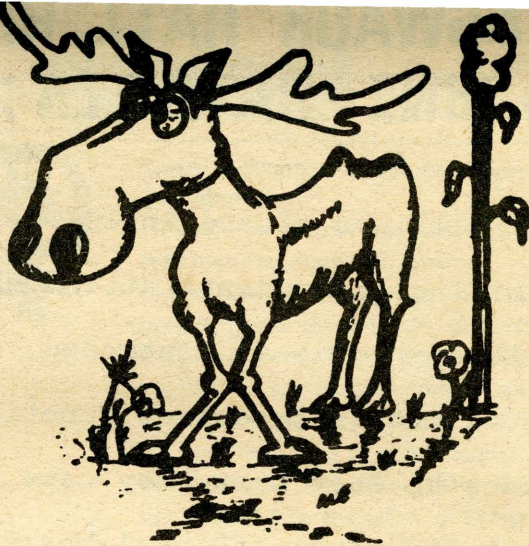


the Northern Light

Algoma College
Student Newspaper

a CUP affiliate
NOV. 29/73

Attention: students who are
interested in typing,
photography, writing art-
icles, letters or reporting
on group activities, please
drop in the Northern Light.



ONLY ON FRIDAYS?

The Board of Governors of Algoma College met on Tuesday, Nov. 20 to approve the employment of Kates, Marwick, Peat, and Co. to carry out Phase 2 of a study on the overall administration of the college. At this meeting it was included in a motion that "a contract will not be signed until Kates, Peat, Marwick and Co. has had an opportunity to send a representative of its company to meet with Academic Council, in order that Academic Council can report its reaction to the Board".

On Friday, Nov. 23, Academic Council, after meeting with two members of the consultant firm, voted in favour of approving the employment of said firm. The vote was 9-8 in favour of the motion to approve the appointment. Included in the motion was a stipulation that a fulltime controller be appointed as soon as possible.

The closeness of the vote,

(few votes in Council are ever this close), indicates the deep concern for the future of our college. It was made clear that the hired firm will not seek to give us a new constitution. In fact it is doubtful whether they have read the proposed constitution. It was also made clear that the firm could promise very little in return for the minimum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), they will receive. Professor Ross wanted it made clear that this bill was being paid by the college, and not from a separate fund of the Board.

Others expressed doubts as to the insight of the firm, feeling that they had really told us nothing which we were not aware of. The Registrar was not consulted, by the consultant firm, in their initial report on the affairs of the college. This would appear to be a major oversight on the firm's part. How can a report be accurate, if the man who knows most about enrollment, high school liaison and other such matters, is simply ignored? Why too, were students ignored in the preliminary report? The firm spoke to a total of two students, proving that tokenism is not dead. The word student seems to have been included

in the report as an afterthought. I am sure that, even at this date, the firm of Kates, Peat, Marwick and Co.

is unaware of the college's workable concept of parity. These are the people chosen to improve relations at the college? We suggest that they first find out what's going on.

While the concept of an administrative controller is a noble one, it appears that Council is wishing upon a falling star. (Look for KOHOUTEK in the eastern sky.) It seems that the Board has already received an application for this position. Shades of Dick Nixon's circus! Jimmy the Greek wouldn't give even odds of this position being filled in a proper manner.

With the retirement of the Registrar, and the resignation of the Acting Principal at the end of the school year, the question of replacement is an important one. In discussion with Council, members of the firm handled this issue with the deftness of used car salesmen. WE were told that there are many avenues to choose from, although none were named.

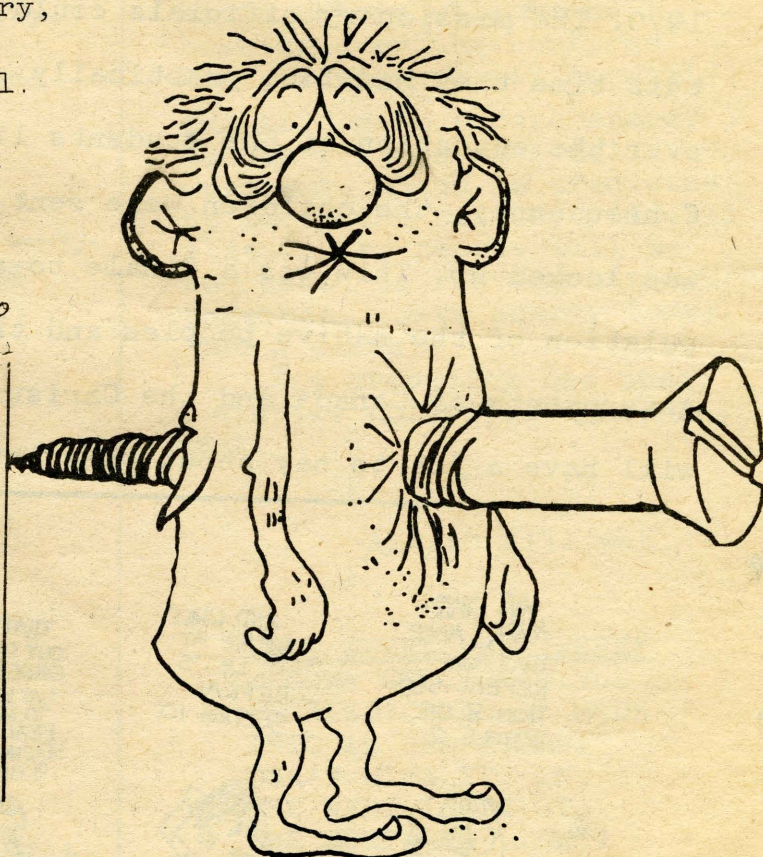
With the present budget of this college, the primary report of the consultants firm is highly inoperable. In hiring this firm the college is spending a minimum of \$15,000. A full time controller would require a full time salary. Salaries for senior administrators can't be paid with nickels and dimes. The report suggests the hiring of department secretaries. What do we pay them with? Even the price of peanuts has gone up!

