

fact, this is nonsense. Every exemption, deduction, credit, and surcharge amounts to a statement of policy. We encourage private charities; we believe that those who are blind, over 65, or dependent deserve special consideration. Those are, in principle, unobjectionable policies.

But our tax law as it now stands encourages—intentionally or not—a plethora of policies that directly promote the concentration of economic power. The merger wave of the late 1960s was in part the result of companies looking for tax advantages through takeovers; the absorption of large tracts of land by corporate conglomerates is encouraged by depreciation laws that enable these companies to sell land at enormous profits without taking on a high tax load; the growing use by insurance companies of the “equity kicker”—demanding part ownership in a development enterprise in return for investing capital in it—reflects the tax breaks available under that kind of practice. The result of all of these practices is *concentration*: the use of capital not so much to start new enterprises, but to absorb old ones. And thus, while our antitrust policies encourage diversity, competition, and a halt to concentrated ownership, our tax laws promote exactly the reverse.

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*Jack Newfield and Jeff Greenfield are free-lance journalists. This article will appear in their forthcoming book A Populist Manifesto: The Making of a New Majority (Praeger).*

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## Letters

[YES ON HOOKERS]

Editors: The letter by Eric Edmunds printed in the February RAMPARTS about “Carnal Knowledge: A Portrait of Four Hookers” reveals the extent of elitism current within the left. The idea that RAMPARTS should be a sort of left-wing *New Republic* is absurd. What RAMPARTS and this country need is more articles like Kate Coleman’s, not “an articulate yet witty” rehash of the liberal press.

—Bill Pelz  
Chicago, Illinois

Editors: Though I know everyone has different tastes, I was actually shocked to read the criticism of Kate Coleman’s article [which] was not covered up with condescending nonentities — nor wrapped up in sociological jargon, which unfortunately is a characteristic of liberals’ treatment of “social ills.”

Three cheers for Kate. . . . She removed herself from the white-collar journalists who write about poverty from their university offices, the doctors who write about drug addiction from their carpeted waiting rooms, and the judges who sentence prostitutes to jail from their authoritative benches.

—Margie Knipe  
Madison, Wisc.

[TRANSLATION HELP?]

Editors: I have recently read an article in the January 1972 issue of RAMPARTS by Robert Fitch, entitled “GREECE: Jacki and Ari and George and Tom and Spiro and . . .” which I enjoyed very much.

I am personally very interested in the political situation in Greece and have a large number of friends that would benefit from reading the article; however, they do not read English.

I would appreciate any information on how to obtain this article written in Italian or Greek and be willing to pay a reasonable amount for the copy.

Please send any information to:

518 W. Alder  
Missoula, Montana 59801

Thank you.

—Patricia M. Da Silva

[CANCER—ANOTHER VIEW]

Editors: I have read with interest the article “Behind the Cancer Campaign” by Robert Bazell in the December RAMPARTS. I think it is worthy of comment, emphasis, and some changes in perspective.

The author is a Ph.D. and immunologist and is not in a position to discuss the issue from the perspective of having been faced with the clinical problem. He does, however, call attention to some very important points that need to be stressed. They are as follows:

1) There will be no sudden breakthrough in the treatment of cancer. Most serious investigators, political motives dismissed, have made no claim

that a breakthrough will come. There will be, as the author states, no penicillin for cancer—for treatment or for prevention.

2) The major deficit in what we do about cancer at the present time is related to the health care delivery system. This is badly in need of attention. The present legislation does provide for 15 treatment centers which could begin to attack this problem. We badly need to reduce the gap between what we know how to do and what we do. For example, we could essentially eliminate carcinoma of the cervix as a cause of death in this country. Despite this, our federal policy makers saw fit to remove support for Pap smear programs. Furthermore, it is the indigent who are most at risk from this disease. The present legislation and direction of the National Cancer Institute offers hope that cancer control money will again be made available for this as well as other purposes.

