



Summer Solstice

Issue No. 32

FREE



Summer Goings On

JUNE - JULY - AUG

The Nuclear Freeze Grass Roots Organizing/Training Conference will be held June 26 in St. Petersburg at the Friends' Meeting House, 130 19th Avenue S.E. Registration fee is \$3 - \$20, payable at registration. Let them know you're coming. Call (813) 822-5522 for directions and more information.

Experienced teenage work crew available for summer chores. Yardwork, painting, cleaning, light construction and repairs, babysitting, etc., etc. Individuals or group. Rates negotiable. Transportation and supervision provided if desired. Help yourself while helping a nice bunch of kids! Call 877-2926 (Brudenell), 1-997-3706 (E. Shepard), 877-0579 (R. Shepard), 877-3665 (Van Oss), or 877-0256 (A. Davy).

A group of tradeswomen have begun to meet every first Saturday evening of the month to discuss experiences in all areas of the work force. From pink and blue collar to traditional and nontraditional kinds of work outside the home, we have been sharing our experiences in what is often a white-male-defined arena. As a new group we are simply sharing points of view and various roles we fill. We are also discussing different ways to communicate our experiences, from working with outreach and education to other women to sharing a meal and conversation. All women who wish to join us are invited — our group is open to any woman who fills the need/interest in sharing experiences and ideas. The next get-together will be July 3. Contact Suzanne Strand at 224-4522 or Cathy Priest at 576-6381 (leave message).

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador invites you to explore the history of the struggle in El Salvador. On Tuesday, June 29, CISPES will share information on the victims of war, *refugees*. This lecture/discussion will be held in 118 Diffenbaugh at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, call 644-6577.

On Tuesday, July 27, The Mordes Academy, CPE and the Presbyterian Center bring John Holt, author of *How Children Fail* and *How Children Learn*, now considered classics in the field of education, to speak on "Home Education" at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian University Center on the corner of Copeland and Park. Like all CPE programs, this is for free.

ALFA, the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance, publishes an informative newsletter, *Atalanta*, concerning issues cultural, educational, and political and of concern to lesbians/feminists throughout the Southeast. ALFA's services include the newsletter, sponsorship of events, use of a lending library, and monthly meetings where lesbians can meet and work together on common interests and concerns regardless of religions, political orientations, or race or class. Get in touch with them through P.O. Box 5505, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. *Atalanta* is \$10/year.

"The Dinner Party" is coming as close as Atlanta! From July 23 - October 3 in the Egyptian Ballroom of the Fox Theatre, Judy Chicago's monumental tribute to historic women will be open for viewing. Many events are planned around the exhibit. Contact Page Gardener at (404) 876-1552 for more information.

Women, take a new look at yourself and where you are going. A Women's Support Group will meet on Tuesdays for six weeks, June 15 - July 13, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The fee will be \$10 per session or \$50 total paid in advance. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call North Florida Women's Health & Counseling Services, 877-3183.

Benefit for Co-op Books and Records, Sat., July 17 at Railroad Square (formerly Downtown Industrial) beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets \$5.00, available everywhere. Music, art, dancing and other activities...

in the Southeast

The "Eagle Lady," Doris Mager, who sat on an eagle's nest for a week three years ago to draw attention to the plight of the endangered American bald eagle, is asking you to come walk with her in an Eagle Walk planned for June 19 in Tallahassee to raise funds for raptor research, rehabilitation and education.

The Eagle Walk, one of a series around the state, will cover eleven miles around Tallahassee. Sponsored by the Junior Museum and Apalachee Audubon Society, the route for the walk will be from the Junior Museum, to the Capitol, and back to the Junior Museum.

The walk begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. The Eagle Lady will give a talk on eagles with General Patton, her pet eagle, by her side when the walkers return to the museum.

A \$1.00 entry-fee is requested. Participants are asked to find

sponsors to contribute any amount of money for every mile they walk. You may sponsor the Eagle Lady if you can't make the walk. Prizes will be awarded for those who raise the most money.

Hello out there! Is anyone interested in starting a child care cooperative with me? I live on the east side of town, four miles from the Capitol. I have a fairly large home, set on one acre of land, and two children. My daughter is five and my son is seven months old. I would like to co-op with other parents in a loosely committed, considerate fashion. I am willing and able to child care every other weekend and a few hours during the week in exchange for the same. The more participants we have, the more flexibility we have. If interested, please give me a call. My name is Rebecca Bruce and my phone number is 878-7961.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Film P/Reviews by Geoffree

"State of Seige," directed by Costa - Gavras (whose thriller "Missing" won first prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival) will be shown *free* on Tuesday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m. in room 128 Diffenbaugh (sponsored by the Center for Participant Education).

This provocative movie reveals the true role of a U.S. 'advisor' in Uruguay prior to the right wing coup there in 1973. Penetrating and suspenseful, "State of Seige" is a must for American film-goers who want to see how our government really influences the politics of foreign lands.

While out of town last month, I was quite fortunate to view the newly released "Atomic Cafe," produced and directed by Jayne Loader and Kevin and Pierce Rafferty. It's a cinematic essay about thermonuclear culture in the U.S. of A. Clips of military training films, presidential telecasts, school children's animated air raid instructions, bomb shelter do's and don'ts, cold war hysteria and more are expertly intertwined to expose the absurdities of our Atomic Age.

The superb sound track (available from Rounder Records) includes "Atomic Power" by the Buchanan Brothers, "Uranium" by the Commodores, "Atomic Love" by Little Caesar and other pop, blues, and even gospel music of the early nuclear era.

"Atomic Cafe — The Book of the Movie," a Bantam Book, should be available currently. Hopefully, this non-fiction release will be available to Tallahassee audiences soon.

...
The less written about "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" the better. Inane and immature pretty well sums it up. I was truly disappointed as I had expected a show on a par with Steve Martin's previous "Pennies from Heaven," which was incomparably more entertaining and enjoyable.

...
The University Program Office continues to offer inexpensive delights in Moore Auditorium. The remainder of the 1982 summer cinema schedule follows:

Wednesday Nights

June 23 — Playtime (Jacques Tati)
June 30 — Paths of Glory (Stanley Kubrick)

July 7 — Belle de Jour (Luis Bunuel)
July 14 — The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (at 7:30), and Edward Munch (at 8:45)

July 21 — Alphaville (Jean-Luc Godard)
July 28 — Citizen Kane (Orson Welles)

Friday Evenings

June 25 — Grease (at 7:30), The Way We Were (at 9:30)

July 9 — Wizards (at 7:30), Excalibur (at 9:00)

July 16 — All About Eve (Bette Davis), Julia (at 10:00)

July 23 — Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (at 7:30), Oliver (at 9:15)

A free film festival for teens and pre-teens ages 10 and up will be held on Friday, July 16, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Leon County Public Library. Tickets must be picked up in advance at the library switchboard.

Spectrum's Distribution Points

Even though the articles printed in Spectrum are aimed at certain attitudes, politics and philosophies, we really try to reach as many people as will tolerate us. That's why our distribution points are more varied and widespread than one might think. It's also a good point for our advertisers to know that they are being exposed to a diverse audience.

Unlike other publications, we don't have thousands of unread papers that get thrown out or recycled. We print 5,000 and they are all distributed and, in most cases, kept around for future reference.

So here is a list of most of our distribution points locally. We also mail out nationally and are taken to food co-ops throughout the Southeast.
 Leon County Public Library
 FSU
 FAMU
 Capitol building
 DER, Twin Towers (Winewood)
 Governor's Square

Campus Edge Laundromat
 The Brass Rail
 Hopkins' Eatery
 Miccosukee Land Co-op
 Leon County Food Co-op
 Book and Record Co-ops
 North Florida Women's Health and Counseling Services
 Front Page Bookstore (Timberlane Square)
 FSU Women's Center
 Sweet Shop
 Wesley Methodist Church
 Bill's Bookstore
 Nature's Way
 Subway
 Ouy Lin
 Taproot
 Harrelson's Arts and Crafts
 Dr. Eatwell's (Eastwood Office Plaza)

We also distribute through most of our advertisers. If you can secure any other places for us, please call me at 224-7222.

Thank you,
 Larry

• • • LETTERS • • •

Another View on Midwifery Legislation

Dear Spectrum,

In response to the article on midwifery licensing in your last issue, I would like to present a counter viewpoint about the enactment of the "Midwifery Practice Act" which becomes effective July 1, 1982.

In my opinion, consumers' rights have been seriously violated. The act states: "The legislature recognizes the need for parents' freedom of choice in the manner, cost, and setting of their children's birth." But actually, the act denies those freedoms by regulating lay midwives.

"The traditional medical perspective includes certification as a necessity for maintaining the separation between professionals and laypersons. The layperson's approach finds certification fundamentally inconsistent with each individual's right to be truly responsible for their own experience."

Under the new law, practicing lay midwives will be forced to work outside the law if they wish to continue helping pregnant couples. Because of the new law, it will be more difficult to find an experienced person to attend births.

