

Stew Albert & Judy Gumbo
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WOODSTOCK TIMES

Tomorrow's fuel

The F.B.I. story

"Our move to the country probably sparked their paranoia"

"The leadership of the world terrorist conspiracy directed us to move to Hurley so we could establish ties with the local revolutionaries here. ...Havana, Hurley, you know."

Stew Albert of course was joking when he responded to the question of why he moved to Hurley. But it's beginning to appear the FBI has been acting on information which might make them believe that Albert and Judy Clavir are suspects in some kind of operation deserving of their complete bag of surveillance tricks.

"You might say we were under the illusion the system wouldn't follow us to our little mountain cabin we bought in Hurley about four years ago." Stew and Judy, both sixties radicals, decided they were drained by their intense political activity. "We had been working on convention demonstrations in 1972 and wanted a mellower lifestyle. We didn't want to continue dealing with police agencies."

Woodstock Times has learned through absolutely reliable sources that the following took place:

- The FBI burglarized the Hurley home of Stew Albert and Judy Clavir in November 1974 and removed some of their personal possessions from the house which were sent to a FBI lab for identification.

- The Kingston Trust Company regularly cooperated with the FBI by providing bank balances.

- The FBI from the New York City office with backup from the Kingston FBI office followed their movements in the Kingston area. They followed them and reported to the FBI director on their travels to the supermarket, the laundromat, the post office, and other places. Clavir was once observed dropping off a hitchhiker at the Thruway. Albert was followed to a Route 28 flea market. He purchased some tables and chairs.

- The Hurley Post Office kept a detailed account of all incoming mail and also reported on con-

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"I can't blame you"

Most drug stores end Medicaid

One by one the drug stores of the area are announcing they are discontinuing their Medicaid prescription services. As of Tuesday an estimated 80% of the county drug stores have announced their participation in the boycott, and it

So their dream for a house in the country was realized. Judy got a job with Ulster County Community College teaching sociology to correctional officers. She didn't flinch when she wasn't rehired after a semester. She immediately got a job teaching at New Paltz.

Stew pattered around the cabin and wrote extensively for *Crawdaddy*. His articles include a review of *Prairie Fire*, the doctrinal statement of the Weather Underground; an interview with jailed S.L.A. members in California; the Indian/FBI trial in Cedar Rapids this summer; and other commentaries dealing with radical themes or Albert's old friends from the 60's (Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, to name a few).

Hardly the typical Hurley homeowners, but nevertheless they felt relatively unnoticed by big brother. That is, until last winter when Judy discovered a peculiar device under her car. Attorney William Kunstler, whom they were visiting at the time, identified it as a homing device, a radio transmitter which makes it unnecessary for someone to actually follow your car. They filed suit against the FBI, which admitted putting the homing device on the car. Damages of \$100,000 each were requested.

If the homing device hadn't been found, Albert and Clavir might never have known the extent of the surveillance. Last week in reply to the suit the Justice Department admitted the couple not only had been followed but their incoming mail had been itemized, their garbage had been poked through, and an electronic listening device had been placed on their Hurley house.

"Our move to the country probably sparked their paranoia. God knows what they thought we were doing there. Training guerillas maybe?"

It appears the FBI believes Stew and Judy are connected in some way with the Weather Underground because the special FBI unit assigned to them is in the business of hunting Weather fugitives. Both vehemently deny any Weather connections. Stew feels that the degree of his public exposure would make him precisely the kind of person political fugitives would stay away from. They admit, however, to having a large variety of friends, including former Weathermen who were members

count of all incoming mail and also reported on conversations Albert and Clavir had with post office personnel.

- Neighbors were contacted. Local people acted as informants to their activities.

- An electronic listening device was placed on their home and was operative for at least a two-week period during November, 1974.

- There were regular reports on visitors to their home during 1974.

- Medical records of Albert's stay in a New York hospital were given to the FBI.