Copies of the consultant firm's report are available for consultation at the office of the Principal's secretary, at the Library, and at the office of Student's Council.

Think we've bought a car that's only been driven on Fridays (Sunday gas rationing, remember?)? Read it!

Ruben Amaro
+ Bill Wamsgans

The NORTHERN LIGHT is published weekly at Algoma College. Copy will be accepted up until the Sunday preceding publication in the front hall mailbox or by one of the staff. Pseudonyms will be used upon request only if accompanied by a note to the editor signed by the author stating that he wishes to remain anonymous.



SHINGWAUK HALL; HISTORICAL NOTES

by IBNE-BATOOTA; PART TWO

Northern Light
Vol. III, No. 3.

When Shingwauk Hall was closed in 1970, it was serving primarily as a hostel for Indian students attending public schools in Sault Ste. Marie. Although drab and outmoded, the building and its facilities performed an important function for the Indian students. They had a place to stay when they came to attend city schools and were not at the mercy of local boarders. They had an opportunity to interact with each other and develop a sense of community. Besides the facilities to study, they recieved help in their home work from the Shingwauk staff. Although under the direct control of Anglican missionaries, all funds for the operation of the institution were being provided by the federal department of Northern Affairs, Indian Branch.

This was a turn of events that came about in 1961. Around that time the missionaries and the government of Canada had finally recognized that their colonial and oppressive methods of "educating" the Indian had proved disasterous. It was decided to close down the teaching and training functions of the Indian residetial schools and to use the buildings as hostels from where the students could commute to the regular public schools to study along with the white children. A system of Indian education and training based on beliefs in the inherent inferiority of the natives, and administered by missionary zealots was finally being dismantled. By the mid 1960s about 150 Indian students were living in Shingwauk Hall and attending city schools in Sault Ste. Marie. Most of them came from Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec. It was begining to appear that the Church and the State had finally decided not to treat the Indians as their infantile wards, and to allow them an opportunity to "make-do" with the white syestem of education. However, this last phase of Shingwauk Hall did not last very long. Under the pretext of integrating the Indian completely into the white sositety, the Northern Affairs Department withdrew all its support to the Shingwauk Hall in the spring of 1970. The missionary officials could not care less, because by this time they had lost practically all effective control over the education of the students living in Shingwauk Hall. Consequently, the children were sent home and the building was locked up. This was a finale to a long story of manipulation of the native peoples and their minds by successive governments of Canada and the Christian Church. Ibne-Batoota will have a lot to say about this later. Let us first review



the events that led to the acquisition of the building by Algoma College. When the Indian residential scool was closed in the spring of 1970, there ensued a scramble for the acquisition of Shingwauk hall by numerous agencies in the city. The city fathers wanted to obtain it for a new location of the City Hall. Many wanted it for a home for the retarded children. Algoma College for long squeezed in a few portables next to the Sault College, immediately began negotiations to acquire the Shingwauk property. And finally, there were two Indian groups who claimed for the building/Indian-oriented educational and social uses. One representation

Continued on p. 7

ALGOMA POLICE

MR. CHAIRMAN, I MOVE THAT WE REPEAL SECTION 8 OF ARTICLE 2.

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, LET'S REPEAL SECTION 10.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I RISE ON A POINT OF INQUIRY! DO YOU KNOW A THREE-LETTER WORD FOR ROUMANIAN TURNIP?

WHAT ABOUT "VECTOR LOEWY"?

ORDER! ORDER! MAY WE HAVE QUIET?! THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS! MR. O'CONNELL THAT MEANS YOU! MR. O'CONNELL!!

Z
Z
Z
Z
Z

LIGHT?

was made by leaders of seven Indian bands in the Sault Ste. Marie agency who claimed that the property was originally part of the Garden River Indian Reserve and thus rightfully belonged to the Indians. They wanted to use Shingwauk hall as a friendship centre, a library and an emergency clinic for the Indian people. The other group consisted of young Indian leaders with considerable experience in organizing educational and cultural activities for their people, who claimed the hall for use as a cultural institute and a friendship centre. They too claimed that historically both the federal government which built the present building, and the Anglican Church which had effective control of the land since 1874, were committed to the use of the property for Indian-oriented programmes; the property should therefore be transferred to the Indians so that they may determine the use of the site for their own educational and social enhancement.