Therefore, consumers may be forced into a hospital setting or, more positively, into a birth center. These two alternatives to home birth (for throughout the world, home birth is the norm, not the alternative) can cost a large sum of money. For instance, a birth center will cost between \$600.00 - \$900.00 and the hospital will cost over \$1,000.00. Aren't consumers being forced to spend more money than is necessary for their birth?

Although most couples do not choose home birth strictly for financial reasons, it is the icing on the cake, so to speak. A well-planned home birth can cost one-half or less than an institutionalized birth. The closest birth centers to the Tallahassee area are in St. Augustine and Gainesville.

Under the new law a midwife must complete a course of study and clinical training for no less than two years. There are no midwifery training schools, for the layperson, in Florida to date.

A woman who is six months pregnant

now cannot wait two years, or until a school opens, whichever comes first.

Also, "clinical" training suggests pathology. Medical intervention is one of the major issues. An informed couple opting for home birth wishes to avoid this intervention unless it is absolutely necessary.

"The legislature finds that the interests of public health require the regulation of the practice of midwifery in this state for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of mothers and infants. . . ." The consumer can be better protected through education than through regulation. An educated couple has the best chance for a safe outcome for mother and child. The fact that childbirth preparation is successful in even a hospital setting proves that.

The act is unconstitutional in that there is no avenue for midwifery education in Florida at present.

There is no clause to allow those midwives who have been practicing to continue their practice along with their education. By leaving out the "granny clause," the new law becomes retroactive for those midwives already practicing.

The farmers of this state did not allow it, the midwives and concerned consumers should not allow it.

The National Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth (NAPSAC) has declared five standards for a safe childbirth:

- Good nutrition
- Prenatal care
- Skillful midwifery
- Homebirth
- Breastfeeding.

These five standards create a positive climate for the lay midwife and the pregnant consumer.

State or federal regulations controlling these five standards will endanger the freedom of all concerned. And, these regulations will help to support a government that possibly no longer serves the people.

In hope of change,
 Lydia Thorne
 Regional Director
 Informed Homebirth, Inc.



Published every six weeks

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 (904) 224-7222



The rest of Spectrum's printing schedule for 1982 is: 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 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:

Tana McLane • Louise Beauchamp • Margie Menzel • Frank Brown
 Larry Teich • Army Greenwood • Vicki Mariner • Geoff Andrews

With Help From:

Amy Arbogast

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.

Harris Polls Florida on the ERA

by Carmy Greenwood

On the heels of the June 6 Capitol March for ERA which attracted between 8,000 and 10,000 people, comes a new statewide poll confirming public support for the Equal Rights Amendment in Florida. Well-known pollster Louis Harris was in Tallahassee on June 9 at Governor Bob Graham's invitation to discuss the results of his firm's telephone poll of 800 randomly selected adults in Florida. After being exposed to a litany of the typical claims made for and against ERA, like unisex bathrooms and equal pay, those surveyed supported the amendment by a margin of 57-37. When asked to respond to just the text of the amendment itself, ERA was favored by a whopping 61-29 margin. A recent Harris poll in North Carolina reported 2-to-1 support of ERA there.

Harris found that "the breadth and depth of support for ERA is impressive." Every area of the state was in favor, with both the Gold Coast/Dade and East Coast areas reporting over 60 percent in favor. Narrower margins in the Central-Northeast and Panhandle areas still

gave the nod to ERA, 48-46 and 52-42 respectively. Anyone who claims that the Panhandle is overwhelmingly against the ERA is "talking through his hat," said Harris.

The ERA was supported by people of all income and age groups, educational backgrounds, races and religions. Women were in favor 58-36 percent, with men coming in at 56-39 percent. Harris suggested that the results showed an economic basis for support of ERA. "With women at work now among the last-hired, first-fired in the recession, it is clear that both men and women feel real urgency that the positive effects of ERA will work to alleviate the pressures women now feel about their job problems."

The only groups which opposed ERA were those who voted for Ronald Reagan in 1980 (45-51), and "female heads of households who want to stay home" (42-51). Self-described conservatives split evenly at 47-47, Republicans narrowly favored ERA 49-48, and likewise White Baptists at 47-45.



Only 18 percent of the people surveyed thought that passage of ERA might result in unisex public toilets. People believed 49-46 percent that if ERA passes, women will be drafted to serve in combat. Both of these were considered "negative effects" in contrast to the positive effects of better job opportunities and equal pay for women.

In summation, Harris found that "There is an obvious and clear

"Only 18 percent of the people surveyed thought that passage of ERA might result in unisex public toilets."

mandate for the passage of ERA by the Florida State Legislature as this issue reaches its climax in the June 21st

special session." Pollster Harris fielded questions about the potential impact of the poll on the upcoming ratification vote, and about the November electoral possibilities of legislators who fail to vote with their constituencies. He said that while he is "opposed to running government by poll," he does believe that when legislators too often stray outside the "jaws of consent" of the governed, they increase their risk of being rejected by the voters.

A representative for Bob Graham read a statement from the Governor urging legislators to consider the poll reassurance that "The people of Florida support the 24 words that will clearly spell out equality for all men and women under the U.S. Constitution." The current vote count in the Florida Senate is 17 for ERA and 23 against.



photo: Jill Guimaraes

Capitol Shuttle

Possible Futures

by Ollie Lee Taylor

After a number of years in the planning stages, the Capitol Shuttle became a reality during the spring of 1981. The concept of mini-buses to transport workers, shoppers and those on errands round the Capitol Center, downtown Tallahassee and surrounding areas was at last being tested.

It is true that there have been mechanical problems, rather slow promotion and route changes necessitated by construction. It is also true that ridership hasn't come close to overwhelming the mini-buses. But, according to the expectations for this pilot program, usage has exceeded the stated desired minimum of 600 for the first year. There have been days when more than 800 have ridden the Capitol Shuttle.

It is now time for Tallahassee to assess what role it will give alternative transportation in its plans for future growth. Factors outside of the city have now conspired to force an answer to this question. Most crucial is that of federal reductions in commitment to urban public transit. Also, CETA funding to pay salaries of some city workers has been reduced to a great degree. And the amount of funding by the State of Florida for any public transit has been historically low. These facts have forced the City Commission

to make a decision on how the shuttle will operate and what areas it will serve, and to consider how much of the cost it will bear. (These facts will soon have an impact on the entire Taltran system. A follow-up article on that will come in the next *Spectrum*.) The Capitol Shuttle will be up for changes or continuation at a public hearing on June 22 at 7:00 p.m. The City Commission meets in the B.K. Roberts Building, FSU's College of Law.

From previous meetings, the trend has been toward reducing the shuttle to serve a much more limited area within the Capitol Center. There would be no service to Florida State University or the Historical District north of East Tennessee Street. This is projected to cause the shuttle to lose up to half its ridership, according to Taltran staff projections. A substantial portion of the ridership is generated in the areas to be deleted. This would be a clear step back in the commitment to transit in Tallahassee. Needless to add, all with an interest in the Capitol Shuttle who read this report should write, phone the city officials or make their presence felt at the coming public hearing.

Even better would be to realize that cost must be considered to keep the shuttle operating. The city government doesn't feel that usage of the shuttle

justifies taking on an additional obligation toward funding the system. That being the case, the principal users and beneficiaries need to be prepared to pay a portion of the cost of operations if they wish to continue to derive benefits.

Florida State University could lend a hand, or actually two hands, in this process. The student body, directly through itself or the Student Government, could allocate some funds to keep the system operational. It would be easy and possible for the student body to vote to tax itself a dollar or two once each year. This could be placed on the fall ballot to stand as a referendum. FSU students, particularly interns in social sciences and those who work in the Capitol Center, are frequent users. The FSU administrators could allocate some discretionary funds to the Capitol Shuttle as additional support. FSU staff use the shuttle, also. The new Civic Center and the Center for Professional Development will have clients who need the shuttle. Parking continues to be limited at FSU. Transit plays a key role whenever parking is costly or difficult.

Unfortunately the Capitol Shuttle is a decade too late for many merchants who were downtown. Those who remain could consider contributing if their clientel uses the shuttle. State workers are probably the largest group of users. If they relish the convenience of easy rides to lunch and midday errands and appointments, it is time to

justify taking on an additional obligation toward funding the system. That being the case, the principal users and beneficiaries need to be prepared to pay a portion of the cost of operations if they wish to continue to derive benefits.

One issue has come up which is potentially ugly and divisive. That is the fact that FAMU is not served by the shuttle. There is a tie-in point at FSU, through the FAMU-FSU shuttle already. But there is strong feeling that a key potential clientele is getting the shaft. No one denies it is a key clientele. The larger geographic area presents problems which must be addressed in bringing service to FAMU. A possible approach would be to run a separate shuttle downtown to tie-in to the Capitol Shuttle. But the staff and students of FAMU, as much as they are able, must share in the cost of so doing. One point is made by Taltran officials that I'm not so worried about: service to FAMU will overburden the vehicles. Heavy demand for transit is one problem we should delight to see take place, instead of underusage and a squandering of potential.

