The Peoples' Observer

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Athens Observer Exposed

No thinking person can any longer deny the links between Coalition, the Athens Observer, and the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

The web which these organizations have tried to weave around University and community life is clear for any intelligent person to see.

The following indisputable statements prove the connections beyond a shadow of a doubt:

FACT: The Athens Observer is maintained and staffed by members of Coalition, their close friends and supporters.

FACT: The Athens Observer continually supports Coalition ideas, statements, policies and aims.

FACT: The Athens Observer is published from the very same office that houses the CWA.

FACT: The CWA wants to organize University workers under its leadership.

FACT: Coalition wants to unionize University workers, presumably under CWA leadership. (Steve Letzsch once had a CWA bumper sticker on his car, but removed it when these facts first came to light.)

FACT: The Athens Observer finances do not seem to be able to make ends meet. Is CWA making up the deficit?

To put it in a more graphic matter, we refer you to the illustration below.

Even Gene Powers, Onward intimate and former CWA member, has stated: "Coalition has created an effective propaganda machine known as the Athens Observer."

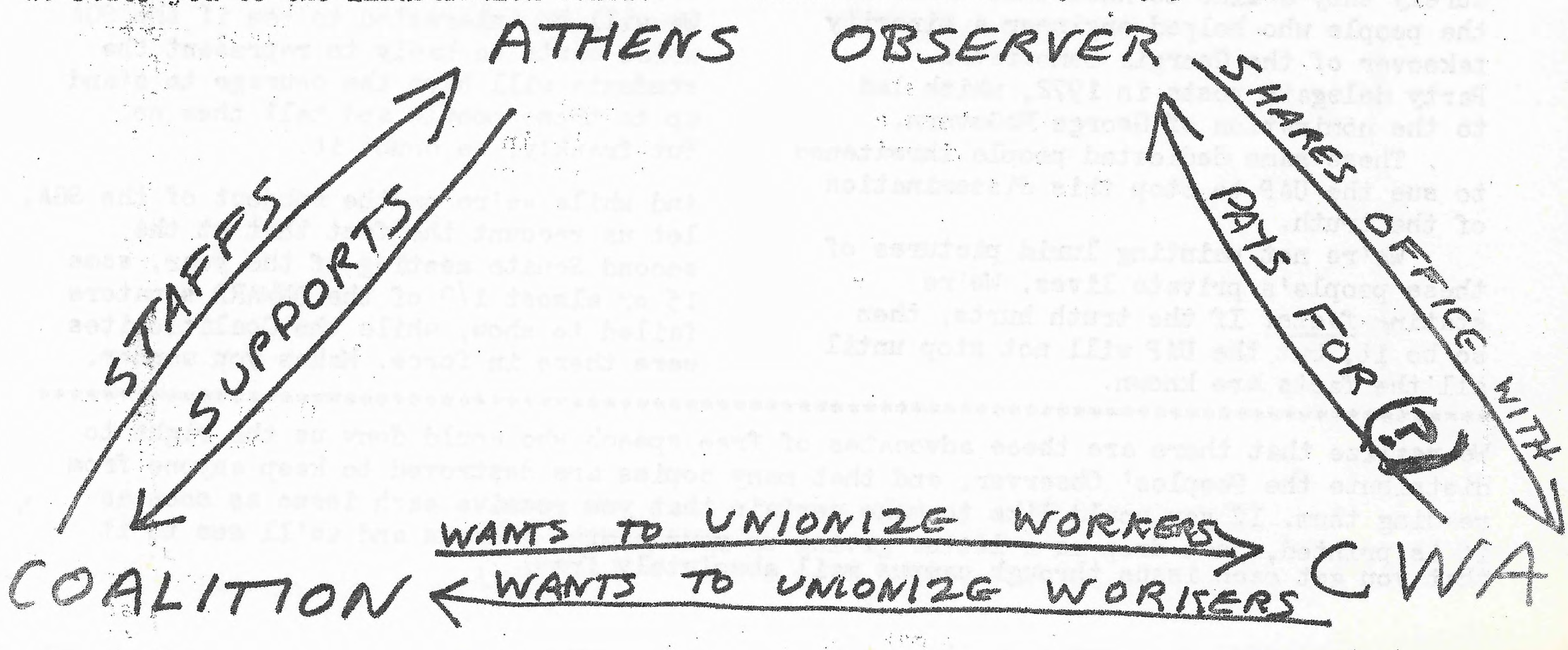
It would seem that big labor is showing its hand in a big way. The Athens Observer prints 23,000 copies each week and distributes these, so it claims, to "reach virtually every household in Athens and Clarke County." The cost of such an undertaking must be staggering.

There is no way this enterprise can be funded on the advertising income of the paper. In a recent issue (April 25), the total advertising revenue is $816.00. This does not take into account frequency discounts or contract agreements.

There is also, besides the printing cost, such overhead as office space and equipment, office supplies and salaries for those who deliver the papers throughout the community. We understand the co-editors receive no salaries. How can they afford to do this?

