

VOL. 2 #7

NETWORK

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you are invited to :

SEARCH CONFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

Friday/Saturday January 13-19, 1985

519 Church St. Toronto

Friday 7:30-10 p.m.-social gathering, choose facilitators etc-E room
Saturday 9 a.m. on-conference (auditorium) Projected ending- 3 p.m.

Registration Fee will be either very nominal or non-existent, depending on expenses, with provision made for anyone unable to afford it.

Background: for the past few months, a small group of people have been meeting in Toronto to consider means of promoting development of an alternative economy, both as a response to the failure of conservative government to meet the needs of a growing number of people and as a means of freeing those serious about working for basic social change from dependence on hierarchical work patterns. Social and cultural, as well as economic, alternatives to the present System must be considered.

The group is considering holding a large conference on Alternative Futures late in 1985. Before proceeding with this plan, it has decided to hold this smaller conference to explore our perceptions of methods and problems in working to establish a future based on the principles of small-scale technologies set down by such writers as Sale, Bookchin, Schumacher and MacRobie. Hopefully this preliminary conference will enable us to clarify our own goals.

The structure of a Search Conference will be used, through which participants (broken into small groups) will deal in turn with each of five questions:

- history of problem (control by corporations of society, individual powerlessness etc.)
- probable evolution of this situation if we fail to take action
- what we would like to happen
- opportunities and obstacles towards desired course of evolution
- establishment of work groups to work towards perceived solutions

Each stage will be introduced by conference managers, with most of the action happening in small groups aided by facilitators. Each group will record what happens within it and report back to the entire session; conclusions will be summarized.

Hopefully the conference will end with at least one working group planning future action towards the creation of an alternative society based on "small is beautiful" principles.

For further information:

in Toronto-Don or Jennifer 416-532-3430 (70 Page St. Toronto M6G 1J2)
in Ottawa-Gary 613-230-9303 (442 Cambridge St. Ottawa K1S 4H7)

people from outside Toronto wishing to attend should contact the above re billeting

NEWS BRIEFS

South African Toll Mounts

SOUTH AFRICA-In the last four months 120 people have died and thousands have been injured in increasing confrontations, with the army combing the black townships for dissenters. (Manchester Guardian 13-11-84 p11.)

Pickering Leak

PICKERING-On August 20 about 15 litres of heavy water containing tritium leaked into Lake Ontario from a heat exchanger at Pickering Unit 4. (Nuclear Free Press Winter 1984.)

CIA Massacres Nicaraguans

NICARAGUA-The CIA's war on Nicaragua has killed about 7,000 out of a population of 3 million, proportionately three times the level of U.S. losses in Vietnam, and caused \$237 million in direct damages. (Nuclear Free Press Winter 1984.)

WASHINGTON-A Department of Energy study has recommended that the government establish an "atomic priesthood" to create and spread a "ritual and legend" that will warn the next 300 generations against the dangers of nuclear waste. The report, "Communication Measures to Bridge Ten Millennia," also proposes creating a "modern Stonehenge" to ring the dumps, making the waste "repulsively malodorous" so the stench will drive people away, erecting huge cartoon narratives depicting the danger of the nuclear material, and genetically encoding warning in human genes through "microsurgical intervention with the human molecular blueprint," a process not yet available. Permanent burial grounds are not expected to be chosen until the late 1980s because whatever area is picked will attempt legal remedies; protective devices will have to last 10,000 years and therefore means of conveying the message of the radiation's destructiveness to the 120th century must be found. The first permanent repository will likely begin receiving nuclear waste at the end of this century. (Washington Post 11-11-84 pA1.) Although several nuclear accidents have occurred during the past year, 45 new nuclear power stations have raised the world total to 213. (Nuclear Free Press, Winter 1984.)

