

# Bigger voice, no vote

Oregon students have been tossed a bone. The recently passed HB 3043 affords students of higher education in this state more direct representation in faculty collective bargaining than exists anywhere else in the nation. The bill grants students the opportunity to attend all bargaining sessions and comment in good faith, to have access to all pertinent written documents, and to meet and confer with faculty representatives and the public employer regarding the terms of the agreement. If Governor Straub signs the bill, student representatives will be able to do virtually everything but vote.

Even without the vote, students will be in a powerful position to wrest their interests from the two natural adversaries in the bargaining process. Students will be admitted to executive sessions not covered by the open meetings law, and they will be present and active at every stage of negotiations, not having to react after the fact to new developments.

HB 3043 is a big step toward eventual recognition of students as a collective bargaining force, but a little skepticism is in order. A bone is not an acceptable substitute for supper.

## Letters

### Unthinkable vandalism

About four months ago, a serious crime was committed and was not publicly disclosed. Last January 23, during the early morning hours, an antique object valued over \$200 was taken from a privately owned vehicle on private property. One cannot imagine that someone would commit such an act of puerilism. It is not as if this is the first time anything like this has ever happened.

During the weekend of May 3rd and 4th, two speeding bicyclists were seen throwing paint on the same vehicle after which they executed a hasty retreat. During the months of March and April, a set of custom license plates were stolen.

I do not share my repugnance alone for every brother I have backs me 100 per cent. God help the person or persons if they are caught stealing any more of our private property from us!

In conclusion, I myself would like to make a sincere plea for the return of at least the antique spotlight for our unadorned firetruck. No questions will be asked. I can't emphasize enough how much I would appreciate the return of it. If some of you knew how much sweat, time and effort I alone

have put into that old firetruck, you might then begin to realize how much it would mean to me to have the spotlight returned! The firetruck director,

Ray. R. Glur  
Sigma Phi Epsilon

### Open letter to Bernau

Dear Mr. Bernau:

I've just been talking to a friend, a young single parent, who attended a meeting Wed. June 4th on Child Care. I couldn't believe what she told me. Is it true that you asked them (parents) to beg? Surely you would not put these parents in such a demeaning role.

I am a student without small children, however, I would be willing to give my breakage fee to the Child Care Center, but that is not the point. The point is that these parents, who are already subjected to far too many pressures do not need the added burden of having to "beg."

If I sound "corny" so be it—still the wealth of our country is our children whether they be mine, or yours, or the next door neighbors'. Give parents the dignity that they deserve; so that in turn they may serve as models for tomorrow's world.

Surely we childless ones can share. Especially when it is for such a worthwhile

program as the Day Care Center.

Laura Fisher  
Counseling

### Israelis oppressive

In reference to the letter of Mr. Yom Tov Megeg in your issue of May 30, I would like to express my opinion as a non Arab, regarding his claim of "Arabs in Israel have the same rights as Jews . . . ."! The tragic condition of the Arab workers in Israel, alone will show the shallowness of this myth.

Mr. Amitay Yona of Hebrew University states " . . . it is the Arab workers who build the road, who build the houses and the factory, and then the Jews dwell in the modern houses and take the clean jobs in the factory, the Arab remains the dish washer, the rubbish cleaner . . ." They begin working at the age of 14-15. He never gets steady work. Either he returns every day from the distant town to his village, or as a great mercy he is permitted to sleep in unfurnished houses, open on all four sides. "The dish washers sleep usually on a folding bed in the kitchen, others in the toilet room . . ." No wonder the Zionists claim that "The Arabs age so quickly"! For the 10%, there is de facto segregation. It is not only the "Socialist Islands," the Kibbutz' that are hermetically sealed against Arabs. Most of the Jewish cities and towns will accept Arabs only as day laborers, not as residents, many industrial plants especially the larger ones, accept no Arabs as perma-

nent employees. Israel's largest foreign exchange industry is the diamond industry; its slogan is, "No Arabs need apply." Weitz, for many years the top official of the Zionists explains: "Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both people in this country . . . we shall not achieve our goal of being independent people with the Arabs in this country . . . and there is no other way but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighboring countries; to transfer all of them: not one village, not one tribe should be left . . ."

But the Zionists had a better idea! Arabs are a source of cheap labor. The economic boom since the 1967 war has helped them toward this goal. Unskilled labor in roads, construction, and industry is now largely the province of Arabs. Among these, the Arab laborers from the occupied territories (5,000 in Tel Aviv alone) present a special problem for the labor bureaucrats because of their extremely low wages, about one-tenth of what a Jewish laborer receives!

But the oppressed Arab workers have not sat idle. The evidence shows that through gradual political awareness and constant strikes they are becoming a base for the revolutionary movement inside the enemy's camp. They are more and more realizing that Zionist's internal and external policies and its colonial nature cannot be understood separately. This racial institution is nothing but an appendage of U.S. Imperialism!