Among the Algoma College faculty too there was a great deal of sympathy for the claims of the Indians. At this point, the Algoma College authorities made a tactical move. Knowing that the Northern Affairs Department which owned the building, could not easily reject the claims of the Indians on Shingwauk hall, they moved to negotiate with the group of young Indians a plan for sharing the facilities in the building. At the same time the College offered a hand-



ed its hands of the whole affair. The Church in turn leased the whole property to Algoma College.

The space sharing agreement between the College and the Indian Institute was implemented in a manner which reminds Ibne-Batoota of a fable he had heard during his childhood, called the Arab and the Camel. At the end of the day's journey the Arab pitched his tent and retired for the day, leaving his camel outside. By nightfall the desert started cooling and the camel felt colder and colder. After a while the camel stuck its head inside the tent and said: "Master, I am feeling cold, may I rest my head inside the tent?" The Arab moved over a little and let the camel rest its head inside the tent. A little later the camel again requested if it could put its front legs inside the tent, for he was still very cold. The Arab moved over to a corner and complied with this request. The camel was still cold and kept repeating its requests to move more and more of its body inside the tent. Before long the unsuspecting Arab was out of the tent and whole of the camel was inside the tent, warm and cozy.

The Institute which was instrumental for Algoma College in

some annual rent of \$33,000 to the Anglican Church. The Indian group prepared a blueprint for the establishment of a cultural institute, presently known as the Keewatinung Institute; the College agreed to allocate the whole of the third floor of the Shingwauk hall to the Institute. This agreement was communicated to the Northern Affairs Department in writing and verbally whenever the said department sent its representatives to the Sault for the purpose of determining the best manner of disposing the property. The College proposal was a convenient way out for the Department of Northern Affairs which finally transferred the building to the Anglican Church which wash-

obtaining Shingwauk hall was originally promised the whole of the third floor. By the time the College moved in they were persuaded to accept only one large room and a couple of offices. At the end of the year when the Institute people returned from a summer camp, they found their belongings moved to the upper story of the house east of the building and their space occupied by the geography department. It is now rumoured that some College authorities plan to lodge them in the middle of the Queen Street.

MORE IN NEXT ISSUE

COMMENTS ON CAMPUS

Well, studious students of Algoma College, we are going to prod some response out of you even if we have to go out with clubs to get it. After sorting through the assorted candy-bar wrappers, cigarette butts, and other sundry SHIT which we found in the mailbox this week, we've decided to come to YOU for response. ANY response!

So if one of our intrepid reporters accosts you and dumbfounds you with such controversial questions such as, 'Do you own a dog?' or, 'Do you own a cat?' or, 'Does your cat lick your dog's left eyelid when the temperature is above 47.9 degrees F.?', please don't push him aside in a mad rush to get to class. Seriously, let's have some response. Who knows, your opinion might even elevate you to the rank of 'Bigmouth'. Then when you walk by a group of people, someone will say 'There goes Bigmouth'. You'll be noticed!

Oh, and one more thing: next time you drop a candy-bar wrapper in the mailbox, have the common courtesy to put an address on it!!

D.R.



ENERGY SHORTAGE AT ALGOMA

Due to the impending energy shortage, we have several suggestions for the conservation of energy at Algoma College. Let's start with the administration. The acting principal and the registrar should be forced to wear long underwear, in order that the temperature in their offices may be lowered to a constant 32 degrees F. The librarian should be ordered to insulate the library with old comic books. All clerical staff should be forced to wear snowsuits under their miniskirts, staff should work by candlelight - with all electric lighting being confined to the student lounge.

As for the faculty, there are many options. The fuel supply to their offices could be detoured to an orphanage, as they could certainly remain warm by reciting old lectures in front of mirrors. If this suggestion doesn't generate enough heat, they could keep warm by burning all the old essays which they haven't gotten around to marking. Faculty members should be willing to form dogsled pools, in order to cut down on fuel consumption. For more hardy types,

by **charnie guettel**



Labelling all kinds of psychological tendencies male chauvinism not only makes them insoluble, but also detracts from progress in defeating what actually is male chauvinism. People's fears in a society such as our own are a complex of anti-working class prejudices, racism, national chauvinism and sexism, and as a result any incident or political situation is potentially complicated. But reality is complicated, and male chauvinism never exists in a vacuum.

Why is a man a chauvinist in the first place? A white is racist against blacks, for example, when society is able to convince him that the reason he has a hard time is because blacks are taking his job, his schools, his neighborhood, are causing crime, etc. Insofar as the white worker fails to locate the real source of his exploitation he is susceptible to believing racist lies, because he is very insecure under capitalism.

