

in the news Briefly

Nixon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aides to former President Richard M. Nixon employed a high-pressure "snow job" to convince the government to seek \$850,000 to ease Nixon's transition to private life, the chairman of a Senate appropriations subcommittee said Wednesday.

The comment from Sen. Joseph P. Montoya, D-N.M., came as Arthur F. Sampson, head of the General Services Administration, said \$110,000 of the money will be used to build a vault 12 miles from Nixon's San Clemente, Calif., estate to safeguard the controversial tape recordings and documents of the Nixon presidency.

Montoya and Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., were openly skeptical of Sampson's justifications for the \$850,000 request.

They said that amount is more than twice as large as funds received by former President Lyndon B. Johnson during his transition from the presidency.

Both senators said they believed the test of "bare bones" economy must be applied to the Nixon request.

Sampson said Nixon aides Ronald L. Ziegler and Stephen Bull asked for the funds at a private San Clemente meeting just after Nixon resigned last month.

Mozambique

LOURENCO MARQUES, Mozambique (AP) — At least 200 persons, mostly black, were stoned, stabbed or beaten to death in racial rioting that followed the collapse of a white settlers' revolt, a senior police officer said Wednesday.

The officer made his estimate after touring the black shantytowns surrounding the capital of Lourenco Marques on three sides. They have been the scene of destruction, killing, burning and looting since Tuesday when the leaders of a white movement surrendered.

The whites were protesting the signing of an agreement Saturday giving control of the territorial government to Frelimo, the African guerrilla movement that fought the Portuguese for 10 years. The colony receives its independence in June.

55 m.p.h.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate passed a bill, 85-0, Wednesday making the 55-mile-an-hour national speed limit permanent.

It also went on record in favor of killing the requirement that cars be equipped with an interlock system to prevent them from starting unless seat belts are fastened.

The measure also would increase by 10 per cent the maximum allowable weight for trucks on the interstate expressway system.

The bill now goes to the House. The present 55-mile speed limit is temporary, expiring next June 30.

Crash

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — An Eastern Air Lines jet carrying 82 persons, crashed into a wooded hillside Wednesday morning as it approached fog-shrouded Douglas Municipal Airport. Hospitals in the area reported only 13 survivors and an Eastern spokesman said indications were that the other 69 persons aboard the plane died.

Two of the four crew members were among the survivors. They were identified as stewardess Collette Watson and the DC9-30 jet's first officer, James M. Daniels Jr. Both are based in Atlanta.

Three of the survivors were listed in critical condition by Memorial Hospital.

Kidney sale

DETROIT (AP) — A man seeking a new kidney advertised this week for a transplant donor and drew about 100 callers willing to sell one for the \$3,000 he offered, his minister said. But hospital officials said they would not accept a purchased organ.

The Rev. Iman Mohammed Karoub of the suburban Dearborn Islamic mosque said Mohammed Abbas Ali, 42, placed the ads in The Detroit News on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday—without permission from his doctors.

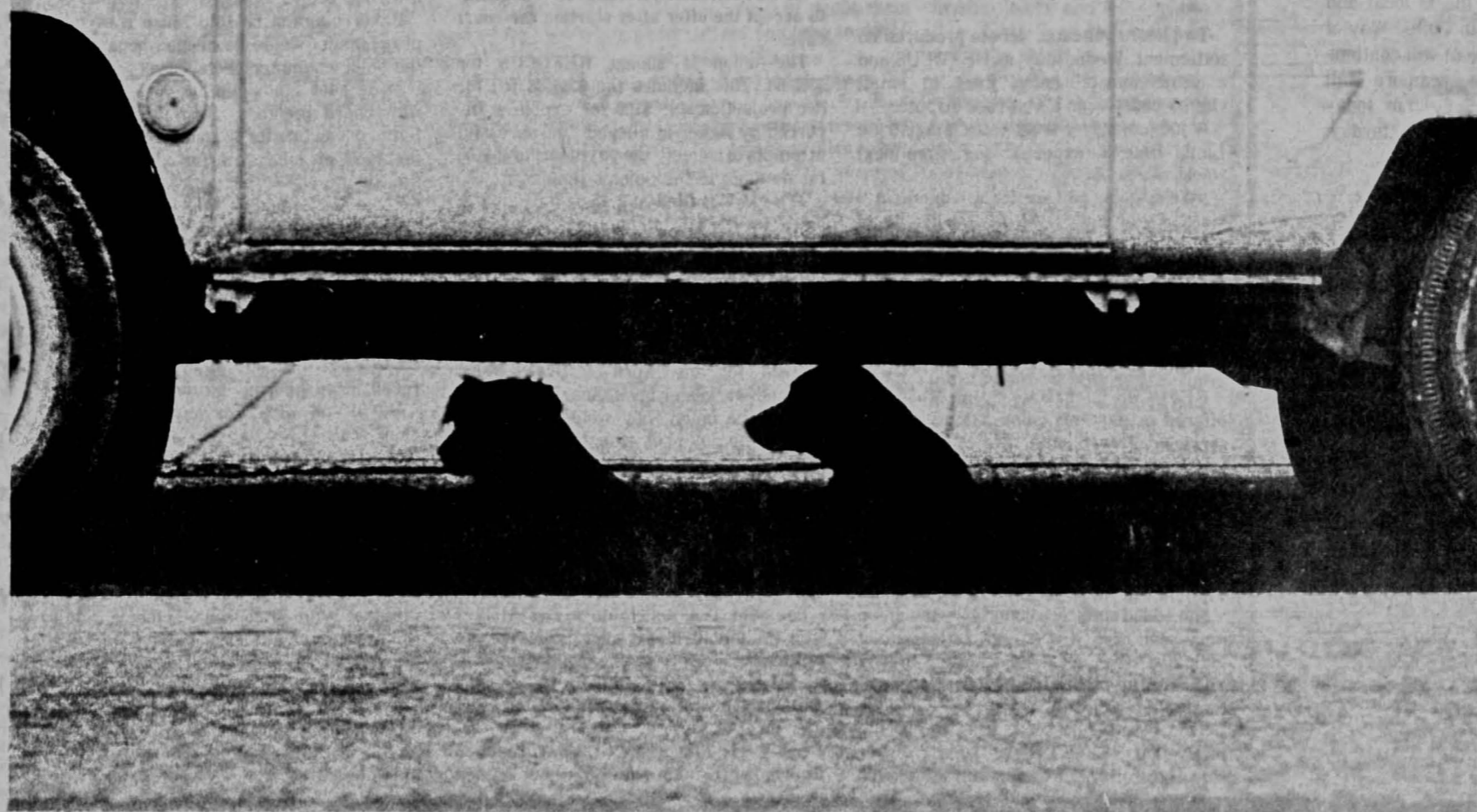
Officials at Ford Hospital, where Ali receives blood-purifying kidney dialysis treatments several times each week, said only family members or persons who have just died are acceptable donors.

Baseball

Texas 6, Chicago 2  
Minnesota 5, Oakland 3  
San Diego 2, Houston 0  
New York 5, Baltimore 1

Warm

"How do you feel, Julie?"  
"Mmm. And you?"  
"Just great. Well... is it warm?"  
"It's always warm, David."  
"No, I mean the weather—it seems kind of warm in here."  
"I'll open a window."  
"O.K. Hey—while you're up, hand me my crayons, too."  
"Not again, David."  
"Sure—why not? Last time it looked just like Mitch Miller."  
"Yeah—and took three days to wash off."  
"That's love, Julie. I told you that."



Dogs curbed

These two dogs appear to have everything they need: a little companionship, a cool shade to ponder on future problems and shelter—something all UI students don't have.

Photo by Jim Trumpp

the Daily lowan

Thursday, September 12, 1974

Iowa City, Iowa

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Planning board views crime system

Pre-trial release plan studied

By MARC SOLOMON Staff Writer

A controversial system, which could allow speedy release of persons arrested for misdemeanors and crimes against property, was discussed Wednesday by the Justice and Human Relations Commission of the Johnson County Regional Planning Commission.

A presentation describing such a system, the Verre-Manhattan pre-release project, was given by Lawrence Nelson of Des Moines.

Nelson said the Verre-Manhattan project, which was confined to juvenile cases, has been highly suc-

cessful and spoke favorably of the expansion of similar programs to other parts of the country, and to adults.

A pre-trial release program for adults is already operating in Des Moines.

Nelson contended that the present bail bond system is costly, disruptive and discriminatory. He said the pre-trial release programs are desirable because the public is not forced to bear the cost of incarceration, nor the cost of welfare to the prisoner's family.

Also the arrestees are in jail for such a short time that they aren't likely to lose their jobs.

The present bail bond system, he implied, favors the affluent, who has the money to raise bond.

According to Nelson, the pre-trial release system eliminates the possibility of discrimination inherent in bail bond procedures.

To determine if a person is eligible for pre-trial release under the new system, the prisoner is interviewed to determine his social history. The information is then transferred to standardized forms.

The forms are graded with particular attention given to the prisoner's pattern of residence, marital or living status, employment and previous criminal history.

The form is graded on a point system so that a prisoner who scores five out of a total possible 12 points is released on his own recognizance.

The system has met criticism, Nelson said, from law enforcement officials because they think that offenders get out of jail too fast.

However, Nelson and some members of the committee contend, the bail system should not be used as a punishment, but rather as a way of guaranteeing the prisoner will return for trial. Nelson said the pre-trial release system serves the purpose equally well.

He had statistics indicating that 98.2 per cent of those released under the

new program returned for trial. This, he said, is no worse than the present bail system under which no more than 98 per cent of those released returned.

The pre-trial release system not only arranges the release of the prisoners, but also helps to plug them back into society by aiding them in a search for employment and by providing other counseling functions.

The opposition to the program from law enforcement agencies has increased in the areas where the program has operated.

Members of the committee suggested this is because the law enforcement officials feel "cheated" when their hard work has come to nothing.

Will weigh applications individually

Ford reconsiders wholesale pardons

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford is not considering wholesale pardons for Watergate defendants, but would weigh any applications for them individually, White House spokesmen said Wednesday.

As a new storm of disapproval hit the White House, spokesmen issued a series of qualifying

Labor leaders attack Ford economic policies. See story, page two.

statements amending the position enunciated 24 hours earlier by Acting Press Secretary John W. Hushen.

The Hushen statement had been interpreted to mean that Ford was giving consideration to a blanket pardon for more than two score individuals charged with Watergate and related offenses.

Congressional leaders said Wednesday the President told them his position on pardons had been misunderstood and authorized them to issue a statement to clear things up.

As read by Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott, R-Pa., the statement said:

"The announcement yesterday by Mr. Hushen concerning a study of the entire matter of presidential clemency and pardons was prompted by inquiries to the White House press office concerning Mrs. John Dean's reported statement in reference to pardoning of her husband and similar public statements on behalf of others.

"Such a study is, of course, made for any request concerning pardon of an individual.

However, no inference should be drawn as to the outcome of such study in any case. Nor is my pardon of the former President, under the unique circumstances stated by me in granting it, related to any case which is or may be under study."

