

if 'no news' is 'good news' then bad news'll do

The MARILET

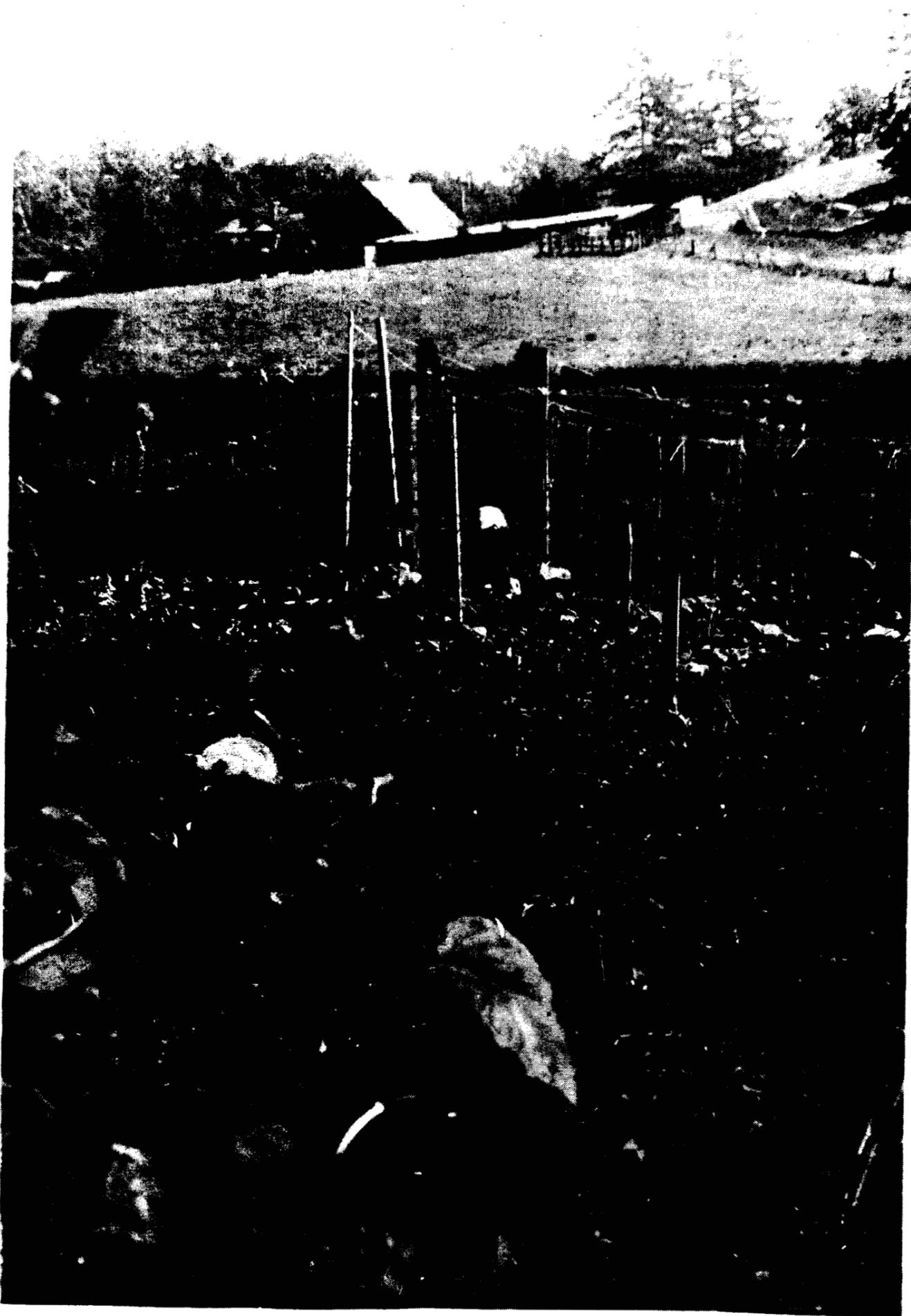
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1971

- ★ *the obscenity of Oz*
- ★ *frisbee freak's guidebook*
- ★ *the perfection of ecocide*

*"If I could find me a piece of land, I'd go to diggin it with my hands." —migrant farm worker.
Over 200 transients have toiled on the Cool-Aid farm so far this summer.*



The Martlet

editor mark hume
 contributing staff for summer dave todd,
 dave dunsen, greg middleton, richard whitehouse
 photo editor drew

cover photo's for this and preceding issue by mark; alcatraz story in last issue from good times

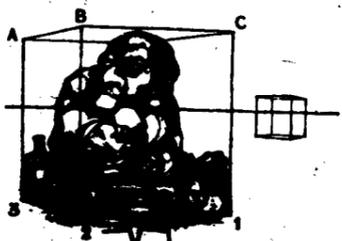
Member of the Canadian University Press

Published weekly throughout the University year in Victoria by the Publications Department of the Alma Mater Society, University of Victoria. Editorial opinions expressed are those of the Editors of the Martlet and not necessarily those of the Alma Mater Society or the University of Victoria.

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for Payment of Postage in Cash.
 Subscription rates: \$4.00 for students and alumni per academic year. For non-students, \$5.00 per academic year.

Days: 477-3611

Printed in Canada



PRACTICE
 RECOBB

der ripped off, recorder ripped off, recorder r pped off, recorder ripp

A cassette tape recorder was stolen on Saturday, July 31 from the Craigdarroch College lower lounge apparently by several long haired rip-off artists.

The tape recorder which belonged to Miss Kabuki, a Japanese exchange student, is an Aiwa IC Solid State cassette Recorder, and is a make that is apparently not yet available in Canada. It has a silver coloured metal case and has been valued at \$85.00. A photograph of it has been circulated by Traffic and Security to all the local police departments.

Miss Kabuki stated that she was practicing the piano in the lower lounge when two girls came in and asked her where the phones were. They said they were up here for the Rock Festival. Miss Kabuki said that she told them where they could find a phone but they asked her to show them. As she was taking them to the telephone, five young men approached them and spoke to the girls.

The tape recorder was sitting with some books beside the piano. When Miss Kabuki returned she saw three of the boys leaving the lounge very close together, while the other

two remained by the coke machine. The tape recorder was missing, along with two tapes.

One of the young men is described as wearing a mustard coloured jacket and white pants. Traffic and Security would like to speak to anyone who may be able to identify this individual or who may know the whereabouts of the recorder.

