Yes... Right Here in Lawrence

BY SUSIE HANNA

The local gas company is an unusual utility. It's privately owned and serves only Lawrence, not-private-owners utilities serve more than one city and are regulated by the Kansas Corporation Commission. The Gas Co. operates under a franchise agreement with the City. Rate increase are granted by the commission with the advice of consulting firms.

As a private corporation, the gas company makes money by selling gas. The more they sell, the greater the profits. Declining consumption due to conservation and mild winters over the past five years, along with rising operational expenses, have cut into company profits.

For instance, the company now is complaining that their profits are not reasonably low. Last year the company made $246,000, $38,000 short of the profit margin specified by Black & Veatch, the rate-setting consultant.

In addition, a company accounting error caused the company to charge too low a price for the gas sold the first eight months of 1977. By the time the error was discovered, $90,000 in revenue was lost.

In August the Gas Co. quietly and illegally increased gas prices, following the discovery of the price error. Though required by the franchise agreement to give 30 days notice for an increase, the company raised their prices on Aug. 22 and then, exactly one month later, informed the city of their actions.

Now, they intend to charge customers for the $90,000 error. Olin Petefish, company attorney, told the Commission that they intend to recover the money either by surcharge or by withholding refunds to gas customers scheduled to be distributed at the end of the year.

Both methods of recovery appear to be illegal. A surcharge would be retrospective, rate making, increasing prices on gas already sold, which is in clear violation of state law. (Kansas Supreme Court 1/17/64, Southwestern Bell Co. vs Kansas Corporation Commission.)

Withholding refunds entitled to customers breaks the franchise agreement.

Petefish told the Commission that it was the company's position that they are entitled to get the $90,000 whether the City liked it or not. He then challenged the Commission to a "friendly suit" in Douglas County District Court.

The Commission then asked the City Attorney for a written opinion, the first step in contesting the company's plans in court.

BY SUSIE HANNA

The Gas Co. is also pushing for a new method of rate making. Petefish, calling on the Commissioners to "rise above" their desire to keep utility profits low, asked the City to allow unexpected cost increases to the company to be passed on immediately to customers.

The Commission took no action, but the Gas Co. intends to pursue further action.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO
UP THE CHIMNEY

by Kate Duffy - Consumer Affairs Association

Last month we gave information about various government programs available for winterizing homes. This article deals with the same problem: how to keep your home warm in freezing cold (Brr!).

This article deals with home warm in freezing cold (Brr!). By Kate Duffy - Consumer Affairs

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WEATHERIZATION CHECKLIST

- Clean filters on furnace.
- Have your furnace system checked by the Gas Co.
- Clean your thermostat.
- Check insulation for settling.
- If you have central heating system, expose ductwork to the cold and keep it wrapped securely with insulation.
- Make sure the attic is properly vented. Venting removes excess moisture.

The most durable caulk you can buy has a butyl, polyvinyl, latex, acrylic or silicone base.

Trouble you can't afford

FROM PAGE ONE

The potential for abuse would also be greater under the new method, why would the Gas Co. hold down costs if they could be passed on to customers? Who would make sure the company didn't make any billing errors? Little or no chance of customers too much for gas? The error that could have happened the Gas Co. discovered by the company, but by Black & Veatch.

The Gas Co. appears to be pushing for a way to guarantee more profits because its future growth is being threatened.

In June, the Federal Power Commission ordered a ban on any increase in the amount of gas transported to companies by the Cities Service Gas Co., the same company that has the right to purchase gas for the Gas Co., a subsidiary of Cities Service.

If that order is upheld next year, it would ban any new gas hookups by the Gas Co.

Similar PUC orders in other cities have virtually halted growth of gas utility companies, and have greatly curtailed the growth of the cities. Many builders would be forced to build all-electric homes or homes with either an increase after the fact. The City Commission would be forced to build all-electric homes or homes with electrically assisted solar units.

For a gas company that's livin' on its feet depends upon growth to increase profits, such an order would be devastating.

The PUC ruling raises the question of who should own the gas? Should it be a public utility, or a privately owned company? Should profits be based on a doubling amount of gas, or resource vital to survival in a society that's still dependent on non-renewable fuels?

The principal owners of the Gas Co., the Public Service Commission, the D. R. Blatt Co., and the Docking family, including former governor Robert Docking, and his brother "Dick" Docking. In Kansas there are 75 municipally-owned gas companies. Nationally, statistics show that because publicly-owned companies must pay taxes and must make no profit, they can sell gas cheaper than the private companies.