There are, however, additional points which should be made to enable the reader to put the cancer problem into better perspective. The author implies that doing something about cancer is not a major health need of the American people. This is absurd. As a matter of fact, at least one poll showed that for better or for worse, the American people felt that this was one of their most important single health needs. The reason is not difficult to discern and is due to the fear that cancer justifiably instills in people. Despite the fact that the author apparently feels that life after 65 is not worth much, cancer does not produce death by sneaking up on you. It does not silently and quietly strike you dead in the middle of the night. Instead, it causes increasing pain, suffering, psychological and financial distress, and dehumanizes its victim no matter what his age. Furthermore, if he believes that youth is the most important part of our culture, then some statistics like those used to discuss lead poisoning are of note—namely that *the single commonest disease causing death in children after the infancy period is cancer*. Breast cancer causes more deaths in women aged 40-44 (young by my standards) than any other single disease. . . .

The author states quite correctly that

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good management in itself will not solve the cancer problem; however, bad management may impede its solution. Both the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society felt that better management would result from changing some administrative mechanisms and that more money could be used to exploit what we already know. In this regard, support for a larger budget by the American Association for Cancer Research may, from the author's perspective, be suspect because so many of its members depend upon the National Cancer Institute for support of their activities. On the other hand, the physicians who make up the American Cancer Society are mostly voluntary members in practice who have little to gain personally from the legislation except better ways to manage patients.

The author makes some judgments on carcinogenesis which are worthy of comment. He appears to favor some kind of special role for chemical carcinogenesis. A more reasonable view of the state of the art at the present time is that there are many substances (chemicals, high energy radiation, viruses) which probably play a role in the development of cancer in man. Furthermore, the reader needs to understand that under almost every circumstance the conditions necessary to demonstrate carcinogenesis in the laboratory are highly artificial. . . .

The author's suggestion about getting a good G.P. is as American as apple pie. To oppose it seems un-American. Nevertheless, it is impractical. G.P.'s are disappearing because there is too much relevant clinical information for any human being to digest. The result has been specialization. Consider, for instance, that the average M.D. now sees three to five new cancer patients per year. This number is too small to permit the development of complicated skills either in diagnosis or treatment. More M.D.s will not solve this problem. . . .

It seems to me that the new legislation offers a good start in dealing with one of the many difficult and important problems in our society. . . .

—John R. Durant, M.D., Director  
Cancer Research & Training  
Program, University of Alabama  
in Birmingham

[LUDLOW/ATTICA]

Editors: Rockefeller at the mines in "Ludlow Massacre Revisited" [January 1972 RAMPARTS] reminds me of Grandmother's tale of Rockefeller at the mints.

In the nineteen-teens she waited on the Ford, Rockefeller and Morgan clans at the Great Inns that once dominated Northeast and Seal Harbor, Maine, seascapes.

She remembers them as the miserliest of tippers. Not only would Rockefeller's table be barren of coins, but on the way out he would scoop into his pocket the remaining contents of the little mint dishes, mints the waitresses looked forward to munching on after serving these Great Men.

—Delia Mae Farris  
Cutler, Maine

Editors: . . . Your January RAMPARTS; which carried "Ludlow Massacre Revisited" was rather timely indeed. The Attica Liberation Front thanks you!

Keep up the good work and don't forget the Brothers in "HBZ." . . . Publish this as a memorial to Sam Melville Grossman and the Attica Victims of Rockefeller's racist oppressive tactics.

—Bro. Herbert X Blyden  
Minister of Information  
Attica Liberation Front

Zimbabwe! (From page 20)

sovereignty to the British South Africa Company—a company which owed its charter to the government itself. Yet British Foreign Secretaries, very much in the manner of Sir Alec, preceded to express pious respect for native rights. Seventy-five years of British overlordship in which the Labor Party and the Tory Party compete in deception and hypocrisy have educated a generation of Zimbabwe liberation fighters. They expect no more from London that they do from Salisbury. No U.N. resolutions can liberate their people, no statements from the Organization of African Unity. Only determined struggle against a regime which knows it is cornered by history. A saying of the Zimbabwe people expresses it well: "Time longer than rope."