Civic groups, fraternities and merchants could join hands to perform one other useful project: to raise funds and build shelters and route displays at key stops. This should attract riders by protecting them from the elements and making transit visible and easier to use. This will both help the shuttle and enhance patronage on the conventional Taltran buses.

Southern Democratic Socialists

The left tries to get it right

by Carmy Greenwood

The focus of the Conference of Southern Democratic Socialist held in Nashville, May 29-30, was making connections. Working with other groups and segments of the population who share an interest in turning the tide of New Right conservatism around and bringing a greater diversity of people into the Democratic Socialist movement, were emphasized as ways to broaden and strengthen the movement and empower it to achieve its goal of a more humane, peaceful, egalitarian society.

Although some participants expressed concern over difficulties that the South is having in working with the national organization and the northern leadership, more attention was devoted to working within the Democratic party in electoral politics. Gordon Haskell, the political director of DSA, reiterated the importance of working with groups that are not socialist but which nonetheless have a real interest in democratic socialist issues. But Haskell, veteran of many years of socialist and democratic politics, warned that approaching people with the 'truth,' showing them what is good for them and presuming that they will see the light, is not what building a coalition means. In a coalition, both sides have to be flexible, to respect each other's views and to learn from them. With that preface, he talked about working within the Democratic Party as the major vehicle for most non-Rightist groups, to produce programs and candidates that the party can support, in order to facilitate change.

Besides the problem of working with the leadership of DSA, attention was devoted to working within the Democratic party in electoral politics. Gordon Haskell, the political director of DSA, reiterated the importance of working with groups that are not socialist but which nonetheless have a real interest in democratic socialist issues. But Haskell, veteran of many years of socialist and democratic politics, warned that approaching people with the 'truth,' showing them

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During the same plenary session, Wanda Noblit talked about her experience in Democratic party politics in her small Tennessee county. Her good-humored, optimistic tale of how Democratic Socialists got a foothold in the stagnant Democratic party there by participating actively, learning their political lessons well, and using a little ingenuity, complimented Haskell's more philosophical, national approach well. Noblit described the almost comedic awakening of local party members when they discovered the power of the pen — learning that they could write their representatives about an issue of concern and tell them what they wanted done about it. Soon they were writing about anything and everything.

A series of workshops was devoted to labor issues, particularly labor organizing and building coalitions with labor unions. Presenters in one session talked about the difficult but important task of coalescing the interests and energies of various groups that do not know what they have in common or why they should work together. Education, they seemed to agree, is the key to getting traditionally antagonistic groups like blacks and labor to work together. Targeting specific issues in which they have a common stake may awaken their self-interest enough to overcome differences. Of course, as one presenter added, there are some groups that are going to be infinitely difficult to link, like anti-nuclear activists and labor unions representing workers in nuclear industries.

Regarding socialist activism and organizing unions, the common sentiment was that it is best

accomplished from within, by people who are members of both the union and DSA, or at least by people who have a history in the area, and do not seem to represent an outside, unknown force which the union should fear. Trust of the kind required for shared enterprise is developed only through person-to-person contact, so that union members do not see socialists as alien, mythical "Trotskyites," but the folks next door.

There were also workshops on organizing with feminist, gay and lesbian rights, anti-racist, and religious groups, and on topics like "Printing and Graphics for the 'Low Budget' organizer," and "Organizing a DSA Local," led by local DSA members Alan Pendleton and John Buckley, respectively. Several other Tallahassee area people attended the conference.

The keynote speeches were consistent with the theme of making linkages and building coalitions. Manning Marable, professor of political economy and history at Cornell University, gave a well-received talk on the convergence of what he sees as the two major issues confronting progressives in the 1980s, the nuclear arms race and racist violence. He outlined the realities of an oppressive, authoritarian economy which benefits from both nuclear proliferation (and militarism in general), and race war. And he gave some startling statistics — for instance that the money the United States spends in five hours on arms is equivalent to the budget of UNICEF for a year.

Marable also developed the idea that Reaganism is just the latest manifestation of problems inherent in the system, and that it is the system itself which must evolve. For instance, there are now blacks and women who have gotten into positions of power and are playing roles in the system which are in fact deleterious to blacks and women. So, progressive issues like anti-racism and anti-nuclear proliferation have to be informed by an anti-capitalist understanding. All the social issues have to be connected in order to achieve radical change in such a system. He called for a move in the socialist-progressive attitude away from a pessimistic 'make do,' holding-the-line strategy to one which intends to win, to make real changes. Socialists, Marable said, need a vision

they can put before people — equality, employment, justice, peace, non-nuclear energy, rights to the basics of life, and freedom. The word 'freedom,' he said, has too long been the property of the New Right, who pervert it to mean corporate freedom. "I think the Left has to take back the word 'freedom'."

In contrast to Marable's uplifting philosophical address on anti-racism, Mayor Eddie Carthan's personal tale of political rights, of human rights, perverted and denied, had an obviously chilling effect on the audience. Carthan was elected mayor of Tchula, Mississippi in the late 1970s, and immediately set about a program to upgrade the quality of life for the poor, mainly black population in the town. When the local power structure found that they could not entice him with bribes, they resorted to other means. Carthan has been herded out of office, arrested and jailed, threatened and abused. Currently, he is awaiting trial on a murder charge — a charge he claims to be a total fabrication.

The evening's final speaker was Andrea Young, and once again the topic was building a broader-based, more effective socialist coalition. This time, the target was black women, whose lives Young described as the pattern and example for the type of "care-giving" function which socialists hope to develop as a societal value. Their experience, she said, makes black women uniquely suited to the task of linking the socialist movement with the communities that share its values, and of informing and expanding its vision and programs. But it was hard to deny the truth of Young's assessment of the lack of participation on the part of black women in the movement — she was one of only three black women in the hundred-person group. Accepting black women in active leadership roles, beyond the service roles which politics generally offers them, Young said, is the only way to bring them into the movement and benefit from their expertise and understanding. And that is vital if the socialist movement is to link with the "care-giving" morality which exists in our society alongside the mainstream authoritarian morality, and to realize programs that develop out of that alternative morality.

The local chapter of DSA meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. For information call 224-8334.

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by Steve Keller

For too long the university and students have remained behind university walls and have not used an array of talent, idealism or financial resources to tackle problems in Florida. The Florida Public Interest Research Group is trying to bridge this gap.

The goal of FPIRG is to encourage student involvement in major public policy facing this state. FPIRG offers opportunities for students to inform, educate, study, and advocate in the public interest. FPIRG offers all citizens opportunities to propose and participate in FPIRG research on consumer, environmental, energy and housing issues.

FPIRG is a corporation funded by a special optional fee requested by the students, and collected by the university. As a corporation, FPIRG is independent of the university. It is controlled by a student board of directors, which receives the funds collected by the university, finances the projects, and hires a staff of lawyers, scientists, and lobbyists to work on public interest policy issues.

The community can assist FPIRG with organizing energy and input with problems FPIRG is currently working on. FPIRG welcomes and solicits help from anyone in identifying problems and stating them in terms that a collective PIRG can act upon. Copies of the project proposal guidelines, which show how to outline the person hours and other energy required for your project, are available at the FPIRG office and at the food co-op.

In addition to publishing consumer surveys, FPIRG has set up a consumer-tenant hotline (644-4884) to give all consumers access to information about rights and trade practice laws in consumer transactions. FPIRG is also collecting representative copies of leases in the Tallahassee area, in order to evaluate them based on Florida laws and customs. The goal of these projects is to help consumers make informed choices.

FPIRG completed many projects during Spring semester, 1982. It sponsored a major environmental conference, with speakers from the state and federal environmental agencies and local environmental groups. Topics discussed were acid rain, phosphate mining, water pollution and state and national legislation. In April FPIRG student interns and leaders presented 5,000 signatures they had collected in support of the Clean Air Act to Congressman Don Fuqua.

FPIRG's major projects this semester are examining groundwater contamination, utilities, and the Tallahassee/Leon County planning commission. The last two of these projects will study environmental, growth, economic, and alternative aspects of local planning as students, through FPIRG, study the checks and balances and substance of planning locally for energy and population growth.

Students will also study the parking situation at FSU and recommend improvements and alternatives. There will be a lobbying project for the fall in which government students will receive academic credit for speaking on behalf of bills drafted, originated or supported by FPIRG. Public relations, advertising and communications majors will receive academic credit for public relations activity, such as drafting press releases, coordinating press conferences, preparing radio shows, and developing brochures describing FPIRG internships.

FPIRG will always be concerned with student problems, and will try to produce benefits for large numbers of students who do not directly work for or with the group. But FPIRG will involve students in the community in useful research organizing and advocacy activities which do not directly benefit large numbers of students, but which will award some students with academic credit and will leave them with lasting experience in developing facts and advocating policy. The community can help ensure the success of the process.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about FPIRG or the projects, contact the FPIRG office at 644-2826 in Room 215, FSU Student Union.

