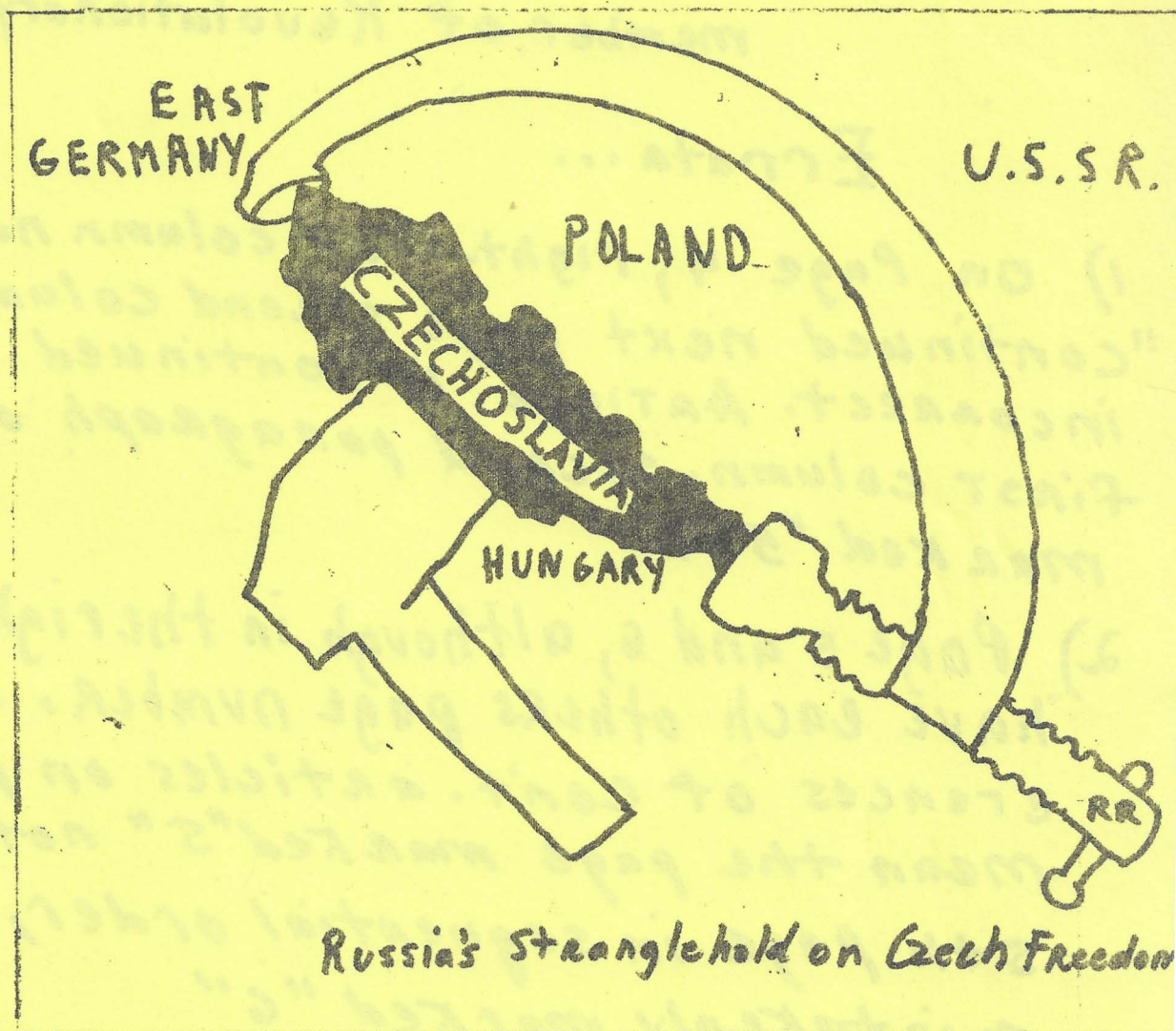


PRAVIDA

AN UNCENSORED
JOURNAL of OPINION

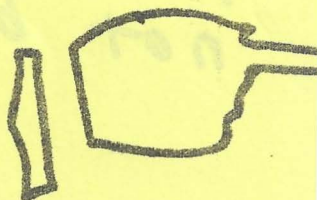
Co-Editors
John Hart • Russ Rueger

In
his Issue:
NEWS
FEATURES
POETRY
REVIEWS
SPORTS
Exclusive
Report on
Czech
situation



Editorials about President Schuelear's Id Letter

Interested? TURN THE PAGE



cover design adopted
from a design by
Harold Yale Silverma

Journal of Opinion PRAVDA

NOV. 12, 1968

member of Revolutionary Action Press

Errata...

