

# Public Notice Demands Shontz, Gleason Recall!



## Public Notice

FREE

Lawrence, Kansas

MAY 81 Vol. VII, No. 2

See PN DEMANDS,

Page Two

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COMMENT

## LOT 'SAFE' BUT STILL SORRY IDEA

There's no point in thrashing through all the fine, and finely made points in the danger study submitted to City Manager Buford Watson last week by a Kansas City engineering firm. We'll agree that the proposed parking lot at 600 Mass is marginally safe.

In pointing out the potential for fender-benders within the lot and rear-end type collisions at the entranceway, the consultant makes one statement we must dispute. He states there is no engineering change that can be made to prevent these types of accidents from happening at the site.

We say there is one simple alteration that would eliminate all those types of accidents there,

as well as any worry over increased jaywalking and other foot traffic across a major artery: don't build the lot.

Who needs fender-benders? Who needs rear-enders? Who needs a parking lot on that site? When Maupintour cancelled their plan for an office building in the 600 block of Mass, the only perceived need for the lot vanished.

The utility of the parking lot seems to vanish a little each time it's examined. Two parking spaces out of the original 20

were lost when the handicapped parking spaces were relocated.

And the two handicapped spaces are essentially worthless, as no handicapped person with good sense would elect to park there and face having to cross Sixth street.

Now, the consultant says, the two spaces in front of the Journal-World must go. As these two spaces are normally three times as busy as any space within the lot is likely to be, the net gain is about 20 spaces.

And these 20 spaces are not at all needed. The small amount of parking they provide easily can be absorbed by the under-used lot next to City Hall and the nearby on-street parking.

One factor cited by the consultant as mitigating the danger was the relatively light traffic, yet the alleged reason for continuing with the lot was to support a busier lower Mass. The conclusion must be that the better the lot fulfills its designed purpose, the more dangerous it is to use.

(cont. page 6, col. 3)

## FUN & GAME

Join the staff and supporters of PUBLIC NOTICE in a celebration of its exhumation, starting about 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Off the Wall Hall, 737 N.E.

Entirely in keeping with the spirit of PUBLIC NOTICE, the rock (and roll) group, Volunteer, has stepped forward and promised to turn our knees to jelly before midnight.

They will follow a fine folk-with-a-touch-of-bluegrass group, The Flatland String Band.

As a promotional gimmick, we are running in this issue a spot-the-phoney-ad offer. Somewhere in these pages is an advertisement for a service, business or product that does not exist.

Find this ad, rip it out and bring it to Off the Wall Hall, 737 N.E., this Wednesday night, and your first pitcher is only one buck.



On the surface, this appears to be nothing more than a cheap ploy to get you to read all of our ads carefully; but it has a much deeper purpose.

We actually aim to lure you to the Off the Wall Hall to listen and dance to some good music. Any person taking the bait should understand he could end up in Hot Springs having signed contracts and agreements he wouldn't know how to keep.

The winners in the April writing derby will receive their awards Wednesday night at intermission. The \$25 second-place prize goes to Jon Blurb for his composograph on page one. The \$50 Pops Award for community affairs writing goes to the PN staff for their combined effort piecing together The Mess at 600 Mass.

## Fair Price or Fairy Tale?

Because he makes doll houses for a living, Bryan Anderson is accustomed to dealing with small figures. But the figure paid him for his building, which was condemned and razed by the city last year for a new parking lot, was too small for even a master of the miniature to deal with.

Anderson currently is involved in a lawsuit against the city contending that the price of \$102,000 set on his 15,000-square-foot structure by court-appointed appraisers last summer was much below the price for comparable buildings nearby. In a recent interview, Anderson stressed that he was paid only slightly more per square foot for his building than the usual annual rent for downtown buildings.

Dale Kearney, who owns Pier One Imports at 738 Mass, stated that he had recently priced rental space in downtown Lawrence and that the annual rent for older buildings there ranged from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per square foot. At \$6.80 per square foot, the sum paid by the city was less than what Anderson could have made by renting his building for two years at the minimum rate.

Robert Harrison, the president of Gill Real Estate, appraised Anderson's building for the city at \$115,000 before the court-appointed appraisers lowered the value to \$102,000. Harrison said that appraisers often differed by as much as five percent when assessing the worth of buildings such as Anderson's; but his evaluation is 13 percent higher than the city's.

In mid-1980, one local merchant sought to buy the former ice company building one block west of 600 Mass. The owner, Gill

Real Estate, was asking \$150,000 for the 8,000-square-foot structure. At \$18.75 per square foot, Gill was selling its property for 275 percent of what Anderson was paid.

The merchant, who asked not to be named, said the \$150,000 price tag "seemed reasonable," although the ice company building was in much worse shape than Anderson's.

"Anderson would have been able to get at least \$150,000 for his building if he had sold it in 1980," the merchant said. "He got ripped off. There's no doubt about it."

## COURTS KILLING INITIATIVE

### Judge King Junks Petition

by PN Staff

The U.S. Constitution guarantees the people's right to petition their government for redress of grievances. A Kansas law codifies this right on the local level by allowing citizens to circulate petitions to propose municipal ordinances. A recent decision by Judge Ralph M. King Jr. has left many Lawrence residents wondering whether the scope of this law is as thin as the page it is printed on in the statute books.

Judge King's decision is one of several in recent years which have found petitions inadequate under K.S.A. 12-3013, the state initiative statute passed in 1959. Under the law, if a number of qualified electors equal to 25 percent of the number who voted in the last city election submit a petition proposing an ordinance, the City shall either adopt the ordinance within 20 days, or place it on the ballot in timely fashion for the people to decide.

In December 1980, Mark Kaplan submitted a petition to the City containing over 2,400 signatures. The petition proposed an ordinance which would have restrained the City from acquisition, development, redevelopment or demolition projects downtown prior to the adoption of a Comprehensive Downtown Plan. The proposed ordinance also provided safeguards for such projects undertaken subsequent to the adoption of a Comprehensive Downtown Plan. Under the proposed ordinance, any project would have to be consistent with the downtown plan; would have to be supported by a feasibility study taking historic, aesthetic, commercial, environmental, economic and traffic factors into account in determining that benefits exceed costs; there would have to be a finding of "blight," broadly

defined; public notice and public hearings would be required; relocation assistance plans to aid owners and occupants displaced by the project would be required; and a two-thirds vote of the commission would be required to proceed with the project.

According to Kaplan, the "base motivation" of the people circulating the petition was to save the building Bryan Anderson had owned, "if not for him—because the City now owned it—at least for future public use, or demolition as determined prudent through planning." Kaplan, Anderson and others contend that the City condemned Anderson's building without notice and hearing, without planning, without a cost/benefit analysis or feasibility study, without fair compensation for the building itself, nor money to relocate Anderson's toy factory facilities.

Kaplan said that the issues addressed by the petition were broader than Anderson's building, relating to the way decisions are made for all of downtown. "People had a strong reaction against a small group of business people and city officials meeting to discuss how to spend public money to radically alter the character of downtown without the press being allowed in," Kaplan said.

Many circulators of the petition felt that what happened to Anderson could happen to other small business people. They saw the petition as a means of protecting the public interest. Kaplan admitted, "Some of us wanted to demonstrate to the people the total insensitivity of the governing body close to election time," knowing the City would most likely contest the petition.

In early January, the City filed an action in Douglas County District Court seeking a "declaratory judgment."

The City contended that the proposed ordinance was not referendable under the Kansas initiative statute. The City's most weighty argument centered on its characterization of the proposed ordinance as "administrative" rather than "legislative." Legislative ordinances set policy. Administrative ordinances carry out policy which already has been set. The Kansas initiative statute prevents administrative ordinances from being enacted by referendum. The defendants who signed the petition contended that the proposed ordinance was legislative.



The petition signers, "Mark Kaplan, et al." (as they were named in the City's suit), filed a counter-action for "mandamus" to compel the City to ballot the proposed ordinance. According to Jack Klinknett, attorney for Kaplan, et al., the City was under an affirmative duty to ballot the measure. If adopted by the people into law, it would then become a proper subject for review by the courts as to its legislative/administrative nature.

The City argued that mandamus cannot be granted if there are any rights in substantial dispute between the parties. In finding for the City on this issue, Judge King

wrote, "An order of mandamus is discretionary and does not issue as a matter of right . . ." Klinknett responded: "Does the City have a right to stop people from voting? No power was conferred by the legislature (in the initiative statute) to stop it (the election). In their supplemental brief, the City claimed that we had a substantial dispute on construction of the language in 12-3013, that we said the ordinance should be balloted and that they thought it shouldn't, so mandamus can't lie. But mandamus exists to compel someone to perform a legal duty. Why else would mandamus exist? There's always a basic dispute if someone doesn't want to do something they are supposed to do. What the judge seems to be saying is that if you ever need to use it (mandamus), you are in dispute; and according to him, you can't use it. But if everything is peachy keen hunky dory, you can use it. It's like Catch 22. You can have it unless you need it, and then you can't."

Klinknett sought certification of the petitioners as a "class" of eligible voters being denied their right to vote on the proposed ordinance. A "class action" permits a responsible representative to protect the common interests of a class of people. In rejecting certification for class action, Judge King noted that "the class (of petition signers) is not so numerous that joining of all members (as parties to the lawsuit) is impractical." Klinknett commented, "It's hard to picture 2,400 parties to the suit not being impractical. Imagine what it would be like for the secretaries to address 2,400 envelopes and to find space in the courtroom for 2,400 petition signers."

(see JUDGE, p.2, col.4)

## BRAVE STROKE, SIR GALLAHAD

Our congratulations to Dolph Simons, Jr., Chairman of the Board of the Lawrence Daily Journal-World, on his having served on the Pulitzer Prize selection committee for criticism. That's probably as close as the Journal-World is ever going to get to a Pulitzer.

Unless there's a Pulitzer Prize for pettiness. In which case, Junior himself would be one of the front-runners.

Apparently the Journal-World is being crowded in the marketplace by the University Daily Kansan. So Junior used his position as a regular member on the national board of the Associated Press to persuade that company to reclassify the school paper as a commercial publication, thereby tripling its rate.

The UDK couldn't fit the unexpected rate increase into its budget, and the Student Senate wouldn't grant emergency funds, so the Kansan had to drop the wire service.

A nice piece of work, Tarzan; but why stop there? If a special AP rate is unfair competition, then outright cash support from a tax-supported institution certainly must be unfair competition, too.

Why don't you really show your clout and persuade the University to cancel the Kansan's allotment? Then all the kids up on the hill could chip in and buy a mimeograph and put out a neat little paper that wouldn't need no advertising at all.

Oh, and thanks for the tipoff, Junior. From now on we send our copy to the printer by armoured car.

## PN DEMANDS MET

# New Commissioners Recall First Month In Center Ring

Before their election to the Lawrence City Commission on April 7, both Nancy Shontz and Tom Gleason were long-time observers of city government; so PUBLIC NOTICE asked them to recall their first month in office and give us their impressions from the other side of the footlights.

The biggest difference, Shontz said, was "learning not to tune-out certain items. When you're in the commissioner's chair, you have to maintain constant concentration because you know that you are going to be required to make a decision." Having to deal with all the others involved in the decision-making process—including the four other commissioners—was also a big difference, she said.

The biggest and most gratifying difference, according to Gleason, "is knowing that my opinion is going to be heard." Attorney Tom thought he probably felt more comfortable than most freshman commissioners might, because there are many similarities between a commission meeting and a courtroom trial.

Shontz said that the harmony among the commissioners has pleased her the most, because it has allowed the commission to handle complex issues smoothly. The thing that has pleased him the most, says Gleason, is "the coffee pot for the public at the meetings." And, he quickly added, that the commission has been able to make "reasonable decisions."

One of the biggest failings in the current system, according to Gleason, is the too short notice given the public on agenda items. He said he "plans to push for a revision of the agenda schedule. It isn't always necessary," he continued, "for every item to be pushed onto the agenda as soon as it's brought up."

Time and information are the two main concerns of Shontz. "We need more time on some issues," she declared, "so that we can gather more information and make better decisions." She cited a recent decision on a drainage problem where some very pertinent information came in two days too late.

Shontz also sees a need for greater involvement of the city staff and the public in decision-making process. "We need to get more information before the meeting starts," she said, "rather than have everything thrown at us after the gavel."

On a personal note, Shontz admitted her chores as a commissioner were taking up more of her time and privacy than she had expected. However, she thought much of this was due to "the number of complex issues left over from the previous commission."

The demands on Gleason's time, he said, "are about as I had expected, but it is cutting into my privacy a little." Both new commissioners expect things to go smoother and quicker, once they learn the ropes.

Being a commissioner has not changed either's basic opinion of city government; but Shontz said she was "learning more details of its operation."

Both freshman commissioners think things are going great, so far. Being a commissioner is not easy, says Gleason, "but I didn't expect it to be."

