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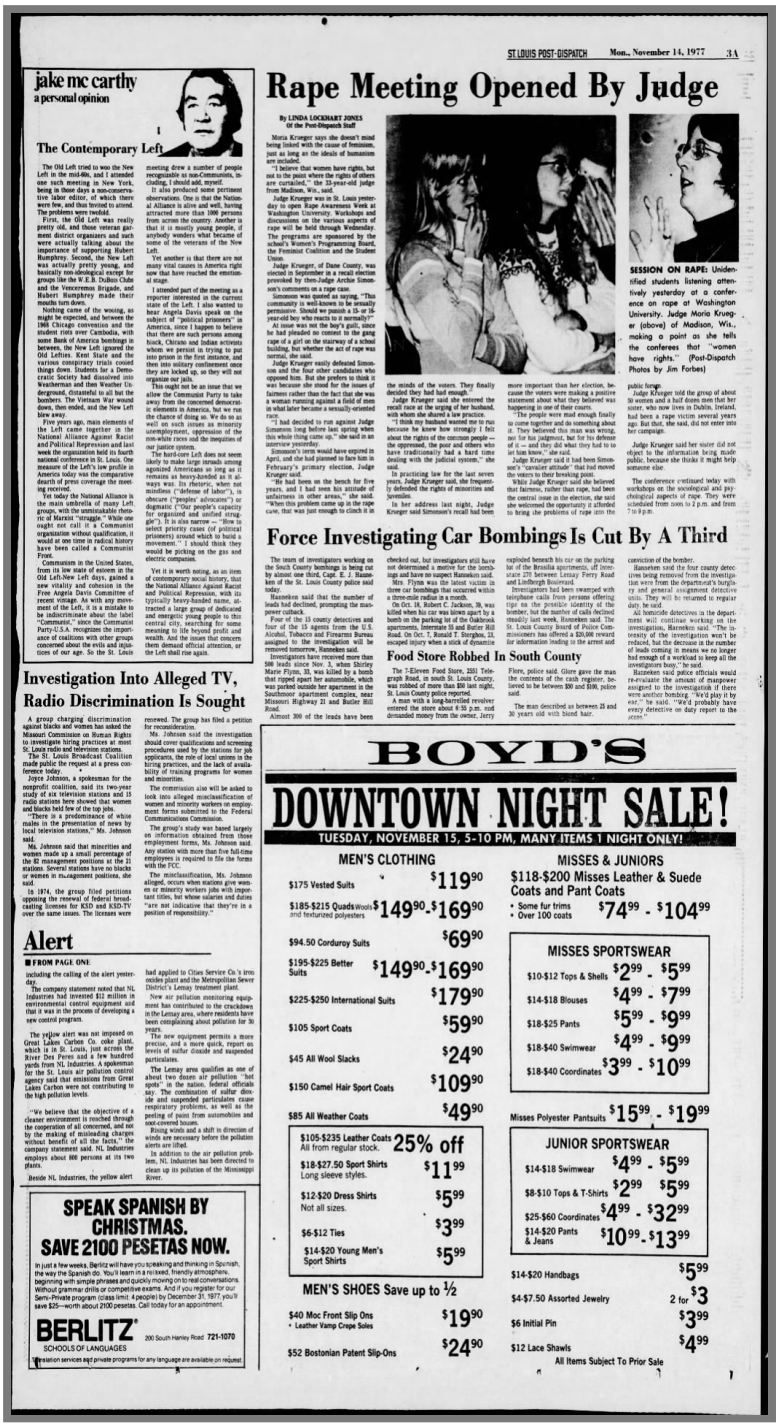

jake mc carthy
a personal opinion

The Contemporary Left

The Old Left tried to woo the New Left in the mid-60s, and I attended one such meeting in New York, being in those days a non-conservative labor editor, of which there were few, and thus invited to attend. The problems were twofold.

First, the Old Left was really pretty old, and those veteran garment district organizers and such were actually talking about the importance of supporting Hubert Humphrey. Second, the New Left was actually pretty young, and basically non-ideological except for groups like the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs and the Venceremos Brigade, and Hubert Humphrey made their mouths turn down.

Nothing came of the wooing, as might be expected, and between the 1968 Chicago convention and the student riots over Cambodia, with some Bank of America bombings in between, the New Left ignored the Old Lefties. Kent State and the various conspiracy trials closed things down. Students for a Democratic Society had dissolved into Weathermen and then Weather Underground, distasteful to all but the bombers. The Vietnam War wound down, then ended, and the New Left blew away.

Five years ago, main elements of the Left came together in the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and last week the organization held its fourth national conference in St. Louis. One measure of the Left's low profile in America today was the comparative dearth of press coverage the meeting received.

Yet today the National Alliance is the main umbrella of many Left groups, with the unmistakable rhetoric of Marxist "struggle." While one ought not call it a Communist organization without qualification, it would at one time in radical history have been called a Communist Front.