Last year alone, the Gas Co. paid about $70,000 in federal, city and county taxes. Added to that $200,000 in profits and that's nearly a million dollars paid by customers to finance growth of gas utility companies, and to pay for gas and should be given a fair chance to increase profits; hardly possible when the City Commission can order an increase after the fact. The company should not be allowed to change prices for a mistake made by the company.

The City Commissioners should pursue the Gas Co. to the limit in court. If the PUC should rip the coat of the Docking family, they're clearly illegal and unfair, they're actions.

The Gas Co. would benefit from this new plan. Although the Commission would still have to approve increases, adjustments would be quicker and easier to obtain since the company would have to persuade only five "customers" - the City Commissioners - instead of all customers who are part-time officials, they would be ill-equipped to study and analyze the Gas Co.'s inevitable barrage of facts and figures supporting a need for higher prices and profits. The Gas Co. would find it much easier to sell their rate increases to the City.

We want to point out that since the Gas Co. where we live, we have the money, the power, the facts and figures, and the people to do just that. We want to make sure every citizen in Kansas is aware of the facts and figures surrounding this issue.

The heat pipe essentially conducts escape dampers to cut back on heat that air is won’t be wasted by the furnace or motorized flue to the outside so that air from the heat, you should have a minimum R-factor of 36 in the ceiling and a minimum R-13 in the side walls and floors. The R-factor just means insulation's resistance to the passage of heat.

There are several types of insulation available. If you use the blanket or batt-type, then you can do the job yourself. Loose-fill is either poured in or blown in and usually done by a contractor. For more information on types of insulation, please contact the downtown Consumer Affairs office. We have booklets to distribute.

After you have selected a contractor to do the work, make sure you get a written contract from him or her for the specific job. Check the contract carefully for work content and warranty. The best way to do this is to make a list of all the things you feel she or he should do in the course of the job. Then check what you know should be included against what's in the contract.

Slight the contract only if you are fully satisfied that it includes everything you want done. Insisting on a detailed contract doesn't mean you don't trust your contractor. But once you have a contract, each of you knows his or her responsibility to do the work, make sure you get a written contract from him or her for the specific job.
That fresh asparagus in your local chain store, if it could talk, might say a lot about hunger in the developing world—where it was probably grown—and why the world’s food shortages are liable to get worse.

Until a few years ago, you could buy asparagus come from central California. Today, it’s more likely comes from Mexico, where its production for export displaces foods formerly grown for Mexican peasants. It’s a product of the expanding Global Farm that produces for the Global Supermarket—at the expense of farmers and consumers in both importing and exporting countries.

The shift from local and regional food production to consumption by the Global Supermarket has had profound, gradual, and, in many cases, hidden effects. The local people with material for making everything from rope to beef, fruits and vegetables, even cut flowers—from domestic farms to the underdeveloped countries where cheap labor, land and water permit maximum profits.

Frances Moore Lappe, author of "Diet for a Small Planet," with her new book, "Food First: The Myth of Scarcity"

But most important, the local farms that can’t compete for the local populations of the underdeveloped world are given way to a system that feeds a relative few at the expense of everyone.

Agrifirms from the developed Northern Hemisphere are driving small farmers in the South out of existence. "Now Open: Global Supermarket" is the most dramatic example of food exporting from the developing world in Mexico, where cheap land and labor is now supplying one-half to two-thirds of the U.S. market for many winter and early spring vegetables.

If recent growth trends continue, "in a relatively short time Mexico will account for almost the entire winter supply," according to a 1974 study by Ray Goldberg of the Harvard Business School.

The shift from cultivation for local consumption to production for the U.S. is largely contracted to multinational corporations. Del Monte, for instance, is one of two growers that supplied 60% of the nation’s beans in 1971.

"The biggest breakthrough against cancer is in the hands of the public, not the scientists," says Dr. John Piggot, Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France.

Old ideas die hard. The cancer establishment has been looking for a virus so long it seemed barely possible that another answer might surface. The nutrition people have been calling about diet for a while, rarely making a splash.

