

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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Bloomington-Normal

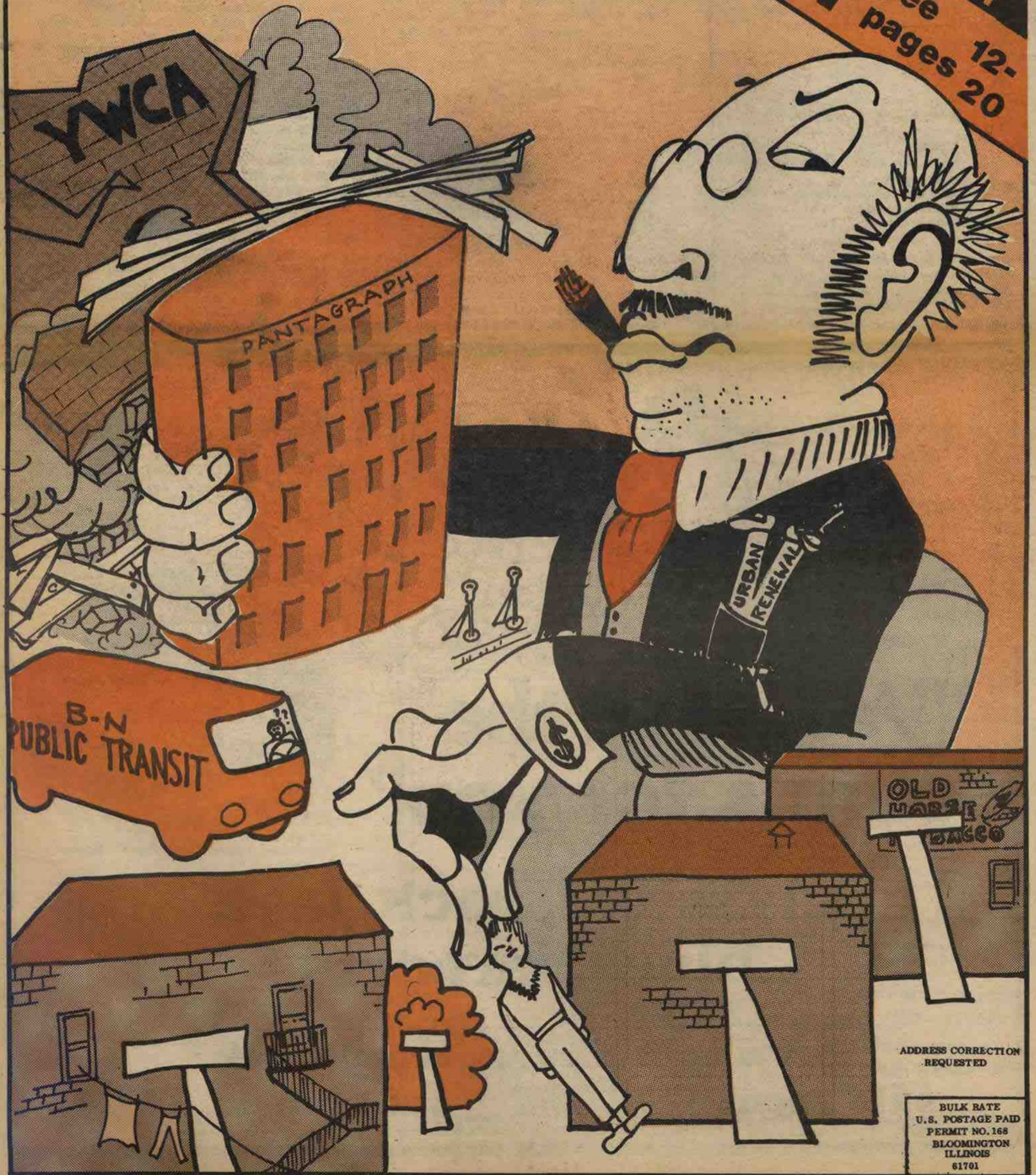
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POST AMERIKAN

Vol. 5 No. 6
October 1976

MANIPULATING DOWNTOWN
BLOOMINGTON'S FATE
see pages 4-5

INSIDE:
MARCH AGAINST
MEG! see
pages 12-20



ADDRESS CORRECTION
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Anyone can be a member of the POST staff except maybe Sheriff King. All you have to do is come to the meetings and do one of the many different and exciting tasks necessary for the smooth operation of a paper like this. You start work at nothing per hour, and stay there. Everyone else gets paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-Amerikan has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up here and asking who's in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informative, and not available in other local media. We will not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material or inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories or tips for stories. Bring stuff to a meeting (the schedule is printed below) or mail it to our office.

MEETINGS

Friday, Sept. 24....6:30pm
 Friday, Oct. 1.....6:30pm
 Friday, Oct. 8.....6:30pm
 Deadline--
 Wed., Oct. 13.....6:30pm
 Layout begins--
 Sat., Oct. 16.....12pm
 Layout continues--
 Sunday, Oct. 17....12pm

These meetings are held at the Post-Amerikan office, and if you'd like to come, call us. The number is 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6886.

ABOUT US

You can make bread hawking the Post--15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be mailed to: The Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Kevin, hope you get your foot together real soon. Virginia

Free Introductory course in Self-Actualizing Astrology
 Call JB 452-1646 for more information

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON

Book Hive, 103 W. Front
 Cake Box, 511 S. Denver
 The Joint, 415 N. Main
 Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front
 News Nook, 402 1/2 N. Main
 The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main
 Gaston's Barber Shop, 202 1/2 N. Center
 Sambo's, Washington and U.S. 66
 DeVary's Market, 1402 W. Market
 Harris' Market, 802 N. Morris
 Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington
 Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main
 Discount Den, 207 N. Main
 U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market
 U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee
 Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland Ave.
 Bus Depot, 523 N. East
 Park Store, 909 S. Allin
 Nierstheimer's Drug Store, 1302 N. Main
 Pentagraph Building, in front of it
 Eddy's Market, Washington & Allin
 Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
 Mandingo's, 312 S. Lee
 K-Mart, at parking lot exit
 The Blue Room, 803 Morrissey Drive
 Dairy Queen, Main & Miller Sts.

corner of Main and Washington
 Econ-O-Wash, 708 W. Market
 Washhouse, 609 N. Clinton
 Apache Junction, 204 S. McClun
 OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under the Sun, 188 W. Main
 Peoria: That Other Place, 901 NE Adams
 Bartonville: That Other Place, 6102 S. Adams
 Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op, 407 E. Adams
 Pontiac: Semmens Drug Store, 123 Madison St.

NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
 Welcome Inn (in front)
 Redbird IGA
 Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North St.
 Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.
 Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
 Al's Pipe Shop, 101 Broadway Mall
 Hendren's Grocery Store, 301 W. Willow
 Co-op Bookstore (in front)
 The Gallery (in front)
 SW corner, University and College
 Radio Shack, Raab Rd. (in front)
 New Age Bookstore, 101 Broadway Mall
 Co-op Tapes and Records, 311 S. Main
 Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union
 Cage, ISU Student Union
 Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North



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Rod and Trina at Co-op Tapes & Records

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Bloomington's Bagnell Bullies Citizens...Again

Good ol' Bloomington cop Mark Bagnell, one of the villains of our August issue ("Minor Mishap Ends in Police Violence"), is still trying hard to make himself famous for being nasty to citizens. His victims this time are a 14-year-old girl, Robin, and her mother, Mary Ann Cavanagh.

On Sept. 14, Robin was leaving Kresge's in downtown Bloomington when she saw a man fiddling around with her bicycle, which she had chained to a parking meter while she shopped. She asked if there was something wrong with the bike, and he said, "Yeah, it's mine."

Robin had bought the bike with hard-earned babysitting money in July from a friend, so she was understandably surprised and upset. The young man, a college student, explained that Robin's bike had been stolen from him 6 months ago while he was living on the ISU campus.

Robin took the man into Biasi's Drug Store so that they could talk to her mother, who works there. The previous owner of the bicycle showed Mary Ann Cavanagh a slip of paper with a bicycle serial number on it which matched the number on Robin's bike.

He told her that he wanted the bike back.

Mary Ann told him that she wasn't going to turn it over to him without some official authorization.

The young man went across the street to call the police.

Unluckily, the cop who came to deal with this especially sensitive situation was Mark Bagnell, an officer not widely praised for any sensitive qualities.

His behavior that day, though, was far from sensitive. Robin described him as snotty; another employee at Biasi's who watched him deal with the situation said, "He was acting like a real smart-ass."

... THE CAPTAIN WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE WAY YOU TAUGHT THAT 14-YEAR-OLD THE MEANING OF LAW AND JUSTICE, BAGNELL ...



After 35 or 40 minutes of this, Officer Jordan from Normal Police arrived on the scene with a xeroxed copy of the original report of the bike theft. He explained everything to Robin and Mary Ann, which Bagnell had been too busy acting tough to bother with.

Mary Ann describes Jordan as "very polite and very nice."

But Bagnell continued to act like a hard guy. When Mary Ann was finally provoked into calling him nasty names, Bagnell said that he could take her in for cursing in public.

After an hour with the obnoxious Bagnell, both Mary Ann and Robin were in tears.

Mary Ann Cavanagh intends to file a complaint against Officer Bagnell for his conduct Sept. 14.

Specifically, Bagnell told Mary Ann that he could take Robin in for possession of stolen property.

"A 14-year-old kid?" Mary Ann asked.

"It's the law. I don't make it, but I enforce it," Bagnell told her.

(Robin had not only paid for the bike, but had afterwards invested \$25.00 in new brake shoes and tape.)

Bagnell, who never even bothered to ask their names, also told Mary Ann and Robin, "It's his bike. I can give this kid his bike right now if I feel like it."



Mary Hartman II - A Review

As the big networks nightly project "the News", that odd mixture of the unbelievable, the irrelevant and the sickening, told with a macabre-masochistic delight, millions of Americans instead turn their channels for a touch of reality--Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman.

I'm not a regular, daily addict of the soaper, but a weekly, occasional nibbler. But the show still entrances, delights and shocks me. After so many years of saccharine situation comedies and morbid daytime TV, someone has actually dared project a piece of real life on the tube.

At times, of course, the events on Mary Hartman are beyond reality. Drownings in bowls of chicken soup and heart attacks during illicit love affairs are somewhat beyond the bounds of daily life, but these events serve to further illuminate the characters and their relationship to life.

The reactions? Disbelief, shock, but generally, such a strong shield and insulation surrounds Mary Hartman's characters, that somehow the event never phases them, the absurd culminates in the more absurd.

Generally, the situations are too real. Mary's husband, Tom, a former jock who never grew up, continually questions his assembly-line job. Is this what life is all about? His father-in-law, a fellow worker, admonishes him to accept boredom as the price of survival and security. Tom doubts, tries to change the situation through a union-election challenge, and ends up with scars as a result.

But the men are just side fixtures to a women's world. Mary's kitchen is the central scene, as she and her friends gather to console each other and try to comprehend the whole dead-end mess. Beyond Mary, there's Loretta, the good-hearted but naive rising country-western singer; Muriel, Loretta's rival, scheming through fake scars to steal Loretta's fortune; Mary's mother, a hare-brained babler with a heart of gold and an occasional touch of class; and Mary's younger sister, a victim of both the romantic tradition and the "free love" compulsion.

These women are the victims of modern society and consumer culture. They can't understand their husbands or their marriage dreams gone sour. Pop psychology and religion are new fads to be consumed, another attempt to fill the void. And in between their heavy dialogues on life and love, MaxPax and Ivory Liquid intrude nonchalantly, each product a new savior.

For instance, Mary becomes a student of STET, a pop psychology therapy program, along the lines of "Nothing is ok, I'm not ok, I have to lose myself to be ok," a therapist's lobotomy program for self-dissolution and surrender to the void.

But for all her attempts, Mary never swallows STET. Somehow her own self intrudes, often physically, to remind her that she is real.

And this is where Mary Hartman's true beauty comes in. Although she and her fellow travellers never quite know what's going on, are the victims and unwitting perpetrators of oppression,

they somehow survive. The characters trip and stumble through daily life, but somehow make it, and occasionally flash a profound insight. Their beauty is their ability to survive, their touch with us, their hunger for life, even in an absurd, hopeless, and oppressive situation.

It took me three viewings to laugh at this comedy. My first reaction was profound depression. This is daily life at its worst, projected without subterfuge. I felt no desire to continue viewing, and wanted to end my relationship with the program then and there.

But I came back, maybe just to see what's happening. And that's what Mary and company seem to do, too. They awaken each day without anticipation or joy, hanging around to see what's next. They lead us through a world of absurd, mind-numbing events, through which they somehow stumble into the next day's impossibility.

Another season begins soon; the summer re-runs are about completed, and who knows what's next. Will Mary be released from the insane asylum she collapsed into last spring? Will Loretta become a big country star? Will Muriel's scheme to defraud Loretta of her fame and fortune succeed? Will Tom continue to plod the assembly line daily? Will Grandpa be arrested in another massage parlor, searching for his love-and-sex-crazed granddaughter? Only life and love can tell, so stay tuned fans, as the stomach turns.

-MGM

Why Bother Attending Meetings?

Hardly anyone is coming to Urban Renewal-sponsored neighborhood meetings, complained a Pantagraph article on August 25. Part of the public-participation requirement attached to Urban Renewal's federal funding, the meetings are held to get neighborhood residents to decide at a grass roots level just what things they want done.

The Pantagraph article complaining about non-attendance was published just one day after an article reporting that the City Council had just ignored the opinions of 500 bus riders who had voted on where to place the bus transfer center. Only 22 riders voted for the Front St. location, and that's what the Council chose. (See adjoining article)

After being so directly ignored on the transfer site question, these bus riders would probably think twice (or three times) before spending their free time to trot down to another meeting to tell Urban Renewal what they want.

If most of the decisions are really already made, why waste your time helping to build a facade of grass roots democracy?

I talked to Alan Goldberg of Urban Renewal, whose job it is to try to get more people to come to the neighborhood meetings. I wanted to find out just how much decision-making power people would have if they did show up.

Goldberg said that Urban Renewal has a pretty rough idea how the money is going to be spent before the staff presents the plan to a public meeting. "Unfortunately, it's pretty stable," Goldberg said, "and therefore the people don't have that much influence, really."

Goldberg said he was surprised that the people attending the meetings (the few that do come) don't resent the fact that the decisions are mostly already made. Goldberg felt that the



few people that attend the meetings think urban renewal is doing all right, and just want to be informed of what urban renewal is up to before the plans are sent to the City Council for final approval.

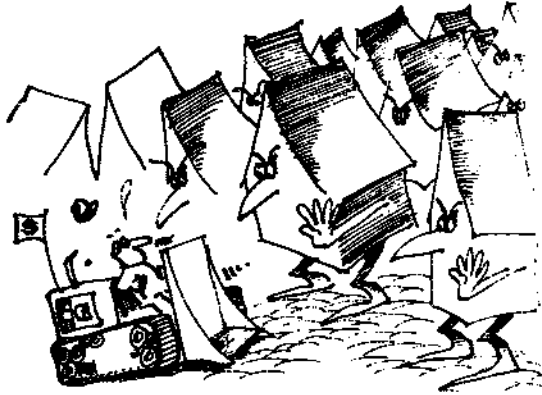
But Goldberg admitted that there could be a lot of people dissatisfied with Urban Renewal, people who feel that their ideas would just be ignored, like the bus riders' ballots.

Goldberg says he is disappointed that there isn't more grass roots input in the Urban Renewal program. He intends to publicize future meetings by going door to door with announcements. (A few years ago, I suggested to Urban Renewal Director Tjaden that the public meetings could be publicized by mailing letters bulk rate to all the houses in the target neighborhood. Tjaden said that was "too expensive.") The money Urban Renewal is spending comes under the Community Development Act. Goldberg said the law specifies that funds are to go to low and middle-income areas.

Occasionally, city officials try to meddle with the Community Development funds, pushing plans to spend the money in areas which would not benefit low and middle-income people, Goldberg said. One such plan advanced by Councilman Buchanan would have built a pedestrian overpass over US 66 at Oakland Avenue. It would have served Broadmoor subdivision. While such an overpass may be necessary (and should have been built by the original developers of Broadmoor), Community Development money should be going to West Side and near East Side neighborhoods.

Another time, some city officials tried to get Community Development funds to build a golf course on the East Side.

Goldberg said that residents in Park Hill (west of Miller Park) got together last year when city officials were contemplating spending some of Park Hill's Community Development money somewhere else. So many neighborhood residents objected so strongly that the city backed down.



Presently, the Community Development money is going to pay for 1) buying up houses and tearing them down, 2) relocating the people who live in the torn-down houses, 3) tearing up sidewalks and putting new ones in, 4) putting asphalt on brick streets, and 5) low-interest loans and outright grants so people can fix up old houses needing repair.

I asked Goldberg if neighborhood people could come to the meetings and get Urban Renewal to stop spending money on streets and sidewalks, and put the money into fixing up houses.

Goldberg said it was possible, but then pointed out that the entire details of Community Development spending are subject to final approval by the City Council. "Maybe there's some downtown businessman who wants Monroe Street resurfaced to help his business; they might listen to him instead," Goldberg pointed out. And then I remembered the bus riders.

People who want to keep up with what Urban Renewal is doing can ask to receive a new newsletter Goldberg puts out. Just call 828-7361, ext. 245, and ask to be put on the mailing list.

The next round of neighborhood meetings for Urban Renewal's 1977 plan are in November. Here's the schedule: (The rough boundaries of the different neighborhoods are given here, but may not be exact. If you have a question about which Urban Renewal area you live in, call them up.) All meetings are at 7:30 p. m.

November 1, the Central Bloomington neighborhood meets at City Hall. This area is bordered by Locust, Oakland, McLean and Mason Streets.