Communism in the United States, from its low state of esteem in the Old Left-New Left days, gained a new vitality and cohesion in the Free Angela Davis Committee of recent vintage. As with any movement of the Left, it is a mistake to be indiscriminate about the label "Communist," since the Communist Party-U.S.A. recognizes the importance of coalitions with other groups concerned about the evils and injustices of our age. So the St. Louis meeting drew a number of people recognizable as non-Communists, including, I should add, myself.

It also produced some pertinent observations. One is that the National Alliance is alive and well, having attracted more than 1000 persons from across the country. Another is that it is mostly young people, if anybody wonders what became of some of the veterans of the New Left.

Yet another is that there are not many vital causes in America right now that have reached the emotional stage.

I attended part of the meeting as a reporter interested in the current state of the Left. I also wanted to hear Angela Davis speak on the subject of "political prisoners" in America, since I happen to believe that there are such persons among black, Chicano and Indian activists whom we persist in trying to put into prison in the first instance, and then into solitary confinement once they are locked up, so they will not organize our jails.

This ought not be an issue that we allow the Communist Party to take away from the concerned democratic elements in America, but we run the chance of doing so. We do so as well on such issues as minority unemployment, oppression of the non-white races and the inequities of our justice system.

The hard-core Left does not seem likely to make large inroads among agonized Americans so long as it remains as heavy-handed as it always was: Its rhetoric, when not mindless ("defense of labor"), is obscure ("peoples' advocates") or dogmatic ("Our people's capacity for organized and unified struggle"). It is also narrow — "How to select priority cases (of political prisoners) around which to build a movement." I should think they would be picking on the gas and electric companies.

Yet it is worth noting, as an item of contemporary social history, that the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, with its typically heavy-handed name, attracted a large group of dedicated and energetic young people to this central city, searching for some meaning to life beyond profit and wealth. And the issues that concern them demand official attention, or the Left shall rise again.

Rape Meeting Opened By Judge

By LINDA LOCKHART JONES
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Moria Krueger says she doesn't mind being linked with the cause of feminism, just as long as the ideals of humanism are included.

"I believe that women have rights, but not to the point where the rights of others are curtailed," the 33-year-old judge from Madison, Wis., said.

Judge Krueger was in St. Louis yesterday to open Rape Awareness Week at Washington University. Workshops and discussions on the various aspects of rape will be held through Wednesday. The programs are sponsored by the school's Women's Programming Board, the Feminist Coalition and the Student Union.

Judge Krueger, of Dane County, was elected in September in a recall election provoked by then-Judge Archie Simonson's comments on a rape case.

Simonson was quoted as saying, "This community is well-known to be sexually permissive. Should we punish a 15- or 16-year-old boy who reacts to it normally?"

At issue was not the boy's guilt, since he had pleaded no contest to the gang rape of a girl on the stairway of a school building, but whether the act of rape was normal, she said.

Judge Krueger easily defeated Simonson and the four other candidates who opposed him. But she prefers to think it was because she stood for the issues of fairness rather than the fact that she was a woman running against a field of men in what later became a sexually-oriented race.

"I had decided to run against Judge Simonson long before last spring when this whole thing came up," she said in an interview yesterday.

Simonson's term would have expired in April, and she had planned to face him in February's primary election, Judge Krueger said.

"He had been on the bench for five years, and I had seen his attitude of unfairness in other areas," she said. "When this problem came up in the rape case, that was just enough to clinch it in the minds of the voters. They finally decided they had had enough."

Judge Krueger said she entered the recall race at the urging of her husband, with whom she shared a law practice.

"I think my husband wanted me to run because he knew how strongly I felt about the rights of the common people — the oppressed, the poor and others who have traditionally had a hard time dealing with the judicial system," she said.

In practicing law for the last seven years, Judge Krueger said, she frequently defended the rights of minorities and juveniles.

In her address last night, Judge Krueger said Simonson's recall had been more important than her election, because the voters were making a positive statement about what they believed was happening in one of their courts.

"The people were mad enough finally to come together and do something about it. They believed this man was wrong, not for his judgment, but for his defense of it — and they did what they had to to let him know," she said.

Judge Krueger said it had been Simonson's "cavalier attitude" that had moved the voters to their breaking point.

While Judge Krueger said she believed that fairness, rather than rape, had been the central issue in the election, she said she welcomed the opportunity it afforded to bring the problems of rape into the public forum.

Judge Krueger told the group of about 30 women and a half dozen men that her sister, who now lives in Dublin, Ireland, had been a rape victim several years ago. But that, she said, did not enter into her campaign.

Judge Krueger said her sister did not object to the information being made public, because she thinks it might help someone else.

The conference continued today with workshops on the sociological and psychological aspects of rape. They were scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

SESSION ON RAPE: Unidentified students listening attentively yesterday at a conference on rape at Washington University. Judge Moria Krueger (above) of Madison, Wis., making a point as she tells the conferees that "women have rights." (Post-Dispatch Photos by Jim Forbes)

Force Investigating Car Bombings Is Cut By A Third

The team of investigators working on the South County bombings is being cut by almost one third, Capt. E. J. Hanneken of the St. Louis County police said today.

Hanneken said that the number of leads had declined, prompting the manpower cutback.

