



Life & Times

"Was Rained On"

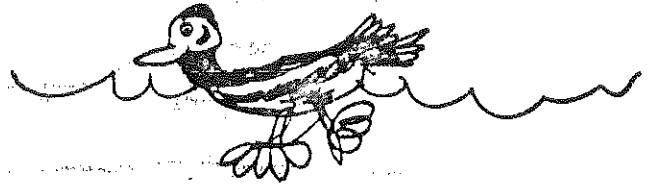
Feb 76

3rd issue

Mike Fellows

TIMES CHANGES

The "Life & Times" was first published in Anchorage, Alaska on carbon paper in 1973-74 for two issues. It was fun. This summer I met some kids who live in Del Mar and publish "The Garbanzo Bean" and I was inspired to the idea. "Our offices" are located at 326 W. Cedar St. 92101, and weekday mornings at the 2nd and Cedar parking lot.



BASKETBALL TEAM CONQUERS ELMENDORF

The basketball team coached by Dave Bolz has racked up 14 straight wins and no losses at Elmendorf, Alaska.

PARKING LOT MUDDLES THROUGH RAINY SEASON

This article was written on the only rainy day so far this winter. Mostly it has been hot and I'd move to the shade.

I have to pick up the trash in the morning and I often find half-eaten cans of food that have been thrown from the windows of a nearby hotel. I wonder if this reflects on the quality of canned food being different from the pictures on the label.

I meet a lot of interesting people, and I'm becoming more of an extrovert. One man told me something about Venus, Neptune, Mars, and Pluto while giving me a 15 oz. can of Stokely Van Camp's kidney beans from an old brown bag.

A few days ago a lady told me her story of being a foundling under a tree, and her step-siblings who tried to drown her and convert her to religion, and how she helped over 5,000 convicts back into society, with not a single one ever returned to prison. I love her.



CANS TOP \$100

Harold, who collects aluminum cans with Tom and the family, reports that their earnings have topped \$100. (Over about a year or so, I guess) "Little acorns become great oaks."

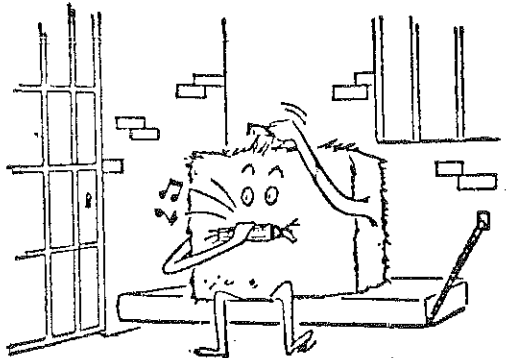
WALLACES EXPECTING BABY IN AUGUST

Patsy is pregnant. Patsy and Dan visited Ocean Beach briefly in August with Carol, and it was a lot of fun.

LORCH AT MIDWAY

Mike Lorch, original member of the Independent Study teaching team at Point Loma, has quit that job and is now a Vice-Principal at Midway High School.

Why did he make this change? Mike says a desire for new horizons, and Sara notes that Mike was once a juvenile delinquent himself.



"MIND IS MEMORY"

Prior to the introduction of the zero and Hindu-Arabic numerals, only a trained and talented few could perform arithmetic.

The systems of memory based on absurdity may someday hold a like place. The zero from India/ absurdity from vaudeville ---what do you think?

The best book on the subject is Harry Lorayne's (1957) How To Develop A Super-Power Memory. He has co-authored a more recent book which is not as good.

Mary used to forget her student library # which is 4761. This phonetically translates to the word "ricochet". She once vividly pictured the books of the library ricocheting off the walls. Now, when she enters the building, the crazy image is recalled---and so is the #.

I have condensed the book into a few pages of notes which I have available if you are interested in them.

THE STRANGER'S NOTES: EDUCATION

According to Illich, mandatory schooling is

1. expensive; schools can never be cost-effective for democratic or liberal education.
 2. perpetuative of class structure and industrialized perceptions.
 3. destructive of learning potential.
- These are summed in the term "the commoditization of knowledge."

Alternative paradigms are the bare-foot doctors of China, and circulating notebooks of questions.

Sidney Hook's review of Deschooling Society in the collection of essays: Education and the Teming of Power, is well recommended to anyone having read Illich with sympathy.

He likens Illich's remedy for the ills of the educational system to advising a person poorly nourished to either eat nothing at all, or to eat anything he pleases. "The young are no more always aware of what they need to know in order to grow to their full powers than they are always aware of what to do and what to avoid to achieve health."

