

UC Leads Quest to Mechanize Agriculture: 180,000 Jobs at Stake; Hearing Slated Feb. 16

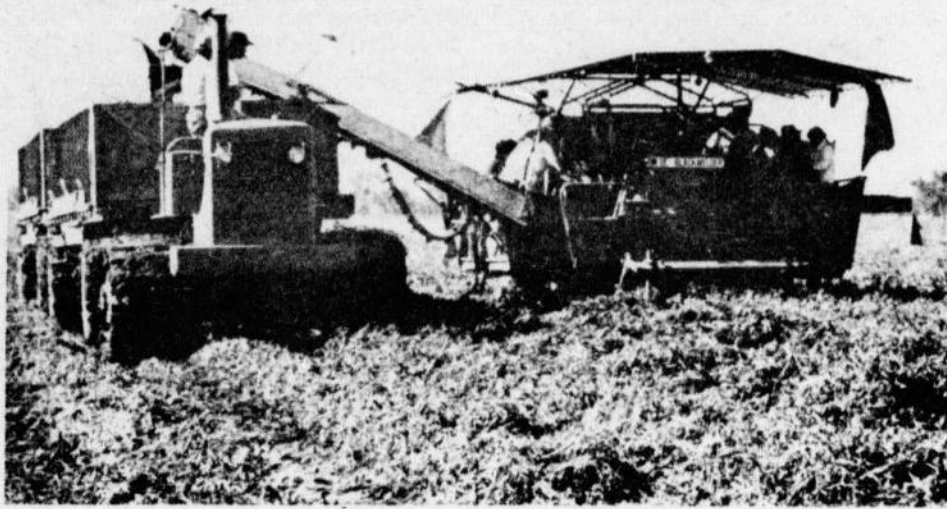
special to the new indicator

Electronic eyes sorted tomatoes in the place of 5,000 California farmworkers during the harvest of 1976. Those lucky enough to find work had to accept a 25 cent-an-hour wage cut. "In four or five years, every harvester in the state will be equipped with an electronic sorter," predicts Jack Deets, a corporate executive with sorter manufacturer AMF Inc.

According to Paul Kessler of the California Agrarian Action Project (CAAP) there are currently 180,000 farm jobs threatened by mechanization. Other effects of mechanization in agriculture are the elimination of small farmers and the growth of agribusiness monopolies. The quality of the food goes down and prices stay the same or go up.

Not surprisingly the research and development of these machines is done by the University of California. In a 1966 report to the California legislature, Ray Coppock, UC Information Officer, said the "Mechanization (agricultural) is one of the chief research missions of the University of California." Last year there were 22 mechanization projects in progress at Davis, while an additional 7 were underway at the Riverside campus.

The UC Budget Committee of the legislature, responding to information provided by groups such as the CAAP



and the United Farm Workers of America have pressured the UC Regents to hold public hearings on the issue and charged them with not exercising "social responsibility." The Regents will be holding a special hearing on mechanization research Feb. 16, at 2:00 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Speaking at the hearing will be Cesar Chavez of the UFWA, Tom Hayden and a member of the CAAP. Kessler urged any interested people to attend the

hearing. The hearing is important not only because of the immediate loss of jobs but because this issue is at the core of the university's relationship with big business.

The University of California, as a land grant college, was founded with the purpose of providing the research and training needed by California's young mining and agriculture industries. This pattern has persisted into an age of avaricious monopolies which use that

research not always in the interests of the tax payers who pay for it. In the case of the small farmer UC Information Officer Coppock suggested they "Mechanize or sell out" when caught in the squeeze of increasing capital costs. But of course only the giant corporate operators can afford the \$50,000-plus machines which then give them the productive edge on the smaller farmers.

University-developed machines not only increase the grower's profit margin by speeding up the process and reducing the amount of necessary labor but they also provide insurance against unionization. When the UFWA led 8,000 Salinas Valley workers out on strike in 1970, the lettuce growers gave the University \$13,500 to build a mechanical lettuce picker. Roger Garrett, the engineer who built the machine, cited the value of his invention in this way: "The machine won't strike, it will work when they (the growers) want it to work."

