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A Working Neighborhood... What does it take?

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MILTZ

A Working Neighborhood...

Center for International Education
285 Hills House South
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003



What does it take?

ACTORS

George Joseph Butler
 James Charles Tucker
 George's wife. Maxine Hall
 James' wife. Sheila Tucker
 George's children. Bernadette Butler
 Joseph Butler
 Steven Hall
 James' children. James Tucker
 Karen Tucker
 Marvin Tucker

OTHERS

S. Jones-Barker
 Gerry Belgiano
 Andrea Blye
 Mary Blye
 Wilbur Blye
 David Branch
 Gale Branch
 Russell Brown
 Martha Cardona
 Ellen Cartwright
 John Comings
 John Dickson
 Joseph Essegian
 Diane Farrell
 Stephen Frantz
 Lynda Hayden
 Rohn Hein
 Adeline Howard
 Allen Howard
 Vince Martone
 Mark Menard
 Joe Murray
 Archie Simon
 Tom St. Andrew
 Cornelius Thomas
 Fred Tyson
 Karl Westphal
 Garland Yates

Porfirio Fonseca

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Rensselaer County Department of Health
 Division of Environmental Health
 NYS Department of Labor
 Division of Unemployment
 Unity House Street Ministry
 U.S. Department HEW, P.H.S.
 Center for Disease Control
 HVCC Educational Opportunity Center,
 Machine Tool Section
 . . .and special thanks to the people of Troy

COORDINATING GROUP

New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Community Sanitation
 Neighborhood Action Council of Troy (N-ACT)
 Troy Intercity Neighborhood Center, Inc. (TINC)

PROJECT STAFF

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 Rodent Control Evaluation Laboratory, Troy, N.Y.
 Consultants - Bonnie J. Cain and John P. Comings,
 Center for International Education
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

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 Joseph Butler
 Bonnie Cain
 John Comings
 John Dickson
 Stephen Frantz
 Maxine Hall
 Lynda Hayden
 Rohn Hein
 Cecile Joubert
 Karen Kalaijian
 Marilyn Lezotte
 Karl Westphal
 Garland Yates

Photographers
 S. C. Frantz
 J. P. Comings
 B. J. Cain

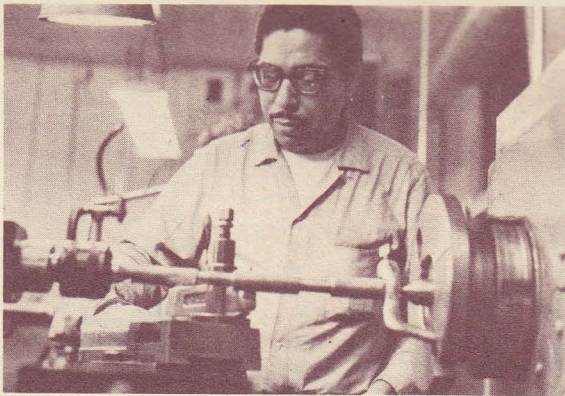
A WORKING NEIGHBORHOOD:

What does it take?

JAMES AND GEORGE LIVE IN THE CITY OF TROY, THEY'RE NEIGHBORS. THEY ALSO WORK AT THE SAME FACTORY, AND STARTED ABOUT THE SAME TIME



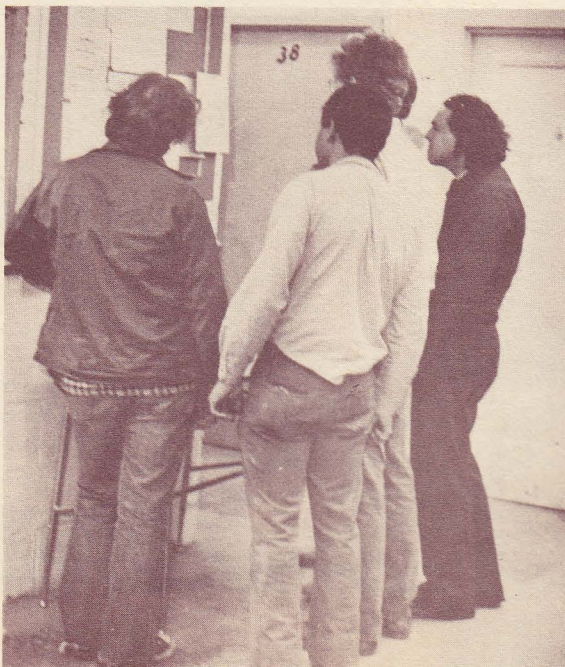
James works at lathe no. 7



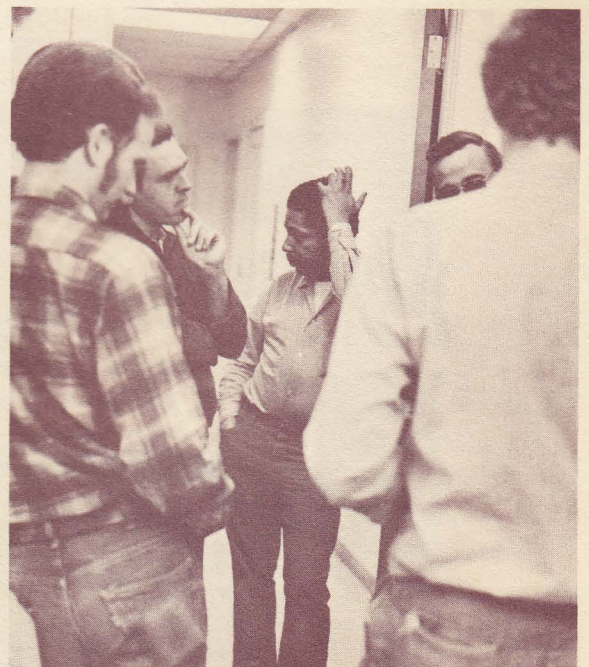
George works at lathe no. 8



At change of shift one day, a lay-off notice is posted.



The workers begin talking about who might get laid off.





George and James live next door to each other in an older part of town. A vacant lot separates their homes.

WORRIED ABOUT THE LAYOFF NOTICE, GEORGE DISCUSSES IT WITH HIS WIFE AFTER WORK.



How did it go today?

Not well. There's a chance that I'll get laid off.

What do you mean? What will we do? We just can't afford it!



Maybe I can get a job as a waitress.

I don't know what to do, there's nothing in the paper. I'll have to collect unemployment, but that's only \$90 a week at most.



I'll bet James doesn't get laid off.

No. They wouldn't dare get rid of their token Black.



The way he keeps his machine at work he ought to get fired.

I'm not surprised, have you seen the garbage in their lot?

I even saw a rat down in the basement today.



For sure they're comin' from next door!

AND
NEXT
DOOR . . .

... AS JAMES
COMES HOME
FROM THE FACTORY



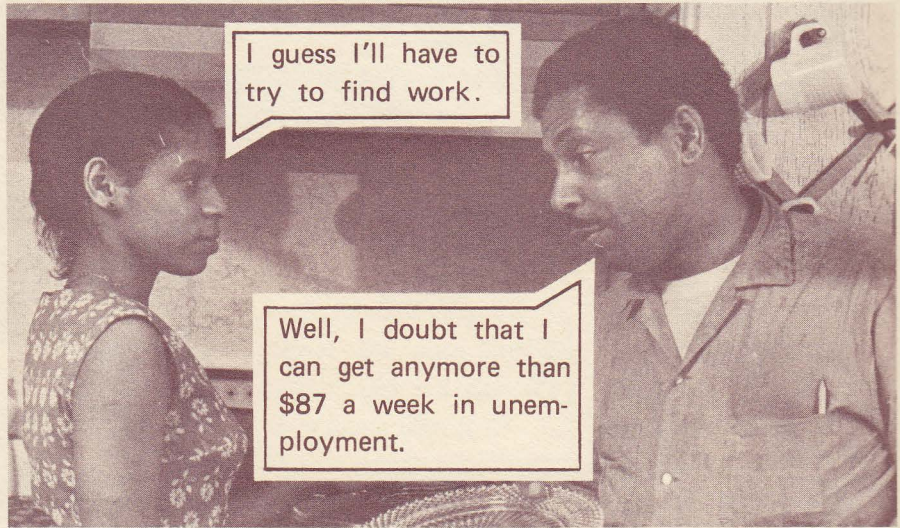
Bad news. I think I'm getting laid off again.

