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cardinal MONDAY magazine

To the untrained eye, summertime in New Hampshire may not seem like the start of a political horserace, but green trees and ocean vacations only belie the hard facts of electoral jockeying and Democratic feedbags.

Early in August, several presidential contenders paid their first political calls on New Hampshire, where the March primary election will be an important waystation in the quadrennial presidential derby.

It really was a horserace; with the stands filled with political sportscasters and cheering spectators, nobody was really betting any money yet, but a motley field was off and running.

An important event of this early August weekend was the reception given for George McGovern, the earliest announced presidential contender. At the Vermont farmhouse retreat of Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith, East Coast Beautiful People mingled with crusty Vermont Democrats in an effort to raise money and support for the chosen candidate of the Eastern intelligentsia.

Several hundred gathered in the field facing Galbraith's white farmhouse in an effort to bring McGovern into collusion with those who can help elect him: people who have money or power.

Steinem explained to the assembled Democrats and dignitaries that "of the white, male candidates, George is the best on women's issues." That remark hit home with the young women in the crowd, who cheered and laughed, but the Vermont pols appeared somewhat less impressed.

After Steinem's speech, it was time for the important people to hear from McGovern himself. In his star-spangled shirt and stiff demeanor, this Midwestern son of a Methodist minister did not really belong with either the Vermont politicians or with the Beautiful Liberals.

HE STEPPED TO THE microphone, conscious of the difficulty in trying to live up to the advance billing, which by now had gone on for a good hour. "After hearing all those nice things about me, maybe all I should do is bow." There was laughter at this remark, and a general feeling that he was right, but he gave a speech anyway: The war, poverty, racism, health care, housing: his words were dull and familiar.

McGovern seemed like a conscientious and committed candidate, who campaigns like cardboard. As he finished his speech, everyone was impressed and relieved, and restlessly conscious of the beer and food which awaited them toward their rear.

problem, yes. Somewhere towards the end of the conference, we realized that we'd left younger women out of the planning totally. And these are the women who are the driving force behind the women's movement."

Clearly having won that round, we posed a tougher question: "Will you still support McGovern if Shirley Chisholm runs for President?"

But, to our disbelieving ears, Steinem unflinching, explained her simultaneous support of both candidates. "Shirley's would be a symbolic candidacy, aimed at shaking up the system, and I think it would be a good thing but of the serious candidates, George is still the best on women's issues."

But then the stardust started dimming, and others wanted to chat with Steinem. The backwoods were growing chilly, people were starting to leave, and the long afternoon of the Liberals' Retreat drew to a close. But Robert Penn Warren, a distinguished Southern writer of longstanding leftist credentials, was still lying on the grass, chatting. He lives just down the road a piece, and he alone came appropriately dressed for the occasion...faded jeans and a checkered shirt.

FOLKSY AND SOUTHERN in his straw hat, Warren looked altogether

Grove."

WITH BRIGHT SHIRTS and campaign buttons, the cigared Demos brought their families and grandmothers to drink beer, barbecue chicken and meet some famous people. There was a slow, rhythmic tone to the afternoon's visitations: A car would pull in...people clustered around it...a senator stepped out...shook hands...greeted the county leaders...made a few remarks...mingled with the crowd...and finally moved out to meet everyone's grandmother.

Then the senator, having mingled, returned to his car...his aides hopped in...and he sped away to another Democratic picnic. The Democrats returned to their chicken and beer, and waited, poised to cluster and listen again as soon as the next Democratic pretender drove in.

THE THEME OF MOST of the Democrats' speeches was the economy; it was a week before the President's wage-price freeze announcement and the Democrats were still making good political hay on that issue. Abstract remarks about the Vietnam War, or racism, drew a cooler response from the crowd.

Scoop Jackson, the moderate Washington Democrat, drew the loudest cheers of the day as he struck a

Democrats at the gate

By MARIAN McCUE



ALTHOUGH GALBRAITH'S guests came from hither and yon for the occasion, the tone of the affair was oddly intimate, like a family reunion. Veterans from the old Kennedy and McCarthy campaigns met and mingled, and renewed old friendships, as the Eastern liberals prepared to have another try at the Camelot which was so rudely stolen away from them eight years ago.

The New Frontier legacy was brought sharply to mind by Arthur Schlesinger, who had been a close advisor to JFK. A historian and part-time politician, Schlesinger spoke for half an hour on the necessity for George McGovern. Schlesinger lent his support to McGovern perhaps in the hope that a McGovern administration might again bring the rise to prominence of all the liberal academics who had seen such favor in the yesteryear of Camelot.

Gloria Steinem, famous cover girl and starlet of the new feminism, was then introduced with a short Galbraithian dissertation on the importance of the women's liberation movement. Relating the women's movement to the cause at hand,

Galbraith finally released them from their captivity and the mingling, the contacting, and the contributing took place as the partygoers hobnobbed over beer and pretzels in Galbraith's back yard. Many people in the crowd were just wandering around, jockeying for a glimpse of stardust, or trying to catch a word with a famous person.

Many meandered to be near Gloria, whose starluster was blinding; gleaming teeth, sexy glasses—she was easily the best-looking thing at the party and the natives gathered around in tribal fascination: "Miss Steinem, I'd like you to meet the most liberated woman in the world—my wife." Met with a polite smile. Then other people gathered around, and there were some low, serious words about the gay movement. During this time, my colleague and I were circling around, mustering courage to pose our thorny question.

"WHAT ABOUT THE National Women's Political Caucus? Wasn't there some problem about the representation of younger women?"

