

# SPECTRUM

A Cooperative Newspaper for the Tallahassee Community

Spring Equinox 1982 Issue No. 30

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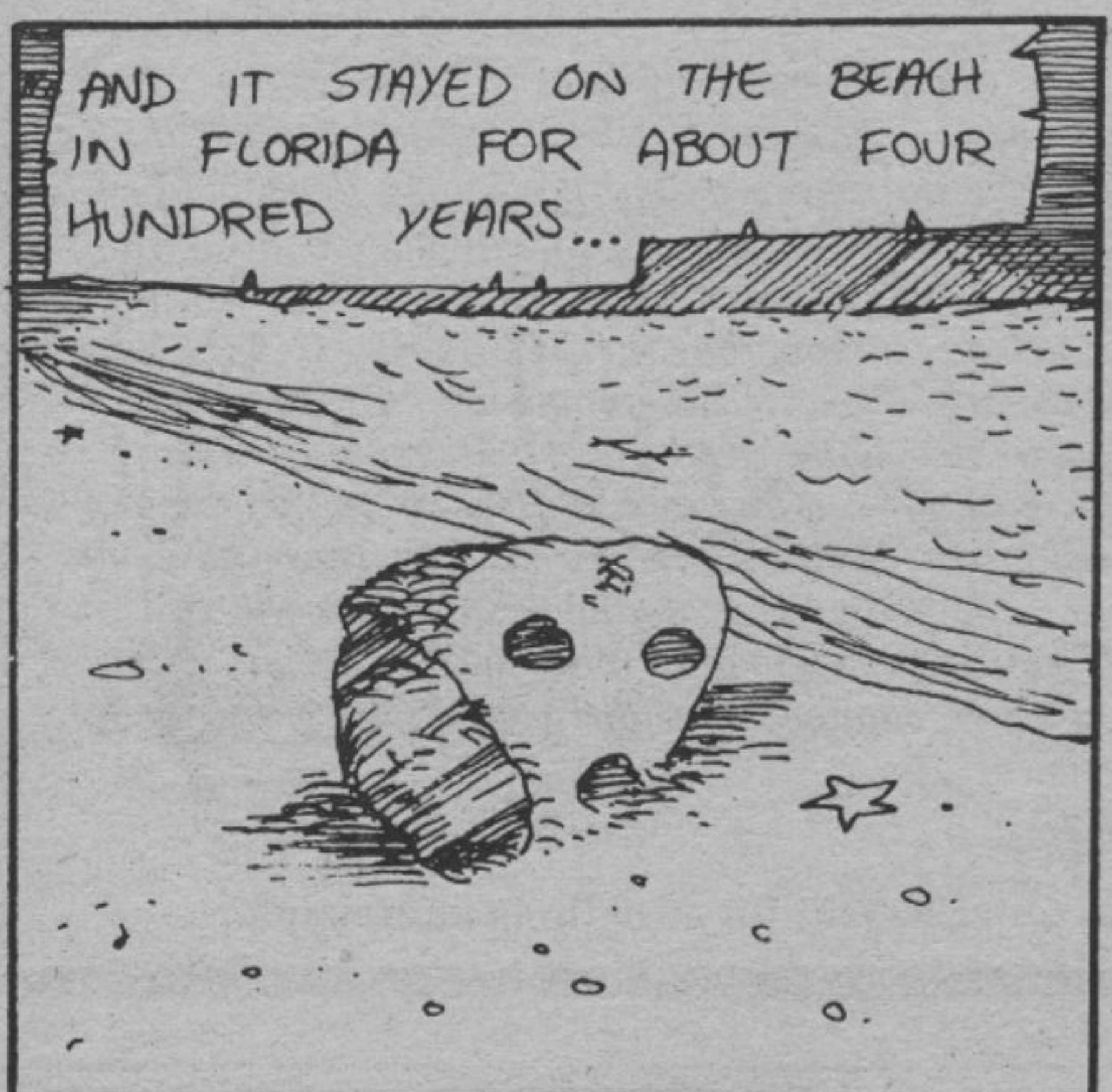
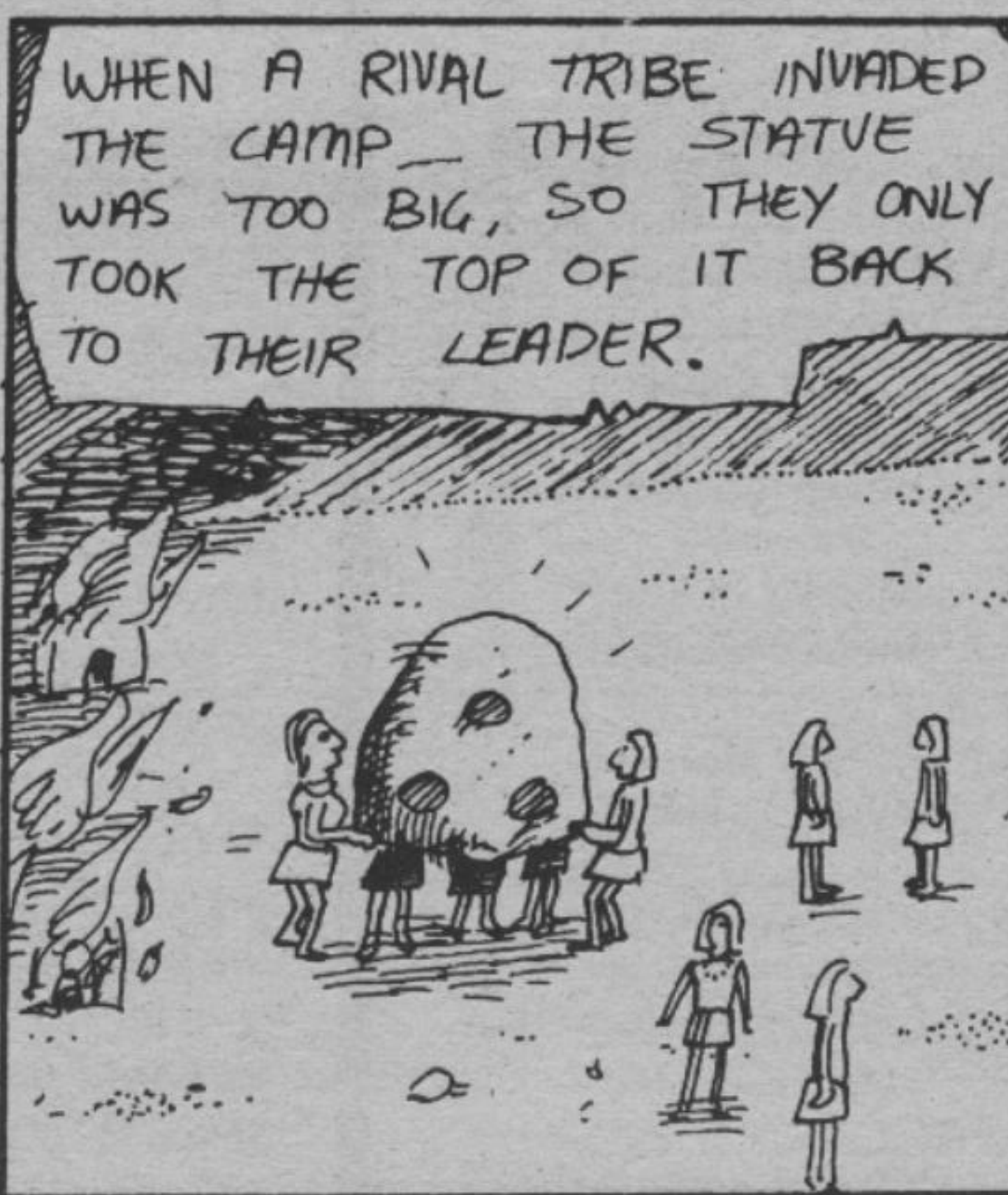
