Feature: Kinfolk

by Nancy Cushing

You've probably gone by it on your way somewhere else. Maybe you've looked in the windows or gone in, or perhaps you're a regular customer. Whatever the case, I'll bet you didn't know you could buy oyster sauce, international cooking, and fresh grapefruit at Kinfolk. "We are not a health food store," says Elliott Case, one of the store's two proprietors (the other being Jessen Case). The store, on the corner of Mill St. and West University, in its past history was a tobacco shop and later a record store before becoming a natural foods store, has been owned by Jessen and Elliott since May 1, 1981. "We had been managing a health food store in Perry, N.Y. for a woman who had gone out of state," says Jessen, "and had been thinking of buying our own place."

Under the new ownership, the store has increased its stock to include "authentic Oriental foods" such as fish sauce, sesame oil, and rice cakes. "There's a real demand for it, so we'll be getting more, and we're trying to get more gourmet foods. Some fancier things, you know, that you can't get but they could be sold here." Semolina flour and imported spaghetti are the two biggest things we've done," continues Jessen.

The Kinfolk owners feel they respond to a clientele that is interested in strictly health food. "...people have been in other places; they've been in Ireland, or they've been in Spain, they've been in Italy, or they've been to cities that sell the things and they come here and want to cook them, so there's more of a market for international cooking," (than in Perry, N.Y.) "We want to sell good food, but we don't want to limit ourselves. We still carry things like soy flour, brewer's yeast, vitamins and some of the more obscure things like soy milk powder."

Upon entering Kinfolk, the first thing anyone is bound to notice is a large selection of fresh produce: eggplant, zucchini, tomato, fresh parsley and ginger, apples, oranges, grapefruits—the list goes on. The obvious question that comes to mind is "Where does this produce come from?" (Zucchini in March?)! "It comes from a broker in Rochester. It's all California, Mexican and Florida produce, and then in the summer it's mostly local."

"This year's the first year anyone in this country's seen a lot of Mexican vegetables being sold here," adds Elliott. "There's more demand for food, the standard of living is getting a little higher—people eat more. Most people don't ask where their food's coming from, and don't care. We had these great Mexican tomatoes in that were not dyed, so they weren't quite as red, so nobody bought 'em. They were the best tomatoes we had all winter...So we got the tennis balls back and everybody was happy."

As for the customers, there seems to be a good balance between the students and the townpeople. "When the students are gone we get more people that we don't see normally," says Jessen. Elliott adding that over half the townpeople that come in are over 60. "They're very aware of food, and remember having stores like this around in childhood. They know what everything is and what it can do for you." Although the amount of Tech and university students that come in is about 50/50, "Tech students are more aware of us," says

Students to Pay an Extra Grand in '82

by Carol Neudorfer

A 12% increase in tuition and room and board charges for the 1982-83 school year may prevent students from returning to Alfred, especially those seeking financial aid.

Effective Sept. 1, full-time students in Alfred's Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nursing, and Business and Administration will pay an annual tuition of $6,650, up $800 from the current year. No tuition increase has been announced in the state-supported College of Ceramics.

Room and Board charges will rise from $2,270 to $2,450, an increase of $180.

Mr. Heywood blamed "severe" decreases in federal student assistance programs and President Reagan's cuts, for Alfred's mounting tuition bills.

Robert E. Heywood, vice president for business and finance, explained the $980 increase was necessary because of rising operating costs including financial aid for needy students.

Mr. Heywood assures students, however, that "Alfred University will increase the amount of money it makes available for students to partially offset the reduction in federal funds, but we cannot offset the full amount."

Financial aid cuts have met student protest. The Independent Student Coalition (ISC), a non-profit, non-partisan, statewide organization representing over 300,000 students in independent colleges and universities has a three-fold function: organization, information, and lobbying. The ISC reported financial aid is currently offered by a Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and college work study.

According to the ISC, the Reagan administration proposals will eliminate funding for NDSL and SEOG, drastically reducing students' abilities to seek aid. The sizable cuts prompted student action.

Republican Senator Alphons D'Amato told protesters, "Although I am in basic agreement with the overall economic policy and program of the President, I do not believe that this nation can afford further reductions in aid to higher education, and I will actively oppose the proposed cuts."

continued on page 2
TIME IS RUNNING OUT

by Carol Neudorfer

The E.R.A.