Shontz stated that being on the commission was exciting and she was enjoying it: "I think this is a good commission, and I'm looking forward to the next four years."

I sit on various boards, attend four or more meetings a week... and haven't enjoyed so many thrills and spills since I gave up hang gliding. Local politix is prime adrenal exercise.

— Stewart Brand

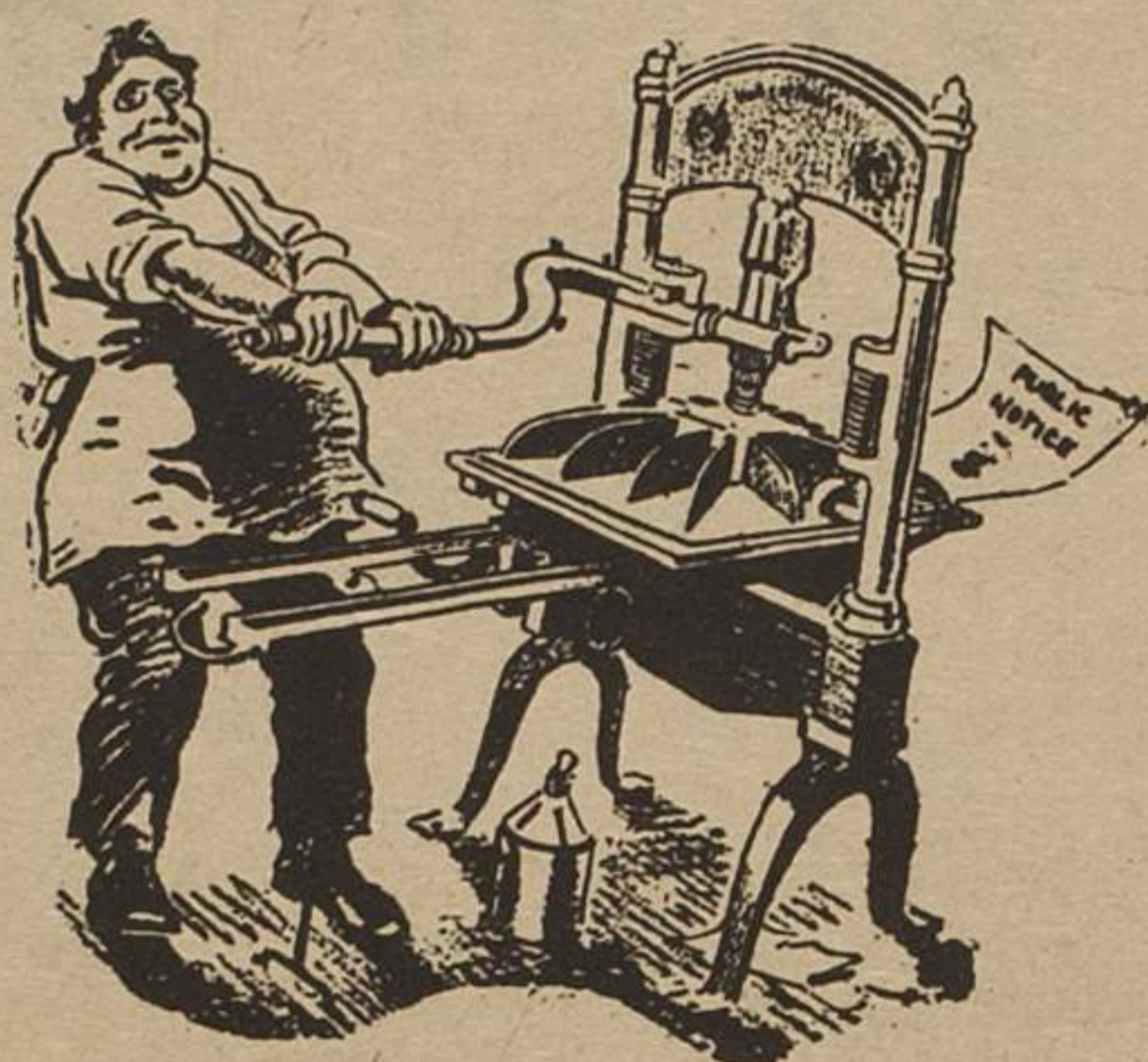
from page one

## Judge Confused

There were a number of other collateral issues in the legal battle between the City and Kaplan, et al. The City claimed that the title was defective and that the proposed ordinance lacked an "ordaining clause." The judge's opinion made cursory note of the title, and did not address the ordaining clause issue. Judge King dealt with the legislative/administrative controversy by characterizing the proposed ordinance as "confusing." The proposed ordinance prohibited acquisitions of property by the City prior to adoption of a comprehensive plan. According to King's opinion, "Purchase of office supplies and a multitude of other items necessary for the day to day operation of the city government are encompassed by this language. They are so clearly administrative that one is tempted to dispose of this entire matter..." Klunknett responded to this part of King's decision, stating, "The petition was not intended to deal with demolishing, altering or renovating a typewriter. It's a shame he got confused by it."

The judge's opinion further states, "As a practical matter, I cannot help but notice that a literal reading would require a finding of 'blight' before the new city hall or any other public building could be remodeled or enlarged in line with changing circumstances as the years go by..." The petition actually requires a "finding and description of blight... according to the definition of K.S.A. 12-771 (a) (1) and (2)." That statute lists "predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, unsafe conditions, diversity of ownership, obsolete platting or land uses, and conditions which create economic obsolescence" as reasons the City can use in making a finding of blight.

Judge King's holding turns on another exception to the Kansas initiative statute which prohibits proposed ordinances "relating to a public improvement to be paid wholly or in part by the levy of special assessments." Judge King states, "Perhaps the most obvious defect in the proposed ordinance is that it is so broad in scope that it... would impose conditions, such as a finding of blight, before the state statute (authorizing special assessments and benefit districts) could be used. It therefore relates to this type of improvement, and any ordinance relating to such improvement falls into the second exception to the referendum statute. IT IS THEREFORE NOT a proper subject for referendum."



## THERE 'LL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY THIS SUNDAY

The Seventh Annual Everybody Day celebration will be held this year on Sunday, May 10 in South Park. This annual event, free for the entire city of Lawrence, is sponsored by Headquarters, Lawrence's 24-hour crisis intervention center. Everybody Day celebrations will include games, contests, craft demonstrations, sports, music, dance, and much more.

The purpose of Everybody Day, as explained by Headquarters director Marcia Epstein, is to give folks an official day on which to feel good about themselves. "As a short-term, crisis counseling center, most of the people we see aren't in much of a position to be celebrating life. This is our chance to do something more on the fun side for the city of Lawrence."

Any person or group with a skill, talent or non-political information to share with the Lawrence community should contact Headquarters at 841-2348. Everybody Day will last from approximately 11 a.m. until dark.



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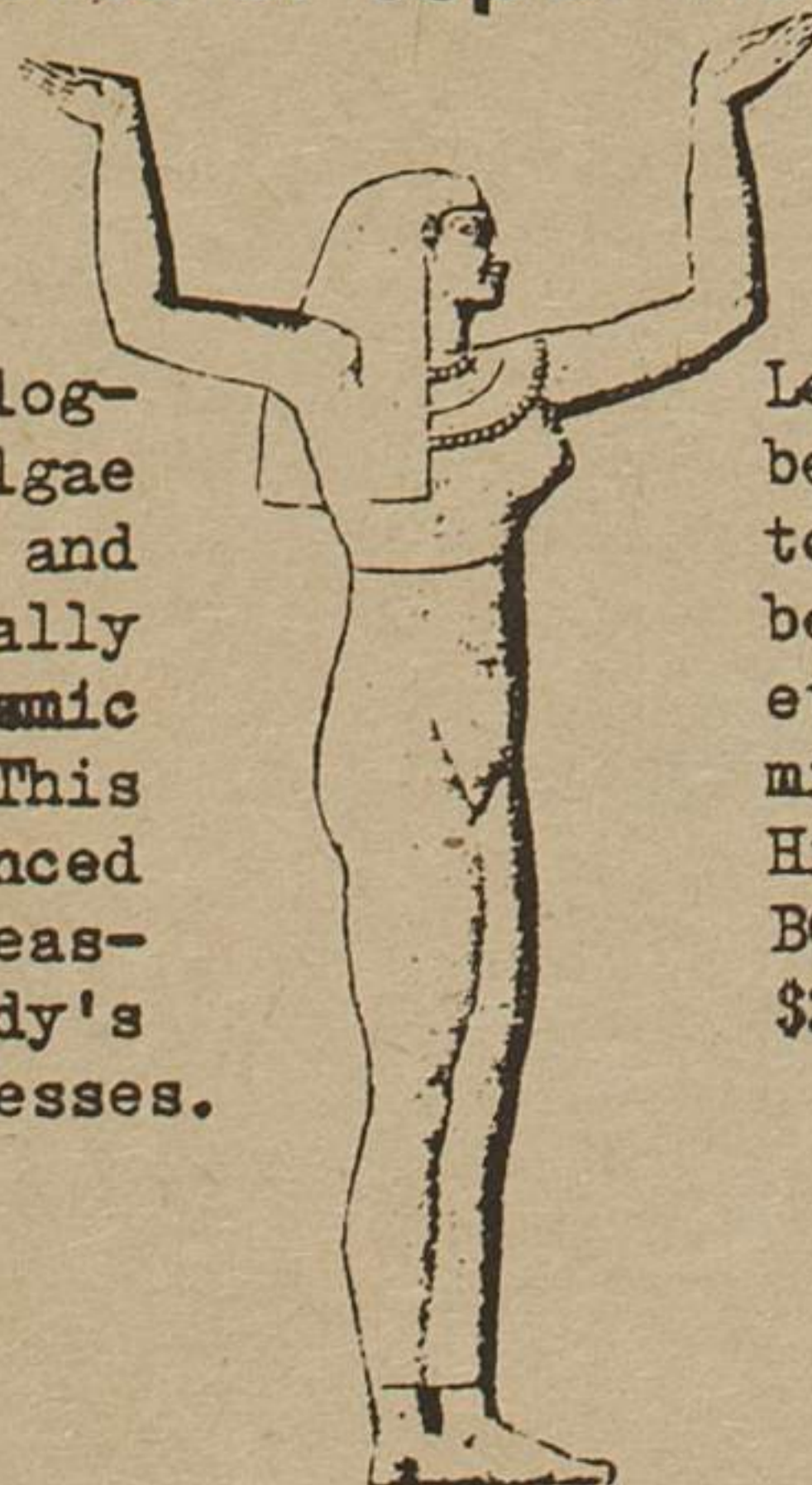


Woodcrafters Guild

Mark Kaplan noted that "at a pre-trial hearing two Thursdays before the election, the judge repeatedly expressed negative political opinions about the ordinance itself and of the whole petition process. The major point of contention was something neither side wrote briefs on. This shows the court's ability to tamper with the intent of the initiative/referendum statute."

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# Look at it the Wright Way



There's the right way and the wrong way, Pappy used to say, the easy way and the hard way, the positive way and the negative. It took me quite a few years to piece it all together, but eventually I came to realize that these three pairs of words are synonyms.

The connection between the first two pairs is easy to make: If you do something the wrong way, you'll have to do it over the right way, and that has to be harder than doing it the right way the first time through. Agreed? Connecting this positive/negative business into the scheme of things is the tricky part.

Back on the eve of the Roaring Twenties, enough citizens became convinced of the need for a total ban on the commercial production and sale of alcoholic beverages that the Volstead Act came into being. The common name for this Constitutional amendment, Prohibition, is enough to tell you that it was essentially a negative approach to what the dry forces perceived to be a national problem.

Because Prohibition had a negative premise as its base, it was doomed to have negative results. Alcohol consumption and alcohol abuse continued to rise, once the bootleggers and moonshiners were able to grasp this wonderful new opportunity handed to them. But now the hooch the public consumed was imported or made without the benefit of government inspection, regulation and taxation.

The Volstead Act not only failed to reduce alcoholism, as its supporters had hoped, it perpetrated several considerable ills. Alcoholics still found a way to poison their systems, but now the systems of people on the periphery of the problem were poisoned by the bathtub booze they drank. Even people who would not think of taking a drink—legal or illegal—found it hard to live lives unaffected by Prohibition; and many of them died in the bloody gang wars, as mobs fought for control of territories.

Today, nearly half a century after the 18th Amendment repealed Prohibition, we are still paying the price for the folly of the Volstead Act. For in its tumultuous wake, Prohibition left us a legacy: a bigger, more sophisticated and unbelievably wealthier underworld.

Bootleggers became businessmen, Mafia dons became demigods; and the millions made in the illegal trade of alcohol formed an economic base from which organized crime has expanded its operations to an incredible scope and diversity. In fact, the tentacles of organized crime have extended so far into our society that our only real hope for its disappearance is that it will eventually be assimilated by the legitimate business community.