Hushen said Wednesday that his earlier statement "should have been broader to say that the President's pardoning power is what is under study." He said there has been research involving that constitutional authority, citing the question of conditional amnesty for Vietnam draft evaders and deserters and the study that preceded the unconditional pardon granted Sunday to Richard M. Nixon.

Any requests for a pardon would be processed through the pardon attorney at the Justice Department, Hushen told newsmen on the President's flight Wednesday afternoon to Pinehurst, N.C.

Normally, application for a presidential pardon in federal cases is not made until after sentence has been imposed. The processing of applications usually takes about one year and nearly always requires the attorney general's endorsement, Justice Department sources said.

Hushen said he was not aware of any formal request for a pardon from anyone involved in Watergate, and said he couldn't respond to a question of whether Ford would consider granting a pardon where one was not requested.

Scott and House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes of Ari-

zona met with Ford for an hour and 45 minutes amid a wave of congressional protests over the Tuesday statement about pardon consideration for all involved in Watergate.

Special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski was described as strongly opposed to the pardoning of defendants in the case. He would not comment on the controversy.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton said in

a speech that the Ford pardon of Nixon — in advance of any charges — had been greatly misunderstood.

Morton said Jaworski had estimated it might take up to a year before a jury could be chosen for any Nixon trial. The implication is, Morton said, that Nixon could not receive a fair trial and therefore was "in a position to be considered for pardon."

On Capitol Hill, the third

ranking House Republican, John B. Anderson of Illinois, commented:

"I think that after all the flap and after the President was told of overwhelming sentiment on the Republican side against further pardons it was decided to put out the fire. I think the statement yesterday was inept and that the press overreacted to it and jumped to some conclusions."

Congressmen still were reac-

ting to Ford's pardon of Nixon. Rep. Jerome R. Waldie, D-Calif., asked the House to reopen impeachment proceedings against Nixon, saying "the American people have a right to understand the criminal conduct of the Nixon administration."

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., already has said he does not believe impeachment should be reopened.

Family member reports Nixon 'way down' despite Ford pardon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon is in physical pain and remains "way down, very depressed" despite the presidential pardon he received, a member of his family reports.

The ex-president's condition is said to be worrying his wife and family. This family member sought out a telephone interview on Tuesday night saying, "This is something someone should talk about," but asked not to be identified by name.

Telephone call

Nixon has seen and spoken with this individual both before and since resigning Aug. 9. They had a telephone conversation as recently as Monday night.

This family member disclosed that: —Nixon is suffering from a recurrence of his phlebitis condition which had been publicly described as resolved on July 5. —The former president does not talk

about his physical problems with his family members, who first learned of the phlebitis last summer, not from Nixon, but from his doctors. —Nixon has made no plans or decisions about returning to the public arena.

Reconsidering

—He is reconsidering his announcement of last Dec. 10 that he would eventually give the San Clemente estate to the American people. This is part of his current preoccupation with getting his personal affairs in order.

Referring to the pardon, this family member said, "You'd think he would be very happy with recent events, but he's still in a letdown period."

"Emotionally, he's still way down, very depressed. He is in a deep depression." "I would hope the pardon would eventually lift that but I just haven't noticed that. There was no sudden elation." Nixon's emotional depression was said

to be aggravating his physical problems and vice versa.

"It's not that he's not sharp. He grasps things as quickly as ever. But the mental letdown plays on the physical problems. Each plays on the other and that cycle makes both worse."

After the resignation, the family drove north to Ventura, Calif., one day and had a picnic on the beach.

Leg pains

"He was relieved to get out of the car, but after the picnic said it would be best to go back. We had planned to stay overnight and go further north and I knew he wanted to," this family member said. "But he couldn't continue because of the pain in his leg."

The phlebitis, a blood clot which developed in his left leg shortly before his June trip to the Middle East, has left the leg "swollen out of proportion to the other leg," this individual said.

# Postscripts Exhibition

Hearing and vision tests and a health check for babies will be included in "United Way Panorama," an exhibition by the 19 local and area agencies that participate in United Way of Johnson County. The special event will continue today through Saturday at the Sycamore Mall Shopping Center. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. today and Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

## Soccer

The University of Iowa Soccer Club practices at 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays on the intramural field west of the Field House. Anyone interested in playing should attend practice, or call 354-1085 for more information.

## Seals

The Seals Synchronized Swimming Club will meet at 8:30 p.m. today at the Field House pool. Workshops will be held at 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursday at the pool, and swimming skills will be taught to beginning synchronized swimmers.

## Conference

The UI Center for the Study of Urban Growth in Developing Countries is sponsoring a two-day conference beginning Friday. Theme of the conference is "Urbanization and Development: Teaching and Strategies." Participants may register from 9 to 10 a.m. Friday in the Big Ten Lobby third floor of the Union. There is no fee.

## Tryouts

Tryouts for Reader's Theater will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. today in the Seminar Room outside Studio Theatre in the Old Armory. Sign up in the Playwright's Workshop office in the University Theatre. Prepared readings are not required.

## Teacher exams

Seniors planning to teach may take the National Teacher Examinations on any of four test dates announced by the UI Evaluation and Examination Service office. Test dates are Nov. 9, 1974, and Jan. 25, April 5, and July 19, 1975. Copies of a bulletin of information listing test centers and information about the examinations may be obtained in Room 300 of the Jefferson Building.

## Campus notes

### Today

**IOWA MOUNTAINERS**—The group will sponsor an Amana hike, dinner and program of adventure films Sunday afternoon and evening. Register at the Iowa City Typewriter Shop or call 337-7163.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE**—All interested in playing are invited by the University Heights Bridge Club to meet at noon at the Purple Cow Restaurant in North Liberty.

**ANGEL FLIGHT**—Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Field House.

**ICHTHUS**—The Acts of the Apostles will be discussed at 7 p.m. every Thursday in Room 734 of Stanley Hall. ICHTHUS is a non-demonstrational Christian organization.

**JIM LEACH**—Students are invited to meet the Republican candidate for Congress at 7 p.m. in the Rienow Hall main lounge.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**—This committee of Hancher Auditorium will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 1010 of the Music Building. If a member is unable to attend, he or she should call the auditorium office, 353-6251.

**FENCING CLUB**—Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Field House fencing loft. For further information, call 337-4327.

**ORATORIO CHORUS**—Rehearsals for the new season have begun, but singers are invited to attend at 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Harper Hall. For further information, contact director Don V. Moses in the School of Music, 353-4519.

**WOMEN**—The Johnson County Women's Political Caucus will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley House North Lounge, 120 N. Dubuque St. "Win With Women" is the theme of the meeting.

**JAMES HALL**—The Committee to Free James Hall will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley House Main Lounge, 120 N. Dubuque St.

**LECTURE**—The Humanities Society and the School of Art present Prof. Oleg Grabar, who will speak at 8 p.m. in Room E 109 of the Art Building on the subject of "Meaning in Islamic Art."

**BIBLE STUDY**—Discussion of the Book of Revelations at 9:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Campus Center, Church and Dubuque streets.

# REFOCUS-projectionists continue debating union contract dispute

By KRIS JENSEN  
Staff Writer

Two hours of heated debate produced no settlement, Wednesday, as REFOCUS and a projectionists' union went to small claims court over a contract dispute.

A judgement by local court magistrate Linda Dole is expected sometime next week.

"We're going to wait for a judgement," stated Larry Baker, A3, in response to an offer for an out-of-court settlement made at the end of the hearing by REFOCUS officials.

Baker, a projectionist, is a member of the plaintiff union, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

REFOCUS Co-director Susan Muse, A3, offered to pay the union \$395.88 for the services of two union projectionists for operation of 35mm equipment at last year's REFOCUS festival.

"I want to make it clear that we do not owe them that full amount. We are willing to pay it if the charges are dropped," Muse explained at the conclusion of the hearing.

She added one more condition—the union must send REFOCUS a written statement indicating that her organization acted in "good faith" by originally refusing to pay the fee.

"If we settle out of court, that would imply that REFOCUS was right," Baker said of the offer. He added that this action

could harm the union's reputation.

He also contended it would be "illogical" to accept the offer after starting the court case.

The union is suing REFOCUS for \$595.88. This includes the \$395.88 fee for two projectionists; \$100 for expenses incurred by Baker in alleged "unsuccessful attempts to collect" the payment; and \$100 for damage to the union's reputation.

The suit was filed Aug. 15 by the union. A check for the \$395 amount was sent to the union July 26. It was returned to the university by the union's attorney July 30, UI officials report.

Union officials explained that the attorney was hired a week before the check arrived for the April festival. Muse claimed at yesterday's hearing she informed the union they would eventually receive the payment after the REFOCUS budget was settled.

Before the magistrate, both parties gave their accounts of what was claimed to be the first 35mm film showing in the Union.

Muse claimed she had not agreed to hire any other projectionist besides Baker.

She said Ted Boheman, a Des Moines film equipment supply agent, told her she would need to hire a 35mm union projectionist for showing a film by Robert Altman since it was a union film and an Iowa City local exists.

She stated that REFOCUS then reached a verbal agreement with Baker but argued

that no such agreement was reached with a second projectionist, Greg Schmidt, G. Baker claimed he told Muse a second projectionist would be needed because of the older equipment being used.

Muse said that Schmidt, also an UPS film board member, normally operated 16mm projectors for \$2 an hour rather than the \$4.25 an hour rate for union projectionists.

Schmidt claimed he told Muse and last year's director Richard Wayne, A2, that he was working as a union member.

"If I'd shown 35mm equipment at \$2 an hour, I would be in trouble with the union," he complained.

Wayner, who served as last year's REFOCUS director, said he could not recall being told this by Schmidt.

David Van Allen, this year's co-director along with Muse, claimed at the hearing that REFOCUS did not receive a written bill from the union until May 8.

Muse also protested the requested \$100 compensation for Baker's time spent trying to collect the \$395 last spring. She said the union hires a manager to handle such matters.

Baker said that the incident didn't require a manager. He added that he spent more than 25 hours trying to obtain payment from REFOCUS.

Donald Hoy, attorney for the union, said the \$100 damages request is a "token payment" for possible damages to the union in future contract negotiations.

# Ford economy policies denounced

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top labor leaders told President Ford Wednesday the government's anti-inflation policies aren't working and threaten to plunge the country into a severe recession with high unemployment.

At a White House meeting in advance of the Sept. 27-28 conference on inflation, Ford announced he is moving to create 85,000 new public jobs to ease unemployment. At the same time, state public utility commissioners were meeting with federal officials on rate increases for electric companies that might drive electric bills up.

Ford told the labor leaders he will speed up spending of \$415 million in funds already set aside for jobs to be created in state and local governments. Another \$1.3 billion will be available to local governments for manpower programs, he said.

Ford said his administration will watch unemployment—now about 5.4 per cent of the labor force—and "act with compassion" if it gets out of hand. "We will not permit the burden of necessary economic restraint to fall on those members of society least able to bear the costs," Ford said.

But George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, said labor leaders are very concerned that the administration's anti-inflation policies will worsen what he called the country's recession.

"We've been going downhill for 5½ years under the present economic policies we have right at this minute," said Meany, who is head of the 13.5 million-member union.

"We believe that budget cuts, high interest rates and tight money supply are not going to work in today's inflation," he added.

