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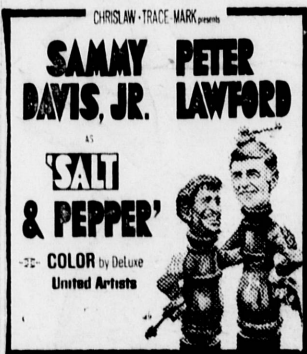
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Middlebury Major Offender In Pollution Problem; Otter Creek Still Clogged With Untreated Sewage

By ERHARD MAHNKE

Although water pollution is a problem usually associated with large cities and major industrial areas, a short walk through Middlebury can make anyone uncomfortably aware of its contamination even in rural areas. Contamination in Otter Creek, Vermont's largest river, can be distinctly smelled from a distance and clearly seen close by.

Otter Creek, the largest river east of the Mississippi that flows north, originates in the Dorset area and runs for 75 miles before emptying into Lake Champlain at Ferrisburg. The water contamination problem was caused by the gross neglect of the towns, which owe their origin and growth to the river, along its course. Major offenders have been: Rutland (pop. 20,000), Proctor (2000), Pittsford (2200), Brandon (3400), Middlebury (5400), and Vergennes (2000).

Sewage Disposal Plants

In an interview with the Campus, Robert Collins of the

U. S. Soil Conservation Service indicated that for years these towns as well as the smaller ones had been dumping raw sewage into the Creek. Relying on the stream's "self-purification," the towns allowed the situation to remain unchecked even after massive banks of sewage sludge had formed.

Almost seven years ago, the towns were ordered to meet new, higher standards of water quality. This could not be done without the installation of sewage disposal plants — then already under construction in several towns.

The towns with sewage systems appeared to be virtually forced by the federal government to build plants: they were given the option of sharing the cost with the government and meeting a January 1967 deadline on construction or having the government build a plant later on without sharing the expense.

Under this pressure from the government as well as some in-

dividuals and local conservation organizations, the towns complied by constructing sewage treatment plants, the last of which was Middlebury's.

Collins also stated that these sewage plants merely break-up the solids and refine them further through heating and aeration. The end-product is then dumped into the river. Through this process 80 to 90 percent of the solid waste is refined.

Problems Remain

Seemingly, the problem had been corrected. However, in reality it still exists, even if the casual observer cannot see excrement floating by in great quantity.

Although the plants remove 80 to 90 percent of solid waste under normal conditions, under abnormal conditions the results are radically different.

During heavy rainfall or a spring thaw, the drainage system may easily become so overloaded that, to avoid overburdening of the plant, the gates of the treatment plant are opened, consequently allowing all drainage and sewage to pass directly into Otter Creek. Thus the system's effectiveness may suddenly drop to zero.

Other problems arise from sources not connected to the sewer system, for these dump directly from required septic tanks into the river. Examples

of this are the stores and houses in the two Roger's blocks in Middlebury and buildings directly to the south of town.

Although this waste is somewhat broken-down in the septic tanks, it is nowhere nearly as refined as that from the sewage plants. The short-comings of the present system are self-evident even though solids, algae and toilet paper are no longer evident. In fact, the sludge banks produced before the plants were built are slowly disintegrating.

Soil Erosion

Next to sewage disposal, the largest polluting agent is soil erosion. Farmer's use of chemical sprays soil contaminates Otter Creek when, because of heavy rains and flooding during the spring, soil erodes and is carried away by the river. These sprays, many of which are poisonous, further disturb the already disrupted ecology of Otter Creek. The result is death of even more wild life.

Another serious source of contamination is the Middlebury town dump, which is located nearby the river. During rains and spring flooding, much of the garbage from the dump is washed into the river. The obvious solution for this is filling in the dump and moving its location. This, in fact, will be done in the near future.