With a disaster of such dimensions etched into our communal mind, it would seem that we would be loathe to commit the same mistake all over again; but apparently not. For today, faced with the same type of problem—drug abuse and addiction—we are attempting the same type of negative solution and getting the same type of negative results.

Fear, arrest, trial, punishment, imprisonment: these are the keywords to the approach our society is using in its futile attempt to solve the problem of drug abuse. Even though we might predict what the end result of such negativism will be, this approach would be forgivable if it were helping to solve the problem.

But the sad truth is that drug abuse and drug addiction continue to increase, despite The Law's 60-year war on illegal drugs. There are, in fact, many reasons to suspect that our misdirected approach is contributing to the problem.

Consider that the Drug Enforcement Administration has constantly recommended stricter and broader drug laws whenever such laws were being formulated. Now, if you're working for the DEA, are you going to propose a program that will eradicate drug abuse, and your job along with it? Probably not—unless you're due to retire soon.

To me, there's nothing more flaccid than an editorial that points up a problem but offers no solution. So, first, we must separate drug use from drug abuse in our individual and institutional mind. If we can do that, we can direct our energies and resources toward stopping the proliferation of dangerous drugs, such as heroin, and toward reducing drug addiction at all levels.

Next, we must eliminate or substantially revise our existing drug laws. It should not be a crime for a high-school student to smoke pot, for example; rather, it should be a crime for the school to fail to provide that student with accurate, reliable information on the physiological, psychological and social hazards involved with smoking pot.

The present system of making criminals out of drug users then punishing them for it has three major flaws. First, as touched upon earlier, it is not working. A study reported on by a national news magazine in 1979 estimated that as many as 55 million people in the United States used illegal drugs on a "regular or recurring basis." That's a lot of criminals.

The most common objection to liberalizing our drug laws runs something like this: "If you legalize drugs, we'll have a nation of drug addicts." The implication being that our present program of crime and punishment has somehow limited the availability of drugs. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In regard to a major cocaine bust last year in Miami, a Florida narcotics agent said, "We took 2,000 pounds of pure cocaine off the market in one afternoon, and it didn't raise the street price one nickel."

The truth is that, right now, any one of us with sufficient cash and a bus ticket to Kansas City could score enough of any kind of drug to put us in orbit somewhere beyond Saturn—or out of this existence altogether. But we're not planning any drug-buying trips into KC. We're planning on staying right here in Lawrence where we can worry about our kids' grades, punch time clocks and write editorials.

The second flaw in the laws is that they are too irregular and too susceptible to arbitrary enforcement and prosecution. Possession of an ounce of marijuana in Oregon, for example, is a misdemeanor punishable by a light fine. The same ounce can put a person behind bars for ten years in Texas.

A judge in Illinois recently dismissed a possession charge because he determined the substance involved, cocaine, was neither addictive nor dangerous. About the same time in Lawrence, a family man was sentenced to three years in prison for selling the same substance.

The third major flaw is the outrageous cost of the system. The immediate costs are obvious. Add up the budgets of the DEA and the narcotics bureaus of all other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and you could fund every existing drug rehabilitation program several times over.

## Imagine: A Proem

by Fredric Brown

IMAGINE GHOSTS, GODS AND DEVILS.

Imagine hells and heavens, cities floating in the sky and cities sunken in the sea.

Unicorns and centaurs. Witches, warlocks, jinns and banshees.

Angels and harpies. Charms and incantations. Elementals, familiars, demons.

Easy to imagine, all of those things: mankind has been imagining them for thousands of years.

Imagine spaceships and the future.

Easy to imagine; the future is really coming and there'll be spaceships in it.

Is there then anything that's **hard** to imagine? Of course there is.

Imagine a piece of matter and yourself inside it, yourself aware, thinking and therefore knowing you exist, able to move that piece of matter that you're in, to make it sleep or wake, make love or walk uphill.

Imagine a universe—infinite or not, as you wish to picture it—with a billion, billion, billion suns in it.

Imagine a blob of mud whirling madly around one of those suns.

Imagine yourself standing on that blob of mud, whirling with it, whirling through time and space to an unknown destination.

Imagine!

# THIS IS LEADERSHIP?

We're so glad Barkley Clark was re-elected to the City Commission—he says the most curious things. In the final candidates' forum, broadcast over Channel 6 and KANU-FM, Barkley said his role as a leader in stopping the Haskell Loop was "well documented."

Opposition to the proposed East Lawrence thoroughfare first surfaced on October 14, 1974, in the form of a petition signed by 34 East Lawrence residents, mostly homeowners. The Loop would decimate their neighborhood, the petition said, and they didn't want it.

More than nine months later, Barkley wrote in the Journal-World: "... the Haskell Loop is only one element in an over-all effort by the city to improve East and North Lawrence. The city staff has already spent a great deal of time and overhead expense in working on the Haskell Loop project. There comes a point at which the city staff get demoralized, and city government gets paralyzed, when decisions once made are reversed..."

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

## LETTERS

### TACKY, TACKY

To the editor:

I was shocked by the behavior of Commissioner Tom Gleason at the recent Oread cleanup. I'm usually not one to pass judgment on people's inner character, but it seems to me that by showing up at the cleanup clad in dirty blue jeans and an Oread t-shirt, this man who was recently elected to a two year term gave us a pretty good indication from his outward appearances of what kind of attitude he has about being a city commissioner. I was embarrassed not only for Mr. Gleason, but for the whole city for his apparent lack of respect for the public trust which he holds.

It's not as if the cleanup was just an Oread thing. People were there from other neighborhoods too, watching a Lawrence city commissioner throwing trash and old mattresses into a big truck! It was disgusting. It is tragic that the situation in Lawrence has gotten so far out of hand that this kind of thing could happen. Who will want to do business here anymore?

But this is even more tragic for Mr. Gleason himself. If he does not find his way onto the right path, I fear he could end up as a drug addict, a child molester, or worse. I know he is enough of a politician to realize that his term ends in two years, so maybe we can hope to see Mr. Gleason act with more dignity from now on.

Sincerely,  
Owsley C. Bronfierron  
1144 Louisiana

### ROBERTS RETORTS

To the editor:

I want to express my indignation over the articles that appeared in local publication casting aspersions on my write-in candidacy for city commissioner, and on my very existence!

I would like to assure the voters that my candidacy was just as legitimate as the issues raised by the Journal-World and the three other losers. And I maintain that I am just as substantial as the fears the Building Trades Council, the labor unions and the other losers tried to promote.

My congratulations to the three winners—I'm certain they'll do almost as good a job as I could have.

Martin L. Roberts

Two days later, July 30, 1975, he called the Loop "... an obvious planning tool..."

When the Kansas Department of Transportation allocated \$1 million for the Haskell Loop in September 1975, Clark said he was "delighted" because the money "will insure early completion of the loop project." All this nearly a year after the petition opposing the Loop was presented to the City Commission.

Sparked by a spurious environmental impact statement that glorified the Haskell Loop and castigated its opponents, the controversy continued for another fourteen months. In the meantime, the reunited East Lawrence Improvement Association, the Far East Lawrence Improvement Association, the Douglas County Planning Commission for ECKAN, and the League of Women Voters all issued strong statements in opposition to the Loop.

Finally, on December 17, 1976, Mayor Clark told the City Commission, "In light of the failure of the state highway department to assure a connection at the (east) end of the Loop, and the deviousness that the Loop has caused in the neighborhood associations... it might be better to table the Loop for the time being." Even in presenting the motion to the commission the next week, Clark confessed he still thought "the original plan was a good one."

There's no doubt that Barkley had a hand in putting an end to the death throes of the Haskell Loop; but if he can convince the public that he led the opposition, don't be surprised if he soon begins to tell how he led a ticket of neighborhood candidates to a sweep in the last city election.



If all this seems somewhat like ancient history, consider Clark's comment just before the installation of the new city commissioners regarding the 1980 change in the method of choosing the mayor: "If Marci Francisco is elected mayor, it will prove that the change was not aimed at her."

Now there's a pretty piece of convoluted logic. Everyone, Clark included, knows that the past City Commission decided to choose the mayor in a "real election" among the commissioners for one reason and one reason only: to keep Marci Francisco from serving her rightful term as mayor due her under the old system by virtue of her second-place finish in the 1979 city election.

Denials and disclaimers—past and forthcoming—nonwithstanding, if Nancy Shontz and Tom Gleason had not been elected to the commission on April 7, Clark and his cronies would still be playing a game of mayoral keep-away from Francisco. The election of Marci as mayor on April 13 proved only one thing: that the voters of Lawrence had become disgusted with the high-handed decisions and power politics of the past commission.

We are happy that Barkley was re-elected, because he is a capable commissioner. But we'll be even happier when he can carry out his public trust without making public statements that contradict common knowledge and common sense.



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# Neighborhoods Are People

by Ralph Simmons

A great deal of confusion has arisen over the rhetoric concerning Lawrence's neighborhoods the last few weeks. According to Webster, a neighborhood can be a geographical place, as well as a community/social network. In Lawrence, the city has created six central city neighborhoods (geographical areas) for the purposes of disbursement of federal Community Development funds.

Operating within these neighborhoods are voluntary associations of neighborhood residents. These voluntary associations are primarily service-oriented, but they also serve social functions, and advise the city regarding issues of concern to their residents. Lawrence also has several other distinct geographical neighborhoods which do not receive Community Development money, and which do not have formally organized voluntary associations.

The status of Lawrence's central city neighborhoods surfaced when the Lawrence Journal-World asked the thirteen pre-primary city commission candidates, "Has the city directed too much attention to the central city neighborhoods to the detriment of outlying areas?" The tone of the question made it clear that the newspaper was trying to create a conflict—central city neighborhoods versus the rest of Lawrence. None of the six primary winners bit the bait. All said every part of the city deserves equal attention.

After the primary, something happened to cause the fifth- and sixth-place candidates to change their minds. That something may have been the strong first- and third-place finishes by Nancy Shontz and Tom Gleason, largely based on the strength of their showing in central city precincts. In withdrawing from the city commission race and throwing his support to Bob Schumm, Mike Amyx said, "I feel there are two candidates being supported by the neighborhood groups, that if elected could be a detriment to the city of Lawrence." Schumm said that the campaign could be interpreted as pitting the interests of the neighborhoods against the city as a whole.

Now it was in the open. Subtle innuendo in the Journal-World and on KLWN gave way to overt editorializing. The warnings from the media, Don Binns, the Homebuilders Association, the labor unions and some of the candidates against "special interests" were as ironic as they were unmistakable. The people in power were scared, and they were willing to divide the town by pandering to fears they hoped to foster—if that's what it took to keep control.

For their part, none of the six organized neighborhood associations endorsed any candidate. All six candidates had open public support among the active members of the neighborhood associations, as evidenced by the fact that all six candidates had signs in the yards of members of the East Lawrence Improvement Association, supposedly one of the stronger of the "empires." The situation was the same in other central city neighborhoods.

The issue of neighborhoods in city politics is not a new one in Lawrence. In 1975, Lawrence voters elected three "pro-neighborhood" commissioners: Marnie Argersinger, Don Binns and Carl Mibeck. After Mibeck's term expired, "neighborhood" commissioners Binns and Argersinger voted against using the Hobbs family bequest for a park in East Lawrence, despite the fact that the family had specified that the park was to be in East Lawrence. Argersinger insulted scores of East Lawrence residents who appeared at the commission meeting, calling them a "different breed" from the rest of the city. Meanwhile, the three "business" commissioners voted to build the park in the neighborhood. Enough said about the history of "neighborhood" commissioners.

In 1977, residents of every central city precinct voted to double their own water rates so a new water treatment plant could be built. This plant was constructed to facilitate the developing areas at the west end of town. Ironically, residents of the older neighborhoods, many of whom have owned the same house and paid taxes for decades, found deaf ears at City Hall when they recently complained of rusty water.

Last summer, voters in every central city neighborhood except North Lawrence voted to build a new fire station to serve the southwest part of Lawrence. Despite the fact that North Lawrence has never had a fire station of its own, the measure failed there by only thirteen votes.

What was most distressing about this rhetoric of the neighborhoods versus the city, or creating a "city within a city" is that it flew squarely in the face of the facts. It was an insult to the dignity of the people who by choice or necessity happen to live in the older part of town, and an insult to the intelligence of the people who live in the newer part of town.

We all live in neighborhoods, therefore, we all share similar concerns. We want our streets to be safe and clean, we want our water to be clean and our water pressure to be adequate. We want open green spaces, convenient shopping and adequate police and fire protection.

Parents of children attending New York School want to insure the safety of their children walking to school just as much as the parents of children who walk to Deerfield School. The people in Pinckney, just like the people near Naismith Valley do not want their basements to flood when it rains hard. Nobody wants an obnoxious tavern on their block.

