

P. O. Box 4037
Madison, Wisconsin

Vol. 3, No. 6
November 18, 1970

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. at the YWCA, 31 N. Pinkney St.

November 22 - "Technology, Medicine, and the Newborn Infant"
- Dr. Mike McCann

November 29 - "Does the Afterlife Start at 30?"
- an encounter group discussion on whether there is a generation gap within the Prairie Society will be led by George Calden

December 6 - "Communication Gap"
- Boris Frank and the 6th, 7th, & 8th grade class

BACK BAC

As most of you probably know, the Black Affairs Council lost their funding from the U.J.A. at the last General Assembly. They had been guaranteed \$250,000 for four years running and had established long range programs based on that income. Now they have lost their support in mid-stream, with programs underway and with neither the mechanisms nor the experience in fund raising which they suddenly find they need. If BAC is to continue its work in the black community of our nation, it needs our financial and moral support.

Perhaps the moral support is as important as the money (the money is very important too). Many people have felt that the Black Affairs Council, because it was operating with only black leadership, was a racist group. In my experience this has not been the case. The BAC people I know simply are not racists; they listen to whites, relate honestly without hatred to both blacks and whites, and are open and warm with people regardless of color. At least one of the BAC people I know is married to a white, which hardly speaks for him as a racist.

What BAC is is independent. Black people today very frequently feel a need to stand on their own abilities and solve their own problems. This does not mean that they deny the worth or value of whites, that they do not like whites, or that they wish to live totally separate from whites, though clearly there are some black racists and separatists. What it does mean, if I understand what black people have told me, is that people need at some point to be responsible for themselves and their own condition, saying in effect, "I am responsible for myself and for getting myself out of this mess I find myself in". White people concerned to help their black brothers need to work with other whites who would like to keep blacks irresponsible through ignorance or impotence. The blacks I know in BAC are working to help their people become independent and responsible; these "BAC People" are learning, as we all are, the skills they need in politics, in economics. Their programs as I know them (which is a fairly limited knowledge) look good. In some cases really excellent. To keep them going as they unlock a reservoir of human potential in our society we must support them with dollars and with a concern which reaches into the denomination and its affairs and commitments. ~~Anyone who would like to know more about the current BAC actions or who would like to work or help in some way to broaden BAC's base of support please let me know. Make no mistake of it, your help is needed.~~

Dave Meyer

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kindergarten through 5th grade

Please have your child bring one dozen plain cookies (may be store-bought) on Sunday, Nov. 29 to decorate for Medota State Hospital. We'll supply the frosting.

Our Vice-President, Jack Birong, has had to resign because of a permanent conflict with the regular meeting time of the Board. Since this has occurred so early in the term of the current officers, it will be necessary for the group to elect a new Vice-President. The Committee on Committees, which functions as the nominating committee has nominated Robert Siegfried for this office. If anyone wishes to nominate another candidate, we will welcome this. Remember that a candidate must be a member of the group and must agree to be a candidate and to serve if elected. Nominations may be made at the parish meeting on November 20 or could be telephoned to the chairman of the Committee on Committees through November 29. Ballots will be mailed with the next newsletter.

Pat Cautley, Chairman (or chairwoman)
Committee on committees
Home phone: 238-5373

PARISH MEETING AND SOCIAL GATHERING

The Prairie Society gathers officially this Friday evening in a parish meeting to discuss recommended adjustments in the 1970-71 budget and to finally approve an acceptable budget.

Less officially, but in many ways far more importantly, the members will meet informally to kindle new acquaintances in the Society's community. New people who are interested in Prairie are especially urged to attend this parish meeting, because it provides one of the best opportunities for getting to know the members. Old hands are encouraged to make a special effort to invite anyone who may be inclined to participate in Prairie activities. The meeting will be held at the Burns' home at 8:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20th.

As in the past, the cost for refreshments will be 50¢ per person, and any surplus will be applied to costs of future social events.

Directions from Westgate: South on Whitney Way to Hammersley; right on Hammersley to Brookwood; right on Brookwood to Piping Rock; left on Piping Rock to Salisbury; left on Salisbury to the end of cul-de-sac (1214 Salisbury Pl.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Prairie Society is going to start having a calendar on which all events planned within the Society for either the Society as a whole or the various committees and interest groups will be scheduled. The intent of such a calendar is to attempt (so far as possible) to avoid conflicts in which individuals will beed to choose between two meetings or events on a given evening. Just who is going to be the keeper of the calendar is not yet determined. For the present, people should contact Dave or Pat Meyer, telling them when your circle dinner or committee or whatever is planning to meet.

The music group that was to meet on Friday, Nov. 20 has been postponed so that people can go to the parish meeting at the Burns' home. Another date will be arranged as soon as possible. If you are interested in singing or playing instruments or in listening to others and didn't get signed up on the list, call Marlys Noble at 255-2639 to have your name added.

At the Central Midwest District Meetings in Milwaukee last weekend we had a full delegation consisting of Jim Kammer, Pat Meyer, and Dave Meyer. Jim was elected Vice-President of the North Central Cluster, which includes Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and Northern Michigan (excluding Milwaukee area and Chicago area). This is a group that will try to arrange meetings, workshops, etc. for our area in program, religious education, social action, etc. Dave Meyer was elected to the board of Channing-Murray Foundation, a group which concerns itself with campus (particularly student) U-Us. The primary focus of this group is on the UW in Madison, though they do sometimes have some involvement elsewhere.

The play reading group will meet on Saturday, December 19 at Frank and Betty French's house. Anyone interested in joining the group who hasn't yet signed up should call the French's at 836-5244.

LOOKING BACK ON UPHAM WOODS

A capacity crowd of 89 Prairie and First Society members spent the weekend of October 23-25 at Camp Upham Woods on the Wisconsin River. Mona Birong and the Orts had the job of assigning campers bunks in the available winterized cabins, a difficult feat of juggling families, age groups, and sexes. Despite the drizzle, the spirits of the campers were not dampened as they gathered Friday night in the lodge for dinner and a boisterous evening of family games led by the Friedmans and George Calden.

Saturday the rain lifted permitting the much anticipated nature hikes led by Meredith Johnson and Hugh Iltis and culminating in slides of Peru shown by Hugh in the late afternoon. Parents were freed for these activities thanks to planning by Pat Cautley and Norma Magnuson. Saturday morning the young children were offered sketching, "mystery construction kits", and collage-making and Saturday afternoon a choice of a hike or a hunt for animal tracks. Saturday evening the Davidsons led a gala evening of square dancing, interspersing rest periods with the "Prairie Dog Talent Show". Guitar pickers, singers, gymnasts and instrumentalists abounded.

On Sunday morning some found time for solitude in the midst of the fading autumnal beauty. In the late morning a worship service entitled "Simple Gifts" was held outdoors in the council ring. Will anyone forget Bob Koehl's trolley car "trip" or Pat Meyer's reading of a Rootabaga story?

Throughout the weekend canoes and rowboats were available for exploring the river, with the help of John and Leslie Miller's waterfront brigade. Campers were well fed, thanks to the menu planning of Betsy Roberts and the dining room management of Meredith Johnson. Thanks, also, to the many persons who pitched in to help, like Roland and Avis who returned all the unused food to the store in Wisconsin Bells.

If you missed Upham Woods this year, there will be another chance next year. The Prairie has been assigned the weekend of October 15-17. A detailed report will be forwarded to the committee chairmen next year to facilitate planning. If you have any comments to be included in that report please call Ruth Calden (233-5717) soon.

A few lost and found items were brought back from Upham Woods; a flashlight and several items of clothing. Please check at the Sunday service.

Ruth and Rachel