Miss Kabuki has just recently come over from Japan with a group of exchange students who are spending the summer in Canada. They have been staying in the residence while they were improving their English before going to stay in private homes for the balance of the summer. It is Miss Kabuki's first visit to Canada.

Tom O'Connor, the head of Traffic and Security, said that he felt that it was a shame that a guest of the University had been treated so poorly.

The Martlet would like to see Miss Kabuki have her tape recorder returned and if it were to be found in the Martlet office it could be very quietly forwarded to the owner.

Maison Francaise

environmental French

Maison Francaise, an intensive course in conversational French, is on campus again this summer.

Part of Lansdowne Residence is occupied by 76 Francophiles who are participating in an attempt to become bi-lingual. They include teachers as well as high school and university students. There are five hours of classes each day as well as out of class assignments. They are also encouraged to speak French at meals and social events. French language films and records are provided in an attempt to "train the ear".

Maison Francaise is an attempt to teach French in an environmental situation. This

program began in 1965. The instructors are French Canadian teachers. They live in the residence with the students to give extra aid and encouragement. As well as the actual 6 instructors, there are five French Canadian students to provide additional coaching.

One of the instructors, Miss Zita De Koninck, said in an interview that she feels that the course is working very well. She said that she had noticed a great improvement in most members of her class.

"It is difficult to come up here with all your friends and not speak to them in English when you aren't in class", she commented, "but the ones

that try are the ones that benefit".

"The best way to learn a language is to live in the country, of course, although Maison Francaise works very well", stated Miss De Koninck.

Most of the students that were interviewed agreed that the course was going well and that they were learning a great deal.

Some of the students enrolled in the course have had very little background in French. Other students are quite fluent. About two-thirds of the students are on the scholarship offered by the B.C. Government to high school and university students.

Day-Care to open soon applications being taken

The UVic Day-Care Centre, an old revitalized house sitting just off campus, will open its doors for operation August 30th.

If all goes well that is. The centre originally was to have opened some time ago,

but due to numerous unexpected complications — mainly in the form of red tape — delay followed delay.

Supervisor of the centre, Mrs. Barbara Williams, says, however, that the Day-Care house — located at 2246 McCoy Rd. — should be operational

by month end, well in time for the winter session.

She says that she can foresee no further postponements to the opening date, and urges those interested in making use of the facility to submit applications early.

At present she said the centre is only authorized to care for ten children — who must be 3-5 years old — at a time. After the centre has been operational for a brief time, however, it is expected that restrictions regarding the age and number of children will be loosened.

Applications can be made to Day-Care through the Student Union Building main office, and information can be received by calling either Mrs. Williams (at 586-4971) or the SUB office (at 477-1834).

Tribunal smoke screen?

The huge clouds of black smoke that have recently been seen billowing from the smokestack on top of the Commons Block were due, according to reliable sources, to the failure of a heating plant burner to relight.

There is no foundation to the rumour that the trouble stemmed from the residence

cafeteria's method of making toast; or to the suspicions that the Administration is destroying personal and confidential papers that they find incriminating and embarrassing. However, the suggestion that the recent Tribunal may be behind the large amount of smoke on campus has not yet been disproved.



Mother's Pride, a country / funk / blues band from Santa Barbara, California gets into a tune at the Sweetgrass Benefit, held in the UVic gym July 31st. Approximately 1,000 were on hand at the finale of the 12 hr. concert. The place was jammed, but everyone was cool, and there wasn't a bad incident all day long mother would have been proud.



OZ Program Elephant - T-5047

The great Oz

conspiracy trial



by martlet staffer

david todd

LONDON, ENGLAND

John and Yoko have written an album for them, rock bands like Traffic are playing benefits for them and their supporters have used everything from street theatre to shirt badges to publicize the cause.

"They", are Richard Neville, 29, Felix Dennis, 24, and James Anderson, 32, the editors of Oz, Britain's leading underground magazine. For the past six weeks, these three men have been on a trial in London's Central Criminal Court, the Old Bailey, charged with "conspiracy to produce a magazine with intent to corrupt children."

The trial is the latest move by the authorities in this country to curtail the elements of the underground press which have most offended the sensibilities of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad.

Unlike most such cases which pass through English courts, this trial has received wide reportage both in Britain and abroad. In an otherwise rather dull and dreary, summer, with Britons lulled by each day's boring progress report on the European Common Market, the Oz Obscenity Trial has proved the comic event of the season. Not only have the defendants produced a magnificent piece of absurd theatre, but the Crown prosecution has, by its gullibility, contributed to the light atmosphere in the staid old court, with exchanges like the following:

The Crown prosecutor asks John Peel, a BBC disc jockey, whether he has ever contracted VD.

CROWN - "I only asked you that because you have broadcast it."

PEEL - "I would be very surprised if a lot of people in this Court had not had venereal disease."

CROWN - "Which part of the court?"

PEEL - "I would say all parts of the court."

CROWN - "Are you serious?"

PEEL - "It is a very common disease."

The trial opened on June 22 with a Mardi Gras procession of more than one hundred "Friends of Oz" from the Law Chambers to the court. The scenario could have been written by Lewis Carroll. Richard Neville, wearing a yellow "Oz" emblazoned T-shirt, announced he would conduct his own defence, while Judge Michael Argyle told the jury not to worry if they didn't understand everything at the beginning.

"Neither do I", he confided. The subject under consideration was Issue Number

28 of Oz, Magazine, to wit, the "School Kidz Oz." Early last year, the editors decided to give school children the opportunity to help produce an issue of the magazine. Twenty children accepted invitations to submit ideas and attend editorial conferences. The final result was that the children selected most of the material for publication, and in almost all cases decided what went into the magazine.

The second day of the trial the jurors spent the afternoon reading Oz, "from cover to cover", as Judge Argyle instructed.

some people, the main cause of that, he said, would be the idea "that Rupert Bear had a penis at all."

Outside the court, Oz supporters were selling T-shirts embroidered with "Oz Obscenity Trial-Old Bailey 1971". Mr. Leary objected to the sale of these while the trial was going on.

Inside, Ronald Dworken, professor of jurisprudence at Oxford was saying, "This prosecution is in a sense a corruption of public morals. It seems to me that part of the public morality of this country is the freedom of expression."

Wizards offed by judge . . .

Amid cries of outrage late last week a British High Court judge handed down stiff sentences, on obscenity charges, to the three editors of Oz.