- 1) On Page 4, right-hand column notation "continued next page second column" is incorrect. ARTICLE is continued on the first column, second paragraph of page marked "5".
- 2) Page 5 and 6, although in the right order, have each others page number. ALL references of cont. articles on page 5 mean the page marked "5" not the 5th page in sequential order, which is mistakenly marked "6".
- 3) For simplicity, all pages after 6 have not been numbered.

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF
THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CRISIS

russ rueger

The fear of totalitarian government is a topic of much concern in this nation. At one time or another, nearly all of us have contemplated the consequences of a domestic take-over in government by groups that would curtail the freedoms we possess. However, because of the strength and weaponry of our nation, no one seriously worries about a foreign invasion of the conventional variety. Hence, empathy with the Czechoslovakian people can help Americans appreciate a plight this country has not had to endure since the Revolution.

Last month, I had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Henry Schmoll, a Denver geologist who was in Czechoslovakia during the Russian invasion. He was there as a member of the U.S. delegation to the International Geological Congress, a conference of the world's geologists that occurs every four years. The International Hotel, where the Congress convened, was located three miles from downtown Prague.

Mr. Schmoll described the mood of the Czech people before the invasion. He said most of them felt that the critical time had passed after the August conferences and that they were "99%" sure the Russians would not interfere. The leader of the Czech geologists stated that he was happy with democracy and personal freedom. He frequently called for voting on many issues to get the feel of democracy, and several times jovially said "We are democratic now!" Mr. Schmoll noted that near the Charles Bridge was a very Western setting: many Bohemian types doing nothing in particular and artists selling their paintings. This was prior to the invasion.

At 7:30 in the morning on the twenty-first of August, he heard "clanking unmistakably that of a tank". When he peered outside and saw tanks, he thought them to be American tanks that had been brought into Prague for a World War II movie being made there at that time. Finally, at breakfast he learned the true origin of the vehicles.

As he walked from his hotel to the Congress, he viewed tanks at every major intersection. The Russian troops were mostly expressionless young kids who gave no interference. At the conference, he found out that the Russians had blocked vehicular traffic from the downtown bridge. Because many of the Congress' delegates had been living downtown, only one-third of the delegates were present. The conference proceeded, but with a complete lack of enthusiasm.

The following day, Mr. Schmoll noted that generally people were going about their usual business. There were lines at the food stores and speeding cars flew Czech flags. Groups of youths spoke with the Russian troops, who were not unfriendly. Many of the soldiers were surprised that the Czechs did not welcome them, as they had been told that they were there to help the Czechs repel the West Germans.

The international aspect of the Geologists Congress helped to create a United Nations-type atmosphere. There was much discussion as to whether the conference should be carried on. An East German delegate said that to support the Czech people, it should be continued. The Russian delegates were apparently deeply ashamed for their country's misdeeds, as they removed their name and country identification tags. There were rumours that one Russian said that it would be "bad for us at home" because the Czech invasion marked the advent of an anti-liberal movement.

A Czech woman gave an emotional appeal for blood for wounded Czechs. She said that she knew American sentiments were with the Czech people, and was well received by the delegates.

The American delegation held a separate meeting and decided to ask the U.S. Embassy to provide trans-

IS FREE SPEECH A DEAD ISSUE?

by Russ Rueger

The preceding President's letter was an unfortunate, if not regrettable, chapter of Richmond College history. In way of rebuttal, there are so many aspects of this note that can be critically commented upon that it causes the mind to swim. First of all, it must be noted that the President, representing the administration, "played right into our hands". One of our basic motives in printing the large "Fuck!" on the last page was to test out the supposedly permissive, liberal policy that we have been so indoctrinated with since orientation. The Student Handbook states:

Richmond College has a minimum of regulations. We meant it to be that way. As an academic community in which you, the student, take an active part, we strive for self-governance with a minimum of externally imposed regulations.

-Herbert Schueler, Pres.

Where is the minimum of regulations, Pres. Schueler? The general tone of his letter is extremely anti-libertarian and as far from the liberal tradition as the American Independent Party.

