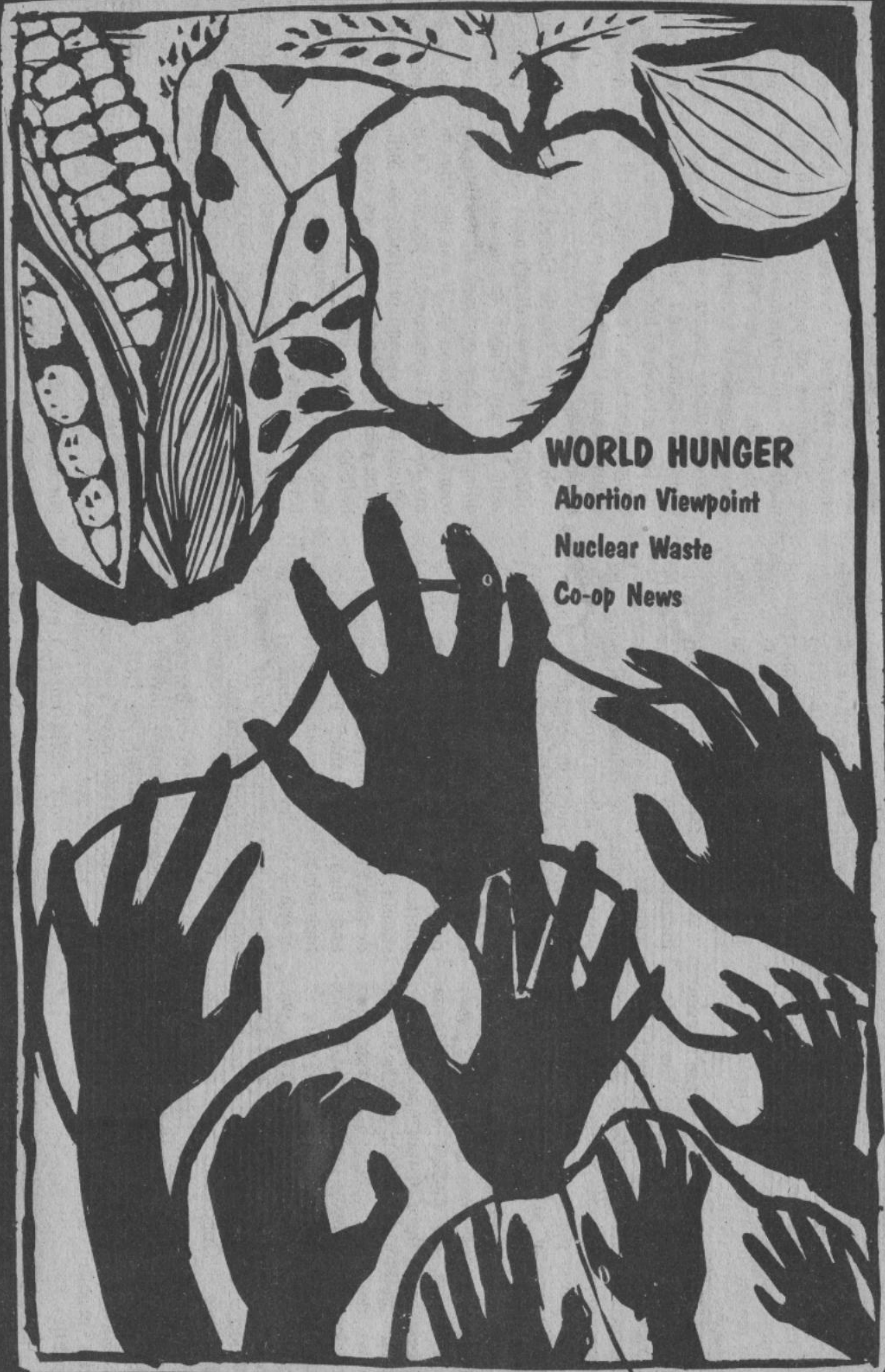


SPECTRUM

A Cooperative Newspaper for the Tallahassee Community

May Eve, 1981 Issue No. 23

FREE



WORLD HUNGER

Abortion Viewpoint

Nuclear Waste

Co-op News

Woman or Law: Who Makes The Choice?

by Vicki Mariner, with Ronda Hansen

On Monday, April 13, the Florida Senate Rules Committee headed by Dempsey Barron met to hear testimony on a proposal to call a Constitutional Convention. The sole purpose of this unprecedented Convention would be to "amend" the U.S. Constitution to define human life as beginning at conception and to outlaw abortion for any reason.

After two hours of testimony by citizen groups for and against, the committee voted to affirm the proposal and send it to the Senate floor. This is the Florida Legislature's first step in joining the other nineteen states that have voted for a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

There is something deeply troubling to me about the term abortion rights. We are discussing legislated rights here, rights that are legally given and taken away. But the concept of abortion as a "legal right" is a fairly modern one.

Somehow it seems that this question of fetal right to life has been going on for centuries. In fact it has not.

- The first recorded recipe for an abortion-producing drug is dated at 2600 B.C.
- The first complete ban on abortion was not issued by the Catholic church until 1588. It was rescinded only three years later.
- It was not until 1869 that Pope Pius IX took a final stand that abortion was morally wrong.

It has only been within the last hundred years or so that a moral/legal argument has been developed to usurp what has been the decision and responsibility of women for centuries.

The dictionary defines a right as "that which is due to anyone by law, tradition or nature." No-one can seriously believe that abortion will stop just because a law passed in 1981 or any year.

The first recorded recipe for an abortion-producing drug is over four thousand years old.

Obviously the practice of abortion is far older even than this. It has always been for the female to decide — if there was enough food, if there was shelter and security, if she herself was strong enough and the time was right. During migrations or lean times, American Indian women used herbs such as mugwort and pennyroyal to prevent unwanted births. Modern women may be forced to rediscover this lost lore of herbs, dangerous and uncertain as the process will be.

What is the source of this relatively recent but very emotional drive to legally define and then "save" all human life from the instant of conception?

Nationalism may be one factor, a fairly recent concept in itself. We know that in this century, the Soviet block and other European governments have withheld sanctions for abortion based on the need for a growing population.

Class may be another. Many upper and middle class people want to adopt. Women who are too young and too poor to care for their own babies will be forced to give them up. Anti-abortion literature constantly emphasizes the thousands of couples waiting to adopt the unwanted baby.

We have also become accustomed to a legal/governmental system that increasingly regulates every aspect of our lives. Every year state legislatures pass hundreds of new laws. We look to government more and more to arbitrate where traditions of the family, religion or community once guided us.

Then, too, the theme of abortion being an "easy way out," that a woman should "suffer the consequences" of her sexuality by being forced to bear a child. This thinking is so obviously narrow and inhumane that I would discount it as a motive if it did not keep cropping up. And there are those who are heartened at the thought of women returning to her "protected" status even if by force. All these reasons are there, sometimes subtly, but often blatantly in the anti-abortion literature. But I also think there is a deeper and more humane need beneath the sudden driving power of this movement.

The most obvious contradiction in anti-abortion feeling is the acceptance of government-sanctioned deaths and war as regrettable but just. This century has seen two wars conducted on a scale never imagined before. We have developed a technology capable of obliterating whole populations almost instantly. On television we've watched, in uneasy

comfort, the suffering brought by wars in Korea, then Viet Nam and Cambodia. Pictures of infants starving in Biafra and Bangladesh, the violent consequences of injustice. Children in Atlanta die one by one, victims of a mentality we cannot comprehend — and yet it walks among us.

Whatever our political convictions, there is a growing sense of helplessness, anger and perhaps guilt. We learn to accept the reality of violence, war and death as part of our human history, but we have never individually had to confront it on such a scale. The news media deluges us with the minute-by-minute account of this reality whether it's happening in the next state, the next country or on the other side of the world. How can we respond?

Death may be inevitable and some killings justified but the healthy woman and man wants to affirm *life*, not death. What more justifiable way to affirm the sacredness of life than to protect innocent life, the utterly helpless.

The anti-abortion movement refers to any potential life from the moment of conception as a "baby." There is certainly no moral or political ambiguity about saving babies. It is hard for any caring person to resist the emotional appeal of such a cause. We all want to feel we are doing something for a better world. What could possibly feel more right than to proclaim oneself "pro-life?"



illustration by Adele Aldridge, from *I Ching Meditations*

But it is deceptively easy to think we can affirm life by changing a complex moral responsibility into a simple legal statement. The fact is that the majority of women, in their deep reverence for life and in their awesome *responsibility* for life, will never give over these choices to a state or legal system, however well intentioned. It is not for any government to decide when those unique cells growing in a woman's body become its property. This is a woman's natural right.

When women are forced to breed by the State, life is cheap. When women control the conditions of childbearing, life becomes *more sacred*. Attempting to take away this natural right by forcefully denying the integrity of the individual, if it succeeds at all, cannot succeed for long.

If we were to pass laws against the ocean's flux and flow, each wave would be seen as a destructive revolutionary surge, and we would exhaust ourselves in endless battle. Legislating a woman's "right" to bear or not bear children is like passing laws to control the tide.

SPECTRUM

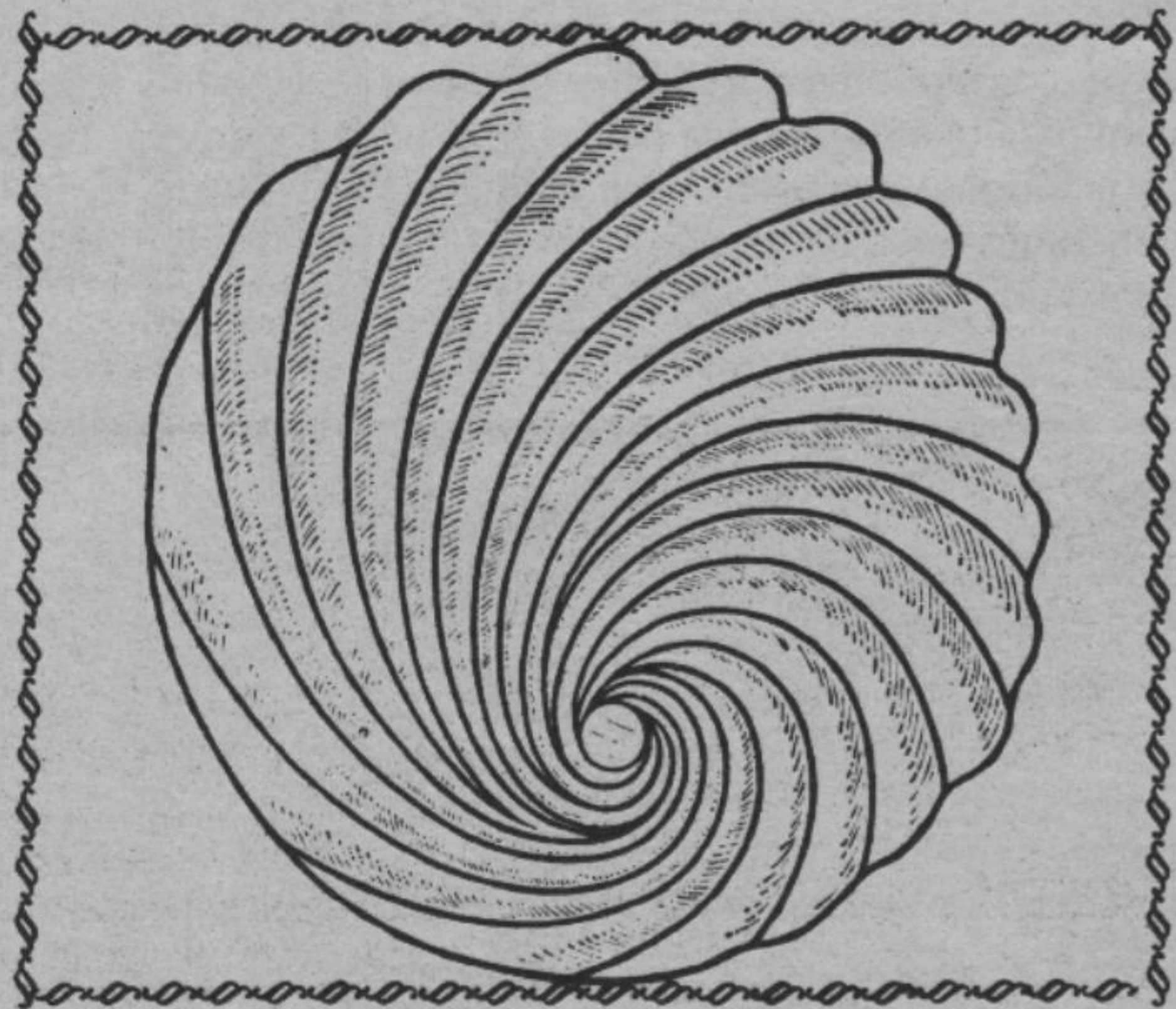
A Cooperative Newspaper for the Tallahassee Community

FREE

May Eve, 1981

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Published every six weeks



The SPECTRUM Collective:

Larry Teich • Rowan Fairgrove • Vicki Mariner • Frank Brown •
Suzy Fay • Margie Menzel • Louis Tesar • Tana McLane

COVER ART BY: Suzy Fay

What SPECTRUM Is:

SPECTRUM is an open forum for the Tallahassee Community. Emphasizing events, developments and activities in the alternative/progressive/cooperative culture here, we encourage people to participate with contributions of articles, labor or advertisements.

Writers and artists cannot be paid. Articles and artwork are printed on a space-available basis.

Views expressed by the writers are not representative of SPECTRUM or of any particular organization unless identified as such. Our goal is to provide an open forum for the community, but the staff does bear certain legal and moral responsibilities for the content of the publication. Therefore, we reserve the right to withhold from publication any material that is libelous in tone. The SPECTRUM collective also reserves the right to withhold material referring to specific individuals until they have had the opportunity to review and respond to all articles in question.

Submissions Guidelines

SPECTRUM cannot continue without your interest and participation. We have no reporters and are totally dependent on members of the Tallahassee community to submit articles informing the rest of us as to what's happening. Artwork and photos are encouraged, also. Send submissions to SPECTRUM, 2105 Autumn Lane, Tallahassee, 32304. Articles should be no longer than 3 doublespaced, typewritten letter-sized pages. All material must be signed and include a phone number and address so we can contact writers when revisions or clarifications are needed. If we have no contact information, or if time is exceedingly short, we will edit to our discretion. If you wish original art or photos returned, you must provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a note telling us to return your material.

