

THE OBSERVER

May 17, 1968

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Vol. IX, No 26

The Poor March To Washington

By Karen Walkowitz

This spring, the poor people of America are gathering together to demand decent jobs and incomes in massive demonstrations in Washington, D.C. Black Americans, Spanish, Puerto Rican and Mexican American, American Indians and White Americans have all joined together to challenge our nation, and specifically the powers in Washington, to end poverty and racism in this country.

For most, May 30 is the prominent date of this Poor People Campaign since it is on that day when all concerned peoples have been asked to come to Washington to join in the cry to end poverty. The campaign, however, is more than just a one day stand. The formal plans for the demonstration began this winter under the auspices of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) with the support and participation of many local groups and individuals. People next began arriving in Washington as early as May 12 in caravans originating in various parts of the country. As these people arrive they are building, in a central part of the capital, a "shanty town" which is representative of the living conditions that exist for the 35 million poor in this country (income of \$3,130 a year for a family of four). These people are prepared to stay in "shanty town" until the demands they have made are met.

The campaign people will build powerful nonviolent demonstrations on the issues of jobs, income, welfare, housing, education, and human rights. A list of definite demands will be presented to the centers of government power. These demands will cost billions of dollars, but it is the belief of these people that the richest nation of all time can afford to spend this money, especially if it stops spending so much of its funds on what they consider to be an immoral and unjust war in Asia.

Specifically, the most important piece of legislation being demanded is for a bill of economic and social rights. This includes a meaningful job at a living wage provided for every employable citizen; that for all those who cannot find jobs or for whom employment is inappropriate--a secure and adequate income be provided. They are asking the Secretary of State to use his powers to prevent foreign workers from taking the jobs of American citizens, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to increase the quality and quantity of housing for low income families by allowing the poor to share in planning, and by letting the poor work to build housing. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is being asked to expand on Medicare and Medicaid Programs to include all indigents, to start sanitation programs to rid the poor of rats, vermin, and polluting sewage; to give the poor a chance to design and operate programs which affect their children's education, even if this means taking away funds from colleges and institutions which don't really need them; to provide an adequate welfare program, (only one fourth of the poor are now being aided by existing programs)

More vigorous enforcement of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is being demanded since it is felt that discrimination in many parts of the country is actually increasing, especially in the field of labor.

Perhaps the entire aim of the Poor People's Campaign can best be summed up in this declaration made by the Campaign Committee: "Let no man say that we are lazy, or criminal, or ignorant, or that we are undeserving until we have been given our measure of justice, a chance to work, a chance to learn, a chance to build. Some measure of the opportunity this land of ours has always promised to us, must at last be ours."



Blood Drive For Sally

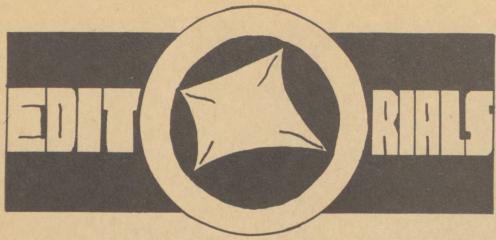
NEED BLOOD - WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP!

Little Sally Harrington, five years old needs your help. Sally has a rare blood disease, a plastic anemia...the recruitment is aimed for the May 20th, and June 17th, which will be conducted by the Red Cross in Pontiac. Donors are urged to make appointments with the Red Cross at least one week in advance to facilitate scheduling.

May 20th - Congregation B'Nai Israel, 143 Onieda - 2:00 p.m. -

June 17th - Pontiac Elks Club, 114 Orchard Lake.

Although Sally has no blood debt now, she uses the equivalent of 60 pints of blood per week. Sally can be cured with your HELP! Won't you please GIVE! Please CALL the STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER, if you wish to give, ext. 2182.



Know Your Enemy

(We offer the following remarks by Representative James B. Utt of California as edification to those wondering how the enemy is reacting to the New American Revolution.)

