

and an end to all requirements for community service programming. All they asked for -- and got -- was the flooding of the airwaves with songs about breaking up. They even dug up one with a pointed "I love you but can't make a commitment until I find myself" theme.

Using the most sophisticated technology, they made sure it was being played every time I tuned in.

Next came the little yellow Hondas -- hundreds of them-- smuggled into the Washington area by the CIA. Now they are everywhere and the CIA computer routes them past me, no matter where I am. As they no doubt hoped, my heart thumps everytime one goes by and I think it's her at the wheel.

If I worked at a smaller or less anti-Reagan union they might have stopped there. But such as not the case.

The Moral Majority proceeded to put out a national call and import all of its medium height female divorcees, now all sporting short reddish hair. Even the ones with perfect vision are wearing glasses. They too are everywhere.

This is, as far as I know, the first Reagan administration elaborate dirty tricks campaign of this type, and they haven't gotten all the wrinkles worked out yet. They failed to put the redheads in the Hondas. And for obvious ideological reasons, they just couldn't get themselves to put anti-nuclear bumper stickers on the cars.

Knowing they hey had failed to maximize impact on their target, they came up with their coup de grace. For this final blow they mobilized HUD and one or more of those people who jammed the lines of the Democratic Party telethon.

First they located the vacancy in my apartment building and then placed a well-timed anonymous-tip phone call. As a result, an ex-flame I long since put behind me -- one who moved out several years ago -- will be back to haunt me. She'll be living on the third floor.

The dirty tricks admittedly are working to some extent, thought I'm sure they figured that I'd never find them out. Yet, like most dirty tricks, they do seem to be backfiring. For what's left for a lovelorn labor writer to do but to write even more anti-Reagan articles?

<<<<>>>>

[Fred J. Soloway is assistant editor of the Public Employee, newspaper of the one million member American Federation of State, Count and Municipal Employees.]



EUGENE McCARTHY

Keeping the Dragon

"The distinguishing mark of the Puritans", wrote Gilbert K. Chesterton, "is that they always kill St. George but keep the dragon."

Common Cause is the most active puritan, moral reform group now operating in American politics, having far outstripped Ralph Nader's group, which was brought low when it attempted to protect the American electorate by evaluating members of Congress. Common Cause does not go to the person but to conditions of election, organization of the Congress, and ethical codes self-imposed by office holders. Common Cause has also reduced the League of Women Voters to a supplemental role.

A PART OF Common Cause's appeal has been its simplified assertion that money is the root of political evil. If less money were spent in campaigns, or if the money spent came to the politician unaffected by any political purpose or program, pure, if not good, or representative, government would result.

In pursuit of this goal, along with other reformers Common Cause advocated reforms which were enacted in what has been known as the Campaign Reform Act of 1975-76, the principal provision of which was federal financing, in part, of national presidential elections. The two campaigns in which this financing has been used resulted in the election of Jimmy Carter in 1976 and of Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Although federal financing of Congressional campaigns was not included in the 1975-76 act, the act did put severe limitations on the amount any person, or organization of persons could contribute to a candidate or a party. As a part of this reform, corporate Political Action Committees (PACs) were legalized.

Now Common Cause is sounding the alarm of scandal. The 1982 election was financed by "rivers of PAC money." PACs gave upward of \$80 million to Senate and to House candidates.

COMMON CAUSE is now asking for money to fight the PAC influence, an influence in the case of PACs created and multiplied in power by the Reform Act of 1975-76, an act sponsored in large part, supported, and defended before the Supreme Court by Common Cause.

When the 1975 Act was passed, critics warned of the potential power of the PACs legalized by the law. Critics warned that the legislation was a built-in protection of the two-party system, of Republicans and Democrats; that it would give special advantages to persons with great personal wealth, should they choose to run for federal office; that it would give special advantages to incumbents; that it would not reduce campaign expenditures, or lead to better government.