Gloria answered—very friendly, with fixed smile: "There really was a

different from the city slickers who were drifting out of the Galbraiths' field: back to the bright lights and academic hamlets from whence they had come.

As we exited, McGovern's cleancut junior staffers were counting the take (\$1,000) netted (roughly \$3 a head), and assessing McGovern's prospects: "We absolutely have to take Wisconsin," one of them said. "That's the really crucial primary state. Muskie has the New Hampshire primary already sewed up."

As important as the doings of the elites who attended the Galbraithian reception, was the political picnicking the next day of some rank and file New Hampshire Democrats.

The Hillsborough County Democratic Party held its annual picnic on a long August afternoon—but this year they were treated to many important visitors: would-be Democratic Presidents who used this political picnic to woo the important New Hampshire vote. Bayh, McGovern, Jackson, and Muskie were all slated to attend the outing in a secluded "Alpine

patriotic, military tone. "I'm very opposed to cutting the defense budget," he said. "China would never talk to a weak nation."

And treading on the sanctified territory of the most recent Democratic hero, Jackson quoted from JFK, with words from the campaign of 1960: "I want an America that's first: not first but, or first when, but first period." This remark brought the loudest cheer of the long political afternoon.

FOR THE BEST MESSAGE of that day was still America first, followed by the plight of the workingman's pocketbook. Beyond that, it seemed like a lot of issues might not even be raised. Political analysts, in noting the success of Jackson, predicted the resurgence of the cold war liberal, and predicted a serious split in the Democratic Party in '72. The liberals and moderates had squared off.

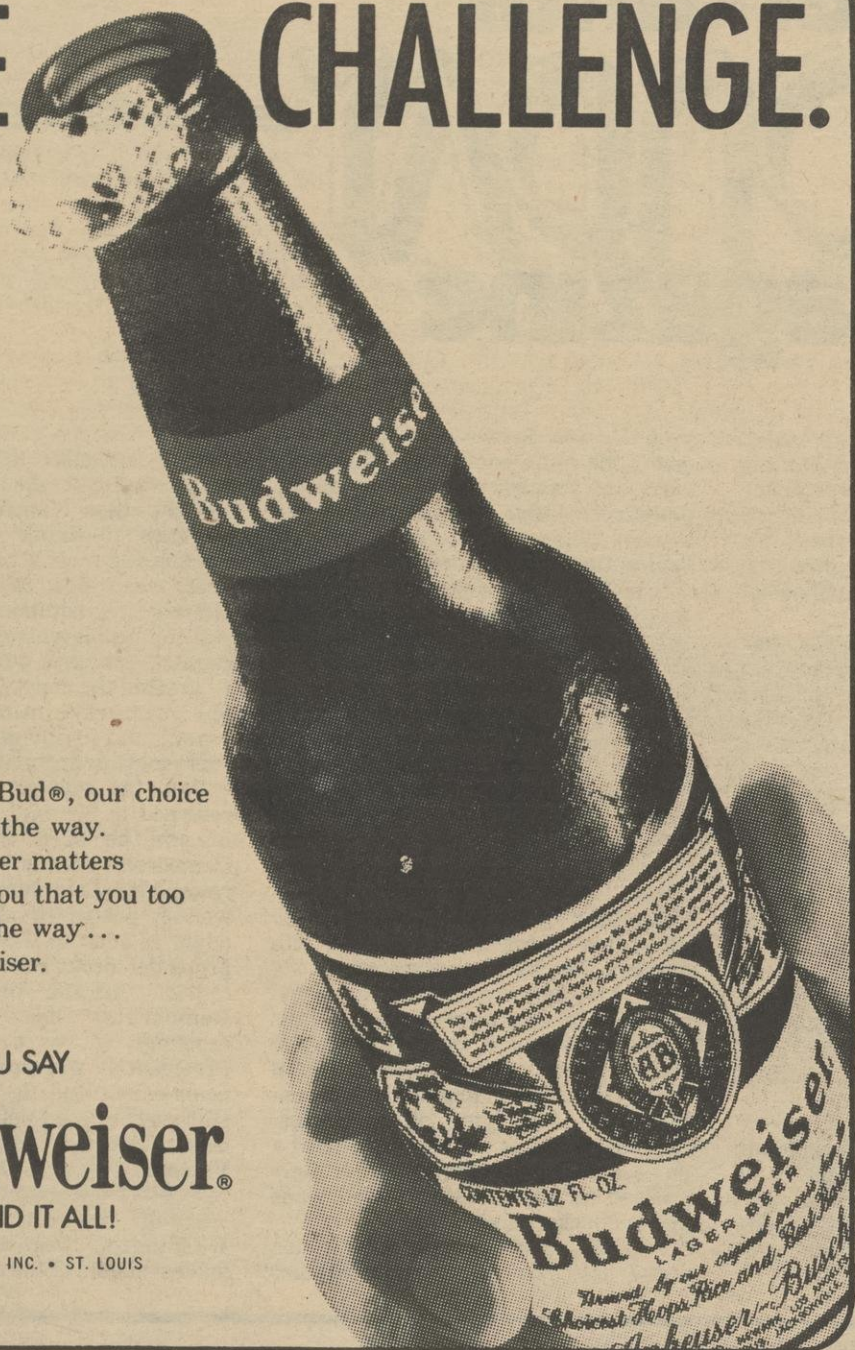
But in New England that weekend, with the political hoopla and the procession of the biggies, it had all the earmarks of a political horserace. Nobody was conjecturing about the finish, except for a nawing suspicion that we'd seen this race before.

THE CHALLENGE.

