

# Inside junior high

ANNE CHASE

FOR an outsider with no formal background in education except eighteen years of nursery school, grade school, high school etc., a visit to a DC junior high school is illuminating, frustrating, encouraging and discouraging. I chose Charles Hart Jr. High in Anacostia virtually at random. I had never heard of it, and spent 15 minutes looking for it on a city map after I was invited to talk to a history class of eighth graders. When I got there the first time, I was, to put it mildly, nervous. Urban school systems enjoy a press rating about on a par with Nixon's. But, aside from a few students hanging around in the office, the school was quiet, graffiti-free and the students I spoke with were lively, well-informed and accurate judges of human behavior. There were no roving bands of terrorists, no evidence of rapes or ruggings. Hart is, in fact, just a school.

The principal agreed, reluctantly, to let me come. He explained that Hart had been unfairly treated by the press in the past and that it hindered the positive image the teachers and administration were trying to create. Once I was there, he gave me free run of the building and allowed me to follow one of the assistant principals around until I could find my way.

Hart is a basic 1950's style school building - red brick, square, it would not be mistaken for anything but an electric substation. It is attractively landscaped and has more potential recreation space than most of the other schools in the city. Potential as yet unrealized because there is no money to develop it. The surrounding neighborhood of detached single family homes and newer three and four story garden apartments runs downhill from Martin Luther King Avenue. It had 1856 students, 86 teachers and a traditional educational program. Seventh graders take English, United States geography, general science, math, physical education, art, music, home economics and shop. Eighth graders take English, math or algebra, general science, world history or US history, French or Spanish, physical education, typing, home economics and shop. Ninth graders take English, geometry, general math or business math, general science or biology, US civics or Afro-American history, French, Spanish, art, music, typing, home economics, shop and physical education.

A visitor notices some things immediately, but the reasons do not present themselves for several days. The administration sets the average class size at 35; in fact most classes have about 20 students. A few classes are so jammed the visitor takes the last seat.

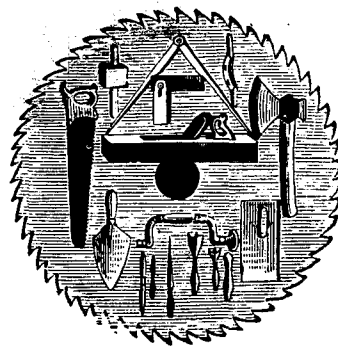
An interdisciplinary approach prevails at Hart, with all teachers emphasizing English. Science students must write reports on blacks who contributed to medical advancement; math students must turn in brief biographies of mathematicians, geography students have lists of vocabulary words to memorize. Afro-American history requires that the students read the newspaper and keep a scrapbook of stories pertaining to blacks.

The students themselves are fearfully concerned about the future. To a student, one history class subscribed to Henry Ford's saying that "history is bunk." "We can't look forward to nothing, because it's already happened," one declared. "Slavery doesn't affect what happens now; they should be teaching us about the new processes." When I asked them if they thought the civil rights movement of the sixties had an effect on their lives, they denied it. When I pressed the point by saying what if the freedom riders and Martin Luther King had just taken things easy and hadn't fought separate facilities, they responded with irrefutable logic. "Yeah, well, they did, so what's the fuss?" Nor was black history any better than white history. Indeed, it was hard to see much of these supremely self-confident flashy children in a film portrayal they had just viewed of an over-earnest Booker T. Washington (whose philosophy they probably would have agreed with) or with the traditional picture of the timid freedman approaching the school house with his cap in hand.

Classes in which the subject matter rather than the teacher's personality holds the students' attention are those that require immediate mastery of skills and produce a visible end product, like typing ("you learn how to type, you ready for a job"), shop and home economics. Kids work away at their sewing machines and tell other students cruising around the room to get lost. Even though a less structured environment than a regular classroom provides more opportunity to act up, the opportunity is not taken.

The classes with the best attendance are those whose teachers have been able to channel the students' sense of immediacy into such rigorous academic subjects as biology and algebra. Teachers who have been able to convey to their students that their education is for them and not the teacher play to packed houses. Hart students are a critical audience, and they vote with their feet, not walking into classes that don't interest them.