(background from: CAAP and Yolo Friends of the Farmworkers, pamphlet.)

INSIDE:

The Case for Divestment, part 2; 'Julia' Reviewed

TGIF

This Friday in front of Groundwork...refreshments, relaxation, good cheer-come on by.

new indicator

Vol. 3 No. 9

UC San Diego

Feb. 7-20, 1978

UCSD Production on Target

Laughter & Tears in the Neo-Colony—Brendan Behan's 'The Hostage'

Walpole is said to have remarked once: "Life is a comedy for those who think, and a tragedy for those who feel." But for Brendan Behan life was a strange mixture. Something to be laughed at surely - the hypocrisy, vanity and self delusion - but just as surely something to weep for - the tender, loving, vulnerable part of us - and to weave both with a song and a bottle of Guinness and sing one last chorus before the "H-bomb lays the matter to rest."

Behan looked long and hard at life and whatever else may be said him, he can never be accused of trying to sweep any of it under the rug. The embezzler, the whore the orphan, the homosexual and the failed revolutionary - all the surging forces struggling desperately under the deadened surface of bourgeois respectability - these were his artist's clay.

"There's some strange people in this house," Teresa the gentle, innocent maid says to Meg the madame. "There's some strange people in this world" is the reply. But Behan is too careful an observer of the human scene to leave it at that.

The incongruity of the situation is apparent: a Dublin brothel serving as an I.R.A. prison for Leslie Williams, a teenage English soldier who may be shot in reprisal if the execution of an I.R.A. volunteer in a Belfast jail is carried out. And yet the whole history of English imperialist exploitation unfolds - the Irish famine (when Queen Victoria sent a five pound note to the Irish Relief Fund and at the same time a similar amount to the home for stray animals), the oppression in Cyprus and Kenya as well as Ireland, the partition in 1921, the persecution of the I.R.A. by Irish Free State traitors with English help. The bitterness and pain of betrayal threaten at times to drown out the other. But a profound sense of love is there always to temper the cynicism, and there still is laughter when all else fails.

"The I.R.A. is as out of date as the Charleston," Pat, the "innkeeper," jibes. The H-bomb has made anachronisms of everything from the Red Army to the Coldstream Guards and our only hope is to wake up and realize before it all blows

Continued page 3

Socio-biology Class Gets Picket Line

When classes at SD State began this last month the students and faculty members of the Committee Against Racism (CAR), who had been opposing the teaching of a course in "Socio-biology" since last year, staged their scheduled picket of the first lecture meeting (See last issue).

According to Tom Weston of the CAR, at the first meeting, Prof. Kerkorian, who is teaching the course

said that during the course he would not be dealing with human behavior such as racism or war. But at that first meeting he passed out copies of the *Time* magazine article "Socio-biology: Why we do what we do".

The Committee Against Racism is holding a forum today the 7th in the Aztec Center, on "Socio-biology" even though Prof. Kerkorian would not consent to public debate.



U of Oregon Divestment Still at Issue—Students Sit In

special to the new indicator

The December issue of the *ni* ran a frontpage story reporting a decision by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to divest from companies doing business in South Africa. However, no action has been taken on that November 18th decision.

Eugene police put an end to an attempted sit-in in the administration building at the University of Oregon campus January 25th with the arrest of 23 anti-apartheid protestors.

Nineteen of the demonstrators--who were protesting the State Board's stock holdings in companies doing business in S. Africa--were charged with trespassing after they refused to leave the office of the chancellor of the State System of Higher Education. Four others were arrested outside the building.

Fifteen helmet-wearing officers arrived after students ignored an order from the Dean of Students to clear out. Meanwhile, 100-150 people gathered outside, many chanting support for the demonstrators and shouting at the police.

The protestors had occupied the building about 1 p.m., when about 30 persons marched into the chancellor's office carrying placards and chanting,

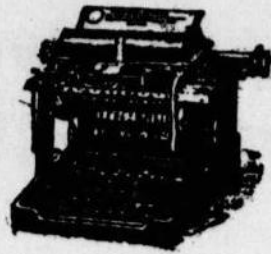
"State board, dump the stocks now."