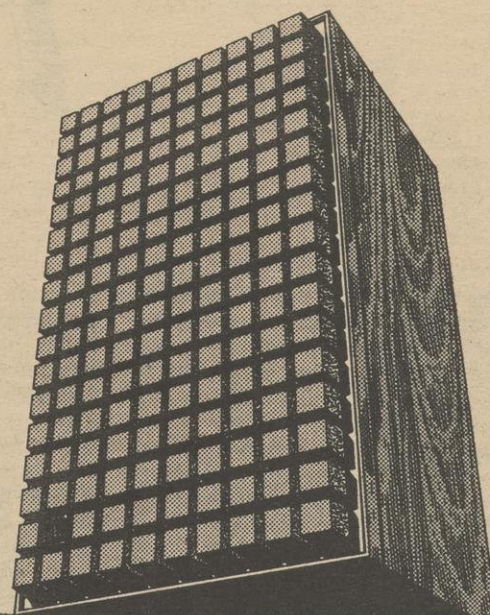
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Lorenzo's passes from hip to slick

By ROBERT NEWTON

"Robert Cohen juttied his black beard, clenched his fist, and said, 'We mean to erect a Socialist society on this campus.'"

"We were sitting in a pizza-and-beer joint called Lorenzo's at 813 University Ave. across from the University of Wisconsin campus. The talk was about what was happening on the campus—at Wisconsin and in college towns all over the country where zealots such as Cohen were leading student protests into new, and to many of their elders, frightening channels."

From a UPI article by David Smothers, June 4, 1967.

Anyone who has lived in Madison for more than the four year college stint knows only too well the dues for University expansion. The city, the campus and the burgeoning youth culture have all undergone a rapid and devastating expansion, and all have lost a certain intangible intensity.

Back in the good old days, sometime around the transition from the Beat to the Hippie movement, there existed a bar in Madison in which one could actually read Kerouac without considering it the romantic abstraction of someone's imagination.

It was the scene at a time when all of today's scene makers were chewing ground fat and sipping sodas in the neighborhood Burgerville. To use Kerouac's words, "It

was hip without being slick."

LORENZO'S AT ITS University Avenue location, doubled with the venerable Rathskeller as the center for the (old) campus movement. It was everything that the Pad and Paisan's ever wanted to be. A historian will one day say that Lorenzo's best reflected the atmosphere of the sixties in Madison.

Entering Lorenzo's was something like entering the world of the now generation as seen by United Press International. Its style was just what the editor ordered—an adequately spaced, low lit room with oh-so wooden tabled booths, and a sandwich and beer bar area. The drinking, and thus admission, age was only 18, but there was always a rather noticeable absence of the young kids having a first drink. The Amber Grid, the Kollege Klub, Paisan's, maybe even the Snack Shack always seemed to draw the initiation ritual of the draught, but rarely Lorenzo's.

But this isn't the sixties anymore. Robert Cohen is in Buffalo, New York, and Lorenzo's is typical of changes in the downtown scene. Monstrous anomalies, building labelled as functions of the multiversity, have extended the boundaries of the University, indiscriminately devouring even the most sacred non-academic shrines. Lorenzo's fell to the new Communications Arts building in 1968.

Paisan's was located next door to Lorenzo's on University Avenue, and has managed its transition to 425 N. Frances with only a minimal loss to its original atmosphere. Lorenzo's however, the early alternative to pre-fab college hang-outs, died under the weight of the University-hired ball and chain—and something a little more subtle, the prostitution of a culture.

The sizzling sixties and the Dow demonstrations have mellowed into the Cooling seventies. The new Lorenzo's reflects the new city; it has modernized—lost some hipness and gained some slickness. The seating capacity of this second generation bar is almost half of what it used to be, the walls are covered with a diverse assortment of paintings to conceal the general aura of plasticity.

An angular, doglegged bar and seating arrangement with an off-set wing bar and poker table lends itself to the "big city" downtown it is beginning to serve. The racially mixed clientele of Lorenzo's new location at 461 W. Gilman enjoy its new atmosphere. A Bid Whist game generates the main excitement at one end of the room, while the other patrons relax and converse over the reasonably priced stock of brandies, beer, and coke.

Lorenzo's has gone 21, and this overt change seems somehow in keeping with the others that appear so obvious, but are perhaps less easily defined—the road from a campus to a city bar. Some of Lorenzo's customers have made the two block trip with the times—many more have migrated with the movement to the 602 Club and the Plaza.

China:

"...cynical big-power diplomacy in the traditional fashion,"

say 2 China history profs here

By DAN LAZARE

Cardinal photos by Dennis Friedler



PROF. EDWARD FRIEDMAN

The conception of the People's Republic of China as a militantly anti-imperialist nation, and a champion of the rights of all oppressed colonial peoples has been undoubtedly affected for many by the events of the past year. President Nixon's upcoming visit to the mainland is seen by some as indicative of a relaxation in that country's vehement anti-U.S. posture.

Even more significant is China's persistence in supplying arms to the forces of West Pakistan, presently engaged in a bloody campaign to quash the Bangla Desh independence movement.

For Professors Edward Friedman, of the Political Science Department, and Maurice Meisner, of the History Department, who are team teaching a course this semester on the history of revolution in China, these developments are not new developments at all, but continuations of foreign policy principles established in the People's Republic of China some years back.

HISTORY OF REVOLUTION in China is made somewhat unusual because it is taught by a team of two professors. Friedman and Meisner generally alternate lectures, although one professor might speak up at the end of the other's lecture to state a disagreement with an aspect of the lecture or to expound on a point which he felt was insufficiently handled.

"It's exciting to teach with another

person," Meisner says, "Ed Friedman and I disagree about a lot of things but we learn from each other. I'm very happy and satisfied with the way the course is turning out."