November 8, the Forty Acres neighborhood meets at Bent School. This is the area bounded roughly by Lee St., Market St., and all parts of Bloomington North and West of those streets.

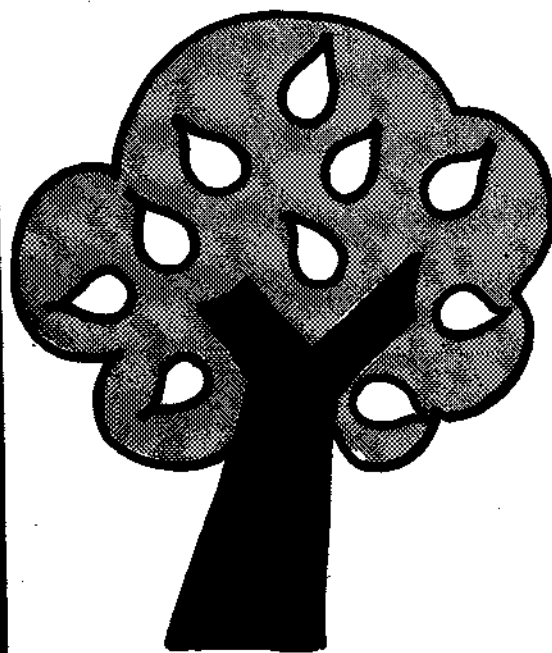
November 16, the Stevensonville area meets at Raymond School. This includes all area between Market and Miller Streets West of the IC railroad tracks.

November 18, the Park Hill neighborhood meets at Miller Park. Boundaries: between Morris Ave. and the IC railroad tracks, as far North as Olive Street, and bounded on the South by Park Hill Cemetery.

November 22, a newer Urban Renewal project area, South Oakland, meets at City Hall. Boundaries of this area are: between the IC and Penn Central track, South of Oakland and North of Lincoln Street.

November 10, the Washington Square area meets at St. Mary's Church. This is an irregularly-shaped neighborhood bounded roughly by Market Street on the North, Wood St. on the South, Morris Ave. on the West, and Main St. on the East, excluding any parts just mentioned which were already included in the Central Bloomington area.

We're Transplanting...



THE HONEY TREE

The re-potting will take place in several weeks.

New Location:

1203 S. Main St.

-across from the Dairy Queen in Normal-

City council says:

459 bus riders can be wrong

5

When it comes to arrogance and stupidity, Bloomington City Council outdoes other public bodies, as well as most individuals. Last month the council made a move that ought to insure them the title for weeks to come. They chose the south side of Front Street for a permanent transfer center for Twin City bus riders. (The permanent transfer center is where all the buses going in and out of downtown Bloomington stop to pick up and let off riders.)

First, let's consider this decision from the arrogance angle. From Aug. 12 to 16 (Thursday through Monday), bus drivers gave their riders a survey to file out. The riders had to vote on their first, second, and third preference out of the three proposed transfer sites (see drawing). 459 riders voted. 248 chose the existing site (B) as best. 182 chose the courthouse site (A) as best. Only 29 bus riders chose the Front St. location. That's only 6% of the voters. What's more, 376 of the 459 riders listed the Front St. location as their last choice.

But the City Council members (who have cars, remember) decided that they knew better than the bus riders where the site should be. This is called arrogance.

Now think about the Downtown Council, a group composed of Bloomington merchants. One Twin City bus driver told us that downtown store owners don't have much use for bus riders. He said that merchants consider them "riff-raff"—poor people who crowd their sidewalks and don't buy stuff from them. Now, which proposed site is farthest from downtown stores? Front St. And which proposed site did the Downtown Council support, and the City Council approve? Front St. This, too, is called arrogance.

Another bus driver speculated that city officials will enjoy the slick, modern look of the new buses stopping

outside the shiny new "Law and Justice" Center - that Bloomington's image is more important than the people's convenience.

Let's move on to stupidity, our next consideration. The City Council knew the results of the bus rider survey, and they knew that we knew the results of the survey, and they decided exactly the opposite of what the survey indicated, anyway. Did they think we wouldn't notice? Did they think that no one would remark on their odd position as they paid lip service to democracy while scratching the Downtown Council's back? This is called stupidity.

During the Watergate scandals, we found that there's nothing like a cover-up to foster the growth of stupid assertions. As the City Council members scrambled to find justifications for their choice, this was confirmed. One claim is that the Front St. location is safer than

the Main St. location. A city bus driver told the Post that the Front St. location wouldn't really be safer. The dangerous thing about the Main St. site is that riders must often cross Main St. to transfer. However, this is still no argument for choosing Front St., since the riders' second choice, the courthouse, does not require street crossing to transfer, either. Besides that, the Front St. location makes transferring bus riders targets for cars entering a city parking lot and cars driving in and out of the new McLean County Law and Justice Center. At the courthouse location, transferring from bus to bus would not require a rider to walk across any street or driveway frequented by cars. So if safety were really the important factor in the City Council's choice, they would choose site A. But they chose site C. What does this tell us? You're catching on.

--Phoebe Caulfield



The Manipulators

by Independent News Service

People with the best of intentions sometimes cloak their desires for land and wealth under lofty sounding goals and slogans. In the 1960's the US announced an Alliance for Progress to aid in land reform and development in Latin America. Unfortunately progress was not made, and much of the money sent south of the border never reached the people.

In comparison, in 1969 Bloomington Unlimited was formed to help in the development in downtown Bloomington. Dominated by the largest corporations in the community, the organization's plan is to work with the city's urban renewal program. To examine why the plan failed and perhaps how it could have succeeded is the purpose of this article. Obviously, downtown is now a disaster area.

What happened in Bloomington is not much different than what has occurred in other cities across America. Who can deny the advantages of shopping centers with acres of free parking and an enclosed mall? Empty store fronts in many cities testify to the exodus to outlying areas.

One apparent change in downtown Bloomington is that some of the larger businesses kept enlarging and acquiring more land.

The Daily Pantagraph purchased the land once occupied by the YMCA and the Elks Club. The YMCA is now located east of route 66 where few kids can reach it on their bicycles, as they used to do. The land once occupied by one of Bloomington's finest hotels, the Tilden-Hall, was bought by the Peoples Bank, as were the sites just to the west of the bank. Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan bought the land where once stood the YMCA, for drive in facilities. The Corn Belt Bank and the America State Bank expanded into newly

purchased land for drive-ins. General Telephone has a new large building.

While none of this activity was done by Bloomington Unlimited directly, the membership of that organization was proving to be exceptionally mobile.

Another large development, done by the removal by Urban Renewal of many small businesses and done over the objections of voters in several referendums, is the construction of a new county law enforcement center.

So the beneficiaries of downtown redevelopment have been General Telephone, the news media, county government, and the financial institutions. Seldom has the interlocking of these been so apparent.

Change is inevitable, but progress was never made downtown. Either the leadership was incredibly bad, or other factors were at work. Bloomington Unlimited held banquets with speakers from other cities with experience in urban renewal. The local radio and press gave extensive publicity over the years.

Interestingly enough, Bloomington Unlimited may have been just a cover organization. As it is a not-for-profit organization, who could believe it had any but the best of intentions? Composed of small businesses, it also has the following members: State Farm Insurance Company, Funk Seeds International, Illinois Agricultural Association, Illinois Power Company, The Daily Pantagraph, WJBG, Pepsi Cola, Montgomery Ward, Steak 'N Shake, General Telephone, Ralston Purina, and the downtown banks and savings and loan institutions. Dues were assessed according to the size of the organization. The budget is small; in the 1976 report it is stated as about \$32,000 and in previous years usually smaller.

Receiving little publicity and having no public meetings is a subsidiary of Bloomington Unlimited called Bloomington Properties Development. Bloomington Properties Development, Inc. is a FOR PROFIT organization composed of some of the members of Bloomington Unlimited. Bloomington Properties has a big budget; it was incorporated in 1969 for \$500,000, and in 1975 reincorporated for \$750,000! Its stated purpose is to aid businesses affected by urban renewal, to help them relocate if necessary, and to bring new firms to Bloomington.

Not one dime of the \$500,000 or the \$750,000 has been used! In effect, half a million dollars that could have been used in the development of downtown has been frozen! Bloomington Properties never made it easy to get a loan. The government was suggested as an easier and faster place to obtain money, and everyone knows that is absurd. Perhaps the members were waiting for a new large department store to build downtown, but meanwhile it deteriorated and valuable land was grabbed up.

Bloomington Unlimited has too narrow a base to succeed without difficulty. Despite its title, it is very limited in its membership and goals. Possible contributors who aren't members are the education community, service clubs, the ministerial association, youth organizations, and the unions. Overcommercialized, downtown is devoid of culture.

Bloomington Unlimited is going to hire a new director. There's still opportunity to build a community center which will attract many varied activities. If the membership of Bloomington Unlimited is enlarged to include a larger segment of the community, maybe this new director won't be too restricted.

Ralph Nader at ISU

"The man in the class-action suit," Ralph Nader, spoke before an enthusiastic audience September 8 at the ISU Forum.

Mr. Nader, noted for his consumer protection battles, went far beyond particular products in his presentation, to a pervasive analysis of our national system.

He attacked large oil companies, unresponsive government and the education system, challenging his listeners to become involved and arguing that significant change comes only from the people.

He began by challenging his ISU audience with a scenario of student life: boredom, atrophy, and "I'm only in school to get a job" attitudes. He surmised that the reason students are bored, when they should be most eager to learn, is because modern education has little connection to daily life. "The education that really grabs students is the education that connects up their world of thought on campus with their experience in the outside world."

He challenged their personal apathy, claiming that nothing would change unless they were involved, and pointing out their unique social position: "Students represent a unique class in our society. They are the only sizable group...that can get an education with...involvement in the big issues of our day. ...You come in with a high degree of idealism, so high that after you leave it's all downhill, unless you do something about it."



"The most important problems get the least attention, and the very trivial the most."

He recommended students set up their own action programs on national issues, using the unique facilities of a university: the communications systems, the large numbers of students, the idealism of youth, and the large store of knowledge.

Nader claimed that the only way to overcome the negative aspects of the school system, the multiple choice tests, bureaucratization and rote memorization of the irrelevant, is through involvement.

Taking

Through an analysis of "style", he pointed out how the mass media functions so that "the most important problems get the least attention, and the very trivial the most." Clothing, hair length, etc., can dominate national attention, while "silent, cumulative forms of violence" against us, such as pollution or dangerous drinking water, receive little or no attention. His continual claim was that these problems exist because the American people are not alert, giving examples of necessary involvement, stressing local campaigns of consumer advocacy, corporate watchdogging or consumer controlled cooperatives.

He compared the amount of time Americans spend watching television (about 20 hours per week) and asked, "How much time are we going to devote to the civic problem of our choice? There isn't a person in this auditorium that can't find a problem that upsets them."

"Silent forms of violence" by mega-corporations received attention, pointing out the food additives we consume, from red dye #2 to the current drive to allow bone meal in meat. "If most people saw how frankfurters or sausages were made," Nader claimed, "they would never eat another unless they were certified masochists."

Nader stated that there is no energy crisis, only an "energy gluttony crisis" and an Exxon monopoly crisis, fearing that we are developing an "energy socialism, with huge outflows of federal tax dollars to subsidize energy corporations, so they can capitalize the profits, and socialize the risks."

Power to the People

Lifeline & Energy Stamps

Last issue, we broke the painful news to our readers that if Illinois Power Company gets its way, our electric bills will be 15% higher soon-- and that we'll be paying for IPC's advertising, guaranteed profits, and their new toy, the nuclear power plant, whether we like it or not. We also covered the more hopeful news, that Illinois Power Project, a citizen action group, is challenging the power company's proposed rate hike on several grounds before the Illinois Commerce Commission. The commission's hearings began on September 17.

One of the programs that Illinois Power Project supports is called "Lifeline." Lifeline rates are being proposed by groups all over the country, and California has passed a bill putting lifeline rates into effect. Under Lifeline, you will pay a reasonable price for the basic amount of electricity you need to live. This rate would be about 2.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is less than most small users now pay. If you use electricity over the basic amount, the rate per kilowatt-hour is higher. The current system is exactly opposite. Illinois Power Company residential users now pay 5.06 cents per kwh for the first 50 kwh, and 3.52 cents per kwh for the next 50 kwh. The rate goes down the more electricity you use.

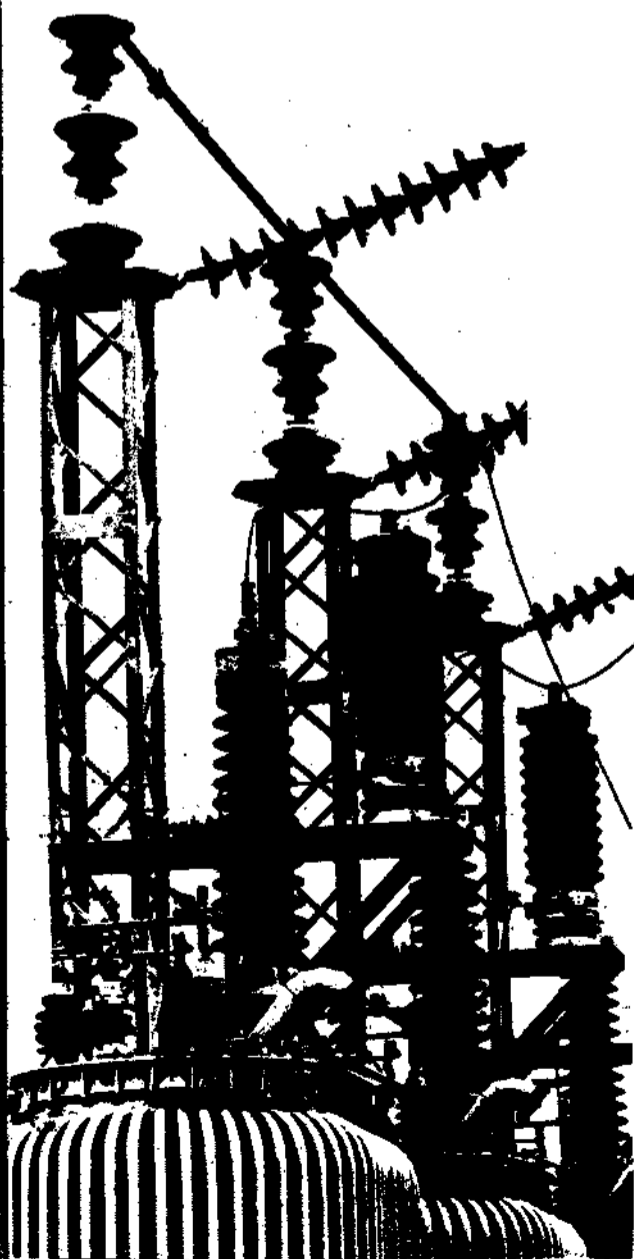
Consider the advantages of the lifeline system over the present one. First, poor and fixed-income people will be able to afford the lifeline rates. Poor people now spend about 5.2% of their income on electricity, lower middle-income people spend 2.1%, and upper middle-income people spend 1.5%, while well-off people spend only 1.1 percent.

You may remember reading last winter about several cases of old people freezing to death in their homes because their utilities were cut off due to nonpayment of their bills. This should not happen. In such an affluent country, people should be able to stay warm in the winter cheaply.

People should not freeze to death because they can't afford heat, while other people have garage doors that automatically open when they push a button so they don't have to get out of their cars and get cold. Or while State Farm leaves its spotlights on all night.

Oh, yes, State Farm. Remember, under the present system, you are paying more than twice as much per kilowatt-hour as big business and industry are. In other words, you're paying part of the bill for commerce and industry's huge electricity consumption. Under the Lifeline program, the bigger users would pay the bigger bills, and shift some of the burden off families and individuals. This is fair, since industry's demands for more energy are what supposedly encourages the power company to build costly new plants. The cost of these new plants, under the present system, will be paid by you, not commerce and industry.

Needless to say, commerce and industry bigwigs aren't too crazy about the Lifeline proposal. Lifeline asks that heavy electricity users pay their own way, instead of being subsidized by residential citizens. Illinois Power Company is not exactly pushing for Lifeline, either. Sitting on IPC's



Off Our Blinders

7

While pointing out the dangers of nuclear energy, Nader claimed that solar energy technology was ready to replace fossil fuel dependency. However, he admitted solar energy had problems: "Solar has certain sins as far as Exxon is concerned...first of all, because Exxon doesn't own the sun. The sun is everywhere, and that worries Exxon. The sun has the capability to bypass your local utility or oil company and go directly to your home."

He exhorted for involvement and defense of rights, claiming that "as long as we have basic constitutional rights, we must use them, or they will atrophy or be ran over roughshod. When government and corporate institutions violate the law, the people are the only restraint. ...The thread that must run through everything is a whole range of democratic participation."

Nader did not play media-personality games. He answered questions until he was requested to leave the stage. He then discussed problems with a group of students until 12:30 a.m. His main concern was the distribution of information and enticement of people toward involvement.

"The ultimate corporate power is the ability to take a crime and make it legal."

He concluded that "The ultimate corporate power is the ability to take a crime and make it legal," and added that, as far as the corporations and technologies such as solar energy, efficient automobiles or free public communications are concerned, "anything that threatens scarcity with abundance will be repressed."

Despite his critics, the man is admirable. His energy level and commitment to change was high. After his 90 minute lecture, he was still intent to discuss and share with people; his audience tired before he did. Nader was thoughtful and thorough, seeming more like a gawky country lawyer, with his thin tie and tousled hair, than a Washington sophisticate. His concern was for facts to flow freely, and for free people to act on them, not personal aggrandizement.