Advertising Sales:

Larry Teich — Call 575-2934 for advertising information.

Coming to Grips... SPECTRUM'S Evolution

by Frank Brown

We (the *SPECTRUM* collective) have noticed recently that our contents have become increasingly "political." This observation has led us to ask, exactly what are our politics, and just how political do we want to be?

All newspapers have points of view, of course. (The only objectivity in journalism is ignorance.) But as a publication that prints solely that which is voluntarily submitted, I tended to consider our politics as being of a general countercultural overview, encompassing whatever divergent views coexist within the Tallahassee alternative political community. And suddenly, examining our latest issues, we realized that, yes, *SPECTRUM* appears to have a definite political slant, reflecting certain biases of our editorial collective. This manifests itself both in the articles itself, as well as those articles we suggest and solicit from the community.

We have been discussing various means of coming to grips with our political tendencies. It was suggested that we single out two or three major positions, and concentrate our energies on just these issues. It was suggested that we come out and list exactly where we stand on all issues, point by point and ideology by ideology. And it was suggested that we not become another "theoretical rag," but rather keep our focus on specific issues and events that directly involve the local Tallahassee-based community. Our politics will always exist, whether we acknowledge them or not. Is it evasive or wishy-washy to not

list our political positions straightforwardly? Or is that limiting? By labeling ourselves pro-this and anti-that, do we clarify our stance, and help encourage important political work — or alienate a part of our readership and become another "in-group" publication, read only by those who agree with us? Aren't there already enough political publications out there to express ourselves in? Then too, "brass-tacks" and "how-to" type articles can be understood as being political when one considers how this knowledge fosters local self-reliance.

While we still continue to print most whatever gets submitted to us (providing it is clearly written, and is relevant to the community at large), there are occasionally certain articles that, for one reason or another, do not get approved for publication. Usually, this is because of space and timeliness considerations, but suppose we receive an article from the Ku Klux Klan, or the National Rifle Association, or the Moral Majority? Would we print an article by the Right-to-Life Committee? Of course not. But with increasing shades of grey, the decision becomes more difficult.

As we continue to define our policies, keep the articles and letters coming in. We're pleased as punch with the variety of information and styles people have contributed to highlight the issue of world hunger for this issue of *SPECTRUM*. It feels good to be well utilized, even if more as a clearinghouse than as a forum. And a reminder — we try to be an open collective; anyone can and is encouraged to participate.

community announcements

The Sierra Club is sponsoring a panel discussion on "The Environmental Impact of the Reagan Era," 7:30 pm, Mon., May 18, at the R.A. Gray Bldg. Auditorium on S. Bronough. Open to everyone. What else is Sierra Club doing? To find out, look on the literature rack at the Leon County Food Co-op (649 W. Gaines St.) for a copy of their latest newsletter.

The *Southern Progressive Periodicals Directory* is a valuable networking tool which has just been published, listing current "social concerns" magazines and newspapers throughout the South and can be ordered from Progressive Education, Box 120574, Nashville, TN 37212. (Anyone wishing to pool their orders locally for reduced rates can contact Larry Teich at 575-2934.)

The Central Florida *Sun Day* Energy Festival is happening on May 3rd in St. Petersburg. Contact the Sunshine Action Group for details at (813) 822-5522.

The Tallahassee community and international students have expressed interest in a program which would promote meaning and exchange between the community and the international student body. If you are interested in the *international exchange* program, please contact Gayle Wolfe, International Student Office 212 Bryan Hall, FSU, 644-2428.

Magnolia - Southeast Confederation for Cooperation is holding its next conference May 22-25. Sevananda Natural Foods will host the event at a 700 acre WMCA camp 50 miles west of Atlanta, GA. There will be food, lodging, child care, recreation, workshops, Confederation business and shared experiences in which to participate. Call the Leon County Food Co-op at 222-9916 to find out about travel arrangements and cost if interested in learning about the current issues facing co-ops in the Southeast and meeting some of the people dealing with them.

Council of the Sacred Earth Pan-Pagan Festival, June 11-14 in Delton Michigan. Magical folk of all traditions gather to celebrate life and the forces of nature as we did in antiquity. Interested pagan folk should contact Chista, P.O. Box 25129, Chicago, IL 60625.

Pagan Spirit Gathering, June 18-21 near LaCrosse, WI. Starhawk, author of *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* will be at the Gathering to share her expertise in creative ritual and magic. For information on attending this Gathering of Witches, Shamans, Magicians, Wizards, Goddess Worshipers and other Magical Pagan people contact: Circle, Box 9013, Madison, WI 53715

The Committee to Stop Children's Murders is organizing a national Memorial Day march in Washington, D.C. May 25th for children everywhere. Contact (404) 525-STOP (7867) or the FWHC locally at 224-9600.

On May 9 the Mobilization to End Children's Murders in Atlanta is holding a march in Atlanta, GA. Contact the Feminist Women's Health Center at 224-9600 for more details.



Will Low-Level Radioactive Waste Come to Florida?

by Sherry Rauch

Low level radioactive waste (LLRW) has been generated by the U.S. Government defense and research programs since the mid-1940's. Commercial LLRW has been produced since the 1950's. Disposal of these LLRWs, as well as high level radioactive wastes, has become a major concern to both federal and state governments. What follows is a brief description of the history of LLRW disposal on a national scale, followed by the role Florida is playing in dealing with its own wastes.

During World War II, the United States began nuclear weapons projects and nuclear research programs that have continued to this day. Approximately 50,000 cubic meters of LLRW is produced by the defense and research projects every year. The federal government has taken responsibility to dispose of the waste at fourteen sites around the country (see map). States have little, if any, regulatory authority over these sites.

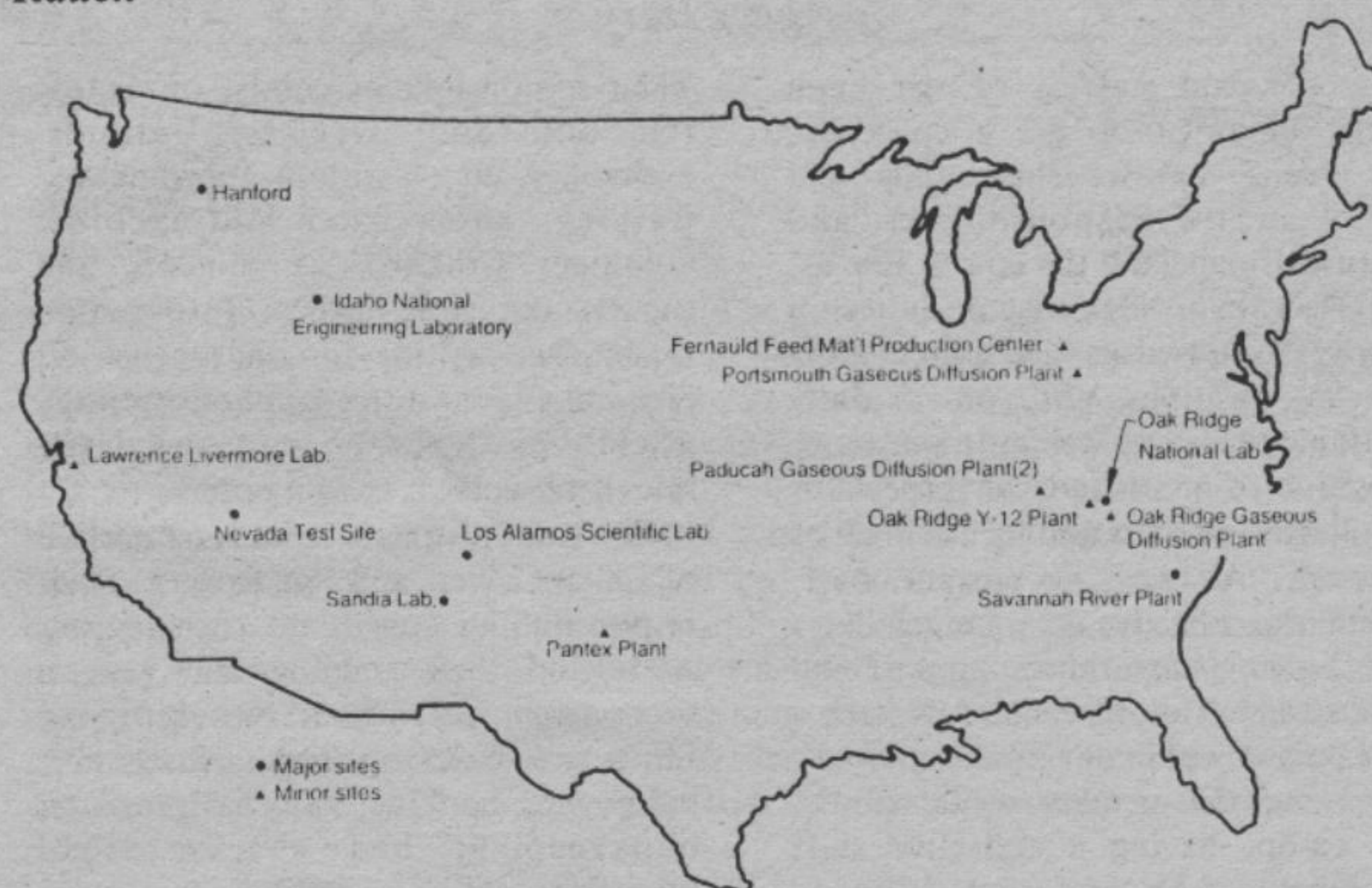
Commercial LLRW was first produced during the 1950's from nuclear power plants and institutions such as hospitals and universities. Currently, commercial sources are producing 100,000 cubic meters per year, double the amount the military is generating. According to the U.S. government's report, *Managing Low Level Radioactive Wastes*, published in August 1980, "A large power plant, with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts, typically generates about 1,000 cubic meters of low level wasters per year, enough to cover a football field to a depth of one foot."

In 1962, the first commercial LLRW disposal was opened in Beatty, Nevada. Five additional sites were built in different parts of the country by 1972. However, three of these sites closed between 1975 and 1979 due to operational problems. The remaining sites are located at Barnwell, South Carolina, Beatty, Nevada, and Hanford, Washington. Barnwell receives approximately 80 percent of all the LLRW produced in the U.S.

The Hanford and Nevada sites closed temporarily in the fall of 1979 because of faulty shipping and handling of wastes. Around this time, Barnwell officials also decided they were dealing with more of the country's LLRW than they thought was fair, and initiated a volume reduction program which would cut the amount of wastes they received in half by October of 1981. The Hanford and Nevada sites were reopened, but like Barnwell, urged the rest of the country to figure out a way to deal with the wastes.

The federal government responded to the problem of LLRW disposal by passing the "Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act," in December of 1980:

It is the policy of the Federal Government that each state is responsible for providing for the availability of capacity either within or outside the state for disposal of low level radioactive waste generated within its borders except for waste generated as a result of defense activities of the Secretary of federal research and development activities; and low level radioactive waste can be most safely and efficiently managed on a regional basis.



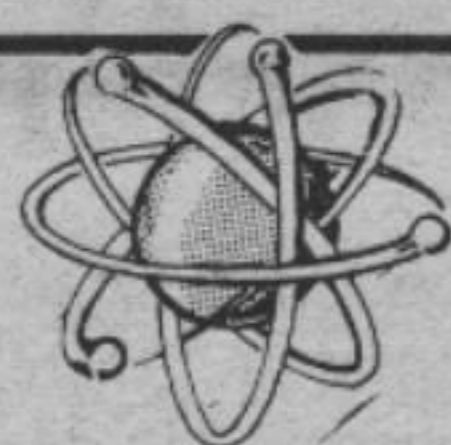
Federal sites for low-level waste disposal.

The bill suggested the use of "compact agreements" between several states to establish regional LLRW disposals. The compact could go into effect after all the states approved of the agreement and the federal Congress consented to the compact by law. The federal government would assist the states in reaching a compact agreement by gathering data that would be useful to the states in locating a disposal site.

When the Hanford and Nevada sites closed, and Barnwell started talking about volume reductions, the Florida state government established an Interagency Task Force to investigate LLRW in Florida. The Task Force consisted of people from the Department of Environmental Regulation, Health and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Community Affairs, and the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee. At the time of the first task force meeting, most of the people who attended did not know how much LLRW Florida produced, who was generating the wastes, or even the difference between low level and high level radiation. Their first task was to answer these questions.

Florida produced 97,143 cubic feet of LLRW in 1979. Eighty-nine percent of this waste came from four nuclear power plants: the two Turkey Point Plants near Miami, the Crystal River Plant north of St. Petersburg, and the St. Lucie Plant in Ft. Pierce. The remaining eleven percent came from 231 facilities which generated small amounts of LLRW for medical or research purposes.

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Inside with the Decision Makers

by Doug Alderson



There was no sun, no clouds, no sky, no earth. The fourth storey council room was windowless, stuffy. Lights glared. My throat was dry. It was desert. So, as more people shuffled in to sit at the large square table, I looked within, soon envisioning a wild flower garden and rippling stream; a dear dancing, birds, green grass, black earth, sunshine! My escape.

Briefcases clicked open. I loosened my tie. Voices quieted. The overseer of the meeting, a dark curly haired government official with Roman nose and meek voice, introduced the guests of honor: three men from the National Department of Energy (DOE) — John Whitsett, George Levin, and William Lawless.

I sensed anticipation from the other fifteen or so members of the group who were seeking answers to a growing dilemma: *the storage or disposal of Florida's low-level nuclear waste.*

The commercial waste facility at Barnwell, South Carolina, Florida's traditional low-level waste burial ground, was reducing shipments and had threatened to close due to improperly packaged shipments. A site in Nevada had closed, and by 1982 Governor Dixie Lee Ray of Washington planned to accept only Northwestern regional radioactive waste at her state's site in Hanford, Washington. The Todd Shipbuilding Company had shut their doors to the University of Florida and to South Florida hospitals. One hundred fifty drums of

low-level radioactive waste were stacked up in hospitals and clinics from Palm Beach south.

Other introductions were given. There were officials from a wide gamut of state agencies, all who made up a special intragency task force to handle the situation. Hospital officials were represented, their x-ray and chemotherapy machines fighting the inexplicable rise of cancer — and producing nuclear waste. University officials were there as well, producing radioactive waste in their search for cancer cures and more refined forms of nuclear energy. Together, hospitals and universities produce 14 percent of Florida's low-level nuclear waste. Another 18 percent is produced by industries. And then there are Florida's four nuclear-fueled power plants producing the most voluminous amount (68 percent), not to mention high-level wastes stored on site.

