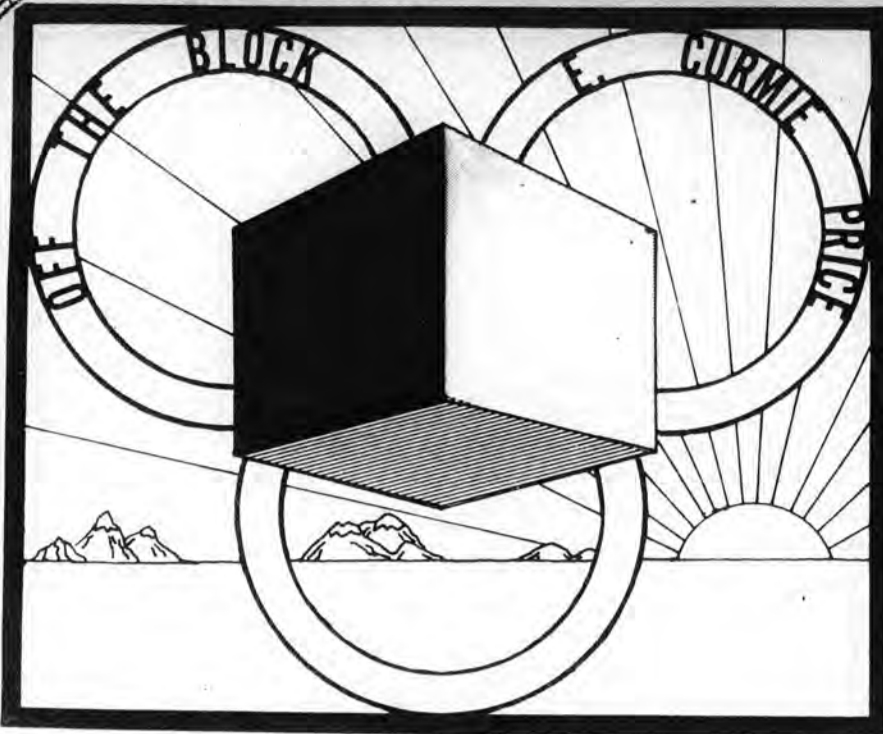
So we, in a sense, have been unfaithful to ourselves, being that America is both male-female, black-white, north-south, etc. And by being so, we are necessarily distrustful, disrespectful or paranoid. From paranoia comes fear, and as you recall, fear = strength = winner = revolution = winner = strength = fear = paranoia. A migrant worker who is used to seasonal employment knows exactly what I mean.

So all we are left with is the "Thing". Of course it is not the "thing that could not die — monster bit" because it can die and will do just that unless we begin to understand the "Thing" lose our fear of the "Thing" and begin to love the "Thing" like ourselves. The "Thing" as always is void of race, color or creed being that its place of natural origin is somewhere in the mind of all men: a place I wish to call Atlantis for simplification.

"The Thing from Atlantis" is what the Christians like to call "everlasting life", but I would like to call it the "Thing from Atlantis" because it sounds better and would not prove offensive to Buddhists, Moslems or anybody who hasn't quite yet decided.

We don't have to accept "The Thing from Atlantis" as our own personal savior because it's really neat and doesn't give a shit if we do or not. It would just be a lot easier if we did, because we wouldn't have to be so miserable, unhappy and unfulfilled. And we wouldn't have to blame everyone else for something that nobody seems to have done. We could all live in harmony or if you can't dig music, then organic fellowship, and if you can't dig fellowship, then you could at least be able to do your own thing which of course is what everybody else would be doing, except you and they would all have respect for each other. That's what organic fellowship is all about. Sort of a Barbershop Quartet without razors.

Now this all probably sounds like a fairy tale. Well, that's OK, because after all the hard work civilization has gone to get away from itself, it needs time out for a little fun and relaxation. We can't keep pressing this world for answers when we're not sure what the question is, and we can't keep asking nature to yield to our demands when we as a species of animal have proven time and time again that we don't know what's good for us. So we should all be damned glad that we're alive and not afraid to die. If we could all dig this, then maybe it wouldn't seem so outrageous.



However vaguely, I continue to remember a line from a poem by James Dickey—all flesh may yet be whole again—the poem, "The Scarred Girl," is about a girl who one day while driving in a beautiful country invites the world inside, or makes an abrupt intrusion into the slant and roll of landscape.

(When a man's wife is pregnant, he must find a way to be brief.)

Reason for this effort: What we're about is to make this flesh, this, bellingham, this America, this world, this universe—men can be outrageously perverse—whole again by formulating a regard for who and what we are in relation to otherness.

(I stole a poet's line to complete my poem. Fidel is right: down with copyrights. We begin in a void until we hear each other's voice. His listening gives me something to say.)