Steve Keller is staff attorney and research director for FPIRG.

review

Guatemala—The Horror and the Hope

by Louise Beauchamp

Guatemala. It is "the Place of the Ancestors" in the Mayan tongue, and their ancient ruins haunt the jungles today. Volcanoes rim the highland lakes, and clear streams cascade down to the Mexican border.

The water in many is no longer drinkable, but the pollution is not due to chemicals or silt. The rivers are poisoned by rotting corpses.

Coffee, sugar, cotton, fruit and mineral ore are the principal exports of Guatemala, a country smaller than Florida and closer to us than California. The major imports are luxury items and arms. The death toll is hundreds per month, and even the U.S. Department of State admitted in 1981 that most of the blood is on the hands of government forces.

Journalists have been barred from the country, and little information gets out of Guatemala these days. Much of it is produced by military "public relations" officers. In an effort to break the blitz, a four-volume publication totalling 288 pages has been written and produced by a group called Four Arrows, which describes itself as "indigenous people from Guatemala, Mexico, the U.S. and Canada."

Guatemala! The Horror and the Hope is imperfect but enlightening. It has serious flaws in the writing and production: whole pages are printed out of sequence, some sentences end in mid-stride and others are hopelessly confusing and imprecise. A skeptical reader might wonder if a group that can't get its sentences straight could possibly have its facts straight. But the facts are so sobering, and so overwhelming, that in the end there can be no doubt. This is for real.



The Four Arrows publication is an exhaustive history of a repressive military government, genocide, and U.S. complicity, from a perspective that is not often seen. It calmly details the people most often kidnapped and murdered in this vicious little country: teachers, journalists, labor leaders, church officials, and native Guatemalans. Their bodies sometimes reappear days or weeks later, horribly mutilated. Whole villages have been massacred and burned, especially in two areas slated for oil development. In time, only the Ancestors may remain.

The final point is made most clearly: U.S. officials need to understand that when they aid the military government in countries like Guatemala, they help communism. By identifying the Soviet Union with the indigenous revolution, they hand the Soviet Union a moral victory that now belongs only to the native people.

It's worth reading. You can borrow the *SPECTRUM* copy, or you can get your own by sending \$6 to: Four Arrows, P.O. Box 3233, York, Pennsylvania 17402. Telephone (717) 755-9037.



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GRASS ROOTS: A free experience

by Frank Bonetti

If you want to escape at least for a few hours and experience joy, visit the Grassroots Free School. It is a building, a home, and a school. You will see children, ages five through twelve, playing, interacting, and learning with adults on an equal basis. Some of the children might be "wasting time" floating around, looking bored, while others will be reading or working arithmetic problems because they want to. There is plenty of ping pong playing. There are signs of achievement, learning, and social interaction that children need to express before they can grow — something which is often denied in the public school.

Any parent who has spoken to Patrick Seery knows the commitment and compassion that he brings to the school. You can see it in his eyes and hear it in the tone of his voice. Pat, as the children call him, spent six months in England at Summerhill, a free school that has been in existence for fifty years. (A prerequisite for visiting the Grassroots school in Tallahassee is to read *Summerhill*, by A.S. Neil, an exhilarating account of the experiences at the English school.) Pat learned from its founder, Neil, the basic principles, but each school is unique: the children are unique, the adults share different types of learning experiences, and the result is based on the combination of the two.

Teaching qualifications are based on two considerations. The adults must have a genuine interest in the subject matter that they decide to do a lesson on and they must have a genuine concern for children. The "tests" for these qualities are simple. At minimum wage, only those people who are truly concerned for the freedom and growth of children contribute to the Grassroots experience. The ability of children to know what is honest allows them to spot a "lesson" that is not from genuine interest, but the egoism of someone "playing teacher." Attendance at such a lesson is low, as children will leave if they do not find it interesting, which forces the adult teacher to find what he/she is interested in and bring that experience to the school.

Students usually remain at the school until they are between the ages of twelve and fourteen. They are then involved in independent study, placed in an outside apprenticeship in mechanics, the arts, or other skilled areas, or they enter a high school. Many of them attend the School for Applied Individualized Learning (SAIL), a progressive public high school.

As a future teacher, I was interested in the reactions of former students who found themselves in the public school system. Many students return to visit Pat at the school to share their experiences and to comment on the positive and negative aspects of the Grassroots school.

Pat told me of students who had written or returned with similar reactions. At first they considered themselves deficient in basic writing skills, mathematics, and historical facts. Speed was lacking due to the failure of students to drill in their workbooks. After six weeks, two months, or a semester or two of hard studying in mathematics, the students

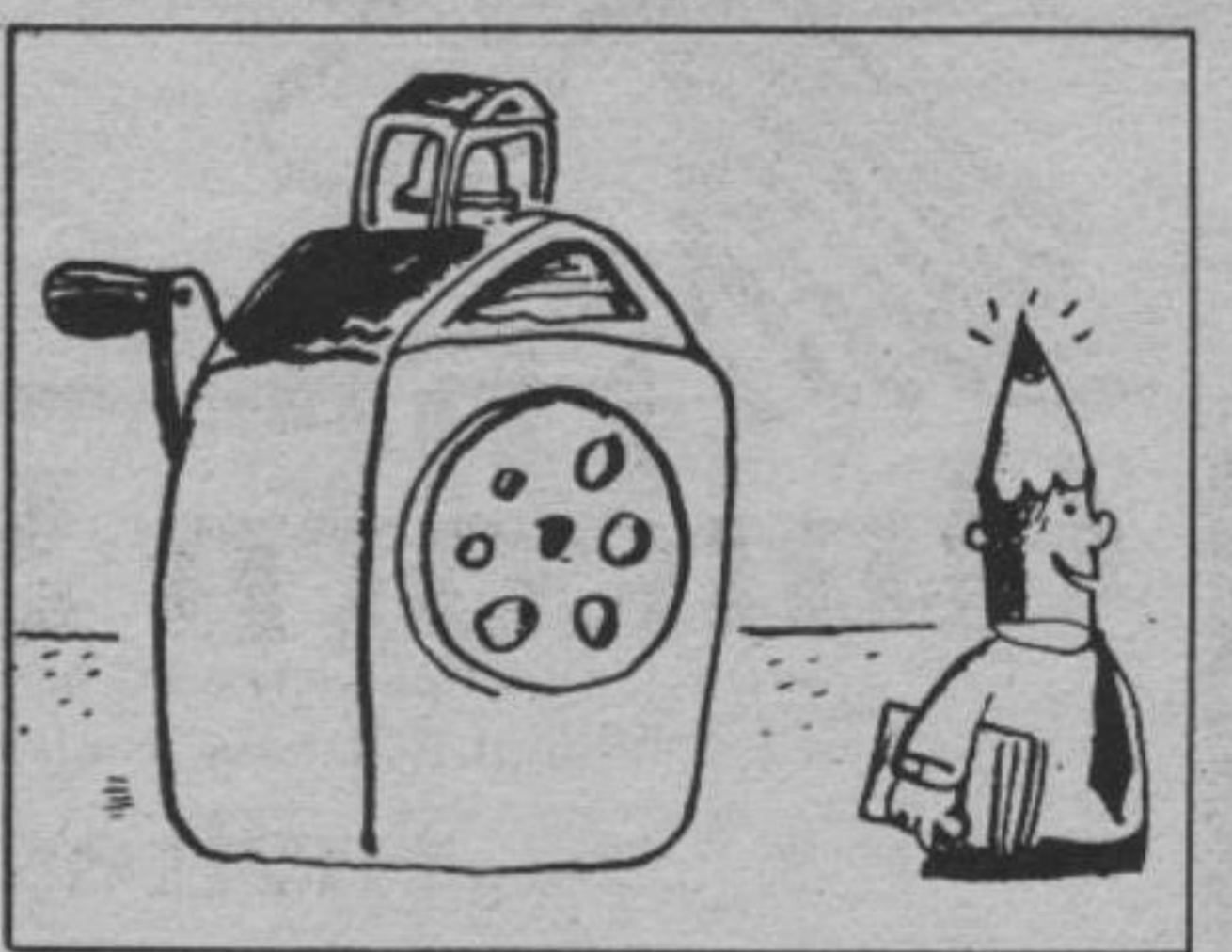
caught up to the rest of the class. Former students were among the top students at SAIL this past year.

The results have been argued both for and against this approach to educating and freeing children. Students who return to visit feel that many public school students attend history, English, and math classes, but they have not learned from the experience. Nor do these high school students seem to enjoy the classes. The Grassroots student brings many other experiences and a more mature outlook to the public school. And they are able to be competitive in this environment.

The freedom of the children and the experience of social interaction can be seen at the Pow Wow, the self-governing meeting held every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. for children and adults to discuss rules, needs, banking, and other activities of their school.