Throughout Britain, politicians, pop stars, newspapers and civil liberties groups have protested the jailing Thursday of Richard Neville, James Anderson, and Felix Dennis by Justice Michael Argyle.

Next morning, Richard Neville gave a hint of the tactical line the defence were to take. "If you convict us at the end of this trial," he said, "you are in reality convicting school children."

"... And if you convict them, then you yourselves must accept some of the responsibility for their guilt. So far from debauching the morals of the young, our evidence will show that Oz is part of a communications network which intends the very opposite. It sets out to enlighten and elevate public morals. Sex crimes in Denmark have dropped since the abolition of laws against pornography."

In particular bane of the prosecution was a cartoon depicting Rupert Bear, a popular English children's character, deflowering a "Gypsy Granny".

Responding to Crown questioning, Michael Schofield, a child psychologist, replied that "It would have absolutely no effect on young people at all. It is intended to be humorous."

Prosecutor Michael Leary described the Rupert Bear cartoon as the "representation of a well-loved childhood figure having intercourse with an old woman."

"It's a little difficult to see how a grandmother could at the same time be a virgin," he noted.

Neville found the cartoon "highly comic, extremely crude and clever." Though accepting that it would shock

Neville was jailed for 15 months and recommended for deportation, Anderson jailed for one year, and Dennis for nine months. All are appealing.

Subsequent to the charges, several Oz supporters were arrested in scuffles with the police, and others made an effigy of the judge which was burned outside the Courts building.

As the row continues, the

members of the new editorial board promised that the next issue will be a bombshell.

"This time they will need the sedition laws, not just the obscenity laws, to bust us," warned one.

Eleven members of Parliament, including three former Labor cabinet ministers, have introduced a Commons motion expressing shock at the severity of the sentences.

(suck the corner of page 46) on that short cut to Heaven and Hell."

Prosecutor Leary suggested a child might have sucked the edge of the page thinking there was something on it.

"All they would have got was some ink on their lips."

Replied Neville "No-one would have believed that if they sucked the page they would have got high."

It had, he explained, simply been a reference to the rumour that LSD could be impregnated in paper. Oz had used exaggeration, a standard satirical technique, "just like Swift did", said Neville.

The prosecution unabashedly questioned witnesses about the cover of the School Kidz edition, which depicted four pairs of girls in lesbian poses. Richard Neville did not believe the picture represented a "lesbian orgy."

LEARY - "Four couples of coloured girls behaving in a lesbian fashion..."

NEVILLE - "Behaving in a fashion which might be construed as lesbian."

Leary said he had no idea what the rat or mouse was doing within the vagina of one of the women.

Judge Argyle has been the cause of some merriment himself. Newspaper accounts of a certain day's proceedings had been "entirely misreported", said the Judge, due no doubt, to "mishearing and poor acoustics."

On another occasion he dismissed a juror who was late for proceedings because she was six months pregnant, and unable to run fast enough to arrive on time.

Leary went on in his uniquely mundane fashion: "Is there a type of music called mood music which assists young people getting to know each other sexually?" he queried.

Earlier the prosecutor had defined "indecent" and "obscene" as the difference between a man who strips naked on a crowded beach and one who strips and masturbates.

Detective-Inspector Luff of the Obscene Publications Squad, an impartial witness if ever there was one, said Issue 28 of Oz had attacked society.

Incidentally, Luff's men had themselves attacked society. His squad had removed from Oz offices all files, subscription lists and ledgers.

Michael Duane, a lecturer at Roehampton normal school, considered the people who took legal action against Oz to be apparently mentally deranged as, he said, "no one in his normal senses would deal with a prank" by bringing the whole process of law to bear on young people.

Others testified that but for the activities of the state the issue would have been forgotten a long time ago.

In the prosecution's closing speech, Leary observed that Oz 28 could be divided into "clean" and "dirty" sections. He failed, however, to produce specific cases of "depravity and corruption" attributable to the magazine. This is in marked contrast to the high calibre of witnesses the defence has brought forth, one after the other, in seemingly endless procession.

For a month, the London Times has reported on the trial with headlines such as "Child Psychiatrist Says Oz Not Harmful."

At this date of writing the trial continues Monday, July 26, Richard Neville took the whole day to deliver a brilliant address in defence of his magazine's policies. One correspondent compared it to a famous speech made in defence of free expression, at the Lady Chatterley trial in the Old Bailey ten years ago.

The prosecution is probably regretting the day they decided to take Oz to court. They have contradicted themselves, been shown up by their own witnesses and appeared almost wholly incompetent in mounting an attack.

"Admittedly, they are somewhat hampered by the ambiguity of the case they are trying to prove," said one Oz supporter. "After all, how the hell can you conspire to corrupt children?"

In his summing up, John Mortimer, defence counsel, noted, "It is perhaps fortunate that Shakespeare is no longer with us. He does not have to stand the criticism of having his works circulating among school children."

Frisbee seems to be the ideal sport. It is much more fun to do than to watch; it gets you outdoors; it is basically non-violent and non-competitive; it requires no special equipment — you can get a brand-new frisbee for a couple of bucks, a used one for as little as a quarter — and it develops timing, grace, coordination and body control. And, as in the best of the zen arts, finesse is more important than strength.

Though frisbees have become popular only recently, they've been around for quite awhile. Wham-O, the major producer of the plastic discs, began to manufacture them commercially back in 1955. Legend has it that the name and the game started in a cafeteria at Yale, when students began flipping around pieplates made by the Frisbee Pie Company.

To many people frisbee is more than just a game, it's a way of life. During the summer, frisbee freaks spend hundreds of hours flipping; to them it's not a sport, but an art-form which demands perfection and nothing less. Others take it less seriously, but all have fun at it.

At any rate, whether you're wired to frisbees, or are just a casual user, this article (adapted from Good Times) can help you polish your style.

THE FRISBEE

The frisbee factors are size, weight, and feel — you don't want one that is too spongy or too stiff. Watch out for a bubble top — this is a no-no, because it messes up a good clean flight. The smaller frisbee — the professional models, 9 and one quarter inch diameter — are better because they are more wind resistant and easier to throw and catch.

Weight is a major consideration, since wind is the major factor on a frisbee flight. Most frisbees around now weigh 108 grams and under, a little light for optimum tossing. Better weight is 115 to 130 grams — they get more distance and cut through the breeze better.

World distance champ Bob May of Berkeley has thrown a weighted Pluto Platter, an old model, more than 100 yards.

