

OVERHEARD IN LAWRENCE

From a seasoned downtown businessman, recently overheard along Massachusetts Street, come rumors of widespread disregard of the law, and a remedy for over-indulgence in drink...

"You know, I used to drink. I mean, I used to drink alot... Every day. Why I've drunk... You wouldn't believe the barrels I've drunk. But then I started to smoke pot. And you know, I haven't touched a drop since."

"I've got a friend that drank; way too much. He was an alcoholic, you see. And I kept telling him that he should quit, that he had to quit drinking. But he just couldn't. So one day I just decided to do something to help him out so I gave him a lid (one ounce) of pot (marijuana), showed him how to use it, and you know, I saw him recently, and he had not had a drink in thirty days!"

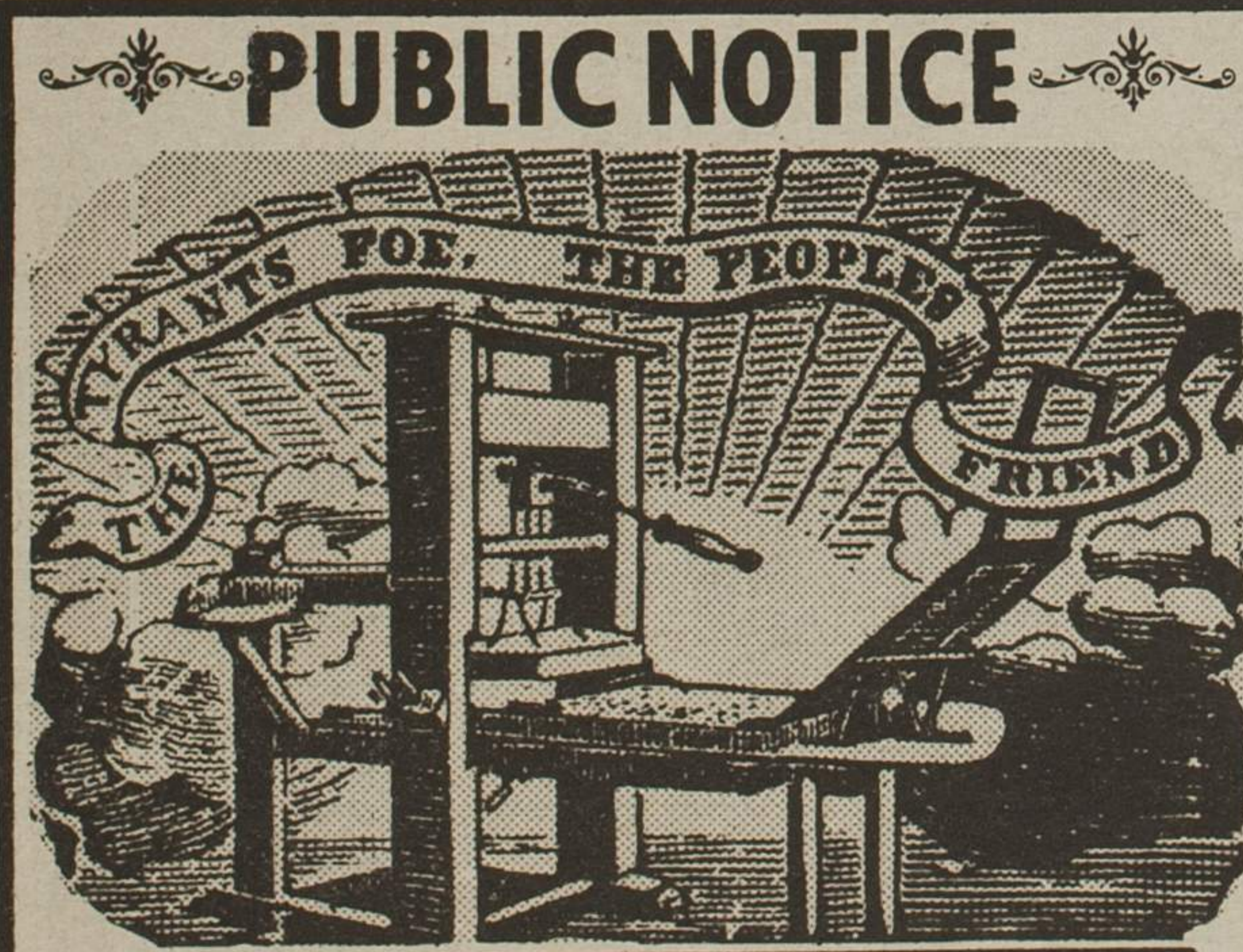
"I saw in the JOURNAL-WORLD one day that they estimate that there are 2,500 pot-smokers here," he laughed. "Shoooot! There's so many people smokin' pot. Older people. They think that it's the young people. But they're wrong. I know. I've smelled it. I've got into someone's car and smelled pot. And I'd say, 'Hey, you been smokin' pot? Do you smoke pot?'"

