

Sojourner Truth was early spokesperson for equal rights for women and blacks

by Allyn Vogel

On Tuesday, November 19, 1797, a slave Isabella Baumfree was born. Tuesday was the anniversary of the birth of this woman who under the assumed name "Sojourner Truth" made herself famous as one of the early vocal advocates of women's rights.

As a young slave, she was brutally beaten, raped, and separated from her family. In 1817 when her home state New York, abolished slavery for adults, she was freed. She worked for the freedom of her children; however, one of her sons remained enslaved contrary to a promise of the owner. She sued for and won his freedom in the New York courts.

She worked as a domestic worker and later as a preacher mystic to support her five children. She joined for a while a utopian colony but departed to campaign for freedom.

In 1851, Sojourner Truth asked to address the Woman's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. She followed a male minister who had argued against equal rights for women because of feminine

weaknesses.

She reproached this clergyman retorting boldly, "The man over there says women need to be helped in carriages and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages or over puddles, or gives me the best place-and ain't I a woman? Look at my arm! I have plowed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me-and ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man-when I could get it-and bare the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children and seen most of them sold into slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me-and ain't I a woman?"

Illiterate, yet coarsely and almost poetically articulate, she followed this public confrontation with many more. She stood often before audiences which were initially antagonistic and prejudiced against her. With her wit and sound arguments she made herself and often her opponents better.

An advocate of women's

and black rights, she was appointed to the post-Civil War Freedman's Bureau to train black women for jobs. She fought the Jim Crow policies of the Washington, D.C. transportation system, forcing conductors to publically expel her from the white compartments of the trains. Her aim was to shock the white passengers.

Throughout her life, she battled against prejudice and discrimination. Fearless and

forceful opposite more learned debaters she acquired the respect of her audiences. When once degraded in a debate by an opponent who cared for her arguments "no more than for a flea bite", she quickly retorted, "I'll keep you scratching."

The information for this article is taken from Gerda Lerner, *THE WOMAN IN AMERICAN HISTORY*. Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley Publishing Inc., 1971.

Due to
Thanks-
giving
holidays
the next
TWIG
issue
will be
on
Dec. 5.

Administration takes steps toward conserving more energy

by Meredith McGill

Good news! The Meredith College administration is actively concerned with the problem of fuel consumption on campus. This concern is obviously justified, considering our annual fuel bill of \$200,000.

Immediate measures have been taken in the past two weeks to curb electricity expenditure; all except three floodlights surrounding Weatherspoon Gymnasium have been doused, and security guards have been instructed to turn off all classroom lights in the academic buildings at night. Lighting affects security effectiveness, and drastic cuts in outside lighting are not feasible; however, practical distribution of electricity is being exercised in the plans to add lights in the parking lots near Ridgewood Shopping Center.

The heating and cooling situation is not dealt with as easily. The four older dor-

mitories in the quadrangle are forty-eight years old and are climate-controlled by sensors, devices which are not as accurate as thermostats, and which control the temperature in areas instead of individual rooms.

A major problem lies in the distribution of heat to the upper dormitory floors; since the heat is pushed upwards through pipes, all floors are heated when the fourth floor needs heat, and so on. For the present, these sensors have been turned back to 68 degrees in an effort to control the temperature as much as possible. Our administration has hired engineers to examine the problem and develop more efficient ways to boost air throughout the dorms.

Building construction has hindered energy conservation in some instances. For example, both the library and the Cate Center were designed in the modernistic, pre-fuel shortage era, and these

buildings are regulated entirely by artificial mean. The library lights provide twenty-five percent of the total heat needed in the building, and fans pull in fresh air and distribute air to prevent staleness.

Fountain use has been limited to the hours between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. A certain amount of use is required to keep valves and pumps in order.

Mr. Baker has plans for future conservation, including forbidding freshmen and sophomore vehicle registration next year, and possibly hiring a full-time person to regulate thermostats and adjust them on a daily basis. We as students can help by turning off incandescent lights when not in use and avoiding the raising of dorm windows.