They accused the board of stalling the sale of its stock after voting Nov. 18 to do so. The board is awaiting an opinion from the state attorney general as to whether it or the Oregon Investment Council, a separate state agency which manages the investments, has to power to divest the funds.

U of O President William Boyd met with the group and told them that while he supports divestiture, he deplored their tactics. He warned them they would be arrested if they didn't leave by closing time. The protestors argued that since no injunction has been filed to halt the stock sale the board is free to act.

Vice Chancellor Freeman Holmer said the board's vote was in good faith--and was the action needed to start the sale. But the protestors complained the board, which met Jan. 27th, didn't have the stock sale on its agenda. A spokesperson said they would leave the office if Holmer would agree to have the matter placed on the agenda.

Holmer considered the request, but found it "inappropriate," and so the protestors stayed and were arrested. The *ni* will report subsequent events as they develop.



Letters

Looking Ahead

The article on abortion which we promised last issue in a note to a letter on that subject will instead appear in our next effort. Study loads are such that a four-pager is all we can manage this time out.

Other pieces on file and in the works that we look forward to printing concern such topics as: profits from outer space; off-campus housing; a recounting of the recent symposium, "Who Rules the University?"; the situation for older students returning to college; and a deeper look into the student role in the present university power structure and how the situation can be improved.

We take this chance again to mention that we solicit contributions to this paper; all writers are invited to discuss their work with the collective that produces the paper.

Communications Board, AS, & Media Control

Some of us may have noticed the appearance of the second ASUCSD Bulletin, offering the "official student government's" version of reality. While we support the publication's right to express itself, we cannot approve of the representation of untruth as accomplished fact. We refer specifically to its pronouncements on UCSD media, with respect to their history, their functions, and their status. While this may not seem a burning issue, it does bear directly on the future of media at UCSD.

We object to these assertions which appear in two separate articles by "Communications Commissioner" David Eisen (ex-editor of the Triton Times) directed at the "entire student community."

-That the TT and KSDT are "official" media, while the NI, Voz Fronteriza and L'Chayim are "subsidiary" journals "aimed at special portions of the student community."

-That Eisen is organizing a "Communications Commission" to become "official publishers and regulators of UCSD media."

-That "a poll will be taken in late Winter or early Spring quarter" to determine next year's funding on the basis of student likes and dislikes.

-That this journal, the NI, is the strongest "of a series...of alternatives to the Triton Times."

To begin with the least important of these mistaken assertions, the NI and its predecessors North Star, Crazy Times, Indicator, et. al. did not appear as an alternative to the Triton Times, but rather, vice versa. Further, a visit to Special Collections in the Central University Library will show that our predecessors were "strong," by any estimation.

Eisen presents three things as accomplished facts: the division of media into "official" and "subsidiary"; his plans to conduct an opinion poll for use in allocating next year's funds to campus media, and his own formation of a "Communications Commission". To our knowledge, and according to AS President Jeff Leifer, none of these things are in fact true. This raises some fundamental questions about the decision-making process in the ASUCSD. The ASUCSD is supposedly "accountable", because individuals are "accountable"; yet, the decisions made in the AS are made by individuals in meetings with administrators or amongst themselves. "Behind closed doors" so to speak.

To put the situation in context, until this year, campus media were governed by a Student Communications Board, composed of reps from various colleges and the central student government. The Board was advisory to the Chancellor. With the advent of the AS, the Communications Board has mysteriously ceased to exist. A question has existed from the start of the AS as to whether Eisen would chair a Communications Board or merely represent the AS' interests on one. But since the beginning of the year as a result of inaction, Eisen alone has been doing or not doing what the Comm. Board is supposed to do: manage the facilities.

The lack of activity on this issue is not due to a lack of proposals for action. Before this school year even began the AS Council was presented with a proposed constitutional amendment authored by Ralph Hawkins, former Comm. Board chair, detailing the management of the production facilities and the relationship of the Comm. Board to the AS Council. Several weeks later Eisen submitted an outline for another amendment in opposition to Hawkins' but neither of these has been acted on and no decision has been made.