The basic question of education is what should individuals learn? (curriculum) and how to communicate this (pedagogy) so that they may have better lives.

Sidney Hook notes some of the problems which Illich would include in the commoditization of knowledge, but these are not drawn to systemic evil. He preposes little. His book is aimed at arousing the intellectual and moral integrity of American educators.

Thomas Molnar (The Future of Education, 1961, revised 1970) says American universities have been transformed into "service stations of society"---and, appositely, into revolutionary bases. He sees no remedy but the founding of new schools committed to the essential vocation of intellectual and moral excellence.

"I was struck by the irony of Sidney Hook's conservatism, which appealed not to systemic remedy, but to individual integrity---and the irony of Illich's tracing of ills to the commoditization of knowledge---and his call for deschooling---which, after all, one buys in a bookstore, or travels to Cuernavaca to hear about, at the Center there.

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"Partly because I have been goaded by the problems confronting Western civilization, and partly for fun, I am creating my own. I am publishing a newspaper, and I will soon undertake the humor and enlightenment of the natives, and the education of my children. I am impressed with Mr. Hook's arguments, and will take the problems of pedagogy and curriculum to heart."

HOGAN AT WORK ON NEW PLAY

The run of "The Convention" is over at the Crystal Palace Theater, after receiving much acclaim for its innovative 'script' which gave every member of the audience a role in something like a simulation game.

"The man in the back-room," Joe---was nominated for President the last two nights of the performance, after bullying the conventioners with bagels and racism, and getting them to change "the rules".

"You'll all have to clear out of here by 11 o'clock," he told them in his acceptance speech, "This place is booked for a boxing match."

When asked if the general gullibility and spinelessness of the conventioners have caused him any pale reflections on the American public, Joe replied, "There is only one thing I am sure of---someday Richard Nixon will be President again."

There were a few exceptional nights at the Crystal Palace. Once, Joe was hauled from the back-room and assassinated.

"I don't know what his new play is about." But I suspect that is the essence of it.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

What if you could read the journals of your parents (and your neighbors) since when they were in Jr. High School? I think this would be a better world; history as if people mattered, and not just phone-books.

The "Carbonzo Bean" is a newspaper created by a neighborhood gang of mostly teenagers in Del Mar. It usually is eight 7" x 8 1/2" pages, and costs about \$15 to print one thousand.

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INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WITH A RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR

Jim Ford, who works at Wahrenbrock's book store, and is slowly writing a novel, tells me interesting things about religion.

1. In the early days of Christianity, it ran neck and neck with Mithraism for supremacy of the Roman world.

2. There are no heresies which become stronger as time goes on---the same old ones just seem to repeat.

3. There is no heresy which corresponds to "Judas Christ," because no assemblage has ever organized around it. They were all anarchists?



"A GOOD IDEA"

I was reading Illich with unabashed enthusiasm until I looked up the reviews of his books and found one by Sidney Hook, which is excellent. So I have this new idea---to read the opposite of my favorite notions and authors. I have a name for this idea: intellectual maturity.

WAR?

How are the means for preventing a nuclear war related to the means for surviving one? Are they similar? For what different types of systems are survival and prevention of crises convergent or divergent?

The body's immune system serves both for survival and prevention of infections (in different magnitudes of activity) and water both puts out fires and prevents them during the rainy season, yet there are probably counter-examples.

How is war to be civilized? Can it be? Should mortal combat between consenting adults be legalized? Should they be allowed to sell tickets to their match?

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JOEL IN TOWN

Joel Rotenberg, who knows English, Fr French, Greek, Chinese, and is learning Irish--is in town and plans to be for about a year. If you are wondering, "What does he think?" He thinks:

1. "Questions are holes in language."
2. "My farts are eloquent."
3. "The point of books and friends is novelty."
4. "People are fucking complicated."
5. "I don't know what I think, maybe."

His parents sent him the plane ticket and he has been discharged by the schools.

GULLINGSRUD INCREASINGLY RETICENT

Larry Gullingsrud, Minnesota farm boy who made good with the Paramedics, has increased his reticence during recent months.

During the period of Sept. 74 to March 75 he wrote zero letters to our offices. During the period from April 75 to Feb 76 he wrote only zero letters which we have received, thereby increasing his reticence by over 20%.



NEAL IN CARLSEAD

At Learning Farm Amid Skepticism

Neal Williams has gone up to the Learning Farm, a free-school in Carlsbad for a month.