Section 1 states:
Equity of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2 states:
The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3 states:
This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

To ratify or not to ratify: that is the question. For the past 59 years, the ERA has been in limbo, and the final ratification deadline is less than three months away.

According to Martha Hewson (McGill's Feb. 1982), Public Opinion Polls show that support for the ERA is at an all-time high. Despite its popularity, the ERA will die unless three more states ratify.

The ERA's opponents deny its necessity, claiming the amendment is too generalized. Opponents claim that the ratification of the ERA would alter laws such as alimony/child support, privacy, abortion, and homosexuality marriage, creating a sexless society.

ERA supporters struggle to stamp out discrimination on the basis of sex, particularly in employment. Without the ERA, supporters fear exploitation may strip women of victories like Title IX and Affirmative Action.

The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was introduced almost every following year for six decades. The amendment was written by a suffragette called Alice Paul.

The ERA was ratified in Congress by a House of Representatives vote of 386 to 23 on October 2, 1971, and by Senate vote of 84 to 4 on March 22, 1972. The amendment was then sent to the states for ratification.


Three more states are needed to ratify, but none have ratified since 1977, and five state legislatures have voted to withdraw approval. In 1978, the ratification deadline was extended by Congress from March 22, 1979 to June 30, 1982.

A December 1980 Harris Poll found that the population supports ERA by a 52% to 48% margin. According to the 1982 Boston Herald World Almanac, the National Organization of Women is campaigning to convince seven "target" states: Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Virginia to ratify.

Says Paul Kassel in the September/October 1981 "New Directions for Women" report, "the ERA was supported by the last six presidents, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party until the 1981 convention."

According to a report by June Foley in the 1982 Boston Herald Edition of the World Almanac, the Republican platform had dropped its 41-year-old endorsement of the ERA, and the new president was personally opposed to the ERA. Phyllis Schlafly, leader of the STOP ERA movement called the Reagan election, "A decisive defeat for the ERA and for the feminist movement."

In 1980, the NOW reported that women earn 59 cents for every dollar that men earn working the same jobs. The ERA would be a lever to halt the sex-based discrimination in employment. Kathy Bank, author of "The Wage Gap," says "One would expect that men and women without experience, but with the same educational background, would receive the same entry level salaries in the same occupational fields. Not true. Past surveys have revealed differences in starting salaries received by men and women. And, the majority of women still continue to receive lower salaries than men."

It has been argued that the extension of a deadline is denying a failing attempt. In an August 4, 1978 issue of the "National Review," a writer opposing the extension of the ERA deadline said, "Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes once explained, 'A Constitutional Amendment, once proposed, should not be open for ratification indefinitely. Ratification must be sufficiently contemporaneous in the required number of states to reflect the will of the people in all sections at relatively the same period of time.'"

Congress has considered seven years a reasonable limit for all constitutional amendments during the last fifty years. The writer went on to say, "Having failed in 84 months, ERA supporters are demanding 168. Historically, no amendment has taken more than four years."

The National Review writer, like other ERA opponents such as STOP ERA believe the ERA would not accomplish anything that cannot be accomplished by present laws.

New Directions For Women reported, "Some opponents believe moral laws would change if the ERA were ratified. Some people think if the ERA is ratified, divorced women would lose the rights they now have to alimony and child support. A Washington State Supreme Court Ruling ruled a man's claim that the state's ERA was violated when a court ordered him to pay child support. Even if the court required the father to contribute greater financial support than the mother, the nurture provided by the mother is a definite part of the nature of support contemplated by the policy of the statute."

The problem of whether to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment has been debated at length, and as June 30 approaches, Alice Paul's amendment may see its end despite wide public approval.
ACID RAIN

By Chris Whalley

From the smog of Los Angeles to the rain and snow in the Adirondack Mountains, the menace of acid precipitation is accelerating. The casualties are piling up. In the Adirondacks alone, studies show that 15 percent of 114 streams sampled have a critical pH of 5 or below. 264 lakes are lifeless—unable to support any fish, and in Canada an estimated 45,000 lakes are in danger...and yet the assault goes on.