Mr. Speaker, fantastic though it may seem, this great Republic is threatened with anarchy. In fact the threat has grown so far that the only salvation may be a military dictatorship.

The founding fathers of this great Republic were well aware of this fact. They had done their homework, and they labored long and hard to produce a Republic with checks and balances sufficient to prevent the usurpation of power either by anarchists or by dictators. I have always felt the primary responsibility of the Congress was to preserve this very delicate balance between these two extremes.

Over the past 35 years, there has been a steady downgrading of this concept of government. The dignity and ruggedness of the individual have become submerged in collectivism, group dynamics, mass psychosis, humanism, and biochemistry culminating in group self-criticism. All of this is aimed at destroying the independence, the self-confidence, and self-reliance of the individual, which have always constituted the solid foundation of liberty, justice, and good government.

These are the tools of communism, which produce a dialectical materialism, aimed at the complete subversion of a great people. The campus demonstrations, the defiance of law and order, and destruction of property, both public and private, are manifestations of this sickness now sweeping America. It is this sickness that is bringing the so-called poor people's march on Washington, headed by Ralph Abernathy and his cabal of troublemakers. They intend to blackmail and blackjack the Congress into complete submission.

We in Washington are facing an invasion intended to overthrow the government by force and violence. The doctrine of non-violence is as phony as a \$3 bill, and falls into the category of dialectical materialism. The instructions of Lenin were to proceed in a non-violent manner, in such a way as to provoke extreme violence, which would completely disrupt Government and society.

The writings of Ralph Bunche, founder of the National Negro Congress, a communist front, in "Science and Society," a Communist magazine, of which he was a contributing editor, laid out the complete blueprint for what is happening in America today.

He contributed to this publication and added his name and prestige as a professor of Howard University even after the Communists in their publication, "The Communist," openly stated that "Science and Society" magazine had as its function "to help Marxward moving students and intellectuals to come closer to Marxism-Leninism" and "to bring Communist thought into academic circles."

Any American who does not recognize the fine hand of Communism in this unhappy picture is simply blind. In fact, after what you are going to go through, in the way of a long, hot summer of discontent, riots, murder, looting, and the destruction of property, you may well be conditioned to ask for dictatorship as a relief from anarchy.

This is the choice that you, my fellow Americans, face in this year of our Lord 1968.

(Reprinted from the Congressional Record)

THE OBSERVER

Editor Norman W. Harper
Managing Editor Mike Honey
Business & Ad Manager
Layout Editor Jody Shapiro
Copy Reader Fran Schwab
Secretary



Wallace Gaining Left Wing Support

Recently, it has been reported that George Wallace has been receiving support from many diversified groups. It must be surprising and certainly a bit disturbing, even to him, to find the voice of approval being murmured among the more radical elements of the country.

General disillusionment can probably be cited as the main cause for this unusual circumstance. Some revolutionaries have chosen Wallace as the one man who would most definitely propel the dissident elements toward distinct action.

When questioned at a news conference about secret meetings in New Orleans with Jim Garrison, Wallace solemnly denied any such occurrence. It remains to be seen, however, how long Wallace can continue to direct his campaign against the very people who might be willing to give him some support. The question becomes: can Wallace be used?

A Ball Of Gold

A man say a ball of gold in the sky; He climbed for it, And eventually he achieved it-It was clay.

Now this is the strange part:
When the man went to the earth
And looked again,
Lo, there was the ball of gold.
Now this is the strange part:
It was a ball of gold.
Ay, by the heavens,
it was a ball of gold.

Stephen Crane

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existence is to serve the
students and faculty of
Oakland University.

In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility:
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger;
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
Disguise fair nature with hard-favoured rage.