By MgM



Board of Directors are: the chairperson of the Board of Franklin Life Insurance Company in Springfield; the Chairperson of the Board of Signode Corporation in Glenview, manufacturers of steel and plastic strapping and packaging systems; the Executive Vice President of International Harvester in Chicago; the Chairperson of the Finance Committee of Motorola, Inc., in Franklin Park; and the Dean of the College of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of Illinois. These are the men who hold big chunks of IPC stock and power; to claim that their interests lie in giving the Illinois family a fair deal on their electric bill would be to have achieved blindness by an act of will.

The Federal Energy Administration estimates that American industry could reduce its energy consumption by one half without reducing output or causing unemployment. However, neither the present rates nor the rate hike will promote such conservation on the part of industry: industry rates will not even rise 15%, like residential rates will. On the other hand, Lifeline requires big commercial users to pay the same rate as residential users pay for electricity beyond the basic amount that is a necessity of life. There's nothing like cash outflow to make businesses re-examine wasteful policies; and, similarly, residential users who cut down on wasted energy will be rewarded by a larger decrease in their electric bills.

The Federal Energy Administration is advancing legislation for a different program designed to provide poor people relief from high utility bills. The program is energy stamps, and it's basically the same as food stamps. Poor people can buy, say, \$75 worth of electricity coupons for \$25, and the government will pay the difference.

Bert De Leeuw, in an article called "Energy Stamps - The Wrong Way to Go", brings up three points against the energy stamp system.

The first disadvantage is obvious to anyone who's ever applied for or received any kind of welfare. Faulty eligibility standards, red tape, bureaucracy, disrespect - these are things that poor people already have to deal with at the welfare office and the food stamp office.

Secondly, the energy stamp program lets the power company stockholders sit back on the same outrageous pile of profits. The taxpayers (low and moderate income Americans, remember - rich ones don't have to pay) will bear the cost of the program, and commerce and industry will be able to enjoy the same cut rates they do now without having to worry about conservation. And it's about time for utilities, 52 of which paid no federal income taxes in 1974 while receiving \$217 million in "refunds of back taxes", to take some responsibility for unfair rates. Basically, though, the energy stamp system doesn't redistribute income much at all: the rich still get richer.

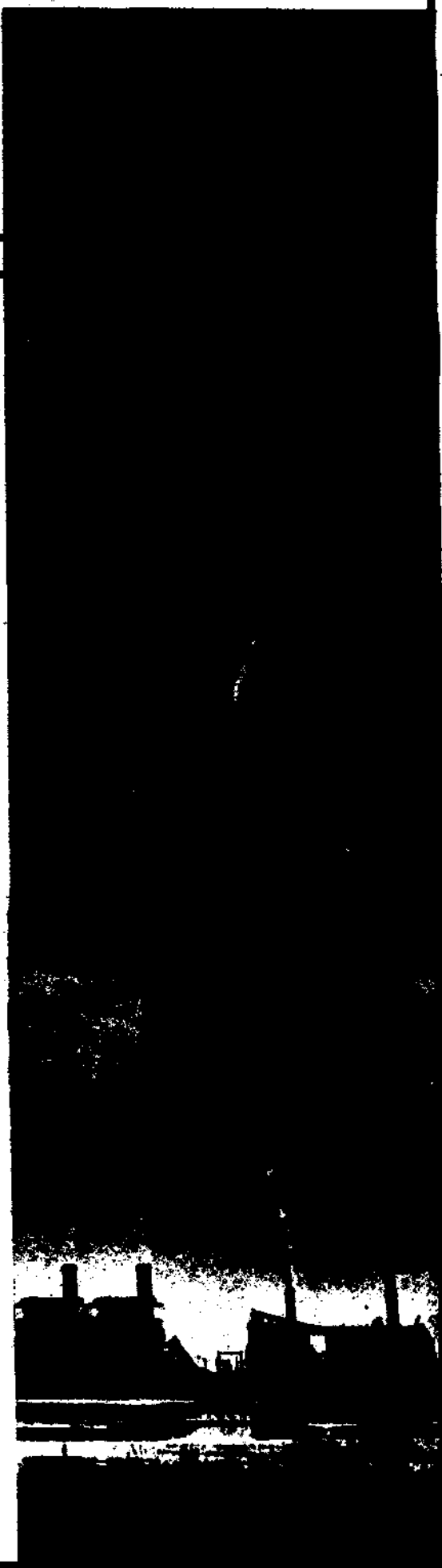
Finally, a program like energy stamps creates a division between poor and "just-making-it" people. The "just-making-its" feel resentful because they aren't eligible for the program, and the poor feel humiliated by one more welfare agency. These feelings are based on an artificial distinction, really; economic reforms like Lifeline are in the interests of poor, low-income, and moderate-income people - all three groups are being exploited under the present utility system, and need to seek solutions in unified action.

-Phoebe Caulfield
(Thanks to Illinois Power Project and Movement for Economic Justice)

Nader Inspired Action Group to Form

Because of the challenges presented by Mr. Nader, a group of ISU students, calling themselves the Citizen's Action Research Group, are forming to explore issues and possible actions.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 30, at People's Park (South Park, I.S.U., corner of Beaufort and University), at 5:30 p.m. This will be a pot-luck dinner, everyone is invited to bring food or drink that you feel is safe for others to eat. Further actions of the group will be discussed following the meal. For info, call 829-3576. Non-students, IWU students, and community folks are welcome.



Pantagraph Proscribes

This is a letter which never appeared in the Pantagraph. I sent it on August 30, 1976. Please note that it is under 350 words, that it is about an issue important to people in our community, and that its tone is reasonable.

Editor, Daily Pantagraph:

I'm writing about Mark Spencer's article in Sunday's Pantagraph ("Housing, Cash Shortages Linked"). The article points out that it's especially difficult for people with children to find apartments in Bloomington-Normal. Spencer doesn't mention, though, that the Pantagraph helps make it difficult.

It is illegal for a landlord to enforce a "no children" rule in renting out an apartment. State's Attorney Paul Welch told a Post-American reporter (March, 1976) that the Illinois Revised Statutes prohibits a landlord from refusing to rent because the prospective renters have children. He also said that it was illegal for a landlord to write a clause in the lease which bars children from living in the apartment. The law carries a \$50 to \$100 fine for anyone found guilty of violating it.

The Pantagraph allows "For Rent" advertisers to include "no children" in their classified ads, anyway. This practice (although not itself illegal) perpetuates illegal discrimination against people with children, since families will usually not bother to call the places so advertised.

Sincerely,
Susie Day

On September 1, the Pantagraph sent me a letter asking me to call in and tell them that I'm a real person. The letter said that since they'd not been able to find my name listed in local directories, they wanted to check and make sure that there was such a person.

I called that afternoon to verify my existence. I told the woman who answered the phone who I was, and that I was listed in the ISU phone book under Virginia Susan Day (I

go by my middle name). She was very friendly, and said that she'd seen that listing and had wondered if that was me. She said, "So you're an instructor at ISU?" I said yes. Then she said, "So you don't work on the Post-American?" I said yes, I do that too. Then she cheerily said goodbye, and so did I. I didn't know that I'd just been pumped.

On September 8, I got this letter from the Pantagraph:

Dear Letter Writers:

We realize that your work for the Post-American is not your principal occupation. But, as we would not accept a letter from one of our own employees condemning the Post-American, we will not extend our policy to the employees or non-salaried volunteers of another Journal.

If we were to find fault with the Post-American, it would be done in our editorial column. We suggest that course is open to you in the Post-American columns.

Sincerely,


Harold Liston, Editor
The Daily Pantagraph

Note that this letter doesn't make any sense. The second sentence is very strange. Besides spelling Post-American wrong, Liston displays some definite logic problems (which you probably already knew from reading his editorials).

The second paragraph is easier to understand. Basically, it says, "Go print your opinions in your own newspaper."

IAA..WHERE GIRLS ARE GIRLS, AND BOYS ARE BOYS...

Getting a job is never easy but some places make it even more difficult, IAA (Illinois Agricultural Association) for example. I happened to be a female in search of any job which does not include waitress or secretarial work. I may as well be searching for an albatross. But back to the tale at hand. It seems that no matter where I go nor how big the company is (and thus having more positions available), I am invariably asked to take a typing test. Would I always be asked that question if I were a male? By the time I got around to applying at IAA I was quite tired of this routine.

During my interview with IAA's personnel person, a Mrs. Beale, I found that almost all the jobs down to the lowest clerking job required some typing. So I asked about the switchboard. There were some openings on the switchboard but I couldn't have the job because, according to Mrs. Beale, the switchboard women were middle aged, and what would they find to talk to me about? Good heavens, those women even had kids my own age! Besides, IAA has a policy which segregates its workers according to age, with the secretaries, switchboard women, etc. all being the same age.

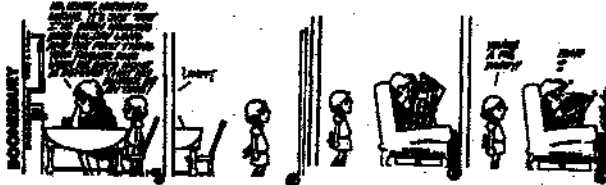
Personally, I find it stultifying to only associate with those your own age-you get fewer opposing points of view or lifestyles-and I told Mrs. Beale so. I asked Mrs. Beale point blank if I could have the job if I were willing to try getting along with the older women. (I've had several older women friends.) "No. We try to keep the young women with the young and the older with the old."

So I asked about being an errand person or a warehouse clerk. I perked up when I learned the warehouse had openings-that was more my line than typing! When I drew Mrs. Beale's at-

tention to the warehouse job she said, "You wouldn't want to work there. It's dirty in there." I said, "Oh, I wouldn't mind. What kind of work would it be?"

"You wouldn't like it. You'd have to lift heavy boxes and drive a truck. It's not something you'd want to do."

What it really boiled down to was that they weren't going to give me the chance to find out whether I'd like it.



Feeling a bit miffed, I called the Bloomington Human Relations Commission to let them know how sexist/ageist IAA is. I thought they'd like to know since their job is to keep track of/do something about things of this nature. I was surprised to find that the Human Relations Commission doesn't want to hear about a company's discriminatory hiring practices unless you want something specific from them, such as HR going in the company and legally getting the job you were refused. And after the battle is over and you get the job you'd better be willing to take it too, even though you probably won't have an easy time with your co-workers or boss.

I mentioned to the HR person that I thought they wanted leads like this to better do their job. The reply was unexpected. They don't investigate complaints like this unless I am willing to take the job, because it would "needlessly" ruffle too many big business feathers.

--Jacqui T.

OPERATION RECYCLE WANTS YOUR GARBAGE



Operation Recycle's next drive will take place on Saturday, October 30. Pick-up sites will be the parking lot at College and Main Sts. in Normal, and Sears parking lot at Eastland.

Tin cans, glass bottles, aluminum cans, and newspapers will be accepted, but some preparation should be done before bringing your recyclables to the pick-up site. Check the following guidelines:

- Tin cans -- remove all paper
- Glass bottles -- paper labels are OK, but all metal rings, etc. should be removed
- Aluminum cans -- usually beer cans, no mixed tin & aluminum cans
- Newspapers -- bring them in grocery sacks, not bundled

No magazines or scrap paper will be accepted.

Post in Letters Page

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Also note that the date on the letter is Sept. 3, but it was postmarked Sept. 7.

It's clear from this letter that the Pantagraph's refusal to print my letter was based on the fact that I work on the newspaper that the article about the law against discrimination appeared in. I didn't even write the article; I just work on the same newspaper. Any Post-Amerikan reader could have written the same letter.

And did. I still thought that it was important for Pantagraph readers to know about the law, so I talked with a friend who doesn't work on the Post-Amerikan, and she decided to write a letter saying basically the same thing. We thought that since she's not a Post worker--just a regular reader--she'd be able to make the point in a letter to the editor.

This is the letter she sent on Sept. 11:

Editor, the Pantagraph:

In a Sept. 1 editorial, the Pantagraph seems to sympathize with the plight of families with children who can't find apartments in Bloomington-Normal. The Pantagraph's sympathy, however, is not reflected in its classified ad pages, where landlords advertise their apartments with the limitation "no children."

In March, I read an article in the Post-Amerikan which cited an Illinois law saying that landlords can't legally refuse to rent to people simply because they have children. State's Attorney Paul Welch confirmed this, saying that discrimination against families by landlords can be punished by a \$50 to \$100 fine.

Allowing classified ads that say "no children" only encourages landlords to discriminate and, further, discourages families from calling about apartments that they would legally be able to rent. I feel that the Pantagraph should not condone illegal renting policies by allowing such ads to be run, and should not passively participate in the limiting of opportunity of families who may be ignorant of the law.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Sutherland

The letter was finally printed in the Pantagraph on Sept. 15--with one change. The Pantagraph removed the phrase "in the Post-Amerikan," so the letter just reads, "I read an article which cited..." The Pantagraph never called Ms. Sutherland about the change--or about whether she worked on the Post.

So now we know that the Pantagraph's real gripe with my letter was not that it criticized the Pantagraph, nor that it was written by a Post staff person, but that it mentioned the name of the Post-Amerikan as the paper which had researched the law I wrote about. I guess when they got Marilyn's letter, they knew that they'd better try a different avoidance tactic: a more direct one.

The twenty-five or so people who work on the Post-Amerikan can relax. For a while there it looked like none of them would ever be able to get a critical letter to the editor printed in the Pantagraph. But now we know that as long as the words Post-Amerikan don't appear in the letter, it's OK; and if those nasty words do appear, the Pantagraph will take care of them for us.

Growing like
a weed....

THAT OTHER PLACE

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PIPES

**BONGS
PAPERS**

PARAPHERNALIA

GAY PRISONERS APPEAL

10

PRESCRIPTION FOR PRAYER

Appeal for Gay Prisoners!

As a gay prisoner, and active member of National Gay Prisoners Coalition and the National Gay Task Force, I am appealing to you for needed help in Gay Prisoners Rights cases. Your past support, letters, funds have helped win several cases involving gay rights in prison. We ask you to send funds to "Sister Evelyn Ancilla, Convent of Transfiguration, 495 Alhion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45246, c/o Gay Prisoner's Defense Fund," which will pay for legal help, education, and other important needs to overcome the oppression by government prison officials who have placed Gays on the lowest level in prisons.

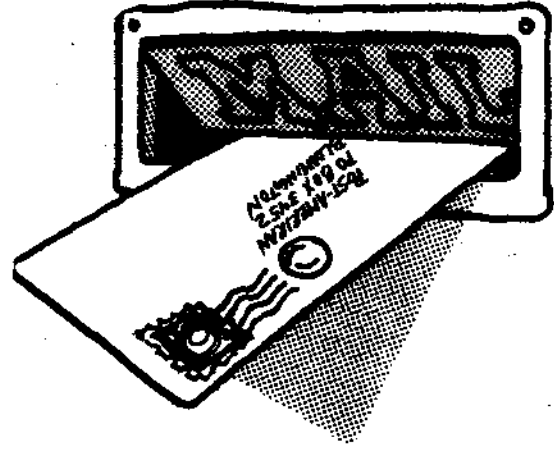
Your help will be deeply appreciated in all respect.

Yours in gay unity,
John Gibbs
National Gay Prisoners Coalition

POST:

It was interesting to read the article in the September '76 issue of your newspaper "Somebody Call the Doctor....as the wart turns."

I visited Dr. Philip Holwick at Doctor's Park on East Washington Street in Bloomington on July 26, 1974. It was also a surprise for me to find copies of "The Late Great Planet Earth" and the many other pamphlets of the "God-wants-you" variety in the waiting room instead of the usual reading materials.



We talked in the exam room very little about the reason for my visit, but instead a great deal about belief in God. One of his first questions was, "Do you believe in God?" He answered his own question, telling me how we must all truly believe in our hearts and how the world will come to an end if we do not believe.

At the end of our talk, I received a prescription: a copy of "The Late Great Planet Earth" which I was to be sure and pass on to a friend after I had read it myself; and a bill for \$15.00 which was to be paid before I left his office.

Needless to say, the prescription did not help and I therefore made an appointment with Dr. Aavik (another local dermatologist), waiting nearly a month before I could get in to see him.

His waiting room looked like the usual medical waiting room. His questions in the exam room were on a medical level and in a very short time I had a prescription in my hands. He was a competent doctor with a prescription which started to help right away after taking, and worked completely within the next 3-day period, which is how long he said it would take for the complete effect of it.

Has anyone else had the misfortune of receiving a free \$15.00 paperback book and losing time from work?

Mr. D. L. Buchholz

COED P.E. --PAIN OR PROMISE?

Post-American,

I would like to comment on the new co-ed P.E. classes at B.H.S. While I see nothing too drastically wrong with them, I do share the same attitude as many of the young men at Bloomington High School. Girls, you wanted equal opportunity and now you have it. That does not mean, though, that the runner rounding third base hasn't got the intention of crashing into the catcher with the ball, whether it be a he or a she. Flag football will be just as competitive, as will basketball and softball. My main point comes from an old saying of which I do not know the author and that is, "If you're going to play with the varsity, expect to get treated like the varsity."

Thank you.

Name withheld by request

POST NOTE: While we agree that many girls in co-ed PE classes will not enjoy playing games roughly, we'd like everyone to remember that there have also been hundreds of boys who never enjoyed rough games either. These boys and young men don't protest much about getting crashed into, probably because they feel society's pressure to be "manly." But they still hate it.

Also, many, many girls and young women have hated female PE classes for years. They've been forced to do modern dance when they really want to play football. And these girls, like some boys, are willing to accept roughness as part of the game.

We think that probably if our culture didn't put pressure on people about their masculinity or femininity, some people would choose rough competitive team sports and some would choose activities like dance, gymnastics, and archery-- but the division between these two groups would not be determined by sex, but by individual personality.



"Wattaya mean, 2 I.D.'s?"

