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Shrinks: a Six Page Section; How Banks Control Housing

Bloomington-Normal

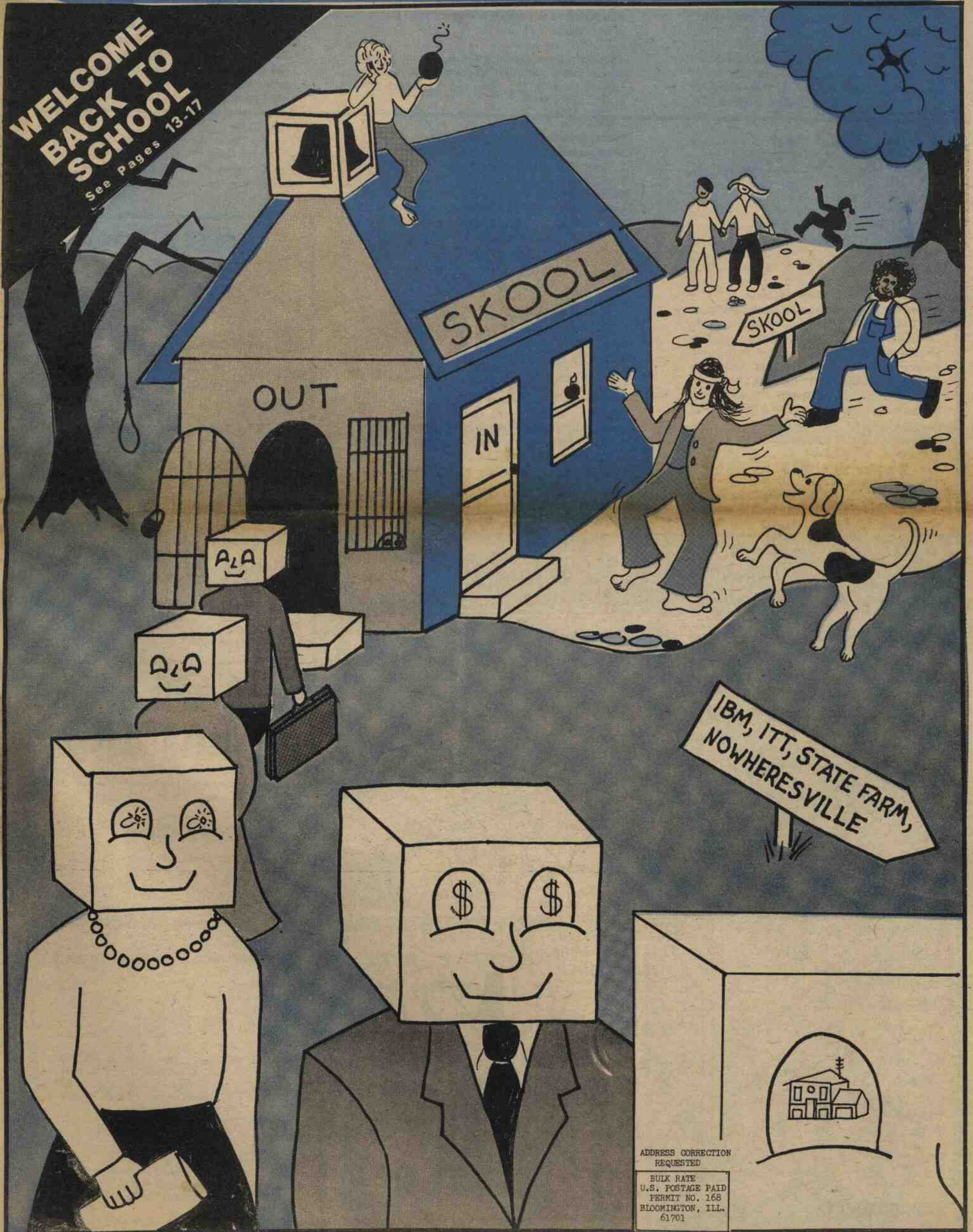
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POST AMERIKAN

Vol. VI No. 5

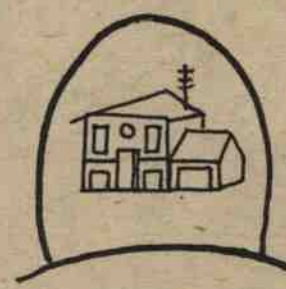
September, 1977

**WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL**
See Pages 13-17



ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 168
BLOOMINGTON, ILL.
61701



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, informa-

ABOUT US

tive, 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.

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 828-6885.

MEETINGS: (Assume they begin at 6:30 unless it says otherwise.)

- Friday August 19
- Friday August 26: POTLUCK
- Friday September 2
- Wednesday September 7: DEADLINE
- Friday September 9: layout begins
- Sat. & Sun. September 10th & 11th: LAYOUT, beginning at noon
- Tuesday September 13: Stuff new papers
- Friday September 16

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 (Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed! Otherwise it's liable to wind up in our letters column.)

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON

- Book Hive, 103 W. Front
- Eastgate IGA, at parking lot exit
- The Joint, 415 N. Main
- Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front
- The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main
- The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main
- South West Corner--Front & Main
- Downtown Postal Substation, Center & Monroe Bl. Post Office, Empire & Fairway (at exit)
- 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
- Bus Depot, 523 N. East
- Park Store, 909 S. Allin
- The Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
- Apache Junction, 204 S. McClun
- Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
- Lay Z J Saloon, 1401 W. Market

- Pantagraph Building, in front of it
- Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park (in front)
- Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
- Man-Ding-Go's, 312 S. Lee
- K-Mart, at parking lot exit
- Denny's Spudnuts, 715 N. Main
- Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.

NORMAL

- University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
- Pat's Billiards, 1203 S. Main
- Redbird IGA
- Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North St.
- Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.
- Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
- Hendren's Grocery Store, 301 W. Willow
- Co-op Bookstore (in front)
- The Galery (in front)
- SE corner, University & College
- New Age Bookstore, 101 Broadway Mall
- Co-op Tapes & Records, 311 S. Main
- Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union
- Cage, ISU Student Union
- Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
- Upper Cut 1203 1/2 S. Main
- Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main

OUTTA TOWN

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

Classy Fried Ads

FOR SALE: Classical Guitar, European made, excellent quality, \$75 or best offer.

NEEDED: Small dresser for less than \$20 and help moving it to my apartment.

CHEATERS UNITE: If you ever have cheated on a test or term paper, in college or high school, it's time to share the wealth. I need info and methods on crib notes, cheat sheets, plagiarism, rubbernecking and all other methods of cheating in school. The best ideas will be published and distributed for free. Send creative, tested ideas that work to:

Red Wing
Box 166
Wright Bro. Sta.
Dayton, Oh. 45409

FAL CHAMELEON CONFRONTS A MOONIE!!!



GOOD NUMBERS

If you would like your service or organization's number listed, call us up at the Post-Amerikan office at 828-7232.

- Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
- American Civil Liberties Union 436-6709 or 452-3634
- Community for Social Action 452-4867
- Dept. of Children and Family Serv. 829-5326
- Dept. of Health, Ed. & Welfare (Social Security Admin.) 829-9436
- Dept. of Mental Health 828-4311
- Gay Action/Awareness Union (community) 828-6935
- Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 438-3411
- Ill. Lawyer Referral Service 800-252-8916 (toll free)
- Kaleidoscope 828-7346
- Lighthouse 828-1371
- McLean County Health Dept. 829-3363
- Men's Rap Group 828-6935
- National Health Care Services (Abortion Assistance: Peoria) 691-9073
- Occupational Development Center 828-7324
- Operation Recycle (after 5:30 p.m.) 452-8530
- PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help: also # for Parents Anonymous) 452-4422
- Planned Parenthood 827-8025
- Post-Amerikan 828-7232
- Project OZ 827-0377
- Public Aid 829-7057
- Rape Crisis Line (through PATH) 452-4422
- Small Changes Alternative Bookstore 829-6223
- Sunnyside Neigh. Center 827-5428
- Unemployment Compensation/Employment Office 827-6237
- Youth Services Agency 827-6241

Delforge violates wage laws

At exclusive restaurant: good tips still leave sour taste

HELP WANTED

YOUNG, attractive female needed who is willing to exploit personality and body for tips. Experience helpful but not necessary.

This job description describes working conditions for women employed as waitresses and coat check clerks in restaurants. For one woman who was a coat check clerk at Turn of the Century in Bloomington, an opportunity to earn a lot of money ended up as the usual employe exploitation.

"I received no salary when I worked for Turn of the Century," the woman said. "I was to work for my tips which were usually pretty good. However, this kept me from being taxed or paying social security.