Meany, who sat directly across from Ford at a table in the White House East Room, complimented the President for being willing to listen and called for "new thinking, new ideas and new directions" in government economic policies. "Labor will join and cooperate in any program that is equitable," Meany said.

Ford, who sat with the labor leaders for nearly three hours, said he needed labor's advice on what to do about inflation.

He called for both labor and industry to use restraint in future wage and price increases.

The administration, he said, has prepared contingency plans which it will send to Congress to

ease unemployment if it appears the jobless rate will rise to "substantially higher levels." He said, "We certainly can not be complacent about any American lacking work."

The labor leaders were nearly unanimous in calling for a reversal of the government's tight money policies, which have led to record high interest

rates, and they warned against plans to cut federal spending.

Chairman Arthur F. Burns of the Federal Reserve Board, who was at the conference along with other government economic experts, said he would take the labor leaders' views on tight money and high interest rates into consideration.

# Motion to dismiss Speed lawsuit filed

By a Staff Writer

A motion to dismiss lawsuits totaling \$25 million against five doctors in connection with the James Speed blindness case was filed in Johnson County District Court Wednesday.

Attorney William M. Tucker of Iowa City, who filed the motion in behalf of the five doctors, said the suits should be dismissed because of District Court Judge Harold D. Viator's damage award settlement against the state.

Viator awarded Speed \$750,000 in damages from the state Sept. 5 after finding Dr. W. D. Paul and Dr. James G. Beurle "negligent" in the treatment of Speed. He was blinded following the removal of two of his teeth at the Oral Surgery Department of University Hospitals, the judge ruled.

Speed's lawsuits against the doctors ask \$5 million in damages from each doctor.

Judge Viator's ruling was a "final judgement and therefore a complete bar to any further proceedings," the Tucker motion states.

Speed came to the UI from Imperial Valley Junior College in California on a basketball scholarship in the fall of 1970. He was blinded before playing a single game for the university.

Dr. Beurle was in residency in the Oral Surgery Department and attended to Speed. Dr. Paul was the UI basketball team's physician.

In addition to Drs. Beurle and Paul, lawsuits were also filed against Drs. Edward Sujansky, E. L. Lorson and Robert German.

## Police beat

By MARIA LAWLOR  
Staff Writer

Campus Security officials began looking Wednesday for a painting valued at between \$500-1,000 after a UI associate art professor reported it missing from a display in the school hallway.

Assoc. Prof. Norval Tucker reported to security officials Tuesday that the painting, "Contained Essence" by Sally Price, was last seen on the hallway wall where it was part of a master thesis display during the opening of classes. Members of the art department staff told Tucker Monday that the painting was missing, after checking to see if it had been removed from the wall for classroom purposes or for another legitimate reason.

Department officials reported to Tucker that they believed the painting had been off the wall since Aug. 31.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the missing painting should contact Lt. Kenneth Saylor of Campus Security, who is conducting the search for the missing art work.

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# Housing

university, city officials admit problem, yet no real solution seems forthcoming

By STEVE FREEDKIN  
Staff Writer

Second of a three-part series

Who's responsible for providing student housing in Iowa City—the university? The city? Or must the students fend for themselves?

UI and city officials agree that it's a responsibility all should share. However, Student Senate and many individual students don't agree with the university on how much of the responsibility belongs to whom.

UI Pres. Willard Boyd considers it an "important service" of the UI to provide housing for as many students as possible. But many upperclass and married students "do not want to rely solely on university housing," Boyd would not go so far as to say that it is absolutely the duty of the UI to find housing for every student.

Several years ago, Boyd said, many people alleged that the university was building too much housing. "Throughout the country, there was a general movement (by students) away from university housing. It appears now that the movement is back to it."

Finding housing for all UI students has been "historically a problem almost every fall for 10-15 years," Boyd continued. For example, the UI has "tried to provide adequate housing" for married students, "but there are usually waiting lists."

He said this was "in part because student lifestyles change from time to time, and it's impossible to predict" from year to year what type of housing students will prefer.

Boyd called the UI "a unique place" because it is a residential university. He said university housing is more accessible to recreation and academic facilities than is off-campus housing.

The Iowa City government "can't do an awful lot" to provide housing for students because of the high cost of building, according to Mayor Edgar Czarnecki. "There is a responsibility (to students), like there would be to any citizen, (for the city) to provide adequate housing at reasonable prices, although the city is perhaps in a secondary position to the university (concerning this responsibility)," he said.

Czarnecki said a recently-passed housing development law will make federal funds available to Iowa City for the construction of low-income housing. Although no federal money is available to the city specifically for student housing, Czarnecki said, "we should incorporate the needs of students within any type of housing plans, and we plan to do that."

"There is no question the city displaced low-income housing" when several downtown buildings were condemned for urban renewal this year,"

Czarnecki said. However, he said the city cannot afford to build housing without federal assistance. Czarnecki could not say how soon the new source of funding would be available to Iowa City.

Regarding recent charges of "rent gouging," landlords raising rents as a result of the housing shortage, Czarnecki said the city could impose rent controls, and he said the assistant city attorney has looked into the possibility as part of his research in landlord-tenant ordinances.

"I hate to even say that because everybody screams and hits the ceiling," Czarnecki said. Rent-control was included in the landlord-tenant code he proposed two years ago, but "at that time I didn't see support for that provision."

Landlords claimed such controls invaded their rights, according to Czarnecki. The Protective Association for Tenants (PAT), a UI Student Senate commission, was the only major supporter of rent controls.

"Realistically," Czarnecki said, rent controls "would be one gigantic political task to get through."

Asst. City Atty. Tony Cushner said Tuesday he hopes to present a group of landlord-tenant ordinances "within 2-3 weeks." He and UI student Barbara Boysen, 12, have been researching landlord-tenant laws in cities the size of Iowa

City. The Iowa City ordinances "more than likely will cover leases," although "municipalities do have the power" to impose rent controls, Cushner said. Such controls "usually come out in emergency situations," but inclusion of rent-control legislation in the landlord-tenant package "is being considered."

As far back as 1970, Iowa City rents were the highest in Iowa. Czarnecki quoted a state report, based on the 1970 census, which listed the median contract rent in Johnson County as \$115 per month. The only other county where the median was over \$100 was Linn County, home of Cedar Rapids, where the median was \$103.

The median monthly rent in Polk County (Des Moines) was \$98, Czarnecki said.

Student Senate President Debra Cagan is critical of both the city and the university. Told of Kushner's hope for a landlord-tenant package in 2-3

weeks, she remarked, "they've been talking about it for two years." She also criticized the "slow-in-moving" City Council: "You don't tend to doubt their sincerity, but you tend to doubt their expediency."

Cagan fears that many UI students may have left school because they were frustrated by the housing situation. "Approximately 131 students (in the dormitories) were lost by 'attrition' over the Labor Day weekend," she said. "Attrition is the word in higher education for people who leave school for one reason or another."

"This is an abnormally high amount of people," Cagan continued. "It is not known whether they dropped out because of housing reasons. I would say it was."

"Usually (during the school year) counseling has a chance to talk to the people and they can go to their advisers, but if it happens before school starts, no one really knows why, and people all-of-a-sudden don't

care. "I find it disgusting. Probably out of the 131 students there are a lot of people who really came here to learn, and left because they didn't have reasonable or adequate residences."

The city and the UI knew last spring of the elimination of several low-rent units due to urban-renewal demolition, Cagan said. "The city as well as the university had an obligation to let the students know of the impending shortage."

"My belief is that there is available housing," Cagan continued. "But the prices are so high. If the people (students) were made aware in the spring, they could have been looking for housing back then at prices that probably weren't raised that much."

During the summer, UI Housing Director Robert Kennedy sent a letter to married students without housing reservations, stating that the UI would not be able to provide housing for them in the fall.

## TUTORS WANTED

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Student Activities Center  
Iowa Memorial Union

## Back the Hawks

"Let's have one more for those Hawks... eh, Gabe!"



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## Three test periods scheduled for hiring of census takers

By a Staff Writer

Johnson County's special census gets underway today with three testing periods scheduled for the hiring of approximately 120 census enumerators.

The census is being financed by local and county governmental units and is being taken in expectation of a rise in county population.

Iowa City particularly could benefit from the special census because it could show city population above the critical figure of 50,000.

Alan Holst, Johnson County Regional Planning Commission staff member, said Wednesday that if Iowa City's population reaches 50,000 it would gain status as a "standard metropolitan area." He said

this designation could mean additional federal funding in such areas as mass transit, housing and programs for the elderly.

Anyone may attend the test periods, Holst said. The work of a census enumerator involves house-to-house questioning in specified districts. He said the enumerators will be paid 11 cents per name collected, with an average of between 200 and 300 usually collected daily.

The test will be given today in

221 Chemistry Building at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

In addition to possible increases in federal funding, Holst said local governments receive \$20 per year in additional state funding for each additional name.

Holst said the total cost of the special census is budgeted at \$37,000. Johnson County is paying 25 per cent of the cost, with the remaining pro-rated to the communities in the county by population.

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### The Cuban Connection

Having buried the hatchet with China and the Soviet Union the United States is now looking toward establishing new and friendlier relations with Cuba.

The Ford administration has begun a review of U.S. policy toward Cuba based on feelers from Havana: Fidel Castro has been less hostile toward the U.S. recently, and indirectly, sources say, Castro has expressed a desire to reopen direct channels with the U.S. These same sources also believe that Castro wants to become less dependent on Russia. (Russia has been pumping aid into Cuba at the rate of \$1 million per day and Russia would probably like to get that drain off its economy.)

The review is also based on the breakdown of the diplomatic and economic barrier against Cuba established in 1964 with all hemisphere nations except Mexico. But six of the hemisphere nations have already reestablished relations with Cuba. Panama intends to do likewise and Venezuela, Colombia and Costa Rica have asked the Organization of American States to meet in

November to consider dropping the embargo.

The U.S. would not like to be the last American nation to welcome Cuba back into the fold. (After all, we are the biggest kids on the block.)

If we do reopen diplomatic ties, it will take Congressional approval since most of the anti-Cuba measures are laws.

Congress just might consider it. After all, they do have a lot of sugar down there—and have you noticed the price of sugar lately?

If all this comes about, travel restrictions will probably be lifted. U.S. citizens would again be able to vacation in Hiltonesque resorts on sunny beaches—just “a stones throw” away from the more than 20,000 artists, writers and politicians that have been held captive for over 12 years.

We haven't been much help to Russian Jews trying to emigrate. But maybe, just maybe, if the administration decides to reestablish ties with Cuba and Congress is awake enough and not worrying about November elections, we can help those 20,000 Cubans.

Tim Ohsann



### Letters

### Grape Boycott Against Maxwell's

The Iowa City Farmworkers Support Committee would like to thank the students, staff, and faculty of the University of Iowa for the strong support they've shown for the lettuce, grape and Gallo wine boycotts. Your support has made an important contribution to the struggle to bring justice to California's fields and vineyards. The farmworker's struggle is a long, uphill fight and while there have been many victories there have also been setbacks.