Also in the Handbook is the following passage from the Student Life Committee:

If you are satisfied being the passive recipient of administrative decrees and professional dogmas, the failure of our experiment is probable. However, if you are willing to play an active and dynamic role, upsetting worn pieties and traditions, expanding your idea of knowledge beyond conventional lines, our efforts may well succeed.

-Student Life Committee (Emphasis mine)

The Editors of the Id have made it quite clear that they are not "satis-

(Con't next page same column...)

I BEG TO DIFFER

John Hart

As you read the preceding letter, an empty feeling probably grasped your stomach. Then your legs became unsure and began to bend. Finally, you sat down with your face buried in your hands and moaned.

Yes, the truth is frightening and sad. The head of our supposedly pragmatic and experimental institution has opened up the bag, and we can now see the lining of Staten Island Puritanical conservatism that engulfs us.

That is not all. Not only has the President of Richmond College exposed his conservative views, but he has published an article on the underground newspaper which consists of false information, outright lies, and defamatory statements.

FIRST: The underground paper was distributed on October 28 and 29, not on October 30.

SECOND: Not only was the administration informed of the underground, but we asked for and were granted a table, through the office of the Dean of Students, to use as a base in the lobby for distribution.

THIRD: Numerous members of the student government and the faculty were informed of our publication date.

FOURTH: The underground paper was distributed on Monday and Tuesday of the last week in October. On the following Wednesday and Thursday, the student body, who received the paper with "shock and revulsion", voted both of the Editors into positions on the student government.

FIFTH: The President has accused, tried and condemned the underground paper for ~~violating~~ violating his concepts of basic decency (or perhaps those of the telephone company or the bank). And at the same time, he has insulted the faculty and students of Richmond College by projecting these canons of basic decency upon them.

(con't next page second column)

Rueger con't...

Hart con't....

fied being passive recipient(s)" and they are "willing to play an active and dynamic role", especially if it means "upsetting worn pæties and traditions".

Perhaps a discussion of some of the allegedly offensive areas of the areas of the paper is in order. First, the depiction of an ejaculating penis on the cover served several purposes: an ejaculation is the culmination of a drive so basic and primitive that it is involved in the propagation of the species. This is a suitable depiction of the publication's title, the Id, (taken from Fruedian Mind Structure theory and representing primitive, primary processes.) Secondly, the cover drawing was a review of the first story, the "Richmond Penis" by John Hart, which utilized imagery, analogy, and metaphor to depict a situation all too sadly true. Lastly, John's article "On Getting Out Of A Bag", which many puritans objected to, amply abhieved the effect ~~the effect~~ it was intended to. John employed a blunt, short-story style to reveal the dogmatic hypocrisy of organized religion.

The next issue to be considered is the Persident's description of the Id as an "exercice in juvenile obscenity" that was an "offense" to the "canons of basic decency". President Schueler, when did you decide that with a few sentences you could determine something that the Supreme Court has been unable to? Where did you you arrive at your definition of obscenity?

In Roth vs. United States(354 U.S. 476, 1 L.Ed. 2d 1498, 77 S.Ct. 1304 1957) Mr. Justice Brennan observed,

However, sex and obscenity are not synonymous. Obscene material is material which deals with sex in a manner appealing to prurient interest. The portrayal of sex, e.g., in art, literature and scientific works, is not itself sufficient reason to deny material the constitutional protection of freedom of speech and press. Sex, a great and mysterious force in human life, has indisputably been a subject of obsorbing interest to mankind through the ages; it is one of the vital problems of human interest and public concern.

(con't next page, same column...)

SIX: The President has labeled both underground Editors-John Hart and Russ Rueger- as misguided students because of their writings. It is a very serious matter printing derogatory remarks based upon individual feelings, especially when they are not backed by facts. Are these the credentials of a "misguided student" who indulges in "juvenile obscenity"?

John Hart: Editor-in-Chief of Staten Island Community College's official student newspaper. Both terms under his editorship the paper received First Class Honor Ratings by Associated Collegiate Press-"a rating which the editors and staff of the paper may be justly proud". It should also be noted that in the ten-year existence of the school paper, it had only once before received such a high rating;

listed in 1967-68 "Who's Who In American Junior Colleges" for his extensive work in extra-curricular activities with the emphasis on journalism and student rights; Chairman of SICC's Publication's Advisory Board Committee in the fall of 1967. We helped formulate the school policy of non-censorship of student publications.

Are these the credentials of a "misguided student" who indulges in "juvenile obscenity"?

