

Dangers in 'high tech'

"High tech" is the buzz word of the decade. From school board meetings to the recent State "Marketing Conference and Manpower Development for High Technology" conference, we hear the call for "high tech".

The high tech age is filled with fascination: computers solve problems in a few moments that would take men days or months; vehicles explore the realms of space; lasers send volumes of written material across the continent in seconds; television bounces pictures off of satellites and sends them around the world almost simultaneously; the bombs can end life in a few hours. The possibilities seem endless.

However, the technology that Oregon so dearly wants to attract has its dangers because the computer chip industry uses thousands of minimum wage workers, often minorities or refugees, exposing them and their families to a myriad of dangerous chemicals. The dangers of computer screens to the eyes are not known although their use is expanding rapidly in nearly every industry.

There is also a second danger. Our children must be educated to live in a new age, to use technology to make a better life for all people — to free workers from tedious tasks and provide them more leisure and an adequate standard of living.

Stop Indian wars

May 13th is American Indian Day — a day set aside to remember the contributions of the Native Americans to this nation.

Across the country there will be ceremonies; governors and other state and federal officials will make speeches, present awards, and remember some of the Indian people who managed to survive and to adapt to Anglo culture.

But the wars on Indians continue. The Indian nations are in a continuous battle to protect their treaty fishing rights; to regain property taken from them illegally; to control the resources of their reservations; to maintain their own laws; and to protect their culture.

In Oregon alone, Indian fishermen face years in prison for exercising their right to fish in the Columbia River. Dennis Banks, Kenny Loud Hawk, Russell Redner and KaMook Banks will go to trial in June on charges of transporting dynamite, dynamite that was destroyed by the FBI before it could be used as evidence. This

The rush of school districts to enter the computer age is necessary, but it should be tempered with consideration for the students' future. Everywhere we hear the call to train children for specific jobs in existing or planned industry. The business/industrial community is happy to provide projections on just what type of workers will be necessary ten or twenty years from now. The corporations will even participate in the training. But the public schools must consider the interests and talents of the child, not the needs of the employer.

It is true that every student should be exposed to vocational training, understand and appreciate work, understand labor and management. But in the effort to prepare the student to obtain employment, we must be careful not to restrict his options by training him for specific jobs.

Extensive and careful pre-vocational exploration and vocational training in areas that offer numerous employment and/or professional choices will insure that the student has real choices and is not "tracked" at an early age.

It is the role of the public school system to educate the child to his greatest potential, to expose him to his highest options, and prepare him to use his knowledge and talents to build a better community.

trial has been on again, off again, for eight long years — a pure form of government harassment.

Indian burial sites and other archeological sites of religious and historical significance to Indian people are daily being destroyed. The Oregon Legislature is just now considering bills to give minimal state protection to a few of these sites.

The Siletz, Umatillas and Klamaths are still attempting to regain a small part of what was stolen from them as late as the 1950's.

When we honor American Indian Day, we should remember that all of the land we now call our own once belonged to the Indian nations. It was taken from them through murder, theft, trickery and deceit. It can never be returned and much of it has been destroyed.

The American people must take the responsibility to ensure that the rights of Indian people are extended and protected, that adequate payments for stolen property are made, and that government harassment and brutality cease.

Crisis in Zimbabwe

by Manning Marable

Part Two of a Two Part Series

The recent military actions of the Mugabe government are remarkably restrained, given the level of internal attacks which that nation has endured in the previous two years. These acts of terrorism and sabotage include: the destruction of roughly \$32 million worth of government arms and ammunition; the destruction of Zimbabwe air force jets; the bombing of ZANU's headquarters in downtown Harare; the murder of about one hundred civilians, tourists and police by Nkomo's forces in Matabeleland. Last December, after the deserts committed a number of fresh executions and kidnappings, Mugabe finally decided to act. The North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade, comprised largely of Shona and numbering 2000, systematically went through Matabele territory to uproot the terrorists. Sadly, about 1,000 civilians, deserters and others suspected of terrorism were executed. 450 ZAPU members were placed under arrest, and the two top military leaders loyal to Joshua Nkomo, General Lookout Masuku and Dumiso Dabengwa were charged with treason. Nkomo promptly fled the country. Media charges of atrocities committed by the Fifth Brigade were used to freeze Western support to the government, including a \$17 million grant from Sweden. A pending grant of \$60 million from the U.S., beginning this October, is also in jeopardy. But as Zimbabwe press secretary Dan D. Manyika explained to the Washington Post, Mugabe "had no other options" left to restore order. Only after an "armed assault on the prime minister's home," attacks on "military and police outposts," and the abduction of tourists "thereby affecting the tourism industry," and "the destruction of water development equipment worth millions of dollars" did "the government send troops into Matabeleland to clear the mess. It is clear that ZAPU dissidents and followers alike won't recognize any government not headed by Mr. Nkomo," Manyika concluded.

