

You're A Good Man, Victor R. Lovell

.....

Vic Lovell is retiring, if that's the word, as MFU Coordinator as of the general election on June 9. The MFU isn't old enough yet to have found a fitting way to honor ex-Coordinators, and there are few useful examples at hand. Stanford, for instance, honored its first president with a biology building (the MFU feels that following this example would give disproportionate weight to the Sciences) its second with a women's dormitory (well, we could fiddle with the concept and rename Lytton House), its third with a men's dorm (worse still), its fourth with a student Union (the Victor R. Lovell Rear-of-the-Store?), and its fifth by some means, probably ingenious, yet to be devised, since he's still in office. We can't afford a gavel, but that suggests something more appropriate: the Vic Lovell Commemorative Budget Deficit? No, that would be giving one man undue credit for the hard work of many. We'll undoubtedly think of something, though, allowed the usual number of committee meetings, if there's a quorum. Meanwhile, lest the occasion pass unmarked, we're presenting this personal tribute from one of Vic's co-workers, representing the thoughts of us all:

.....

Hey, Vic, how ya feelin? You say you're tired? Been working too hard? Been thinking a lot about what you could've done better? Well, yeah, I know how that is. Feel that way sometimes myself. But shit, man, it's awfully damn selfish, don't you think; I mean for a rational man, don't you think maybe it's a little bit one-sided? O.k., o.k., I know how you feel, already, I understand. Now you shut up and listen to me, because there's a few things I want to say to you, and anybody else who might be interested. First off, I want to say that there's lots more than a score of us who feel that what you've been able to do with and for the Free U. is an accomplishment of no small dimensions. Obviously, what the Free U. is today is the result of many people's contributions. But it's equally clear that the development of this living organism from a year ago to now would've been a completely different story without you. And man, you oughta know that story, because a lot of it's been written with your sweat and tears, but it's easy to forget, so here's to remind you. Chapter I -- Vic Lovell, elected Coordinator on a platform whose major plank was the open curriculum. And forever ended was the conflict over that issue, and the Free U. assumed a character that stands today as a statement about who we all are, and what we're trying to do. And then, yes, Virginia, we will take political stands, because "education which has no consequences for social action...is empty." Some still disagree, but there we are, and you know, really, one of the main things is this -- the kind of leader you are is that you hold absolutely to what you believe in. No Hubert Humphrey potential in you, man, no sir. You always put it all out, because you believe in your ideas. And over and over, you've done your damndest to convince everyone else ("Vic's mind with an idea is like a dog with a bone"), and when you win, you win, and when you lose, you lose, but no one ever has any doubt about where you're at, because you're straight. Well, and then, what you wanted to do was to create a truly democratic institution, some sort of real and viable alternative to "the system." Hasn't ever been done before, but at some point, a man has to stop hating and destroying his childhood idols, and if he's going to really be a man, he's got to do something about it -- something constructive and creative. Part of your way was to draft and interpret the by-laws, as a way of trying to create a new system for decision-making. Probably not perfect. Yeah, all right, we've changed them already where they weren't working. But, you know, we might've just gone off in a hundred different directions, without your particular vision. I really think that, because it is all part of one thing in your head, and because you're so fucking good at putting it into words and sharing it with us all, well -- you've given us a lot of badly needed stability and continuity. A few other things that stand out in my mind -- you went to jail in October -- we were so proud of all you guys -- like little kids, wow! You presented the Anti-Draft and Anti-Marijuana Laws resolutions, and spelled out the Committee System, and sold us on them. You got us joined with The Experiment last summer, and have continued to keep us active at Stanford. Confrontations -- again, a new idea, trying to meet the new needs of a new kind of organization. And all your classes, some of the best we've got -- the Tao weekend, Sexual Morality Now, and all those people you show what it is to be open, to share your feelings, to use your head. It's hard to pin it down in specifics, you know, because it's a lot more than that. It's that you always have the strength to fight it out. You never want people to accept your ideas unchallenged, and they certainly never do. You've lost some, as I said -- paying teachers, raising the fee, the Score secretaries finally. And you bend over backwards to help other people implement their ideas, and to set it up so that everyone can work within a solid structure, but still a free and flexible one. No mean accomplishment, as I said.

So, well, you won't be our coordinator any more, and it won't be the same, and I expect you don't want it to be the same, hopefully, ever. You've given us a lot of energy and a lot of good directions and a dose of really fine leadership, and it's a damn good thing you'll still be working with us. Yeah, yeah, o.k., I'm being one-sided too, maybe, mawkish, even! But just the same, thanks. We love you. Peace and Freedom.

CLASSIFIED

Desire one or two female traveling companions for a free trip to New York area - leaving June 17. Call Jim at 968-9021 (before 10 a.m. or after 7p.m.).

Mother of 3 & 6-year olds has house & child-oriented yard to share for summer, maybe longer, with mother (or couple?) who believes in letting children run & get dirty. Rent open to negotiation. Call 851-7526.

For sale: "62 Rambler American, 2 dr, 6 cyl, air conditioner. Heater, aut. trans, radio. \$275. Phone 851-1223.

Rooms for rent now! Large 3 bedroom house in a nice neighborhood in East Palo Alto. Rent - \$35- \$50. Utilities, food \$20 or more (?). Friendly atmosphere. Women and married couples. Contact Sherrill Krause at 2840 Georgetown.

Is there anyone in the Free U who is able and willing to help me replace the king-pins and the oil pump in my '49 Chev.? Duane Austin 967-0302



Vic Lovell, who holds a Ph. D. in Psychology from Stanford, was elected MFU Coordinator December 3, 1967.

Anti-National Service Demonstration

by Graham Lewis

Some one-hundred of the local community groups demonstrated outside the National Service Foundation "Build the Earth" middleclass Be-In at Stanford last Sunday May 26th, with groups from the Free U, Concerned Citizens, The Resistance, WILPF and the War Resisters League. Whilst the "militant middle class" listened to the Stanford Band, vague speeches about changing the earth, and engaged in hassels about when the kids could get their free ballons, we on the outside watched the Guerilla Theatre, listened to the Fool from the Resistance, and the Bottled Aggression from the Free U, and held an open mike thing with talks by Vic, Cully, Lou, and the local Barb correspondent on what we thought about National Service. Sorry, I mean National Voluntary Service.

The lessons we learnt from the afternoon were the usual ones; better planning and better co-ordination between different groups with the same aims. Seeing as the various front groups supporting National Service have a lot of bread and backing we will have plenty of opportunity to put our newly learnt lessons into practice.

JOIN THE EAST FARTHING THEATRE

East Farthing Experimental Theatre announces a choking need for actors, actresses, stage hands, and anyone interested in new theatre - specially someone who knows about electrical wiring - Anyone and everyone please come and sign up at East Farthing Trading Co., 616 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Ask for Steve Polinsky or Steven Russell.

DRAFT COUNSELING HOURS

We now have draft counselors in the Free U Store Mon.-Thursday from 2-5p.m. Counseling is also scheduled, but not guaranteed, for Fridays 2-5 p.m. People who need draft counseling on a Friday night call the Free U. Store (328-4941) to check whether a counselor is there. Other good places to try are the Stanford Anti-Draft Union (321-2300, x4341, or 325-7604) and the Stanford Law Students Civil Rights Research Council (321-2300, x3131).