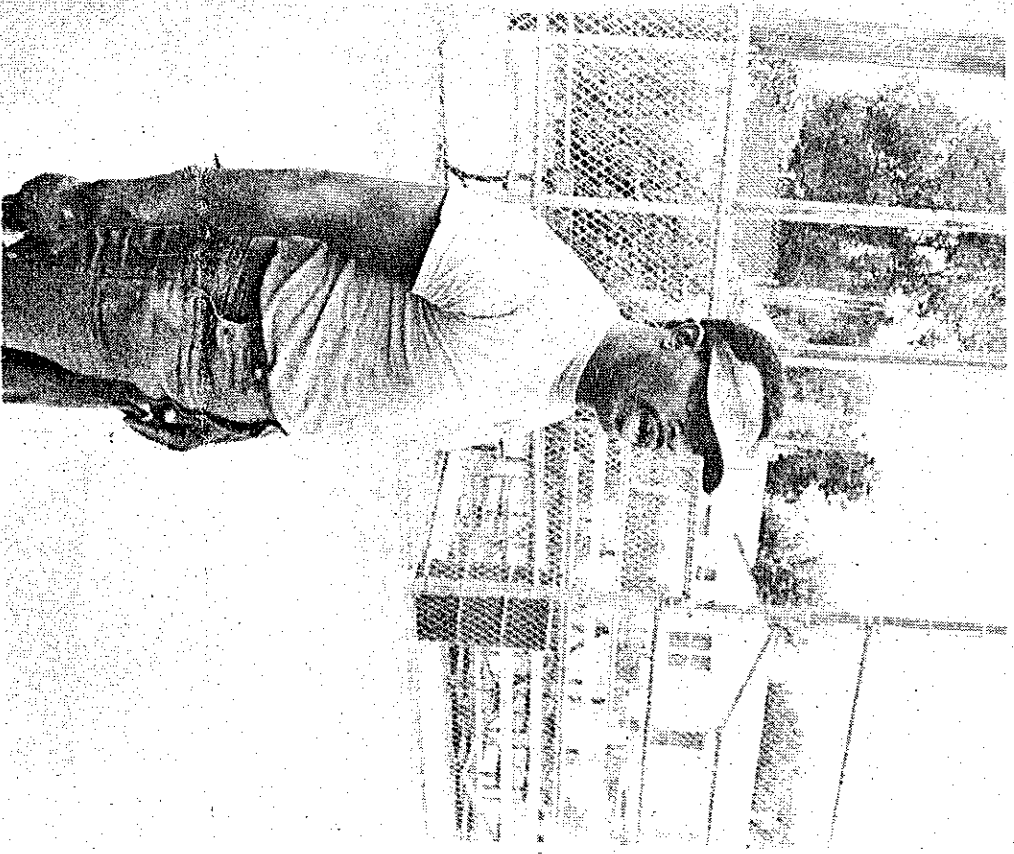


SPECTRUM

a community newspaper

Champaign-Urbana ★ Vol 3, No. 12, ★ August 24, 1978 ★ Free



Bud Johnson leaves

Douglass Center

Story, Page 5

"Motorcycles for days," was the way one spectator described it. No, he was not talking about a special motorcycle promotion, at least not one put on by a motorcycle manufacturer.

More than 500 motorcycles embarked on the Champaign County Fairgrounds last Sunday for the Champaign Eagles motorcycle field meet. The meet had something for everyone: motorcycle racing in various categories depending on the size and make of your bike, stunt riding by the more daring riders, trophies for the best looking motorcycle, and a bicycle contest for the kids.

The bicycle contest had two winners, Joseph Heath for having the best looking and most decorative bicycle and Jerome Walls for doing the longest wheelie. Johnnie Wilson of 613 E. Eureka took first place in the best looking big motorcycle competition. Two brothers, Eddie (Sugar Meats) Jones and Elijah (Pappy) Grant went head to head in a three wheeler race. Although Eddie appeared to have Elijah beaten from a starting line take off, a short wheelie cost Eddie the race.

Vandals not a factor in street repair bids

by Connie Conroy

Vandalism was not an important variable in the reluctance of local contractors to bid on street and sidewalk improvements scheduled for northeast Champaign.