To keep the urgency of death at a distance long enough to put these few markings across the mountains, I institute feeling as a legitimate mode of perception, i. e. epistemology.

Didn't you know, mister Man? All life begins and ends in anarchy. The prospects of living forever are slight indeed. I don't know that this should worry us. Finally, the body is as hard as a rock, and as durable; as soft as the scent of a rose, and as profound.

## Education--Who Does What To Whom?

by dr. frederick ellis

Christopher Jencks of Harvard recently noted that every child in school realizes full well how little what he does in school relates to his problems in the out-of-school world. He noted further that school administrators find this paradoxical situation quite to their liking because if it does nothing else it makes no waves and creates no problems which might arise from honest controversy.

The attitude of insularity, so typical of schools, and the attendant make-work and business of classrooms throughout the land is a shocking abuse of the child's potential to engage himself meaningfully with those aspects of his environment which are relevant to him. The stamp of disinterest, boredom, and apathy marks the plight of untold numbers of citizens who have been cooked in the pressure-cooker of American education. The tragic implications of an enervating "educational" experience come into a sharp focus in the attitude of non-involvement and impotence which characterize so many of our citizens.

And yet, one hardly needs to be reminded that we face enormously complex issues, problems, and opportunities which demand unprecedented response mechanisms.

Our capability to do long-range planning will have to be greatly improved. Against the capability to plan and to implement plans will be arrayed methodological, institutional, and human weakness. Inevitably, we are doomed to live in a period of tremendous turmoil, a period which will require efforts at long-range planning and institutional change almost undreamed of a few decades ago. What can we do through the process of education to provide a generation of leaders and citizens who are better able to cope with the kind of world in which we live?

First off, we are going to have to put much more emphasis on educating for

certain intellectual abilities. In place of suppression, feelings will have to be legitimized and clarified for students using when in appropriate non-verbal techniques. People will have to be educated in the development of long-range, cross-societal, and trans-national perspectives; to think in terms of many variables which are related to each other not as hard certainties and absolutes, but rather, as probabilities.

In addition we will have to educate for logical skill and a heightened sensitivity for relevance in threading our way through the morally tortuous dilemmas which we inevitably must face in establishing social priorities. People must be able to handle effectively and imaginatively the heavy information overload which threatens the mere physical capacities of libraries to warehouse. This is a large order, and, unfortunately, one can scarcely take much hope from educational institutions as we presently envisage and operate them.

One must keep in mind, too, that schools and colleges are staffed largely by persons who were educated toward the past and that more and more of these people are being produced to take their places in the nation's classrooms.

We, in education, have steadfastly refused to take seriously the self-education of the individual, his feelings, and his emotions. As Lawrence Frank pointed out years ago, education, sharing the common pretense that man is a rational, volitional person, is fearful of recognizing the powerful emotional reactions and susceptibilities of children and adolescents, because of the tacit agreement to ignore them all through social life.

Indeed, one detects a sort of conspiracy in education, politics, and the law, which pretends that emotions must not have any place in human conduct. We need to take seriously education for empathy,

compassion, trust, non exploitiveness, non-manipulativeness, for self-growth and the development of self-esteem, for the tolerance of ambiguity, for the acknowledgement of error, for patience and the real lessons to be learned.

In education, as well as in much which passes for counseling, we have treated personal relationships in a manner which assumes that professional service will be undermined if the practitioner becomes "involved" with his client. Such a point of view has made things easier and more convenient for professionals, even if at the expense of students, counselors or patients. Studies of hospital procedures have made it evident that hospitals are set up generally for the convenience of doctors and nurses rather than for patients.

Multiversities and schools are similarly administered. Remaining personally un-involved has made it easier for middle-class doctors and teachers to avoid the personal anxiety and discomfort which might arise from any real contact with or understanding of patients or students. In an era of tight budgets, the resultant efficiency of personnel made some sense. But in the world of tomorrow, with its highly efficient technologies, these kinds of un-involved people will be less necessary.

The kind of education envisaged here foresees people deeply concerned and involved in the tasks of planning their own self-understanding.

Human freedom is not simply an issue of over action, speech and the expression of belief. Freedom from personality distortion and the destructive results of persistent anxiety, guilt and hostility, is the essence of free choice. Without self-understanding and the inner strength which comes with it, people will too easily succumb to the pressures to be engineered, rather than encouraging the discovery of individual talent and potential—and those who engineer others will, in turn, themselves be engineered in the process.

Without personal understanding, people will fall prey to what has been termed "Eichmanism"—letting someone else worry about the ethical implications of what one is doing in his job. Much political strategy is based upon the expectation that individuals will forego basic personality requirements in order to express their warped feelings and personality distortions are release otherwise repressed feelings. The irony of this situation is the enormous damage inflicted upon others by these unhealthy personalities whose warped, twisted lives literally feed upon the manipulation of other human kind.