Two teachers explained their rapport with the students. "For the first nine weeks of school they hate me, because I insist they come to class and I make them work. I send notes home to their parents; I make them come in early; and I keep a file with the telephone number of every child in my class. That way I catch problems early. The kids have my phone num-



## WOOD CHIPS

ANTON WOOD

### STREET CLOSINGS

City Council members James Coates and Jerry Moore have introduced legislation which would give the mayor virtually unlimited power to close streets and alleys for the summer months for the bicentennial celebration. This resolution could circumvent due process rights and public hearing requirements presently accorded small businesses, tenants and abutting property owners under the DC Code. This measure would also give the mayor the power to justify RLA's illegal street closings for the Streets for People project. The city council has never held public hearings on the multi-million project, despite the fact that it holds hearings on every other street and alley closing.

### PLANNING COMMISSION PAYHIKE

The home rule charter drastically reduced the National Capital Planning Commission's authority to being simply the federal government's central planning agency in the area. The reduction of power, however, did not stop NCPC from requesting \$118,000 more in its 1976 budget than it received in the 1975 budget.

### FORT LINCOLN

RLA awarded the Ft. Lincoln bonanza to a financial syndicate headed by Ted Hagans. Besides Hagan receiving a multi-million dollar subsidy for the project out of tax dollars, the deal won't hurt his holdings in PEPCO (of which he is a board member). Ft. Lincoln is being planned as an all-electric community.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

On May 28, the Washington Residential Development Coalition, an organization composed of major DC real estate firms, voted to hire RLA board member Willie Leftwich to lobby against the real estate speculation tax now pending before the city council. If Leftwich accepts the offer, he should resign as an RLA board member since the lobbying would be a violation of the public trust and, perhaps, of the DC conflict of interest laws. It is interesting to note that RLA's reckless use of eminent domain and urban renewal to remove usable housing from the market has helped create a favorable environment for housing speculation.

### PARKING LOT

The National Park Service's plan for the Mall will convert the nearby neighborhoods of Capitol Hill and Stanton Park into unofficial bicentennial parking lots. The plans to shut off the Mall to parking will encourage employees from HEW, NASA and the Department of Transportation to compete with those from Capitol Hill, the post office, the Government Printing Office and Union Station for parking spaces in Stanton Park and on the Hill, which are already inundated with parking problems.

ber and I have theirs. If they need to know how to do a problem, they can call me any time."

The Spanish teacher agrees. "My students are really very good. They pick up things very quickly and it proves you can give them as much work as you want to. My insistence on spelling has improved their own English. In the beginning they hate you because you give them work, but now they respect me, come to me. You have to give them something challenging, relevant - stress things they can use."

The students and their teachers are in close accord. "You learn more in her class. . . she takes time to teach you. . . you do something different every day. . . you know she'll get on you if you don't do your work. She's not hard; she just wants you to do your work."

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# TOPICS

NR ONE

JULY AUGUST 1975

## ENVIRONMENT

A NEW STUDY BY THE Smithsonian Institution warns that ten percent of all wild plant species in the US are currently threatened with extinction. As a result of the findings, the Department of Interior has begun its first official review of plant species for possible inclusion on the endangered species list.

PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE REPORTS that at least 70 different public and private organizations are quietly involved in efforts to modify the weather in the US. Pacific Gas and Electric, on the west coast, has been in the rain-making business since 1952. PNS says that one reason rain-making activities are not highly publicized is that, when excess rain and flooding suddenly occurs, people who suffer losses are apt to file damage suits.

A NEW BOOK, ENERGY FOR SURVIVAL: The Alternative to Extinction, has been getting good reviews from environmentalists. Anchor Press is the publisher.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that the giant glacier that covers west Antarctica could suddenly slide into the ocean and raise the level of the seas around the world by at least 20 feet. The Times says that this would "submerge many coastal cities as well as much of the world's food-producing areas." Tidal waves could also be expected.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS almost completed the construction of the world's two most powerful telescopes. The Soviets say their new telescopes will be used together in efforts to detect the presence of other planets, perhaps with life upon them, which are orbiting the closest stars.