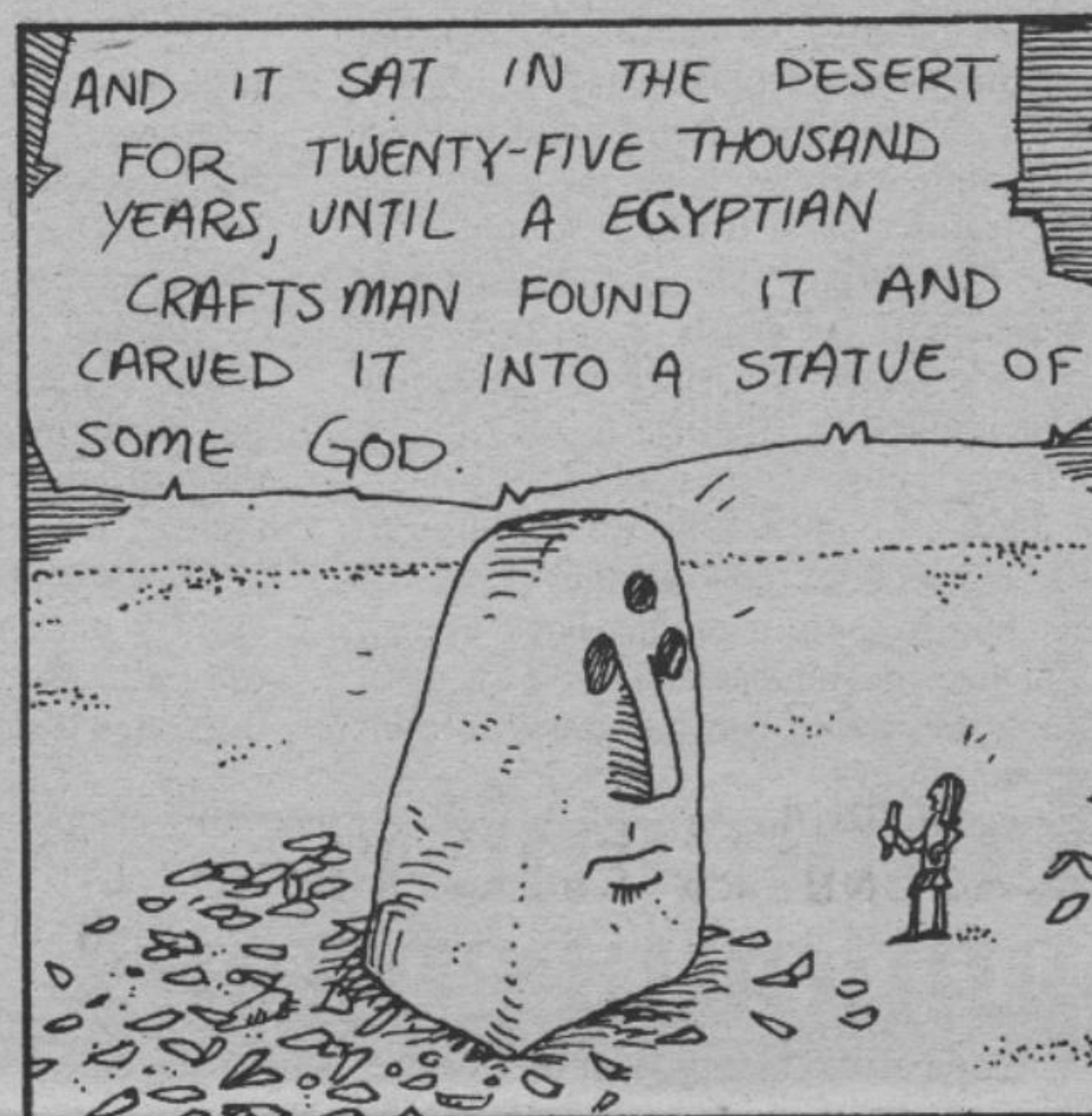
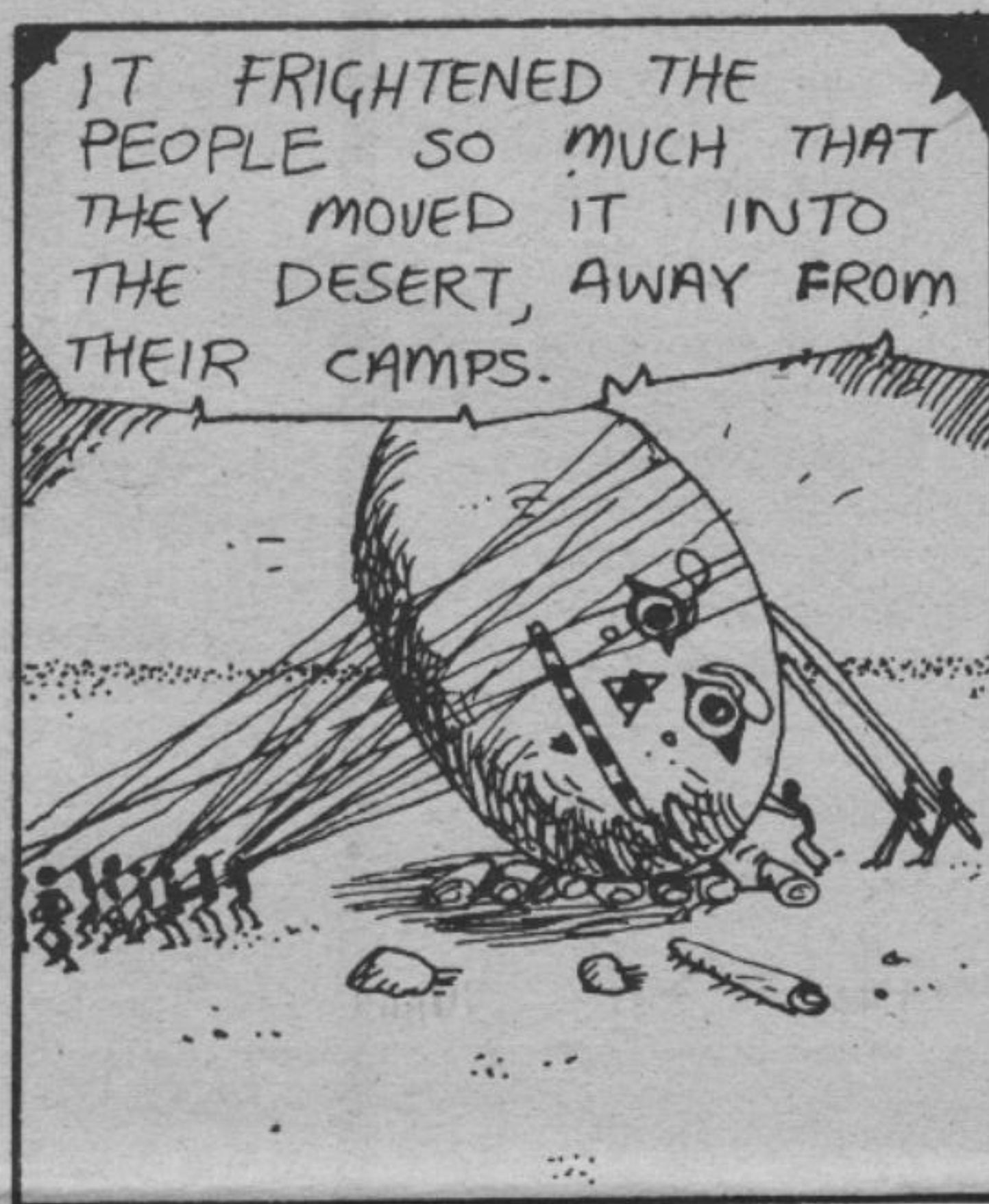
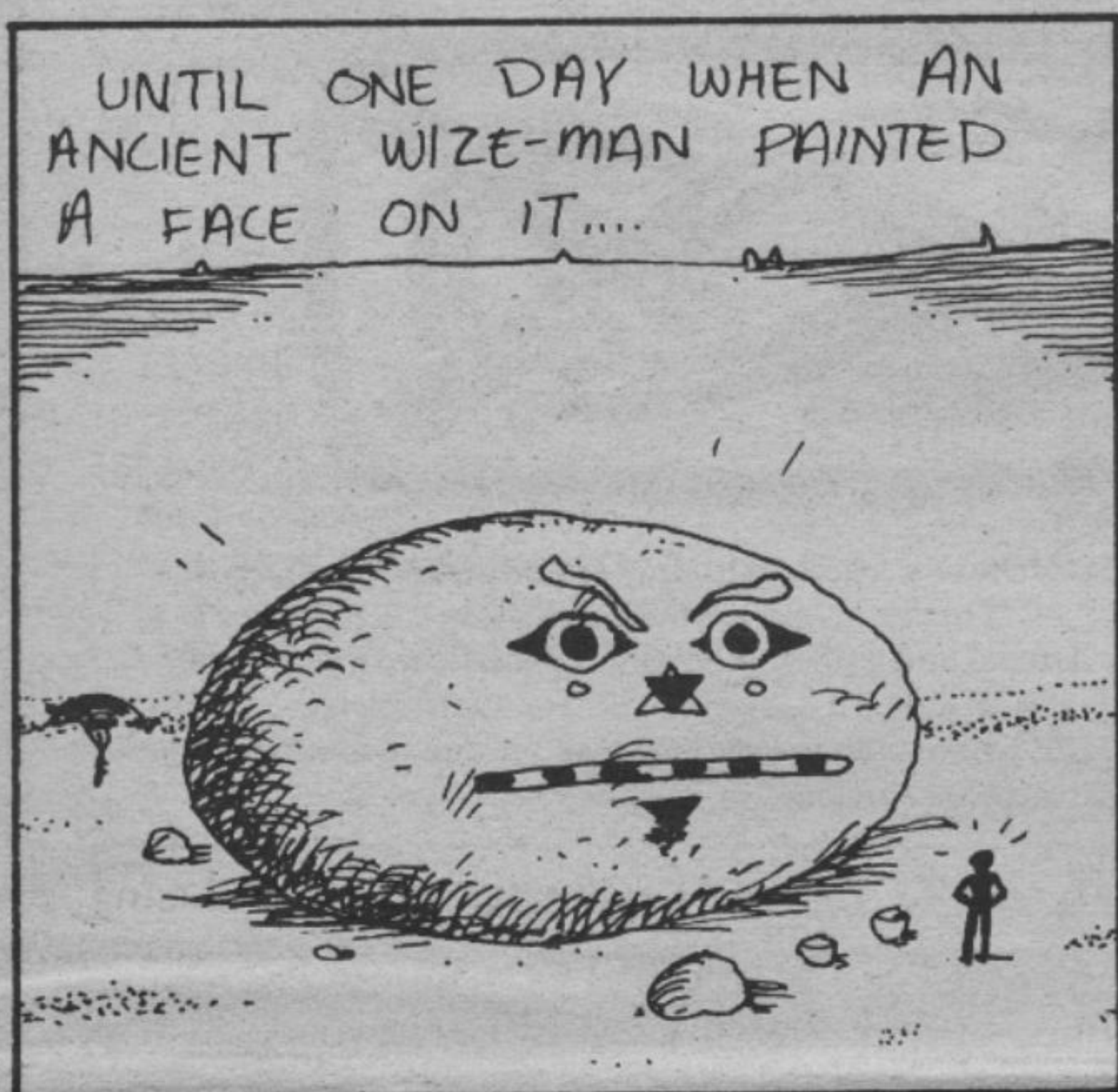
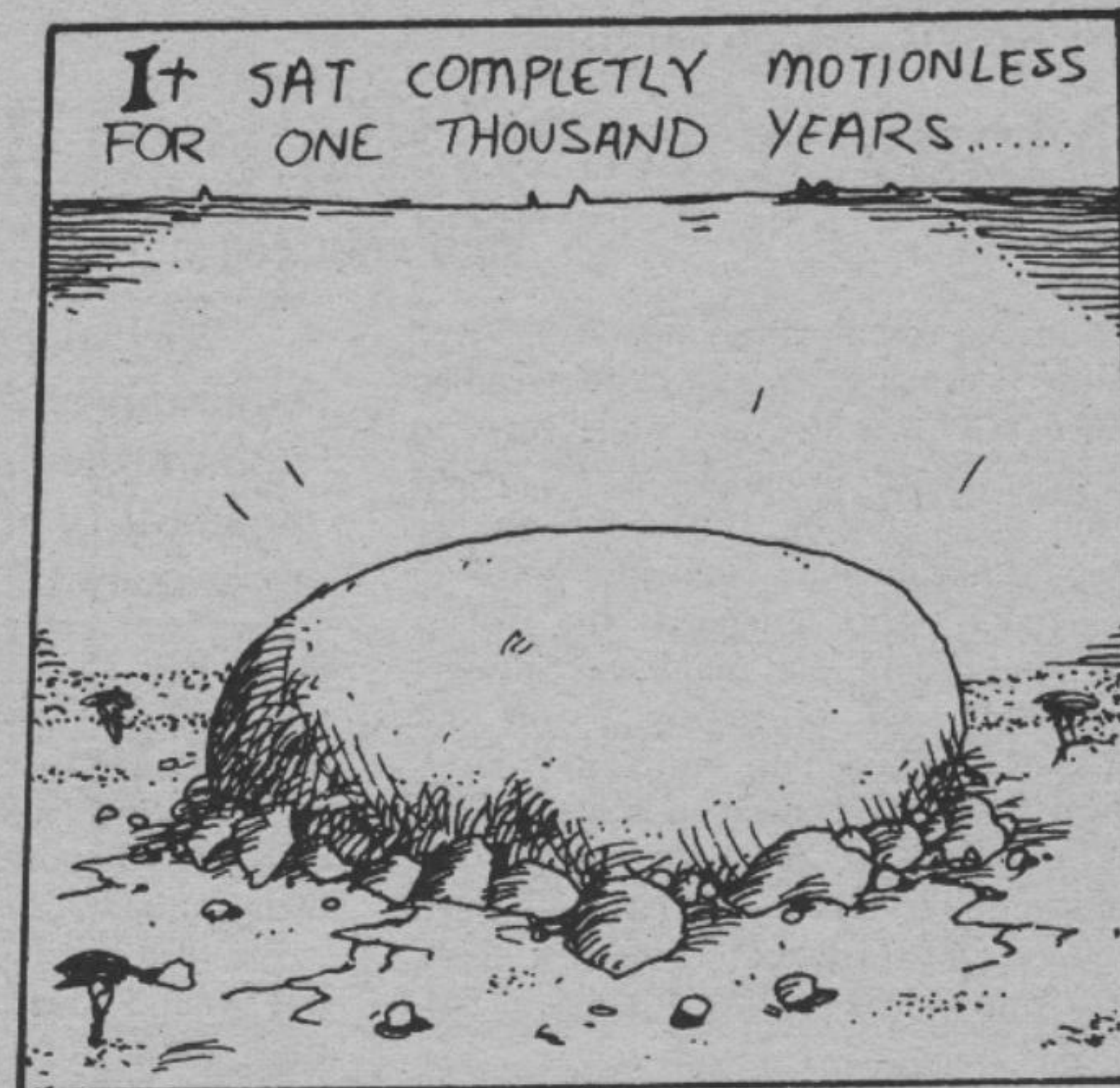
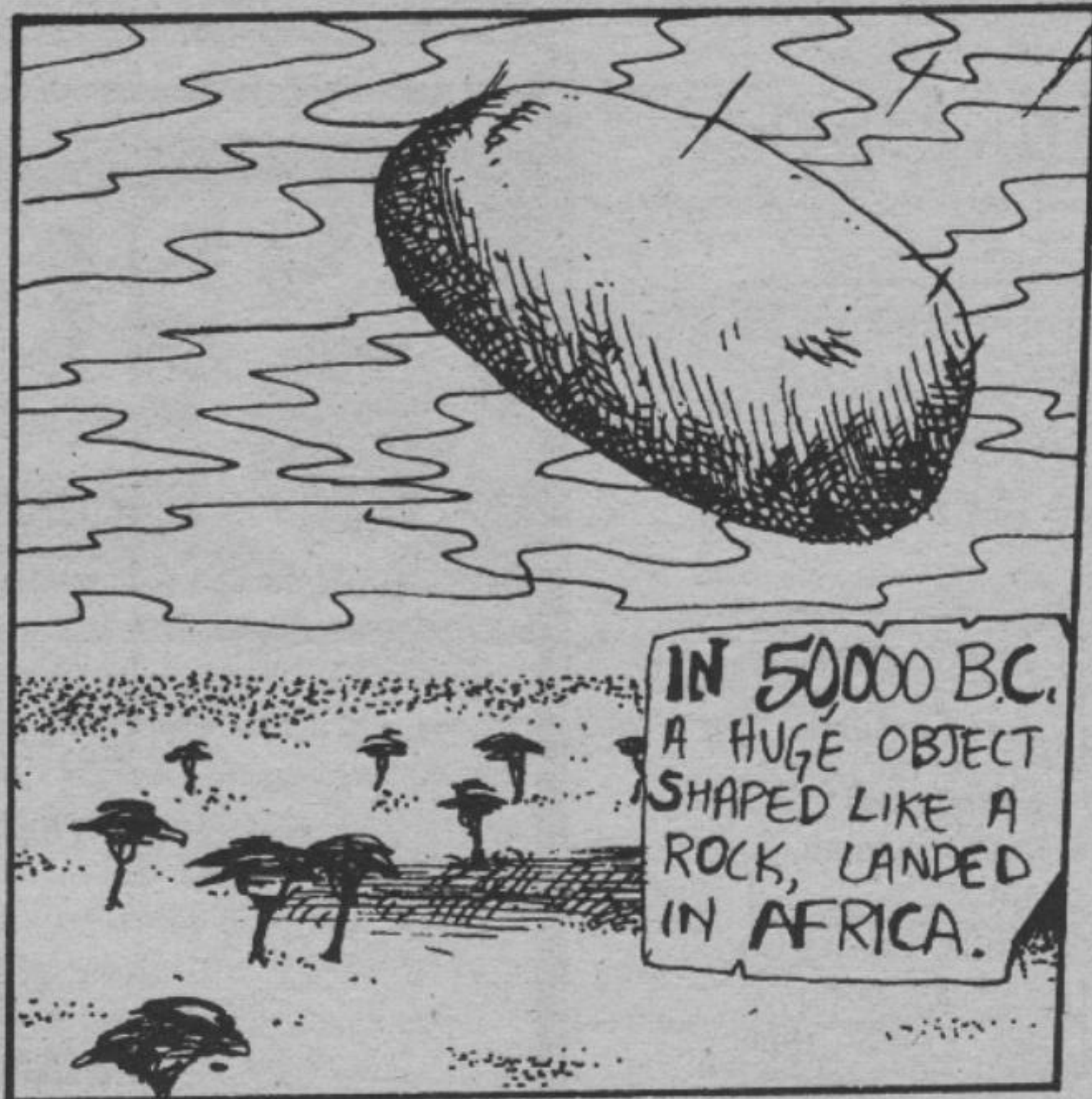


