

making their scholarly mark, the strength of the radicals seems to be in those sectors of economics stressed by radical economists generally. These are labor economics, economic history, with emphasis on the history of economics, and international economics, concentrating on a critique of modern imperialism.

Outside observers say that the efforts to pull the department together show signs of working. For example, recommendations for hiring by the personnel committee have so far been unanimous. The committee has three radical and two nonradical members, but the word of the department chairman, a nonradical, is intended to balance things out on hiring matters.

Katzner, who notes that he is not necessarily an unbiased observer, says that the U. Mass. economics department "may be the most intellectually open in the country." He thinks "it has an intellectual quality not found anywhere else." Katzner goes on to say that he has "no idea how fragile the agreement is which is holding it all together, but for

me it's an incredibly exciting department."

The critical mass of radicals at U. Mass. is not confined to the economics department, but includes a small number of radical faculty, Marxist and non-Marxist, in the political science, philosophy, history, and English departments.

Radicals in academe are widely dispersed. Informal networks of the like-minded have developed, but an increasing number of journals of radical thought serve as the main means of communication among radicals. For radical economists, an important medium is the *Review of Radical Political Economics* published by the Union of Radical Political Economists since the late 1960's.

Bowles, who has been an active URPE member, says that URPE's name is a deliberate play on the rather disused term, political economy. What unites URPE members, says Bowles, is that "We are economists who are political. We accept the necessity of active commitment to rational change." The journal permits "a radical expression of disagreement with what's going on . . .

Marxism is the way most of us look at economics."

Bowles says that radicals see "the disintegration of the neoclassical paradigm, an inability to explain new problems, and, for that matter, old problems. It's clear that some alternative is necessary. We're providing an alternative. We don't claim to have the definitive solution. But it's a heady period to be a social scientist and a Marxist."

In their evolution, URPE and the *Review* seem to have mirrored the development of radical economics. URPE was established in the summer of 1968, with radicals from Harvard, Michigan, and Yale most prominent as founders. In its first years, says David Gordon of the New School for Social Research in New York, URPE members concentrated on a critique of mainstream economics. In the early 1970's, when membership was around 1300, those active in URPE decided it was necessary to move from criticism to development of their own theoretical framework. This involved more serious study of Marx and criticism of the Marxist tradition, says Gordon. In

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Kentucky Unhappy with Atom Dump

The state of Kentucky seems to have joined the burgeoning ranks of those who are getting disillusioned with the nuclear age. On 15 December it temporarily, and perhaps permanently, closed the nuclear waste disposal site that has operated at Maxey Flats, near Lexington, since 1963.

Maxey Flats is one of 17 low-level radioactive burial sites in the country. Twelve are owned by the federal government; the rest are state-licensed and commercially run.

Over the past 7 years, there has been continuous uncertainty about whether a long-term hazard was posed by seepage of contaminated water from the site, where the waste is buried in shallow trenches. Last August radioactivity was found in a new, unused trench, providing "unequivocal evidence" of subsurface migration of contaminated water. No immediate public health hazard was ascertained, but since no one could make any long-term assurances, the state and the commercial operator, Nuclear Engineering Company, agreed on a temporary shutdown. For the next 2 years the state

will take over maintenance of the dump while further studies are conducted.

The Maxey Flats problem is described in an October report of the state's special advisory committee on nuclear waste disposal, which asserts: "The decision to locate a nuclear burial site at Maxey Flats was a mistake, at least for geological and hydrological reasons." It appears that it was also an economic mistake.

Back in the late 1950's, a nuclear burial site seemed like a great idea—it would attract power plants and "it was thought that nuclear power might do for Kentucky what TVA had done for Tennessee." But as it turned out, virtually all the waste came from outside the state. The neighbors do not like the dump; neither do the environmentalists or the coal people. Kentucky has no nuclear plants and the state is opposing the Marble Hill power plant in neighboring Indiana. In short, as the report says, "All the hopes and aspirations expressed for nuclear industry in the early sixties have come to nothing."

Maxey Flats is now something of an albatross around Kentucky's neck. In 1963 people were only dimly aware of the fact that once you accept nuclear garbage you have to deal with it, for all practical purposes, forever. The costs of "perpetual care and maintenance" are far higher than used to be thought.

Kentucky now seems inclined to get out of the nuclear dump business altogether, but it will not be able to if the site is reopened, because it does not trust the federal government to take over. Barring an abrupt turnaround in public sentiment, the most likely fate for Maxey Flats is that it will be kept closed and foisted on the federal government for perpetual care.

New Crop of Astronauts

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is soon to announce the results of its most massive astronaut recruitment program. More than a decade after the Russians shot the first woman into space, the final selection of 40 will include members of the fair sex.

The recruitment drive for pilots and workers on the space shuttle lasted over a year and resulted in 8079 applications, 1544 of which were from women. Of these applicants 208 were invited to the Johnson Space Center in Houston for further screening. The finalists included 21 women, 8 blacks, 2 Hispanic people, and 1 Oriental.