As organizational arrangements, through which decisions are made and policies carried out, become increasingly interlocked, the temptation to overlook, to deny to oneself, what one ought morally to be bound to examine and criticize, will be very great indeed. Without educated (not trained) sensitized emotional resources, teachers will be too rigid, too defensive, and too remote from themselves, and therefore from students. They will have the flexibility and courage needed to cope humanely and imaginatively with order and disorder, change and turmoil.

Whether those now growing into adulthood can be expected in any widespread fashion to be more intellectually skilled, more compassionate, and more in touch than the previous generation is open to serious question. In general, the education of the current generation has not been much different from that provided in the past. To be sure, some curriculum content and some teaching skills have improved, but most teachers, school administrators, and parents are driven by the same motives, and living with the same world perspectives, as their predecessors.

This condition of "stasis", to use the

late W. B. Cannon's term, follows from a school system's dependence upon the standards of the society for which it is "inducting" new members. Of the many standards of American society, none is more evident or more pervasive than money. Most of the leverage in our society is associated with money. In educational terms, this means that the best education is synonymous with that which the suburbanite can afford his children.

Alice Milt and Edwin Kiester, Jr. pointed out in the New York Times:

"... the child of suburbia is likely to be a materialist and somewhat of a hypocrite. He tends to be a striver in school, a conformist, and above all a believer in being "nice," polite, clean and tidy. He divides Humanity into the black and the white, the Jew and the Christian, the rich and the poor, the "smart" and the "dumb." He is often conspicuously self-centered. In all these respects, the suburban child patterns his attitudes after those of his parents."

As Friedenberg, Goodman, and others have noted, while the schools have been turning out mostly conventional suburban or slum products of education, the world is getting increasingly complex, and the quality of life rapidly deteriorating for more and more people. Coupled with the new generation of relatively unaware adults are its parents—a sizable number of persons to be convinced that radical educational changes are needed immediately to make the schools more responsive to the need of the coming world.

It would seem obvious to note that it is already too late to do much about the capabilities and imagination of today's leaders and citizens, or even most of the leaders of tomorrow. The crucial point at issue, then, is we shall have to be better prepared for the day after tomorrow and improvise for survival until then!

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organized in associations likewise affiliated to the Front. There are also Trade Unions in the cities, but these are administration-run unions. This means that at the top they are Administration-controlled, but at the bottom the masses move in real working class struggles.

**SEFTON** — On what issues?

**HIEU** — The main ones are economic aims, better pay and working conditions, protests against unwarranted discharge of workers, protests at the use of company spies — this was particularly so immediately after the fall of the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorship. The workers also struggle for real trade union freedom, against the repressive activities of the Saigon regime, they demand the restoration of peace, an end to US intervention etc. Sometimes the leadership is forced to go along with these struggles.

**SEFTON** — I get the general picture.

**HIEU** — In the years 1954-1960, after the Geneva Agreements, the whole country was submitted to a reign of terror and repression under the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorship, supported by the US government. People were savagely repressed by the US-Diem dictatorship in order to repudiate the 1956 general elections provided for under the Geneva Agreements for the reunification of the country. This repudiation in fact is the origin of the present situation in South Vietnam. Faced with this intolerable repression, the people staged a general uprising in 1960 and at the end of that year, on December 20, 1960, the National Front of Liberation was formed. The NFL had the immediate support of the peasants and working class, the great majority of the people of South Vietnam.

**SEFTON** — We read reports in our press to the effect that this support is obtained through pressure, through terror. That this is how your control over the villages is maintained?

**HIEU** — The Front has existed for six years now, continually enlarging the territory under its control. How could we do this without popular support? How could we do it with terror? If such support could be obtained by terror, the Ngo Dinh Diem who used terror in its most extreme form, would have controlled the countryside. If control could be exercised by terror, then the Saigon regime of today would control the countryside, not us. There has been no lack of terror applied by them, I would like to quote some facts:

One of the first uprisings, at the beginning of 1960, took place in Ben Tre province in the Mekong Delta, south of Saigon. This is a very heavily populated area, but without any forests. Typical flat Delta country far from any frontiers. It is located in the extreme south — far from the 17th parallel in the North and far from the Cambodian border. This shows two things (1) that it was not a case of outside "subversion" or "aggression" and

outside "subversion" or "aggression" and (2) that it succeeded only because it was carried out by the population because the geographic conditions, a bare plain, are unfavorable for such uprisings.

Our military forces exist wherever there are people — even in the towns as you may have noted by the shelling recently of the center of Saigon. How was that possible unless our forces were protected, supported by the local population? Our bases are in the hearts of the people. Without this we could not have stood up to the American forces, heavily armed, over-armed in fact, as they are. Someone has written that you have beaten the German Nazis in Western Europe during World War II, three times over. Why then can the US forces not crush the weakly-equipped forces of the Liberation Front? They fire an average of 4 shells per person per month in certain parts of the Liberation Front-controlled areas. They use napalm, toxic chemicals, combat gas. The Strategic Air Command is even employed with its B 52's. That is real terror. But they do not succeed in dominating the population of those areas submitted to such a terrifying exercise of force. Even in the towns and cities, the US-Saigon regime does not exercise real control. At night it is the NFL that controls even large parts of Saigon because of the support of the population there.