If any part of Lawrence has basic needs which are not being met, it is a blight on the whole community. Central city residents have voted to increase their own taxes to provide services to newer areas which were developed without proper planning, and lacked those services. Nobody in the central city wants special favors or control of the town; they just want a fair shake from their government, the same as everyone else.



## STRETCH FOR IT, SUE

Lawrence City Commissioner Tom Gleason and Sue Davis are two of more than a couple dozen people who participated in the Oread Neighborhood Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 25. The volunteers collected brush piles, construction debris, old mattresses and other miscellaneous junk placed near the alleys by Oread residents and property owners. After the trucks made several runs to the city landfill, Oread's alleys and streets took on a new look.

The volunteer work force was fed a well deserved lunch, including black beans prepared by Paula Whicker with curry rice made by Mayor Marci Francisco. The one thing that the Oread Neighborhood failed to provide for its volunteer workers on that hot Saturday was beer. That is one oversight which will not be duplicated by the East Lawrence Improvement Association. ELIA plans to have beer for the dozen or so volunteers expected to work the East Lawrence Spring Clean-up on the Saturdays of May 9 and 16.

The area of East Lawrence north of 11th St. is slated for the Clean-up on the 9th, the area south of 11th St. on the 16th. May 30 is the scheduled make-up day in case it rains on either of the earlier Saturdays. Neighborhood residents are asked to place their brush or bulky items near the alleys to be picked up on the clean-up day. ELIA will provide coffee and doughnuts to volunteers in the morning before the work begins, and lunch after the work is over.

The Pinckney Neighborhood Association plans their clean-up in June.

Photo by Jolene Babyak. Text by Barry Shalinsky

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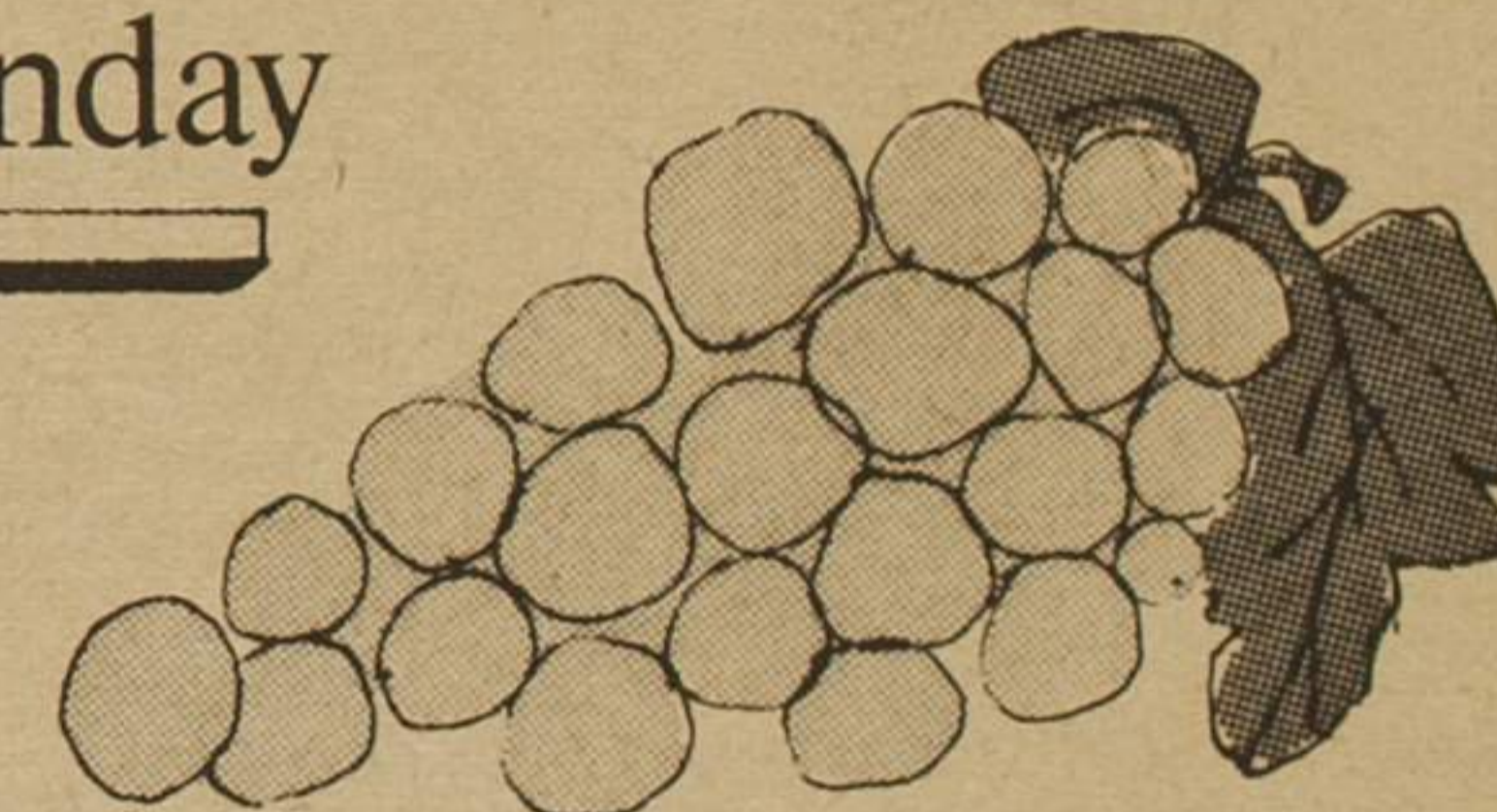
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# City Staff Toys With Bike Transit

by Michael Almon

Within the past couple of weeks, bicyclists may have noticed a newly paved, eight-foot wide bicycle trail along the Vermont St. side of South Park. A safe new bicycle facility? A sign of better things to come? Not quite. This project is not the doing of our new City Commission. Hopefully, however, they can salvage what the previous Commission botched when they gave excessive decision-making authority to a few city staff members. And as staff is all too often inclined to do, they solicited no public input while developing and funding this six-mile Bicycle Demonstration Project.

Historically, our officials have made only token efforts to provide safe bicycle transportation in Lawrence. Because they themselves could not comprehend bicycle safety considerations, they consistently failed to apply professional talent to bicycle planning. Their belatedly heralded "Pedalplan" was developed with little encouragement, and done mostly after hours by Myles Schachter while he was a city planner in 1976. The officially adopted bicycle elements of the neighborhood plans grew from my initiative as planning technician three years ago, and still remain incomplete and in need of refinement.

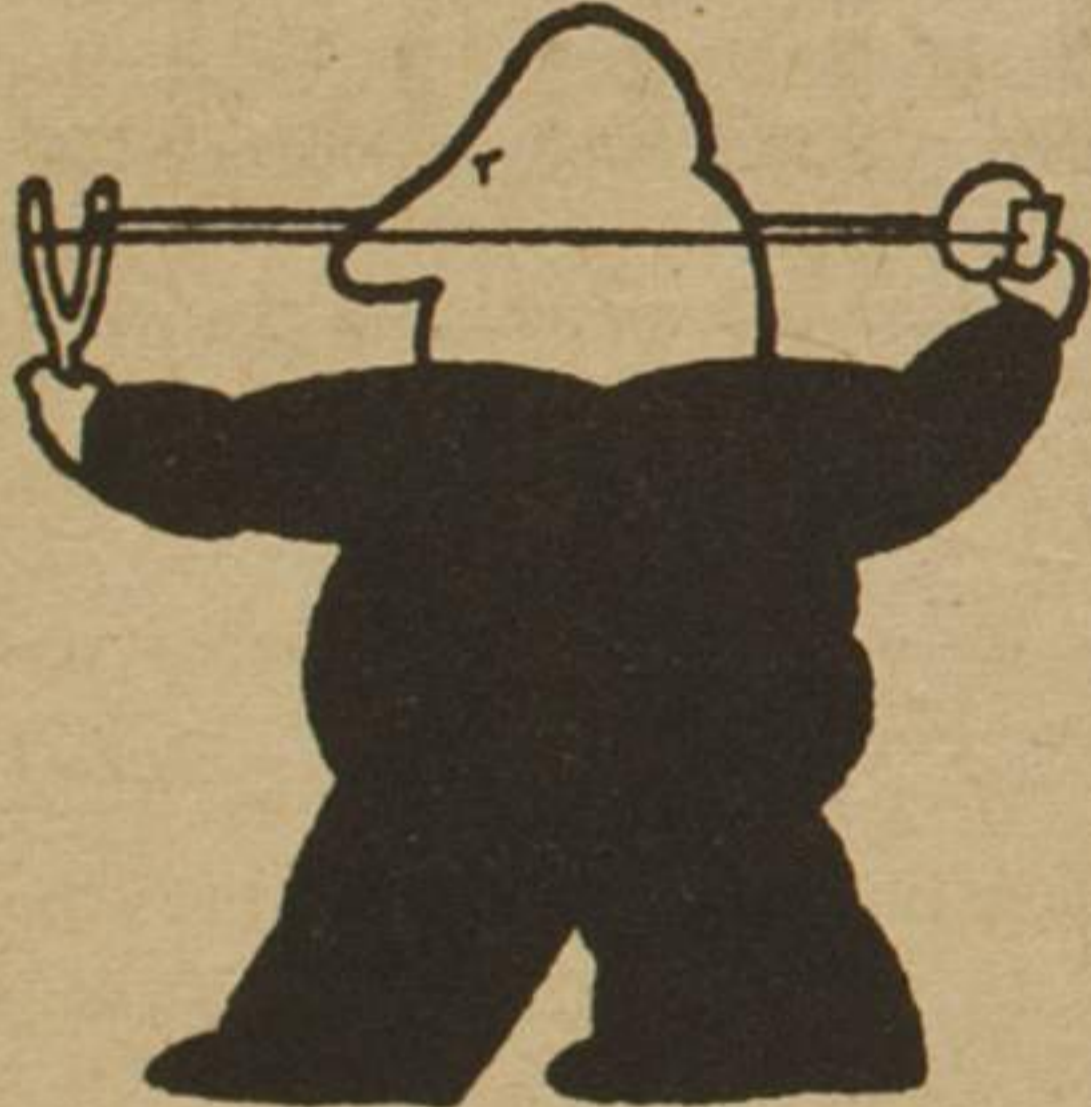
Nevertheless, intent on maintaining a fractured approach to bicycle transit, mid-level bureaucrats without significant bicycling experience were assigned this project. They proceeded to expand upon the already piecemeal bicycle plans by introducing several additional safety problems that were not previously present. Non-signalized crossings at major arterials, bicycle routes on streets intended for heavy auto traffic, and uncontrolled bicycle traffic on one-way streets, for example, would not seem to encourage bicyclists to use this supposed demonstration of quality bicycle facilities.



FREE

The bungling bureaucrats began by ignoring sound advice from many sources. The Management Analyst in charge of the project did not ever refer to the neighborhood plans, and disregarded their own City Planning Office recommendations that scarce Federal funds "be first spent in Pinckney, Oread, and East Lawrence because of need, and since a bikeway system is an element of their adopted neighborhood plans."

In similar fashion, the Oread Neighborhood Association's pending request for Community Development funds to build a bicycle trail, and the Appropriate Technology Center's suggestion that Public Works money be spent under Capital Improvements both went unheeded. The decision was made rather to seek Surface Transportation Assistance Act grant monies, although they failed to simultaneously request Heritage, Conservation, & Recreation matching funds for trail sections through city parks, which would have freed up more S.T.A.A. grant money for non-park portions of the project.



The most astonishing oversight, however, was to effectively exclude the valuable expertise of Commissioner (now, Mayor) Marci Francisco, who is both an avid bicyclist as well as an architectural designer. Also excluded was the Director of Public Works, even though most of the project will be over city streets and paid for with Department of Transportation money, while included in the process was the Director of Parks & Recreation, even though no Parks & Recreation money nor Heritage, Conservation & Recreation money was being spent. The explanation is that, until the recent election, the City insisted on viewing the bicycle as a toy for recreation rather than a legitimate means of transportation, and gauged its decisions accordingly.

Not surprisingly, the resulting decisions proved pathetic. The Demonstration Bicycle Project, as funded, forms a sideways "U" shape, starting along Princeton

Rd. in northwest Lawrence, looping through downtown, past the High School, and connecting with the Clinton Parkway bicycle trail. Northwest and southwest Lawrence show infrequent ridership—mostly recreational—whereas daily bicyclists who need to commute through the chaos of central city were given less-than-adequate



## Neighborhoods Gain Pride Through Organizations

by Barry Shalinsky

Nearly everyone in Lawrence is aware of the fact that there are neighborhood associations in the central part of Lawrence, but a lot of people are unaware of why they exist and what they do.