Hi! What's happening Babe?



That figures. The same old thing - last hired and first fired.

I don't know how we're gonna make it.



I guess I'll have to try to find work.

Well, I doubt that I can get anymore than \$87 a week in unemployment.



We just can't get by on \$87 a week. We have the mortgage, food, gas and electric --- and your insurance is due this month.

LIVING ON UNEMPLOYMENT
WILL NOT BE EASY FOR
JAMES' FAMILY



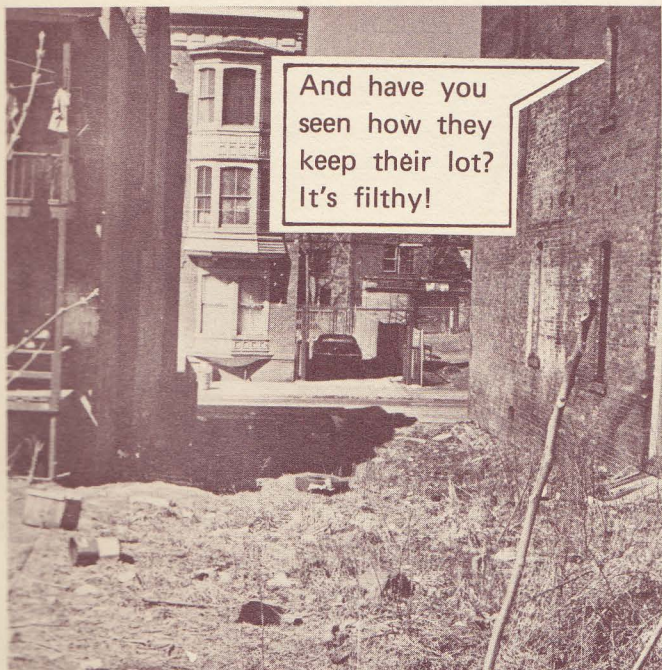
Is there a chance that you won't get laid off?

We'll find out on payday. Maybe they'll get George first - he sure leaves his machine a mess.



That's no surprise, he lets his dogs run all over the place . . .

. . . They tear hell out of the garbage bags, too.



And have you seen how they keep their lot? It's filthy!



Hey, what's goin' on out there?

Sounds like the kids are at it again.



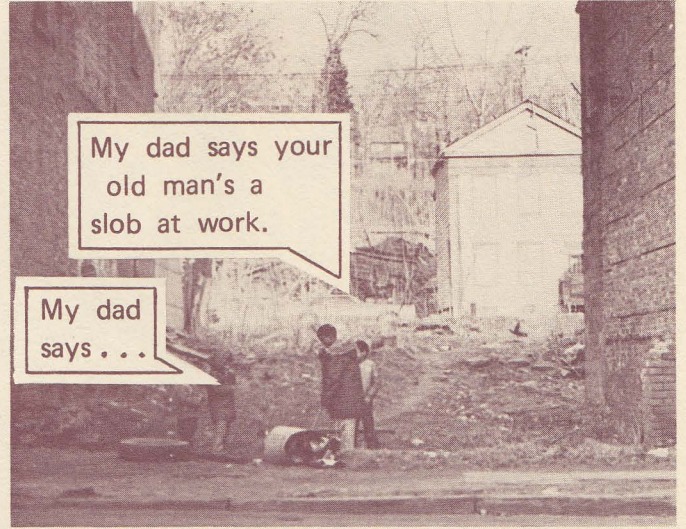
JAMES' AND GEORGE'S CHILDREN ARE ON THE VACANT LOT, ARGUING AGAIN . . .





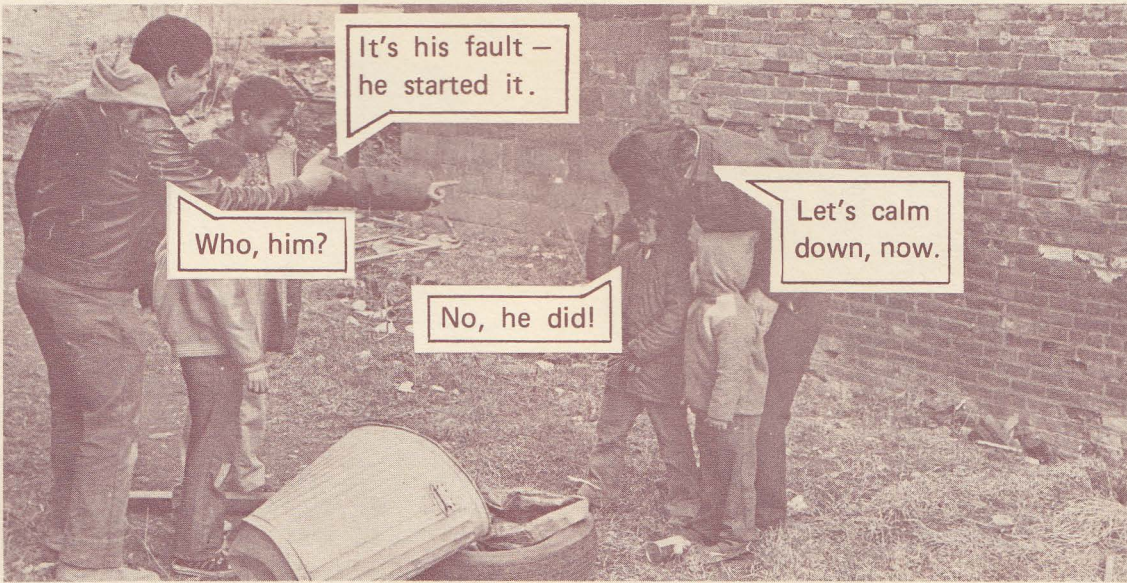
We even get rats from your place.

They're coming to us from your house!



My dad says your old man's a slob at work.

My dad says . . .

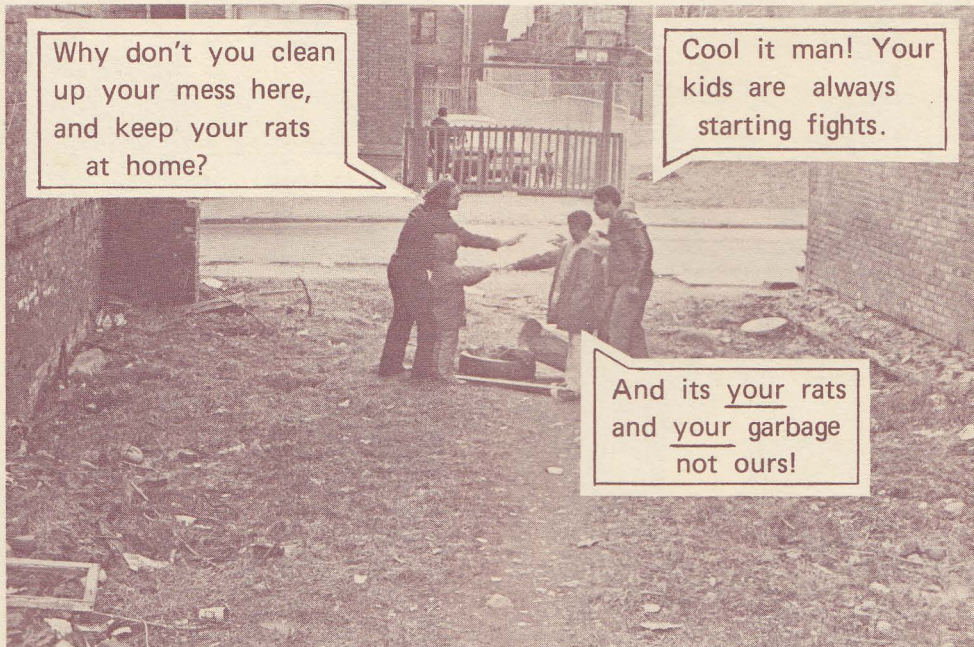


It's his fault - he started it.

Who, him?

No, he did!

Let's calm down, now.

