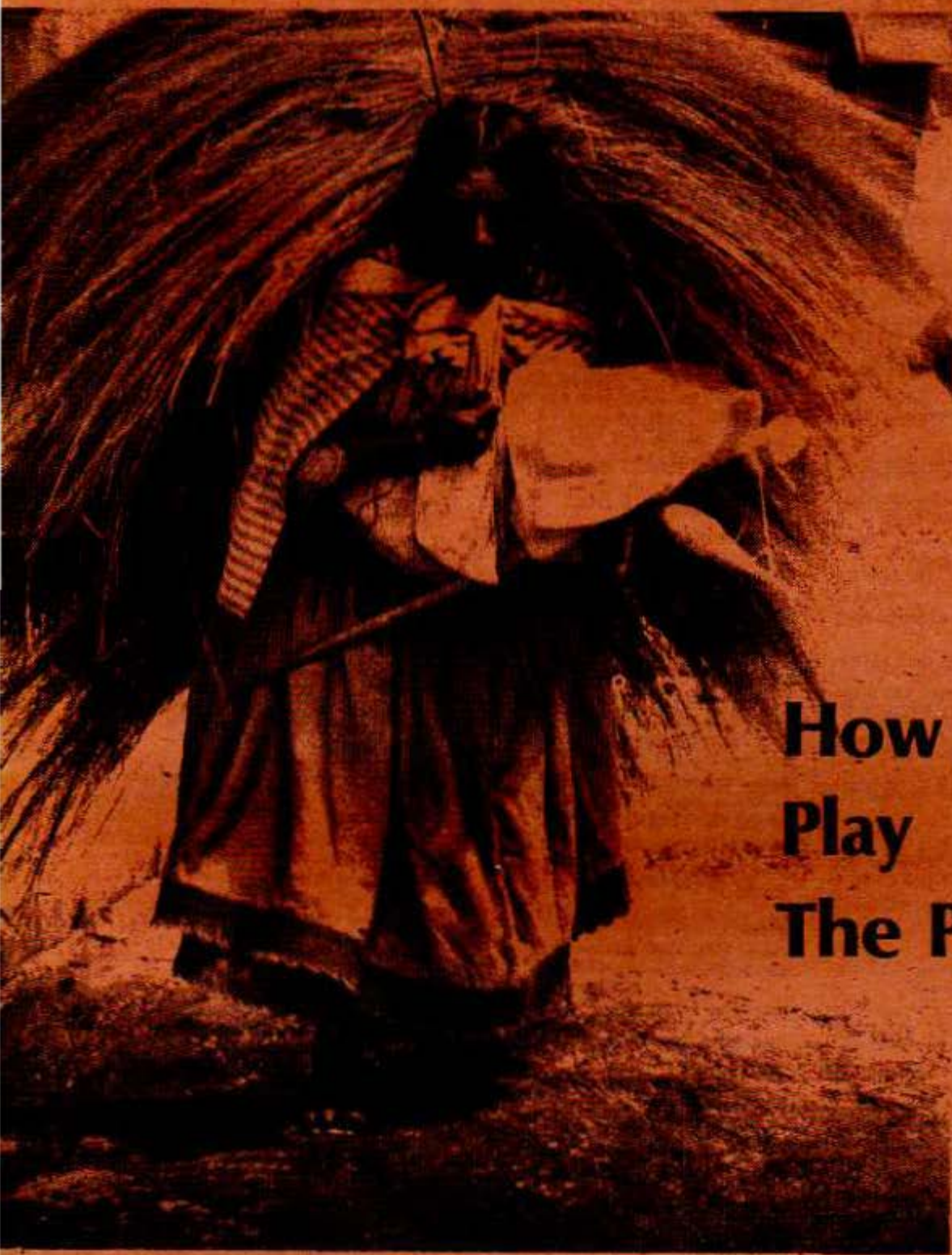


SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

\$1

July/August 1978

Vol. 10 No. 4



How Scholars Play With The Poor

McCarthyism in England
Professionalism in Nursing
Science Teachers Conference

CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS

Science for the People is an organization of people involved or interested in science and technology-related issues, whose activities are directed at: 1) exposing the class control of science and technology, 2) organizing campaigns which criticize, challenge and propose alternatives to the present uses of science and technology, and 3) developing a political strategy by which people in the technical strata can ally with other progressive forces in society. SftP opposes the ideologies of sexism, racism, elitism and their practice, and holds an anti-imperialist world-view. Membership in SftP is defined as subscribing to the magazine and/or actively participating in local SftP activities.

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about this issue

An admitted purpose of U.S. aid to underdeveloped countries is to protect North American economic and political interests.* Academic research programs, funded by the government and private foundations, support these goals by trying to teach the dispossessed poor of these countries to accept their situation. The programs keep them from recognizing the need for social revolution which would fundamentally change the conditions of their poverty. In this issue, Howard Brick describes what one such academic group, the Community Systems Foundation (CSF) in Ann Arbor, has planned for poor communities in the Cauca Valley of Colombia.

The drive to take over and consolidate small, individually owned farms by U.S. corporations or their proxies has forced small farmers onto less fertile land or off the land altogether. The traditional foods the farmers once grew are less available and their diet has consequently deteriorated. USAID supports this process by providing technological know-how for the large-scale cultivation of the fields. It also supports the CSF program that tries to modify the behavior of people in the Cauca Valley so they learn to stomach (and to purchase as well) the new crops grown on the land they once owned. Researchers and policy makers may see themselves as missionaries in these countries, dealing with poverty and malnutrition, their programs cloaked in progressive or even radical jargon. But in Brick's words, this CSF program "only helps to perpetuate the real social basis of hunger and starvation" by failing to face the unequal ownership of the land which led to the formation of these poor communities.

These are not isolated examples of how academic researchers support the exploitation which goes hand in hand with the penetration of underdeveloped countries by Western capitalism. Much university and private research on Third World nutrition aims to replace or bolster local sources of food with more expensive ones from outside. The aggressive sale of infant formula by Western corporations is one such example. Families pay exorbitant sums for the formula while the mother's milk goes unused. The death rate for infants from diarrhea and malnutrition has at least doubled. Another government-funded program for population control that spends tens of millions of dollars yearly uses

*Interview with Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, *Boston Globe, Parade*, 1/8/78.

American medical schools to train foreign doctors in the most efficient methods of female sterilization. Such a program does not at all address the real health needs of Third World women.

The existence of these programs illustrates the pervasive influence of U.S. economic interests on government policy and academic research. There is no lack of enthusiastic policy makers and researchers to design them. Exposing the naivete and arrogance of these people and their programs is important.

The current resurgence of the Right, mentioned in our last "About This Issue", is not limited to the U.S. Steven Rose and Hilary Rose briefly report on the rise of reactionary forces in England and their impact on Marxist and other radical and critical thinking in the universities. A similar increase in the power of the Right in West Germany has resulted in much more direct and legal repression of leftists. The Roses also describe the growth of the National Front, a British party composed of a mixture of neo-Nazis and other racists. Their ideology and literature make explicit use of scientific racism by drawing effectively on the authority of people like Jensen, Shockley and others. Thus it becomes abundantly clear that this is not merely an academic issue to be discussed by university intellectuals and emphasizes the importance of debunking and discrediting these "experts". The rise of the Right is in part a reaction to the progressive gains of people's struggles during the last two decades. We on the Left must now protect hard-won progressive measures such as desegregation, affirmative action and gay rights. At the same time, we recognize that these are limited victories, which involve certain contradictions and are susceptible to cooptation. Hopefully we can learn from the experiences of the divided and hence weakened British radical science movement: our strongest response to the Right is a principled, unified response.

We are also printing in this issue the second half of the article on professionalism in nursing by the Boston Nurses Group (see our last issue for the first half). The entire article is now available as a pamphlet from New England Free Press, 60 Union Sq., Somerville, MA 02143.□

letters



Dear SftP,

I feel generally that SftP is a unique and valuable source of information unavailable anywhere else. I feel just as strongly that there are immense contradictions that stem from the class basis of the organization's membership, and that while the viewpoint of workers, women of the people, and minorities provide direction to the material and analysis of the magazine, I continually find a lack of a consistent basis of unity — in one issue one may find the most outrageous social-democratic reformism back-to-back with articles that (more or less) clearly delineate the existence and nature of a fundamental class struggle.

I'm grateful for the review of trips to China, exposes on turning kids into junkies, the polemic in the letters dept. I'm appalled by the continued lack of some political consistency based on a publicly stated analysis of imperialism, its current crisis, the state of the American state — and for a magazine that is supposed to present the science of the people, that's weird. I keep on top of what is going on in the States through the *Guardian*, *The Call*, *Southern Struggle* — and I get a whole picture with a statement of fundamental principles that I can see linked to what I know.

What are the debates going on in SftP? They are just as important as contributions developing science by the people as articles on farmworkers & herbicides.

In Struggle & Solidarity,
Randy Trinkle
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear SftP,

Some articles are good, well founded on facts, some are "religious" in that they re-state classic anticapitalist philosophies without much regard to objective analysis (re-statement of a viewpoint should more often be a conclusion rather than an initial premise).

Testimonial articles by on-the-scene witnesses tend to carry little weight in that they tend to lack provable data. On the whole the magazine's viewpoint is acceptable only to people whose ideas

are solidly anchored in anti-capitalist positions. For the mass of "tepid" thinkers, the magazine is probably very one-sided in its views.

Articles that prove the correctness of anti-capitalist positions based on up-to-date, true-to-reality-provable facts in today's hot issues should help consolidate tepid thinkers and might preserve many of the one-time subscribers and thus be effective in bringing new blood to the group. Expansion of a rather radical group usually needs careful education of the undecided or unconcerned majorities.

Julio Magri
Muscatine, Iowa

Dear SftP,

In general, I enjoy reading SftP — it helps keep me in touch with a part of the scientific community which I tend to forget is there (in my depressed and/or cynical moments!).

In specific, I read with interest the variety of letters which appeared in your latest (March/April) issue. I found myself agreeing with Don Pollock that the magazine needs to open itself to the "people". "Science for the people" does mean getting away from the monopoly of science by scientists — not just in the labs but in our discussions (magazines) as well. I also agreed with his analysis of the magazine's style — its "never-really-dared-to-define" philosophy. It has often occurred to me that the magazine (and the organization) would be more effective if it were to adopt a clearer, more "defined" political perspective. (I think this could be done *without* resorting to a dogmatic political "line".)

I also found myself agreeing with both Denise Cormier, who commended the magazine for getting away from "Marxist rhetoric," and T. Mitchell, who wanted more "Marxist-Leninist" analysis of science. After some thought, I resolved this apparent contradiction by realizing that Marxist analysis *can* (and, depending upon one's audience, *should*) be separated from the old, tired jargon/rhetoric that we are all so familiar with. After all, Marxism is a *tool* — a

method of analysis — not just a set of words.

As a scientist (of sorts), I also feel a need (or desire?) to receive "scientific" information (i.e., detailed information, requiring a technical background to understand) about many of the issues discussed in the magazine. The way it appears to me, the writers for SftP are trying to combine this type of information with a more "people-oriented" approach — and the result is that neither task is performed very well. The articles tend to be too technical for non-scientists, and a "tease" to scientists who would appreciate more of the details. Perhaps it would be wise to make a choice of approaches, based on your perceptions/definitions/etc. of the function of SftP. Or, if you feel (as I do) that *both* of these functions — communication *among scientists* concerning important issues, research, "theories", etc., *and* discussions of the political and social ramifications of these things by the people whose lives are affected — are important, you might consider changing the format of the magazine so that both are included, but *without* an attempt to integrate them within the same article. (Maybe "scientific supplements" to non-technical articles, or something along that line?) . . .

Terry Poxon
Sacramento, CA

Dear SftP,

Have been pressed for time lately — in process of building our house — when finished, I hope to become more involved in SftP.

Have noticed and appreciated "new" directions, emphasis and content of magazine. Seems to be moving along okay. I feel it more accessible to laypeople, workers, and others not directly involved with SftP or other academic pursuits. Several articles such as: "Laboratory! An SftP Play," "So Much for the Myths of Hunger" (Nov.-Dec. 1977), and "No Hands Touch the Land," "Mining Spectre Haunts Northern Wisconsin" (Jan.-Feb. 1978) and "The Myth of Intelligence",

"Farming Out the Home: Women and Agribusiness" (March-April 1978) have sparked much thought and debate among family, co-workers and friends. These articles were excellent — right on the money. Keep up the good work! I appreciate it!

Martin J. Budinick
Gig Harbor, WA

Dear SftP:

In general, I think the issues that SftP addresses are important and appropriate. However, I really feel like so many of the articles contradict one of the expressed purposes of the organization and the journal, namely, to avoid technical elite language and thought. No, the journal is not scientifically technical but politically technical. I have had to quit several articles I was interested in because of the plethora of Marxist jargon. Obviously, to someone

steeped in the Marxist canon, the journal is not technical. But, to those of us who are not, the jargon is just as formidable, imposing and elite as any issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* is to a layperson. I'm not talking about any one article in particular, but as a general idea, take a look at the issue on Alternative Technology; I haven't seen it for a while, but I distinctly remember being very interested in the issue, but then getting *totally* disgusted by the jargon.

Second, I'm not exactly sure of who the magazine is addressed to. If it is addressed at least in part to scientists, then it could certainly stand to be a little more substantive scientifically. For example, in the article on Brown Lung, I wanted to know more about the disease itself. Yes, I know I can look that up other places, but it would have been nice to have it there, and I don't think it

would have been elitist to put it in.

I don't mean to be too critical as I think some of the articles are excellent. The article by Concerned Rush Students on drug companies, for instance, was, with occasional lapses, first-rate.

Jeff Sonis
Philadelphia, PA

Dear SftP,

Your articulation of problems is excellent! Your solutions clarify how you were programmed and how you may increase the problem.

Three generations, each more and more limited to the new global church, the new inquisition, ignorant of comparative information will (has dictated) lead us into tragedy, that, hopefully, we shall escape from. It shall take 20 years to know!

Mind
Louisiana

LETTERS, continued on p. 36

DYING FOR WORK

Occupational Health and Asbestos

"NACLA's *Report*, 'Dying for Work', is an important and damning study of industrial production organized on a multinational basis.

—David Kotelchuck, *Health/PAC*

This special issue of the *NACLA Report* examines the political economy of occupational safety and health. It focuses on the asbestos industry, where half the workers will die of asbestos-related diseases. It exposes the industry's historic unwillingness to pay, and its multifaceted strategy to avoid the cost. The *Report's* primary contribution is to analyze the international implications of the threatened and actual movement of asbestos capital into low-wage unregulated countries, particularly in Latin America.

Dying for Work: \$2.00 per copy.

Subscriptions to *NACLA Report*: \$11 for a one year subscription (six issues) for individuals; one year institutional subscription is \$19.

Send to NACLA-East, Box 57, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025.