So, officially, media have existed in limbo. Most media approve the Comm. Board concept as best designed to guard the integrity and future of all campus media. Yet Eisen, de facto, seems to be ruling the roost, with the AS now in a position to decide which media get which funding, based on a survey implemented, presumably, by ex-TT editor Eisen. And also de facto, the TT has been pronounced "official," while others have been designated "subsidiary." This, by the way, is in direct opposition to policy and a constitutional amendment instituted by the Comm. Board two years ago, which designate all media "official".

We do not consider ourselves "subsidiary" (though, it must be said neither do we relish the title "official"), and we do not direct our stuff at a "special portion" of the community. These characterizations, in conjunction with "commissions" and "polls" instituted by the ex-TT editor working for the AS make doubtful the chances for "alternative" media being adequately funded to get their views across.

We are not claiming to have the final word on how media should be administered. We do think that the Hawkins Comm. Board proposal, which calls for participation of the various media on a Communications Board, has merit, more merit, certainly, than a commission appointed by an AS official. The questionable means by which Eisen's decisions have been presented to us point to the need for an open decision-making process.

We call for a full and public discussion of the respective merits of the Hawkins and Eisen proposals. For the protection of all media here we need a responsive Communications Board, one which can articulate a coherent policy.

OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS AND THE REG FEE COMMITTEE:

The Organizing Support Group is a committee of the Student Cooperative Union. After last year's referendum, the SCU has no longer served as "student government." At that time the OSG took responsibility to continue and redefine the Union's work, with full agreement by the Union's three chairpersons. Our work has been impeded, by the AS's refusal to fund us.

We have tried to reason with AS officers, and have patiently followed their so-called rules. But, they have not followed what guidelines they have, and have failed to draw up comprehensive criteria for funding. Therefore, we petition the Reg Fee Committee to disapprove any further AS allocations, until they make procedures and guidelines which are understood by all student organizations, including clearly outlined appeals process.

Here is a brief account of the AS run-around:

Last Spring, immediately following the referendum, our operating budget was frozen because the Union's and the Organizing Support Group's registration status was questioned. After we re-registered as separate from the Union, Vice-Chancellor George Murphy ruled that we met the requirements for funding. Without conducting hearings, AS Vice-President Mark Sindler notified us in July that no funds would be granted to us, because of "irregularities in your registration and anomalies in your constitution." We continue to petition for redress of grievances on this point. Throughout, double-talk and Catch-22 illogic has prevailed against us. In Fall quarter, we resubmitted an operating budget along with a programming budget. Later, we were told we were not funded, but no reason was given. We appealed, doing what we were told, because the AS has neither criteria for funding nor guidelines for appeals. Subsequently, I met with Howard Hunt, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, Jeff Leifer, AS President, Mark Sindler, AS Vice-President, Kevin Eckery, on Council Finance Committee, and Jim Atkins, Activity Fee Board Chair. At

this meeting, I was told all further appeals would be futile. The AS junior administrators have been trained well, whenever their excuses were contradicted, they would ignore the point. Examples: They didn't like our program, so they didn't fund it, and they don't give operating funds to groups without programs. They were not prejudiced against us, but they would be stupid to fund their opposition. To get funds a group must serve a broad portion of the student community, but our program of broad opinion polling wasn't specific enough. The issue of Sindler's actions was irrelevant to the question of fairness.

This has been our experience. If other progressive groups have had similar run-arounds, they should come forward at this time and make their problems public. This is important now, because some of these same AS officers may seek re-election. We have used the budgetary process to gauge the extent of liberalism in the AS, and we have decided that may premise of a "liberal AS" is false. It is obvious to us that the Regents and their designates (remember the AS is an administrative unit of the Regents) are committed to organized repression of progressive forces. Their efforts in reactionary organization will not stop, even if they drive the progressive community into total ineffectiveness.

The students at UCSD do not have an accessible and progressive central student organization. Yet, this campus community is faced with the challenge of organizing radical and democratic opposition to the policies and practices of the University corporation's Board of Regents.

Therefore, the Organizing Support Group has begun circulation of a draft SCU plan for organizing, to help promote a new level of discussion in the progressive community. For a copy of the working draft, please call 276-6142.