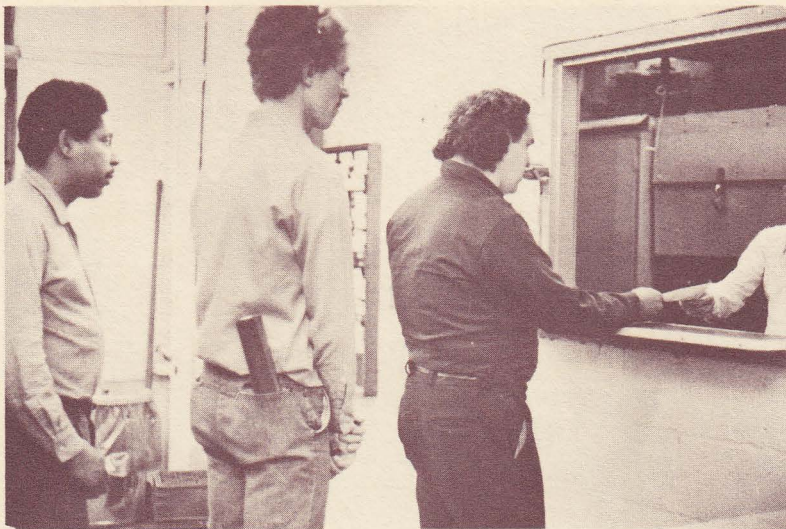


Why don't you clean up your mess here, and keep your rats at home?

Cool it man! Your kids are always starting fights.

And its your rats and your garbage not ours!

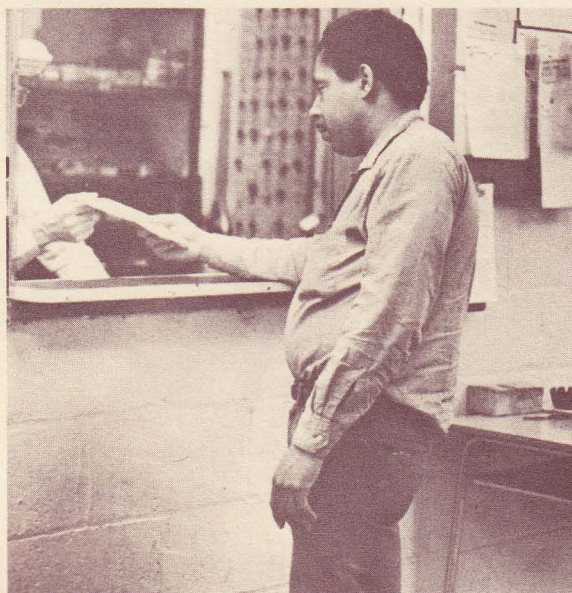
ON PAYDAY AT THE FACTORY . . .



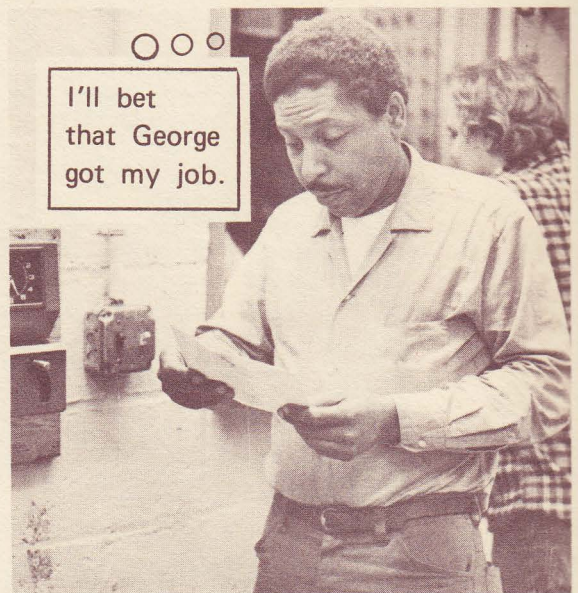
GEORGE GETS A PINK SLIP



I'll bet that James got my job.

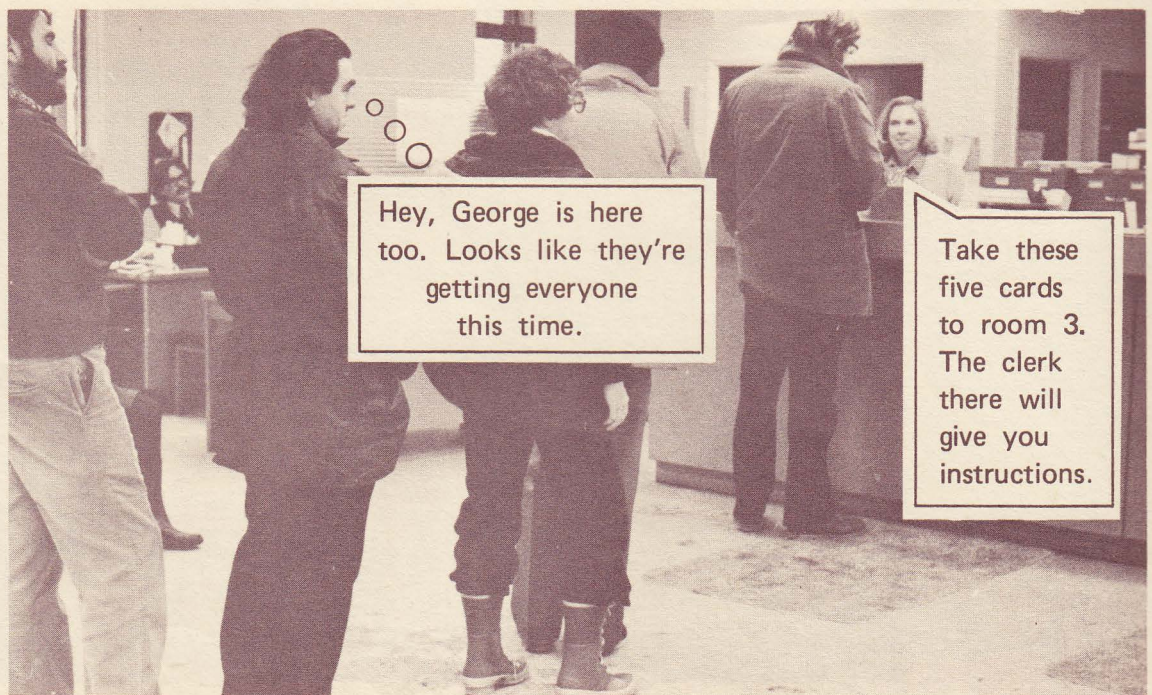


JAMES ALSO GETS A PINK SLIP



I'll bet that George got my job.

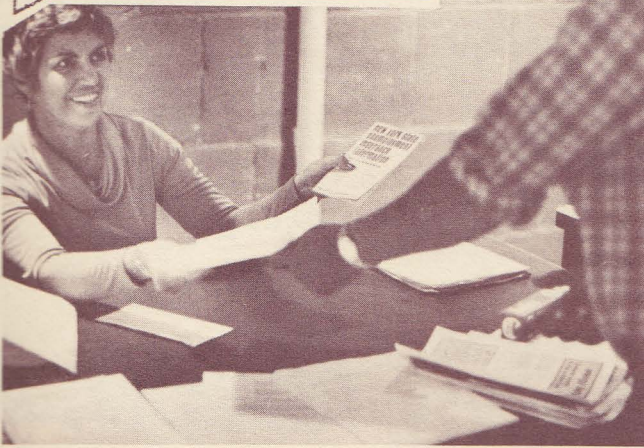
A FEW DAYS LATER
GEORGE AND JAMES
ARE BOTH AT THE
UNEMPLOYMENT
OFFICE



Hey, George is here too. Looks like they're getting everyone this time.

Take these five cards to room 3. The clerk there will give you instructions.

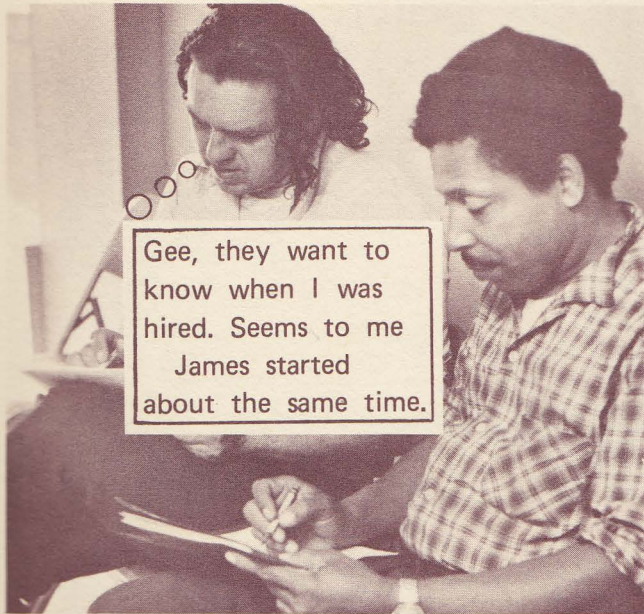
So go ahead and fill out the cards. Make sure you have the right date for when you started your last job.