Southern Exposure

Sick for Justice

The most recent issue of *Southern Exposure* magazine consists of a collection of resource materials on health care in the South, entitled *Sick for Justice*. Some articles describe the health care situation in the South, which statistics show to be "the nation's sickest region." Other articles chronicle alternative health experiments in the South with profiles of community-controlled health clinics, a history of the United Mineworkers Health Fund which was recently destroyed in contract negotiations with the coal industry, and an analysis of inadequacies in our nursing, public health, and medical education systems. *Sick for Justice* also presents the first documentation of an intentional coverup of brown lung disease by Burlington Industries, the world's largest textile corporation and a study of environmental destruction with cancer-causing chemicals of rivers in Eastern Tennessee by Eastman Kodak Corporation in Kingsport, Tennessee. Finally, *Sick for Justice* outlines the programmatic guidelines for developing legislation for a comprehensive national health care system.

Sick for Justice: \$3.00 per copy.

Subscriptions to *Southern Exposure*: \$10 per year, from Southern Exposure, P.O. Box 230, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

news notes

A NEW EMOTION?

The US is suffering from an advanced state of "chemophobia" — a "destructive emotion" that is infecting the debate about the safety of our workplace, of our food supply, of the air we breathe and the water we drink, according to John W. Hanley, chairman and president of Monsanto chemical corporation.

In remarks printed in *Chemical Age* (April 14, 1978), he added. "It is the fear of the unknown, including the most dreaded unknown of all — cancer — that the public is being led to believe rages through every phase of the industrial cycle."

In response to present estimates that 90% of all cancers are environmentally caused, he said that "environmentally caused" embraces all causes not related to heredity, such as smoking and diet, which account for a large number of the cases. What he did not say was that present smoking and eating habits are just as much a result of the actions of chemical and other corporations as are the pollutants found in our air and water. As people used to say in the anti-war days, just because you're paranoid doesn't mean someone isn't actually following you . . . or giving you cancer. Recent CIA and FBI revelations have confirmed our worst paranoid fears about the old days. We hope the same doesn't happen with our new-found "chemophobia."

MINERAL FIBRES AND CANCER

A remote Turkish village called Karain is the scene of an epidemic of an otherwise very rare cancer called mesothelioma. This epidemic throws considerable doubt on the safety of a whole range of man-made mineral fibres suggested as substitutes for asbestos, because up until now the only known cause of mesothelioma in humans has been exposure to asbestos.

Twenty-four of the 55 deaths in the village between 1970 and 1974 were at-

tributed to mesothelioma. For almost 50 per cent of deaths in an area to be caused by mesothelioma is unprecedented and represents an astronomically high incidence rate.

But the outbreak of mesothelioma in Karain is much more than just a medical curiosity. It has enormous implications to workers who are exposed to many, different non-asbestos fibers in the workplace. Mesothelioma was first found to be caused by asbestos in surveys of South African asbestos miners.

Experiments on rats in the US National Cancer Institute and at the UK Medical Research Council's Pneumoconiosis Unit have shown that other silicate fibres (notably glass fibre, e.g. used in making fiberglass) can also induce mesothelioma. Crucially, the fibres have to be the "right" size to be successful in causing the tumour — more than 0.2 micrometers in diameter and between 3 and 15 micrometres long. If it could be shown that fibres other than asbestos cause mesothelioma in humans, then the theory that size is crucially important in defining which fibres cause mesothelioma might be confirmed.

Glass fibre is increasingly used and promoted as a "safer" substitute for asbestos.

The Karain epidemic certainly seems to suggest that fibres other than asbestos are implicated in human mesotheliomas. "Asbestiform" fibres in Karain's drinking water could be responsible for the mesothelioma outbreak. The dimensions of these fibres are similar to those of amosite and crocidolite — precisely those asbestos fibres known to be most active in causing mesothelioma.

If the link is confirmed it would be the first human evidence that non-asbestos silicate fibres cause mesothelioma.

That, according to Dr. Peter Elmes, of the MRC's Penarth unit, would mean "tremendous risks for substitutes for asbestos" IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) is just beginning a

study of 12 European glass-fibre factories to assess the hazards of the best-known man-made mineral fibre. But results will not be available for several years.

—*New Scientist*

SCIENTISTS AID CONSUMER SPEED-UP

Researchers at New York University's Graduate School of Business have been experimenting for about a year with the effects of speeding up radio and television commercials. If things work out as hoped, those fast-talking hucksters on TV commercials may have a little more technological muscle to speed up their sales pitch and increase its impact on the viewer.

The hardware presently being tested is a microcomputer-based system called the Lexicon Varispeech II developed by Lexicon, Inc. of Waltham, Ma. Initially the device was designed for use by the blind, who found that the playback speed on tapes provided for the visually handicapped by the Library of Congress was far too slow.

The Varispeech speeds up the message by snipping out very short bits out of sound waves, on the order of 20/1000ths of a second each. This is quite different from previous compression devices, which have suffered from distortion, primarily because they worked by cutting out the natural pauses. Instead, this system reduced the total amount of time without disrupting the internal pattern of sound or visual. The Varispeech was being marketed not only to the visually impaired but as an audiovisual aid for teaching when researchers at NYU's Graduate School of Business picked up on it.

NYU Professor James MacLachlan, who teaches courses on advertising and consumer behavior the psychological concept that there is such a thing as an optimal rate of information transfer. If the sensory input is transmitted too quickly, the mind turns off and refuses

to absorb the information. If, on the other hand, the transfer is too slow, the mind begins to wander and distractive thoughts set in.

Findings indicate that the optimal transfer rate is faster than the usual speed of audio and video communication. MacLachlan is considering the implications that this might have for advertising, particularly if a means could be found of speeding up the rate of information without running into pitch distortion, "the Donald Duck effect." Lexicon's Varispeech II seems to be the appropriate means for speeding up the information. "Although the present system leaves something to be desired," MacLachlan says, "none of our subjects have been aware that the quality was any different from that of normal commercials." As long as commercials are not compressed by any more than 25 percent on television and 30 percent on radio, the difference is not perceptible under test conditions.

Tests actually showed a 60 percent increase in memory retention over regular length spots. In addition there was no difference in the response between the group which had watched commercials in clusters of three shortened versions and the group group which saw only two commercials in the same time.

"What people are really concerned about," says MacLachlan, "is the amount of time that commercials take, not the number of commercials that play in that time."

—info from *Ad East*
May, 1978

MORE FROM THE DISMAL SCIENCE (ECONOMICS)

Despite increasing rejection of human sociobiological theories by academics, the ideas continue to be spread in more receptive circles. A recent article in *Business Week* entitled "A Genetic Defense of the Free Market" (April 10, 1978) summarizes the claims of sociobiologists in economics:

"Because economics is vitally concerned with the concepts of competitiveness and self-interest, it was only a matter of time before sociobiology would move to the forefront of economic debate. Indeed, at the annual meeting of the American Economics Association last December, a session devoted to 'bio-

economics' drew a standing-room crowd and was picketed by members of the Union for Radical Political Economics, who claimed that the theory is a glorified version of Hitlerism and harks back to the days when the Nazis theorized a genetically selected 'master race.'

"Bioeconomics says that government programs that force individuals to be less competitive and selfish than they are genetically programmed to be are pre-ordained to fail. And according to bio-economists, a socialist society, predicated on selflessness and devotion to a collective ideal, simply will never last.

"Yet, bioeconomics provides a powerful defense of Adam Smith's laissez-faire views. 'Sociobiology means that individuals cannot be molded to fit into socialist societies such as the Soviet Union without a tremendous loss of efficiency,' says Jack Hirshleifer, an economist at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"Says University of Chicago economist Gary Becker, a pioneer in applying biology to economics, 'Once we can derive the genetic basis for human desires, we can determine which policies will work and which will not.'"

These economists apparently understand the basis of socialist theory (collective self-interest) about as well as they do the biology of human behavior.

VIETNAM POISON COMES HOME

Dioxin, the highly toxic substance involved in the Seveso disaster in Italy (see *SftP*, Nov./Dec. 1977), is a contaminant in the herbicide 2,4,5-T which is still used in the U.S. in crop and forest management. Dioxin was present in high concentrations in the defoliant, Agent Orange, used in Vietnam and caused an epidemic of birth defects in the offspring of Vietnamese exposed to it. Now there is suggestive evidence that the children of some Vietnam veterans in the U.S. have experienced an increased rate of birth defects.

Apparently, very large numbers of veterans may be suffering from dioxin poisoning. The Chicago Veterans Administration is currently considering several hundred cases following a TV news documentary which concluded that a connection exists between Agent Orange and a range of generally undiag-

nosable symptoms they found among vets.

The organization Citizen Soldier is calling for a full investigation, for the banning of dioxin-containing herbicides, and has set up Project Search and Save to assist veterans and their children who might be dioxin victims. A toll-free phone number has been established for this project: 800-221-7938 (continental U.S. except NY State; N.Y. State: 212-777-3470). More information can be obtained from Citizen Soldier, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010.

PSYCHOMETRIC LIBERATION

Psychologist Hans Jurgen Eysenck, England's equivalent to theoretician-of-racism Shockley in the U.S., has constructed a test of political attitudes for the Indonesian regime of General Sumitro. (Sumitro currently presides over the plunder of Indonesia's lumber, oil, and working class.)

While many hundreds of thousands of the 1965 insurgents who fought against the right-wing forces at the time of Sukarno's demise were eliminated outright, many others were imprisoned. Now, 13 years later, in the spirit of human rights, these prisoners are being gradually released under "supervision," using the results of 5 psychological tests. As the Chief of Internal Security explained: "We already knew that they are all Communists, . . . the tests were only to determine the degree of their Communist inclination."

So far the tests have been administered to 29,000 prisoners by a team of 200 technicians. Tests include the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule to determine "firmness of convictions", an intelligence test, and Eysenck's scale of "communist sentiment" and "tough-mindedness." Combined with police and intelligence records, the result is a computer-generated classification of security risk. According to Sumitro, local authorities will be informed of a prisoner's release since "the community must control them. The community must control their attitude . . . so (they) will not commit errors." Fortunately, having survived this long, these prisoners will probably come up with the right answers for both Eysenck and Sumitro.

—info from *N. Y. Times*,
April 26, 1978

Notes from England: The New McCarthyism and the Rise of the National Front

by Hilary & Steven Rose

The last six months have seen a considerable heightening of political struggle in Britain — a struggle which deeply involves issues of concern to the radical science movement. Two areas in particular may be of special interest to SftP.

The Attack on Education

The first has been a mounting attack from the Right on the development and space available for critical, radical and Marxist thought in education. This was exemplified last September by the publication of a report entitled *The Attack on Higher Education: Marxist and Radical Penetration*, edited by an hitherto obscure sociology professor at Nottingham University, Julius Gould, and published by a London-based, counter-insurgency-funded organisation, The Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC). (An earlier ISC report dealt with trade union militants; a future one promises to discuss the communication industry.) The governing Council of the ISC includes British intelligence experts, and its financial backers number amongst them the publicity body for big British capital, *Aims of Industry*, and reputedly, the CIA.

The report claimed that British universities and polytechnics had been infiltrated by a network of Marxists and other radicals who had subverted teaching courses, and presumably the minds of students, by substituting 'radical' for 'liberal' scholarship. The report named a number of institutions and listed individuals and organizations that were 'characteristic' of the radical mode of thinking — representing, Gould claimed, in words reminiscent of the late U.S. Senator Joseph

McCarthy, "a clear and present danger". In fact Gould's analysis was very crude, as it lumps together old and new Left and liberals as part of the destabilizing enemy. Even philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn comes in for criticism as contributing to the attack on liberal objectivity. Gould's report was widely circulated to heads of universities, central and local government administrators, etc. It was also given wide press coverage, particularly by *The Times* newspapers and the right-wing *Telegraph*. The latter claimed to identify additional evidence of 'Marxist bias' in the teaching of

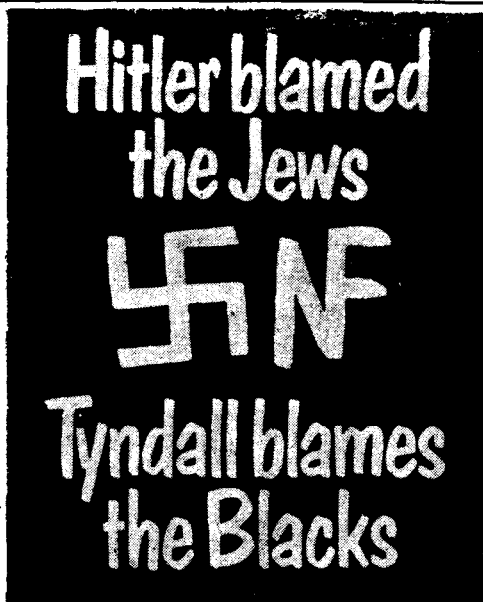


Race Today

Hilary and Steven Rose have been active in the radical science movement since its birth in the late 1960s, especially over the issues of chemical and biological warfare and weapons of social control. Steven is a professor of biology at the Open University, and Hilary is a professor of applied social studies at the University of Bradford.

several institutions, particularly the Open University, a part-time open entry college for adults which, with over 60,000 students, is now Britain's largest university.

The main text of the Gould report is devoted to attacking the critical thought which has developed in several areas of cultural struggle over the last decade: philosophy, education, sociology, social work, and science (but not the women's movement). Whilst the issues



One can find the ideological roots of the National Front in the programme of the "Greater Britain movement", founded in 1964 by John Tyndall, now Chairman of the NF: "For the protection of British blood, racial laws will be enacted forbidding marriage between Britons and non-Aryans. Medical measures will be taken to prevent procreation on the part of all those who have hereditary defects, either racial, mental, or physical. A pure, strong, healthy British race will be regarded as the principal guarantee of Britain's future."

—E.C.,

info from *Gay Left*,
Winter '77 issue

posed by Gould for social work are of considerable importance, here we will only discuss the consequences in science and education, where SftP's parallel organisation in Britain, BSSRS, (British Society for Social Responsibility in Science)* comes in for special criticism, as do two books which we ourselves have recently edited, *The Political Economy of Science* and *The Radicalisation of Science* (Macmillan, 1976). What Gould takes exception to is the theoretical attack which the radical science movement has mounted on certain sacrosanct ideas of bourgeois science — namely its neutrality, objectivity, reductionism — and the possibility that bourgeois science may be opposed by socialist science. In addition — a point also seized upon by the *Telegraph* — he is outraged by the fact that the royalties from the books go to Vietnam, for reconstruction of science by way of the Institute for Science and Technology, Ho Chi Minh City.

*BSSRS, 9 Poland St., London W1; The Society was set up in 1968 and consists of socialists concerned with issues surrounding science and technology in capitalist society. They publish the quarterly magazine *Science for People*.

The response by the Left, both individually and collectively, and by the unions to the Gould report was strong. The drift to McCarthyism, with its threat to freedom for critical thought, has been condemned by the 26,000 strong (British) Association of University Teachers and the 360,000 strong Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff, and in resolutions by some University Senates. Many universities and polytechnics have had special meetings to mobilize resistance to the effects of the report, and the national Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy has published a counter-pamphlet.

However, there is no doubt that Gould's words have had a sympathetic hearing from some university administrators and Tory (conservative) politicians. They must be judged in light, too, of the persistence in West Germany of the law which prevents Marxists or other radicals from taking up *any* post at all in universities or schools (not merely as teachers, but also as secretaries or technicians). This law — the so-called *Berufsverbot* — is directed against civil servants of all kinds; several million people have been screened, and several hundred have already lost their jobs under this law (grounds for dismissal have included being seen in a left-wing bookshop or having parked one's car near a demonstration!).