-- Henry V (III.i.I)

Be In A Movie

Young men and women are needed as extras in an upcoming film being produced by The Student Enterprise Theatre. This film will be used with the Theatre's production of their spring show "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad.' You need not be experienced. Their will be no monetary compensation for this work, but you will be able to tell all of your friends that you have been in the movies. Filming will begin in one week. All those interested should contact either Norman Harper at ext. 2195 or Tom Aston at ext. 2120.

Letter

Dear Sir,

How can I express the utter elation I felt when I saw the first issue of the spring semester? Once again my faith is renewed: a college newspaper can be relevant and well written. I doubt if you remember me, but I was here two years ago when you were first editor of the Observer. I know what to expect from your fine publication, and I trust you will not disappoint me. Just be as imaginative and brilliant as you were then, don't succumb to the banalities typical of college journalism and the Observer will once again reach the pinnacle of excellence under your skillful guidance.

> Sincerely yours, R.H.

Larimer Letters Ash Morrissette

Dick Gregory for President. But why? Why, with a virtual surfeit of "liberal" candidates, exceeding the wildest year-ago dreams of us all, should we pay more than cursory attention to a man whom most people still consider a booze-house comic? Because, having seen ten-year old black girls being made the playthings of white lesbians, oh yes, in Alabama prisons, Dick Gregory began with a vision of absolute depravity, moved to a confession of his own racism, and distilled it all into a sanity sound indeed. In other words, Dick Gregory's about the closest thing to a seer this country will ever have running for President.

Despite his impending loss,

Gregory's candidacy is a stunning, and even heartening, political event. For he doesn't start from any intellectual awareness of some vaguely defined need for a "fresh" approach to the nation's "problems", or from any ideological strait-jacket, but from an acute and direct grasp of the nation's fundamental sickness. In effect, what we're witnessing is a political candidate campaigning with an artist's vision, a phenomenon fairly rare in American history. Well, it's about time. America, indeed all of "Western civilization", has been sick for a long time. In this connection, the following statements by Kenneth Rexroth on Samuel Beckett in The Nation (12-7-57) seem strangely relevant to the Gregory candidacy: "Beckett is so significant, or so great, because he has said the final word to date in the long indictment of industrial and commercial civilization which began with Blake, Sade, Holderlin, Baudelaire, and has continued to our day with Lawrence, Celine, Miller,... Artaud and Jean Genet.

"...Now this is not only the main stream of what the squares call Western European culture...; it is really all the stream there is...This is a singular phenomenon. There has been no other civilization in history whose culture bearers never had a good word to say for it. Beckett raises the issue of what is wrong with us with particular violence because his indictment is not only the most thorough-going but also the

sanest."

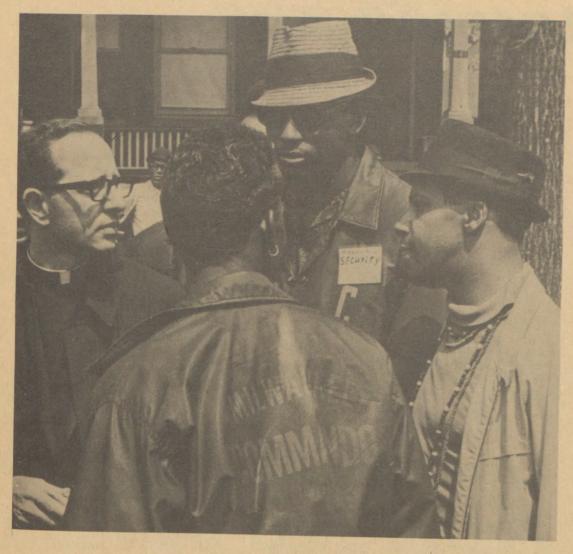
Thorough-going and sane is precisely what Dick Gregory is. He stands alone on the current American political scene. But his very existence on that scene gives us cause to hope. Perhaps.

THE GROUP et al, INC.