It's amazing how time flies when you're havin' fun.



Gee, they want to know when I was hired. Seems to me James started about the same time.



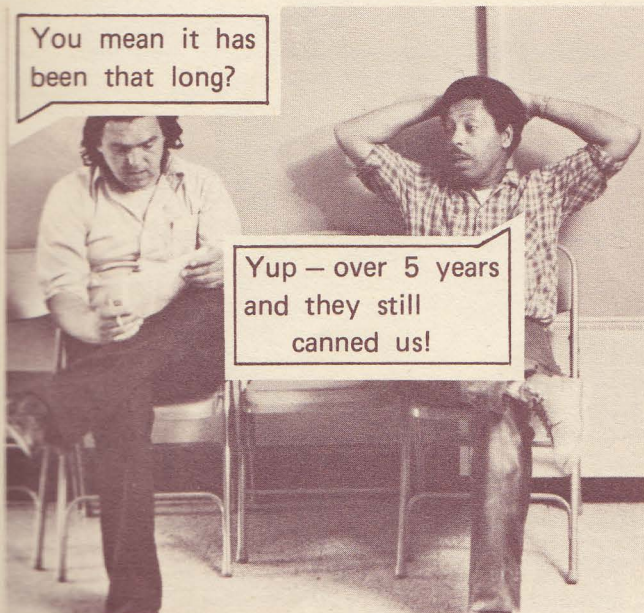
June of '72.

Hey, James when did you start at the plant?



You mean it has been that long?

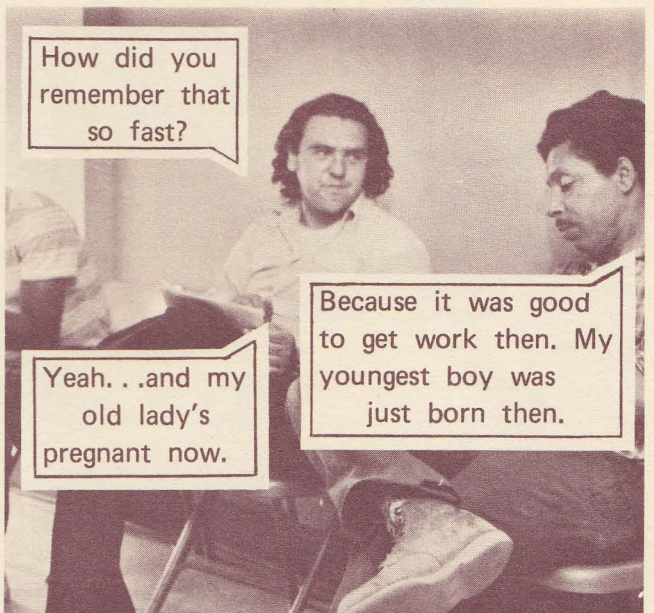
Yup — over 5 years and they still canned us!

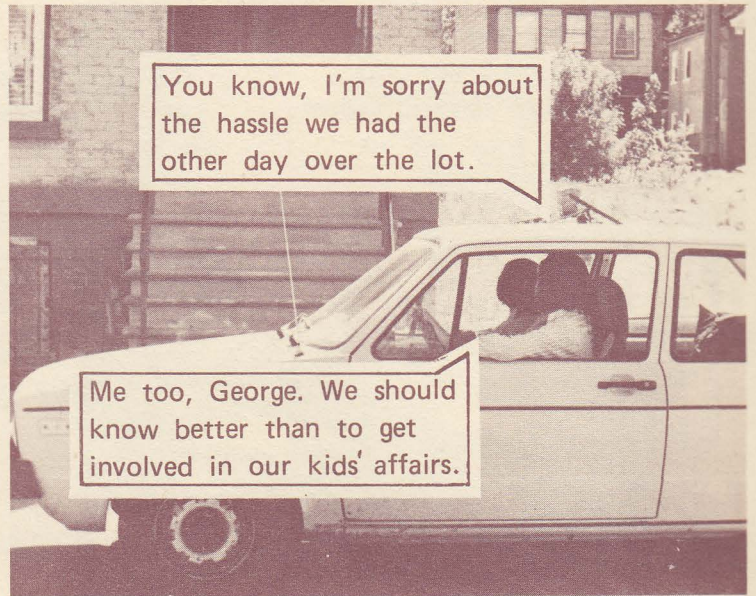
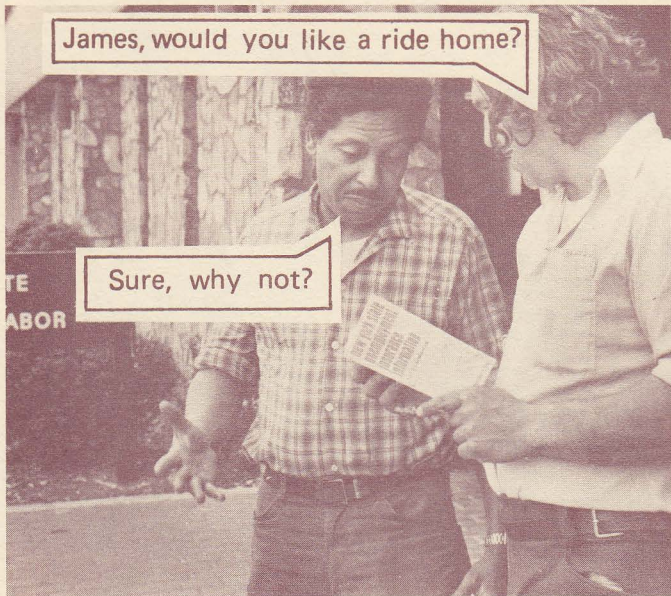


How did you remember that so fast?

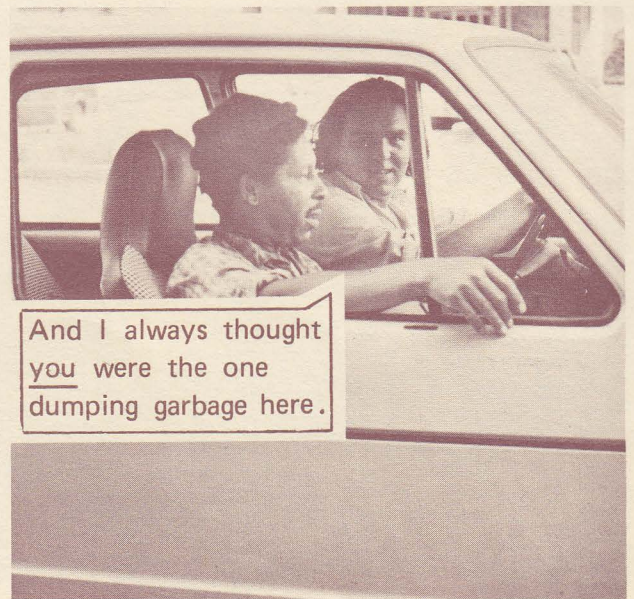
Yeah...and my old lady's pregnant now.

Because it was good to get work then. My youngest boy was just born then.





