Residents of North Berkeley like their neighborhood, and few would trade it for any other. If you don’t believe it, ask anyone who has tried to rent or buy a house nearby in this area. But as comfortable as we are, we have long been aware of at least one major deficiency in our neighborhood: the lack of open park space.

In the area bounded by Shattuck and Sacramento, University and Cedar, there is but one city-owned park, a tot lot three-sided of an acre in size. In fact, the only other park in Berkeley west of Shattuck between University and Cedar is James Kenney Park at Eighth and Delaware.

In the North Berkeley Neighborhood there are over 3,500 children under the age of 15, and the population density is 45.4 persons per acre. Compare this to the situation in the Berkeley Hills north of Cedar, where the density is only 19.1 persons per acre, yet the 4,000 children there have 15 acres, or residents take times at much city-owned park land.

And that figure does not include Tilden Regional Park, which is less than a mile from most Hills neighborhoods.

BUILD PARKS ON BART STRIP

It can’t be argued that there is no room for parks in North Berkeley. The Hearst Street BART Strip is one of the largest pieces of vacant land in the city. As early as 1967, the Whittier Neighborhood Council asked the city to build parks on BART land (see Berkeley Gazette, 6/3/69). And in fact, on August 20, 1968, the Berkeley City Council unanimously adopted a resolution by the City Planning Commission recommending that “a system of parks and recreation facilities should be developed for the area consistent with its planned future development and population.” The resolution further stated that “portions of the Hearst Strip should be acquired for use as park space in North Berkeley. The BART Board of Directors, apparently recognizing the legitimacy of the neighborhood action, grudgingly agreed that “People’s Park Annex may keep going for a while, but only in the daytime, proper and neat.” (San Francisco Chronicle, June 1969)

In the four-and-a-half years since the park was born, it has been anything but easy to keep it “proper and neat.” City recognition and support have been literally non-existent since that resolution five years ago. PPA continues to be a user-developed park, existing only as long as unpaid volunteers are willing to keep it up.

Water is the major expense in the park. Since park people collected the $50 necessary to plug into city water mains in 1969, it has been a long uphill struggle to keep the park green and growing. George Garrison, 52-year-old rubber worker and sometimes tennis player, has been active in the park since it began, and for the past couple of years has been the person primarily responsible for seeing that the grass gets watered and the bill gets paid. He says, “The water bill averages about $25 a month during the six dry months. It’s paid largely from the money collected from the two concessions in the park. I only wish more people knew how many concessions are there.

Organic gardening has always been a major activity in the park. Even now there are winter gardens growing on the north side of the park. If you stop by, you may find pumpkins, radishes, turnips, lettuce and chard. Jane Easton, a park gardener and Ecology Center worker, envisions agricultural expansion on the Hearst Strip which might include such city contributions as compost and distribution of the produce grown. She says, “I’d like to see a large-scale community-wide agricultural project on the Strip. There’s no reason urban land can’t be farmed. Besides, it’s a practical community solution to rising food prices.”

Last spring a Hearst Street resident, Dvora Jonas, taught a section of a U.C.continued on page 8

COUNCIL

MASSAGE; DECLINES JUNKET

Amidst significant confusion and community opposition, the Berkeley City Council is going forward with a far-reaching program for the inspection of all rental housing units in the city.

The program was developed by the Inspection Services Department at the urging of Councilman Henry Ramsey. It contemplates the hiring of 10 new housing inspectors with a total cost of approximately $200,000, paid for by the funds from the charge inspection fees.

Under the program, the beefed-up inspection force would search for housing code violations in all rental housing units. In many, if not most rental units, especially older buildings, there will be code violations. Owners will be required to correct all violations or else have their permit to rent the building revoked.

MASSAGE

The current status of the Council’s attempt to pass a massage parlor ordinance is mired in confusion. Because the Council last dealt with the issue at 3:00 a.m., no one could remember what the did or meant to do. The City Attorney was asked to try again to draft an ordinance acceptable to the Council.

The Council wants an ordinance that would require massage parlors to obtain a user permit in the same way restaurants and liquor stores do. The Board of Adjustments would hold public hearings on the applications. Massage parlors would be limited to the commercially zoned areas of the city. Massage parlor permits could be suspended or revoked for criminal violations of various kinds.

MUTUAL AID PACT

In other action, the council accepted the recommendations of the Police Review Commission to set a new deadline of March 15, 1974, for notification of all mutual-aid acts. A public hearing on mutual-aid acts was set for February 19, 1974, and the Police Review Commission is to have its report and recommendations on the pact completed by January 31.