When the circle of introductions came around to C.S. Woody, the top official for Florida Power and Light, I saw a ghost from my past: a middle-aged father type with crumpled suit, graying brown hair and round face. He could have easily been a neighbor in my boyhood Chicago suburb, seeing in his coffee-glazed eyes the manicured lawns and patterned three-bedroom homes, each with dishwasher, air conditioner and television set. There had been no worries of energy shortages then, no worries of nuclear power or

waste. The American Dream had been alive and well — then. Now there were different dreams, dreams of protecting the earth's energy.

The meeting began. The head of Florida Radiological Health, Ulray Clark, a man with a lively scratchy voice and quick smile, began with an explanation that everyone already knew: "The reason I called everyone here is so that I can begin formulating my report to the governor. The task force outlined to me four things that I must do: assess the present capability of Florida's licenses to meet South Carolina's volume reduction requirements, develop an action plan for assuring adequate methods of waste volume reduction, prepare a plan for emergency low-level waste storage in Florida should it become necessary, and prepare a contingency plan for 'interim' low-level waste storage."

"Interim," "emergency storage," — everyone knew that this meant a possible waste site in Florida. The difference was whether it would truly be temporary or if it would become permanent. From newspaper accounts, North Florida was the probable target site, one reason I was there for the Sierra Club.

"So, I have invited these gentlemen from the Department of Energy to assist us," Clark continued. Clark had been a neighbor of mine in Tallahassee a few years ago and at one time I had interviewed him. I liked him. He had

talked a lot of his boyhood, of growing up with Seminole Indians and running barefoot on sandy roads near Lake Okeechobee. He lived on the Suwannee River for awhile, fished its hollows and arms. His family had fought for its protection. So, despite his eight-to-five job, I felt that Florida was in Clark's veins and in his best interest. He was one of the first ones who spoke to me about nuclear fallout from atom bomb blasts in China, the fact that Florida's deer and squirrels were becoming irradiated. He was one of the first ones to tell me about nuclear waste, though reassuring me by saying, "As long as the good people of South Carolina are willing to take our waste. . ." In a sense, he had lifted me from one level of darkness. . . but reduce *production* of nuclear waste? "Out of the question," he had said, "We're running out of buffalo chips."

It was the Department of Energy's turn. They began by putting the problem in a national nutshell, or rather, in several nutshells. They pointed out the need for six to ten more low-level waste sites by 1990 that were about the size of Barnwell, not to mention facilities for high-level wastes.

"Whether waste volume goes up by double or by triple doesn't matter," said John Whitsett, from DOE, "we have to come up with more disposal sites."

The DOE officials proposed regional

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Responsibilities Shift for Coordinators

by Agnes Davy

The six paid staffers of the Leon County Food Co-op are a collective. This means that we share fully and equally in the responsibilities and benefits of managing the co-op. For us, this reflects in a wide range of duties, in the use of consensus decision making both in meetings and on a daily functioning basis, as well as in the active cultivation of an attitude of respect for the collective process and its use in all of our work. As we, the current staff, operate, the collective is very much like a family, giving nurturance, support and guidance which allows each of us to be a whole person within our job situation.

For you, the member/owner of the food co-op, having a collective staff can sometimes be confusing. Who do you need to go to for answers to specific questions? How do you give your input and ideas to the right person? Just who is in charge here in any given situation?

To help clarify our roles in the collective and provide a means for better communication and feedback, we want to share with you who does what and who to see about specific areas.

The coordinators (paid staffers) have recently reorganized into three teams within the collective according to our areas of responsibility. Our reasons for reorganizing included a need to increase efficiency and lessen the risk of burnout. We continue to work toward being both more professional in our jobs and more

responsive to members' needs. The three teams for handling daily responsibilities of the storefront are Storefront, Administrative, and Buying.

The storefront team is comprised of Sandra Mohammad and Agnes Davy.

Their responsibilities consist of custom relations and services; refunds, exchanges, etc.; assistant coordinators' training, supervision and records; volunteer workers' assignments and supervision; store layout; Information Desk; checkwriting for daily expenses; physical plant; store supplies; monthly inventories; herbs (Agnes); wholesale sales list (Sandra); special orders.

The Administrative team is comprised of Carol Calvert and Pat Rogers. Their responsibilities consist of: cash register AC's and their training and general supervision; petty cash (not refunds); filing system set up and maintenance; bill paying; banking; daily cash reports; bookkeeping; bad checks; fiscal reporting; office supplies; advertising; book ordering.

The Buying team is comprised of Holly Hance and Dave Taylor. Their responsibilities consist of: purchasing goods for the store; price comparisons; out-of-stock information; receiving and pricing invoices; new product and ingredient research; weekly inventories; warehouse sales. Specific areas of responsibility are: (1) Dave — produce, bulk goods, beer and wine, fruits and nuts; (2) Holly — RIO goods, Tree of Life goods, Vie de France goods, cheeses, coffee and tea.

The collective has weekly staff meetings to coordinate ourselves and make major decisions and to keep communication open and creative energies flowing. If anyone has questions about any of these areas, please just speak to the coordinators responsible for them. We hope our continued reorganizing will bring benefits for all.



Photo by Frank Brown

Five of the six food co-op coordinators: (L to R) Sandra Mohammad, Agnes Davy, Dave Taylor, Carol Calvert (with daughter, Lillian), and Holly Hance. Not shown: Pat Rogers.

Outreach to Young Co-op Members

by Tom Hendry

The time is ripe for a recruitment plan for the Leon County Food Co-op. Anyone who has worked or shopped at the food co-op during the summer months knows that it experiences a shortage of working members due to fewer college students in town. Beyond this basic need, the co-op could also use a balanced approach to outreach that creates more space for caring and sharing.

I have a bias for one-to-one outreach and personal involvement. Specifically, I intend to seek out one young person age 12 or older and discover what a member of that age group thinks about the activities that go on within our alternative community. I can think of no better place than our very own food co-op, Good Life General Store, and Canopy Federal Credit Union as well, for a youth to begin his or her journey of discovery out into the world.

And while we have much to be thankful for, we need to recognize that a genuine community-based organization should provide "growing" space for the individuals it is meant to serve, including physical and organizational space for increasing numbers of people.

We can begin to understand the responsibilities that go along with growth by getting together informally to discuss the issue of outreach/recruitment and related issues. Interested people, please leave name and phone number or address in the community involvement slot of the staff/BOD information box. Thanks.

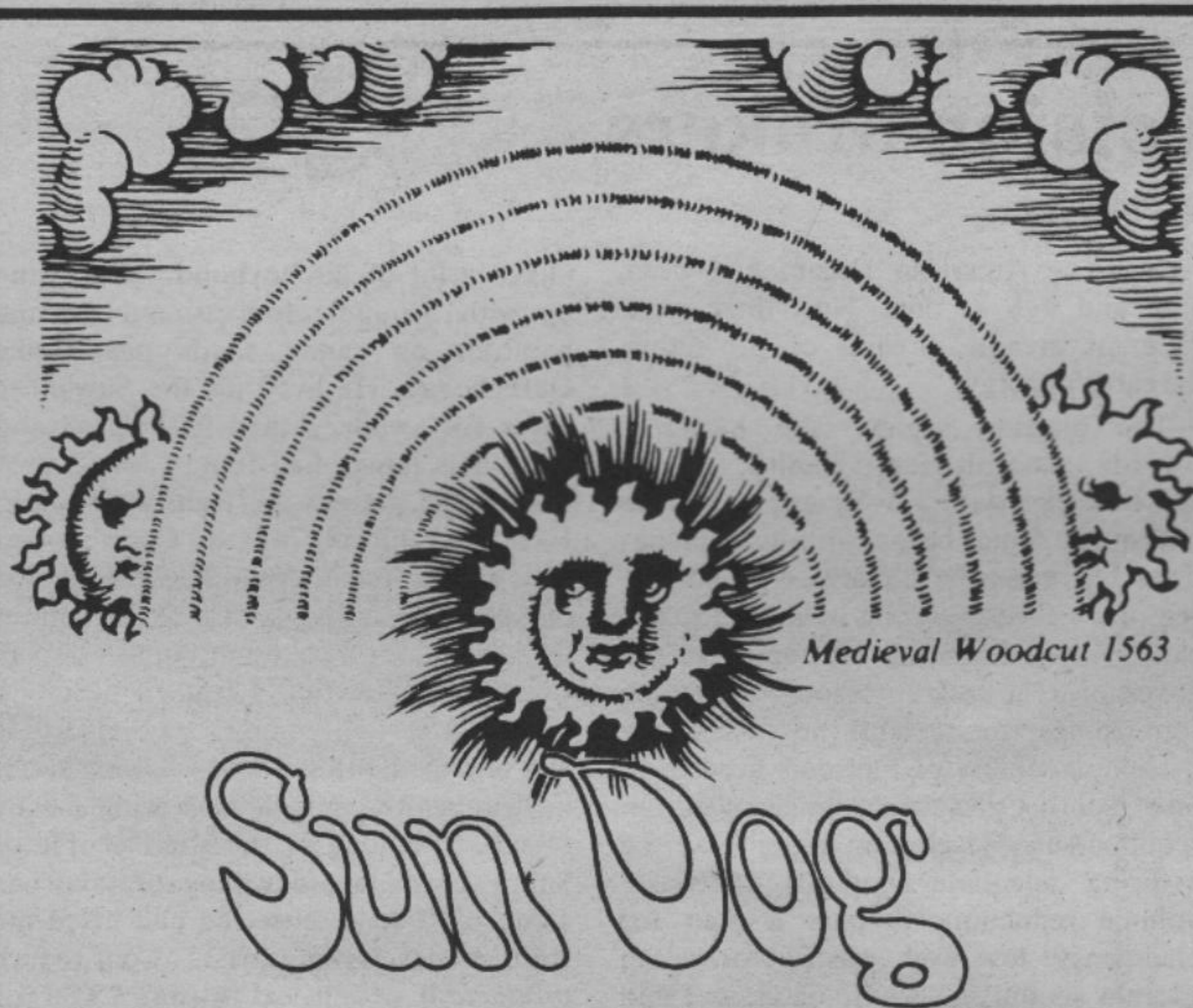
Book and Record Co-op Update

This is just a short, quick update on Co-op Books and Records. To date, they are still in need of member funds and energy to keep going. The bookstore looks good physically and is currently cool and air conditioned. But the record aspects of the corporation are still ailing badly. In fact, if an offer was made, they would be willing to sell the record store and/or the record warehouse.

Rick Shapiro, long time manager of the record part of the corporation, and recently manager again of the record store, will be leaving in June. Probably he will be replaced in his role as manager as soon as possible.

In order to offset some of the debts of the corporation, there will be two fundraising benefits in May. Dates and places are not firmed up yet, so watch the *Flambeau* and posters, et al, for better information on these events. Also, member loans might be beneficial. See members of the board or managers at the bookstore for more information concerning this.

A political bookstore is an important asset to any community. Hopefully, members who pull together now can keep Co-op Books going. See Carmen Avila or Bob Hornyak at the bookstore or call 222-6677 about what you can do.



Spring 1981 Issue available May 15 at the following bookstores: Bill's, Co-op Books, DuBey's.

Students with I.D. may pick up a free copy at Union Green or Williams Building from 11-1 during the week of May 18-22.

Sun Dog T-shirts available at Co-op Bookstore.

Now accepting poetry, fiction, B&W photographs, and graphic arts for Fall Issue (include S.A.S.E.).

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Good Life General Store News

by Bill Brown



In its two years of existence, the Good Life General Store co-op has struggled to find its place in Tallahassee's cooperative community. This struggle has been to become not only a financially sound business, but also to succeed as a *cooperative*, meeting the needs of our alternative community, and to attempt to include people from outside of the established co-op community so as to infuse them with the idea of working together in cooperation.

Last September, in an effort to make Good Life more responsive to the needs of the community, and with concern for the financial well-being of the store, a membership meeting was called to elect a board of directors. The purpose was to establish more direct member control over the corporation. Much was said about what was wrong with Good Life, and much was said about what should be done. Given a mandate for change, the newly elected board went about the two-fold task of stabilizing the store financially, and creating a means for direct membership involvement in decision making that would determine the direction in which Good Life would be moving. Financially, the store is in much better condition than it was last September. As a cooperative, however, the store is failing.

After that first membership meeting ended, there seems to have developed the attitude that the entire responsibility for the store's future was now in the hands of the board of directors and that the members attending this meeting had done their part. After the meeting, the members who attended suddenly became quiet. The enthusiasm for change was now gone. What have these concerned members done in the past six months to help make the changes which they had demanded with such ardor? An examination of the situation would reveal that they have exercised little responsibility toward a store in which they are part owners.

Following the membership meeting, the BOD announced its first meeting. Signs were posted at LCFC and GLGS. As if it were a signal of what was to come, the only members present were BOD members. Five committees were formed to give the membership a voice in the operation of the store. This was announced through posters, the GLGS bulletin board and *Spectrum*. Also announced was a workday at which time the store was to be cleaned and rearranged. There was only one member present at this work party who was not a BOD or staff member. Six months later,

almost all work is still being done by the BOD and staff. This is not the way that a cooperative should function.

There is a great deal of work which could be done if the store had a volunteer staff to help meet these needs. Inventory needs to be taken each month, posters need to be made, typing, carpentry work and many other items that cost the store in terms of efficiency and cleanliness as well as increased prices. At the time of this writing, there is a large quantity of diatomaceous earth that has not been placed on the shelf because there is no one to weigh it and bag it and the staff has other work that must be done. A store of this size can not afford to hire extra staff and still remain competitive, so it must rely upon some volunteer help, or many tasks must remain undone. The result is often most apparent when goods have not been ordered in time and people can not find those items which they need. Certainly the extra paid staff mentioned earlier would help, but it must also be remembered that the Good Life was formed as a cooperative with the idea that the members would respond to certain needs of the store.

We should act together as a community and not simply continue to play the role of alienated consumers, with no regard for where our items of consumption come. Take an interest in what is going on in the community. Good Life can be so much more than just another store. Meetings need not be work or a burden upon any member. They can be a time of getting together to share and learn from each other. We have come a long way with a cooperative that is still young, but for this growth to continue it will take some commitment from the members. We can't wait for someone else to do the job for us, we must do it ourselves.

