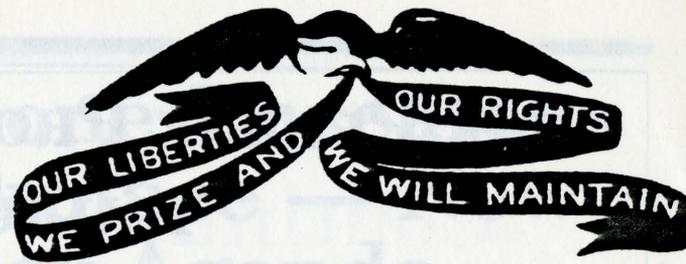


THE PRAIRIE PROGRESSIVE



Vol. 4, #1 Winter 1989

A NEWSLETTER FOR IOWA'S DEMOCRATIC LEFT

19 Points of Light: Prairie Dog's Honor Roll — 1988

1988 was not a year of triumph. Not like 1987. No victory over Bork. No defeat of the sales tax. Not many signs, really, of a kinder, gentler nation.

This year's highlight was Jesse Jackson's startling surge last spring, when it suddenly dawned on the white guys in ties that a progressive black candidacy was more than a

Quixotic pipe dream. Prairie Dog fondly remembers the begrudging *New York Times* headline: Nomination 'Conceivable'

Lest we be discouraged by the dismal Dukakis campaign, let's

toast the New Year with the words of an older, wiser Greek statesman, Thucydides: "Justice will not come until those who are not injured are as indignant as those who are injured."

And may we get plenty of rain next summer.

Mary Mascher — As chair of the Johnson County Democrats, she restored an amiable atmosphere after years of bureaucratically constipated meetings.

DyAnne Dudley — An Iowa City Democrat with the guts to take on incumbent good ol' boy John Balmer for a one-year Council seat.

Dave Swenson — The Iowa AFL-CIO News reprinted his article, "Working in Iowa," which originally appeared in the *Prairie Progressive*.

Carol DeProsse — Sixties activist and former Council member who refuses to join the wine and brie set. DeProsse continues to spark local opposition to the CIA on campus and U.S. intervention in Central America.

T.J. Lauritsen —

Spearheaded the successful organizing drive of the Excel plant in Ottumwa, helping to sidetrack the anti-union movement in the meat-packing industry.

Tom Slockett —

Johnson County Auditor. The only elected official in the 3rd District to openly support Jesse Jackson. There might be a few more in 1992.

Marlene Perrin — The first Press-Citizen city editor in years who actually knows the city. Too bad she's a Republican.

Ed and Sherri Zastrow — Owners of Bushnell's Turtle, the progressive choice for receptions and fundraisers in Iowa City.

Pat Herring — As chair of the Johnson County AIDS Coalition, she works effectively to bring a human

face to services for people with AIDS and ARC.

Prairiefire — Rural advocacy group that keeps an eye on the smear campaigns and racist forays of LaRouche and other hatemongers, reminding us that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Mark Smith — Secretary/Treasurer of the Iowa AFL-CIO. Set an Iowa record for most-times-quoted in *In These Times*.

Evelyn Davis — Iowa co-chair of the Jackson campaign. Upon retiring as director of Tiny Tot Day Care in Des Moines, Davis said, "I'm sure glad I never had a paycheck big enough to shut my mouth."

Tom Jochum — State Representative from Dubuque. Although his city was not a hospitable host, Jochum delivered a courageous and compassionate speech at its Gay and Lesbian Pride Rally.

Prairie Dog continues on Page 4.

THE PRAIRIE PROGRESSIVE is edited by members of the Iowa City Local of The Democratic Socialists of America, 112 S. Dodge, Iowa City, IA 52240. Editor for this issue: Jeff Cox. Each article represents the views of the author, and not those of the editors or DSA. We welcome articles and responses to articles written from any point of view whatsoever. Subscription per calendar year: \$5. Contributions of money are always welcome.

Labor donated.

"Justice will not come until those who are not injured are as indignant as those who are injured."

THE PRAIRIE PROGRESSIVE ENCOURAGES YOU TO VOTE FOR DYANNE DUDLEY & KAREN KUBBY ON JANUARY 10.

FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION
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A Prairie Progressive Editorial: Kubby for Council

by Jeff Cox

Karen Kubby won a remarkable victory in the December 13th city council primary, carrying 15 out of 25 precincts with 51% of the vote in a three-way race. In precinct 21, voting at Horace Mann School, she received 123 votes and her major opponent, Mary Jo Streb, only 15. It was all the more remarkable because of the negative tone of the campaign against her. Streb's campaign committee began her campaign with a fund-raising letter which tried to stir up fears about a disruptive socialist presence on the council. This was followed by hysterical attacks on Karen in the letters column of the *Press-Citizen* & in the *Campus Review*.

This is the damaging legacy of McCarthyism. It will work only insofar as liberals and others on the left continue to run for cover whenever certain inflammatory code words are brought into political debate. The taboo on the word socialism has produced a kind of deformity of American political life, whereby ideas which have widespread public support, and candidates with great public appeal, are dismissed entirely because of potential associations with socialism (or, more recently, with liberalism).