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One Dollar Off Coupon

GOOD UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 1976

ANOTHER AAMCO WARNING

Post:

Concerning the letter about Aamco and the service received:

We, too, would like to tell of our experience. I felt like I didn't get treatment to promote their business. We had trouble starting our car and it wouldn't move at first after putting it in drive.

We took it to Aamco one morning and by the next morning early, we received a call stating they had removed the transmission and it did indeed need a new one. We could either have a rebuilt one put in for \$325, and no guarantee with it, or a brand new one for \$394, and a guarantee for the life of the car.

Well, our daughter needs it for school, so we told them to go ahead and put a new one in, fully trusting them. We didn't hear from them for 3-4 days, so we called them long-distance and they said it could be picked up on the lot the next day. The next morning we took off from work and drove another car and driver down to pick it up.

That car wouldn't even go off the lot. It did exactly the same thing it did when we brought it to the station. We left it there with the idea that it would be corrected soon, and again several days to a week passed. Finally, after we called, they gave us a date to pick it up. Another special trip and we were told this time it was in another part of the transmission (the brain or something related to a pressure problem). The car looked like a greasy, oily mess and when we asked what happened they said "Drive it down to a car wash." We were already late, so we just drove it home. Incidentally, we wrote a check for the amount in full the first time the car was picked up, even before driving off the lot. We had just assumed it was fixed. So they didn't have the excuse of non-payment.

Each time lapse between jobs was a week to 10 days.

We now took it home and started using it. After about 3-4 days, one morning a big spot of red transmission oil laid on the garage floor. We again called and were told to bring it back again. Now this job had really cost us, with at least 3 trips back and forth tying up 2 cars.

They kept the car about 2 weeks this time and each time we called, they said they hadn't been able to find out the trouble. Finally, they had to order a part not kept in the station.

When it was done, it looked like some mechanic had lain all over the seats and wiped his feet all over the carpeting. Just made you want to cry. I jumped all over them and again received the stock answer, "Just take it over to the car wash." Well, I just wanted to get out of there so I took it home and washed and waxed and got the carpet cleaner and tried to get the inside back to normal. It took several applications to get the carpeting all cleaned.

We wrote a letter protesting this treatment to the home office of Aamco, and they contacted this station but didn't do a thing. I don't see how people in business can give this type of service and keep getting people to come to them. I will never again ask them to look at my car and will not fail to tell everyone I know to stay away from them.

-- N. L.

POLICE STATE PROTEST

Dear Post:

I managed to get away from McLean County's madness for the summer, but what do I find on my return? More of the same crap.

I've always been a very peaceful, mellow person, but I think the police state tactics being used in this area are pretty close to the last straw.

Here in Central Illinois, we have nazis for policemen. The old slogan, "The policeman is your friend," is a blatant lie down here. (And most anywhere, for that matter.) I would never call child molesters, strong arm enforcers, thieves and liars my friends; and I doubt any of you would either. Many of the profiteering businesspeople of this area aren't any better either, from the looks of things.

Who the hell do they think they are? This sure isn't the land of the free I was raised to think of as America. I'd bet over half of these "friends" carrying badges were raised on nothing but old reruns of Dragnet, the Untouchables, and Adam-12. (Maybe even Combat.)

Dearest Post-Amerikan:

I would like to commend you on a most excellent paper. My boss just gave me a copy to read and I couldn't put it down until I was finished.

The September issue is really great!! For this reason, I am sending \$2.50 for a 12-issue subscription. I plan to pass this issue around my hometown which is Canton, Illinois. As you know, we had a big bust there about six or seven months ago. A lot of my friends were arrested and are just now being sentenced. I'm sure they would more than appreciate your paper; especially the "Swine Flu" articles.

My girlfriend's brother was busted in the previously mentioned raid, and her story was rather similar in the brutality bit. When she answered the door, a gun was stuck in her nose and she was questioned as to the whereabouts of her brother rather rudely. This was early in the morning, like 2 a.m. What a way to be greeted at your door at 2 a.m., huh!? Although they never pushed her around, her brother was shoved and handcuffed at gunpoint when he finally got home. Quite a few families in Canton experienced the same thing, so I'm sure your paper will be a big hit!

Thanks for such a good paper!! There's not many left around here!

Peace--

Margaret Black

I've got a message to all those carrying badges who feel they have a right to violate our God-given rights in the name of upholding them: Stop it right now! We are sick and tired of being crushed under your nazi boot heel. We are not going to take much more. When peace-loving people are raised to outrage, it is time to stop; you've gone too far.

Stop this hypocrisy, or your kind will surely perish in a revolution, perhaps much sooner than you think.

Thank you,

A Reader

DOWN AND OUT

Help:

Just what does one have to do to get help when you're so down and out you don't know where your next meal is coming from, let alone your rent and utilities? You struggle through life barely making ends meet at times, never asking for help when you've needed it so many times.

After twenty-five beautiful loving years of marriage and three sons, two grandchildren, your husband becomes the victim of terminal cancer and the bottom drops out of your life.

You exhaust all your funds, borrow from friends and relatives until you're ashamed. You're really down and out. You beg for help. You finally get food stamps to keep from starving. You try to get county, township, or state help temporarily for rent and utilities until your husband's Social Security checks start coming (if you're eligible). You can't seem to find anyone who cares enough to lend a helping hand without wanting your hand in return.

More than five weeks of this: How much can one take?

Thanks for listening.

Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Wojtczak



Narcs Asking State for Funds

A committee with representatives from each of Illinois' seven MEG undercover drug squads will ask the Illinois legislature for money this fall, according to a September 1 story in the Peoria Journal Star.

David Watkins, who is treasurer of the 6-county Peoria based MEG which operates in this area, is co-chairman of the state-wide narc committee.

For the last several years, MEG units have depended on federal funds channelled through the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), supplemented by cash and personnel provided by local units of government.

Earlier reports that MEG may dismantle itself were based on the scheduled ending of ILEC funds at the end of 1976.

But ILEC has already authorized 6 more months of funding for the Peoria-based MEG. In addition, the state-wide MEG committee is exploring the possibility of continued ILEC funding on a permanent basis.

One funding alternative is to force local governments--cities and counties--to absorb the full expense of MEG.

But MEG treasurer Watkins is hopeful that MEG lobbying will convince the legislature to appropriate enough money to keep the undercover operations alive. Even a full year ago, MEG board members were alert to the need to curry favor with state legislators.

At that time, MEG's monthly board meetings were hours-long steak and cocktails affairs at the Highland Hills Country Club.

(The attendance of Post-American reporters later influenced board members to shorten their meetings to only a few minutes with no refreshments.)

MEG board members 'wined and dined' several state legislators at a meeting in late September, 1975.

According to the Peoria Journal Star (10/15/75), MEG board members asked the legislators to "go to bat" for state funding for MEG when ILEC-channeled federal money runs out.

Last November, a Post reporter caught a brief glimpse of a letter from representative Gerald Bradley to Harold Bosshardt, Bloomington Police Chief, and chairman of the 6-county MEG board.

Dated October 2, 1975, the letter began, "Just a note regarding the MEG meeting in Peoria. Needless to say I enjoyed myself very much."

The letter continued, but the reporter's note-taking was interrupted: "You can't look at that file." The reporter was in the Springfield office of John Fahenstock, the ILEC staff member who designed and oversees the entire state-wide MEG system.

ILEC director David Fogel had just found out that this Post reporter was actually in ILEC's Springfield office going through

ILEC files on MEG. Fogel called from Chicago, and told the reporter to get away from those files. Fogel followed up with a courteous invitation to examine (under supervision of ILEC staffer and MEG creator John Fahenstock) the ILEC "master file" on MEG. However, the Gerald Bradley letter was mysteriously missing from all files on MEG that Post reporters were subsequently allowed to see.

It's possible that other documents are lifted from the supposedly public MEG files when Post-American reporters request them for inspection. There's no way to tell.

Though the Post reporter didn't have time to record the exact wording, the remainder of Bradley's letter to MEG chairman Bosshardt contained an expression of sympathy for the funding problems MEG faces. Bradley did not commit himself to take any action on MEG's behalf, but he did leave that possibility open.

In requests for state funding, MEG officials will undoubtedly spout a bunch of statistics to show what a great job they are doing. They had better get their statistics together somewhat more than they have been.

A summary of various ILEC evaluations contains this statement: "A review of the MEG unit data compiled and submitted by the IBI MEG monitors revealed gross inconsistencies within the reports. Monthly data aggregated over various time spans did not agree with quarterly, semi-annual or annual reports; similarly, quarterly reports aggregated over various time spans did not agree with semi-annual or annual reports, etc."

Narcs set each other up : both found guilty

This is a strange and complicated story.

I'll begin it the way the Peoria Journal Star began it on their front page, September 16:

"The Elmwood Police Department had an informant working for it on drug investigations in February.

"At the same time, MEG had an informant working for it.

"The Elmwood police informant 'set up' the MEG unit's informant, and the MEG informant 'set up' the Elmwood informant."

Each informant has now been found guilty of a drug sale to the other.

William Clyde Martin, the MEG informer, is now doing 5 to 10 years for selling LSD to the Elmwood police. Martin was a MEG "special employee" (narc terminology for informer) at the time he had made the sale, which was set up by the Elmwood police's informer.

The Elmwood informant was Willie Vowell. He was found guilty September 15 of selling drugs to MEG's informant, William Martin. MEG is responsible for that arrest.

Both of these men were selling drugs. How did they become "special employees" in narcotics investigations for two different agencies?

William Martin became a MEG informer after MEG busted him for marijuana in January of 1976.

Willie Vowell testified that he began working for the Elmwood police after being stopped for a headlight violation by the Elmwood police chief.

After frisking Vowell, the chief found some secondal, and then the pressure began. Vowell spent five hours with Elmwood cop Ronald Ptaskins, Ptaskins wanted to clean up Peoria County. He even testified in Vowell's defense at the trial.

Explaining what went on at that 5-hour interrogation, Elmwood cop Ptaskins testified that he told Vowell (who he was trying to recruit as an informant) that William Martin was "Number one on our hit parade." (At this very time, remember, William Martin is

working for MEG in order to get out of his own marijuana charge.)

Vowell testified that after this 5-hour conference at the Elmwood police station, he agreed to become an informer.

"They said if I worked with them, they wouldn't charge me for the Secondal," he testified.

Part of the pressure was Vowell's other outstanding charges: he was already on probation for marijuana, and was awaiting trial charged with selling a substance represented to be a controlled substance.

The Elmwood police department's supervising officer in drug investigation, Ronald Ptaskins, even knew that his informer was selling drugs, testimony revealed.

Informer Vowell told officer Ptaskins that he (Vowell) had sold to William Martin and another person who he was afraid was a cop. Ptaskins testified that he responded by warning his informer that he wasn't to sell drugs.

While still working for the Elmwood police, Vowell made a second sale to William Martin. Vowell told his supervising officer Ptaskins about that sale too, Ptaskins admitted in court. But he apparently didn't do anything about it.

About two or three weeks after that second sale to Martin, Vowell was successful in getting Martin to sell LSD to an Elmwood undercover cop. Vowell had fulfilled his obligation to the Elmwood police.

All these facts were presented as defense testimony in Vowell's trial. The judge still found Vowell guilty, saying that the testimony presented was only relevant to possibly lessening the degree of punishment Vowell receives at sentencing time.

All of the above information is taken from the Peoria Journal Star's front page story of September 16.

Additional information comes from the Journal Star of April 29 and August 4. Those papers report that William Martin made the sale in early March, that he received \$3800 for what was supposed to be five ounces (140 grams) of LSD, and that the amount actually sold was 130 grams.



MEG head Jerry LaGrow (above) had LSD dealer working as a MEG special employee. While so employed, the informer was caught by another narc agency selling 5 ounces of LSD for \$3800. LaGrow said last May that he had personally made 30 undercover buys in Bloomington; there haven't been any arrests yet.

Now Jerry LaGrow, Director of MEG, testified in court in a different LSD delivery case, that in his entire 8 or 9 years as a narcotics agent, he had never seen more than one ounce of LSD involved in a case. LaGrow's testimony in this completely separate LSD case was reported in the Journal Star July 24, 1976.

But we know that in early March, 1976, Jerry LaGrow's very own informer, William Martin, was caught selling almost five ounces of LSD to an Elmwood police officer. So either LaGrow committed perjury, or else he's been "misquoted" again.

--M.S.

What Can You Do To Help?

First of all, we need MARCHERS: but we also need people with vans and large autos, to help people without wheels get to the march, and to transport people from Franklin Park back to downtown Bloomington, after the music is over. If you can't come that day, we need you to take care of the children who are too young to march, so others can march. We need artists to silkscreen posters, make signs and banners, and we need your old sheets to make the banners. Better yet, make banners yourselves, and bring your own signs; maybe even make a few extra for someone else to carry. We need a portable PA system, which we'll power by a gasoline generator. And we need musicians to play into the system, and people to speak into the microphones. We need leafletters, people to spread the word, organize your neighborhood, apartment, or dorm. And lastly, we need cash--to cover expenses of printing thousands of leaflets to distribute all over and postage to mail bundles of posters and leaflets to people organizing in other towns. We need cash to cover dozens of phone calls to folks in other towns who want to help, and money to rent the generator, and to rent the PA system, if it becomes necessary. If you could spare a few bucks, we would appreciate it. Send to March Against MEG Committee, PO Box 3002, Bloomington, and we'll take it from there.

But of course, and most of all, we need you, and your active participation on October 9 at Bloomington City Hall. See ya there!



?????

We took this narc's photo without him knowing it last May. We still don't know his name or place of operation. If you know, call 828-7232.



Rally and March Against MEG Set for October 9

A large rally and march to peacefully demonstrate widespread public opposition to the Multi-county Enforcement Group (MEG) is planned for Saturday October 9 in Bloomington.

The march comes at a time when MEG, once thought to be dying for lack of financial support, is planning an aggressive campaign to get semi-permanent funding through the state legislature.

Everyone who is opposed to MEG's continued funding is invited to participate in the activities. Bring banners and signs expressing your feelings about MEG or undercover spies in general.

Action will begin at Bloomington City Hall at 1 pm. After a short rally, the march will proceed through downtown Bloomington, continuing to Franklin Park. At the park there will be music, speakers, a mellow Indian summer afternoon, our collective unity, and a shared vision of life free from

worrying about spies in our homes, at our jobs, in our schools, or at our places of recreation.

Things will shut down about 4 pm. All during the events at Franklin Park, rides will be available for people who wish to return to the cars they left in downtown Bloomington.

The march and rally will be peaceful, with no confrontation with the police. To eliminate any possible police tension stemming from lack of communication with march organizers, we have already met with Bloomington's chief of police, and explained the march route and afternoon's agenda. The meeting was productive and cooperative, so October 9 promises to be a fine afternoon, full of free expression and enjoyment. Please come.

--Mike Matejka & Mark Silverstein, initiators, March Against MEG Committee.

for information and to volunteer, call Mark or Mike at 828-7232, or 828-6885.

Why March Against MEG?

What good will marching do? Isn't MEG dying? I'm not a drug dealer; why should I oppose MEG?

During its short existence, the Multi-county Enforcement Group (MEG) has compiled an extensive record of abuse of power, improper conduct and civil liberties violations, leaving behind strung-out and broken lives, complicated by false arrests and entrapment, and taxed by burdens of extensive legal fees.

For a while, it looked like MEG was dying, with its federal funds ending.

This is false. MEG's federal funds have been extended through mid-1977. And most importantly, the local MEG, along with the 6 other Illinois MEG units, is planning an intensive lobbying campaign before the Illinois state legislature.

Yes, McLean County has left MEG. But the City of Bloomington is still an active member. The cities of Morton, Chillicothe, and Monmouth are about to join MEG. And now, even though their "dues" would more than double, cities in the Peoria-Pekin area are willing to foot MEG's bill, even without state funding. The Pekin police chief said he would "beg, borrow, or steal" to keep MEG in business.

The issue of MEG's state funding was headed quietly into Springfield's smoke-filled rooms for the back-room big shots to decide in relative privacy.

Our rally and march will force the issue of MEG's funding onto the front pages, clearing the smoke away and holding up the question for public discussion.

MEG is a direct threat to the promise of a free country. The Nixon White House popularized subversion and "dirty tricks" in the national political process. Under Nixon, we were spied upon, photographed and thwarted by the FBI, internationally haunted by the CIA, and harassed by the IRS, simply for exercising our constitutional rights of free speech and assembly. MEG is a Nixon child. Its Gestapo-like secret police tactics of setting neighbors spying on each other, its record of fear, intimidation, and entrapment, is a direct threat to all Americans, not just drug dealers and users.

Those in power can easily use MEG-type networks of informers to find out other useful information: for example, the informer MEG helped place in Pekin High

was also told to report on teachers who discussed communism or homosexuality in class.

This fall, MEG hopes to sneak before the state legislature for a monetary shot in the arm. It will go with thick dossiers and inflated arrest records. And it will be funded, if we don't rise up to tell its true story. If, before the state legislature, MEG's illegal record isn't exposed, we will be dealing with more of the same. And who knows when MEG, or similar organizations, are going to boldly move beyond "drug problems," and start infiltrating political organizations, labor unions, or campuses?

The challenge now rests with us. Only an outspoken and concerned citizenry, open and up front, can expose these fly-by-night kiddie-kops for what they are.

MEG comes--not in broad daylight, but in the dead of night--when people are alone and isolated, to wreak its terror. Only if we appear, hundreds strong in full sunlight, will we be able to expose this menace.

MEG isn't dead; but then, we're not either.

--Mark Silverstein
Mike Matejka, initiators of the March Against MEG Committee.

(Oct. 9, 1 pm, Bloomington City Hall, marching to Franklin Park. See ya there!)

Use the Centerfold!