Now comes word from National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention that there is mounting evidence that eating habits are a cause of cancer. "Improper diet," said Dr. Gari Olden of the Dana-Farber Institute, "is related to about 40% of all cancer in men and women." The report noted that Seventh Day Adventists, who do not smoke, and whose diet consists chiefly of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy products, have a cancer rate 50 to 70% less than other Americans.
new season

Spirits coop

The frantic effort of moving and the hub-bub of new surroundings at the co-op is relaxed to a pace of ever increasing business, with new members joining and old members finding more of their food needs at the larger store. And even more can be anticipated as new ideas are brought up at re-orientation discussions, and questionnaires return with members' views on stock- ing policy.

Our bakery is open again, organic produce is arriving weekly, and apple cider is at its peak flavor.

But all those physical changes at the co-op are ever-shadowed by the re-organization of the operation and decision-making, as proposed in the work team outline, scheduled to take effect in December.

CMCU Two Years Later

The month of November represents the second anniversary of the beginning of the Community Mercantile Credit Union. The following year will be marked with informative posters and flyers explaining the role of the credit union in the co-op community and the services it offers to its members.

Over three hundred co-op members have joined the credit union in the first two years. The main attractions have been the insured savings accounts, low-interest loans, and free checking service. As the credit union has grown, the savings interest has increased from 3% to 5% to the present rate of 5%. And the accounts are all insured through FICO, which is like those other banks.

Our difference is that we lend our members' savings out to other members for their needs and to groups like the Food Co-op, Public Notice, Sister Cafe, and local organic farmers. And new services are on the way.

The month will end with a member meeting and dinner at Sister Cafe where we'll exchange pleasantries, toss around a few ideas, and vote for our new officers. Now, when was the last time you voted for the president of your bank? Check us out!

FACING SKIN PROBLEMS WITH VITAMINS

By Dot Roberts

At this season of the year a great many people are bothered by skin problems, due in a large part to the harshness of the many chemicals in city water. Another contributing factor is the change in the weather. Lack of certain food elements cause many skin problems.

Poor skin often indicates a shortage of B-6, called riboflavin. One excellent source of riboflavin is liver: a 3 oz. piece provides three times the suggested daily allowance. Other sources are cheese, milk, poultry, and eggs. Aging skin needs pantothenic acid which is found in meats, egg yolk, meat, alfalfa, whole milk, kidneys, liver, and brain. The richest source of all is royal jelly of the honey bee.

A common skin problem, especially for young people, is oiliness of the skin. This comes with the same result. There are now nutritionists who specially recommend vitamin A or carotene to correct this. Dr. Solomon, who corrected a woman on her nutritional deficiencies. He corrects a whole range because his deficiencies caused by the lack of some important fatty acids, gave a girl miserable with pimples and blackheads found relief in Dr. Solomon's recommendation that she eat more deep gold and dark green vegetables and fruits for their Vitamin A content. This alteration in the girl's diet helped to eliminate the pimple and blackhead problem. Foods in the Vitamin A category include carrots, epinach, turnip greens, lettuce, golden cantaloupe, persimmon, and broccoli. Other sources are eggs, liver, milk, butter, and kidney. Dr. Solomon says he prefers to recommend foods to eat and grow beautiful on rather than "shots," except for the more severe cases of nutritional deficiencies.

For some people with oily skin, B-6 has been recommended. Adding two bananas and a serving of pork each week together with other B-6 rich foods such as lima beans, potatoes, liver, milk, oatmeal, yeast, and wheat germ improves the condition of oiliness of skin. Now that the Pill is in common usage Dr. Paul Grumpy, the discoverer of B-6, believes that women should take at least 25 milligrams of B-6 daily. Pill users may require more folate acid or folates, which is secured by eating bananas, liver, and spinach.

Dr. Solomon has treated problems of the hair and teeth by the same method of recommending certain foods to correct the nutritional deficiencies. Excessive dry skin can really be a problem for some people. Nicotin or B-3 can help to correct the deficiency. Generous amounts of lean beef and mushrooms should be added to the diet to end the nightshade of nicotinic acid. Mushrooms are rich in nicotin and several minerals, according to Dr. Solomon. He is connected with John Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore and he is Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene in Maryland.
Kettle Kletter

The continuing communication源于 the Sister Kettle Café, Lawrence’s sole vegetarian/collective restaurant.

November 15th is scheduled as Sister Kettle’s big benefit dance, with music from Saffron and Doon Howard, and a ‘Havana Nights’ theme with Pandi Feel. Hopefully Off-the-wall Hall will still be in operation, and is tentatively listed as the location.