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# UNKNOWN: HISTORY

Burkley Sauls  
- 1 9 / 8 0 -



## SPECTRUM's Evolution

## Many Ways to Support This Paper

by Larry Teich

Just in case anybody new has moved into town or is new to reading *SPECTRUM*, here are some ways to help us keep producing *SPECTRUM* and make it grow. First, though, we would like to state our appreciation to everyone who attended the roller-skating benefit, and thank Pat Springer especially for organizing it on our behalf. We ended up with \$140 from it, and a lot of people had a great time. The money is only a drop in the bucket, but then we have a small bucket. Could whoever wrote a check for your tickets please call Larry at 224-7222?

We always rely on the community to write articles and only exist to keep the possibility alive for such expression, but one need we continually have is for artwork. We seem to often find at production time that we have no cover art, illustrations for articles, or graphics for the back page. This is an excellent opportunity for artists or cartoonists to get good exposure since we distribute throughout the Southeast, and have a national subscription mail-out.

Back to money. One way to support us is to subscribe to the paper by sending in a form on the back even if you live in Tallahassee. It's a form of donation, and it will be mailed to your

"We [Spectrum] rely on the community to write articles and only exist to keep the possibility alive for such expression."

door. You could also give a gift subscription. An important thing to do is tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in *SPECTRUM* when you shop there. It's a positive reinforcement to them for advertising again.

We also need distribution boxes to put around town. If you can build or find some for us, we could then increase the community's awareness that we exist, and of what we have to offer. The boxes should, of course, be just the right size, elegant, funky and weatherproof. If anyone has suggestions for other distribution points, please let us know. Where else would you like to be able to pick up *SPECTRUM*?

And last but not least, if anyone has extra cookies left around, bring them to our open meetings. We get together to discuss editorial policy, the upcoming issue or whatever, every Monday evening at 7:30 except the one during production and the one right after we publish. It's at 625 E. Brevard St., and everyone interested is welcome.

## community announcements

As part of "Living Well in Florida" month the North Florida Women's Health and Counseling Services presents: Looking Forward — A Look at the Facts Concerning Estrogen and Menopause. This lecture-discussion will be held in the program room of the Leon County Public Library, March 24th, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. All are invited. For more information, call the North Florida Women's Health and Counseling Services at 877-3183.

A Flea Market will be held in the FSU Union courtyard Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register now in room 318 Union. Call 644-6710 for more information.

There will be a Nuclear Freeze Campaign meeting on Sunday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church (Park and Adams, downtown). Call 222-5845.

"The Moral Mandate for Peacemaking in the '80s," a Tallahassee Peace Coalition educational, will be led by Dr. John Carey, chairperson of the FSU Religions Department. This will be held March 24, 7:30 p.m. in the Longmire Lounge, Longmire Building, FSU.

Regular Tallahassee Peace Coalition meetings take place the second Monday of every month at the First Presbyterian Church. A potluck supper starts at 7 p.m. (downstairs in the church). The next meeting is April 12.

To subscribe to the Tallahassee Peace Coalition Newsletter, send \$3.00 per year (for monthly newsletter and membership) to TPC, P.O. Box 20168, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

These four events are part of Women's Festivities Month sponsored by the FSU Women's Center, with the co-sponsorship of Hispanic Student Union, Center for Participant Education and the International Students Association. All events are free and open to the public. Please call 644-4007 for more information.

Toni Cade Bambara will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. in the Longmire Lounge at FSU March 23. Ms. Cade is a well-known and talented writer. She will be speaking on women's role in literature.

Loreatha Brown will be performing a one-woman show entitled, "Black Women Throughout History." Her dramatic presentation will be in 143 Bellamy at 8:00 p.m. March 26.

Moral Hazard, political and social dance group, will be performing at DRS Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. March 27.

Winnie Hernandez will speak on Haitian and Cuban Refugee Women in room 255 Fisher Lecture Hall March 30.

Co-op Records is having a Benefit Concert Sunday, March 21, from 2 - 7 p.m. at Smitty's Bar on Bannerman Rd. Bands playing are: Persian Gulf, The Know-It-Alls, Julie Howard, The Last Minute Band, Radical Rocket Roll, and Sonny Blue. For more information, call 224-8031.

at 8 p.m. in the Leon Lafayette room of the FSU Union. Four BOD seats will be open (3 must be women).

Clothing is needed for Haitians being held prisoners in Miami. If you would like to help, bring clothing by the Feminist Women's Health Center, 540 W. Brevard, or call 224-9600.

Record and book donations are needed at the Book & Record Co-op. Proceeds from the sale will go to open up closed accounts.

The Tallahassee Soup Kettle (TASK) needs donations of food, equipment, volunteers and money. TASK will be a free kitchen for the needy. Call Carmen Avila at 576-4906 in the evenings.

# SPECTRUM

A Cooperative Newspaper for the Tallahassee Community

Spring Equinox 1982 Issue No. 30

Published every six weeks

625 E. Brevard St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308  
(904) 224-7222



Make note of Spectrum's 1982 printing schedule. We now come out on . . . . . April 29 (Th), June 18 (f), Aug. 5 (Th), Sept. 23 (Th), Nov. 4 (Th), Dec. 16 (F). Article and announcement deadline is two Mondays before our printing dates, but we'd like to receive them earlier. Please contact us at 224-7222 when you're planning to do an article that won't be turned in until deadline so we can plan for it. Thanks.

### The SPECTRUM Collective:

Larry Teich • Tana McLane • Margie Menzel • Louise Beauchamp  
Vicki Mariner • Frank Brown • Carmy Greenwood

### With Help From:

Geoff Andrews • Jerry Johansen • Suzanne Schafer

### 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*, 625 East Brevard St., Tallahassee, FL. 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, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a note telling us to return your material.

### Advertising Sales:

Larry Teich — Call 224-7222 for advertising information.

# legislative glimpses

## Lawmaking: A Serious Circus

by Carmy Greenwood

While the progress of the 1982 session of the Florida Legislature gives no indication that business will be concluded by the scheduled wrap-up date of March 18th, woe to you lest you think that our Representatives and Senators have been idle these past two months. Although there is as yet no budget, no reapportionment plan and no insurance code, both houses and their committees have been turning out bills at an impressive rate. More than a few of them will have a significant impact on the course of our daily lives. A continuing trend towards the "closing up" of our society, and the cutting off of those who do not command money and power, is one which can easily be discerned in much of the legislative product. It is a matter which demands our early and active concern.

In his continuing effort to defend us from the Constitution, Rep. Tom Bush proposed yet another bill designed to keep a significant segment of the citizenry from exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly in public universities, institutions supported by their tax money and supposedly dedicated to the expansion of knowledge, the investigation of truth and the preparation of people for productive functioning in the real world. The blatant unconstitutionality of Trask-Bush and its descendants was enough to dissuade lawmakers from trying to revive it.

Sen. Dunn made a point in the upper house this month by donning a gas mask in order to emphasize the necessity of keeping the Clean Air Act at its present strength. Those who voted to weaken the language of the message Florida sends to the White House were ignoring not only the direct environmental health dangers, but also the potential harm to the tourist economy of any further degradation of one of our most attractive and valuable natural resources.

Both houses passed a bill to allow

school personnel to detain trespassers even if they have not created a disturbance or refused to leave school grounds after being instructed to do so. If another bill is passed which would allow school principals to frisk students in certain circumstances, the teacher-police will become more and more a reality. How can students and teachers develop the kind of trust required to build a relationship in which both can grow, if we erect this barrier between them?

When considered in light of this apparent authoritarian trend in the 1982 Legislature, the House's passage of a bill to allow all internal investigations of police misconduct to be sealed from public scrutiny until the agency determines that a given complaint has merit, should come as no surprise. The "sunshine" that has gradually spread over official actions in recent years is apparently being eclipsed as civil rights are sacrificed to false ideals of security and strength. Law enforcement personnel need encouragement to work with the community, as part of it, and not against it as a force imposed from above.

Another very threatening piece of legislation is one which originally called for a Florida ban on para-military training to foment unrest anywhere in the United States, but was amended to disallow para-military training *unless* it is directed against a communist government. The amendment's sponsor, Rep. Roberto Casas, R-Miami, expressed his conviction that there were already people training in Florida to fight communism, and that they should certainly not be impeded by our government. The hypocrisy of this combination of isolationism (we keep out of other countries' business), and cold war (unless they are communists) rhetoric seems to be yet another throwback to the Fabulous Fifties. Apparently the throw was actually a boomerang toss.