Ali Naseri



## opinion

# Food co-ops eliminate middlemen, additives

By NICHOLAS VON HOFFMAN

Boston (KFS)—Art Danforth of the Cooperative League of the USA will tell you that the mortality rate of co-ops relying entirely on volunteer labor is very high, 15 per cent per year or more is his estimate. Running a small buying club demands at least minimal knowledge of the grocery business.

The new wave of co-ops, however, comes from people to whom the principle of shared work, responsibility and decision making is as important as cheap, wholesome food. Even those who don't go so far as to speak about the co-op as an "alternative structure" think of it as a tool for service and social change that can't realize itself by attracting people to it only in the role of customers.

The Common Market Food Co-op of Denver, Colorado, is trying to combine the stability and competence of paid staff without killing off the voluntarism. This Denver Co-op claims 1,600 active family members who are required to do an average of one hour of work per month per adult at the store. They do the relative unskilled work about the place, and so that they do it with some efficiency they work side by side with five full- or part-time employees. The store, which hopes to do about \$2 million worth of business in the coming 12-month period, has another 26 full- or part-time people who handle all money are "engaged in what we euphemistically call management." This last quote from Larry Hotz who with Kathy DePoala are the Common Market's executives.

Everybody in the place is paid, according to seniority, anywhere from \$2.81 to \$3.92 an hour, with Kathy and Larry getting a flat \$10,000-a-year salary for their 80-hour weeks. Art Danforth believes this arrangement should provide enough continuity and competence to give the Common Market a better-than-average chance for survival. (In case you want to learn about the tricks and pitfalls of starting up and running a co-op, you can write Art at 1828 L St., N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20036.)

The Common Market is located in a middling-sized (8,500 square feet, five checkout counters) store in the inner city. The rent is cheap and the fixtures only cost the Co-op \$5,000 because they took the place off the hands of Safeway, which in good capitalist fashion dumps any facility whose profits come in under the corporation-wide curve. There are a lot of old people with incomes too small to make them desirable Safeway customers. They live in run-down hotels where they have few food storage facilities and, anyway, the oldies-but-not-goldies can only carry a few items at a time so it costs too much to process their little orders.

The Co-op is seeking to serve the older people, enrolling them as volunteers and attempting to post on the shelves nutritional information intended to help men and women of advancing years. They're also indulging in certain ethical practices which could get the chairman of the board of Safeway or A&P fired. Every item in the store is either "red tagged" or "green tagged." A red tag on an item means the Common Market's price isn't competitive and that the customers can get it cheaper elsewhere if they want. A green tag means the Co-op price is the lowest. Customers are also routinely warned against buying sugar cereals, cigarettes, soda pop in recyclable cans, bacon, hot dogs and most other kinds of packaged meats, all items that are loaded with what many consider the most dangerous food additives on the supermarket shelves. Instead of chemically tainted food, the Co-op is offering their people ground beef which hasn't been fed dangerous substances like DES.

That requires teaching people to cook their meat somewhat differently, but food and health education is an integral part of most cooperative enterprises. The reason the Common Market sells things like cigarettes and Sweetie Flakes is to lure people inside who're addicted so they can get a hold of them and work with them to kick the habit.

Common Market along with a number of other co-ops is trying to eliminate the middleman by deal-

ing directly with ranchers and farmers. Some of the middlemen, however, like millers and butchers, can't be eliminated. They serve a better purpose than injecting colors into foods to make fruits and vegetables conform to the idealizations in the advertising.

Here in Boston a cooperative middleman venture has been started. The New England Food Co-op Organization (NEFCO) does the buying of produce, grains, dried fruits and cheeses for about 150 local co-ops and food-buying clubs. By pooling their purchases through NEFCO, local groups are able to get lower prices than they could going their individual way, especially with these kinds of items. Co-ops have a much harder time forcing down the prices of meats and canned goods, although even when co-op food isn't cheaper, it is usually better for the same price.

NEFCO also is interested in direct-marketing arrangements with farmers, but all of these things take capital investment, the lack of which stunts the co-op movement's growth and keeps it restricted to the more liberal sort of college-educated consumer who doesn't believe he has an obligation to contribute to other people's profits and would prefer to keep the money himself. The sad thing is that the people who might most benefit from the co-op movement haven't even heard of it or, if they have, associate it with homosexuality or Unitarianism.

Farm cooperatives were able to secure the capital they needed through a special government bank, but consumer co-ops have never been given the same access to loans. Art Danforth's organization is preparing legislation to remedy that, but with Jerry Ford spending his time wandering down memory lane so he can relive the Berlin Airlift with himself as hero, who is there to listen?

Copyright, 1975, The Washington Post-King Features Syndicate