SECURITY NATIONAL

The Council set a public hearing for December 4 on the application by Security National Bank for a branch on Fulton Street between Bancroft and Denny. The Board of Adjustments granted the permit and allowed the bank the two drive-in teller windows. A large number of neighborhood groups and ecology groups appealed the decision to allow the drive-in windows, claiming they would encourage automobile traffic and congestion. The Council will now hear the dispute at a December 4th public hearing.

COUNCIL JUNKET

A proposal to release funds to allow councilmembers to attend the National League of Cities convention in Puerto Rico was defeated. Voting for funding the Puerto Rico trip were Councilmembers Ramsey, Runsum, Simmons, and Widener. Voting No were Councilmembers Hancock, Hoke, Kelley, and Sweeney. Kallgren abstained. Councilmembers wishing to attend will now have to use their own funds or the regular monthly allocation for Council expenses.

The next City Council meeting will be November 27 at 7:30 p.m.

NO RADICALS NEED APPLY

Working for the April Coalition and working for the city just do not go together—ask Cynthia George.

George, a black woman and former legislative assistant to City Manager Paul Williamson, lost a job at a TV station last June because of comments made about her Coalition work by a staff member of the city manager’s office. Her attorney will now file suit and attempt to raise the issue in the courts. After working the April Coalition and the Black Caucus during the City Council campaign, George landed a job with KPBS television in San Diego and resigned her position in the city manager’s office. Four days before the required Columbia University training program for the job, the TV station abruptly canceled the job offer. A faculty advisor for the Columbus training program explained that information was brought to the attention of Margaret Ann Watson, assistant to the city manager, who made them decide that hiring George had been a mistake.

RADICAL POLITICS

Gloria Pensier, Director of Program Development at KPBS in San Diego, called Margaret Watson on May 31st to ask about Cynthia George. According to a memo that Ms. Pensier wrote, when asked if George had any particular political affiliation Ms. Watson said that she had heard that Cynthia was “the campaign manager for a city council candidate who continued on p. 8

Continued on page 8

Cynthia George
GRASSROOTS

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GRASSROOTS

MARCH TO IMPEACH DEC.

Nixon's impeachment can't be left to Congress or the Courts. History has proven that, at best, these institutions are incapable, by themselves, of producing a meaningful change. In fact, Congress is already backpedaling quickly on the impeachment question. Only a strong independent grassroots movement can produce meaningful change—impeach Nixon, establish a new presidency, congress and all of our political and economic institutions. The movement to impeach Nixon is another step in the battle progressive forces in this country have been waging for a just and honorable society.

For this reason the GRASSROOTS collective urges all of its readers to partici

Dear Friends-

Congressman Ronald V. Dellums' behavior in recent weeks has been very peculiar. He unexpectedly voted against the motion to override Nixon's veto on the presidential war powers limitation bill; and he has been uncharacteristically characterized during the nationwide demands for Nixon's resignation or impeachment.

Then I read that he and his wife purchased a house in Washington, D.C. for $150,000. I wonder what's happening? I would welcome the usual excellent investigative reporting by Grassroots, and a comment from our congressman.

Sincerely,

Raymond Okamura

Editor's Note: Congressman Dellums discusses his vote on the war powers limitation bill in this issue.

Purchasing

LETTERS TO THE COLLECTIVE

Perhaps you might mention the benefit also. It should be fun.

Thanks again and keep up the good work.

Tom Frgoda

Yemen Collective

Editor, GRASSROOTS

West Berkeley, re-named, will create a new, autonomous city west of Grove Street. We can and will ignore the useless Charter Revision Committee created by organizations based in the hills. We already have the preliminary draft of our Charter, developed a provisional municipal government, and organized for induction units of the California National Guard.

Picnics will be held soon in every census tract that desires such a vote. We need money and right now. Right now the University and other non-taxable institutions, with the industry and tax revenues will we build here in the Bay the New Jerusalem—the Beautiful City of God.