A way to add weight to a light frisbee is to put an automobile fan belt under the lip, making sure it fits snugly, or snip the rim from an old frisbee and tuck it inside. A frisbee with that refinement should have no trouble fending off the stiff bay breezes.

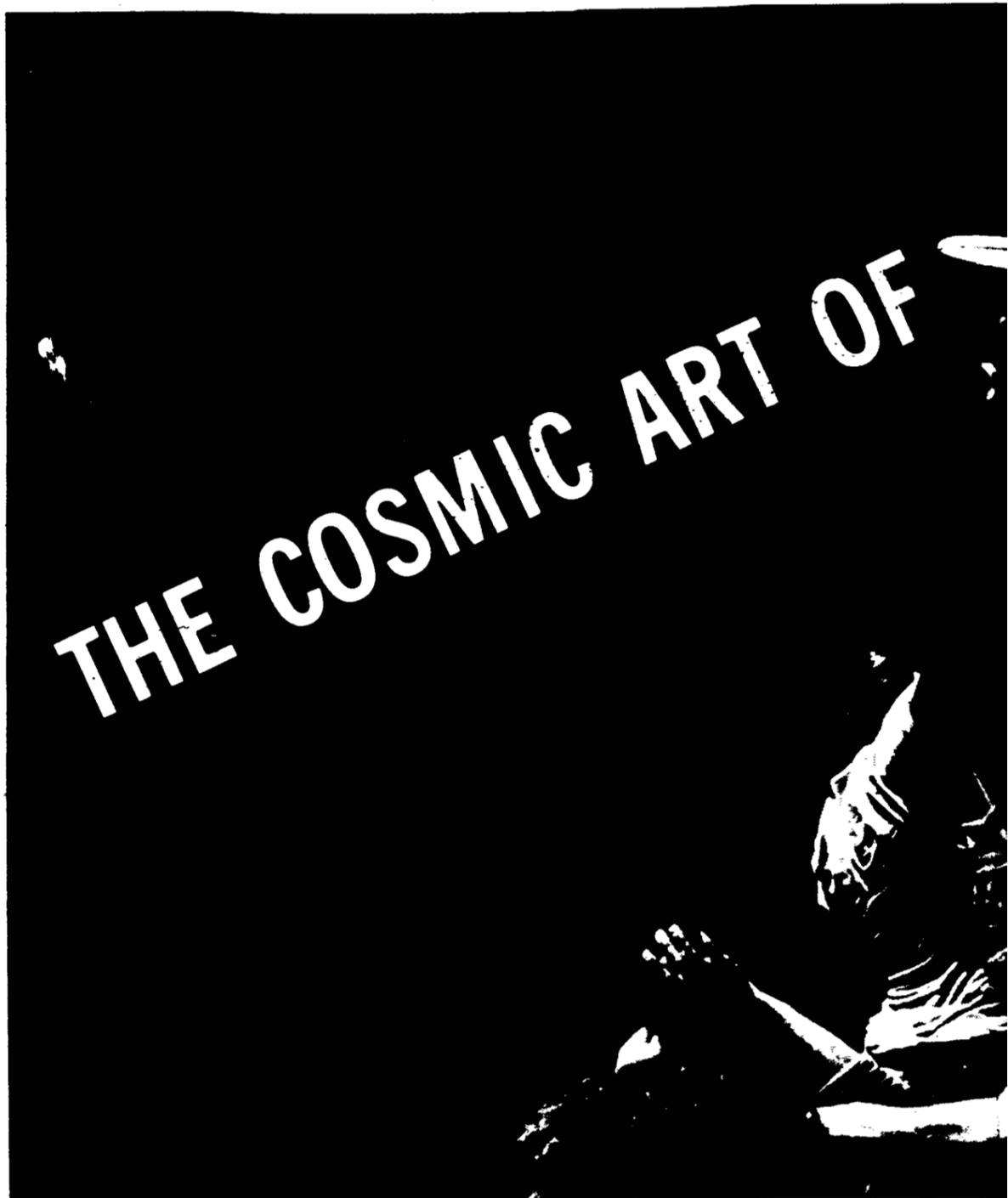
Virtually all frisbees are made by Wham-O. A good but rare non-Wham-O is the Twirl-A-Boom. There are several different Wham-O's, made in both the U.S. and Canada. The American line is considered superior even though both are made from the same mold, because the Canadian's are cast from inferior plastic mixtures and tend to warp or bubble and wear out faster.

Many judge the American Olympic Ring One models to be the best. Wham-O issued them five years ago and some may still be found in small outlets which don't do much business. Another superior model is the Moonlighter 14. The number refers to the mold number stamped on the center of the bottom side of the disc. The American 14 is also supposed to be very good.

Of the models generally available, the Moonlighter 15 is the best, although some dislike it. The Moonlighter 14s, no longer made, were better because of their heavier weight and deeper rim, which aided stability.

THE THROWS

The basic throw, of course, is the inside toss, the frisbee held with thumb on top, four fingers underneath, the disc thrown with a flip of the wrist from near the hip on the same side as the



throwing arm. This is the most common shot for beginners, since it is easy to control. But it has little power. For more distance the same shot can be thrown from the opposite side of the body, the arm whipping across as the wrist snaps it out.

The basic thing about throwing is the snap of the wrist. Also important is the flat release of the frisbee. A combination of a weak wrist snap and a platter thrown at an angle to the ground will cause it to turn over and drop. The wrist snap gives it the spin it needs — the gyroscope effect — for stability as well as distance.

Once the basic tosses are mastered it is time to try something fancier. For example, the sidearm throw. This is done very similarly to the way a good softball pitcher throws.

CATCHING

THE SIDEARM throw is done from the two-finger grip. This is just like the beginners', the thumb on top, but the frisbee is held on the bottom with just the index and middle fingers. This reduces friction on the release and increases distance.

The hardest part of this shot is the flat release of the frisbee as the arm whips through into its final wrist snap. Virtually all throws can be done with the two-finger rather than four-finger grip, once you get it down.

Trick shots include the behind-the-back, the skip shots, the question mark, and the upside-down. (The frisbee, not the thrower).

THE BEHIND-THE-BACK — the disc is held in the two-finger grip and the arm whips it out, obviously, behind your back. Wrist is even extra important in this shot, since the human anatomy doesn't permit as great an arm whip behind. Arching the back some will help give you the necessary clearance.