Prof. Meisner readily asserts that China has pursued a foreign policy of pure national self-interest. The Chinese strategy in reference to both Nixon's visit and the war in East Pakistan has been an example, says Meisner, "of cynical big power diplomacy in the traditional fashion. China has adhered to the Stalinist foreign policy of support for conservative governments abroad for national self interest."

Friedman energetically stresses the reality of the Soviet threat to China. "It was in 1965," he says, "that Russian military power returned to Asia in a big way—the first time since 1905. A group developed within the Soviet government that said the main thing was to get rid of anti-Soviet China."

"China has had to expend a lot of effort in building up its defenses on the northern border. They've built an extremely advanced army there."

"Those border clashes are not accidental. The Chinese are scared out of their pants. This is the main reason they couldn't concentrate on things like Vietnam. They gave the Vietminh as much as they could, but in 1965 a real conflict of interest arose and the Chinese were forced to turn to national self-defence."

WHEN NIXON VISITS China this spring, Friedman has no doubt that Vietnam will be discussed and that "Nixon will like some help in imposing his solution in Southeast Asia. But China has little real clout with the North Vietnamese. The real fear of North Vietnam is that Russia will attempt to outbid China for U.S. favor."

"Mao's policy is based on joining with everyone you can against the major enemy. And the major enemy is Russia."

"The Nixon trip," Friedman con-

tinued, "is really a change in U.S. foreign policy, not in Chinese foreign policy. The Chinese have always been open to good relations with any nation which treats them on an equal basis. They feel that all peoples benefit from correct relations."

FRIEDMAN GAVE TRADE as the reason for this. "If China has good trade relations with other countries it can buy goods at the lowest prices and thus reduce the tax burden on the Chinese people. They've been hurt very bad 'because of international trade restrictions. China has had to pay 2 to 3 times the normal price for certain goods."

"Take rubber as an example," he went on. "There are few places you can buy it. There's only Brazil, Ceylon, Indonesia and Malaya. The U.S. controls the international economy and we were able to cut off the rubber sources—only Ceylon was left open."

"The real question to ask," Friedman said, "is why has the U.S. changed its policy." The United States is trading with China out of economic necessity, Friedman claims. "The yen, the mark and the franc are challenging the role of the U.S. in foreign markets. China knew the U.S. would have to do something to survive. China is surprised that it has taken the U.S. so long."

"China was very surprised that the U.S. escalated the Vietnam war. It's not the thing a rational capitalist nation does. It was too weakening to our economy. The Chinese can only blame it on political and ideological fanaticism."

PROF. MEISNER disagrees with Friedman's emphasis on international trade relations as a factor which has drawn Nixon and Mao together. "The Chinese and the United States are concerned about Soviet influence and Japanese expansion and it is felt that a rapprochement would serve both countries well."

"I don't think that U.S. interests in China are motivated by the mystique of



PROF. MAURICE MEISNER

the Chinese market. The U.S. is much more concerned about Japanese growth and sees this as a stick to be used against Japan."

"But a lot of people have jumped to the conclusion that since China is cooperating with the U.S., revolution is dead at home. I don't think this is true. Foreign policy doesn't always reflect the domestic situation."

Both men expressed strong disapproval of China's position in West Pakistan. Said Friedman, "Chinese policy is to be condemned just as U.S. policy is to be condemned. There's absolutely no basis of support." Along the same lines Meisner stated, "I don't think there's much good to be said about the Chinese position in West Pakistan."

BUT FRIEDMAN went into some of the reasons behind China's activities there. "For the Chinese it's a world of narrow choices. China is very isolated. Say a Chinese diplomat wanted to fly to Tanzania. They can't even land in any of the neighboring countries because they don't have landing rights. The only thing they can do is fly to West Pakistan and then take an airline to Tanzania. West Pakistan is China's exit to the rest of the world. They need good relations with that government."

"The major enemy is Russia and an independent East Pakistan would benefit India, which would benefit Russia."

The Nympho and Irving Wallace

The Nympho and Other Maniacs

By Irving Wallace

Simon & Schuster: \$8.95

By ELAINE REUBEN

Irving Wallace is, he tells readers of his latest book, "quite frankly captivated by the outrageous, rebellious, obsessed people in our past, especially by those feminine in gender who have behaved scandalously." *The Nympho and Other Maniacs* is the result of his literary love affair with 30 such ladies. Few of them, he admits, did anything of historical importance, but all of them, he assures us, contributed something to the cause of human freedom through their witting and unwitting challenge to propriety or morality.

The Nympho and Other Maniacs is divided into Book I: "The Mistress as a Scandal," Book II: "The Heroine as a Scandal," and Book III: "The Rebel as a Scandal." Sixteen of its subjects are treated in the first two chapters under the general headings of "The Kept Women" and "The Unfaithful Wives;" these introductory chapters also contain Wallace's history of the institution of marriage, adultery, and the courtesan.

A full chapter is devoted to each of the remaining fourteen women. They include three of Byron's mistresses; one of Napoleon's mistresses and one of his sisters; Lord Nelson's mistress; Lord Melbourne's mistress—or so her husband said; Lady Ellenborough, the "nympho" of the title; the real-life models for Flaubert's Emma Bovary and Dumas fils' Margaret Gautier; Hawthorne's bete noire Margaret Fuller, and the three rebels—Anne Royall, Delia Bacon and Victoria Woodhull.