**SEFTON** — If there were a ceasefire and withdrawal of Free World forces, it has



been said that while South Vietnam was being consolidated and preparations for elections being made, there would probably be terrible reprisals against the population. Up to a million might be killed, according to some of these reports?

**HIEU** — For the people of South Vietnam, what is most obvious today is that the population is being massacred by the bombs and bullets of the aggressors. In fact, the NFL has a clear policy towards those who are fighting on the other side. The NFL seeks support and cooperation from all quarters, all groups, organizations, personalities, no matter what their tendencies. Cooperation with all those who have the same aim as us, that is independence for South Vietnam. In fact we have support from the very broadest sections of the population — including even those within the Saigon army and administration.

To give an example: We realize that the Saigon army is largely made up of peasants forced into the Army. We know very well the methods by which young people are press-ganged into the US-Saigon armed forces. The greater part of their families live in the Liberated Areas. They know of our agricultural policy; of

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perfidy of their political manoeuvres, we will never deviate from this fundamental aim. Our entire people and all our armed forces are determined to fight and to hit harder than ever. We are certain of bringing off the final victory.

**QUESTION** — Has the massive commitment of American forces enabled the Saigon administration to re-establish its control in areas formerly controlled by the NFL?

**REPLY** — Nothing could be further from the truth. If, in certain places and for a certain time, the Americans have nibbled away at certain positions in the Liberated Zones, we have considerably enlarged our zones as a whole, liberating a million more of the population and several very important regions.

**QUESTION** — Some observers believe that neither the Americans nor the NFL can bring off a military victory in South Vietnam. What do you think?

**REPLY** — Such tendentious opinions are in general inspired by leaders in Washington who are obviously interested in minimising our successes and casting doubts on our ability to win final victory.

In fact we have brought off victory after victory in the struggle against the Americans and their satellite forces. We defeated the strategy of special war in crushing the puppet Saigon army, organized, equipped, trained and commanded by the Pentagon. In going over to direct aggression by the massive dispatch of their own troops to South Vietnam from the middle of 1965 on, the Americans have not been able to improve their situation. On the contrary they have suffered still further disastrous defeats.

The fact that the Pentagon continues to send more troops, including elite units which McNamara has so much bragged about — the actual figure is now over 300,000 whereas McNamara had promised to bring all American troops home by the end of 1965 — and is hastily preparing to send more reinforcements, proves that the army and population of South Vietnam continues to bring off victories; to hold the initiative on the battlefields; to attack without let-up.

The crushing defeat of the strategic counter-offensive for the 1965-66 dry season for which the Americans had very carefully prepared their plans and massed their forces, proves their impotence to regain the initiative and to change the course of the war.

Starting the struggle with their bare hands, our people have rapidly developed their political and military forces and have brought off ever more important victories.

We recognize that the American military and economic potential is the most powerful in the western world. But on our side we have the invincible force of people's war, the creative power of which we are developing to a very high degree.

We believe that the strength of an army in time of war is composed of a great number of factors, of which the determinant ones are political and moral. We have absolute supremacy over the Americans on the political and moral front. Our entire people wage this war, not retreating before any difficulty or sacrifice. We are also stronger than the Americans in other fundamental aspects of the struggle such as our strategic position; the rear areas; conduct of operations; ground forces, factors which decide the military outcome on the battlefield. Although they are strong in material and equipment, the Americans have fundamental weaknesses, politically and militarily; strategically and tactically.

If American power is not unlimited — principally because of their policy of world domination; the fact that they are waging a war of aggression on our soil, thousands of kilometers from their own country; their inability to transform any part of our territory into a stable base for themselves — their weaknesses are fundamental and irreparable.

In the day to day conduct of the war these weaknesses are very obvious. They increase day by day and will finally lead to their inevitable defeat.

The very considerable victories which we brought off after the massive commitment of American forces, above all during the 1965-66 dry season, prove not only in theory but in practice also, that we are capable of wiping out even the most battle-hardened troops of the US Expeditionary Corps. We can firmly maintain the initiative on the battle-field

and the rhythm of our attacks. We can victoriously stand up to new U.S. reinforcements and militarily defeat the American aggressors in any situation whatsoever.

**QUESTION** — How do you envisage a political solution in South Vietnam?

**REPLY** — Our invariable policy has always been to bring about a broad national union to resist American aggression and for the salvation of the Motherland. It is thanks to this correct policy that we have been able to create a unified national front, with a solid foundation and broad in composition.