For more power and distance, the throw can begin with a discus thrower's run and spin. As the body whirls the arm whips behind the back and the frisbee is released with a strong snap of the wrist. This is especially important. To get a strong snap, don't just flick the wrist outwards, but bring it back immediately in one fluid powerful motion.

THE SKIP — This can be done from any type throw. The idea is to get the frisbee to bounce and come up again, so it is easiest to do it on a concrete surface. The frisbee is thrown at a deliberate angle so that it will hit the ground. The longer the throw, the smaller the angle you will want to throw it at.

THE QUESTION MARK — This is a ground toss, best done off the sidearm or underarm release. Hold the frisbee concave side out. The frisbee rolls on its edge in a big question mark shaped curve, winding up at your partner's feet. Easiest to do on concrete. Both this throw and the bounce are hard on the frisbee.



photos/benhari

All of them simply involve wind judgment, predetermining the flight pattern, and good timing. If you are trying to catch up to the frisbee you will probably wind up running in circles and stumbling. So you have to judge where the frisbee will come down and hustle your ass over to the spot. The frisbee goes much faster than you so this is essential.

It is even more important in garbage frisbee; playing frisbee in a crowd. Part of the fun is to run full-tilt through the crowd, then make a spectacular leap, picking off the disc in mid-air, and landing without crushing anyone. For some garbage frisbee enthusiasts, though, smashing into people without dropping the frisbee seems to be part of the fun.

Garbage frisbee is played mostly at large gatherings of people, like free rock concerts and outdoor theater. Flight judgement is really important, because you must watch where you are running through the crowd, then look up at the last moment to catch the frisbee.

One unique way to catch is twirling. As the frisbee comes near, use your index finger to snag it under the lip, and spin with it in the same direction it is going.

One of the basic variations on the catch is called tipping. The idea is to tap the approaching frisbee into the air — one or more times — and then catch it, either normally or behind your back or whatever.

The tip is done by tapping the frisbee in the middle, on the bottom of course. The best tip is right in the center. You can tip it with anything — your toe, heel, head, knuckle, knee, finger. Some people prefer one finger, others two or more, some all five held together so the tips form virtually one point.

Getting the various tips down is one of the trickiest things in frisbee. Tipping can be a communal thing, two or more people tipping it back and forth to each other before finally catching it.

Besides just digging the physical joy of frisbee throwing, and the satisfaction of perfecting various tricks and refinements, the more competitive can indulge in different games and contests. These include throwing for distance, accuracy, frisbee golf, and the most ferocious of all frisbee contests, guts frisbee.

FRISBEE GOLD — Someone picks a target, a tree or a railing, and that is the equivalent of the hole in golf. The idea is to see how many shots it takes you to hit it. Then go on to another target. Some of the strategy here is that lefties will pick out targets which their natural curve to the right is more suited for, and righties choose targets on the opposite side.

MAXIMUM TIME AFLOAT — The idea here is to see how long you can keep the frisbee in the air. What you are doing actually is throwing it out in front of you at about a 45-degree angle to the ground, so that after it hits its apex it will come right back to where you are. You try to catch it yourself, of course, but the frisbee is really moving on its way down and catching it is a real challenge for a beginner.

FRISBEE GUTS: The idea here is to throw it so hard that your opponent can't catch it. Welts and bruises are not uncommon in this most macho of frisbee games. Sometimes there is even a little blood.

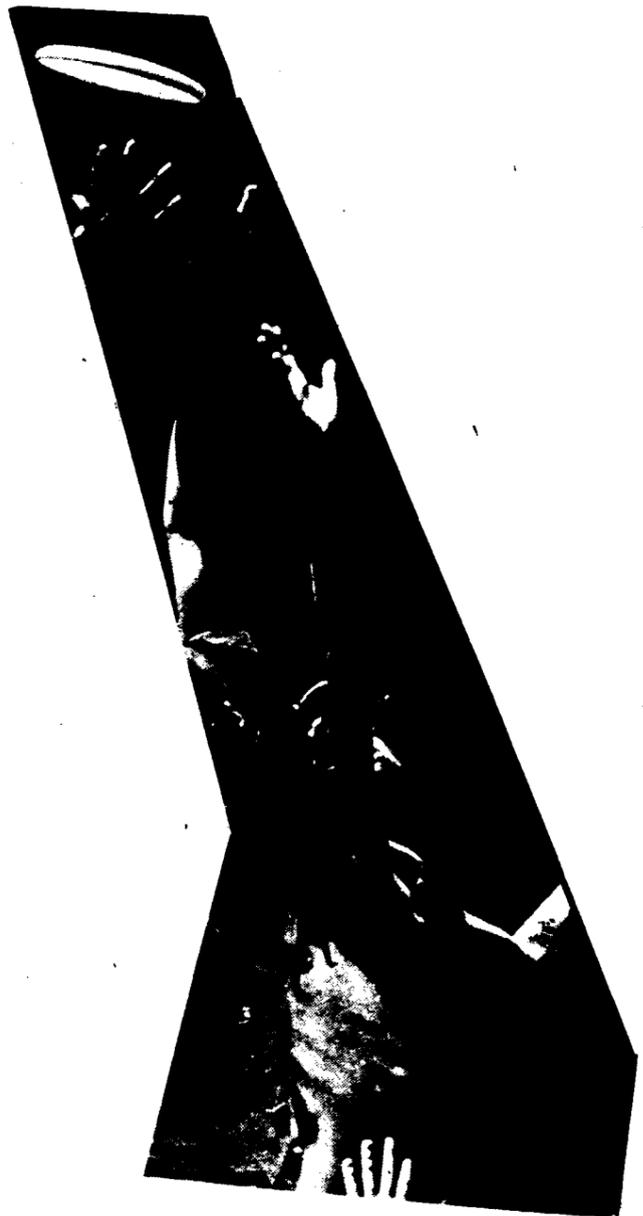
Formal competition is played with five-man teams, facing each other 15 yards apart. The disc is thrown squarely and as hard as possible at the opponent, who must catch it with one hand. A miss costs a point. A pre-determined number of points and you are out. Throwing so that it isn't within arm's reach of your opponent also costs you a point.

The International Frisbee Association has been holding frisbee championships in Eagle Park, Mich., for 14 years. Competition is in accuracy, medley accuracy — right and left curves, skip shots — and distance and guts.