"Well, they just get embarrassed and blame their kids. They don't want to admit it so they just say their kids were smokin' pot in the car."

"But it isn't true. If you pull out a lid, then they'll admit that they smoke and bring out their lid too."

"I really enjoy it."

Remember the applause when the City maneuvered neighborhood development money from the Feds into downtown fix-up? And everyone, or almost, would agree that Massachusetts Street looks alot better than it did a few years ago. Yet now there is a rumbling or two, from businessmen who are disturbed about the thriving trees blocking their signs and livlihoods. While only a small band of nay-sayers now, don't be suprised to amble downtown some morning and find rows and rows of little stumps. If the Chamber of Commerce should bark, you'd have to find shade elsewhere.



★★ THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC NOTICE ★★

The PUBLIC NOTICE is published on or about the 15th of each month, by the Community Mercantile food cooperative, with main offices located on the top floor of the Stubbs Building, 1101 1/2 Mass.

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Wait Till Next Year

Many claim they only play summer softball for fun and exercise. No matter. The blistering heat and competition of summer softball played on the uneven gopher-dug field south of Robinson Gym guarantees a twisted ankle or two on the season and make playing ball there in summer competition bad City.

See the bad sports. See the incautious protests. Counselors notify umpires of protests and actors threaten umpires to the point of near expulsion. Christian men of the English Department make loud note that a certain pitcher, then on the mound, has wildness streaks.

There are, of course, gentlemen who smile and inquire and so indicate their care, but there is



more than small viciousness present. The exercise benefit, so agreed on, is minimal in these games. If there is any redemption, there is that of occasional fellowship, largely centered on winning well or losing badly.

In Kansas July, heat blows as if from a solar stove. We stumble over the needle stubble of the fields in search of the softball. We fall on prairie dogs mushrooming from the holes in the stunted heat. This is torture, not exercise. To be in this heat--with these players--scorched in a browning cauldron--bad blood boiling out of every pitch, every call, every bit of chatter from every umpire, player, coach, a thousand simultaneous moments of misery, the women talking behind the backstop, the awful heat, this is more than exercise or hope or winning can justify. This is bad City.

WOMEN



On Sept. 1, a group of feminists dedicated to the concept of womanspace will open the Lawrence Women's House at 643 Rhode Island.

The idea of a Women's House isn't new in Lawrence. For many years, different women in the community have recognized the need for a Women's Center. However, as is often the case, recognition of community needs and the economic realities have been two very different things. Last May, the idea of a women's house became realistic when a Lawrence woman offered to make the down payment on a house. And so the search for a place began.

General meetings were called. We have been meeting together to share our ideas, dreams and enthusiasm. We have concentrated on: defining what the concept of womanspace means to us individually and collectively, identifying women's needs and wants, clarifying our commitment to actively seek ways to build and maintain a strong united women's community in Lawrence.

Out of the shared energy of women living and loving, we bring to you the following services, opportunities and new beginnings:

PROFESSIONAL SPACE where women can be served by women. We'll offer legal assistance by a woman lawyer, personal counseling by a feminist therapist, and general group support services.

WORKSHOP SPACE where woman can come together to create music, poetry, dance, painting; where members of the Women's Art Collective can share equipment, studio space and darkroom facilities; where women can learn self-defense, carpentry, and auto repair; where any and all skills can be developed.

SURVIVAL SERVICE where the Women's Transitional Care Center will be located, a facility staffed by para-professional volunteers and geared toward women in crisis situations who need a safe and supportive environment. Clients vary widely: the recently widowed woman, the divorced or separated woman, the woman who has been beaten and assaulted the woman who has been raped in her home.

Any woman who is undergoing a major crisis and is in need of a place to stay, may look to us for help. Services offered include: emergency housing, support groups, counseling assistance in dealing with social service agencies, job-career-educational counseling, limited financial, legal and medical assistance. All services are free.