Russ Rueger: Dean's List graduate of SICC; reporter for Liberation News Service, in two semesters at SICC he had 21 articles published in the official school newspaper. He accomplished this under two different editors, one very liberal and the other relatively conservative; a member of the Student Senate at SICC and Chairman of the Publicity Committee; Chairman of the Publication's Advisory Board Committee in Spring of '68; former editor of the Richmond Times.

And so, President Schueler, if we, the Editors of the underground paper wish to write, "President Schueler, your letter of criticism

(con't next page second column)

Free Speech con't...

but also moderate in inclinations: they have no tastes or wishes strong enough to incline them to do anything unusual, and they consequently do not understand those who have, and class all such with the wild and intemperate who they are accustomed to look down upon... These tendencies of the times cause the public to be more disposed than at most former periods to prescribe general rules of conduct, and endeavor to make everyone conform to the approved standard. And that standard, express or tacit, is to desire nothing strongly. The ideal of character is to be without any marked character; to main by compression, like a Chinese lady's foot, every part of human nature which stands out prominently, and tends to make the person markedly dissimilar in outline to commonplace humanity."

-from On Liberty
by John Stuart Mill

Hart con't...

is a lot of fucking shit", we will without hesitation do it. These words will not be juvenile obscenity. Grant you that they are words of emotion and anger, but they are written by students whose vocabulary is not limited to such words. Two students who are saying something, not to be gross or shock people, but because the words we use express our very strong feelings and put across a very appropriate image.
"President Schueler, your letter of criticism is a lot of fucking shit."

Note: Although I agree with my Co-Editor about the right to employ any language that is necessary and appropriate to convey an image, I do not feel that his final comment was a necessity. Therefore, I absolve myself of responsibility for it.

Russ Rueger

There's a shit-storm coming.

-Norman Mailer

Czech Crisis, Con't...

portation to a suburban train station where a train for Germany was scheduled to leave at 10:30 the next morning. The Embassy learned that the Russians would not allow busses to be used, but managed to obtain enough cars to transfer the American. There were no Russians on the train, only Czech officials who did not even bother to collect the fare when the border was crossed. The Geological Congress, like freedom and democracy in Czechoslovakia, ended before it really began.

The policeman and soldier will ~~riot~~ violate your person, smoke you out with various gases. Each will shoot you, beat your head and body with sticks and clubs, with rifle butts, run you through with bayonets, shoot holes in your flesh, kill you. They each have unlimited firepower. They will use all that is necessary to bring you to your knees. They won't take no for an answer. If you resist their sticks, they will draw their guns. If you resist their guns, they call for reinforcements with bigger guns. Eventually they will come in tanks, in jets, in ships. They will not rest until you surrender or are killed. The policeman and the soldier will have the last word.

-Eldridge Cleaver

"...for being a man is the continuing battle of one's life, and one loses a bit of manhood with every stale compromise to the authority of any power in which one does not believe."

-Norman Mailer

Free Speech con't...

P.6

In the "Fanny Hill" case (363 U.S. 413, 16 L. Ed. 2d 1, 86 S. Ct. 975) of 1966, Mr. Justice Douglas, in a concurring opinion, stated that,

The censor is always quick to justify his function in terms that are protetive of society... Perhaps the most frequently assigned justification for censorship is the belief that erotica produces antisocial sexual conduct... But that relationship has yet to be proven. Indeed, if one were to make judgements on the basis of speculation, one might guess that literature of the most pornographic sort would, in most cases, provide a substitute--not a stimulus--for antisocial sexual conduct.

The charge of obscenity is not to be taken lightly, and in the case of the Id, even those parts deemed objectional by contemporary standards (whatever they may be) could not be considered "obscene" in any legal sense. We are living in Twentieth Century America, not Victorian England.

This brings to mind another area: the President's obscenity accusation, by its wording, was all-emcompassing, which means that the entire issue was obscene. Let us thumb through the Id, all of us dirty old men, and be titillated by all the prurient obscenity. Oh, I can feel my heart palpitate as I read the "Student Government Restructured". Heavens, I see an article about Hans Morgenthau! He was a part of the President's Series! Gosh, if the Id is obscene and Hans Morgenthau is in the Id, he must be obscene. And furthermore, he is part of of the President's Series, (which was also mentioned in the Id) which means that it is obscene. Did someone say that the President arranged that series? Does that mean that he is obscene?

