

THE ALMANAC

by Derek Shearer

Almost three years after Earth Day, 1970, eco-consciousness in America appears to be as strong as it has ever been. In the fall elections, environmental propositions were passed by voters in Colorado (the Winter Olympics issue) and California (the initiative to preserve the coastline), and a number of politicians were elected to Congress on ecology-oriented platforms. Court actions against factories and power plants that pollute the environment continue to meet with success.

Still, the ecology movement—such as it is—lacks a sophisticated understanding of the relationship between the environment and the politico-economic system. Those looking for such a perspective can turn to a number of important books:

The Closing Circle—Nature, Man & Technology by Barry Commoner (Bantam paperback). Written by an ecologist at Washington University in St. Louis who has become a major figure in the environmental movement, the book is important for its criticism of American industry.

Economics and Ecology by Matt Edelman (Prentice-Hall Paperback) is the first good primer on the subject by a very bright radical economist.

The Politics of Ecology and The Last Play both by James Ridgeway (both in Dutton paperback). In the first book, Ridgeway outlines the relationship between the government and the forces of environmental destruction. In his more recent study, he investigates the attempts of multinational corporations to corner the world's sources of energy.

Beyond Repair: The Ecology of Capitalism by Barry Weisberg (Beacon paperback). In spite of its grating tone, this book offers a good counter-argument to those who believe the environment can be saved without altering significantly the economic system.

News of political work, including publications, films, slide shows, etc., should be addressed to Derek Shearer, RAMPARTS Magazine, 2054 University Ave., Berkeley, California 94704.

One of the best short pieces on ecology is the illustrated booklet **The Earth Belongs to the People**. Single copies cost 75 cents. It is available in bulk at the following rates: 10-50 copies at 50 cents each; 51-100 at 40 cents; and 101 or more at 35 cents. (Write: The Peoples Press, 968 Valencia St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110. Tel. 415-282-0856).

The Environment Information Center, Inc. has recently published a critical guide to over 600 ecology films which could be useful to community groups. Copies of **The Environment Film Review**, cost \$18 each. (Write: Environment Information Center, Inc., 124 East 39th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10016).

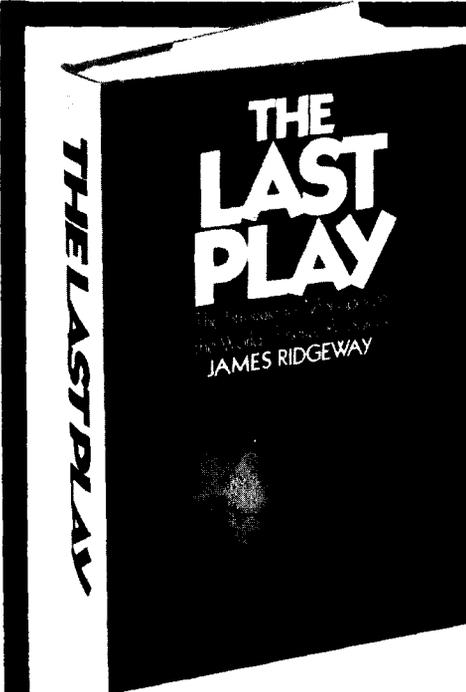
Until recently, there were two excellent ecology-oriented magazines, and the passing of San Francisco's **Clear Creek** is an event to be mourned by all concerned about the environment. It virtually leaves the field to **Environment**, published by the Committee for Environmental Information. Subscriptions cost \$10 a year; \$7.50 for students. (Write: P.O. Box 755, Bridgeton, Mo. 63044).

As for activist organization, **Environmental Action**—an outgrowth of **Earth Day**—is about as active as they

come. The group publishes an informative bi-weekly newsletter; subscriptions: \$7.50 a year. (Write: Environmental Action, Inc. Suite 731, 1346 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, Tel. 202-833-1845). It also assists local groups in action and research. Their paperbacks on eco-action—entitled **Earth Day**, **Earth Tool Kit**, and **Ecotage**—are available on request, or through most bookstores. Incidentally, this outfit defines environment broadly enough to include inner city housing, unsafe working conditions, and highways.

Like the ecology movement, the health care movement continues to grow although it no longer occupies the public spotlight. It too turns out interesting literature, most of which is referred to in **The Politics of Health Care**—a bibliography and guide to articles, books, and organizations dealing with health care. This booklet was compiled recently by two members of the **Boston Medical Committee for Human Rights**, Ken Rosenberg and Gordon Schiff. Copies are available for 35 cents plus 15 cents postage each. (Write: New England Free Press, 791 Tremont St., Boston, Mass. 02118).