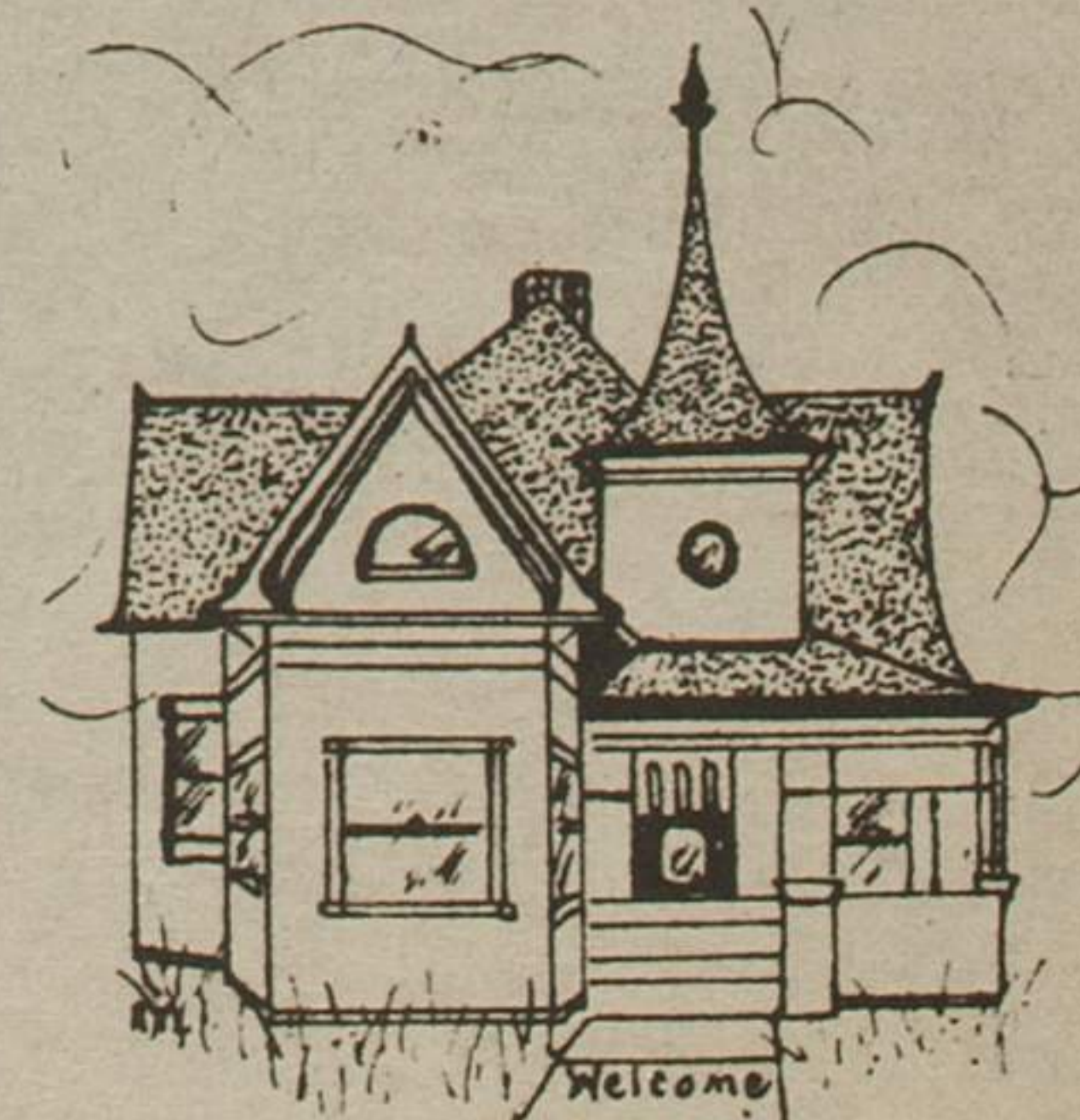
OPEN SPACE where women can come together for meetings, parties, talking, relaxing and sharing.

FREE, FLOWING SPACE where ideas, feelings and creative spirits may move in whatever ways they might.

The house will be run by the women who use it. Decisions concerning policy and structure are to be made collectively at announced general meetings. A steering committee, consisting of six women from the membership, is selected by lottery. Each month, two new women will be selected and two current members of the steering committee will step down. This rotation of leadership is designed to insure that all women are given the opportunity to participate equally and allow women to learn new skills by participating in the decision-making process at all levels.

Womanspace is a concept, conceived by women and dedicated to the following:

- that women choose to come together to meet their own and each others needs freely, openly and without constraints...
- that each woman is welcome as she is accepted as she is and encouraged to grow and develop in whatever ways she chooses...
- that each woman is unique, yet she shares with other women the common experience of growing up female, an experience which provides much food for fruitful exchange...
- that women will no longer deny themselves the crucial support that each can provide the other...



For more information call: Women's Center at 864-4934 days M-F or 842-7138 evenings.