-Walter J. Morales

The need for intensified popular pressure for Richard Nixon's impeachment has increased with the unearthing of Nixon's "honesty offense." Only continued, massive support for impeachment can counter Nixon's offensive and force the Congress to move. This was the basis for the organization of the Bay Area Coalition to Impose Nixon (BACIN). BACIN was organized in the period following the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre," and is the result of the merger of the Citizens Committee to Impeach Nixon, the ad hoc group that called the Civic Center rally for impeachment on October 27, and a coalition of the People's Front and the Berkeley-Oakland chapter of the New American Movement. BACIN is quickly becoming a broad-based coalition that includes a range of political perspectives—francists, liberals, and organizations— labor, feminist, community, third world and political.

It is approaching its impeachment campaign in the context of a political recall of the President. It sees itself as a defensive mount against an attack on the policies of the Nixon administration, as well as the only continuous way in which a truth about the Watergate affair and to punish Nixon. Its first activity was participation in the 11 AM/600 demonstration against social service cutbacks at HAW.

Perhaps you might mention the benefit also. It should be fun.

Thanks again and keep up the good work.

Tom Frgoda

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-Walter J. Morales

I would like to take this opportunity to explain my position with respect to my recent vote on the question of overriding the President's veto of the supposed war powers limitation bill.

It should be noted that not only did I not vote to override the veto, but I did not vote at any time in favor of this particular piece of legislation.

My principal objection to the passage of the supposed war powers limitation bill is that it invests in the office of the President a war-making authority not contemplated by the framers of the Constitution.

In anticipating the possibility of an emergency situation in which the United States were being attacked, the framers of the Constitution specifically provided for action by the President, as commander-in-chief. This bill goes beyond that, and in all practicality established procedures whereby the President, exercising only his discretion, can introduce American troops into any situation for a period of 60 days.

Many have pointed out, and accurately, that previous Presidents have engaged American troops in costly and unjustified wars at great expense in lives and material. The facts that previous Congresses have illegally allowed Presidents to institute various adventurisms should not be used to give the President's veto of this legislation was brought to the floor of the House of Representatives, I was approached by many of my liberal colleagues, who were urging me to vote to override the veto. I rejected then, and I still reject, the argument that it was important to override the veto because this was the first time it appeared that the House of Representatives would vote to override the veto.

I have voted to override every other veto the President has brought down, and have supported and will continue to support all efforts to impeach the President because of his illegal usurpation of power and various other high crimes and misdemeanors.

What I cannot understand is the expeditious supposition that simply because it was Mr. Nixon that I should vote to override the veto of, and thus vote to implement into law, a bill that I believe is dangerous and unconstitutional.

I voted for, worked for and will continue to advance the ideas presented in anti-war legislation introduced by my colleague from Texas, Mr. Eckhardt, that would prohibit the introduction of American troops into a combat situation without either a declaration of war or the specific and expressed consent of the Constitution.

This would be a true, legal and constitutional limitation on the Presi
dent's authority to engage in military adventurism. Nothing short of such legislation will ever thwart the efforts of a President bent on engaging American troops in a police action.

Ron Dellums

dellums explains veto vote

60 days.

What this legislation provides is a permanent "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution" under which any and all Presidents can flex America's military muscle in the farthest corners of the world under the most untenable of circumstances.

When the question of overriding the President's veto of this legislation was brought to the floor of the House of Representatives, I was approached by many of my liberal colleagues, who were urging me to vote to override the veto. I rejected then, and I still reject, the argument that it was important to override the veto because this was the first time it appeared that the House of Representatives would vote to override the veto.

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By Ron Dellums

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SURPLUS CENTER

373 UNIVERSITY AVE. AT M. E. C.
WHERE IT PAYS TO BUY CAMPING SUPPLIES & OTHER Supplies ITEMS
The city of Berkeley began in 1878 when the area called Oakland combined with the area called Berkeley. The trustees elected were elected at large and served for two years. Since the population of Berkeley was fairly evenly divided between working class Oakland and the more middle class downtown area, representation was a critical issue. In 1879, a group of 9 men in downtown Berkeley, led by J.G. Brackett, met with the mayor of Oakland and proposed a two-man election, but this was rejected.

In 1880, Berkeley and Oakland entered into a pooling arrangement, under which the two city councils voted together on all issues. This arrangement lasted until 1883, when it was dissolved due to political disagreements.

In 1884, a ward system was introduced, dividing the city into 6 wards, each represented by a councilor. This system was in place until 1909, when it was replaced by the city manager system.

The city manager system was introduced in 1909, and it has remained in place ever since. The mayor and council are elected by the voters, but the day-to-day operations of the city are overseen by a city manager.