## THE SECRET GOVERNMENT

IF NO ONE goes to jail or is otherwise punished for the massive crimes committed by the CIA, FBI and police that have come to light, what possible reason is there for these agencies to stop doing what they have been doing? Chances are they are still very much at it, confident that the worst that will happen is that five years from now a blue ribbon commission will say, "That was a no-no."

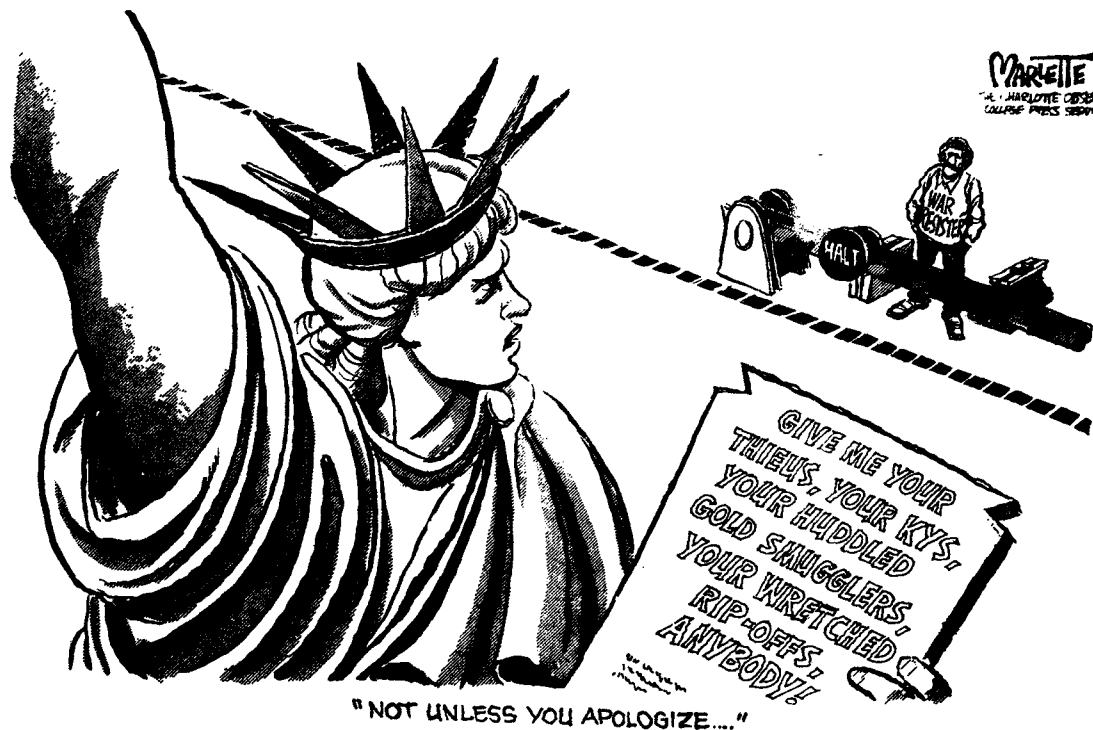
TED CHARACH, the RFK assassination investigator, claims that he is currently negotiating for the purchase of the so-called "second gun" that some believed was used in the killing. The gun belonged to a guard. Shortly after the assassination, it was reportedly stolen; thus no ballistics tests were performed on it. Charach claims to have tracked the gun down.

A TEAM OF FBI agents and architects went to Disney World to get advice on designing the tour route through the new FBI building.

A CALIFORNIA PSYCHIATRIST, Lloyd Cotter, admits in the American Journal of Psychiatry that he employed painful electro-convulsive shocks on Vietnamese mental patients in the mid-1960's to compel them to work. The programmed Vietnamese were turned over as laborers for Green Berets in Vietnam.

FORMER NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN Allard Lowenstein says that the Los Angeles police have a ceiling panel from the pantry where Robert Kennedy was shot that could help tell how many shots were fired during the killing. The Los Angeles DA says the case is closed.

SOME OF THE LATEST in electronic gadgets to keep tabs on people are described in a June article in Harpers by ex-CIA agent George O'Toole. Among the items: a call diverter which can be attached to a phone line. It doesn't do anything until the phone



is used to call a particular number. When that number is dialed, the phone automatically reroutes the call to another phone, where, O'Toole says, "presumably there is a cop who does impressions."