#### Backfire



Locally we have tried to inform the community of this important struggle and enlist support for the boycotts. The boycotts are the very heart of the struggle and if they do not succeed it will mean continued setbacks for the United Farm Workers.

During the summer we met with President Boyd to present petitions signed by a majority of dormitory residents asking that the University cease serving lettuce and grapes produced under scab (Teamster) contracts. While admitting the injustices faced by farmworkers President Boyd defended the continued use of scab lettuce by saying the University had an obligation, as a “marketplace of ideas,” to present all sides. He offered instead to provide more alternatives to scab lettuce.

We reject the opinion that scab lettuce is an idea! We reject the opinion that the exploitation of farmworkers is the price we must pay for free circulation of “ideas.” Many other universities (Univ. of Wisconsin, Univ. of Washington, Grinnell, among others) have ceased to buy scab lettuce and grapes. Institutions such as universities, hospitals and the armed forces must not be used as dumping grounds for scab producers. We shall continue to fight to get scab lettuce off this campus!

We have also been working actively on the Gallo wine boycott. Along with

other support committees from around the state, we put pressure on the Iowa Beer and Liquor Control Dept. to stock alternatives to Gallo's Boone's Farm wines—the only fruit flavored pop wines they carried. Your support of the boycott and our state-wide petition drive resulted in an agreement to stock the Annie Green Springs wines—produced under UFW contract by Italian Swiss Colony.

We have continued our efforts to convince Iowa City bars to stop selling Gallo. Twelve bars have agreed to stop or are no longer serving Gallo. Among downtown Iowa City bars only one major bar has failed to make any commitment to the Gallo boycott. It is also Iowa City's largest and newest bar—Maxwell's. When we first contacted the management they said they would consider serving any other wines

of comparable price and quality. When subsequently given a list of such UFW produced wines they said that a decision had been made to continue selling only Gallo.

Because there are many substitutes for Gallo products and because wine sales are such a small part of Maxwell's business we believe their decision to stand by Gallo shows a disregard for the political climate of this community. We ask all members of the community not to patronize Maxwell's until they stop serving Gallo wines.

Gallo workers have been out on strike since June 27, 1973. This is a long time to be without work or the means of support for one's family. Your support of the Gallo boycott can put these workers back on the job.

VIVA LA HUELGA!

James P. Walters

### Nixon's Pardon

TO THE EDITOR:

I have sent a copy of the following letter to President Ford. I encourage those who share my sentiments to express their feelings to the President.

Mr. President:

It was with dismay that I learned of your decision to grant an absolute pardon to Richard Nixon. With that tragic mistake, you have not “closed the book on Watergate”, but rather have prevented the book from being written.

Throughout the nightmare of Watergate, Americans took solace in the apparently just functioning of our judicial system. It seemed to many that, despite the corruption of the Executive branch and the plodding inactivity of Congress, justice was and would continue to be meted out. It was a source of comfort, verging on patriotic pride, that even the most powerful and wealthy in the country were being brought to court, tried, and, when convicted, made to pay for their crimes. Your untimely and unwise decision has all but snapped many of us of our remaining hope—that from Watergate, we could at least salvage a respect for our judicial process and that the truth would be inevitably revealed.

I believe the guidelines for answering the question of whether the man “had been punished enough” were not yours to determine; they had already been very carefully set down by the framers of the laws of our land. The laws and the established penalties for their disobedience should have provided sufficient guidance for the question of Mr. Nixon's punishment.

The nation's attention now turns to the announced possibility that the Presidential pardon will be extended to all the Watergate defendants. Such a step would have disastrous consequences to a nation that needs no more disasters. The Watergate cover-

up will be complete if not only Mr. Nixon's criminal involvement remains a legal question mark, but the verdicts on Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Mitchell and others are not passed. Granted, the spectre of the imprisonment of John Dean, who helped shed the light on Watergate, while his commander receives \$850,000 and total immunity is an affront to those who thought American justice applied equally to all citizens. Nevertheless, only further harm could be done by an extension of a pardon.

Kenneth Bader  
Coralville, Iowa

First, the legal access to Richard Nixon as a witness will be thwarted, and the extent of his criminal involvement will continue to be a cause for debate and divisiveness. More importantly, a dual system of justice will have been irreversibly established in the minds of Americans—one set of laws governing the wealthy and powerful and another to govern the rest of the country.

### City Manager Hunt

TO THE EDITOR:

All business organizations are comprised of qualified personnel that make it a business organization. Qualified personnel are normally chosen through an interview system. At the present time we have a very large business in Iowa City that is about to change management and that is the city of Iowa City.

The purpose of this letter is to suggest to the City Council, before they spend the \$4500 allocated to find a new city manager, to exhaust all local possibilities for a qualified city manager. Who knows better the wants and needs of the people of Iowa City than a resident of Iowa City? There must be numerous local candidates from which to choose both male and female, and why we can't exhaust these possibilities first is beyond me.

Why couldn't the city council investigate this through an interview committee made up of local businessmen? If a local qualified person could be found and hired, he or she could begin undertaking the city's woes immediately as they would already be aware of our problems. In addition, saving the taxpayers the \$4500 that will be paid to an organization that probably knows nothing about Iowa City, to find a city manager.

Robert F. Vogel

### House Breaking

TO THE EDITOR:

Open letter to Gerald Ford: Dear Mr. Ford, I am the housecat living in this apartment and my master is so kind to write my message for you. I was dismayed by the pardon given to Dick Nixon. When I was being trained to use the litter box I was held accountable for my crimes and so punished whenever I went to the bathroom on the rug. Now Dick Nixon is not going to be accountable for his crimes and he went to the bathroom on the American people for two years. I charge discrimination! With deep interest,

Daisy S.

### Chile

TO THE EDITOR:

Last year on campus there was quite a dispute concerning affairs in Chile. Recent developments shed new light on the matter. The apologists and lackeys for United States imperialism blindly proclaimed that the U.S. was not involved. Former C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) Director Colby informs us that \$800 million good-ole, American, inflationary bucks were used to overthrow Allende.

This testimony conclusively reveals how the United States actively plotted to undermine the democratically-

elect government of Salvador Allende in Chile.

Allende was a dedicated Marxist and worked for the interests of the working people against the corporate powers. Allende died fighting for Chilean freedom against those who would impose fascism in Chile—quite unlike the gutless swine who just departed from our executive office. Nixon was hounded from office because he and his gestapo goon squad raped the U.S. Constitution.

Salvatore Allende would not be a pawn for U.S. imperialism. The global interests of the U.S. dictate that all who dare to resist the imperial mandate must be moved aside; whether it be in Guatemala, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Watts, Harlem, Iowa City, Vietnam, Cambodia or Chile.

But people are not going to allow the U.S. to continue in its manipulation. The struggle against U.S. oppression at home and abroad continues. Like all decadent empires (Rome, Nazi Germany) the U.S., too, will get its just reward. No country can continue to dominate and superimpose itself over the rest of the world. We are living in the belly of Babylonia—a dying empire and must struggle to thwart the beast before it reeks further destruction.

Tim Hall  
Graduate

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This page is, for the most part, your page. We'd like to see an exchange of opinions take place here—an alternative to the phone calls, notes, and quick discussions that we appreciate but can't always work into something of more value to both The Daily Iowan and our readership. Whenever possible, letters should be typed. Try to keep them under 250 words; out of necessity we may, at times, have to edit them. Thank you.

### Transcriptions

chuck schuster



### Opening the Options

From a tender age, most of us are encouraged to be something. As soon as we're old enough to talk some inquisitive aunt or uncle asks what it is we want to be when we grow up. Teachers urge and recommend; guidance, career and vocational counselors probe and question; parents stand aghast as their little Rodney utters his desire to be a Hessian mercenary or an eastern gumball manufacturer.

The vagaries of the decision-making process clarify in college. No one is allowed to wander through the undergraduate degree without reaching that watershed known as “declaring a major.” In effect, that major is one's career. A student studies soc to be a sociologist, econ to be an economist and English to be a lawyer.

In fact, college has turned into one big vocational training school. No longer do we get an education to be educated. We get one to be dentists, C.P.A.'s and librarians. To know something or even many things is worthless compared to knowing how to read an X-ray or write an affidavit.

Those students who wander through the halls

of academe with no set profession in mind are the lepers of the university. Shunned and pitied, they are made to feel that their collegiate experience is worthless. God forbid that they should take courses that interest them rather than those that will advance their life's work. The university, after all, is no place for vain intellectual pursuits.

Such reasoning undermines the whole notion of a Liberal Arts Education. No wonder, then, that required courses are fast becoming a thing of the past. Why should a business major take French?

He certainly isn't going to write contracts in French or serve his favorite clients *quiche lorraine*. Nor is the music major likely to encounter a paramedical in one of Beethoven's sonatas.

The university system in America cannot have it both ways. If the Bachelor Degree is really pre-vocational training then non-major courses are useless. If the college experience is to be truly an exercise in the liberal arts then the whole idea of defining one's career while an undergraduate is fallacious. The sickly compromise that exists now in America's centers of “higher learning” generally reveals the worst of

both possible worlds. Students learn to detest required courses that seem to them worthless. Then they find that the Bachelor Degree has been so full of requirements that they lack the time to develop their majors.

The concept of a liberal arts education needs to be reaffirmed. To do otherwise is to demean ourselves and admit that we are less than human. A liberal arts curriculum is postulated on the theory that all knowledge is worth knowing and that the acts of learning and knowing are good. The one essential principle behind this statement is that we are human beings first and foremost. To subvert ones energies to a major is to define oneself as a dentist first and a man second, or as an electrical engineer and then a woman.

If we are to survive as people then we need to revise the university to make it treat us like people. The result will be an enlarging of our human potential rather than a curtailing of our abilities into rigidly defined spheres of action. The answer is not required courses and forced-lecture but a commitment on the part of students to open themselves up to the total possibilities of the university.

Unfortunately today's highly technological society needs specially trained college grads with intensive majors who can help spur the economy. Even more unfortunately, many students are more than happy to devote themselves to vocational majors since such curricula will provide them with great earning power and put them right in the middle of Middle America. Let those who choose such careers go to special vocational training schools. Let there be a Bachelor of Metallurgy and a Bachelor of Retail Management. But let the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees be just that—broadly based degrees for the liberally educated student.

No one wants a society filled with educated derelicts. But the larger issue is whether we want to be pushed, programmed and catalogued into vocational strait-jackets that strip us of our creative potential. There is something intangibly but magnificently good about stretching oneself in a whole gamut of varied courses even if it doesn't help the Dow Jones Industrials or the Gross National Product. That, after all, is suppose to be what education is all about anyway.

### the Daily Iowan

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The opinions expressed on this page are the opinions of the signers, authors, and may not necessarily express the opinion of The Daily Iowan.



# Sportscripts

## Iowa tests kicking game; Penney to miss opener

### Deaths

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—The deaths have been reported of two women who served many years on the staff of the physical education department at the University of Iowa.

Miriam Taylor died Tuesday in an Iowa City hospital following a brief illness. She had taught physical education for women at the university for 37 years prior to her retirement in 1956.

Prof. Elizabeth Halsey, head of the university's physical education department for women for 31 years, died Tuesday at Carmel Valley, Calif.