There will be a workshop to discuss ways of stimulating more membership involvement in the store. This is certainly not a new problem to organizations that rely on volunteer activity, but it is one that must be dealt with. An item that we might want to discuss is the possibility of coordinating volunteer activities with the other co-ops. Input from members of the other cooperatives would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps through discussion we can learn more about how our co-ops are both similar and yet different, and possibly gain new insights into just what we are and what we can become as a community. Take the time to come to the meeting and share your thoughts. It's important to the direction of the cooperative. If you can't make the meeting, it would certainly be worthwhile to pass your comments on to the staff or any of the board members. Perhaps we should all be reminded that in a world without voices, only dollars can be heard.

Good Life General Meeting Report

by Tom Kelley

The Good Life General Store held a general membership meeting on Sunday, April 12, at Lost Lake. A covered dish lunch and swimming preceded the meeting. The water was fine and the food delicious.

The small group of members present were happy to hear that the financial condition of the co-op is good. Sales are up and our membership is steadily increasing. A report on the policy decisions of the BOD in the last six months was given. The lack of membership participation in the running of the store was discussed. A workshop to focus on member participation will be held Sun. May 17, 4-7 pm at United Ministries Center.

Bill Brown and Drake Rogers were elected to serve one-year terms as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Three new BOD members were elected: Bernie Morris and Karen Hinshaw for

one-year terms and Mike Crew for a six-month term.

The membership expressed positive feeling for the possible purchase of a rototiller to be rented to members. Members interested in having access to a tiller can help raise money for the downpayment by making an advance rental payment. Please let us know soon if you can do this.

Proposed amendments to the bylaws were discussed, modified and approved. They will go into effect after being approved at one more membership meeting. The proposed amendments and the minutes of this meeting are posted in the store.

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Decision Makers, from page 3

storage sites for radioactive wastes. Temporary sites, they maintained, created more problems in the long run, since they involved double storage and shipment. Questions were then posed, such as: "Who would determine the sites? Would the states cooperate in choosing sites? What states would they be in?"

"We can't force states to handle the waste," John said calmly. "Picking sites has been a hazardous business for us . . . but we will assist with information to make sure that the job is done very technically." Hope number one for most of those attending had vanished. The feds weren't going to force a waste site, something Florida wasn't willing to do. But there was still hope. . .

"What about existing federal or military sites?" someone asked.

"Federal or military sites are not the solution," Whitsett said. "The governor of Nevada, for example, strongly protested any use of the Nevada test site. He viewed it as a subversion of state's rights. Most of the federal sites are a stone's throw from the commercial sites, so why

would the governors close down the commercial sites so we could drop the waste 20 miles away?" Hope number two had vanished.

Disgusted, Al Gilson, a husky University of Miami radiologist, blurted, "Why can't you just move in and create a site and solve all our problems?"

"Low level waste has never been a federal responsibility," Whitsett replied, beads of sweat forming on his brow. "The government does not come into a place anymore to tell people to move. We just don't operate like that anymore . . . if you begin to look at the facts, I don't believe you have a crisis. Besides, if a state had 10-12 good sites, we'd probably pick the wrong one."

The group was forced to look internally. First, it was the hospitals. Clark pointed out that 95-98 percent of all hospital waste is non-radioactive within ten days.

"By the time you get a lot of this waste packed and buried, it is cold (non-radioactive) anyhow," Al Gilson conceded. "There is a lot of trucking and burying going on that is absolutely unnecessary." The biggest problem with hospital wastes was not the radioactivity, according to state officials, but associated chemicals in the waste that are harmful for 16-18 months. These chemicals are often difficult to separate from the radioactive substances. Still, hospital and University wastes were "apple pie" problems, according to officials, since they are the least dangerous and of the lowest volume.

It was Florida Power and Light's turn.

continued page 15



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Requiem for a Co-op

by Richard White

A sister co-op died on April 18th. The Hogtown Granary began life in Gainesville late in 1974, some six months or so after Leon County Food Co-op was organized here in Tallahassee. Until October of 1975, it was a "branch" of Community Interests, Inc., along with Leon County Food Co-op. Over the years, Hogtown grew to be the third largest co-op in the Southeast, being only slightly smaller than Sevananda in Atlanta and Leon County Food Co-op.

Hogtown died a lingering and painful death. Beset with financial and management problems for some time, its condition deteriorated rapidly over the past few months as staff members were accused of embezzlement. The co-op finally just lost the will to survive. Its members could no longer realize their sense of common purpose.

Rest in peace, Hogtown. For all of the good in you that is now lost, we mourn. May the rest be buried and forgotten except as a warning to us all, of the frailty of our cooperative endeavors, and the constant need for attention and concern to assure their ultimate success.

How to Save the Co-op Bank

by Richard White

This isn't a matter to entrust to "Jones," it's for *you* to take immediate action. The Reagan administration is trying to destroy the newly-created National Consumer Cooperative Bank. Please take just five minutes and scribble a note to your elected representatives in Congress asking them to support continued funding for the Bank.

Our very own Senator Lawton Chiles is in a very key position because he is on both the appropriations and budget committees of the Senate. Although I wrote him several weeks ago, he has not yet responded and I do not know his position on the Bank. I have heard from Representative Don Fuqua and he is *very lukewarm*. Let's fire him up! And even Senator Paula Hawkins may not be a lost cause. Tell her that the Co-op Bank is very much in keeping with the Reagan administration's economic program because it enables people to solve their own problems through the free enterprise system.

Other points that you can mention in your letters include:

- Co-ops are self-sufficient, community-owned businesses that provide jobs and pay taxes.
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- The Co-op Bank is a time-limited government program. Like the Farm Credit System, interest payments from its borrowers will buy out the government's initial investment and the Co-op Bank will become independent.
- The Co-op Bank's technical assistance program is badly needed by co-ops to provide training so that they can stay in business.

Would you rather see your government build another nuclear aircraft carrier? Put your tax money where you want it to go. Six thousand letters from Tallahassee supporting the Co-op Bank would be hard for our elected officials to ignore. And they will have to respond to every letter that we send. Send yours today. . . The addresses are in the blue center section of your telephone book.

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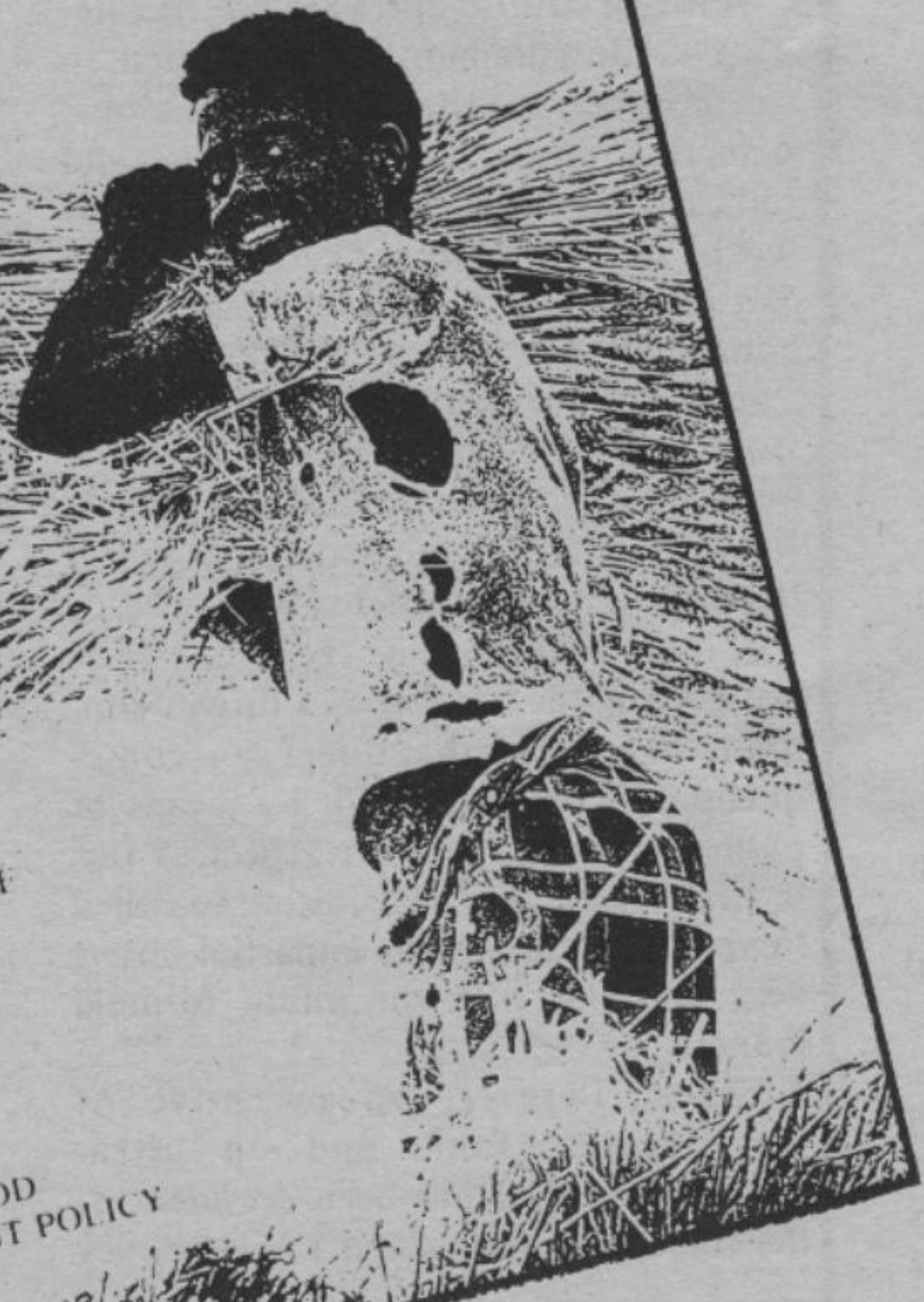
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Twenty Questions about our Foreign Aid and the Hungry

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INSTITUTE FOR FOOD
AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY



Questioning the Reasons for Hunger

by Larry Schuster



Joseph Collins, co-director and co-founder with Frances Moore Lappe of the Institute for Food and Development Policy in San Francisco, will be speaking in Tallahassee on Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8.

The main lecture will be held on Thursday May 7, at 7:45 p.m., in the FSU Union Ballroom. Music will be provided by the Latin American Music Ensemble of the FSU School of Music, under the direction of Dr. Dale Olsen, professor of Ethnomusicology.

Joseph Collins, political Economist, author and lecturer, is a specialist in United States policies and multinational corporations in Latin America. He worked as research assistant in the writing of *Global Reach: The Power of the Multinational Corporations*. His other works include *Agrarian Reform and Counter-Reform in Chile*, which has been used before the U.N. to document the growing inequities there since the return of a non-reformist regime.

Collins has also written, with Lappe, *Aid as Obstacle*, which has been used in Congressional hearings and has been excerpted in part into the Congressional Record in order to analyze the impact of U.S. and multilateral aid to the poor.

But perhaps Collins' best known book, also written with Lappe, is *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity*. This book, which is described elsewhere in this issue's pages, has been translated into Spanish and has been influential in helping to redirect the food policies of the Mexican government. This book is also being used in the Philippines as well as in Bangladesh, Senegal, and Thailand by those organizing for farmer and peasant food rights.

The Institute for Food and Development Policy is a not-for-profit research, documentation and education center. It participates within an international network in monitoring agencies as well as other food and development activists. The Institute asks: What can we do now to create social, economic, and political structures that ensure food security for all, now and in the future?

The Institute also examines and reports on how people are struggling for food, security around the world and what can be learned from their successes and difficulties.

One of the more recent publications coauthored by Lappe, Mozambique and Tanzania: *Asking the Big Questions*, is a comparative study showing how two recently independent nations are working to replace elite-dominated, anti-democratic economic and political systems with systems more sensitive to the food security needs of the majority of the people.

In the introduction, Lappe writes, "The stated goals (of the governments of Mozambique and Tanzania) include cooperative control over productive assets and human development." Both claim to be on a path of development called socialist. In her interviews with people throughout both governments, Lappe found striking differences in the ways in which the two nations have interpreted the path of socialist development.

Collins regularly visits Nicaragua as an advisor to that evolving country. The Director of Agrarian Reform has asked the Institute to collaborate on the development of the country's food and agricultural potential.

Collins has also been doing field studies in Cuba to offer a critical analysis of that nation's food system.

One of SPECTRUM's aims is to provide space for important projects to be illuminated, for community dialogue and enlightenment to transpire. What you are about to read in this section on World Hunger is a wonderful example of how we at SPECTRUM like to see our pages used from time to time.

When Larry Schuster first approached us several months ago to propose that we dedicate four or five pages of the paper to the subject of food politics, I thought, "Good idea, but one that has undoubtedly already been done on a much broader scale in the eminently available Last Whole Earth Catalog (old) and the Next Whole Earth Catalog (new)."

Wrong. Amazingly enough, the Catalogs don't contain entries on any of the major books or even topics, covered in this section. So Larry, et al., you've taken on important work locally, in cataloging this information — the politics of world hunger, the wily ways of multinational corporations in their demands on the exporting economies of Third World nations, and the true evil of the profit motive when carried to its illogical extreme — information which should be accessible to everyone.

The printed word, access to ideas...the most powerful, transcendent tools of all. In our small way, SPECTRUM offers space for the rest of you to participate, too. Contact us when you have programs underway and would like to explore different aspects in this medium.

Larry Schuster has worked tirelessly for a long time to bring this multi-leveled project on world hunger together. It includes slide shows, a lecture by Joseph Collins from the Institute for Food and Development Policy, and these writings.

— TM

And he has collaborated with an ABC news crew in a film called "The Seeds of Revolution." This documents the violence committed by the military, with the support of Dole, against a cooperative organization which launched a successful banana operation on land the Dole left vacant in Honduras.

Those interested in attending a colloquium will have the opportunity on Friday May 8. Watch the Flambeau for information or call any of the officers of this programs sponsoring organizations.

Joseph Collins, the Institute, and Larry Schuster, coordinator of this event, would like to extend their gratitude to the following organizations for their financial support of this program: Student Consumer Union, Center for Participant Education, Today's Nutrition, Phi Sigma Honor Biology Society, International/Intercultural Development Education Program — all at Florida State University. Other financial supporters include the First Presbyterian Church of Orlando and the Feminist Women's Health Center of Tallahassee.

Other non-financial supporters are: the United Ministries Center, Florida INFAC, the Florida Association of Migrant Organizations.