And why should a man at best feel a little strange about, and, at worst hate women? There is a great deal of scapegoat ideology, but sexism is not exactly analogous to racism. Basically a man is raised to protect and use women (alternately or at the same time) in exchange for certain services that he cannot get elsewhere in a capitalist society. The purpose of his life is to maintain a family. On the one hand this gives him pride and a "reason for living." On the other hand wife and children are a millstone, particularly a wife who is not able to make as much as he does and children who are born early enough to interfere with his school and job possibilities.

such as Prof. D'Amato, we would suggest snowmobile pools. Mandatory attendance at pubs is a must for faculty members. They may still be

frozen on Monday mornings but they won't be able to tell. Faculty should be forced to give up all audio-visual aids, glasses and hearing aids excepted. Faculty Board, and Faculty-Student debates could be used to generate electricity. If this method fails, Lawrence Brown could be invited to the Faculty Christmas Party. If rationing of energy becomes a reality faculty members should be given, on a priority basis, energy. All professors and teaching types should relinquish lighting in their offices, and should work only by Daylight Saving Time. If all else fails, faculty people could express their displeasure with the surgeon-general's report, and start smoking five cent cigars, en masse.

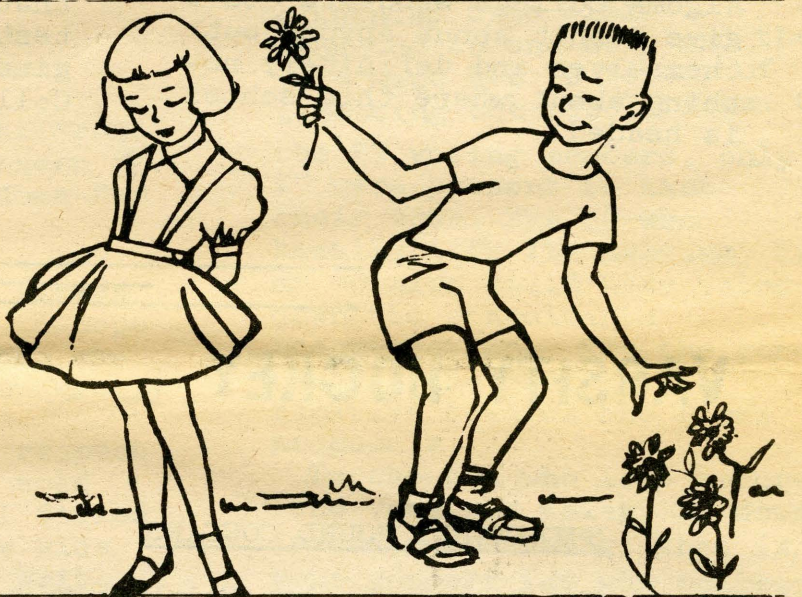
Energy is a vital area for students. They should be asked to sacrifice lectures, films, plays and typing essays, in order that we may have a guaranteed amount of electricity to run the jukebox. All students should be forced to wear fur

where a man has to maintain more than just himself.

Sexism as an ideology seeks to reinforce the fears that grow up around this. Sexual passion and also friendship can exist side by side with this resentment, hence the confusing quality to most male-female relations.

The point is not to forgive and forget, but to clarify so as to combat woman-hatred more effectively. At the back of it is the terror of economic insecurity, which is the basis for most of the psychological deformities in our culture. Woman hatred is just part of a separation of individuals the better to divide and conquer them in general - one nationality from another, black from white, organized from unorganized, political from apolitical, and so on. It is very unusual to find a seasoned chauvinist who is not also confused on most other issues as well, and de-chauvinization can make little headway separate from immediate developments in his work and family world.

Usually woman-hatred is spoken of in the abstract as a kind of malignant curse perpetuated in the media. Actually it is more firmly rooted in the material world than this. It is fundamentally a response to a situation



coats (Damn the Humane Society, and the S.P.C.A.). If however, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals refuses to be damned, students could spend the daylight hours building bonfires in the washroom cubicles, (So what if the ashes dirty the lockers). Each and every student should be brought to realize that if basic human dignity is to exist, there will be no cooking over the bonfires. All students should be willing to donate excess energy to the friends of Arabia movement, which is predicted to sweep the country. If all else fails, people will be requested to rub two strangers together. Save energy today cut a class.

The preceding has been a drastic political announcement.

Alfred Killowat.

NEXT WEEK! NEXT WEEK!
ALGOMA COLLEGE BIBLE
STORIES! COULD BE MADE
INTO AN OLD MOVIE!
DON'T MISS IT, IN
THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE NORTHERN LIGHT!



Sports



This year Algoma College has fielded another of its great hockey and basketball teams-- great on paper that is.

On the court the team lacks all desire, spirit and unity. But in dealing with this problem one cannot help but try to understand the reason for Algoma's constant failure to get any kind of successful athletic program rolling. Or perhaps its the sickening student apathy towards all sports at Algoma. It's obvious Algoma is not going to be known or built upon its academic program; But who gives a damn.

Maybe that's the problem- Algoma College students don't give a shit about anyone but themselves and definitely nothing about where this school is headed.