### Swimming

UI Swimming Coach Bob Allen has announced that all swim team personnel, plus anyone else who is interested in swimming this coming season, should report for a meeting at the Field House pool Monday, Sept. 16, at 4 p.m.

### Poll

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Barry Switzer says to be ranked the nation's best college football team is an honor that brings both pressure and motivation.

"We are going to have to work hard every day to hang on to the No. 1 ranking," Switzer said after his Oklahoma team found itself on the top rung of The Associated Press college football poll for the second week in a row.

The Sooners have yet to play a game, but that changes Saturday when they open their quest of an 11-0 season and a national championship by hosting Baylor.

One team that has played already this season, Notre Dame, moved up in the second weekly AP poll. The Fighting Irish, a 31-7 winner over Georgia Tech on Monday, received 17 first-place votes and 863 points in the poll to finish second. Oklahoma had 22 first-place votes and 917 points.

Notre Dame's victory moved it up from third in the poll, a spot now occupied by Alabama, which had one more point than fourth-place Ohio State. The Buckeyes were second in the initial poll.

The remainder of the Top Ten were unchanged from last week. Southern California is fifth, followed by Michigan, Nebraska, Penn State, Louisiana State and Texas.

### Golf

PINEHURST, N.C. (AP) — The price is down but the field is up for the World Open Golf Tournament.

The 72-hole chase for \$300,000 in total prizes begins Thursday with Jack Nicklaus, Tom Weiskopf and Lee Trevino among the international field of 180 testing the famed No. 2 course at Pinehurst.

All three were missing last year when the tournament went for two weekends, 144 holes, and offered \$500,000 in prize money.

Sponsors were very disappointed with the response, including the absence of Nicklaus, Trevino and Weiskopf, to the richest tournament the world has ever seen. So they cut \$200,000 from the purse this season.

By BRIAN SCHMITZ  
Sports Editor

Free safety Rick Penney will definitely not start in Iowa's Big Ten opener against Michigan Saturday, Coach Bob Comings revealed following a light 90-minute workout Wednesday.

Sophomore Jim Caldwell will replace Penney, who strained his knee ligaments last week.

Tight end Brandt Yocum, who sprained his ankle, is expected to start Saturday.

"Yocum's a lot better," said Comings. "He had a decent practice and it looks like the injury has improved."

The Hawks worked on all phases of their game, including the speciality units—punt returns and kick-off returns.

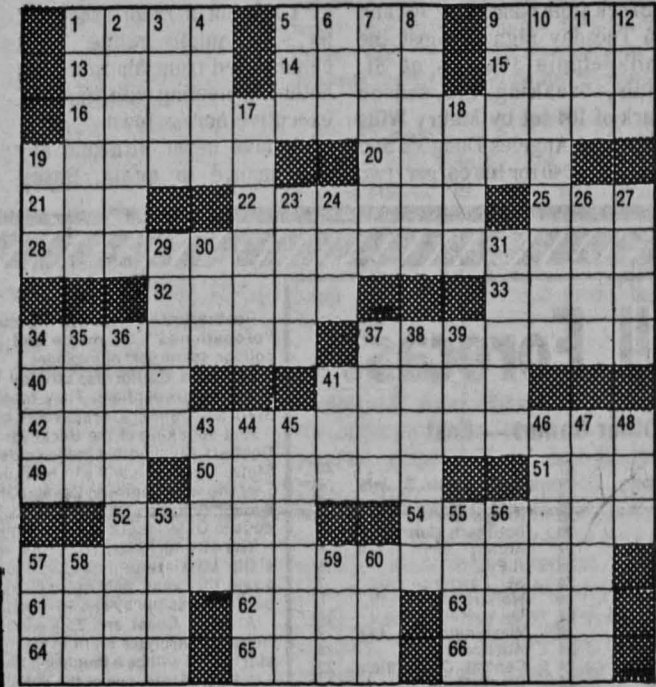
"Every coach knows when his team kicks off in the opener that his speciality game has not really been covered completely," he said.

Comings said Joe Heppner has nailed down the punting job and that No. 2 team quarterback Doug Reichart will be the holder for kicker Nick Quartaro on field goals and extra points.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Edited by WILL WENG

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bedouin
  - 5 Low
  - 9 Civil War general
  - 13 Kind of fund or dancer
  - 14 Loved one
  - 15 Horne
  - 16 Thurber parody, with 28, 42 and 57 Across
  - 19 Prisoner
  - 20 — committee
  - 21 Ike
  - 22 Flowering shrub
  - 25 Arabian father
  - 28 See 16 Across
  - 32 Tie — (get drunk)
  - 33 Rayburn
  - 34 Perceive
  - 37 Unseated
  - 40 Pro
  - 41 Man with a big hat
  - 42\* See 16 Across
  - 49 Forbid
- DOWN**
- 1 Schedule
  - 2 Errant one
  - 3 Indian city
  - 4 Locking device
  - 5 Drilling item
  - 6 Pother
  - 7 "What is — as a day . . .?"
  - 8 Struck out
  - 9 Spread
  - 10 Afternoon pastry
  - 11 Wayside
  - 12 Inferior
  - 17 Poets' kind of year or eve
  - 18 Spurious
  - 19 Food fish
  - 23 East Indian tree
  - 24 — Saud
  - 26 Nota
  - 27 Kind of car
  - 29 Not general
  - 30 Chemical suffix
  - 31 Torture
  - 34 Lackluster
  - 35 " — Camera"
  - 36 — Stripes
  - 37 Farmer's spot
  - 38 Enlarge
  - 39 Phooey!
  - 41 Child's game
  - 43 Exude
  - 44 Yon's companion
  - 45 Pepsin, for one
  - 46 Reach
  - 47 Soup favorite
  - 48 Beetle
  - 53 Frolic
  - 55 Cheese
  - 56 Antitoxins
  - 57 Snare
  - 58 Tokyo of old
  - 59 Candelent tree
  - 60 Drowse



**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

ADIGER TOPS PLAT  
LUNAR AGRARITGA  
LAGAMA BLOWSOVER  
NUNTI FOES PTERIA  
OPENDIOR COO  
SAIL FORCING  
CAT SETIPONEOVER  
UNITS OREAD LEVI  
BENCHWARMER SSIAM  
EISAIYED WIMOR  
LEDS MANDATTIES  
ROMAN MASS HEAT  
STOWAWAYS HINGE  
VERA ELBA INSET  
PANG DEEM PEERS

## baseball standings

Not Including Night Games

American League				National League					
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	East	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	76	65	.539	—	Pittsburgh	77	64	.546	—
Baltimore	74	67	.525	2	St. Louis	74	68	.521	3 1/2
Boston	74	67	.525	2	Philadelphia	71	71	.500	6 1/2
Cleveland	70	70	.500	5 1/2	New York	65	74	.468	11
Milwaukee	68	75	.476	9	Montreal	62	77	.446	14
Detroit	65	77	.458	11 1/2	Chicago	57	82	.410	19
<b>West</b>									
Oakland	82	61	.573	—	Los Angeles	89	52	.631	—
Texas	76	68	.528	6 1/2	Cincinnati	86	56	.606	3 1/2
Minnesota	71	71	.500	10 1/2	Atlanta	78	64	.549	11 1/2
Kan City	70	72	.493	11 1/2	Houston	71	70	.504	18
Chicago	70	73	.490	12	San Fran	66	76	.465	23 1/2
California	57	87	.396	25 1/2	San Diego	51	92	.357	39

**Wednesday's Games**

Baltimore 3, New York 2 (1st game)  
Cleveland 3, Boston 1 N  
Milwaukee 3, Detroit 0 N  
Oakland at Minnesota, N  
Texas at Chicago, N  
Kansas City at California, N

**Wednesday's Games**

Montreal 13, Chicago 4, twi-night  
Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 5 N  
Atlanta at Cincinnati, N  
St. Louis at New York, N  
Houston at San Diego, N  
Los Angeles at San Francisco, N

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OSCO REG. 1.38  
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# THE RIVER CITY COMPANION

## MY LIFE AS A MAN

BY MIKE HARRIS

My Life As A Man  
By Philip Roth  
Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1974

Time: May 1961. Place: a very small town in the Pacific Northwest. My best friend and I are trying to find dates for the Junior Prom, which is hot stuff in these American Graffiti days—white sports jackets, corsages, a chance to borrow the car. But I'm as skinny as a rake handle, with braces on my teeth and a bad case of acne. What's worse, I'm an A student. My buddy, an Italian kid, must be the hairiest inhabitant of the country, if you don't include the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, rumored to haunt the remote mountains. Though he's shaved twice a day since age 11, he radiates even less machismo than I do, if that's possible. Neither one of us has played football. Or made out in drive-ins. Our ideas of romance—and I use the word advisedly—are derived in equal measure from *Les Misérables*, *Great Expectations* and the *Table Round*, with a little John Wayne thrown in for seasoning. In short, we're a couple of klutzes. (The results are predictable. We ask a dozen girls between us and land nary a one.)

Time: November 1969. Place: the same. I'm just back from Vietnam and as macho as I'll ever get, which isn't very. Though I was an unenthusiastic soldier—to say the least—I now swagger a little in my field jacket. I have seen life and death (so I say to myself). I've logged time in the fleshpots; and I must look as world-weary as a Hemingway hero. Surely the chicks will come running.

So I ask out an ex-classmate, one of the several who shot me down before that prom in '61. She was a nice if conventional girl, I remember—our valedictorian. (I thought it a shame, even then, that an intellect like hers might be steamed over a stove or tumble-dried in some laundry.) But her years down in Berkeley seem to have wrought heavy changes. She wears her own field jacket now, and her voice has an edge; she looks coolly at me as if not quite convinced that I didn't spend my tour bayoneting little children. When I open the car door, she protests, "That's degrading." Then (for she is a kind soul), she slides in and says nothing. I stand out in the rain, superficially angry, but feeling underneath that she's right, always has been; that I've somehow gone wrong, and not just about the war—whether born wrong or raised so, it doesn't really matter.

A lot of men must have had similar experiences, if we can judge from a trend in recent American fiction. It's not anti-feminist writing exactly, though the women's movement provoked it; nor can we call it Men's Lib, since its authors are proposing no radical solutions. (Indeed, they're hard put just to identify the problems.) It's a Literature of Confusion—that's the only proper name for it—and its leading practitioner has to be Philip Roth.

Norman Mailer, to be sure, also writes LOC, but he got into the game when he was well past his prime—as a designated hitter, so to speak. In his best work, machismo is still a viable ideal. But Roth has been a chronicler of confusion all along. Of his eight books of fiction, only *Our Gang* and *The Great American Novel* might be said to float clear of his obsession with men's helplessness; all the others bear watermarks at various levels, and *My Life as a Man* is immersed altogether.

Roth is obsessed with duality, with the Jekyll-and-Hydeness of the American male, with his ethical husk and his lecherous core (or vice versa)—a duality best expressed by our friend Alex Portnoy, who is "torn by desires repugnant to my conscience, and a conscience repugnant to my desires."