The meeting I attended was run by Pat. All the children and adults know the procedures for asking questions, bringing up rule changes, or for discussing activities which mean using the Pow Wow fund. It has a separate checking account which all are aware of. There were plans made for a library trip, an expedition to the beach (Lost Lake), the purchase of a much-needed new basketball, and a roller skating party.

Many of the children and adults made a contribution to this meeting. This was the most unique and warming aspect of the meeting. The children were able to discuss what was important to them. One student was found guilty of violating the "5-minute in a corner" rule, so he accepted the decision to do ten minutes. This was important for the boy whose freedom



had been poached. There are numerous examples where the students had the opportunity to learn and grow: someone would inquire into matters or suggest changes, but children and adults presented sound counterarguments against it. It was wonderful to experience the "knowledge" of adults combined with the simplicity and honesty of children arriving at decisions.

The Grassroots Free School is presently located at 555 Ocala Road, or thirty yards off W. Tennessee Street. The dirt road leads to an old building that was once a small country club. The building and forty acres are rented to the school.

The future for Grass Roots is a vision beyond the school. Pat and the parents have formed a Co-op and have purchased land on St. Augustine Road and parents, children, and teachers are involved in planning the move there. This land will be the site for a permanent home for the school, as well as a home for those who wish to be a

continued page 11

Montessori Style —

by Karen Leavesley

In the dark humid tunnel thousands of tiny unicellular crafts bombard the huge looming mother ship. The force field is up! They can't get through! Was the mission a failure? No. One of the swiftest was agile enough. Contact! The two life forces find each other irresistible. They merge, their energies flare, and a single multicellular entity exists. The new vehicle is ready. Another soul is starting the journey of life on our earth. Welcome, fellow pilgrim.

At first the cells seem all the same, but soon, at one sensitive point, unknown forces cause some of the cells to pulse in rhythm together. They form a heart. At another sensitive point in time other cells are triggered and they become spinal tissue. Optical tissue forms at its own sensitive period, as do nerve tissue, skin tissue, stomach, and intestines. Tiny fingerprints emerge, and ten little toenails grow. The soul learns to operate its new vehicle. The thumb reaches the mouth. Information is received from the sound sensors, heat sensors, movement sensors, and pressure sensors. The brain-calculator collects the chaotic input and begins the lifelong task of creating order. The first exercises necessary for joining our collective reality have been given. A child is born.

When she was a medical student, Maria learned of these sensitive periods of development in the human embryo and fetus. She had a gift for observing people and for perceiving patterns. As she attended births and cared for the new babies, she saw that these sensitive periods of development do not stop at birth. They continue throughout childhood and, at a slower rate, throughout adulthood.

After graduation, Dr. Maria Montessori, the first woman physician in Italy, sadly observed what happens when a child's environment does not include what is needed for a sensitive period of development. She saw the orphans who died for want of cuddling. She saw the retarded in their locked wards denied the stimulation which could help them learn. She saw normal healthy children sicken, watched their spines curve, their skin and eyes dull when they entered the Italian public schools. Always fascinated by children, she noticed that the dirty unsupervised street children of preschool age, when they weren't thwarted, were going about their self-imposed tasks with determination and deep attention, often oblivious to what was going on around them. When an activity proceeded without interruption to the finish, a mood of quiet joy and contentment would be apparent in the ragged little child before she was off, running to the next activity of the day.

In the homes of the rich Montessori saw whiney, listless little children in lace gowns confined to their beautiful nurseries. She saw them screaming in rage as their nurses plucked them up whenever they managed to find some rocks to line up or some mud to explore.

Maria Montessori was able to see that there is no such thing as "child's play." Everything about a child from the way her body grows to the way s/he treats his/her companions is work — work s/he must do, and is driven to do to accomplish a great mission in life — to become an adult human being. Bodies are programmed to grow towards maturity, but no further. The spirit or soul must work more or less consciously (depending on the individual) to become a human.

Helping people to observe children and provide optimum environments for the fullest natural unfolding of the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical aspects of each individual became Maria Montessori's life work.

The environments in the beginning were called "Casas de Bambini," children's houses. Now, especially in America, they are called schools, but they do not restrict themselves to academic achievement. They become a way of life for the children and through them for the adults.

As she grew older, Maria Montessori saw her observations were in danger of becoming a "method." She was saddened and angered that something as alive as observing was being stifled by the rigid formation of a "Montessori Method." Many times she wrote that there was no such thing as a Montessori Method.

Factions arose, different Montessori organizations were formed and teachers were trained in different ways. Montessori's writings and educational equipment formed a common core.

Each new teacher reads much of what Maria wrote. Her writings are deceptively simple. When one tries to put into practice what one had read, one may end up going back to reread. Each time simple truths are understood at deeper levels.

During the war her friends sent Maria to India where her devout Catholicism met eastern mysticism. There is a mystic level to much of her writing.

One goal of a Montessori environment is to allow children to be centered in their work, in themselves, and to gradually extend stillness over their bodies and quiet the chatter in their minds.

Each teacher's understanding of Montessori's ideas is flavored by personality and degree of personal growth. That is why Montessori schools differ so much from each other even though the equipment looks the same.

Parents should read at least one book by Maria Montessori and then spend time in each prospective school before enrolling their child. There is no trademark on the name Montessori. An excellent book to start with is *The Secret of Childhood* (available in paperback).

Montessori felt that very young children should be with their parent(s) as much as possible. The Montessori Cooperative Early School, at 1236 McCaskill Road in the Alumni Village area, has been providing a Montessori environment for children 2½ to 5 years old for a year now. A program is offered for a parent to come stay with a child younger than 2½ to experience the environment without any separation. I am a certified Montessori teacher and I teach from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm. After-school care is supervised by Mike Crew and regularly scheduled parents until 5:30.

An Open Letter to Megan about John Holt

by Mary Alda Balthrop

Dear Megan,

You ask me always to share with you the ideas that are most on my mind. It has been one of my consistent failures that I have not pulled through for you and actually done this. Lately, I have been doing lots of thinking and all the while remembering that I should really communicate with you about my ideas.

John Holt is coming to Tallahassee in July and it seemed clear to me that I should write an article about Holt and his activities. This feeling, clear as it is, that I should write an article is much the same as the feeling that I should write you a letter to let you know what's knocking around in my brain. You and the people of Tallahassee deserve to know about this person and his ideas and yet it remains hard to put the pen to the paper. As you well know, I am a thinker and not a writer. But sometimes my sense of responsibility gets the better of me.

Schools are not generally pleasing to me. Having gone through school with me, you are probably not surprised by this understatement. But what I have been realizing more and more is that the schools are just an appendage of a society with which I am not pleased. In order for the existing social order to go unchanged, our society needs people who have lost their sense of power.

In *Instead of Education*, John Holt writes that the schools are not failing. They are doing what most people want, which is the continuous re-creation of the social order. There are several ways by which this is accomplished.

The first job of schools is to shut young people out of adult society. Children are so interested in the real work that their adult friends do. Yet we, probably to some extent because of what our own childhood was like, are often not so capable of sharing ourselves with them. We close ourselves off from their great capacity for a close, curious, and loving relationship. Most of us somehow can stay open enough to retain at least a shell of the possible intimacy between child and adult with our own children, yet fail terribly with the children of others.

The next task of schools is ranking, that is, preparing children for the winner and loser slots in society. Of course we know that the winner slots are quite limited and there are more than enough loser slots. The schools strive to create competition for these prime winner positions. A few lucky children learn early that they are on the top of the pile and struggle hard to retain this position throughout life. The losers will fit perfectly into this society, which has so much need for people who will blindly accept the actions of authority.

It seems to me that our schools preach that they are teaching cooperation but in fact do nothing of the kind. The emphasis of our society is on individual advancement at the expense of others. No one wins without many losing. This is not necessary. We could, if we chose, establish educational goals which would help to create a more cooperative society. President Nyerere of Tanzania wanted to create an educational system in his country that would foster living and working together for the common good, emphasize cooperative endeavor instead of individual advancement, and counteract the temptation to intellectual arrogance. We would do well if we followed his example.

It has been a struggle in my own life to counteract the temptation to intellectual arrogance, because it was so much a part of the process of preparing me for a winner slot. All around me I see this same intellectual arrogance in my friends and acquaintances, some struggling against it and some probably not aware of it. It is sad that we have to spend our energy undoing these things that are inherent in our society and therefore in our schools. I have some regret of the effort that was made to have me fit into a winner's slot, yet at the same time there is great relief that I have retained my own power and was not taught blind obedience or a belief in the divine right of experts. There are those people, with specific names and faces, who suffered in school and suffer still because they were not among the chosen. This should cause us all to change what we can.

A Return Visit to Grass Roots

by Delia Shargel

I went back to Grassroots the other day. It was a strange feeling, but returning to the past usually is.