We are looking for another full-time collective member who is willing to work for $1.25 per hour and lots of supportive love. Welcome to Chris Mecham, our newest worker!

Sister Kettle is maintaining her $1.25 per hour wage, but if business drops as cold weather sets in, we’ll be hard pressed. We appreciate your support and your continued business.

Sister Kettle now barters with customers (and prospective customers too). For example, you can trade an hour of dishwashing for a two dollar meal. Got any ideas how you could help?

Fresh From Sunburst

Many people think that one of the best things about the food co-op these days is the organic produce that is delivered to every Friday by Sunburst Foods, of California. So what’s so special about Sunburst and what is meant by organic food?

Sunburst is made up of farmers, Sunburst Farm Juice, Sunburst Farms Bakery, a wholesale warehouse, and retail outlets. They are the only company providing organic produce to the mid-west on a regular basis.

When we buy from Sunburst we are purchasing the financial basis for 300 men, women, and children living on four rural communities in California. They adhere to a simple lifestyle, giving up many of the recognized “necessities” so that their resources will be more effectively used. Any profits they make go to help the purchase of as much undeveloped land as possible that others might have the opportunity to share this way of life. Sunburst is “totally committed to healing our Mother Earth.”

Their commitment to Mother Earth explains why they require each farmer that supplies them to sign an affidavit stating what is grown and by what means. Often these affidavits state this; “The produce delivered from my farm was grown without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, or chemical weed controls, and any storage on my property was done without the use of chemical fumigants.”

Sunburst’s own Talipes Farms grows vegetables, has broilers, lemons, melons, strawberries, hay and animal feed. They employ composted manure along with the use of chemical fumigants.

Sunburst’s commitment to Mother Earth explains why they employ composted manure along with the use of chemical fumigants. Their fruit orchards are fertilized with fish emulsion and help sprays to supply all the basic nutrients and trace minerals. Sunburst’s aim is to supply us with “unequivocally organic produce, professionally packaged, competitively priced, and dependably delivered.”

Food “Choices” Challenged

As George McGovern, Edward Kennedy, Charles Percy, and Bob Dole. The tone of their study suggested serious warning signs.

In the middle of last winter’s frigid storminess, a group of U.S. Senators released a report called “Dietary Goals for the United States.” The group, known as the Select Committee in Nutrition and Human Needs, included such notables as George McGovern, Edward Kennedy, Charles Percy, and Bob Dole.

The significance of their study was indicated by the theme of their report: “The quality of our health and the health of the population is largely determined by the food we eat.”

The study has been virtually unnoticed. Maybe the winter storms were bigger news. Or maybe we believe “It’s not really that bad.” As a Nation we have come to believe that medicine and medical technology can solve our major health problems. The role of such important factors as diet in cancer and heart disease has long been obscured by the emphasis on the conquest of these diseases through the miracles of modern medicine. Treatment not prevention, has been the order of the day.

“...As a Nation we have come to believe that medicine and medical technology can solve our major health problems. The role of such important factors as diet in cancer and heart disease has long been obscured by the emphasis on the conquest of these diseases through the miracles of modern medicine. Treatment not prevention, has been the order of the day.

The problems can never be solved merely by more and better medical care. The health of the individual and health of the population is determined by a variety of factors. None of these is more important than the food we eat.”

Statements like this one from Dr. Philip Lee of the University of California, and other researchers who gathered through years of research, led to the 80 page report.

The goals suggested the following changes in the United States diet:

1. Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables.
2. Decrease consumption of meat and increase consumption of fish.
3. Decrease consumption of foods high in fat and high in cholesterol.
5. Decrease consumption of butter and foods high in cholesterol.
6. Increase consumption of sugar and foods high in sugar content.
7. Decrease consumption of salt and foods high in salt content.
8. And although food additives as a category may not be considered harmful, the varying degrees of testing and quality of testing and the continuing discoveries of apparent connections between certain additives and disease, make food additives become a legitimate threat to health.

The bayleaf Bakery Rising Again

After four weeks of construction delay, the co-op’s bakery has reopened. Bouncing back with a wide assortment of breads, bagels, cookies, and macaroons, the utility companies’ backlogs and double-time talk seem like things of the past.

The major block that kept the bakery closed for so long after the co-op’s move was with KP’s refusal to provide three-phase electrical service (necessary for the mixer) without an exorbitant service fee. This refusal forced the bakery to consider an equipment switch-over costing $8000. As a last resort, the KP action was taken to the State Corporation Commission, sparking an immediate renegotiation with KP and new electrical service one week later.