Huked Veterans Lose Right to Sue

WASHINGTON-A little-noticed provision inserted in September 1984 defence legislation has stripped several hundred veterans of the right to sue defence contractors for cancer suspected to have been caused by radioactive fallout from atomic bomb tests. An attorney with the National Association of Radiation Survivors remarked that "this bill gives defence contractors license to kill." The new law makes the government, rather than contractors, the sole defendant in all pending and future atomic-test lawsuits; veterans are prohibited under a 1950 U.S. Supreme Court ruling from suing the government for injuries related to military service. An estimated one million Americans were exposed to radiation fallout during the 93 announced nuclear tests conducted by the government 1945-80 in the Pacific Coast and Nevada. (Washington Post 11-11-84 pA3.)

A Nation of Pigs

NEW YORK-A CBS/New York Times poll during the recent election showed twice as many registered voters concerned about families getting more welfare than they needed as were concerned about them not getting enough. 67% of white voters said the government has done enough or too much for the blacks. Among black respondents, twice as many were worried about families getting too little aid. Poverty in the USA was nearly halved 1960-73, held steady 1973-9 and has risen sharply since 1979; the number of poor people grew by 8.4 million 1979-83. Of the nation's black children, nearly 1/2, 44.3%, live in poverty. (Washington Post 11-11-84 pD1.)

More Famine For Africa

AFRICA-Experts are predicting famine in several parts of Africa similar to the one now ravaging Ethiopia. During the past ten years, while the rest of the world increased its per capita food production, Africa's fell behind by more than 1% each year. At least 1/3 of sub-Saharan Africa's population, at least 100 million people, are hungry; this is more than were hungry a decade ago. 70% of Africa's grain needs are supplied by imports, requiring that \$3 billion be paid annually to some of the world's richest countries out of the shrinking foreign-exchange earnings of some of the world's poorest countries. Of 41 sub-Saharan countries with a significant farming sector only five--Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Rwanda and Sudan--have managed to keep food production ahead of population growth. Because agriculture remains Africa's largest economic activity, the food crisis has helped create an extraordinary continent-wide economic decline. Problems include drought, lack of fertilizer, government policies of paying farmers poorly to create cheap food for the cities, western aid being contingent on ill-thought-out programs, and the super-powers tying aid to political support. (Washington Post 13-11-84 ppA1, 20-31.)

Canada Big NATO Spender

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LONDON-While the mass media bombard Canadians with stories of their country's failure to live up to its NATO obligations, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies reports that Canada's per capita spending on non-nuclear defence in 1983 exceeded that of all the other 15 NATO countries except the United States. The Institute predicts continued high spending in future for high-technology equipment. (Nuclear Free Press, Winter 1984, p20)

Canada Committed to Testing

OTTAWA-Besides the Cruise, Canada has agreed to U.S. testing of the U.S. Navy's problem-plagued F/A Hornet fighter plane, which Canada is committed to buying from the USA, as well as troop-killing Gator mines dropped in clusters from aircraft, MK-82 laser-guided bombs, the use of lasers to designate targets, and tests for greater integration of U.S.-Canadian military air operations. (Canadian Tribune 5-11-84.)

Grenadans Suffer Under USA

GRENADA-A year after the U.S. invasion, unemployment has jumped from 14 to 40%; most of Bishop's economic projects have been scrapped including those for creation of agro-industry; the doctors who came to help during the revolution have been sent home, with only one dentist left on the entire island; tourism is nearly dead because U.S. personnel are using such hotels as weren't bombed during the invasion; supporters of the Bishop government have been sacked and prevented from finding new jobs; drug and prostitution problems have soared; the new airport is being used as a U.S. military base; the police who tortured prisoners under Gairy have been returned to their jobs. (Canadian Tribune 5-11-84.)

Fundamentalists Seek Control

LOS ANGELES-Estimates that conservative white Protestants make up at least 20% of the U.S. electorate, or 70 million people, are giving fundamentalists hopes of controlling the country even though only about a quarter of the conservative Protestant ministers seem ready to take an active church role in politics. (Christian Science Monitor 3-11-84 p40)

French Nuclear Testing Criticized

NEW ZEALAND-Prime Minister Lange has criticized France for conducting another nuclear test on Mururoa atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the sixth this year. New Zealand and other South Pacific nations say the tests jeopardize both the environment and the stability of the region. (Christian Science Monitor 3-11-84 p40.)