If you think that could cost us, wait

until you hear about the 45 percent interest rates. Fortunately, Rep. John Lewis, chairman of the House Commerce Committee, had the wisdom to bog the ill-considered bill down in his committee, so we probably will not see legalized loan sharking seriously proposed to the full House and Senate. At least not this year.

The Equal Rights Amendment will probably not be brought up for consideration before the ratification deadline, but there are still some decisions to be made, ones that will affect us in very real ways. Reapportionment, the budget and insurance, boring as they are, are among the crucial ones. So even if you missed Part One of the 1982 Florida Legislature, you can probably still tune in in plenty of time for Part Two. Of course, sequels are almost never as good as the original. And the first installment would be hard to beat, what with legislative fisticuffs and Ralph

Haben belting out tunes in the House. And who could forget the Country Velvets clogging group loose in the Senate at the same time that a Florida panther was caged in the House. Sen. Gersten's jocular portrayal of the House as the "great unwashed" was certainly given some credence when some of the representatives let informality degenerate into insult as some members began barking wildly during the discussion of Rep. Heiber's well-intentioned proposal to make dog owners liable if their pets bite someone. Gersten's reference to the old adage that "only God can shut up a Senator" would seem to apply to a Representative as well. So prepare yourself for a long show with confused dialogue, lots of behind-the-scenes plot development and only intermittent flashes of action. The real killers — you can't bring popcorn into the visitors' galleries, and even though you get in for free, it will probably cost you a lot more than \$3.50 before it's over.

### There's still hope for the ERA in Florida

There is still much unfinished business at the capitol that may need to be taken care of in special sessions. Governor Graham may also call an additional special session to deal with a specific issue.

It is very likely that the ERA will come up this year in one of these sessions.

You can help insure that this happens by writing. Or, better yet, visit your legislator now.

Your Senators to visit are: Pat Thomas, Dempsey Barron, and Pete Skinner. They are in the Senate Office Building of the Capitol.

The ERA Countdown office suggests that when you do speak to your legislators you:

1. Relate personal experiences of discrimination, and
2. Stick firmly to the issue of ERA passage.

**Let your legislators hear from you THIS WEEK!**

For more information on lobbying, call the ERA Countdown Campaign office at 224-6021.

## Abortion Privacy Upheld... Just Barely

by Sam Miller

A major anti-abortion bill died during the 1982 session largely because Tampa Senator Pat Frank managed to put her male Senate colleagues in a tight spot.

The Senate took up early this month Rules Chairman Ed Dunn's bill intended to overcome 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals objections to a law saying minor women must get the consent of their parents before having an abortion and married women must inform their husbands that they are planning to terminate a pregnancy.

Frank fought to remove from the bill the provision saying a husband must be notified, but she was unsuccessful. She then maneuvered the 90 percent male Senate into appearing to establish one standard for men and another for women.

She offered a "Let's put the shoe on the other foot" amendment, requiring a man who has had an extra-marital

affair leading to an abortion to tell his wife about it.

The amendment was defeated, but just barely, with the three other women Senators — Toni Jennings of Orlando, Gwen Margolis of Miami and Mary Grizzle of Belleair Bluffs — voting with Frank for it.

Consideration of the Dunn bill was halted, getting the Senate out of an embarrassing situation for the moment, anyway. Dunn, a Daytona Beach lawyer, had planned to bring up the legislation again later in the session, but he decided several days later to let it die.

Dunn says he decided to wait until the 1983 session because the plan had gotten so controversial in the Senate and it was bottled up in a subcommittee in the House.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans struck down the requirement for parental consent when a minor is planning an abortion, saying some reasonable alternative to

informing the parents had to be available.

It questioned the constitutionality of the requirement that women inform their husbands of a planned abortion, but did not make a definitive ruling on the issue. It referred the matter back to a U.S. District judge in South Florida.

The judge should make a factual determination of whether an abortion could impair a woman's ability to have healthy children in the future, the appellate panel said. If there is an impairment, then a husband has a right to be informed of the abortion. If there is no impairment, he has no right.

Dunn says the parental consent provision in current abortion statutes is unenforceable because of the 5th Circuit's ruling and the failure of this year's Legislature to address the matter.

He believes the requirement of notification of the husband is in effect, although Patty Draper, lobbyist for the Florida American Civil Liberties Union, says judges probably will be reluctant to enforce the provision as long as its constitutionality remains cloudy.

Dunn denies that the Senate was setting one standard for men and

for another women by leaving in his bill the spouse notification requirement and refusing to accept Frank's amendment on out-of-marriage affairs.

"The requirement in the law for spouse notification is premised on a public policy to encourage candid communications between the spouses and a recognition of their mutual dependence in procreation," he says. "It is designed to promote family unity."

Frank's amendment was an attempt to put "an illicit, extra-marital affair on the same legal level as a pregnancy conceived in marriage."

Frank argued the Senate was being inconsistent, noting the requirement would apply even in "the unfortunate circumstance" where a woman became pregnant because of sexual intercourse with someone other than her husband.

The notification requirement seems to violate the U.S. Supreme Court's decision concluding that abortions, for the most part, are matters strictly between a woman and her doctor.

And it definitely violates the "privacy" amendment put in the Florida Constitution by the voters a couple of years ago, she says.

# making connections

by Louise Beauchamp



## Nuclear Fallout

In a nationwide poll conducted last fall, 56 percent said they did not want any more nuclear power plants built in the United States. Only 32 percent thought we should build more plants; 12 percent were not sure.

It makes a great lead, but a scary truth was buried in the article. The results would have been strikingly different if women had not begun thinking for themselves in the last few years.

In the poll, men split evenly on the question of building more plants. They vehemently opposed the idea of closing the plants already in service. Only the voice of women, by a 2-to-1 margin, tipped the balance in favor of building no more plants. Women also thought we should close down existing plants, but they were unable to overcome the men's majority.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has suggested that a reasonable safety goal would be 13,000 deaths caused directly by nuclear power plants over the next 30 or 40 years. They were quick to explain that the comment, in a written note attached to a proposed rule, was "misleading," but their method for deriving the number was interesting.

You have to look at nuclear power plant deaths with perspective, they

explained. Lots of people die all the time, for all kinds of reasons. We're going to raise that number by one-tenth of one percent — that's all. If 5 people in 10,000 die in accidents every year, what's wrong with us causing 5 deaths in ten million? When cancer kills 2,000 people in every million in a year, surely we can raise that to 2,002.

Looked at another way, they want to shave 26 days off your life. That's one-tenth of one percent of the days of your life — your last month.

Looked at still another way, it's murder premeditated. But they call it something else. It's a nuclear safety goal.

Reagan is planning to increase our nuclear weapons stockpile by 70 percent in the next 15 years.

At first it may seem startling to switch the subject from power plants to weapons. But in fact the weapons goal was announced by a deputy secretary of energy, Charles Gilbert. He seemed pleased because the plan would call for a major expansion in the nation's production of plutonium and tritium.

If Reagan approves the new weapons goal, as expected, Gilbert said, it would mean "several hundred million dollars" more for the Energy Department.

The Energy Department?

Reagan also plans to double our civil

defense budget. He's afraid that Russia won't take us seriously unless we act like the idea of a nuclear war is feasible.

So the Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued 30 million booklets with advice on nuclear disasters. They tell us all kinds of useful things, like how to build fallout shelters, how to interpret warning signs and what to take to the shelters. Pets should be left at home, they advise, "with a two-week supply of water and food."

The tone of the booklets is calm and matter of fact. "Undoubtedly millions of Americans would die if a nuclear attack should occur," they admit. "However studies show that tens of millions would survive the limited effects of blast and heat."

These guys don't realize that we're not worried about the blast and the heat. It's the ones who survive — for a little while — that we pity most.

And then there's Vermont. The news was like a ray of sunshine on a gray Sunday morning, an affirmation that there really is some good in the world.

In 192 Vermont towns, the question of a nuclear weapons freeze was on the agenda for the annual town meeting. It passed in 160 of them, unanimously in at least one. The vote astounded even the organizers of the drive, said one, a Quaker activist.

Similar drives have been launched in Florida, California, Maine, New Hampshire, Michigan, New Jersey and Delaware. I went to the meeting here on March 7, organized by the Tallahassee Peace Coalition.

More than 100 people crowded into the large room at the First Presbyterian Church. It was a motley group, but they had a unity of mind. Students, bureaucrats, housewives, activists, construction workers, retired couples, babies, office workers and teachers, they listened politely to the pep talk but they didn't need it. They were ready to get out and do whatever they could in an effort that seems nearly hopeless.

The look on their faces was serious as the packets of petitions and literature were handed out, and they had serious questions to ask. Should children be allowed to sign the petitions? Why didn't we sponsor a voter referendum? When was the next meeting? Could we organize table-sitting campaigns at Publix? The organizers of the meeting, like those in

Vermont, were clearly amazed by the intensity of the fire they had kindled.

Halting the nuclear arms race will take a million acts of courage, all of them different, and each as important as every other. "To reverse the trend toward nuclear warfare is a voyage of a million miles," said one businessman in Vermont. "Like all voyages, it starts with a single step."

## Reagan Redux

If you want to change the direction of government, just head every government agency with a man who opposes its mission.

The idea has a certain Reagan ring to it, a perfect simplicity as maddening as a smug grin. It has given us an industrialist to protect our wild lands, a secretary of education who's dismantling his department and a secretary of energy who's looking forward to producing nuclear weapons. There's a kind of logic to it all.

But the policy gets very strange when it's applied across the board. Reagan had to look hard, for example, to find nominees for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. He found a couple who actually seem to agree with him that civil rights are no big deal, but the nomination of one had to be withdrawn and the other is under investigation. They're both swindlers, in a manner of speaking.

Clarence Pendleton, nominated for chairman of the commission, is the president of the San Diego Urban League. He's been accused of mismanaging the agency's funds, including \$94,000 in federal grant money that was supposed to be used for family planning assistance. The White House is looking into it.

The Rev. B. Samuel Hart, nominated to be a commission member, is an evangelist from Philadelphia who owes the government more than \$4,000 in back taxes. His radio station is more than \$50,000 behind in payments on state and federally guaranteed loans.

Hart's nomination had to be withdrawn when the debts came to light, but it was in serious trouble anyway. Apparently the White House didn't clear his name with the two Republican senators from Pennsylvania, which is a no-no when dealing with Congresspeople.

So Reagan will have to go shopping for another nominee. Times are rough. I can imagine him wandering through the night with a candle, trying in vain

continued page 9

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# Should Lay Midwifery be Licensed, Really?

by Debra Susi

These men sit and ponder the legal fate of women who choose to midwife and of women who seek midwives at birthing time. Their ignorance on the subject is evident, but they are trying to understand. And in their movement toward this understanding, they ask questions — questions revealing a basic inability to see what is being asked them. The shaman of American technology, the OB-GYN (obstetrician-gynecologist — as they like abbreviations of all kinds), comes forward in a charitable attempt to make them see it all in the proper perspective, i.e., his. He is the embodiment of all your worst fears about the "good intentions" of doctors. He speaks at a pace and with an arrogance that would turn a used car salesman green. In describing birth, he uses words like "uneventful" and phrases like "...process that has been going on as long as man has existed" (my emphasis). We are all too familiar with where this is leading.

One way to grasp the various sides of an issue is to juxtapose the key repetitive words and phrases used. Couched within these are the true concerns behind each argument. The midwifery delegation uses words like "humane," "bonding," "art." In contrast, the doctor is fond of long, whole phrases like "most advanced country in the world" and "highest possible IQ." Meanwhile, legislators urgently question with their phrases, "badge of authority!?" and "stamp of approval!?" And later, outside in the antechamber, angry mothers and midwives close in on the doctor with, "Why?!", "But what if...?!" and "Who are you to...?" And he replies, anxious more from the sound of his own words than from the tightening circle around him, "Lawyers watching!" "Insurance risks!" and "Malpractice! Malpractice! Malpractice!"

The bill fails to pass committee.

...