The following table shows the councilors who served from 1878 to 1895:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Year(S) Served</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J.G. Brackett</td>
<td>farmer</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.M. Creed</td>
<td>at farmer</td>
<td>Rose at Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.M. Creed</td>
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<td>S.F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.W. Davis</td>
<td>carpenter</td>
<td>5th nr Cedar</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. McGee</td>
<td>carpenter</td>
<td>5th nr Cedar</td>
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<td>L. LeCottere</td>
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<td>20th</td>
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<td>B. French</td>
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<td>20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. F. Dunn</td>
<td>farmer</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geo. F. Parker</td>
<td>master mariner</td>
<td>7th nr Channing</td>
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<td>F. K. Schmitt</td>
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The table above shows the councilors who served from 1878 to 1895. It can be seen from the map that some councilors lived in the central part of the city, while others lived in more outlying areas.

The city manager system was introduced in 1909, and it has remained in place ever since. The mayor and council are elected by the voters, but the day-to-day operations of the city are overseen by a city manager.
There are two ways of establishing Neighborhood Councils and the boundaries of their areas:

1. Self-initiating: A proposal being considered by Charter Review Committee would be formulated by neighborhoods, defined themselves and then, through the initiative process, incorporate themselves. Here's how it works:

An informal petition proposing boundaries for a neighborhood could be circulated in a neighborhood. It is then presented to City Council, which holds a public hearing to settle any borderline disputes between adjoining neighborhoods. The City Council then ratifies the petition. The petition must show the support of 25 percent of the registered voters in a neighborhood in order to get on the ballot. If it passes by a simple majority of voters in the area, the Neighborhood is created and its Neighborhood Councilors are chosen in the same election.

Provisions are made for boundary changes through the initiative process. Most importantly, if a neighborhood for which boundaries would be set up in the Charter (8-11007). Once a Neighborhood Council has been established, and it elects its Council by this process, it automatically has power over local matters (as described in the last issue of Grassroots).

The self-initiating process is flexible and fits well with the type of political organizing now happening in Berkeley. Of course, there will be boundary disputes—that is why the proposal provides for the City Council to mediate before petitions are circulated.

2. Districts in Charter: If the new City Charter provides for the election of City Council from Districts of around 10,000 each, those District lines could be the same as Neighborhoods. This plan has the beauty of simplicity. In any area of the city there would be (1) a Neighborhood Council with authority over local matters, and (2) a District representative on the City Council.

The problem with any District system of election is who draws the lines? Gerrymandering is a powerful political weapon, and it is up to the people in power to perpetuate their rule indefinitely. With that in mind, members of the Charter Review Committee are working with a computer expert to develop a program which would yield fair District lines. Within one or two weeks we should know whether this is possible.

If the City Council is elected by small Districts of around 4,000 each, the problem of gerrymandering disappears. Smaller Districts are harder to manipulate, although the possibility still exists. But there is confusion as to how small Districts would fit with true neighborhood government. If neighborhood government means decentralization of local decisions to a local level—and I think that's the only real meaning it can have—the areas of Neighborhood Councils must be large enough to administer local programs and services, and large enough to make meaningful land-use decisions and to set budget priorities. Districts of 4,000 each are too small. Perhaps there could be a system of overlapping Districts, with Neighborhood Areas and Council Districts that don't concern us, but that seems very complex.

It's a question of what we want, but also, with an issue as complex as this one, it's a question of what we will settle for. We need to get rid of ad-hoc elections. If we can solve the problem of drawing fair District lines, I think the District Council would be in informal to the Neighborhood Government—which so far we can also establish true democratic decision making.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON NEIGHBORHOOD GOVERNMENT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 CITY COUNCIL

Sandra Martin

Councilperson Ed Kallgren was the first... engineers to hop off the Midnight

P.C.P. is a really bad trip. As if the bad psychological effects it has on people weren't enough, it turns out that it really messes up chromosomes in cells. When blood samples from people who have used P.C.P. are examined, some samples have 5-6 percent abnormal white cells. The abnormalities apparently occur not only in the white cells but in the sex cells too.

P.C.P. is an anesthetic called phencyclidine. But who have used phencyclidine have trouble getting pregnant and have more spontaneous abortions than normal. Sometimes when they succeed in having a baby they wish they hadn't. P.C.P. is worse than thalidomide, which caused the malformation of thousands of babies born in Europe. Luckily, it was never licensed in the U.S.). Thalidomide babies are born with abnormally shortened arms and legs. P.C.P. not only does this but causes spinal deformities too—some of the babies are so deformed that they only live for a few hours or days. One was born with no external sex organs and no kidneys.

