

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
Sunday Services in the Portal-Foster Center
1806 West Lawn Ave., Madison, WI 53711

VOLUME 12, No. 13
November 13, 1975

EDITOR: Vivian Meyer
251-7526 or 266-2022

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

- SUN
NOV 16 10 AM "PROGRAM COMMITTEE SURPRISE PACKAGE" a program to replace the scheduled program on Mysticism. 256-2801
- SUN
NOV 16 11 AM ONGOING SKI EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE This will be a regular weekly event throughout the ski season. Included in "equipment" is clothing--especially kids' clothing. Ski things will be on a table at the back of the room. Come and browse--bring something to trade or sell. 251-7526.
- SUN
NOV 16 7:30 PM CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT GROUP This Unitarian-Universalist student group will meet with Richard Cates, former Assistant Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee during Watergate and the impeachment hearings. Dessert and coffee will be served. Meet at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. 238-9533.
- FRI
NOV 21 PM SINGLES EVENT Meet at the Karakahl Inn in Mt. Horeb for sauna, swim and fish dinner. Approximate cost \$4. All singles are welcome to participate--transportation is available. There will be a sign-up sheet at the membership table on Sun., Nov. 16 or call Vivian Meyer 251-7526.
- SAT
NOV 22 8 PM PLAYREADING GROUP will meet at Rosemary Dorney's home, 2127 Regent St. If you want to be a playreader just come along. No previous experience required. Everybody gets a part--or we take turns. If you need a ride or have any questions, call Linda at 836-5547 or Rosemary at 238-4382.
- SUN
NOV 23 10 AM "COMMUNITY IN RITUAL" a Thanksgiving program led by Richard Perry, Lay Minister. This will be a family service. 255-6157
- SUN
NOV 23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Date by which I must have information for the November 27th Newsletter. 251-7526 or 266-2022
- SUN
NOV 30 10 AM "BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME" the last program in the Lay Ministry of Richard Perry. This will be the last installment of "Binding Together." 255-6157
- SUN
DEC 7 10 AM "THE MEANING OF LIFE AS REVEALED THROUGH THE WORKS OF THE GREAT MASTERS - DA VINCI" First program in the Lay Ministry of Joe Hoffman. Also the first in a series of programs on this subject. To come: Rembrandt, Picasso, and Frank Lloyd Wright. 257-9995
- SAT
DEC 13 7:30 PM PLAYREADING GROUP will meet at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place. We'll be reading Oscar Wild's The Importance of Being Earnest. Bring a copy if you have one. 233-5795

African Religions Program Has Special Meaning for U-U's

On Sunday, November 9, David Wiley, Chairman of the Department of African Studies at the University provided us with a special insight into the role of religion in the African community. Though the humanity and community spirit displayed by the African peoples should have special meaning for all humans, there is a special bond between the African Humanist expression and our own U-U values. Mr. Wiley did an excellent job of describing the cultural and historical links in the development of African community religion and the subsequent impact of urban and technological evolution. We hope Mr. Wiley will be able to return soon for further discussion of African life--especially inasmuch as he has expressed a desire to tell us more about the current political, economic and social issues in African life. Thank you from all of us, Mr. Wiley!

Social Action...that's A-C-T-I-O-N

"You say you'd like to give America a birthday present?
Give yourself!"

--Poster by Utah State Volunteer Programs Coordination Project & the Salt Lake City Voluntary Action Center for National Volunteer Work, reprinted from the VIP Examiner

Prairie Society receives three (at least) interesting newspapers, all of which outline methods of getting involved in community activities. If you're looking for a way of expressing your concern check these out:

Kairos an independent quarterly of liberal religion. Kairos Box NN, Brewster, Massachusetts 02631. (\$3 for four quarterly issues.)

Poverty Law Report Southern Poverty Law Center, 1001 South Hull Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36101. (bi-monthly, price unknown)

Volunteers in Probation Examiner. Published by VIP Division of the National Council on Crime & Delinquency, P. O. Box 31, Flint, Michigan 48501. (quarterly, for a donation)

Speaking of Newspapers...