Former NDP Leader Defends Canadian Connections With South Africa

UNITED NATIONS-One of Stephen Lewis' first jobs as Canada's UN Ambassador has been to defend Canada's recognition of connections with the South African government. While he claims that such connections enable Canada to protest apartheid to the South African government, the entire South African liberation movements and its UN supporters call for a complete boycott of the regime. Canada also disgraced itself at the UN by joining ten other countries in opposing a nuclear freeze resolution which 111 other nations supported. (Canadian Tribune 26-11-84 p9.)

Vancouver Opposes Tests

VANCOUVER-Voters have approved by 57% city council petitioning Ottawa to cancel Cruise testing in Canada. (Canadian Tribune 26-11-84 p2)

Hussein Proposals Rejected

JORDAN-The Palestinian parliament in exile devoted most of its 17th session here to beating back challenges to Arafat's leadership from Syria and the PLO rebels. It rejected King Hussein's plea to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 "as a basis for a just, peaceful settlement" because it refers to the Palestinians only as refugees and makes no reference to the need to establish a Palestinian homeland as the PLO demands. Hussein's proposal for a UN-sponsored international conference has been rejected by Israel and the USA. (Christian Science Monitor 26-11-84 pp1, 42.)

Health Money Misspent

USA-The cost of health care here now comes to about \$1 billion per day and is escalating. High-tech medicine accounts for about 1/3 of this; organ transplants are particularly expensive (\$135,000 for a liver transplant, \$100,000 for a heart transplant.) The benefits in slightly longer lives for a few thousand people pale into insignificance against the health improvements the same money could purchase for the whole society; the cost of a single transplant would finance a year's operation for a clinic in the San Francisco ghetto. Changing the conditions of poverty would improve health more than all the medical innovations of the next decade. (Washington Post 9-12-84 pC7.)

Pesticide Danger

BHOPEAL-Despite the toxic gas disaster here and similar tragedies, agricultural poisoning and introduction of pesticides into the food chain pose a greater danger than industrial accidents. An estimated 1.5 to 2 million persons in developing countries suffer acute pesticide poisoning annually, and pesticide-related deaths are estimated at 10,000/year. Legislation to protect the environment is now pretty much universal, but implementation, enforcement and monitoring are often grossly deficient. (Washington Post 9-17-84 pC7.)

Hondurans Imprison Indians

HONDURAS-Many of the 17,000 Indian refugees from Nicaragua in Honduras have been forcibly prevented from going home, since their wretched camps are a source of recruits for the army of Indian guerrillas allied with the CIA-backed contras. While Costa Rica-based guerrillas have shown some degree of willingness to negotiate a peaceful settlement with Nicaragua, those based in Honduras (including many former members of Somoza's National Guard) remain determined to overthrow the Sandenistas. (Washington Post 9-12-84 C7)

Persecution in Albania

ALBANIA-40,000 political prisoners in a country of 2.2 million have undergone brutal conditions since Hoxha took power in 1945 and set out to wipe out every vestige of non-socialist customs and beliefs. Torture and murder of political prisoners is common; many are jailed for decades merely for cultural deviations from the accepted line. (Washington Post 9-12-84 ppC1-2.)

Greens May Co-Opt

HAMBURG-The environmentalist Green party has resolved to keep its options open on co-operation with mainstream political parties in West Germany, over the opposition of the left wing which sought to rule out co-operation and future coalitions with these parties. The Greens, who have 26 members of parliament and deputies in six of 11 state assemblies, hope to hold the balance of power in Bonn after the 1987 elections. (Wash Post 9-12-84.)