When I was six years old, I left the last few months of first grade — a life of lining up in long carpeted cinderblock halls, loud lunchrooms and the smell of Lysol — and went with five other children to the Grassroots Free School. I was part of it from its inception, something of which I have always been very proud.

The basic principle of Grassroots and other free schools is that you may do whatever you want as long as you are not hurting or bothering anyone else. You are free to do as you choose. A lot of people have a lot of difficulty with that. "What!" they shriek, "You don't have to go to class? You can play all day? You'll never learn anything!" And, what for me was the

worst, "What do you think you're going to do when you have to go to a real school?" This upset me. I knew that I was learning, but what if they were right? What would happen to me if I couldn't handle a more structured school?

Yet, I had no trouble with that basic principle. I realized even then, that I had the chance to learn things that most children in standard schools did not. And I feel privileged now, looking back at what seemed so commonplace then. Instead of droning days of classroom teaching, I was able to learn by discovering for myself. I learned through symbolic logic and wonderful word games, so much nicer than Dick and Jane, which a friend and I parodied extensively at nine. I avoided most math classes purely out of dislike for the teacher, but I learned math by

John Holt never formally studied education. In fact, he says himself that he didn't study any of the things that he's now supposed to know something about. Yet ten years ago, Holt was one of the leaders in educational reform. He has since said that the school reform movement was "nonsense, foolishness" because it was based on the mistaken belief that the schools actually wanted to reform.

Holt has taught in several schools. During that time, he realized that a lot of students do poorly in school because they expect to. He wrote many letters about what he observed in schools, and he used these letters in his first book, *How Children Fail*. In this book he points out that children don't do well in school because they're bored with the meaningless work, scared of being punished or humiliated, and confused by the fact that most teaching progresses from the abstract to the concrete instead of the other way around. He says that school is a place where children learn to be stupid. I think he's right. It appears to me that many of my young friends, school-age, are becoming less capable learners. It is as if doors are gradually closing in their brains and I don't like to watch the process.

When Holt decided that reforming public schools was an impossibility, he began advising people who were dissatisfied with traditional education to leave the public system and start their own educational centers. Finally, he decided that a parent whose objective was to establish a decent learning situation for her/his child could



do so in the home. Holt calls this home schooling, and what he means is children learning at home, and in the surrounding world, in ways that they and their parents determine. He believes that at home, just as he tried to implement in the public schools, children learn better if they direct their own education. Learning, as he sees it, is not an activity separate from the rest of life and it is not the result of teaching, but of the curiosity and activity of the learner.

Growing Without Schooling, or GWS, is the magazine Holt began in his effort to help parents teach their children at home. Much of what is written in GWS is from the readers, the home-schoolers themselves. Not all the readers have Holt's reasons for teaching their children at home. Thus, the readers include, in Holt's own words, "a variety of people ranging from leftist counter-culturists to right wing fundamentalists."

Holt's most recent book, *Teach Your Own*, published in 1981, talks about the problems and benefits associated with home-schooling. It is a guide covering legal strategies, dealing with school authorities, and suggesting ways of returning to school or college at the appropriate level. There is also a section demonstrating why it is to the advantage of school authorities to cooperate with and support the home-schooling movement. Holt said in a 1980 interview in *Mother Earth News* that he sees home-schooling as part of a country-wide movement toward self-sufficiency, small scale activities, and independence.

Megan, I can almost hear you say, "But Mary Alda, you seem happy, not dissatisfied." I am happy. My sense of our ability for creating change has not dwindled. The problems that I can recognize have gotten bigger, but our power has also grown. Our children will not escape all of this societal ineptitude. We know that the children will have their own set of problems. But now, when Amara is

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Grassroots Free School began in March, 1972. Delia Shargel was one of six students there on the day we opened. I listen keenly to the comments of former participants in our program — especially to those people like Delia who have spent a considerable part of their educations at Grassroots — for they, more than anyone else, are qualified to evaluate what Grassroots is all about. I love Delia Shargel, and one of the multitude of personal attributes that so endears me to her spirit is her ability to tell the truth with compassion and sensitivity. Delia, who has just completed her junior year at Florida High, had recently written the following piece, before it was suggested to us that Grassroots do an article for Spectrum. Delia, unknowingly, had written our article for us.

Pat Seery

building geodesic domes. I could satisfy my interests in medieval and Renaissance art by poring over everything I could find on them and discussing them with the teachers, who were my friends as well. I learned by walking in the woods for hours learning the names and characteristics of plants, and I cultivated pride along with my cucumbers when I raised my garden.

We read what we wanted to, when we wanted to, and were never interrupted for lunch or recess; those were things we

had more than enough of. We really valued our classes and respected our teachers because they earned that respect rather than because it was forced on us through their authority.

And those things were only on the surface. Other things were much more important. I learned about justice — we were all equals; each of us, student or teacher, had one vote and a voice in our

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News from Good Life General Store

by W. Ray Scott

After attending the last meeting (May 19, FSU Reservation) of the membership of Good Life General Store, I came away with mixed feelings regarding the future of this co-op. It was somewhat depressing to realize that if the current situation continues, the future existence of the store is very doubtful. However, the meeting also provided a very positive indication that the commitment and knowledge into the continued existence and improvement of Good Life remains strong. Concrete actions were suggested and discussed — in general, this demonstrated that we have some knowledge of what needs to be done and, to some extent, how to do it. At this point, we must translate our commitment and knowledge into concrete action. I suggest some immediate actions that all members can engage in.

Shop at Good Life and encourage others to do so. This suggestion might appear so obvious as to be unworthy of mention, but we simply must increase our volume of business. If you have found the heat and stuffiness so oppressive as to discourage leisurely shopping, you will be glad to know that ceiling fans have been installed and should make the store a more pleasant place to visit. Beyond the products displayed, many items can be obtained via special orders — clothes, housewares, hardware, gardening supplies, etc. In particular, you might be interested in coming in and examining the Sheffield hardware catalog. This is an excellent source, prices are reasonable, and items are usually delivered within one week of the time from which the order is placed. *(Please note: in order to reduce expenses during the summer, store*

hours have been changed as follows: Monday-Friday, 12:00 to 6:00; Saturday, 10:00 to 6:00.)

Help improve Good Life's product line. One primary means by which to do this is to communicate specific desires to our storefront manager, Clyde Ranney. Let him know about products you would like to see (and buy) in the store and, if possible, recommend potential sources for such products. Also, consider bringing in items to be placed on consignment. Practical handmade items (e.g. wooden bowls) would be an excellent addition as would be functional secondhand items (e.g. juicers, power tools). Artists and handcrafters of all types should also consider Good Life as a potential outlet for their work. Many members would like to see an improvement in the line of children's clothes offered — make clothes and put them on consignment, explore the possibility of exchanging "hand-me-downs" through Good Life, and let Clyde know about sources. Others wish to see a wider selection of organic gardening products. Make specific requests, provide sources, and, if you have direct access to some organic goodies, consider consignment. Finally, we need volunteers with expertise in accounting and/or bookkeeping to help study our current product lines. When such study is completed, we will be better able to decide which products should be deleted and which should be maintained and/or expanded.

Become a lifetime member of Good Life. An examination of our financial history reveals that Good Life has been chronically under-capitalized. While we should explore all potential means of improving this situation, we can begin by considering becoming lifetime members. (Such memberships are available for \$100 and provide for a permanent 5 percent discount.) For those capable financially, this offers an excellent opportunity to help Good Life build a firmer financial base.

Volunteer and get involved! Participation is at the heart of the cooperative movement, both as a means and as an end. Good Life is very much in need of broader participation by members. At this point, volunteers are particularly needed who have the following skills: accounting, bookkeeping, facilitating, secretarial. If you do not possess these skills, don't think your help isn't needed — it is! There will be a general membership workshop soon (June 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the 1st Pres. Church; refreshments and childcare provided). We all should take advantage of this opportunity to evaluate where we are, where we want to be, and how we're going to get there. However, such activity should not be confined to scheduled meetings. Good Life should occupy some portion of our day-to-day thoughts: we should constantly exchange ideas, and, perhaps most importantly, we need to be activists on behalf of Good Life (after all, we *are* Good Life). There is much to be done.

Changes coming for Canopy's savings certificates

by Richard White



Canopy Federal Credit Union recently passed the second anniversary of approval of its charter and insurance by the National Credit Union Administration. And, like any other healthy two-year-old, we are still growing and changing rapidly.

One big change that is in the works is that Canopy's board is in the process of doing away with most of the short term certificates that it now offers. The All-Savers and six-month certificates will continue unchanged, and we will soon add some new longer term certificates designed to allow us to make loans to small businesses in the alternative community. The 30-day certificates, however, just have to go. They are extremely time consuming for Canopy's staff to administer, and otherwise relatively inefficient and costly. Because they can't be put on the computer along with our regular share accounts without additional computer expense, the certificates are also a source of potential bookkeeping problems for Canopy and a possible inconvenience for members. But Canopy has found a way to put the money presently in certificates into special share accounts that we will call "Super Saver" accounts.