The athletic program here is in its initial stages and under the skillful direction of George Leach its coming into its own. But how can an athlete playing for Algoma College feel when he steps out on the ice or the basketball court and sees no more than ten people there to give him support? Basketball games average two spectators and hockey only about twenty. This can destroy any team and its desire to win. When the fans show, so does the team. That's just the way it is in any sport.

In the two years I've been at Algoma, I've found that this school has a potential to erase the imagined superiority of Sault College in every extra-

curricular activity. But until you've played the aboved mentioned, in any closely contested sport, you can't even imagine the feeling you get when you beat the pride of Sault Ste. Marie's post secondary school program. To the students of this school this most evident rivalry doesn't even exist. The reason here is the lack of communication between the student body. Perhaps the answer lies in the players themselves, failing to make known their game times and places. This is becoming a more strikingly evident problem at Algoma day by day and something should be done. I don't know a reasonable solution, but maybe someone else does.

M. Currier

VARSAITY HOCKEY by J. PHILLIPS

SHINKWAUKS POUND COUGARS

The Varsity Hockey Shinkwauks came out of a rather long slump in the Brotherhood League, to trounce the Sault College Cougars 10-3 in convincing fashion in the initial game of the International Hockey; Association.

The Shingwauks, many of whom are ex-Cougars made it plain from the start that they were not to be outclassed by the no-minds of the tree-choppers campus. Behind rabid fan support, our varsity team outskated, outhustled and outscored the cougars throughout the game, taking period leads of 4-1, 7-2, and 10-3.

And finally, they showed that they could hit and check with the best of them; constantly bashing the "Pussies" into the boards without fearing retaliation. Glen MacKenzie and Sally Conway even managed to put the mitts to a pair of the opposition, the result being fighting majors and banishment from further participation. The battles raised this fans hopes for a successful season, previously sickened and disheartened to see our players back down from any sort of physical contact, resulting in intimidation and lopsided losses.

Leading the Shingwauks in the scoring department was Johnny Disano with the Hat-trick, exhibiting his fine skating and stick-handling prowess throughout the

game. Mike Hogan and Randy Stewart each contributed a pair of markers each, while singles were scored by Fast Eddy Belanger, Junior Slobodecki and Paul Caverly,

Scoring for Sault College was Paul Bunyan, Bonzo, and Francis the Talking Mule.

Dieter Roess turned back 19 shots in recording the victory.



ALGOMA COLLEGE
SHINGWAUKS

NO. 1 IN THE SAULT



SAULT COLLEGE
COUGARS

Piss All

Super Pub

THERE WILL BE A PUB IN THE STUDENT LOUNGE ON FRIDAY NOV. 30, FROM 7 TO 1. BEER, LIQUOR AND WINE WILL BE SERVED - SO



TRY TO MAKE A POINT OF BEING THERE. "IT WILL BE A GOOD TIME!"

PERSONALS (by Y. Essex Fiend)

Lonely Tibetan monk seeks correspondence and friendship with Tibetan monkess. Will answer all letters. Enclose name, and send a self-addressed carrier pigeon to Mount Boredom.

Man with pet elephant is looking for Ms. Right. She must be blonde, 5'7½", weigh 103 lbs., and own a home with a large doghouse. Phone EL-57½103.

Swinging coloured chick wants to find soul mate. Any nationality accepted -- K.K.K. members need not apply. Hobbies include reading Ebony, writing letters to Hank Aaron, and throwin darts at photos of George Wallace. Write : Swinger Box 68+1.

Fellow looking for intellectual stimulation Tuesday and FRI. evenings. Good salary and fringe benefits. Only females need apply. Phone 987-5432, wait until heavy breathing stops, then arrange an appointment with Horace.

Our commune is looking for new members. Only nudist Hebrew midgets, under the age of 27, are welcome. Call US-82319, and ask for the group.

Girl with pet rat would like to write with employee of cheese factory. I'm sure we can work something out. Write Maybe, Box 453436879764532

Beautiful brunette gal wishes to find husband. She is 19, has great figure, brown eyes shoulder length hair, likes a good time. He must be a man, alive, have money, and be

willing to adopt two children. Wire: Miss Wow, 33 Northern St. in care of Aunt Sue's Home for Unwed Mothers.

Are you shy, so am I. Please don't write to Box 97. I hope nobody writes, I'd be too embarrassed to read the letters.

Mary Lou come back. I respect you. I've sold it. I told her. I bought them. I filled it. We'll be rid. The kids miss you. I'm going. Write Fred. She's sorry. Call Alex, ask for Pete.

If you are interested in joining a mixed water polo team, know mouth to mouth resuscitation, and aren't allergic to sharks, Phone May at 707202. We're making plans now for our Pacific tour, and we've decided against a plane or a boat. See the sea! Call now before we're swamped with applications.

I need a ride to Australia between Nov. 9 and Nov. 10

Willing to share driving and costs. Call Wheels at 25-456787.

Wanted ten girls to share a one room apartment. \$10 per month. Send photo to Bruiser, Box F.U.N.

Anyone interested in sharing a shower call Susie, I'll supply the soap and towels. Call 65-89789.