"Adrian (Delforge, the owner of the restaurant,) also had me go out and buy things for the place, and I was never paid for that. The only money he ever gave me was approximately fifty cents. He tipped me one day."

It became increasingly obvious that Delforge's attitude toward his employees was insensitive and exploitive.

Short skirts

"He wants women to play sexual roles and is just generally a bad person to work for," the woman said. "He had to have low necks or short skirts or both. We had to buy them ourselves. I had a long dress that had a low neck.

"Also, a friend of the Delforges sold art work through the coat check room, and it was the coat check girl, though not paid, who was expected to be responsible for the sales and receipts of these items."

Delforge's attitude was not restricted to coat check clerks. "An employe parked her car in the parking lot for the restaurant and it was towed," the former employe said. "Adrian refused to call them (the towers) and say that the car was supposed to be there. She had to pay \$30 to get her car back."

Waitresses wore long skirts and white blouses that they themselves provided. However, they had to wear bras. Although waitresses, bartenders and cooks did have the advantage of getting paid salaries, the bartender's outfit was a short skirt and a low-cut top.

But if this woman was paid merely in tips, had to wear sexist uniforms, and was dissatisfied with her employer, why did she stay with the coat check job?

Good tips

"I was making from \$30 to \$50 a night on tips," the woman said. "So I was still making \$150 a week without a salary, and that's damn good money any way you want to look at it.

"I had been working for two dollars an hour, and this job gave me an incredible amount of money for much less hours than I was making before. I got my meals at cost, which I usually made in tips.

"In that way it was a good job. Plus the fact that I'm not qualified to be a secretary. It's very difficult. What kind of jobs can females get? Part-time work for college students is secretarial, restaurant or sales clerk work. And I'm not experienced in that.

"So if you're going to be a waitress, that's sexist right from the beginning any place that you work. I can't type. I've always had to pay someone to type for me. The first job I had at 16 was a waitress job. You pile up

a list of references and you know the job pretty well. It's smart to keep on doing it. I've had about eight or nine different waitress jobs.

Talk for drinks

"Toward the end of the time I was working, tips got down to only \$8 a night. When my job ended, Adrian suggested that I come in the bar and receive free drinks if I promised to talk with the men. No pay, just free drinks."

Working in a restaurant, this woman stated, does have definite connections with acting:

"You're playing for your tips. You're making, in a tip type position, from nothing to \$1.25 an hour. Maybe if you work a place for three or four years, you're making \$1.35 or \$1.50 an hour. Your money comes from tips. That's expected to be the majority of your salary.

"Waitresses would love to do away with tips and get four bucks an hour. Everything on the menu would go up \$5 an entree. So it's just a fact of life that 2/3 to 3/4 of your salary comes from your tips. So it's definitely a business. You have to hustle for your tips."

Besides sexual and economic exploitation, there is also real physical danger involved in this line of work. "One time a guy got real drunk and tore my skirt off. He got kicked out of the place right away. Adrian wouldn't stand for that."

"What it boils down to is this: The reason why everyone works there is because the money is so good. The tips are fantastic. As far as that is concerned I can't complain. You did make a lot of money but you just always felt that you were being exploited because you could make that much money. Their attitude is 'We're not going to give you much of a salary, and we're not going to provide your uniform, and you have to do this, this and this for us.'

"Some of the women had children they had to support, and they needed that money. And that's the only way they can make it. Anyone knows that if you're a waitress, the best place to make the best money are the best places in town like the Brittany or Turn of the Century. You can make \$150 or \$250 a week in tips which is a pretty good salary for a job you don't need any school for."

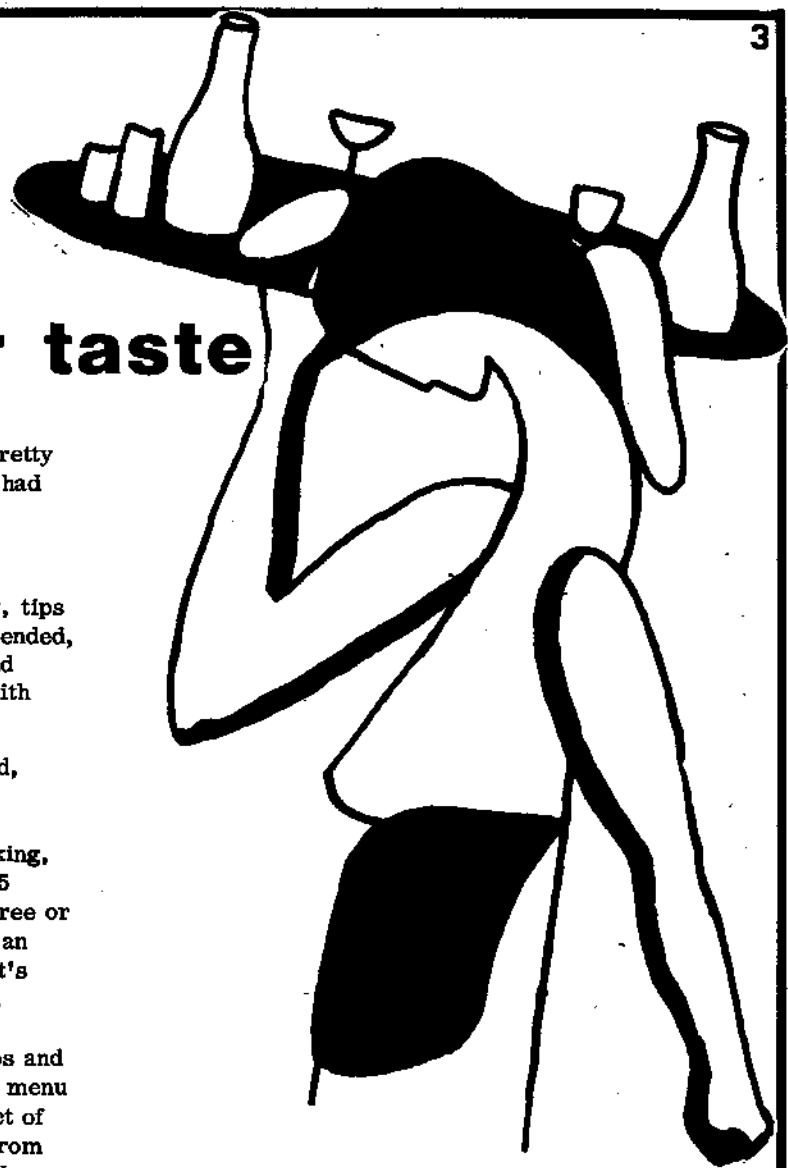
How the taxes work

A restaurant pays federal and state withholding taxes on its employes' set salary, which is usually at least \$1.15 (the legal minimum). Both the restaurant and its employes pay an equal amount toward social security based on the set wage. Tipped employes also pay federal and state income taxes on the tips, after reporting the total tips at the beginning of each month. Taxes on tips are usually deducted from the next paycheck.

Although federal and state taxes are paid on tips, neither the employees nor the restaurant pays social security taxes on tips.

According to the Minimum Wage Law (effective 1971) "every employer shall pay to each of his employees in every occupation wages of not less than \$2.30 an hour." It is also unlawful to discriminate between "employees on the basis of sex."

The law also states that "every employer of an employee engaged in an occupation in which gratuities have customarily and usually constituted and have been recognized as part of the remuneration for hire purposes is entitled to an allowance for gratuities as part of the hourly wage rate... in an amount not to exceed 50% of the applicable minimum wage rate, pro-



vided the employe received in gratuities the amount claimed."

What this means is that the combination of tips from the customers and the salary from the employer must equal \$2.30 per hour, and the least that can be paid by the employer is \$1.15 per hour. So if a waitress earns \$2 in tips, she still gets at least \$1.15 from the employer. If she earns 30¢ in tips, her employer would have to pay her \$2 to guarantee the minimum wage.

Must get minimum wage

Legally, then, the waitress must still get the minimum wage, even if tips are low. But at Turn of the Century, there was no guarantee that employes depending on tips would be compensated if their total fell below minimum wage.

In addition to defining minimum wage, the law also safeguards it by stating that "It is the duty of the Department of Labor to inquire diligently for any violations of this act... and to enforce generally the provisions of this act." It also mentions that "any employer who pays or agrees to pay to any employe wages at a rate less than the rate applicable under this act is guilty of a class B misdemeanor."