Special thanks go to the SPECTRUM people for working with us on such a demanding project; and to Bob Broedel, Pat Seery, Frank Brown, Wayne Basford, Debi Powers, Peter Easton, Ira Shorr, and especially to the staff of the Center for Participant Education, who gave so generously of their time and facilities to help make this thing come off.

The organizers suggest that people who plan to attend the Thursday night lecture arrive thirty minutes early to enjoy the music of Dr. Dale Olsen and the Latin American Music Ensemble.

Call Larry Schuster, 575-8746, for further information.

Food First *review*

by Pat Seery



illustration by Lisa Kokin

The work that Joseph Collins and Francis Moore Lappe and their colleagues are doing at the Institute for Food and Development Policy is foundation-shaking. As an independent group with no allegiances to governmental policies or any corporation's public image, they are free to do their research and then put what they find right out there on the line for everyone to see. That's what they have done in *Food First, Beyond the Myth of Scarcity*—and, people, on the issue of world hunger, what this book does is not merely rock our assumptions a little bit—it hits them with a tidal wave.

The cause of world hunger, it is easily assumed, is too many people and not enough food or land to feed those people. Wrong! — and *Food First* documents why. Well, at least we can assume that hunger will be overcome by concentrating on producing more food, right? Wrong again! — and further documentation. OK

then, we must be able to assume that world hunger can be solved by redistributing food. Sorry, wrong again! And on and on, documented and documented: What most of us assume about world hunger, its causes and its remedies, is simply *WRONG*.

Not only that, but our assumptions about the hunger problem are wrong in ways that frequently make many of us unsuspecting participants in the causes of the problem.

Piqued your curiosity? How are we unsuspecting participants? What are the causes of hunger in the world? Read *Food First!* Seem like a cop-out response? Perhaps it isn't for two reasons: (1) The book is too well-written, documented, integrated, and important to be casually summarized. It makes its arguments much more powerfully than they can be made second-hand. But (2), answering those kinds of questions is extremely difficult

Nestle Boycott Still Vital

by Margie Menzel



Supporters of the Nestle boycott are profoundly dismayed because the corporation, far from responding to the concerns of human rights activists, is instead attempting to change its image rather than its policies. Their tactics remind one of Nixonian dirty tricks.

A major strategy has been red-baiting. The Nestle company has attempted to smear its opponents in ideological terms, depicting them as communists and radicals interested in "undermining the world's free market system." The *Washington Post*, on January 4, 1981, confirmed this in an article entitled "Infant Formula Maker Battles Boycotters by Painting Them Red." The accusation has been applied not only to INFAC, but to labor groups, women's organizations, and American churches.

It is obvious that Nestle, while recognizing the boycott as a threat, continues to consider that threat so inconsequential as to deal with it by means of public relations. Another aspect of this is that Nestle has subsidized so-called "experts" to appear as impartial observers who side with the infant formula makers.

Ernest Lefever, an executive of "nestlegate" fame and an ultra-conservative who has been president of the right-wing Ethics and Public Policy

Center (EPPC), was recently named Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. He wrote an article for *Fortune* entitled "The Corporation Haters," and a similar one for the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Washington Post* subsequently revealed that Lefever's EPPC had quietly received at least \$25,000 from Nestle. There are other examples.

In short, Nestle continues to practice its profits-not-people policy. Inter-office memos of Nestle executives reveal their belief that the U.S. boycott is losing ground: fewer letters, less activity, waning publicity. As the INFAC newsletter states, "It's clear that attention is not addressed to the infants; it remains solely a question of profit and loss. And so far, the boycott has not harmed Nestle enough for them to consider changing their practices."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write to the Reagan administration urging American support for the International Marketing Code for the Infant Food Industry; (2) publicize the Nestle memo scandals — be aware! (3) contribute your energy and funds to INFAC, by contacting Carmen Avila at 222-4435; (4) write to Nestle; and (5) write to Senator Charles Percy, chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee.

without first confronting and clearing up the many mistaken assumptions we have when we ask the questions. And (to come full circle), what *Food First* does so well is to direct our assumptions to a firm factual base from which we can then address the questions.

Collins will be in Tallahassee on May 7th. *Food First* (retail: \$2.95) is available at Co-op Books, along with other publica-

tions from the Institute. Buy it, read it, share it, enlighten yourself and help the Institute in the process, and be ready to pick Collins' brain when he comes. (Note: for those attempting to educate themselves about multi-national corporations, Collins collaborated on the book, *Global Reach: The Power of the Multi-National Corporations*, so get to him for his expertise in this area, too.)

Tasteless Corporate Harvest

by Cliff Thael, with Rowan Fairgrove

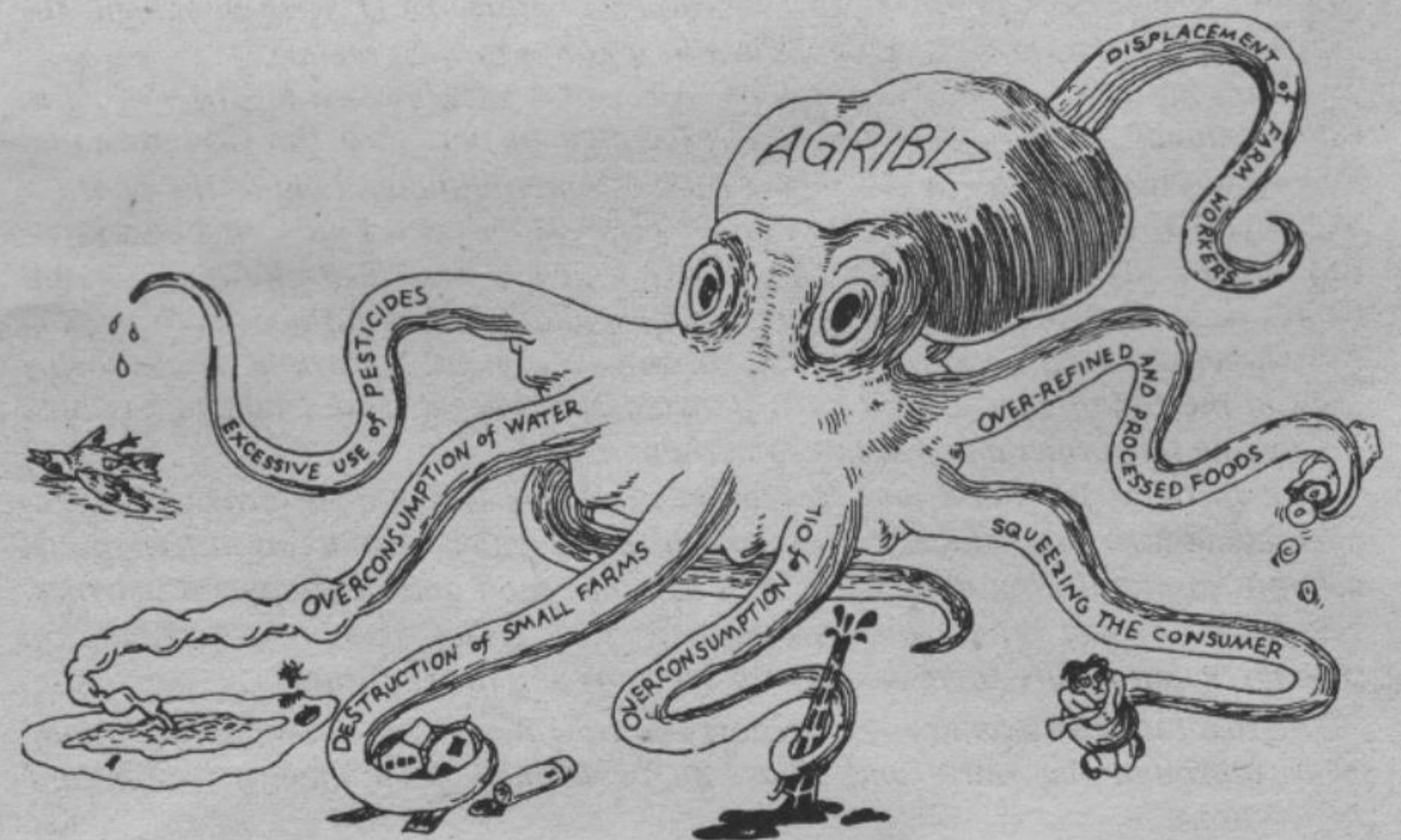
Two central Florida growers recently sent to market a newly developed strawberry which is uniformly plump and attractively red, but totally lacking in taste. Or, as one University of Florida official is quoted as saying, "... they tasted like cardboard."

These strawberries are the product of research carried out by the University of Florida's Land Grant College, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Now, the particular scientists who brought us the "tasteless strawberry" have a certain amount of conscience and are claiming that it wasn't ready to market, that the growers unscrupulously obtained information using the Florida Public Records Law (Ch. 119, F.S.) to get access to ongoing research.

But the "tasteless strawberry," however it gets to market, is no surprise to people who remember MH-1, the "Square Tomato" which could withstand rough shipping (indeed, it could survive a fall of 6 feet onto concrete without cracking the skin) but was, again, tasteless. Agribusiness priorities

center on things such as uniformity, and an ability to withstand mechanical harvesting and long distance shipping. And increasingly, publicly funded Land Grant Colleges are catering to the needs of Agribusiness.

Land Grant Colleges were established by Congress for the purpose of improving the general quality of rural life. Unfortunately, during the past several years Land Grant Colleges have received ever larger gifts of research money from Agribusinesses. Some qualified persons feel that the size and quantity of Agribusiness gifts have tainted the scope and general results of Land Grant Research to an increasing extent. Much of the research performed by IFAS and other Land Grant Colleges has focused not only on producing produce which can stand up to Agribiz methods, but on the development of technology to harvest fruits and vegetables mechanically. Recent innovations in the technology have produced a Tomato Harvesting Machine capable of replacing fifty farmworkers. The Tomato Harvester costs in excess of \$150,000 which cer-



tainly raises questions of affordability. Small farmers, unable to compete at this production level, are forced off their lands or into a sharecropper status reminiscent of the Dust Bowl days. To underscore the seriousness of this crisis in rural America, consider that over two thousand small farmers were forced off their farms each week during 1980 alone!

A review of recent IFAS studies does, however, offer a ray of hope.

Statistics indicate that Florida Agriculture is among the most excessive users of fossil fuels for food production. Florida agriculture will decline within this decade from its current lofty position of third largest agricultural producing state to the bottom third of all states unless it transforms its obsessive need for petroleum products. This translates out to mean that organic farming will yet have its day in the sunshine (state).

Needless Hunger: Voices from A Bangladesh Village

by Ira Shorr

The association of Bangladesh with hunger seems forever etched into our consciousness, imprinted there by numerous pictures of forlorn, wide-eyed children with extended stomachs; the tragically ironic symptom of a body wasting away from lack of nourishment.

We are thus unprepared for the discovery that Bangladesh is a fertile garden rich in soil, water and vegetation, replete with a hot, humid climate that makes the country a natural greenhouse.

The facts of life for the majority of Bangladesh's 80 million people (making it the world's eighth most populous nation) are distressingly familiar. The average annual income is less than \$100 per person, a quarter of Bangladesh's children die before reaching the age of five, over half of its families consume less than the minimal caloric requirement, 60 percent of the people suffer from protein deficiencies, 42 percent are unemployed and less than a quarter of the population is literate. This, in the face of a U.S. Senate study that notes that Bangladesh "is rich enough in fertile land, water, manpower and natural gas for fertilizer not only to be self-sufficient in food, but a food exporter, even with rapidly increasing population size."

Betsy Hartmann and James Boyce journeyed to Bangladesh and lived among its people in order to understand the cruel paradox of hunger in a land of plenty. The story is similar to that of many other Third World nations and is basically one of colonial exploitations carried into the '80s under the guise of humanitarian aid.

Bangladesh lies off the northeast corner of India, bordering Nepal and Burma, an appealing sight to imperialistic eyes. The authors sum up the legacy of Bangladesh's colonial history as a variation on a familiar theme: "as the region became a supplier of agricultural raw materials to the world market, local industry withered and food production stagnated. The country not only did not develop, it actually underdeveloped."

The most distressing change imposed by the British exploiters of Bangladesh was the introduction of private ownership of land. With this Western paean to progress, the peasants of Bangladesh lost their right to till the soil and, for many, the right to life.

Currently, less than 10 percent of Bangladesh's rural households own over half the country's cultivable land, while 60 percent of rural families own less than 10 percent of the land. One-third own no cultivable land at all, and by including those who own less than half an acre, 48 percent of the families of rural Bangladesh are "functionally landless."

The small minority of land owners in Bangladesh who control the preponderance of land are also at the top of the economic and political power structure. They rule over the food-producing resources of the nation—land, inputs, and credit—and thus most of the wealth. The poor are powerless in the hands of greedy money-lenders, merchant middlemen who tack on excess costs for greater profits, and a military fed by aid from America and other Western allies. The dark shadow of imperialism spreads from Bangladesh to El Salvador.

Most of the food aid goes to those who can best afford to pay the market price. . .

Another problem facing Bangladesh is one of inefficiency in food production. Much of the land is controlled by absentee landlords who lease the land to as many as 50 intermediaries, each taking a share of the wealth and passing the cost on to peasant sharecroppers who cannot afford the burden. The land suffers from neglect at the hands of the large landowners who have little motivation to increase yield. The peasants who work the land as sharecroppers know that their fruits will go to the landowner and they too remain uninspired. At the bottom of the ladder are the hired laborers who worry most about their wages.

In the face of such economic need, you can guess what the government of Bangladesh is concentrating its resources on: "defense, justice and police." This is a Third World litany heard whenever a small ruling class has to justify and maintain gross inequality.

Another sad irony of Bangladesh is that foreign aid leaves the roots of the problems untouched. Because of the graft, greed and mismanagement, "most of the food aid goes to those who can best afford to pay the market price: the urban middle class. It is no secret that the primary purpose of the ration system is to keep prices low for the politically volatile urban population." The patronage practices of siphoning off food supplies to sell on the black market accounts for the horrendous fact that only an estimated 14 percent of the rural population receives any grain from the aid system.

The United States government has acknowledged that security aid to Bangladesh reduces government incentive to deal with the poor, and food aid undermines domestic food production by reducing the government's need to get grain from local farmers and thus support prices at harvest time. Once again American "security" translates into misery for the Third World.

Clearly, land and social reform is the answer in Bangladesh, but the system is set rigidly against it. Cooperative living would work to help the poor survive but America and multilateral organizations like the World Bank do not believe in communal living (the market must be kept "free" to exclude the needy).