Despite the generally powerful response from the Left and liberals to the new McCarthyism, BSSRS itself was less able to respond as a group because of the internal divisions which have tended to fragment it over the past year or so. These have involved political disagreements about the nature of the class analysis of science, theoretical divisions over the nature of science itself, and personal differences between individuals based on these differences in theory and practice. These divisions have made BSSRS less able to react either to Gould or to the second and more important threat from the Right which has, over the past few months, shifted the entire British political spectrum sharply to the right. This is the growing power of England's neo-Nazi party, the National Front.

Racists and the National Front

The National Front (NF) is a more-or-less unified party which has developed in the last few years out of a heterogeneous grouping of neo-Nazis, Empire loyalists, right-wing conservatives and racists. It has fed on the crisis of capital in Britain, with its chronic unemployment, inflation and decaying inner cities, the derelict nationalism of a dead empire, and a deep seated racist response to the growth of the ethnic minorities (which grew in Britain, as elsewhere in Western Europe in the boom years of the late 1950s and early 1960s). The role of the Labour Party in Britain — managing the economic crisis in the interest of capital and so betraying

the labour movement it supposedly represents — has certainly helped this growth, which had reached the point in the spring of this year where NF candidates could poll up to 6% in national elections and much higher in local elections.

Racist thinking is deeply embedded in the ideology of the NF, which is anti-black and anti-semitic. Much of its ideology comes straight from the Nazi theoreticians of the 1930s, but it has eagerly seized upon the new 'scientific racism' of Jensen, Eysenck and Shockley, all of whom are cited in its publications. Its national organiser, Martin Webster, (who once boasted of creating a 'well-oiled Nazi machine' in Britain), wrote:

The most important factor in the build up of self-confidence amongst "racists" and the collapse of morale among multi-racialists was the publication in 1969 by Professor Arthur Jensen in the *Harvard Educational Review*.

Within months of Gould's attack on radicals in higher education, the NF launched a major recruiting drive for schoolchildren, with the mass distribution of a leaflet

entitled "How to Spot a Red Teacher". Along with a drawing of an identifiably Jewish face for the teacher concerned, kids are told:

- "The Racial Equality Lie"
- "Commie teachers will tell you that all races are 'equal'. They will tell you that intelligence is not inborn, but is produced by a 'good environment'. They will tell you that if all races were brought up in the same environment they would all be equal."
- "Tell the Red teacher that top scientists like Jensen and Eysenck say this is rubbish. Scientists say that races are born different in all sorts of ways, especially in intelligence."
- "This is because we inherit our abilities genetically".

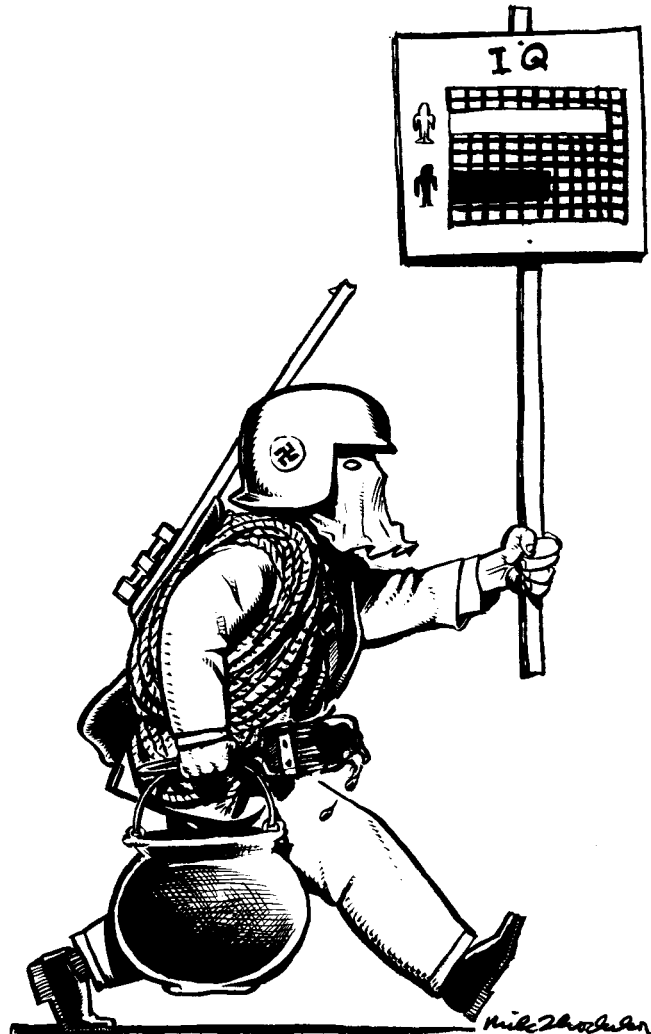
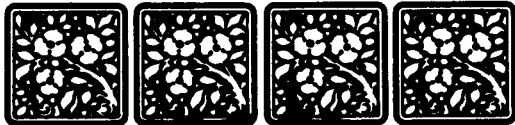
And so on.

Anyone who thought that the battle against scientific racism was *merely* a campus struggle between intellectuals should now think again. Scientific racism of this sort is a crucial element in National Front thinking and campaigning in Britain. Recently, U.S. newspapers too



March through Bradford, West Yorkshire, demanding the release of George Lindo, found guilty of robbery by an all-white jury.

have carried pictures of the street battles in the major cities in England where the NF has tried to march and been stopped by working people, community and ethnic groups, and the Left organisations. Several unions are now considering expelling NF members, and there is a growing union of school students, the NUSS, which is organizing against the NF — often in cooperation with the local teachers — in the schools. And above all, there is the growing development and the local and national levels of campaigns against racism and fascism and of the Anti-Nazi League. This campaign resulted in a major electoral setback for the NF, whose vote at the local elections this spring slumped to a derisory 2-3%. The result has been that the NF, thwarted temporarily at the polls, has shifted its tactics even more towards street violence. While individual activists in the radical science movement have been involved in the campaign against the Front, the fragmentation of the radical science movement as a whole and of BSSRS must be overcome if all possible forces against scientific racism in particular, and racism and fascism in general, are to be mobilized. •



Nick Thorke

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resources

Please send your items and suggestions for this column to Tallahassee SftP, c/o Progressive Technology, P.O. Box 20049, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

Carrier Pigeon/News from Neasden. One good way to find out about good reading materials is by checking out the catalogs of progressive distributors. *Bookmarks* is a catalog of new and forthcoming books from small progressive publishers. It includes annotated information about such titles as *The Mind of Norman Bethune* (Stewart), *Population Target: The Political Economy of Population Control in Latin America* (Mass), *The Wealth of Some Nations* (Caldwell), *Ecology and Freedom* (Gorz), *Hazards of Nuclear Power* (Roberts & Medvedev), *No Nukes: Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power* (Gyorgy), *Nuclear Power: The Bargain We Can't Afford* (Morgan), *GE: The World of a Giant Corporation* (Woodmansee), *Jobs & Energy* (Grossman & Daneker), *Soviets at Saclay?* (Pesquet), and others. To get a copy of *Bookmarks* (catalog), write to Carrier Pigeon, 88 Fisher Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02120. Another good source is the periodical *News from Neasden* (subtitled: A Catalogue of New Radical Publications). It includes annotated listings of such titles as *The Case of Lysenko* (Lecourt), *Arsenal of Democracy: American Weapons Available for Export Sale* (Gervasi), *In Defense of the National Health Service* (Radical Statistics Health Group), the periodical *Science for People* (BSSRS), and others that science activists will no doubt find interesting and useful. They are very good about publishing the addresses of European publishers. *News from Neasden*, 22 Fleet Road, London NW3 2QS England.

The Zetetic Scholar is an independent scientific review of claims of anomalies and the paranormal. Currently it is a newsletter, soon to be a journal. It is edited by Marcello Truzzi and goes for \$10/year. *The Zetetic Scholar*, Department of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197.

Britain-Cuba Scientific Liaison Committee. This is a group of British scientists who are doing exchange work in the areas of computer sciences, construction, social sciences, economics, mass media, physical planning/transport, applied biology, education, medical sciences, physics & mathematics, metallurgy & materials, etc. They publish the *Bulletin* which lists sources for information about Cuba and which lists the contents of their collection of scientific literature from Cuba and which tells about progress being made via their exchanges. The address for correspondence and for back numbers is c/o Patrick Humphreys, 3 Ivor Street, London NW1 England.

Books for Development. Dominica is a small (predominantly English speaking) island in the West Indies. It is a part of the Windward group, between the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. A group of organizers in this predominantly Black country have organized a community library that is in need of science-oriented materials, especially items of a practical nature for beginners. Science activists should tie into this important project if they can supply books on tropical agriculture, basic applied science and engineering, technical support documentation, science education, etc. Also they are interested in obtaining literature of a more political nature that deals with self-determination from colonial rule. Interested people should get in touch with them via Bernard Wiltshire, Resident Tutor, Extra-Mural Department, University of the West Indies, Roseau, Dominica, West Indies.

Scientists Under Hitler: Politics and the Physics Community in the Third Reich, Alan D. Beyerchen, Yale University Press, 1977, 287 pp, \$17.50. It details the responses of German physicists, individually and as a professional group, to the Nazi regime from 1933 to the end of the war. Beyerchen's book includes a

very extensive bibliography on this subject but a few titles have been neglected. Those interested should write to Tallahassee SftP and ask for the list of readings entitled "Science in Germany Under Hitler." It is free of charge. Progressive scientists should be aware of the ways the scientific community has been known to react to fascist repression. If we do our homework well it will not happen again.

"A Promise Kept: Health Care in Cuba" is the title of a 40-page special issue of *Cuba Review*. It sells for \$1.00 per copy (\$5.00/year). Ask them for the March 1978 issue (Vol. 8, #1). *Cuba Review*, Cuba Resource Center, P.O. Box 206, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025.

Ciencia e (In)dependencia: O Terceiro Mundo Face a Ciencia e Tecnologia (Science & (In)dependence: The Third World with regard to Science and Technology). Sam Anderson and Maurice Bazin, editors, Livros Horizonte, Lda (Rua das Chagas 17-1. D, Lisboa-2 Portugal), 1977, paperback, two volume set, 440 pp total. Unfortunately this document has not yet been published in English. This important collection of essays was edited by two Science for the People comrades for distribution in the independent African countries that were formerly under Portuguese colonial rule. Livros Horizonte, Lda has also published (in Portuguese) such important titles as the multi-volume set by J.D. Bernal, *Science in History*.

AWM Newsletter, published by the Association for Women in Mathematics (c/o Department of Mathematics, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. 02181) covers such topics as affirmative action, sketches of women's contributions to the history of mathematics, legislative reform relating to women in the sciences, special high school programs to give positive reinforcement to women who study mathematics, debunking the myths of sex-related differences in mathematics, etc. \$8.00/year.

The Politics of Alternative Technology, David Dickson, Universe Books (381 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016), 1975, 224 pp, paperback, \$3.95. A quote from the author: "My general thesis is that technology plays a political role in society, a role intimately related to the distribution of power and the exercise of social control. It does this, I maintain, in both a material and an ideological fashion, implying that in both senses technological development is essentially a political process."

Covert Discrimination and Women in the Sciences, Judith A. Ramaley, Editor, Westview Press (1898 Flatiron Court, Boulder, CO 80301), 1978, \$13.75. Published for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This book concentrates on the legal issues, but also on the psychological and social barriers to professional development of women in the sciences.

Repression Information Project, P.O. Box 3278, Washington, D.C. 20010. This group publishes the periodical *The Public Eye*, Quarterly, \$8/year. It includes articles about the repressive uses of computer technology and about repression of some of the groups that science activists are working with. For example the current issue (Volume 1, #2) has an article entitled "Nuclear Power vs. Civil Liberties". Another article in

the same issue, "Approaching the Orwellian Nightmare" is about the police computer complex.

Newsletter on Science, Technology and Human Values, Aiken Computation Laboratory 231, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. This is a quarterly review of issues, actions, and educational activities concerning the ethical implications and social consequences of science and technology. It contains articles, notices, an on-going annotated bibliography, etc. Free.

Who Should Play God? The Artificial Creation of Life and What It Means for the Future of the Human Race, Ted Howard and Jeremy Rifkin, Dell Publishing Co., 1977, 272 pp, paperback, \$1.95. It expresses the views of some outspoken critics of genetic engineering.

The Wealth of Some Nations, Malcolm Caldwell, Zed Press (57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DN England), 192 pp, £3.00. Economic slump, Third World food shortage and the energy crisis are all products of the same malaise: an imbalanced world economy. Caldwell shows how imperialist dependence on imported food and fossil fuels is threatened by liberation struggles and revolution in the Third World.

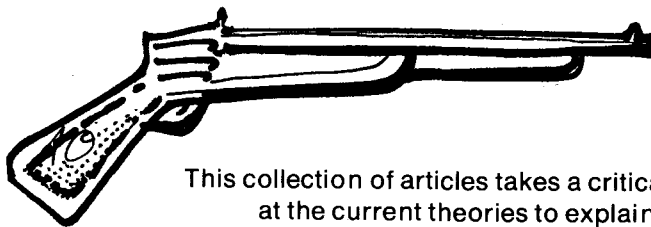
The Nuclear Axis: Nuclear Collaboration Between West Germany and South Africa, Zdenek Cervenka and Barbara Rogers, Julian Friedman Publishers, Ltd. (4 Perrin's Lane, Hampstead, London NW3 1QY England), 288 pp, £6.95. Despite official denials, South Africa is on the brink of possessing operational nuclear weapons. This book, based on secret government documents, exposes the massive cover-up and analyzes the involvement of the USA and other countries in the nuclear axis.

"Sick for Justice: Health Care and Unhealthy Conditions" is the title of a special issue (Volume VI, #2, Summer 1978) of the quarterly *Southern Exposure* (P.O. Box 230, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514). \$10/year, \$3.00 for this special issue. This large-format 128-page edition is a very good study of health problems of the South. Included are over twenty articles (two of them by SftP folk) that give a good overall view of the topic. Please do check it out.

America by Design: Science, Technology and the Rise of Corporate Capitalism, David F. Noble, Alfred A. Knopf, 1977, 384 pp, \$12.95. Noble has tried to document how science and its application to the practice of engineering developed to serve the interests of the industrial production system and the corporate elite. □

Biology as a Social Weapon

edited by the Ann Arbor Science for the People Editorial collective



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—Science for People, England

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chapter reports

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER REPORT

San Francisco has seen in the last eight months, the growth of a new chapter of SftP. We are independent of the East Bay chapter while maintaining constant liason and co-operation on various projects.

