



Outdoors

THE BACKPACKER by Albert Saijo 101 Productions, San Francisco 1972

Book Review by Kevin Moore

After several attempts at trying to do a book review, I gave up due to the fact that the book is so concise, specific and to the point that to review it, is to rewrite most of it. So, I will let him speak for himself and quote some appropriate parts.

"We've been weaned on a diet that emphasizes variety. Yet we do at least think of lightness and simplicity as ideals, even if we don't go as light and simple as the Himalayan yogi and John Muir. We're no longer into the backcountry style of the

pioneer..."
 "Living as we do in a civilization committed to mechanical mobility, we fall into patterns of riding rather than walking; we walk only when there isn't a ride."
 "Read books on wilderness in general. A little or a lot of John Muir is a must."
 "A proper sleeping bag is the most expensive item of your outfit; it will cost at least \$80, and perhaps more. Proper would have to mean a goose down bag, as there is no other type worth considering."

"Toilet Paper Never as much as you think you'll need. To save bulk, unroll off cardboard tube, reroll flat and stow in plastic bag."
 "MIRROR Polished steel

(3 by 4 inches, 1½ ounces) For signaling. For looking at the animal once in awhile too."

"CAMERA If you are into photography, you will want to take a camera. But don't get hung-up taking pictures. No camera can capture the space of wilderness. But then there are always those transporting shots that come close."

"BINOCULARS You don't need them, but if you are willing to carry the weight, they can heighten a moment here and there."

"And are flashlights really necessary? They're one of those things you need only if you have one."

"MUSIC Jew's harp? Harmonica?"

"Backpacking into the wilderness is a change, and a vivid change at that. It is a nearly total separation from the normal context of your life. The supportive context,"

Hopefully I've shown you the flavour of Saijo's book. He's into natural foods, leaving no trace, eastern religion and western aestheticism. The book is well worth reading, costing less than two dollars and being only 96 pages long. I bought mine at the Campus Bookstore on Quinpool Road about two years ago and as of last week, they had four copies. So...

CHRISTMAS

The above is a section from an unfinished article on camping literature. Not being prepared for this issue thinking that last week's was the last this term; I used it, lacking the imagination at this time of year to make up anything new, and having no other author's ancient manuscripts to insert.

Next term, there are only five planned articles. One, already sketched on the

destructiveness of motorized vehicles on the ecosystem, another by that noted dipstick and ethologist, Michael Rosen on the role of the naturalist in Canada's National Parks. The other three are tentative on snowshoeing, winter camping, and The Concept of Wilderness or The Destruction of Man.

If we find someone more competent, which wouldn't be hard, then we will get some good articles on diving and cross-country ski-ing.

That's all for this term. Don't spend the entire vacation drunk, you did that this term and now the time is here for something different. I'm off to Newfoundland for ten days, much of which I hope to spend in the backcountry of Bishop's Falls and Terra Nova National Park. Regardless of what you do, enjoy yourself. Hope for snow. Merry Christmas and Happy Hannuka.

Law gives students access to personal files

MONTREAL (CUP) - Colleges and universities throughout the United States are adopting strategies ranging from the destruction of documents to Congressional lobbying in order to escape the consequences of legis-

lation that would give students complete access to their personal files.

The law, which became effective last week, denies federal funds to any school that refuses to allow parents, or students over 18, to examine their file. It also requires the schools to correct errors found in the file, and prevents the dissemination of the information in the file without the permission of the individual.

Most Canadian universities do not allow access to personal files. For example, students at Loyola campus of Concordia University do not have the right to examine their complete file to check its accuracy, as certain parts of it are classed as confidential by the record office.

Loyola's records office claim that this is necessary because some of the material such as letters of recommendation, was intended to be confidential when it was put in the file.

American universities are also using this defense, and claiming that people will no longer be willing to write candid letters of recommendation. Some officials say this will lead to a greater reliance upon quantitative data, such as test scores and high school marks, as the criteria for admission to university.

Colleges and universities in America are working to have the implementation of the legislation postponed to give them time to lobby for changes in the bill.

Many have publicly expressed their dissatisfaction, and others are working more actively for a delay. The University of Chicago has sent two faculty members to Washington to lobby against the bill.

Most institutions seem to be working on the assumption that they will win a postponement, but contingency plans have been prepared by some colleges.

"If postponement doesn't work out, then we will immediately turn to legal counsel," said Kelsey Murdoch, assistant to the president at Brown University.

University officials are claiming that the bill was aimed at lower levels of education, where abuses of the individual's right to privacy have been more frequent. Elementary and high schools have been known to make files containing unsubstantiated allegations about the student and his family available to outside agencies, while keeping the information secret from the student and his parents.

However, a spokesman for James Buckley, the Conservative-Republican senator who sponsored the law has denied this.

"It was our initial thought that all educational institutions receiving federal funds should have this condition for receiving aid," he said.

Student groups in the U.S. have supported the move to open files. The Student American Medical Association "has complained bitterly about the excessive power that the professors in medical schools have. The professors can make unfavourable comments in the students records, but the students don't know it and don't know what they are doing wrong," the spokesman said.

While some senators have indicated that they will introduce legislation to have the implementation of the bill postponed, Buckley has said he will not accept any delay, although he is planning to clarify some aspects of the bill with amendments.

He has indicated that it may be possible to allow students to waive their right to see such documents as letters of recommendation, although he is wary of the danger of blanket waivers

that would destroy the intent of the law.

The impact of the bill, which has been described as "the enactment of long overdue civil rights" is having a great deal of impact in the U.S. Harvard University has begun to remove confidential letters from the files of 16,000 students, and Yale has said they are waiting for a court test of the law before giving students access to the letters of recommendation.

The United Federation of Teachers has supported the need for the bill, but complained of problems in implementing it. They are particularly concerned with the problem of judging any claims that the material is inaccurate.

"If a professor's evaluation, filed with the student's department, says that the student shows little creativity in his written work, must the institution offer a hearing on the issue of the student's creativity?" asks Albert Shanker, president of the United Federation of Teacher.

Buckley has blamed the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for this problem, saying they have refused to fulfill their obligations to draft the guidelines for use of the law.

In the past Loyola's records office has justified the secret files by saying they operated according to policies drafted by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. It is not known if they will change in their practice if the law becomes accepted in the U.S.

Because the American schools have 45 days in which to respond to a request from a student to see his file, the first test of the law will probably not come until the new year. It remains to be seen if congressional action will sabotage it before then.



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