

new indicator

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Oct. 31-Nov. 13, 1978

Daycare Head Wins Job Back

UCSD Day Care Center Director Josie Foulks was reinstated by Chancellor William McElroy last Monday, following the recommendation of a five-person hearing committee which heard her formal grievance last month.

Foulks, who held the job for eight years prior to her firing by the Business Office in August, told the *new indicator*, "I'm happy to have my job back, but I shouldn't have lost it in the first place."

Hearing Committee members included Chairperson Benjamin Zweifach, Beryl Bellman, Robin Marion, Faith Maybury and Ramon Pinyon. The Business Office was represented by Laura Michetti, assisted by Tom Hull of Vice Chancellor Paul Saltman's office. Foulks was represented by Jim Stronski and Patsy Healey, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2068.

Foulks had been charged with infractions of University time-keeping policies, allowing a proxy signature on an employee evaluation form, and improper hiring practices for part-time and student workers. Laura Michetti, according to the Committee's report, "was worried that the timekeeping practices bordered on fraud." Michetti, in dismissing Foulks, had contended that a "lack of basic trust" had developed. The committee found, however, that "aside from...time sheet discrepancies and a number of apparently minor infractions, the committee was unable to determine what actually were the grounds for such an extremely serious statement."

The Committee did note what it found to be "poor administrative judgement in certain areas," but also noted testimony indicating "that the job requirements were unrealistic and too much for any one individual to carry out conscientiously without some assistance."

The central "irregularity" attributed to Foulks was the alleged condoning of one employee to claim worktime on days she did not show up to make up for previous overtime the same month—this practice is known as "compensatory time." "Although improper in the strict interpretation of University policy and a practice that should not be condoned," the Committee said, "it could not be viewed as fraudulent and appeared to be a practice loosely adhered to in other

departments." The Committee also noted that the Business Office "ignored the fact that almost all the Daycare Center employees worked overtime without recording this fact on their monthly time sheets."

Much of the Committee's concern centered around the question of whether or not the Business Office had provided Foulks with adequate clerical training and support. Especially damaging to the University's case was the admission that the person it planned to replace Foulks with "would be assisted by one or two part-time clerical staff." "A comparable offer to Ms. Foulks could have circumvented many of the problems at issue here."

The Committee also noted that despite the Business Office's assertion that Foulks should have become "completely self-sufficient as an administrator," it was not clear that Ms. Foulks' authority as the administrator was formally recognized. "She had to get practically everything cleared through Laura Michetti."

"Ms. Foulks was dismissed without any evidence that her file contained a written evaluation of her performance for over two years," the Committee said, also noting a lack of communication between the protagonists. "Part of the difficulty here," they wrote, "may have been the failure of Ms. Michetti to weigh factors contributing to the inability of Ms. Foulks to conform to University guidelines—namely, the near impossible task of attending to all of her duties..."

If Foulks' administrative problems were chronic, as the Business Office claimed, the Committee found it "curious that no previous attempts had been made to rectify specific discrepancies. On the other hand, if this instance was the only documented discrepancy, then the ensuing response was clearly an over-reaction on the part of the University."

The Committee's recommendation, signed by all five members, says simply: "Reinstate Ms. Foulks to her position as Administrator of the Day Care Center."

Foulks will be back on the job in two weeks, with back pay. She will be given two weeks "training" in administrative procedures. She will also be given a 20% (equivalent to one day a week) clerical position to assist with paper work.



Lenny Edwards of People's Voice addresses participants in last week's rally called to protest racist views attributed to visiting Professor of Philosophy Anthony Flew in an article in UCSD's *Guardian*. People's Voice, Oct. 23, contains "Rebuttal to Racism," an excellent critique of Flew's views on Black culture, Affirmative Action and related issues.