Guyana Defies USA

GUYANA-The USA has suspended all new assistance to Guyana because the country has \$10 million in overdue debts and has refused to accept an IMF "stabilization program" while seeking closer ties with communist countries. Under the Burnham regime (which Britain and the USA imposed on Guyana in place of its Marxist predecessor) public facilities are deteriorating and shortages of many food staples places these staples beyond the reach of average workers who earn under \$3/day. (Washington Post 9-12-84 pA23)

Shinwreck Interrupts Uranium Network

BELGIUM-Uranium ore from Canadian mines is often sent to France for initial treatment, to the USSR for enrichment, to the USA for conversion to fuel rods and finally to West Germany reactors; each step increases the probability of an accident. Recently a French freighter carrying uranium hexafluoride from France to the USSR sank off the coast of Belgium (French authorities claimed it only carried medical supplies but Greenpeace investigators discovered the truth.) One of the containers washed up on the coast, though no contents escaped. France is planning to send 400 pounds of pure plutonium to Japan by sea; it could kill 270 billion people. European seamen's unions are demanding more international regulation of radioactive shipments. (Nuclear Free Press winter 1984.)

Statement

YOUTH ACTION FOR PEACE PROTESTS WAR TOYS

As youth viewing the world around us, we realize that certain and many aspects of society have, throughout history, become saturated with violence or violent action of some means. This includes rape and pornography, war, racism, ageism, sexism, classism which have dominated many aspects of our society such as the violence linked with pornography, violence on television and the toys that children play with. It's the whole mass of war toys that have hit our markets that we want to focus on right now. The sale of military toys and video games has risen significantly over the past five or six years, and the children-oriented TV shows that feature violence or prejudice in some way have grown also. There is no doubt that this trend is based on making profits from the militarization of young people. The increasingly high sales of companies such as Hasbro are saturated with the values of the military--domination, the glorification of killing and conquering, the sexist and racist objectification of the other. The peace movement cannot allow this militarization of the young to go unchallenged. Any vision of the future without war and mass killing is impossible if the young have been raised to be passive consumers of the military mentality.

The obsession with violence dominates this society. Young men especially are taught these values as the dominant means with which to relate to the world around them. We notice also that these toys and video games boast of being "right up to date with the latest, most sophisticated war machinery. Ronald Reagan says: "I recently learned something quite interesting about video games. Many young people have developed incredible hand, eye and brain coordination in playing those games. The air force believes these kids will be our outstanding fighter pilots should they fly our jets." These military toys include G.I. Joe, Masters of the Universe, numerous video games and any other toys or even children's shows encompassing violence, association with war or the military, racism or sexism. The purpose of this machinery is to computerize the mind of the user, to disconnect the use of weapons of people from the fact of human suffering.

If our society supports the mass psychological "constriction" of the young into the military, no wonder we face the very real possibility of a nuclear war in the future. We cannot have children "playing" with these toys without knowing that it will have a profound effect on how they perceive the world around them. You can support the anti war toys campaign by not buying and therefore not promoting militaristic toys. An alternative is to buy a game or toy which will help a child to recognize peaceful and human compassion without a violent outlook. You should also boycott other toys made by companies involved with selling war toys (Hasbro, Mattel etc.) You can also:

-Write to the manufacturers and the sellers of war toys and make your views known to them.

-Tell your friends and relatives not to buy war toys and make sure your child's gift-givers are aware of your policy on war toys.

-Buy toys that help children learn peaceable and constructive ways of coping with their world, toys that imply a more humane and positive view of the world.

-Teach your children to recognize and express their anger in ways that will not hurt them emotionally or physically.

For more information, contact the following groups:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| The Wartoy Working Group | Alternatives: Living Peace and Justice | Family Pastimes |
| c.o. 1 Elmdale Ave. | P.O. Box 7068, Station J, | RR4 |
| Ottawa K1M 1A3. | Ottawa K2A 3Z3. | Perth, Ontario |
| 746-1442 or 224-2304. | 224-2364 | K7H 3C6. |
| | (information on creative conflict re- | (makes cooperative, fun |
| | solutions for children and adults.) | games for all ages.) |

Youth Action For Peace, 442 Cambridge Street, Ottawa K1S 4H7. 230-9868.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THE RADICAL PEACE MOVEMENT SHOULD BE ASKING ITSELF

by Gary Moffatt

In past issues, Network has tried to draw a distinction between radicals who go to the roots of a problem and liberals who attack individual symptoms of it. Currently, the liberals having lost the cruise testing issue appear to be regrouping around the nuclear freeze issue, though this also has been rejected by the western countries at the U.N. The radicals must ask themselves why they are unable to get their positions adopted. The radicals, while presumably able to see the futility of seeking single-issue reform from the corrupt state, have a much broader range of questions they should be discussing among themselves. Unfortunately, there is at present no mechanism (either within the only radical peace movement, ANVA, or anywhere else) for these questions to be discussed and debated.