The Bayleaf

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There is something so nice about seasonal foods. They mark the progression of seasons and the passing of time in a symbolic way. Certainly separated in the harbinger of spring, red, ripe tomatoes are the sign of summer and apples the essence of autumn. These foods give to the eater a tangible expression of the glory and specialness of that particular time of year.

Apples, originally an Asian food, are available to us all year long, but they are in their best form from September to January. There are numerous varieties of apples, all of them valuable sources of Vitamin C and calcium. --Jonathan are probably the all time favorite maturing variety, tart and crisp, and good for cooking too. --Red and Golden delicious are sweeter and have a softer pulp. --Pippin, which the grocers are tart and small, the essence of autumn. These are available to us all year long. "There has been something about apples yo our members have found that is healthy and satisfying." says Lawrence City Commissioner Jim Charles.

Remember, an apple a day keeps the doctor away and also the dentist; as biting into a hard apple cleans plaque off teeth.

DELICIOUS APPLE CAKE

Beat together:

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup safflower oil
- 1 cup freshly grated lemon peel
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup unbleached flour or whole wheat pastry flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1 cup honey

Fold in:

- 3 Tbsp. chopped pecans or walnuts
- 2 Tbsp. chopped pecans or walnuts
- 2/3 cup diced apples
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Pour into:

- 1) cup diced apples
- 2) muffin tins

Bake until brown. Serve warm.

assumptions: "There will undoubtedly be many people who will say we have not proven our point. However, we have not demonstrated that the dietary modifications we recommended will yield the dividends expected. We would point out to those people that the diet we eat today was not planned or developed for any particular purpose. It is a habit, a pattern of foods and eating patterns related to our lifestyle, the productivity of our farms and the activities of our food industry. The risks associated with eating this diet are demonstrably large. The question to be asked, therefore, is not why should we change our diet but why not? What are the risks associated with eating low-meat, low-fat, less saturated fat, less cholesterol, less sugar, less salt, and more fruits, vegetables, unsaturated fat and cereal products especially whole grain cereals? There are those who can be identified and important benefits can be expected?"

It's discouragingly government-orientated to find a group of legislators to recognize a danger like American over-nutrition, and yet not know how to act. In an era where experts claim over 50% of TV food advertisements are anti-health pitches, this Senate committee proposes government committees and more research groups, thus permitting any real aid or action. They realize the power of advertising in determining food choices, particularly among the poor, but profess nothing more than a "like plea to the industry to "help as they can."
By Rasa Gustaitis  
Pacific News Service  
San Bernardino, Ca.

Last July, someone turned a valve, letting water flow into one solar collector plate, then down into a giant tank buried under a vacant lot in one of this smoggy city's bluest neighborhoods.

By nightfall, 10 restored homes and 15 brand-new greenhouses were warmed up with a unique solar energy system.

By nightfall, 10 restored homes and 15 brand-new greenhouses were warmed up with a unique solar energy system.

A PEOPLE'S SOLAR PROJECT

NEIGHBORHOOD SOLAR HEATING AND FOOD GROWING PAVILION, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

The CDC is now seeking approval to install a similar system for a public housing apartment project. It expects the cost to be at least $10 per week. The city is looking favorably on the new idea. "They're the only ones in town doing anything, other than the city," said Gary Van Delft, San Bernardino's director of community development. "Their earlier project has seemingly had a very positive effect," he said. "Because they had local people working and were known, there was no vandalism and theft. They were able to sell at a more reasonable price. And they've brought some stability into the neighborhood." 

The City of San Bernardino's director of community development, Gary Van Delft, said the CDC's project has had a very positive effect on the neighborhood. "They're the only ones in town doing anything, other than the city," he said. "Because they had local people working and were known, there was no vandalism and theft. They were able to sell at a more reasonable price. And they've brought some stability into the neighborhood."

For his Lincoln Continental, some distance away from the CDC's storefront office in a near-abandoned shopping center, Rekosh waded over to see Pope. He was soon hard at work on the solar project.

Partly because Pope is an avid gardener, they decided to place the solar collectors on top of the old telephone poles, integrated to the roofs of a string of connected greenhouses. The water tank, big enough to last through four calmless days, was to be buried in an empty lot. The lot itself would become a park with gazebo.