I can hardly stand the excitement as I read of Diane Wakoski's poetry, Paul O' Dwyer's Campaign, and the Humphrey and Wallace demonstrations. Finally, my orgasm is complete as I hungrily read

(con't next column)

about the Psychology Lab and Theater 81. There is now no doubt about it, the Id is obscene. The Richmond Times, pinnacle of purity, did not contain one article about Diane Wakoski, Hans Morgenthau, Theatre 81 and Psychology Lab, O'Dwyer, etc. Therefore, either the Times has no staff or these topics are obscene.

One final note: I have been told that Pres. Schueler wrote this letter under pressure from the 4th floor Telephone Company, the Bank downstairs, and perhaps from the Borough President. I do not consider this an excuse. For one thing, this paper was meant for members of the Richmond College Community, not the community-at-large. If people from the Telephone Co. and the bank were put up-tight, then I say tough, for they are our tenants. For many years, Staten Island has been a haven for reactionary elements who would just as soon stifle any forms of speech not in accordance with their views. It is long overdue that a President of a Staten Island college asserted the autonomy of his institution. It is recommended that Pres. Schueler read the last few issues of SICC's student newspaper, the Dolphin, to see the brave stand the editor's have taken regarding four-letter words.

"Precisely because the tyranny of opinion is such as to make eccentricity a reproach, it is desirable, in order to break through that tyranny, that people be eccentric. Eccentricity has always ~~been~~ abounded when and where strength of character has abounded; and the amount of eccentricity in a society has generally been proportional to the amount of genius, mental vigor, and moral courage which it contained... There is one characteristic of the present direction of public opinion, particularly calculated to make it intolerant of any marked demonstration of individuality. The general average of mankind are not only moderate in intellect,

(con't next page, first column)

Q. Dear Miss van der Head

I was sitting in my friend's house the other day and a friend of his took out a joint and smoked it down to the roach without offering the other people in the room any. Was this improper? What should we have done?

Frustrated

A. Dear Frustrated

It was indeed improper for him not to have passed the joint. But then again, you should not have been in a situation like that. Stay away from those joints!!

Q. Dear Miss van der Head

In a situation where three couples are sitting around in a room, which way is the joint passed?

A. The joint is passed left to right, counterclockwise, except when there is an older person in the room. Then it passes alternately from the oldest person to the next oldest until it gets down to the roach, who, once you catch him, will probably decline and run back under the sink.

Problem of the Day

Dear Miss van der Head

I decided to turn my father on the other day and when I did it was really beautiful. Man, our heads were in the right place-- we rapped for hours. Unfortunately he's a cop. Did I do the right thing?

Busted in Detroit

written by A. Jay

* * * * *

Music in the Streets Department

by Jim Buechler

On three consecutive Sundays last August, Electra Records took its microphones to Washington Square Park to record David Peel and his Lower East Side (his four comrades). The LP is entitled Have a Marijuana.

It begins with the anguished cry of "We don't want no more war!", which introduces the song, "Mother, where is my father?". Father is at war, it happens, along with most of the son's family.

The rest of the album documents life indigenous to the drug-oriented East Side. "I do my bawling in the bathroom" (over one's chick or guy, met in the Village and left behind when each partner returns to his respective suburb) is another one of the several cuts not concerned with drugs, which include "Up Against the Wall, Motherfucker," and "Here comes a Cop."

There is a similarity to early Fugs ~~material~~ material, who also laid claim to the Village and what is offered in terms of song material. Pick up this album, and then display the cover in your window. Have a Marijuana!

* * * * *

DOORS IN THE WALL

John Hart

Humanity will never be able to dispense with "artificial Paradises". The lives of most men and women are so monotonous and limited that the urge to escape, the longing to transcend themselves, if only for a few moments, is and has always been one of the principal appetites of the soul.

Art, religion, carnival, dancing, sex and oratory have all served, in H.G. Wells's phrase, as "Doors in the wall." For private, everyday use there are the chemical intoxicants-- the natural euphorics and hallucinogens-- the synthetic benzedrine, bromides and barbiturates.

Most of these modifiers of consciousness cannot be taken except under

Doors, con't...

doctor's orders, or else illegally and at considerable risk. The United States permits only alcohol and tobacco for unrestricted use. All the other "Doors in the wall" are labeled dope, and their users are called ~~XXXXX~~ heads.

We currently spend a good deal more on drink and smoke than we spend on education. This should not be surprizing. The urge to escape from selfhood, and the environment is in almost everyone almost all the time. Equally unsurprizing is the present attitude toward drink and smoke. In spite of the growing army of hopeless alcoholics, in spite of the hundreds of thousands of persons annually maimed or killed by drunken drivers, popular comedians still crack jokes about alcohol and its addicts. And in spite of the overwhelming evidence linking cigarettes with lung cancer, practically everybody regards tobacco smoking as being hardly less normal and natural than eating.

