



THE LONE SYCAMORE TREE

The lone sycamore tree planted many years ago  
By pioneers, who treasured it when  
Quantrill was a foe,  
Is now a graceful tree whose branches  
reach so high,  
That here and there a button ball oft  
dangles in the sky.  
It's home is on the parking lot where  
its lived from year to year,  
But now construction is so close we  
really have great fear.  
I spoke to the workmen and begged them  
"Save our friend,"  
"The Sycamore" which should have many  
years before its' life should end.  
Alas, the workmen turned deaf ears to  
save our precious tree,  
They chopped it down so that was the end  
of the friend to you and me.

--Fay C. Moys  
Lawrence Writer's Club

LETTERS

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Dear Public Notice:

Disco disease plagues our community, proving again that our town is not immune to such scourge. You might well ask "What is wrong with this?" Well, discos render to art what McDonald's does to our daily bread. Shenanigan's does it all for you, if you catch my drift. Bad enough that our food is processed in such a manner. But, however creative and enriching food can be, it is for sustenance; music, like any art, is for mind, and should not be processed in the manner of the Big Mac.

Folk music, in a broad generic sense, i.e., blues, country, rock, jazz, etc., gives us the aesthetic expression of all that's great and swell about democracy itself. Folk art depends on a healthy relationship between artist and audience for growth. This relationship entails communication of a direct nature--ideally, the audience is critic and incipient artist, the latter quality of folk art.

Disco music is one-dimensional music for a one-dimensional society. Old H. Marcuse couldn't have conjured a more dreadful embodiment. To disco is to dance...and not much of anything else. Now don't get me wrong, dancing is fine and lotsa folks like to do it. Even folk music invites the dance. But what happened to listening, thinking and acting? These are essential to involvement in most folk music, but they are altogether dispensable in the disco. Disco music is simply not to be listened to or thought about--there is nothing in the lyric or the music which encourages such behavior. It's numb and dumb from the word go. So much for the function of the critic, right?

Disco music also denies the role of incipient artist to its audience. Listen to this stuff sometime. Most disco gruel requires access to several highly paid session musicians (lotsa horns and strings), massed choruses and the studio technology requisite to mix such a mess. Where does this leave someone who wishes to "create" in this style? Just plain ol' noplace, Jack! Disco is controlled in production and distribution by a relatively few people. What did I tell you?--Just like McDonald's and Booger King; no Woody Guthrie begatting Bob Dylan begatting Graham Parker. In folk art you can create your own chain of begatting, that's the beauty of it. You too with a modicum of brains, desire, and artistic facility can contribute. Not so with Disco.



Consider the implications if disco should become so pervasive as to gain a veritable popular music hegemony. Why, folk music in the land of the bland would become an endangered species.

Finally, people bring very little of themselves to the experience and receive little in return. I believe that the chief purpose of art, folk or "serious" music is to make us feel more human. If this is so, then disco is the antithesis of art. Furthermore, by denying artist-to-audience communication, which is crucial to the folk art process, disco is the enemy of democracy, too. Remember brothers and sisters--nobody, nowhere can ever "do it all for you" and those who claim they can are the worst kind of serpents.

Steve Wilson



THE SLOTH

WHERE DO WE STAND?

The Natural Resources Defense Council went to court recently to seek a ban on throwaway plastic beverage bottles. "The plastic bottles contaminate beverages with harmful chemicals, degrade into toxic gases when incompletely burned, and constitute a massive waste of oil resources," the group said. FDA records show that bottles add such substances as acrylonitrile (vinyl cyanide) and hydrogen cyanide to beverages. But plastic is treasured in the milk market because the slow "giving up" of the plasticizer into the milk helps preserve lactic liquid for longer shelf life.

In light of these questions about the worth of plastic containers, the Minneapolis (Minn.) City Council voted 9-2 to ban plastic milk bottles in the city from Jan. 1 to June 1 to give the state legislature a chance to decide whether they should be banned permanently in the entire state. This question is yet to reach the attention of most people in Kansas even though it's a matter of public welfare.

KOCH BILL: HR 2998

Representative Edward I. Koch reintroduced the national gay civil rights bill. The bill would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by adding the words "affectional or sexual preference" to each list of human conditions for which people cannot be discriminated against. The bill goes to the subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. It is hoped that this year Rep. Don Edwards of California can be convinced to hold hearings on the bill. So far the bill has gained 27 co-sponsors. None of the Congress people from Kansas have supported the bill. It is important that people write their Congresspeople urging their support of this bill. This is another step toward ending the oppression of a class of Americans some 10 million strong.

--From Gays on the Hill  
Newsletter of the Washington Office, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Comm. Churches.

Dear Cohorts,

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 to help publish an issue of Public Notice. Please give Mercantile Co-op credit for the contribution.

Pictures in the magazine indicate there must be a cartoonist. Maybe sometime you could have a picture of one pair of Siamese Twins 1776, otherwise normal children and beside them a grown pair with enormous bellies joined at the sides, 1976. I tried to get the idea offered in 1976 but my economic slavery did not leave time.

I'm sad because our home-owned greatest midwest media, the K.C. Star has gone to a New York owned syndicate.

Sincerely,  
Clarence Emery

\*Bureaucracy and Plutocracy

**Ed Scheurich**

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