(Continued on Page 10)

CHRISTMAS at COLE'S HOLLY, MISTLETOE

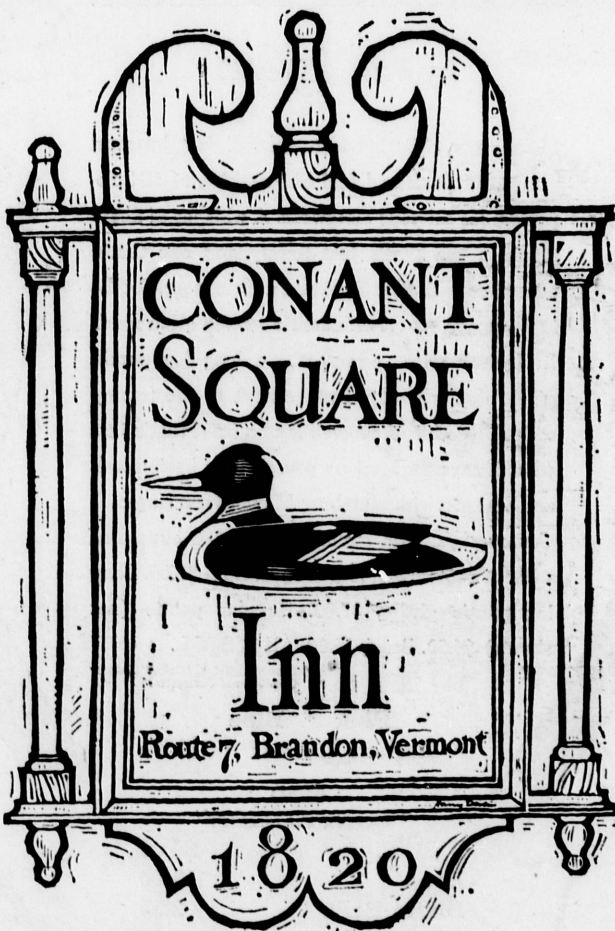
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20,000 SWEATERS 20,000 SWEATERS

Bluefield, Va. (CPS) — The students and administration at Bluefield College have decided to keep the school's American flag at half-mast until the end of the Vietnam war.

Dr. Charles L. Harman, president of the Baptist junior college, said he approved the idea after the 250-member student body voted unanimously for it.

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Hockey . . .

(Continued From Page 8)

in every game and really given the teams a hard third period. This means the Panthers have spirit, enough to shake off two periods when they are outscored, and come back hard and strong to get in the game again.

This is the great part of hockey, for the tremendous excitement at first generated by the nature of the fast slashing game just spurs everyone on to more exciting play. The field house has been packed the two games so far, and if anyone can tell exciting hockey, it is the crowd. As in the years past, the team is not going to let them down. They are far from their playing peak, and the final scoring will hopefully turn in favor of the Panthers now that they are on their own Division schedule. Tomorrow night they play New Hampshire at 8:00, their second of the week after yesterday's game against AIC.

Pollution Problems Unsolved . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

There are various reasons for the delay in enacting the corrective measures. The first steps were not taken primarily because of lack of pressure from federal or state agencies and lack of education on the part of the townspeople. Furthermore, the real problem was that the salvaging projects were prohibitively expensive.

Canoe Trail Considered

A plan for a scenic canoe trail along the Creek may have — had it been adopted — upgraded the quality of the water considerably. There were provisions for camp sights and portages which would have required a great deal of public water improvement. However, the idea lost most of its support when

the state legislature got involved, for it added a provision that made the canoe trail impractical. There is, however, a chance that this plan may be handled locally in the future.

Industrial Pollution

Non - Existant

The pollution problem is not improved by all the different interests involved. Not only are there various state and federal agencies (such as the Soil Conservation Bureau and the Water Resources Department, etc.), but the towns on the tributaries and Lake Champlain are also involved.

The pollution has already disrupted the ecology of the Creek, but not nearly as irrevocably as certain other forms of pollution could. Luckily Otter Creek is not afflicted by oil slicks and chemical or radioactive wastes.

'Hallucinations'

Sponsors Pig

By ABBIE HOFFMAN

Liberation News Service

A corporation called Hallucinations, Inc. has just been established to serve as a distribution center for items produced by movement people. The profits that come out of the corporation will go to financing such activities as the Inauguration of the Pig, support to rural and urban communes, and Election Day demonstrations. This will only supplement the giving away of free posters, buttons, dope, etc. This will serve as a method of disseminating useful movement props to a wider geographical range of people than we now can reach.

(Continued From Page 7)

category, which he called "a new integration." In this goal, leaders find that the principles of American society are sound but are compromised by the prejudice which has closed out black people. Doubting assimilation as an end, these thinkers would begin with separation — a collecting of political power and cultural foundations — for the sake of moving into the larger society.

Storing, the scholar, savored the thought: "E Pluribus Unum," he muttered. "From many to one."

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