The effects of P.C.P. seem to wear off with time, probably because the genetically damaged cells die and are replaced by healthy ones. Presumably, after some unknown period of time (perhaps several years), there is no risk in giving a child to a person who has used P.C.P. Additionally, any type of retaliatory action against a patient, employer, etc., which could be taken after the citation process is specifically prohibited by law.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS

The actual regulations implementing this bill are in the process of being written. It is particularly important that concerned consumers have an input into continued on p. 7
KPFA WOMEN'S GROUP PRESENTS VIEWS

Grassroots is featuring a series of articles on community radio station KPFA. The two previous articles dealt with the perspectives of the Third World media collective and KPFA's management. This article presents the point of view of one of the three women's groups working at the station, "Unlearning to Not Speak."

The "Unlearning to Not Speak" collective produces three programs every week for KPFA. Their broadcasts are directed to the thousands of women in Northern California interested in feminist-related problems and information. I spoke to Kathy McAnally and Ellen Dubrowin, two members of "Unlearning to Not Speak," the collective. They work in the subscription department in addition to producing women's programs.

The possibilities for change at KPFA toward dynamic and unusual programming are limited because management, the staff and volunteers have no agreed-upon framework in which to operate. The union contract negotiated under Bill Northwood, the previous station manager, was never signed and is considered unacceptable by the new station manager. Last time there was a union meeting, the staff was so demoralized that a quorum didn't show up.

Factions and interest groups representing the various departments and collectives jealously guard their air time and budget allotments. There is scarcely enough time to do the work of the subscription department and produce three programs each week, let alone the time and energy to deal with all the hangups and paranoia which exist around the station.

WOMEN OR OPERA?
The collective wants programming for women and other interest groups to have regular scheduled broadcast times. They are trying to develop a relationship to the station. They want regular scheduled broadcast times. They see their ideas and needs as legitimate.

Unlearning to Not Speak believes that the bulk of KPFA's programming is mediocre and boring. Good classical music, drama and literature are important to broadcasting at Pacifica, but if the station is to become important to the community, then emphasis must be placed on political and community affairs, special interest news and programs, and the expansion of programs directed to more audiences. KPFA tends toward traditional programs which appeal to an established white liberal listenership.

"The only thing I ever saw that came close to objective journalism was a close-circuit TV setup that watched shoplifters in the General Store at Woody Creek, Colorado," remarks Hunter Thompson in a book which makes no pretense of being truthful. "Objective Journalism ... the phrase itself is a pompos contradiction in terms."

NEW JOURNALISM

Thompson, along with other practitioners of the "New Journalism," has realized that journalism is subject to its own form of the Heisenberg uncertainty principle. In physics, the uncertainty principle explains that it is impossible to conduct a completely objective experiment because the experimenter will always have some effect on the results. Applied to journalism, the principle means that a journalist, by his mere presence, alters the news. Some pads and tape recorders influence what people say and frequently lead to the most important "facts" being revealed "off the record." Also, the press often creates the news and makes history (witness "The only thing I ever saw that came close to objective journalism was a close-circuit TV setup that watched shoplifters in the General Store at Woody Creek, Colorado," remarks Hunter Thompson in a book which makes no pretense of being truthful. "Objective Journalism ... the phrase itself is a pompos contradiction in terms.

"The only thing I ever saw that came close to objective journalism was a close-circuit TV setup that watched shoplifters in the General Store at Woody Creek, Colorado," remarks Hunter Thompson in a book which makes no pretense of being truthful. "Objective Journalism ... the phrase itself is a pompos contradiction in terms."
...keep on truckin'

Black, White, Chicano and we spoke with one voice off campus. One of the more interesting aspects of the meeting was an interchange between Board member Mark Monheimer and a student. Monheimer, voicing to the anti-police bandwagon, made it clear that he "couldn't take a position contrary to that of the students." (This was in reference to the fact that a majority of students had voted not to have police on the BHS campus.) When questioned as to the extent to which he was willing to uphold democratic principles ("Would you support student decisions on hiring and firing of teachers and administration? Would you support student decisions regarding suspensions?") Monheimer side-stepped the issue by indicating that this line of questioning did not deal directly with the police issue, that being the official and only allowable topic. But the point had been made.