FRISBEE DESTRUCTION

The toughest things on frisbees are roofs, treetops, cold, concrete and dogs. On a cold night a frisbee is stiffer and more brittle. Sometimes just tipping it briskly will cause it to crack. The dangers of roof and treetops are obvious. Concrete will grind away at a frisbee, especially if you are doing things like question mark throws. And certain dogs love to munch on a tasty platter. Especially annoying are dogs that leap up and snap for the frisbee as you are trying to throw it. In normal use a frisbee should last a couple of years, which isn't bad for a couple of bucks investment.

Frisbee can be a diversion, a preoccupation, or a way of life, if you are monomaniacal enough about it. There is enjoyment and satisfaction at all levels, so flip out.



THE UPSIDE DOWN — This is a very difficult shot. The frisbee is held with the thumb underneath the lip, the index and middle fingers on top. The frisbee, concave side up, is thrown sort of like the amateur throw, but instead of being released inside the hip, it is thrown from alongside the neck, at the same side as the throwing hand. It takes a really strong wrist snap to keep it from wobbling or crashing, which is its natural tendency when flying upside down.

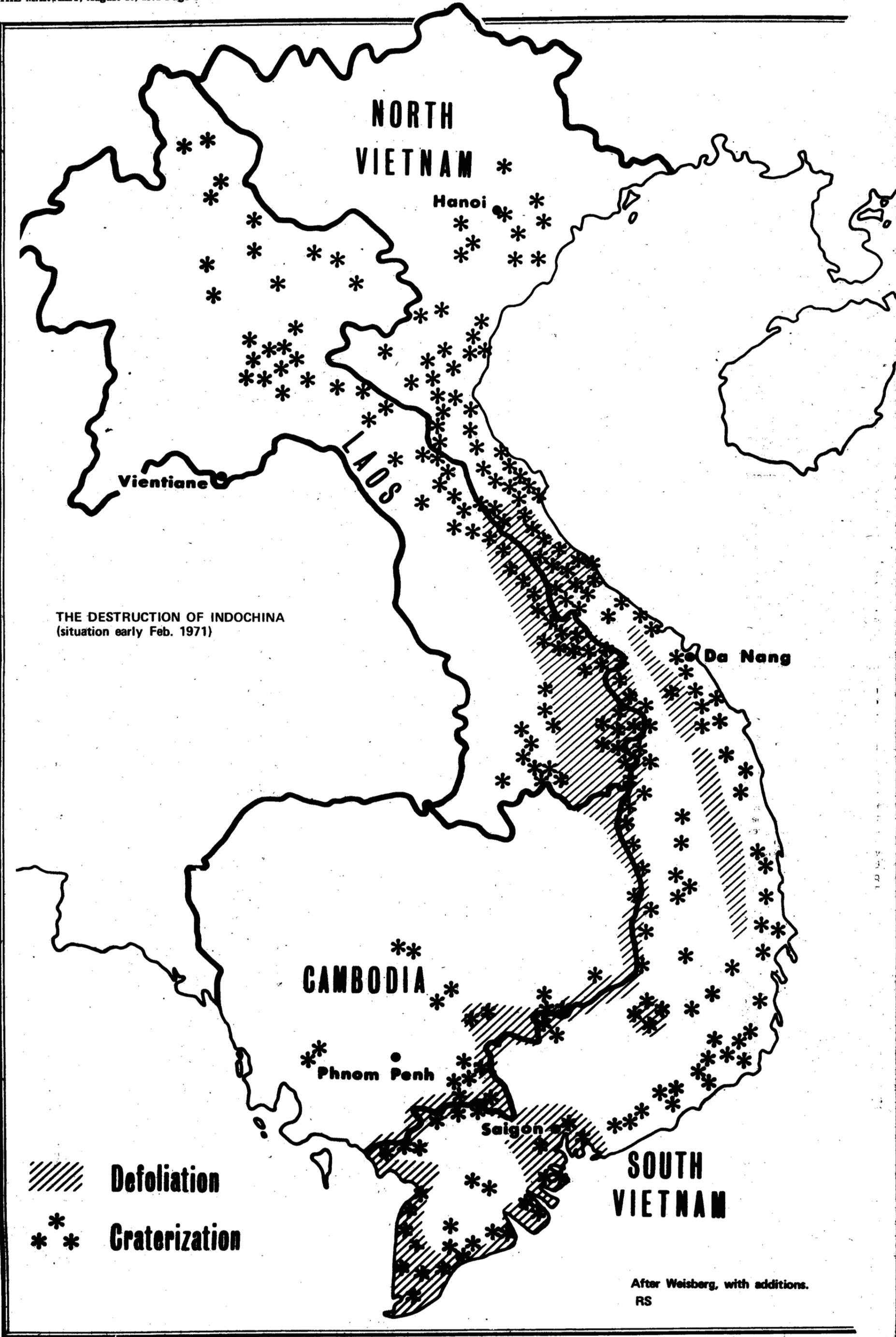
THE STIFF-ELBOW — This is a less difficult shot, thrown with the arm held straight out and the wrist twisted so the back of the hand is towards your partner. The arm whips forward but the elbow must be kept locked. Your grip is reversed on this one, thumb under the lip.

All these throws require some practice to get down right. But if you've got the time, what the hell. It gets you out in the fresh air, well anyway, out in the air.

CATCHING

There are, of course, myriad ways to catch a frisbee. Do it whatever way seems comfortable.

Different ways of catching include behind-the-back, behind-the-back while spinning through the air, between-the-legs, grabbing the frisbee as it goes past you, and anything else you can think up.



THE DESTRUCTION OF INDOCHINA
(situation early Feb. 1971)

////// Defoliation
* * Craterization

After Weisberg, with additions.
RS

ecocide in Indochina

keith buchanan

Twenty-five years ago the dawn of the atomic era marked the beginning of man's ability to terminate all life on this planet. During the last five years the perfecting in Indochina of the techniques of ecocide marks another major step along the terminal path of aborting millions of years of evolution.

Genocide as developed by the Nazis involved the mass extermination of entire human groups. Ecocide as developed by the US military carries this a stage further for ecocide involves the destruction of the living environment which would sustain groups as yet unborn. It is defined more fully by Barry Weisberg as "the premeditated assault of a nation and its resources against the individuals, culture and biological fabric of another country and its environs" ("Ecocide in Indochina: The Ecology of War", San Francisco, 1970). The use of this technique of total war in Indochina has resulted in "the most extensive premeditated ecological catastrophe in the history of this planet" and it was his first-hand awareness of the scale of this catastrophe that prompted the Professor of Biology at Yale University, Arthur W. Galston, to propose early last year an international agreement outlawing this form of warfare. For parts of Indochina this is too late; the devastation wrought by saturation bombing and chemical poisoning is such to make reconstruction in any meaningful sense impossible for decades.