His reports of the experience reflect some discouragement, and one document leaked to our offices by a close associate questions whether the learning farm is producing anything but future Jack-in-the-Box employees and welfare recipients.

One child, however, is noted by instructors Gene and Barbara Walker to have developed quite a talent for "sneakin' up on things."

FLAKE-OUT AT BUS-STOP

"Why should I have to show a bus-pass to get on the bus?" He thought, "I wouldn't lie, and I'll trust others as I'd trust myself. If he wants to know if I've contributed to the bus system this month: he can ask, or I'll just tell him. I refuse to prove anything."

"But, then, how about money? The only reasonable purpose of money is an anti-amnesia device. I'm going to quit using money!"

This lead to Palo Alto enroute to the wild and bounteous north. \$5 was deposited in a Carl's, Jr. trashcan. Then the thought struck---

"I refuse to prove anything to anyone ---and I'll believe anything anyone tells me?"

Laughter. What a close call with madness?

HEADS WE WIN, TAILS YOU LOSE?

I've spent a few weeks mulling over the loyalty oath prescribed by the City of San Diego. You sign (or refuse to sign) something like a computer card promising to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The loyalty oath of the State of Massachusetts was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1971, in the case of Richardson vs. Cole (the vote was 4 to 3). In Massachusetts they promise, "to oppose the overthrow of the government of the U.S.A. by force, violence, or any illegal or unconstitutional method."

There is a poetic, but not a rigorous syntactical ambiguity to this long phrase (of the sort: "Let's eat, Grandma!" vs. "Let's eat Grandma!") that was noted in his dissent by Justice Brennan.

According to the City Attorney and the office of the Justice Dept. in San Diego, the meaning of the loyalty oath is up to your own individual interpretation. What would you defend against all enemies?

I spoke to Socrates about it.

"Only one thing," he said, "my soul."

My interpretation of our city's oath is that it means either:

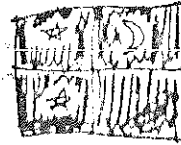
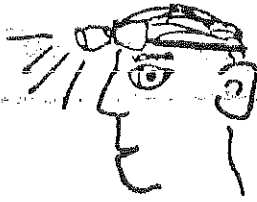
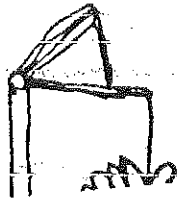
1) Nothing. Laws have no enemies.

("Conflict generates law." Encyc. Brit.)

or

2) A promise to enforce and obey all the laws the courts have sanctioned.

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ERRORS RECANTED

At the beginning of rabbinic Judaism the Houses of Hillel and Shemaï debated for 75 years about whether it would have been better if man had never been created. They concluded that it would have been better if he had not---but since he was, he should make the best of it. (Invitation to the Talmud, Jacob Neusner, 1973, Dewey 296.1)

There are some stories of environments that blossom with the touch of man in the book Design With Nature by Ian McHarg (333.7 Dewey). The science of this business is landscape architecture.

A book that tells the story (world history) of the patterns and cycles (civilizations) of man's interaction with nature (ecology), is Man, Nature, and History, by W.H.S. Russell, 572.9 Dewey, 1967. I wish I had read it when I was thirteen! A great book! For the first time I had the feeling of history with anatomy, not just a stream of "and-then"s or an ideological comic-book. Bravo!

Ivan Elich, Tools For Conviviality, Dewey 301.243 (1973), says industrial civilization has proceeded on the assumption that machines can replace slaves, the result of which is a civilization brutalized and enslaved by machines.

An Approach to Chemistry by Korosy is way and above the best general chemistry book I have ever seen. The math is algebra level. The descriptive and intuitive account of the equivalence of the Heisenberg and Schrodinger equations is fascinating. The development of chemical and physical theory is told with insight to the temper of the times---for example, the 12-year successes of the Bohr "planetary" theory of electrons, which was the cutting tool of atomic science for that period, organizing great masses of experimental data, despite such obvious flaws that it could not possibly be correct.

1. "Nuclear reactors really produce less power than is used to construct them and to reprocess their fuel."
--false--

A 1000 megawatt plant will produce 6.57 billion kh / yr.

The total electrical input to the nuclear cycle from mining to reprocessing is 0.27 billion kh / yr.