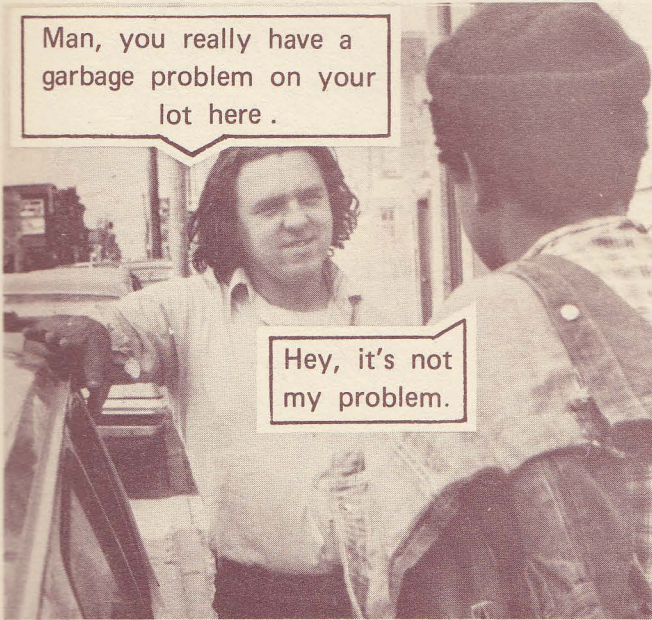
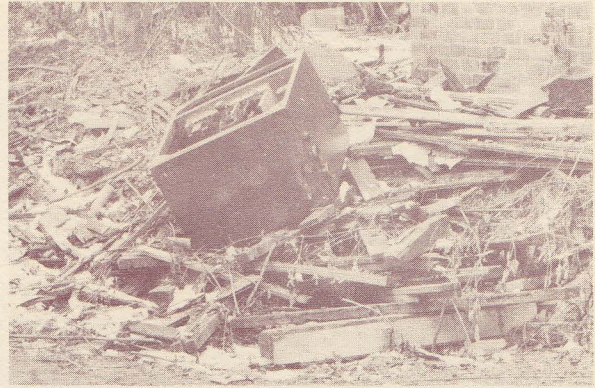
AS THEY ARRIVE BACK HOME, THEY SEE A STRANGER DUMPING TRASH AT THE REAR OF THE LOT



THE DOGS ARE GOING TO HAVE A FEAST

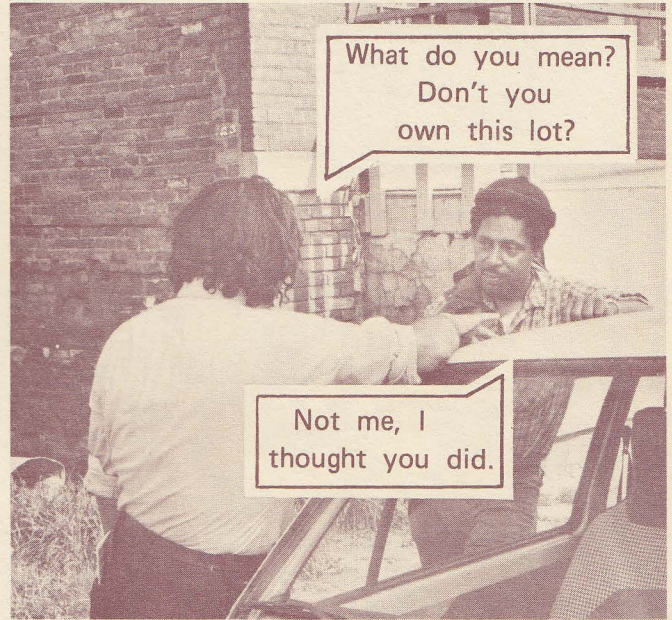


... AND SO WILL THE RATS



Man, you really have a garbage problem on your lot here .

Hey, it's not my problem.



What do you mean? Don't you own this lot?

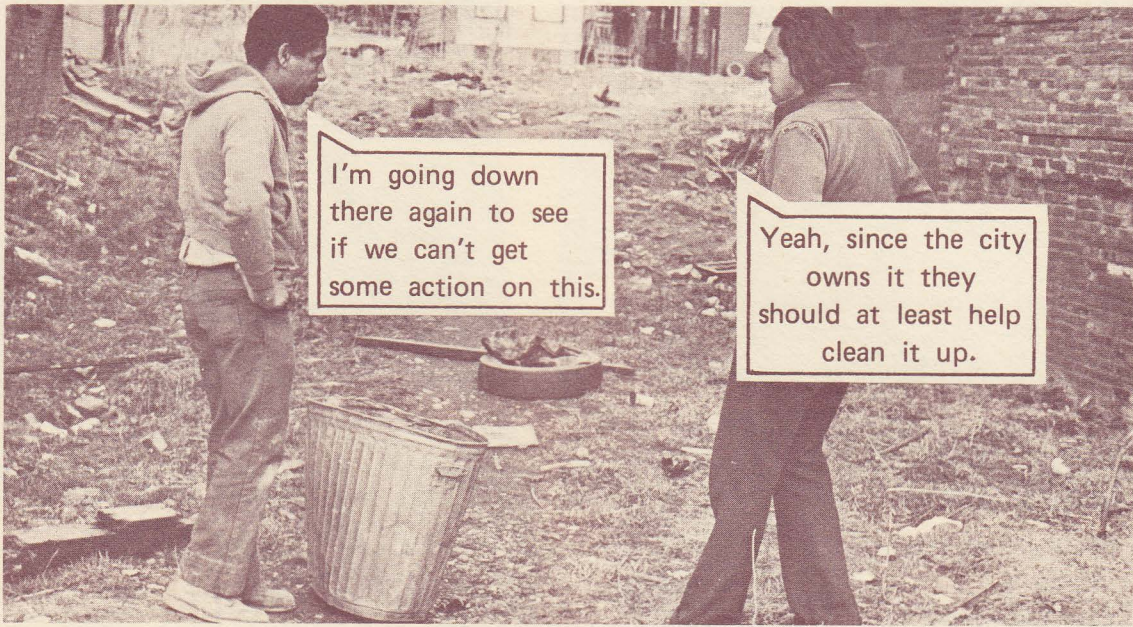
Not me, I thought you did.



Well, I think it's time we found out who does own it.

Maybe tomorrow we can go down to City Hall to check it out.

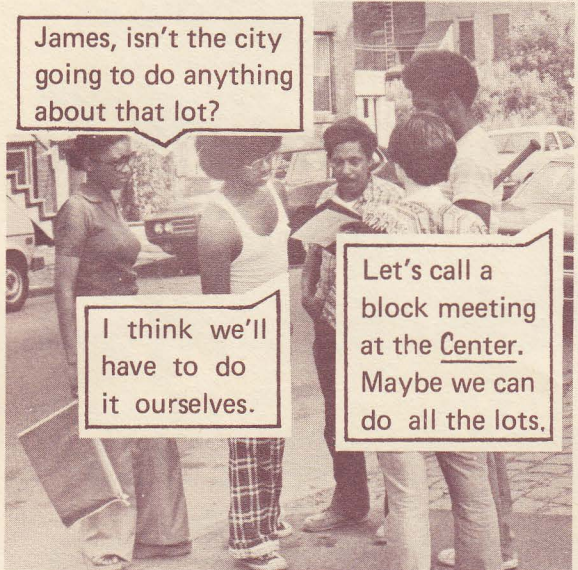
AFTER THREE VISITS TO CITY HALL, THEY LEARN THAT THE CITY OWNS THE LOT
(AND OTHERS ON THE BLOCK)



I'm going down there again to see if we can't get some action on this.

Yeah, since the city owns it they should at least help clean it up.

TWO WEEKS LATER AFTER ANOTHER VISIT TO CITY HALL
...AND NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE!!!



James, isn't the city going to do anything about that lot?

I think we'll have to do it ourselves.

Let's call a block meeting at the Center. Maybe we can do all the lots.



Then you'll come to the center tonight?