Towards a "Final Solution"

The techniques of ecocide have been devised to meet the challenge of a people's war. Given that the relation of the guerilla to the society to which he belongs is that of the fish to the sea, a guerilla enemy cannot be defeated by conventional war. Under such conditions, and given the mounting frustration of the military and the impatience of the US electorate, it was inevitable that the thinking of those who make up the American "military-industrial-academic-scientific complex" should turn increasingly to a "Final Solution" by "drying up" the peasant "sea" on which the guerilla depends. This is being done by saturation bombing designed to either eliminate or terrorize the rural population and by massive use of chemical weapons which make the countryside uninhabitable. This "Final Solution", euphemistically termed "forced urbanisation", is associated with Samuel Huntington of Harvard University. The success of the policy to date may be measured by some 4 million Vietnamese casualties (one-quarter of the entire population), by the generation of 7 million displaced peasants, by the fact that today 60 per cent of South Vietnam's population dwells in the "urban" areas, as against 15 per cent in 1955 (Saigon's population has increased tenfold to 3 million; in ten years so that it is now the most densely populated city in the world with two and a half times the density of Tokyo). The psychic bond of the villager to his village is broken, the village itself razed, its trees killed by defoliation and its paddy fields and irrigation systems destroyed by bombing. The final human destruction is achieved by relocation in refugee camps, a relocation which ignores every tie of family and kinship and reduces the tightly knit peasant society to an anonymous mass of dazed and disoriented human beings. Says a Department of Defence consultant on these processes: "We have, of course, demolished the society of Vietnam..."

From the point of view of the Americans the new policy had two major advantages. First, it enabled the US to make maximum use of its technological superiority - and to do this with the minimum of world observation. Secondly, the reduction in the role of US ground-combat troops as the policy of "search and destroy" gave place to the simpler policy of "destroy" made it possible for the US government to blunt the domestic dissatisfaction by achieving a sharp fall in the number of US casualties and by withdrawing all save the specialised units needed to implement the new type of war. US ground troops can be replaced by Asian mercenaries which, from the American angle, have two advantages: they cost a fraction a G.I. cost and the dollars paid to their managers help to consolidate the

economic position of such rickety regimes as that of South Korea.

Almost six million tons of bombs.

The technique of saturation bombing reached its peak in the bombing of Kha San early in 1968; here, into a circle some 5 miles in diameter, 100,000 tons of bombs were dropped in six weeks - 5,000 tons per square mile. On Indochina as a whole, according to Pentagon sources, a total of 5 and three quarter million tons of bombs were dropped from 1965 to March 1971; this was half the ordnance expended. The cessation of the bombing of the North in November 1968 meant no diminution in the destructive onslaught; it merely made it possible to switch the full force of US air power to South Vietnam and Laos and by March 1969 the level of bombardment had reached 130,000 tons a month. By mid-1970 the number of sorties per month over Laos alone had climbed from 20,000 to 27,000 and saturation bombing had been extended to parts of Cambodia. The troops may depart - yet the circle of death continued to widen... March 1971, the last month for which statistics are available, the tonnage dropped was 92,191 equivalent to 1.1 million tons a year.)

The immediate human consequences of this onslaught will be evident from the data given earlier; to these must be added the physical consequences - the destruction of the earth as a habitat for man. And in this context two things must be borne in mind: first, that Vietnamese traditional society was overwhelmingly a peasant society, an "earth-bound" society; secondly, that it was also a "hydraulic" society, dependent on an intricate and sophisticated system of irrigation for the production of its staple crop, rice. Saturation bombing has created a lunar landscape over vast areas. In 1967-68 alone three and a half million 500 - to 750-pound bombs were dropped on Vietnam, each creating craters up to 45 feet across and 30 feet deep. This bombing, says Malcolm Somerville, "has amounted to perhaps the most massive excavation project in mankind's history. It dwarfs the Suez Canal and Panama Canal projects, both involving the excavation of about a quarter of a billion cubic yards of earth. The total cratered area in Indochina exceeds the area of the State of Connecticut, 5,000 square miles" (in "Ecocide in Indochina", p.70). Not only has the bombing destroyed the irrigation systems over wide areas, it has also contributed markedly to soil erosion (for the newly exposed soil is highly susceptible to gullyng), to the formation of useless rock pavements (laterite) on the dried-out paddy fields, and to the destruction of fragile but potentially rich peat soils such as those of the Ca Mau peninsula. And the water-filled craters form ideal breeding grounds for the malarial mosquito.

Agents Orange, White and Blue.

The chemical onslaught launched by the American military against the Vietnamese peasantry may well have even more destructive long-term consequences than the saturation bombing since there is evidence that the substances used - (the 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D advertised and used for weed control in countries such as New Zealand) are teratogenic (foetus-deforming) and have long-term genetic effects (for a full discussion see Thomas Whiteside, "Defoliation", New York, 1970). The agents used are Agent Orange, a mixture of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D, Agent White, a mixture of 2,4-D and Picloram, and Agent Blue, a form of arsenic. These are used to destroy food crops which might be used by the guerilla (and to deny rice to 20,000 guerillas the US destroy the rice supply of a million people) and to eliminate the forest cover which might shelter guerilla groups. The area so far treated is given officially as some 5 million acres (12 percent of the area of South Vietnam) though NLF estimates put the total at 10.6 million acres and the Japan Science Council estimated in 1967 that "anti-crop attacks have ruined 3.8 million acres of arable land in South Vietnam" (this is about half the arable area).

The immediate destructive impact of this chemical

war is evident in the dying forests and "sanitized" paddy fields; scant official attention has been given to the long-term ecological and human effects of drenching the landscape with chemicals. These have, however, been analysed by several American scientists. The destruction of the forest or crop cover in a tropical climate such as that of Vietnam leads to profound changes in soil structure, above all to the development of virtually useless lateritic soils. Destruction of mangrove forests in the Mekong Delta is leading to erosion or salinization of the ricefields they protected and to the elimination of the critically important fish resources of the Delta rivers.