The citizens of the United States must demand that their aid goes for social and political equality in the countries that receive it (like Bangladesh) or the aid should be stopped. The authors seem to be saying to us, educate yourselves and then petition the government for change.

Back in Bangladesh, the poor continue to suffer like Abu, a peasant who lived in the village the authors resided in for nine months. Abu summed up the inequity of our age: "Our religion says that the rich man should care for the poor man. He should ask him whether he has eaten. But in this country, a rich man won't even look at a poor man. They say that Allah makes men rich and poor. But sometimes I wonder—is it Allah's work, or is it the work of men?"



Ten Years After

by Jan Alovus

Ten years ago, Francis Moore Lappe's fine book *Diet for a Small Planet* arrived in the midst of the natural foods "revolution." Not only could vegetarian eating be good for you, but Lappe showed the ways in which eating low on the protein chain could help the worldwide food shortage.

I suppose we all remember, as Lappe does, some adult urging us to eat everything on our plates because people were starving in some distant land. The idea that what we eat relates to what the rest of the world eats returns in a more sophisticated form in Lappe's book. *Diet for a Small Planet* sprung from her discovery that the amount of human edible protein fed to livestock (and not returned for human consumption)

approached the whole world's protein deficit. She knew there had to be an alternative.

Diet for a Small Planet is a very well researched and clearly written book, the kind that settles arguments and wins converts. Beyond merely delineating the problem, Lappe offers a system of complementary protein to assure those who turn to vegetable sources that they will get an adequate supply of high quality protein in their diet. She includes numerous recipes ranging from the intriguingly exotic like "Turkish Barley-Buttermilk Soup" to old favorites revamped for higher protein content. Additional recipes are available in a companion book, *Recipes for a Small Planet*, by Lappe's friend Ellen Ewald.

It Opened New Doors

by Terry Reed

Growing up in America, eating average American food — meat and potatoes, hamburgers and french fries — I never stopped to think about whether there was another way of living and eating. It wasn't until the sixties, that I truly became aware of the fact that to eat meat was to kill another being.

So, for religious reasons, I became a vegetarian. This, however, was not enough since I was still lacking in practical knowledge of exactly what a vegetarian must eat to remain (or become) healthy.

A friend gave me a copy of *Diet for a Small Planet*, by Frances Moore Lappe. This little fact-filled book was a turning point for me. It strengthened my belief in vegetarianism. To learn that by being a vegetarian I was freeing up more food

for all the other people on this small planet increased my understanding and conviction. Grain that is commonly used as cattle feed becomes available for human food when less emphasis is placed upon the consumption of beef.

Lappe's book opened a new door for me by showing me how little I had known of nutrition and the needs of our bodies. It spurred my ever-growing thirst for knowledge on the subject, leading me to discover better food sources. I draw strength from the work of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, and I offer thanks to Lappe and to Joseph Collins and the others for their extensive research.

As Earth Day approaches, let us all strengthen our commitment to each other on our small planet.



Circle of Poison

by Larry Schuster

They're deadly and, like drugs, grossly overused and over prescribed. Pesticides. So what do they have to do with world hunger? Everything. Inputs such as pesticides have been and continue to be seen by those dealing with international development questions as being necessary to increase food production and therefore decrease hunger.

As evidence of this way of thinking, there are nine so-called "green revolution" research institutions in the Third World which have been responsible for developing the now infamous high-yield varieties.

These high-yield varieties of such crops as rice and wheat were bred under ideal conditions in very short periods of time. Most significant is their lack of resistance to local pests when grown in real-life conditions. While it's true that such varieties often did have dramatically higher yields, such yields required a proportionately dramatic increase in the use of petro-chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

For example, between 1972 and 1978, Philippine imports of pesticides increased fourfold and associated with this was a doubling of its rice production. The Philippines then became a rice exporter. And the effect on hunger?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) of the U.N., the Filipino people are now the worst fed people in Asia. Why? Increased use of sophisticated chemical inputs, fertilizers, pesticides, etc., requires increased mechanization, which in turn lead to the consolidation of many small farms. Farmers, who for generations have depended on a subsistence village economy, are forced up their land.

Also during this same time, many agribusiness firms started a practice of contract farming whereby these firms offered local farmers the possibility to grow cash crops for export in exchange for credit and supervision. Usually, this supervision took the form of enforced instructions describing the exact amount of which brands of pesticides to use and when to use them. More often than not, those companies make the specified chemicals readily available as part of the total contract package. Some of these details were reaffirmed in a personal conversation with a former vice president of United Fruit Company, a subsidiary of Castle and Cooke (owner of Dole).

The above practice leads to fierce entrepreneurial competition. Taken together with increased mechanization, farm consolidation, and an agricultural economy which favored export crops, the result has been increasing hunger.

The International Labor Organization's study of the rural population of seven Asian countries reported that the rural poor have become measurably poorer

than they were ten or twenty years ago. The study concludes: "The increase in poverty has been associated with not a fall, but with a rise in cereal production per head, the main component of the diet of the poor."

Very often what seems to be an aid program for the hungry and the rural majority in the Third World turns out to be an aid program for the chemical companies. In fact, hybridization programs are often developed with the pesticide companies in mind. Apparently, little thought is given to the sociological consequences of sophisticated research.

In one excerpt from *Circle of Poison*, a Stauffer Chemical research official is quoted as saying, "We work pretty closely with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in developing new herbicides... We're definitely interested in their work on herbicides and insecticides — like breeding rice resistant to an herbicide." The IRRI is one of the most prominent of the nine "green-revolution" research institutions and is based in the Philippines. And, as with the other research institutes, Stauffer and many other chemical companies regularly donate money to the IRRI.

Often seed companies have a vested interest in their seeds' requirements for fertilizer and pesticides. Shell Oil, a pesticide multinational, is also the world's largest producer of seeds.

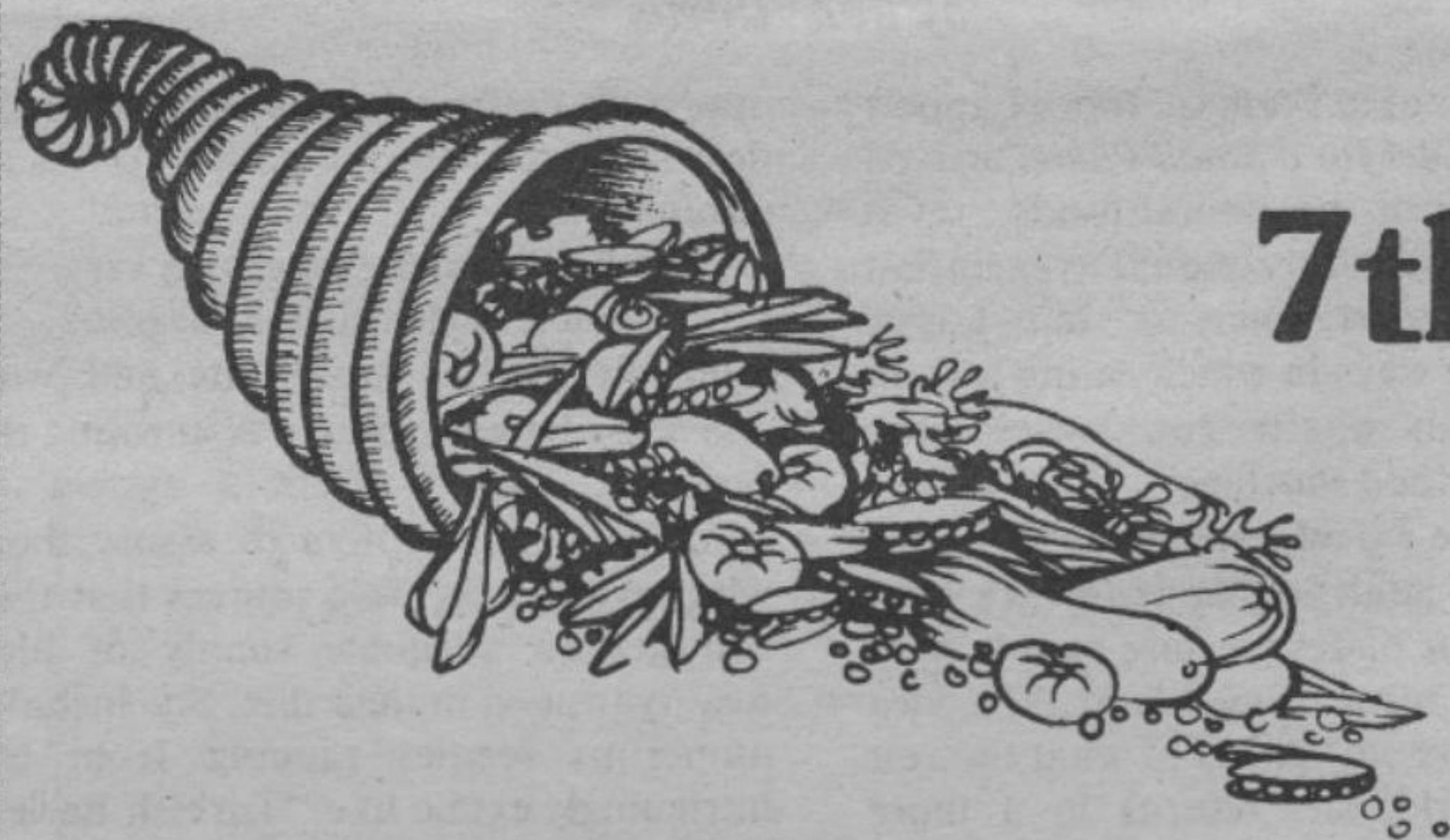
Furthermore, according to the *Circle of Poison* authors, we're not even protected by the U.N. They state that due to a connection between a consortium of agribusiness multinational corporations called the Industry Council for Development and with other corporate groups, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. "serves as one of the strongest links in the chain pulling Third World farmers into the corporate network... One FAO study cited malathion and lindane — restricted in the United States — the most effective pesticides for stored grain pests."

As in California, where the University of California Division of Agriculture is one of the leading agribusiness land grant colleges in the country, the results of a compromising pesticide connection have been frightening.

In an article called "The Pesticide Connection" by Paul Barnett in the July/August 1980 issue of *Science for the People*, Barnett says, "Companies that manufacture pesticides gave 420 gifts worth some \$689,000 to the University of California Division of Agriculture in fiscal year 1978-79. These gifts went to support the work of both farm advisors and research personnel." Officially, land-grant college extension and research is regarded as a neutral unbiased source of information.

California is now the world's most intensive user of pesticides. Pesticide use in California is more than 300 million pounds a year at a price tag of one billion dollars, certainly a decent return on their investment in gifts.

Such intensive use of pesticides has had adverse public health ramifications. In a 1969 study, the state Health Director demonstrated that 25 percent of the farm workers surveyed had sought medical treatment for pesticide poisoning. Pesticide



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Poison, from page 10

poisoning has made farmworking one of the most dangerous occupations in the state.

While the U.C. scientists have spent years exploring the effects of pesticides on pests, little research has been done on the public health aspects of pesticides. Dr. Kahn, who was in charge of pesticide safety at the State Department of Health Services, said, "The question of chronic, delayed or long term effects, such as cancer, are just not known."

And the Agribusiness Accountability Project has charged that farmworkers are being treated like human guinea pigs. The workers would continue to work the fields while the effects of new untested chemicals would be monitored via daily blood tests.

Yet when the Division of Biological Control at the University of California demonstrated that they could reduce pesticide use by as much as two thirds and in turn reduce the hazards to the farmworker community as well as the pest control costs to the farmers, the University administration launched efforts to eliminate that group.

Now, with support from the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Biological Control people have developed a Integrated Pest Management method of pest control using non-chemical means. In Florida, for example, the introduction of a wasp that parasitizes insects that are harmful to citrus crops have saved growers \$10 million a year in pesticide costs.

Perhaps the petro-chemical companies' thirst for profits above any concern for the needs of Third World peoples is best exemplified by their policy of exporting banned, heavily restricted and unregistered pesticides to Third World developing countries.

In a 1979 Government accounting Office report, "at least 25 percent of U.S. pesticide exports" are products of the above type. And the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act supports such activity, stating that banned or unregistered pesticides are *legal for export*.

The results of such a policy are far reaching. It affects not only the health of farmworkers abroad as well as factory workers here, but pesticide contamination taints a significant portion of the food that Americans themselves eat. The environmental impact on fisheries and other natural resources is well documented and is devastating.

- 10% of our imported food is officially rated as contaminated.
- 50% of all imported food identified by the FDA as contaminated was marketed without any warnings to consumers or penalties to importers.
- Nearly half the green coffee beans imported into the U.S. contains various levels—from traces to illegal residues—of pesticides that have been banned in the United States, according to the FDA.

• The GAO says that 14% of all U.S. meat is contaminated with illegal residues and imported meat makes up a high percentage of that total.

The effect of these pesticides on Third World peoples approaches genocide. In Nicaragua and Guatemala, the people carry 31 times more DDT in their blood than people in the United States. Average DDT levels in cow's milk in Guatemala are 90 times as high as allowed in the United States. And mother's milk levels in Guatemala is the highest ever recorded.

In a farmworker's camp in North Mexico, on a plantation that grows tomatoes for American supermarkets, one group interviewed by the Los Angeles Times said "someone dies in their camp every two or three days." According to a World Health Organization report, the number of poisonings in the Third World is 13 times higher than that of the United States, despite vastly greater use of pesticides here.

The causes that contribute to that are high rates of illiteracy, lack of unions, and lack of adequate regulatory agencies. Even in Mexico, 50% of the pesticide labels are incorrect or are written in English.

There are groups in the Third World which are fighting back, the largest and most vocal of these being the Consumer Association of Penang in Malaysia. There the group reports that pesticide use is destroying the nation's fish supply.

In the Philippines, the Farmer's Assistance Board, made up of peasants and students, summed up much of the pesticide situation; "It may well be that the gains of modern agricultural technology are wiped out by the destruction of the material bases for production: The land, the air, and the water, and the living beings that derive their sustenance and survival from these elements."

In their book, *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity*, Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins stress above all else that the issue of world hunger is not based primarily on lack of technical solutions. "... to focus only on raising production, without first confronting the issue of who controls and who participates in the production process, actually compounds the problem. It leaves the majority worse off than before. In a very real sense, the idea that we are progressing is our greatest handicap. We cannot move forward—we cannot take the first step toward helping improve the welfare of the vast majority of the world's people—until we can see clearly that we are now moving backward."