There is irony in these attempts to channel (or force) female energy into male structures. And there is a special irony in witnessing women pleading for the right to practice an art that is internationally respected as an ancient craft of woman, particularly when their panel of judges consists of two insurance salesmen, two realtors, one banking executive, an attorney and a business consultant. The case for sexism, and an even more blatant case for racism, is easily made. Both have been inherent in American birthing from the time birth was entered into the fiercely guarded possession of the medical establishment. But a case also needs to be proffered for the broader, more inclusive problem that is rooted in a perspective peculiarly American and totally antithetical to the midwife-assisted birthing process. In one afternoon's Florida House committee hearing, the basic act of a woman birthing a child is subjected to the scrutiny of no less than four American institutions.

First and foremost it must pass, quite literally, through the interventive hands (more accurately, instruments) of the medical profession. Dr. Michael Moreton, a local OB-GYN, comes forward to question: "...whether it is appropriate for this sort of practice to be occurring in the most advanced country in the world, in 1982." He claims that the "...quality of fetal care is at the highest level it's ever been." He continues, "For the first time in the history of man, with some techniques that we have, we have a method of saying something about the quality of the babies being born: not just is the baby alive or dead, which was good enough for thousands of years." And then, seeming to answer small voices inside his own head, which none of us will ever understand, Moreton suddenly soars to the extent of his imagination for this analogy: "There is a great deal of voodoo medicine going on in South Florida with animal sacrifices and the like. And I wonder if — whether it is necessary for DPR (Department of Professional Regulation) to come up with a Board of Voodoo Medicine in order to make sure that the chickens have been slaughtered in quite the appropriate manner."

If any seriousness at all can be applied to this last statement, it must be recognized that the chosen representative for the Florida Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists finds this whole business of trained women applying to practice lay midwifery absurd. There are probably two reasons he feels this way: 1) he has never had a baby, and 2) because of point #1 and because he is a scientist, his orientation within the birthing process is focused on the end product, the baby. Lucky for all of us, getting the baby out also happens to be one of the ambitions of a laboring woman. But Dr. Moreton is not just talking about any baby, preferably we must have babies with the "highest possible IQ." This must be the "saying something about the babies being born" of which Moreton brags.

What is more frightening is what it says about the doctors. Basing birthing practices

on the production of high-IQ babies gives pause when one considers the racial, ethnic and cultural impurity associated with such tests — tests designed by those of a certain class, color and sex who determine such things for the rest of us. The inadequacies of these tests have been the topic for other articles, but for our interests, the medical profession's allegiance to them gives evidence for the perspective through which the needs of a woman and her family are filtered. The orientation of many medical professionals today is of the baby as product, to be improved upon with the help and by the standards of technology. Moreton waxes eloquent on the wonders of the fetal heart monitor and flushes with excitement at the thought of future applications of "electronics" to his field — all of which he believes will improve his product. These will be subsumed under the benevolent category of "fetal care." As to the process that delivers this product into his gloved hands, he balks, with no small amount of sarcasm, at the idea of a woman who protests that hospital routines "...would so infringe on her person." The doctor's priorities are clear; his point of interest in the basic act of a woman birthing a baby is the end of that process. He seeks the highest quality product technology can provide but at the expense of the woman and her family's participation in this most awesome and personal event.

When the time for questions arrived, the panel of representatives had prepared as many amendments as they had questions. Their plan was to employ a second institution in determining who is and is not qualified to practice midwifery. How, in 20th-century America, does one certify a woman, who has learned her craft at the elbow of a skilled,

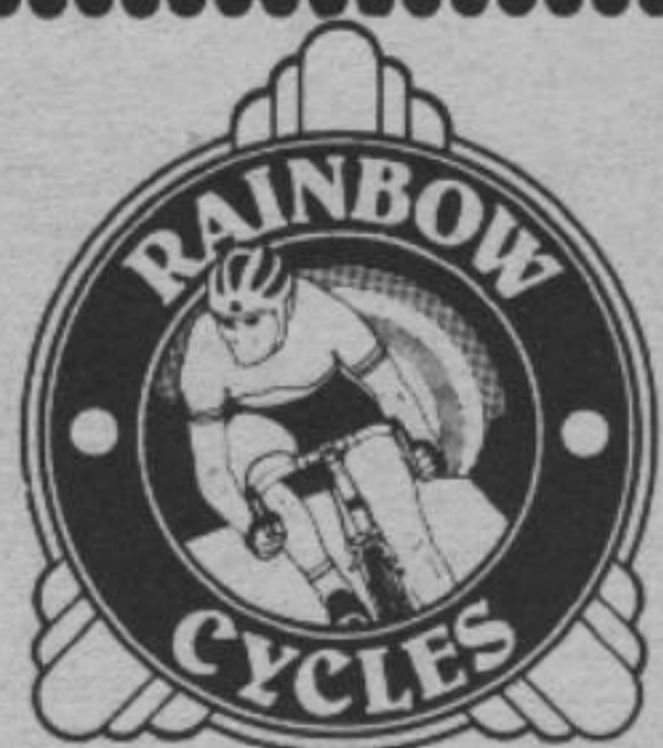
*You might say her job is the stuff life is made of— process, emotion, rational insight, and the intricacies of personal relationships—none of which is at odds with a skillfully-attended and safely completed childbirth.*

experienced midwife (many of whom have "caught" no less than 2,000 babies)? This is called lay midwifery. Their answer: to replace this very direct, very personal model of education with the more sophisticated corporate model, which standardizes training and certification. This is called professionalism. It provides the practitioner with a sign that identifies her, not necessarily as one who has a lot of experience nor as one who is even qualified, but as one who has, at least, passed through a maze of classes and examinations — no matter what her method of "getting through" — designed to bestow the desired status.

The representatives' amendments would require a woman to graduate from a four-year university with a degree in midwifery or from a four-year nursing program as a registered nurse. Because there is no midwifery degree offered in any Florida university or college, the midwife would have to complete a nursing degree before she could practice her craft. In Florida nursing schools, the actual number of class hours directly dealing with childbirth represents approximately 22 of the 65 total possible hours. Even this disproportionate number will be mainly dedicated, not to aiding a woman in the normal case of birthing, but to aiding the doctor in the abnormal case. Like the physician, she will learn all the available methods of intervention that will remedy any number of extraordinary situations.

It is the nature of lay midwifery to "catch" babies. Mothers "deliver" them. Midwifery is aiding women in the delivery of their babies, and it involves both much more and much less than a hospital staff provides. There is more emphasis on patience, emotional support and total care, and less on intervention. The midwife is also required to deal with the whole family, rather than with one woman among many in a hospital room. You might say her job is the stuff life is made of: process, emotion, rational insight, and the intricacies of personal relationships — none of which is at odds with a skillfully-attended and safely completed childbirth. Yet what better way to destroy this art than to reduce it to course work, graphs, charts and the audio-visuals of the academy, each of which is forever doomed to be one step removed from the hands-on experience

continued page 10



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## The Freeze Hits Tallahassee

by Ira Shorr

"Stop the nuclear arms race!" It's an idea whose time has come. A grassroots campaign to halt the building of nuclear weapons is gathering strong support across the country. Tallahassee has joined the campaign with its own petition drive:

### Petition

*As residents of the State of Florida, we call on our Congressional representatives to introduce into Congress (or to co-sponsor)*

### A Resolution:

*Calling upon the President of the United States to propose to the Soviet Union an immediate, mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.*

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign is the vehicle through which the citizens of the United States can petition their political leaders on an issue close to all hearts: survival.

In September 1980, over 30 representatives of national organizations gathered to plan the first national Nuclear Weapons Freeze Conference. The Freeze Campaign was born out of the necessity to halt the arms race before it leads to nuclear confrontation

## Hungering for Justice

by Margie Menzel



It's widely acknowledged among radical circles that the United States government welcomes with open arms the refugees of leftist governments, while closing its doors to those fleeing right-wing regimes. In the case of the reactionary government of Haiti, those fleeing persecution and poverty have been treated in the manner of war criminals. Most are interned at what amount to detention centers. During the first week in February, a group of local activists conducted a five-day hunger strike to draw attention to conditions in both Haiti and the prisoner-of-war camps.

The resistance to Haitian refugees, of course, is due not only to the fact that the Haitian government is a dictatorship, but also to the fact that the population is primarily black. The government is headed by Jean-Claude Duvalier, who succeeded to that title upon the death of his father, the notorious "Papa Doc" Duvalier. Their policies are enforced by the Tonton Macoute, the dreaded secret police whose name means "bogeyman."

The health and literacy statistics in Haiti are so alarming as to be ludicrous. Per capita income is \$250 a year. About 85 percent of the population cannot read or write. Persecution of "troublemakers" is nothing short of murderous.

The U.S. government benefits greatly from this persecution. We deal largely

in Haitian exports, and the miserly wages are to our advantage. To top it off, the American power structure perceives Haiti as a "stable" government in the Caribbean. Naturally, the U.S. does not view poverty, ill health and illiteracy as being "political."

Haitian refugees, many of whom have sacrificed their lives to escape their homeland, are seen as being economically, not politically, motivated. Yet the litany of crimes against the Haitian people by their government ought to horrify a nation that claims to support human rights.

Those refugees who do make it to America are rudely awakened. Some are sent back to face certain brutality, while others are imprisoned in camps where they face beatings, fines and worse. Some who are in the country illegally have no choice but to submit to economic exploitation.

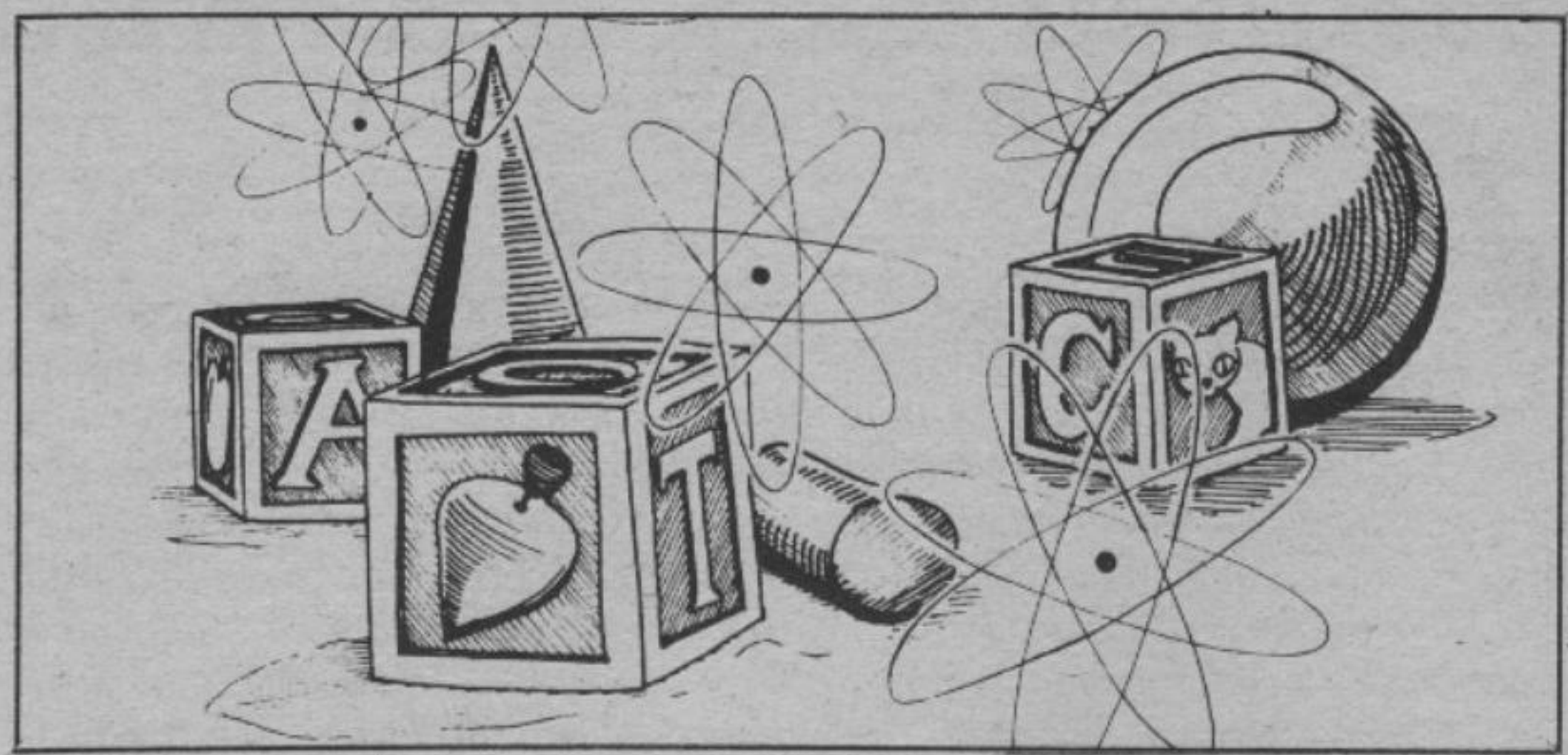
Activists are outraged by the treatment of Haitians, both in their native land and in the U.S. camps. Certainly, right-wing and racist attitudes are the source of their persecution.