Later in the evening, another speaker said that the "momentum put together over this issue must not be lost." Parents, concerned staff, teachers and students were urged to continue to work together for there are many issues that need to be dealt with. It was suggested that people attend meetings of the Board in the Board of Control (student government) for information and to make suggestions.

Another student, Danny Harold, said that it was well and good for the Board to take a position against police on campus. However, he pointed out that he couldn't go home until they expressed their sentiments in a vote. (Cheers from audience)

There are presently no police on the campus of Berkeley High School, but in the days ahead see a dramatic rise in the level of violence at BHS! If such a scenario were to unfold would we chalk it up to the ever-increasing decay rate in this society? Or would part of such a hypothesis increase be accounted for by "dirty tricks!?" Just how badly do the police want to get into the schools? To what ends are their bosses willing to go to further establish their foothold in education? It's time to rethink the ideology in the schools and immediately autonomous and highly conscious students and teachers!

...Ante Monopoly

(it's about time)
Continued from page 5

Watergate) by determining the relative importance of events. This alone makes objectivity impossible.

Thompson's response to this dilemma is an unrestricted and freewheeling journalism which allows for the recording of events while amplifying personal impressions. In his latest book, this results in a work which, with its focus on events like the 1972 presidential campaign interlarded with scatting subjective analyses.

Thompson spent a year covering the campaign for Rolling Stone magazine. He traveled with McGovern and Humphrey, and with Muskie when he was kicked off the Muskie train. Following the candidates from one primary state to another, Thompson gained a personal as well as a political understanding of the contenders. He also came to describe them as he saw them, with little concern for objective reporting and other journalistic ground rules.

His description of Humphrey, for instance, provides an excellent example of this unfettered style. Hubert Humphrey is a treacherous, gloating, self-important and incredibly calculating man who has been put in a goddamn bottle and sent out with the Japanese Current... He was a swine in '68 and he's worse now. If the Democratic Party nominates Humphrey in '72, the Party will get exactly what it deserves.

Thompson goes on to characterize Edmund Muskie as paranoid, uncontrollable, and doped up on an exotic African drug while "running one of the stupidest campaigns the country has ever seen." This campaign, which Thompson calls "false promises," is included in his explicitly expressing Thompson's biases. He hates Humphrey, thinks Muskie is a bastard, and has great affection for McGovern.

Thompson's journalism is slanted (whose journalism isn't?), but at least we know which direction the slant points. So-called "objective journalists," on the other hand, often disguise their prejudices with subtle wording and quotes taken out of context.

This is not to say that Thompson's brand of journalism provides the final solution to the dilemma of objectivity, but rather that it presents an alternate style of journalism provides the final consumer utilization of this new clients. For office balance, male and female, serious and frivolous, will find it easier to compare one brand with the other. The only problem is that the brand is a non-profit community pub.

Deeember 15. The team is open to contenders. He also came to describe well as a political understanding of the candidates from one primary state to another, Thompson gained a personal as well as a political understanding of the contenders. He also came to describe them as he saw them, with little concern for objective reporting and other journalistic ground rules.

Starkly Plough Irish Pub
(a non-profit community pub)
Sponsors Rugby Team
A community rugby football team, which will compete in the Northern California Rugby Football Union, has been formed. The team has played complete with eleven ('em, 11) games. The first game is December 1 at the Elk Theater. For information, call 841-4890.

Help Chica Strikers Don't Buy Farah Pants

Four thousand Mexican and Chicano workers and supporters of their women, have been on strike for one-and-a-half years. They are on strike against Farah Manufacturing Company in El Paso, Texas, for union recognition. At Farah the workers start at $1.70 an hour and may only make $2.20 an hour after 20 years of work for Farah. They have no seniority, no sick leave, no real retirement plan, no medical insurance, no legal rights, etc. If you can't reach us drop off contributions at 1500 Blake St. on the front step. Volunteers and contributors send a postcard to Grassroots, Box 274, Berkeley, 94702. We especially need someone to organize this project.

CRASH PADS

The Switchboard Collective of the Berkeley Free Clinic is in search of persons who can offer space to people who are forced to follow existing regulations. This is not to say that Thompson's... the Democratic Party nominates Humphrey in '72, the Party will get exactly what it deserves.