Commentary

'Objectivity' Examined

When an interview with visiting philosophy professor Anthony Flew appeared in the *Guardian* (Fri., Oct 20) there was spontaneous and campus-wide reaction to the article. It is not our intent here to attack the *Guardian* on ideological grounds for the printing of this particular article, which in the words of one of the *Guardian* editors, expounded "Neanderthal views", with serious overtones of racism and elitism. Nor does this writer feel that because of the article, it is fair to say that the editorial board of the *Guardian* is inherently racist. We are not trying to deny anyone their First Amendment rights. What is worth examining more closely it seems, is the basic ideas of objectivity and accountability in journalism.

First off it must be realized that commercial newspapers, such as the *Guardian*, are first and foremost businesses. Because they are businesses they usually reflect a business point of view. They are ultimately successful by creating an atmosphere of excitement. They don't have much use for news or views that point to the basic faults of the political or economic system. They are also not very interested in WHY events happen. You can read for weeks about the firing of the DayCare Center director, without ever finding out who really wanted her out and why. As was pointed out at last week's rally, commercial media view their audience not as a constituency to whom they responsibly present information but as a market to be sold to.

Commercial news media have built up a mythology about what is news that we sometimes accept without really thinking about. The most common myth is that newspapers are (or even can be) objective, that they print the "truth" and take sides only in editorials. No reporting is objective— who is quoted,

what facts are picked out, how much space is given to different stories, all reflect a point of view about what's true and what's important. It is much easier to appear "objective" when you accept things as they are, sticking to official sources and avoiding controversy.

We maintain that it is preferable to be honest about our point of view and then to get it across with convincing information. It ought to be the philosophy and practice of the paper to go out and "cover" a beat (in this case UCSD) in depth, finding out about the various structures and how they work: who has power? how do they get it, and what do they do with it? what pretensions do those in authority have? what do they *actually* do? whose interests do they serve? In other words, unless a paper is committed to a thoroughgoing (and ongoing) analysis, it operates in a vacuum and so do its readers.

Of the many popular misconceptions, there are three in particular that the *new indicator* tries to struggle against: 1) that the university is a politically neutral environment; 2) that media can be "objective"; 3) that even if the university, society, and media in general are corrupt, little if anything can be done about it.

At the present time many dedicated individuals and groups are doing principled work and study, both in the university and in the community at large. One task at hand is for people engaged in progressive study and work to communicate their efforts to people at large in an effort to prevent disillusionment from solidifying into apathy and cynicism, and this into unconsciousness and unconcern. We must endeavor to turn the dissatisfaction that exists into demystification and understanding of how the system operates and how it can be changed.

Student Advocate Program In Gear

The Student Advocate program kicks off another quarter. A creation of Barry Hyman, Commissioner of Student Welfare, last year, the program has helped many students involved in administrative, academic or legal grievances. The program is student-run and designed to protect and insure the rights of students within the university.

Barry Hyman states "that the program is not an arm of the University Administration. We provide an autonomous service whose purpose is strictly designed to help students; thus we would never release information on a student to anyone, unless first authorized to do so by the student himself/herself."

All Student Advocates are trained to follow through on their responsibilities when advocating on a students' behalf. Basically, but not exclusively, the Student Advocate program assistance falls into the following categories: drafting letters of appeal; phoning for information; advocating on behalf of students; representing student at hearings before professors and administrators; research on cases; strategy and advice sessions; letters supporting students from the Student Advocate office.

The program is located on the second floor of the Student Center. The contact person for this program is Barry Hyman, Commissioner of Student Welfare, 452-4450.



These students will soon have their Day Care Center Director back with them.