To get involved, contact one of the following:

- The Community Coalition for Haitian Justice
- C.W. Quinn Medical Clinic
- FAMU Student Government Association
- Feminist Women's Health Center
- FSU Black Student Union
- Orange Avenue United Tenants Association
- United Faculty of Florida

Every kind of donation is needed: food, clothes, time and energy. In the words of Dr. Paul Lehmann, "The Haitians may yet be recognized for what they are: 'boat people' in search of refuge from intolerable political repression and poverty in their homeland."

Thanks to D. David for much of this material — MM



Graphic design by Jon Jacobs from *Misbroom Soup*, \$5.95, First Pacific Production, 7004 Melrose Ave., L.A., 90038.

As shown in a Gallup Poll last June, the American people do not want the nuclear arms race to continue: 72 percent support a mutual ban on the production of nuclear weapons. The Freeze Campaign has demonstrated that it is possible to turn this support into action.

- Coordinated campaigns are underway in 43 states and 300 Congressional districts.
- More than 275,000 people have signed petitions endorsing the Freeze proposal.
- The Massachusetts, Oregon and New York state legislatures have passed Freeze resolutions.
- In Vermont on March 2, voters at town meetings in 143 of the state's 246 cities approved the Freeze.
- On March 10, a measure calling for a Freeze on nuclear weapons was introduced into both houses of Congress. It was sponsored by six senators and more than 50 members of the House.
- The Freeze proposal will be put to statewide referenda next November in California, Michigan, New Jersey and Delaware.

### Local Freeze

The Tallahassee Campaign opened on March 7th. Our goal is to gather at least 5,000 petition signatures during a three-month campaign. These petitions will be delivered to Tallahassee's Congressional representatives: Senators Lawton Chiles and Paula Hawkins and Congressman Don Fuqua. The campaign will consist of political lobbying and citizen consciousness raising.

The March 7 opening was both an inspiring and emotional event. More than 125 people (spanning the spectrum from grandchildren to grandparents) gathered to share their concern for the future of this planet and its inhabitants. The evening was clearly an act of love and affirmation of life.

If you would like to join in the Freeze Campaign and add your voice to the call for life, call the Peace Coalition Office at 222-5845 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 4. There will be a Freeze meeting, **Sunday, March 21, at 7 p.m.** at the First Presbyterian Church (Park and Adams, downtown).

## Concluding the TALLAHASSEE FEMINIST HISTORY PROJECT

by Sherry Rauch

It's almost three months to the day since the *SPECTRUM* collective published the Tallahassee Feminist History Project. I'm at a point now where I can go back and look at it with somewhat fresh eyes. I'm also at a point where I would like to hear what the members of the Tallahassee community think of the project. We have received some feedback, but most of it has come in the form of, "It's great," or a general dismissal of the Project.

I am interested in hearing more extensive feedback on the issues:

- Was it what you expected?
- What you liked?
- What you didn't like?
- What is your opinion of the content and format?
- What would you have done differently?

I had thought that the publication of the project would be the end. But I was

still left with the feeling that something was missing. I realized that "something" was *dialogue*. To facilitate this dialogue, I would like to invite anyone who is interested in discussing the Project to come to an open house at the FSU Women's Center on Thursday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. Child care and refreshments will be provided.

Hopefully, most people will have read the whole issue, or at least most of it, and will be able to come to this gathering (I'm reluctant to call it a meeting) ready to share their perceptions, feelings and criticism of the project.

If you are unable to come, please take a few minutes and write down your critique and send it to *SPECTRUM*. It doesn't have to be an article, unless you want it to be, but just a short note or letter that conveys your feelings. It will be much appreciated.



Florida Task Force

Working Against Legal Bigotry

by Ronni Sanlo

It is not illegal to be a lesbian or gay man in Florida, only illegal to participate in certain sexual acts. It is not illegal to be a lesbian or gay man in Florida, only illegal for homosexuals to adopt. It is not illegal to be a lesbian or gay man in Florida, only illegal for homosexuals to be issued marriage licenses.

"Keep it in the bedroom, behind closed doors." I hear that wherever I go. "I don't mind homosexuality. I just don't want to see it." Yes, I understand, and I would love to comply. But the laws in Florida remove homosexuality from the bedroom and into the courts.

The risks, the fears, the costs are high—loss of family and friends, loss of employment, rejection from religious institutions, loss of custody of children . . . very real, and happening daily in Florida.

The Florida Task Force exists for many reasons. The Florida Task Force

is the lesbian and gay civil rights lobby office, the voice of Florida's lesbian and gay community in our legislative process. We monitor legislation which is potentially discriminatory, and we work to eliminate those laws which currently legislate discrimination. Our goal: a lesbian and gay civil rights bill which will add "sexual orientation" to the list of areas against which discrimination is illegal in the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The Florida Task Force began in 1976 as the Florida Coalition of Gay Organizations, acting as a liaison for the 37 lesbian and gay groups around Florida. In 1979 we changed our name to the Florida Gay Task Force and began open political monitoring. In 1980 we removed "Gay" from our name, hired a lobbyist, and began demanding that legislators recognize the lesbian and gay communities within their districts. We were received with the Trask/Bush Amendment!

The Florida Task Force exists solely on individual donations. And we are



nearly out of funds. Although people cheer our work, applaud our work, request our work, they fear association of their names with the Florida Task Force, especially in their checkbooks . . . guilt by association.

The Florida Task Force spent many hours and dollars fighting the Trask/Bush Amendment which the Florida Supreme Court found to be unconstitutional. Senator Trask continues, just the same, to create discriminatory, unconstitutional legislation. Rep. Bush publically airs his

hatred of the lesbian and gay community.

For more information about the Florida Task Force, or if you wish to mail a contribution, contact us at P.O. Box 10367, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302. The phone is 224-7736. We must continue to tell the legislators that they have lesbians and gays in their districts—positive, viable citizens who work, pay taxes, and vote. Lesbians and gays: the last frontier of legal bigotry. The Florida Task Force is working to create our freedom to be, despite legislative homophobia.

book review

It seemed that doing a review of the Bloodroot Collective's cookbook, *The Political Palate*, was a natural opportunity to make both editors and roommates happy by reviewing the book and testing out some of the recipes for general consumption.

The book's format is unusual as it combines food preparation information with poetic and prosodic pieces of political and social content. The Collective uses this technique to develop their concept of a holistic life-orientation which attempts to incorporate all aspects of living and to understand the particulars of life in light of their relationship to the whole. Thus, food is not just a thrice daily time-out from life, but rather a response to and a reflection of one's ideas about living, that is, an art. Further, art is political because it speaks to and about our experience, informed by an individually defined value system. So food is political. The politics of this cookbook are feminist and vegetarian.

This holistic orientation is also revealed in the Collective's decision to organize the recipes not by entree, salad, dessert, etc., but rather by season, early fall, late winter, early summer, etc. A photograph focused on the natural world as it appears during that particular season (hearty soups in winter, light salads in summer), and for which the ingredients may be most readily obtained in freshness and abundance. This approach helps to bring the recipes "down to earth" and away from the fanciful, exotic, too-far-out-of-reach image which many cookbooks create. The Collective tries to make cooking an adaptable, practical, but still personal response to living, rather than a static, phony symbol, a convention to follow.

The writing in the prefatory material, done by the Collective members themselves, is at once professional and readable. In general, the narrative is straightforward and easy to follow, but the authors are not afraid to add a flourish of poeticism in order to express the passion they have for their food, their art and their politics. Unfortunately, their politics sometimes degenerate into predictable rhetoric which leaves less energy for constructive evaluation of problems than might be desired. For instance, their ideas about dieting are that it is "an especially oppressive masochism expected of women in recent years. An obsession with slenderizing [which] is supposed to give women the illusion of control over their lives." However, the authors do not explain exactly why dieting is only an *illusion* of control over one's life. This failure of omission is a serious one since the Collective is challenging widely accepted medical and social opinion. Perhaps they would have better served those confronted with this problem by not discussing it at all if they were unable to do it justice.

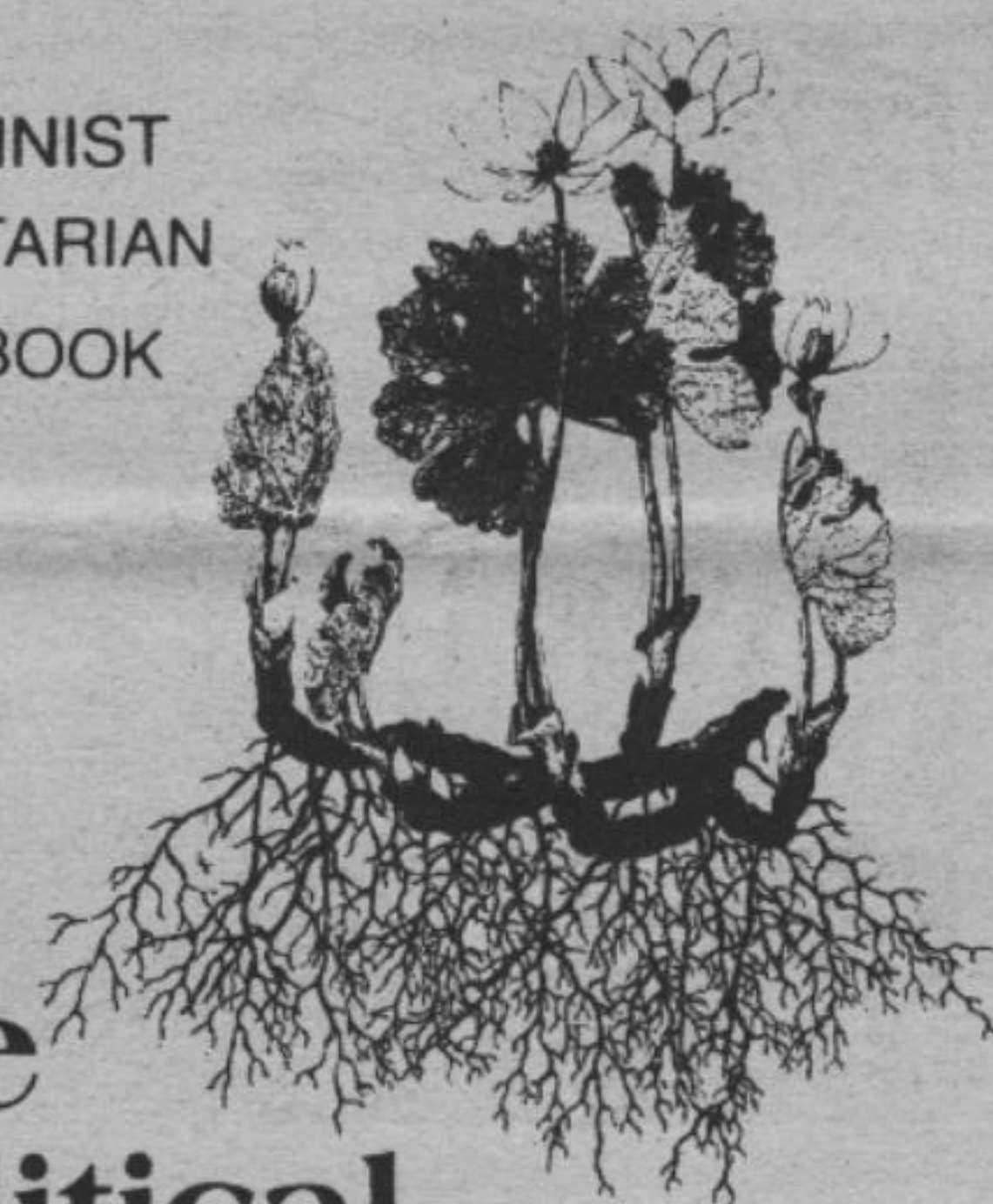
The physical layout of the book is attractive, and the type is large and easy to read. The literary passages are consistently fine, being as they are the cream of the crop, garnered from numerous sources of feminist (and vegetarian) thought. Among the original works borrowed from are *the coming out stories*, edited by Julia Penelope Stanley and Susan J. Wolfe, and Adrienne Rich's *The Dream of a Common Language*. Some of the straight prose pieces tend to pale before the seductiveness of the poetry and poetic prose, but all are well chosen and well organized, complete in their own right, but expanded by the thread of artistic, philosophical and political passion which unites them. They are themselves an eloquent illustration of the Collective's holistic and collectivist theories.