In the middle of this issue, you'll find a provocative poster, exciting you to rise up against MEG. There are numerous ways you can use this to thrill you: You can hang it in your room, and have secret dreams about October 9, when we march against MEG. You can have underground-subversive thrills, and sneak out on a foggy night and tack it to your favorite telephone pole, enticing passing pedestrians the next day. Or even more sneaky, you can paste it to your favorite narc's car or front door. And finally, on October 9, you can tack it to poster-board, put it on a stick, and carry it through the streets of Bloomington. See ya then.

Probe Proves Many Anti-MEG

MEG Solicits Crimes, Uses Entrapment

ACLU charged that "MEG has resorted to entrapment and solicitation of illegal acts." The ACLU further stated, "To gain evidence to make arrests, undercover agents posing as 'friends' solicit target persons to sell them drugs, using as 'buy money' funds that have been allocated to that purpose from MEG's cash support."

The IBI investigation turned up several cases where, according to the ILEC Executive Committee, MEG "special employees" (informers) used entrapment to set people up. The IBI investigation turned up no concrete evidence to show that full-time MEG Agents had committed entrapment, though at the same time there was a \$1 million suit pending which alleged such entrapment by Agent Robert Edwards.

The Committee, choosing to interpret the ACLU's allegation narrowly (by refusing to use the term "agent" to include a paid "special employee") said it did not have enough evidence to make any judgment on this ACLU charge. "Thus, the Committee believes that the extent to which entrapment or solicitation occurs in connection with MEG cases is an open question, as is whether MEG Agents or only MEG special employees may have engaged in or encouraged such activities."

One specific case of entrapment the ACLU brought out is the Sammy Neal case. At the time of its press conference listing their wide variety of charges against MEG, ACLU also announced that it had filed a \$1 million suit against MEG on behalf of Sammy Neal for entrapment. The IBI investigated some of the specific facts alleged by ACLU in its suit.

Sammy Neal was arrested for selling a controlled substance to MEG Agent Robert J. Edwards. But Sammy Neal had obtained the controlled substance from Shelby Stiger, who was employed by MEG at the time as a "special employee." In fact, when Stiger gave the substance to Neal, it was with the

stipulation that Neal would pass it on to Edwards. The ILEC report admits that these facts are true. However, they point out that there is no concrete evidence to prove that "special employee" Shelby Stiger had actually conspired with MEG Agent Edwards to set Neal up.

In other words, the ILEC report does not assume that MEG must take responsibility for the conduct of its "special employees"—only its agents. And the question of whether there was a pre-arranged deal with

the actual MEG agent in the Neal case is still open until the matter is decided in court.

Other cases of entrapment dealt with in the ILEC report concern the conduct of MEG Agent Ford J. Conley during the time he was a mere "special employee" of MEG. The ILEC report admits that these are cases of entrapment, and possibly cases of actual illegal "special employee" misconduct. This is explained further in the story in this issue on why Ford Conley was fired by MEG.

ACLU Says: ILEC Letting MEG Off Hook

The standards of responsibility ILEC applies to MEG are too loose, ACLU chairperson Tom Eimermann says. Eimermann's criticism was contained in a letter which serves as ACLU's official response to the ILEC Executive Committee report which evaluated anti-MEG charges leveled by ACLU in Oct., 1975.

Eimermann notes that the ILEC report "demonstrates numerous instances of inappropriate behavior on the part of special employees, MEG agents, and MEG's executive director." "But," Eimermann continues,

"no one seems to hold MEG responsible for the acts of its employees. For example, the committee seems quite willing to forgive admitted cases of entrapment because the perpetrator was a 'special employee' rather than an 'agent.' We firmly believe that when the ILEC and the contributing governmental units go out and recruit these special employees and then create the type of rewards schedule involved, it must take full responsibility

for the consequences of those employees' actions. Your report documents numerous violation of ILEC guidelines, yet we fail to see how Walter (Jerry) LaGrow or the Peoria MEG unit are held accountable for those violations. Despite repeated instances of bad judgement, LaGrow retains his position and ILEC maintains its funding. What are the sanctions for these violations?"

Last May, when a censored 12-page version of the original 141-page IBI investigation was released, ACLU spokesperson Eimermann said, "even the censored version of the IBI report contains support for all of ACLU's major allegations." Eimermann went on to list 6 major ACLU allegations confirmed by IBI's investigation. Eimermann concluded, "The ACLU chapter believes that even this censored report provides ample evidence to justify the discontinuance of funding. We deplore the fact that members of the MEG board sought to misrepresent the actual nature of this report."

MEG Helped Enroll Spy in Pekin High

The Pekin High School informer controversy brought about ACLU's first charge of improper/illegal MEG conduct. A huge public outcry had been set off in Pekin when the school board found out that an undercover informer had been enrolled in Pekin High's East Campus without their knowledge or consent. Ray Morrelli, principal of Pekin High's West Campus, was active in secretly getting the informant, Susan Gidner, into the school system. As many as 600 citizens attended portions of the resulting extraordinary 8-day school board hearing, which ended in Morrelli's getting fired.

ACLU charged that MEG "entered into a conspiracy" with Morrelli and local police to place the informant in the high school without the knowledge of the school's administrators or the school board. "MEG was thus instrumental and cooperative in establishing a system of undercover or clandestine surveillance in the high school," ACLU charged. The ILEC report agrees with these basic facts.

However, the ILEC report points out that MEG's activities here were not illegal. It wasn't a criminal conspiracy, and cops can investigate inside a school without school board permission.

They did agree with ACLU that spying on high school age kids may be improper. Investigation of ACLU's charge of secret surveillance inside high schools brought to light previously-unknown MEG spy operations. Roland Inskip, a MEG agent who holds a teaching certificate, was slipped into Pekin High School's West campus masquerading as a study hall teacher. His assignment was to watch the kids and try to spot drug use or dealing. After five days of spying, with no violations spotted, Inskip's assignment was ended, according to the ILEC report.

The ILEC report stopped short of actually condemning the clandestine surveillance within Pekin High School. They did chide MEG Director LaGrow for not consulting with the MEG Board of Directors before agreeing to sort out "the complex policy considerations to be weighed before establishing a police presence in an educational institution."

ACLU also charged that the informant placed in Pekin High was told to make notes on teachers suspected of teaching about communism and/or homosexuality. Based on the IBI investigation, the ILEC report determined that MEG itself did not give these instructions to informer Susan Gidner. The report admitted that Gidner did receive these instructions, but she got them from local Pekin officials, not MEG. Therefore, the report concludes, the ACLU charge is not relevant to MEG.

But ILEC evades ACLU's point. ACLU's wording was careful not to actually accuse MEG of instructing the informer to spy on teaching practice; the testimony at the Pekin School Board hearing was contradictory on just who said what here. But to ACLU it was clear the MEG was already deeply involved in the combination of questionable reliability, suspect motives, and sleazy tactics that so frequently go hand-in-hand with the casual deployment of "confidential" informers. MEG packed the snow and set it atop the hill; maybe MEG didn't push it down the hill, but the agency is still partly responsible for what the snowball knocked over at the bottom.

Throughout their evaluation of the ACLU report, ILEC wants to look only at the snowball atop the hill. Throughout the report, ILEC refused to make MEG take full responsibility for its "special employees" actions, and that is one of ACLU's primary criticisms of the report.

ACLU also charged that the high school informer used a falsified transcript from Bloomington High School in order to enroll at Pekin, and that this transcript was provided by MEG Agent Bill Stephens. The body of the ILEC report admits that ACLU is correct about MEG's involvement in this forgery. But the conclusions section relevant to this ACLU charge never mentions the forged document.

The omission is conspicuous, because each "conclusions" section is painstakingly detailed about each ACLU charge. Even in areas where ACLU is not even suggesting illegal conduct, the report goes on quoting law enforcement officials who point out that a particular questionable tactic is not actually illegal. But where a charge of using a forged document is shown to be true, ILEC doesn't even explore the possibility of criminal violation.

Another conspicuous oversight on ILEC's part: in explaining how MEG supplied the informer for Pekin High School, the IBI investigators go to MEG head Jerry LaGrow. LaGrow says he was first approached by a member of the Pekin police about enrolling an undercover informer in Pekin High. LaGrow couldn't think of any informers who could pass for high school age. Later, the ILEC report says, LaGrow remembered informer Susan Gidner, whom LaGrow said he had fired for being unreliable. LaGrow set her up with the Pekin police, and she was subsequently enrolled in Pekin High with the help of the MEG-furnished falsified transcript.

But nowhere in the ILEC report is there any criticism of Jerry LaGrow for suggesting that another law enforcement agency employ an informant who he already knew to be unreliable! Also, there is no evidence in the report to indicate that LaGrow even bothered to inform the Pekin police department that he considered the informant unreliable. And yet LaGrow knew this person would be enrolled in a high school for the purpose of furnishing information on her peers!

Charges, ILEC Report Says



Read this intro first

Other ACLU Charges Explained

Another ACLU charge was that MEG Director LaGrow made irresponsible threats against advertisers in the Post-American. He did this when the Pantagraph was writing an article about the Post's campaign of printing photos of MEG agents. Referring to the alleged danger this exposure puts his agents in, LaGrow told the Pantagraph, "If any harm comes to any of my men I will look to the advertisers in the Post-American as prospects for a lawsuit."

The ACLU charged "This threat against the advertisers has no basis in law (for advertisers are not to be held legally responsible for the content of a newspaper in which they purchase space). It is clearly an attempt to intimidate advertisers from advertising in the Post-American, so that, through losing its advertising revenue, the newspaper will not have the financial basis to continue publication."

The ILEC report concludes that LaGrow did make the statement, as charged. The ILEC Executive Committee "cannot condone such utterances," the report said. "Although the Director's conduct is understandable in view of his perception of the dangers to his men, it was an unprofessional act which the Committee believes should not be repeated," the report continued.

ACLU also charged that MEG officials have "repeatedly made statements in the press assuming guilt on the part of those arrested before they have been indicted or tried."

The ILEC report examined several newspaper clippings which contained statements by MEG spokespeople. Some of those articles, the report said, substantiate the ACLU charges. The ILEC report recommends that MEG officials stop telling the press a) what crime they believe an individual has committed, b) what particular position in the drug distribution hierarchy an individual supposedly occupies, c) what particular incriminating evidence MEG has about a particular case, and d) any other statements which imply that a particular person is guilty.

ACLU also criticized MEG for its absence of accountability to any elected civilians. MEG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the sheriffs and police chiefs of the units of government contributing money or personnel to MEG.

The IBI's report on their investigation contained a statement which apparently was an attempt to refute the lack of accountability charge. It said that the MEG Director reports to the MEG Board of Directors at regular, public, monthly meetings. Even if that were true, it would not be enough to answer ACLU's concern. But at the time that the IBI reported the Director's attendance at regular public monthly meetings, he was actually purposely staying away from them! On several occasions between October 1975 and April 1976, the MEG Board officially excused Director LaGrow from attending board meetings. The reason: the presence of Post-American photographers and reporters. By spring, 1976, LaGrow was instructed to attend MEG board meetings no matter what. Since then, his photograph has been published in the ISU Vidette and the Post-American, and he claims to have ceased working undercover.

The ILEC report devotes several pages to the issue of accountability. In fact, the ILEC executive committee raised an issue not dealt with by ACLU; that MEG agents and the MEG Director are not necessarily accountable to elected civilians. The report states: "The diffusion of responsibility for supervision of the MEG unit and the consequent lessening of its accountability to civilian review, alleged by the ACLU to exist, have been established."

An investigation of charges that MEG agents used illegal and morally questionable tactics to secure drug arrests has now been officially evaluated by the Executive Committee of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC). The full ILEC Commission approved the report in late July.

Charges of improper police tactics were originally made by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in October, 1975. In response to ACLU charges, Illinois Bureau of Investigation (IBI) agents investigated, and reported to ILEC.

ILEC believes most of the facts collected by ACLU, the 70-page report reveals. However, ILEC does not agree with all of the strongly-worded conclusions ACLU draws from those same facts. ACLU's ultimate conclusion--that the charges justified an immediate end to ILEC funding of MEG--were rejected outright by the ILEC report.

In seven of ACLU's allegations, the facts unearthed by the IBI agreed with the facts according to ACLU.

One charge, the ILEC report denied.

And on the charge that MEG agents and informers have used entrapment, the ILEC report split. ILEC admitted that MEG "special employees" (informer) have been guilty of entrapment. But ILEC said it didn't have

With the presentation of the ILEC executive committee report on the IBI investigation, we know now that the IBI investigation never did clear MEG. It found MEG guilty, but ILEC's sentence was not very harsh.

Following are several articles which explain the ACLU charges against MEG, relate what the ILEC evaluation concluded on the basis of the IBI's evidence, and then (sometimes) give additional information.

enough information to judge either way on whether full-time MEG agents have stooped to entrapment. Somehow, even though the IBI investigation shows that ACLU was correct on its facts in at least 7 out of 9 charges, the MEG Board of Directors claimed that MEG was cleared.

"After carefully studying said report," MEG Chairman Bosshardt wrote regarding the not-yet-public IBI investigative results, "we... are now in a position and do hereby deny all of the material allegations made by the ACLU." Bosshardt was writing to ILEC, recommending that the 150-page compilation of IBI's investigation be suppressed from public view. He got his way. The full information contained in IBI's investigation has never surfaced. For several months in early 1976, the only public information regarding the IBI's investigation were the self-serving statements by MEG and ILEC staffers claiming that the IBI report "cleared" MEG.



MEG's Conduct in Cotton Case Provokes \$7 1/2 Million Suit



A second set of ACLU allegations against MEG stems from the Ed Cotton case, which went to jury trial in early 1975. The judge directed a verdict of not guilty, taking it out of the jury's hands. MEG had charged Cotton with delivery of LSD.

A few days later, the presiding judge, James Heiple, called back the jury and contacted reporters from all over central Illinois to come to his courtroom. He explained the reasons for his directed verdict, and severely criticized MEG for blowing the case against Cotton. A few days after that, MEG chief Jerry LaGrow, while answering Judge Heiple's anti-MEG charges in front of a reporter, made comments which soon resulted in a \$7.5 million libel suit filed by Cotton.

One of ACLU's charges was that MEG presented evidence that was "patently fabricated," thus forcing Judge Heiple to dismiss charges against Cotton. ACLU cited Judge Heiple's public charges of "poor and unprofessional police work" as evidence.

The ILEC report concludes that ACLU's charge of "patently fabricated evidence" is not justified by the evidence the IBI gathered.

What happened, I believe, is that Judge Heiple toned down his criticisms of MEG between his first post-trial comments and his interview with the IBI investigators. I'm sitting here with a copy of the ILEC report and a copy of the original Pantagraph article (4/21/75) reporting Heiple's severe anti-MEG comments just after the Cotton trial. There is a clear difference.

In early 1975, Heiple told reporters that the MEG agent's testimony was "suspect and questionable." Judge Heiple expressed skepticism about the agent's story that Ed Cotton sold a bottle of LSD right in front of a lighted picture window. "Isn't it more likely that an overzealous narcotics agent might concoct such a story?" Heiple asked in early 1975.

The IBI did not interview Heiple until months later, and his comments were far milder. He does not say things like "concoct" when talking about MEG testimony any more.

From reading all the evidence in the IBI report, it seems that the MEG agents were counting on the testimony of another person, James Small, to implicate Cotton. Small allegedly bought the LSD from Cotton, and then gave it to the agents who were waiting outside Cotton's apartment. Small obtained immunity for himself, and then said that his testimony would not implicate Cotton at all.

When the prosecution decided to go ahead without Small's testimony, there were large gaps in the evidence. It seems that the MEG agents attempted to fill in one of these gaps by making up the story of viewing the drug sale from outside, through the picture window.

Another ACLU charge arising out of the Cotton case concerns the statements MEG chief LaGrow made to a Galesburg reporter soon after Cotton was acquitted. The gist of LaGrow's statements, which were printed in the Galesburg Register-Mail, was that Ed Cotton was really guilty. Specifically, LaGrow told the newspaper that Cotton knew 25 dealers, had been into drugs for 8 years, and felt safe selling to a 17-year-old because he knew a teen-ager couldn't be a narcotics agent. These comments were printed just before a school board hearing which would decide whether or not Ed Cotton, temporarily suspended from teaching pending the outcome of his court case, would be rehired.

The ILEC report admits that Jerry LaGrow did make substantially the same comments to reporters that ACLU alleges. The report declines to comment on whether LaGrow is legally liable for what he said. But ILEC does condemn LaGrow for his "ill-advised" statements. "Public utterances by public officers seeking to go behind dismissals or acquittals in criminal cases and to reargue the issue of guilt or innocence undermine our traditional adjudicatory processes," ILEC said.





MARCH AGAINST M.I.C.

M.I.C.
CONSPIRACY FRAUD

STOP
SECRET
POLICE

NO
MORE
SPIES

oct. 9

1pm

across from Bloomington City Hall

How narcs encouraged gun theft



Here's how Ford Conley dressed to protect his "cover" while leaving the courthouse after testifying in Nov., 1975.

POST NOTE: "MEG has generated as much crime as they've solved," said Vermillion County Board member and Danville attorney Kenneth Meeker last November. He was arguing, successfully, that the Vermillion County MEG unit should be abolished.

Pushy, eager IBI and MEG agents helped bring about a theft of guns, according to the following letter from Clifford Spence, which he wrote from prison. Spence explains that the gun theft, which he admits doing, would never have occurred without the narcs' influence. Only the agents' constant reminders that they would "pay big" for guns gave Spence the idea to steal them. Without such an eager, ready market, Spence would have passed over his opportunity to obtain the guns, and the crime would never have happened.