Historically, the neighborhood associations were created as a necessary element for the city to receive Community Development Block Grant funds designed to serve low- and moderate-income people. The Community Development Act passed by Congress mandates community input into the spending of these funds. Six neighborhood associations were created: East Lawrence Improvement Association (ELIA), Far East Lawrence Improvement Association (FELIA), North Lawrence Improvement Association (NLIA), Old West Lawrence Association (OWLA), Oread Neighborhood Association (ONA) and Pinckney Neighborhood Association (PNA). All are duly recognized by the city.

Much of the publicity received by the neighborhood associations has been for their actions in fighting negative change within their neighborhoods. ELIA opposed construction of a highway through East Lawrence known as the Haskell Loop. The Loop would have destroyed and isolated housing, increased traffic and noise, and cut maybe two minutes off a trip from 23rd and Haskell to 7th and New Hampshire. PNA and OWLA opposed location of the city garage at 2nd and Indiana because it would have put a flow of truck traffic onto residential streets. More recently, PNA opposed development of the "bluffs" at 6th and Iowa which would increase runoff water from heavy rains to an area where there is already flooding. ONA has opposed zoning laws which encourage demolition of beautiful Victorian homes to make way for box-type apartment units.



Because of these actions to protect their neighborhoods, the neighborhood associations have acquired an unfair stigma as "agitters." Actually, most of what the neighborhood associations do is of an entirely different nature, but it isn't the type of news that makes the front page of the local daily.

An important function of neighborhood associations is to instill pride in people for their neighborhoods. A few short years ago, the area east of K. U. was commonly known as the "student ghetto." Once people began to take pride in living in the "Oread Neighborhood," they started to rehab their houses, meet their neighbors, clean up their alleys, and the crime rate has dropped drastically. ONA has a tool bank, a monthly newsletter, and a community mini-park developed completely with volunteer labor.

FELIA is active in providing landscaping, play equipment and sidewalks for their neighborhood. PNA sponsors alley cleanups and actively works with the city staff in land use decisions. NLIA provides both service and social functions.

OWLA is sponsoring a series of seminars entitled "This Old House . . ." A recent session about roofing was so successful that OWLA plans future seminars on topics such as foundations, plumbing and wiring, exterior repairs and maintenance, and restoration of architectural details.

bicycle facilities. For example, bicycle trails and bicycle lanes as approved in the Pinckney Plan were arbitrarily (and illegally without public hearing) downgraded to simple routes on the streets, where bicyclists must vie with auto traffic. Several months ago, the City graciously rebuilt West 2nd Street to handle increased traffic for the new Holidome, but failed to use this logical time to build the called-for bicycle trail there.

And of the four planned options for bicycle routes south of downtown, they chose the absolute worst—Vermont Street. Between 14th and 15th streets on Vermont, the recently built Hanover Place Apartments form an effective barrier, eliminating any hope for a bicycle easement through this block, and forcing bicyclists to use heavily travelled Massachusetts or Kentucky streets to get around it. Here too, designated bicycle lanes were eliminated, making the situation awkward, dangerous and practically useless. Far superior choices would have been New Hampshire St., with its already agreed-upon easement through the Central Jr. High property, New York St., or the Oread-requested alley between Kentucky and Tennessee streets.

And then there's East Lawrence, the best neighborhood in the city. (Remember what I wrote about neighborhood pride. I hope other people feel the same way about where they live.) ELIA sends a monthly newsletter to every house in East Lawrence, sponsors two annual neighborhood cleanups and a neighborhood annual picnic. ELIA was active in helping neighbors on east 13th St. in their effort to get new water lines. ELIA recently coordinated 25 volunteers from a K. U. fraternity, directing them to senior citizens in need of someone to do painting, minor repairs and yard work. ELIA sponsored a chicken dinner to raise over \$500 for community service work. ELIA is cooperating with ONA on a paint-up program. ELIA works closely with New York School, Penn House and the Appropriate Technology Center.



Unfortunately, one never hears much about the day-to-day services the neighborhood associations provide; nor will one read in the local press about the rich diversity between the neighborhoods and the creative ways in which the different neighborhood associations try to serve the particular needs of their communities. For all the talk about the older neighborhoods trying to divide Lawrence from itself, the truth is simple. The neighborhood associations are impacting people at the level of their lives. If we can't see to it that the senior citizen down the block gets her grass cut in the summer, what right do we have to try to do anything on a larger scale? That's what a feeling of neighborhood is all about.

Many other arbitrary changes were made to adopted plans, pointing out both the city's ignorance and their indifference to public process. The entire project was thrown together in a matter of weeks, allowing no opportunity for citizen input. And Commissioner Francisco herself was shown the grant proposal only one day before it was submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

If you are one of the 8,000 bicyclists in Lawrence (or even if you are not), you probably feel affronted by city bureaucrats who try to circumvent public input so as to reduce their own work load. Their claim, of course, is that too much citizen participation is slow and inefficient. Quite the contrary. What is inefficient are hastily made decisions by an uninformed few, usually resulting in wasteful expenditures of money for poor solutions.

For Lawrence to be dynamic and creative, city staff will need to be supportive of, rather than obstructive towards, the public viewpoint. Although the new Commission is fostering an atmosphere of open, deliberate decision making, this process could be severely hindered if staff continues to supply the Commission with narrowly conceived information. Lawrence now faces some major decisions that will have repercussions for years to come, so it is essential that we have as much public participation as possible. Our changes will affect many, so many should effect change.

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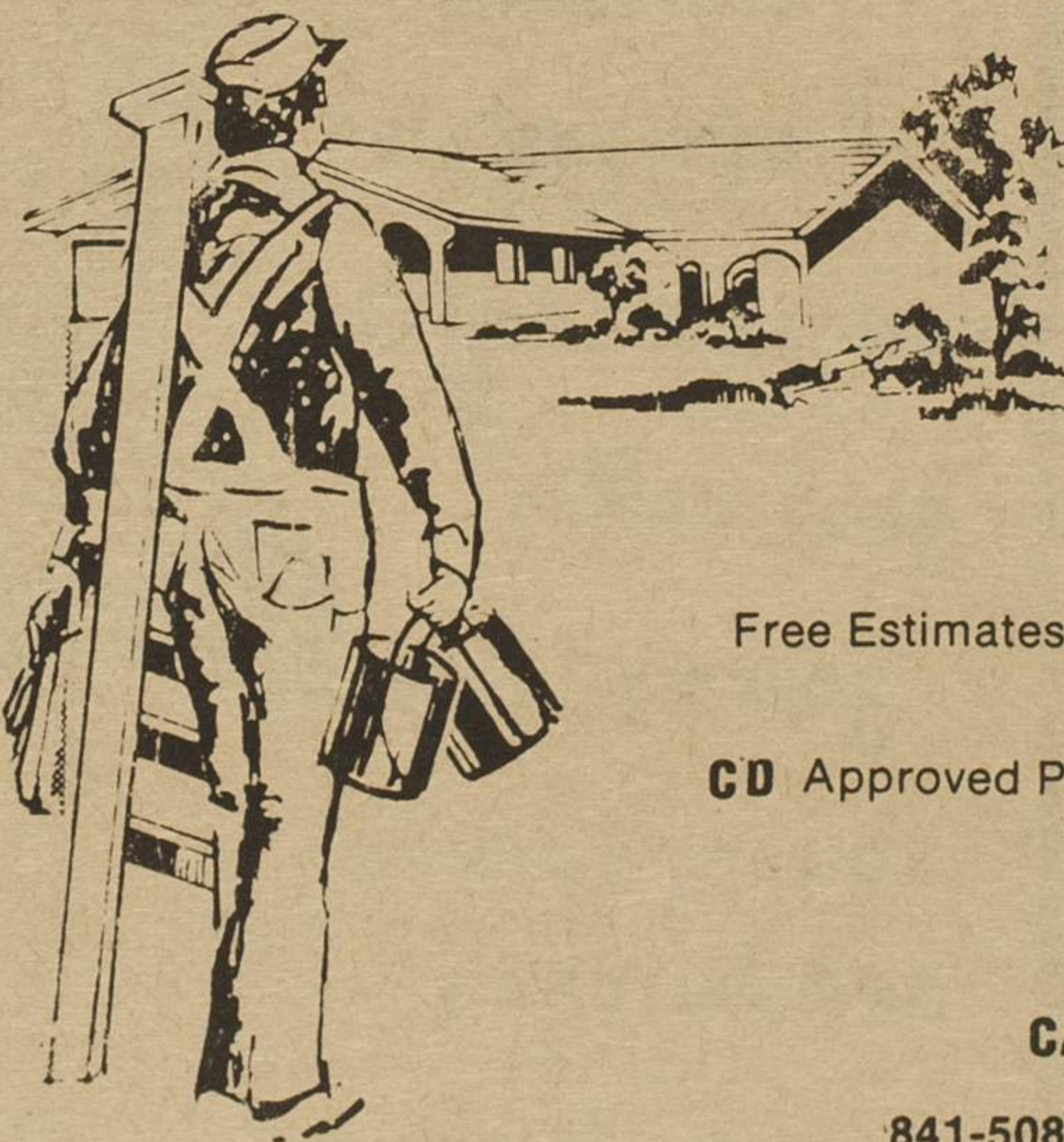
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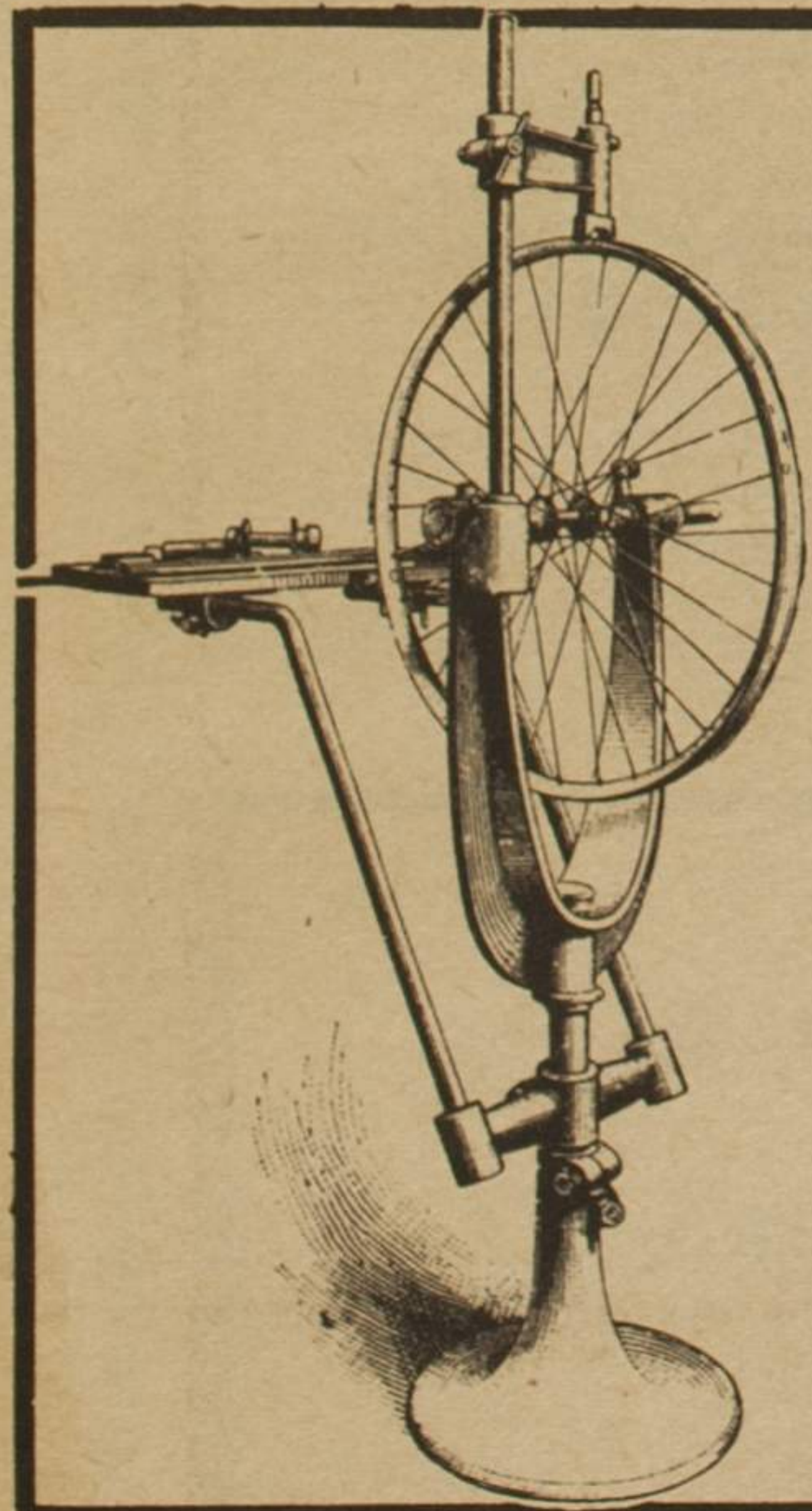
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# Tour of the Lakes Century Ride

by Carl Gridley, ed.  
Mid-American Cyclist

In less than a month the Mt. Oread Bicycle Club's Tour of the Lakes Century rolls out onto the asphalt of Douglas County. On May 17, riders from Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City and Lawrence will meet at Broken Arrow Park to tackle this year's one hundred mile course. The route will take the cyclists to the three major lakes in the area—Clinton Reservoir, Lone Star and Douglas County State—through some fine Eastern Kansas scenery in between.