In case you haven't already noticed, our regular share accounts now pay interest from the day you deposit your money until the day you withdraw it, thus making these accounts a good place to keep money that may have to move around a lot. The new "Super Saver" accounts will be more like the certificates — a good place to keep money for a longer time at a higher dividend rate when the balance is at least \$1,000. As with certificates, there will be a "penalty" if you take your money out early. With our certificates, the penalty was the loss of your dividend on the portion withdrawn, or the loss of your dividend on the whole amount of the certificate if its balance fell below the minimum amount. With the new "Super Saver" accounts, the penalty will be the loss of your dividend on the portion withdrawn before the end of any quarterly period. Funds added to the Super Saver accounts will draw interest from the beginning of any month so long as they are deposited by the first of the month. For instance, money put in on the first of January and taken out after the 31st of March would earn a full three months' interest. Money put in on February 1 and taken out after March 31 would earn two months' interest. Money put in on March 1 and taken out after March 31 would earn one month's interest. But money put in on January 1 and taken out on March 25 would not earn any interest at all.

There will be a minimum deposit for Super Saver accounts, but it will be quite low — \$100. The dividend rate will vary depending on how much money is in the account. Details of how much above the regular share dividend rate will be paid on these Super Saver accounts are still unsettled. Resolution of the question depends on the outcome of an ongoing philosophical debate among Canopy board members. Simply stated, the Canopy board has to decide whether rates have to be better than those offered in most other financial institutions, or whether they need only be at least as good. The "at least as good" school of thought holds that Canopy's benefits to its members stem mostly from the unique services that it provides to the alternative community in making loans to co-op members, and so forth, and that the community must make an investment in Canopy's growth for its own future benefit, rather than expecting Canopy to strain from the very beginning to pay exceptionally high dividend rates. From that perspective, Canopy needs to keep as much as possible of the money it earns rather than passing it along to its members immediately in the form of dividends. Holding on to this income will allow Canopy to pay a fair wage to its staff and to accumulate funds to be able to start new services for the

Continued on page 10

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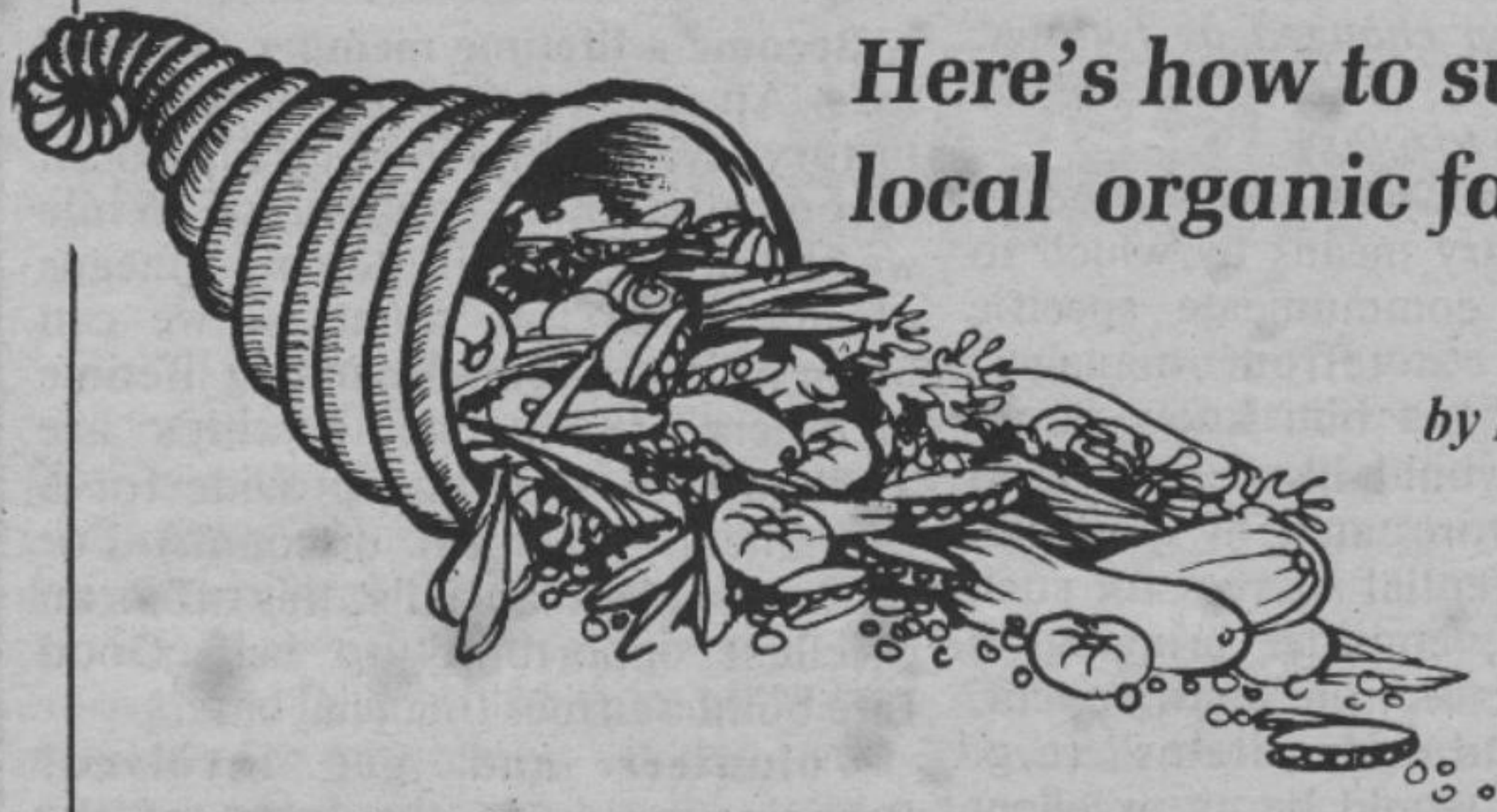
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Here's how to support our local organic farmers

by Debi Powers

I remember joining the Leon County Food Co-op in May 1974, one week after its doors opened on Macomb Street. At that time there were only ten or fifteen items for sale in the storefront, but those early members had a great vision. That vision has guided us through the years — through crisis after crisis — until we have become one of the most successful food co-ops in the country.

One of our highest goals in those beginning days was the idea of directly linking the farmer and consumer so that both would benefit. The farmer would get a better price for her or his produce because there would be no middle person taking a large profit. The consumer would get higher quality food which was fresher, locally grown and, it was hoped, organic. In those days we talked a lot about multinational corporations and their control over every aspect of our lives, including the food we ate. We expected the cooperative movement to change all that.

This goal of connecting the farmers and consumers never died, but there has never been the time to really pursue it. Coordinators are too busy running every aspect of the storefront on a daily basis. And the Board of Directors, who work as unpaid volunteers, do not have the time outside of other responsibilities to pursue this goal.

Over the years many ideas have been thrown around: a farmer's market in the parking lot, or the Co-op purchasing a truck to buy directly from farms, or the Co-op starting its own farm to supply itself. None of these ideas "hatched."

I served on the board from 1976 to 1979, and I remember being very interested in working on connecting the Co-op with local growers, but didn't know where to start. None of us knew any local farmers. The only thing that we pushed for during that time was that the Co-op carry some organically-raised local honey along with the regular honey that was carried in the store.

Now, for the first time, the Co-op is presented with a golden opportunity to make connections with local organic growers because many of us are *becoming* organic growers. The potential exists that, within a few years, local growers could supply the Co-op with a large part of its fresh fruits and vegetables. In Sycamore, where I live, my neighbors and I have been planting hundreds of fruit trees. Several acres are in organic vegetable production, also. And this is only the beginning!

But there are problems and many questions to be answered. Can organic growers make any kind of a living in competition with agri-business (with its large machinery, monoculture, fertilizer and pesticide/herbicide applications)?

Organic methods are labor-intensive — weeding, mulching, hauling manure, making compost, biological pest controls, etc.

Organic produce is definitely a superior product. Not only is it not laden with poisons, but it *tastes* better. Anyone who bought the Bellvue Farms' watermelons in the Co-op this summer, or who grows their own produce, knows the truth of this statement. But are consumers willing to pay a higher price for high quality, fresh, non-poisonous produce? We pay more for health food peanut butter or oil, but are we willing to do that with organic produce? We may need to pay a little more in order to encourage the growth of organic farms.

Up until now we have received organic produce mainly from gardeners who sold their surplus to the Co-op. This is a very unreliable supply because gardeners only take in what's left over (and not always their best stuff). This is beginning to change as we see more and more organic produce grown specifically for market.

This is the time for the Co-op to take a new look at that old vision of bringing food directly from local farmers to consumers. Maybe the Co-op should think about hiring a produce coordinator (even a part-time one) whose main job would be getting local produce into the Co-op **year 'round** — not just in the summer when it's easy.

This job might entail contracting with growers about what they should grow and how much during each season of the year. And, of course, making sure that consumers get the very best in freshness and quality.