The thermal input and amortized construction input are negligible compared to those figures. Sci N 109-4

2. "Eco-catastrophe is around the bend."
--maybe not--

The case is more complex than a simple reading of The Limits To Growth may suggest. These two articles are excellent reviews of countervailing opinion, and good sources for further reading:

"The Future of Economic Activity"

Anthony J. Wiener, Annals Am. Acad. Soc. & Poli. Sci., 408-47, July 73

"Against the Neo-Malthusians"

Bruce-Briggs, Commentary, 58-25, July 74

H.W.W.T.Y.L. continued from page 4

This is not logically cabalistic. Kurt Godel: "Either mathematics is too big for man, or man is more than a machine." I can see some middle ground. "The oath means you-get-the-job." "The oath means, 'If I defend the Constitution against all enemies, then I'll refuse to take the oath.'"

Suppose the oath were this: "In God we trust." The atheists would refuse it: "I don't believe in God, and I certainly don't trust Him." The believers would not take it. "I believe in God, and I trust in Him. But I don't know about you." Neither the agnostic: "Maybe trust is God, and in that case I suppose I'll take it. But maybe God is the creation of our mistrust in each other, and in that case I won't take it. I'm balanced between Yea and Nay." So who would take it? A liar, a lunatic, a Buddha, a child?

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Meanwhile, Pentagon strategists and Hermann Kahn proceed with the thinkability of nuclear war. H.K. estimates that only 30 or 40 % of the population would be lost in an all-out exchange with Russia. The USA is again on the verge of building massive civilian bomb shelters, and the increasing sophistication and accuracy of missile systems is rendering deterrence on a finer and finer trigger.

KIFFERSTEIN MARRIED

"What we've been feeling about, and thinking about," he wrote, "is something more than just living together---too easy---and more than just sharing adventures, ideals, etc. So we're going to do the really radical, avante-garde thing. Something beyond Fred Astaire, beyond Kelly

---"
To Joan Finkelstein. In New York.
And they did.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

Everyone ought to be aware of this simple dilemma, which environmentalists are fond of telling:

"There's a bunch of herdsmen. Each herdsman must consider whether to get another animal. If he does, he gets all the money from it, but the effect of over-grazing---is shared by everybody.

So each herder decides to get another animal, and each thinks that this is the only sensible decision he can make."

Some biologists think that this simple individual purposeful behavior, which has been our species strong point, will also be its destruction.

I think the Christian story could make a person hopeful, but not if Jesus believed in Paradise. I bet Judas is Christ.

FRED APPEARS

Fred Weishaupt was in town over the holidays and spent a lot of time with his family. Perhaps he made peace with his father and will not soon be again in San Diego.

However that may be, he is doing very well at Sonoma State in math and science after some flirtation with God-knows-what.

CHANEY ON CONSCIOUSNESS TRIP

---May Lead To Malibu---

GPI Sept.

Ralph Chaney recently ate psychedelic mushrooms and enjoyed the experience of "accepting his fate." With two others of his fateful trio he is believed to have gone to Malibu to live at the house of an older man and "work on consciousness." He was last seen by this reporter in his backyard.

---Chaney Returns---

GPI Jan.

Ralph Chaney has returned to San Diego and is looking fine and relaxed after recovering from a severe taco bell depression after the break-up of his summer adventures. He is going to UCSD Spring Quarter, has an enviable pair of sandals, and is planning to become a West Coast sales representative. He is a wizard at massage.

JACKSON AT BANK

Kirk Jackson, who Ralph knows better than I from high school, is now a teller at the main office California First Bank. His nihilistic aplomb is so high-energy you have to see it to believe it.

MISSING IN ACTION

Cindy Stansfield. The Holloways. I missed Cindy's letter to Florence, Oregon, but she's out there somewhere. Laura's baby was sick, and I guess that's partly why the Holloways haven't written.

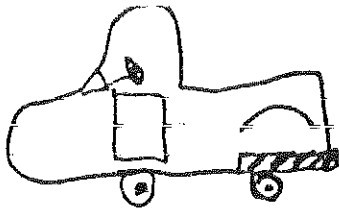
TOM WINS OVER-THE-LINE TOURNAMENT

T. and team won the championship 7-2 with five home-runs, or something like that.

Over-the-line looks like a good game because you can play with 2 on a team. I have the rules for it, if anybody wants them.

RISTY CHANGES TEXTS

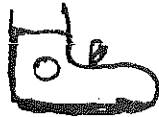
Limits and Continuity and DeLeeuw are no longer the texts for Mrs. Risty's excellent first course in calculus. The author of the new book is Slowkowski.



TRUCK BLOWS UP: NUIESE ON FOOT
Made Move To Cardiff

Robert stopped by our 2nd and Cedar offices recently with his Studebaker pick-up truck smoking badly. He told of plans to replace the engine in the "near future"---now sooner than expected, for the engine suffered a fatal malfunction a few hours later.