Work on the street and sewer improvements should have begun months ago on the 500 block of North Ash Street, the 400 block of East Grove Street, the 300 block of East Vine Street and the 800 block of North Fifth Street, but the bids received far exceeded the estimate and plans for the project that were prepared by the engineering firm of Bazzell-Phillips & Assoc.

The firm told the City of Champaign it should expect bids in the \$150,000 range, but the only bid the city received was for \$250,000 from the General Paving company of Staley, Illinois. Since the bid was over 70 percent of what the city expected to pay for the work, bids for the project were sought for a second time. This time two different firms made their offers for separate parts of the project, but these bids again totaled more than \$250,000. These bids were also rejected, but not before rumors started circulating that contractors inflated their bids because they were afraid of vandalism if they left their equipment overnight in the North End.

"We've never had any problems in that area," according to Gene Solomon, owner of Cross Construction Company of Urbana. "In fact, we're anxious to have the project," Solomon said. Cross Construction

will be building the sidewalks on streets indicated by the project.

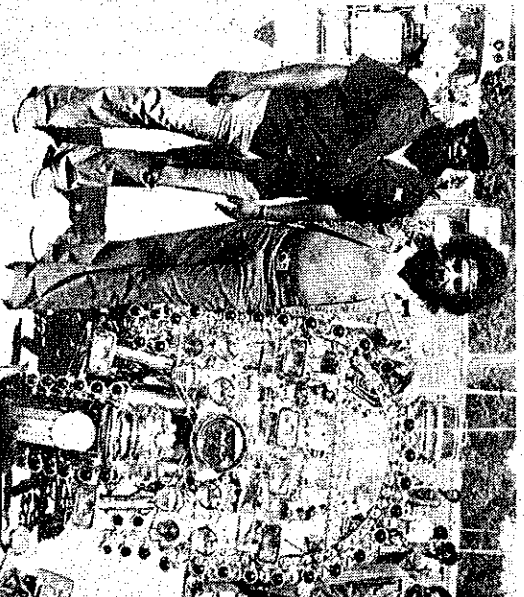
Dave Phillippe of the Brazzell-Phillips firm said there were a number of reasons that might have led to high bids and few bidders. Phillippe said he had talked to various contractors over the phone before the bidding and he said they seemed more concerned about completing lengthy forms because the improvements were financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Phillippe also cited the busy summer season area contractors have had and that the street portion of the project required a concrete, not asphalt, surface.

"I do not think vandalism is a unique thing to the (project) area," Phillippe said. "Any time you work where there are a lot of kids you can have vandalism."

John Ellis, director of Champaign's Community Development program, agreed with Phillippe's appraisal of the situation. "It's a combination of things," Ellis said. "The firms don't want to comply with the federal guidelines required by this project and (contractors) have plenty of work now. They're putting in overtime all over."

Ellis said the city will not be seeking anymore bids, but it will negotiate with the contractors for prices on various parts of the project. Work will have to begin by the end of September, according to Ellis, or else the contractors will have to wait until spring to finish the project.

Champaign Eagles - Riding For The Fun Of It



Showing off the best looking motorcycle, contest judge Eddie Campbell and winner Johnnie Wilson pose for Spectrum photo. Wilson has invested more than \$5,000 in cycle decorations.

The Champaign Eagles Motorcycle Club was formed in 1971 by former club president Eddie Campbell, James and Al Baker, Percy Harvey and S.Q. McCellan. Campbell said the main purpose of the club was to provide another recreational outlet. "We are just pleasure riders who

enjoy riding for the fun of it," Campbell said.

Because of the frequent "Hell's Angels" portrayal of motorcycle groups on television and in movies, motorcycles clubs are often thought to be ruthless gangs by many non-riders. The Champaign Eagles,

presently chaired by Diane Mitchell, certainly does not fit that image. Mitchell said since the expanded motorcycle ridership in recent years, "it would be difficult to stereotype the average motorcycle rider. They represent people from all walks of life," Mitchell said.

Members in the Eagles range in age from the mid-twenties to the late fifties. "They are factory workers, truck drivers, retail clerks, businessmen and construction workers," Mitchell said. "It's a broad representation of many people."

