COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS
October 1976  Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

CNI BEGINS A NEW YEAR

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. begins a new fiscal year with its annual election meeting this Monday, October 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road.

Offices to be filled include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Trusteeships. As usual, the meeting is open and all interested parties are urged to attend.

CNI dues are $3.00 per year. Money raised by dues is used to pay for this newsletter, for community projects, and for donations to various activities which affect the Coventry area. In past years, CNI has supported a major desegregation lawsuit, the citizen's campaign for a city income tax increase, non-partisan candidates' nights at election time, tree planting on the commercial strip, and three Coventry Village Street Fairs. Our members have testified before courts, city council, and various administrative boards, and have lobbied both privately and publically for official action.

CNI needs your help if it is to continue functioning as an efficient, community-oriented organization. It needs your support through dues. (However, it is a non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible.) Most of all, it needs your support through attendance at our monthly meetings. A community group is nothing more than the vehicle by which like-minded persons find one another, establish common goals, and pool resources. We sincerely hope you, our readers, will drop in on a meeting sometime and give CNI a chance.

THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1976 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASTER ROAD. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD DURING THIS MEETING AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE ALL MEMBERS AND STREET ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

CNI Meeting Agenda:

1) Minutes of the September 14, 1976 Meeting
2) Financial Report
3) Reports:
   School-Related
   Merchants' Activities
   Issue 20: 1/2% income tax increase
4) Old Business:
   C-Saw Cafe
   Proposed Laundromat
   Use of Community Development Block Grant funds for Coventry/Euclid Hts. Blvd. Street Work
5) New Business:
   Proposed Fondue Restaurant
6) Election of Officers
7) Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 1976, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Society

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Editor's Note: The following article was prompted by a question asked of the author by an elderly resident of Musicians' Tower concerning the author's thoughts on the subject of sex. The author has no exceptional qualifications as an authority on the subject--so far as we know, at least--but he feels that his response to the question seems as sane as any and more sane than most responses.

IS SEX APPROPRIATE?

One or two of you have asked about the appropriateness of having sex. The question is usually prompted by some change in your life which reveals to you that the old urge is still there and that you feel warmly enough about someone to have that consideration rest lightly on your mind.

The word lightly can best describe that condition in which the thought passes quickly, giving you a mild chuckle, a risqué dream, or it can be as sticky as burned rice in a pot that--try as you might--won't get off your mind.

Because we humans are a defensive lot, we use our lives towards ends which we understand. We defend ourselves against buffoonery, often to the exclusion of sharing our genuine warmth, exuberance and creativity, many times from those who love us.

Unless you have chosen a life of celibacy, in which case you should lead no one astray, then you are a candidate—at whatever age—for being a total human and sexual being. It is up to you to have the honesty to assess your desire and the depth of your relationships with others to know when and whether sex may be a part of your overall communication with someone else.

It is untrue and a waste to assume that people simply "hang-up" their interest in sex when they reach a certain age. Sex is part of your programming. It was put there in the first place as nature's insurance that the race would be propagated. It was and is founded on the pleasure principle to stimulate you to be receptive or aggressive as the case may be, and it has the characteristic of repetitiveness. We may satisfy the need for sleep or hunger for the moment, but tomorrow we'll have to sleep again.

The principle of self-sufficiency states that "The existence of something is sufficient reason for its existence." This is certainly true of your sexual interests, just as it is true of your existence.

Before the "Tower" becomes the hotbed of amorous advances and Bachanalian excess, keep these considerations in mind:

Sex is couched in fantasy. Be sure, as best you can, that your fantasy is appropriate. Sex springs from need. Does the other person need you? Alexander the Great made the comment that nothing made him feel more mortal than sex. Do you want to unmask your mortality (and your vulnerability) with the one you desire?

Finally, give consideration to questions of your health as well as your dignity. Sex is something you don't have to talk about. If it is appropriate, the signals will be flashed automatically. You won't have to figure out any codes or dramatic settings. Your posture should be that of making your loved one

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(or desired one) comfortable with you. Their interests should be uppermost in your mind.

Above all, let these rules guide you: Be receptive and open...but don't grab. Live with a twinkle, not a plea. Keep your sense of humor up front. When your probes turn up disinterest, humor is a great fall back position.

Is sex appropriate? Only if each of you want it to be. Recognize the honesty of its existence, be sincere and compassionate, be warm without cloying, and if it's going to happen it will, as surely as snow in winter and flowers in spring. If not, enjoy your fantasies. They're natural, too.

INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR PASSAGE OF ISSUE 20? IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID BURRISSER AT HOME (652-7976) OR AT WORK (725-5500).

We have been hearing a lot of complaints about the 7-A bus service lately. If you have any yourself, we urge you to phone them in to Tim Browne at the Regional Transit Authority (781-5100).

VOTE FOR CLEVELAND HEIGHTS........

On Election Day, the citizenry of Cleveland Heights will get a second look at a proposal to increase the city income tax to 1%. CNI has formally endorsed this proposal, and Issue 20 will be discussed in more depth at our next meeting. Those of you who will not be at that meeting would be well-advised to examine Issue 20 closely. In the opinion of informed observers of the City scene, the future of this community may well depend on whether Issue 20 passes.

In the interest of dispelling many rumors, the following facts should be noted:

FACT: Cleveland Heights would not be the only community to have a 1% tax rate. East Cleveland, Shaker Heights, University Heights, and 41 other communities have 1% tax rates. More communities will undoubtedly have to raise their tax rates to 1% soon.

FACT: The tax will not affect most retired persons on fixed incomes. It would apply to payroll or self-employment income, generally, but not to income from pensions, annuities or investments.

FACT: We have not "survived" the cuts in services which have occurred thus far. The number of firemen in Cleveland Heights was too low by national standards before the cuts. We have just been lucky so far. How are we going to feel when some child is killed by a car for lack of a crossing guard? Or when the crime rate stops falling in Cleveland Heights and starts rising? Or when someone burns to death because fire truck response time is up two minutes? (Try counting slowly to 120 while burning a piece of paper, if you want to see what I am getting at.)

Perhaps you think the Issue 20 supporters are exaggerating a bit. If so, consider the fact that the citizen's committee backing Issue 20 is the most truly non-partisan group to ever back a political campaign in this City. Conservatives and liberals have thrown their other differences aside. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of this campaign. The concern and anxiety over passage of Issue 20 is quite real and widespread.

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Should Issue 20 fail, there may be more cuts in police, fire, and sanitation services. Estimates are that $50-100,000 will have to be sliced from the budget. Moreover, it can be expected that the City will have a lower municipal bond rating (which will cause future generations to incur larger costs paying off interest), that redlining by financial institutions will increase, and that federal funding which is based on the degree to which a city taxes itself will decrease.

If you want more information about Issue 20 and why it is needed, you have many options. CNI will discuss Issue 20 at its next meeting. A town hall meeting on Issue 20 will be held at Coventry Elementary School, in the all-purpose room, on Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. Any group can get a free speaker on Issue 20 by calling Margaret Robinson at home (321-7735) or at work (368-4450).

A vote for Issue 20 is a vote for the continued vitality and viability of the City of Cleveland Heights. A vote against Issue 20 by those of you who hate parking tickets, dislike taxes, whatever their purpose, or just plain don't care for our present City officials, is a short-sighted act which will benefit nobody and hurt everybody.

Please vote "YES" on Issue 20 on Election Day. - Alan Rapoport

In Passing.......

Late last Thursday, September 30, the C-Saw Cafe held a going-out-of-business party. The building is now dark and, presumably, unoccupied. Both friends and foes of the C-Saw will undoubtedly agree that the Coventry neighborhood just won't never be the same without it.

Coventry Area Residents Vie For Community Improvement Awards

A prestigious group of judges will announce its decisions when the Second Annual Community Improvement Awards are given at the Jewish Community Center on Sunday, October 17th at 7:30 p.m. Nominees from the Coventry area outnumber nominees from any other single area in the City this year.

Judges for the program are James Floyd, James Heyer, Myrna Tatar, Walter Kirkham, and George McCann. Co-sponsors of the awards program are the City of Cleveland Heights and the Heights Community Congress. In presenting this program, the sponsors seek to "encourage and recognize individual and collective efforts to improve the City's physical environment and preserve its excellence."

In the "Individual Residence" category, the Coventry area nominees are: David Haberman (3010 East Overlook), David Christmas (2968 Somerton), Mort Epstein (12621 Cedar), Stanley Altman (2934 East Derbyshire), Ro and Don Eugene (2469 Kenilworth), Joseph Edgar (2969 Somerton), V. J. Inamarelli/W. Ranson (2512 Kenilworth), Jeri Zauder (2360 Overlook), Ron Klimkowicz (1783 Cadwell), Kenneth Mackey (3078 Euclid Heights Boulevard), and Jan VanDerMeulen (2889 Washington).

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In the "Multi-Residence" category, Coventry area nominees are: Robert Brigden/Frank Boldizer (2734 Hampshire Road), and Howard Lake (2777 Hampshire).