Wanted: Girl to do cooking, cleaning and laundry on Thursdays. Pay is \$21.00 an hour. Good fringe benefits. Girl must be over 18 and willing to work!! Contact Dan Roy in newspaper office.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

GAME ?



Yes, that word is GAME, for what happened on Friday in Academic Council more than reinforces the word. Members of Council seem to be regarding their presence on Fridays as an experience in the area of committee work or a boring two hours to be devoted to Algoma College.

On Friday the consultant firm of Kates, Peats and Marwick presented their report on the rights and wrongs of Algoma College. There was full attendance of Council and everyone listened attentively as the consultants outlined their report. However in order to accommodate questions from Council, the Chairman was forced to suspend the normal time limit of two hours, and ask that Council remain until the questioning period had finished and then to vote on the consultants proposals. The suspended time limit amounted to one hour and the vote went 9-8 in favour of accepting the resolutions. Of the 27 voting members, only 17 were present to cast their vote. The 10 who hastily left the meeting, in my opinion could have voted down the consultants recommendations, for the general tone of the meeting was negative towards the firm's proposals.

To the ten who left before the vote was taken, it does indicate one thing, that is, your concern for the college

goes no farther than two hours on a Friday afternoon. Academic Council is not a game nor is it a fetish group of Academics and students trying to become administrators. Academic Council should be a governing body, composed of concerned faculty and students and not viewed as a game of petty politics. Members of council should realize their responsibilities and act accordingly. Game, well members ask yourself why you are sitting on Council this year

club

Anyone interested in forming a snowshoe club at Algoma College please leave name, phone number and address in the box which will be provided at the front door of the school. Everyone welcome- students, faculty, friends etc. A meeting will be held at a later date to discuss further plans. Oh and by the way, no experience necessary.

A new look at the Rosenberg spy case

Ever since the Nixon Administration took office some five years ago, there has been a steady stream of political trials. According to the government, these trials were initiated to root out dangerous conspirators bent on destroying civil order within the U.S. and weakening its political clout throughout the world — particularly in Vietnam.

In virtually every case so far, however [the Chicago 8, the Panther 21, and the Pentagon Papers trial, to name a few], juries have seen through the government's shoddily constructed prosecution and dubious investigative "techniques", i.e. agent provocateurs, paid informers and illegal electronic surveillance.

It has cost the movement a great deal of time, energy, and money to defend itself from government attack but it was precisely the movement's visibility and confrontory role in American politics, its public questioning of government policy, that created the climate for these acquittals.

Twenty years ago, in the notoriously silent fifties, another political trial — that of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg — did not fare so well. On June 19, 1953, the two were electrocuted for supposedly giving national security secrets to the Russians.

Anyone familiar with the government's tactics in recent conspiracy trials will recognize the similarities in the Rosenberg case.

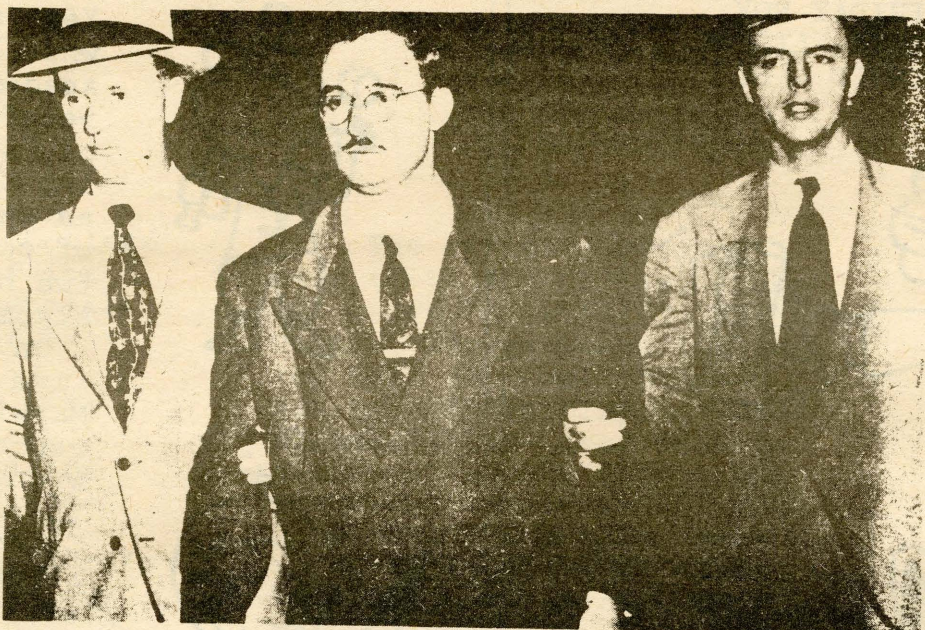
The following article, based on a recent interview with Robby Meerpol, one of the Rosenberg sons, discusses the case and its current developments.

by Tom Engelhardt
Pacific News Service

On June 19, 1953, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg died in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison. Convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage, they were blamed in the press and public opinion for "stealing" the secret of the atomic bomb and turning it over to the Russians.