The problems raised by alcohol and tobacco cannot be solved by prohibition. The only reasonable policy is to open other, better doors in the hope of inducing men and women to exchange their old bad habits for new and less harmful ones. What is actually needed is a new drug that will relieve and console our suffering species without doing more harm in the long run than it does good in the short run.

Such a drug must be potent in minute doses and synthesizable. If it does not possess these qualities, its production, like that of wine, beer, spirits and tobacco, will interfere with the raising of indispensable foods and fibres. It must be less toxic than opium or cocaine, less likely to produce undesirable social consequences than alcohol or the barbiturates, less dangerous to heart and lungs than the tars and nicotine of cigarettes. And, on the positive side, it should produce changes in consciousness more interesting, more intrinsically valuable than mere sedation, or delusions of omnipotence or release from inhibition.

I would like to see the student government issue a grant to the Natural Science department in order to help finance and instigate experimentation along these lines.

* * * * *

Dissertation on a Trivial Matter

by Dan Rooney

All publications, including the Richmond Journal of Opinion, should set up a system of self-restraint concerning the use of profanity in its pages. The system should be liberal enough to allow for the widest possible range of student expression while staying within the confines of good taste. (After all, even LBJ is civilized enough not to eat the Vietnamese peasants he orders sauteed in gasoline.)

This is however a delicate task. What is profanity and how do we classify it? In this article I will analyze some of the words our moral, idealistic society considers obscene and decide if they should be banned from the paper.

The first word is "fuck". The strict denotation of this word, of course, refers to copulation. However, in modern American English this is not always the case. There are many present-day uses of this word, the most prevalent being an adjective expressing anger and modifying that which one is angry about. ~~Amxxx~~ An example of this usage occurs when one is cut off by a truck while driving and exclaims, "That fuckin' truck." Now I ask you, how can a truck copulate? It cannot, and ~~xxxx~~ therefore, "fuck" cannot be considered profane because it has absolutely no relationship with nasty old sex. In discussing this particular word, it must be noted that its use is so common that at times it seems the very carbon ~~xxxxxxx~~ monoxide we breathe is screaming it in announcement of what it is doing to our lungs. To stamp out the use of this word in the garden of Eden that is America would require the full mobilization of our army, thus presenting us with a funny paradox, since the war con't following page...

Trivial Matter, con't...

novels with which our bookstores are inundated inform us that it is army life which popularized the use of the word.

A word closely related to the one just discussed is "screw," and it also concerns copulation. However, upon contemplation of the word one realizes that there is a major difference between the words "screw" and "fuck". Whereas the word "fuck" is just a word defined as copulation, "screw" is a poetic image ~~representing~~ presenting to us a picture of copulation. To declare this word ~~as~~ profane and unusable we would have to declare all imagery and therefore all poetry unfit for publication. Could you imagine taking a literature course based on the study of New York's Daily News editorials?

The third category is one which really upsets those interested in formulizing sexual frustration. I am speaking of those impolite words referring to the copulatory organs of the woman, as "cunt", "pussy", "twat" and "snatch". The reason they irritate moralists so, is that the context in which they are usually used involves men (never moralists) expressing a desire to get their rocks off. Admittedly, for a person who believes getting his rocks off is evil, these words would definitely be profane. However, it must be noted that these words do refer to a part of the female body and in the interest of justice, if we were to outlaw them, we would have to outlaw all words referring to any part of a woman's anatomy. What this would do is make all women nonpersons. The declaring of people as nonpersons is, as you know, a Soviet device. Therefore, it is my contention that those people trying to legislate the vagina out of existence are engage in an insidious red plot, the purpose of which is to undermine and subvert the English language and thereby advance the cause of world communism. I advise HUAC to begin an immediate investigation of this conspiracy.

The final category to be discussed is the blankety-blank,----- . This is a literary device, used by writers wishing to blow the reader's mind. It is ~~not~~ used to break the continuity of a piece. How, for instance, could you follow this brilliant and invaluable essay if I had decided to throw blanketies all over the page? It is this device ~~in~~ which portends the greatest danger for those not wishing to be vulgarized. The inherent danger is that these sweet innocents who are upset over the language used in this article may become so aggravated about blank spaces in the middle of a dialogue that in a confused state they themselves might utter one of the forbidden words. Therefore, I propose that to prevent this from occurring, the Journal of Opinion censor out any blankety-blanks or-----'s that appear in articles submitted to it.