In November of 1977 we sponsored an anti-nuclear forum at San Francisco State University. A series of workshops were conducted on "The Nuclear Connection and Conversion to a Peace Economy." Panelists included: John Berger (*Nuclear Power: The Unviable Option*), Peter Faulkner (*The Silent Bomb*), Jim Harding (Friends of the Earth), Terry Lash (physicist), Steve Ladd (War Resisters League), Dan Posin (physicist), Charles Schwartz (physicist, Nuclear Weapons Lab Conversion Project), and Natalie Shiras (Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project). Some of the topics discussed were: the technological connections between reactors and weapons, nuclear economics, reactor safety and hazards, alternative forms of energy, consciousness raising, military spending vs. human needs, and organizing around these issues. Educational entertainment was provided by the "Plutonium Players". These workshops were part of a week-long sequence of activities, Bay-area-wide, focusing on nuclear power and weapons, the arms race and human needs. Other notable speakers during the week were Barry Commoner, Laura Nader and Daniel Ellsberg. People Against Nuclear Power was the overall co-ordinating organization.

In December of 1977 we helped in sponsoring a colloquium at San Francisco State University on Recombinant DNA research. Our role was to present information which might not normally be publicly available. The colloquium, entitled "Recombinant DNA Controversy: Public Policy at the Frontier of Knowledge," was a one-and-a-half-day meeting which brought together "experts" in the field of genetic recombination, critics of the scientific community

(drawn from various other academic disciplines, such as anthropology, law and classics, and the public).

The colloquium seemed to end with many more questions raised about the implications of molecular genetics than it answered, and in this respect, SftP seemed to play a positive role. This assessment is possible based on a grand response to our literature and a sense from the audience that they too, were skeptical over the future role recombinant DNA might play in our lives.

The Western Regional Conference was jointly organized by members of the East Bay and San Francisco chapters, and held on the weekend of January 14, 1978. Attended by about 65 people, it was a success and was dealt with in the March/April magazine issue so we won't discuss it here.

The beginning of February saw the arrival of Bill Worthington from Stearns Mine, in Kentucky, for a benefit for striking miners at that mine. The event was organized by a coalition of S.F. SftP and other groups and individuals concerned with occupational safety and health. \$1000 was raised, above expenses. We arranged discussions with union locals, labor study classes and media outlets, and we learned that there can only be occupational safety and health on a job when grievance procedures are backed up by strike potential through organized workers. Through this experience we also learned of the value of cooperation with unions as the representatives of the workers' interests in the struggle for occupational safety and health demands.

S.F. SftP has been participating in support work and benefits for the Zimbabwe Medical Drive. This is a coalition of groups working to raise money for health care needs in the struggle of the Patriotic Front against the racist regime controlling Zimbabwe (also known as Rhodesia). For further information about the Medical Drive, see the March/April issue of *SftP*.

A new addition to the work agenda of both the S.F. chapter and the East Bay chapter is a monthly half-hour radio

show on station KPFA. Scheduled at 5PM on the second Friday of each month, we plan to deal with a variety of subjects concerning science, technology and society. The first show, entitled "Science, Power and Passivity" dealt with the politics inherent in science and technology — how people are misled through the press and scientific information about the function of science in supporting and perpetuating the economy. Through this first program, we tried to concentrate on our political perspective: that science is not neutral, but serves specific class interests.

S.F. SftP has one envoy on the soon-to-depart China trip, Lou Gold!

Work in progress includes:

—the preparation of a packet of information on the subject of Recombinant DNA research, hazards and control, to be presented to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. This is the first step in an effort to have the NIH guidelines made part of city law.

—a bi-weekly study group of chapter members, on the topic of the Political Economy of Science.

—a slide tape show on agribusiness in California.

We welcome any input on our work in progress from other chapters and individuals. This is particularly important for our Recombinant DNA efforts, we say this not so much as a courtesy, but as a solicitation! Any correspondence can be directed to our address in the front of the magazine. ¡Gracias! ¡Viva la lucha! □

STONY BROOK CHAPTER REPORT

As usual the beginning of a new academic year underscored the need to recruit new chapter members. Several former regulars had either left the area or decided to exert their political energies elsewhere.

In anticipation of this annual occurrence we planned to present a forum on Sociobiology in late September or early October to enhance our visibility. Plans, preparation and arrangements took a bit

longer than anticipated — but in November the forum took place. An advertising blitz resulted in a respectable turnout of about 150 folks. Carol Cina presented the history of biological determinism followed by an introduction to sociobiology by Bob Lang, a member of the Boston Sociobiology Study Group who came to lend a hand. Next we showed the "Doing What Comes Naturally" film. A lively discussion followed — although more than half the audience had departed before the film ended. The general consensus was that the event was a success, although it did not result in a large infusion of new blood into our somewhat anemic chapter. A small sociobiology study-action group began meeting as a direct result of the forum, but after several meetings enthusiasm waned.

Actually, the health of the chapter gradually improved as the year progressed. We held regular general bi-weekly meetings with our China Study Group meeting during the alternate week. (The invitation from the People's Republic of China greatly enhanced the spirit and activity of the China Group members.)

Our second planned event was a film on the nuclear waste storage problem and a discussion on the economics of the nuclear power ripoff. In February we sponsored "Danger Radioactive Waste" with 3 other anti-nuke groups from the area. After the film Ted Goldfarb spoke about the problems presented by nuclear power. A short discussion followed among a few members of the audience who had remained.

Three of us attended the AAAS meeting in DC which we felt focused a bit too much on the sociobiology actions and too little on the agriculture in Latin America symposium.

The State University here co-sponsored an Economic Development Conference — a closed meeting of Long Island's "key leaders." The important issues of the event were redistribution of federal aid and adoption of the "Stony Brook Manifesto." The "Manifesto" calls for formation of an "Action Committee of 100" composed mostly of corporate executives and bankers. SftP chapter members distributed leaflets and made a statement on local radio exposing the class nature of these issues. Our efforts stimulated dissent among liberal Conference attendants and at-

tracted attention from groups which are attempting to organize a coalition to struggle against the "Gang of 100."

A conference on Food, Poverty and Health was sponsored by a coalition of campus and community groups and was addressed by Frances Moore Lappe, co-author, with Joseph Collins, of *Food First* (reviewed in *SftP*, Nov./Dec. 1977). Two of our members served on the coordinating committee and others led discussions, participated in workshops and staffed a literature table. SftP literature was also listed in the Conference bibliography. Approximately 400 people attended, many acquiring a new perspective on the causes of malnutrition in the United States and the Third World. We hope to intensify our activities in this area in the fall since two of our members will be returning from a Mexican agricultural research project (on which they will be collaborating with members of the Ann Arbor chapter) and others from

the China trip.

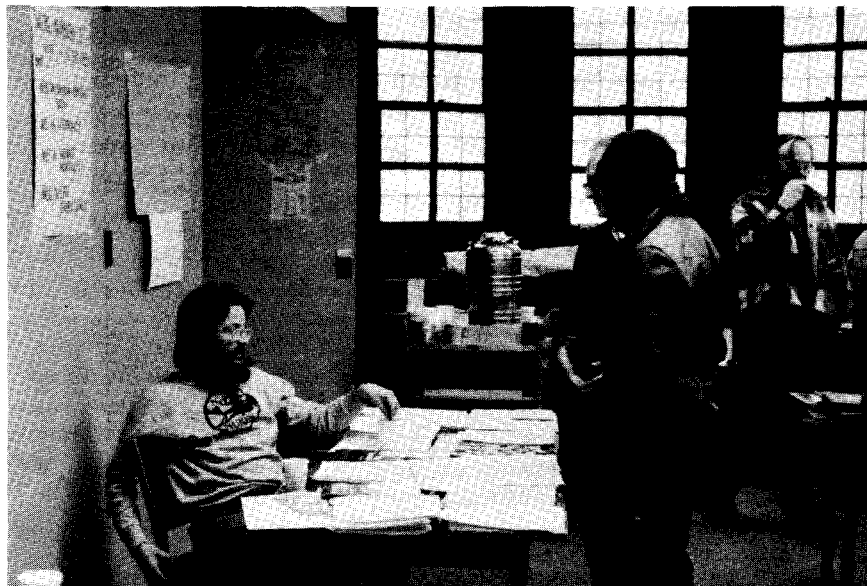
In the beginning of May we showed the film "The Poisoning of Michigan" which describes the governmental-corporate-scientific cover-up of the contamination of people and livestock with polybrominated biphenyls. Although the film was poorly attended, an interesting discussion was held afterwards. One member of the audience was a medical student working with Selikoff's lab this summer studying the low level effects of PBB's on the general population in Michigan. Her discussion of the issue along with other members of the audience helped clarify subjects raised in the film.

We have committed ourselves to devote more effort to the activities related to the magazine and national organizing in the future. We look forward to the return of the China delegation and the post-trip activities (forums, slideshows, etc.) which they will generate. □

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER REPORT

Our chapter has had several groups working on different issues thus far in 1978, as well as a number of chapter-wide activities. The Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Group and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) Support Group worked jointly to produce a Food Forum on April 1. Speakers, discussion, movies, and slide shows addressed issues such as the role of multinational corporations in malnutrition; the Nestle boycott; the plight of

migrant workers; agribusiness; agriculture in China; food additives; and PBB. We also have organized a separate talk on the farmers' strike by a local farmer. More recently, the Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Group has been working on an article for the magazine with the intent of unifying the above issues, which seem often to be considered separately. This summer some members will devote their energies to working with food co-ops and establishing some



Robert Rice

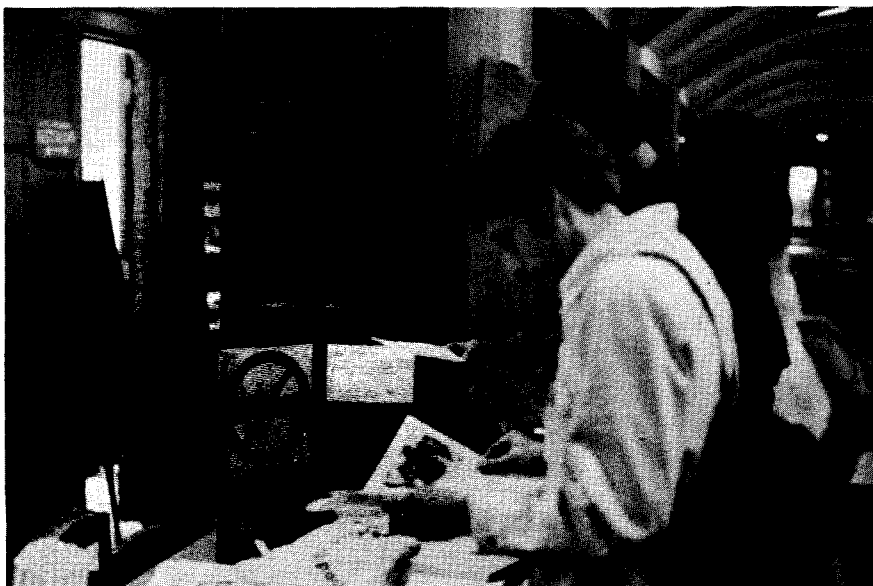
connections with area farmers.

The Sociobiology Group has recently written an article for *Michigan Discussions in Anthropology* on sociobiology and determinism, covering new developments such as Emlen's "Ecological Determinism" and Alexander's "Evolutionary Determinism." It also arranged a talk by Bob Young of the British Radical Science Journal Collective in April. More recently the group has gone into a "study phase", reading articles on the idea of human nature by Noam Chomsky, Harry Braverman, Joan Robinson, Abraham Maslow, and Antonio Gramsci.

Our Cuba Group has been functioning almost from its formation last December as part of the local preparatory committee for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students, which is being held this July 28 to August 6 in Havana, Cuba. The committee has held events such as a Latin American dinner and a film/discussion on "Women in Latin America", both to publicize the festival and to raise money to send local people as delegates. Five Ann Arbor SftP members have applied to be part of the U.S. delegation.

The Nuclear Policy Group's Nuclear Jamboree attracted some 100 people, despite a bad location and a late March snow. The all-day forum featured slide shows, films, and workshops addressing the questions of nuclear arms and power, while chatting and literature browsing were encouraged in a central room. We will be meeting through the summer, trying to combine study of the technical and political aspects of the nuclear issue with support for Mobilization for Survival actions locally and regionally. A Great Lakes Energy Alliance is being formed to organize anti-nuke action in eastern Michigan. It seems that our group is unique within the local MFS in stressing the political implications of nuclear energy, and we feel we can make important contributions to the coalition. Additionally, one of us is getting people together for the Seabrook occupation, and two of us are attending the May 27 UN disarmament rally in New York. Future activities may include a forum or debate involving Michigan's Nuclear Engineering Department (Several nuclear engineers who attended the Jamboree seemed not totally hopeless!).

The Science Teaching Group has



Robert Rice

begun to work with local high schools this term, attending the Michigan Science Teachers' Association meeting in February and holding a workshop for Ann Arbor teachers in March. We have also written lesson plans on several subjects and arranged a series of presentations by other SftP groups at Community High School. A detailed description of our activities appeared in the last issue of the magazine.

The China group has been busy preparing for the trip to China next month. Three of the group's members — Steve Risch, Joe Velazquez, and Mike Hansen — will be among the delegation of twelve that is going to China. In addition to studying Chinese agriculture and politics, the group is preparing three slide shows to take to China — one on some new research on traditional agricultural systems in Mexico that members of the group will begin this summer, one on the effect of multiple cropping on populations of pest and beneficial insects (the thesis work of three people here), and one on the history of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). In addition to the slide shows, we are also rewriting a book prospectus of a tentatively planned book on the food system in China, which will be written upon returning from China.

The Ann Arbor chapter has also recently taken the initiative in trying to get new SftP chapters organized in

nearby states. With the help of visits by a few of us, discussion groups have recently begun meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota and Lansing, Michigan, and we recently sent out a mailing to subscribers in the Midwest, offering to help them get in contact with each other and start chapters.

While some of our activity groups have ceased work for the summer, we have also started a new Political Discussion Group. The impetus for this is the feeling that, while all our activities had an implicit political basis, we had seldom discussed these politics clearly and openly. So one of our tasks for the summer will be to clarify and develop our ideas on science, ideology, and political action. □

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How Scholars Play

With The Poor

by Howard Brick

The popular view, maintained even today, is that the university is a haven for the unproductive — a dream world. But, in fact, the university plays quite an active role in our national life. To put it bluntly, the intellectual work that goes on at the university level is for the most part the work that is required to justify the perpetuation of the existing social order — to protect the status quo. The university is in fact *not* an ivory tower. It is integrally related to the rest of the social system. Academics, whether they know it or not, do a job and perform a service for the benefit of the dominant classes in our society.

This has been clear enough in the past. In the years following World War II, as the United States approached a period of political reaction, literary scholars throughout the country advanced the theories of New

Criticism, which claimed that only the text of a literary work, not an author's social or historical context, mattered in scholarship. Sociologists advanced the idea that our society had reached the "end of ideology." Historians spoke in the same terms; Daniel Boorstin, for one, in his book *The Genius of American Politics*, argued that ideology, meaning, in his terms, a systematic program of political principles and social objectives, was never part of American politics and was in fact un-American — a convenient intellectual justification for the McCarthyite witch-hunt of the "enemy within."

The fifties and sixties saw an increase in classified military research on American campuses and in government-supported studies in social science departments. It certainly reached an extreme when the Political Science Department of Michigan State University helped write the constitution for the government of South Vietnam.

By now, the University of Michigan, for example, has severed official ties with classified research, but such a step should not lead us to think that the political, economic and social nature of higher education has significantly changed.

It has simply been obscured.