One comment on ILEC guidelines for MEG agents: The narc's racist comments you will read about do not violate any codes of narc conduct. But Jerry Singer's and Ford Conley's obvious condoning of their informer's use and possession of pot is a direct and clear violation of ILEC rules for narcs.

Here is Spence's letter, written from Vandalia:

Post-American:

Here is a full account of what happened on each charge. It will be the full truth.

I first met Conley in the summer of 1975.

Mick Yeitz brought him over to my house in Pontiac. Yeitz told me he met Conley while he was in prison. Yeitz and I got stoned several times but Conley passed the pipe; he said he had lung trouble.

The first time Conley brought Singer, I felt something was wrong. So I asked both of them if they were narcs or if they worked for MEG. They said, "No."

Conley told me Singer's name was Jerry. I knew Conley only as "Skip."

I asked Jerry if he was Jerry LaGrow, head of MEG.

Earlier that day a friend of mine dropped off a stick of dynamite and asked me if I would throw it in the river to get rid of it for him. I told him I would. That night when Singer and Conley were there, they told me they were more interested in guns and explosives than dope. I told them what my friend had dropped off earlier and that I was going to throw it in the river. They asked to see it, so I showed it to them. After looking at it, they told me they had a friend who collected things like that and might be able to get some money. If they did get some money for it, they would give me half. Later on, they started joking about blowing up a bus load of "niggers."

Conley said he was going to use it to blow up his girlfriend; he said it in a humorous way.

Two days later, I was in a bar partying and they came in. Singer came up to me and handed me \$5. He said his friend wanted the dynamite. They drank a beer and left.

When I was charged for this, the warrant read, "Possession of explosives, and he knew Jerome Singer intended to use such explosives to commit the offense of murder." This charge was dropped in the plea bargaining.

They came to my house several times after that wanting guns. They even went to my friends and asked them if I had any guns for sale that they knew of.

One day Singer and Conley came to my house wanting guns. I told them about a friend of mine whose dad had a gun for sale. I told them it would be a legal sale, that he was a collector. They said they wanted the gun anyway. I told them the gun was in Fairbury, so they asked me to ride along with them. While we were riding through the country, Conley was telling Singer how he liked to commit armed robbery and break into houses because he said that's where the money was. Singer was saying that he liked to buy hot pistols and shotguns and saw off the barrel and sell them to "niggers."

Later in the ride, Jerome Singer pulled out a pistol and handed it to me. It was a .45-caliber Army pistol. He said he would get me one just like it; also any kind that I wanted. When we got to my friend's dad's house, he had already sold the gun.

The next time I saw them I was in Pontiac Park. Mick Yeitz, Conley, and Singer pulled up in Yeitz's van. Yeitz and I got stoned on his dope. They asked me if I had any guns. I told them no. They were all the time telling me there was so much more money in guns than in dope. I told them I had a little pot. They asked how much for a quarter pound; I told them \$75. It was good Jamaican. Yeitz, Conley, and Singer pooled their money and met me at my house where the deal was made. On this warrant, it read, "Possession and delivery of 98.5 grams of cannabis."

After that they came around a few more times wanting guns. They told me about all the money I could make. It was around Christmas.

I was at this place when I ran into the guns. I needed some money so I started thinking of Conley and Singer and of how much they would pay for the guns. I've never sold any guns to anyone except the ones I sold then. I met them in the country and gave them the guns and they gave me \$200. They came back the next night and gave me \$100 more. When they came back to give me the rest of the money, they wanted to know when I would get them more guns. They said they sold the guns at a good profit and in one day. When it came out in court, Singer said he turned it over to the FBI. In plea bargaining, they dropped federal charges back to state charges of theft over \$150. It came out in court that they lied to me 4 or 5 times for their cover.

I was arrested January 7, 1976, on two grand jury indictments. June 10, 1976, I was sentenced to 1 1/2 to 4 1/2 years for Delivery of Cannabis and 1 to 2 years for Theft over \$150, both to run concurrently.

I spent 30 days in Joliet and met about 10 other people Conley had busted.

Once the other inmates found out I was busted by Conley, I had plenty of friends and extra food in the chow-line.

Thank you for trying to help the people. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Clifford A. Spence



ABOVE: Mick Yeitz was working as an informer for MEG. BELOW: IBI's Jerry Singer worked undercover, and roomed with Ford Conley.



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Why MEG Fired Conley



Now a Lacon City cop, Ford Conley got canned by MEG at ILEC's insistence because of his outrageous behavior setting up his roommate and girlfriend.

POST NOTE: This is the article we said we'd have last issue. For more info on Ford Conley, see the opposite page.

Ex-MEG Agent Ford Conley, who kicks dogs*, used to bring baking soda-filled capsules and sugar pills to parties and take them, to show that he was one of the "in-people". At the time, he was a full time ISU student and an informer for the Multi-County Enforcement Group. This informer job, as well as Conley's neurotic need to prove his masculinity, is the reason why he was so careful to keep up his image as one of those heavy right-on people we all know and love - the kind who bring funny pills to our parties and ostentatiously gobble them. Who could fail to be charmed by such a character?

Well, the Executive Committee of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission could, for one. After studying an IBI investigation report and interviewing MEG Director LaGrow, Ford Conley, and Warren County Sheriff (and MEG Secretary-Treasurer) Dave Watkins, the Executive Committee decided that Conley had violated the ILEC/MEG Guidelines for informer conduct. In short, Conley lied, cheated, and screwed over his buddies. Of course, narcs are narcs, and these actions are second nature to them. But Conley is such a creep that even the higher-ups - usually ready to protect and defend their own - wanted to get rid of him.

By the time IBI investigated Conley, he had been a full-time MEG agent for 10 months, and had been a "special employee" for 6 months before that. Because of the time lag between a dope buy and the arrest, and the lag between arrest and final court dates, there's usually about a year's time between a MEG outrage and its public exposure. Consequently, the IBI investigation turned up

evidence almost entirely confined to Conley's days as a mere MEG "special employee". Because of the bureaucratic time lag, it was another six months between the IBI investigation and the Executive Committee's decision to can Conley.

Two cases particularly bothered the ILEC Executive Committee. One is the case where Conley busted his own roommate, Dale Stillwell. Conley told Stillwell that he was a big dope dealer. Conley once gave Stillwell a red capsule when Stillwell was nervous, saying, "Here. I hope this will help you. It looks like Seconal, but it's not." Conley pressured Stillwell into going in on a small marijuana deal with him, and then got him busted. Stillwell presented an entrapment defense at his trial, and won a hung jury. After hearing the testimony, State's Attorney Welch and Assistant State's Attorney Leifel decided that they'd not push the case any farther. Conley's actions in the Stillwell case violated Section II, Paragraph 7, and Sub-paragraph D of the ILEC Guidelines, according to the Executive Committee Report:

The practice of having a special employee rely on personal friendship in order to make a case should be discouraged in those situations where the special employee and the person he informs upon are both at a user level in the drug culture. The Commission believes that the destructive effects that such instances of betrayal have on both the immediate participants and their friends is considerable, and more often than not outweigh the advantages to law enforcement personnel engaging in such activity.

Generally speaking the Commission believes that cases developed on the basis of knowledge gained through personal friendships or licit associations should only be

Normal Drug Unit Will Use Anonymous Tips

Details of the Normal Police Department's new anti-drug unit were revealed by Chief McGuire in mid-September.

The Normal City Council created the drug squad last summer with \$5,000 they had originally planned to give to Project Lighthouse, a drug and alcohol treatment center. The city and police claimed that they formed the new drug unit as an alternative to joining MEG.

A potentially controversial part of Normal's new anti-drug plan is a telephone hotline staffed by what Chief McGuire called the AIDS (Anti Illicit Drugs in Society) operator.

The AIDS number will be publicized all over town, encouraging people to phone in tips about sale and use of illegal drugs. Callers can remain anonymous.

I asked Chief McGuire how these anonymous tips will be investigated. He said through normal investigative techniques. He didn't want to expand on that. I suggested that people might be concerned about their privacy being invaded if they got investigated solely on the basis of an anonymous tip. McGuire said nobody's privacy would be invaded. I asked whether police would stake out a house if they got a tip that someone was selling controlled substances inside, or if they got a tip that a lot of visitors were coming and going. McGuire said he didn't want to discuss methods of investigation.

Besides the AIDS operator, the Normal drug unit has money to pay for informers, and money for undercover drug purchases.

McGuire said that informers would be authorized to make undercover buys if police thought the informer reliable. I asked if the informer would then have to testify in court. "Not necessarily," McGuire said, without explaining. Normal police officers also may be making drug buys if they can be introduced into a situation where their identities are not known.

I asked McGuire if he had a set of guidelines to control the informers' conduct. I explained that

ILEC formulated strict guidelines for MEG informers (but they aren't really enforced). These guidelines include a ban on using informers to set up close friends who are at a low level in the "drug culture." "...the destructive effects that such instances of betrayal have on both the immediate participants and their friends is considerable, and more often than not outweigh the advantages to law enforcement personnel of engaging in such activity," one ILEC guideline for informers reads.

Chief McGuire said that he has no prepared guidelines other than his standard rule that an informer must stay within the law. About busting personal friends, McGuire said every potential informer will be interviewed thoroughly, and motive for informing (among other things) will come out. "If some guy has a spat with his buddy and then wants to turn him in for a bag of grass, that's not what we are interested in," McGuire said. But if someone has information and wants to turn in a "friend," McGuire does not intend to automatically rule out that informer.

McGuire told the ISU Vidette that his drug unit will concentrate on drugs other than marijuana. But someone found with marijuana will still be arrested, McGuire said.

The MEG unit, whose more recent statistics show approximately 30 percent of their arrests are for marijuana, are under standing instructions not to bother with cannabis, unless its purchase will lead to purchases of harder drugs. Most of MEG's cannabis buys, however, never lead agents along the road to harder drugs.

McGuire also told the ISU Vidette that another aim of the new drug unit is education; McGuire wants to "educate people who know relatively nothing about drugs and educate repeated users in some manner other than arrests or prison," the Vidette said.

The Post reported last issue that we had an unconfirmed report that Normal's detective Norton has been assigned to run the narc unit. This was wrong. Detective Sgt. Dan Sadler will oversee the narc outfit.

directed against individuals at a higher level of the illicit drug traffic than the special employee, except significant suppliers in the neighborhood (or community)...

The other case involved Barb Nichols, who threw \$2 in on a \$17 deal which Ford was making. He bought 100 speed tabs for \$17, and gave 15 tabs to Ms. Nichols for her \$2. And she got busted for delivery, which even the Executive Committee doesn't understand, they admit in a footnote. While Conley was busy setting up Ms. Nichols, he was also dating her. He even spent a night in her bed. Nichols had two charges against her dropped by the State's Attorney.

In the Nichols case, Conley violated the same guidelines about busting your friends as he did in the Stillwell case. He also violated sub-paragraph A, which says that special employees should not engage in entrapment, sale of narcotic substances, or searches.

The Executive Committee also notes that in both cases, Conley's actions were probably indictable crimes. For a normal person, delivering a substance while representing it to be a controlled substance, as Conley did when he gave the red cap to Stillwell, is a felony. And of course, Conley was delivering a controlled substance when he split the 100 speed tabs with Ms. Nichols. The State's Attorney and Asst. State's Attorneys say they checked out the possibility of prosecuting, but rejected the idea. They said Conley "didn't intend" to commit a crime. After all, Conley is one of their own, even if they don't like to claim him.

The report says MEG Director LaGrow claimed: 1) he was not aware that Ford Conley had done these things while an informer, 2) LaGrow would not approve of all of this conduct, 3) Conley's techniques did not violate ILEC/MEG guidelines, and 4) Ford Conley's conduct since becoming a MEG agent has been fine, and Conley is a "dedicated, honest police officer."

But the Executive Committee said LaGrow was wrong: Conley violated ILEC/MEG guidelines for informers.

Since the Executive Committee had no information on Conley's conduct while an agent, they suggested he be fired for his behavior before becoming an agent. Conley's continued employment as a MEG agent after proof of previous violations while a MEG special employee "could give the impression that neither ILEC nor the MEG unit attaches any special significance to whether or not such provisions are adhered to," the report says. The Committee "sees serious dangers of giving at least the appearance of indifference to those Guidelines by inaction."

For a bureaucratic body, this is a strongly-worded message. Translated, it means: Fire Conley.

MEG did. In fact, MEG fired Conley so quick that his firing is included in the ILEC report as a footnote. It seems probable that the Executive Committee's conclusion was communicated to MEG orally before the final text of the report was drafted. So Conley was fired in April, and the report wasn't done until June 3.

*Information on Conley's dog-kicking comes from an interview with his ex-roommate Dale Stillwell in Post-American Vol. IV #8. All other info for this article is taken from the oft-quoted ILEC report.

Stephens to Enter His "Honesty" as Evidence

Suspended MEG agent John "Bill" Stephens demanded a jury trial on state charges that he took indecent liberties with a five-year-old child.

The indictment charges that Stephens engaged in an act of "lewd fondling" of the young girl "with the intent to arouse or satisfy his sexual desires." The crime occurred May 29, in the girl's home. Stephens was visiting her parents that day.

Stephens has been a Bloomington cop for ten years. His last two years were spent assigned as an undercover agent for the Multi-County Enforcement Group.

He was suspended from all police duties in June, after his arrest on the two-count child-molesting indictment.

Papers filed in court in early September show that Stephens is demanding a jury trial; as is customary, the documents explain the outline of Stephens' planned defense:

"The defendant will introduce into evidence his character and reputation for truth and veracity, morality, chastity, honesty, and integrity, and being a peaceable and law-abiding citizen," the documents state.

Anyone who's been following Stephens' career as undercover agent probably hasn't heard of his "reputation for honesty."

Pekin Judge James Heiple was forced to call Stephens' sworn court testimony "suspect and questionable" in January, 1975. Heiple was explaining to the jury and the press why he

dismissed a delivery charge against defendant Ed Cotton. (Cotton is now suing MEG for \$7½ million.) Elaborating further, Judge Heiple suggested that Stephens' testimony might be "the concoction of an overzealous narcotics agent."

Stephens' supposed reputation for being a law-abiding citizen is also contradicted by the public record of his undercover work.

When a MEG-supplied informant was secretly enrolled as a student in Pekin High School, in the fall of 1974, an illegally falsified transcript from Bloomington High School was provided for her credentials. MEG agent Bill Stephens solicited the production of the forged document, and he personally delivered it to the undercover informant. According to her testimony before the Pekin School Board, Stephens told the informer that the forged transcript was "a federal offense."

Bobby Friga has replaced Bill Stephens as the Bloomington cop assigned to MEG. If you have any information (like maybe a photo?) on Friga, call the Post. 828-7232.

Stephens' "reputation for chastity" is also questionable. However, since this journal is a tasteful, family newspaper, we won't go into details.

As is also customary with the papers filed in preparation for a court case, Stephens has provided a list of witnesses he may call in his defense.



Suspended from MEG, charged with child molesting, Bill Stephens still drives a school bus for youngsters.

One of the names is familiar to MEG watchers; Charles Schofield, Box 236, RR #2, Chillicothe, Illinois. Schofield had been a MEG agent, too, since 1974. He probably can testify to Stephens' "reputation for honesty."

Though suspended from all police duties, Stephens retains one of his jobs. As the school year opened in September, Stephens was once again driving a school bus for grade school age children.

Bloomington's New MEG arrests



Undercover agent Craig Salmon has shaved since this photo was taken without his knowledge last May. His hair is bushier now, and his face is really fuller than it appears in this photo.

Seven McLean County residents were arrested on MEG warrants in late August and early September, and suppressed warrants are out for at least a dozen more people. At press time, the suppressed warrants had been outstanding for several weeks. Possibly the persons sought for these MEG charges have left the area.

Arrested in Bloomington were: Sam Thoman, Jr.; Emmanuel Sampson, Pete Glaser, and Thomas Ryburn. Ryburn's charges are already dismissed, because he was a juvenile when he supposedly sold pot to a MEG agent. McLean County residents Anita Preston and Randy Blake were also busted on MEG warrants.

Former MEG agent (now a McLean County deputy) Mark Lehman supposedly bought controlled substances or marijuana from most of the people arrested. Court records say MEG Agent Craig

Salmon made one of the pot buys.

Photos of both Lehman and Salmon were featured on the Post's front cover in early June, 1976. A team of Post photographers caught the narcs in a training session in Springfield in mid-May. They didn't know their photographs had been taken until they saw their smiling faces in the paper.

At the time their photos were first printed in the Post, neither Salmon nor Lehman had been responsible for any MEG arrests. But the drug buys resulting in these recent arrests were made before their pictures appeared. The buys in the most recent batch of busts were made in April & May, 1976.

Lehman stopped being a MEG agent on June 15, the day McLean County's withdrawal from the unit became effective.

RIGHT: Mark Lehmann busted several in MEG's latest round-up. He no longer works for MEG.



Gary Higbee, Narc

Gary Higbee is a Warren County deputy assigned to work for MEG as an undercover agent. This photo was taken last May, about the time he was driving a maroon Camero, 429 575. Higbee has attempted to move in on people in Peoria, but may also operate elsewhere. If you have any information on him, call the Post. 828-7232.



Coincidence has cops hopping

Ever wonder what police do when they don't have any street people to harass?

They harass middle-class people. Good church-going people even. Arrest them even. Without evidence, of course.

That's what happened to Gerald Lishka one fine summer day in 1973--and he didn't even have to live in Bloomington to get harassed by the Bloomington police.

Lishka came to town from Champaign where he lived to visit his parents. That's when his mother told him that two detectives wanted to talk to him.

The detectives had visited his parents' house about a week earlier. They wouldn't tell Lishka's mother why they wanted to talk to him, but they were very reassuring. They said there was no problem.

There never is any problem until the police get their hands on you.

So, Lishka, who had no idea what the police could want, went to the station and waited a good 45 minutes.