Vic Bloomberg
Organizing Support Group of the
Student Cooperative Union

FILMS

The East is Red is a revolutionary epic opera produced in 1963 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Peoples' Republic of China. Later made into a movie, it was shown all over the world. Depicting the course of the Chinese Revolution starting from the early days of colonized China to the final days of liberation, this production, performed throughout China, became a symbol of the progress and energy of the Chinese revolution.

Saturday, Feb. 11 in the Mandeville Auditorium
For exact time call EDNA
Sponsored by Chinese Students Association

The Committee for World Democracy and Third World Studies are sponsoring a series of films about and from the Third World:
The Battle of Chile—February 15, 7:00 p.m., 2722 USB.
The Traitors—March 9, 7:00 p.m., 2622 USB.
The Sense of Loss—March 16, 7:30 p.m., 1330 HSS.

OTHER

Gay Students' Alliance at UCSD is an open group to explore and encourage expression of human potential without repressive discrimination by gender, sexual orientation, age, economic or social status. GSA, c/o Gay Center for Social Services, 2250 "B" Street, San Diego, CA 92102 (237-7528), or c/o Student Organizations Center, UCSD, b-023, La Jolla, CA 92093.

Immeasurable Moments in Motion, a showing of photographs by Sarah Culotta at the Grossmont College Gallery through February 19.

Students for a United Ireland present:

"State Terrorism"

A discussion of the role of the English Army in Northern Ireland.

Mary Kennedy, former political prisoner from Belfast will speak. A slide show prepared by the English anti-war movement, the London-based United Troops Out Movement, will also be shown.

Thursday, February 16 7:30 p.m.
North Conference Room, UCSD Student Center

Laughter & Tears in the Neo-Colony

continued from front page

up who the real enemy is - not a private in a colonial army, surely.

Behan, of course, miscalculated on his Hydrogen apocalypse (so far, at least). Although he did live to see Jack

Kennedy take us all to the brink of Armageddon over the loss of one of our own little offshore islands. But in 1969, when the war in Northern Ireland exploded into the current blaze of saracens and gelignite, Behan was five years dead.

What song would he have given the Nobel peace women to sing as they sipped champagne on the Queen's yacht? What lament would have washed with tears the Derry street where thirteen unarmed civil rights marchers were gunned down by English paratroopers?

And what, finally, of the new bomb, the one that saves the critical portion of the "life and property" duality? Brendan is dead but he captured the historical moment (the aftermath of the disastrous 1956 I.R.A. border campaign) with all its contradictions, frustrations and bitterness.

The Drama Department production directed by Arthur Wagner comes on the play's twentieth anniversary and is an



admirable one. We can think of few shows in recent years which have offered such an intoxicating diversity of characters so skillfully portrayed. Christopher Schulte (Pat) gives a towering and sensitive performance as the deluded, ironic but proud and true veteran of I.R.A. combat and

English/Irish jails. Robyn Hunt (Meg) effectively captures the jagged-edged warmth of his "very nearly married" companion. Their First Act lament for Michael Collins left few dry eyes. Frank

Women's Mutual Respect Flavors "Julia"

The talents of Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave are admirably combined and displayed in Alvin Seargeant's **Julia**. The pair have come a long way. Redgrave leaves behind the air headed whimsical Guenivere frolic among the daisies. Likewise, Fonda discards the image of the kooky socialite as in **Fun with Dick and Jane** and **Barefoot in the Park**. In **Julia**, we are presented with two real women who deserve to be called heroines. Redgrave as the intellectual, rebellious Julia and Fonda as the contentious playwright Lillian Hellman are well matched for the tender but not overly sentimentalized, portrayal of their enduring friendship. Rarely is a film released which reveals so realistically a relationship between two women.