This month's edition of the UUA World, our own denominational newspaper, has a wide variety of interesting articles. For example you may read about Senate Bill #1--a serious threat to the civil rights of all Americans, a bill designed by Nixon's former Justice Department representatives, Kleindeinst and Mitchell. There is also an article on new materials developed by the UUA on aging. Or: Carl Sandburg; Unitarian; special insert,--"Speak Out," by the UU Women's Federation and more.

Women's Transit Needs Your Help

The following appeal was sent to Prairie Society:

"Women's Transit Authority is a non-profit, volunteer organization designed to prevent rape, and increase safe mobility for women by providing a free transportation service at night. Additionally, the organization is dedicated to educating women about rape prevention. The situation in Madison is one in which streets are poorly lit, buses do not run late at night, and taxis are too expensive for many women to afford on a regular basis. Therefore such a service as ours is especially necessary....Our operating costs total \$14,000 a year. In the past the University of Wisconsin was the major source of our funds. However, due to cuts in the University Budget, this institution has cut back their funding of us to \$3,000 per year....Complete University funding will cease as of December 31, 1975. Unfortunately, rape will not end in January."

Women's Transit needs our help. If you wish to examine the full text of

their plea, it will be on the membership table the next few Sundays. Consider your needs and the needs of the community. This may be a service which our Society should consider funding.

Lost Heirs May Mean Lost Money...In More Ways Than One

An article appeared in the Capital Times last week featuring Prairie member Fran Remeika, whose professional name is Frances Scoll. Fran is a professional probate researcher. In the article Fran warns the public to beware of unethical organizations currently operating in Wisconsin. In addition, she asks that a distinction be made between these organizations and the legitimate researcher rather than a wholesale condemnation of all probate researchers. The following remarks are quoted from the Cap Times article:

"Scholl(sic) explained that a good way of identifying reputable estate tracers is 'that all reputable people work on a contingency basis where they are paid only after a person inherits an estate.' She advised people to be suspicious of individuals or organizations which request money in advance."

"Many people often believe they are heirs after receiving letters sent out by organizations like California Probate Document Service, Inc., Scholl(sic) explained, 'because people getting these letters think they (the organization) must know something I don't; how else did they get my address.'"

"The letters from California Probate state that a person's address was obtained from a 'public record,' which in most cases probably means a telephone directory."

So if your name is Nelson, Howard or Miller, (the names known to have been used by this organization soliciting money for providing documents), and you receive a letter claiming you may be an heir to the estate of a certain person of the same last name in California--check the phone directory to see how many Nelsons, Howards and Millers there are in your town alone. The odds are if there are 20 Millers, say, in Madison, 20 more in Minneapolis, and still 20 more in Oconomowoc--the chances of you being the sole heir of the Miller estate in California are rather slim.

U-Us Active in Madison Theater

Prairie associates contributed greatly to the recent success of the university production of Oklahoma. Mary Gaebler (daughter of Max Gaebler and a frequent contributor of her talent at Prairie services) and Abe Gordon (son of Genia Gordon) literally stole the show in their roles of Annie and Hackham, the peddler, while Leslie Watkins, (daughter of Pat Watkins) kept things moving along as stage manager of the production.

--Pat Watkins

Musical Commentary

On October 31 the Memorial Union sponsored, as part of their annual concert series, the Moscow Symphony. The orchestra and conductor were exceptional. They played Moussorsky and Tchaikovsky with inspiration and flair, with a certain Russian pride. The orchestra members were animated and seemed friendly, radiating their apparent eagerness to cement Soviet-American relations. Or maybe they were just being friendly--in any event, I think that the sound and beauty they created that evening would serve as the basis for any universal appeal for humanity among the peoples of the world. In the suitably proletarian setting of the Stock Pavillion (with moths flitting from one light to another but, fortunately without the accompaniment of the rumbling, squealing trains and lowing of swine and cows in the basement) they communicated the special sensitivity of the musician for interpreting the longings and collective experiences of humankind. I fervently wish that we could base our relations with other nations on the

emotions stimulated that night; and further, that our ambassadors could be as inspired with the art, itself, of communicating needs and desires as those musicians. Though I recognize that the conductor did not produce the total sound himself, the perfect movements of his baton indicated his demand for and commitment to precise, delicately tuned music from the entire orchestra. Finally his special efforts to assure that the individual members of the group received adequate recognition for their performance was a tribute to the style of his leadership. If I had one wish, guaranteed to come true, I would wish that I could cause all people everywhere to feel as good as I did when I left that concert.