The Tour of the Lakes, though 20 miles longer, is considered to be the little sister of the Octoginta, an 80-mile ride held each fall since 1969. It's the largest organized cycling event in the state of Kansas—attracting well over 300 riders last year.

The Tour of the Lakes offers fewer leg-killer hills than its older sister, though, and the club expects a less massive turnout. Bruce Epperson, TOL Tour Director says, "We'll have about the same number of club volunteers working on this project as the Octoginta, but we expect less than a third of the riders, so we should be able to take care of everyone pretty well. There will be five stops along the way where riders can get cool water and fruit, as well as roving sag wagons to patrol the route for mishaps or mechanical breakdowns."

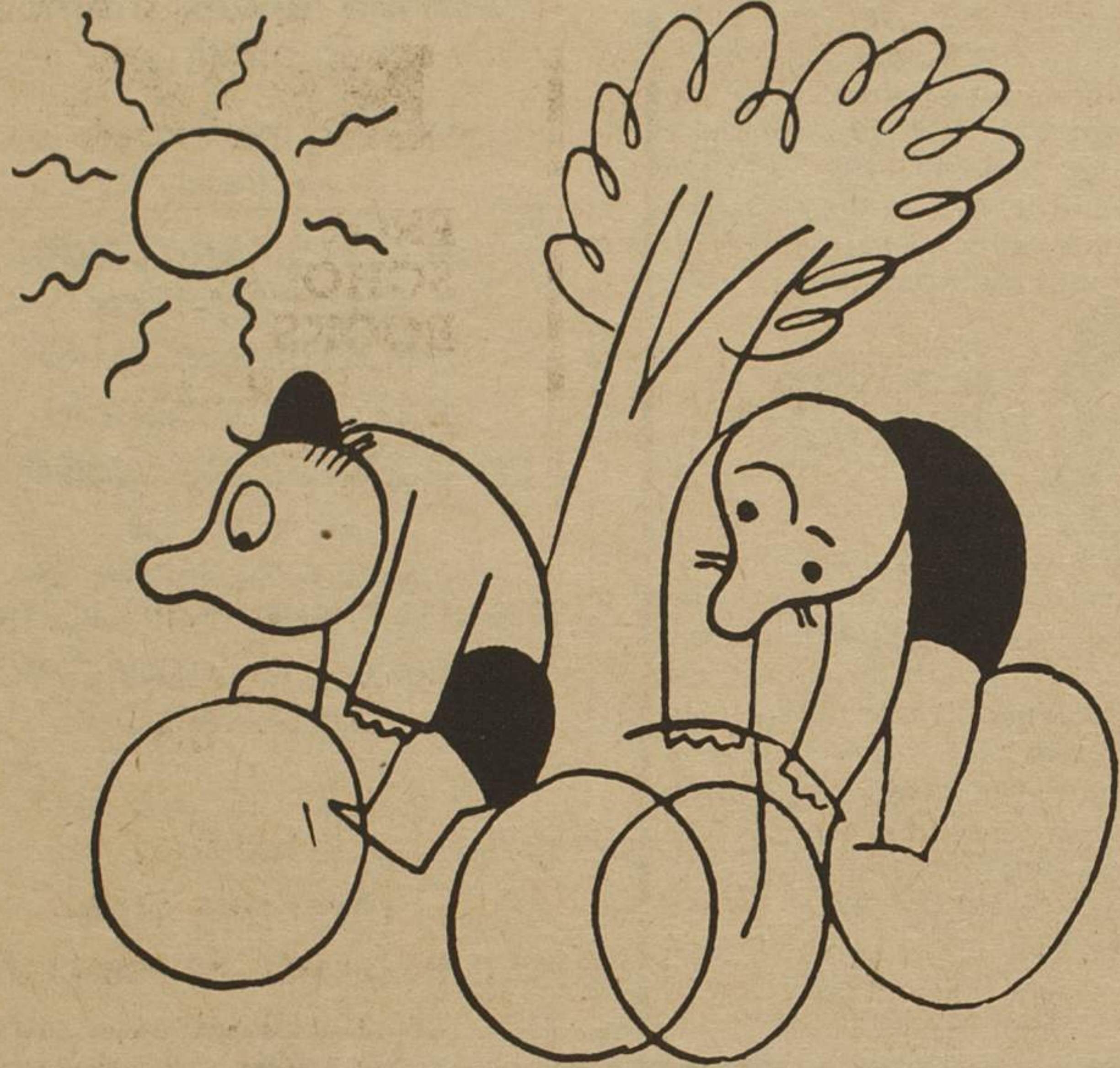
For those whose thoughts of riding 100 miles on a hot and steamy May day are not comforted by the thought of cold water and fruit, the ride actually offers built-in options. As the Century will be run in three consecutive

loops (each loop visiting a different body of water), riders will have the option of doing 25, 65 or 100 miles. Says Epperson, "With it still being early in the season, the idea of running the tour in loops and not linearly makes a lot of sense. People who discover that they really aren't in good enough shape to ride the full century won't be caught completely bonked 25 miles from town."

Century rides have long been the obsession of American cyclists. In the early days of the bicycle when hardy men with handlebar moustaches rode penny farthings on the rough back roads, riding 100 miles in at least ten hours was considered a monumental achievement. Today with fast blacktop and light, shiny ten-speeds the average rider can complete a century within six or seven hours. With the current bicycling renaissance taking place in this country, it is not uncommon to find clubs sponsoring double and even triple centuries.

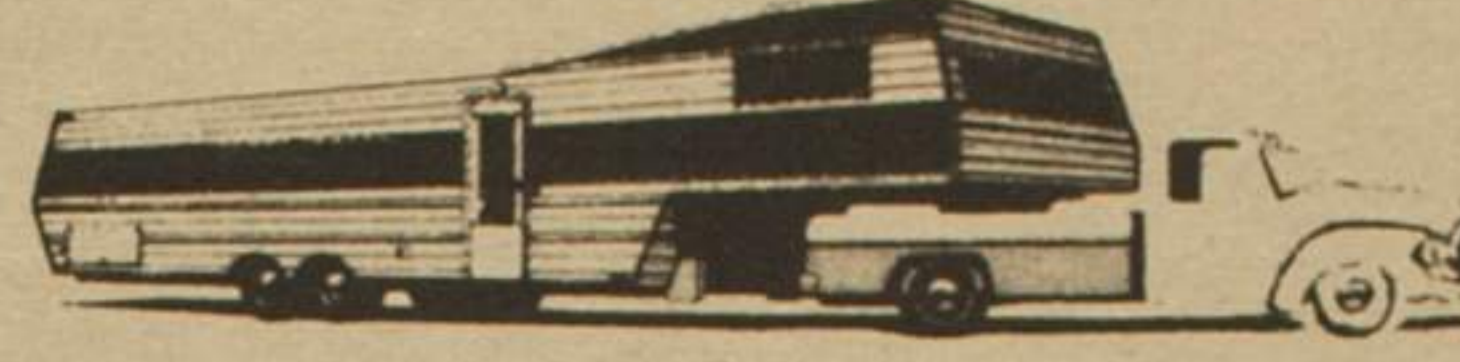
The Tour of the Lakes is not meant to be a strenuous ride or a race: more like a Big Eat on Wheels. Bicycling is on its way to becoming the Sport of the Eighties—and when bikers get together they can't help but have a good time. The Tour of the Lakes is guaranteed to be one of the best two-wheeling parties of this spring.

Registration for the Tour starts at 7:30 a.m. May 17, and the ride will leave at 8:00 a.m. For more information and an entry form, stop by the SUA Office in the Kansas Union or any local bike shop.



from page one

Taking a long-term view of the planned parking lot points up the folly of the undertaking even more. Every indication of the past ten years points to the impending demise of the automobile, as we know it. It makes no sense to build a new facility to support a mode of transportation that already may be on its way out.



The economics of the project have reached the ridiculous stage. The study projects a generous rate of usage of 100 cars per day. At the current meter rate, this is a gross weekly take of \$50, assuming an average stay of one hour. Even at a meter rate of 25¢ per hour, income from the lot probably would not pay the interest on the bonds, let alone make any inroad into the principle.

Add in the costs of maintenance and monitoring, and you have a facility that can only be a drain on the city budget for decades to come. And to what purpose?

Before the handful of supporters of the lot start wailing about the waste and the shame in abandoning the parking lot idea, it should be pointed out to them that the shame was consummated last December when Bryan Anderson's came down.

The real shame is that the rush to push the parking lot through has forced the current commission to find some suitable use for the site, without the benefit of the time to find the best use for the site in accordance with a comprehensive plan.

The City Commission has a tough decision to make: allow this monument to stupidity to be built, or find a better use for the site and endure the sneering and sniping of a hostile press and vain and vitriolic commissioners.

from page two

Mayor Marci Francisco opined, "There should be a way for the public to initiate action. I believe the legislature intended for people to have that right. Most people are interested in the particulars of a petition before they sign it. It isn't something just anyone will do in front of a grocery store. It takes very real energy from people to circulate a petition and put it on the ballot. It is a waste of people's time to tell them they have that option, then when they choose to use it, tell them they can't use it. It's rude. The legislature should take this ruling as a sign that it needs to be more specific about that option. If it is a law, they intended some use. The point of having a law on the books is not so the courts can say it is useless."

Kaplan concurred. "To spend any more time with the courts is a waste of time and money. It is better to change the law so it will not thwart people's efforts."

According to State Rep. Betty Jo Charlton (D.-Lawrence), "Mark suggested we sit down to look at the statute and possibly tighten it, instead of leaving it to the capriciousness of the bench. I am very willing to look over the statute. If we start to work on it this summer, we should have something ready to go for next session." State Sen. Jane Eldredge (R.-Lawrence) also expressed a willingness to study the matter. She expressed concern that if any amendments are to happen, there must be support from around the state outside of the Lawrence area. She could not gauge whether that necessary support might be there.

On the local level, Francisco said, "I don't think the court's decision prohibits the city commission from reviewing this ordinance and deciding that it is appropriate for them to adopt it."

Newly elected City Commissioner Nancy Shontz said, "I'd want to think about the ramifications of it carefully. I want to protect the integrity of downtown. I want to protect the taxpayers. I want the City to make wise decisions. This ordinance might be the route to go in order to do these things. We are dealing with a tight downtown situation. We don't have space to make mistakes. Our options are very limited. We have to see that every piece of the puzzle fits."

In addition to the three options open to the petitioners, Clark proposed a "fourth alternative. That is to recognize that we've got a new commission that people who were passing the petition would feel more comfortable with than the prior commission."

Kaplan disagreed: "We need to institutionalize a fair means for people to participate in the process and not put up with this secret meeting crap no matter who's on the commission. People should not be expected to trust any entity."



According to Clark, the various financing tools the City would use in downtown redevelopment, such as the tax increment financing law and others, "have their own internal protections. That would be enough under the current commission. Relocation assistance can make projects impossible. Scope and breadth are a problem. It has possibilities if it is done in a careful manner. Relocation assistance is the main policy question I would be willing to look at on its own merits. If we make things too restrictive and tie the City's hands too much, it will make it difficult to do anything downtown and we'll be faced with the cornfield mall again. We need to have tools and keep them sharp enough."

Kaplan sees a need to "protect ourselves from a land grab by major owners of property and protect the diversity of ownership of property downtown. The proper response to the threat of a mall is not to mimic a mall's economic process of taking property from small shop owners by eminent domain to turn it over to large developers. We need open public interplay between all interest groups."

Francisco said, "I'm concerned that property owners be treated equitably. Treatment shouldn't be based on the legislation under which we act. People deserve to be treated fairly whether we use industrial revenue bonds, parking bonds, tax increment financing or whatever. Without an ordinance, we do only what the law requires. We may need to place more requirements on ourselves than the legislature does."

"Public benefit should be great enough to cover private costs. If we cannot afford to treat people equitably, then the benefit is not great enough for us to proceed with the project. I don't think it should be easy for us to acquire property. We should have to go through strict procedures, but we should be able to do it if we need to. Strict requirements force us to make better decisions."


Francisco praised the petition effort. "At least it got us moving on developing a downtown plan."



Everyone interviewed by PUBLIC NOTICE agreed that the petitioners have three options: appeal, go to the legislature to push for amendments to the statute which would tell the courts to construe petitions less rigidly, or go to the new City Commission with a similar ordinance.