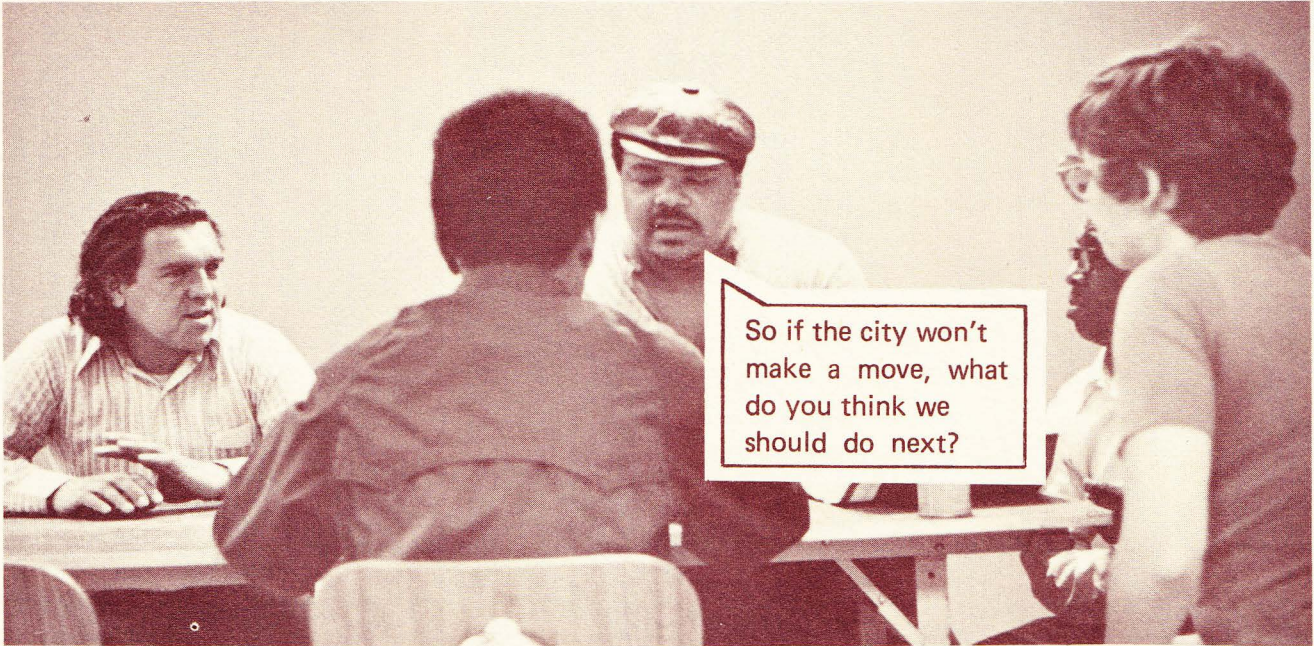
You can count on me, brother.



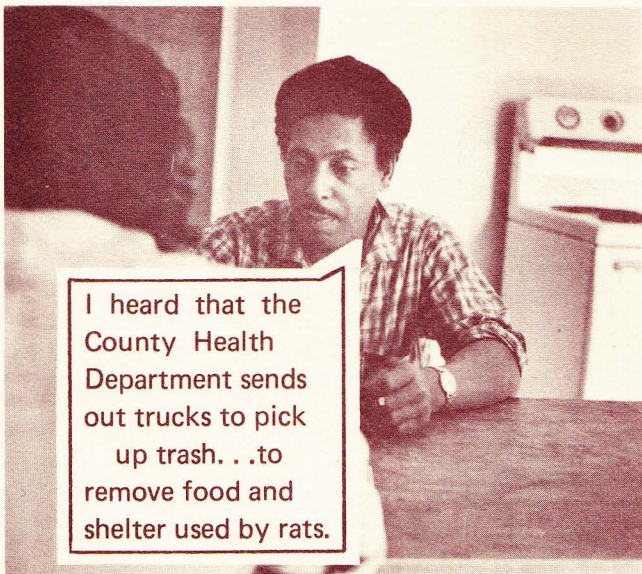
Hey Flo, we're having a meeting tonight to plan a clean-up of all these trashy lots.

We thought you'd be interested.

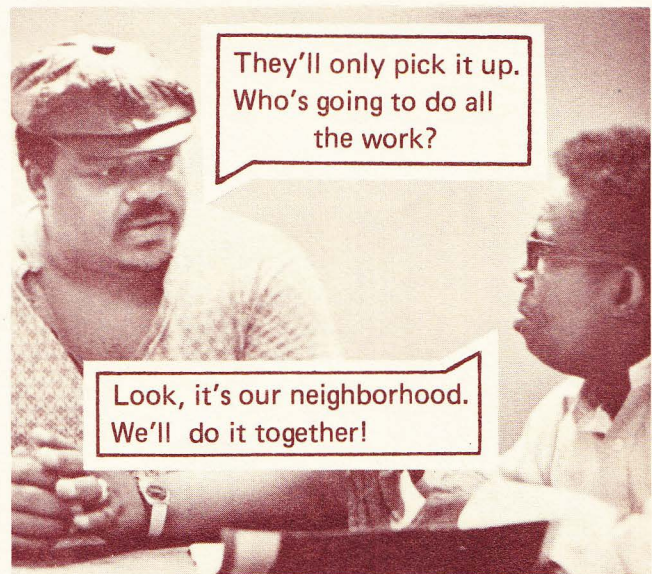
THAT NIGHT AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, GEORGE AND JAMES
EXPLAIN WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED THUS FAR



So if the city won't make a move, what do you think we should do next?



I heard that the County Health Department sends out trucks to pick up trash. . .to remove food and shelter used by rats.



They'll only pick it up. Who's going to do all the work?

Look, it's our neighborhood. We'll do it together!

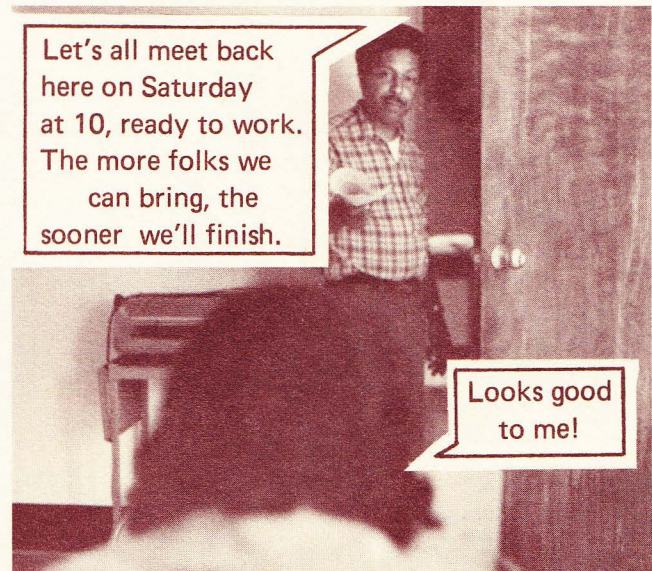


We'll need some tools and empty cartons.

I've got some rakes.

I'll bring. . .

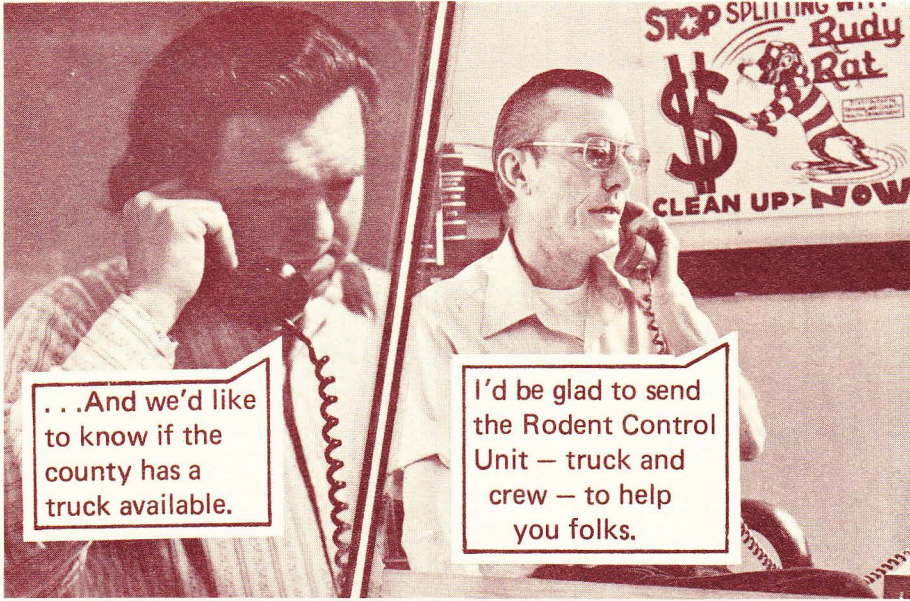
I can bring a shovel.



Let's all meet back here on Saturday at 10, ready to work. The more folks we can bring, the sooner we'll finish.

