

The lazy days of summer are over and a new year about to begin. Time to return to work, time to return to school, time to return to Prairie. Welcome!!

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 \* ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER \*  
 \* \*  
 \* Beginning with this issue, the \*  
 \* newsletter has a new editor, \*  
 \* I'm kind of hard to reach by \*  
 \* phone, so I suggest that you \*  
 \* mail your contributions or \*  
 \* drive by and drop them in my \*  
 \* mail slot. If phoning is eas- \*  
 \* ier, but you get too many \*  
 \* "d-a's," try me late at night \*  
 \* or on Sat. mornings. \*  
 \* \*  
 \* The main issue of the news- \*  
 \* letter will arrive by the 1st \*  
 \* of each month. Deadline for \*  
 \* this issue will be the night \*  
 \* of the 22nd. Please try to \*  
 \* get all information about ev- \*  
 \* ents for the following month \*  
 \* into that issue. A suppl- \*  
 \* ment--when needed--will come \*  
 \* out on the 15th of the month, \*  
 \* and the deadline will be the \*  
 \* 7th.  
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- \* PLAYREADERS Pat Watkins
- \* DIRECTOR, REL ED. Aileen Nettleton
- \* PUBLICITY " Mark McElreath
- \* NEWSLETTER Pat Watkins
- \* EXECUTIVE SEC. Rosemary Dorney

\* The Executive Board meets on the first Thursday  
 \* of each month. You are invited to attend.

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

- Wed. 5 Sept. Social Action Comm. meets at the McElreaths, 7:30 PM
- Thurs. 6 Sept. Executive Board meets at Mike Lyman's, 7:30 PM
- Thurs. 6 Sept. Deadline for Newsletter Supplement
- Sun. 9 Sept. "Marriage: I Count, You Count." Explore with George Calden the basic psychological factors of long-term intimate relationships.
- Thurs. 20 Sept. Program Comm. meets at the Calden's, 4606 Waukeshua, 7:30 PM. All come.
- Sat. 15 Sept. (Oop's! sorry about that) The Playreaders. Organize and read at Pat Watkins', 2419 Norwood Place, 7:30 PM.
- Sun. 16 Sept. "Prairie Roots--Deep and Shallow." Al Nettleton and Steve Friedman probe the nature of our commitments to Prairie.
- Sat. 22 Sept. Deadline for newsletter's October issue.
- Sun. 23 Sept. "Brave New Marriage." Is traditional marriage an Edsel--outmoded and ready for the junkheap? Program by George Calden.
- Sun. 30 Sept. Tim Fast with Rosemary Dorney take a look at man's threshold of frustration. What is your EQ (endurance quotient)? "It Just Won't Go Away."

## HARD NOSES AND SOFT HEARTS

BY GEORGE CALDEN  
LAY MINISTER  
9 Sept.--25 Nov.

During my three months as lay minister, I plan to explore the three themes of marriage, music, and madness. But, as you will see by this article, I've added a fourth "M"--morality.

The recent Watergate hearings have highlighted the conflict between cynicism and idealism in our attitude toward the workings of our society and toward our fellow man. Senate investigators like Irwin and Weicher stand for the Bible, righteousness, decency, and the Constitution. On the other side of the table, we've seen a long line of ambitious, power oriented men who praise the virtues of being hard-nosed, and running a tight ship, justifying their deceptions, their chicanery, and their crimes. As long as you win, everything is justified. The Haldemans and Ehrlichmens view idealists as a "bunch of clowns."

When to be tough, hard nosed and cynical--and when to be idealistic and pure?

I'll never forget the remark made by an instructor to our class, when I was a G.I. at Stanford University in 1943. He was the former minister, from Finland, to the then defunct League of Nations. We asked him why the League had failed. He answered, "There were too many practical realists in it." By this he meant that the stress on power politics, on national self interest had doomed the League.

On the other hand, I recall a recent remark from a philosophical friend of mine: "Sages and idealists like McGovern belong on a mountain top and not in politics."

(As I'm typing this out, on August 17th, I overheard the following ominous news announcement on the radio: "The price of poetry has gone up in the supermarket." I trembled to think about the next time I went to the A&P to buy an ode by Keats or a sonnet by Shakespeare. I might have to pay double. Fortunately, the newscaster corrected himself. He meant "poultry" and thereby calmed my fears. Now I can settle down and worry peacefully about Watergate).

I suppose everybody reacts a little differently to Watergate. After hearing Nixon's last TV talk defending his "innocence" about the coverup, I could only react with my customary cynicism toward a president whose entire political career has been "checkered" with deception and connivance. And he tops off his unconvincing talk by blaming the "any-means-justifies-the-end" tactics of the social activists of the sixties for the immorality of Watergate. Imagine blaming Martin Luther King for the shenanigans of Nixon's closest advisors! Instead, he might look closer to home and scrutinize the "justifiable" deceptions of LBJ during the Vietnam War, the "justifiable" skullduggeries of the C.I.A., and the "justifiable" acts of his own political career. It seems that where there is great wealth and power, idealism exits through the back door.

9/1/73

My older brother, who has worked for many years in TV, writes: "It strikes me how similar the Haldemans and Ehrlichmans are to the smart operators, connivers and wheeler dealers of the film industry. Once, my boss was up for a Peabody Award. He had his staff write letters for days in disguised handwritings, urging the Peabody Committee to give him the award. We had to carry out the orders of our superior with sloven-like, unquestioning dedication, or we would have been fired.

I feel we have to be both cynical and idealistic. But how much of which-- and when and where? See you all back at Prairie

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\* Evelyn Werner recently satisfied requirements of the U.W.Extension Biology Department and completed the field examination to earn her "Nature Guide Certificate." Congratulations, Evelyn.  
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Nancy McElreath informs me that the NEW Social Action Committee has an exciting new approach this year. If you are interested in being involved, come to the meeting on Wednesday, September 5th, 7:30 PM at Nancy's new home.

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The Denominational Affairs committee hopes to be quite active this year, with discussion groups which will deal with Unitarian inter-communication on a national level and denominational policy positions. A meeting will be announced soon. We hope that a lot of you--including those without a Unitarian background (which means most of us)--will be interested in joining in. If you just can't wait to get started, call Betsy Roberts at 238-6030.

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\* NOTE THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS CHANGES: \*  
\* \*  
\* McElreath: 1519 Keyes Avenue \*  
\* Mike Lyman: 1013 W. Dayton Street \*  
\* (255-2819) \*  
\* \*  
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\* Haiku \*  
\* \*  
\* You offered. I spurned. \*  
\* Love means not just how to give, \*  
\* But how to accept. \*  
\* Pat W.\*  
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Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

1808 Westlawn Avenue

Madison, Wisconsin

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