The realism of **Julia** is further enhanced by the setting and costumes. Usually films are guilty of some anachronisms, but **Julia's** designs and costuming avoid this. The action is centered around Lillian's train ride destined for Berlin. Lillian is en route to see her friend Julia and to give Julia 50,000 dollars needed for her anti-

fascist activities. The climax of the film is Lillian's last meeting with Julia in a Berlin cafe, a powerful scene of honest emotions. The talents of Redgrave and Fonda are played to the hilt during their rendez-vous. In the paranoid air of Nazi Germany in the 1930's, they can't fully express their feelings. But somehow they are able to convey love, humor, understanding, horror, and courage; in short illustrating the deep friendship of one woman for another.

Julia is a welcome beginning for the new films about women. It handles intimacy between two females without introducing overtones of lesbianism. Lillian and Julia share a relationship that films have been notoriously ignoring. Until now, the movie industry has disregarded positive relationships between women or has portrayed them as gushingly sentimental, competitive, or sexual. It is about time that women in film are "liberated" and allowed to portray mutual respect for each other. The public's enthusiastic reception of **Julia** should open doors for new possibilities for women in film.

Collison is superb as Monsewer, the Quixotic Anglo-Irish Commandant and veteran of the 1916 rebellion. A sensitive and pathos-filled eagerness marks Lawrence Paulsen's exquisite portrayal of Leslie. Jeanne Paulson's Miss Gilchrist is a classic rendering of the Castle, English-aping Irish type. Mark Browning is a delight as Mr. Mulleady,

the milquetoast, church fund embezzler. Catherine O'Donnell gives a moving performance as Teresa, the girl who finds love in a fellow orphan dressed in English khaki.

Gerald Burke's set caught the worn, frayed tawdriness of the play. Deborah Dryden's costuming was well-conceived and nicely understated.

The Case for Divestment

(Second of Two Parts)

from Berkeley Disorientation Manual

Wait a minute. You're arguing about the impact of foreign investment in general, and then you draw conclusions about American companies in particular. Isn't that a little unfair? After all, American investments make up only 15 percent of the total. Aren't the real culprits the bigger investors, like Britain?

It's true that American investments are relatively recent in South Africa. And that Britain still has the biggest share of foreign interests there.

That doesn't mean that U.S. investments are insignificant.

Over 300 corporations have sunk more than one and a half billion dollars into the South African economy, and that's not counting the investments in Canadian, British, and West European firms that are wholly or partly owned by U.S. firms.

U.S. companies have brought with them much of the technical know-how critical to industrialization. And U.S. investments are concentrated in the manufacturing sector - which led the boom of the 50's and 60's.

Even if you were successful in forcing U.S. companies to withdraw, other companies from other countries would simply rush in and buy them out at rock bottom prices. Apartheid wouldn't

suffer at all. American companies would be the ones to suffer - at the expense of the British, Germans, and Japanese.

If American companies withdraw, it will be because of a combination of a mass movement in this country and growing political turmoil in South Africa. If they are faced with these developments, foreign corporations will be too.

Besides, there's a kind of domino effect at work with investment decisions. If companies as powerful and influential as the American firms now doing business in South Africa decide to pull out, this will shake the confidence of other potential investors. The American decision will make them less, not more, likely to sink in their own capital. This is exactly what happened after Sharpeville in 1960 and Soweto in 1976.

If things reach the point where U.S. firms actually withdraw, it is very unlikely that other foreign firms will be waiting in the wings eager to take their places.

Speaking of the war in Viet Nam, at least we can be confident that the U.S. will never intervene militarily in an internal dispute in South Africa, the way we did in Southeast Asia.

You're probably right about that. Certainly, it would be hard at this point to convince the American public to commit troops overseas for just about anything - especially to defend a system as unpopular as South Africa's. And who in the government would be stupid enough to send the new volunteer army, which is almost a quarter black, into South Africa to defend white supremacy?

But the fact remains that the best way to guarantee that such an event won't happen is to remove the one thing that the American government might be tempted to protect: substantial U.S. investments.

Okay. Let's suppose for a minute you're right. American corporations are forced to withdraw from South Africa. British, German, and Japanese companies follow suit. These actions throw the South African economy into a tailspin. What then? It seems to me that if the South African whites have proved anything to the world, it's that they aren't prepared to go down without a fight, and they're perfectly prepared to fight dirty. I think that divestment would have disastrous consequences. It would mean greater unemployment for blacks, even more

severe repression of internal dissent, and a brutal assault on the living standards of the black majority. How could this possibly be seen as furthering the cause?