Apart from political parties, mass organizations, religious faiths, national minorities and patriotic personalities who have already joined the Front, we have also succeeded in creating an alliance for common action with other political and religious organizations and patriotic individuals. It is on this basis that we have achieved great success.

At the present time American troops take part directly and on a large scale in a war of aggression against South Vietnam, trampling underfoot our national soil, using the most ferocious methods of warfare to massacre our compatriots, perpetrating the most barbarous crimes. The traitors Nguyen Ban Thieu Nguyen Cao Cao Ky have placed themselves completely at American orders and have sold our national sovereignty for American arms and dollars. But all other Vietnamese are patriots who regard the American aggressors and their valets with deep hatred. That is why we consider that there are great possibilities of extending cooperation with other organizations, forces and personalities, independent of their past activities.

**QUESTION** — Even personalities who have taken part in the governments of Ngo Dinh Diem and those since?

**REPLY** — Yes, independent of their past activities, their political tendencies and view, regardless of their nationality or religion, in a struggle for the following aims:

- \* Resist this American war and regain our national sovereignty.
- \* Establish democratic liberties.
- \* End the American policy of intervention and aggression, bring about peace and the neutrality of South Vietnam.
- \* Improve the living conditions of the people.

Obviously the strength of the political and military forces of the National Front of Liberation will be the decisive factor in victory.

**QUESTION** — Is there any possibility of negotiations to end this war?

**REPLY** — For months past the Johnson administration has never stopped orating about its pretended desire for peace and its proposals for "unconditional negotia-

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land reform, the distribution of land to all families and all family members, including those serving with the enemy armed forces.

Every year since the fighting started, we have unilaterally declared two truces. At Xmas and at the Lunar Year. We permit troops of the Saigon Army to enter our areas to visit their families. Their commanders have tried to stop them, but in fact they come in their thousands and tens of thousands. They see for themselves the realities of land reform; they see the plots of land set aside for themselves. This is one of the most important motives for their support of the NFL and one of the best answers to those that propagate the myth of reprisals as a pretext for the indefinite foreign occupation of our country. Many of these troops do not return to their units and if they do go back for material reasons of salary, etc. they always retain the image of their liberated native village and the bit of land awaiting them there. They know that a victory of their Saigon Army would mean putting the landlords back on their shoulders.

Thus we have the support of the majority of the population which is comprised of peasants. But the Front has also succeeded of rallying to its side other sections of the population, virtually all except a small handful of traitors. Our policy of broad national union has already proved itself. The population is with us — why should we carry out any reprisals against them? As I have touched on the question of the state of mind of the Saigon regime's troop, I should add that with the massive commitment of US troops, they see this now as a US war. National sentiment in our country is very strong and has been throughout the centuries. People may have very different political ideas; they may be pro-Communist or anti-Communist, pro-Socialist or anti-Socialist, but on the national question, the question of national independence, they all think the same, except for a handful of Quislings who have sold themselves to the enemy.

With 400,000 thousand foreign troops on our soil, even the troops and officers of the Saigon army desire nothing more than to get rid of them. In addition to that, despite this big commitment of US troops, the US-Saigon forces are not getting anywhere. The Americans have not been able even to link up their various bases, because we control the terrain in between. They are not able to open and keep open, the main communication routes. The so-called "pacification" plan is not being realized. Last year, according to plan, the Saigon army was supposed to take over "pacification." But this year the US troops have had to take even that over as well. There is even talk that US troops would have to move into the Mekong Delta for "pacification" work, take over there from the Saigon troops.

**SEFTON** — I am not familiar with the term "pacification" as applied to the war in South Vietnam?

**HIEU** — The idea is to put the Saigon administration back into the villages, by force and keep it there by force. Clean out the NFL and elected village councils and set up permanent military and police garrisons to ensure that the control remains. The original plan, as of last year, was that the tasks should be divided. US forces would "seek out and destroy" to use the Pentagon term, the NFL armed forces; the Saigon troops would move in behind them and re-establish Saigon control. But this failed. Now the US troops have to try "pacification" themselves. The puppet troops (Saigon) have no stomach even for this task. According to US figures, 113,000 deserted last year

and over 67,000 in the first half of this year with a steady desertion rate of over 10,000 a month.

It is your American troops that are replacing the Saigon deserters; American blood that is being shed in "search and destroy" and "pacification" programs; The Saigon army will end up with a net deficit this year and from next year on will steadily go down hill as far as effectives are concerned. Not to speak on morale! Attrition, battle losses plus desertion has become greater than replacements. Thus, the longer the war continues the heavier the burden will fall on American shoulders.

Because important factor is that the US has already sent its elite troops out to South Vietnam. If they could not get anywhere, what are they going to do with green troops?