For the trend of the last few years — ever since the American people rid the country of Nixon and Congress

Howard Brick is a graduate student at the University of Michigan in American Cultures and a member of the Ann Arbor Committee for Human Rights in Latin America. The Committee was formed in August 1976 and consists of students, faculty and members of the Ann Arbor community interested in aiding political prisoners in Latin America and publicizing the facts of political repression in Latin America and U.S. support for these repressive regimes. Their address is: Suite 1, Michigan League, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109.

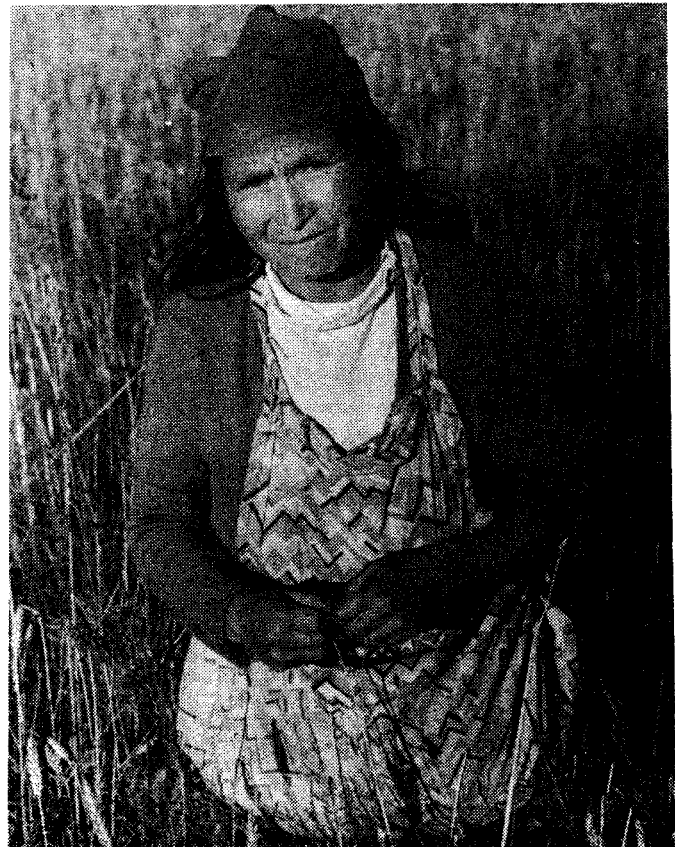
began congratulating itself for the efficiency of the “democratic process” — has been to mask the social realities of our world with humanitarian talk of change. The political exploitation of a “progressive” rhetoric of harmony and human rights has helped elect and support the new administration in Washington, but the society, as a matter of course, retains all the destructive tendencies of advanced capitalism and imperialism.

With this in mind, we can understand the workings of an organization like the Community Systems Foundation (CSF) of Ann Arbor, formed fifteen years ago by a group of University of Michigan faculty and graduate students — drawn from Education, Engineering, Natural Resources, Geography and Public Health. With the avowed aim of “improving humankind through scientific research and direct assistance to communities in helping them to improve themselves,” CSF has done nutritional research in various parts of the Third World, including Thailand, Colombia, and Chile, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1976, the organization has worked in the Cauca Valley of Colombia, developing programs supposed to end the widespread malnutrition in the region.

But a careful analysis of CSF’s work there belies its intentions. While CSF sports the lingo of community self-help and progressive education, the organization only helps to perpetuate the real social basis of hunger and starvation. This is pointed out in an article by University of Michigan Anthropology Professor Michael Taussig in the January 1978 issue of the *International Journal of Health Services*.



New York Times



NACLA

In the Villa Rica area in the south of the Cauca Valley, it is estimated that 50 per cent of the children under six years of age suffer from malnutrition. Fifty per cent of the population in the area suffers from hook-worm infestation. The causes of nutritional and health problems are explained clearly in Taussig’s article: past decades have seen the conversion of the region from small-scale peasant agriculture, cultivating subsistence food crops, to plantations of non-staple crops.

After the completion of the Panama Canal and a Colombian rail line to the Pacific in 1914, the region was opened to world trade, and land values in the valley soared. Peasants were driven from their land by direct force, flooding of plots, and aerial spraying of herbicides, in order to make way for large sugar-cane plantations, which were substantially financed by U.S. investments. Since the 1950’s, the U.S. corporation Ralston

Purina has turned other large sections of the Cauca Valley into sorghum fields. Sorghum is used as animal feed; most of the area's people cannot afford meat, and the use of prime land for this crop means that cultivation of desperately needed common staples is restricted*. In the Villa Rica area, Taussig points out,

Government censuses show that, while some 80 per cent of the cultivated land is owned by four sugar plantations and a few large farms, 90 per cent of the holdings are less than ten hectares and land is becoming increasingly concentrated into fewer owners. The majority of holdings are so small that their peasant owners are forced to work on the large estates. My own census in 1971 indicated that 30 per cent of households in the Villa Rica jurisdiction are landless, while another 50 per cent have less than the two hectares necessary for subsistence.

Even the land that remains in peasant hands has been converted, through the efforts of a USAID-supported government program, from the traditional crop mix of cocoa, coffee, plantains and fruit trees to mechanized single-crop cultivation of soya, beans or corn. This conversion has actually tended to increase peasant indebtedness, and the transfer of land to large owners is only continued. "In the Agua Azul neighborhood of the Villa Rica area," Taussig writes, "a third of the land that was in peasant control in 1972 had passed to the sugar plantations by 1976."

The crux of the problem, then, lies with the monopolization of land by a few rich families and foreign agribusiness corporations, the conversion of agriculture from cultivation of food crops to that of export crops and animal feeds, and the transformation of the population from small subsistence farmers to super-exploited day laborers, who live as the prey of corrupt labor contractors and a degrading piece-work pay system. The people in the area, Taussig says, refer to sugar cane as a plant "which dries one up" and claim that the detested work in the cane fields makes one thin and prematurely old. Financially strapped families find it increasingly hard to feed themselves, and most of the limited nutritious food inevitably goes to the adult laborer at the expense of the small children, whose physical and mental development is thus stunted (see *The Malnourished Mind*, by Elie A. Shmerour, Doubleday Anchor Books, Garden City, NY, 1975).

But CSF's program of change completely ignores the social relationships, the inequality and fierce oppression which lie at the heart of this problem. Instead, it has

advanced the incredible idea that the solution lies in changing poor people's *attitudes* toward nutrition. Convince the community of remaining small peasant farmers to withhold a portion of their soya from the market and encourage each household to consume two-thirds of a pound of soya a day, CSF says, and the problem of malnutrition will be solved.



*Similar patterns of development are found all over the Third World. See *Food First* (Lappe and Collins, 1977, Houghton Mifflin), especially chapters 11 and 27.—E.C.

Of course, CSF must face the fact that the people of Colombia consider soya to be animal food. The answer, the research group says, is to set up a system of behavioral incentives to change eating habits. One of the principal devices CSF proposes is an educational program based on John Dewey's concepts of "learning through doing." Bringing peasant children into schools where

they will participate in gathering nutritional information through experiments with laboratory rats will create an elite of "agents of change." The children will go back to their communities, tell people that soya is more nutritious than plantain and yucca, and begin measuring and weighing their brothers and sisters to test their physical development.

One CSF writer, who now teaches in Michigan's Department of Journalism, explains CSF strategy:

Its roots lie inextricably embedded in Darwinism. CSF is trying to compress a behavioral version of adaptive selection into a very short time frame. It seeks to produce life-enhancing habit patterns harnessing the scientific method to functional adaptation. Only local stimuli are used to speed the process, for they alone can produce modifications tailored to immediate conditions. In essence, CSF methodology is a behavioral analogue of the evolutionary process of natural selection. Through artificially-induced bombardments of local stimuli, community habit patterns are shifted to produce permanent, functional adaptation to local conditions.

This sort of social science jargon is appalling, when it is perfectly clear that the problem lies in the nature of "local conditions" themselves. To encourage adaptation to local conditions is to avoid solving the problem, to reconcile the sufferers of oppression to their oppressors. It pictures the "local conditions" as somehow parallel to the natural environment to which species adapt through selection of mutations. But there is no such parallel. The local conditions are social ones established by people and changeable by people. They are *not* fixed or permanent, but the Darwinian analogy pictures them as such. The analogy is pernicious.

Furthermore, the notion CSF advances that the "community" of poor peasants can solve the problem of malnutrition solely through "self-help" is absurd. The "community" cannot be abstracted from the society as a whole and the system of social relationships that link its members to those who hold power outside the community. The absurdity is all the more obvious if we look at a situation closer to home.

In U.S. inner-city ghetto neighborhoods where housing is decrepit, basic education faltering, and unemployment rates astronomical (calculated by some to be 65 per cent among teenagers in places like Bushwick, New York), how long could "self-help" measures be pursued before community members confronted the problems of absentee landlords, restrictive bank loan policies, a militarized federal government budget, and the conflicts between profit-seeking management and labor? Activists like Malcolm X once



SK / Red Apple Art

played with ideas of community uplift, but by the end of his life Malcolm X saw his people's problems as broad, societal ones, and the word "revolution" was more frequently on his lips.

Of course, the notion that things will get better if only the poor change their attitudes has ever been the favorite of liberal reformers. The underlying assumption is that the problems of the poor are their own fault, and their fault is mainly that they are stupid.



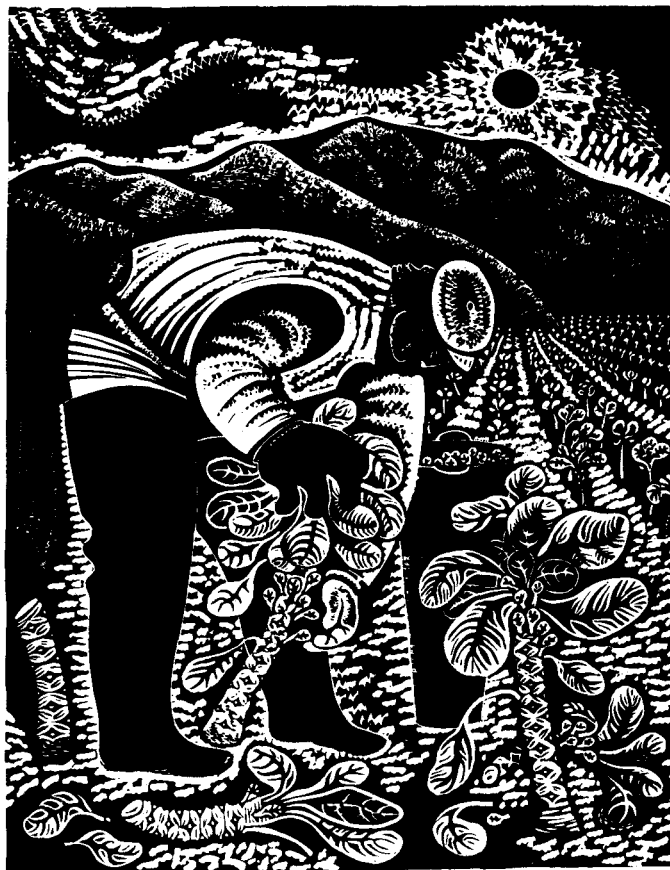
NACLA

In one glowing CSF report, the educational projects of the group are described. The children are encouraged to run experiments with rats. The experiments are their own: they think up different menus and see which ones nourish the rats best. The students weigh and measure the animals to chart their progress, and find that soya is the most successful diet for physical development. "Instead of words we have our rats," a 17-year-old peasant girl, Aida, says. "Thanks to our experiment, we realize what makes good nourishment. We will start to weigh our younger brothers and sisters at home and to see what they eat, just like we did with our rats at school." The writer of the report gloats over the success the school has had in teaching the children the basics of scientific method and the benefits of inductive inquiry. "After eleven weeks," the writer says, "the nutritional relationship between rats and mankind had been firmly

established." The notion that malnutrition can be "solved" by merely reallocating nutrients placates the children by posing the problem not as one of land scarcity and imperialism, but as a problem of peasant ignorance, not knowing what's good for them. In effect, telling them to make the best of a bad situation.

What can be said of this organization and its methods, this grotesque mixture of community self-help, Darwinism, Dewey's theories, behaviorist psychology, and laboratory animal testing techniques? We should recognize it perhaps as an elaborate way of avoiding the real problem and of actually *continuing* a dehumanizing set of social circumstances. Perhaps the researchers themselves do not understand this; they insist they are helping the poor.

But after all, what more could we expect out of an organization like CSF? It is funded by USAID — an agency that openly avows its purposes of encouraging private enterprise and insuring an openness to U.S. investments, and which is and sees itself as an arm of U.S. foreign policy. CSF works with Colombian scientists who are funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and operate with the approval of the Colombian government whose interests lie in quieting rural discontent without altering the power structure. Could CSF come up with anything else?" □



Emmy Lou Packard/LNS

THE FALSE PROMISE: Professionalism in Nursing:

by the Boston Nurses' Group

Nurses Are Just Beginning

The organizing done by nurses in the last few years shows that we are learning from the examples set by service and technical workers. We will use the same tactics as they do. But our organizing experience has been held back by the influence of the professional associations. Nurses have yet to recognize that these tactics are most effective when carried out with the combined forces of all the hospital workers organized into the same union.

Unions will not solve all our problems. They have traditionally concentrated on economic issues, and have been reluctant to challenge "management rights" at the workplace. Unfortunately, management rights include the right to control the working and patient care conditions we would often most like to change. Unions usually do not involve themselves in issues such as community control of hospitals, or the quality of health care delivered. These are things that we will have to aim for. But without the basic protection that unions bring, and the increased strength they provide to workers, we could not even begin to think about these long-range goals.

WHAT KEEPS US DIVIDED?

When hospital workers begin to organize themselves, management tries very hard to prevent them from succeeding. They exploit existing divisions in the workforce and try to create new tensions among workers. With so much of the money and resources in their control, they are sometimes able to keep unions out. This has been especially true in Boston.

Union-Busting by Hospitals

Their methods have been varied. For example, the Melnick, Mickus, and McKeown Corporation is a

Chicago-based consulting firm which helps hospitals fight unions. In 1973, the New England Medical Center Hospital in Boston paid them to engineer an anti-union campaign. In 1974, the Beth Israel Hospital also hired them. Hospitals are willing to pay large amounts of money to defeat a union drive: Melnick makes about \$500 per day for each consultant on the job, in campaigns that can go on for months.⁽²⁶⁾ In 1975 St. Elizabeth's Hospital hired Walter Grace, an experienced unionfighting administrator, and made him director of nursing during the workers' campaign for unionization there. In 1976, Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge held a two-day seminar for all department heads and administrators, run by another Chicago consulting firm, Holloway, Hecht, Hacker, Belder, Inc. The subject: how to keep unions out. These are all examples of how people who run hospitals are more than willing to use their money to maintain control over what happens in their hospitals. Their tactics were an important factor in defeating union drives in these hospitals.

People hired to fight unions are given a free hand in the hospital to do things which union organizers aren't allowed to do. They can meet different individuals and groups of employees on hospital property and hospital time, they can post anti-union leaflets and can buy off workers with promises of raises and better working conditions. They have money, are organized and do their job well.