Ms. Wright of the Department of Labor in Springfield (217/782-6206) informed me that this law pertains to all tipped employees and that complaints or questions should be directed to the following address where inspectors are assigned cases:

Department of Labor
Division of Labor & Law Enforcement
910 S. Michigan
Chicago, IL.

After listening to all this information, I decided to check out the coat check room at the Turn of the Century personally. The former employe had worked there two years ago. Perhaps Delforge had changed his policies and was no longer violating the wage laws.

Still going on

Well, the waitresses still wear long black dresses and white blouses, and the hostess looked sunning too. She informed me that the coat check room was closed for the summer.

And what about the salaries? Busboys, she said, earn \$2.50 an hour, waitresses earn \$1.20 an hour, and the coat check clerk doesn't get paid a salary. Just tips.

--Orlando

Banks Have Power Over Housing

Few reasonable people would deny that banks have considerable power over everything--like housing--that requires large sums of money.

In large cities banks have been proved to have life-and-death power over whole neighborhoods. The banks simply decide that a neighborhood is too "risky" and stop giving loans in that neighborhood.

This refusal--known as red-lining--means that practically the only way anyone can buy a house in such a neighborhood is to pay cash for it--which obviously means that most homes can't be sold at any price.

Homes (or apartments) that can't be sold tend not to be repaired and then deteriorate. Soon the neighborhood is in ruins.

But red-lining isn't the only power banks have: they not only destroy neighborhoods, they also can prevent one from being built.

The reason is simple: almost all construction is paid for with borrowed money.

Not only do banks tell you whether you can (borrow money to) buy a house, they also decide the same thing for a lot of other people, including those who build apartments. When bankers decide to cut back on loans for homes (and apartments), they are deciding how many places there are for everybody to live.

Now, banks make loans to make money, not to provide housing, and it is in

their interest to keep prices high. If you can't pay back your loan, the bank takes your house. If your house isn't worth as much as you owe the bank, the bank loses money.

1

But the bank can make sure it won't lose money--by restricting the number of houses. As any "free-enterprise" supporter will tell you, the fewer houses there are, the more people will pay for them. People have to live somewhere and, within their abilities, they'll pay whatever they have to pay.

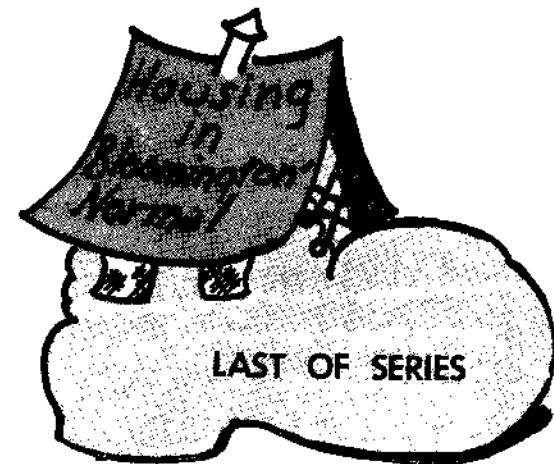
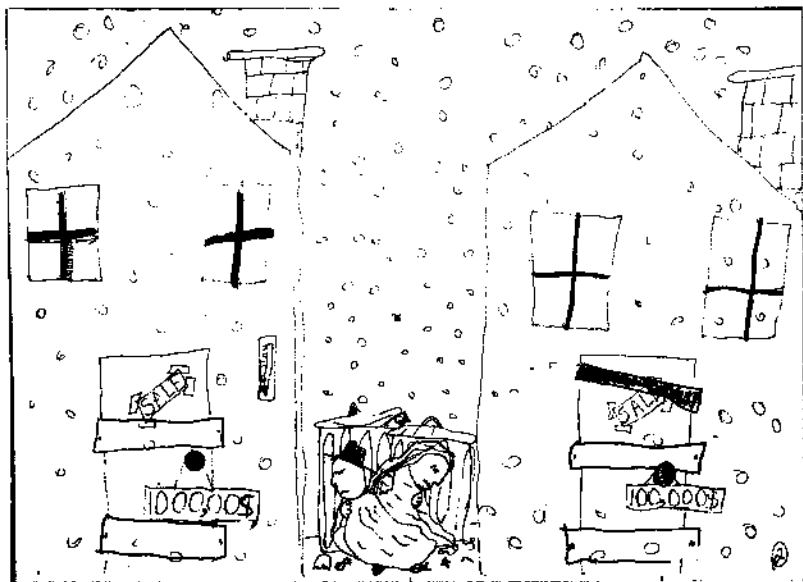
Since banks decide how much interest to charge on loans and since they decide how many loans to make, they control two of the three major costs in housing. (The third is the actual cost of construction.)

Before I clinch this argument, though, I'd like to say something about the amount of money involved and who makes the decisions.

As of June 30, the eight Bloomington-Normal banks had \$222,124,000 in loans out. Part of that was loaned to businesses but that's simply the money that creates jobs, another factor in determining whether you can afford a good place to live.

Since Bloomington Federal, the largest of four local savings and loan associations, had \$182.1 million in loans out two years ago, it's reasonable to suppose that the banks and the S&L's together have over \$500 million in loans out today.

For big loans, like home loans, a handful of people, probably men, at each bank make the



routine decisions. Maybe 75 men for the entire town.

If it's a close call, the regular loan officer's superior probably makes the final decision. That narrows it down to maybe 20 men. If it's a big loan for a large apartment complex, or commercial building, still fewer, higher-up men will hand out--or refuse--the cash. And if it's a decision on how many loans to make, it may be fewer men still.

But maybe you don't believe that a handful of men at the local savings institutions have the power to decide how many houses and apartments are built. Well, check out what Craig Hart, president of Bloomington Federal, told the Pantagraph. And remember that Bloomington Federal is by far the largest single source of money for home loans locally.

"Mortgage money for apartments, (Hart) said, is based on what Bloomington Federal feels is the community need," the Pantagraph reported on A-7, Jan. 18, 1975.

"In late 1973 and early 1974, the association (Bloomington Federal) cut back on loans for apartment construction thinking there was an oversupply of apartments in the area, said Hart.

"Now, he said, there appears to be a need for more apartments."

That's pretty blunt. Bloomington Federal decided that there was an "oversupply," that there were, or soon would be, too many apartments for all of them to be profitable, a situation which would endanger Bloomington Fed's investment.

That's not a decision based on what the people need; it's based on profit pure and simple. And the same decisions are made for homes.

But who gave the members of a private organization--the men at Bloomington Federal--the right to decide the size (and price) of what even they admit is a community need?

Did you?

Banks Control Considerable

Few reasonable people would deny that banks are profitable businesses. After all, visible proof is everywhere.

It doesn't matter whether you're in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee or the eastern Oregon desert, every town of a few thousand people has its bank. And no matter how run-down the rest of the town is, the bank has a new building of shinily respectable dark glass and "used" brick.

Nor is "hard" proof (the dollar-and-cents kind, of course) lacking.

Property?

The Peoples Bank owns \$2,777,000 worth of "premises, furniture and fixtures." The eight local banks together have over \$9 million sunk into their buildings, the land under them, the contents inside. They also own another

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\$280,000 of other real estate.

Nor are the savings and loans poor brothers of the banks. Bloomington Federal just bought the east half of the 100 block of East Front Street for "future development." It is also building a \$716,482 branch on East College in Normal, and it opened a five-story addition and new drive-in facilities downtown in 1974-75 at a cost "well in excess of \$1 million."

It has merged and expanded to such an extent that it now has offices in Champaign, Pontiac, Forrest, Lincoln, Morton, and at Eastland Shopping Center.

Furthermore, six of the seven old

local banks expanded their facilities at least once since 1972. The eighth bank, Prairie State, just opened in 1975 and already has enlarged its drive in facilities.

Assets?