Consumers have a big part to play also. *Demand* locally grown produce and buy what's available in the new organic section of the vegetable cooler. Try to eat what is in season locally rather than buying stuff that was grown in Mexico by multinationals, sprayed with lethal pesticides that are banned in the United States, picked green by underpaid, exploited peasants, boxed, shipped across the country using large amounts of fuel, set out in stores, and then put into your refrigerator until it is served to your family.

We must all work together to break this chain. To do so means not only healthier food for your family, but lessening environmental destruction by agricultural poisons and helping to break the grip of multinational corporations on the food system of the entire world.

Canopy's Changes, from page 9

benefit of its members. The other school of thought holds that it is essential or at least proper to offer greater economic benefits to our members than are available in most other places, period. Otherwise, why bother to have a credit union!

What do you think? Why don't you stop by the Canopy office and let us know! While you are there you can learn more about how our new Super Saver accounts work, and see if you want to open one.

And, by the way, if you are interested in getting involved with Canopy's operation, there is a vacancy on the board. People who are members of those groups which have traditionally been discriminated against in our society are encouraged to participate in Canopy, on the board and in the various committees. We have the place for you if you have the energy.

John Holt, from page 7

nearly eight years old, she still has her great intellectual curiosity which she has never had to waste on busywork. She has never been obliged to sit and listen to someone teach about something she had known for two years or more. Her light still shines and though I do sometimes see doors shutting in her brain they usually open up again twice as wide. I will continue to teach her about common courtesy, respect for others, and the golden rule, but added to that will be lessons about President Nyerere and his goals for education in Tanzania. She will understand, I hope, about living and working together for the common good, about cooperative endeavor above individual advancement, and about how intellectual arrogance leads to a disrespect for those whose abilities are non-academic.

We are lucky that Grass Roots School is here, because it has made it so much easier for us to accomplish what we think is better for Amara. Grass Roots is one of those schools that opened because some parents were not satisfied with the public system. That was ten years ago on March 1, 1972. If it were not for the school, our hassles could have been multiplied a hundredfold. Pat Seery, who is the head of the school, has been a great friend to our whole family. But for me personally, he has been a sounding board for my developing ideas about education.

These are ideas which I have had on my own in isolated experiences throughout my life, but John Holt has written about them so well. If you have read his work you will recognize his language in what I say. I am grateful to him for the ways in which he has helped me to organize my ideas on these subjects. I am hoping that all the people in Tallahassee who need to hear Holt for themselves and their children will be able to. As always, I wish that you could be here for it.

Love,
Mary Alda

John Holt will speak at the Presbyterian University Center (Park and Copeland) on Tuesday, July 27, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

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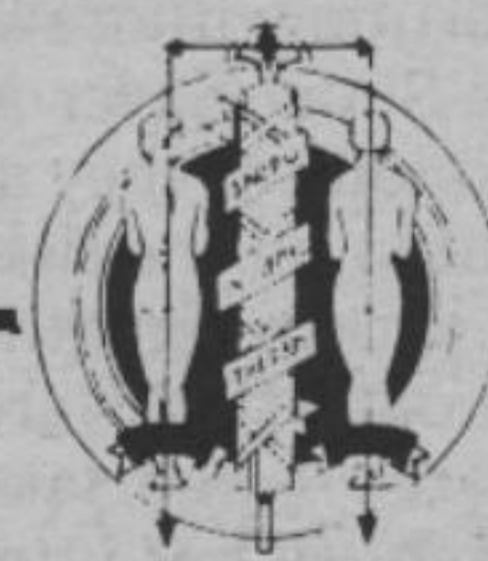
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Favorite 5 and Groupthink by Margie Menzel

I've been doing a lot of pondering ever since the "All-Time Favorite Five" list was published in the last issue of *Spectrum*, because it was pretty obvious that the choices were, generally speaking, awfully homogeneous. Much of that is only natural; after all, the respondents were involved in common political ventures. Besides, the idea was to share literary and cinematic pleasures with folks who would respond happily, and I imagine that the selections were made with that in mind. In fact, I think that the idea is a good one, and I want to make it clear that I'm not launching any sort of attack so much as trying to make some larger connections. A big part of that need is that I was struck by how many of the books and movies were favorites of mine, too.

The big thing here is that all the common-interest groups with which I've ever been involved did the same thing. When I was an undergraduate in a philosophy department, for example, I went along with the group not only in terms of reading material, but also with respect to dress, perceptions of others, and overall lifestyle.

Now with respect to the "Favorite Five" lists, I've got to say that I have

the impression that equality is a real and vital ethic. What prompted this article is that some of us at *Spectrum* actually counted the responses and discovered that many selections were mentioned over and over. There was disparity, of course, but I was quite disturbed that there wasn't much. There's a definite New Age, or "counter-culture" sense that the reader gets: hardly an unexpected or inconsistent thing. But we seem to limit ourselves in terms of the material we absorb, like every other dedicated group of which I'm aware. I think that's unhealthy, regardless of how greatly we've been affected by our selections. A wide range of input is more challenging.

The titles submitted remind me of the dearth of the "classics" in those lists. I have many problems with my so-called classical education, for political reasons, yet there's a great deal of value in those traditional works. To an historian, they provide continuity with modern political radicalism. Sometimes I worry that sticking to recent efforts causes a tremendous deprivation in political dissidents. Just lately, I've been reading a book on populist leaders during the Depression that is truly helping me to understand the

American political tradition.

There are vast numbers of long-established artists whose views are as pertinent and instructive today as they ever were. None appeared on the lists. My experience with the school system has me convinced that the powers that be *do not want* folks to have the capacity to read, to be involved, or to consider their political participation valuable. We seem, rather, to be a nation immersed in lethargy and narcolepsy. That doesn't apply, as I said, to the list participants. Still, too many Americans find it difficult and depressing to acquaint themselves with national and international affairs, far less to intervene.

In order to educate ourselves, we must have a sense of history as well as the self-confidence and the moral need to act on what we learn. For this reason, we should acquaint ourselves with traditional art and politics in addition to the more recent works that inspire us.

Above all, we must eschew groupthink. If we are striving for the most radical departure from the status quo, an acceptance of and even an admiration for the individual conscience are essential. That's a tough pattern to break, but each person must be her/his final authority. Only in that case can we truly speak of freedom.

Look for more Favorite 5 selections in an upcoming issue of Spectrum.

Return Visit, from page 7

government, and no one could override everyone else. I learned about injustice, since life can never be fair, and children know instinctively about inequality.

When I went back the other day, it was like stepping into a time warp. I was alone, and I was eight and nine and eleven all over again and all at the same time. There were so many memories; everything had significance. I passed a spot by the piano and remembered the day Mary learned to read. My friend Nicole and I must have been nine, and Nicole was going over a book with six-year-old Mary. I can still see Nicole, jumping up shouting, "Mary can read! Mary's learned to read!" and all of us, teachers and students together, running to pick Mary up, to hug her and congratulate her for her wonderful new accomplishment. I sat in the tree where Nicole had been when she learned how to tell time, with me beside her, watching but still not understanding.

I could feel the life and presence of the now hundreds of kids who had lived in this place, and I thought back to the original six of us, small and not very sure of ourselves — but that was the point. We made our own rules and lived by them. We created the school, and the school created us.

I walked down an old forgotten-but-

familiar path, and for the first time in more than six years I saw George, a kind old oak tree that had held all of us. It was good to see him. I climbed up into the first fork, as far as I could ever get my acrophobic little self at nine. And here I was again, Delia. I felt almost as though I were betraying my past, nearly grown up here in my pearls and makeup, wearing high heels and waiting to go home to begin my homework. It was as if two of me were confronting each other, and I wanted desperately for my past to accept my present.

There are so many ways in which I've become what I swore I never would. I came into high school (public school had always been my idea of a conformist hell) with the idea that I would be socializing myself, learning to live within the system, as I have. But in doing that, and enjoying it, have I become blind to the things I used to see and feel clearly? God, I thought, look at me. Do you see how I've changed? How I've grown? Not how much, but in what direction?

And I realized that I still couldn't get past the first fork of the tree. But still, I knew that George remembered who I really was. I felt safe, if precariously balanced, in the limbs of my tree-friend, and I leaned against him and cried.



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Free School, from page 6

part of the Grass Roots community.

The future for Pat and the school will revolve around the community. The people who will be living there are a source for new ideas and innovations that the children will be exposed to. They include members of the Tallahassee Peace Coalition, a teacher/principal from SAIL, Pat, and parents of children currently attending the school. The non-profit school will own four acres, but the entire community and its members will provide the learning experiences.

The transition move for the school will be difficult. To move a building or build a new one requires people, time, energy, and ability. Anyone who can contribute masonry, plumbing, electrical, or carpentry skills and/or materials to this effort are welcome to call Pat Seery at 224-9929.

All are welcome to help or visit the Grass Roots. The experience is worth the time and the joy is free.



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