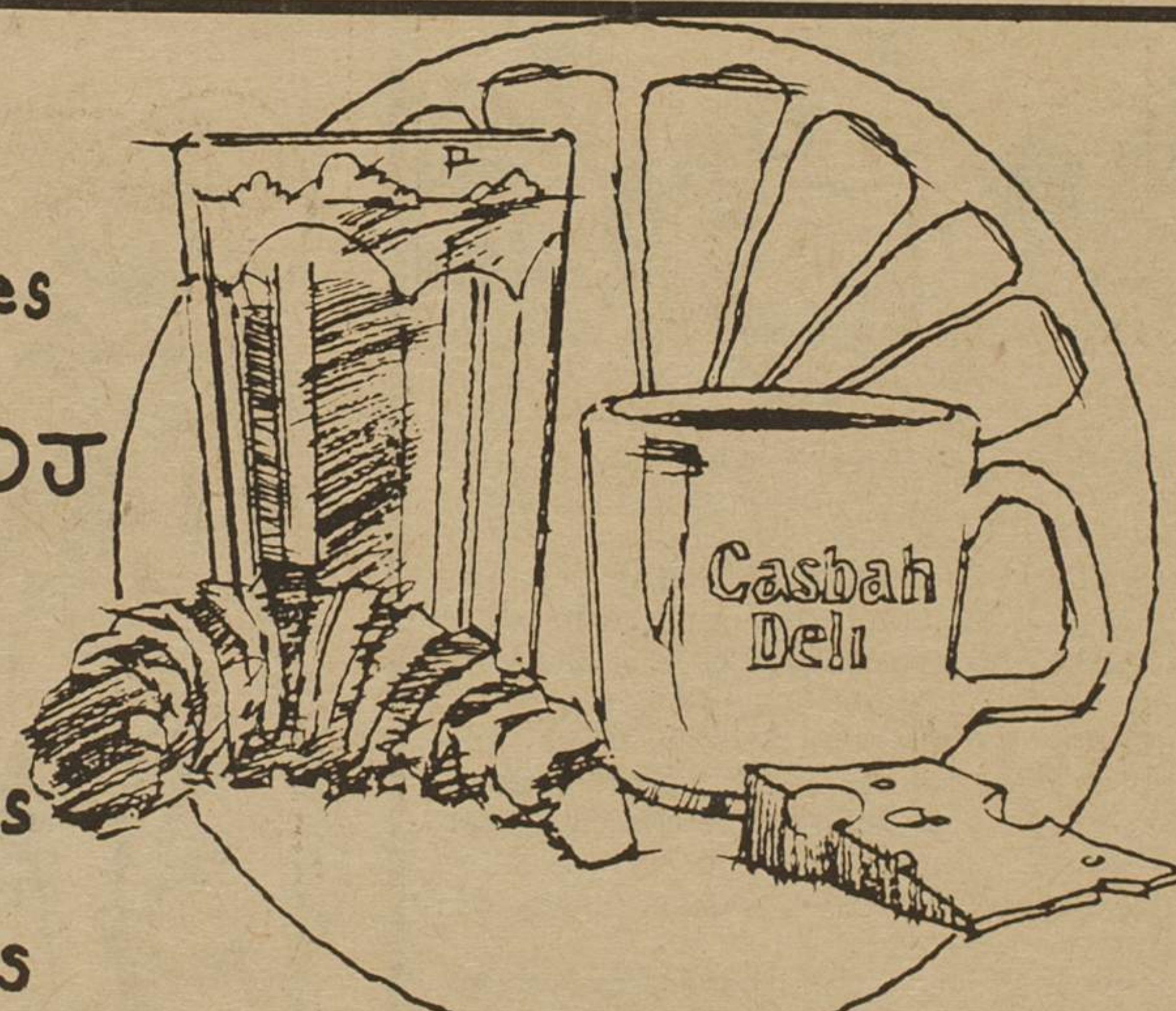
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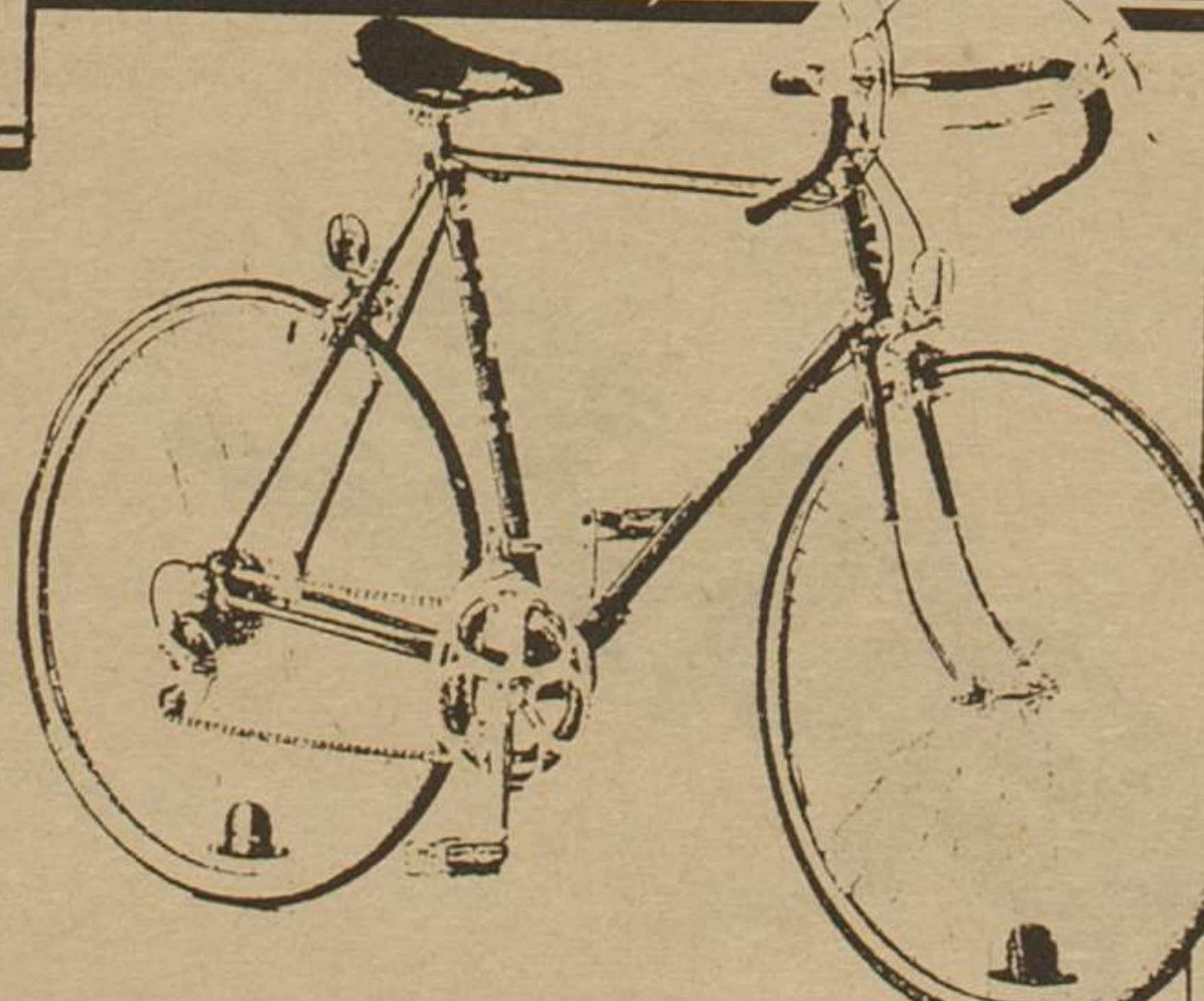
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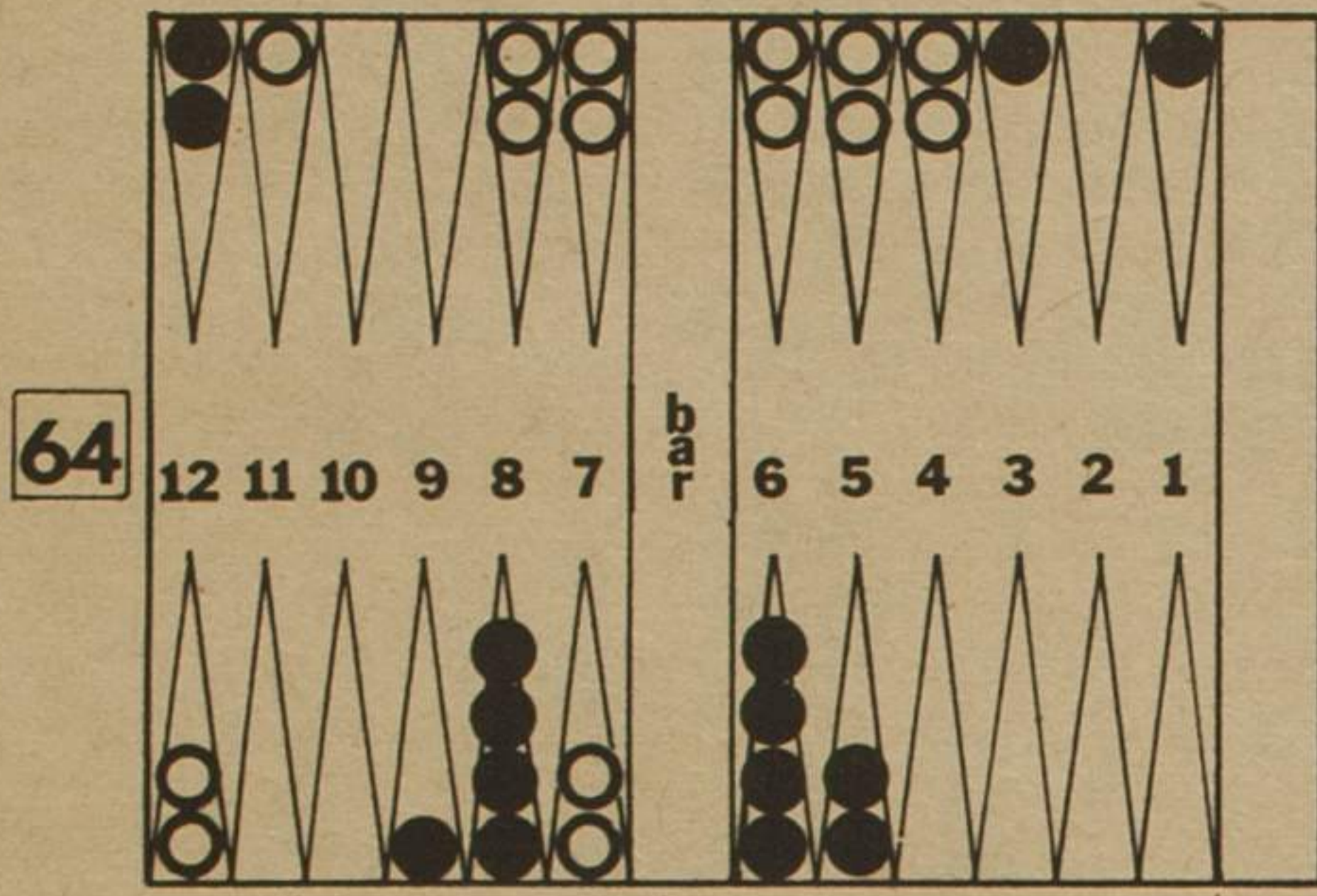
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# Boardtalk

by Dr. Rohlenstoen



**Black to play 6-2,  
first game of a nine-point match.**

No player can expect to hold his own outside the novice division these days until he is comfortable with his judgment in making the two basic doubling decisions: when to offer a double and when to accept one. More money changes hands as the result of bad doubling decisions than bad play decisions.

To rise above the pack, a backgammon player must learn not only how to make the right doubling decision, but also how to incorporate those decisions — past and future — into his tactical decisions. We approach the above problem primarily at this second level.

On the preceding roll, White uncorked a 6-6, and should have been contemplating turning the cube even before Black started to shake his dice. Realizing that he possibly will be facing a double after he plays this 6-2, Black needs to turn the board (figuratively) to anticipate White's decision. Both players recognize that Black has only two rational choices: hitting from W3, or making W3 and starting a point in his inner board.

The two plays have about equal chances of pulling the game out for Black, whom we make about a 2:1 underdog. So which play Black should make — and which one he did make — comes later.

Whichever play Black makes, White should double. This would apply in any match situation save one: if White were leading 7 to 5, turning the cube would be giving Black a free redouble to 4. If the situation in Diagram No. 1 were to arise in a straight money game, I would double every time. Doubling here meets the prime criterion for a good pressure double: White will be happy, take or drop.