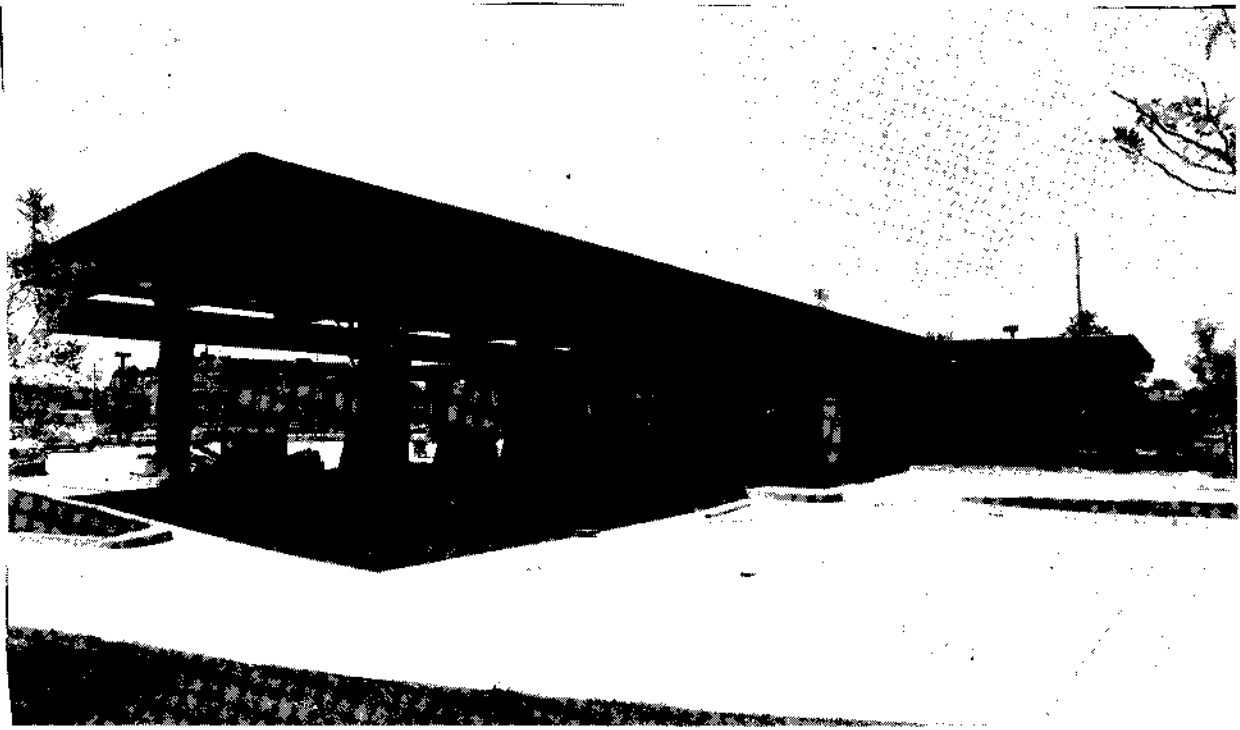
The eight banks have over \$415 million. Bloomington Fed topped \$250 million in mid-1976 and now claims \$350 million.

Profits?

American State Bank paid \$8 per share in dividends in 1976. McLean County Bank paid \$6; Corn Belt and National Bank of Bloomington \$4 each; Peoples \$3.50.

In addition, each of Peoples' 70,000 shares, for example, increased in value by \$7.98 in 1976. Including the dividend, that's a 15% return on

The new Peoples Bank East, shown at right, is a prime example of how Bloomington-Normal banks and savings and loan associations do their best to "serve" the community--by expanding their own expensive (and private) property.



Banks Admit To Responsibility

Few people would deny that banks have a measure of responsibility to serve the Bloomington-Normal community. In fact, the banks themselves proclaim their devotion to this ideal.

"Serving Central Illinois Since 1888," claims a Citizens Savings and Loan ad.

"Bloomington Federal has eight locations to serve you."

"...Just a few of our many services we can offer you," says "the Bank that helps people get things done," the Bank of Illinois.

Often, however, it's just the latest enlargement of the bank's private property that is described as a giant step forward for the people:

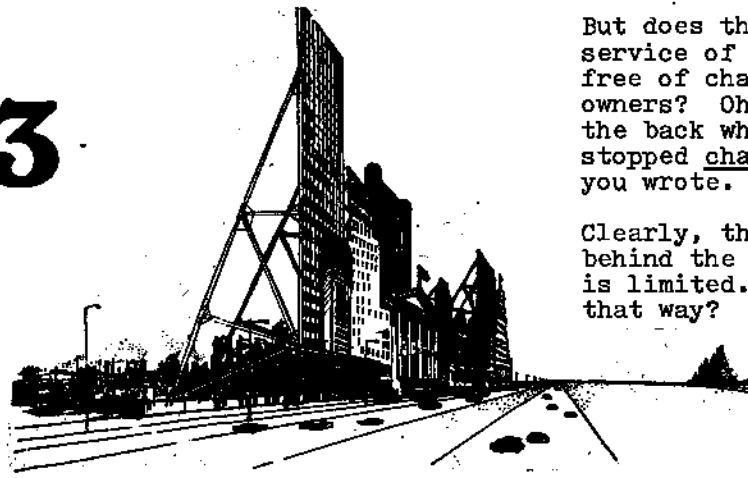
"When finished later this summer, Peoples Bank East will offer the ultimate in banking convenience... All with one purpose in mind--to serve our community better."

Obviously, these grand claims have more to do with the competition among banks (and with how much profit each bank gets) than with serving people.

The only "service" involved is making it easier for money to flow through you from one business to another. You're nothing but a name attached to a particular pile of cash and debts.

No matter how often bankers proclaim that they're giving you "the highest interest allowed by law," it's always

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their interest they have in mind.

Consider the law that prohibits banks from paying interest on money in checking accounts.

No matter whether you write a check for \$20 today or next week, each bank can count on a few millions in its vaults

from all of its checking account holders. And it uses those millions to turn a tidy profit of 9 or 10 or 11% every year.

But does the bank ever thank you for the service of letting it use your money free of charge to make money for its owners? Oh, no. It patted itself on the back when it bought computers and stopped charging you for every check you wrote.

Clearly, the real community service behind the grand advertising claims is limited. But does it have to remain that way?

Not if there is any truth in the National Bank of Bloomington's red, white and blue ad:

"We can do all the things you want a bank to do."

Housing series continues on the next page...

Wealth

investment in one year. (For reference, one share of American State was worth \$467.67 of Jan. 1, 1977. One Corn Belt share was worth \$312.06, one National Bank of Bloomington share \$122.51, and one Peoples share \$84.01.)

Nor is all of this money spread out among thousands of Twin City investors.

All 6000 shares of American State, worth \$2.8 million on Jan. 1, were owned by 74 people. Corn Belt's 16,000 shares, worth almost \$5 million, were owned by 93 people. Peoples' 70,000 shares, worth \$5.88 million, were held by 143 people.

But that doesn't mean that the 74 owners of American State and the 93 owners of Corn Belt and the 143 of Peoples necessarily were different people. In fact, it's a good bet that a significant number are the same people.

Need a book pack to carry all your books?

Stop by Wildcountry at our new location,

203 S. Linden, Normal

(Between Pet Supply and Shutter Shack)



10-8 MON.-FRI.
10-5 SAT.

203 S. Linden,
Normal
452-0222



Banks Have A Way To Help

Few people would deny that providing all people in the U.S. (even all people in Bloomington-Normal) with good-quality, affordable housing would be a costly undertaking. And one of the main reasons for the high cost is the interest that lending institutions charge on the money used to build the housing.

In the last two Posts I've shown that much of the government housing subsidies go to lenders and owners. For instance, almost 75% of the subsidy for the privately-owned subsidized housing at Lancaster Heights in Normal goes to the owners, in large part to pay interest on loans.

4

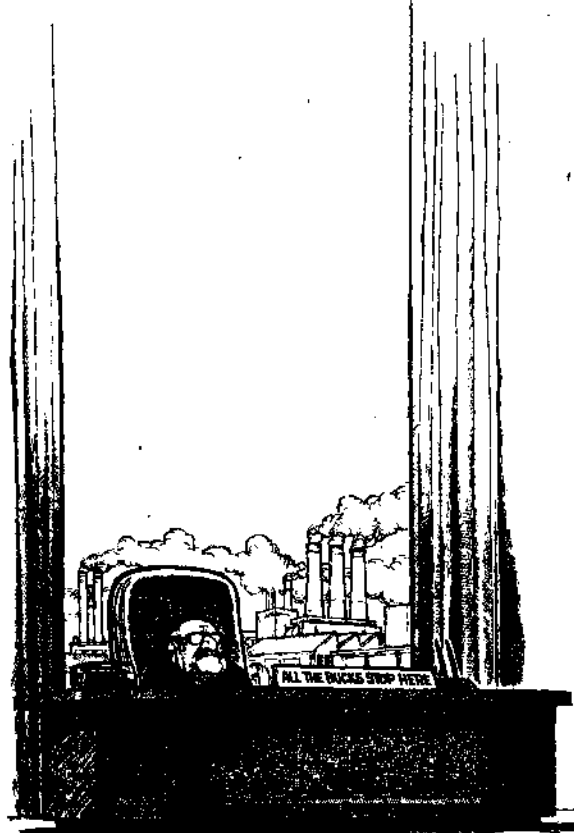
Nearly 50% of the subsidy to the Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) for public housing is used to pay interest on the bonds issued to raise money to build the apartments.