What follows is a PARTIAL listing of some questions radicals should be thinking about and discussing among themselves if we are to evolve a strategy for basic social change:

- What is Radicalism? How is it distinguishable from liberalism?
- To what extent should radicals put their energy into liberal (single-issue) movements?
- Should radicals try to radicalize liberal movements, or create their own, or both?
- What is nonviolence? When (if ever) is it permissible for a pacifist to use force?
- Should the radical peace movement consider itself nonviolent?
- Is property destruction or theft compatible with nonviolence, and if so when?
- Is nonviolence more applicable to industrialized countries than the Third World?
- Is it hypocrisy to denounce violence here while endorsing it in El Salvador?
- Is protest of state policies worthwhile? Does it merit a large proportion of our energy?
- Is nonviolent civil disobedience anything more than just another form of protest?
- Should we be prepared to carry civil disobedience to the point of long jail sentences?
- What is anarchism? Is any other philosophy compatible with basic social change?
- What is feminism? Is it an essential component of basic social change?
- Is there a symbiotic relationship between anarchism and feminism?
- Is it oversimplistic to blame every bad social or personal trait on "masculine" tendencies?
- Who are our natural allies? How do we reach them?
- Should we regard certain people (ie corporate executives, politicians) as inherently evil?
- If nobody is inherently evil, how do we reach executives, politicians etc.?
- Are the police our enemies? How should we deal with them?
- Is the state inherently evil? Are those who run the state inherently evil?
- Is it worthwhile spending a large proportion of our energy on workers who produce weapons?
- What are the most effective forms of public education? How do we change peoples' attitudes?
- Is building an Alternative Society a means towards basic social change or a cop-out?
- How can urban and rural communities contribute to the social change struggle?
- How can isolated individuals be plugged into affinity groups?
- Are we capable of reaching any sort of consensus on society we are striving for?
- How can we act to bring about the society we would like to live in?
- Is it valid to assume that we can create basic social change by creating a viable social alternative and enticing large numbers of people into it?
- Should we reject high technology or attempt to make use of it, and if so how?
- To what extent is it possible to control our image on the mass media?
- Should we try to create our own mass media? Why is there so little support for this?
- Why do attempts to improve communications between social change projects usually fail?
- How can we create an alternative culture? To what extent should we reject the present one?
- What can we learn from aboriginal culture? How much of it do we wish to adopt?
- Should we consciously strive for a mystic, pantheist and/or pagan religion?
- Is drug use revolutionary, counter-revolutionary or neither?
- In what ways have the technical changes since WW2 altered our thinking processes?
- How can we best help Third World liberation struggles? Should we send them arms?
- Should we give at least moral support to groups doing sabotage or repudiate them?
- To what extent is it possible or desirable to control children's environment?
- Should pornographic and violent material be censored; if so by whom?

HOW RALPH NADER AND HIS PIRCS ARE MISSING THE TARGET

by Gary Moffatt

Ralph Nader, perhaps the most articulate liberal in North America, spoke for over two hours to a University of Ottawa audience in November. At the end, I felt like an African explorer whose guide, after expertly conveying him to a point halfway through the jungle, suddenly takes off in a helicopter leaving the explorer with no idea how to either return to his starting point or proceed to his destination.