Rain falling freely in an unpolluted environment has a pH of approximately 5.7. Acid rain is simply that which has a pH below 5.7. The pH scale ranges from 1 to 14 with 7.0 being neutral. Any number below 7 is acidic in nature.

The problem is national. In 1980, scientists from the University of Colorado noted "unexpectedly low pH values" of precipitation collected in the Com Creek, which is located high in the Rocky Mountains. More recently, smog in Los Angeles registered a pH of 3.6. Wheeling, West Virginia has the distinction of having the lowest pH ever recorded in the country, approximately 1.4. Considering that corrosive battery acid has a pH of 1.0, the continuing deterioration of the rain is an alarming statistic.

Acid precipitation is created when sulfur and nitrogen oxides, emitted principally by electric power plants and automobiles, combine with moisture and oxygen in the atmosphere and are precipitated as acidic rain, snow, sleet, and fog. The northeast United States and southeastern Canada are the two most affected areas and the regions most vocal in clamoring for a stop to this severe problem.

Soils neutralize more than 90 percent of the acid in precipitation. If the alkalinity of the soil is high it buffers or neutralizes acids. If the soil is too thin or is low in alkalinity, it can only withstand so much acid before its buffering capacity is expended. These are the present conditions found in southeast Canada and the Adirondack Mountains.

By Joseph Cooney

The topography of a region is the other important determining factor. As the wind carries sulfur particles eastward, it encounters very few elevated areas. When it reaches the Adirondacks, the air must rise and as it does it cools and condenses. Thus, the moisturized sulfur oxides fall to the earth as acid rain.

It is interesting to note that Alfred is one of the areas in this trip from midwestern industries to southeastern Canada. In very unofficial tests conducted on snow and falling rain, pH's between 4.5 and 5.6 were obtained, indicating that even the secluded Alfred community is receiving acid rain. Those figures remain to be seen what will be done about this problem.

Canada has already passed stricter legislation, including heavy non-compliance fees assessed to industries who don't meet federal requirements on emissions. The non-ferrous smelting industry, which is the largest consumer of sulfur dioxide in Canada, has been given five years to cut its emissions by 90 percent.

East of the Mississippi River sulfur oxides are the major component of acid rain, while in the west nitrogen oxides are the culprit. Eighty percent of the sulfur pollution generated in the west originates in the Ohio River Valley, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky are the states most responsible and the ones most strongly opposing any type of acid rain legislation.

Electric power plants in these states contribute two-thirds of the sulfur dioxide pollution in the eastern U.S. These plants use locally mined coal, which is high in sulfur, and thus contributes more sulfur compounds to the air. Acid rain legislation would cripple employment in these states by requiring lower sulfur coal obtained from western mines. This would hurt the midwestern coal industry, leaving those cratic economic systems by removing trade barriers. Such a removal will lead to true cooperation and the development of world peace. If countries depend upon each other for survival, they are unlikely to engage in armed conflict. Perhaps a good model for the rest of the world is the European Economic Community, which has blend- together many countries with different economic and political philosophies.

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ACID RAIN

sands of miners out of work.

In the northeastern and southeastern Canada, the problem is not confined to this area, there are two major reasons why this land is so susceptible to acid rain.

Two hundred and fifty million years ago, most of the continent was covered by glaciers. As these huge ice sheets moved over the land, they carved the surface of the earth, gouging out basins and carrying the soil with them. When the glaciers receded, they laid the soils down randomly, as a fine mixture.

Canada is pressuring the U.S. to help clean up the problem. Half of Canada's acid precipitation is caused by industries in the Ohio River Valley, with 3 to 4 times as much sulfur dioxide crossing from the U.S. to Canada, as travels from their industries to the U.S.

Despite pressure from Canada, damage to buildings and monuments, harmful environmental consequences and possible adverse health affects, the U.S. Government is playing a wait-and-see game. The list of environmental consequences includes damages to forests, crops, and other agriculture, and aquatic ecosystems. The latter problem is illustrated by lifeless streams and lakes where once a multitude of fish and other aquatic organisms made their homes.