Obviously, banks in general are making good profits on public housing--in addition to the 9% they've been getting on private home mortgages.

In return they make promises "to serve our community better," but that promise usually turns out to consist mainly of boastful ads, fancy new buildings and exotic drive-up facilities.

So, isn't it about time the bankers did something to really help the community? To show their Christian spirit of peoplehood?

How about stopping the phony ads and devoting the money to something



R. Cobb/cpf

\$9500--a total of \$16,000 worth of self-praise.

The Pantagraph cooperatively told me that the eight banks usually buy about 1000 inches a month and gave me a rough idea of how much of a break big advertisers get on the standard ad rates. So, June 19-July 18 was a normal month and the money totals are not unusual.

What I have in mind is that the banks and the S&Ls go together to give the BHA a loan. They divide their shares according to the relative size of their assets.

Then they use the \$16,000 they've been spending on ads each month to pay themselves the monthly loan payments.

That \$16,000 could cover a 40-year \$2.1 million mortgage at 9% interest--which means no loss in revenue to the banks other than their Pantagraph ads.

A loan of \$2.1 million could build something about half the size of the new Phoenix Towers in downtown Bloomington. That would be about 40-50 apartments.

If the bankers found it in their hearts to lend the money at 6%--just enough to cover what they pay on regular savings accounts plus a small fee for bookkeeping--\$16,000 would cover a \$2.9 million loan and maybe 60-70 apartments.

(Remember, \$3 million is only 0.6% of the total loans that all the banks and S&Ls have out.)

If they were really moved by the spirit of peoplehood and loaned some of their interest-free checking account money at 1%, \$16,000 would cover a \$6.3 million loan. Maybe 130 apartments.

Why, the mind boggles.

The feds would probably guarantee the loan, so the banks wouldn't have to worry about losing their money under any conditions. One of the Twin Cities (or some benevolent developer) might come up with a piece of unused urban renewal land.

And don't forget, I'm not making any socialistic demands.

I never even suggested that the banks turn over 10% of their equity capital to BHA, although it's not a bad idea. Reminds me of the days when the church got a tithe, 10% (before taxes, presumably) to do good works.

No, all I suggest is the simple trade of the slightly tainted service of a few ads for the much better service of 40 or 50 real apartments.

That's a good, solid, capitalistic deal, isn't it?

--D. LeSeure

worthwhile? Like a new apartment building for the BHA?

Well, consider this.

During the 30 days beginning June 19 eight local banks bought 961.5 column inches of Pantagraph advertising for roughly \$6500, and the savings and loans bought 1218 inches for roughly

BOOK WIVE

103 W. FRONT
BLOOMINGTON

COIN &
STAMP
SUPPLIES

SMOKES

5 AM-6 PM
MON-SAT
5 AM-12:30 PM
SUN

NEWSPAPERS
&
MAGAZINES

COMICS

GREETING
CARDS

ADULT
NOVELTIES
&
PAPERBACKS

828-3422



NEW RULES -- Are you eligible for public housing now?

Oops. I goofed.

Left town before the last Post went to press without checking to see whether the eligibility rules and the income limits for public housing were still the same as the ones I had gotten last February.

But that's all right because now I get to give you some good news for a change. Two pieces yet.

Item one: you don't have to be married to live in public housing anymore.

Item two: you're more likely to be eligible for public housing now because the income limits were raised June 30 to take the galloping inflation of the last few years into account.

Under the old rules, people who were related by blood or marriage were eligible for public housing. Since the only single people who were eligible had to be handicapped or disabled, this rule meant that virtually the only people eligible for public housing were ones who were legally related.

The new rules state that an "applicant must qualify as a family," but families are defined to include two or more people who "have evidenced a stable family relationship."

Gloria McKittrick of the Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) says unmarried people will be considered on a case-by-case basis. She also said that the housing authority--which is allowed to make its own definition of what a stable family relationship is--will be pretty loose about declaring unmarried people eligible for public housing.

What all this means is that you're more likely to be eligible for public housing if you and your friend(s) have lived together for two years than you would be if you'd lived together for two weeks. The important thing is that you don't have to get married.

The new rules also set the following limits on income:

| eligibility chart | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| No. of people | Income after exemptions |
| 1 | \$7800 |
| 2 | 8900 |
| 3 | 10,500 |
| 4 | 11,050 |
| 5 | 11,850 |
| 6 | 12,550 |
| 7 | 13,250 |
| 8 or more | 13,950 |

Basically, this means that if there are four people in your family, all of you who are 18 or older can earn up to \$11,050 combined after exemptions. If there are only two of you, then your family income after exemptions can be \$8900.

Exemptions are amounts subtracted from your family's total income (before taxes and payroll deductions), and there are two main kinds of deductions.

First, you can subtract 5% of total income (or 10% if you're an elderly family).

Second, subtract \$300 for each person under age 18 or who is disabled, handicapped or a full-time student. If you are married and both spouses work, subtract another \$300.

Example: Say you earn \$5000 a year and your friend earns \$5000, for a total of \$10,000. Five per cent of \$10,000 is \$500. You also get \$300 for each of your two children. That makes a total of \$1100 (\$500 + \$300 + \$300) in exemptions which are subtracted from \$10,000 to leave

\$8900. Since the four of you have less than \$11,050 in income, you're almost certainly eligible for public housing.

There are also exemptions for day care costs and various special expenses. Call the BHA office at 829-3360 for more information.

If you are eligible, you will be ranked according to "need" and put on a waiting list. Your "need" is determined by the number of points you get for the following things:

- Being displaced by urban renewal or other government action is worth 32 points.
- Urgency of need, which is determined by the quality and cost of your present housing and by your income, 16 pts.
- If you are or have been a resident of Bloomington or if you were, are or will be working in Bloomington you get 8 points.
- Elderly (age 62 or older), 4 pts.
- Handicapped or disabled, 2 pts.
- A veteran of the U.S. armed forces, 1 pt.

All these rules may be pretty confusing, but if you think you may be eligible contact the BHA office at 104 E. Wood St. and find out. According to the cities' own applications to the federal government, there at least 4900 families in Bloomington-Normal who need help paying for their housing, and only 1 in 10 has applied for public housing or related programs.

Even if you don't want to live in public housing you might be able to get help paying rent outside of public housing. In any case, the more people on the waiting list, the sooner something will have to be done to provide more good, low-cost housing.

--D. LeSeure

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Frederick J. Hafner: Empire Builder

The following chart represents the income, expenses, and profits on the properties of Mr. Frederick J. Hafner, R.R. #4, Bloomington, Illinois. Most of the figures are in the public record and, so, are accurate. Only a few are figured on a straight percentage basis or on costs for similar buildings.

How did we come to pick on Mr. Hafner, you ask? Well... One day in June, another Post reporter and myself were driving past 202 S. Linden

in Normal and noticed a large sign on the front of the house. The sign read: "This place is the Pits!" Sensing a hot landlord story, we went back later and asked the tenants what the sign was for. Basically, what they said was, 'Look around. We have to pay \$400 a month for this!' (See adjoining story, "A Typical Case in the Landlord Racket.")

We decided that this Mr. Hafner was worth looking into, so we sent the Post-American research team into action. And here is the result:

-- d.n.

a landlord's finances:

| ADDRESS | UNITS | TOTAL LOAN | ANNUAL RENT | ANN. ¹ MORT. PYMT. | PROP. TAX | INSUR- ² ANCE | GAS | WATER | MAINTENANCE ³ | TOTAL EXPENSES | NET PROFIT |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213 Wall St., Normal | 28 | \$544,000 | \$96,600 | \$58,175 | \$8,919 | \$2,415 | \$6,125 | \$3,696 | \$9,660 | \$88,990 | \$7,610 |
| 922, 924 W. Front 901, 903, 905 W. Grove, Bloom. | 28 | \$303,864 | \$67,920 | \$33,144 | \$8,066 | \$1,728 | \$4,560 | \$1,440 | \$6,912 | \$55,850 | \$12,070 |
| 202 S. Linden, 203 Parkinson, 204 Taylor, Normal | 11 | \$191,600 | \$35,260 | \$20,463 | \$3,692 | \$882 | \$1,800 ⁴ | \$706 | \$3,526 | \$31,069 | \$4,191 |
| 335 Riley Dr., 904 Arcadia, Bloomington | 14 | \$156,000 | \$34,380 | \$16,692 | \$4,591 | \$860 | \$2,200 ⁴ | \$720 | \$3,438 | \$28,321 | \$6,059 |
| 333 Riley Dr., Bloomington | 8 | \$86,400 | \$18,240 | \$9,252 | \$2,286 | \$456 | \$1,200 ⁴ | \$600 | \$1,824 | \$15,618 | \$2,622 |
| 210 E. Vernon, Normal | 12 | (\$140,000) ⁵ | \$26,700 | \$14,952 ⁶ | \$2,621 | \$667 | \$700 | \$324 | \$2,670 | \$21,934 | \$4,766 |
| TOTALS | 101 | \$1,281,864 | \$279,100 | \$152,678 | | | | | | \$241,782 | \$37,318 |

