

Not educated

Slaves are to be trained

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what we've got on our hands is a whole lot of niggers. And what makes this particularly grim is that the student has less chance than the black man of getting out of his bag. Because the student doesn't even know he's in it. That, more or less, is what's happening in higher education. And the results are staggering.

For one thing, damn little education takes place in the schools. How could it? You can't educate slaves; you can only train them. Or, to use an even uglier word, you can only program them.

Oppression

Educational oppression is trickier to fight than racial oppression. If you're a black rebel, they can't exile you; they either have to intimidate you or kill you. But in high school or college, they can just bounce you out of the fold. And they do. Rebel students and renegade faculty members get smothered or shot down with devastating accuracy. In high school, it's usually the student who gets it; in college, it's more often the teacher. Others get tired of fighting and voluntarily leave the system. This may be a mistake though. Dropping out of college, for a rebel, is a little like going North, for a Negro. You can't really get away from it so you might as well stay and raise hell.

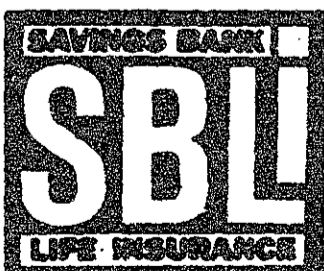
How do you raise hell? That's a whole other article. But just for a start, why not stay with the analogy? What have black people done? They have, first of all, faced the fact of their slavery. They've stopped kidding, there are more causes, some of which are better described in sociological than psychological terms. Work them out, it's not hard. But in the meantime,

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themselves about an eventual reward in that Great Watermelon Patch in the sky. They've organized; they've decided to get freedom now, and they've started taking it.

Student power

Students, like black people, have immense unused power. They could, theoretically, insist on participating in their own education. They could make academic freedom bilateral. They could teach their teachers to thrive on love and admiration, rather than fear and respect, and to lay down their weapons. Students could discover

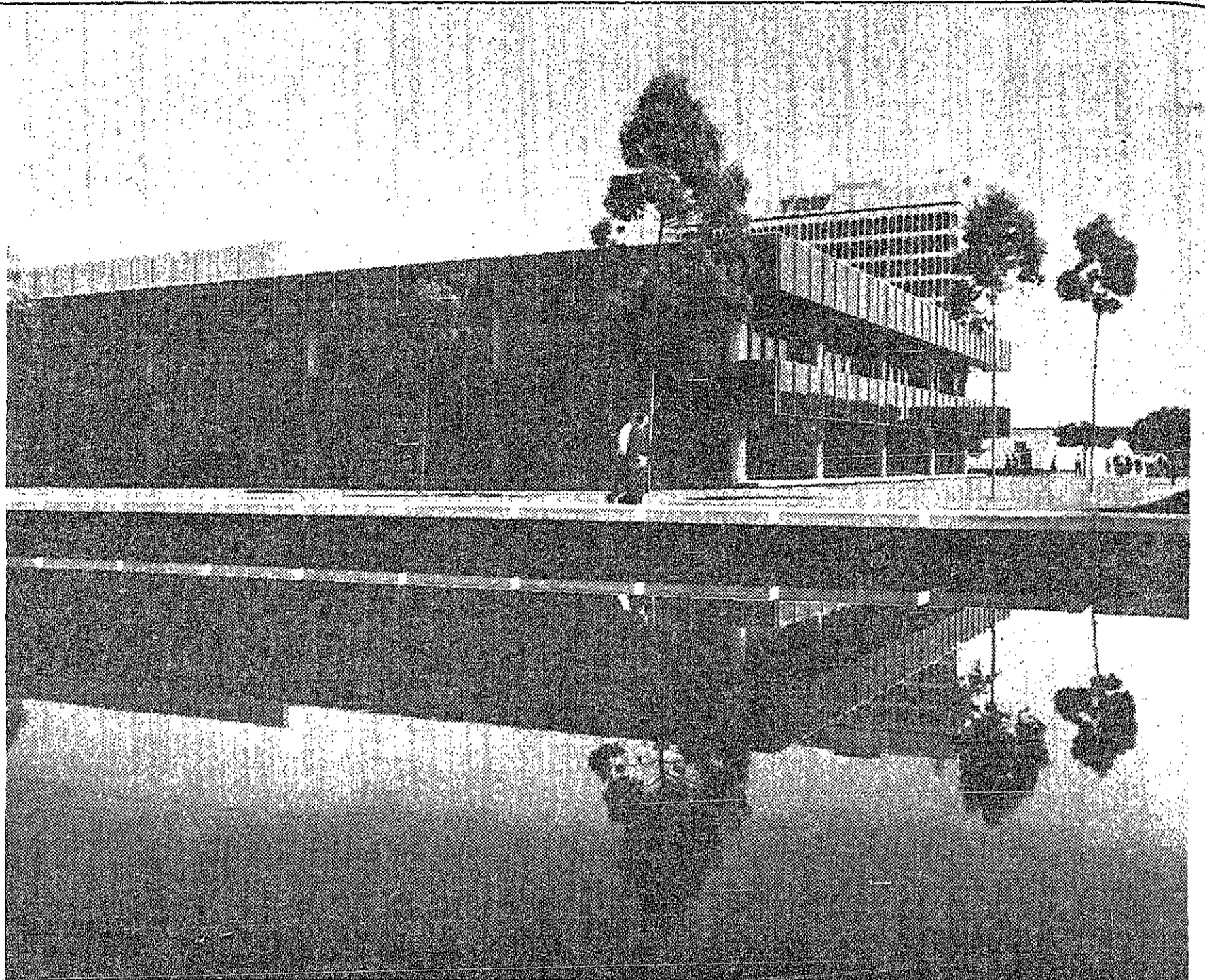
community. And they could learn to dance by dancing on the IBM cards. They could make coloring books out of the catalogues and they could put the grading system in a museum. They could raze one set of walls and let life come blowing into the classroom. They could raze another set of walls and let education flow out and flood the streets. They could turn the classroom into where it's at - a "field of action" as Peter Marin describes it. And, believe it or not, they could study eagerly and learn prodigiously for the best of all possible reasons - their own reasons.

Sakharov asks for unity to avert world disaster

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Sakharov was moved to make this plea for cooperation by what he sees as immense and important problems facing mankind. He sums up these dangers as the steps needed to remove them in two theses. The first states that the division of mankind holds destruction. Sakharov says, "Civilization is imperiled by a universal nuclear war, catastrophic hunger for most of mankind, stupefaction from the opiate of "mass culture" and bureaucratized dogmatism, a spreading of mass myths..." In the face of these dangers any person who attempts to increase the political differences in between countries is guilty of a crime. The second thesis is that intellectual freedom is essential to human society. Freedom requires freedom to obtain and interchange information, freedom of openminded debate and freedom from officialdom and prejudices.

None of the foregoing is particularly remarkable unless it is taken in context, namely the context of a man who lives under the active dictatorship of the USSR. In that context, this manuscript represents a courageous and important step in the road toward Soviet-American cooperation.



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