Letters

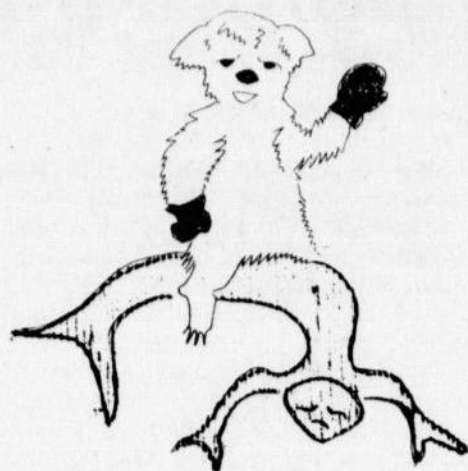
Mascot Mulled

I read of the change of mascot from Triton to a koala with feelings of mild exasperation. Triton, a character from Greek mythology, can be taken to symbolize a love of literature and philosophy and a concern for humanistic studies as well as for scientific research. As the son of the sea god, he is a fitting symbol for a school which is physically located so near the ocean and which includes the prestigious and world-famous Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

Now, the koala, because of the successful establishment of a breeding colony here in San Diego, has become recognized as a symbol of the San Diego Zoo. You may draw your own inferences.

Is it, I wonder, indicative of the administration's opinion of the education offered here, or of UCSD students themselves, that they have chosen to exchange a symbol of higher education for a teddy bear?

Concerned Staff



Note: The mascot has not been changed, officially, as far as we know. It is part of a P.R. campaign, the funding of which we question when funds are denied other pressing human needs. The koala, by the way, is not a bear, but a marsupial. Also, Scripps is not known so much for humanistic studies as research for the CIA and Department of (Alleged) Defense.

Notes from the Collective Desk

Firing Issue— More Than Meets Eye

Daycare Center Director Josie Foulks has won back her job and all of us who are acquainted with the fine work she has done, and all of us who recognize the need for decent daycare, are rightfully pleased.

As with all political struggles, we can learn from this experience. And when we say we, we mean not only ourselves, nor do we set ourselves up as the authentic interpreters of the event. We mean that all of us who would work for ends such as decent daycare, or struggle with the administration for accountability on investments or admissions policy, etc., must constantly try to evaluate the process, for enlightenment as to how the foe operates and how we can best advance our cause.

The Foulks situation sheds light on both administrative harassment tactics, and the strength of a collective response in combatting them. However at the same time we recognize a victory, and take note of the egg on the Chancellor's face, we must also ask, why the hell was Josie put through this hassle in the first place? The administration, after all, merely had its minions labor to oust Josie on company time, during working hours, with tax dollars badly needed by human services such as Daycare. Josie, on the other hand, had her whole life affected—fired from a job to which she had devoted a decade, cast adrift in a time of high unemployment and cutbacks in her field, her very existence was threatened.

As for Daycare supporters, their energies were in part deflected from promoting Daycare to defending Josie; just as some of their energies and resources have been diverted to defending the parent arrested in the midst of the Daycare Center last spring. U.C. has prolonged that case, declining to appear in court, allowing charges to be dismissed, and then reinstating them. The effect this harassment might have on a person is obvious.



Tactics like these are pervasive, in varying degrees of severity, throughout the world, wherever oppressors struggle to hold power. The power of the UCSD administration has been threatened by its failure to eliminate daycare here. Anyone who thinks our administrators are not allied in purpose with some of the more oppressive forces on our planet, or that they would decline to use despicable tactics to achieve their purpose, is naive and is someone we would gladly engage in debate.

The positive result of Foulks' hearing, and the role played by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 2068 in the defense, may of course outweigh the negative aspects of the struggle.

And this reveals the administration's weakest point. Despite the fact that our society does not operate very democratically, it still pays lip service to democratic ideology. The rich and powerful have been able to manipulate the system and its ideology to maintain their power. Often this has entailed throwing sops such as affirmative action and daycare to the disenfranchised. This lip service to democratic ideology—a commitment that cannot possibly be fulfilled in practice by a system which operates so unfairly—creates loopholes through which we can work. Hence Josie's hearing, at which the administration looked bad.