—R.F.

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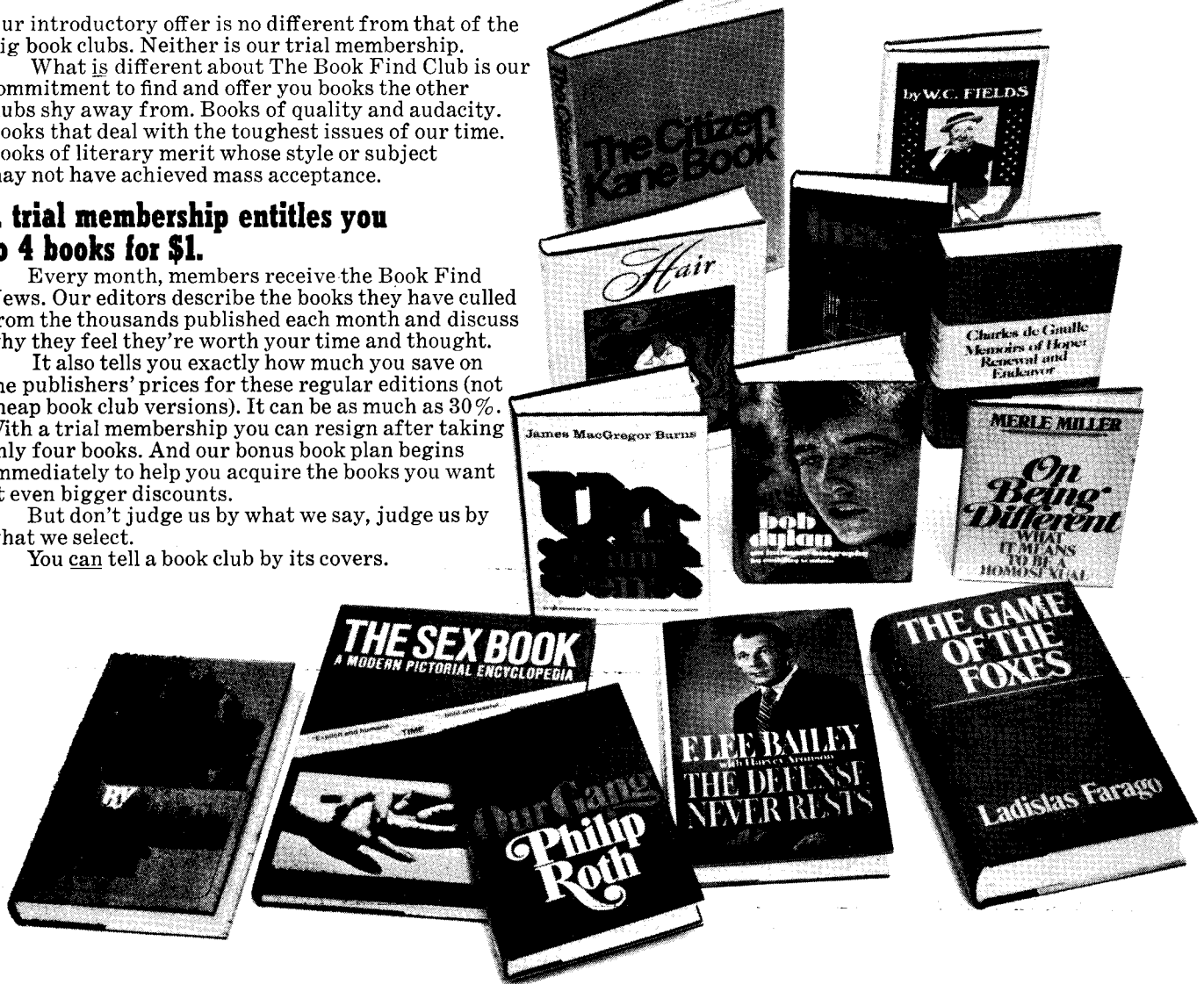
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