Because we are fighting in our own country, we have no shortage of troops. Of the 14,000,000 total population of South Vietnam, we control 10,000,000 and as the international norm of recruitment is reckoned at 10 percent, we have no difficulty in raising an army of 1,000,000.

To sum up: On the political side we have the undisputed advantage. National sentiment is a powerful factor in our favor; we are leading a struggle of national independence against aggression. As far as effectives are concerned, we can match those of the adversary. From a logistics viewpoint, we are fighting on our own soil; the US forces have the whole Pacific Ocean between their supply bases and their battlefronts. Our forces will continue to take a heavy toll of their supplies once they arrive — as instanced by the blowing up of the big Saigon munitions depot recently. As far as military strategy and tactics are concerned, the US forces have very great mobility and heavy firepower. But they are trained for a western type of war. The laws of this war are imposed by us, the NFL. A Vietnamese saying has it that: "He who is in his own home is the most mobile." Despite the great mobility of US troops, because this is a war waged by our entire people, we always have forces there where the hostile troops arrive. We don't dispute the fact that the USA has the most modern, most powerful arms. But in such a war the effectiveness of such arms is greatly reduced. You are using the mighty B. 52 bombers — but against what? Against forests and rice-fields. Coming from afar and bombing out of sight of their targets.

**SEFTON** — "Like a handful of stones thrown into water."

**HIEU** — Yes, a good image. But I speak above all of the ineffectiveness of such vast power from the military viewpoint. But here one must separate intentions from results. The intention is to massacre our people by the ten of thousand in utilizing the Strategic Air Command against us. We have to recognize also that these acts of massive destruction are generally used, indiscriminately against the civilian population. But to get back to the matter in hand.

We rely on infantry weapons, on arms supplied by you and therefore quite efficient, and once we have neutralized US air and artillery support, it is our troops that have the advantage. Our infantry is better because it is trained specifically for this type of war and above all because we are fighting on our own soil and for our own soil. Because we fight for an ideal clear to every soldier, our forces are superior. Americans would fight as our troops do if they were defending their own country against an invader. No matter how many more troops are sent, nothing can change the situation as outlined above. We think the

American people realize more and more clearly the true facts of the situation. We realize they are badly informed but probably the majority, in any case, see that they have no interest in this war. Many American workers oppose this war. It appears there have been one or two cases where they have refused to load ships. In any case, we know for certain that there were cases in which Australian and Japanese dockers used this form of protest against the war in Vietnam.

**SEFTON** — Not on our West Coast to my knowledge. Our Union is loyal, I am personally loyal. But our Union also officially opposes this war and we have gone on record against it. We think our troops should not be in Vietnam. But they are there and we think we have to send them supplies even though we don't agree with the use to which these supplies are being put. If we send supplies this is not because of any hatred towards the Vietnamese people.

**HIEU** — We do not think that the American people hate us and we do not hate the American people. On the contrary, we say quite frankly that we like the American people. It is NFL policy to make a difference between the American government which wages war against our people, and the American people. We made the same distinction between the French colonialists and the French people during the first resistance war. And we do not think that the French people who fought steadfastly against the war in Indo China, were in any way traitors to their country.

**SEFTON** — Has the Vietcong any way of knowing the state of morale of the US forces?

**HIEU** — In general, the only place where we have contact is on the battlefield. They do not fight as well as NFL troops. Perhaps for several reasons:

1) The nature of the war. US troops are fighting in a country they do not know; in a hostile environment.

2) Political reasons. There are probably a few young people who believe in good faith they "are defending the security of the USA." Some perhaps who even believe they are fighting "to defend freedom." But these are not in the majority. Above all not those who arrived this year. Some of the lite troops sent at the beginning may have had the idea they were fighting for an ideal. But even they were few. Now the US troops, think of one thing only — how many days still to serve before they go back home.

3) Despite the massive commitment of elite US troops, the US force are getting bogged down, the strategic plans of the Pentagon have each ended in a fiasco. This does not make for good morale as far as the troops are concerned. As for our troops, they have an ideal. They really are fighting for freedom. To defend their Motherland; for independence, democracy, neutrality, for the re-establishment of peace, ideals they clearly accept and understand and for which they are prepared to suffer any hardships, make any sacrifices.

**SEFTON** — Do you feel that US troops are particularly vicious, cruel, that their conduct goes beyond the normal bounds of military operations?

**HIEU** — This war is being waged with great ferocity by US troops, using weapons not used in other wars. Pattern bombing by B. 52's, the use of toxic, combat bases, explosive bullets, etc.

**SEFTON** — If the Free World troops withdrew, would factionalism develop. A tendency among the South Vietnamese to form different, hostile groups?

**HIEU** — Certainly there would be different tendencies as in any country. But irrespective of tendencies, all would agree on one thing. Freedom and Inde-

pendence. Within our National Front of Liberation, there are many differing tendencies. There are three political parties and many other religious, national minority groups and movements represented. Our aim is to form a very broadly-based, national coalition government, with a common program agreed by discussion between all participating groups.