To the end, the Rosenbergs proclaimed their innocence. They left many doubts behind them. Now their protestations of innocence, attacked by famous attorney Louis Nizer in a recent best selling book, are being reaffirmed by their grown children.

In his first press interview, 26 year old



Julius Rosenberg, in custody of FBI agents following his arrest on July 17, 1950, as an "atom spy."

Robby Meerpol (born Robby Rosenberg) did not mince words. "I am absolutely certain that my parents were not guilty of any crime. They were victims of a frame-up that was carried out by the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department, members of the FBI, and the New York prosecutor's office."

Robby was only three and his brother Michael seven, when their father Julius was arrested in July, 1950. Less than a month later, their mother, Ethel, was taken into custody by FBI agents.

Nine months before, President Truman had informed the American public that Russia had exploded its first atom bomb. And in June, the Korean war began with a series of disastrous defeats for the U.S. Shocked Americans were then told that a poor machinist and his wife were the kingpins in a Russian spy ring which had managed to "steal America's greatest 'secret' — how to make the atom bomb.

Lurid press accounts of what the FBI still calls the "crime of the century" were matched by the melodrama of the government's case. The prosecution claimed that the Rosenbergs' loyalty and allegiance was "not of our

country, but that it was to Communism."

Atom 'Secret'

Prosecutor Irving Saypol charged that the Rosenbergs' had convinced David Greenglass, Ethel's younger brother, to "play the treacherous role of a modern Benedict Arnold." Saypol claimed that, through David, a GI technician assigned to the top secret Los Alamos atom bomb project, the Rosenbergs stole "this one weapon that might well hold the key to the survival of this nation and means the peace of the world, the atomic bomb."

The prosecution had no significant physical evidence to back up their case — no spying equipment, no mini-cameras, no code books. Instead, they relied on witnesses like Elizabeth Bentley, already well-publicized in the press as an alleged Communist "spy-queen". She gave "expert" testimony on the willingness of domestic Communists to commit any deed at the bidding of Moscow.

Harry Gold, Philadelphia chemist who claimed a long and confusing career as a "Soviet courier," was a key witness. Gold testified that on June 3, 1945 using the recognition signal "I came from Julius," he

contacted David Greenglass in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

There he picked up a series of sketches from Greenglass (which, the government later claimed, were of the atomic bomb), gave him an envelope with \$500 and turned the sketches over to Russian officials in New York City.

Finally, David and his wife Ruth (who was named as a co-conspirator but was never indicted or brought to trial) took the stand. In one of the most dramatic and distasteful moments in American courtroom history, Greenglass identified Ethel and Julius Rosenberg as the brains behind his actions.

At the sentencing, Judge Irving R. Kaufmann accused the Rosenbergs of being solely responsible for the deaths of 50,000 Americans in Korea. After two years of legal struggles, both went to their deaths insisting on their innocence.

J. Edgar Hoover, Attorney General Herbert Brownell and others joined a "deathwatch" at the Justice Department waiting for either Rosenberg to break and pick up a special phone installed in the death house to name the Communist higher ups who allegedly gave them their orders. President Eisenhower stood by in the Whitehouse prepared to grant clemency.

"The hysteria prior to the trial was such that the government would have won the case no matter what," says Robby Meerpol. "And it's not just that they were innocent, but that this crime could not have been committed. There was no such thing as the secret of the atom bomb."

"In fact, if you go back to 1945 and 1946 and read the statements of the atomic scientists involved, every one of them over and over again is saying there is no such thing as an atomic secret. Atomic theory is internationally known and all that was needed was the technology and the vast resources to put it all together."

In the years immediately following World War II such political figures as Eisenhower and Truman warned the American public that it was just a matter of time until the Soviet Union developed its own bomb.

But by 1950, everything had changed. "You have to realize," Robby said "All it took then was for somebody to say that there was a

Rosenberg...

continued

secret of the atom bomb, that it was stolen and that my parents were responsible, and everybody was out for blood."

"At that time, it suited the government purposes for Americans to think that nobody else could make an A-Bomb unless they stole our secret."

Prominent attorney Louis Nizer has turned a screenplay he wrote for an upcoming Otto Preminger movie into a best selling book, "The Implosion Conspiracy".

The book was advertised as the final verdict on the Rosenberg case. In its 495 pages, Nizer reconvicts the Rosenbergs, portraying them as fanatics who psychologically mistreated and exploited their children for political ends. He upholds the trial itself as a victory for the whole American judicial system.

The book reads as if it were written in 1954 by a member of the prosecution team. Despite Nizer's claims of deep research ("I was going to know as much about the Rosenbergs and the trial as was humanly possible."), the text is riddled with errors. It also depicts in vivid detail scenes between major figures in the conspiracy where no one else could have been present. ("Julius took a long look at David only to see his own reflection in his lifeless eyes.")

But far more important, Nizer ignores any of the new evidence dug up since the trial which might have thrown his conclusions into disarray. Most startling is his refusal to respond to Walter and Miriam Schneir's well known book, *Invitation to an Inquest*, first published in 1965.