The system was designed to work as a closed loop, storing water in the 5,000-gallon tank, ready to be pumped into the homes as needed.

With the homes insulated to maximum efficiency, Rekosh said, owners can expect at least 45% savings on utility bills. The solar system is designed for 45% efficiency, and would probably generate more than needed most of the time in San Bernardino's sunny climate. In the future, the surplus could be adapted for cooling or generation of electricity.

In case not enough sun shines to meet the homes' demand, however, a standard heat pump and heating system goes on automatically. Sophisticated computerized checks and measurements were built in, since the system is in a research model. Therefore, Rekosh says, the total cost of $99,000 is far beyond what future copies would cost.

As for the solar project, he said, "Solar R & D (research and development) is usually done by large firms, corporations. And here's this little bit of grassroots thing. That alone is totally amazing."
Windmills providing energy for home use. This story deals with materials which are moderately priced. The tools needed for constructing the device are of standard variety: hammer, the normal household variety: etc., and can be built without help by most people who consider the opportunity to work for his independence and to personally create functional results.

It is a 4' wide by 8' high unit constructed from easily obtained materials which are moderately priced. The tools needed for constructing the device are of the normal household variety: hammer, measure, saw, screwdriver, etc., and can be built without help by most people who consider themselves of average ability.

This particular wind turbine generator is adapted for generating electricity from the winds, a wind turbine generator mounted on a platform or on one's roof. This wind turbine generator is originally developed in 1925 as a vertical water pump for use in California.

5 mph wind will turn it on. a standard electric generator and three heavy duty batteries will supply the home with a 12 volt system and then some. present, stereo, heaters, lighting. They are easy to build and are available for use with a 12V system. when one considers the cost of rewiring the home to handle the two systems, that of the utility company, and then compute the savings into the cost of operating most of the one's electrical needs, the difference becomes worth the effort. It takes to purchase the new appliances and to construct the generator. Think about having a newly rewired electrical supply for pennies worth of maintenance.

The total cost of the unit using new materials is estimated at $150. Additional expenses are the purchase price of the prefabricated appliances, rewiring the house to take on the 12V system, and then three heavy duty batteries needed for reserves. This wind turbine generator could be installed with a brake in case the wind come in gusts of over a hundred miles an hour. Having this kind of situation, a wind turbine generator mounted on a platform or on one's roof could continue to produce electricity for the life of the materials used. Since it is open on three sides it collects the wind from any angle.

The power companies insist on the customer going downtown to person to make a deposit before electricity is turned on. The customer should insist on being contacted in person before electricity is turned off. I'd be willing to pay an extra deposit to cover the expense of having the police check out my house if I should ever fail to pick up my mail. It would be worth more than $15 to me.

Sincerely,
S.H. McKenzie
Topeka, Kansas
January, 1977

John Chancellor, News Director
HFC News
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020

John Chancellor:
I am appalled that you would report the death of a man whose electricity was turned off with such statements as... no one was to blame... everyone did what was supposed to be done.

In our present day society electricity is a matter of life and death. When a nation becomes as dependent upon a source of power as we are upon electricity, the distribution of that power carries the responsibility of life and death. No one to blame? It was the mentality that sees electricity as a means for profit rather than as a source of sustenance that was to blame.

No Luxury!!

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Poisoned rivers...

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Paul Allen

While Bert Lance's overdraft problems offer proof that even bankers sometimes foul up their checkbooks, two public interest attorneys have set out to prove that Amencan banks are illegally reching bills in the billions of dollars a year from ordinary American's bounced checks.

In a series of class action suits on behalf of overcharged bank customers, attorneys E. Robert Wallach and David Baum have charged that the country's 15 largest banks have overcharged customers more than $1 billion for over-drafts during the past four years.

One of the 15 suits charges that the Bank of America, which controls 35 percent of the California market, took in $80 million in over-draft charges in 1976 alone. The suit seeks $200 million in damages from the Bank of America for four years of the alleged overcharge.

The lawsuits contend:
- The banks' so-called "penalty charges" on over-draw checks exceed by at least 10 to 25 times the actual costs of processing the over-drafts.
- The banks' customer contracts, or "signatory cards," which all bank customers must sign, compel customers to agree in advance to these excessive charges.
- And that banks routinely discriminate against holders of small accounts by assessing them for over-drafts, while letting large-account holders off scot free.