THE UNUSUAL IN GIFTS

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"Father Groppi & the Milwaukee Commandos"

Student Enterprise Theatre Begins New Production, Oh Dad, Poor Dad

The Student Enterprise Theater of Oakland University began production this week for "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad." The avant-garde comedy by Arthur Kopit is filled with gags and gimmicks to drive home Kopit's several themes.

Among the paraphernalia carted around from country to country by Madame Rosepettle, a slightly more than over-protective mother, are her stuttering, bewildered son and the stuffed body of her beloved husband. Young Jonathon--America's Youth--is a typical product of his mother's society, one in which the unreal myths and traditions about love and life have been so hammered into the ground that he seems unable to rise out of his destiny. He has been raised on collections of stamps, coins, and intellectual books--preparation for his eventual greatness (which his mother constantly predicts); until he achieves that status, however, he remains locked up in the Havanna hotel suite, complete with black drapes to facilitate his mother's mourning.

Madame Rosepettle wheels her point home by luring to her hotel suite wealthy lovers--Commodore Rose above in this instance--and then destroying their amorous advances by describing her frustrated sexual experience with an ugly, inadequate husband whom she ultimately murdered. And when Jonathon falls in love with Rosalie, "the girl next door," his mother brings her to him, only to later expose her as a promiscuous seductress. This all ends drastically (involving the destruction of Mme. Rosepettle's pet piranha fish and carnivorous Venus fly-traps) with Madame's innocent and ultimate question, "What is the meaning of this?"

The black comedy, full of acid remarks and vicious subtleties carries Kopit's philosophy of truth and reality all the way. There isn't a line without symbolism, yet brightly and freshly presented.

Oakland's production, directed by Tom A. Aston, will be presented at the Barn Theater on June 7, 8, 14, & 15, at 8:30 p.m. Information is available at (313) 338-7211, ext. 2120.

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Violence Detroit Style

By Karen Walkowitz

Monday, May 13 brought the midwest contingent of the Poor People's Campaign into Detroit for a day of marches, rallies and violence stemming from police brutality.

At 11:00 on that day, several hundred denim clothed poor and almost as many reporters and photographers could be seen milling around St. Vincent's Cathedral on Woodward and Boston Avenue. Boxlunches were being distributed, interviews were being given, and final arrangements were being made for the day's activities.

The Midwest contingent consisted of about 1400 people who had arrived from Chicago, Milwaukee, Cincinnatti, and other smaller towns and were being joined by some 200 poor from the Detroit area. The group was being led on its caravan by the Rev. A. D. King, brother of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, and Father James Groppi.

In an interview with the Rev. King he stated that the purpose of the campaign was to "lift our people above poverty." He also emphasized several times that this was in no way to be a violent campaign. All powers, even the most militant, had agreed that any violence would have to be directed by and carried out by outside forces.

At about 2:00 a march was held down Woodward Avenue to Cobo Hall that evening, when a stalled car used by the campaign people was ordered, by some mounted police, to be moved. When the cops were told that the car couldnot be moved, they clubbed their way, without any determinable cause, into the crowd causing several injuries and creating a general panic.

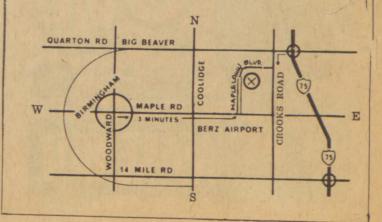
Meetings were held throughout the night while the campaign people tried to decide whether they should cancel their caravan for several days to organize demonstrations throughout Detroit. They did not leave on the morning of the 14th as they had planned, but left, peacefully, on Wednesday, May 15th with the promise that they would return to Detroit after Washington.



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STUDIO NEW CENTER (Third at West Grand Blvd.)