**SEFTON** — Do you have any liaison with the Vietminh — that is North Vietnam — in formulation your policies?

**HIEU** — Because of maneuvers by the imperialist powers, our country has been temporarily divided into two zones. Naturally for those problems which interest the population of South Vietnam, it is for the people of South Vietnam to decide and our NFL formulates its own policies accordingly. For all-Vietnam questions later, for instance the problem of relations between the two zones and eventual reunification, there will be discussions.

After US troops withdraw South Vietnam will be neutral. The question of reunification will be a long, step-by-step process arrived at by negotiations between the two zones. This naturally is something that concerns only the Vietnamese people who must be left free to settle their own affairs.

**SEFTON** — Well, I think we have covered a lot of ground. Apart from having answered very completely my questions, do you have anything you would like to add?

**HIEU** — I would like to add that in order to understand the problem of South Vietnam, one has to have a precise idea as to the origins of the present situation. In the West, the question is often not correctly understood. If people would understand that the struggle in South Vietnam is one for national independence, then they would more readily understand the solution. The South Vietnamese people rose up in 1960 to win the real independence that they won from the French but which has never been realized in South Vietnam. They will fight on to achieve these aims as long as foreign troops remain on their territory. You can be sure that our people are firmly decided to do this and we are capable of carrying on a very long struggle, despite the fact that we most ardently desire a return to peace. That this is a struggle for national independence is not sufficiently appreciated in the West. But because that is the real essence of the struggle, our principal aim is the withdrawal of US troops. As long as they remain, the acquisition of real independence is impossible. Any solution which does not take this fact into account has no possibility of bringing about a return to peace.

Another big question is that the US government continues to ignore us, the National Front of Liberation. It would be much better if the USA would recognize that in South Vietnam, nothing can be done without the decisive voice of the NFL, the force with which the USA is in fact fighting. If the American people would push for recognition of this, this would be a very important factor. President Johnson continues to knock on doors of Moscow, Peking, Hanoi — but it is obvious that he has the wrong address.

That is also why we regard the Maila Conference as just another provocation.

"The NFL should lay down its arms — the NFL could have a place in a North Vietnamese delegation!!!" This is nonsense.

Finally I would like you to convey my greetings to the workers of your Union. Tell them that we appreciate all those in the USA who are struggling for an end to this war, which I am convinced — is not "their war".



# CONNECTIONS

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**Radio** - Zenith Trans-Oceanic, 1968, 423 Gladstone St.

**Printer** - need job, house for family of four, inquire at 1520 Humboldt St.

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tions." But there is an absolute contrast between these honeyed proposals and the criminal acts of the American government. At the moment the US President and his ministers were pronouncing these

fine words, the US government was engaging in an intensification of the war of aggression in South Vietnam and pursuing the aerial escalation in North Vietnam. Washington tries in fact to force the Vietnamese people to accept its conditions, which in fact means our

surrender. But the determination of our people and the NFL to reconquer our sacred national rights and liberate our territory is unshakesable.

Even if it takes 10, 20 or more years; even if we have to confront a thousand difficulties and trials, we are ready to

fight to the end, until the land bequested us by our ancestors, is freed from the American aggressors.

Having known war for over 20 years, the Vietnamese people ardently desire a peaceful life to reconstruct their country. But that must be a peace based on

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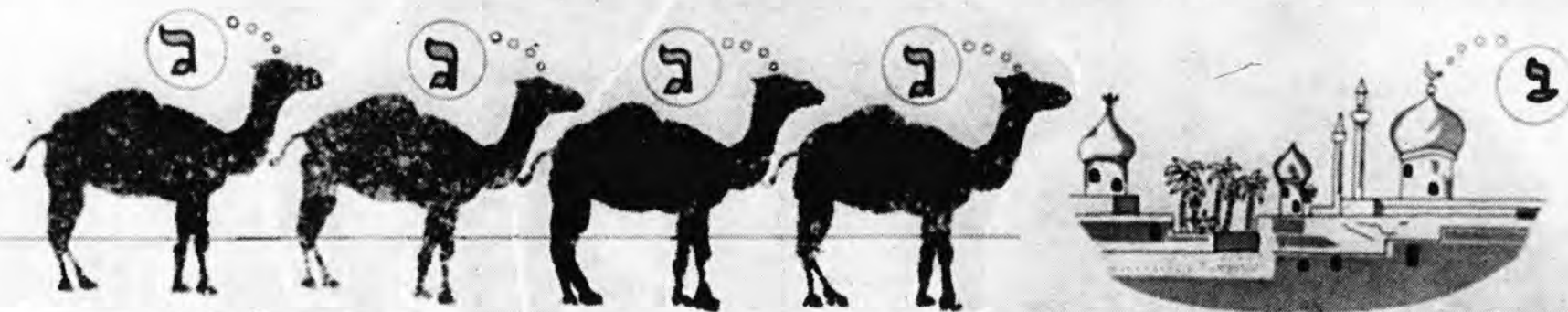


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April 14 - Concert, Vision of Deep Purple, Carver Gym, 8 p.m.