One way in which the Eagles protect themselves from getting the wrong type of member is through their membership application procedure. After completing a questionnaire asking why the applicant wants to be a member of the Eagles and how his or her family feels about it, each applicant must be voted into membership by a majority vote of the entire membership.

Asked why she joined the Eagles Mitchell said, "The club looked interesting to me. I wanted to have some good clean fun, so I applied. It

More EAGLES on page 3

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News Briefs

Legal Plan For Poor Criticized

NEW YORK--(NBNS)--The cost of providing better legal care for poor persons accused of serious crimes should be met by lawyers, the White House's top lawyer has said. White House counsel Robert Lipshutz told lawyers at the American Bar Association's national convention that "overburdened" taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill. The ABA termed the suggestion "impractical" and "misguided."

Black M.D.s Fault National Health Plans

WASHINGTON--(NBNS)--Leaders of a group representing the nation's black doctors said they are caught between President Carter and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) on plans for national health insurance. The Carter plan does not do enough to help the poor and the Kennedy plan does not do enough to help doctors, especially those in private practice, they said.

"What we're saying is that the Kennedy proposals maybe go too far, that they are too monolithic in that they would try to give everybody the same thing and downplay the importance of private practice," said Dr. Arthur Coleman, a trustee of the National Medical Association, which is holding its 83rd annual convention here.

Senate Panel Backs Affirmative Action

WASHINGTON--(NBNS)--The Senate Appropriations Committee has voted to permit the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to enforce affirmative action programs for the hiring and admission of women, blacks and minorities by schools, colleges and other institutions.

By 4 to 3, the committee stripped a House-passed ban on HEW enforcement on any "ratio, quota or other numerical requirement related to race, creed, color, national origin or sex" from the \$54 billion money bill for the Labor and HEW departments.

King Probe Figure Indicted

WASHINGTON--(NBNS)--A federal grand jury has indicted a Georgia man on a charge of contempt of Congress for failing to answer a subpoena of a House subcommittee investigating the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Claude Powell, Jr. of DeKalb County, Ga. was named in the indictment. Powell and his brother Leon were allegedly approached by a man who asked if they would "be interested in making a large sum of money by killing Martin Luther King, Jr."

Private School Tax Credit Would Promote Segregation

WASHINGTON--(NBNS)-A John Hopkins University study has suggested that a Federal tax credit for private school tuition would increase school segregation in the nation's largest cities.

The study cited Washington where 37 percent of all white students were enrolled in private and parochial schools in 1960 and where 47 percent of whites are in such schools now.

Study director Henry Becker said tax credits might intensify the relationship between race and private school enrollment found in the study. The tax credits, he said, might be "more widely used by white families in cities with large or growing black populations, and could inhibit progress on school

desegregation in these cities."

Spokesmen for public schools, including Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph A. Califano, Jr., have warned that providing a tax subsidy for private school tuition would increase the exodus from public schools and hurt very seriously many systems.

Becker noted that this study showed that the large cities where white enrollment in private and parochial schools increased in the 1960s were either southern cities or northern cities with large black populations. These cities included Washington, Atlanta, Miami, Charlotte, Dallas, Fort Worth, Philadelphia, Detroit, Newark and New York.

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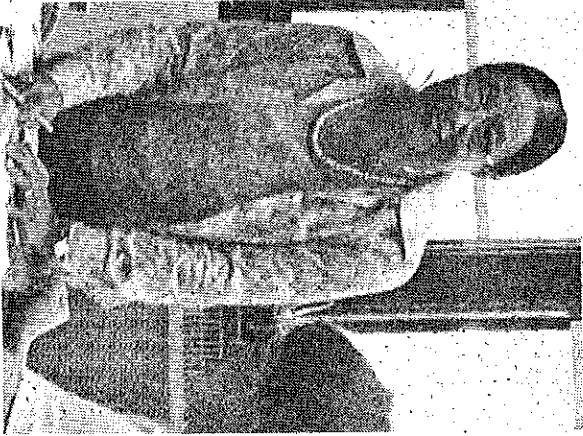


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Doris Wylie Still Active After All These Years



Doris Wylie on the job with Vicki Hensler at the Adult Education Center.