WALLACE NOTES in his introduction that a scandalous act is one which excites reprobation; he suggests that it may also excite "secret admiration and envy—certainly wonder and curiosity." Wallace is not always certain which emotions he feels or wishes to evoke about his subjects and their deeds, however, and *The Nympho* has about it something of the quality of a dirty story repeated to prove the need for censorship or a survey of the inadequacies of the black community in America which occasionally comments that it isn't their fault.

Those "feminine in gender" should not need a great deal of feminist consciousness to recognize that the book's ambivalence is the result of Wallace's unexamined acceptance of female stereotypes. "Scandal," when a woman is referred to, can only mean "sexual scandal." Women have not, as a rule, been in a position to cheat at cards, manipulate the stock market, preach heresy or betray their country. The code of propriety or morality which men uphold or challenge is a social, public and class determined code; the code for women is sexual and private, and it applies to women by virtue of their sex.

Most of the women Wallace writes about betrayed the ascribed code of their sex by engaging in sexual activities without, or in spite of, marriage; Wallace attempts to provide some context for their actions, but he, like their contemporaries, still thinks their

behavior was a scandal! The few women represented in this collection in any role other than someone's mistress were a scandal, in large measure, because they usurped the male prerogative of life outside marriage; the unwomanly nature of their (non-sexual) activities seems to get as much emphasis as the activities themselves.

The various stories are told in Wallace's voice, or from the point of view of the men who loved or despised these women; they tend to appear similar and somewhat padded tales of scandalous women rather than individual people, "feminine in gender." The only real difference between the stories in Book I and those in Book II, e.g., is that those in the latter provided materials for literature, but the heroine is still a mistress in almost every case.

IT WOULD BE possible to elaborate the inadequacy and callousness of Wallace's social and historical perspective, and the ways in which his very language betrays his prejudices and his lack of insight. To do so, however, would be to bring out very big guns against a very small target. *The Nympho and Other Maniacs* is essentially backyard/bathroom/bed-time reading. Although too expensive for that (not unworthy) purpose at the hardcover price, it is certain to be available eventually in paperback. Fair warning should be provided that there's little or no titillation of the sort the title promises.

For those with a serious interest in social history, and particularly in the unwritten history of women, *The Nympho and Other Maniacs* does provide, perhaps unwittingly, fascinating tidbits to be placed in a broader context, questions to be answered, persons and problems to be researched further.

The novels which these women wrote or inspired, for example, need further critical attention from a feminist perspective. Not only *Madame Bovary* and *La Dame aux camelias*, but *Glenarvon*, Caroline Lamb's version of her affair with Byron; James' *The Aspern Papers* and Thomas Love Peacock's *Nightmare Abbey*, both dealing with Claire Clairmont's relation to Byron; George Meredith's *Diana of the Crossways*, the novels and plays which its heroine, Caroline Norton, wrote to support herself, and the pamphlets she wrote for the Infant Custody Act; Balzac's *La Lys dans la vallee*, and the three other novels about Lady Ellenborough written by female novelists.

We would want to discover, or look again, at Margaret Fuller's life and work, without being influenced by Hawthorne's portrait of her in *The Blithedale Romance*; at Anne Royall's travel books, and her periodicals, *Paul Pry* and *The Huntress*, muckraking of the mid-nineteenth century; at Woodhull and Claflin's *Weekly*, which supported Victoria Woodhull's 1872 presidential campaign, women's suffrage and "the vital interests of the people."

WALLACE TELLS US, in his chapter on the courtesan, that the condom was introduced in England during the Restoration; he doesn't tell us why Woodhull and Claflin's *Weekly* had to campaign for birth control 200 years later; nor, in his closing paen to "the new feminism with its sexual freedom due to the Pill, its permissiveness, the easier divorce, and economic equality," does he seem to notice that the change in women's consciousness in the last decade has not yet brought real changes in the lives of the majority of women. The Sexual Revolution hasn't happened yet; when it does, women will not have their freedom, any more than their scandals, defined only in terms of their

Active in the women's liberation movement, Elaine Reuben is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin.

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Books



Cardinal photo by James K.

ELAINE REUBEN

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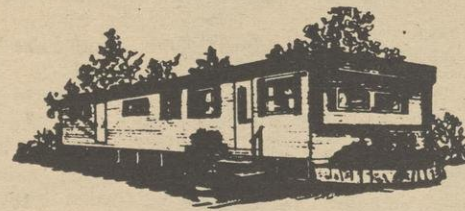
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We are Everywhere
by Jerry Rubin
Harper and Row: \$4.95, \$1.95 paper
By ETHEL G. ROMM

Jerry Rubin's latest book, *We are Everywhere*, is a disappointment. Written during a 60 day sentence in the Cook County Jail, the manuscript, we are told, was scrawled in jail and smuggled out, page by page. It could have been mailed. As food for revolution, it's pabulum.

Neither is *We are Everywhere* a contribution to the powerful prison literature of a Genet or Cleaver or a George Jackson. Says Rubin, "One thing I learned in jail: you dream a lot! Dreams are great fun. Like going to a movie of your own unconscious." (!)

The book even fails as a Yippie document, being neither spontaneous, outrageous, illuminating, confrontational, comic, or even fun.

The book even fails as a Yippie document, being neither spontaneous, outrageous, illuminating, confrontational, comic, or even fun. Rubin says he wrote his pages stoned. On the evidence of the completed volume, he gives marijuana a bad name.

FORM IS where Yippies excel, but not in this work. Where *Do It!* was laid out smashingly, a surprise on every page, the layout here is old-fashioned, pre-McLuhan second grade textbook.

The rule is short paragraphs, lots of italics, and even more exclamation points, old tricks to distract children from flat writing and from trying to discover where Rubin stands on critical issues.