Mr. Baker advises students to be conscious of energy conservation and to feel free to advise him of any energy waste that they observe.

JACK ANDERSON'S

Weekly Special

WASHINGTON-Candy may still be dandy, but its cost may soon make it a luxury only the rich can afford.

Sugar, the prime confectionary ingredient is now rivaling oil as the fastest rising commodity on the world price index. A five-pound bag of sugar cost 88 cents last year. Today, it runs nearly \$2.50.

The reasons are complex, but a large share of the price rise can be laid to unscrupulous brokers and greedy sugar refiners.

The brokers set themselves up as middlemen, contracting desperate customers and offering them sugar. Once they get an offer, they get the sugar from a supplier they have worked a great deal with. The increased costs go into the broker's pocket.

Many legitimate sugar refiners are also taking advantage of the short sugar supply to raise prices well above their costs. Sugar industry profits have ballooned by as much as 500 per cent.

Of course, market pressures have played the most significant role in the price boost. World wide, sugar

consumption has simply outpaced sugar production. The oil-rich Arab nations have helped inflate demand, bidding up prices on the international market to satisfy a newly developed sweet tooth. And poor crops forecasts around the world mean further increases in the future.

In America, Sugar's outrageous price has consumers either boycotting or hoarding the product. Only dentists and nutritionists, it seems, are heralding the sugar pinch. The food experts have found that sugar is the only food without nutritional value. And the dentists, of course, hope that less sugar will mean fewer cavities.

SLOGANS U.S.A.: In times past, Americans have been able to distill the cause of the hour into a phrase, a rallying cry, a stirring slogan to reaffirm our faith in America. A slogan is needed to capture the spirit of America's past, present and future. It ought not to be the forced effort of an advertising executive, but rather it should be the spontaneous outpouring from an average citizen.

Therefore, the Copernicus Society of America, in conjunction with the Bicentennial Commission, is sponsoring "Slogans, U.S.A." So far, the response has been heavy and heartwarming. Slogans have poured in from around the nation. But more ideas are needed, so send your slogan suggestion to: "Slogans, U.S.A.", Box 1976, Washington, D.C.

It's time to reaffirm the dream.

Charlie Smith v. Ralph Nader

You've heard of Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate. But have you heard of Charlie Smith, consumer advocate?

Charlie Smith is a leading U.S. businessman who pointed out in a speech the other day how consumers pay through the nose when government subsidies are used to help finance strikes, which is what happens when federal food stamps are doled out to strikers.

The stamps, originally intended to help needy families supplement their food allowances, enable union members to remain out on strike, longer than ordinarily would be the case, in support of pay or other demands.

Employers, realizing the battle is unequal, simply give in and add the cost of settling the strike to the cost of doing business.

Commenting on this situation, Charles H. Smith, Jr., chairman of the board of directors of the Chamber of

Commerce of the United States, said:

"The consumer winds up paying twice: Once through his taxes to subsidize the strikers, and once more through a higher bill for the things he buys in the marketplace."

The Chamber leader, chairman of the board of SIFCO Industries, Inc., Cleveland, explained:

"The possibility of public assistance to strikers affects both labor and management but

in opposite directions. The union and its members see the strike costing them less; the employer, on the other hand, realizes that while he is losing sales and substantial sums of money, he is getting no closer to settlement because the strikers are not feeling similar pressure."

Mr. Smith recognizes that barely 20 percent of all U.S. workers belong to labor unions but that all of us must foot the bill as consumers when lopsided wage contracts are negotiated.

Women's Year

(Continued from Page 1)

sumption of valuable foodstuffs through fasting at least one meal a week and then backing this action by donating the money normally spent for that meal to the World Food Bank.

Such actions are necessary, Dr. Thomas emphasized as we "access ourselves in light of the world situation."

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