

P. O. Box 4037
Madison, Wisconsin

221-1065

Vol. 3, No. 12
Feb. 24, 1971

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

February 28 - "Art for Pete's Sake"
- Ted and Rebecca Clark

March 7 - "The Peace Corps Revisited"
- Burt and Sheila Swanson, Bill and Jane Hammat

WHAT PRICE GLORY?

Not long ago I sat in a meeting and listened to a man, a specialist in foreign policy, talk about Viet Nam, Southeast Asia, and our foreign policy. During the course of the conversation he clearly indicated (though not in so many words) that, though not a hawk, he was certainly not a dove either. At one point he went so far as to say that had he been president at any time during the years from 1961 to 1969 or 70, he might well have made the same mistakes made in our Viet Nam policy during those years. He also spoke in such concepts as the benefit accruing from the Laos invasion because of the timetable commitment the president has given as a result of this invasion. I was most impressed by this man and by many of his ideas. He spoke with a wealth of information; he saw the necessity of our exit from Viet Nam as quickly as possible -- and he made it very clear that he meant our total exit; he felt that the probable outcome of our withdrawal would be a coalition, perhaps even eventually a communist government. Yet throughout the entire discussion I felt a disturbing uneasiness. I finally said that I wished that we could begin to move our government toward a foreign policy which denied the efficacy of violence, that refused to see war or the threat of war as a constructive tool of foreign policy. In essence, my idea was (and is) that war and massive violence do not work. His rejoinder, a very serious one I think, was that in Viet Nam we were proving to the communists that violence does, work, for their concerted violent effort was pointing toward their final success, their final victory (though not necessarily in the terms we think of as military victory).

Here is the old ends-means argument, an argument which seems to underlie most foreign policy of nearly all nations. But I think that in order to believe it, to assume it, in its simplest form one must have the tunnel vision of a goctinaire position. Surely the ends do justify the means; but few people who put forward the argument are willing to look at all the ends, only at their very narrow, abstract goal. If a nation is destroyed, hundreds of thousands of people killed, and environment made unlivable and unproductive for generations, and the participants in the action (the soldiers, the American public via television, etc.) brutalized into callousness, then what victory is won? How can all these other ends be justified by the achievement of some other end (whether that be the establishment of a communist regime or the maintenance of a pro-western one)? The primary end of all violence must always be destruction and often more violence. The foreign policy expert I was talking about, himself acknowledged that, had the Viet Cong withdrawn and waited, as they had done in 1954 after the Geneva Convention, they would by now probably be in control of the South. All they won with their violence was death and destruction. And we have done no better, for in the end we leave a divided, desecrated land filled brimful and overflowing with suffering, ugliness, corruption, injustice, and brutality. In the end violence results in there being no good guys (perhaps violence results from there being no good guys). All the policies and public pronouncements in the world cannot alleviate one iota of the human misery caused by napalm, high intensity bombing, terrorism, defoliation, etc. Violence does not work, no matter what anybody's tunnel vision tells them, for violence is its own father. Until we have a foreign policy which eschews violence and acknowledges consciously that a foreign policy itself is not about abstract concepts like nations

and a nation's self interest, but rather about people trying to get along together (an idea which omits violence categorically), until then we cannot hope to live in a peaceful world.

Dave Meyer

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On February 28 and March 7, Betty French will conduct a pottery making session for the Sunday School, Kindergarten through grade 8. On February 28 we will be molding the pottery. On that Sunday each child should bring a square of canvas or oilcloth to work on, a small sponge, a rolling pin (one per family is fine) and a ruler. Seashells, nuts, or buttons to imprint in clay may be brought also. (Don't buy anything especially for this though; we'll try to have extras.) On March 7 the pottery will be glazed. Each child should bring a sponge. Since this is a two-Sunday project, it is recommended that children attend both Sundays. Washable playclothes are also recommended!

Spring sessions of Sunday School will start March 14. Mona Birong will continue as nursery coordinator. The topic for kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 will be the beginnings of "man," taught by Sydney Mannerling.

Third, fourth and fifth graders will have a choice between two topics. "Man the Culture Builder" will be continued from the winter session. Karen Peters will teach symbolism, art, and music as the language of religion. Those third, fourth, and fifth graders who have taken either or both of the previous Biblical history courses will have an opportunity to visit other churches. These visits will be conducted by Lilo Koehl, and will be at times other than the regular Sunday meeting time.

For the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders Mark and Nancy Mc Elreath will conduct a course in sex education, covering human physiology to personal sexual relationships. Films, slides, models, and discussions will be used. A meeting with the parents of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders is planned, and they will be contacted soon by Mark and Nancy.