Women's Lib seems to have reached Jerry Rubin, a defeat for style but a victory for the cause. The Yippies were once the most chauvinist of pigs in the entire New Left. Now not a bare breast nor a willing nude adorns these pages, only a couple of naked backs which could have been selected by the most prudish editor of *The New York Times*.

The book's title comes from an October 1970 taped message from the Weather people announcing a terrorist fall offensive. Bernadine Dohrn said, "A year ago we blew away the Haymarket statue...Last night we destroyed the pig again. This time begins a fall offensive of youth resistance...Now we are everywhere."

ALTHOUGH RUBIN does not give Dohrn title credit, he does dedicate the book to "the Weather Underground." Events, alas, move too quickly even for Yippies. Within weeks Dohrn qualified her support of violence and argued for organizing out in the open.

Her New Morning statement, widely reprinted, is one that Rubin's

readers never hear about, probably because he sharply differs with Dohrn's rethought politics.

Many may also wonder why Eldridge Cleaver, who wrote the introduction to *Do It!*, is not eulogized once more. Again the real world played the Yippies for a patsy. Cleaver placed Leary in "protective custody" and declared as "counter-revolutionary" not only LDS but also "...Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman and the whole psychedelic movement. We're finished with relating to their madness."

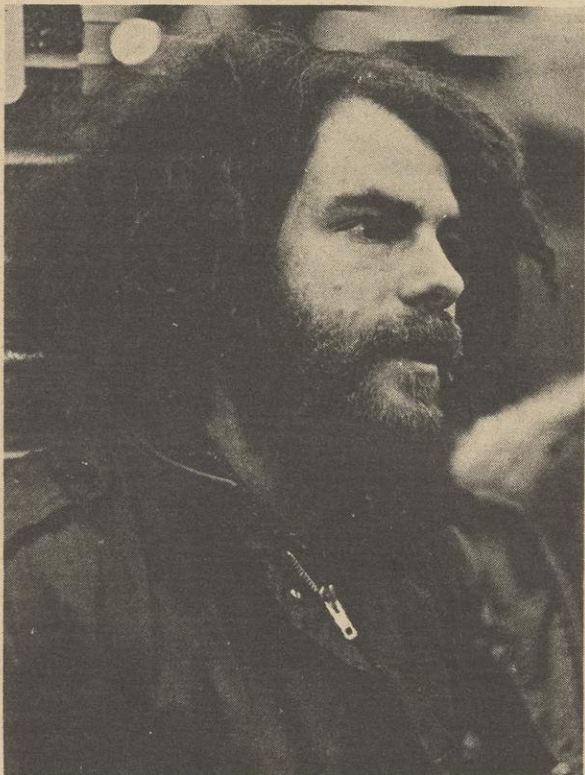
Such in-fighting is no cause for rejoicing. Rubin's (and Dohrn's) title is entirely accurate, and the "we" is growing. Yet most are rejecting Rubin's two proposed roads: "The choice is Revolution or Heroin." There are many more tuneout paths in Gothic America besides radicalism and addiction.

PRETENDING TO SPEAK for all with a platform of Dope-is-Politics/Everyone should be famous for twenty minutes/Symbol-is-substance, Jerry Rubin offers finally a bitter fantasy that can only deepen the gloom.

Ethel G. Romm chronicled the youth movement and the underground press in her book, *The Open Conspiracy*, now an Avon paperback.

STUDENT COURT

is now filling positions for Judges of the Court. Petitions can be made in the Student Court Office, L200 Law School, or to the Division of Student Affairs, Bascom Hall.



Cardinal photo by Arthur Pollock
JERRY RUBIN

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worry over
large pores

why do I
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on rough skin

a litany of lovely
loss of love

who was Sylvia
taking credit
for just
reaching 30

entranced
with death
the death
of housework

the death
of being
photogenic
meaning
her death

my
pre
occupation
is the death
of love
mine
too
dependent
on someone
who can't
see me

who uses
words
like funky
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THAT COUNTS**

MONDAY magazine

For a change of pace there's always pool

By JEFF GROSSMAN

I looked up at the sign which said Action Billiards, opened the door, and slowly ascended the narrow stairwell which leads to the pool hall.

I casually entered the room and leaned easily against a post, lit a cigarette and let it dangle loosely from the corner of my mouth.

After watching a couple of hackers play for a few minutes I turned to a graying man in his 40's and said, "Where can I find the owner of this joint?"

A few heads turned quickly and a tall, rather lean bearded man who was concentrating intently on a shot at table three put down his cue and sauntered over.

"I'm Jerry Briesath, what can I do for you?"

"I'm Boston Skinny and I've been looking for you..."

"Oh, you're from the Cardinal, come in behind the counter and we can talk."

Such was my introduction to Jerry Briesath, two time straight and one time nine ball pool champion of the midwest. Action Billiards, located on West Gorham directly above Lums attracts top local and transient talent.

"We've had some great players through here. Boston Shorty (Larry Johnson) and Jersey Red (Jack Breit) are two of the best hustlers around and Jimmy Caras and Joe Balsis are great exhibitionists," Briesath said.

As we talked a regular customer threw a couple of crumbled bills on the counter and said, "See you later Jerry."

"He's a real good player, probably second to me in Madison," Briesath said, nodding towards the exit, "but he's real fast to bust out with the money. There is no such thing as a rich pool hustler," the manager continued, "they usually have \$5000 in their pocket one day and none the next. Most of them are gamblers and if they have a prayer of a chance they'll take it. I don't play for much money, maybe five or ten dollars a game."

Last year two hustlers from St. Louis walked into Action Billiards though and went away \$75 poorer. They had never heard of Jerry Briesath.

