

LETTERS

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Dear Public Notifiers,

Enclosed is a small contribution to the good work you folks are doing for Lawrence. If I wasn't pouring my spare cash into Clamshell, be sure I would have sent you more.

Public Notice is a pleasure to read. It is an ideal way for me to stay in touch with the important happenings around Lawrence, which I still consider my home.

If you like, I will try to put together an article on what happens at the April 30 occupation at Seabrook, for PEP to use in its insert.

The only other thing I can say is GREAT GOING and I'm sorry David Hann lost the election.

Eric Wolfe, former PEP puppeteer, who now organizes to stop SEABROOK, N.H. nuke!

This is a letter that staff member Patti Plamann wrote to the Journal World shortly after the city commission election. Since some of our readers don't and won't read the JW, we are reprinting it.

PN

We are all glad the campaigning is over. However, my disappointment in the outcome cannot be fully expressed. The returns in the precincts said it all. The richer and more affluent precincts voted over-

whelmingly for Rose, Clark and Carter and against the change of government. How telling! Of course, they are happy with the city government as it exists because it favors them. The city didn't try to close their school; didn't try to tear their houses down. And, of course, they want those three candidates because the candidates are themselves affluent and are growth candidates.

The three who were elected for city commission probably had more money behind them (and more silk-screened signs) than the others. The "bigger is better" belief is strong here in Lawrence. Their vision of the city I think is as a business opportunity - but we are a city of real people with real needs. I feel that the men who were elected are not aware of that fact. We speak of de-personalization going on in our society - our vote substantiated that fact. The men who were elected are very nice and conscientious gentlemen - however, I am convinced they look at the city as a map to move around and play with as a monopoly board - to build shopping centers, hotels, and industry on.

The affluent districts don't feel the crunch like the less affluent neighborhoods who are the easiest to maneuver because of lack of cold hard cash and "strings". That is why the change of government and the other two "neighborhood" candidates got the most votes in the

less affluent neighborhoods. They are the people who get hurt the most by non-emphatic commissioners and city managers and they were trying to remedy that.

I believe in democracy. Therefore, if the majority of voters wanted these three men to be on the commission, so be it. But as a "concerned citizen", I will not sit back and let them run the city as they see fit. We need so desperately to have more people involved in city government so a select few can't come in and do as they please. Even if you voted for these men, please stay involved and up on the issues.

Some people scoff at city elections, but our lives are so much more affected by these elections than national elections. These people are making decisions for us that will affect us everyday. These people are determining how and at what rate our city will grow - and in which direction. Let's make sure special interests do not override their concern for what's best for the city of Lawrence.

Patti Plamann
1208 New York

port. We are set up to assist women in crisis and transition. Many of these women have been physically abused and need to get out of their homes immediately. They need emotional, legal, financial and employment assistance - which is what we try to help them with. What we do not have is what is most desperately needed - emergency housing. We can use the services of Headquarters and the Salvation Army for only a few nights, and many times these women need more time than that to feel safe, decide on the next step, and take action on their own. Some of these women have children who have had to deal with all she had to - and more.

We are in the process of obtaining funds to buy or rent a shelter house. This takes time though, and until then we are stuck. If you have a spare room, bed, or even a livable basement, that space is desperately needed. So, if you can give a mother and children or a single woman shelter for even one night, please call or write us. Neither we nor these women can do it alone. We need your help.

Write to Judy Browder
University Community
Services
Twente Annex
Univ. of Kansas

Dear Friends in the Community,

We of Women's Transitional Care Services need your help and sup-

Phone # 864-4141
Ask for Sandy, Beth or Judy

Information Desk

BY JUDY KROEGER
DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- 1--The consumer fills out a formal complaint form, and has it notarized.
- 2--CAA informs the business of the complaint and asks for its side of the story.
- 3--Any disagreements over the facts are carefully investigated.
- 4--If the complaint is considered to be valid, CAA attempts to achieve a voluntary settlement between the business and the consumer.
- 5--If a settlement agreeable to both parties cannot be reached voluntarily, the consumer may be advised to file the complaint in Small Claims Court or to seek legal counsel. In some cases, CAA may send the complaint to the Consumer Protection Division of the State Attorney General's office with a request for assistance.

CAA does not provide legal counsel but we can advise complainants when legal help is needed, and aid them in finding legal assistance.

Although handling complaints is an important part of the work the CAA does, we are very concerned with increasing consumer awareness in order to prevent problems before they occur.

The purpose of this column has and will be to explore ways of preventing consumer problems as well as ways of resolving them.

One way the CAA hopes to combat consumer problems is through public education. Kate Duffy, an East Lawrence resident and VISTA worker, is currently working with the CAA office, setting up workshops. She will be at Penn House, 1035 Pennsylvania, Monday and Thursday 1:30-3:30 and at Ballard Center, 708 Elm, 1:30-4:30 referring consumer complaints and problems. Ideas for workshops are appreciated.



"The Consumer Affairs Assn.?
Is that in Topeka?"

"No, it is here in Lawrence."

"Yeah? What does it do?"

The Consumer Affairs Assn. is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping prevent and resolve consumer-related problems. It is the only organization in Lawrence that provides this kind of help, and although located in the KU Student Union, it serves the entire Lawrence community.

CAA assists consumers with a wide range of problems including landlord-tenant disputes, used car sales, repair practices, fraudulent mail order schemes, door-to-door sales, and deceptive advertising. We can advise consumers of the options for resolving the problems, and can act as a mediator in settling disputes.

Upon receiving an inquiry from a consumer, our office first determines if the problem is one with which CAA can help. We ask the consumer what he has done to remedy the problem himself, and can give suggestions for a direct settlement between the consumer and business. If the consumer is unable to gain satisfaction on his own, we can aid him with the following procedure:

Down Home

Kansas Organic Producers

The Second Annual Meeting of the Kansas Organic Producers, Inc. attracted over 100 members and interested persons to the K-State Union in February. In an address to the assembly, Board of Directors member Jim Lukens of Beloit emphasized goals common to organic producers, which include: healthful food, a pollution free environment, an energy efficient agriculture, and ready market access to consumers of organic products. He challenged the group to "develop new marketing channels that will help insure a quality product for the consumer and a fair price for the producer." Lukens urged the organization and the individual members to press our land-grant universities for more research that would be applicable to their organic farms. In addition, the members should share with each other the results of experiments done on their own farms.

Certification standards drawn up by the Board of Directors after a year of study were adopted unanimously by the members. The standards provide a guarantee to the consumer of organic products that the food is naturally nutritious and as free from chemical residues as possible. The growing methods required for a product to be certified organically grown include abstaining from the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides as well as assuring mineral balance and high humus content in the soil. Committees were formed to implement the new certification standards, and to work in other areas of common interest.

The day long conference featured John Vogelsberg, veteran organic farmer of Home, Ks. who explained the methods that he uses to keep his 680 acres productive. Vogelsberg uses a crop rotation, which includes corn, beans, corn, beans, and then oats or wheat and

alfalfa. He emphasized the aerating and soil loosening effects alfalfa roots have on the soil, as well as the benefits of rotation in the areas of insect and weed control.

Following Vogelsberg, David Weyerts of Manhattan presented a photo-tour of organic farms in several European countries he visited this past summer. Included on the tour was a visit with a farmer-inventor who is designing large-scale, multi-purpose equipment specifically for use on organic farms. The American tour group also attended the conference of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements held in Seengen, Switzerland, where plans were made to facilitate better world-wide co-operation among organic organizations.