* * * * *

To Our Next President, Richard M. Nixon:

You say you want to unite the country, to Restore Law and Order, etc.

We who did not support you, or the other two major candidates, also would like to see a bright future for "the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

You won by default, Mr. Nixon, and if your thing in the Presidency is a Repressive power bag, then we say your 4 years in office will be long, hard and possibly Regrettable.

Chicago Chromosomal Damage
russ rueger

Blasting hurt sensation lodges
the essence of thought sequences
The heralding of a new-born poem
Its mothers shout the arrival and
fathers pass out expectation-cigars...

Memories of splintered, tear-gas nausea precipitate
more memories of pigstick-wielding gestapos yelling
"Clean the streets"
and wrenching faded flower revolutionaries by the collar
to clear tired sidewalks of litter dumped by activists

Throngs of be-people sitting in Lincoln Park
Bonfires, drums and guitars do not lead one
to easily believe Chicago was not a large-scale love-in
until...

The evening arose when the shining blue pigs
came swooping down on the gentle throng...
Then disaster .

Grant Park...

Row after row of impenetrable police-guardsmen
The focal necessity of reactionary police states
Mr. Orwell, were he able to, might move his date
somewhat closer to the present

Michigan Avenue police riot-

Pain, scream, hurt, anguish, cry, abundant emotion
Turned away, deplorably asking Chicagoans-
Why do they injure my brothers and sisters so?

They assure me that local police behaviour
at time of convention was atypical
Reactions patterned by some higher driving force...
Like Mr. Daley.

He perhaps a motivating factor behind pig action-
Anyone care to undertake a thesis on the Authoritarian Personality?

Chicago...

a bad trip easily forgotten.
We live in New York with our Libertarian mayor
Very easy to overlook the contaminative atmosphere
that created Chicago
and settle comfortably in the Liberal paradise
of New York existence.

Liberal paradise?

Perhaps overlooking poverty, discrimination, hate ad infinitum
the ingredients of a revolutionary pie

Lindsay, libertarian and Daley, authoritarian
are brothers linked with the same calamitous societal sickness
that lead to the emergence of Wallace's popularity

Cont...

Lindsay with words
Rockefeller with money
Johnson with his war
and Wallace with his run-over-pacifists car
All prescriptions for the same madness
Society's games of idiocy...
A date with Big Brother.

JOIN The Richmond College Chapter of the Students for a Democratic SOCIETY (S.D.S.)

Help build a mass political movement in the United States which:

1. demands the immediate withdrawal of American Troops from Viet-Nam
2. struggles in opposition to institutional racism and in support of the black liberation movement
3. organizes young American males to resist the draft and American soldiers to desert
4. confronts decision-making elites that use their power in an authoritarian or oppressive way
5. shows workers, students, and other disaffected or potentially disaffected social groups the sociological roots of their frustration, oppression, or exploitation
6. seeks to create a society in which people truly control all economic, political, and social institutions which affect their lives, and where these institutions are used to preserve life, alleviate human suffering and misery, and maximize human freedom.

FIRST MEETING SDS

Weds. - NOV. 13
3 P.M.

(in room at side of lounge)

SPORTS

WILL THE JETS MAKE IT THIS YEAR?

russ rueger

For the last few seasons, the New York Jets have been the most frustrating experience this side of frigidity. For at least three years, the Jets have started off with a fantastic pre-season exhibition game showing and an excellent jump in the early regular play. In the last three years, the Jets have had from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 game leads on their nearest opponents with about half the season completed. For example, last year the Jets racked up a 7-1-1 record after nine games and everyone was congratulating Weeb Ewbank for building a champion team in five years as he did in Baltimore. The season's result? The Jets finished one game out of first, compiling a 1-4 record in the last stages of the season.

This year's team is even more perplexing. As I write this article, the Jets stand at 6-2. They have looked fantastic in come-from-behind victories over most of the leagues' powerhouses: Kansas City, San Diego, and Houston. Yet incredibly, they have lost games to two teams, Denver and Buffalo, who are fighting to keep out of their respective division's cellar. All the more absurd is the fact that Buffalo, whose sole victory this year has been over the Jets, nearly beat New York again.