As a liberal, Nader feels that the existing social system can be made workable if specific abuses are corrected. He has laboured mightily, and not without success, to correct some of these abuses. His campaign against defective automobiles, for instance, has removed thousands of such vehicles from our highways without raising the more fundamental question of whether conservationists shouldn't be working to discourage all use of private automobiles. He helped encourage formation of the PBS network to provide an alternative to the pablum served on the three commercial networks in the USA; now he himself denounces PBS as the "Petroleum Broadcasting System" and says our CBC is better (those of us who waited to see The Jewel in the Crown on PBS sens commercials might not agree.) Anyway, since the petroleum companies are among the corporations that control the state it doesn't seem to matter much whether they run broadcasting directly on PBS or through the state on the CBC. And Nader has helped form the People's Interest Research Group on various campuses; he says it's now the largest pressure group in New York state (obviously not large enough to keep Reagan from carrying the state.)

Nader is well aware of growing corporate control of the political structure, and he presents a brilliant analysis of the role of the media in developing Reagan's image. His solution? The Americans should have voted for Mondale. While tearing Reagan's policies to pieces, Nader has no criticism of Mondale and the Democrats. Even if for the sake of argument we grant the dubious premise that Mondale was offering any sort of alternative to Reagan, Nader has no real concept of how we could have gotten Mondale elected given the mass media stranglehold on public consciousness that Nader himself points out. Having led us into the jungle of Reaganism and exposed its shortcomings, Nader leaves us with no means of extricating ourselves. Consumer advocacy and research/pressure groups such as the PIRCS may enable us to correct certain specific abuses--though their ability to do even this is threatened by the growing influence of rightwing fundamentalism--but they will not change the basic system that produces these abuses until they start to link all these individual issues and offer a radical prescription for combatting them.

Among the OPIRG publications being distributed at the entrance was "Citizen's Guide to the Ontario Legislature" which makes the same mistakes with regard to Ontario politics that Nader does with American. Up to a point the analysis is good; it points out that decisions aren't made in the legislature and that our fundamental problem is one of individual powerlessness. However, it casts little light on who actually is making the decisions; there are only two brief references to the corporations and nowhere is it spelled out that, if a party is reliant on corporate funds to win an election, that party is responsible to the corporations rather than the people. Nor are we told why the decisions are all that bad; a few examples of patronage and disproportionate spending are cited but little is said about the centralization of power, as manifested by Davis' creation of county school boards and forcible amalgamation of small communities into larger ones, often against the wishes of a majority of their inhabitants. Having failed to explain why this government is operating against our interests, the document also fails to explain how we can get one more responsive to our needs. We are told to become politically active, to put election signs on our lawns and support citizen groups that lobby MPs; we are not told what to do when the elected reform party fails to live up to its promises, as invariably happens. The only good suggestion is that we hold regular neighbourhood meetings, though twice a month would be more effective than the pamphlet's suggestion of twice a year.

The conservatives didn't have it all their own way in the November election; in Washington DC, for instance, nearly 75% of the voters approved an initiative requiring the local government to provide "adequate overnight shelter" for its residents. This is the first such referendum held in the USA.

The referendum is the latest in a series of victories for the Community for Creative Non-Violence, a group of four dozen teen-age college dropouts, middle-aged ex-convicts, radical Catholics and former alcoholic street people with little in common except a shared vision and the ability to translate into action their twin goals of serving the poor and eliminating poverty. Operating out of a decaying nine-bedroom Victorian house in a ghetto neighbourhood, the group has been a major factor in thrusting homelessness onto the national agenda. By combining the tactics of civil disobedience, a flair for guerrilla theatre and a shrewd sense of timing and targets, the CCNV has forced Reagan, Congress and various public officials to respond to the homelessness issue. Last spring the group convinced District election officials to adopt new regulations to permit the homeless to vote--the first in the country--and these were quickly copied by New York City. When federal officials vowed to evict the homeless from the squalid shelter run by CCNV, the group threatened to organize a march on the White House and Reagan then ordered the 800-bed facility to remain open indefinitely.