"IN COLD BLOOD" Richard Brooks' film version of Truman Capote's best selling non-fiction novel. Shows: Weekdays 7:15, 9:35; Saturdays 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sundays 5:00, 7:25, 9:45. Adults \$2. Students \$1.50. STUDIO I (Livernois at Davison)

"DON QUIXOTE", a new version of the Cervantes' classic,

STUDIO-NORTH (Woodward at 'and "THE!" CRANES ARE 9-mile) FLYING", winner of the Cannes Film Festival in 1958, will be shown this Friday and Saturday, May 17 & 18, at 7:00 and 10:25; and 8:50 respectively. Admission \$2.

> The Studio North Theater located at Woodward and Nine Mile Road in Ferndale has gone Underground. Performances are on Friday and Saturday evenings at Midnight and at 1:30 A.M. There is a special Sunday Matinee each week at 3:00 P.M. Price is \$2.00 for regular admission, \$1.50 for students. Phone number is LI 1-5168 or WE 3-0070.

If you have any interesting announcements concerning the arts in this area, please send them to this column.



Dance

Under the auspices of Detroit Adventure, the dance theatre of Detroit will present a concert on Friday, May 17 which will be repeated on Saturday, May 18. Both will be in the Detroit

Institute of Arts Auditorium and will start at 8:30 p.m.

They will perform "Landscape for Four Women,"
"Life Forms," "Wish," "Thing
Dance," "Movement on Behalf
of the Muscle," "Buoyant of the Muscle," "Buoyant Patterns," "Schism,""3 plus 6," 'Summer Noon," and "Ritual

Tickets at \$4, \$3, and \$2 are available at Detroit Adventure, Wayne State University Ticket Office, Detroit Institute of Arts Ticket Office, and at all Hudson's stores.

For additional information, telephone Detroit Adventure at ext. 265. 833-003.

Drama

Peter Shaffer's theatrical drama of the Spanish conquest of Peru, "The Royal Hunt of the Sun," will open at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre at

8:30 p.m. Friday, May 17 and run for six performances. This will be the last play of the current Bonstelle season.

Later performances are scheduled Saturday night, May 18, and Thursday through Sunday, May 23-26. All performances will begin at 8:30 p.m. except the Sunday matinee which will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets at \$2 apiece may be obtained at all J. L. Hudson ticket services, Grinnell's downtown, and the WSU ticket Office, Mackenzie Hall, Cass and Putnam, or by calling 833-1400.

The Student Enterprise Theatre will present Arthur Kopit's play Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung you in the closet and I'm feelin' so sad for their Spring production. Anyone willing to work on the technical aspects of the show should contact ext. 2120 or 2646,

Laddies and

This weekend, May 18 and 19, OU will serve as host to the Michigan Week Highland Games. The games are sponsored by the United States Highland Dancers Association and the Michigan Week Committee, and are offered as part of the OU Cultural and Performing Arts Series. Competitors will come from throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. The best

dancer on Saturday and Sunday will each receive round-trip plane tickets to Scotland to compete in either the Edinburgh Festival or the Cowal games.

The Dancing competition will be held in the Sports and Recreation Building. Students, faculty and staff are invited to view the competition. Admission is fifty cents.





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WASHINGTON BLVD. AT LAFAYETTE



Opening Our Brains Rattling Our Heads The Doors At Cobo

By Mike Honey
Aided and Abetted by Dave Catton
"The world we suggest should be
of a new Wild West. A sensuous
evil world, strange and haunting,
the path of the sun. . .We're all
centered around the end of the
zodiac, the Pacific." - Jim
Morrison, The Doors.

Jim Morrison, lead singer of the Doors, was hunched over the aisle, hair flying across the sides of his face and eyes shining, motioning to the cop to come get him, taunting, laughing -- then running from the mob approaching him from behind, past the cop and to the stage, leaving the poor man in the blue suit to cope with his followers. He was Evil Incarnate, and he had us all on his side. Even so, the mob of children-worshippers had looked as if they were about to grind him to bits. The cop had been of some use after all.