- The Kingston office of the FBI periodically made spot checks of their home when agents from New York City were not able to provide more comprehensive surveillance.

- The political activities of Albert and Clavir were intensely scrutinized.

when that organization was still above ground.

"We think the whole thing is based on the activities we were involved in during the 60's when we were very well known. We have a history of being suspected of things we didn't do. Once a suspect, always a suspect."

"Federal agents thought we were involved in the bombing of the Capital Building in 1970. A group of us were in Washington putting together a paper for May Day. Coincidentally we happened to be there when the Capitol was bombed. We had absolutely nothing to do with it and even offered to take a lie detector test. We never knew why they suspected us. On our way home from Washington our car was stopped and we were questioned with shot guns at our heads. We thought it was all over. I guess from that point on we joined the ranks of suspected terrorists."

Albert and Clavir say their case against the FBI is unusual. Ordinarily federal agents don't leave evidence behind them. It's also the latest admission of an illegal FBI burglary. FBI Director Clarence Kelly said the program was discontinued in 1972, but lawyers for Clavir and Albert say this

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nounced their participation in the boycott, and it seems only a matter of time before virtually all pharmacies in the county take similar action. "I really hated to stop filling them," said Joe Forno, Jr. of Woodstock's Colonial Pharmacy, "but I can't afford it." On Thursday both Colonial Pharmacy and Langer Pharmacy in West Hurley will discontinue their medicaid prescriptions.

Following a federal requirement, the state has set a figure of either \$1.80 above the wholesale price of the drug or the present price, whichever is lower, as the amount pharmacists will be reimbursed. Local druggists maintain the \$1.80 surcharge price was set eight years ago. Since that time, they say, their own operating costs have risen substantially.

That's not the only problem. The new regulations insist pharmacists supply generic, rather than brand-name drugs. These are less expensive but sometimes not as good, the pharmacists maintain. One pharmacist said this was particularly true for drugs used in the treatment of heart disease.

Then there's the issue of the new rates. The state refuses to disclose these. Though the professional underground seems to have had no trouble obtaining a list of the new rates, the pharmacists are furious at being treated this way. "They're telling you what they're going to be paying you," says Roy Bates, who fills in one day a week at Langer Pharmacy in West Hurley. "We have five years of professional schooling. That's demeaning."

Pharmacist Ed Ullmann says he's seen the list of approved medicines. "I can tell you one thing," he says. "That list wasn't prepared by a pharmacist." Some unusual items are on the list and some basic often used medicines are not, says Ullmann.

Pharmacies already wait about sixty days for reimbursement. Joe Forno, Jr. says that time will increase now the state will be reimbursing on a per prescription basis.

Local pharmacists find their customers sympathetic to their plight. "It varies," says a pharmacist at Paramont Pharmacy in Saugerties, "but generally people have been understanding." At Paramont, existing refills will be honored but no new Medicaid prescriptions will be accepted. "The response has been, 'I can't blame you,'" Forno says. "People are sympathetic." ++

The F.B.I. story (cont.)



Judy Clavir and Stew Albert outside their Hurley cabin at the time the bug was installed. Neither can be certain the device still isn't active. "It would be a mistake if people get paranoid and assume the same thing is happening to them. That's an exaggeration of a police state which we don't feel exists at this time. We're not the violent terrorists the FBI seems to think we are. We never conceal our political views and we don't engage in illegal activities."

is evidence to the contrary. "Either the director is a liar or he doesn't know what's going on in his own department," Judy Clavir said.

Most cases like this haven't been successful in the courts. However, attorneys for two legal groups, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the New York Civil Liberties Union, which are filing suit for Albert and Clavir say there's a reasonably good chance of damages being awarded and relief from the FBI's eagle eyes.

Attorney Michael Rattner of New York City and Shokan, who is working on the case, will be

speaking to local residents who either cooperated with the FBI or were approached in one way or another. He says he can be contacted in New York City should anyone have information to report. The suit is in pre-trial stages. FBI agents are being questioned and evidence is being assembled which will be presented to a jury in a civil trial.