A sense of rage and the excitement of living on the edge has distinguished CCNV since 1971, when it was founded by four Catholic antiwar activists at George Washington University. The group quickly occupied the leftmost position in the movement against the war in Vietnam, and when the war ended shifted its focus to found the city's first free medical clinic, a shelter then called a "hospitality house" and a soup kitchen. One member recalls: People in the early 1970s were not aware of hunger and homelessness. They just refused to believe there were people sleeping in cars." The group set up housekeeping in a house decorated with wrinkled political posters and stained, mismatched furniture; its most distinctive features are the pervasive smell of 30 stray cats and six rectangular Lucite boxes atop a battered white piano in the living room, each containing the ashes of a street person who froze to death. CCNV raises money through periodic fund-raising letters, each personally signed, sent to 10,000 names on its mailing list. The group has rejected seeking nonprofit, tax-exempt status, fearing that it would impose untenable political restrictions.

The most dominant member of the group has been Mitch Snyder, now 41, an ex car thief with a flair for media manipulation who has been influenced by the Berrigans. In 1978 Snyder demanded that Georgetown's Holy Trinity Church (a wealthy liberal parish whose members include the Kennedy family) use some of its \$400,000 building fund to help the poor and began a hunger strike when it refused. A psychiatrist tried to have him committed, the church flatly rejected his demands and Snyder, hospitalized near death, ended his fast. Another CCNV member remarked: "It became a personality thing. The lesson was that you can't destroy your base as you're trying to build it."

Four years later, CCNV received national acclaim after serving a meal of crabmeat guiche and fresh boysenberry shortcake to thirty congressmen; all the food had been scrounged from supermarket dumpsters. At the same time, CCNV was trying to persuade Giant Food, a local supermarket chain with a liberal reputation, to give away thousands of pounds of routinely discarded edible, but unsaleable, produce and baked goods. CCNV picketed supermarkets and held sit-ins in dumpsters. When Giant started locking the dumpsters, claiming the food was unsafe, CCNV dispatched 28 members--exactly the number of seats in the waiting room of Giant's corporate headquarters--to meet with officials. Giant refused the meeting and had protesters arrested when they refused to leave.

Several weeks later, during a radio show, Snyder suggested to a Giant spokesman that the food be given to the Capital Area Community Food Bank rather than CCNV to distribute.

Giant agreed and the program became a national prototype of a model food reclamation program. Giant earned corporate kudos, and every month more than 50,000 pounds of food that had once been discarded feeds the hungry. The food bank director commented: "They really did our dirty work. We were trying to mildly cajole Giant, whereas CCONV's style was much more aggressive." In the same year, Snyder permanently damaged his eyesight when he starved himself for 64 days to protest a Navy submarine being named Corpus Christi ("body of Christ")--they changed it to City of Corpus Christi.

More recently, CCONV attracted international attention by erecting "Reaganville," a tent city in Lafayette Park across from the White House and demonstrating against the administration's policies. More than 200 activists, among them pediatrician Benjamin Spock, have been arrested for acts of civil disobedience ranging from praying on the White House lawn to releasing 100 cockroaches (trapped one midnight in CCONV's communal kitchen) in the State Dining Room. The wife of the White House Chief of Staff interceded to help CCONV obtain for \$1 an abandoned federal building three blocks from the Capitol to use as a shelter for the homeless; the wife of the vice-president hosted a tea for CCONV members and cabinet wives at her residence and made two trips by official limousine to drop off clothing.

Two months ago, twelve members off CCONV began a hunger strike to put pressure on the government to finance renovation of the shelter (critics of CCONV point out that Snyder got all the publicity for the fast, the other eleven remaining anonymous.) The fast was spotlighted on CBS' 60 Minutes and ABC's Nightline as well as local media. 51 days later, an agreement was reached with the head of the Office of Community Services in the Department of Health and Human Services; the facility would be transformed into a "model" for the nation. A few days later the first tangible results, two gleaming sinks and a fiberglass laundry tub, took their place amid the exposed pipes, sagging plaster and stopped-up toilets.