"An ecological equivalent of thalidomide"

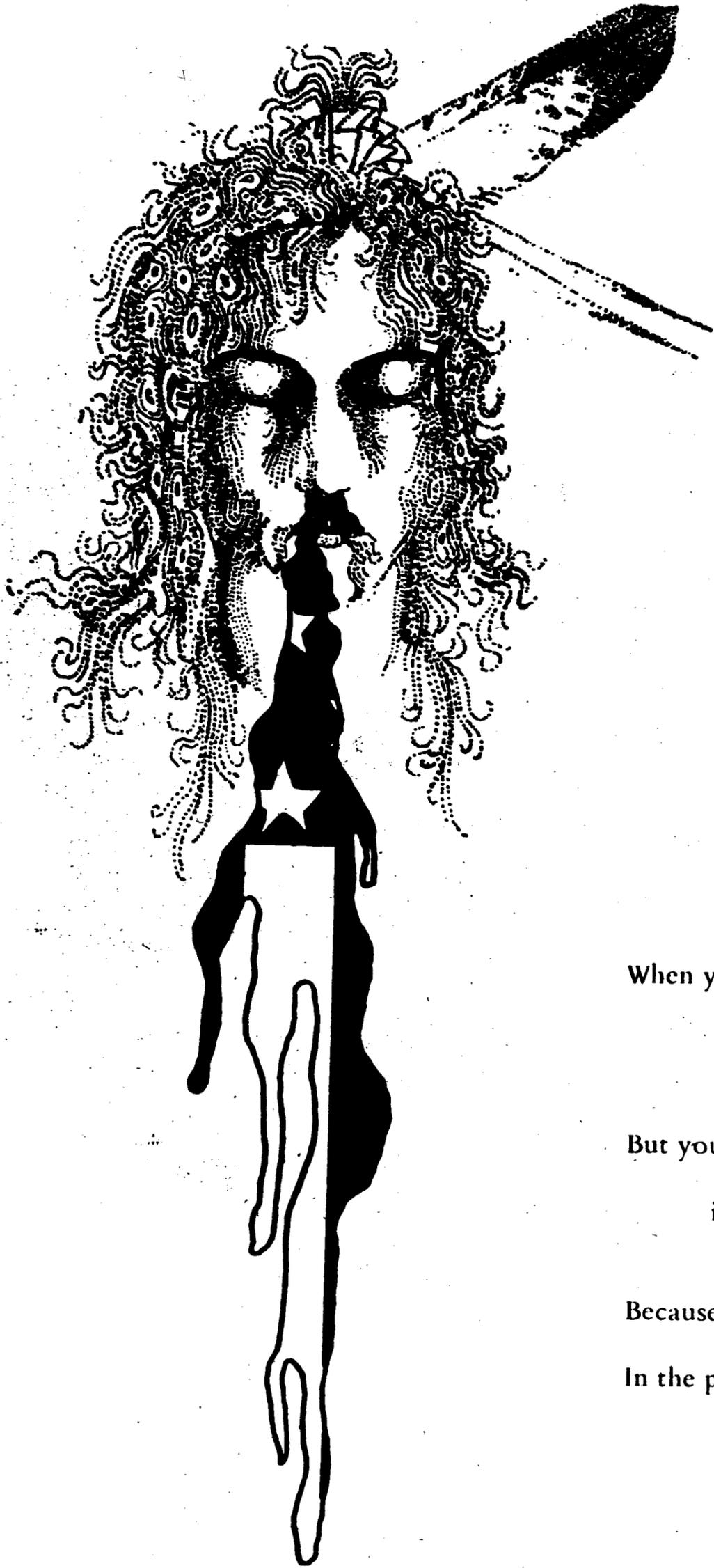
Finally, the vitally important question of the long-term impact of this chemical warfare on the genetic future of the Indochinese peoples has been ignored by the military men and their civilian advisers. Tests of defoliants by the American National Cancer Institute way back in 1966 "revealed that two of the herbicides examined has caused gross abnormalities and birth defects in mice. 2,4-D was termed 'potentially dangerous, but needing further study' while 2,4,5-T was labelled 'probably dangerous'". By 1969 South Vietnamese newspapers were carrying stories and pictures of deformed babies born in areas that had been subjected to spraying with 2,4,5-T (see Ngo Vinh Long, "Leaf Abscission?" in *Bulletin for Concerned Asian Scholars*, October 1969); by early 1970, however, steps were taken to restrict the use of 2,4,5-T in the USA. Meanwhile, the use of this chemical, "which may represent an ecological equivalent of thalidomide", continued in Indochina, the scale of the spraying programme being apparently limited only by the availability of the chemicals and of suitable aircraft. Commented two US newspapermen: "Not since the Romans salted the land after destroying Carthage has a nation taken pains to visit the war on future generations" (*New York Post*, 4 November 1969).

Global Overview.

As Schell and Weisberg point out, "the ecosystem of Southeast Asia is one organic fabric in which all living things are tied together by an infinite number of interdependent strands". American policy in Indochina today aims not simply at destroying the "enemy", his food crops or his culture, but the whole ecosystem of which the Indochinese people form part and within which their societies have for centuries found sustenance and meaning; as such, it goes beyond anything attempted by the Nazis.

But, just as the various elements of living Southeast Asia form parts of a tightly woven and intricate web, so does this region form one element in a greater global ecosystem. The destruction of Indochina cannot thus be considered in isolation; the diseases born of war recognise no boundaries, the chemicals poured on the devastated landscape find their way into the ocean, the oil bound for Vietnam spills into the offshore waters of the USA, the brutalization and the drug addiction bred by war in Indochina feeds back into the American internal situation.

And, indeed, the destruction of Indochina is different only in degree but not in essence from the world-wide social and ecological destruction being wrought by "a civilization out of control". Five thousand miles may separate the dying mangrove forests and murdered peasant communities of the Mekong delta from the menaced shores of Manapouri or the increasingly polluted New Zealand environment. But are not both the Indochinese and New Zealand situations to be located simply at different points along the same psychological continuum? James Baldwin long ago commented: "It is a terrible, an inexorable law that one cannot deny the humanity of another without diminishing one's own; in the face of one's victim one sees oneself." Do not the majority of the ecological and social problems which confront us in our own society have their roots in that denial of humanity which alone makes it possible for us to accept, or connive in, the processes of ecocide in Indochina?



When you came
 you found a people
 with red skin
 they were one
 with all living things
But you did not see this
 beauty
 instead you saw them
 as animals, primitive
 savage
Because you had lost this
 whole
In the progress of your civilization
 look now what
 your knowledge
 has made them

SOUTHERN CHEYENNE