"People see a guy become the best in their bar or town and figure he can't be beaten except they don't

realize that there are a lot of guys who are 'the best' somewhere else," Briesath remarked.

The biggest hustle Briesath ever saw was at the Stardust in Las Vegas at the World Tournament. Two very good sharks who weren't competing in the tourney started playing for \$300 a game. The ante went up to \$5000 a game with spectators betting heavily.

At this point, the loser, down \$16,000 won seven straight games at \$5000 a game to come away with a \$19,000 profit.

After high school Briesath moved to Milwaukee and took up pool under Willis Covington who owned a pool room on the Marquette campus and, according to Briesath, was the undisputed state champion for at least ten years.

Three years after Jerry began playing he captured the Southern Wisconsin Championship and then added three Wisconsin state titles.

During this time he taught quite a bit and still gives lessons three nights a week.

In 1968 he quit his utilities job in Milwaukee and bought Action Billiards. After some costly refurbishing he claims his establishment is one of the top halls in the country. His claim is substantiated by excellent equipment and exceptional lighting.

Unknown to most Madison sports fans, one of the area's greatest athletic feats took place there on January 10, 1968. Briesath split two exhibition matches with then World Champion Joe Balsis and ran 172 straight balls.

Jerry is retired from active competition and claims his game has lost a lot because of the lack of competition in the midwest.

He demonstrated some fine trick shooting and prophet-like wisdom in calling his shots and even the action and eventual reting place of the cue ball.

"I sometimes plan as many as ten shots in advance. A lot of this game is judgment and that only comes with a lot of time and practice. I used to get the flutters in my hands and some guys get them in their stomach but the worst place to get them is up here," he concluded, pointing to his head.

So, if you ever stop by Action Billiards and think you shoot a pretty good game of pool, as whom you are playing with before you try to hustle. Otherwise, you too could be heading back to St. Louis.



radio: the old standby

By ROGER DOBRICK

If you get sick of Madison radio stations, don't despair, for in addition to these local channels there are several regional and distant "clear channel" stations that can be heard on any well operating radio, even a portable. The Chicago stations are audible anytime, the others only at night. Despite their distance, they have fairly strong signals, and some are well worth listening to.

WBBM (780), Chicago's (and the Midwest's) only all-news station, a CBS owned and operated facility, sometimes tends to sound like 24 hours of five-minute newscasts strung together. But "Newsradio 78" does a respectable job, and is a good source of information, featuring frequent special reports, sports results and news updates.

WLS (890) and WCFL (1000), are Chicago's top forty stations, constantly battling each other for positions in the ratings.

WHAM (1180) despite the descriptive comic book phonetics of its call letters, this Rochester, New York, station provides a decent all-night jazz show from 11:00 p.m. Although it doesn't lean too far left in its offering (very little Coltraine, for example), it still is an alternative to the run-of-the-mill AM music. The signal is usually loud and clear.

St. Louis' KST (550) is a little more difficult to pick up, but it, too features jazz all night.

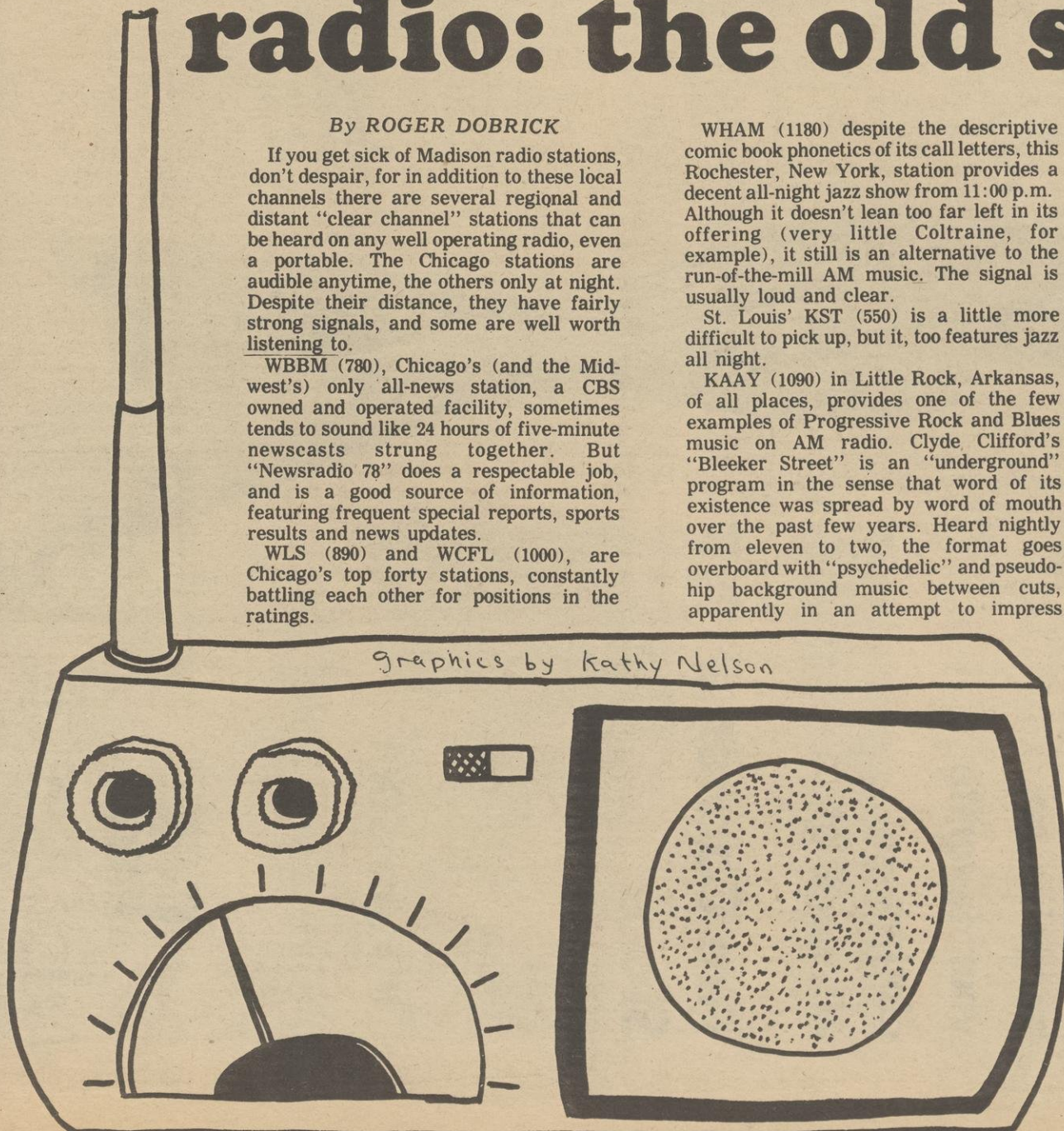
KAAY (1090) in Little Rock, Arkansas, of all places, provides one of the few examples of Progressive Rock and Blues music on AM radio. Clyde Clifford's "Bleeker Street" is an "underground" program in the sense that word of its existence was spread by word of mouth over the past few years. Heard nightly from eleven to two, the format goes overboard with "psychedelic" and pseudo-hip background music between cuts, apparently in an attempt to impress