In order to win, the Farah strikers are putting more pressure on Farah and we can do the same. There will be no shopping during the Christmas season--in fact, a third of the department stores' profits are made in this time. We have good chance to help smash Farah by cutting his sales. The Farah Support Committees have called for a BOYCOTT of all MERVYN'S department stores, one of the main sellers of Farah pants. We are planning demonstrations in the Bay Area on December 1 to begin the boycott of Mervyn's. Berkeley residents are asked to come to Mervyn's San Pablo (city) store on December 1 at 12 noon.

For more information, petitions, leaflets, speakers, etc., get in touch with the Berkeley Farah Strike Support Committee by calling Molly at 655-2583. Remember--support the Farah-strikers--BOYCOTT MERVYN'S, Berkeley residents are asked to come to the demonstration December 1.

BOYCOTT GALLOW WINES
Don't shop at Jay-Zee Liquors
BOYCOTT FRAZIA WINE
CO-OP POURED BEER
Support the Brewery and Soft Drink Workers Join the CO-OP
International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 888
BOYCOTT SEARS
Don't shop at Sears stores
Support Retail Clerks Local 1100
BOYCOTT SAFEWAY
Support the United Farmworkers Union

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what is included in the two classes of violations subject to civil penalties. This may be done by contacting Mrs. M. Metcalf, Shields State Department of Health, O.B. 9, Room 440, 774 P Street, Sacramento 95814, telephone (916) 445-2070. Anyone wishing to read this Act may write to the Legislative Bill Room, Capital Building, Sacramento 95814, and ask for up to two free copies of A.B. 1600.

This legislation is a first in the country and its effectiveness in achieving quality care in nursing homes is uncertain. However, it does create a formal means to legitimize and vocalize concern for the thousands of people who exist in nursing homes. One may legitimately question whether efforts would be more effectively directed toward abolishing nursing homes and developing alternative means of providing support so that older people could remain in the community. It is impossible to predict where the efforts of a group organized around the effective consumer utilization of this new legislation would lead. It would be interesting to see if existing regulations, when actually followed, meet the needs of the people who live in nursing homes, and if nursing homes can continue to operate as profit-making ventures when forced to follow existing regulations.

We believe that an initial step in utilizing this new legislation would be to develop criteria by which lay persons could evaluate conditions in nursing homes. Many of us have knowledge about problems that exist within community nursing homes. We would like to develop with others the objective of exploring the "nursing home experience" and, secondarily, developing out such criteria. Other cities have done this type of thing with a high degree of success--why not Berkeley?

I can be contacted through Grassroots, Box 274, Berkeley, Ca. 94702.

Bonnie Fainberg

JOB AVAILABLE
Significant opportunity for experienced legal secretary. Need sensitive, competent person for general typing and major responsibility in general paralegal work and will/trusts. Work with nonprofit legal service for middle/low income clients. For office balance, male and minority applicants encouraged. Send resume to Consumer's Group Legal Services, 1414 University Ave., Berkeley 94702, or call 549-1800 and speak to Sherry Goodman.
The Berkeley Community Health Project (better known as the Berkeley Free Clinic and RAP Center) has turned down $27,000 in Alameda County Revenue-Sharing Funds rather than go along with county requirements that could lead to a serious breach of clinic-patient confidentiality through the possibility of county investigation of individual patients. This decision was not made hastily. It was the culmination of several months of negotiations with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and administrative staff.

Early in the summer the Alameda County Board of Supervisors granted the Berkeley Community Health Project the following funds for which we had applied. However, the contract for these funds required that we establish a fee-for-service, a process requiring that we bill people on a sliding scale based on their income; if their income fell under a certain level then the county would pay the fee. We weren't prepared to establish such a drastic change in the clinic; although these funds for over two months, we did not accept them.

Maybe we should have had more foresight when we prepared our full proposal to the Board, but we needed the money and that was our focus. We had increased our budget for this year to allow us to increase and improve our services. We felt that public funds should be only available for fund community projects such as ours; our proposal was for $27,000 to cover one year’s funding.

The Board of Supervisors approved this second proposal, and we started to work with the county administrative staff on a contract. A contract sets out the conditions under which the funds would be allocated, how the services would be provided, and how fiscal responsibility would be guaranteed. We have worked out several contracts in the past, with the City of Berkeley and the State of California. They have never questioned our ability to provide vital services to many people in need. Also, we have never had any problems with the agencies that were trusting us with large amounts of money, a trust that has been justified. Yet these issues became insurmountable problems in our dealings with the county.

