

Open School Stresses Involvement

by Jim Woelfel

Stressing the need for child interest and involvement, the Lawrence Open School began its first session June 5.

The school, which has delayed opening for over a year because of lack of a building, is located at 14th and Monterrey Way.

It will serve children five to eight years old during its first year of operation. The staff plans to expand the program yearly, eventually becoming a full kindergarten to sixth grade elementary school.

The program is based on an open-concept philosophy concerned with how children learn.

This concept emphasizes that a child learns best at his/her own pace, sparked by natural curiosity in a stimulating environment.

The role of the teacher is to provide the environment, listen to the child's expression of interest and respond in a positive, reinforcing manner.

Originally the school was scheduled to open August, 1977, using part of the Jewish Community Center as quarters.

The center membership reversed the board decision to rent the space, leaving the school unable to find alternative locations.

The present site was bought by friends of the school.

The school coordinator is Michael Bryant, who will also teach half-time. Becky Francis will teach full-time.

The full day program runs from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Two half-day programs run from 7:30 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 5:30 pm.

The cost for full day is \$60 to \$120 per month and for half-days \$36 to \$72.

Parents can earn up to \$60 of the \$120 tuition by working in the school doing maintenance, secretarial work, and fundraising. They will receive \$4 per hour for their work.

The fall program will begin August 24. Applications for both sessions are now being accepted. For information contact the school, 841-1669; Molly Van Hee, 841-5278; or Becky Francis, 887-6194.

Teachers Urge Voters

continued from page 2

The issue in the referendum was salary--85 per cent of the new

money was to be used for salaries, and the vast bulk of that for teachers and classified employees, such as cooks, secretaries, and custodians.

Many people probably voted "no" to protest one thing or another. Well, that was a misguided protest.

Those who suffered because of the "no" vote have never been in a position to solve the problems which generated the protests, and they never will be in that position. We truly wonder how many of the people who voted "no" to protest have ever expressed their views to the board.



Kay Gardner

Women Gather For Music Festival

Music of love, of politics, and of the classical variety will draw hundreds of women to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, June 13-18 for the National Women's Music Festival.

Calling for unity and sisterhood, women's music is making itself heard in a six day carnival of concerts, workshops, an evening of "musical experiences of women of color" and a classical/compositional concert.

A local group from Kansas City, Airhart, will be playing along side nationally known (at least to women's music lovers) Casse Culver, and the Belle Starr Band, Kay Gardner, and Woody Simmons.

Gardner, a flutist and composer, will be organizing a women's musician's association/union.

Registration for the festival is \$30 until June 11 and \$40 after that. Weekend passes are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