MINUS 2.5% OF GROSS RENTS FOR EMPTY APARTMENTS -6,977

Net Profit \$30,341

Footnotes:

- 1.) 15 year mortgage at 8-9% interest.
- 2.) Insurance costs estimated at 2.5% of annual gross rents.
- 3.) Maintenance costs estimated at 10% of annual gross rents. This figure includes maintenance, repairs, and redecorating.
- 4.) Based on costs for comparable buildings.
- 5.) Hafner is apparently buying this property on contract as no record of a loan can be found. Approximation of what loan would have been is based on assessed value, which is about 1/3 of market value.
- 6.) Annual payments are figured on a 15-year payment period.

Conclusions:

Fred Hafner is making about \$30,000 a year from our rents. The banks are making an average of \$57,887 a year on Fred Hafner's mortgage payments which we pay for with our rents. And in 15 years (if he doesn't expand any more), Fred Hafner will own, free and clear, all those buildings, which we paid for. Then he can sit back and collect all those rents and not have to pay the bank anything. (If he could do that now, he would be pulling in over \$180,000 a year.) But why should he quit now and have to pay taxes on all that money when he can take his tax-free \$30,000* a year and buy more property for us to pay for? Then he can make more money every year, so he can buy more property, and so on.

Fred is the personnel director for Nussbaum Trucking. So any money he makes from his apartments is in addition to his salary from Nussbaum. Not a bad hobby.

I tell you this American system is just a wonder!

Who would think that an average Joe Personnel Director could walk into a few Savings and Loans and borrow over a million dollars in just a little over a year? Well this Joe (or in this case Fred)

Personnel Director did it and is well on his way to becoming one of the landed gentry of the town. It almost makes me think I should give up the alternative news business and go into the real estate racket.

After all, even if Mr. Hafner had to come up with a 15% down payment on all these loans (about \$200,000), he is making a comfortable 15% return on his investment. And if he only had to come up with a 10% down payment, he is making a cool 23% return.

The \$30,000 profit is only the amount he clears above his expenses on the apartments. He also has another profit in the amount of his mortgages that he pays off every year. These two profits together make it almost certain that his after-tax rate of return is over 25%.

We have also been very generous with Fred in this chart. He probably doesn't pay anywhere near 10% of his gross income on maintenance. (See "A Typical Case in the Landlord Racket.") Any money he doesn't spend on maintenance is added directly to his profits.

Of course there are a few advantages on our side when dealing with a man in Mr. Hafner's position. Just imagine what a long rent strike would do to a person who had to come up with \$12,723 in cold cash every month to pay the bank. You can almost see the sweat dripping.

Fred Hafner is probably a medium size landlord with a medium size income. May we all be only medium someday.

-- d.n.

* Hafner's \$30,000 a year income from rents is almost certainly tax-free because of the complicated tax laws concerning property, depreciation, etc. (See "Guess Who Pocketed the Rest?" Post-American, Vol. VI #3, June, 1977, page 13, column 1.)

A Typical Case in the Landlord Racket

The big white house at 202 S. Linden in Normal isn't the worst housing I've ever seen. It's definitely in the contest, though, and it deserves the name on the home-made sign on the porch -- "The Pits."

The tenants, Rudy, Rich and Jim, were getting a special summer rent deal, but as of Aug. 15 they were expected to start paying \$400 a month plus utilities to their landlord, Fred Hafner.

Of course, the rent is in itself outrageous. I live in a bigger house than the one at 202 S. Linden and house payments are only \$135 a month, and maintenance isn't that much more. Even figuring how much more houses cost in Normal than in Bloomington, where I live, \$400 a month is a lot to pay for what is in many ways a dump.

The yard and living room at 202 S. Linden, for example, are being used indefinitely as storage areas (of a sort) for big and small pieces of paneling, wood, etc., used in a several-month-long half-hearted project of the landlord's to make some improvements. The work progresses slowly and the convenience of the tenants is apparently not a consideration. One of the tenant's rooms took two months to panel (badly). Meanwhile, he had to sleep somewhere else.

The fairly small-scale paneling job has taken over three months so far, and rooms have been left for days with plaster all over.

There is some good news about the house, though. The tenants have a coin-operated washer and dryer right in their own basement.

The bad news is that they share it with a bunch of landlord Hafner's other tenants in apartments on the same block. This, of course,

makes it impossible to store anything of value there, and there's almost no other storage space.

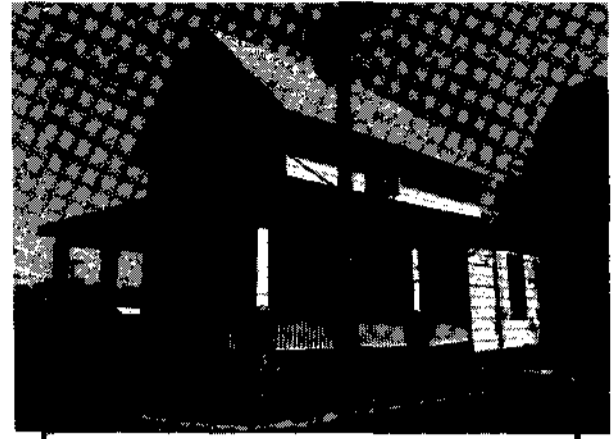
(To be fair, the tenants wouldn't store anything of value there anyway, since the basement floods frequently to a depth of a few inches. The back yard floods too.)

Hafner, the landlord, has said that he will deduct the cost of the other tenants using the washer and dryer from the 202 S. Linden tenants' utility bills, but since he's too cheap to put in a meter for that purpose, all the gas and electricity goes on the Linden Street tenants' bills. It's never been clear how Hafner intends to figure out just how much of the Linden Street bills are due to other tenants' using the washer and dryer.

The house is supposedly furnished by the landlord, but the "beds" so furnished are box springs and mattresses on the floor, without frames. Lots of people might be perfectly happy with this arrangement, but it's not exactly what you expect in a "furnished" house. The dressers are small, which is especially bad considering the lack of other storage space.

The tenants have a shower (no bathtub), but it's not in the best shape either. The step is corroded away, and water from the shower seeps into the floor and wall.

Hafner is so concerned about hanging onto his money that he moved an old stove from the Linden Street house in Normal to another apartment in Bloomington and dumped it outside there--just to avoid paying the \$5 Normal charges to take away large objects.



202 S. Linden, or, 'The Pits' as it is known to its tenants. See chart on preceding page for a financial rundown on the owner, Fred Hafner.

Some improvements were written into the lease, like insulation and weatherstripping, but that work has yet to be started. If it goes as quickly, and as well, as the paneling, the house may be weatherproofed, after a fashion, by next summer.

Right now, the front porch needs repainting, and it looks like it probably needed repainting three years ago. The landlord told the tenants that if they painted it, they could then have a dog.

The house is shabby in other ways, too, but other folks live in much worse conditions. It's still sadly unfair that after paying all this money to a landlord, you're still at his mercy. And some landlords have the nerve to complain about tenants trashing their property.

I'd like to see Fred Hafner putting up with living at 202 S. Linden.