Contrary to Canada, the Reagan Administration prefers to wait for more conclusive results from ongoing tests. The solutions to the problem are costly and would put more regulation on industry. Reagan, elected on a platform of economic recovery and regulatory relief for industry is hard-pressed to do anything about acid rain.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Anne M. Gorsuch typifies the attitude of the Administration.

She said, "The best option appears to be to accelerate EPA's current 10 year research project...as much as currently available dollars and sound science will permit and defer regulation until the sources and extent of the problem can be better identified.

That means action on acid rain could be a long time in coming. The question is, can the environment wait that long?

Kinfolk

Elliott. "We want to avoid a clubby atmosphere," he adds, stressing the need to be open to customers' needs and to be non-judgmental in the type of foods people want to buy. "We also have very, very loyal customers," says Jessen. "I know people from Andover, from Hornell and even Belmont that shop here."

Jessen and Elliott put in around 50-60 hours a week each working in the store, and take Saturdays off. Often they stay until 8 or 9 at night, especially on delivery days.

"Do you make enough money to live?" (much laughter at my question) Jessen: "No, not really, not to live comfortably. Everything we make goes back into the store, unless we have to pay a doctor bill, or for gas or something, we live a very Spartan life." "We don't live a middle class life," says Elliott. "We never have. Even if we were making more money it would be to pay someone else to work here, so we wouldn't have to work so much, and put some of the money back into the community, not so we could live any differently."

Now there is one person who works in the store on weekends.

Many people seem to think that natural foods should be cheaper than the processed, prepackaged foods found in most supermarkets. When asked about the store's "educational role", Jessen pointed out the great difference between the community they were in before and Alfred.

(Perry, N.Y. is a small-industry, large farm area) "In the other store it was education all the way, as soon as they walked in the store we were telling them why they had to be here. It got really exhausting...People were a lot more stubborn, and would only buy it if it was cheaper. They weren't interested in knowing a lot...Here people are more willing to try new things, and more willing to pay a little more for good food."

Even in Alfred, Elliott remarked, "giving money to a large unknown entity is much easier than giving it to an individual...most people feel that way about money. If you're working for an employer, usually you don't feel that the employer's making money off you. There are people who will spend a lot of money on other things, but when it comes to food they're really cheap. The biggest satisfaction for us is we feel we're as clean as a small capitaion in America can be as clean as possible." Elliott feels they have to make some compromises, like selling bananas. "I don't think people should buy bananas, because of El Salvador. They're grown on land that should be used for food crops."

The biggest problem for Kinfolk is, like most small store owners, "not enough business." "Also, there's a lot of competition," says Elliott, from the many grocery stores in the area.

"They're not co-ops, they're food buying clubs. They're called co-ops. The difference is co-ops have a storefront; they pay people to do something. All the money in a club leaves the community, where a co-op pays people, and some of the money stays in the community. We really are hurt by them; it's like a crow bar in the head. The fact is that people's buying habits change. Because they already have natural foods from the food-buying club, they go to the supermarket for things like bread, milk, eggs, yogurt, etc. In this way, the food-buying clubs actually help supermarkets, and many people don't realize this. We notice a big increase in our business when the clubs don't order."

The Flat Lux asked a few people on campus if they shopped at Kinfolk and why or why not. Here are some of the responses:

"My father owns a health food store in New Jersey, so stop in from time to time to see what they have. Sometimes I buy the vegetables. For a small town, they have a pretty good selection."

"I usually shop at the Giant, because they have junk food, but I get most of my vegetables at Kinfolk."

"I go to Kinfolk firstly because Jeness and Elliott are good friends. I buy fresh fruit, nuts, and a lot of the teas. It's a lot more human now that Jess and Elliott are there. I get a nice smile when I go in."

"There are still lots and lots of people who don't know we're here," says Elliott. "We see new faces every day. That's the problem, there's not a good advertising media here, and it's very difficult to become known, but we're doing it. I liken it to running the store to riding a skateboard down a bumpy sidewalk. You have to do everything right, and if you make mistakes, you fail. I hope we make less mistakes, as time goes on. Mainly we do this because we like it. I guess you have to be a little crazy."

HOT DOG DAY! SATURDAY APRIL 24 BE THERE!