Author's Note: The bulk of the material was taken from the Institute for Food and Development Policy's latest publication, Circle of Poison, by David Weir and Mark Shapiro. This book, first printed in February, 1981, expanded upon a package of articles that appeared in the November, 1979 issue of Mother Jones. The package, called "The Corporate Crime of the Century," received the National Magazine Award for reporting. It was also named the "Best Censored" story by judges selecting the most important stories ignored or underplayed by the press.



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Further Reading on World Food Problems

compiled by Bob Broedel

This list of 15 important books will lead you on a tour of the issue of world hunger and the political aspects thereof. Bob Broedel of Tallahassee's *Science for the People* has compiled little nutshell reviews of each of these books, making it easier for you to learn what's been written on the topic. Joseph Collins, an author who has written extensively on the subject, will be coming to Tallahassee on May 7, so you still have time to read some of these books in preparation for that event.

Food is a political issue, as we've been saying all along. Finally, we have the opportunity to publish the extensive efforts of members of our community on food politics. Thanks to all who have worked on this project.

Also, *Science for the People* can be contacted through Bob Broedel, P.O. Box 20049, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

•••

Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity, by Frances Moore Lappe, Joseph Collins and Cary Fowler; Ballantine/Random House, 201 East 50th St., N.Y., NY 10022; 1977; 619 pp.; \$2.75.

Most of you have already heard about this book. . . it's the most widely circulated book on national and international food politics. It is also the book that tells the rest of the world about our local food co-op (check it out, page 507). *Food First* is a comprehensive discussion of the corporate creation of world hunger. If you are reading this section of *SPECTRUM* because you like to check out reading lists, you should also check out *Food First*. The reading list in the appendix will set you on cloud nine. Another great place to find such a listing is in the *Food First Resource Guide* (published by the Institute for Food and Development Policy). It gives a point-by-point outline of the causes of hunger. For each point, the *Resource Guide* provides selected documentation from around the world and the complete information needed to acquire that documentation. Copies will be available for sale at the Joseph Collins presentation on May 7. Also, this sort of thing can usually be purchased at the local progressive book co-op on Tennessee Street.

Feed, Need, Greed, Food Resources & Population, by the Food & Nutrition Group/Science for the People, 897 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; 1980; 86 pp.; \$5.50.

This is an excellent high school curriculum which brings together in one book, population issues, our system of food production, the health risks of the American diet and ways it can be changed. Their periodical, *Science for the People*, has consistently carried important articles on food production. One should write to them for a listing of back issues. In particular one should ask for their special issue on "Food, Agriculture & Agribusiness."

Farming for Profit in a Hungry World: Capital and the Crisis in Agriculture, by Michael Perelman; Universe Books, 381 Park Avenue South, N.Y., NY 10016; 1977; 238 pp.; \$15.00 hardback.

Malnutrition and starvation, drastic loss of soil fertility, depletion of fossil fuel reserves, pollution, declining food quality, urban sprawl and unemployment, the disappearance of family-held farms, the mass dislocation of rural populations—these are some of the costs associated with modern U.S. agricultural methods, in industrialized countries as well as the Third World. Challenging the reputed "efficiency" of U.S. agriculture, Perelman analyzes the economic forces, government policies, and technological developments that have led to these conditions. He describes the role of corporate conglomerates, banking institutions, government policy, and government-directed research and their impact on small farmers, farm labor, and the consumer.

Agribusiness In The Americas: The Political Economy of Corporate Agriculture, by Patricia Flynn & Roger Burbach; Monthly Review Press, 62 West 14th Street, N.Y., NY 10011; 1980; 314 pp.; \$6.50 paperback.

The authors of this book are members of NACLA—North American Congress on Latin America. For over a decade NACLA has been doing some of the very best anti-imperialist research that has been done. This study, emphasizing agribusiness, is one of their most recent.

How The Other Half Dies: The Real Reasons For World Hunger, by Susan George; Allanheld, Osmun & Co., 19 Brunswick Road, Montclair, NJ 07042; 1977; 308 pp.; \$5.95.

This title demonstrates that famine and world hunger are caused by the

distribution of power and resources. It examines pseudo-solutions such as population control and the "green revolution." These apparently neutral economic and technical innovations, often encouraged by major charitable foundations, have indeed been immensely profitable—but not for the poor.

Radical Agriculture, Richard Merrill, Editor; Harper & Row, 10 East 53rd Street, N.Y., NY 10022; 1976; 459 pp.; \$6.95 paperback.

The book's twenty essays summarize the ecological, economic, physical and social characteristics of a radical agriculture. These ideas are radical, all right, if you're running an agribusiness corporation. To the rest of us, they seem like eloquent common sense.

Merchants of Grain, by Dan Morgan; Penguin Books, 625 Madison Avenue, N.Y., NY 10022; 1979; 519 pp.; \$3.95 paperback.

This book illuminates the inner workings and practices of the once secret international grain trade. It clearly illustrates the importance of grain, like oil, as a strategic commodity in world commerce. This kind of analysis of the interlocks between big business and diplomacy is more and more essential to our understanding of how the world works.

Graham Center Seed Directory: A Gardener's and Farmer's Guide to Sources of Traditional, Old-Timey Vegetable, Fruit and Nut Varieties, by Cary Fowler; The Graham Center, Rt. 3, Box 95-E, Wadesboro, NC 28170; 1979; 35 pp.; \$1.00.

Many old traditional varieties of fruits and vegetables have disappeared from the pages of commercial seed catalogs. An alarming number of varieties are becoming extinct. When a traditional variety falls out of use or becomes extinct, genetic diversity in that food crop is diminished. If this happens repeatedly, valuable genetic material important in breeding crops with natural resistance to pest and diseases is likely to be lost. This catalog, if used, will counter the prevailing trend.

If you are interested in this sort of thing, another group to contact is the Seed Savers Exchange, Kent Whealy, Director, Rural Route 2, Princeton, MO 64673.

Circle of Poison: Pesticides and People in a Hungry World, by David Weir & Mark Schapiro; Institute for Food & Development Policy, 2588 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; 1981; 101 pp.; \$3.95 paperback.

Circle of Poison documents a worldwide scandal: the international marketing of restricted pesticides that leave a globe-circling trail of sickness and death. The circle begins in the U.S., where pesticides made for export disable American workers. Then it moves abroad; from El Salvador to New Guinea, these deadly pesticides are routinely sprayed on workers in the fields or carelessly sold in Coke bottles.

The Growth of Hunger: A New Politics of Agriculture, by Rene Dumont & Nicholas Cohen; Marion Boyars, 99 Main Street, Salem, NH 03079; 1980; 229 pp.; \$7.95 paperback.

The authors argue clearly and convincingly for a drastic reshaping of food production and distribution policy. Even where technology is brought in to aid "backward" areas, where production is low, they demonstrate that these systems, like the "green revolution," or the importation of powdered milk substitutes for babies, often turn out to be disasters.

Food for War/Food for Peace: United States Food Aid in a Global Context, by Mitchel B. Wallerstein; MIT Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02142; 1980; 312 pp.; \$30.00 hardback.

Food and politics are intimately bound. This analysis of the United States government's food assistance programs since 1945 is the first detailed study of the complex tangle of political considerations, interests, and objectives that have determined food aid policy and to some degree domestic agricultural policies as well.

Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Want: Social and Economic Implications of the Green Revolution, by Andrew Pearse; Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue, N.Y., NY 10016; 1980; 262 pp.; \$20.00.

continued page 13

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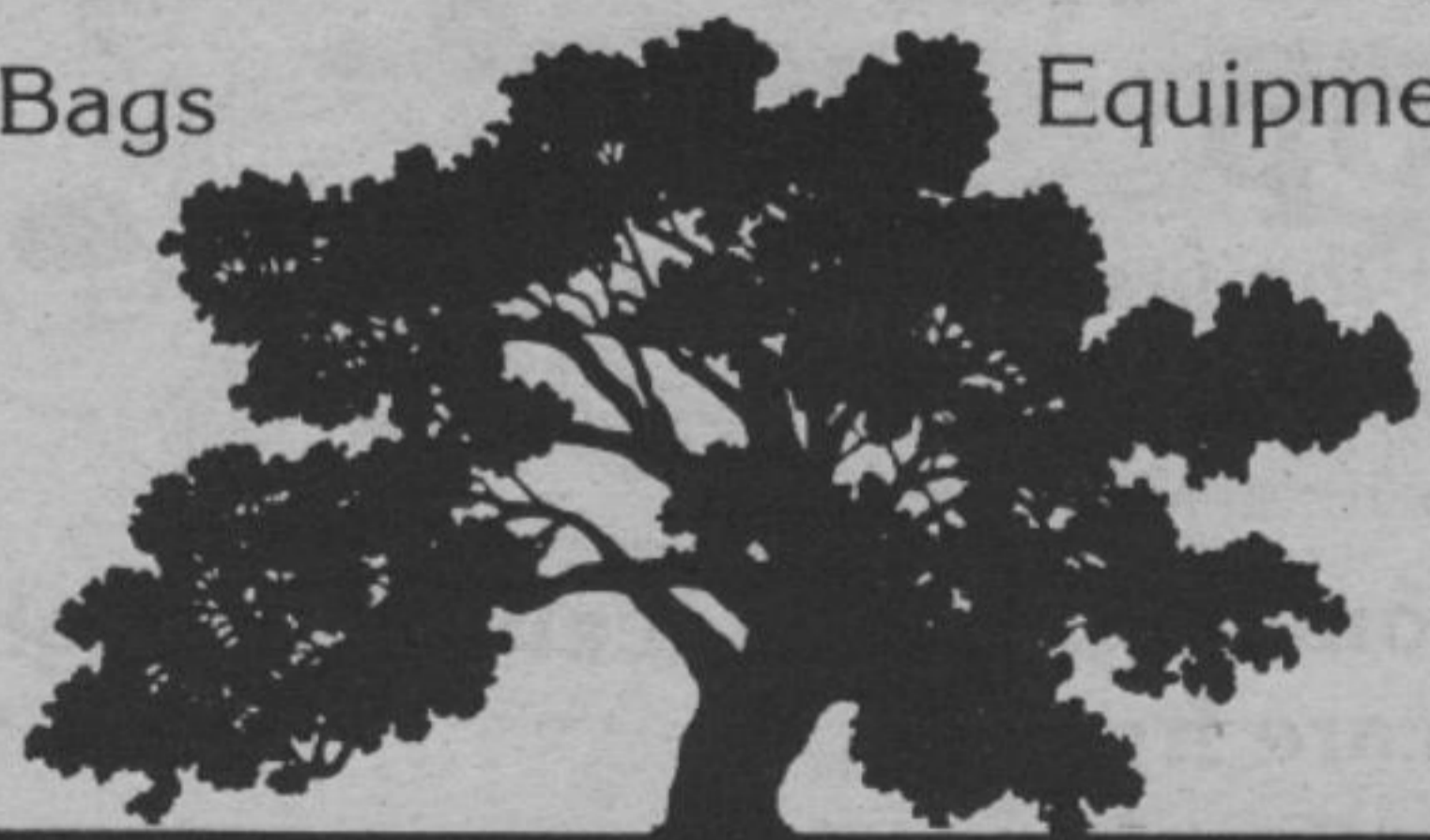
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Through a Lesbian Photographer's Eye: JEB in Tallahassee

by Tana McLane

Imagine a world where women with strong bodies and strong spirits come and go freely. They create and work hard. Their conversation is the conversation of beings sure of their strength, their viewpoints. Images, the imaginings of such women, have been formally, institutionally silenced. Though these women do reside everywhere, living their self-supportive, revolutionary lives, they are invisible.

Lesbians — women beyond the mainstream, ordinary, enslaving lives many women live, walk among the other people on this planet. The dominant culture trains us not to see them, just as it trains them to hide their Lesbian lives.

In recent years, the development of the Gay and Lesbian and feminist movements has created the opportunity for Lesbians to "come out," to become more visible to the world and to each other. This has been important in both empowering individual Lesbians in their individual processes, and in the creation of Lesbian art, music, writing, and photography — which, as Art always does — in turn creates wavelike changes in culture.

In 1981, A week of Lesbian and Gay Awareness brought to our community a Lesbian photographer of reknown. JEB (Joan E. Biren), photographer, organizer and producer of the book, *Eye*

to *Eye: Portraits of Lesbians*, said in an interview before a local presentation of her Lesbian slideshow, "Culture and art are crucial elements in our struggle for visibility. Not only that, but they're fun; they fuel us and keep us going."

In the interest of reclaiming and sharing images of Lesbians, photographs by women-identified women, of women as we see ourselves rather than as the male culture sees us, JEB has been touring the country for the last year or so offering her lengthy slideshow, which she defines as a particularly Lesbian/feminist art form. Slides are much less expensive than film, and slideshows have the advantage of being changeable and expandable as new slides are included and switched around. Tallahassee women have recently had the good fortune to see two other Lesbian/feminist slideshows: Tee Corrinne's "Lesbian Images in Art," and Z. Budapest's show of goddess images.

"Lesbians are trying to define a new erotica," said JEB. "And we need women-only opportunities to see erotic images in order to explore this more...until (events like this) are more ordinary and accessible, my priority is to make this available to women only, despite whatever educational opportunities men might gain from seeing such images."

The works of older Lesbian photographers have been an inspiration to JEB and some of their photographs are included in her slideshow. Especially inspiring has been Frances Benjamin Johnston, a turn-of-the-century

photographer, whose photos are "strong, rebellious, wonderful images...from a photo-journalistic background rather than from fine art."

JEB herself "came out" in the 60's, before there was a Gay or Lesbian or feminist movement. Upon doing so, she found no media evidence of Lesbians beyond very slick portrayals such as those by David Hamilton, et. al., whose allegiance is still very tied to the voyeuristic male culture — and not all images of how Lesbians see Lesbians — or references to Lesbians as "sick" or "perverted." "And I knew that what I was experiencing wasn't that," remarked JEB.

She later found herself ready to do a book of photographs of women, Lesbian images, for both personal and political validation, and because it is empowering for women to see such images. She had been sort of unconsciously collecting photos with a decidedly Lesbian sense to them — and some of these are also included in the slideshow.

The largest goal of JEB's work is to help make sure that such images of Lesbians, never disappear again. Many of the photographs she has turned into slides have been very difficult to find. But she continues her work because, as she says, "Lesbians don't have anything — no identity, networking, or history — without visibility."