The Schneirs got their hands on some records of the extensive pre-trial questioning of both Harry Gold (FBI and other agents talked to him for hundreds of hours) and David Greenglass. They found that both witnesses final testimony differs significantly from their earlier accounts.

Harry Gold spins a vast web of contradictory stories. Key elements in his account, including his reference to Julius Rosenberg's

name, appear only after David Greenglass' arrest and many hours of FBI "coaching".

Among many other questions they raise, the Schneirs throw grave doubts on the authenticity of a hotel registration card used by the government to nail down Gold's account of his meeting with Greenglass. On the basis of newly discovered evidence, they assert that the card was an FBI forgery.

"I think what happened was they had Harry Gold," says Robby Meerpol, "Harry Gold was a nonentity who found his calling in life when he started talking. The more attention he got, the more stories he made up. 'Well', Hoover said, 'the secret of the atomic bomb's a pretty big thing. You can't just expect one man to have done it all. It must have been a conspiracy.'"

"And then they ran across David Greenglass, this GI who had evidently stolen some uranium when he worked at the Los Alamos project. Then they discovered that the man had a brother in law involved in radical politics. They put it all together and they started putting the pressure on people."

With nothing new to add on the case itself, Nizer had instead drawn heavily on the emotional letters Ethel and Julius wrote to each other during the three years they were in virtual solitary confinement. (Some of these letters were published while they were still alive with the copyright and profits going to their children.)

"The Rosenberg trial," Nizer's book begins, "is not only the most extraordinary spy story of the century, it is a love story."

By combining the passion of the letters with the plight of the two beleaguered young Rosenberg children, Nizer creates an emotional aura which veils his mistreatment of the case itself.

Retrying the Rosenbergs

Robby, 26, and his brother Michael, 30, too young to help twenty years ago, were not willing to sit by and serve as part of the prosecution's case in a retrial of their parents. After their parents' execution, and a move by the state to place them in an orphanage, the two were adopted by the Meerpol family.

"I was aware," says Robby, "that I was somebody that something extremely unusual had happened to. That it was very awful. That I should be proud of my parents for what they did. That they told the truth and stood up for what they believed in, but at the same time it wasn't something you talked about."

Now grown and married with children of their own, both brothers teach at Western New England College and live in a quiet suburb of Springfield Mass. Until the Nizer book came out, only their families and close friends knew their real identity.

Deeply disturbed by the book and what they felt to be a misuse of their parents' prison letters, they decided to "come out" as Rosenbergs. They sued Nizer for an infringement of copyright.

"We had to sue," Robby says. "We had no choice. Those letters are virtually the only legacy left to us by our parents. Not only that, but it's the only real speaking in their own defence they ever were really able to do. If those letters are used in a way that turns them around, then their entire purpose has been perverted."

Charge conspiracy

But the Rosenberg children are aiming to do far more than just counter-attack Nizer's misuse of their parents' letters. Through other actions, the Rosenberg children hope to force a genuine reopening of their parents' case.

They are charging publicly, for the first time, that Irving Saypol, government prosecutor in the Rosenberg case (and now a judge), Roy Cohn, his assistant (and later an assistant to Joe McCarthy), "and possibly others were guilty of a conspiracy to deny my parents their civil rights, if not a conspiracy to commit murder."

"These two men used perjured testimony and they knew it. Harry Gold was constantly changing his story. Also, they put obvious pressure on David Greenglass. The thing which must have gotten him to perjure himself was that they said, 'You play ball with us and your wife goes free.'"

Robby Rosenberg and others, like the Schneirs who have questioned the basis of the

case, see a larger governmental purpose behind the trial. The Rosenbergs were arrested just after the start of the Korean war, just after a secret U.S. decision was made to build the hydrogen bomb and massively increase arms spending, and soon after the Russians exploded their own atomic bomb.

"They wanted to break them. Make them point their fingers at other innocent people and enlarge the 'conspiracy'."

The Rosenberg children obviously feel that their parents, "tried by the times," will be judged differently in post-Watergate America. As Robby points out, "If Pat Gray can destroy files, why couldn't the FBI forge a hotel card?"

In the break-ins, forgeries, cover ups and other activities which the Watergate has brought to light, the Rosenberg children see familiar terrain.

"What the government was saying at that time was, 'The Communists are everywhere doing terrible things. What we need is more power to combat them.' They created, right then, what I call the false national security argument. This is where the link begins with Watergate."

"It has this very same justification that has led to all sorts of secrecy, surveillance, and invasions of people's privacy. The exact same things that are coming out in Watergate, and the same tactics were used in my parents' trial, and have been part of a fabric of internal politics which have gone on unchecked for the past twenty years."

He and Michael are planning to take their own version to the public. For one thing, they hope to publish a new and fuller edition of their parents' death house letters.

"The case is still a warning," Robby says. "I think most Americans don't realize it, but if the government wants to, it can take any American off the street, put that person in jail and give that person an incredibly hard time. That's something all Americans should think about and realize. That it could happen to any one of them. If you want to look at my parents' case very clearly, it demonstrates that."



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