Another device is the "vehicle detention system." O'Toole says this gadget can be planted on a car in less than 12 seconds and that it can later be used to shut off the car's engine with a radio command: "It can . . . ruin an otherwise perfect getaway."

ROLLING STONE reports that the CIA and NSA have their own top-secret Ticketron outlets.

CALIFORNIA PSYCHOLOGIST DAVID GOODMAN of the Newport Neuroscience Center says a study of George Orwell's 1984, published 27 years ago, finds that 100 of 137 specific predictions have come true. Among them: weather modification as a weapon of war; B-52s which refuel in the air; radio-controlled rocket bombs; and behavior control through drugs and aversion therapy.

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION filed papers in federal court last month contending that the federal police have the right to break into a citizen's home without a warrant to search for evidence in intelligence cases.

THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT has come out with a report on 110 government research projects carried out over the past decade aimed at dealing with domestic disturbances. It's called "Riots and Riot Control, a Bibliography with Abstracts, 1964-74."

ATTORNEY MARK LANE says he has uncovered new information which links Jack Ruby to members of organized crime. Lane has come up with a 1939 Chicago Tribune that includes a photo of Jack Ruby captioned "seized for questioning" in a gangland slaying. The FBI denied to the Warren Commission that Ruby was linked to the case.

MARK LANE, MORTON HALPERIN, Fletcher Prouty and Linus Pauling are among the organizers of a new Citizens Commission of Inquiry into the JFK killing. It will press for a congressional investigation. The commission can be reached at 202-546-7500.

THE FBI REPORTS that it has trained SWAT units for 456 different police departments across the United States.

FORMER NEW YORK TIMES report Tad Szulc says in the June issue of Penthouse that the US spends \$25 billion a year for intelligence gathering. The largest amount (\$11 billion) goes to the National Security Agency. In total it amounts to about \$8 out of every \$100 spent by the feds, according to Szulc.

### COOPS AND FOOD STAMPS

It's possible for food coops to get authorized to accept food stamps. To apply for authorization, write a letter to the US Dept. of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service in your state capitol. Explain your coop's wish to be authorized and give a report on the number of members, goods ordered, business volume, ordering frequency, low income family involvement. Ask for an application form.

You will receive an information packet, including applications and regulations.

The application may be mailed in, then you wait until an inspector comes to visit, or an the application may be taken into the USDA office in person. A brief interview would follow to make sure you understand the regs and then authorization would immediately follow.

The decision, if denied, may be appealed and the reasons must be clearly defined.

The decision is made at the regional level. A wait should be anticipated. Many coops have successfully applied.

One sticky matter is that the food stamps must be immediately exchanged for food. If coops have enough money or credit they can buy the food on pre-order and accept the stamps at the coop site. — CPF

## HEALTH

NUTRITIONIST Beverly Moore of the Center for the Study of Responsive Law has done a computer study of 473 food products most commonly advertised on TV. He's found that 43% of the calories in the "TV diet" is in the form of fat and another 32% is in the form of sugar. Moore found that the diet contained an excessive amount of salt and a shockingly low level of fiber.

THE FOOD AND DRUG Administration has given up its fight to impose restrictions on the sale of vitamins and food supplements. Under new regulations supervitamins (except for large doses of A and D) would be classified as food and not drugs.

CONSUMERS UNION has done a study of fast food restaurants and finds that while their menus are heavy on calories and deficient in a few nutrients, they do contain ample protein. One of the best of all is the Pizza Hut's 10-inch "Supreme" pizza.



## NEW NAME, NEW FORMAT

With this issue, we have changed the name of "News Notes," changed its format and included it as a regular feature of the Gazette. We will, with this change, be able to share information on important national topics with more people and have more space in which to do it.

Persons who have subscribed to both News Notes and the Gazette will have their Gazette subscription extended one year.

Information in Topics comes from our sources, as well as from Zodiac News Service, Liberation News Service, the Alternative Press Syndicate, College Press Service and Community Press Features.

You may send subscriptions to Topics for \$3 a year. Send orders to the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

A UCLA team studied 30 longterm pot smokers who spent 94 days locked in a laboratory using an average of 5.5 marijuana cigarettes a day. They found virtually no evidence that pot smoking is harmful -- other than a drop in a male hormone. Says one of the researchers, jailing pot smokers is more harmful than smoking pot.