Mrs. Wylie with her late husband, Lorenzo Wylie, Sr. Mr. Wylie died June 2, 1976.

by Connie Conroy

Doris Wylie was born in Campaign 66 years ago and except for an 11-year residence in Chicago Heights, Ill., where she met and married her late husband Lorenzo Wylie, Sr., she has lived, worked, volunteered and raised a family of 10 children in Urbana.

Recently, Mrs. Wylie talked about her life, work and the activities she has participated in since her return to Urbana in 1939—a list of accomplishments that was enough to leave this reporter breathless after a pleasant afternoon of conversation.

"My youngest child was three years old before I started working fulltime," Wylie said, and she continued working for the University of Illinois Office of Non-Academic Personnel for 25 years until her retirement in January 1974. She still works part-time for the office, "but only during peak periods," which has yet to interfere with her job as secretary to Vicki Hensler, co-ordinator of the Urbana School District Adult Education Career Center. Wylie has held the job since December 1977.

A fulltime job can interfere with any parent's involvement with his or her children, but that didn't stop Doris Wylie. In 1962 she earned her lifetime membership in the Illinois State P.T.A. Over the years she held various offices in the organization and served on citizen advisory councils to the Urbana Board of Education and the Urbana Park District. "As an interested parent I became involved," Wylie said. "These things weren't prestigious activities to get your name around—it was a lot of work."

As a working mother, Mrs. Wylie said, "it takes a great deal of sacrifice to stay at home, but unless you're very wealthy to afford this

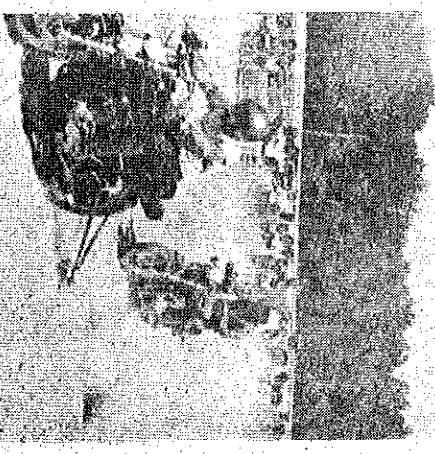
luxury you have to work these things out. I'm not well informed as to the ramifications of ERA, but speaking for myself, I've always had the freedom of choice."

Mrs. Wylie said her father's philosophy has helped her through the years. "He said, 'You are, more or less, in control of your own destiny.' He was a great one for education." She added that although she hadn't had an extensive formal education, her activities with the PTA, the park district, "even a cancer drive—these are all learning experiences. I just grew with them."

Believe it or not, Wylie said she was slowing down a bit, but she has yet to quit playing the organ at the 11 o'clock Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church. She also has a fulltime job just keeping up with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom are scattered from California to New York. Family members still drop by the home she has lived in for the last 140 years on West Church Street—a home that has a story of its own. "When my husband and I moved back to Campaign we bought an old house and we took all of the interior out and rebuilt the whole thing. Dad was quite artistic, a craftsman, but it was a family project that took 12 years." Today, her lovely home is a testament to the hard work that went into the remodeling—wood-paneled walls that accent a spacious kitchen and living room and a brick front porch that houses Mrs. Wylie's assortment of tropical and domestic plants.

When asked how she maintained her energy and interest in so many activities over the years, Doris Wylie replied, "There's so much going on, even at my age I'm still learning. And these days there is no excuse for not being well-informed."

Perhaps Campbell came closes to describing the Eagles when he said, "We are just old men with young ideas." Pardon the chauvinism, Diane.



Eat my dust. Contestants race for the finish line in an Eagle-sponsored event.

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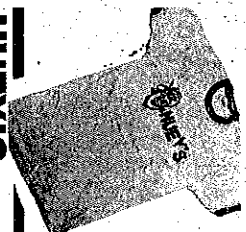
EAGLES from page 1
gets in your blood."

Although there have been several women members of the Eagles, Diane is the only woman who stuck it out. She has been a member since 1974. She is also the first woman president of the club. A mother of four children, Diane sees no conflict with her family and her love for motorcycle riding. Asked if she encountered any resistance from any of the guys, she said, "No, the majority of the fellows think of me as just another member. As a matter of fact, they don't give me any hassel at all," she said. "They are more likely to be protective."