However hospitals don't just persuade people not to vote for unions. They also intimidate people, using such illegal tactics as threats and firings. The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that the New England Medical Center Hospital must rehire an active union organizer who was fired in the midst of a campaign there. They have also found St. Elizabeth's and Otis Hospital guilty of unfair labor practices in connection with their union campaigns and ordered new elections. Hospitals

know when they are engaging in illegal activities, but also know that fighting in the courts is a drain on union drives and interrupts the momentum of organizing. And that's more important to them than obeying the law.

Divisions by Department

In their attempts to keep unions out, management tries to undermine people's shared interests and to stress divisions in the workforce. Divisions start with the way hospital work is so compartmentalized, with housekeeping and dietary and maintenance and transport and nursing and lab. The list could go on and on. Yet how often do we feel that we are working together with other departments? More often housekeeping is angry at nursing for running over their newly washed floors, while nursing is angry at dietary for not bringing the trays up quickly enough, while X-ray is angry at transport for not getting patients down on time while transport is angry at everyone who wants them to be in 20 places at once. Too often nurses think that we are the only ones who are understaffed and overworked. But because this is true for everyone, we have little time to get to know and understand the jobs and working conditions of others in the hospital. Nor is there any priority put on this understanding, beyond knowing whom to call if you want to get something done, or to complain because it hasn't been.

However, it is not just our jobs that keep us apart. We live in a society where people are divided by race, class, sex, ethnic background. Just as it's a myth that America is a melting pot where everyone is equal, it is a

myth that we in the hospital are just one big happy family.

Divisions by Race

The myth is particularly clear when we look at racial divisions in hospitals. The distrust between black people and white people which is such a familiar part of our society takes its toll within the hospital, just as it does everywhere else. In the hospital, blacks and whites work alongside each other — but most frequently in different departments or different level positions so that there is little chance to really get to know one another.

In Boston, most RNs are white. There are more black nurses in LPN positions than in RN positions, and still more blacks in aide positions. This means that blacks and whites do not deal with each other on an equal footing, and it encourages the "let's keep separate" attitude of professionalism.

Black workers are consistently concentrated in the lower-paying jobs in the service and labor sector where there is little chance for advancement. (See box.) This reflects the general position of black people in this society.

As white working class people know very well, there are plenty of white workers in the lower-paying jobs at every hospital. By and large, whites don't have much chance to advance from these jobs either. In reality, they put up with similar working conditions and have the same interest in change as do their fellow black workers.

But many white people still want to believe that they — or maybe their children — can move up to the

COMPARING NUMBERS OF WHITE & MINORITY WORKERS IN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF HOSPITAL JOBS

	<i>Peter Bent Brigham</i>		<i>Beth Israel</i>		<i>University</i>		<i>Mass. General</i>	
	% White	% Minority	% White	% Minority	% White	% Minority	% White	% Minority
White Coliar								
Professional	93.3	6.7	91.8	8.2	90.5	9.5	96.3	3.7
Service Workers	42.9	57.1	35.3	64.7	17.6	82.4	48.8	51.2

Source: 1974 Equal Employment Office Report—1 (available to the public at every hospital receiving federal funds).

middle class. For black people, it is easier to see that they aren't moving anywhere, and this has often led to increased determination on the part of black workers to fight for improved job conditions.

In New York City, for example, where the service and labor departments of hospitals are overwhelmingly black, there was a massive union drive throughout the city during the 1960's, at the same time that black people everywhere were struggling for equal rights through the civil rights movement. Today New York hospitals are union hospitals, with a dramatic increase in benefits.

This trend is also apparent in Boston, where University Hospital and Jewish Memorial Hospital, which both have predominantly black service departments, have been unionized by Local 1199, while union drives in several other Boston hospitals have failed.

These examples point to the influence black workers have had in improving working conditions through unionization. When the strengths of black and white workers are combined, the workforce will benefit even more.

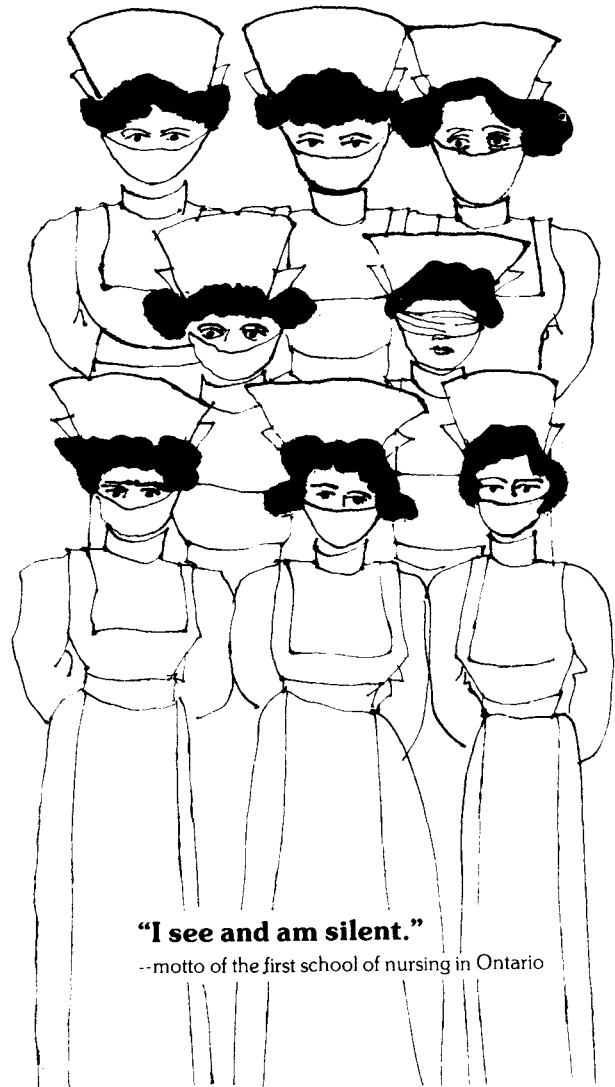
In talking about racial divisions, another point is important. In Boston, there are various non-English-speaking ethnic groups. Language and cultural barriers are a form of dividing line which can also be very effective in separating one group of workers from another. At Otis Hospital in Cambridge, one of the major problems in the union drive was the lack of communication between English-speaking workers and those from Portuguese and other ethnic backgrounds. The different groups tended to keep to themselves and this made it more difficult to get out information about the union. The administration used the threat of deportation to intimidate foreign-born workers at the time of the union election, and in fact, actual immigration raids were carried out which made workers even more afraid to exercise their right to vote.

Racial divisions work to the advantage of management, and against the best interests of hospital workers. They keep the workforce divided among itself, and hold back the struggle for change. Much of the time, administrators don't have to do anything in particular to create racial divisions: the tensions produced outside the hospital (by people's experiences in housing, jobs, or education) run their course to reproduce the same tensions inside the hospital. At other times, management actively promotes racism by means of policies which increase racial and ethnic tensions (such as deliberately assigning workers to different departments on the basis of ethnic background, or by making promotions based on race).

Administrators are not likely to do anything to improve cooperation and communication among various racial groups. It is up to us to achieve this, and every step we take in this direction will work to our advantage.

Divisions by Sex

Another way that workers are divided is by sex. Many women hospital workers, including nurses, are aware of how sexist attitudes at work affect us as individuals. Sexism towards female hospital workers is no longer as blatant as it once was, but it is just as strong in subtle ways. A nurse is no longer forced to show respect for doctors by giving her chair to any doctor who enters the room. Instead, doctors show their lack of respect for us by hugs, squeezes, and fake come-ons, thus maintaining the unequal relationship. Doctors on rounds make us feel like we're completely invisible (just as nurses often treat other hospital workers as if they didn't exist). And, although women make up 80% of health care workers(27), we are often made to feel stupid or unimportant; men (especially doctors) usually have little respect for our judgment. Whenever we make a wrong decision, we are reprimanded by doctors; when it



G./L/NS



is right, someone else gets the credit. After a while, even we don't believe in our own abilities — and this includes our ability to organize for better working conditions.

Sexism affects us every day as individuals. It also acts in a variety of ways to divide the workforce along male/female lines. For example, although there are few male nurses, they are often promoted to higher positions much faster than a female nurse would be. This creates a division between men and women because female nurses resent men's special treatment. Hospital departments, such as building service and housekeeping, are often mostly male or mostly female. Even when men and women are in the same department, they perform different jobs. This reflects the traditional attitude that some work is women's work and some is men's. Our employers take advantage of this attitude to create another division in the workforce.

Where men and women do have similar jobs, they often see each other as competitors for the small number of available positions. Women are frequently paid less than men for doing the same job. When this happens, male workers suffer too, because the employer will try to pay everyone the lowest wage he can get away with. If he can pay a woman less, why should he hire a man? Male workers thus end up thinking that female workers are a threat to their jobs and to the level of their wages, instead of seeing that the real threat is the administration's unfair wage or promotion policies which make one group of workers compete with another group.

Obviously, divisions such as these weaken us by splitting the workforce into smaller groups. However, we can overcome these divisions. For example, male workers can support bringing women's wages up to the level of men's. Then management will not be able to use lower wages for women as a way of keeping everyone's pay down. In order to overcome divisions by sex, men

and women will have to support each other's demands in order to increase our unity and improve the conditions of the workforce as a whole.

Divisions by Class

It is easy to see differences within the workforce besides sexual and racial ones. Varying levels of education and income, varying lifestyles, along with doing different kinds of work, are all factors that influence how we see ourselves and others. These factors make us feel that there are more differences than common interests between people who work in the same institution. There is so much hierarchy — so many job categories, so many levels of pay, respect, and seeming importance — that it is hard to see whom we have what in common with.

But one very basic thing we all have in common is that we all depend on the hospital administration for our jobs. It is the administration and the more powerful doctors that control our work conditions and livelihood. They depend on us to get the work done; we depend on them to provide our jobs.

This relationship between hospital administrators and hospital workers is no different from the situation in any other industry in the country. It is an economic relationship between two classes of people. One class owns and controls all the factories, hospitals, corporations, banks, mines, etc. The owners depend on members of another class, the working class, for doing the work that creates their profits (in health care, as we talked about before, the profits may be indirect, or might be seen as high salaries or as power within an institution). Since the workers don't own the banks, hospitals, etc., they have to depend on the owners for the jobs and wages needed to live.

It is important to look at this economic class relationship when we are deciding who in the hospital shares our interests. Otherwise, the smaller differences among us in terms of education or lifestyle will seem more significant than they really are. Not that these differences aren't real; we need to be aware of them so that we can solve problems that various parts of the workforce might have in organizing together. But it is when we compare the hospital administration to the workforce as a whole, that we can see a difference that is really significant. This is because it is a class difference between those who do the work and those who benefit economically from our doing it. In comparison with this dividing line, the differences within the workforce are far less important.

It is true that people in lower management positions do not really own or control the hospital, and yet they do not share our interests. Supervisors, for example, are not necessarily in the same economic class as administrators. The same is true of head nurses: many come from the same class as their staff. But the important thing is that they carry out the policies of the

administration and identify with the management's interests: budgeting, controlling workers, prestige, profits — rather than with the interests of the workforce: better pay and working conditions, better patient care, more control over our jobs.

What about staff nurses? Nurses today come from many different backgrounds and many different levels of education. A nurse may or may not come from the same economic background as a housekeeper or transport worker — but again, the important thing is that we have the same interests. We can identify with them because we are all part of the hospital workforce.

Racism, sexism, and "class" differences, can all work hand in hand. We need to be aware of the effects of them all together. For example, what happens when nurses are aware of discrimination against women, but don't think about where our class interests lie? We end up trying to improve our position as women by moving up. We forget that there is only space for a few at the top, and that in any case it will not improve the conditions of male or female workers if women are the administrators instead of men. If a few women move up the hierarchy, it will not really change the overall picture. Yet this is the kind of thinking that professionalism encourages: one group of people trying to pull themselves up at the expense of another group. We won't make any long-term progress this way.

Professionalism goes along with class attitudes, too. For example, some RNs are starting to move up the ladder by becoming practitioners or specialists. Obviously, not everyone can move up. Nevertheless, professionalism would like us to think of ourselves as "upwardly

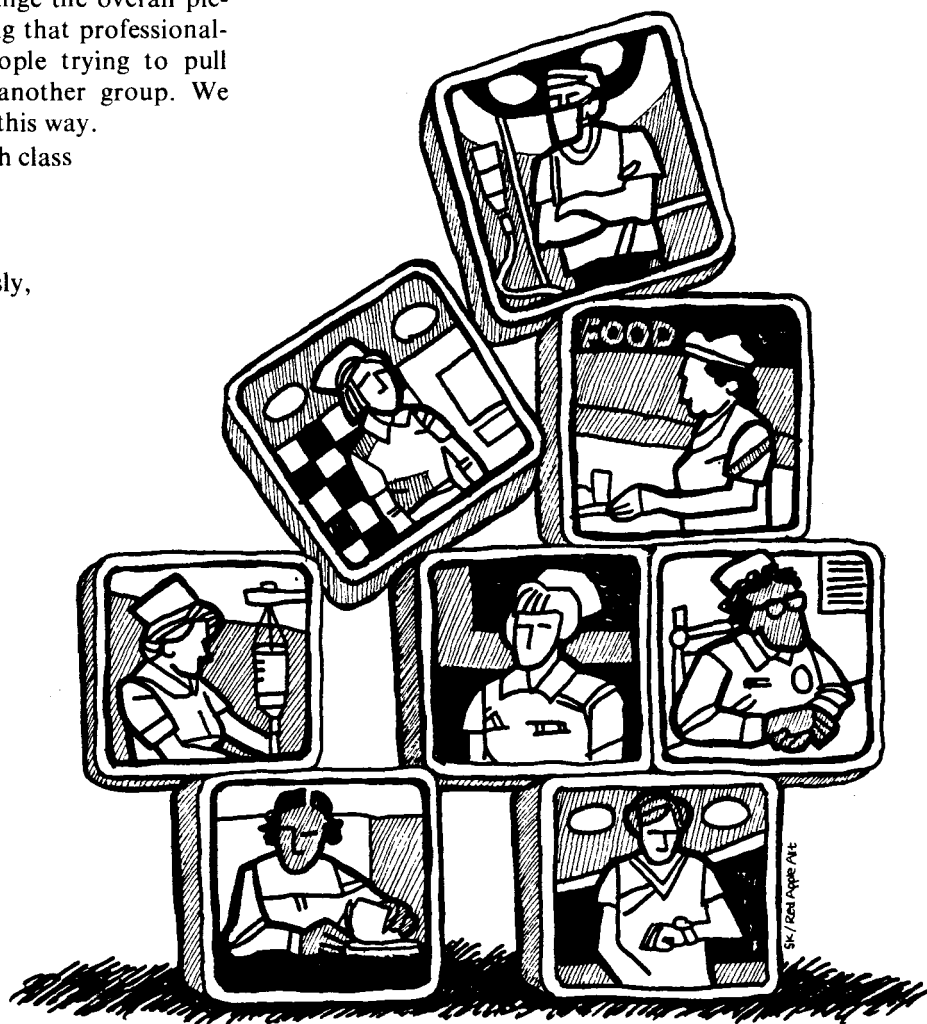
*We realize that while some head nurses are mainly sympathetic to the administration, others are interested in improving patient care and improving the jobs of their staff nurses. But, unfortunately, when administration policies are to be carried out, the head nurse must be an administrator — or else she won't be head nurse. And for many head nurses, identifying with the administration is the most important factor in getting the job in the first place.

mobile". In this way, it encourages us to identify with a different class of people, trying to make us feel more like doctors and less like all the people we work with. Another way to say this is that professionalism encourages nurses to take on the attitudes of a class to which we do not belong.