ROBIN ROOM and Nancy Day, two University of California researchers, studied the drinking patterns of 6000 persons over a period of several years. They found that moderate drinkers, those who consumed several cocktails or a half bottle of wine a day, had a death rate one third that of heavy drinkers and one half that of total abstainers.

NATURE MAGAZINE is out with a report that coffee, if taken with foods containing preservatives (such as cheese and bacon) is likely to cause cancer. The report suggests that you not drink coffee with bacon and cheese.

THE PILLSBURY COMPANY, makers of pie and cake mixes, has bought out Weight Watchers, Inc.

## MEDIA

THE REAL PAPER, an alternative paper in Boston, has been sold to PRQ Inc. for a reported \$321,000. The second largest stockholder in PRQ is one David Rockefeller Jr.

HUNTER THOMPSON has been removed from the masthead of Rolling Stone. Says Thompson, "It's a tossup whether I was fired or whether I quit." The Los Angeles Times quotes one Rolling Stone source as saying: "It's a marvelous situation: the world's worst employee working for the world's worst boss."

## JUST POLITICS

MEMBERS of the House have taken, or will take, six ten day breaks this year in addition to a month off in August. During the Memorial Day recess, at least 49 members of Congress went to Europe at taxpayers' expense.

A FRUSTRATED liberal senator Philip Hart, who would have no trouble getting re-elected, has decided not to run for another term. He cites his age but he is reported to have described the Senate as a place that passes bills twenty years after they should be passed.

WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND to reading it yet, but from the reviews, "Resignation in Protest" by Edward Weisband and Thomas M. Franck, sounds like one of the most interesting political books of the season. It traces the history of public resignations and discusses the reluctance of American officials to resign in protest and the political consequences of that reluctance.

FROM I.F. STONE: "The idea that you get understanding and depth by word of mouth within the government is crap. You

have to use your head -- your philosophical conceptions, your historical perspective. News and facts by themselves have no meaning."

TWO CALIFORNIA legislators have introduced bills that would require each list of names for each office on the ballot to include the phrase "none of the above" so that voters can vote "no" on all candidates. One bill states that whenever "none of the above" captures more than 50% of the vote, the office shall be declared vacant and a new election held.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in US history, a federal judge has ruled the draft unconstitutional because it is sexually discriminatory. Judge W.D. Murray in Butte, Montana, threw out a case against an alleged draft dodger saying that Selective Service laws "establish a sex-based classification which burdens and penalizes members of one sex and not another."

## 1976

There's at least one prexy campaign worth a damn -- that of Fred Harris. Harris understands what the fight should be about -- the redistribution of power and wealth and that's what he is basing his campaign on. He's gotten lousy press coverage from the national media but has received a pretty good reception from the locals as he jogs around the country, keeping his expenses down by running his headquarters out of his house, using a nearly all-volunteer staff and staying at friendly houses along the way. This summer he'll be touring the country in a camper.

He's a fine speaker, full of down home humor, and he's done his homework. Some time ago, he brought in a pack of radical and off-beat economists for a two day conference on redistribution which was one of the most exciting meetings we've ever been to. We'll be saying more about the Harris campaign but for the moment we just wanted to tell you that you owe it to yourself to catch him when he's in town and to send a few bucks to Harris for President, 1104 Waverly Way, McLean, Va. 22101 (703-0356-1670) to help him spread the word. The word, incidentally, is getting out. Harris reports contributors and supporters are signing up at the rate of 1000 a week.

## THINGS TO DO

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES ANNUAL CONGRESS OF CITIES. November 30-December 4. Info from Judith Mattson, National League of Cities, 1620 Eye NW, DC 20006.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIALIST FEMINISM July 4-6. Dayton, Ohio. Info from Socialist Feminist Group, 1309 N. Main St., Dayton, Ohio 45405. (513-223-3296).

NEW AMERICAN MOVEMENT CONVENTION, August 6-10, Oberlin, Ohio. Write NAM, 1643 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60647.