The Roth adolescent has "feminine" qualities. He's artistic and sensitive. He's a good little boy. He grows up in a milieu—the urban Jewish-American family—where women are dominant, yet he absorbs the traditional mores that paint them as victims. All his standards of proper and manly behavior, all his intellectual ambitions are derived from his mother; as for the father, he's a henpecked if amiable sort—neither a model of machismo nor a brute to rebel against. What the son vaguely wants—though he loves both his parents—is to make up for the chances his father has missed; and the only way to accomplish this, from his point of view, is through an aggressive sexuality—which runs counter to the ethic implanted within him.

As an adult, he must reconcile the same split perceptions. He can see how women are oppressed in our society as a whole, but in one-to-one relations—saying "yes" or saying "no"—they still appear to be in control. Often the strictures of the feminists seem to be mere updates of his mother's (Mrs. Grundy reincarnated wearing cut-offs and a halter). To be sure, he's always "known" that sex and love should go together, but in real life that's difficult, and especially for the Roth man, since he's frozen in adolescence, his rebellion incomplete.

He has his *mea culpa* moments when what Benjamin DeMott calls his "constant sexuality" seems a grotesque deformity, a cancer to be cut out; but at other times, as with Portnoy, it's his guilt he wants to exorcise: "To be bad, Mother, that is the real struggle: to be bad—and enjoy it! That is what makes men of us boys, Mother."

He vacillates between chivalry and concupiscence; he can be called "male chauvinist"; yet the joys of real pigism are denied him—those of the men who line the bars of the VFW halls of the nation, park their cowboy boots on the rail and sip their bourbon in peace.

No, it's his very good intentions, his feminine qualities, that are behind half his torment. He can be told—tells himself—that the man he once wanted to be is an anachronism, that the masculine and feminine have blurred into "personhood"; but he's only half convinced, and he's not at all sure he could change even if he should. Take away his lust and his idealism and there'd be nothing left.

Peter Tarnopol, the protagonist of *My Life as a Man*, is no Portnoy. Indeed, if we rank all Roth heroes on a lechery-ethics continuum, he's probably closest to Paul Herz of *Letting Go*, whose sense of duty toward his wife finally blunts his desire for her. He's a talented (read: Rothlike) young writer whose ideal of true manhood involves creativity and self-discipline—no crumpling of beer cans, no wheelies on motorcycles, few sexual conquests. His situation echoes that of David Kepesh of *The Breast*, that survivor of a "Grand Guignol marriage" to an "enraged wife," who "wasn't the man I once had been, but I wasn't a bleeding buck private any longer either, my skull wrapped in bandages and beating the drum of self-pity as I limped tearfully into the analyst's office from that battlefield known as Heart and Home."

Tarnopol is precisely that private. In the book's narrative present, he's in "sexual quarantine" at a writers' colony in Vermont following the death, in an auto accident, of his estranged wife Maureen, who for years—if we accept his account of it—has fiddled on his heartstrings with the virtuosity of a Heifetz, producing mind-splitting cacophonies of pity and rage. In order to marry him, he says, Maureen faked being pregnant. Then she faked an abortion. Then she accused him of infidelity until he lived up to his notices, and in the end (after verbal and physical brawls) refused to grant him a divorce.

The first third of *My Life as a Man* consists of two Tarnopol short stories, "useful fictions" he has written at the colony in an attempt to turn his obsession with his wife into art. The protagonist of both, Nathan Zuckerman, is still



another young writer (confronted with this triple exposure, the reader might well rub his eyes). He's a Roth man to the core, naturally—an espouser of principle, and a believer, like Herz's rival, Gabe Wallach, "not only in the pursuit, but the catching by the tail and dragging down into the clover, of happiness."

The opening piece, "Salad Days," is an old-fashioned tale of growing up in an age when growing up in itself seemed enough reason for happiness. Zuckerman's progress through college (where he falls in love with the idea of himself as a man of letters) to the Korean War army is told with sympathy and humor. Only when he meets Sharon Shatzky, a 17-year-old sex bomb—daughter of a zipper manufacturer—and is awakened to the ecstasies of Portnoyish lust do we hear a note of foreboding. He's delighted, to be sure, but also troubled with himself, and he enters the service with a hint of relief.

Why is this so? we might ask. Why can't their love affair continue? The answer is crucial. To Zuckerman, to Tarnopol, and perhaps even to Roth, any relationship based wholly or even largely on sex is by definition exploitive, or at least suspect as hell. They seem to fear that their fantasies, if they ever come true, will stand exposed in all their fundamental tawdriness and depravity, as unworthy of the imaginings of civilized men. Sharon Shatzky? As she masturbates with a zucchini before Zuckerman's eyes, she's the essence of fantasy; she has nothing to do with his serious ambitions, with writing and teaching; and so long as he sleeps with her, he's not real either.

So he thinks, anyway. In fact, the episode with Sharon can be called "pornographic," since the prime ingredient in most porno is simple feminine aggressiveness. (Men go to prostitutes less for the sex act than for the come-on that precedes it.) It's so unusual, even today, for women to take the initiative that male fantasies still consist largely of the desire to be a sex object. There's no dignified way to express such a longing. Women may complain—and they do—about being typecast as bodies, but how can a man say he wishes his own body were sought after without sounding like an idiot? Or worse yet, like a pig? It's an embarrassment to Portnoy that he lusts after the Monkey, while poor Zuckerman can't even step out of the stag movies in his mind long enough to see Sharon Shatzky as an ordinary girl.

The second story, "Courting Disaster (or, Serious in the

Fifties)," is, as the title suggests, a much heavier piece. After his discharge from the service, Zuckerman becomes an English instructor at an eastern university, and his vision of a productive and disciplined manhood is on the point of realization. Then he throws it all away—in almost a parody of feminism, a perversion of ethics—by marrying a woman he doesn't love or even desire very much, simply because she's been treated so cruelly by previous men that he feels he must atone for the sins of the whole male sex. Needless to say, it ends badly: his "protection" is a new torment for her, and his sexual side soon erupts with a vengeance; he takes up with her daughter (Humbert Humbert revisited), and she commits suicide by slashing her wrists with a can opener.

At this point, Tarnopol emerges to tell "My True Story," and it's soon apparent he has the same problems as Zuckerman. Indeed, nothing has changed about Roth men since *Letting Go*, when Martha Reganhart remarked to Gabe Wallach: "I mean it about men's consciences. I don't understand them. They can't let go, you know? If they know they're so guilty, then why do they keep acting like bastards? A woman at least realizes there are certain rotten things she's got to do in life and she does them. Men want to be heroes." And it's heroic, in a sense—though also cowardly and perverse—to live in a lacerating marriage rather than face up to the guilt of getting pleasure from women.

This is made clear when, after his separation from Maureen, Tarnopol has an affair with Susan Seabury McCall, a young widow whose passivity and gentleness promise to heal all his wounds. But unlike Kepesh, who finds the "calm harbor" of his mistress more to his liking than the "foaming drama of the high seas" with his wife, Tarnopol manages to make Susan into a kind of Maureen in reverse. He must "heroically" put up with her dependence, just as he put up with Maureen's hysteria. And when Susan shows signs of growing out of her role—when no heroism is required—Tarnopol leaves her, just as Portnoy left the Monkey when the porn queen of his dreams showed disturbing signs of domesticity.

And, in fact, though the Zuckerman stories are at the top of Roth's form, the "True Story" part of the novel becomes obsessive and dragging. We've heard the whole thing before, over and over, and Roth gives us no answers. Up until this book, it's been enough for him to pose striking questions, to lay bare his confusion—unlike many of his detractors, who keep theirs under wraps—but *My Life as a Man* lurches out of control. Somewhere around page 270, during an interminable argument between Tarnopol and Dr. Spielvogel, the psychiatrist who treated Portnoy, boredom sets in for good. ("Have a heart, Roth," we mutter, "Give it a rest for a while.") Maureen herself remains shadowy, and we sympathize with her to an extent that Roth hardly intended. When Tarnopol beats her up at the end of the book, we recoil in disgust; while the words she writes in her diary—"I could be his Muse, if he'd let me"—carry more poignance than irony.

One way of reading *My Life as a Man* is as a critical essay—as an attack against the autobiographical emphasis in criticism. Tarnopol's friends and relations (all steeped in psychological jargon, with IQs of 180 and Philip Roth's way with words) comment on the Zuckerman stories as if they were merely events—unsuccessful ones, at that—in the course of his therapy; while his escape to the colony ("Writing is all I can trust") is an affirmation of the idea that literature is truth, not just a reflection or purgation of psychic disorder.

Unfortunately, this book fairly forces us to speculate about its author—something we aren't tempted to do, for example, when we read *A Fan's Notes* by Fred Exley, probably the best LOC novel to date and a more explicitly autobiographical work than anything Roth has written. Exley does three key things right. First, he seems to learn something in the course of the novel—though it may be only what Roth has known from the beginning. Second, he's able to tie male confusion to more general upheavals in American culture—not just to the foibles of Jewish mothers. Third—and most importantly—*A Fan's Notes* is simply a better story than *My Life as a Man*, and all good stories take on an integrity, an aesthetic being, of their own.

Roth's best treatment of the problem came in *When She Was Good*, where his narrative strategy virtually forced him into objectivity. Seen through the eyes of Lucy Nelson, men can be dangerous indeed; and she herself emerges as pitiable as well as destructive. Setting the novel in the Midwest, among less self-conscious people, enabled him to depict social mores as the superpowers they are. But he's gained no ground since then.

Anthony Burgess may call Roth "a novelist who never steps twice into the same river," and Reynolds Price describe his career as "alarmingly protean, each book moving, firmly and irrevocably, beyond the territory annexed in the previous," but this applies only to form, not to content. *My Life as a Man*, despite moments of brilliance, shows all the signs of being a dead end.

What can Roth do, then, short of writing his own autobiography—possibly a useful escape valve, but hardly great literature—or ducking away into satire? It's difficult to say; maybe nothing. But that his formidable intelligence, his mimetic and mimic gifts, should remain hamstrung by neurosis is only a relative tragedy. He did ask the questions; he did create a new genre. And an era will come—one of these decades, God willing—when the Literature of Confusion, having outworn its purpose, will seem as quaint and as inexplicable as the evasions of the Victorians. To which Philip Roth, I imagine, would be the first to say Amen.

### THE RIVER CITY COMPANION

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## the world's smallest church

By JOAN TITONE

There is an urge buried in most people that compels them to collect. Bits of button and string, lucky stones and razor blades increase and multiply in shoe boxes under beds. More sophisticated articles of little value but much significance collect in dresser drawers and the bottoms of jewelry boxes. It is an impulse that, as time goes on, extinguishes itself; treasures get lost, thrown out, grown out of.

John Kobes' cache of treasures gather no lint in drawers and dark places. He saves them and shows them and shares them. He embeds them in concrete. Of his treasures he has built *The World's Smallest Church* on South Governor Street in Iowa City.

In addition to the church there are five edifices on the grounds: a fountain, a 17' by 14' crucifix flower planter, a windmill, wishing well and grotto. The planter consists of 32 cement panels, each studded with configurations of earrings, buttons, mirrors, bottles, glittered ceramic greenware. The windmill shares the same motif, its Dutch authenticity attested to by a pair of wooden shoes mounted atop electrified paddles. The wishing well is stuck with shells, and the fountain, pumping water into the sun, reflects the light with geodes, mirror shards and crockery.