Professionalism Keeps Us Apart, Too

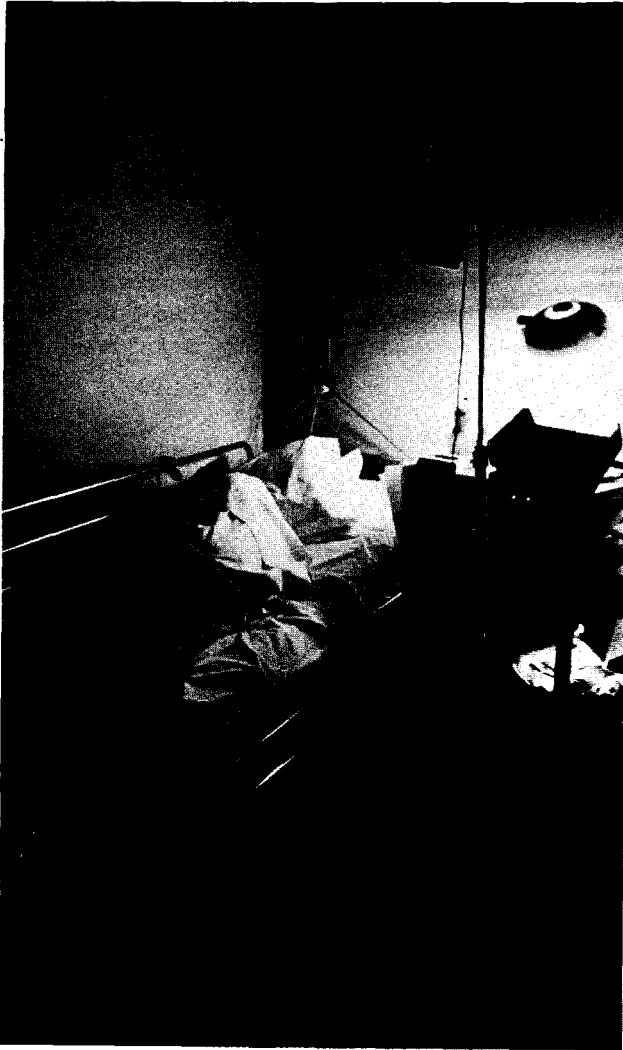
Looking at all the unnecessary divisions that are set up in the hospital workforce, it shouldn't be surprising that management can tell nurses, and that we can really feel, that we don't belong in a union or organization with other workers in the hospital. We are constantly encouraged to think about the unique position of nursing — to think of ourselves as professionals.

Why do hospitals want us to see ourselves as separate from other hospital workers? Again, it is a case of divide and conquer. Professionalism divides the workforce in the hospitals, just as do differences in sex, class, and race. This allows hospital administrators to have free reign in determining the conditions under which we



all work. One group of workers (nurses) is played off against another group (service and technical).

Professionalism teaches us to look down on other workers, especially service and technical workers who are "below" us in the hospital hierarchy. These feelings most often come into play in our relationships with nursing assistants, dietary workers, housekeepers and transportation workers, that is, the people with whom we work most directly.



Many nurses feel that nursing school makes us qualitatively different from, or better than, other workers. We receive formal training (though most of us agree that it could be a lot better), and we are highly skilled. But knowledge and skills are not only learned in school. Just ask any new grad. We have to recognize that many people, particularly aides, have worked in the hospital for years, and have learned many things through experience and practical application. Although not learned in a classroom, this knowledge is as valid as ours.

There is another false distinction found in many work situations. That is the separation between people who earn a living with their heads and those who do it with their hands. Nurses feel superior, as do almost all workers who consider themselves professionals, to other workers whose jobs involve manual labor. For nurses this makes no sense at all, since much of the work we do is manual labor. Some of our work does require planning, analysis, and thought, but that doesn't make us better than other workers.

So these are some of the attitudes that nurses have about other hospital workers. Do we benefit from these attitudes? What do we gain from this superiority towards and separation from other hospital workers? The people who run the hospital — as opposed to the people who do the work — would like us to think that we do benefit. We do receive better material benefits than do many hospital employees, but the rhetoric of professionalism should not make us lose sight of the fact that we have no real control over our job situation. The fact is that we *are* workers — skilled workers — and we should be proud of it.

Hospital administrators and the nursing office would like us to believe that bad patient care is caused by those "below" us, rather than be inefficient and wasteful hospital bureaucracy. They want us to think that dietary workers are stupid, housekeepers are lazy and aides don't care. All this is to divert our attention from what is really going on: a health care system that benefits neither the patients nor the workers, the goals of which are to increase profits and prestige for a select few. The blame for bad health care is put everywhere but where it belongs.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR SYSTEM?

We have shown that the health care industry in this country is for profit and not for people. There is a multi-million dollar business that surrounds hospitals — drugs, equipment, high salaries for doctors and administrators, real estate for hospital expansion and more.

Although there wouldn't be such an industry without patients, consumers are not allowed to have much say in decisions that affect their health care. Given the choice, for instance, most people would place a higher priority on preventive health care, including screening programs, more accessible local clinics and so on. However, even with more preventive care, we would still be faced with serious health hazards due to working conditions in our industries and pollution in our environment. We have to ask the question: *why* do people get sick?

Violence is done to people every day in factories, hospitals, mines, fields, on construction sites — in the

form of dangerous working conditions. The best doctors, nurses and hospitals will not prevent a miner in West Virginia from getting black lung disease, nor a worker in a cotton mill from getting brown lung disease (byssinosis). The most available health care will not prevent asbestosis or paralysis from insecticides or severed limbs from unsafe machinery. Even the health care institutions themselves are hazardous to their workers: back injuries, increased x-ray exposure, stress from rotating shifts, increased incidence of spontaneous abortions and liver tumors from exposure to anesthetics.(28) A more insidious violence is waged against all of us every day in the form of poor nutrition: some people lack the bare necessities, while the food available to others contains chemical additives and poisons. Society as a whole is endangered by oil spills in our oceans and potential disasters at nuclear power plants. The most caring, competent specialist or surgeon cannot prevent cancer caused by the poisons we breathe and ingest every day.

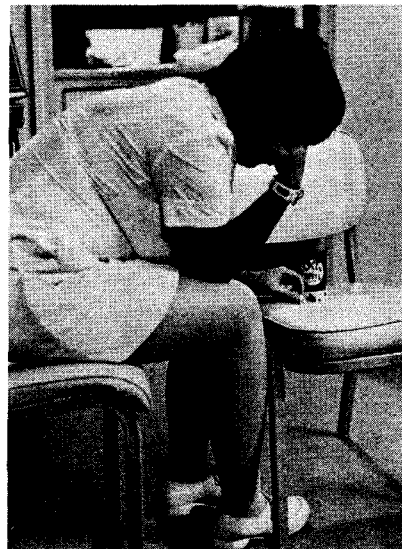
Many of these diseases are preventable and it is important to ask why such known hazards are allowed to continue. Part of the answer is that workers and consumers are not given a choice about safer workplaces or good food. Even though a worker may be directly affected by a high level of toxic fumes, or a consumer by food full of hormones, preservatives and insecticides — the person who decides to let these dangers persist is the owner of the factory or the large agricultural producer. In these people's eyes, removing the peril to our health is too expensive. It's expensive only in the short run, because it obviously costs less and is better for people to avoid developing emphysema or cancer. But those who control factories, mines and hospitals have very narrow, short-range goals — increasing profits. From this point of view, it would cost too much to install an adequate filtration system in a cotton factory. Such a system would decrease the amount of deadly cotton dust breathed in by workers and would decrease the rate of lung disease and cancer in these workers ten to twenty years from now. But the final decision about the system is made by management, although they do not suffer the consequences.

Anything that interferes with profit and control over how things are produced and marketed is seen as threatening and dangerous by the owners. This is the basis for the conflict between workers and management — they have opposing goals. Workers want safer working conditions, better wages, job security and more say about what goes on at the workplace. Owners are committed to keeping wages as low as they can get away with, not investing in safer equipment and not listening to workers' problems. To achieve this, they will pay corporations like Melnick to prevent workers from forming unions, and they will lobby against tight occupational health standards. They have many legal maneuvers on their side because our social/economic

system, which is capitalist, favors the owners and leaves workers always on the defensive. All of these tactics are seen as management's right because they own the industry or hospital, although they are not the ones who make the goods or produce the services or take the risks. But should management have the right, in effect, to "own" someone's health, their lungs — to use workers for 30 years and then discard them?

Our health care system and its shortcomings reflect these conflicts and antagonisms of capitalism. We are always urged to give the best health care we can, but when it comes down to hospital management giving us the means to do our best we are reminded of the budget, of efficiency. When we try to organize to improve our working conditions and patient care, we are told we are being selfish and hurting the patients. Once again the short range view — ensuring the medical industries' profits — determines the kind of care people get.

We are so used to thinking that management can do what they want with "their" factory or hospital, and that we shouldn't have a voice because we "just work there," that we can't imagine any other way of doing things. There *are* alternatives — some socialist societies have developed more rational health care systems designed to provide a service to keep people well through preventive care, and to take care of them when they become sick no matter who they are or how much they can pay. Socialist economies are organized to produce goods and services that people need and to plan what is needed in a spirit of cooperation, rather than competition and individual profit. Workers are regarded as essential to the society and have a stronger voice in the owning and operating of factories and services. Thus, health care in these countries is not trying to squeeze a profit out of illness — instead the short-range goal is to care for people and the long-range goal is to keep people from getting sick.



1199 News 1199 News

Although we often think of our medical care as the most advanced in the world, our statistics on job-related injuries and illnesses, and our infant mortality rate are not good. We know the treatment for venereal disease, yet it is epidemic in the US — in China VD has been virtually eliminated by educating people and by having health care available both in rural areas and in cities.(29) In Chinese hospitals, when patient rounds take place, everyone who works on the floor attends — housekeepers, doctors, nurses and patients. If someone has a better idea about a treatment, it is instituted.

In studying these alternatives, we have seen that

there are better ways to deliver health care. However, it is not possible to change one institution like a hospital without changing an entire society. We have shown that the priorities of a profit-making system determine how health care is delivered. We believe we need to reorganize not only our health care system but also our society as a whole, so that we have a socialist economy, in which the people who do the work of maintaining the society determine the priorities. This is a long and difficult process, but it is one we can begin by fighting in our workplaces for control over our working conditions and decent care for our patients.



CONCLUSION

We started this pamphlet by talking about professionalism, but ended up talking about everything from drug company profits to supervisors to racism to unions. Why?

All nurses are dissatisfied for one reason or another. We all would like to see things improve. But how we go about changing things depends on how we analyze our situation. We have to look at the work we do, and the setting in which we do it. We have to understand who is in control and why they think the way they do. We have to discover what influences the priorities and practice of health care. And then we have to use this information to establish who our friends and enemies are and how we should proceed.

Without an accurate analysis, our attempts at change will go around in circles. This pamphlet starts out with professionalism because it is one of the first things we notice when we look at nursing today. But we move on to so many other subjects because we go through all the steps listed above. We wanted to show that:

- professionalism is not what we have been told it is. It teaches us to deny our own needs, to work individually, and to look down on other workers.
- fighting for changes which benefit ourselves and caring for patients are not conflicting goals. Better working conditions equals better patient care.
- the problems of our health care system are due to the fact that it is centered around profits, and administrators have a stake in keeping it that way.
- nursing administrators and their organization, the ANA, are part of management, and they use professionalism as one way of controlling nurses and keeping us separate.
- our most important allies at this time are other hospital workers.
- we must start trying to overcome the things that keep us apart from other workers. We must bring about the unionization of nurses together with all hospital workers as the first step in achieving change.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Small Groups Are One Way to Start

When nurses get intolerably frustrated, we usually quit. If we could make our demands for change through a hospital-wide union, we would have the support nec-

essary to stick it out and fight for what we want. If quitting is our main means of protest, hospitals everywhere will stay just the way they are now.

But most of us do not have any such organization at this point — so where should we start? The nurses that wrote this paper got together in small group meetings outside our various workplaces. We helped each other through the endless individual hassles of being new nurses, as well as challenging one another to think of more general solutions. For us, the first step was to move beyond the frustration most nurses experience on the job. We discovered in one another our support, and our agreement over what makes our working conditions so bad. We realized how destructive the divisions between workers are.

Each person in the group gave a detailed discussion of her or his hospital, which raised issues important to all of us. Our meetings gave us the opportunity to learn about conditions in different hospitals, and what people had done to change them. We educated one another and we urge others to do the same. The self-education of nurses in how to function in labor organizing is just as important as the study of cardiac function, trauma management, or drug side effects. How can we be proud of our medical expertise and yet remain ignorant of the skills necessary to protect ourselves as workers?

The next step for several of our members was to form or join groups with other people at the hospitals where they worked; some of these groups have included all types of hospital workers.

Obviously, meeting in small groups off the job is not the ultimate solution to our problems. We must eventually move into types of organization which include large numbers of workers and which can deal directly with management.

Moving Toward Hospital-Wide Organizations

We look forward to a time when all nurses are active. Though there are some problems with unions, they do improve our economic situation and job security. We encourage nurses to organize into unions for these reasons. We will then be in a better position from which to work for even more important changes in our country's health care and economic structures. And in unionizing, we will be gaining the experience we need in order to understand that it *is* possible for us to work together to bring about change.

We hope this pamphlet has shown that the only solution is an organization of all hospital workers united to confront the common problems we face. Professionalism has fostered the image of the model nurse as someone who functions well alone. We would like to see everybody working together more. If everyone is seeking to secure something better for him or herself, with no thought of other workers, change will be difficult and only a few will gain.



Dennis Carr

State nurses' associations have taken on the collective bargaining functions of unions to keep RNs loyal to professionalism, and not out of a real interest in giving nurses a stronger voice in the hospital. The MNA, an organization whose active members are predominantly educators, supervisors, directors of nursing and nursing administration of all sorts, has a history of neglect of the problems of staff nurses. We cannot allow standards on hospital floors to be determined by people who do not experience these working conditions on a routine basis, or by an organization which excludes all other workers, even LPNs. The management sector of nursing does not have our best interests in mind.

Unionization of nurses will be a gradual process.

The nurses' associations are there. Those of us who are already represented by the MNA may find it necessary to work with the Association for the present. But organizations so top-heavy with management cannot be reformed. We should understand that the nurses' associations are not the only choice: we can vote to replace the MNA with a union, whose membership includes the whole hospital workforce.