NASA, which has borne the brunt of heavy criticism in the past for its failure to

1974, he says "our heads were yanked out of the sand," when radicals were called on by outsiders to explain the new situation precipitated by the energy crisis and ensuing recession. Radicals began to reach a larger audience. URPE has sponsored a new monthly, *Dollars and Sense*, a kind of radical news-magazine published by a separate non-profit organization. Subscriptions to the *Review* were made available separately from membership as libraries and non-radicals asked for it. Membership is now about 1700 and mailings go to some 2600.

Ideologically, URPE has avoided defining itself narrowly. Two years ago the *Review* board published a statement of policy that articles should take into account a Marxian framework. There were a number of protests that this was too restrictive and, after a vote by the members at a national conference, the statement was retracted.

Radicals are a far from homogenous lot and it is, therefore difficult to generalize about their views, but interviews for this article did produce several points of agreement. It is clear, for example, that

few radicals these days are public apologists for the policies of the Soviet Union. Revelations in the middle 1950's of police-state activities during the Stalin era, Soviet actions in Eastern Europe, the Sino-Soviet split, and the Soviet record on human rights had a profound effect on attitudes of the American Left toward the U.S.S.R. It is true that many radicals prefer to concentrate on a critique of the U.S. system rather than to criticize the Soviet Union or discuss disputes between socialist countries. Radicals, by and large, have been freed of the accusations of following the party line which was so common during the Cold War. One British Marxist calls it the "redemption of socialism by criticism of the Soviet Union."

In much the same way, Marxist scholars in academe today seem less concerned about ideological correctness than were their predecessors in the 1930's and the period immediately after World War II. Most now take a relatively critical approach to the Marxist canon. As a result, Marxist scholarship is perceived as intellectually more vigorous

and, consequently, more interesting by non-Marxist students and faculty.

Academic radicals divide into two main groups—those in the native radical populist tradition and those more interested in Marx and his interpreters. The first group in very general terms favors the democratization of decision-making and control in government, business, and the community and, historically, asserts a moral claim for redistribution of income. The Marxists share the traditional socialist commitment to public control of the means of production, but the aspect of Marxist thought which seems to be the most important to scholars across the social science disciplines is the class analysis of society.

Among American radicals, there appears to be a strong renewal of interest in Marxian theory, particularly in scholarship in the European Marxist intellectual tradition. This represents a break with the attitudes of the New Left of the 1960's, which is viewed as having been action oriented, pragmatic, and rather mistrustful of theory.

William Connolly, a political scientist

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promote women and minorities, bent over backward this time to encourage such people to apply. A major technical obstacle to women has been removed because for the first time not all the astronauts have to be pilots. The new crop will be equally divided between pilot-astronauts and "mission specialists."

The first of six shuttle "developmental flights" is scheduled to blast off in March 1979. The shuttle will then go operational, achieving up to 40 to 50 flights a year by 1985.

NASA's last astronaut recruitment drive was in 1967. Of the 73 men trained as astronauts since 1959, 27 are still available for space flights.

Assertion of Dolphin Rights Fails in Court

Those who hoped to use a case of dolphin "liberation" as a platform to advance animal rights had their hopes dashed last month when a Hawaiian court found a graduate student guilty of grand theft in the release of two experimental dolphins.

Last May the student, Kenneth Le Vasseur, and his colleague Steve Sipman removed the two marine mammals from

the tanks in which they were held at the University of Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, and dumped them in the ocean.

The two young men, who were working for Louis Herman, director of the marine research facility at Kewalo Basin, were reportedly very agitated over the conditions in which the dolphins were held.

Le Vasseur claimed to have observed human-type signs of boredom and stress in the dolphins and believed the animals, which were held in separate tanks, suffered from confinement, lack of socialization, and limited opportunities for play. The larger issue, said the men, revolved around "the moral and philosophical ideas that human beings have no rights to hold intelligent, feeling beings like dolphins in captivity."

During the trial Greenpeace, a Canadian group devoted to saving whales, issued a "declaration of dolphin rights" including the statement that "In the spirit that moved lawmakers to enfranchise first men with property, then men free and white, and finally women, we plead with today's lawmakers to treat generously that intelligence of the sea. . . ."

None of this cut any ice with the jury, whose attitude was partially influenced by reports that the Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins were probably killed by sharks on being released in foreign waters.

Le Vasseur, who faces a possible 5-year sentence and \$5000 fine, plans to appeal the case. Sipman is to come to trial in February.

This, then, did not turn into the "Scopes trial for animal rights" that many animal liberationists would like to see. A more interesting case—one not involving criminal activity—might have been developed early last year over the matter of Koko, a female gorilla. Koko was loaned to a Stanford University graduate student in 1972 by the San Francisco Zoo and was taught to use sign language. When the zoo wanted her back there was a great fuss, and several lawyers claimed that Koko, having developed some human abilities, now had constitutional rights protecting her from incarceration. A confrontation was avoided when the university set up a Gorilla Foundation and bought Koko from the zoo.

Although society does not yet appear to be prepared to extend human rights to animals, the dolphin liberation case feeds into increasing sensitivity about the treatment of animals in captivity. Although the new Animal Welfare Act is promulgating minimum standards for the physical well-being of laboratory animals, little attention is being paid to what one animal rightser calls their "social, emotional, and behavioral" needs.

Constance Holden