Four of the 15 county detectives and four of the 15 agents from the U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau assigned to the investigation will be removed tomorrow, Hanneken said.

Investigators have received more than 500 leads since Nov. 3, when Shirley Marie Flynn, 33, was killed by a bomb that ripped apart her automobile, which was parked outside her apartment in the Southmoor apartment complex, near Missouri Highway 21 and Butler Hill Road.

Almost 300 of the leads have been checked out, but investigators still have not determined a motive for the bombings and have no suspect Hanneken said.

Mrs. Flynn was the latest victim in three car bombings that occurred within a three-mile radius in a month.

On Oct. 18, Robert C. Jackson, 39, was killed when his car was blown apart by a bomb on the parking lot of the Oakbrook apartments, Interstate 55 and Butler Hill Road. On Oct. 7, Ronald T. Sturghon, 23, escaped injury when a stick of dynamite exploded beneath his car on the parking lot of the Brasilia apartments, off Interstate 270 between Lemay Ferry Road and Lindbergh Boulevard.

Investigators had been swamped with telephone calls from persons offering tips on the possible identity of the bomber, but the number of calls declined steadily last week, Hanneken said. The St. Louis County Board of Police Commissioners has offered a $20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the bomber.

Hanneken said the four county detectives being removed from the investigation were from the department's burglary and general assignment detective units. They will be returned to regular duty, he said.

All homicide detectives in the department will continue working on the investigation, Hanneken said. "The intensity of the investigation won't be reduced, but the decrease in the number of leads coming in means we no longer had enough of a workload to keep all the investigators busy," he said.

Hanneken said police officials would re-evaluate the amount of manpower assigned to the investigation if there were another bombing. "We'd play it by ear," he said. "We'd probably have every detective on duty report to the scene."

Food Store Robbed In South County

The 7-Eleven Food Store, 2351 Telegraph Road, in south St. Louis County, was robbed of more than $50 last night, St. Louis County police reported.

A man with a long-barrelled revolver entered the store about 6:35 p.m. and demanded money from the owner, Jerry Flore, police said. Glore gave the man the contents of the cash register, believed to be between $50 and $100, police said.

The man described as between 25 and 30 years old with blond hair.

Investigation Into Alleged TV, Radio Discrimination Is Sought

A group charging discrimination against blacks and women has asked the Missouri Commission on Human Rights to investigate hiring practices at most St. Louis radio and television stations.

The St. Louis Broadcast Coalition made public the request at a press conference today.

Joyce Johnson, a spokesman for the nonprofit coalition, said its two-year study of six television stations and 15 radio stations here showed that women and blacks held few of the top jobs.

"There is a predominance of white males in the presentation of news by local television stations," Ms. Johnson said.

Ms. Johnson said that minorities and women made up a small percentage of the 82 management positions at the 21 stations. Several stations have no blacks or women in management positions, she said.

In 1974, the group filed petitions opposing the renewal of federal broadcasting licenses for KSD and KSD-TV over the same issues. The licenses were renewed. The group has filed a petition for reconsideration.

Ms. Johnson said the investigation should cover qualifications and screening procedures used by the stations for job applicants, the role of local unions in the hiring practices, and the lack of availability of training programs for women and minorities.

The commission also will be asked to look into alleged misclassification of women and minority workers on employment forms submitted to the Federal Communications Commission.

The group's study was based largely on information obtained from those employment forms, Ms. Johnson said. Any station with more than five full-time employees is required to file the forms with the FCC.

The misclassification, Ms. Johnson alleged, occurs when stations give women or minority workers jobs with important titles, but whose salaries and duties "are not indicative that they're in a position of responsibility."

Alert

■ FROM PAGE ONE

including the calling of the alert yesterday.

The company statement noted that NL Industries had invested $12 million in environmental control equipment and that it was in the process of developing a new control program.

The yellow alert was not imposed on Great Lakes Carbon Co. coke plant, which is in St. Louis, just across the River Des Peres and a few hundred yards from NL Industries. A spokesman for the St. Louis air pollution control agency said that emissions from Great Lakes Carbon were not contributing to the high pollution levels.

"We believe that the objective of a cleaner environment is reached through the cooperation of all concerned, and not by the making of misleading charges without benefit of all the facts," the company statement said. NL Industries employs about 800 persons at its two plants.

Beside NL Industries, the yellow alert had applied to Cities Service Co.'s iron oxides plant and the Metropolitan Sewer District's Lemay treatment plant.

New air pollution monitoring equipment has contributed to the crackdown in the Lemay area, where residents have been complaining about pollution for 30 years.

The new equipment permits a more precise, and a more quick, report on levels of sulfur dioxide and suspended particulates.

The Lemay area qualifies as one of about two dozen air pollution "hot spots" in the nation, federal officials say. The combination of sulfur dioxide and suspended particulates cause respiratory problems, as well as the peeling of paint from automobiles and soot-covered houses.

Rising winds and a shift in direction of winds are necessary before the pollution alerts are lifted.

In addition to the air pollution problem, NL Industries has been directed to clean up its pollution of the Mississippi River.

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