A second but somewhat overlooked element in the current ZAPU-ZANU struggle is the omnipresence of the apartheid regime of Pretoria. As Prime Minister P.W. Botha informed a *New York Times* correspondent in mid-February, his regime would consider "requests for

aid" from counter-revolutionary groups across Black Africa. "If fellow Africans are threatened by the evils of Communism, we shall assist them," Botha promised. "I'm an African and I believe Communism is bad for Africa." The Botha regime's covert support for Jonas Savimbi's UNITA inside Angola is of course well known. Since February, there have been substantial reports indicating that BOSS (apartheid's secret police) and military agents were involved in the extensive sabotage within Zimbabwe since its independence. South Africa now maintains at least four training camps for anti-Marxist dissidents, and perhaps as many as 1,000 former "loyalists" from the puppet government of Bishop Abel Muzorewa are currently training there. Late last year, pro-Nkomo deserters were running low on supplies and ammunitions. The great cache of AK-47s and other Soviet-built weapons which South African troops have captured in their war against SWAPO inside Namibia are now appearing inside Zimbabwe and are being used by some Nkomo forces. Two points are now clear: the Ndebele are an insufficient force (17 percent of the country's population) to gain effective political hegemony; and therefore, any acts of dissident terrorism serve not only to disrupt Zimbabwe, but also to reinforce apartheid's powerful economic grip over the entire region.

With Nkomo's recent flight into exile, there exists some hope that the leadership ZAPU will come to terms with the government. ZAPU vice-president Josiah Chinamano has quickly distanced himself from Nkomo, and has vowed to support Mugabe's "policy of unity, peace, and reconciliation." Privately, a few ZAPU lieutenants have admitted to government ministers that Nkomo was "the biggest stumbling block to cooperation between the parties." The Soviets, the chief supporters of Nkomo during the guerrilla war, have refused to support their old friend. Zambian officials also close to Nkomo declare that "it would be grossly wrong" for the country "to embroil itself in the already sad and tangled mess," according to the *Times of Zambia*. "It would also be very wrong for Mr. Nkomo to even seemingly seek refuge in Zambia." Perhaps the Soviets and Zambia leader Kenneth Kaunda are waiting

to see whether a covert relationship exists between the apartheid regime and the rebels in Matabeleland.

On what terms can constructive criticism of Zimbabwe be placed? One specific area of concern is that of organized labor. In early 1983, the government passed new restraints on African workers. Under certain conditions strikes can be illegal; the government has the prerogative of ignoring and invalidating union elections if the winner is not to its liking; the state can even dictate the movement of workers in a manner that parallels the South African system of "influx control." These legal controls over labor are reminiscent of the restrictions demanded by Kwame Nkrumah in the aftermath of labor unrest in Ghana in 1961. The labor problem in this instance was finally resolved with the purging of labor militants and the absorption of trade unions as an ineffectual arm of the state apparatus. For Nkrumah, the fact that trade unions lacked any real independence meant the loss of an effective proletarian force on the left, and ultimately led to his own 1966 overthrow by the military. For Mugabe, the choices to be made between the interests of African labor vs. the growing African bureaucracy must be predicated by Nkrumah's failure.

The Mugabe government must immediately come to terms with elements of ZAPU and the Ndebele leadership who disavow the dissidents. In the long run, Nkomo's departure may become a turning point in the Shona-Ndebele conflict, if there is some kind of limited regional autonomy that can evolve for Matabeleland within the overall framework of the central government. Mugabe must guarantee the Ndebele national minority a share of effective state power. Third, and most critically, the decision to accept IMF intervention in the troubled economy must be seen from the vantagepoint of other Third World nations — especially Jamaica — as a step backwards from socialist construction. No workers' state worthy of the name can be built unless the African working class has structural independence from the state apparatus, and has decisive input into all economic policy making. Despite these and other contradictions, however, Mugabe merits the critical support of the left here, and elsewhere, as he and the people of Zimbabwe attempt to build a new society.

Coup in Iran?

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

to expel the peasants from the land that they had distributed amongst themselves.

The powerful right-wing faction that now controls the reins of power has the backing of wealthy bazaar merchants and big land-holders who were upset with the increasing radicalization of the Iranian poor.

Even Khomeini has not been immune from the snares of the labyrinth of power. It is conceivable that facing a *fait accompli* and not wanting to risk excommunication from the other Ayatollahs for being too soft on Communists made him go over to the side of his opponents. Many observers are already announcing an end to the long chapter of religious populism and egalitarianism that characterized Khomeini's brand of Islam.

The most puzzling twist in the unfolding drama was in store for Iran's influential Communist Party. An endless line of Party leaders appeared on television denouncing the "infidel and foreign ideology of Marxism", while heaping praise on Islam and begging for their own execution. They all looked haggard and drowsy, making even their most die-hard opponents suspect foul-play. Said a Party representative in Europe, as is reported by last week's *Le*

Monde: "We have no doubt that our leaders are the target of special mind control drugs devised by the American C.I.A., the kind they experimented with on inmates in the mid-seventies."