Now Common Cause has discovered, what it calls a "scandal," and "an appalling revelation."

WHAT IS the scandal, what is the appalling revelation, Common Cause has discovered? The very things Common Cause was told would come about if the law of 1975 was passed.

That PACs would become a major, if not the major source of congressional campaign money; that incumbents, including the two established major parties, would be made more secure; that persons with great personal wealth would be given special advantages in politics; that the law would not reduce campaign expenditures; and not lead to better government.

To sustain its claim to special competence Common Cause claims that it mobilized public opinion to help end U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam.

I DO NOT recall any Common Cause presence in the campaign of 1968, or at the Chicago Convention. Common Cause claims that it did the same to repeal the oil depletion tax loophole. Possibly it did, but Common Cause was not in the field in the years when efforts were made, some successful, to limit oil depletion, and direct the privilege so as to provide what was considered necessary energy.

In any case, Common Cause arrived on the scene, about the time of the energy shortage, when tremendous amounts of money were being appropriated to provide an adequate supply of fuel, for the country, from sources other than oil.

The special gifts of Common Cause, in addition to providing its own dragons, seemed to be to arrive on the political battlefield after the battle and shoot the wounded men.

THE GAZETTE GUIDE

Here are some of the progressive organizations and media with which you might want to make contact. Others will be listed in future issues. Please send any additions, corrections or deletions to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.

Regional media

NEW ENGLAND

VALLEY WOMENS VOICE, c/o HCAC, PO Box 7, Northampton, MA 01061-0007
 BOSTON PHOENIX, 100 Mass. Ave. Boston MA 02115
 THE CURRENT, PO Box 656, Newburyport, MA 01910
 NEW PAPER, PO Box 2393, Providence RI 02906
 NEW ROOTS, PO Box 548, Greenfield, MA. 01302
 NEW HAVEN ADVOCATE, 1184 Chapel St., New Haven Conn. 06511
 HARTFORD ADVOCATE, 470 Capitol St., Hartford Conn. 06106
 VALLEY ADVOCATE, 124 Amity St. Amherst MA 01002

ALTERNATIVE PRESS MID-ATLANTIC

TURNING POINT, C/O Free University, 223 Hetzel Union Building University Park Pa. 16802
 METRO, 610 Mulberry St. Scranton, Pa. 18510
 THE MILL HUNK HERALD, 916 Middle St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212. 412-321-4767
 AQUARIAN WEEKLY, PO Box 137, Montclair, NJ 07042
 DELAWARE ALTERNATIVE PRESS, PO Box 4592, Newark DE
 INNER CITY LIGHT, 212 Forsyth St. NYC NY 10002
 LANCASTER INDEPENDENT PRESS, PO Box 275, Lancaster Pa. 17603
 THE OBSERVER, PO Box 85, Bard College, Annandale, NY 12504

SOUTH

DIALOGUE c/o Orange Cat Newsservice, 8316 Apple "A" New Orleans, La. 70118
 DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW DC 20009. 202-232-5544
 WASHINGTON TRIBUNE, PO Box 12055, DC 20005
 COME UNITY, 7419 Third Ave. N. St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710
 CREATIVE LOAFING, 1011 West Peachtree, Atlanta Ga. 30304
 HARBINGER, 18 Bluff road, Columbia, SC 29201
 NORTH CAROLINA ANVIL, PO Box 1148, Durham NC 27702
 SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER, Rt. 10, Box 52, Florence SC 29501
 THE SUN, 412 W. Rosemary St., Cahpel Hill, NC 27514
 BROKEN BARRIERS, PO Box 2369, New Orleans LA 70176