Club member Reggie Taylor said he rode his first cycle at age 16. Now married with three children and in his late thirties, cycling for Taylor, is like going back to a childhood hobby.

Acknowledging that cycling has only recently begun to attract large numbers of riders, Eddie Campbell said, "I can remember when there were only three of four of us riding cycles: Noble Dixon, Andrew Davis, George William and myself." Campbell attributed the increased motorcycle ridership to the new image of motorcycle riders and the high gasoline mileage of cycles.

Ike Williams, who is identified as one of the senior citizens of the club, joined the club in 1973. Now 50 years old, Williams said he did not begin riding until he was 45. Why did he wait so long? "I was able to buy one. I've always wanted a bike." When asked about the reaction of his teenage kids when he rode his new bike home, Williams said, "They asked me what was I doing on a motorcycle." Williams said he raised a few eyebrows, but after awhile everyone adjusted to him and his cycle.



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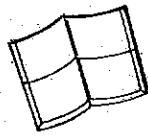


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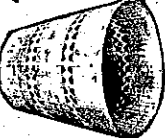
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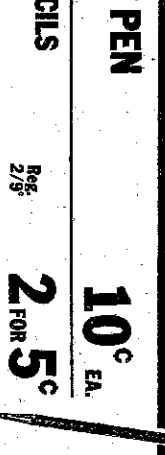
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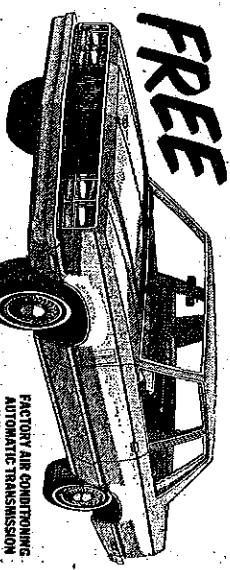


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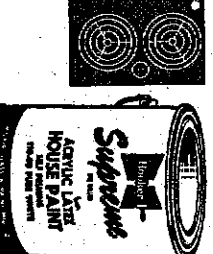


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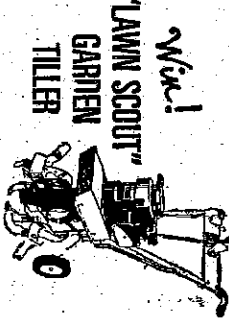


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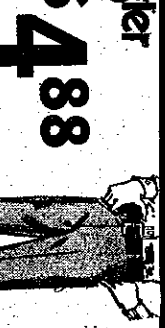
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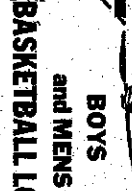
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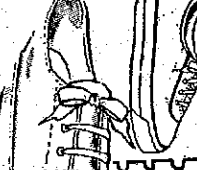
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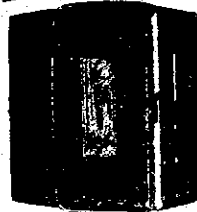
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Johnson leaves void to fill at Douglass

As of September 1 Douglass Center will be looking for a new assistant director to replace John C. (Bud) Johnson, who recently submitted his resignation. Johnson has been active at Douglass since 1968 when he was a voluntary director of the drum and bugle corps. In 1971 he became a member of the paid staff of Douglass as an assistant director.

A recent graduate of the U of T's recreation administration program, Johnson is looking forward to a new challenge. In a recent SPECTRUM interview, Johnson reflected on years at Douglass.

Question: Now that you are leaving Douglass, what are your future plans?

Answer: Well, I've gotten two firm job offers, one in Denver, another in Pennsylvania and a lead on a possibility here in Champaign. My immediate plan is to check all of them out. If none of them should pan out, I'll probably enroll in graduate school.

Q: Will you apply for the director's position in the Champaign Park District that will be vacant in the next few weeks?

A: No, I think they will probably be looking for someone with a Master's Degree. Although I think Nate Dixon is well qualified for the position, I question whether they will hire anyone presently working in the district.

Q: Do you think you will be missed?

A: I think a lot of those folks who participated in our organized sports



BUD JOHNSON

program will miss being able to complain about my officiating. As long as there is someone there showing an interest in them my absence will be less noticeable. That sounds modest enough, doesn't it?