Membership for nurses in the strongest kind of union will only come when we have abandoned professionalism. We must recognize and respect other hospital workers. It is in our common interest to unite with each other. We must recognize and respect ourselves as workers. □

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Nick Thorpe/son



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Towards a Renewed and Expanded SftP Role Among Science Teachers

SftP at the National Science Teachers Association Conference

Washington, DC April 7-9, 1978

*by Dan Atkins, Jack Dougherty
Walda Katz Fishman, and Frank Rosenthal*

What We Did

After an absence of several years, SftP made a return appearance at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Convention held at the Sheraton-Park in Washington, D.C., April 7-9, 1978. With the help of locals Walda Katz Fishman and Dan Atkins and of science teachers Jack Dougherty and Frank Rosenthal we staffed a literature table and conducted a sociobiology workshop.

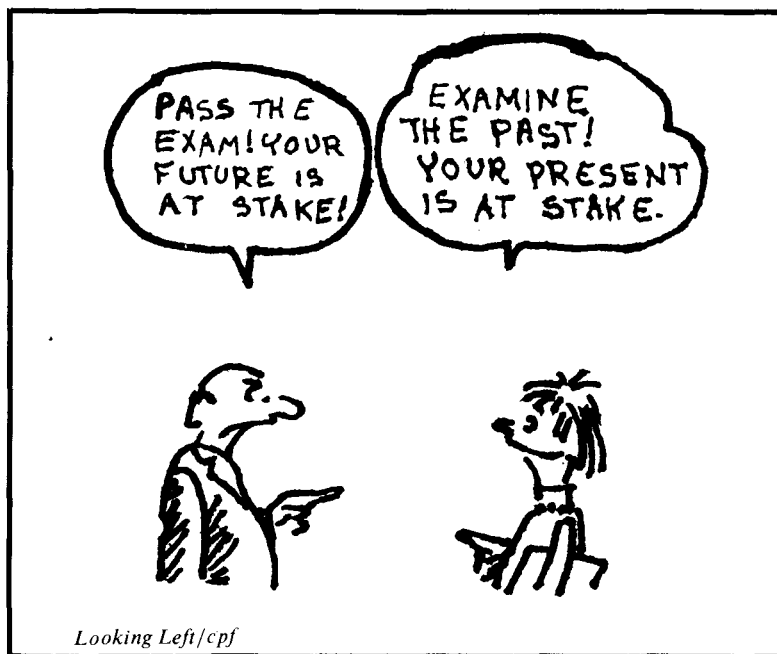
It is our collective perception that the SftP presence at the NSTA Convention was both well received and greatly needed. Some teachers who had known us from previous conventions were heartened that we had resurfaced. Many more for whom this was a first encounter with SftP were extremely positive in their feedback.

The literature table was clearly a success. We sold out of "Resources for Science Teachers" and the sociobiology articles on sexism. (In all, we sold just over \$200.00 in literature.) In addition, we freely gave out the SftP address and collected 27 names of those who wanted to be contacted. Given the general vacuousness and political void of the NSTA, there appears to be an important opportunity for SftP to renew and expand its NSTA-related activities, specifically, and its involvement with science teachers, more generally.

We also held one sociobiology workshop featuring "Doing What Comes Naturally" and discussion of the scientific and political issues surrounding sociobiology. We had requested space for such a workshop over a month ago, but were told by the NSTA Convention office that this could not be arranged. When the convention got underway, it was apparent that there were, in fact, many available rooms. We again requested a room and were again denied our request. Frustrated and aggravated, but still determined, we decided, after checking the program schedule, to simply occupy one of the empty rooms. We conducted the workshop at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday

without a hitch. Despite the last-minute arrangements, over 30 people participated and quite a few who had to leave early to return home and were unable to attend expressed interest. Following the movie, lively dialogue ensued for about an hour. We feel that we got the SftP message about sociobiology across.

Our impressions are that many science teachers are unaware of sociobiology and its attendant controversy. Many more seem to have only a vague notion of what sociobiology is. A very few had knowledge of sociobiology and viewed it negatively. Still fewer, a vocal minority, were familiar with



sociobiology and were positively disposed toward it. The most popular article in the sociobiology package was on sex roles. We suspect that this may stem from the fact that so many science teachers are females, and they are most interested in the sexist aspects of sociobiology. We found, however, that few teachers, male or female, had an overall conceptualization of sociobiology and its political implications.

Those who participated in the convention learned a great deal about the concerns and needs of science teachers and developed an awareness of the potential that exists for SftP activity among science teachers. The following proposals are indicative of the kinds of things we felt need to be done.

What Needs to be Done

We feel that a serious effort should be made by SftP to attend and participate in the annual NSTA Convention. We managed to do much at this convention with just four people and a minimum of prior planning. A little more planning and a few more people could make a great deal of difference. Perhaps most important is the fact that science teachers are an important audience to reach and they are receptive to what SftP is about. They are looking for alternative perspectives of science that make sense.

Specifically, one or two topics should be targeted and workshops on them be prepared for next year's NSTA Convention. This will have to be done fairly quickly so that the workshop proposal(s) can be submitted for inclusion in the official program. Those who attended sessions found them, for the most part, to be biased and boring. Officially scheduled workshops providing "radical" perspectives on science and encouraging audience participation were sorely lacking.

A series of activities related to the "mailing list" from this convention and other lists of science teachers designed to broaden the base of science teacher participation in SftP also seems appropriate.

1) The convention mailing list should be made available to the Science Teaching Group so these new teachers will receive communications and information of special interest to teachers.

2) A "Science Teachers Newsletter" should be developed addressing itself to the needs and concerns of science teachers.

3) A questionnaire should be sent to all science teachers, new and old potential SftP members, to identify the issues of concern to science teachers. This would obviously provide input for the newsletter and other activities of SftP in relation to science teachers.

In addition to educational activities focusing on the politics of science and the preparation of resource and curriculum materials, we should also explore what is happening to the working conditions of teachers as economic conditions worsen. For example, what do we do about the definition of science as a "frill" and the attempts of some school systems to cut back the science curriculum? A related issue is the politics of the "back to basics" movement. We need to differentiate between the genuine issue of concern that students be taught "basic skills" and the political dimension of why, at this time, this concern is surfacing as a policy issue. (Our thanks to Jim Gashell for his discussions with us on these issues. For further explanation, see the first two issues of *Working Teacher*.)

We identified some fairly specific needs as well as the more general ones outlined above.

There is a real need for a sociobiology pamphlet or package aimed at high school teachers, high school students, and/or the lay adult audience.

A section on cancer and carcinogens to be included in the "Resources for Science Teachers" was frequently requested.

Also requested were resource and curriculum materials for primary and middle school science teachers.

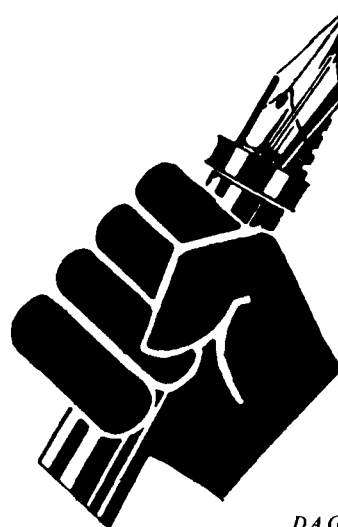
Quite possibly as many as 100 people asked, "What is SftP?" It appears to be time to update the brochure describing what SftP is and does.

We also received many requests for a catalogue of publications. Whenever SftP has a literature table, catalogues should be available.

As we move closer to our material base, we find the need for a receipt book. (Several teachers needed receipts for cash payment of books.)

Those who worked the NSTA Convention were genuinely encouraged by the high level of interest about SftP among science teachers and the positive feedback we received. It seems clear that we have much to offer science teachers and they are looking for it. We hope this opportunity will become a reality.

What we are proposing is not insignificant, and will entail a lot of work. It is, however, important. All four of us, and especially the two of us who are science teachers, offer our help to get things going. □



DA G/cpf

continued from p. 6

Dear SftP,

Many excellent articles have appeared in *Science for the People* that describe how theories of human behavior emphasizing genetic factors are promoted to justify the status quo. The people most likely to promote these theories are the ones who already enjoy positions of status, wealth and power.

I am interested in learning more about the systematic relations between human behavior and environmental variables. One of the activities of *Science for the People* is to expose the class control of science and technology — and the economically powerful are certainly using techniques of control on everyone else. However, I believe that many people who consider themselves progressive attack environmental theories of behavior (such as operant behaviorism) because at this time only the powerful elite apply these theories. These theories are useful for explaining much of human behavior. As psychologist B.F. Skinner puts it, "The question is this: are we to be controlled by accident, by tyrants, or by ourselves in effective cultural design?"

Dear SftP,

Because of the nature of my studies in environmental science at Rutgers University, your articles on occupational diseases are immeasurably helpful in supplementing my studies. Keep up the great work you do on this subject. Your research is a great challenge to the cover-up reporting of the straight press.

J. Teitelbaum
Highland Park, NY

Dear SftP,

SftP is a most appreciable contribution to the criticism of science. Though only science in the narrow anglo-saxon meaning of the term is treated, almost every issue contains an article that is inspiring for my own political and/or scientific activity. Yet in the long run I would like to see topics discussed in the area of my specific interests, too: language, social behavior, school education. The debate on women and science has been quite relevant here — please go on!

Utzmaas
W. Germany

Dear Science for the People:

I think one of the basic problems confronting SftP, from which come many of the others, is that we often do not measure up to our name. Let me give a few examples.

We[in SftP] often talk about the need for reaching out to the neighborhood people. But we have relied mainly on the publicity of the Cambridge[MA] Public Library to spread the word about a few sparsely-attended workshops. Even within these workshops we sometimes present material in weird ways, and try to make "political" points, as seen different from just plain information. Thus we are not talking to people *where they are at*. So we have become an in-group that is mutually shocked by the horrors of capitalism and all its scientific nightmares.

The magazine tries hard at being an information source for people who are concerned about the misuse of science. At the same time, however, its language and its assumptions about the political understanding of its audience make it impossible to read for ordinary everyday people. Thus it, like SftP itself, has become a place to expose the hazards and devastations of industrial capitalism. After a while, there seems little more can be said.

Thus both the organization and the magazine begin to lack purpose, thus the current crises.

So what we have left is a choice — continue as we have been, with the same cyclic problems as in the past (the analogy to capitalism is compelling), or a new approach (which can't, of course, be developed overnight). The main point is that we have to *really* REACH OUT. If we have to make people aware that the problems we are talking about even exist, then let's do that. If we have to stand on corners in Central Square and hand out leaflets to attract people to workshops, let's do it! We have to dispose of the distinction between "politics" and the truth about science and technology, however mundane. And we also need to provide some real alternatives, not just exposes.

Jon Campbell
Cambridge, MA

[P.S.:] (As a side note, the most recent issue of the magazine *did* have something new in it — PORN. I could not, in good conscience, show any of my rather progressive friends this issue. It's per-

fectly all right to talk about women's health issues, even health issues confronting lesbians. The comic strip was both unnecessary and disgusting. We need not have a lesbian version of Fritz the Cat to tell us that doctors don't know how to treat lesbians. They don't know how to treat *heterosexuals* either!)

Dear SftP,

The recent article on intelligence was a waste of space, a conglomerate of common rhetoric about I.Q. testing — I'd hoped for a more compelling piece, which I normally find in SftP.

Edward Dunbar
Venice, CA

Dear Friends,

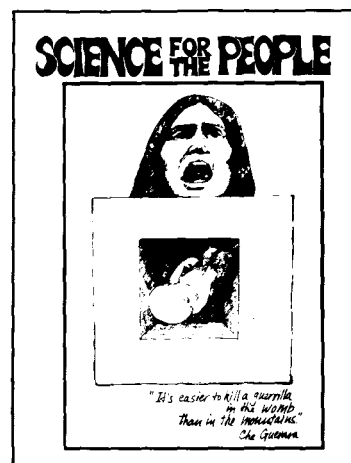
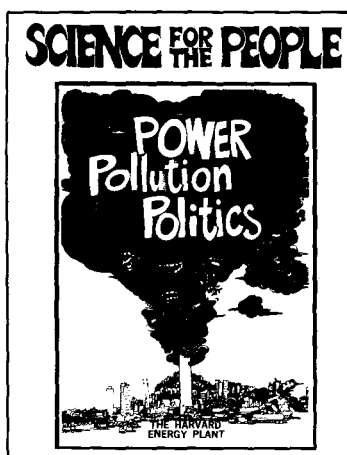
The letter by C. Duarte of New Jersey in the May issue is a telling exposure of the confusion rampant in *Science for the People* on basic economic and political issues. *Science for the People* can be useful in progressive political struggles if it provides information and analysis with which one can oppose the prevalent view promoted by established scientific experts who are working in the interests of the present system of exploitation and imperialism. However, it can only serve this function if it has correct, illuminating clarifications to present instead of the mystifying misinformation which the ruling class relies on. As is evident from the analysis presented in that letter, the views promoted by many *Science for the People* articles are often also very confused and wrong. Thus, relying on *Science for the People* will leave one in no better position to oppose these bourgeois experts. The organization needs to do some concentrated, disciplined political study if it wishes to fulfill this task; if it does not, it will become irrelevant and eventually reactionary. I urge members to take the remarks in that letter seriously and answer for themselves the question: which class are you serving? The ruling class or the oppressed class?

Yours in struggle,
David Westman
Seattle, WA 98103



DC Gazette/cpf

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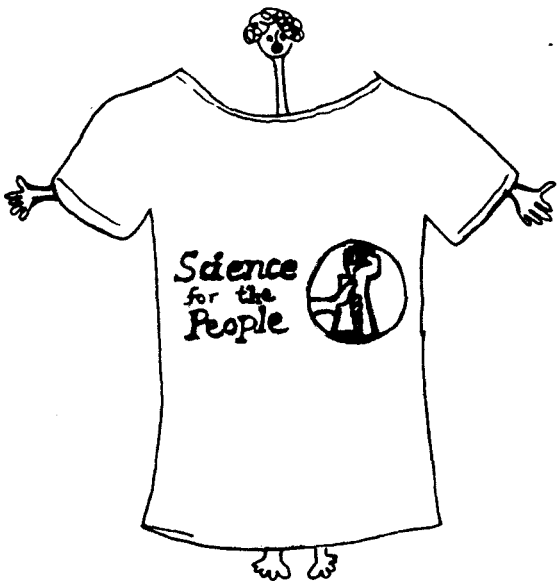
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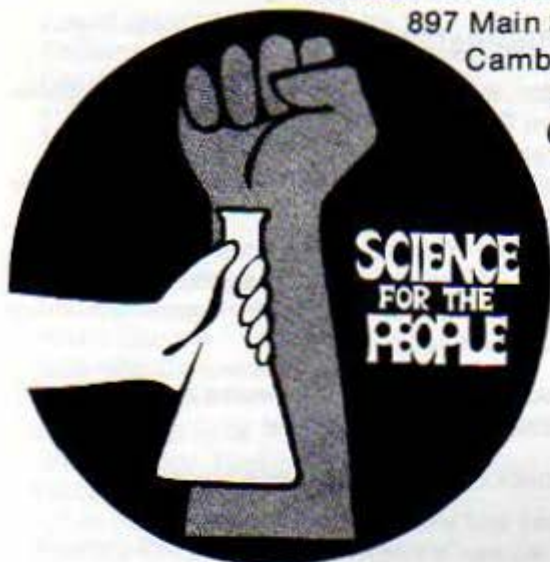
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