Morrison then, characterizes the group. It is he who gets arrested for "obscene performances, and it is he who gets rushed by the crowd as well as the cops. Yet recalling the scene of near-riot at Cobo Hall Saturday night, when Morrison was in the spotlight leading the revolt, I remember too, that the music was playing; Morrison was only doing what he and the music dictated he must. He was the instrument through which the music was directed.

On stage he was everything that could offend. Writhing and contorting the audience to where he wanted it to go, he showed us the control which the preceeding groups had tried to exercise, only to mesmerize us in their banality. Morrison appeared to do the same things the Detroit groups earned our disgust for. But he got away with it because the gyrations of the previous singers had been only too titillate, to put on a show; Morrison wanted to lead us with his screams and leaps through the doors of our own minds to a confrontation with the nightmare worlds that most of us never see or suspect exist.

Morrison is convinced of the truth of the nightmare, of the heart of darkness in himself and in his audience. His delivery was forever a mixture of the sacred and the profane. His worlds were the chant of an illuminating ritual, but they were backed with gestures of obscenity that mocked and surprised the audience, And always, always, the cold power of organist Manzarek was pumping through the audience, the tantallizing drums of Densmore and the flailing guitar of Krieger were reminders that this was no joke.

Yet Morrison was not only responding to the music. He was showing us what it was. He was challenging structures, defying authorities; the music was calling for liberation, freedom from constraint of all kinds. Significant, overwhelming and frightening, the Doors challenge all authority; they recognize no structure except that which their music brings them to. Their only acknowledgements are to the hidden feelings which they are the doors to: the fears, hates and rages of our lives, the strange loves and dire ecstasies which are daily miscomprehended. Their goal is perception; their medium is music:

"Music is your special friend Dance on fire as it intends Music is your only friend Until the end"

(When the Music's Over)

The Doors are wicked. But they are positive as well as destructive in what they propose. For while their wickedness breaks all boundaries, it convinces you that -- today -- they need breaking. While Morrison causes a near-riot, he confronts us with the glaring inflexibility of the cops who patrol our passions with a nightstick. While he frightens us with our aroused passions, he makes us realize how little one becomes aroused about anything in America.

The Doors couls in fact be enforcing the code of some other society, long since past or too far in the future. Or the media they maintain may be purely, and only, their own. In either case, their performance, a physical as well as a musical confrontation with structure, law and decency, causes one to wonder what and who, is or is not Wicked in this society.

United Community Services Needs Summer Volunteers

Teenage boys and girls are very much needed to serve as Volunteers in Health, Welfare Agencies and hospitals this summer. In order to prepare early for placement, the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, division United Community Services, will hold a county-wide registration and interviewing day on Saturday, May 25.

The Bureau is located at 231 S. Woodward, Birmingham, However, students wishing to go into volunteer services are to register at one of the following stations from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.:

YWCA OF PONTIAC 269 West Huron Street Pontiac Birmingham-Bloomfield Teen Center Brown Street Birmingham

Southfield Recreation Department Room 112 - Art Room 26000 Evergreen Road Southfield

Gen Sales Company 22635 Woodward Avenue 2 blocks south of Nine-Mile Road Ferndale

> YMCA — South Oakland Huron Room 1016 West 11-Mile Rd., near Woodward Royal Oak

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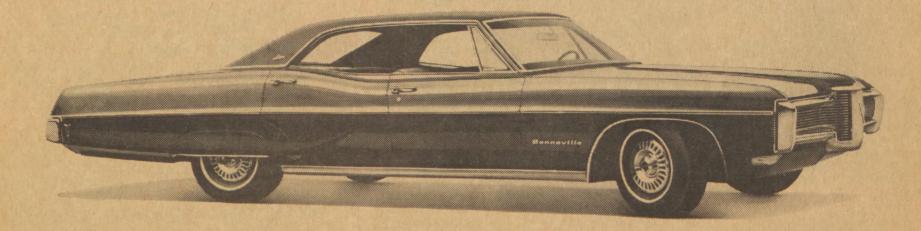
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