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August 27 -- BLACKWOOD MAGAZINE -- rock
Sunday, August 28 -- HEARTSFIELD -- (on Columbia Records)

August 29 -- HEARTSFIELD -- (on Columbia)
August 31 -- SIGN LANGUAGE -- funk & jazz-rock
September 1 -- LOCOWEED -- country-rock
September 2-3 -- JIM SCHWALL BAND
September 7 -- To Be Announced
September 8 -- SLINK RAND -- rock
September 9 -- CAPTAIN RAT -- 50's-60's music
September 10 -- BLACKWOOD MAGAZINE -- rock
September 14 -- JUMP IN THE SADDLE -- country-rock
September 15-16 -- MATTESON ALL STARS -- from Chicago

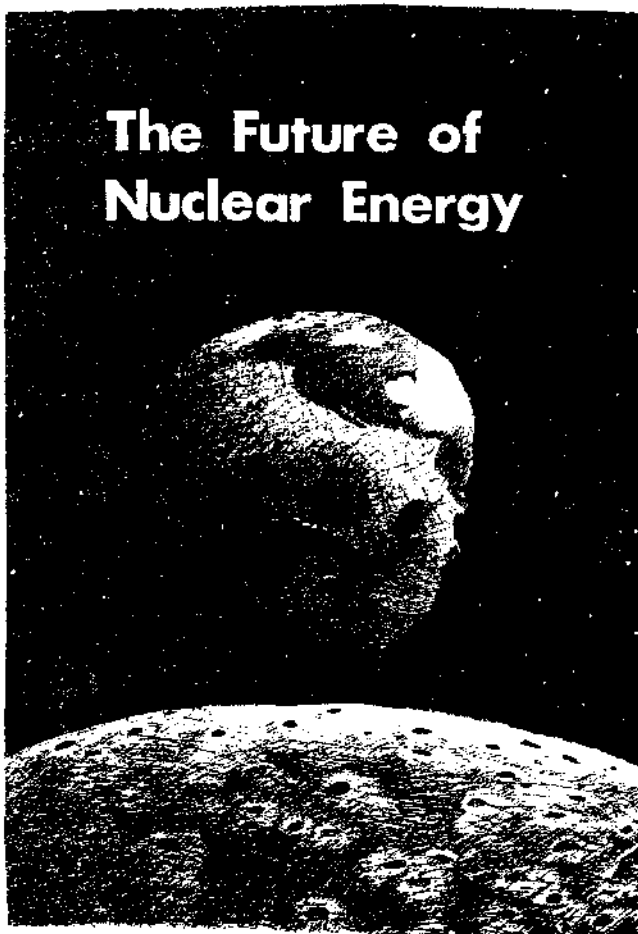
Say NO To Nuclear Power

The Prairie Alliance, composed of people from the Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, and Springfield areas, is a group formed in opposition to the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. The Alliance feels that nuclear power is unsafe, unnecessary and an overly expensive way to supply energy. We support alternatives to nuclear power like solar energy, which is cheaper and much safer and more environmentally sound.

So far, we've had three regional meetings. Our major focus for these meetings has been self-education. Members have been researching various nuclear issues and bringing reports to the meetings.

Some of the subjects that are being researched are environmental questions and legal tactics that can be used to stop nuclear plants. We are also studying basic questions on the subject of nuclear power: how it works, what happens to the waste material, and what the economics behind it are. Members of the Alliance have contacted national and local groups that oppose nuclear power to get their ideas and suggestions.

The Champaign-Urbana chapter of the Prairie Alliance had an exciting day August 6th when they picketed the Ill. Power Company's office. The demonstration was held on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, protesting the abuse of nuclear power. The group stressed the health hazards of nuclear power like radiation poisoning and cancer. About fifty demonstrators participated in leafletting shopping areas and downtown Champaign. Around 12:00, they gathered at the IPC office in Champaign and proceeded to march in



a circle carrying signs. The large group was only able to stay at the IPC office for about 45 minutes because they did not have the assembly permit that is required if more than ten people gather in one location. About 15-20 persons continued picketing at the IPC office but the police did not hassle them. The demonstrators also called people's attention to a recent accident at the construction site of



the Clinton power plant. The company was using a machine, which houses a radioactive pellet, to check construction welds. The machine fell and landed by six workers exposing them to radioactivity. IPC claims that none of these workers were exposed to sufficient doses of radioactivity to worry. But the accident definitely points out the question of safety at a nuclear plant. Current safety figures overlook the possibility of human error.

The Champaign-Urbana group felt that reactions to the demonstration were mostly positive and news coverage was very good.

The next regional Prairie Alliance meeting is going to be held September 1st in Champaign. If anyone is interested in going to this meeting or finding out more about the Prairie Alliance call: Sue at 828-8988 or Chris at 828-6935.

--S.L.

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Feds May Pay Your Utility Bills

If you're poor and your utility fuel bills just about broke you last winter, you may get some relief.

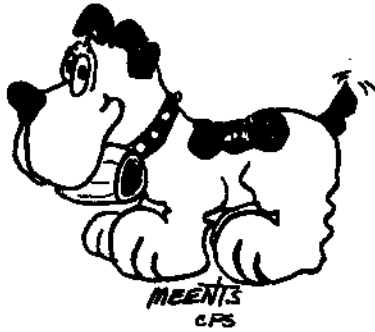
The McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC) is giving out \$113,621.20 in federal funds to pay utility and fuel bills. You can get up to \$250 paid to your utility or fuel companies if you qualify.

If you owe the money to the companies, the money from MCEOC will be taken off your bill. If you paid all your bills already, your money from MCEOC will go toward your future bills. In any case, the money goes to the company, not to you.

Apply as soon as possible, because MCEOC has to give out the money before August 31, 1977. If you're involved with any of the following three agencies, you can apply there:

- McLean County Public Aid, 603 N. Center, Bloomington. Ph. 829-7057.
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, 2207 E. Washington, Bloomington, Ph. 662-1347.
- Senior Services Center (YWCA). Ph. 454-1451 (by appointment only)

If you're not involved with any of



those agencies, apply at MCEOC, 213 N. Main (old Kresge store). Ph. 828-7842 or 828-7042.

Bring the following information and papers with you when you apply:

- Home owners: mortgage payments, taxes and utility costs (excluding water) from Oct. 1, 1976, to the date you apply.
- Renters: rental payments and utilities (excluding water) from Oct. 1, 1976, to date.
- Income: for 12 months prior to your application (for all members of your family or household).

--Utility costs: paid and/or outstanding bills for gas, fuel oil, coal and electricity during Oct. 1, 1976 to date.

Applying for the program takes about an hour.

You're eligible for the program according to the gross income of your household. Here are the guidelines:

| Family Size | Non-Farm Family | Farm Family |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | \$3713 | \$3188 |
| 2 | \$4913 | \$4200 |
| 3 | \$6113 | \$5213 |
| 4 | \$7313 | \$6225 |
| 5 | \$8513 | \$7238 |
| 6 | \$9713 | \$8250 |

(These are the federal Community Service Administration's poverty guidelines for all states except Hawaii and Alaska.)

While this program will ease the crunch for many people, it won't cure basic unfairness. Companies like Illinois Power Company still get their huge profits and get to continue charging high rates, and poor people still have to turn down their thermostats and worry about how they're going to pay their fuel and utility bills.

The federal government will help out some people this year--but what about next year? IPC and the gas company can still raise their rates.

A little federal help here and there isn't near as good as forcing the big companies to change their rates so that everyone can afford the basic necessities for life without having to hope for government aid.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Illinois Power's Insulation Loans Usual Rip-off

Beware of corporations bearing gifts.

Illinois Power Co. (IPC), the firm that's bringing nuclear disaster to Clinton, has a scheme to "help" its customers insulate their homes.

Under the scheme, IPC will loan owners of duplexes or single-family homes up to \$600 at a yearly interest rate of 15%. The loans will be repaid in monthly installments added on to regular power bills.

This scheme, like the nuclear plant at Clinton, was approved by the same Illinois Commerce Commission that is supposed to regulate utilities in the public interest.

Once again the ICC has acted in IPC's interest.

A spot check of Bloomington-Normal banks showed that a \$600 loan to pay for insulation can be had at 11.68% annual interest. One loan officer said banks are prohibited by law from charging more than 13.23%.

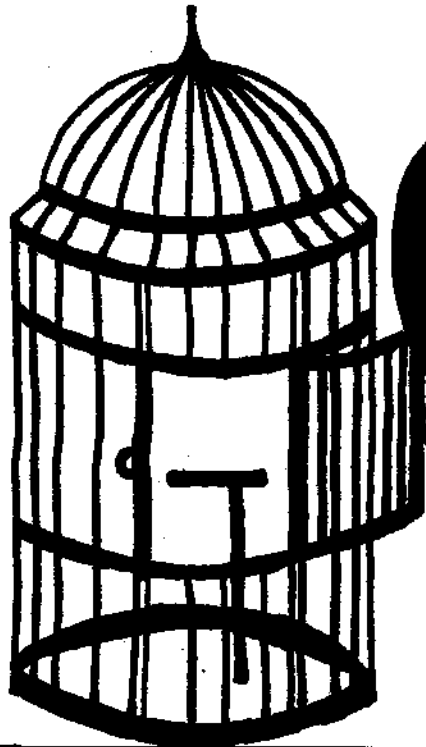
On a one-year \$600 loan the difference between IPC's "help" and the bank's loan amounts to \$19.96. IPC's total profit on such a loan would be \$90.