Many city officials and police spokesman have objected to the shelter, who say it has increased street crime in the area and object to firefighters having to maintain a nightly 17-hour watch on the shelter because its sprinkler system doesn't work. Also many groups concerned with aiding the homeless have objected, calling the shelter a contemporary equivalent of an 18th century poorhouse, a mammoth, dangerous place run by a small band of activists who impose few rules and are for the most part untrained in crisis management. City officials resent the fact that the administration didn't consult them in reaching the decision. According to CCONV, the tentative plan for its shelter is to subdivide the 40-year-old building into smaller shelters containing about 100 people each. As for complaints against crime, Snyder notes that police regularly take people they find on the street to the shelter. CCONV believes that the shelter residents should run the place themselves as much as possible, and acknowledges that some crime and "serious cutting incidents" is inevitable when a large number of people, many desperately poor or former mental patients, are put together. "We take people no one else will."

To get food for the shelter and their own community, CCONV members scrounge through dumpsters and coax wholesalers to donate food. "You take a few chances you're going to die of botulism or something, but we wash everything" said a female member who described fastidiousness as a wasteful luxury of the middle class. The members operate a free food store and share cooking duties. At times the differences in background, gruelling work, lack of sleep, bad food and resentment about Snyder's special status infuse communal life with all the tensions of a bad marriage. The chief virtue is not self-awareness, but self-denial achieved through a combination of Christian spirituality, hard work and fasting. 100 people have left the group, many of them victims of burn-out. One woman who joined the community with her two small children remarks: "We're not those nice little middle-class advocates who go home at night. We bring the presence of the poor with us because we are poor, but I have no illusions. I could walk out of here tomorrow but my next door neighbour can't."

SOLSTICE MARKS THE NEW YEAR!

Pagans of the Outaouais; Yule is coming. Once again we must look towards a new year, plant our seeds of hope and strategy. Look towards the earth for your inspiration and empowerment, and by her destruction from the machines of men let your anger and reaction grow.

Worship the earth! Protect the earth!

Keep these dates from the wheel of the year in mind:

THE SABBATS (winter/birth, spring/growth, summer/fading, autumn/death)

Yule- winter solstice, December 20-23, rebirth ritual
 Brigid- candlemas, February 2, ritual of the waxing sun
 Eostre Ritual- spring equinox, March 20-23, springs return
 Beltane- May eve, maypole ritual, fertility ritual
 Litha- summer solstice, June 20-23, turning of the wheel
 Lughnasad- August 1, beginning of summers death
 Mabon- fall equinox, Sept. 20-23, thanksgiving, banishment of summer

Samhain- halloween, Oct. 31, ritual of death

THE ESBATS (cycles of the moon)

waxing moon ritual- first visible crescent, rebirth, growth
 full moon ritual- eve of the full moon, ritual of abundance
 dark moon ritual- at the waning moon, death

*complete lunar calendars for 1985 can be bought at the
 Womens book store on elgin street

If anyone has information on Native American Indian lunar
 calendars please send it in to NETWORK .

NOTICE BOARD

For Sale- 1959 Fender Twin Reverb
 guitar amplifier head, 100 watts
 +MK electronics 4/12 speaker cabinet
 with speakers

\$400.00 for both

Guyatone phaser \$50.00

Great deals. Both prices firm.

Call Michael 230-9383

Drummer needed- for political folk/rock
 band. Qualities needed: deep commitment,
 mobile, instrumentally proficient,
 progressive non-dogmatic politics.
 Vocal ability+song writing not needed
 but preferable.

Call Michael 230-9383.

Video Equipment needed

for borrowing, one month. Two young film
 geniuses to make film "a Hobo's Holiday"
 Starring Frog the Kung-Fu cat. Call Pete
 or Michael 230-9383

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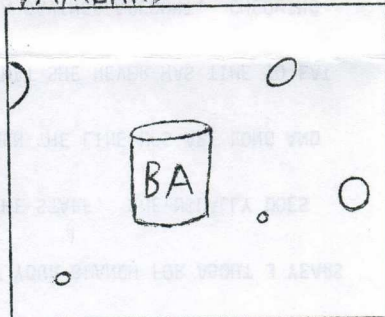
NETWORK

442 Cambridge st.

K1S-4h7

Ottawa, Ont.

YAMLAND by the not spubes



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