The administration is no doubt freaked out about the Foulks decision for a number of reasons. Chief among these is the publicity given an employee standing up to oppressive authority and the part played in her defense by a strong, democratically-organized union. Collective bargaining is here, and UCSD employees will be voting on a representative. The example AFSCME is making, effectively pressing worker grievances and lobbying for safety and other qualitative improvements, does not cause McElroy and co. to rest easily.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sensory Transition, a multi-media, avant-garde, Environmental Theater will be presented outside, on the fourth floor of the Art Building at San Diego State Thursday, November 2 at 7:45 p.m.

Women Graduate Students Meetings, Thurs., Nov. 2 at the Coffee Hut from 11 - 1. Contact Janet Falk at x3220 or Carol Stephens at x3556.

The Cage and Of Mice and Men presented by the UCSD Drama Department, Oct. 31 through Nov. 5. Mandeville Recital Hall. x4514 for more info.

Prague String Quartet will perform at 8:00 p.m., Sat., Nov. 4 in Mandeville Auditorium.

Pianist Cecil Lytle at Mandeville Auditorium, Nov. 8, 8:00 pm.

new indicator meetings, Tuesdays at 5:30, Student Center.

One thing stands between the seal pup and the hunters' ship—GREENPEACE

Each spring, Greenpeace volunteers confront the hunters who club and skin almost all Harp Seal pups born on the ice-floes of Newfoundland. Greenpeace is changing the odds, and saving the seals. Send your contribution to: Greenpeace Foundation / 240 Fort Mason / San Francisco, CA 94123

Imagine a world without GREENPEACE

ERRATA

In our last issue two inaccuracies appeared in Charles A. Patterson's column:

—it was incorrectly reported that the sum of twelve thousand dollars in Navy advertising had been sold by the *Triton Times/Guardian*. The actual amount currently contracted for is fifteen hundred dollars.

—it was mistakenly stated that the lawsuit challenging the validity of the referendum in which the AS was given power had been filed in a Federal Court. The lawsuit, in actuality, was filed in Superior Court, which is a state court.

The new indicator is officially recognized as a campus newspaper by the Student Communications Board of UCSD. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the CommBoard, the Chancellor, the Regents, or any other group or individual.

new indicator co-editive student organizations contact UCSD, b-623 La Jolla, Ca. 92093 ph: 714-532-2916

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Kulture

review



Old Globe Play Blatantly Sexist

by Janet Falk
Dept. of Literature

The Old Globe Theater production of *The Robber Bridegroom*, currently playing at the Spreckels Theater, is "a saucy, sassy musical fantasy... a modern fairy tale... the dream of a life loving child" according to the play's director Jack Tygett. In reviewing the show for *The Guardian* (Oct. 23), Jill Louise Brazeley was impressed by the "country western/bluegrass spirit of the musical." While *The Robber Bridegroom* purports to be a musical comedy, one of its themes is anything but funny and entertaining. This show perpetuates a stereotyped view of women as sexual beings, claiming that they not only enjoy, but also seek out violent sexual encounters. As a female, I am concerned that this fallacious myth is still commonly accepted. As a rape victim, I am convinced that there is very little about rape which is amusing. This theme so distressed me that I left the performance after the first act.

A close analysis of the first act shows that the willing woman/rape victim myth is exploited on several occasions. The first instance is when Rosamund Musgrove encounters Jamie Lockhart, the "Bandit of the Woods." As he walks away with all her clothes, she asks him, "Is that all you're going to take from me?" It was clear to all in the audience that she was alluding to the potential theft of her maiden head; in fact she was inviting the man who had just disrobed her to complete the process of dishonoring her in no subtle terms. Indeed, her stepmother suggests upon Rosamund's return home that she has lost her virginity as well as her new dress.