Robert has moved to 1613 Haydn 92007.



an interesting house from which many walls have been removed, along with some of the interior plasterboard. David Sonnenshein is living there, now directing work on an animated film of DNA, on a UCSD grant.



WHITE MOUNTAIN

The University City gang, which is Harry, Fritz, David and Dennis, climbed White Mtn. over Christmas. Dennis took a different route for a while. On the fourth day out David took a bath in the snow. "Not too hot a way to get clean." The peak was a three-day hike from base camp below the tree-line.

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ORAL SEX: MIXED REVIEWS

Oral sex doesn't cause babies and we gave it a try. I heard about it at college and especially the Air Force and I read about it in a magazine.

It seems sort of distant, but then, so do kneecaps and symphonies. She laughed a lot, but I had an expression like maybe I didn't want to do this afterall. It didn't taste bad. Maybe it was fun.



MIKE AND MARY TEST WISDOM OF LOVE

Communications in January excited Dr. & Mrs. Silber (of Del Mar; Dr. Silber is Professor of Music at UCSD) to urge and forbid their daughter Mary from seeing Mike. "He's not worth it. He's crazy," they told her.

"I wrote them three letters," explained Mike in a recent interview, "the first sounded like the Space Wanderer, the second like Fyodor Karamazov, and the third was in crayon."

Mary was reported from "Tragic City, North Tearsville", beginning a six-month experiment in no-visits. Mike was urging careful consideration of her parents' criticism during this Sabbath in their relationship.

After an evolution of mathematical approaches to a wise period for the test, and rules to go with it, they independently determined on civil disobedience, and have since met once.

REPORT FROM SAN DIEGO

Mike Fellows

Nowadays in San Diego I not uncommonly see someone flossing at the bus-stop, or brushing while walking on the sidewalk or engaging in casual conversation. One frequently sees people brushing at the beach at Torrey Fines or along Del Mar. Of course, that someone is usually me. (I've heard of students and teachers brushing and flossing in class at a local high school.) There is no single source of this new civilization, but the best book on the subject is The Tooth Trip, by McGuire.

"—and a bargain at \$50 a month! Mary, just wait 'till you see it! I've got two windows, framed in glass. One of them goes up and down (the other one is open).

Across the hall I've got hot and cold running water---and there's a bathtub must be two feet deep. The bed is so soft, I swear it must be springs.

And just what do you think at night? All I have to do for a room as bright as you can imagine is just reach up and give a twist! That's right: ELECTRICITY. The 'bulb' says '100 watts.'

I know you'll like this. All I have to do for a look at the bay is stand in the corner!

Just wait 'till you see the city—"

There are those funny words, conscience and constitution, with whose roots: 'to know together' and 'to place together'--- the faith outlawed by the Loyalty oath, is apocalyptic?

How would it be if I believe one day our souls will awaken in our shoes, and all the governments of the earth will be going. Marxism is apocalyptic. The Pilgrims had the Millenium in mind.

"There you have it," said Socrates, "the Constitution is a good thing, but maybe not as good as my soul!"

If I get the job correcting English papers, maybe this is what I'll say: "I'll oppose the overthrow of the Constitution of the U.S.A. by force, violence, or any illegal or unconstitutional method, and also by lawful, peaceful, and democratic means."

Touché? No.

I offered to do the work for free.

Mike Fellows?

ECONOMIC THOUGHTS

1. The world per capita product is about \$1540 U.S. 1976.
2. Children weigh less, but they wear out shoes faster.
3. It costs less to live in some other countries.
4. It costs more to live in the United States, but there are other advantages.
5. Rice costs the same in Brazil as it does here.
6. I lived happily at a tree.



THE MATH OF SEX

- W = world mean per capita income
- W* = world median per capita income
- P = optimum world population
- P* = present world population
- R = couple replacement factor
- R* = readiness to raise kids
- t = time
- C = chances of pregnancy
- C* = birth control method
- F = fuck
- 2.1 is taken as the per population replacement rate
- () denotes 'function of'

[1] $\frac{W^*}{W} \times \frac{P}{P^*} \times 2.1 = R$

[2] $\frac{R R^*}{C(C^*)} = F(t), \int R^*(t) dt = 1$

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SIMPLE WETTING AT TORREY PINES

Mary Silber and Mike Fellows recently waded knee-deep in the Pacific Ocean at Torrey Pines State Park, and exchanged "ooo"s and "wow"s.

The wanderers were sparkling, and the waves paused and roared gently.