When asked if there is a Lesbian sensibility to art, JEB smiled and replied, "I think there is, and we're on the brink of discovering it...our evolution."

Books, from page 12

This is the latest update on the "green revolution." The bibliography is very extensive, making this an important resource tool for people who are making an effort to understand why one cannot simply export American agricultural technology to Third World countries and expect it to work.

The American Food Scandal: Why You Can't Eat Well On What You Earn, by William Robbins; William Morrow & Co., 105 Madison Avenue, N.Y., NY 10016; 280 pp.; \$3.50.

Describes how our government and industry have tended to curtail supplies and increase demand at the expense of human requirements.

Eat Your Heart Out: Food Profiteering in America, by Jim Hightower; Crown Publishers, 419 Park Avenue South, N.Y., NY 10016; 1975; 335 pp.; \$3.95 paperback/\$8.95 hardback.

This book goes along, much like the title would imply. It is a classic study on the subject. Also, it gives a strong focus on the plight of the small farmer. In a nutshell, the author tells us that just about everything we eat is controlled by gigantic agribusiness corporations and supermarket chains whose power is almost unlimited.

Dollar Harvest: An Expose of the Farm Bureau, by Samuel R. Berger; D.C. Heath & Co, 125 Spring Street, Lexington, MA 02173; 1971; 219 pp.; \$7.95.

Here is what Cesar Chavez says in the introduction: "The true story of the Farm Bureau should be told and understood. For years, this powerful organization has been pretending to speak for the American farmer, while it has really been promoting the narrow interests of the giant agri-business complex in this country and only the largest corporate farms."

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Magical Tools

As one begins to be interested in the magical aspects of Wicca and Paganism, one is sometimes bombarded by the arcane sounding names and confusing functions of a large number of magical implements, such as, athames, bolines, dagydes, etc. The seeker wonders whether all these are necessary and in some cases exactly *what* the object is and what possible use it could have. Actually, much of the esoterica of tools is *not* necessary to the Craft; it comes from the influence of the Medieval magicians and alchemists who were trying to codify a science of magical work. Most magic done in the Craft is done either for individual spiritual growth or toward a conscious direction of will (will directed toward healing, toward life changes, toward whatever). In this the tools are facilitators to a magical mood in which the psychic state necessary for this kind of work can be achieved. The tools are part of a complete and self-consistent symbolic system which is agreed upon by the participants and provides them with a map for entry into unfamiliar psychic spaces. Such a system, like a map, is arbitrary and not "true" in an absolute sense, it is a guide to a state which is ineffable and can be most clearly reached for only through poetry and "starlight" vision.

Thus, what I will share with you in this column is just the edges of *my* map, tools that I use to find my way around or tools that are agreed on in the 'map' known as Wicca. If they do not feel right to you — don't use them! There are many books and practitioners out there with different systems, if you are interested read them and try things and find those tools and rituals which are the most effective triggers for *your* spiritual growth. Codify your own system or adopt someone else's that fits.

The most basic of Wiccan tools is the

athame (rhymes with whammy) or ritual knife. An athame is never used to cut *anything*. The athame is charged with the energy of its owner (in the case of a ritual sword, with the energy of the full coven or grove) and is used as a pointer to define space (such as casting a circle) and as a conductor for one's will and energy (as in consecrating water). Tradition calls for a black handled dagger (double-edged blade), but the purpose of the handle colour is to distinguish it from the 'white-handled knife' which is used for cutting and carving (cutting cord, carving symbols on candles and other tools, etc). If your ritual knife and your cutting knife can be easily distinguished, the handle colour is unimportant. In fact, knife-shaped ceramic objects are sometimes used for the athame these days — try explaining to the cop on the beat that it is against your religion to cut anything with that fine six inch dagger!

After the athame, the next most important tools are the symbols used on the altar to denote the five elements: earth, air, fire, water and spirit.

"Oh Earth of Earth make strong our purpose and give form to our intent, that this work may be done." A pentacle (a five pointed star) or pentagram (a pentacle surrounded by a circle) is often used to symbolize the element of earth and its properties; stability, material wealth and practical affairs. The pentacle used on the altar may be of any material — metal, dough, wood, cloth, etc. Many people make the material of the pentacle complement the purpose of the ritual being performed, such as using a copper pentacle (the metal sacred to Venus) for works of love, or by using a wooden pentacle made using the correspondences of the Celtic tree alphabet or with wood sacred to a particular deity. Many people then place the salt or dirt which is used for earth onto the pentacle. Others simply

use a small dish of salt and dispense with the altar pentacle altogether. In addition to the presence of earth/pentacle on the altar, the pentacle symbol is used to represent earth when making amulets and talismans and in other magical work.

"Oh Air of Air, join together our minds as one creature that our work may be done." A thurible of incense or a bell is usually used to symbolize the element of air and its properties: communication, vitality and understanding. To consecrate or infuse objects or people with the essence of air the smoke of the incense surrounds it/them, or the bell can be rung over it/them. There are many fine bells, such as Tibetan temple bells, which can by their vibration enhance a meditative mood or augment a magical work.

"Oh Fire of Fire, set our wills ablaze that this work may be done." A candle or a small cauldron of fire used to symbolize the element of fire and its properties: will transmutation, and power. Medieval alchemists and philosophers saw fire as transforming — as fire transforms the substance of a candle to light, they saw fire as the symbol of transformation from that which is base to something better, the attainment of mystic illumination or enlightenment. In addition, fire is often used in divination (pyromancy) and there is a large body of tradition using candles as magical foci of will. (I will expand on this in a future column.)

"Oh Water of Water, blend the passions of our hearts that his work may be done." A chalice of water is used to symbolize the element of water and its properties: cleansing, regeneration, and emotion. Water is used for purificatory ritual bathing and anointing and the cauldron of water is a symbol of rebirth. Water is at the highest peak of its power on Mayday morning before dawn and many practitioners gather a sufficient amount of spring water at this time to use as altar water for the whole year. May water is also used as the basis for healing infusions and other magical work.

"Oh Aether of Aether, illuminate our souls that this work may be done." An ankh or keppen rod is used to symbolize the element of spirit (sometimes called aether or quintessence) and its properties: perfection, illumination, eternity.

Quintessence permeates all nature, it is the property that binds and contains us and is the basis of all life. It is the Akashic force of eastern philosophy



and 'the Force' of Star Wars fame. The ankh or keppen rod is used to channel spirit much as the athame is used to channel will.

In addition to these main classes of tools here are the names of some common tools and their uses:

Aspergillum — a sprig(s) of herbs or other plants or a brush used to sprinkle water or oil. Sometimes used to sprinkle water from the chalice while casting a circle.

Cingulum — A cord or sash of cloth worn at the waist. The cingulum is often knotted to provide a unit of measurement and, although the length varies according to tradition, it is often an appropriate length to measure the diameter of a working circle.

Boline — a sickle used primarily to gather roots and herbs.

Burin — a large awl used for graving symbols on wood, wax, etc.

Baculum — a magical wand used as a sending point for power in all beneficial work, especially where the fire energy of the athame is inappropriate.

Dagyde — a magical needle used for sewing symbols on cloth.

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Amnesty International—Chapter 193 (Tallahassee) is participating in events on May 28th; the 20th anniversary of Amnesty International. This is also the 10th year of imprisonment for Anatoly Lupynov, the Ukrainian poet held in a USSR psychiatric hospital. The local AI chapter is working for his release. For information about the May 28th events, including a benefit. — Contact Jeff Peterson, AI coordinator, P.O. Box 186, Tallahassee, Florida 32302

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Decision Makers, from page 6

meeting, the key to achieving a permanent or temporary waste storage site or incinerator. Poor public relations, according to those attending, was the major crux of the entire predicament, the reason that the problem hadn't been solved.

But the real problem wasn't even touched upon — the *source* of the waste. To expose the real problem would have exposed the real solution: a significant reduction of waste volume by shutting down power plants, or at least curtailing future nuclear growth. The alternative was unthinkable.

The mere mention of the idea seemed to grate against every grain of the men's upbringing. The nuclear waste dilemma Operators of three of four nuclear power plants in Florida with a fourth on the way, they had the biggest worries since nuclear power plant low-level waste was the longest lasting and of the largest volume. "In the national interest, we need to solve the problem," said C.O. Woody, seeing that he had a receptive audience. "Our plants have saved 108 million barrels of oil. Unless we do something in the next 10-18 months, I can foresee many plants around the country shutting down. The main part of the problem is public relations and politics."

Good public relations seemed to be the major need for most of the men at the

had its beginning when an unwary public was snowed. But now that most people are becoming aware of the truth though still hooked into the system, personal lifestyle decisions must be made as well as decisions about broader problems, such as nuclear waste.

Woody admitted that they could incinerate 60-70 percent of their waste, such as clothing, and that compactors could reduce the volume even more. The plants have interim storage capacity on site which could be expanded, though costly (one reason for wanting the government to solve the problem). But as one power company official pointed out to enhance their argument: "All nuclear power plants in Florida are in a hurricane zone." It was a fact they should admit more often. Nonetheless, despite Florida's hurricane susceptibility and high water table, FP&L officials maintained that a *permanent* government operated low-level waste disposal site in Florida was necessary (mainly to reduce shipping costs and out-of-state fees).

"The great success of Barnwell is the public relations money invested in the local area," Whitsett, the DOE official, chimed in. "They have girl scout bus tours, picnics, etc. . . ." Girl scout bus tours? The most recent image I had of Barnwell was of thousands of protestors parading around its front gates with a

few hundred being hauled off to jail in school buses. Company propaganda hadn't worked on those people. In fact, the public anger had mounted when the charade was finally seen and understood — a glimpse of ugliness through the mask. I still remembered hearing a farmer who lived near Barnwell and had grown suspicious when his neighbors, many of them nuclear workers, began dying of cancer and leukemia. Pragmatism had opened his eyes. "There may come a time when I can no longer sell my crops because they'll be too radioactive," he said sadly.

Most of the North Florida county officials that I knew didn't need a Barnwell to say "no" to nuclear waste dumping. They opposed it, leaving no room for compromise. It was the "not in my backyard syndrome," as one DOE official put it — and justifiably so. Still, some people wanted to force an area to harbor a waste dump since there had been ample time for volunteers to come forward. And as nuclear plants grew older (and more came on line?) waste volumes would increase. Furthermore, there was still the problem of decommissioning plants after 25-35 years of operation when they became too radioactive to operate.

The official for Florida Power Corporation, operators of the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant (noted for having the worst safety record in the United States), said they were not in an emergency situation yet. "There is no foreseeable emergency we can't handle," he said.

The optimism spread to Clark, who still thought he could get an in-state dump, although his options were running out. He had traveled the length of the state with Buck Oven of the Department of Environmental Regulation and had

come across stiff local opposition. Since North Florida was targeted, there was talk of secession (South and Central Florida having all the nukes). And adverse press coverage was running rampant. "Why, I could keep it in my garage and it would be safe," he had said, trying to instill confidence. He and others maintained that nuclear power had become safer since Three Mile Island, and that nuclear waste problems should not be a hindrance to further nuclear power development.

On such an upbeat note, the meeting ended, although the dilemma had been unresolved. Cigarette smoke lingered as people filed out of the room. There was friendly chatting. One man from DOE talked to me about our position, seeming to be honestly concerned about nuclear power and waste. He was the one I had likened to an ideal boy scout leader. There was hope.

After a few minutes, I followed the overseer of the meeting out of the room and in to his office, wanting to pick up more information. Upon arriving, he immediately received a call from Clark. His face blushed. The coolness that he had maintained throughout the meeting suddenly faded.

"That bad, huh," he kept repeating. "You're sending down an emergency team? Well, if it's that bad, we'd better call the Secretary (of HRS) and the governor!"

The unthinkable alternative had occurred — the Crystal River Nuclear Plant was shut down. An accident had occurred, the worst since Three Mile Island. Now there were thousands of gallons of radioactive water — nuclear waste — which had to be disposed of. . . or did it have to be disposed? Perhaps the question of a waste facility had been answered.

Low-Level Wastes, from page 3

The Task Force found out that in case of an emergency (i.e., Barnwell suddenly closing down) the nuclear power plants could keep their LLRW on site for up to two months. The other institutions, however, did not have the facilities to even temporarily store their wastes on site.

The Task Force felt a permanent LLRW disposal in Florida was not feasible because:

Both with respect to the storage and handling of LLW and HLW in Florida, the state's geologic and hydrologic characteristics are of special concern. Florida has an abundance of surface water resources and, being a peninsula, is bordered by ocean on three sides. In many areas of the state, the groundwater table is near the ground-surface and/or the soils are highly porous. In many such areas, population density also is high. For these reasons, extra precautions must be taken in the handling of nuclear wastes in Florida, in order to avoid contamination of ground- and surface- waters, especially drinking water and water used for livestock, irrigation and food processing.

However, according to Andy Johnson of the House Energy Committee, "Florida should not rule out the possibility."

Ways to reduce LLRW volume in Florida, safe methods of transporting the waste, and possible temporary LLRW sites were also discussed in the Task Force meetings. In January of 1980, the Task Force made recommendations to the governor about the LLRW problem. Their recommendations centered on two main themes; 1) that HRS should continue to investigate the problem, possibly locating a temporary in-state and a preferably permanent out-of-state LLRW disposal site; and 2) coordinate with other states to find a regional LLRW disposal.

Since that time, Dr. Emmet Bolch from the University of Florida has been funded by the Department of Energy to conduct a two-year study on LLRW in Florida. He has written the first part of the study which identifies the various sources of LLRW production in Florida. He will eventually locate several temporary/permanent LLRW disposal sites.

The passage of the "Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act" last December has pushed the states to deal with the waste disposal problem as soon as possible. The House and Senate Energy Committees are currently being educated about the problem. They may consider a compact agreement bill during this legislative session. According to George Meier, staff director of the Select Energy Committee, "Low level radioactive waste disposal is our number one priority."

Eight Southern states are meeting in Orlando at the end of April to discuss a compact agreement. All the states must pass the exact same bill. The House Energy Committee felt the bill should include roles for industry, state, and local governments, and public interest groups. They also felt that the bill should include "incentives" for the host state and an accident contingency plan. It is not known at this time whether the other states are also studying possible disposal sites.

If interested in voicing your opinions and concerns about LLRW disposal, contact your local representative and/or:

Rep. Dick Batchelor
House Energy Committee
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Governor Robert Graham
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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