The attorneys allege that the banks charge between $4 and $7.50 for every check returned to the customer for insufficient funds.

Yet according to bank documents acquired through discovery motions, the actual cost to the banks for handling bounced checks is in the range of 30 cents per check.

The customer signatory cards--the "contracts" by which the banks claim the right to impose these charges--violate California law, say the plaintiffs. They cite a section of the California code stipulating that any contract that seeks to set a penalty in advance for a breach of obligation is invalid.

The only fee that can legally be charged, the plaintiffs claim, is the 30 cents it actually costs to process the check through the bank's computer, any additional amount, they say, is an illegal charge.

In addition, the plaintiffs charge that the customers' signatory cards constitute an illegal "adhesion contract."--one imposed by an economically powerful institution on a customer who has no real choice but to sign.

Since all California banks impose fees in the same range, a customer can't take his business elsewhere to get a better deal, according to this view.

An attorney familiar with the case notes that the outcome could have broad national implications for banking institutions.

"Besides the sheer size of the damages sought," said the attorney, "this case could set a precedent for similar class actions in other states. Along with the Bert Lance affair, it could also probe some attention on the way banks do business and bring about some badly needed regulatory reforms."

Attorneys on both sides of the case have refused comment pending the court's decision on whether or not to grant the plaintiffs' class action status.

If attorneys Wallach and Baum win certification, a preliminary argument could begin in December. If the lower class action plaintiffs are expected to reach about 10 million persons, or any California bank customer who has been overcharged for an over-draft in the period covered by the litigation.

Meanwhile, attorneys for the banks are filing defenses, all along the lines of the standard allegations "conclusory, argumentative, impertinent, impertinent, and improperly pleaded."

Legal observers note that such cases often take years to maneuver through the courts.

Ariel Vamp

The is Bank Always the Biggest Building in Town?

The last editorial about Ariel Vamp is being reprinted here:

Funeral services for Ariel Vamp, 85, Rt. 2 will be at 2 p.m., Thursday at First Lutheran Chapel. Pastor Henry Giegina will preside. Burial will follow at Rivièrewale.

Mr. Vamp, though elderly, was President of Future Farmers of Farno, and completely self-sufficient, tending her own cattle, sheep, tomatoes, potatoes, and swine, from which she efficaciously extruded their bowels, skins, even their insides for her own personal use. She carried all her water and that of her stock. Her house was always in perfect order (style, content, and warmth); in addition her extensive book business flourished on three continents, through which millions, all foreign to her, laughed with her.

Also was a highly paid consultant in demand for organizational skills and high-speed photography.

There were seeds of a cult. She visited a high school upon invitation, to speak before a "sleep crazed class. One young psychopath attacked her as she was exhibiting her Switzerland slides, her karate slice slipped and she was nulled. Fourteen pubescent boys and girls never forgot the incident.

She read all the classics, kept up with the best sellers, was a time life member of Mensa, illustr KeyValuePair the CO--in which her books were rare first editions everyone else had overlooked.

Remarks were how tasteful her home had been and all her furniture, a curious mixture of old and high prices at the estate sale, held this morning at 10 a.m. The city's best ware in attendance, all her illustrious and bejeweled couturie.

She was revered as a human being who overcame every obstacle, including childhood blindness, malaria while shooting a cover to National Geographic, and plutonium burns in the Bliconostal War, to accomplish everything she ever set out to do, of a heart attack, November 23rd, 1932.

She left behind a sadder but wiser world; A legacy that is yet not fully understood.

...need a babysitter?

The Office of Student Financial Aid at the University of Kansas is offering a new service to match parents with students who wish to provide temporary child care.

Parents may contact Financial Aid, 26 strong hall (384-4700) during office hours or call the University Information Center (384-3506) evenings and weekends.

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Changes?

7. The idea of psychological adjustment. We are unhappy because we are maladjusted, and mal-adjusted because we are repressed. If our individual repressions are not released, we pass them on to a Freudian psychologist—then we pass them on to our children, and by a slight operation, or merely by taking a daily pill of thyroid, we may alter our whole personality. Again, we may adjust ourselves by some psychophysical discipline as taught by Gurdjieff. The implication of all these methods is the same: the environment itself need not be altered. This explains why most radicals who became converted to psychoanalysis or gnosticism, Gurdjieff gradually abandoned their radicalism.