Despite the theft of her clothes, Rosamund returns to the woods to seek Jamie out, although she denies that this is her motive. He ignores her and wanders through the woods, while she follows him blindly. Finally, he takes her in his arms and "he took from her the only thing he'd left her the day before." Here the traditional scene of passionate first kisses in a locus amoenus (pleasant setting) such as a grassy meadow with a cool stream is thoroughly perverted. Jamie makes love to Rosamund in a dark forest where wild beasts roam and the air reeks of dark, evil sensuality. Apparently, the innocent and adolescent Rosamund is fascinated by this man for he is clever, elegantly dressed, and strong (albeit a thief). In effect, he is the archetypal he-man and she cannot resist his virile charm.

Now that Rosamund has discovered the pleasures of surrendering herself to her lover, she becomes hungry for a repeat performance. Returning to the woods, she discovers Jamie's hide-out. In order to seduce him this time, she relies on her "femininity," whereas Jamie overwhelmed her with his masculine bravado, she plans to conquer him with her domestic efficiency; she straightens

up the disordered house and even bakes some corn bread. Although Jamie succumbs, it is only on his own terms. He gives her a quick right jab to the jaw, and having rendered Rosamund unconscious, he proclaims the delights of illicit love in a song, "Love Stolen."

I will acknowledge the potency of the mental pleasure of consciously transgressing a law or tabu. Nevertheless, I find the analogy between taking cookies from a cookie jar and having sexual relations with an inert body ludicrous and offensive. It is one thing to hear someone point out the positive features of forbidden sex in a light song; it is quite another to see him put this theory into practice with the lover whom he has just knocked senseless. The first act closes on this note of violent sexual abuse, although Rosamund is made to appear a willing victim, as her limp arm is draped about Jamie's neck.

Throughout the first act, Rosamund is portrayed as actively provoking Jamie on each of the three occasions they meet. By giving him an open invitation and then making herself available to a man she knows is dangerous, she is "asking for it." Indeed, she "gets it," namely a violent sexual encounter. The fact that Jamie must use force to subdue her is lightly justified by his credo "Don't accept anything if you can steal it." His distorted motto sets up several situations which, when considered as a whole, show that *The Robber Bridegroom* adds credence to the myth that women "want" to be raped.

This theme is abhorrent. I was shocked to see a subject as serious as rape be treated so lightly, especially in an age when women have worked diligently to call this issue to the public's attention. I find this depiction of a woman who actively seeks to be violently sexually abused extremely offensive. The Old Globe Theater is to be censured for producing this blatantly sexist play, as are those who ignore this theme.

The Musician's Index is back
Check it out at EDNA
sponsored by the Jazz Club
also
Jazz Club Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 2, Student
Lounge Conference Room,
5:30 Student Center

Funded by ASUCSD distributed Activity Fees

Commentary

Babylon-By-The-Cove

Charles A. Patterson

We received, recently, a report on Muir College from John Stewart, the Provost there. Mostly this kind of stuff is useless, and we round-file it. I happened to look through it, however, and noticed some interesting statements. The report states that people really don't care that much about being at Muir College, find the staff not helpful, although friendly, like the general education requirements, and are alienated. Muir college, according to the report, "has the greatest number of students leaving." In fact, only about 35% of Muir students stick it out to graduate. A lot of students just don't seem to like the place much. The only concrete reasons for not liking Muir were the Faculty's concentration on research, instead of teaching, and the unfriendly atmosphere. So the College administration has come up with drastic reforms to save the day, right. Sure, the report has a purely rhetorical set of goals at the end, including such items as being "positive, not passive" and commanding loyalty and respect. To implement these goals leaders at the College, whoever they are, are to "recognize and accept those inevitable forces and developments which preclude the realization of much of the original conception of Muir" and the Faculty are

to develop, with the administration, a new philosophy of education. Heavy stuff...