--Vivian Meyer

Echoing Thoughts From the Past...

The following is an article reprinted from Kairos, the Autumn 1975 edition:

The Minister As Artist

by Stephen R. Papa

The minister is an artist because he/she endeavors to create love where it is not, peace and purpose when they are absent, to create concern and effective means of action for expression of concern when these appear to be lost. The minister is an artist who conducts the congregation in a worship service on Sunday morning. Together they sing, praise, imagine, feel, reflect, and most important, affirm.

A minister leads the people in expression of their concerns, values, problems; in their expression of themselves. This expression is a celebration and affirmation of our values. The minister does this in the Sunday service through the artistic presentation of our values in the Sunday experience — where we experience those possibilities we struggle for, love, peace, and truth.

He searches for the social means of the active expression of our concerns and values. His creations are never perfect; such creations do not exist, but he tries his best.

Everyday with the congregation he celebrates and affirms those values through listening, helping, and directing. Throughout the week he cares for the congregation in their creation of life with its limits, its pains, its aspirations, joys and satisfactions.

All this he does for love. He loves life in all its ambiguities, but most for its possibilities.

With the congregation he struggles with life. Often we feel fragmented, unsure, unhappy. We ask why do we, as individuals, as a church, as a nation, struggle so much? The answer is that we struggle because we need to. The minister and people struggle with life not just to "make it," but to make it better.

The ministry actively affirms humanity and life for their valued possibilities and integrity. In such an affirmation the minister celebrates and creates; hence, the minister is an artist.

As the minister is an artist within the congregation, so the church is an artist within society. Like the artist, we may need to criticize and condemn certain practices but always from within. The church must affirm and create those things we value, like justice, equal opportunity, freedom from hunger and want. The church must embody those values in its own structure and strive to implement them in our society. These goods are lacking in our society and our role is to create.

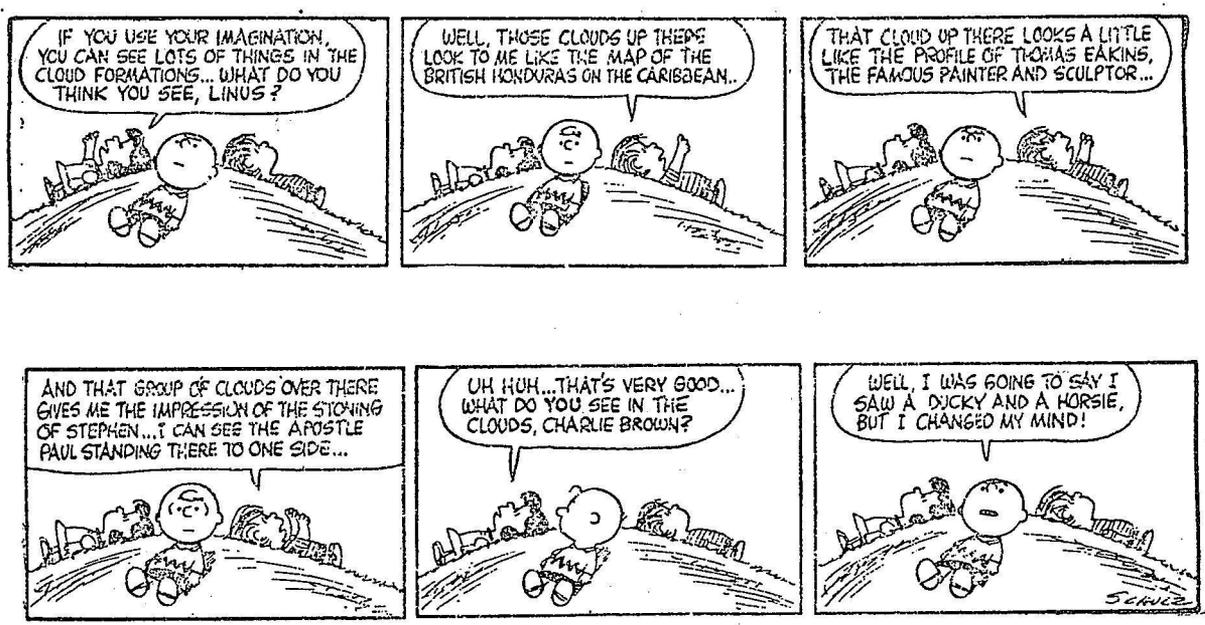
(This essay is taken from the author's doctor of ministry dissertation [1975] at Meadville/Theological School, entitled "The Art of Worship.")