8. The idea of escape. In Paris, in the South of France, in the South East or perhaps in Mexico, one can escape from all the complex restrictions of our Puritan culture. By escaping himself, the artist will be able to express himself more freely.

Besides workshops, our main focus centers on consumer complaints. We act as a middleperson to solve complaints against landlords, businesses, mechanics etc. If we can’t help in the case, we send the person to small claims court or a lawyer. Our office hours are:

- **Campus:** M-F 9:30-12:30
- **Downtown:** M-F 11:30-4:30

Let us know if you’re interested in setting up a satellite office in your neighborhood.

by Kate Duffy—Consumer Affairs

We are currently building a library and resource center in the downtown office. Subjects range from solar energy to reading programs. To present a class, call us at 843-4608.

by Susan Hanna

Look around you. We are a nation suffering from obesity and malnutrition. How much of this can be attributed to the food we eat? Much of the food sold at super-markets today is so refined that they bear little resemblance to the natural food they are derived from. People eat too much because today’s food has been so denatured that they don’t know when they’ve eaten too much. As food becomes more convenient, the quality and nutritional value decreases, and the chemical content from additives, preservatives and conditioners increases.

If you’re increasingly dismayed by the plastic-wrapped and brightly dyed foods, and mystified and frightened by the list of chemicals on packages and cans, if you pass your cart down aisle after aisle unable to find anything that you’re sure is good for your body; if you are, in fact, afraid to eat, then check out the Community Mercantile, 7th and Maine.

And if your friends and relatives laugh and accuse you of being a health food nut for eating whole grains and organically-grown produce, just tell them the Co-op isn’t a special or exotic food store, but a place where you can buy food in its natural and or­iginal form.

We at **PUBLIC NOTICE** feel its absolutely necessary to gain control over the food we eat. In cooperation with the Food Co-op, we hope to continue to provide our readers with information vital to good eating and good living. In future issues, we’ll try to see you with information on commonly-purchased supermarket foods and the available alternatives.

by Gertrude Shanafelt — Member of the Lawrence Writers Club

My house, oldest on the street... Each room speaks loud and clear of life, down through each passing year. Yet in my golden days, I hear remembered voices, loved and sweet.

Speak loud to me, though skilled, console my aching heart, now full of sorrow.

With courage and with cheer.

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**LETTERS**

**Dear P.H. Folks,**

It’s always a treat to see the Public Notice, keeping track of the undercurrents back in Lawrence. They’re must-see articles. I’d suggest you consider reprinting or excerpting an Evolutionary Quarterly (and Avril) entitled “The Wandervogel.” The article’s in 1922. Germans in the East, attacking madly, losing political hope, for their anarchic ig­nition—provoking peace today. It’s a valuable forum for creative, enriching news and ideas.

Dear P.H. Folks,

Amazing, it seems that each issue of the Public Notice is better than the one before it. Please enter my subscription.

Peace of luck,

Tom Wilson

Yates Center, KS
The residents of East Lawrence thought they had seen the end of the City's plans to build a roadway called the Haskell Loop through their neighborhood. But apparently, some people just aren't willing to drop the idea.

In a conversation concerning the historical survey of the neighborhood, City Manager Buford Watson told Arthur Townsend, who's working on the survey, to look very closely at the houses in the path of the Loop. The City wants to know exactly what is there, he said, because they still plan to build the road.

How the City intends to fund the project is a mystery. The federal funds for the $2.5 million road are now being used to improve north Iowa Street near the growing western industrial area.

Opponents of the Haskell Loop protested for months against the destruction of houses for the roadway which was designed to promote industrial development. In December 1976, the roadway plans were finally halted.

FOR SALE OR BARTER: Bogan Amp, Vivitar 28 mm wide angle lens (new), Sekonic hand meter, Kako strobe unit. Jude & I are raising $$ to winter in Guatemala. We'll sell these items much below Blue Book prices and would barter for some camping gear. 842-0488 or 842-1126 Galen & Jude.

FREE!! Black walnuts free to someone who wants to come & get them. They are dropping now & the squirrels have enough. 843-0042.

6 Westwood Rd.

OBJI FARM'S LOOKING for folks who have extra corn, peaches, pears, green beans, etc. they'd sell or barter. We're trying to fill our freezer for the winter. 842-0488.

FREE!! Matboard scraps 8x10" and smaller to nursery school perhaps or anyone. The Frame Up 843-0498.

J. HOOD

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