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by JAMES RIDGEWAY
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Committee for Human Rights publishes the monthly **Health Rights News**. Subscriptions cost \$5 a year. (Write: MCHR, 2251 West Taylor, Chicago, Ill. 60612). MCHR, an organization of health people, has chapters in most major cities in the country. The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter recently issued a pamphlet called **Billions for Band-Aids**—an analysis of the U.S. health care system and of proposals for its reform. (\$2 each. Write: Bay Area Chapter, MCHR, P.O. Box 7677, San Francisco, Calif. 94119).

The **Health Policy Advisory Center** provides research on the American health system, conducts workshops, and supplies technical assistance and speakers for community, worker, and student groups. It publishes the

monthly **Health-PAC Bulletin**; subscriptions are \$7 a year and \$5 for students. (Write: Health-PAC, 17 Murray St., New York, N.Y. 10007. Tel. 212-267-8890).

Two new books provide practical information for nonprofessionals who wish to know how to care for their bodies. **The People's Handbook of Medical Care** (Vintage paperback) by **Arthur Frank, M.D.** and **Stuart Frank, M.D.**, both members of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, gives basic information on selecting doctors, choosing hospitals, covering medical costs, recognizing diseases, and dealing with many common injuries. In addition, the book includes a directory of free clinics around the country.

Our Bodies, Ourselves (Simon and

Schuster paperback) grew out of a booklet produced by the **Boston Women's Health Course Collective** called **Women and Their Bodies**. It is the best guide available on health care for women and includes sections on birth control, pregnancy, abortion, and the role of women in the health field.

For a look at the way China tackles these problems, check out **Ruth Sidel's** first-hand account of **Women and Child Care in China** (Hill and Wang hardcover). Also of interest is **Away with All Pests** by **Dr. Joshua Horn** (Monthly Review paperback). Horn, an English surgeon, reports on his stay in the People's Republic from 1954 to 1969 and gives a basic description of the Chinese health delivery system. ■

SPOOKS ON PARADE

by James Otis

The American press has been notoriously slow in following up leads on stories about the CIA. Until RAMPARTS' expose of the CIA's involvement in the National Student Association prodded such papers as the *New York Times* into action, few if any U.S. papers would carry critical pieces on the Agency. Now it appears that the *Times* and other papers have slipped back into their former state of lethargy.

The November 12, 1972 issue of *Parade*, a Sunday magazine which appears in over 100 newspapers, carried a story entitled "CIA Recruiting" in its "Keeping Up . . . With Youth" column. The story, complete with photographic evidence, described how the CIA uses a phony Army cover to recruit students into the Agency.

Parade discovered the story when two students from a west coast university contacted its office and told how they had answered an ad in the *Chicago Tribune* for Russian linguists.

The ad listed an attractive salary and gave a post office box in Washington, D.C. The students, who had majored in Russian, wrote in and received a letter from a Lt. Colonel Stratton, commander of the so-called U.S. Army Research Translation Group.

An interview was arranged with Col. Stratton and the students took and passed a Russian proficiency test. When the colonel learned that the students also spoke Spanish, he said that was good because they would probably be posted to Latin America.

Attending a university as cover, the students were to translate tapes of conversations bugged at the Russian embassy in the Latin American country in which they were supposedly attending.

The two prospective student spooks declined the employment opportunity, rightly suspecting that the job really involved working for the CIA. They turned over the record of their correspondence to *Parade* which contacted the government in an attempt to confirm the story.

In response to *Parade's* inquiries, CIA director Richard Helms (who has since become Ambassador to Iran) called *Parade's* editorial offices and suggested that it would not be in the

national interest for *Parade* to expose this CIA cover. Helms said how difficult it is for the Agency to find good young people these days, and asked the *Parade* editors to act "as patriots." One *Parade* editor, to his credit, replied, "Mr. Helms, we'll leave that sort of patriotism to Howard Hunt and Bernard Barker,"—two of the former CIA employees indicted in the Watergate case.

In advance of publication, *Parade* sent copies of the story to the wire services, the *Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other leading papers. None of these followed up the story or even reported on the *Parade* story. No TV or radio news station reported the story.

It is well known among reporters in Washington that the CIA bugs numerous foreign embassies both in the U.S. and in other countries. But that students are recruited, using a student cover, to help in this work, would seem newsworthy.

Congress has steadfastly refused to investigate CIA activities at home and abroad, which leaves only the press to protect the public interest. And if this latest incident is an example, they are doing the job with something less than vigilance. ■