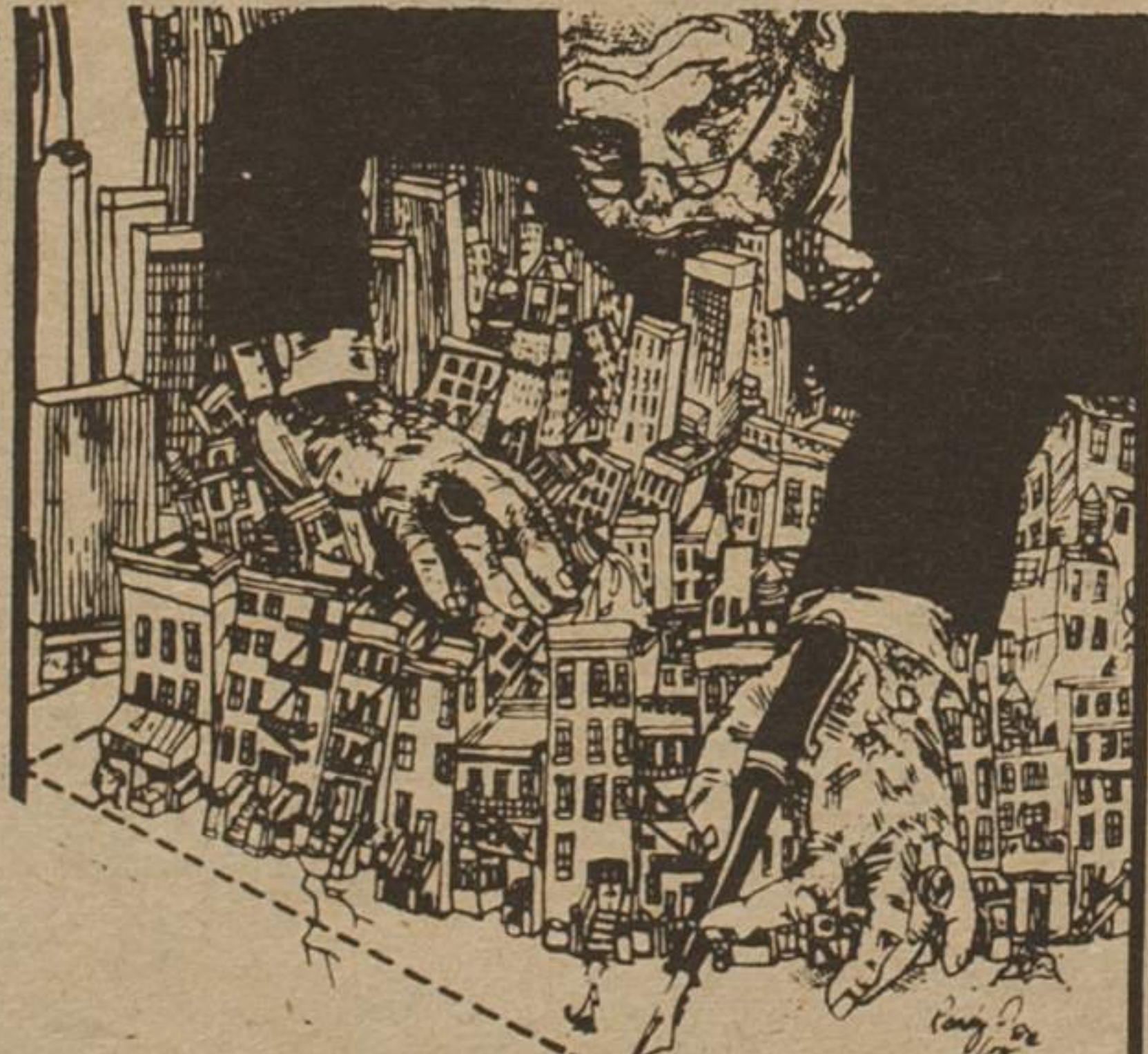
Camping space and University of Illinois dorm rooms are available for living space.

Voters Rush cont. . . .

Continued from p. 1

not publicly discussed in the agreement with the Hill family, the Bowersock heirs. The original deal was billed as a swap of interests, "a deal too good to be true," in which the City gained a possible building site and cleaned up an eyesore, all for the mere sum of \$1.

The \$1 million-plus figure for site acquisition and preparation includes: \$212,000 paid to the Hills for land and two warehouses; \$50,000 for parking space on Rhode Island Street, also owned by the Hills; \$375,000 for dam maintenance (the City will maintain the dam while the Hills retain the rights to the electric power generated by the water it backs up); and \$500,000 for demolition, clearance, and landscaping.



The City Hall is currently estimated to cost \$3 million. This is assuming that no costs increase. At the current rate of rent in the First National Bank, (the City pays \$60,000 yearly, including heating and air conditioning) the City could rent for another 50 years before equaling \$3 million. Utility costs alone for the new building are estimated at \$20,000 yearly.

The traffic congestion, pollution, and noise problems from automobiles and Santa Fe trains, which will pass right through the site, far exceed whatever parking problems the police-fire building plan held for the City.

But, in the end, the City ignored

the negative aspects to the Bowersock location, rejecting the more modest and economical alternative in the police-fire building, to assist investors and developers in their grandiose plans for the northern end of the central business district.

City Hall Rises cont. . .

Continued from p. 1

Whether revenue-sharing funds will be available for the next 7 years to pay for the City Hall is in doubt. Congress must approve the continuation of the federal aid program in 1981. When it was reviewed in 1976, revenue sharing with no strings attached, just barely squeaked through.

Members of Congress are now discussing restrictions on the possible uses of revenue sharing funds. Projects such as City Hall could be cut off.

If this happened, City Manager Buford Watson has stated the City will have to pay off the deficit of about \$1 million with a tax increase of about 1 1/2 mills.

The controversy will continue. The question of voter control over special City projects financed with or without revenue-sharing funds is likely to appear again and again in this and other cities in the country for some time.

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