Perhaps the most personal of these astonishing constructions is the grotto. It is here that John Kobes displays his special, more perishable possessions. Sealed inside a glass display case is a deer's head which once hung in his summer cabin. He's replaced its nose with a red light and it's become Rudolph. There are photographs of nephews and nieces and neighborhood children, each identified by name on an accompanying chart. There are three trophies he won in Christmas Display contests, years ago. Flanking them are two wooden roosters, one made of shells, its mate made of eyeglass lenses, painted black. Long dead but still fluffy cotton plants, the souvenir of a trip to Texas, stand in a vase.

The walls of the grotto are embedded with chunks of pink quartz, hundreds of them, which he transported from Hot Springs, Arkansas in the trunk of his car. In the midst of these is stuck a brown, half-decayed bone some dog had buried in the garden long ago. Pearl buttons rim the display case, and where there is not rock there are earrings, bottles, plates.

The church shares the same rock-studded architecture; inside there are two pew-like seats of abalone shells suspended in lucite, a wooden lectern, painting of Christ, candles. On the lectern in a guest book, scrupulously maintained, with the handwritten admonition on each page **Do not scribble in the Register Book.**

And flowers. Flowers are everywhere in John Kobes' backyard. They overflow the cross-shaped planter in overpowering combinations of pinks, reds, yellows. Water lilies float in a golfish pond engulfed in jungle-like greenery. There is a bedraggled vegetable garden behind the grotto, ill-kept, deprived of sun, with a few tomatoes and squash, barely surviving. But the flowers are glorious, even in September, past their prime. And there are black squirrels, fat as cats, tame enough to eat peanuts out of your hand.

John Kobes has a bad heart and is being treated for cancer. He has been building and maintaining his backyard shrine for 13 years. He says he got the idea for it when



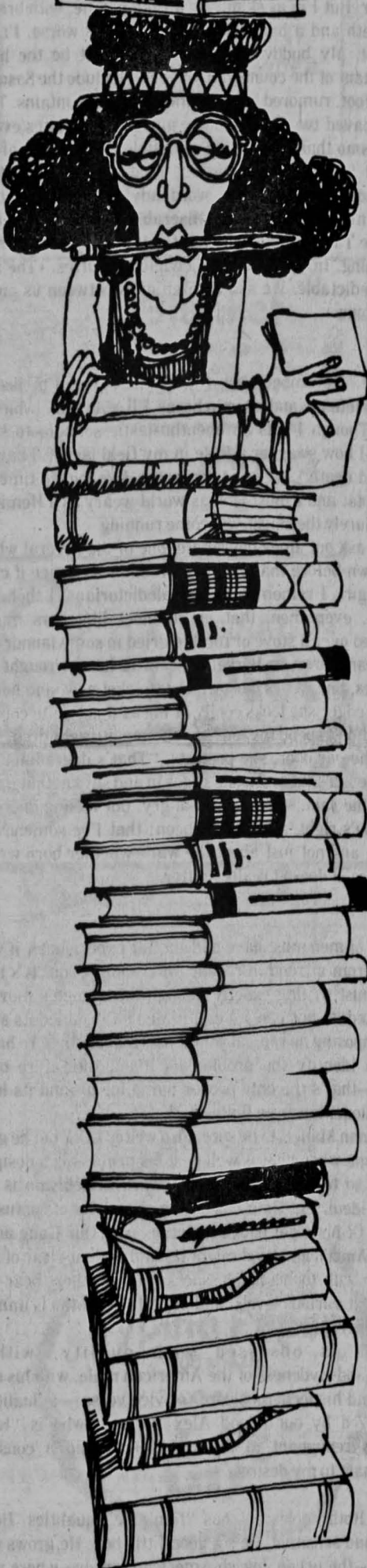
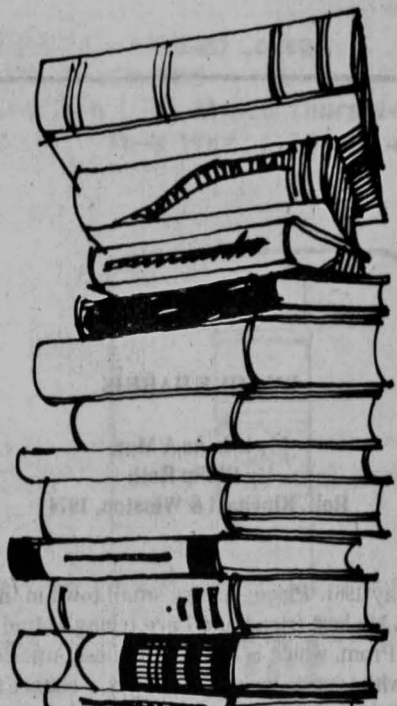
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE CARSON

someone gave him a stained glass window; he thought it would look nice with a church around it. He says that he is not bothered much by vandals, though visitors do tend to pry up the pearl buttons around the grotto window. What trouble there is comes from neighborhood dogs falling into the goldfish pond and cats who eat the fish.

There is a sense that *The World's Smallest Church* is less of a religious endeavor than an exposition of one man's treasures, an opening of the shoe box, a desire to share. It is an assertion: 'Look at this! This is sharp! This is shiny! Feel the driftwood! Look at the agate! An invitation to see, to touch, to feel the wonder of things

And you feel a sense of human concern. But not because of the signs that announce that all donations will be given to charity. As you close the door to the chapel, a music box somewhere plays 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'. And there is a sign outside the church. It says **Danger! Do Not Touch The Cactus.**

## All booked up?



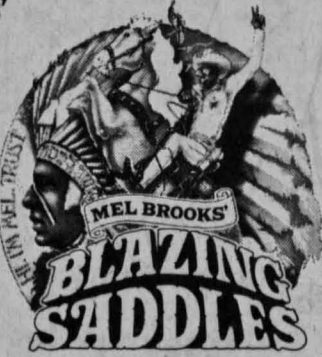
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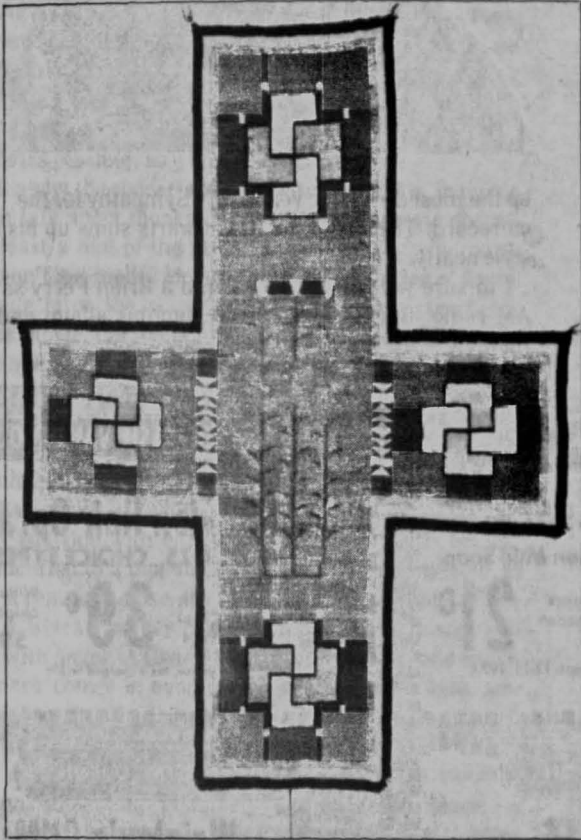
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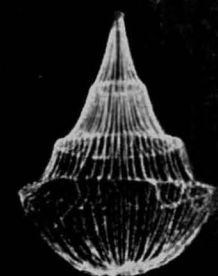
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# music

BY RICK ANSORGE

Bad Company  
Bad Company  
Swan Song

The "heavy-metal" genre has never ceased to exasperate me. Born, it seems, from an illicit union between vulgarized R&B and the most tawdry elements of rock, heavy-metal seems more suited to a Pittsburg Steel factory than to your diamond needle.

Yet, even steelworkers buy this music in enormous quantities. So there must be more to it than an upper-middle class kid's subconscious desire to merge with the proletariat. What makes the pile-driver approach to music so appealing?

If you'll pardon a bit of Tinker-Toy psychology, it's probably not the trite melodies. Nor is it the embarrassingly simple-minded sentiments expressed in the lyrics. More likely, what makes this music so appealing is its ability to make the listener feel powerful. It's not even a question of whether the music makes you feel good or bad. It's the raw power that counts. And in our culture, power is measured by volume. So it stands to reason that an ear-shattering technological age would spawn an equally ear-shattering music.

Bad Company is a powerful band. What distinguishes it from, say, that pseudo-awe inspiring Deep Purple claptrap is its unpretentious grasp of the heavy-metal idiom. Led by Paul Rodgers (formerly lead singer of Free) and Mick Ralphs (former lead guitarist for Mott the Hoople), Bad Company presents a slick refinement of its rather ill-honed competitors.

Paul Rodgers is a fine rock vocalist. Already, critics are making favorable comparisons to Rod Stewart. It is largely his voice which makes this band better-than-average.

But beware. Bad Company is no sine-wave of the future. All their tunes have been heard in disguise thousands of times before. "Can't Get Enough," written by Ralphs, and previously recorded by Mott on All the Young Dudes, is Bad Company's single. Its almost painfully predatory lyrics ("I take whatever I want and, baby, I want you"), typical of the rest of the album, preclude any serious discussion. The arrangements also seem precariously stark. To his credit,

Ralphs deliberately avoids the gaudy expressions of glitter-rock guitar, but his spare arrangements stretch the limits between tasteful economy and lack of inventiveness.

Rodgers' solo compositions, "Rock Steady" and "The Way I Choose," fall into the vulgarized R&B category. Not even Rodgers' jaggedly expressive voice, supplemented by soul chorus and saxophone, can salvage these tunes.

Ralphs fares somewhat better. "Ready for Love" and "Movin' On" are both excellent rockers. The former, in particular, explores some fascinating changes in dynamics.

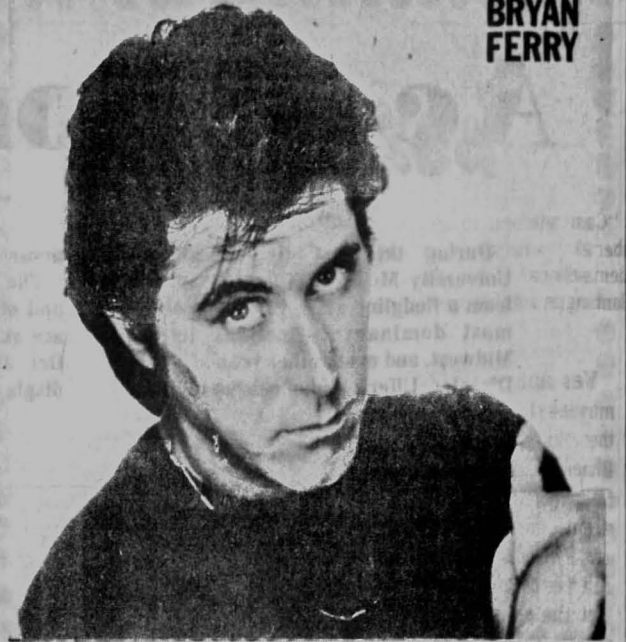


"Don't Let Me Down" and "Bad Company," cowritten by Rodgers and Ralphs, are the finest tracks on the album. Rodgers is able to indulge his vocal fantasies to the fullest on these cuts. But it's an indulgence that works.