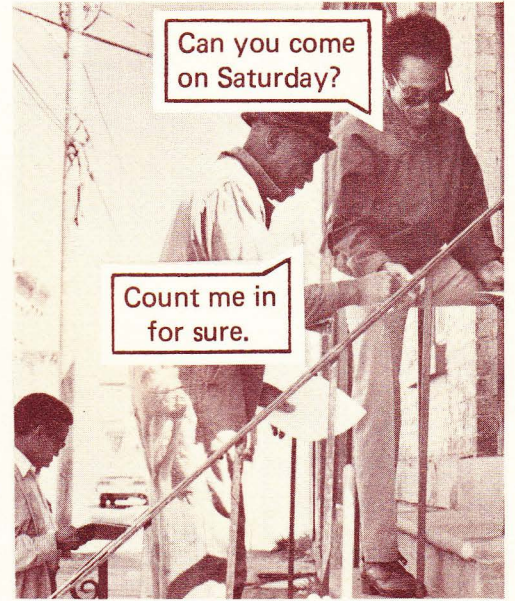
Looks good to me!

ORGANIZATION FOR THE SATURDAY MORNING CLEANUP CONTINUES. . .



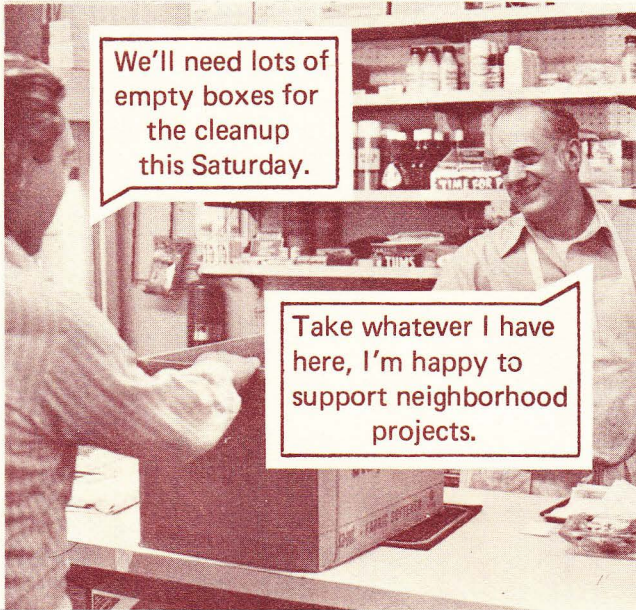
... And we'd like to know if the county has a truck available.

I'd be glad to send the Rodent Control Unit - truck and crew - to help you folks.



Can you come on Saturday?

Count me in for sure.



We'll need lots of empty boxes for the cleanup this Saturday.

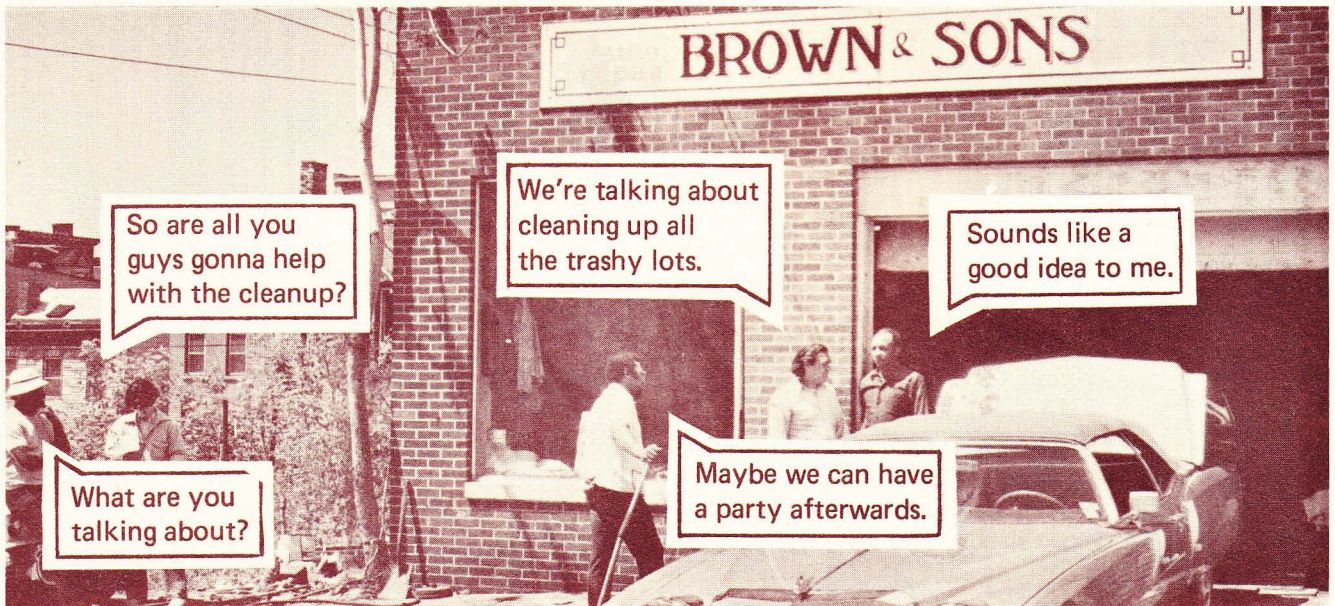
Take whatever I have here, I'm happy to support neighborhood projects.



Could you put up a notice about the cleanup?

Sure, we'll do whatever we can.

Maybe some of the lots could be used for gardens.



So are all you guys gonna help with the cleanup?

We're talking about cleaning up all the trashy lots.

Sounds like a good idea to me.

What are you talking about?

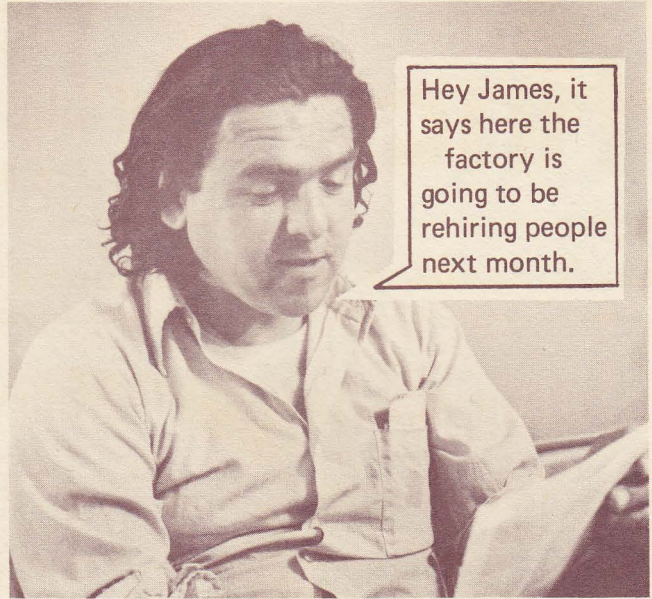
Maybe we can have a party afterwards.

THE CLEAN-UP IS VERY SUCCESSFUL, WITH MANY PEOPLE PARTICIPATING.

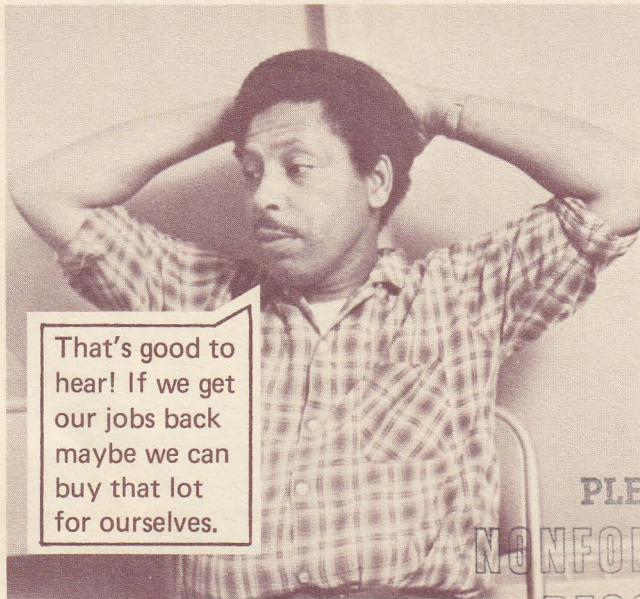




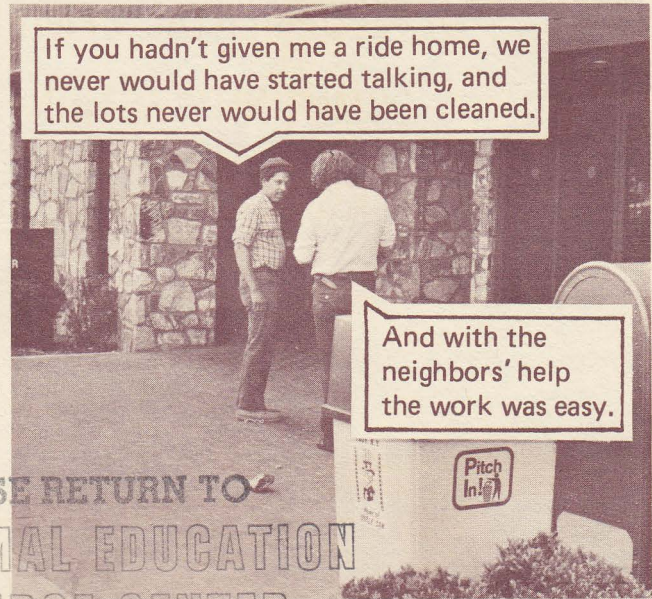
I wonder if there's any news yet?