On paper, the Jets should win the Eastern title hands down. They are the most all-around solidly positioned team in either division. Their offense is seemingly explosive with a backfield of Namath, Boozer, and Snell and receivers like Sauer and Maynard. Their defense is a well-disciplined, effective unit, with an excellent line and top-flight pass coverage. The Jet defense would be put to shame by no defense in the league in interceptions, stinginess of touchdowns given, and nearly all other defensive statistics.

However, the Jets are highly erratic, and to paraphrase the old cliché, when they are good, they are very, very good and when they are bad, the reverse is true. They often prove to be paper tigers, especially in the last half of the season. Joe Namath, as the spearhead of the offense, seems to be the focal point of the erratic behavior. When he is up to par, he can toss for as many touchdowns as he needs, and his offensive play calling is impeccable. But when Namath loses his poise, he does it in a big way, and it is not unusual to see him get intercepted five times in a game and have ~~most~~ most of them run back for touchdowns. Another Jet peculiarity is their difference in play at home and away. It is as though there are two teams, a Green Bay-type home team and a Miami Dolphins-type road club. It is understandable ~~that~~ that a team will function more effectively in a home stadium, but to beat a team by 30 points in New York and lose by 20 to the same team in their city is stretching the point very thin.

By the time these words are read, the Jets will have played their pivotal game of the season. The Jets will have faced the Houston Oilers, currently in second place with a 4-5 record, in Shea Stadium on Sunday, Nov. 10. The Jets stand 6-2, and by winning would have a $3\frac{1}{2}$ game lead with 5 games remaining and would be a cinch to win the title. Should they lose, they will be on top by only $1\frac{1}{2}$ games, and worst off would have started their second-half backslide, which means "wait till next year" again..

Because these words are being written before the Houston game occurs, I can make a prediction which can be easily checked by a reference to the sports pages of any Monday daily: The Jets will take Houston on Sunday and from there go on to take the division.

It's nice when people like it, but when they start 'appreciating' it, getting great deep things out of it, making a thing of it, then it's a lot of shit. It proves what we've always thought about so-called art. It's all a lot of shit, just like they write and talk about Beethoven and ballet, all kidding themselves it's important. Now it's happening to us. None of it is important. It just takes a few people to get going and they con themselves into thinking it's important. It all becomes a big con.

We're a con as well. We know we're conning them, because we know people want to be conned. They've given us the freedom to con them. Let's stick that in there, we say, that'll start them puzzling. I'm sure all artists do, when they realize it's a con. I bet Picasso sticks things in. I bet he's been laughing his balls off for the last eighty years.

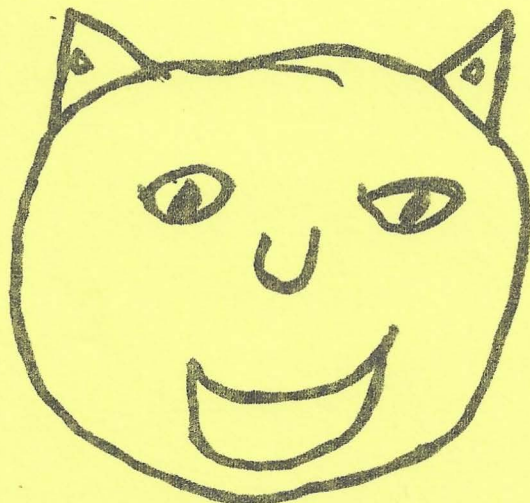
It's sad though. When we're not laughing, we're conning ourselves ~~into~~ into thinking we are important. People won't take anything as a laugh. If we said when we wrote 'She's Leaving Home' we were actually thinking about bananas, nobody would believe you. They don't want to believe you.

It's depressing to realise we were right in what we always thought, all those years ago. Beethoven is a con, just like we are now. He was just knocking out a bit of work, that was all.

The thing is, do Beethoven and these sort of people realise they're a con? Or do they really think they're important? Does the Prime Minister realise he's just a bloke? I don't know. Perhaps he's taken in by all this pretending to know what he's doing. The drag is he sounds as if he really thinks he knows what's going on, when he doesn't.

People think the Beatles know what's going on. We don't. We're just doing it. People want to know what the inner meaning of 'Mr. Kite' was. There wasn't any. I just did it. I shoved a lot of words together then shoved some noise on. I didn't dig that song when I wrote it. I didn't believe in it when we ~~recorded~~ were recording it. But nobody will believe it. They don't want to. They want it to be important.

--John Lennon



KRA-AK