Q: Bud, in your 10 years at the Center have you noticed any changes

in today's youth in comparison to the youth of 10 years ago?

A: Yes, more of them.

Q: What about today's black athlete; are there any noticeable changes?

A: Black athletes have a greater chance for participation in sports

today than they did years ago. Coaches now recognize the importance of black participation in the athletic programs. However, there are not as many exceptional or versatile athletes today as in past years.

Q: What about changes in Douglass Center?

A: The most significant change in Douglass Center is the increased community participation in Center sponsored programs. The Center has moved more to a community concept. Just look around you and check out all these people out here in the park. Every day there are hundreds of them out here. Five years ago you couldn't have them walk down to the corner of Fifth and Grove streets, not to mention Douglass Park.

It's strange how a lot of the older people who regularly come out to the park now, comment on how the Center has changed. The irony of that comment is that the center has not really changed. The difference is more community participation. If we have more news coverage of the Center, I am convinced that we will have even more participation.

Q: Six years ago when Dickie Davis was elected to serve on the park board most of us in the black community considered Dickie our representative. After Dickie resigned to move to California, a white businessman was appointed to fill his seat and was subsequently elected to a four-year term after

servng out Dickie's term. Should we be concerned with finding another black candidate for the next park board election?

A: Yes, there is no one who directly represents the northeast community nor who possesses a total commitment to this area. Although some of the commissioners are aware of the needs of the northeast area there is still a need for a representative who can be looked upon as a direct link to the community.

Q: Any departing reflections?

A: My years at Douglass have been rewarding. It's offered me an opportunity to get to know the community and many of the problems faced by our black youth. I've watched young men and women mature into young adults. Working at the Center has afforded me the opportunity to develop my skills as a recreational professional. When I first started working at Douglass I accepted the position as a part time job, it wasn't very long until I discovered it took more than a full time effort. My attitude was half stepping, a problem so overwhelming, I realized the necessity for greater commitment. A good friend of mine told me I was in a fortunate position because I was dealing with impressionable children and it was a job not everyone could handle. He also said when the time came that I had more problems than my job or satisfaction in doing my job it would be time for me to leave. That time is now.

Religion, home repair are Empty Tomb's trade

by Connie Conroy

"...into the battle fronts of human need as Jesus did, the prayer Jesus prayed will be fulfilled in marvelous and monumental ways."

The above passage is a part of the philosophy of Empty Tomb, Inc., located at 1314 W. University in Urbana. Like many religious organizations, Empty Tomb is involved in food and clothing distribution for area citizens as well as the less fortunate in other countries. Unlike most religious organizations, however, Empty Tomb is in the electrical contracting business and offers free labor on home repairs as part of its religious work.

Sylvia Ronsvalle, who sits on Empty Tomb's equivalent of a board of directors with her husband, John, and John Lee Johnson, said the group was incorporated in 1970 "to provide an opportunity for Christians to act on their convictions." One of the practical ways the organization wanted to reach out into the community was to help homeowners maintain their homes.

"Home repair seemed like an

obvious need," Ronsvalle said. "We started small; we fixed staircases here and there." Once more work requests started coming in, Ronsvalle said they decided to start a carpentry business, the profits of which would be used to fund the repair work. The plan was implemented in 1974. By 1976, workers at Empty Tomb decided to quit the carpentry business. Ronsvalle said the business failed due to the difficult and expensive nature of carpentry remodeling work.

"Now we have an electrical business that funds the carpentry work," Ronsvalle said. She explained their electrical business. Professional Electric, had a lower overhead cost enabling Empty Tomb carpenters to provide free labor for the home repair jobs.

"We wanted to use free labor as best we could. John Lee Johnson was aware of a Community Development Program that would provide grants to repair major code violations." Ronsvalle explained the largest single grant allocation was \$5000, but some homes were in such



Empty Tomb worker loading building blocks. [Morning Courier Photo].

need of repair that the grant would only cover the cost of materials. "John Lee asked us if we would provide free labor in those cases," Ronsvalle said. "We felt good about it if we could do it for the homeowner, but we at least wanted to explain why we were doing this work."