A brief aside while we consider White's decision if he were the owner of the cube at 2, thinking about redoubling to 4. In all money games, yes. Redoubling from the box, I would expect half a chouette to drop. In match play, yes; but I would expand the exceptions to include any situation where I was leading an opponent of equal or lesser ability with fewer than eight points to go in the match. Think it through, it's good exercise.

So, expecting White to double, Black must decide whether he wants to take. He may conclude, as we have, that he is but a 2:1 underdog and take the cube; or he may believe that White's 6-6 was an omen and drop.

Should Black decide to refuse the expected double, then he needs to look for the move that might earn him a reprieve for at least the next roll. Against an opponent of average ability, hitting on W11 could do the trick. Many players have an inordinate sense of insecurity when on the bar and wouldn't think of touching the cube.

This is a weakness every backgammon player should be alert for in his opponent's game and in his own. Players with this phobia often will drop from a game in which they have adequate equity for a take; and, on the other side of the coin, they will take an unreasonable double just because their opponent is on the bar.

Against an experienced opponent, Black's best bet to run a bluff is to make W3 and play B8/B2, confidently. As this is the play Black should make if he intended to take the anticipated double, White may think twice before turning the cube — giving him an extra chance to make the wrong decision.

Although sending the man on W11 to the bar would equalize the pip count, this is far from being a running game yet. Black's chance for winning with this move would be predicated on his ability to harass White until his other back man was able to escape. This plan has three flaws:

First, Black will have to use one full turn just to escape from W1. Second, White has full control of three quadrants and partial control of the fourth from the bar. Although it has potential, Black's home board is too weak. It's this third flaw that points up the main hazard of this play.

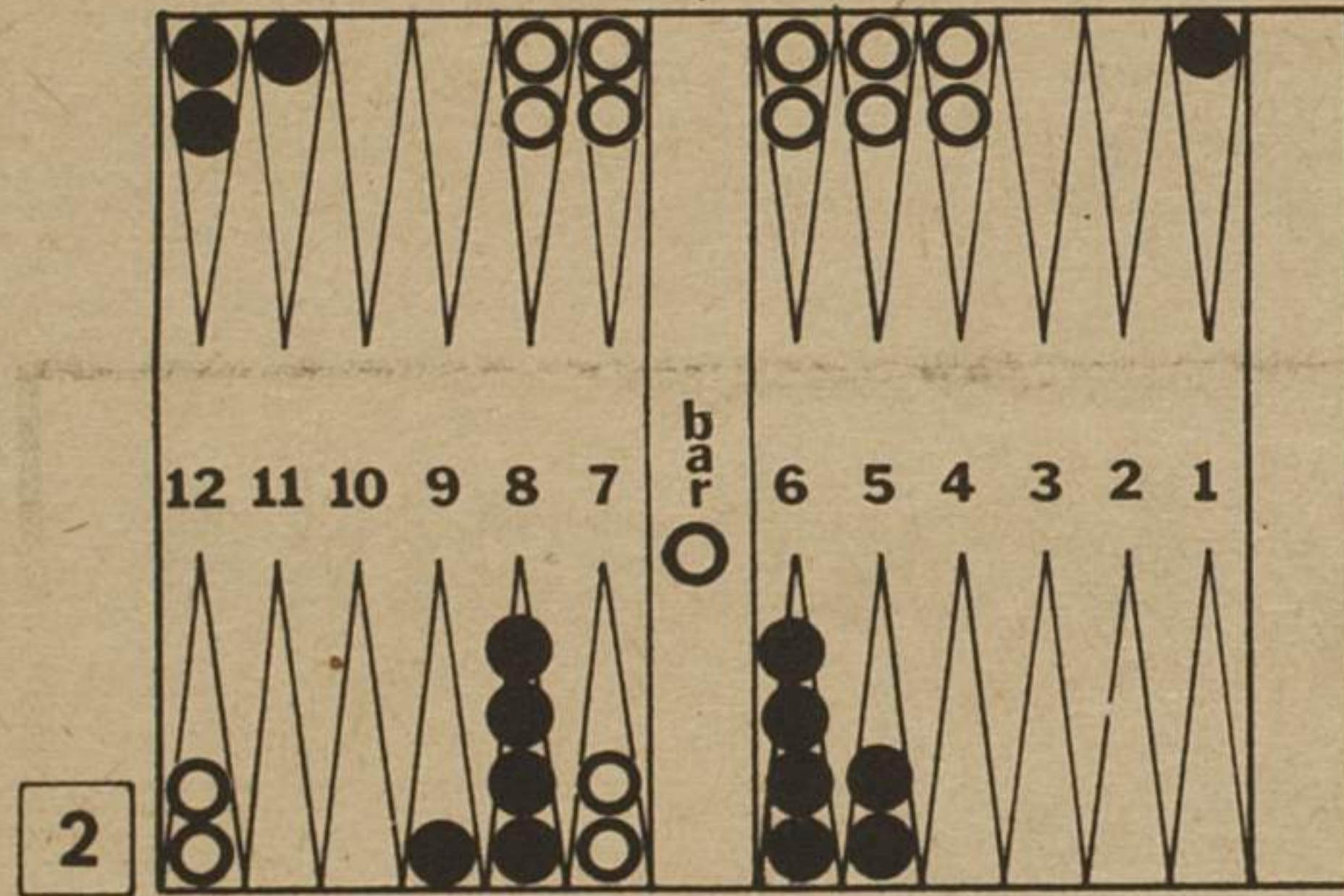
There are only four rolls that keep White on the bar: 6-6, 6-5 and 5-5. Eight others are bad for him because they force him to expose a second blot: 6-2, 5-3, 5-1 and 4-1 (4-1 can be mitigated somewhat by starting W9).

Five rolls are indifferent: 6-4, 3-1 and 1-1 (play 1-1 W8/W6, W8/W7). And six combinations play safe: 6-1, 5-2, and 4-3. Double 4 scatters blots about, but completes the prime to all but lock up a single win.

This leaves 12 rolls that bring White off the bar and put Black on it. With three blots and no defense, Black is flirting with a four-point loss. This is doubly dangerous here because of the shortness of the match.

If Black accepts the double and loses the minimum two points, his odds of winning the match against an equal opponent slip to 44 percent. But if he accepts and loses a gammon, he goes down to 36 percent — nearly a 2:1 underdog.

By making W3, Black accomplishes two things right away: he puts White on the defensive and he greatly reduces the odds of being gammoned. This also gives him some hope of winning in a race. If Black can find a 6-6 of his own before the prime is completed (everybody's entitled), the game is a toss-up.



**White to play 3-3 from the bar.**

I'm not sure I would have recognized 3-3 as a legitimate comeback shot if it hadn't been for the developments in the actual game, in which Black took the hit and the double.

After entering on B3, White played a wash, 2W4/W1; then boldly followed up his decision with W8/W5. It was a risky play, in that it all but destroyed his blockade of his home board, but it's hard to argue with the result.

Black burned\* with a 6-1, and White followed with a 6-2, picking up the blot on W11 and adding a builder to W7. The blitz was on. A touch of irony was added a few rolls later and Black posed a brief threat. Just as White was poised to close his board, Black entered two men from the bar on the last empty point with a 3-3. He ended the game with a gammon-saving 6-6.

\*Burned. A fairly descriptive term I use in place of some longer ones or their acronyms, such as "failed in entry" (FIE) or "stayed on bar" (SOB).

I notice that Diagram No. 1 is an excellent setup to illustrate another sort of backgammon strategy, so let's not waste it. In the same situation, give the cube to Black at 2 and give White a deadly 5-5 to play.

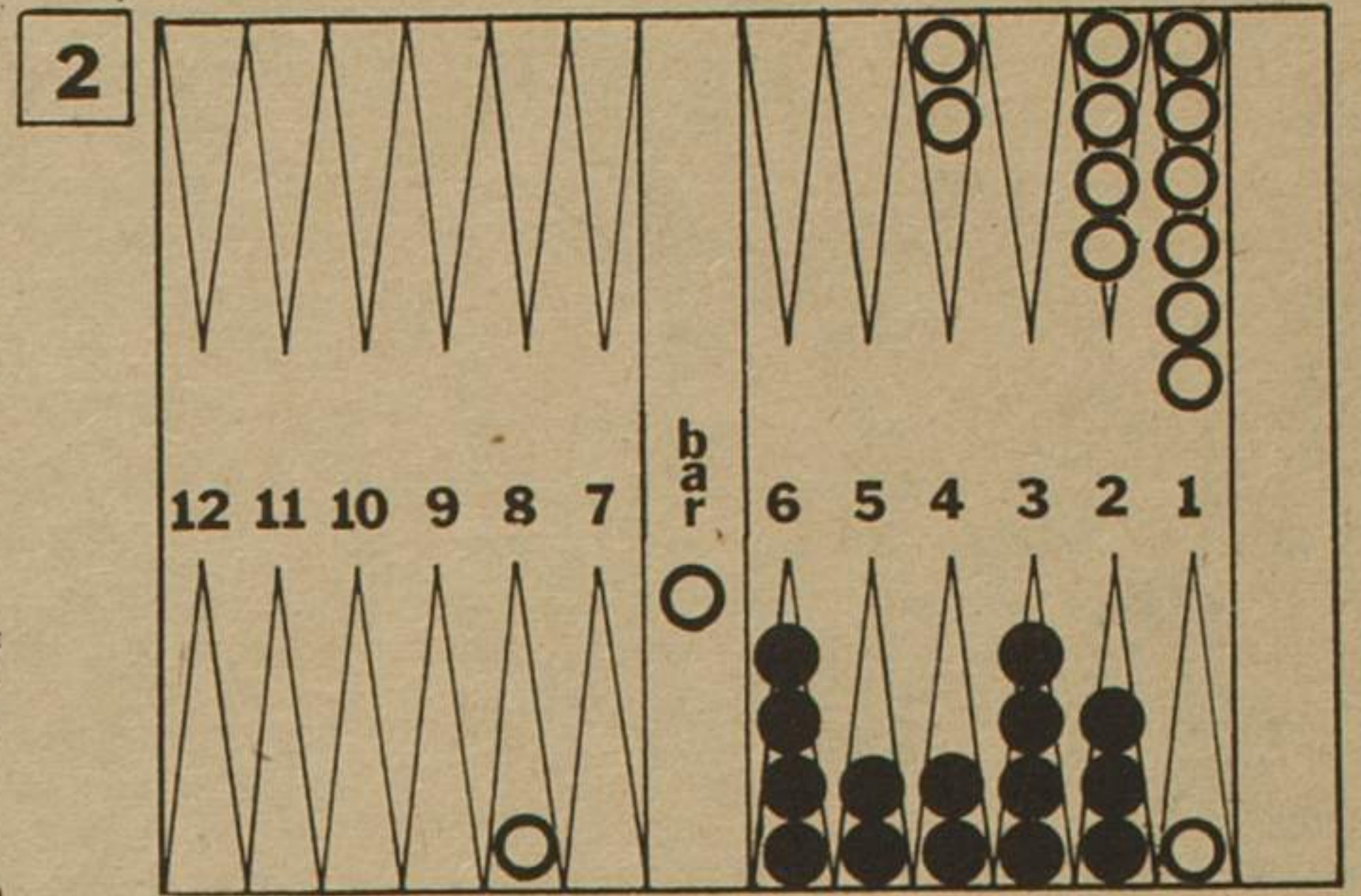
White could play this as a straight running move and be 90 percent sure of winning the game: B7/B12, B7/W8, W11/W6. But this would be passing an opportunity to deal — as they say in the lists — a telling blow by going for a gammon and a 4-0 lead in the match.

The obvious play is 2B12/W3, completing the prime and putting one man on the bar. Almost as good is 2W8/W3, 2W7/W2, putting one man on the bar and making a five-point board. But both these plays are wrong for the same reason: they give Black 11 rolls that establish an anchor in White's inner board. The idea is to keep Black out altogether. Tip: Having just seen an intermediate wash successfully played, a major wash might come to mind: 2W8/W3, 2W6/W1. Don't.

The gammon play is 2W8/W3, W11/W1, putting two men on the bar while maintaining the five-point block, which was the muscle behind White's double. Black now has only two rolls that establish a defensive hole — a 5.5 percent chance instead of a 30.5 percent chance. White doesn't want his blot on W1 to be hit, of course; but it doesn't worry him a whole lot either.

Lagniappe: Don't let taunts of "lucky dice" goad you into giving a handicap or playing under special rules to prove your skill. If your opponent thinks you are trouncing him only because you are getting the better rolls, let him continue to think so and put the proof in your wallet. Never overlook the possibility he might be right.

## Reprint from April



**Black to play 5-4**

How should Black play this 5-4 in a 23-point match:  
a. leading 22-19?  
b. leading 22-21?  
c. trailing 19-22, owns cube?

- ANSWERS  
a. B5/B1, B5/off  
b. B6/B1, B5/B1  
c. B6/B2, B6/B1

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