It is true that any economic sanctions against South Africa will produce black unemployment as well as white. And it is likely that the government's initial reaction to such foreign pressure will be another series of crackdowns. No black South African calls for withdrawal without considering these realities. It is they and their constituents, relatives and friends who will be affected. Nevertheless, they see these short-term costs as prerequisite for their freedom, just as hundreds who died in township uprisings during the summer of 1976 did. As the late Chief Albert Lutuli, Nobel Peace Prize winner and one-time president of the African National Congress said, "The economic boycott of South Africa will entail undoubted hardship for Africans. We do not doubt that. But if it is a method which will shorten the day of blood, the suffering to us will be a price we are willing to pay. In any case, we suffer already, our children are often undernourished, and, on a small scale (so far), we die at the whim of a policeman."

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Articles and letters are welcomed. Please type them, double-spaced, on 55-space lines and send to:

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thanx.

Long Stories In Short



Rent Strike in the "Spare Time" Slum

By KATHY KEILCH
Guardian Bureau

Oakland, Calif.

The 90 tenants in William Nickerson's decaying property in downtown Oakland know the secrets of his success.

As the author of the book *How I turned \$1000 Into \$3 Million in Real Estate in My Spare Time*, he is something of a celebrity. But to the tenants at his La Peralta apartments, he is a slumlord.

The tenants, predominantly Black, had begun a rent strike in December to pressure Nickerson to make repairs in the decaying building. Tenants showed the Guardian the kinds of apartments for which they paid \$210 a month and up: rats, roaches, leaky walls, unsafe wiring, faulty plumbing and broken furnaces. Nickerson made only minor cosmetic repairs, and tried to evict 13 tenants for initiating the rent strike.

Tenants then formed the La Peralta Tenants Association, which demanded the ouster of the building manager and took the whole case to court. The Tenants Association received significant support and legal help from the Black Panther Party. On Jan. 12 a municipal court ordered the repairs made and the evictions stopped. As part of the settlement with Nickerson, all tenants will now be represented by the Tenants Association.

Cola Cash is the Real Thing

from In These Times

Rather than let Indian shareholders in on its secret formulas, the Coca-Cola Company is preparing to pull completely out of the world's second most populous country.

The Indian government has adopted a policy requiring multinational companies operating in "low priority areas" such as soft drinks to transfer 60% ownership and the "know-how" to operate to Indians. But the fully American owned company that distributes Coke in India has indicated that it will shut down its 22 bottling plants before it will part with the "trade secret" of its drink formulas.

Kruggerand Lynched

from In These Times

Opposition to the sale of the South African gold coin, the Kruggerand, is growing in the U.S. Jan. 1 the brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch ceased sales of the coin in all its offices.

Bill Clark of the company's corporate relations department in New York said that the decision was "not a political decision," and came because the company found it "economically unfeasible" to sell gold coins.



Empty Houses & Homeless People

from The Guardian

Some 300 Philadelphia housing activists briefly took over the City Council chambers Jan. 12 to protest the city's meager plan to distribute funds for the rehabilitation of abandoned buildings. The action highlighted the emergence of a militant housing movement which is taking shape in the streets of Philadelphia.

The North Philadelphia Block Development Corp. (NPBDC) and its supporters have successfully moved 300 families into unused housing owned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since last June. The community organization continues to receive as many as 50 applications a day from would-be "homesteaders."

Philadelphia housing, as in most aging cities, has been a critical problem of increasing severity. Although the city has 40,000 abandoned and boarded-up units, decent low-income housing has completely disappeared.

Housing activists maintain that the city has an elaborate plan to "recycle" the areas around Temple University in North Philadelphia and elsewhere near Center City for future conversion to housing for white, middle-class professionals. Meanwhile, poor, low-income, working class and Black people from these communities have been literally forced into the streets.



SB-1437 is the revamped version of SB-1 sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy which will restructure the criminal code outlawing among other things the right to strike and threatening many of our first amendment rights. The bill, SB-1437, just recently passed the Senate floor.