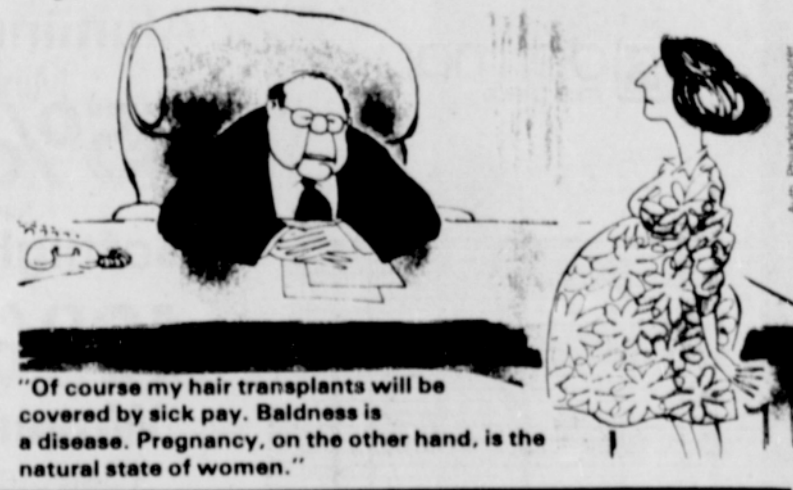
Whether drugged or not, the televised "confessions" have been unmistakably used by the new leaders to shift the situation further to the right.

To conjecture whether the recent expulsion of eighteen Soviet diplomats is anything other than sending signals to the West is to belabor the obvious.

As was reported last week, the present situation is only a logical conclusion to the bitter infighting in the government. The anti-Khomeini

faction had quietly ensconced itself in all major economic and social spheres. For them it was just a simple mobilization of their followers in the Army and the Revolutionary Guards to finish the job.

About a year and a half ago, a U.S. State Department analyst on Iran said that "The consensus in Washington is to have a low-key approach to Iran. The Revolution will soon run its course and Iran will come back to our fold." Although it is premature to speak of the end of Iran's stormy revolution, the new leaders are doing their best to steer the country back into the Western orbit.



"Of course my hair transplants will be covered by sick pay. Baldness is a disease. Pregnancy, on the other hand, is the natural state of women."

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Salem Update

by Rep. Grattan Kerans
Speaker of the Oregon House

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on a bill that I have introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives, dealing with a subject that we are all familiar with — RISING ELECTRIC, GAS AND PHONE RATES.

Every year, electric, gas and telephone utilities come before the Oregon Public Utility Commissioner to push for billions of dollars in rate increases. Arguing the utilities' cases for them are high-priced lawyers, engineers, accountants, and outside consultants (all of whom are paid by consumers, since their fees are included in utility rates). Recent hikes in electric rates, plus anticipated tripling of phone costs in the next two years demonstrate the need for an organization to represent exclusively the interests of utility consumers.

House Bill 2934 calls on the State to help form a Citizens Utility Board. The Board would be a state-wide, voluntarily-funded, citizen-controlled organization that will represent the interests of residential utility customers on electric, gas and telephone issues. Whenever regulatory agencies, the legislature, or other branches of government make decisions about the cost or quality of utility service, CUB will be there to make sure that the views of consumers are heard and their needs served.

CUB will be a voluntarily-funded organization. It will not be a state agency and will not receive tax dollars. Instead, utility consumers will learn about CUB through a special notice enclosed in their monthly utility bills. These notices will describe CUB and invite people to join for only three dollars per year.

CUB will be managed by a Board of Directors elected by the CUB membership. The state-wide Board will set CUB policy, decide on specific issues and actions and hire an executive director and other staff members (lawyers, economists, utility experts, accountants and others).

The democratically-governed CUB will work on the issues of greatest concern to its members. Its lawyers, engineers and economists will immediately be able to challenge unnecessary or unfair rate increases by presenting expert analyses and questioning of the utilities' arguments. CUB can also develop proposals to make utilities operate more efficiently, investigate the siting of new power plants, and work to change unjust service rules and policies.

Right now, Wisconsin is the only state which has a CUB. Over 80,000 Wisconsin residential utility consumers have voluntarily contributed an average of \$5.70 per person since the first notice went out in utility billings in November of 1980. Dozens of other state legislatures are considering CUB legislation this year.

Wisconsin's CUB has intervened in 20 rate and policy cases, and has already saved Wisconsin consumers approximately \$43 million dollars. In

addition, it has presented expert testimony on the telephone company's proposal to implement local measured service, sponsored an energy fair and produced several informational newsletters for its members. Its projected budget for 1982 was \$405,000.

An Oregon CUB will certainly be able to scrutinize the proposed telephone rate hikes that are likely to be imposed upon Oregon ratepayers in the coming months.

On Wednesday, May 11, 1983, the House Environment and Energy Committee began to hear testimony on the CUB bill. If you are interested in the concept of forming a Citizens Utility Board, I urge you to call or write your legislators and let them know how you feel on this issue. You can call your State Legislator toll free by dialing 1-800-452-7813.

I believe that CUB will not only create a vehicle through which citizens can pool their efforts and small amounts of money to make effective use of their rights, but it will also balance the regulatory process now tilted towards the utilities.

I think CUB is a good concept and I intend to fight for its passage in the House and then in the Senate. If you agree with me that CUB is a good idea, I hope you will join with me in working for its passage.

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