On the Threshold of Another Wisconsin Winter

Soon the "closet" lovers of snow and winter will emerge--these people are known as skiers. When they do the Prairie Ski Club will attempt to gather them up and bundle them off to various ski areas. There is a possibility that we may be able to accomplish both community outreach and fund-raising in addition to skiing. Though by no means a certainty, we will try to organize our numerous skiers in such a way as to provide them with ski information and services while

they in turn provide manpower and enthusiasm in the effort to involve community members (most-likely in the Prairie "ghetto" area) in our ski events. It is hoped that if we can get a large enough turnout for these events we may be able to make a small profit which will be turned over to our Treasurer to cover our operating expenses. In addition to this obvious advantage we may also enable many persons previously with limited funds or lack of transportation to enjoy skiing on a more regular basis; by providing transportation we will be able to offer an alternative to ten families getting in ten separate cars to get to the ski area. And of course there is the social aspect of skiing--that is, meeting and getting to know new people. There is a hitch, however, and that is finding the organizing energy of a leader and soliciting the willing cooperation of the many skiers in our group in making this venture a success. Your opinions in this matter will be polled in the next few weeks.

- Fred Seidl has been kind enough to lend us his copy of Skiers 1975 Directory. This is an annual periodical which describes in detail the many ski areas in Canada and the United States. (Did you know they ski in Virginia?!) You may be able to purchase this magazine in Madison in bookstores, however if you are unable to find it here is the publisher's address:
Skiers 1975 Directory. Ski Earth Publications, Inc., 38 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts 20110, \$2.50.
- Many people have expressed a desire to participate in cross-country events as well. The Carsons have offered us the use of their property--as soon as it snows we will take them up on this offer. On a Saturday or Sunday afternoon we will gather at the Carson's home. If they will provide the liquid refreshment we will then bring nibbling materials. Perhaps the week after that we may find another host or a public park and all meet there with goodies in hand. And so on.
- The Seidls have some 195 cm wooden skis with cable bindings which they would be willing to lend for a season.
- Mary Lou Diehl would like to get a pair of cross-country skis or borrow some.
- David Carson (size 120) would like to find some cross-country boots.
- Ann Seidl reported the Beltline Bargain Mart has some good buys in ski clothing for the budget-minded skier.
- Anyone else have some ideas, suggestions, requests?? Please contact Vivian Meyer at church or 251-7526.



reprinted from The Gospel According To Peanuts by Robert L. Short

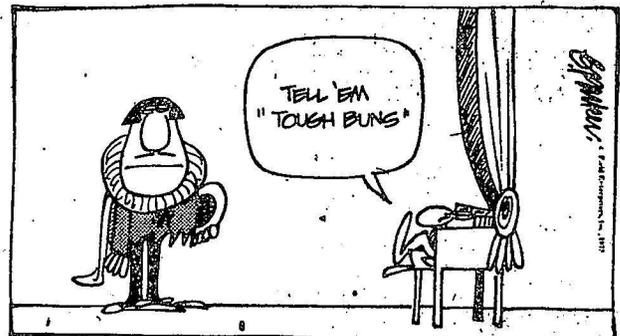
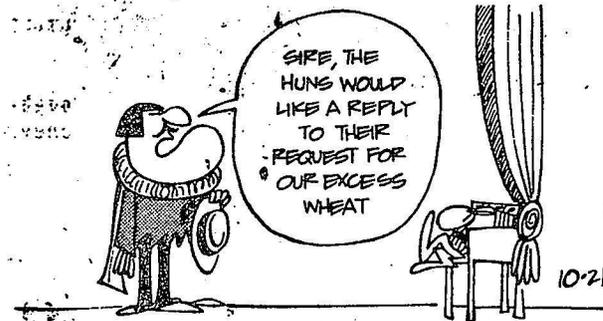
WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli



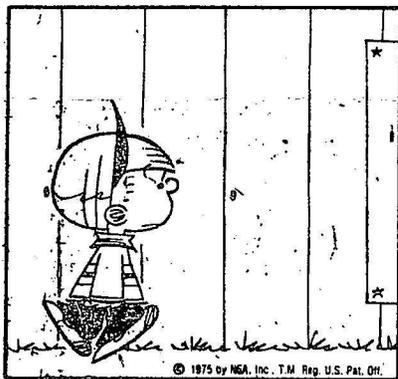
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Parker and Hart



WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli



--reprinted from the Capital Times

Bicentennial Corner

In keeping with the democratic nature of Prairie Society I would like to request that anyone and everyone who reads this newsletter contribute something to its content. If you have anything of interest to Prairie people, to other Unitarian-Universalists, or people in general please feel free to give it to me so we can all share it. This includes members, friends, members of other U-U fellowships and churches, representatives of organizations, etc. Anyone. It kind of gets lonely sometimes trying to think of things in which people would be interested--and I greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness and concern of those people who have given me things to print. Things you might consider: song lyrics you like, poetry, line drawings, an advertisement, something about your family, a plug for a special cause, appreciation for a certain program or event, etc.

--Vivian Meyer, Editor

Bicentennial Corner (Cont'd)

The following quotation was submitted by an anonymous source:

"Mankind soon learn to make interesting uses of every right and power which they possess, or may assume... Nor should our assembly be deluded by the integrity of their own purposes, and conclude that these unlimited powers will never be abused, because they themselves are not disposed to abuse them. They should look forward to a time, and that not a distant one, when a corruption in this, as in the country from which we derive our origin, will have seized the heads of government, and be spread by them through the body of the people; when they will purchase the voices of the people, and make them pay the price. Human nature is the same on every side of the Atlantic, and will be alike influenced by the same causes. The time to guard against corruption and tyranny, is before they shall have gotten hold of us. It is better to keep the wolf out of the fold, than to trust to drawing his teeth and claws after he shall have entered."

--Thomas Jefferson, Notes on Virginia,
Vol. II, p. 164

The following I found in The Works of Abraham Lincoln, in the third of eight volumes covering his life through his writing:

"We hold this annual celebration to remind ourselves of all the good done in this process of time, of how it was done and who did it, and how we are historically connected with it; and we go from these meetings in better humor with ourselves,...But after we have done all this we have not yet reached the whole. There is something else connected with it....when we look through that old Declaration of Independence, we find that those old men say that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal"....Those arguments that are made, that the inferior race are to be treated with as much allowance as they are capable of enjoying; that as much is to be done for them as their condition will allow,--what are these arguments? They are the arguments that kings have made for enslaving the people in all ages of the world. You will find that all the arguments in favor of kingcraft were of this class; they always bestrode the necks of the people not that they wanted to do it, but because the people were better off for being ridden. That is their argument, and this argument of the Judge is the same old serpent that says, you work, and I eat; you toil, and I will enjoy the fruits of it. Turn in whatever way you will, whether it come from the mouth of a king, an excuse for enslaving the people of his country, or from the mouth of men of one race as a reason for enslaving the men of another race, it is all the same old serpent....Let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man; this race and that race and the other race being inferior, and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position;...Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal."

--Abraham Lincoln, in reply to Sen.
Douglas, Chicago, July 10, 1858

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