Hey James, it says here the factory is going to be rehiring people next month.



That's good to hear! If we get our jobs back maybe we can buy that lot for ourselves.

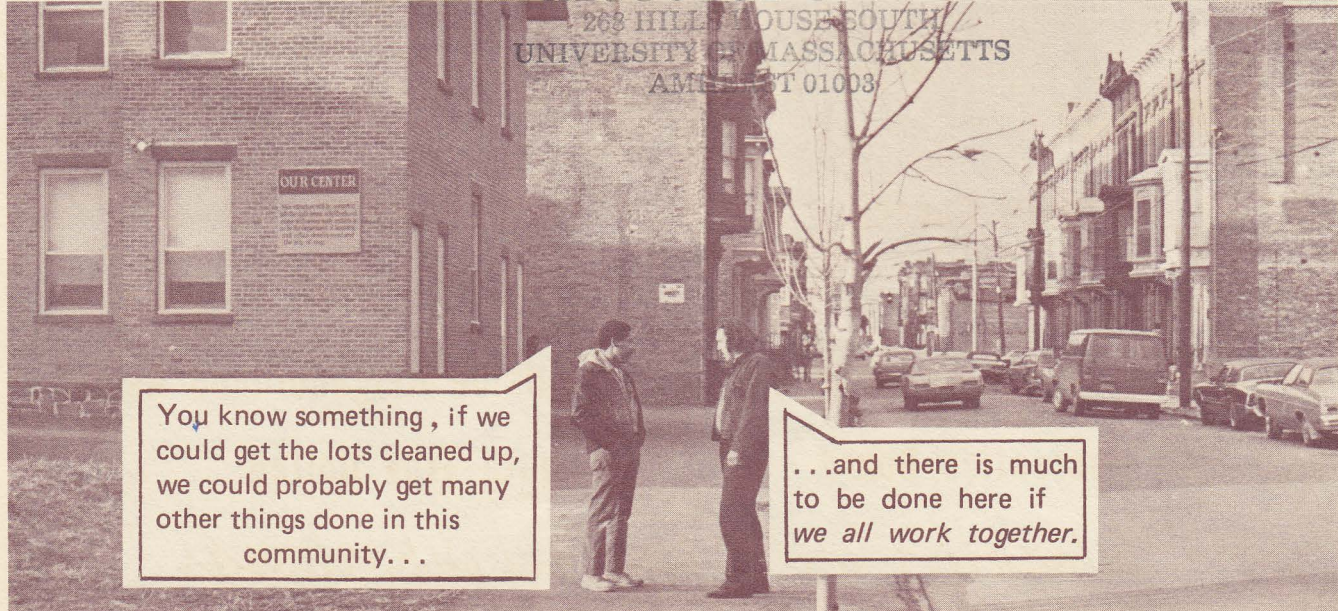


If you hadn't given me a ride home, we never would have started talking, and the lots never would have been cleaned.

And with the neighbors' help the work was easy.

PLEASE RETURN TO
NONFORMAL EDUCATION
RESOURCE CENTER

268 HILL HOUSE SOUTH
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST, MA 01003



You know something, if we could get the lots cleaned up, we could probably get many other things done in this community. . .

. . .and there is much to be done here if we all work together.



**TROY INNER-CITY
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.**

2245 SIXTH AVENUE, TROY, N.Y. (518) 272-3317

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COUNCIL
OF TROY, INC**

37 FIRST STREET
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(518) 272-8155

567 Neighborhood Council

9th. Street Association

No. Central Neighborhood Assoc.

East Side Recreation Board

United Projects

1st & 2nd Ave. Association

Hillside Neighborhood Assoc.

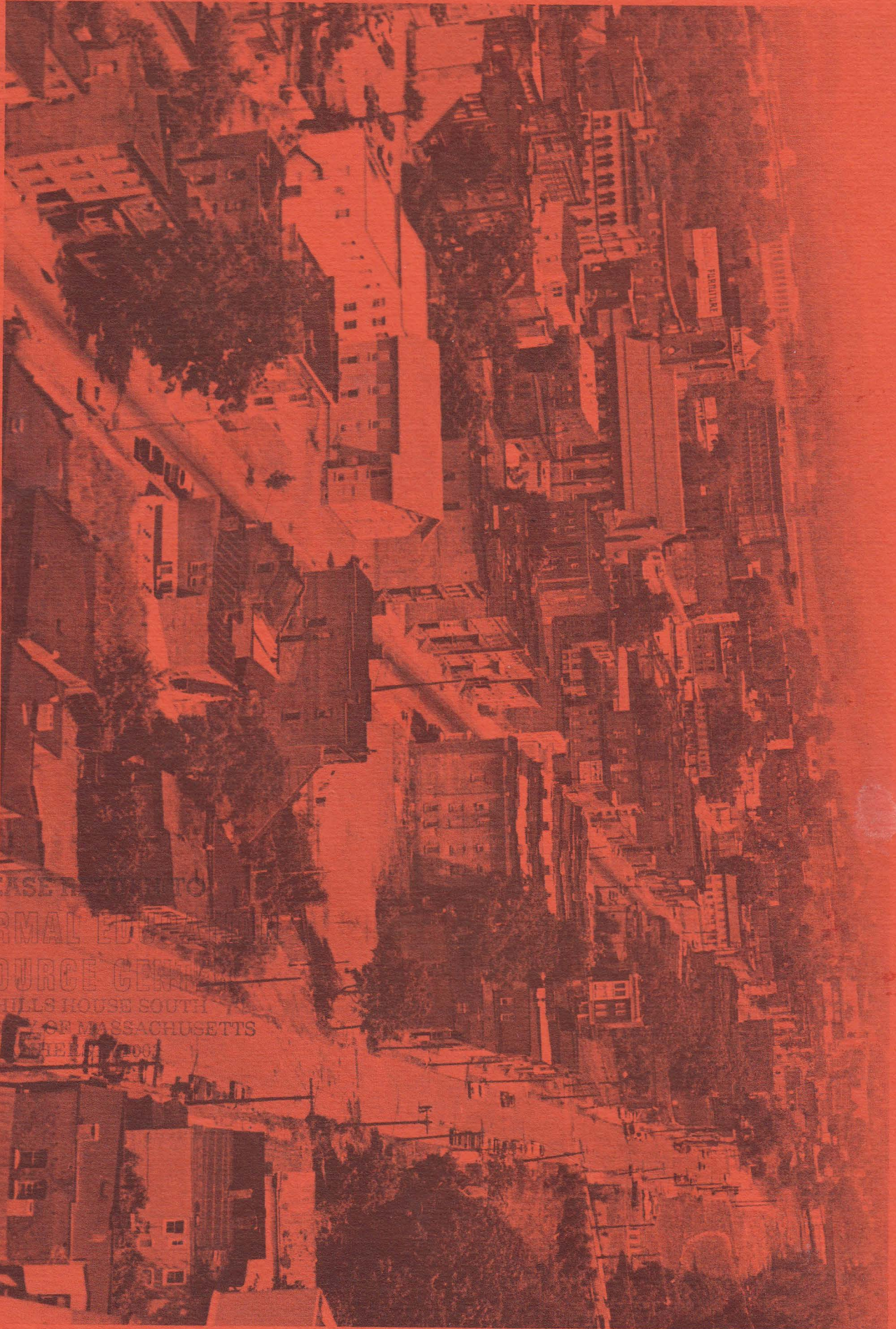
South Troy United

*Working with the neighborhoods
to build a better Troy*

Center for International Education
265 Hills House South
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003

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