ALTERNATIVE PRESS MID-WEST

THE FLINT VOICE, 5005 Lapeer Burton Mich. 48509
 MISSOURI VALLEY SOCIALIST PO Box 891, Sioux City Iowa 51105.
 THE BUGLE, Box 1679 Champaign, Ill 61820
 ATHENS NEWS, Po Box 543, Athens O 45701
 COLUMBUS FREE PRESS, PO Box 3162, Columbus Ohio 43210
 THE FIFTH ESTATE, 5928 Second Ave., Detroit Mich. 48202
 VOICES, 114 W. 14th St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45210. 381-0954
 FREE FOR ALL, PO Box 962, Madison WISC. 53701
 LANSING STAR, 490 Holister Bldg. 106 W. Allegan, Lansing MICH 48933
 MINNE HA HA PO Box 14009, Dinkytown Station, Minn Minn 55414
 NEW TIMES, 1000 21st, Rock Island IL 61201
 NORTHERN SUN, 1519 E. Franklin Ave. Minn Minn. 55404
 POST-AMERIKAN, PO Box 3452, Bloomington IL 61701
 PRAIRIE SUN, PO Box 885, Peoria IL. 61652
 THE SPINAL COLUMN, PO Box 4413, Davenport, IA 52808

ALTERNATIVE PRESS - SOUTHWEST

BOTH SIDES NOW, Rt. 6 PO Box 28 Tyler Tex 75704

NEW TIMES, PO Box 2510, Phoenix Ariz. 85002
 NEWSREAL, 40323 Univ. Sta. Tucson Ariz 85717
 THE GAR, Box 4793 Austin Tex. 78765
 ONION CREEK FREE PRESS, PO Box 867, Buda, Tex. 78610
 TEXAS OBSERVER, 600 W. 7th Austin Texas 78701

ALTERNATIVE PRESS WEST

STAR ROOT, PO Box 647, Redway CA 95560
 SANTA BARBARA NEWS & REVIEW, 737 State St. Suite 220, Santa Barbara CA 93103
 NEW INDICATOR, UCSD, B-023, La Jolla, CA 92093
 MOM, GUESS WHAT NEWSPAPER 1919 21st St. (204) Sacramento, CA 95814
 NORTHWEST PASSAGE, 1017 E. Pike, Seattle WA 98122
 VENICE BEACHHEAD, PO Box 504, Venice CA 90291

Action groups

ACTION GENERAL

ACORN, (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, 413 8th st. SE, DC 20003, 547-9292
 NEW DIRECTIONS, 815 Conn. Ave. NW c/o Israel, DC 20036
 INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES 1901 Que St. NW DC 20009
 CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT TRAINING PROJECT 138 Hasbrouck Univ. of Mass. Amherst MA
 GRANTSMANSHIP CENTER 1031 S. Grand Ave. Los Angeles CA 90015 213-749-4721
 PUBLIC RESOURCE CENTER, 1747 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.
 CENTER FOR SOCIAL ACTION, UCC, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, DC 20002
 CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE, 1000 Wisc. Ave. NW, DC 20007
 NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS, 1000 Wisc Ave. NW, DC 20007

ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES

COMMUNITIES Box 169 Twin Oaks Community Louisa, Va. 23093
 UTOPIAN EYES, PO Box 1174 San Francisco Ca. 94101
 ALTERNATIVES PO Box 429 Ellenwood, Ga. 30049

Supporting Subscriptions

In some European countries, small circulation political and alternative journals keep going with the aid of supporting subscribers who contribute a sum in addition to the normal subscription fee to aid the publication in its work. You will note on your renewal form that there is such a category. We hope you will indicate your support of our efforts by subscribing at the supporting rate of \$20 rather than at the normal fee. This will allow us not only to continue as an advocacy journal, but to carry on various activities which, while desirable, are not particularly cost-effective, e.g. reaching public officials and groups that might not otherwise subscribe, subsidizing subscriptions for low-income persons, and serving as a resource for groups and individuals seeking social change. We hope you will become a supporting subscriber when you renew, which, incidentally, you can do right now by sending us \$20 and a sample of your mailing label. Mail to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. NW, DC 20009. Thank you.