EMERGENCY AID TO VIETNAM. Five organizations have established channels to deliver emergency aid to Vietnam:

American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th St., Phila Pa. 19102

Clergy and Laity Concerned, 235 E. 49th St., NYC NY 10017

International Children's Fund, Box 4432, Berkeley, Calif. 94704

Medical Aid for Vietnam, 65A Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Mennotie Central Committee, 21 S. 21 St., Akron, Pa. 17501.

FEMINIST SUMMER SESSION. Sagaris, an independent institute for the study of feminist thought is holding a series of sessions for women with prior involvement in women's issues. The next session starts July 21 in Vermont. Info: Sagaris, PO Box 88, Plainfield, Vt. 05667 or call 212-877-0335 in New York City.

1975 PEOPLES PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION meets in St. Louis August 25-31. Info: People's Party, 1404 M NW, Thomas Circle, DC 20005.

## PUBLICATIONS

ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY RESOURCE LIST. Send 10¢ stamp to Clay Colt, Box 1131, Winters, CA 95694.

ACLU PRACTICE MANUAL ON MILITARY DISCHARGE Upgrading. \$10 from ACLU, 22 East 40th St., NYC NY 10016. A comprehensive manual for those involved in seeking changes in discharges.

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Songs From the Hearts of Women. Includes songs by Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and Buffy Sainte-Marie, among others. \$5 plus postage from Women Strike for Peace, 799 Broadway, NYC NY 10003. (record)

1975 NASHA SURVIVAL CATALOG. Useful and hard to find information on self-sufficiency. From North American Survival and Homesteading Assn., Box 4077, Station "A," Toronto, Ontario M5W 1m4 Canada.

UNEMPLOYMENT, THE FACTS THE EXPERTS CAN'T EXPLAIN. Discusses how unemployment statistics are gathered and various theories that explain away high unemployment. 50¢ from the Union for Radical Political Economists, Box 331, Cathedral Station, NYC NY 10025.

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE ACTION PROJECT include Top 100 Defense Contractors (25¢); B1 Military Industrial Materials (75¢); The Case for a Nuclear Moratorium (\$1); Labor History Bibliography (25¢). Order from CAP, 1500 Farragut St. NW, DC 20011

JUST ECONOMICS. Monthly publication from Movement for Economic Justice, 1609 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

THE CORPORATE EXAMINER, Monthly publication from the Corporate Information Center, 475 Riverside Drive, NYC NY 10027.

THE ELEMENTS, monthly dealing with economic problems from the Institute for Policy Studies' Transnational Institute, 1901 Que NW, DC 20009.

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES REPORT, published bimonthly by the Council on Economic Priorities, 456 Greenwich St., NYC NY 10013.

DOLLARS AND SENSE. Current economic events from a socialist perspective. 324 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

OSAWATOMIE, the magazine of the Weather Underground, reprinted by the Water Buffalo Print Collective at 20¢ each plus postage. P.O. Box 22184, Seattle, Washington 98122.

NON-BUYING GUIDE FOR PEACE. An updated guide to companies involved in military as well as consumer products. \$1 from Third World Reader Service, 1500 Farragut St. NW DC 20011.

THE LESBIAN IN LITERATURE. Annotated bibliography of English language books concerning lesbianism or having lesbian characters. \$10 from The Ladder, PO Box 5025, Washington Station, Reno, Nev. 89503.

BOEING ARMS THE CORPORATE EMPIRE. A pamphlet written by a movement research group to help stop the B-1 bomber. Includes information on Senator Jackson's ties with Boeing. \$1 from Pacific Northwest Research Center, U of Oregon, Eugene, Oreg. 97403.

WOMEN AND LAW MICROFILM. Over 500 subject files pertinent to women and law. Also a microfilm on Women and Health/Mental Health. Write Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, CA 94708.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX. This is the readers guide to the alternative press. It's a massive job indexing the publications and the group is up to the end of 1971. For info write the Alternative Press Centre at P.O. Box 256, College Park, Md. 20740.

THE TRAVELER'S DIRECTORY. An annual that lists several hundred people happy to put up travelers who are passing through. Only those who list themselves in the directory can receive one. For info and listing forms write to The Traveler's Directory, Tom Lynn, Editor, 6224 Baynton St., Phila Pa. 19144.