The deficit must be made up by someone, and who is more likely to be the Athens Observer's sugar-daddy than the people in whose office they have their headquarters, the CWA?

The staff of the Athens Observer has been characteristically chameleon-like. Such Coalition big-wigs as Paula Cheatham, Steve Patrick and Steve Letzsch proudly proclaimed their association with the paper until the UAP brought these facts to the public's attention. Then they simply dropped off the



list of contributors. Could such dedicated and idealistic people have just quit? Or were they afraid that the UAP might reveal the truth about their connections?

After the UAP's first expose of the Athens Observer, Pete McCommons wrote the following in an editorial:

"An unfortunate group of University students have chosen us as their special demon, and have spent a good deal of time and money mailing leaflets to our advertisers, painting lurid pictures of our private lives. Other interests have used more sophisticated tactics to smear us for their own gain."

The UAP does not fit into either category. We have not tried to smear the Athens Observer for our own gain. We would gain nothing but a sense of relief from the death of that paper.

As far as "special demons", and "painting lurid pictures of our private lives", we feel that the truth should be told. In their first issue, the Athens Observer states that: "...the (Athens) Observer's approach will be investigative and critical." Should the Peoples' Observer do any less? If we find a cancer in the community, should we not report it? Let's call a spade a spade.

In the spirit of community service and comradeship that the Athens Observer claims, it is curious that these people don't want to be better known by the Athens community.

We think everyone should know that Buck Pennington, darling of the movie review column, is a homosexual. He's proud of it. All his friends who read his column should know it too.

We think everyone should be aware that Chuck Searcy and Pete McCommons are convicted criminals, having been found guilty of trespassing in President Davison's office in 1972. McCommons was "let go" by the University following this.

Facts are facts. Shouldn't the community know that Steve Patrick and Steve Letzsch and others of the staff have been aiding and abetting homosexuality and perversion, and other questionable activity on the University campus? They have urged students to register to vote and take over power in Clarke County by electing Coalition cronies to office.

We are certain that all the friends of the Athens Observer would like to know about the "lurid" activities of the staff. Surely they'd like to know that these are the people who helped engineer a minority takeover of the Georgia Democratic Party delegate posts in 1972, which led to the nomination of George McGovern.

These same dedicated people threatened to sue the UAP to stop this dissemination of the truth.

We're not painting lurid pictures of these people's private lives. We're stating facts! If the truth hurts, then so be it, but the UAP will not stop until all the facts are known.

In the further interest of just such truth, we'd like to recap some of the news coverage the Athens Observer has been putting out in the last five months.

Issue #1- Leftist-slanted story on Jim Cornish and his suit against the state loyalty oaths. Cornish is now in the Student Senate as a Coalition senator.

Issue #2- Deliberately-slanted SGA faculty survey was printed as gospel. This survey was distorted by Coaltion to show findings to bear out their claims.

Issue #3- Minor UGA faculty dispute blown out of proportion. Biased article on the ERA march in Atlanta.

Issue #4- Very interesting! CWA admits that they want to represent the University workers. Wes Whitehead, Athens Observer staff member is named as "local CWA representative". David Alonso, Coalition leader "documented" the case for the workers joining CWA.

Issue #9- Interview with Rosemary Shade, "radical feminist."

Issue #10- The Observer makes Steve Patrick seem a hero, and seeks to justify campus blacks' denial of Dr. William Shockley's right to speak.

Issue #13- Interview with Coalition intimate Susan Fansler.

Issue #14- Close-up of NAACP troublemaker Ed Turner.

Issue #17- Public nuisance Ed Augustine tries to close the city jail.

Issue #19- Interview with Coalition leader Steve Patrick.

The overlapping and interweaving of the Athens Observer, the CWA and Coalition can only lead to the conclusion that they are all in this together for some sinister purpose of their own. We urge you to watch for further connections that may be exposed, and make up your own mind about what these three powerful organizations are after. We only remind you that nobody does anything for nothing.

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We see by the Red and Black that the Black Student Union has asked for an allocation almost double what they received for 1973-74.

In this last year, the BSU received almost $20 per black student on campus, as compared to $1 for the Red and Black and $1.75 for WUOG.

Next year they are "demanding" almost $40 per black. And all blacks on campus do not belong to the BSU. Black students on campus do not make up $28,000 of all fees, much less student activity fees.

We will be interested to see if the SGA which wants so badly to represent the students will have the courage to stand up to these people and tell them no. But frankly, we doubt it.

And while we're on the subject of the SGA, let us recount the fact that at the second Senate meeting of the year, some 15 or almost 1/3 of the ONWARD senators failed to show, while the Coalitionites were there in force. Makes you wonder.

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We realize that there are those advocates of free speech who would deny us the right to distribute the Peoples' Observer, and that many copies are destroyed to keep anyone from reading them. If you would like to make certain that you receive each issue as soon as it is printed, just drop us a letter giving us your campus address and we'll see to it that you get each issue through campus mail absolutely free.