In the "Streets and Neighborhood" category, a nomination went to Wilton Road, for its freshly painted houses, landscaping, and development of the details of an older street.

In the "Independent Shop" category, the nominees are: Wayne Kouy (Cheskie's), Michael Rogoff (The Water Works), and Norman Kijewski (The Saloon).

Other nominations went to the Coventry Library ("Special Projects") for its entry, awning, and landscaping, and to Metropolitan Savings Association ("Business Development") for its development of a corner plot of land.

The program will include a slide show, the second annual Cleveland Heights artists invitational show, entertainment by the Great American Home Experiment and other Cleveland Heights performing arts groups, and the presentation of works of art as awards. This event is free and open to the public, who are urged to attend.

For further information, contact the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775.

UPDATE: NOPERY!

Since the first scathing mopery expose of the Coventry village News (reprinted last month), a social revolution has overturned the common person's view of this still-little-understood form of behavior. Conflicting action groups have formed on all sides of the issue, and a Supreme Court test case may change the whole picture.

Hard-nosed, street-wise Kinshasa Congo is founder-president of Mopers Anonymous, largest and oldest mopery mutual-help organization, and is convinced that his way is the only possibility. "The moper can't help himself. That's the essence of mopery. When one of our people feels like moping, he doesn't kid himself. He calls a friend, and they keep each other from moping. That's all that works." Congo is reluctant to be specific about typical anti-mopery regimen: "If you need it, it's there."

Not so willing to accept human frailty is Terrie Raindance of the recently formed Mope Crisis Center, whose program concentrates on the victim, rather than the perpetrator, of mopery. "Mopery has got to quit being taken as a joke," Raindance insists. "Three-quarters of all mopery is unreported to the authorities. We are going to destroy the myth that the mopery victim 'asked for it' or 'led the moper on.'" Mopery, Raindance notes, victimizes the young and old, black and white, rich and poor, brachycephalic and dolichocephalic. "When we clear away all these misconceptions, we will finally begin to bring mopery out of the closet."

Talk of bringing mopery "out of the closet" finds an ironic echo in the Mopery Liberation Movement ("Hope Lib"), where the same phrase is enthusiastically infused with opposite meaning. Activities Gropius Hinge expounds: "Mopery is a victimless crime! It should not be a crime at all! No society has the right to restrict harmless activity for purely aesthetic or cultural reasons!" Hinge and fellow activists failed to get either major party to adopt a plank on

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mopery this summer, and are dubious about electoral politics. "Ford and Carter and lookalikes, bull****ing the people with trivia like abortion and busing," snears a Hinge lieutenant. Hope Libbers have formed a Mopery Defense Fund and are looking for a clear-cut court case which they hope to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court. The wealth of anti-mopery laws in Cleveland Heights has brought them to Coventry with high expectations. "He gotta score soon," says Hinge, "this place is better than Dubuque even!"

Those who would seek a Constitutional resolution to the mopery issue are on uncertain ground. The Constitution does not mention mopery at any point, through some scholars think the Interstate Commerce Clause comes awfully close. However, neither does the Constitution mention privacy or pornography, but the High Court has found the former to be a Constitutional right and the latter an exception to the free-press guarantees of the First Amendment.

The Justices themselves are not predictable. The Nixon-appointed core of the conservative majority might be expected to be traditionally anti-mopery, but the White House tapes showed an awful lot of mopery going on, and who knows? The liberal minority might be more open-minded, but mopery is one of those issues on which liberals often cease to be quite so liberal.

If the Supreme Court should hand down a Right-to-Mope decision, the Albigenial Bishops are prepared to agitate for a Constitutional amendment to the contrary. "We understand separation of church and state," insists the Reverend Theodosius Mulch, Arch-Perfectus of Fort Wayne and Peoria, "but secular law is rooted in biblical commandments, and mopery is an offense to both."

Kinsasha Congo, toughened by lifelong strubple with his own moperistic tendencies, has but one word for the latter-day ferment on the topic: "absurd. Mopery isn't a sin and it isn't a lifestyle, man; it's a sickness."

And there it rests.  - Baby Snooks

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A publication of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and the Heights Community Congress.

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All opinions contained in the Coventry Village News are solely those of the author unless otherwise specified. Official pronouncements of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be specifically noted. Articles for publication, letters to the editor, and comments would be most welcome and should be sent to the editor, c/o Apartment 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

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THE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 7:30 p.m., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10th AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL, 13001 Cedar Road (between Lee and Coventry). ANYONE MAY ATTEND.

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