stoned teeny-boppers who normally listen to this top-forty station. But it is far better than the rock normally played on AM radio, and Clifford does not hesitate to play album sides uninterrupted, a feat almost unheard of on the AM juke box. The signal strength fluctuates and WTSO may occasionally interfere.

Millions of New Yorkers have been weaned on WQXR (1560), a pioneer classical station. Unfortunately, it is now up for sale by its owner, the New York Times (see High Fidelity, September '71), and its future is doubtful. Yet it is still possible to hear after dusk that rarity of American broadcasting: a full time classical music station on AM. It also features New York Times news on the hour. This is a hard one to get, tune carefully.

CBC, Canada's semicommercial publicly owned network stands as an over-the-fence monument to what American radio could have been instead of the overcommercialized mess it is now. The Canadian Broadcasting System operates two AM networks (one, French, one English) that provide a potpourri of news, documentaries, drama, humor and satire, jazz, rock, classics, and variety shows. Folk music fans will especially enjoy the programs of songs from Canada. "Live" concerts of orchestras like the Toronto Symphony and Montreal Symphony are common. And even if you can't speak a word of French, you'll enjoy some of the excellent classics and jazz to be heard on the French network. The clearest stations are CBL (740) and CJB (860), the English and French stations in Toronto. Alternative affiliates are CBW (940) Winnipeg, CBE Windsor (1550), and CBF Montreal (690). The French programs originate primarily in Montreal while the English service produces most of its programming in Toronto.

These distant stations may help provide a little more variety.



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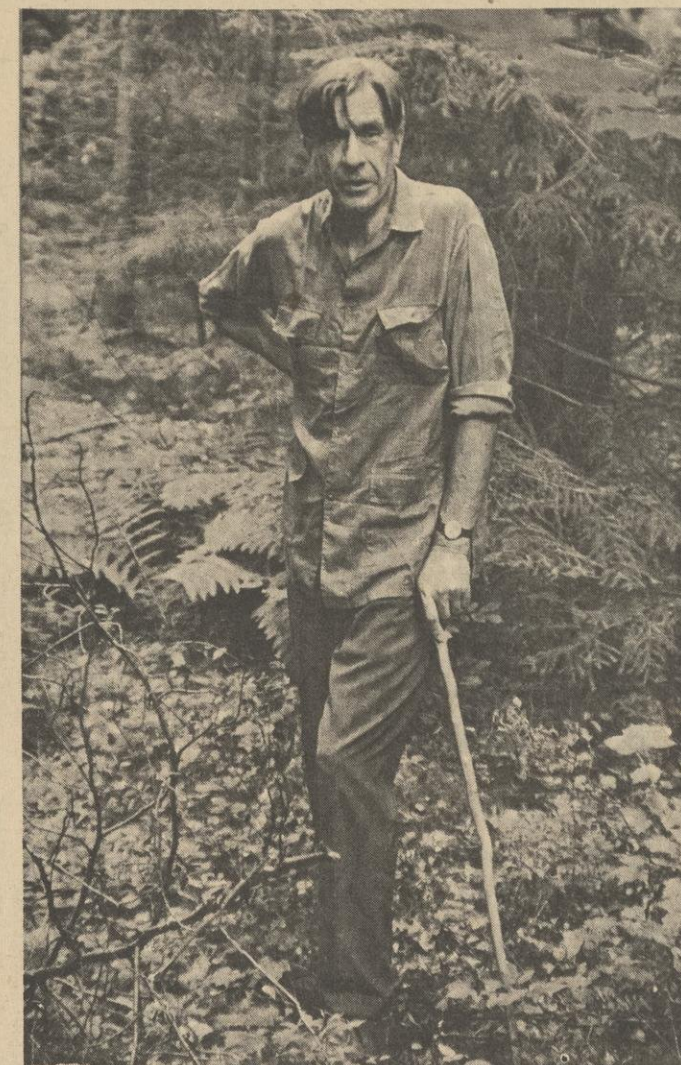

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