It is very likely that personal attacks on Karen will accelerate now that she has proven her electoral appeal. *The Campus Review* crowd is always available to do the dirty work of attacking progressive candidates. They have been calling Tom Harkin names for years. A negative campaign is the last thing we need in Iowa City, so perhaps it is worth rehearsing the many positive reasons to support Karen Kubby:

1. Karen is not only hard-working, intelligent and articu-

late; she is also courteous, conciliatory and friendly, important assets on the city council.

2. Karen has a strong commitment to making Iowa City a better place to live.

3. Karen has a long record of participation in community service organizations such as the Red Cross.

4. Karen has been involved in city government as chair of the Committee on Community Needs, & has demonstrated her ability to work positively with others.

5. Karen represents a point of view which has broad support in the community, but which is entirely unrepresented on the council.

6. This council needs more diversity. They replaced liberal Democrat Kate Dickson with conservative Republican John Balmer, and then did everything possible to protect Balmer from the horrors of an election.

The list could go on. You can add to it yourself. But it is important to keep these ideas in mind if the campaign turns nasty. It will certainly be a close election on January 10th. Mary Jo Streb has many advantages, including her Republican party connections, prosperous business associates, and many relatives who might otherwise support a progressive candidate like Karen. Streb won ten precincts in the primary, and beat Karen by two to one in one suburban voting box. The City Council has purposely made campaigning difficult by scheduling the primary during finals week and the general election the day before classes begin. But the election can still be won or lost by either candidate, depending on how each presents herself, how they handle the issues, & how many of their supporters actually **remember to vote** on January 10th.

Air-Borne Testosterone Threatens Women in the Workplace — New Group Sets Safety Agenda.

by Sundy Smith

Increasing scientific evidence is confirming what many women have long suspected: working next to men can be hazardous to their health. In a recent *New York Times Magazine* article, Dr. Melvin Konner of Emory University has summarized some of this research and its sociological and political implications.

Research, according to Konner, has long shown that the tendency to produce pain and physical injury—from grabbing and scratching in toddlers to real grown-up wars—is strongly associated with men. The shift in recent years is from the optimistic explanation that these are learned aspects of gender and other social roles, to the growing biological evidence that these behaviors may not only be programmed in hormones, but might even be contagious. Aggressive behavior in adult mice, while much higher in males, has been correlated in females with their placement in the womb. If, in utero, they were located next to males, aggression was higher than if their womb neighbors were females, which in turn was correlated with their exposure to intrauterine testosterone through the blood of nearby males.

In response to this evidence by Konner and others, a new lobbying group has been formed to encourage research and safety assurances in the area of testosterone poisoning. WAFT (Women Against Freefloating Testosterone) has been assured by OSHA and the Surgeon General that air-borne testosterone is not an environmental hazard. However, WAFT holds that these conclusions are premature. Anecdotal evidence suggests that women promoted to male-dominated positions show dramatic increases in such testosterone-linked behaviors as watching professional football and doing excessive sit-ups, and then asking their office mates to punch them in the abdomen "as hard as you can—go ahead!" In Iowa, there is evidence that women moving into male-dominated offices develop sudden interests in blood sports like squirrel-hunting, and building decks with plans they got

from a Sunset home improvement book.

The WAFT agenda is to take a reasonable and compassionate approach to men in the workplace, and at the same time provide women with reasonable protection from irreversible damage.

The group will focus on three goals for this legislative session:

1. Given the wide range of testosterone levels in men, the group will call for mandatory testing of all men sharing work space with women. Men scoring above 6 on the recently standardized Rambo scale should be required to wear full-body Goretex "Condom Suits". WAFT is working with L.L. Bean to make these suits available as soon as the legislation is passed.
2. WAFT is calling for Pentagon release of technology associated with the top secret "Hunter Hormone" defense system for applied use in anti-testosterone office air freshener systems.
3. The group is asking for \$1.5 million in research support to more clearly identify the factors leading to Testosterone Immunity Syndrome Complex (TISC), a syndrome that was first identified in a woman who cleaned men's rooms at Busch Stadium, but has also been found in some women who have been divorced two or more times.

While WAFT believes that research is promising for the future, there are no easy answers for dealing with the immediate threat. The balance, according to a WAFT statement, must be carefully maintained between the rights of those with high ambient testosterone levels and the safety of women who work with them.

(Ms. Smith is an Iowa City writer who has published books on health careers, sheep production, and sewage treatment plant inspection.)

GREETINGS FROM THE IOWA CITY
RAINBOW COALITION.

WORKING FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE IN
JOHNSON COUNTY AND THE NATION.

Prairie Dog Continues

Jane Gersh — Owner of No Regrets Hair Salon, downtown Iowa City, a haven of wall space for art with a cutting edge.

David Osterberg and Paul Johnson — State Representatives who fended off election challenges from well-heeled opponents running on chemical-company money.

Environmental Advocates of Iowa City — They drew one hundred people on a cold December night to hear five city council candidates discuss garbage.

Zephyr Printing — Jim Gilmore & his staff are well-known for their generosity to all good causes, & for putting up with the staff of the *Prairie Progressive*

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