Ronsvalle said they began working

with former community development director James L. Williams and present director John Ellis. They informed Empty Tomb who was eligible for the grants. Empty Tomb workers would then contact the homeowner about free labor offered in the name of Jesus as part of their religious work. Ronsvalle said Rev. More EMPTY TOMB on page 7

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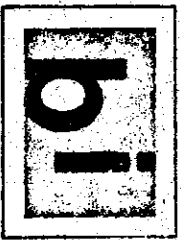
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To Be Equal

Vernon Jordan

The new negativism: a reflection of anger

Throughout our history, Americans have been known for their optimism, their generosity of spirit and their willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good. Those attributes were the ones that struck such foreign observers as de Tocqueville, who saw in America the wave of the future.

But today's America seems gripped by pessimism, selfishness, and a toleration of the sufferings of minorities. This mood is typified by a reactionary counter-revolution against the economic and social advances of the 1960s. I call it the "New Negativism."

The New Negativism says no to effective government, no to full employment, no to affirmative action, and no to efforts to revive our falling cities. It stands against measures to help the poor. It justifies itself through myths about big government, cheating and laziness on the part of poor people, and supposed reverse discrimination that favors minorities.

The real effort to transform our society and make it more equitable has soured into a mood of general nastiness, and the issues championed by the New Negativism reflect this.

The so-called tax revolt, for example, doesn't focus on making the tax system more equitable. Its real intent is to cut down the size of government, while the tax breaks for the affluent are expanded.

Moderate income working people will be hit with a massive rise in social security taxes after next January, but Congress' response to the tax revolt is to cut capital gains taxes, which already get favorable treatment. The beneficiaries would be few—and well-off.

The New Negativism wants to fight inflation by letting unemployment rise, a practice that is questionable economics and of dubious morality. Not only would higher unemployment be ineffective in curbing inflation, but poor people would be placed in a double-bind. Since prices for food and other basic essentials are rising at double the overall inflation rate, poor people would be subjected both to higher inflation and to higher joblessness.

The reverse discrimination issue is the real phony of the lot. With black joblessness well over double white rates, and declining numbers of

blacks getting into schools and universities, where is this reverse discrimination? Affirmative action programs are under massive attack in the wake of the Bakke Case, and the New Negativism wants to eliminate all special efforts to make up for past discrimination.

So there's a streak of racism running through the New Negativism, a streak that can also be found in the refusal to help the cities. Today's conventional wisdom has it that cities can only be saved by inducing the middle class to return from the suburbs.

In other words, save the cities by changing their populations. Since urbanites are disproportionately minorities, the racism becomes clear. Surely cities need a strong middle class, but the way to get it is by providing the jobs, education, housing, health and other opportunities that move poor people out of poverty and into the middle class.

There can be honest differences of opinion about these and other issues, but what marks the New Negativism is its consistency of saying no to anything that might benefit minorities. Although it often claims to be populist or even conservative it is neither. It is reactionary.

Vindictiveness and nastiness are not the basis for a rational approach to national problems. Fear of change and resistance to fulfilling the needs of others is destructive of the threads that bind society.

So the New Negativism is a serious threat, not only to minorities, not only to the poor, but to all of us. It is subversive of America's ideals and her traditional role as a beacon for the oppressed. The New Negativism is a reflection of anger on the part of many people who have the least to be angry about. Poor people, people who face discrimination, people denied the opportunities of our society, are the ones with a case for grievance. But those who own homes, have good jobs and decent salaries, and own businesses are the ones in the forefront of the New Negativism, lashing out against the less fortunate.

Editorial: Bud, not his officiating, will be missed at Douglass

John C. (Bud) Johnson has submitted his resignation from the Douglass Center effective September 1. Bud's departure from the Center will be a loss to the entire community served by Douglass Center.

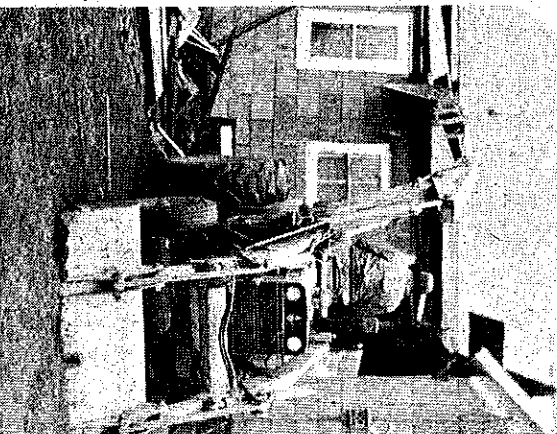
He has been instrumental in rebuilding the Douglass recreational program. Both the softball and basketball league at Douglass have extremely high participation as a result of Bud's determination to develop a viable recreational program.