Still dwelling on the absurd, at a recent AS meeting those junior bureaucrats devoted lots of time to decide whether to censure Barry Hyman, Commissioner of Student Welfare, for stating that the AS Finance Committee was sexist. They are, of course, although sexist is too specific a word—reactionary would be more like it. Barry made a speech in which he explained that he was sorry if their feelings had been hurt, but that they had performed sexist acts, by recommending inadequate funding of the Women's Center, and that they should recognize this fact and learn from it. He explained to them that even if they weren't consciously being sexist their priorities and actions were materially sexist. After he spoke the person who introduced the motion got up, and said that since Barry had apologized for calling him, and the rest of the Finance Committee, sexist he would withdraw his motion. Barry was not permitted to clarify the matter, after being so severely misunderstood, and the Council moved on the other "business." Apparently those clowns just don't listen so good...

Poetry

Bobby Hawkins at UCSD

Like a fresh breeze from Texas, poet Bobbie Louise Hawkins was at UCSD last week for a brief reading in the ongoing UCSD New Poetry Series. Michael Davidson, a published poet, acting assistant professor of literature and director of the Special Collection Archive which sponsors the New Poetry Series, says, "Her Texas tales rank right along with Frank Dobie and Mark Twain for their sharply focused picture of locale and dialect and for their brilliantly dry wit." Hawkins has published *BACK TO TEXAS* (Berkeley: Bear Hug), *FIFTEEN POEMS* (Berkeley: Arif), *FRENCHY AND CUBAN PETE AND OTHER STORIES* (Bollinas: Tombouctou), and *OWN YOUR OWN BODY* (Santa Barbara: Black Sparrow).

Just returning from a concert tour with female singers Terry Garthwaite (an ex-member of the now-defunct Joy of Cooking), and Rosalie Cassalls, Bobby read a bacon&eggs poetry of husbands, fried liver, and dying fathers.

Such clean country hasn't been heard around here in a long time if ever except for maybe when *Lone Star* played "quarter-in-the-can" weeknight concerts at the old Blue Ridge Music storefront in empty weeknight downtown Encinitas.

Bobby now lives in Bolinas, California, calls the dry short proses of Fielding Dawson and Dale Herd influential on her own writing, and says, "There's no hippie that didn't want to be a cowboy"

NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF
Volpone by Ben Jonson &
Quite Early One Morning
by Dylan Thomas

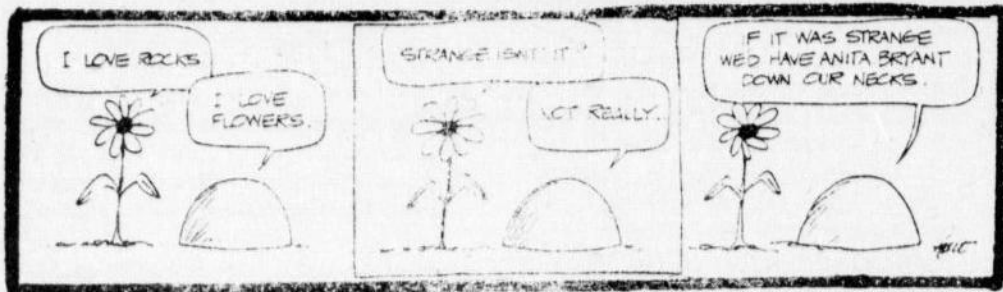
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Long Stories In Short

Briggs on Wane?



SAN FRANCISCO (LNS)—The growing optimism of gay activists in California just got another shot in the arm: the latest California survey conducted by pollster Mervin D. Field shows pro and anti Briggs forces dead even.

Voters will decide Nov. 7 on the proposition, which would require school boards to dismiss all school workers suspected of advocating or participating in "public homosexual activity."

"Continuation of the trend now in evidence," Field told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "would result in a rejection of Proposition Six by election day."

A Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative spokesperson explained, "It shows that when people are educated as to what Briggs is, they turn against it."

Field had a similar theory: "It would

appear that while the public may not be willing to endorse any special enhancement of homosexual rights, neither is the public willing to specifically deny homosexuals any of their civil rights because they speak about their sexual preferences."