So, besides some failures of over-enthusiasm, the cookbook is a success as a book. In regard to its success as a cookbook, there is no way I could ever sample even a majority of the recipes it includes. I can say that most of them sound good. Unfortunately, the Spanikopites only *sounded* good. The recipe called for so much dill that the herb completely overwhelmed the taste. Two of my roommates actually liked the pungent little treats. Only one of the two is a known indiscriminate foodophile. I thought they were wretched. So discouraged was I that I abandoned any

Food for Thought

by Carmy Greenwood

A FEMINIST  
VEGETARIAN  
COOKBOOK



The Political Palate

BY THE BLOODROOT COLLECTIVE

further efforts to give the book the taste test. However, I cannot seriously indict the rest of the recipes on the basis of such flimsy evidence, so I'll just have to encourage you to pick up a copy at the Leon County Food Co-op and check it out. Some of the foods are unusual, like Brussel Sprouts and Grape Salad with Sour Cream Sauce, others are traditional favorites like Manicotti. Sometimes the authors' attempts to make the recipes flexible and responsive to individual tastes go too far and make them difficult for all but experienced cooks to prepare with confidence. Proportions may be indefinite, and the ingredients are not listed separately at the beginning of the recipe, but are revealed as they are used. The directions can become overly complex. Some of the ingredients are expensive to obtain, and some recipes require expensive equipment to prepare properly. For better or worse, the authors are not purists when it comes to food. Taste is what counts, so if white flour or white rice is what tastes best, they use it even if they might prefer to have the nutritional values of less processed foods. The recipes should appeal to a variety of tastes, including as they do everything from miso and seaweed to Grand Marnier liqueur and seafood.

The Bloodroot Collective is very serious about their art, politics and philosophy. But they are also serious about their cooking. Although the literary part of the book is appealing, it might have been profitable to put less energy into those discussions of living and more into the "meat" of it, making the recipes accessible to the average person, so they could become a working part of a feminist, vegetarian lifestyle. Then perhaps the other arts, the poetry and songs and ideas, would naturally become a part of our lives.

"I firmly believe that if art speaks about something relevant to people's lives it can change the way they perceive reality."

Judy Chicago, The Dinner Party  
Quoted in *The Political Palate*

# "Each Woman is Her Own Final Authority"

An interview with Alix Dobkin and Denslow Brown, Nov. 1981

by Margie Menzel

Alix Dobkin and Denslow Brown are deeply committed to women's culture, specifically women's music, in a unique way. A characteristic style is their particular political perspective, aimed not only at developing women's culture, but simultaneously at opposing violence against women as well as racism and fascism. Their work is more traditionally leftist than most of the work the women's movement has been taught to consider "cultural feminism."

When I arrived for this interview, the day following a women-only concert in Tallahassee, produced by Birds of a Feather, Alix and Denny were deep in a follow-up discussion on the New England Women's Musical Retreat, in which they had participated. Their serious, hard work and concern for the political workshops and other implications of a women's music festival beyond Dobkin's performance is impressive. They both felt that too few women had been truly involved in political education, but rather were desirous of a women's holiday. They described themselves as "the only very political women there."

The distinction "political" refers to the idea that Denny and Alix view women's culture as having leftist implications. They were concerned that their work had been viewed simply as retreat, rather than as a statement

against the broader issues of sexism, racism and fascism. Still, it would be a grave disservice to characterize them as holding a "correct line." They are profoundly individualistic in many respects. There is a joyousness to their work.

Still, there is a basis for what they do that goes beyond making music for lesbians. Together, they do a presentation on violence against women in the musical Top Forty. Many of Alix's lyrics are strongly political.

Denny and Alix claim that consciousness-raising is the basis of their politics, the foundation of what they believe. They participate in CR groups when at home, and when traveling they join such gatherings whenever possible. Alix describes CR as "the heart, the soul of my work. Not lecturing. CR is stronger and more effective because no one can question the strength of my work." She makes it clear that she learns, grows and develops her politics from interaction with other women.

Denny and Alix have been affected by the writing of Minnie Bruce Pratt, a Southern poet. Her poetry is true to her Southern roots and is women-identified. Pratt is "pushing the boundaries," Alix said. "She claims her heritage and acknowledges her reality."

Alix says she was outspoken about her Jewish heritage with Germans during her tour of that country. Her song, "From the Talking European Tour," describes her concerts there, where she made a particular point of discussing being Jewish at every concert. "I don't feel brave," she said. "What are they going to do? It has an impact because it hasn't been done before."

The experience was "intense," she said. "Here I was, coming from America, the home of genocide of Native Americans, the home of slavery of Black people, the home of terrible oppression and imperialism."

German homophobia is very strong, the German women claimed. "Women traveling alone are subject to official search and harassment. Lesbians are being linked to terrorist groups."

Alix described the repression in Germany as being "more conscious and deliberate" than in the United States. "The U.S. isn't fertile ground for neo-fascism in the same way. Americans aren't homogeneous. How could you get all those people to agree? Some people say that the U.S. is like Germany in pre-Hitler days, but it's not so."

This line of talk led to the topic of the U.S. military presence in Europe. Said Alix, "Europeans feel, rightly, much more threatened." She made it clear that our military takes risks in Europe that it would never take in this country.

The discussion of German feminism opened up a discussion of how American women can work with feminists in other countries. "First of all," Alix said, "by being aware that they are women in other countries. We've got to educate ourselves, be

aware of their struggles. It's like how Black women are tired of explaining to white women." Alix insisted that white women must educate themselves about racism as much as possible on their own before asking the cooperation of Black feminists.

Work on oneself is, to Alix, the basis of all she does. "Each woman is her own final authority," she said. "The correct line is an attitude." She described as "phony divisions" a lot of traditional either/ors: the personal vs. the political, the spiritual vs. the political, the cultural vs. the political. "Spirituality is getting in touch with your own power; what's more political than that? There can be no politics without a culture. We have to have a home to come to. We have to come home from coalition work. You can't have a political movement without a cultural movement."

About women's music festivals, she said, "It's not the music that's important but the contact, the networking." She described the Michigan Women's Music Festival as "improving every year. There is good criticism in their process." She pointed out the exceptional responsiveness of the Michigan organizers to suggestions by women of color.

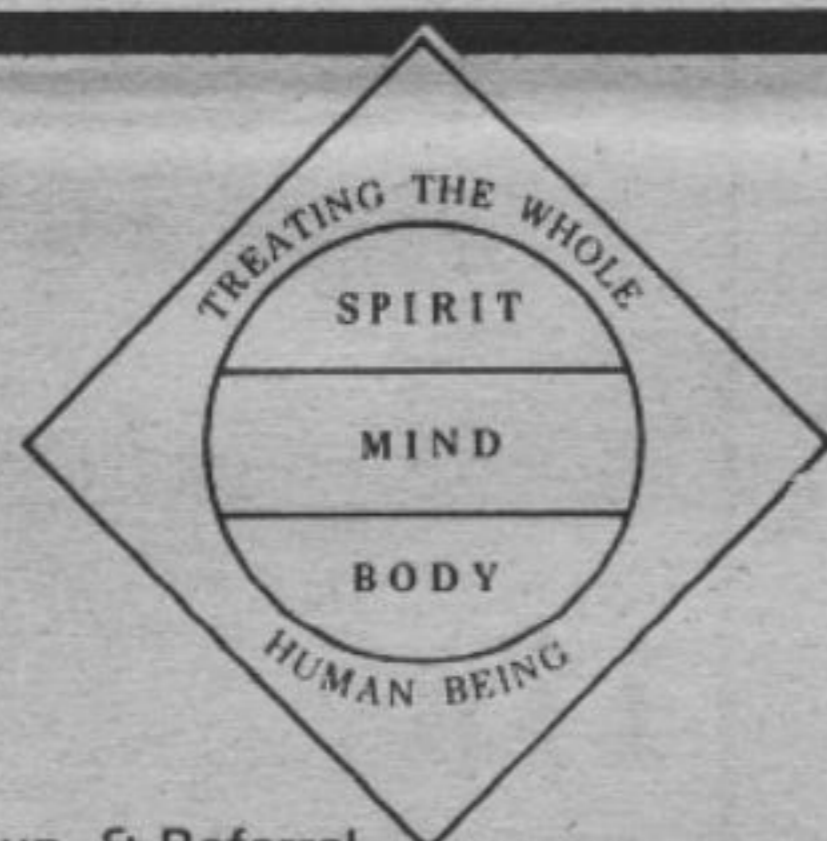
Alix added, "Art is life reflected back at us. We learn to look at a sunset because we've seen a postcard. We have to have a location in our own experience."

She ended by quoting Emma Goldman: "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution."

"I've got a rage for change/  
A way for change/  
A will for change."

— "Living with Contradictions"  
XX Alix

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# Previews of COMING ATTRACTIONS

by Geoff Free

Come upstairs into the living room of the Women's Center at 112 N. Woodward to experience "Right Out Of History," a feminist film about the creation of the great feminist art exhibition "The Dinner Party." I was one of the many thousands who packed the Brooklyn Museum last year where "The Dinner Party" was held over for months. "Right Out Of History" by Johanna Demetrakas chronicles the five years of consciousness-raising labor by the hundreds of artists who prepared "The Dinner Party" for your enjoyment. You won't see a more relevant and uplifting movie in the capital of Florida on Monday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Especially recommended for children and for the young-at-heart is the original "Mark of Zorro" (1921), brought to us by the Media Services section of our public library. We are invited to cheer the hero (athletic Douglas Fairbanks Sr.) and boo the villain while pianist Ray Brooks accompanies in this not-so-silent nostalgic presentation on Friday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the program room of the Leon County Public Library. But hurry! You must call 487-2665 to reserve tickets in advance.