THE PEDESTAL. A new lesbian feminist paper due to come out shortly. Subscriptions are \$3.50 in the US. News, suggestions and articles are desired. Write 6854 Inverness St., Vancouver, British Columbia.

VIDEO TAPES. Write for list of video tapes on drugs, prison, computers and other subjects available from Urban Planning Aid, 639 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.





# CITY LINES

A NEW YORK TIMES survey finds that mass transit is declining in some cities (New York, Chicago, Boston and Cleveland) but that in other cities (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh), ridership is up. The Times reports that "the gains are being scored by cities introducing new or refurbished surface transit systems." Subway systems appear to be losing ridership (New York carried over two billion subway passengers just after World War II; the figure is now down to just over a billion last year.)

ST LOUIS, home of one of the most notorious public housing projects — Pruitt Igoe, is now experimenting with tenant management of four of its biggest public projects. First reports are highly favorable.

BANKERS are getting wary of the Planned Unit Development approach to development according to the board chairman of the North Carolina National Bank, interviewed in Business Week. "The amounts of development capital required, the amount of risk exposure generated, is just too much for any one lender or consortium of lenders to accept," said Robert Cashion. The PUD idea was designed to short-circuit conventional zoning restrictions. Although packaged as a new gimmick to save cities, many urban groups recognized it as another variety of the urban land grab. So now, on top of the financial problems, PUDs are facing strong court and political battles on environmental grounds.

UNEMPLOYMENT among black male teenagers has climbed from 16.5% in 1954 to 30.2% in 1973. White male teenage unemployment has stayed steady at 12% says the Labor Department. The Department estimates that black teenagers will increase in number another 18% by 1985.

THE APRIL issue of People & Taxes, the excellent publication of the Nader people's tax group (133 C SE, DC 20003), contains a useful article on how you can assess the fairness of tax assessment in your community. Send 40¢ to them for a copy.

AN ILLINOIS commission has proposed the creation of a unitary real estate marketing system under the control of the Commissioner of Real Estate. All brokers would have to list their properties for sale and lease with the system, which would provide information to the public on all the housing available in the state at convenient locations. Failure to list would lead to loss of the broker's license. For more details on this important approach to dealing with housing discrimination get hold of the winter issue of the Civil Rights Digest, US Commission on Civil Rights, DC 20425, and read "An Answer to Housing Discrimination, The Need for a Unitary Marketing System" by Lawrence Rosser and Beth White.

TOYOTA, Japan's largest car maker, has announced the development of an electric-power auto. The five passenger vehicle would be able to travel at least 58 miles per hour and can go 125 miles without recharging. It is not known when the car will go into production.

A GROUP in Pittsburgh has been working on the development of a neighborhood information system. They call it the Neighborhood Atlas. They are currently collecting data from a variety of sources: sample surveys, the R.A. Polk annual reports that can be obtained for 15¢ per household, building permit files, crime data, transportation data and sales of property. The idea is to compile this information in order to find out what is happening to the city's neighborhoods. It is also useful as armament against cityplanners with their own selectively compiled statistics, so much so that the mayor of Pittsburgh vetoed a unanimous grant of funds by the city council to the Neighborhood Atlas. So far the system is being tested in four neighborhoods. Among its successes has been the development of hard information that a \$5 million code enforcement program wasn't working and that a shopping center failed not because of crime and vandalism, as was popularly perceived, but because the neighborhood population had dramatically declined. . . .

Another approach to obtaining neighborhood data is to pass a law requiring the city to compile its information on a census tract and neighborhood basis.

PARKING LOT owners and developers are responding to the trend towards smaller cars — by studying new designs for garages that will pack more cars into less space. You can read about it in the May Urban Land, put out by the industry-oriented Urban Land Institute.

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD, who would give a dollar for dollar tax credit for individuals who contribute to neighborhood government, offers some interesting statistics. He says that if each church and synagogue took over the responsibility for 18 families who are eligible for welfare there would not be any need for federal or state welfare programs to families. If each church and synagogue cared for less than one child each, federal and state child care funds would be unnecessary.