Efforts of Gay Rights supporters are also credited. They have obtained a public endorsement of a "No on Six" position from every labor union in California. Field's latest poll shows 64 percent of Black people plan to vote against the measure. Such opposition is seen as a sign that minorities and working people see Briggs as a threat to labor and civil rights in general.

Field cautions that "reliable predictions of the outcome next month are impossible." Thus, opponents of Six are maintaining a strong effort to get out the vote against the measure.

Reggae Star Worked Over

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—As ex-Wailer Peter "Walking Razor" Tosh stepped from a recording studio a few weeks ago onto Kingston's busy Half-Way Tree Road, three plainclothesmen waiting nearby arrested him for smoking herb. Tosh argued, was led away at gunpoint, and later that night worked over in jail. Four bones in his right (guitar) hand were fractured, his lungs liver, and kidneys may have been injured, and his head eventually required 44 stitches.

The police denied him not only bail but medical attention (which his cellmates supplied), while Tosh's friends placed a call for help to Claude Robinson, secretary to Michael Manley, Jamaica's social democratic prime minister and Tosh's sometimes defender. But Robinson told them there was nothing he could do.

Charged with disturbing the peace, resisting arrest, and using indecent language, Tosh was taken to the hospital under heavy guard the next day, and released on bail the day after. He returned home to tend his wounds and seethe under a near-total news blackout on the beating.

It is generally believed that the beating occurred as a result of Tosh's comments at a recent concert where, before the island's leading politicians, the foreign press, and 25,000 wildly cheering Kingston youths, he decried "the colonialist imperialist situation" of "pirates who still come rob up the resources of the country," the "shitstem of class and color prejudice," the oppressiveness of the legal system, and the ineffectuality of the political directorate.

After the concert, as Manley shook hands with the singer for photographers, Tosh leaned over and whispered, "Now you have the power in your hands: do something with it."

—from the *Village Voice*



Army M.D.'s Sit-Down

NEW YORK (LNS)—The U.S. Army broke its promise to 7,000 doctors who joined the military under a Health Professions Scholarship Program. So alleges Leon T. Davis, an army captain and doctor at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. Davis staged a one-man sit-down strike in early October to protest what he and his medical colleagues describe as the Army's breach of promise.

Davis and 630 other military MDs recently filed suit in a U.S. District Court in Washington charging that they had been denied the right to attend medical conferences, 30 days vacation, and had never collected a \$9,000 bonus promised upon completion of their medical residency programs. Davis claims that doctors who joined the service via channels other than the Health Professions Scholarship program will pocket the bonus money.

Even more serious, however, are Davis' allegations that medical care in the armed forces is shoddy. Though Commander of Walter Reed Maj. Gen. George I. Baker has recommended that Davis be court martialled for refusing to obey orders, Davis thumbed his nose at the army's threat. Appearing on local television, Davis said that modern medical equipment at Walter Reed is in such short order that "the result is often malpractice." Similar complaints have been reported at other army hospitals nearby where dwindling personnel and limited modern equipment have been termed "horrendous."

Nurses Win Strike

NEW YORK (LNS)—Nurses at New Brunswick, New Jersey's Middlesex General Hospital ended a 13-day strike and returned to work on October 6 with their first official union contract. They, like nurses who have struck within the past six months in Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington D.C. are beginning to view themselves as highly skilled workers rather than handmaidens to male doctors.

But this is not all as nurses now realize that they can win some of their demands, if not all of them, by organizing and fighting for better working conditions and health care. And if recent strikes are an indication of times changing, in the coming months "Nurses on Strike" will increasingly make its way into newspaper headlines as nurses press for such demands as union recognition, input at decision-making levels and wage increases.

Demands centered around a workable grievance procedure and wages. "We're the ones who deal with the patients everyday," said nurse Nancy Levy, "so it's only logical that we should have some input at the decision-making level." Though the demand for higher wages registered third in the contract dispute, it was, nonetheless, a critical issue: Nurses at Middlesex are among the worst paid in central Jersey with a starting salary (before the new contract was ratified) of \$4.97 an hour.