The overall effect, however, is leaden. While Bad Company may well be the polished chrome of the heavy-metal set, it can take little comfort in being the best in a burnt-out field. The influences are there, particularly Clapton and Townsend. But the synthesis is muddled and the impact of Bad Company is less than the sum of its successors.

But it's a great party album. Tank up and tap your feet. It can't miss. For a few months, anyway. Bad Company's choice of material is too rigid for anything more than temporary notoriety. Unless Rodgers and Ralphs prove more receptive to experimentation, Bad Company will never become a great band. As every workingman knows, all pile drivers eventually break down. Anyone remember Humble Pie?

Bryan Ferry  
These Foolish Things  
Atlantic



up the most disgusting version of "Sympathy for the Devil" on record. Tom Jones ala-throat-warts sums up his singing style neatly.

I'm sure we can look forward to a Brian Ferry-saturated AM radio. But get a head start, buy his album and do the rhumba.

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### THE RIVER CITY COMPANION

JOHN BOWIE and JIM FLEMING Editors

JOHN BARRHITE Graphics



MIKE HARRIS (above) is a member of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and currently hard at work, at home, on a novel. He will continue to review books for The River City Companion.

RICK ANSORGE is Music Critic for The River City Companion. Besides writing, he plays clarinet and power slide-whistle with the Sopwith Flatas, a band specializing in off-key arrangements of old swing favorites.

JOHN BOWIE is co-editor and movie critic for The River City Companion. He often pays thankful tribute to JT, with a happy nod to CBS and NBC.

JIM FLEMING is editor of The Daily Iowan and co-editor of The River City Companion. As a result, he has a lot of free time.

JOAN TITONE is a free-lance writer working out of Iowa City.

# hunger

world cinema series presents hunger, a starkly beautiful film and one of the most amazing screen performances you'll ever see. directed by henning carlsen. based on knut hamsun's novel. denmark, 1966. with per oscarsson and gunnel lindblom. the british film institute called it "a remarkably successful attempt to capture the flavor of hamsun, with some wonderfully atmospheric locations... and a genuinely evocation of the ravages of hunger." seven and nine pm tonight at the bijou (illinois room). it's still a good idea to buy a season ticket.



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# movies: strange fruit

BY JOHN BOWIE

"Can whites, particularly liberal whites, condemn themselves? Can they stop blaming us and blame their own system? Are they capable of the shame which might become a revolutionary emotion?" —Stokely Carmichael

Yes and no. In the past week, Iowa City has seen three movies that steep themselves in three very different areas of the "black experience"—Sidney Furie's *Lady Sings the Blues*, Michael Campus' *The Education of Sonny Carson*, and Ralph Bakshi's *Coonskin*. All three are, to varying degrees, as different from the likes of *Sounder* and *Super Fly* as *Sounder* and *Super Fly* were from one another. All are, to varying degrees, bitter and hopeless. There's a lot of blame tacked on just the right place—The System. But that System makes these movies possible: so who's feeling ashamed?

To talk about the sudden appearance of a genre is, in movie terms, to talk about money. If a commercial movie doesn't give at least a hint of the power to earn money, the movie simply won't get made. Movies like *The Education of Sonny Carson* ride in on the power of the latest genre: the black tough-ass movie. Carson is a Dude to be Reckoned With. He may get beaten by The System, but he'll take as much pride in his scars as he does in the defiance that earned them for him.

Problem: *Sonny Carson* plays it too many ways, to too many audiences. It's a safe—and shameless—movie, a movie that points to two equally distasteful extremes and then lets you ride with either one. When Carson is busted, he's handcuffed to a pipe in the jail basement and beaten, in bloody, screaming close-up, for a full ten minutes on the screen. A Black Panther can lean forward in his seat and tremble with anger. A Grand Dragon can sit back and enjoy. The camera comes in even closer so that after a loud, amplified kick, we can watch Carson's scrotum swell: strange fruit.

There are moments—rare moments—when the violence fades and something genuinely human takes place. A psychotic police interrogator tells Carson "You want to know something? I think your kind should be locked up from the minute you're born." Carson stares straight into him: "You want to know something? We are." Then he's grabbed by the shirt, the camera zooms in, and the punching starts all over again. Yeah, he's a tough-ass. That stance—the director saying "Hey, look—I'm on your side"—is used to justify the kind of lip-smacking, eye-rolling excesses black performers used to weep over every time they read a script. Yeah, we're all as proud of Sonny's scars as he is; but, thanks to the timbre of the movie, we're allowed to be either proud of the fact that he got them or proud that somebody gave them to him.

*Lady Sings the Blues* works against a different system in a more obvious and, I think, more honest manner. Even if Diana Ross doesn't look or sound like Billie Holiday—and, thank God, she doesn't try—the emotional quality of

Holiday's life and work come through, albeit magnified to popular movie standards. On the screen, her struggle takes place in a narrow spectrum: the people who plot against her are white, the people who won't let her perform are white, the people who sell her junk are white, the people who lock her up for using junk are white. That's fine. We know pretty clearly what the System she's fighting is, and what color it is. That we don't leave the theater feeling any personal guilt is due, I think, to the fact that we usually feel Holiday's music instead, reacting to it in an intense and personal way. We empathize—thanks, to a great degree, to what amounts to an incredibly energetic performance by Diana Ross—and, because of that empathy, it's impossible to feel guilty. At the end of the movie, were someone to yell "Get Whitey! Whitey did this to her," white audiences would probably mumble "Yeah, get Whitey," not realizing they were the ones to get got. It's easy to be guiltless and liberal, especially when it feels so good.

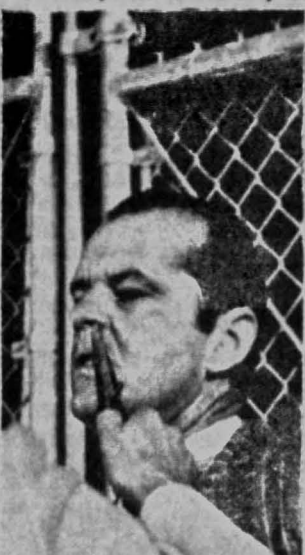
*Coonskin* I have the biggest problem with. Putting projection screw-ups aside (projectionist at *Coonskin*'s premiere this last Saturday lost the sound three times, lost the picture twice, and, evidently, never ran a full twenty minutes on one reel), and putting aside the fact that what we saw was a rough print prior to final edit and mix, *Coonskin* is, I think, the most honest of these three films and, at the same time, the most ill-conceived and disappointing. In most instances, Bakshi's heart is in the right place; in most instances, his sense of aesthetics is not.

The trouble with *Coonskin* is *Coonskin* itself. The movie lacks a coherent structure, and yet doesn't take advantage of or do anything interesting with that lack of structure. In purporting to tell black history, it tells too much for its own good. Something happens every minute for two hours, something new and intense, and it's impossible, at that pace, to take everything in and still keep up. It's like hurrying to finish dinner so you can have another dinner so you can have another dinner. Because none of the central characters are given time and space to grow, you can't—as you could with Michael in *Heavy Traffic*—follow any one of them with any consistency all the way through. *Coonskin* doesn't fail during any one scene—its hundreds of scenes just fail to add up to a coherent movie.

The brilliant moments in *Coonskin* make this even sadder. Unlike Campus, unlike Furie, unlike the lesser directors who've exploited the currently fashionable black movie, Bakshi seems to have an incredible understanding of much of black culture and a sincere desire to present that culture honestly on the screen. The preacher's opening sermon, the wino searching trashcans, the fat man explaining to his tiny mother why he has to help a friend break out of jail—all moments of fine emotion, with the right timing, the right words, and the right ideas. But *Coonskin* is a notebook too full of ideas; as the pages turn we don't feel anything close to the joy that the culture it represents could give us or the shame what we've put that culture through should bring. There's too much to take in and not enough time to think about things and then react to them. All I can think about, in fact, is that there's no more chaotic movie around that deserves to be coherent so much as *Coonskin* does. It could tell the story to the Man—saddy, it just talks itself to death.

As a result, *Blazing Saddles* is funny for about ten minutes; but then, so is the whoopee cushion.

*CHINATOWN* can and will suffocate you: with its own tawdriness, and with the tawdry fools it makes of all the people who populate it. People are cheap in Roman Polanski's movies. They're treated with as little respect—by him and by one another—as a five-and-dime locket with someone else's picture inside. We're treated cheaply, too: cheap laughs (the guy with the limp wrists is married to Faye Dunaway. Ha ha.), cheap thrills (Jack Nicholson's nose slit



open, in close-up, with a switchblade knife), even cheap Chinese jokes. "I suspect what bothers people in my films is not the amount of violence that's shown but the realism, the authenticity of it," Polanski says. "Death and love, that's what art, religion, and philosophy are about. If you want to talk about people dying and loving, you have to show death and love." Yes, well, so far as love goes, Nicholson and Dunaway are shown in an embrace, then soft fade, then demurely under the sheets, smoking and talking in that cinematically obscenity-free Afterwards. We only get the violence—the nose-slashing and the face a bullet has smashed through—from beginning through middle to end. I suppose that, in a way, something to be thankful for—I can't imagine how cheaply Polanski would present lovemaking. He's already robbed both life and death of whatever dignity they might possess: I suppose that's enough for anyone.

*THE PLAYMATES* seems a sad place to end up—typical of the current run of R-rated teasers, it combines limp porno with harsh violence and the "common knowledge" that women really have it better than men because they can be sexually manipulative. It's a drive-in kind of a movie, the farther away the drive-in, the better: I'm surprised and a little saddened that something as fine as Maximilian Schell's *The Pedestrian* slipped in and out so quickly, and that something so tacky as this is being touted at a theater downtown. Schell will have the last laugh, of course—it's just a pity most of the rest of us won't be able to share it.

## close-ups

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX is this week's most enjoyable downtown movie. For it, Woody Allen has lifted several questions from David Reuben's book (for instance, "What Is Sodomy?") and, in episodes, satirized movie genres, television, the human condition, and even the book itself. It's not tightly-wound or consistent comedy; Allen's comedy rarely is. He's always too fascinated by his own wordplays—as a result, there's too much talking going on—and still not sure enough of comic direction to keep a visual grip on his movies all the way through. At this point, though, it's enough to just have something funny on the screen.

*BLAZING SADDLES* is, by contrast, a comedy that will seem funny to a more specific audience than the audience Everything... would probably draw. *Blazing Saddles* is for those who think that, if you jump up and down on a whoopee cushion for two hours, it gets funnier every time you jump. Mel Brooks seems enchanted with potty humor, and with the fact that, if you've got a big enough budget, you can make respectable character actors say and do just about anything.

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