LONG BEACH California is among the cities experimenting with electric buses and getting good results. . . The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority has purchased five electric buses to provide service around the University of Pennsylvania. . . People seem to like their quiet, smooth ride. Says the general manager of the Long Beach bus line, "this is the first time in my experience where I have been practically snowed under with fan mail from the passengers of a new route."



AN ELECTRIC BUS

MASSACHUSETTS is making headway with its housing finance agency, the first such state-run operation and reportedly the best of the lot. The MHFA has defied conventional wisdom and insisted on a mixture of income classes within developments that it funds. In its first four years of operations it has financed some 26,000 dwelling units and is committed to finance about 11,000 more. Low income units are subsidized through rent supplements and public housing leasing money. Moderate income residents got help from the 236 program of HUD. The agency accepts only about one out of three sites proposed by developers and also insists on good design. No assembly-line developments. No distinctions made in the quality of the dwelling unit for the different income groups. Limited amenities, like the best views, are distributed proportionally among the different income classes.

Recently, a study was made of MHFA residents and a comparison group of residents in housing of the three different classes: low-income, moderate-income and market-rent. 59% of the market rent tenants reported themselves very satisfied with the MHFA project they were in while only 35% of the comparison group was very satisfied. 44% of the moderate income tenants were very satisfied with the MHFA project; only 27% of the control group. 51% of the low income group was very satisfied with MHFA; only 30% of the control group. The same results occurred when tenants were asked to rate their apartment, the development, management and their neighbors. Only in the case of moderate income residents rating their neighbors was their more satisfaction in the control group than in the MHFA project.

NEW YORK City will spend nearly two-thirds of its federal housing money this year on rehabilitation of existing units rather than on the old rip and rebuild principle of urban renewal. The AP reported that "remodeling has long been cheaper in many cases than tearing down old housing and building new." To many environmentalists and critics of urban renewal, this has indeed been obvious but city officials and planners have consistently denied it. We suspect an even stronger case could be made for the preservation of urban housing if some hard data could be obtained that shows the true environmental costs involved in destroying a building and putting a new one up in its place, both in terms of the energy and materials needed for the conversion and the expenditure of limited natural resources. Unfortunately, this data is hard to come by.

AS WASHINGTON POST columnist William Raspberry writes, "With the recent capitulation of Professor James R. Coleman (he of the celebrated Coleman Report), hardly anyone is left to defend big-scale busing for the purposes of school integration." Coleman admitted what had become painfully obvious to many (although not, unfortunately, including the federal judiciary): that busing was creating segregation and racial polarization in the big cities. Hopefully, Coleman's about-face will help black and white liberals out of the box they go into on this issue.

A FRIEND of ours reports meeting the general counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He lives deep in the Washington suburbs. Explained the HUD-man, "The city is no place to bring up kids."

## FOREIGN MATTER

"IF you insist on putting the torch to us, disorder will be long. But we shall act according to the laws of heaven, and our cause will triumph in the end." — Vietnamese proclamation to first group of French sailors venturing up the Saigon River in the 19th century, quoted in "The Experts."

NEW YORK Magazine reports that Richard Nixon has slipped quietly back into politics and placed dozens of calls to his congressional friends urging that they support President Ford's requested last minute military aid request to Saigon.

WORLD AIRWAYS stock jumped more than 50% in the weeks of the Vietnam orphan airlift. Not only did World Airways president Edward Daly get a lot of publicity, his personal stock in the company went up \$18 million.

MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL Harrington points out that the United States following the Paris peace agreement supplied Saigon with three times as much armaments as the Soviets and Chinese supplied the north during the same period.

## ETC

TO PROTEST South Dakota's treatment of Indians, AIM is organizing a boycott of the state during the summer tourist season and urging supporters to write to state officials to register their complaints. For information write AIM (Custer Campaign) Box 3677, St. Paul, Minn. 55101

ACCORDING TO THE General Accounting Office, the Pentagon spends \$13.9 million a year to maintain 300 military golf courses in 19 foreign countries.

THE BOYCOTT against Gallo wine products is working. First quarter figures for Gallo show a 6% decline in wine volume compared with a 13% increase for the rest of the wine industry.

IF YOU want to know what happened to Abbie Hoffman, get hold of the last May issue and first June issue of New Times, which contains a fascinating interview with Hoffman now underground.