Black Suicide Rate Climbs

NEW YORK (LNS)—Statistics showing a constant increase in the suicide rate of young black males in the Washington, D.C. area over the last six years reflect a national trend, according to D.C. mental health officials.

The statistics, recently released by the D.C. Department of Human Resources (DHR), show that there were 185 suicides by young black males in Washington during the last six years. The rate of suicides by this group increased from 9.5 per 100,000 people in 1971 to 15.7 per 100,000 people in 1975. The study also found that the median age of young black males in Washington who committed suicide from 1971 to 1975 was 29.

Dr. Jefferson Alpine, D.C. mental health director, said economic factors are the primary causes of the steady increase in suicides among young adult black males. "Suicides tend to be more of a class illness," he said.

Alpine, who is black, said this increasing suicidal group includes either unemployed, lower-class black men who are despondent and feel a sense of worthlessness, or middle-class economic obstacles that hinder success.

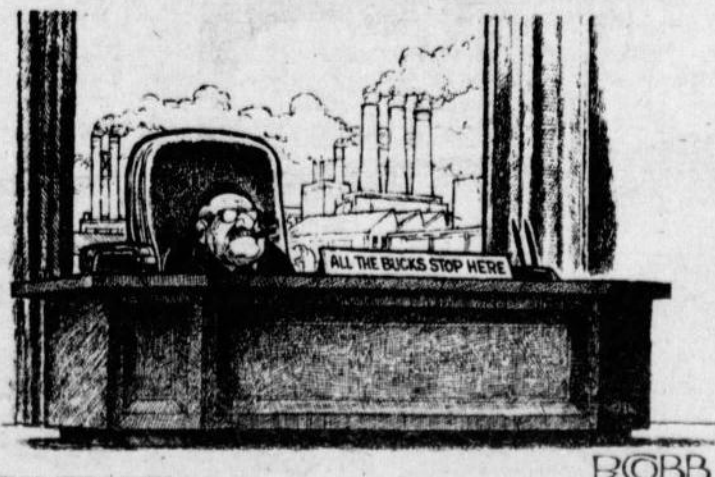
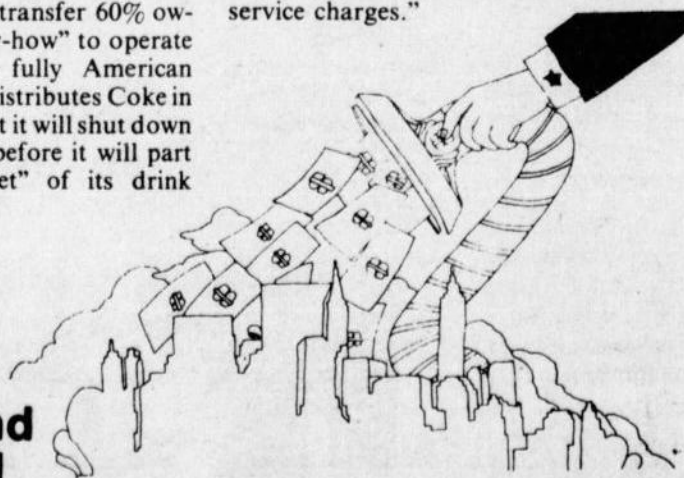
"Our economic situation at this time in history has something to do with it... If some of these young blacks could keep busy, work or something, they wouldn't manifest many of these destructive tendencies," he said.

A sense of hopelessness, economic insecurity and the often futile quest for economic success can snowball to a suicidal act, contends Dr. Paa-Bekos Welbeck, former director of a suicide prevention program at Michigan State University. According to Welbeck, "Black hatred of blacks, the feeling of hopelessness even by those who have managed to get training and education, is unprecedented."

Running Harder to Fall Behind

New York (LNS)—More than four and a half million people—an all time record—are now working two or more jobs in the U.S., according to statistics released by the Department of Labor. The steepest increase in moonlighting was among women, who now make up over one quarter of all people holding down more than one job.

Responses to the survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated that almost 40 per cent of moonlighters took a second job to meet regular expenses or pay off debts.



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