In the beginning of the negotiations the county staff once again said we would have to establish a fee-for-service process. We presented counter-proposals and eventually this requirement was dropped. Then we were informed that we would have to have eligibility forms for patients. The county wanted to be sure patients really couldn’t afford medical care elsewhere. An eligibility form is a statement of income and number of dependents. Patients would have to sign under the threat of two hassles: the first, that a sample number of patients would get investigated by the county staff (to see if they were really in need, the second, that they could be prosecuted for perjury if they lied. The county stated that they would hold the clinic responsible for repayment. For example, if the county investigated ten patients and found one liar, we would be expected to pay back 10 percent of the money. If they gave us more time, the county staff also informed us that they (and federal auditors) would have a “right of access” to our records “to prove that patients actually get services”.

We later learned that we had been asked to accept these funds even though we understood that the county was requiring the eligibility forms and access to medical records before certain changes in the county’s allocation of the Dispensation of Revenue-Sharing Funds. Then we learned, from a member of the Board of Supervisors — and the county staff, with whom we had been in contact for over two months — that the contract terms we objected to existed because of State Guidelines prohibiting the granting of funds to people who have money.

We were aware that these were federal funds, that they would be distributed to the state, county, and local governments. The federal government has been cutting funds to “poverty” programs, community programs, and any type of grass-roots service providers. The fed’s say that revenue-sharing will take up the slack; Well, it’s not enough money. After all, the state and county have been administered through three levels—federal, state, and county—and in most cases the regulations have become more restrictive and much more antiquated than federal guidelines. So the county gets the heat, as well as control of the cash. In the county was totally uncooperative: they held back information, said one thing one week and something different the next week, and even questioned whether we and our patients are trustworthy people.

The straw that broke our backs came when the county staff insisted that county eligibility forms would be required to include not only names, but addresses as well; that is, we would have to give county administrators to have complete access to medical records of patients. We would have to provide detailed information about people that we would want personal contact with patients served.

We realize that we have built a trust within our community as a result of our providing all services without any eligibility forms and maintaining confidentiality of the records we do keep. Obviously, if we were to have accepted these federal funds we would have been endangering this trust, if not destroying it altogether. We could not in good conscience relate to any agency or government that placed so little trust in the efforts of the people in the community we serve. Breaking this trust is not worth any amount of money, and almost anything would be better than having informed the county that we cannot accept these funds.

Continued from page 1

The Berkeley Community Health Project (Berkeley Free Clinic & RAP Center) has been working to improve the environment of the park that neighbors have met head to head in the afternoon hauling out old furniture. Seven of the county staff once again said we would have to establish a fee-for-service process. We presented counter-proposals and eventually this requirement was dropped. Then we were informed that we would have to have eligibility forms for patients. The county wanted to be sure patients really couldn’t afford medical care elsewhere. An eligibility form is a statement of income and number of dependents. Patients would have to sign under the threat of two hassles: the first, that a sample number of patients would get investigated by the county staff (to see if they were really in need, the second, that they could be prosecuted for perjury if they lied. The county stated that they would hold the clinic responsible for repayment. For example, if the county investigated ten patients and found one liar, we would be expected to pay back 10 percent of the money. If they gave us more time, the county staff also informed us that they (and federal auditors) would have a “right of access” to our records “to prove that patients actually get services”.

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candidate, a Black woman who was the candidate for the April Coalition in a radical group. Imagine the reaction to that! The conservative political climate of San Diego and to the staff of a TV station with no Third World people.

Obvious concerns about city personnel policy regarding the political activities of employees are raised by Watson's actions. To jeopardize the job security of city employees who express their political beliefs outside their job must be an effective way to maintain a muzzled and intimidated staff bureaucracy, it's also an unethical professional practice. In this case, the outcome was to prevent employment outside the city government department 100 miles from our change of residence.

On October 16, the charge filed by Cynthia George against the City of Berkeley appeared on the Council consent calendar and was denied. At least two members of the Council knew about the precipitating situation, but neither raised questions about the city's personnel policy regarding information about employees' political affiliations.

George is being punished for having radical political beliefs and for exercising her right to express them. Her legal suit against the City of Berkeley has special relevance as more Berkeley residents, Third World people and women are coming to the attention of the city's restrictive Affirmative Action Program. One of the ways to make our city bureaucracy more responsive to the needs of the community is for the city of Berkeley to be made sure that employees can continue to speak out for progressive change without fear of reprisal of any kind. Cynthia George's claim is aimed at exposing the city's actions in this case and compelling a change in the city's practices.

—by Bill Sokol