Then, two detectives took him to a back room and let him wait for another half hour. During all of this waiting no one would tell Lishka what the detectives wanted with him.

When the detectives finally got around to the interrogation, they still wouldn't tell Lishka what they wanted--even though he asked repeatedly.

But the detectives did want to know some things about him--like where he lived, where he worked.

When Lishka persisted in asking what the detectives wanted, one of them finally asked him if he wanted to call a lawyer. But the detectives made it clear that they thought he must have done something wrong if he wanted a lawyer.

Then the police refused to tell Lishka's lawyer what they wanted, but they took Lishka back to the questioning room after the phone call was over.



The detectives then began to ask some questions about a visit Lishka had made to Bloomington earlier in the summer.

He and a friend had agreed to go hear a religious speaker from Jamaica in Danvers. When Lishka went to pick up his friend, the friend wasn't home. (He had been delayed at a baseball game.)

So, Lishka went to Danvers alone hoping to catch his friend there, but he couldn't find out where the speaker was talking.

Eventually, he went back to his friend's house to see if he was home yet. He wasn't, so Lishka hurried back to Champaign where he had a date later in the evening.

The detectives wanted to know why Lishka had been in Bloomington. He told them, though he forgot about going to his friend's house the second time.

The detectives were real "pushy and smart-assed" according to Lishka. "They looked knowingly at each other" when Lishka answered their questions.

Lishka, who had gotten quite nervous and scared while waiting, was intimidated--naturally.

"I was so rattled that I couldn't rationally explain the situation," Lishka said. The detectives gave the impression that they thought Lishka's story about going to a religious talk was not true.

Finally, the detectives, one of whom was Charles Frank, told Lishka that an elderly woman two houses down from Lishka's friend's house had reported that a hand had reached through her window while she was bathing.

The police claimed that two men had seen Lishka's car leaving the area at about the right time--though the police would never name the witnesses, even to Lishka's lawyer.

In any case, Lishka denied he had reached through anyone's window.

The police didn't believe him.

Lishka offered to give them names of people who could confirm his story. He agreed to take a lie detector test.

The police charged him with disorderly conduct. Which means he was booked--the police have his photo and fingerprints.

But when it came time to go to court two months later, no one showed up for the government (the police and the city attorney), and the charge was dropped.

Lishka, who still doesn't live in Bloomington, still worries that the next time he visits his parents, some detective will have found his name in a file and will decide to drag him in on another phony peeping tom charge.

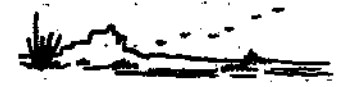
But Lishka's lawyer summed it up best:

"They don't care about you," he told Lishka. "They just want to make an arrest."



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Sambo's kicks out, hassles

How low can they stoop before they fall?

For two years, about 200 people each issue have bought the Post-Amerikan at Sambo's (in Bloomington). Our coin operated vending machine stood in the entrance right next to the Pantagraph and the Chicago Daily News.

Not any more.

On Wednesday, August 25, just as we were filling our machine with our brand new, hot off the press September issue, the Sambo's manager told us to take the machine away.

So begins a Post-Amerikan leaflet stuffed in the newspapers we sold this month from the Sambo machine's new home on the public property next to the sidewalk between Sambo's and Regal Eight, 50 yards away from the Sambo's entrance.

The Sambo's so-called "manager" was not too excited about telling us why he was kicking us out, but finally did.

Turns out some cop who's a regular customer at Sambo's got a little hot under the collar and red in the neck about a story the Post printed in our August issue. He complained, and Sambo's manager, anxious to please the police, kicked us out.

Now imagine somebody who wears the clothes of a farmer or a restaurant or factory worker, instead of police blue, walking into Sambo's and complaining about a Pantagraph article. Would Sambo's manager kick out the Pantagraph?

Fat chance is what I say.

The article that caused the peeved police officer to see red was probably "Minor Mishap Ends in Police Violence." A story about Bloomington's finest beating up Johnny and Sue Anderson for the fun of it. And because they thought they could get away with it.

They did, pretty much, but I guess the cop who got the Post kicked out of Sambo's believes that no news is good news.

Of course, the cop's complaint about the Post is not the only one the Sambo's manager has heard over the two years we've had a machine there. But it's the one that got us kicked out.

Well, we loaded the machine in the trunk and took it down to the Post office. We printed up a bunch of leaflets headlined "Sambo's kicks out Post-Amerikan," stuffed them into a bunch of newspapers, stuffed the newspapers into the machine, and,

on Friday the 27th, headed back out to Sambo's.

The two Post folks who set up the machine next to the driveway and the sidewalk between Sambo's and Regal Eight, which is all very legal and above-board, met with some resistance.

First the manager came out of Sambo's yelling that the Post couldn't set up a machine there because somebody would run into it and damage their car and the Post would get sued.

He repeated this very hard to believe theory several times.

The Post folks responded by saying that they didn't think that it was so close to the driveway that it would get hit, and told Mr. Sambo's that the machine was on public property.

Then the Regal Eight manager got into the act. He came out, jumping up and down and said hollering that he wanted the machine taken away.

The Post people gave the public property rap again.

Mr. Regal Eight, the Regal Eight manager, thought for a second and then said that he owns property on both sides of the driveway.

The Post people asked, "How much do you own? We'll move it back." Mr. Regal Eight said, "We'll just get the police out here, and they will move it."



The Post reporters, who had fought this kind of battle before and knew that it was fully legal for the machine to be there, told him to go ahead and call the police.

Mr. Regal Eight started to walk away as if to go call the cops.

At this point Mr. Sambo's said "Hold on a minute, I don't think we need to bring the police into this."

So Mr. Regal Eight stayed there and began another ridiculous argument, this time about traffic jams those crowds of Post fans are going to cause when they all jump out of their cars at once to buy a copy of the Post. And Mr. Sambo's brought up the somebody's-going-to-run-into-it thing again.

The Post reporters told him that they would move it back a ways from the driveway.

Finally one of the Post folks told Mr. Sambo's that the machine would get moved soon anyway, because when the weather gets cold, people won't be getting out of their cars just to buy the Post.

Mr. Sambo's said ok and both managers started to walk away.

One of the Post people said to Mr. Sambo's, "The way you keep talking about cars hitting the newspaper rack, I hope you're not going to encourage somebody to come out here and run it over."

Mr. Sambo's said, "No, I wouldn't do that."

He may have already had his next move in mind.

The next day there were two quarters in the Post machine, and all twenty five papers were gone. A sprinkler was turned full force against the machine. The Post reporter, who had waded through the mud around the machine to make this unpleasant discovery, put 20 more papers in the machine.

The following day, Sunday, all twenty papers had been ripped off with one quarter.

An employee out there says that Mr. Sambo's himself stole the papers. Of course, he denies this.

Jack Porter discussed Sambo's grand slam against the Post on WJBC's forum of September 6, 1976 (see boxed-in accompanying article). He talked mostly about the police involvement in the affair. However, many issues are involved.

One issue is the amerikan ideal of a free press, which is just another sad joke. The "free press" that amerikans enjoy is one of those phrases, like "democracy," "justice," "equality," and "brotherhood," that are supposed to make us so glad that we don't live in china, or russia, or viet nam, or anywhere else.



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and rips off Post Amerikan

In reality, of course, the press in amerika is neither able to say what it wants, where it wants, nor is the information free in the dollar sense to the people who wish to read it.

Ever wonder why there are so few Post machines on the east side of Bloomington, or why the few that are there are so hard to get to?

Well, it's because "private property" kind of cancels out "freedom of the press." Oops. A little oversight in the planning of the amerikan dream.

On Bloomington's west side, we can park our machines right outside of the small businesses' downtown and just generally scattered around. Also, the businesspeople there are more willing to sell the Post in their stores. So the Post machines can be where the people are.

On the east side, "where the people are" in large numbers is places like the Eastland shopping center, huge areas owned by one person or small group of people. These people are naturally more hostile to the Post, since they are either rich and powerful, or like the Sambo's manager, scrambling hard to get there.

Eastland Mall is private property. The sidewalks right outside the mall are private property. The parking

lot is private property. Only the narrow strip of land next to the street, far away from the people walking around in the shopping center, is public property.

And that's why there are so few Post machines on the east side.

A "free press" is a myth on the other end of things, too. Since we have this wonderful capitalist system, it costs money to get information. The more information you want, the more you have to pay for. If you want a lot of information but don't have the money to buy it, the education to be on top of it, or the leisure time to read it, tough.

So much for a free press.

It's a pretty tight system they've got us locked into, in spite of freedom and equality.

For instance, suppose you're Johnny or Sue Anderson. You don't have much money. You get roughed up by the cops. They arrest you for disorderly conduct or resisting arrest.

You can't afford much in the way of legal aid. The court system is guaranteed to side with the cops.

And the only newspaper around that isn't owned by or completely sold out to big business gets

kicked out of a restaurant for telling your story.

Welcome to the land of the free and the home of the brave.

--Ramona



Jack Porter on Sambo's and the Post

COMMENTARY BY JACK PORTER FOR

WJBC'S FORUM ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1976

Sambo's restaurant in Bloomington used to be an important outlet for Post Amerikan newspapers. It was one of the first locations for the vending machines the Post began to use in the fall of 1974. Sales from the machine at Sambo's climbed to an average of 200 per month.

There were no problems, despite all the controversial material published in the Post-Amerikan over the years. In fact, just this past July the owner-manager let the Post bring its machine inside the restaurant for the first time.

Then the August issue came out, with its story of Bloomington police officers Rhoda, Bagnell, and Brienen beating up citizens without justification. Soon after, the manager told the Post to get its machine out. When asked why, he said something about an article on police and an officer who ate there objecting to it.

The Post took its machine away but came back a few days later and put it on the public property between the sidewalk and the street, despite the strenuous objections of the Sambo's manager and the manager of the motel next door. The box has remained, but on at least two occasions since it was put there, quantities of newspapers have been stolen from it.

I talked with the Sambo's man on Friday and he denied that police had anything to do with his eviction of the Post. He said that some of his families had complained about it in the last couple months and that is why he had the machine removed.

I have some sympathy with him as a person caught in the middle. Apparently he's had about 200 customers monthly who wanted to buy the Post Amerikan at his place. That's really quite a few people. On the other hand, a business depends a lot on the police for protection. It's very vulnerable to police disfavor and its manager may be easily intimidated.

Sambo's certainly has a right to decide for itself what newspapers may be sold on its premises, and I don't question that. But if a police officer is using his public position to pressure a business to kick out the Post, then I'm very concerned. Freedom of the press may not be attractive to those who get charged with misconduct. But the rest of us depend on it. Citizens have taken far too much abuse by public officials anyway. I shudder to think what it would be like if these officials had no fear of exposure.

Fortunately the Post-Amerikan has shown its staying power before. Bloomington Councilperson Joe Schneider and the MEG undercover unit have both tried to get rid of the Post without success.

I hope the Post continues to print citizens' accounts of run-ins with the police. Not that every citizen story is true, but we need more than the police version if we are to come close to the truth, and if we are to make police accountable to the public.

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24



GUITARS & INSTRUCTION
105 Broadway Normal 452-6412

COMIX REVIEW

STAR REACH #5 and QUACK! #1

"Ground-level" comics?!?...

What kind of trumped-up absurdo name is that? Well, it's the kind of trumped-up absurdo name that established-type comic writers and artists would pick for a comic containing material different from the stuff they do for established-type comics companies like Marvel or National.

Not underground comics, but ground-level comics. (Undergrounds, you see, are a lot dirtier and more violent and not as well drawn and ...)

Pshaw.

I say it's a phony distinction, and I say Star Reach publisher Mike Friedrich is full of beans--unbaked ones at that--for even trying to make that distinction. I say his two books, Star Reach and Quack!, are good comix. And that's that.

I just wish Friedrich didn't feel obligated to call his books "ground-level" like there was something nasty or unappealing (or--shudder--uncommercial) in being associated with the "underground."

But enough of that.

Star Reach is, by and large, a science-fiction super hero/ine comic. At its best its writers and artists manage to transcend the traditional (but not sacrosanct) limitations of that particular brand of comix by grabbing onto some unique themes. At its worst, they produce material that is little more than Marvel Comics with more adult trappings.

(But, lest anyone misunderstand me, even that can be entertaining.)

Star Reach five's cover story, "Gideon Faust--Warlock at Large," fits into the latter category. Len Wein's slick good-guy magician chases an evil-doer through late Victorian London. The only thing in this story you wouldn't see in a Marvel comic is a child prostitution subplot (one of the magician's vices, you see) and that isn't developed into anything more than a titillating detail. The art by Howie Chaykin is typically fine.

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On the same side of the fence is Lee Marrs' "Waters of Requitul," a science fiction horror story that seems to have been inspired in part by Paul Zindel's "Let Me Hear You Whisper." Marrs' art, which I usually admire, is the big handicap here. It's a bit too literal-minded here to be effective, particularly in the tale's final (telegraphed) shock panel. Some day Marrs is going to be as good a serious comic storyteller as she is a humorous one. Then she'll be one of the best.

"Midnight in the Medina," though, a Mary Skrenes-Mike Vosburg collaboration, is of higher reverberating matter. It's effective in both art and story. Third in the adventures of Linda Lovecraft, arch arch-villainess, it combines pastiche and parody to contrast comic book and other notions of good and evil. (Read consecutively, the satiric themes of the three Lovecraft tales published so far are quite intriguing. Each Lovecraft tale is a chapter operating from a different moral perspective.)

Johnny Achziger and Joe Staton's "Gods of Mount Olympus" doesn't even fit into my artificial dichotomy. A re-telling of myth, its emphasis is on Joe Staton's fluid comic art and visual imagination. I wouldn't have it any other way.

The same applies to John Workman's one-pager, "Mandy: the Girl With the Most Comics in America." A four panel conversation that asserts (as if we didn't know, for godsakes) that comics are art, its substance is in its fine pen rendering.

I like Quack! a whole lot more than Star Reach. For one thing, its very title is less pretentious.

Quack! is a funny animals comic, and a fine piece of the genre it is, too. Good animal comics have always contained the purest instances of



comic art. (Some day I will write a paper explaining why the early Kurtzman Mad comics were funny animal books.)

I like everything in this book, though a few of the pieces are flawed. Mark Evanier's script for Kosmo Cat, for instance, may owe a lot to the hard-boiled detective story it parodies, but that doesn't mean Evanier has to take some of the genre's anachronistic values so literally. The flaw in the ointment in this case is the author's use of homosexual thugs (a tradition as old as The Maltese Falcon) without context. Evanier seems to think that since Hammet put 'em in, so should he. But Hammet, at least, was trying to make a point, even if that point is dated now. Evanier does it, apparently, out of a misplaced sense of atmosphere.

Howie Chaykin and Alan Kupperberg's "On the Skids" is an animal tour of New York bars. It's both amusing and annoying, often for the same reason. As a satire of socialized alienation, it's bang on, but at the same time its smart-ass method of dissecting this alienation is itself, uh, alienating. I have a feeling Chaykin, the author, understands this himself and attempts to soften the distancing with a half-seriously didactic epilogue. It doesn't work.

Rest of the material is good stuff. Michael Gilbert's "The Wraith" plays on the damsel-in-distress story and has a hilarious ending. Scott Shaw's "You-all Gibbon, the Junk-food Monkey," is nice and absurd.

Everything in the book is wonderfully, cartoonfully rendered.

But for the best, the most ideal funny animal art since Carl Barks or early Crumb, there's Frank Brunner's "Duckaneer," a duck among humans send-up that beats anything Brunner's done anywhere else. His contrast of "realistic" comic book art and cartoon art is so smoothly done, so convincing, while at the same time not convincing, that it's disorienting. Never mind the plot, which

is the typical "dream" plot, this is one of the finest pieces of comic art to appear in the "underground."

Which means it's one of the finest pieces of comic art to appear anywhere.

BS76

25

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Racist Ad Rates Retraction

27

Racism is an institution in this country; it is woven so deeply in the social fabric that it is often overlooked.

The Company, 1500 E. Empire St., ran this advertisement for a sale they were having August 20. The ad was immediately insulting to me and to Indian people.

I took my objections to the manager of the Company, Richard King, and asked him to run a counter-advertisement apologizing for the racist viewpoint taken toward American Indians.

King, a friend of mine since junior high school, agreed to try to correct the ad. August 30, the Pantagraph printed this ad:

We Wish to Extend A Sincere Apology for Any Misuse or Misinterpretation in the Wording of Our Ad of August 20, 1976.

**THE COMPANY
COLONIAL PLAZA**

I will accept this as an effort to ease the offense, but it apologizes for nothing.

Racism and sexism are blatantly prevalent in advertising. Symbols that are simple and easily identified like racial-sexual stereotypes are what advertisers like to use; the product is associated with qualities or emotions that have nothing to do with the product itself/sex appeal as a quality of toothpaste is a ridiculous myth, but is a reality in the world of advertising.

Hollywood pictured Indians as as savage, stupid, war-like, and always in feathers like the gentleman in the ad. These same myths of inferiority are taught in the schools, churches, and obviously in the business establishment as fact.

The Bible, a myth, is considered as fact; but Indian myths are called "legend," "folk-psychology," "pagan," etc. Just another race of racism.

Wampum was and is not money. The Pantagraph refused to help the Company pay for the counter-ad because they looked in a white dictionary and found out that it defines wampum as money, especially in slang usage.

Save Big Wampum

Bring in your old Jeans and trade them for new ones!

Get 'um \$5.00 off!

ALSO

Heap Big Savings

20% OFF

on Everything Else in the Store!