The nurses, who have received no raises or cost of living increases for the past two years, were asking for a 10 percent increase this year and a 10 percent increase for 1980. "It's not as if the hospital is a non-profit institution struggling to balance its books," Levy said. "Middlesex made approximately \$500,000 last quarter."

Probable the most stunned party during the strike was not the nurses union—but the hospital administration itself. The nurses won a change in the "requirement provision," to read, "employees shall be entitled to two days off in each 7-day period," an "open shop," allowing registered nurses the option of joining the union, a nurse practice council to make recommendations to the Director of Nursing, and an 8.5 percent wage increase for each of the following two years.

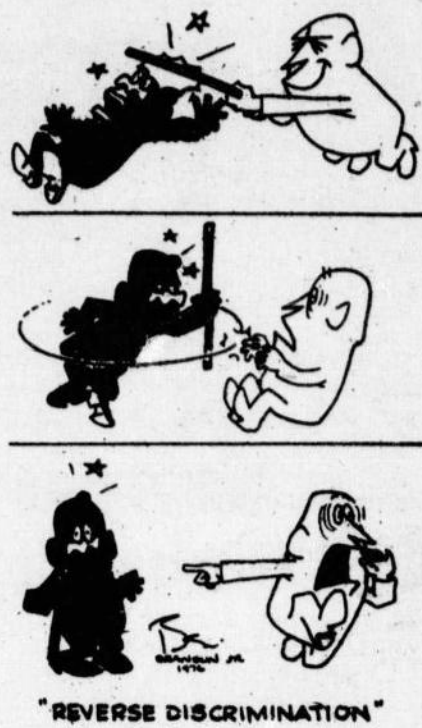
College Workers Win Strike

NEW HAVEN, CONN. (LNS)—A three week long walkout of 150 clerical workers at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut ended September 26 with a victory: the clericals, mostly women, won the right to ratify a one-year contract calling for a 7 percent wage increase, clarification of pay grades and establishment of a grievance procedure with a provision for binding arbitration.

The clerical workers organized into the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), affiliated with the AFL-CIO, which gave support to the strike. The workers had been fighting for a contract since 1974, when they first organized their local.

Failure

The Educational Testing Service, the same non-profit corporation that has recently reported falling college entrance exam scores, also markets a "basic skills" test designed for high school students. About 19% of the students taking the "basic skills" test fail it. Another sign of the failure of American education? Well, when the E.T.S. tried giving the same test to a group of corporate managers, they found that 14% of the managers also failed — from *Dollars and Sense*



Words to Ponder...

"I can't wait to get out of this chickenshit outfit."

Retiring Senator James Abourezk, of South Dakota, who led the losing battle to prevent deregulation of natural gas, called by political writers Alexander Cockburn and James Ridgeway "The greatest handout to the oil industry since Rockefeller formed his trust at the end of the 19th century."

Nuke Plant Fades

NEW YORK (LNS)—The owners of Trojan, the largest nuclear power plant in the United States, are slowly losing their battle to generate nuclear energy at the plant. For the past six months, the nuclear facility at Rainier, Oregon, has been shut down because of basic flaws in the control room.

While the plant was closed for refueling last spring, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued an order temporarily prohibiting the plant's reopening after disclosures that the control building's walls were not up to federal earthquake standards. Since that time, the 1139 megawatt plant, which cost nearly a half billion dollars to build, hasn't generated one kilowatt of electricity.

The three year-old plant has been the target of three protests this year. At an on-site occupation in early August, 273 occupiers were arrested during the four days of demonstrations organized by the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance, a coalition of anti-nuclear activists.

A few months earlier, in April, two workers at Trojan received the highest accidental doses at a commercial power plant yet recorded.

For that "accident" the Nuclear Regulatory Commission fined Portland General Electric, the plant's owners, \$20,000.