Florida State's University Program Office offers its usually well-chosen movies daily, but never on Sunday, at 7:30 p.m. in Moore Auditorium, FSU Union. Prices of admission vary, as do the starting times of second features. Call the UPO at 644-6225 to request the complete schedule or take my advice and see: the sometimes surrealist genius Luis Bunuel's "Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie" on March 22; the recent fantasy hit "Time Bandits" on March 26; a silent 1919 horror show, "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," on March 29; Orson Welles' claim to fame, "Citizen Kane," based on American media-magnate William Randolph Hearst on April 12; also the original "M\*A\*S\*H," whose anti-war message is always in vogue, particularly in today's climate of armed-forces recruitment and draft registration.

Finally, one of my very personal favorites is "Harold and Maude," with the incomparable Ruth Gordon.

The Center for Participant Education and the Hispanic Student Union at FSU have put together a fine program to be shown Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in room 128 Diffenbaugh. "Blood of the Condor" (March 23) is about the United States' "sterilization" Corps in Bolivia; "Ceddo" (March 30) was made and banned in Africa by Ousame Sembene; the Puerto Rican "Dios Loscria" will play April 6; and "The War At Home" (April 13) was made in the U.S.A. and may have to be redone in light of U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

For midnighters, every Saturday and Sunday the Student Government of FSU is sponsoring recently-made films which expose and ridicule institutions in our lives. Big corporations, religion and the State come under attack in: Monty Python's "Life of Brian" on March 20; "No Nukes" concert on March 27; "Cousin, Cousine" on April 3; "Outland" on April 10; "FM" on April 17; and "Fahrenheit 451" on April 24. These shows are all at Moore Auditorium ("FM" starts at 11:30 p.m.).

Commercially, the Miracle Theatre on Thomasville Road presents some passable fare in its "\$2 classics" series. For light comedy, you can catch Claudette Colbert at her peak in "It Happened One Night" (1934) as the flippant heiress teamed with newspaperman Clark Gable. This is one of the Hollywood talkies that so successfully kept the American masses asleep during the Depression (week following March 26). For serious and somber mystery, try "Dead Reckoning" (1947) with Humphrey Bogart and Elizabeth Scott (week of April 2-8). And, for an atomic punchline, there's always "Fail Safe" (1964) during the week of April 9-15.

Geoff Free's local movie preview column will be a regular feature in future Spectrums.

## Midwifery, from page 5

of the midwife? Nevertheless, the lawmakers, products themselves of the culture, could only be comfortable with institutional certification.

Still another institution that has involved itself in the act of a woman birthing a child is the insurance industry.

Dr. Moreton cites the industry as one of the reasons behind his opposition to midwifery: "Trial lawyers are watching—are very actively watching our progress. It's unfortunately necessary to treat everybody with, to some degree, excessive care because of this thing." This is an understandable precaution for doctors, given the conditions in which they work. But if you are one committed to finding a midwife you know to be experienced and make the decision to deliver at home, you are, from the start (because of midwifery's current "outlaw" status), proclaiming two things about yourself: 1) you are a person who prefers to take the responsibility for her own birthing, and 2) you are one who is willing to incorporate within your living the very thing that modern American technology has worked so hard to remove — risk. (A large portion of this risk, however, is unnecessary because of the medical profession's refusal to provide back-up support systems to the growing number of midwife-attended births.) It has long been the ambition of American practical science to improve upon the human condition and its environment, providing us with air conditioners in the summer, central heat in the winter and twenty different kinds of toilet paper all year long! Each time another convenience is marketed, we stand to lose and we stand to gain. Immediate comfort is provided or discomfort is relieved, but a certain richness of experience is neutralized. And when there is a lack of choice, constitutional rights may be infringed.

The fetal heart monitor is quickly becoming a requirement in hospital birth so that doctors may qualify for malpractice insurance. The fetal monitor (one manufacturer is American Home Products, maker of *Chef Boyardee* foods) is adapted in two ways. One is a belt that is strapped around the woman's stomach, who lies supine for the length of her labor — a length that is extended by her nonproductive, anti-gravity position. The other is a tiny corkscrew-like electrode that is implanted into the baby's head through the vaginal passage. The ultimate purpose of the monitor is to avoid cases of malpractice against the doctor, but its practical value is to detect heartbeat irregularities which may signify distress in the newborn, who will be surgically removed should it become necessary (and, increasingly, *before* it is necessary). Though most births (95 percent) are normal and require no such devices, the insurance industry's insistence on the fetal monitor may render the choice a woman makes not *whether* she will use or not use a monitor, but *which* she will use — giving new meaning to the old adage, "one step forward, two steps backward." This is *one* form of the excessive care to which the doctor suggests we must resign ourselves.

Back to the two insurance salesmen, two realtors, one banking executive, an attorney and a business consultant who are deliberating this matter.... They are the arbiters of the legal institution. How can the frustration that pervades a room where all subtleties are lost and confusion prevails be best expressed? Perhaps I should start with the representative who compared birthing a baby to flying an airplane. Or maybe it hit me when Department of Professional Regulation Director Barry Shorestein said, "The question is whether the DPR should regulate the second oldest profession in the world." Or maybe it was the expected response of baritone chuckles Shorestein got from those as blind as he to the erroneous nature of his comment. Given this perspective, is licensing lay midwifery really what we want? This one afternoon's worth of banality was only the first in a series of steps in the legal magic of turning a bill into a statute.

In order to be recognized legally, it would seem that the feminine energy (or maybe human energy) active in the *process* of birthing is acceptable only after it is filtered through the staid institutions of the medical profession: the academy, the insurance industry and the legislature. After such compromises, lay midwifery only remotely resembles its original form. It would look, instead, much like any other American-made, science-rendered, media-pushed and professionally-decreed product.

The process of birth is one of the more perfect metaphors for the process of life. In modern culture it is a last remaining tie we have to our innate process and, consequently, to the richness that is due us in life. It is really not so bizarre that *Chef Boyardee* makes fetal heart monitors and spaghetti mixes; both stifle process. In a time and place where nearly all that we encounter in a day is packaged and prefabbed, having babies and cooking food are designated as *inconvenient*. And if these are the standards for modern living, then Dr. Moreton is absolutely right when he suggests that it is inappropriate "...for this sort of practice to be occurring in the most advanced country in the world, in 1982."

Debra Susi is working on a humanities dissertation on women-attended childbirth. She is interviewing many women, old and young, on the subject.

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## co-ops

# Creating Community Space

by Douglas Weaver

A new organization has just been formed to help continue the growth of the local co-op community. After several months of planning, the Cooperative Development Foundation of Leon County has been incorporated and an initial board of directors has been formed. The foundation's first community involvement will be to take responsibility for development of the new Shady Lunch.

Unlike other non-profit corporations serving our community, this one has been specifically designed as a "publicly-supported foundation" so that it will qualify for tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. In addition to exempting the organization from tax liabilities, this status will also allow memberships and contributions from individuals and businesses to be tax-deductible. Our local counter-economy will thus have its own community tax shelter, an arrangement which can be used to great advantage in the work the foundation intends to do.

The foundation's charter authorizes it to become involved in any of six broad areas: community development, local economic development, housing, the physical environment, health and well-being, and education. Of course, we can hardly expect to carry out major work in all of these areas, at least in the foundation's early stages. Its charter was made so comprehensive, though, for three reasons: to help assure its approval for tax-exempt status; to help focus attention on all the needs of the community; and to give the foundation specific directions in which to grow. The desire is that the foundation's growth will both reflect and stimulate the growth of the co-op community.

## Economic Development

The major area of concern to the foundation will be community economic development. As the charter states, its purpose in this area is "to contribute to the economic development of the cooperative community of Leon County, by expanding the opportunities available for community members to own, manage and operate community-based business enterprises, including non-profit ventures... This contribution shall be accomplished by (a) assisting community members in developing entrepreneurial and management

skills. . .; (b) assisting community members in obtaining financial support for such enterprises from various sources; (c) obtaining and developing...or operating business property and real property on behalf of such enterprises; and (d) facilitating the promotional efforts of such enterprises through benefit fundraisers, expositions and similar means."

Reestablishment of the Shady Lunch is the foundation's first economic development project and a prime example of the kind of work it intends to do in this area. The idea of restoring the Shady Lunch as a shared kitchen and storefront for the use of natural foods wholesalers, community benefits or dinners and a natural foods cafe, has been around for a long time. It was the initial supporters of the foundation, though, who negotiated the deals and fronted the money to secure the property and take out necessary insurance so that restoration plans and work could begin. The foundation will continue to be responsible for the business end of turning our community's dreams for the Shady Lunch into a reality.

Meanwhile, there will be other opportunities for the foundation to branch out in its economic development work. Canopy Federal Credit Union's board of directors has made a general commitment to channel 15 percent of its General Loan Fund into business development lending. Once this stage of Canopy's lending is phased in, there will be much work to be done in helping would-be borrowers develop the sound business plans required by Canopy's lending policies. It is anticipated that the foundation can contribute to this by working with Canopy, our community's NASCO-certified co-op business trainers, and other local resources to help prepare the people who will manage the various businesses that expand our co-op community.

To finance this expansion, we need to be developing more ways to keep our money circulating within our counter-economy. The co-ops were a first step in this direction, and the credit union was a second. The foundation's small business and co-op development activities can be a third step. And one of those activities should be to prepare the way for a fourth step: a "social

investment fund" which would help us privately capitalize our expanding counter-economy while providing a fair return to investors.

As our co-op community and counter-economy become more developed and integrated, it becomes more necessary to have access to a variety of technical skills and expertise. The foundation, with its board of directors and eventually a staff composed of community members, is the perfect vehicle to ensure that these remain in the control and service of the community they are helping to create.

## Community Development

The second most important concern of the foundation is the social and general development of the co-op community. So far, existing organizations have as their main concerns particular parts of the community: personal finance, food,

other consumer goods, education, residences.

By taking full advantage of its own potential and that of the Shady Lunch property, the foundation can provide both such an organization and a location out of which future community development can grow. Our desire is that the old residence adjacent to the restaurant building can be turned into a co-op community center. In addition to an office for the foundation, it could provide a conference room for co-op board and committee meetings; a library and reading room; an office and workshop for the SPECTRUM collective.

A more detailed Prospectus for the Cooperative Development Foundation is available at the Canopy Federal Credit Union office and at the LCFC information desk. For more information, contact Douglas Weaver at 386-3211, or P.O. Box 4228, Tallahassee 32303.

## Shady Lunch Developments

by Rosemary Havrilak

The Basic Kneads Bakery storefront and restaurant are on the back burner, so to speak. The first six months of the building's lease ends this month, leaving only six more months for the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) to raise the \$6,000 needed for the down payment on the property.

It's unfortunate that we haven't been able to generate enough capital to get a food business underway in the restaurant's kitchen. If a food service, or any other business, had been started during the first six months of the lease option period, it is imaginable that the necessary funds for the down payment could be raised in the remaining six months.

Our best option as things now stand (excluding the possibility of a windfall donation), is to raise the down payment and purchase the property as an investment to be sold at a profit when the area develops a bit more, in one or two years. At that time we could reinvest in a kitchen facility.

We will be holding another Benefit Party, a covered-dish supper followed by dancing at Tommy's Deep South Music Hall, on Sunday, April 25. The band, Smokin' Section and others, will

be featured. Look for posters announcing the event, or call Rosemary at 386-8966 for information.

And finally, to address the cause of the Rosemary's food shortages at the food co-op: new food co-op policy regarding deliveries and shelf space has eliminated many of our products. We are struggling to overcome this situation and to bring our products back up to par. Because, as you may have heard before, it's a pleasure baking for you.

## thanks

The Benefit for the Shady Lunch restaurant and community development foundation was a huge success! Approximately 175-180 people attended the dinner/dance at the old public library building on February 28. One hundred tickets to the dinner were sold, and good food was whipped into delicious vegetarian delights (totalling \$393.75) was eaten. The food was prepared by six hard working people in one hundred hours of dedicated labor.

Our net profit after expenses is \$60.00, which will go to our insurance payment. Yea! Thanks!

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