(Some Excluded)

From Now Until August 31, 1976



The Company ran this advertisement for a sale they were having August 20,

Wampum is a French-Canadian derivative of various Indian words in several Northeastern tribal languages for "white string." To the Kanonsnionwe or Iroquois people, wampum represent religious and political records of

the preliterate Iroquois people, who have a democratic government that is nearly a thousand years old.

The first Convocation of American Indian Scholars explains Iroquois usage of wampum; "to vouch for the integrity of a speaker, to give responsibility to an office, to assuage sorrows and heal spiritual wounds, or to lend their aura of authority to the proceedings of a council."

Wampum served as a "written promise" or record of that promise, and religious-political records for a society with a spoken as opposed to written language.

In an abstract sense, it serves the same function that money does in our society; vouches for the integrity of those who print and use it.

Since the turn of the century, Iroquois people tried to get the return of 26 Wampum Belts from the state of New York which were in a museum. It was only several years ago the state returned five of those belts.

The effect of that would be the same to the United States if the Bible and the Constitution were withheld from the people for nearly a century. Big deal, huh?

Wampum developed also as a promise between nations or a treaty. Wampum became a "price of peace and blood" exchanged between two nations. It was worked into a belt with two hands embroidered on it, meaning no more war and that forever they would never hunt one another again.

A wampum belt was made to remember the promise of the white nation with the Indian nations on Turtle Island, the name for this continent. That promise was that both nations would live together on this land, and that neither would interfere with the language, government, or religion of the other people. This belt is still carried by the People and the promises are still kept by the People.

Truth in the spoken word was important in Indian society. Indians said to white people, "How long is the 'statute of limitations' on this promise you make to us?"

White people said, "Forever," Indians said what does this word "forever" mean? White people said, "As long as the grasses grow, the rivers flow,..." Indians said that it must be a good

word if it lasts that long; that is what we want to govern the relations between our peoples.

Try getting a guarantee on the next car you buy for as long as the sky is blue and you will understand how society has changed in its definition of truth.

The Company's ad also distorts the Hollywood myth that the native peoples were so "primitive" that they could not talk to each other.

The fact is that there were over 2,000 highly developed, distinct languages in the Americas. Many of those have been lost in the genocide (the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, and/or cultural group) committed against the native peoples of the Americas for the last 500 years.

White Dictionary no Authority

The white dictionary is no authority on Indian definitions. The dictionary defines Choctaw as "a member of an Indian people of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana; also their language." The Choctaw Nation and many other nations were removed to Oklahoma (Choctaw for Real People) in the early 1800's. Geographic location does not define a nation. I am a Choctaw, but I have seen only one of these states briefly, and I do not know how to speak or read our language. I do not live in the specified area or know the language, and this dictionary would deny my heritage. Propaganda.

Aztec, according to Merriam-Webster, is "a member of an Indian people that founded the Mexican empire and were conquered by Cortes in 1519." The Alinza Federal de Pueblos Libres says

the Aztec language, "nahuatl," is spoken by over one million Indians in Mexico today. Smoke that in your pipe, Mr. Webster.

The Company and Richard King are not necessarily guilty for the racism present in their ad; but the system that educated all of us is.

--Todd Tecumseh, Choctaw

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The model's eyes are hidden because he was
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American Connection

"If I die, it's true many people
Will weep, not only relatives
But friends. . . Workers who told me
The bitter story of their lives.

"Yes, I will rejoice if
They all come to my wake and funeral. . .
And they begin to ask:
'For who, why did he die?'

"But it does not matter
If I get dumped on the earth
To be covered by grass and buried by worms
Without remembrance, without a name.

"It will suffice if the masses I've loved
Rise and destroy this rotten prison!
To create a just society,
Yes, There will be light inside when I die."
Emmanuel A.F. Lacaba
Killed at the age of 26
By Philippine Constabulary
March 1976

"They removed my skirt. Then they held my
thighs open and pulled my panties off. I felt
something burning my thighs - which I judged
to be lighted cigarettes. Then someone kept
pulling at my pubic hair, claiming he would not
stop until it becomes bald, that is, if I did not
talk. But I had nothing to say."
Maria Cristina Verzola
20-year-old detainee
Sexually abused by Philippine
Constabulary

- application of lighted cigarettes to various parts of the body, including the ear and the genital area;
- electric shocks on different parts of the body, including the genital area;
- stripping and sexual abuse, and frequently rape, of female detainees;
- beating with fists and gun butts, sticks and rubber hoses;
- forcing the face into feces-contaminated toilet bowls;
- holding the victim's head under water until s/he inhales water or loses consciousness;
- squeezing the fingers with bullets inserted between them;
- using bright lights for long periods of time to cause pain or damage to the eyes;
- keeping the detainees from sleeping by interrogating her/him for long hours during the night;
- pressing the hot iron against the sole of the foot;
- hanging-in-mid-air treatment where the detainee is made to lie down straight, suspended between two beds spaced in such a way that the head and the feet support the weight of the whole body, and in this position, the victim is pumelled in the stomach and the thighs.

Martial law means the abolition of all basic rights - like the right to engage in small-group discussions, and the right to protest against injustices in factories and farms.

The record immediately prior to martial law showed that in the Philippines a strong peasant movement was not about to be appeased short of radical land reforms. Also, a militant worker movement was clearly demanding more humane living conditions and participation in the decision-making processes.

Generally, a nationalist movement was at its peak, including nationalist businessmen, that wanted an end to U.S. and Japanese imperial domination of the economy. Finally, the record also showed that even an imperfect liberal democracy just might be made viable as a vehicle for achieving these much-needed reforms.

And so, if one might be kind to Marcos and his U.S. financiers, they really had no other choice but martial law if they wanted to continue "business-as-usual"; put oppositionists in jail, torture or kill them, and introduce what the Catholic Bishops' Conference has denounced as "a climate of fear" throughout the land.

The US Foots the Bill

The U.S. AID's (Agency for International Development) Office of Public Safety (OPS) provided escalated amounts of assistance, trained greater numbers of Philippine police both in the Philippines and at the International Police Academy in Washington D.C., helped establish intelligence networks, constructed communications systems, and integrated suburban-urban police systems. The types of courses in the OPS program, needless to say, heavily emphasized control of civil disturbances, riot control, counter-insurgency training, and the like.

Through JUSMAG (Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group), the U.S. government continued its role of principal adviser to the Philippine military and increased military aid from \$58,433,000 in 1970-72 to \$254,031,000 in 1973-75.

Philippine Martial Law The Purpose of Martial Law

The U.S.-supported military dictatorship in the Philippines, a nation of 44 million people, is about to begin its fifth year of oppressive rule. September 21st marks the fourth anniversary of martial law in a country once referred to as America's show-case of democracy in Asia.

What is martial law? Martial law is more than just the abolition of the Congress and the control of the media by the government; it is more than just the castration of the Judiciary, and the institutionalization of a conjugal (Ferdinand-and-Imelda Marcos) dictatorship.

Martial law is the brute rule of guns that has herded more than 50,000 people into detention centers dotting the Philippine archipelago; farmers, workers, media people, priests and nuns, professional people, students - arrested and detained without charges, and without the benefit of due process.

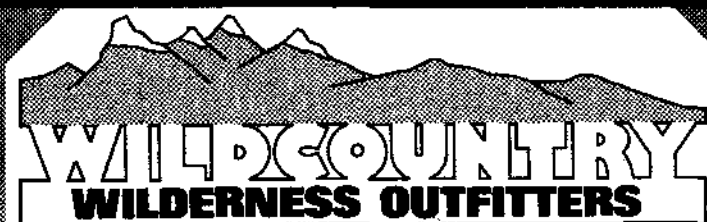
What is the purpose of martial law? At least the clear purpose of Philippine martial law is rather simple. It is to enable the U.S. and other multinational corporations to continue their not-too-masked colonization of the Philippines and thus ensure for the Philippine dictators continued financial support to stay in power and wealth by the brute use of guns.

30



Torture-- A Common Practice

Martial law means the torture of 90 percent of detainees to make them talk against their will, in one or more of the following standard methods which were verified by three investigating organizations (Amnesty International, The International Committee of the Red Cross, and Phil. Association of Major Religious Superiors):



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October Sale

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Nylon Jackets

Reg. \$10.50
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T-Shirts by
North Face & Kelty

Reg. \$6.95
Sale \$6.95



in the Philippines

As a result the Philippine military's size has increased four-fold and its budget several-fold since martial law, with top officers taking over and multiplying astronomically the graft and corruption practiced by former politicians.

In return for all these financial gifts to the Philippine military dictatorship, the levels of which keep increasing yearly, the U.S. military maintains 22 bases in the Philippines. Two of these - Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base - are among the largest in the world.

And because the Filipino people will not cease resisting this U.S. - sponsored dictatorship, more Vietnams may just be in store for America unless, of course, the American people now decide to control their own government's mad subservience to the wishes of U.S. multinational corporations.

The Winner: Big Business

The U.S. multinationals are the winners in this current game of military aid and martial law. The losers are the Filipino people and the American taxpayers. It is the latter who mainly foots the bill for Imelda Marcos' multi-million-dollar foibles and lunatic ostentations of wealth.

In the Philippines today, U.S. multinationals have an estimated direct investment of almost 3 billion in various kinds of industries: petroleum, drug, fertilizers, tire and rubber, gold, copper, iron, other metal and chemical industries, banking and finance, import and export trade, agriculture (particularly sugar, pineapples, bananas) and other industries.

They boast that for every dollar they bring in, they are able to extract 6 to 7 dollars out of the Philippines because of "cheap" raw materials and even "cheaper" skilled human labor. The greater boast is that they don't even have to bring that one dollar in to the Philippines. Fourteen cents is enough and the remaining 86 can be borrowed from local banks - thanks to the liberal financial policies of their boy Marcos.

Abolition of Basic Rights

The martial law regime can be counted on to see to it that independent unionization and peasant organizing are illegal, the right to strike abolished and the demand for higher wages controlled.

The average peasant family makes only \$200 a year. Generally, the policy of the U.S. - Marcos regime is to keep farm income and urban wages low so as both to attract foreign capital investment and to produce foodstuffs within the extremely tight budgets of the underpaid urban labor force.

In the squatter area of Manila which comprises more than one-third of that city's total population - the mean income per family is \$49.46 per month. Seventy percent of such an urban worker's family budget is allotted for food. When other allocations are made for clothing, transportation, education, and health - there is relatively little left for housing. And so, the phenomenon of shanties, and huts made of cardboard and discarded commercial tin posters peopled with militants who have a running battle with the Dictator's wife, Governor Imelda Marcos - for stay of eviction orders and the like.

Unemployment stands at 25 percent of the labor force of 14 million, at least, with underemployment easily twice that proportion.

Because of massive government spending on luxuries for the ruling clique, on the one hand, and on the counter-insurgency program on the other hand - the Philippine peso's value is down to less than one-third what it was ten years ago at the start of the Marcos regime. And prices of prime commodities continue to spiral upwards.

Even the professionals and government employees with fixed income, especially public school teachers, suffer much under martial law because of the fact that their meager wage increases just can't keep pace with rising prices.

Agricultural land reform is a big sham. Instead of following the much-vaunted land-to-the-tiller program, government policy encourages corporate farming to ensure sale of at least a billion dollars' worth of sugar to the USA annually. Eighty percent of the rural working force are landless, and in the past year tens of thousands were evicted from the land to give way to mechanized farming.

Investments and Poverty

People therefore find it increasingly hard to believe the dictator Marcos every time he goes on TV and radio in self-praise welcoming more U.S. multinationals to the Philippines "as a sign of confidence in the stability of the martial law society."

There has been a 15-fold increase in the rate of foreign investment in the Philippines in the 1970's. By the first quarter of 1975, foreign capital, mainly U.S., accounted for about 60 percent of investments registered with the Board of Investments.

Philippine foreign debts ballooned from \$500 million at the start of the Marcos regime to \$44 billion in March 1976.

Continued misery, and greater poverty are expected by the Filipino people in the months and years ahead -- for as long as Marcos and his U.S. backers have their say. The resistance surely is growing stronger - parti-

cularly with more and more of the traditionally conservative church-people being radicalized by the gross injustices which they can no longer ignore.

More oppositionists will be killed, for sure, and thousands more will be detained in the Marcos infrastructure of jails throughout the archipelago.

Cutting the American Connection

The urgent question that might yet hasten the political liberation of the Filipino people from the present U.S. - Marcos regime is: Can enough progressive Americans cut the American Connection in the sustenance of martial law?

The key is greater protest on the part of American taxpayers against increased military aid to the Philippines.

There is currently in the U.S. Congress a move to pass what is called the Human Rights Amendment demanding that military and economic aid be withdrawn from regimes like the Philippines, South Korea, and Chile that practice torture against political prisoners, or do other things that grossly violate human rights.

Please write and ask your Congressperson to vote for the Human Rights Amendment - and send your letter to:

(your Congressperson)
House of Representatives or U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 202515

and send copies to:
House International Relations Committee
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

and:
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate,
Washington, DC 20510

--Charlie Avila

Quote of the month:
You're not in school to think,
you're in school to learn.
--Roger Tuttle, Principal of
Pontiac Township High School.

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VITESSE
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- October 10 -- Brakes and Gears
- October 17 -- Wheels, Tubes, and Tires
- October 24 -- Hub, Crank, Head, and Pedal Bearings



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with long bent up handles

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SEKAI - MOTOBECANE
VISCOUNT - STELLA

SERVING THE
BICYCLE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1975

LINDEN & COLLEGE / NORMAL / 454-1541

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

If you listen to the city fathers, the Pantagraph, the civic boosters and the phony speechmakers, you would think we lived in a 1930's Hollywood set. But let's look behind the scenes. Each month since April, 1972, the Post-Amerikan has been denting that serene facade, printing the embarrassing truths the city fathers would rather overlook. Take another look at Bloomington-Normal. Subscribe to the Post-Amerikan.

For the next 12 monthly issues, send \$2.50 to Post-Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, Illinois 61701.

POST AMERIKAN

Enclosed is \$2.50 for the next 12 issues. (Free to prisoners from McLean County.)

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address _____

city _____

state _____

zip _____

LEGAL AID LOW DOWN

On September 1 the McLean County Legal Aid Society expanded their legal services to include the McLean County poor people. The expansion program includes a full-time lawyer and secretary-receptionist at a full-time office.

The office is located in the Eddy Building, 427 N. Main St., room 303, and the phone is 829-5511.

Legal Aid will handle cases involving divorce, collection (defendants only), landlord-tenant employer-employee disputes and bankruptcy.

Legal Aid will not handle cases in real estate, estate work including wills, personal injury, property damage or corporation work.

If the case is battery, assault, shoplifting, rape, murder, a person is entitled to a Public Defender if she/he cannot afford legal expenses.

If you are being sued, the suit must originate in McLean County for you to be eligible.

ISU students should use Student Legal Services and the Tenant's Union.

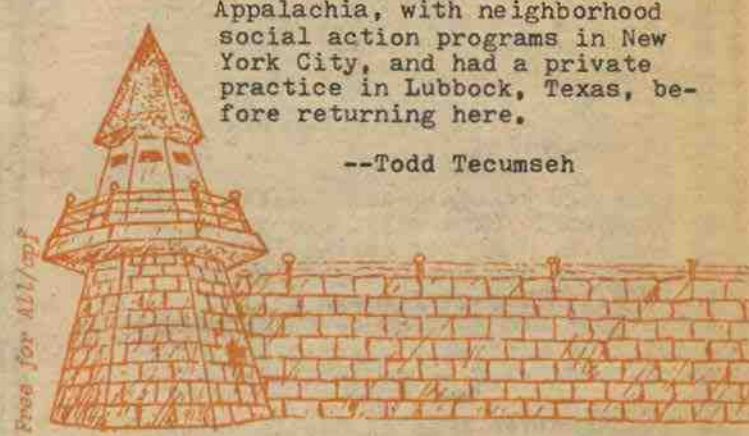
Legal Aid has not established permanent income levels for eligibility, but is using a temporary system. For example, a person's maximum allowable income is \$233 monthly. For each additional member of the applicant's family, about \$75 per person is allowed in determining eligibility.

This system is temporary and will change within the next few months. If you have one of the kinds of cases mentioned above, contact the Legal Aid Office to find out if you are eligible.

The expansion of the program by the McLean County Legal Aid Society is designed to give better, more visible legal aid service to poor people. Having

a full-time lawyer and secretary-receptionist means that Legal Aid has people specializing in pulling their hair out over the same kinds of problems you lose hair, sleep, whatever, over every day. They know how to help you; it's their only job. The new lawyer, David Sullivan, is a former Bloomington resident who graduated from Harvard Law School. Sullivan has worked as a Vista volunteer in Appalachia, with neighborhood social action programs in New York City, and had a private practice in Lubbock, Texas, before returning here.

--Todd Tecumseh



RAPE STILL WITH US, SAYS CRISIS CENTER

Last year was the Year of the Rape. For a full year, the media bombarded the public with documentaries, movies, books, magazines, case histories, and fictional rapes; even crisis centers and support groups made the papers. Of course, we had to sort the honest efforts at social consciousness from the glossy sensationalism, but some awareness of rape as a political phenomenon did manage to surface publicly.

This year seems to be the Year of Wife Abuse. I do not intend to poke fun at so serious an offense as assault; I merely caution that one not become

involved with "in" causes lightly, or merely to be fashionable.

Rape is not the "in" cause today, but is still very much with us. Unfortunately, the drop in media coverage did not signal a similar decline in perpetration of the offense.

Although the number of women who had the courage to report rapes is increasing, we can't rest on our laurels. Unless unconditional support for rape victims continues, we are in danger of sliding deeper into the darkness from which we've begun

our climb.

Out of sight should not be out of mind.

Terri Dolan
Advocate/Rape Crisis Center
of McLean County

P.S. Rape Crisis Center is holding an evening training session the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Noel or Terri at 452-6797.