The case gains strength because of current in-fighting between the FBI and the Justice Department. In the beginning of its existence, the FBI was under the wing of the Justice Department. However, under FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI accumulated so much power that they dominated the Justice Department.

"For years no president dared fire Hoover. Now with him gone the Justice Department has been trying to regain control of the FBI. So we, in fact, have a strange ally in our case. Initially the FBI only admitted to following our car."

"It was the Justice Department that dug up the fact that they burglarized our house and installed an electronic bug. It's a recent development the Justice Department bureaucrats have decided to regain control because the FBI is in a weakened condition. In order to do this there has



to be a lot of scandal around the FBI. It's a very transitional thing."

Are there prospects of increased repression of radicals in the future? Stew and Judy are of the opinion that this depends on who is elected president. They feel that Ford as president isn't capable of controlling police agencies and therefore they predict "... a revival of cowboy repression."

If Carter is elected they feel controls will be selective and more subject to legal guidelines. "We think Carter will do a lot of reform on the surface. There's a big thrust within government to put repression under bureaucratic control. It's a direction which is more acceptable to the liberal elite. Under selective repression, groups suspected of more militant opposition to the state will suffer more. And with agents released from chasing the harmless groups, they'll have more time to go after the people they consider a threat to their power."

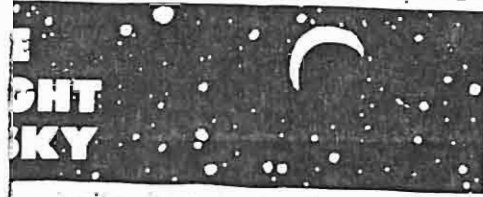
Because of the FBI's recent interest in them, Judy Clavir and Stew Albert feel they are equally good candidates for "cowboy" as well as "selective" repression. Persistent in their use of legal channels open to them, they hope their experience will make it easier for other people like themselves to express their right of free speech and protection against illegal search and seizure. ++

Dyson comes to Kingston

Commerce commissioner calls for tax cuts

One of the hottest political acts in the state, commerce commissioner John Dyson, gave a chamber of commerce breakfast at the Governor Clinton Hotel in Kingston a sample of his style Wednesday morning. Calling state government a mismanaged mess, he offered a note of optimism. "Having made this mess ourselves," he said, "we're now in a position to unmake it." He called for a reduction of \$500 million to \$600 million in the state social programs and an expansion of tax incentives by the same amount.

"We have devised one of the world's most ingeniously self-destructive systems of taxes," he said. He said the state's regulatory level was much



or Showers

Meteors! You'll see them any night if you watch the sky long enough. There'll be one every ten minutes or so. One will come down to your head - once in a long while a meteor will scream through the blackness with alighting light, trailing showers of sparks and glowing, iridescent rail. A really spectacular of this type was seen over this area a month ago, on a Saturday night. I know of three persons who saw it, and I wonder how many others were fortunate enough to have been in the sky just at that propitious moment.

Right now our planet in its journey through space is on a collision course with a large shower of speeding meteors. When they hit our atmosphere, it will probably be the best meteor shower in years. Because we're going to collide almost head-on with them, these particular meteors will be fast. Their speed, as they burn themselves up, will be over 20 miles per second. Before you can say "Look at that one!", it will be gone, and the shower will be over.

At a place where the sky is fairly open and unobscured by trees, you should see one "shooting star" every three minutes or so during the peak periods. This is not a good year for meteor watching - a little patience is called for, even during the peak. When your eye gets used to them, you'll see that, like the stars, they're often of many different colors.

The meteor shower begins Saturday (October 16), gets more intense starting Sunday night, and reaches its peak on Wednesday night. By that time there'll be no moon in the sky, so the sky will be nice and dark. Here are some tips for spotting the maximum number of "shooting stars":