During his ten-year tenure at Douglass he has demonstrated both strength and compassion. He has

EMPTY TOMB from page 5

W. H. Donaldson of the Salem Baptist Church and Rev. James Dunn of First Menonite Church made themselves available to answer any homeowners questions about the sincerity of Empty Tomb's work.

One of the homes Empty Tomb has repaired over the past few years belongs to Mrs. Boneparte of 312 E. Washington in Champaign. Mrs. Boneparte said she was "overwhelmed by the work" on her house. Ronsvalle explained that the back end of Mrs. Boneparte's house was on a slant and in violation of federal regulations. The entire back end of the house had to be rebuilt, including the foundation. "I had to move out while they sawed my house in half."



Rear section of Mrs. Bonaparte's house being removed.

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Editor/Publisher

Clarence Davidson

Asst. Editor

Connie Conroy

Sports

Bud Johnson

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Dan Vaci,

William Renfro

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been an inspiration for many of the youngsters and older residents attending the Center. The tragedy of Bud's resignation is that it will be almost impossible to replace him with someone possessing similar recreational leadership qualities. Even more tragic is the probability that he will be forced to leave the C-U area to find meaningful employment. Douglass Center will not be the same without Bud's presence. However, for those of us who have been victims of Bud's "blindman style" of officiating, we hope for his sake that he does not look for an officiating job.

Mrs. Boneparte said, "Now I have a completely new kitchen."

Another homeowner, Mr. Douglass Johnson of 606 E. Columbia in Champaign, said of Empty Tomb's work, "It was fantastic. What they did was excellent—they really know what they're doing." With a grant from Community Development and free labor, Mr. Johnson's home received a new roof, new siding and a new kitchen. Commenting on the religious basis of Empty Tomb's work, Mr. Johnson said, "It's a blessing. They're the nicest people and they've got their minds on their business."

Ronsvalle said they limit themselves to helping homeowners and added that many of the persons that Empty Tomb serves are elderly persons or women who live alone. "Also, there are people who have the money to buy a home, but they don't have the skill required to keep it up."

Ronsvalle said they have a very long waiting list besides the homes that are referred through Community Development. Major repair work on a house takes approximately three months to complete "unless there is a small job in a previously work-on house," Ronsvalle said.

The three full-time carpenters who work for Empty Tomb are Mel Fros, Eli Saylor and Ron Brenneman. In some cases, Professional Electric is able to provide free electrical labor. Brad Roos is the coordinator of the business and Ernest Vassar also works full time while Paul Smith works part time.

Johnnie Patterson, 70, Is Buried In Trezevant, Tenn.

Funeral services were held in Trezevant, Tennessee for Mr. Johnnie Patterson of 902 Linview Dr., Urbana, on Wednesday, August 23. Mr. Patterson died Friday, August 18, 1978 in Mercy Hospital. Visitation was held at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Champaign.

Mr. Patterson was born Dec. 24, 1907, at Trezevant, a son of Jund and Delpha Patterson. He married Lizzie Atkisson Dec. 11, 1907, at Trezevant. She survives.

Other survivors include three daughters, Dorothy Hite, Champaign, Betty Jo Patterson, Urbana, and Mary Butler, Huntington, Tenn.; two sons, Johnnie Jr., Tacoma, Wash., and Heyward, Urbana; a brother, Dossie Patterson, Sterling; 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, a son, Howard and a sister, Rosie Clemon.

Mr. Patterson was a member of the Mount Ararat Baptist Church. He moved to Champaign in 1964 from Tennessee.

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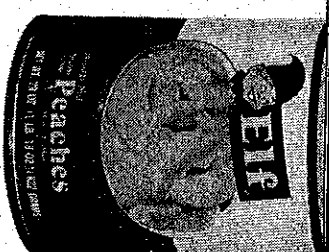


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