Thanks go to Mona Birong, Roland Parrish, Betsy Roberts, David Ort, Orie Loucks, and Dave Meyer for teaching Sunday School during the winter session. Also thank you to Martha Lussenhop, Aileen Nettleton, and John Magnuson for substitute teaching.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the spring of 1965, a plot of about 10 acres of land at the corner of Gammon and Raymond Roads was purchased by some members of the First Unitarian Society of Madison with the thought that the southwest area of the city was logical area. Subsequently, the Prairie Society was formed, meeting in "borrowed" facilities at the Holy Name Seminary (near West Towne) for the 1967-68 and 68-69 years. In the fall of 1969, the Prairie group, having become financially independent, moved to the YWCA, which offered (1) the most suitable facilities of all the buildings surveyed at that time, (2) a prime meeting time of 10:30 Sunday morning and (3) a location which represented somewhat of a compromise between availability to all, although not convenience to many. We pay, by yearly contract, \$125 per month for the use of these YWCA rooms

The Prairie board, as a whole, and the Long Range Planning committee need to know how all the Prairie Society members and friends feel about future plans for housing the group. To this end, a special parish meeting on March 14 is scheduled.

In preparation for this meeting will you seriously consider your reaction to the following statements, and if you cannot attend this parish meeting, will you make your opinions known, either by comment on this sheet (and its return to one of the board members, or to Dave Meyer, or by mailing to one or the other.

1. U kuje a cebtrakm east, west, far west, far east, other location.

2. I think a location would be most propitious for Prairie.
3. My involvement with Prairie would be affected by location. For instance:
 - a) Sharing a church facility with another church group. Presently the use of part of Covenant Presbyterian Church is a possibility.
 - b) Sharing a facility with a school group. Do you have any suggestions? (we have explored all of which we have heard)
 - c) Other suggestions for housing:

Long Range Planning Committee

BOTTLE AND CAN PICKUP

This Sunday, Feb. 28, there will be another bottle and can pickup at church. Like the last time, it will be at the Fondue Chalet parking lot across the street from the Y. People will be there with containers to put your bottles and cans into between 10 and 10:30 a.m. You can bring any kinds of cans and bottles except plastic and spray cans. All you need to do to them is separate them into cans and bottles, and the bottles into clear, green and brown colors, and remove the metal caps from the bottles.

Questions call Ellie Friedman 257-3385 or Rosemary Dorney 238-4382.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES

Some of our members are sporting new black permanent name tags. They are sturdier than the present ones and cost \$1.00 each. We hope more people will invest in a permanent name sign for themselves. Sign up on the bulletin board or see Lilo Koehl.

HEAD START IN TROUBLE

Because of receiving the same budgetary grant for 1970-71 as they did for 1969-70 Headstart in Dane Co. had a choice of reducing either the quantity or the quality of their program. They chose quality, hoping to get additional funds. As of January of this year they were unsuccessful and were forced to consider closing their program for the months of March and April. The \$50,000.00 is needed to keep Headstart in operation for those two months.

Headstart in Dane Co. works with low-income children and their families. It is their aim "to provide a child and adult educational program which reduces school failure and stimulates improved family life."

They need our help. Send cheques to: Dane County Head Start
55 N. Dickenson St.,
Madison, Wis. 53703.

Social Action committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 27 - The Play Reading Group will meet this Sat. Feb. 27 at Jean Gordon's house, 2209 E. Washington at 7:30 p.m. For further information,

call Jean at 249-3034. Everyone's welcome.

March 4 - There will be a meeting of the executive board on Thursday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m. at Elinor Loucks', 5610 Westbury Place.

Present day Siberia will be described by Mrs. Kenneth Ragland at the EVENING ALLIANCE meeting, Thursday, March 4 at the First Unitarian Society. The Raglands spent an interesting year in a modern Russian community near Novosibersk, built recently for a Center for Scientific Studies. Her illustrated talk will be preceded by a 6.30 supper. Reservations for the supper may be made with Mrs. Catherine Crocker at 256-4616. All women of the Prairie are invited.

March 6 - The Craft Group will meet at Mary Jane Woerpel's, 4833 Holiday Dr., at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 6. So far the group has done macrame (decorative Knot tying). Anyone interested is invited to come with sack lunch and learn (if you don't already know). If you have other craft interests, call Mary Jane to see if she will have facilities for doing your craft and then come prepared to teach others. This is a real workshop sort of group.

March 8 - Adult class in Unitarian-Universalism: Only two people have indicated an interest in this class to Dave; only one of these gave a firm commitment. Therefore, rather than ordering any books, ahead of time, he has decided to simply call a meeting of those interested. This meeting will include a preliminary discussion of the material and ideas in our Unitarian heritage and also some discussion about the nature of the class, whether people want to order books, how much history people are interested in, etc. This class will meet on Monday, March 8, at 7:30 at the Meyer's apartment, 5804 Anthony Pl. in Monona (Apt. #1).

March 14 - There will be a Prairie Society PARISH MEETING on Sunday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m. at the Y.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Newsletter is Sunday, March 7.