April 16 - Special election, constitution; WWSC.

April 23 - General elections, student body president, vice president, and legislators, WWSC.

## MUSIC! MUSIC!



by laurence kee

Wes Montgomery, dead since last summer, carved his thumb-plucking commercial career out of unique renditions of colorful ballads and old tunes, as evidenced by Verve's postmortem release of "Willow, Weep For Me" (V6-8765).

These cuts were recorded at the Half Note in New York during summer and fall 1965. Verve picked up on several sessions there and ultimately came up with Montgomery's "Smokin'" disk, which was released almost three years ago.

The cuts heard on "Willow" are from tapes made at the Note that Verve says were somehow "misplaced" in the cutting shuffle. The finding of these lost tapes happened, of course, after Wes' death. (Draw your own conclusions about how

record companies lean to base theatrics in selling albums.)

At any rate, the industry's clamor in purporting the revelation of these sometimes dry cuts might be likened to that clamor associated with the discovery of certain Jewish scrolls by uncertain stateless bedouins.

Verve set Claus Ogerman brass arrangements on top of Montgomery's own personell, which consists of old-time friend and pianist Wynton Kelly; Paul Chambers on bass; and Jimmy Cobb on drums. Ogerman placed the horn lines in such a position as to fill in several obvious holes left by Wes and his group. Intonation and bad attacks seem to plague the horns all the way through, however, and at time the ensemble transitions sound outwardly sloppy.

"Willow", the first cut, is set in a lively swing beat that provides a sound basis for Kelly's intricate secondary patterns on the piano. During his solos, Wes exhibits the famous octave-voiced lead lines that most guitarists only dream about playing. Except for a teeth grinding display of out-of-tune trumpets during the last bridge, the tune ends with a well rounded bluesy feeling about it.

In "Oh! You Crazy Moon", Wes employs a broader guitar reverb than is used by reverberation freak Larry Coryell. The horn ensemble finally gets down to some tight patterns, but they are destroyed on the next turn by bad flute intonation. Wes gets a little carried away in his new electronic sound during the cadenze and almost bogs down to the point of bathos.

"Impressions" rides on a hard driving rhythm that points to the sheer physical stamina of drummer Cobb. Wes uses parallel triads very well to add fullness and color to the entire brocade of sound. Chambers is all over his fiddle, trying out some German cello techniques in his left hand and sparking bright cymbal accents from Cobb.

Last tune is the traditional "Misty", which lends itself to the type of beautiful strumming that Wes did best. Wes starts with a single note chorus before he adds an octave for more power. He develops the bridge by tracing the full harmonic progression with single notes. Flute and horns pull off some effective note drops and Wes ends the number with a beautiful and technically perfect cadenze.

Aside from occasional flaws in the horn line, the entire album comes off very well. Wes gives perhaps his finest recorded performance with "Misty", which flows effortlessly through the haunting melody. I admit that Montgomery is commercial, but at the same time I offer no excuses for this album. If one can overlook an occasional horn flaw (which is hard to do in their grosser moments) and concentrate on what Montgomery did with his music and his technical genius, some very happy time can be spent with this recording.

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independence and democracy.

American imperialism is the aggressor in South Vietnam. It tramples underfoot our fundamental national rights. This is why the conditions for a real peace in South Vietnam, which at the same time are the base for the only correct political solution for the problem of South Vietnam, can only be:

1) The Americans must end this war of aggression; withdraw their troops and arms and those of their satellites, dismantle American military bases in South Vietnam.

2) The Americans must respect the national rights of the South Vietnamese people to independence, democracy, peace and neutrality. The internal affairs of South Vietnam must be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves, without foreign interference. The reunification of Vietnam must be decided by the peoples of the two zones of Vietnam.

3) The NFL, the only authentic representative of South Vietnam must have its decisive place and voice in any political solution concerning South Vietnam.

**QUESTION** - Could you say, Mr. President, what have been the results of the use by the Americans of powerful modern weapons, such as the B. 52 bombers, ultra-rapid canon, etc.?

**REPLY** - In resorting to such barbarous methods of warfare as the B. 52's, combat gas, toxic chemicals; in carrying out a "scorched earth" policy, "kill everything, burn everything, destroy everything" the American imperialists have tried to intimidate our people and force them to capitulate.

But such actions only reinforce the hatred our compatriots feel towards the aggressors and reinforces their determination to fight heroically until the final victory, no matter what the difficulties may be.