Worse yet, the ICC has allowed IPC to "invest" up to \$1 million in this fashion. That's \$1 million earning 15% interest--or \$150,000--well above IPC's usual profit rate.

One further note: The Daily Pantagraph, always the friend of the downtrodden, reported IPC's latest rip-off as news (not as an advertisement), complete with instructions on where to go to "sign financing agreements."

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Minimum Wage Still Below Poverty Line

The new minimum wage of \$2.65 an hour will still be 27¢ an hour below the government's own poverty line for a family of four--and powerful business lobbies are likely to keep it there.

The present minimum wage of \$2.30 is 62¢ an hour below the government's poverty line. It would have to be raised to \$2.92 right now and to \$3.10 next year if the minimum wage were to produce a yearly income above the poverty line.

In 1967 the minimum wage was just above the poverty line. If the minimum wage were to be the same in real money (after discounting for inflation), it would have to be \$3.15 by April of next year.

But even the new minimum wage will not increase with the real cost of living. Instead, it is tied to the average manufacturing wage, which hasn't always kept up with inflation, especially recently. This means that the same old story is going to be frozen into law: the minimum wage will not keep pace with inflation, which means a real decline in its ability to buy food and housing.

Although the AFL-CIO has supported an increase in the minimum wage to over \$3 by next year, business lobbies like the Chamber of Commerce and the National Restaurant Association have more say on what people are paid than do the unions. The AFL-CIO recently accused the Chamber of Commerce of using exaggerated and

ceive an average of only \$1.90 per hour. And protective labor laws should be extended to farmworkers and the employees of smaller firms which can afford to pay more. Of course, Taft-Hartley, a bill which legalizes "right to work"--a law which would give no one the right to a decent job at a decent wage, but would

make it much harder to organize a union--should be ditched.

But none of these things can be done until working people everywhere organize themselves and work to make such slogans as "A decent job for a decent wage" a reality for everyone.

--Dave Burdette



THE CALL/cpf

untrue statistics (concerning the number of jobs that would be lost under a higher minimum wage) to build opposition to a significant increase in the minimum wage.

Congress, following the lead of business, has also refused to significantly increase the number of workers covered by the minimum wage. Right now only 58% of U.S. workers are covered.

Farmworkers are still the largest group not covered by the law, but many restaurant workers are often denied full benefit of the law (see "At Exclusive Restaurant: Even Good Tips Leave Sour Taste" in this Post). Also, eight million students receive only 85% of the minimum wage.

Certainly the minimum wage should be increased to the poverty line, if not more, and it should include many more workers than it does at present. Farmworkers, for instance, still re-



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

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 23 -- ICHIHASHI, BLEY & ROBINSON, SCHUCK & MINION

Memo to university students

"School is a long lesson in how to turn yourself off." --John Holt

As you can tell from that quotation, this is not going to be a reasonable article. This is going to be a certifiable rant 'n' rave, written from my bitter heart. You can argue with every angry point I bring up, but there will come a time when you'll admit the core of truth in it, if only for a moment, some time as you sit in a windowless lecture hall and feel the familiar topor of boredom develop into an urgent ache in your guts, or some time as you stare dully at your computer printout grade notification, or some time when you hold your diploma in your hand and laugh nervously because you don't remember diddlyquat about your major field, if you ever knew it.

Here are some of the things I can rant 'n' rave about for hours:

1. The Blackmail and Bribe A-to-F grading system, the Nobody's Fooled Pass/Fail "Option," the Big Bad "Grade Inflation" Monster, the Paranoid Schizophrenic Withdrawal Policy, and the Do-It-Yourself Screw Job, Self-grading:

All those institutionalized practices which beautifully insure, for most people in most places, that if you're a properly socialized white from Evanston, you will grow up to have at least as much money and power as your daddy does, and maybe a lot more; and if you're a properly socialized black from the south side of Chicago, you will grow up to have the same amount of money and power as your family does, and maybe a little bit more, but you won't be complaining about it in any case, because you had a chance to go to college and improve yourself.

2. Professional Sequence at Illinois State: one of the most blatant admissions that learning and teaching are no longer human activities, but saleable commodities: in Professional Sequence, knowledge comes in "packages" and defective students are "recycled."

3. "The hidden curriculum of schooling" (Ivan Illich's phrase): that's the schools' power to determine what kind of learning is "valuable" and what values, goals, and attitudes are acceptable and unacceptable.

4. Testing: in moments of candor, even teachers will admit that testing is unfair, capricious, unsatisfying, tedious--and, ironically, doesn't even measure comprehension adequately. Tests can tell you who can memorize, read, take neat notes, psych out the teacher correctly and docilely assume the teacher's interests and priorities for themselves (at least while the teacher is around), and who can follow directions (This last one is very important--not just the ability to follow directions, but to follow them mindlessly and, of course, with a sweet smile.)

5. Teacher/student relationships: the perverse pretenses involved in a relationship where the ideal image of a teacher is that of helper, authoritative source of knowledge, lover of learning, and friend of students; when in reality the teacher's role is judge, authoritarian source of assignments, nervous scrambler for "publishable" scholarship, and, when you get right down to it, the students' enemy. The teacher/student relationship probably rivals the male/female relationship in the infinite number and variety of ways it can cripple and destroy both parties.

6. Bumbling: No one admits how much bumbling really goes on at the university. (Except some students, who no one believes.) A teacher makes students memorize 10-year-old statistics instead of memorizing last year's statistics which are in their new textbook. Why? He hasn't got around to rewriting the test and getting a new computer program to grade it--so students must learn the old test. In Professional Sequence you can take a computerized test on testing. One answer you must know is that the most important factors in helping your students learn from a test are instant feedback and complete feedback (that means you should give the test back



as soon as possible and explain the right and wrong answers fully). Two weeks later, you can find out your percentage correct on that Professional Sequence test by looking next to your social security number on a computer printout posted in the hall. So much for instant and complete feedback. In another course a teacher piddles around for 10 weeks, realizes that his students have stopped coming to class and reading the assignments on the syllabus (which he never refers to in class), gets angry and orders them all to turn in typed outlines of the first 16 chapters the next Monday but he can't stand to grade all those outlines, so he ends up

8. Spiritual death: what years of accepting and learning to endorse all this crap does to you. Your sense of your own dignity, competence, and worth withers on the vine. None of the Authorities seem to believe you have those qualities--at least, everything in the typical university classroom is designed as though you were lazy, incompetent, unmotivated, and lacking in initiative. But the community provides you with a few bars where you can get drunk and lots of stores where you can buy things to make you feel better, to keep you from having to sit in your \$90-a-month half-a-room and face the emptiness of your heart.



giving everyone B's and C's according to whether he remembers them or not. Bumbling happens every semester, in every department (and reaches its height at the administrative level). It will happen to you. It's your job to struggle to maintain the ability to know it when you see it.

7. Racism, sexism, and hetero-sexism: like everywhere else, they are overtly and covertly, consciously and unconsciously, approved and practiced in every area of university life; and they are not challenged, not fought against, nor even discussed in more than a few places. People who do challenge them are considered impolite and defensively ridiculed.

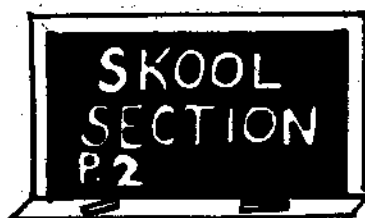
9. Lack of anything better to do: Speaking of emptiness of the heart, for most of us the alternatives to college are even grimmer than college. If you have money help from your folks or the state, you can fix it so college doesn't take up eight debilitating hours a day like wage slavery does (or 20 hours a day like housewifing and child care do). And which would you rather do, get stuck in a dead-end job now or get stuck in a dead-end job four or five years from now? You might as well put off the disappointing wasteland of average grown-up life for a while.

10. The Ideal Student: Want to know if you're an ideal student? If you are, you can defend every university practice and policy I've attacked without referring too directly to your greed for money, status, or material comfort, and do it with a straight face. You say things like, "I agree that sometimes grading is unfair, but I do like to know how I'm doing in a class. Besides, the graduate schools must have something to look at to decide who to admit." Some people are very good at this. They learn to do it in school. The "I agree that...but..." formula is very effective, they say.

If you're not the ideal student, you'll probably enjoy the expanded versions of my rant 'n' raves, which you'll be seeing here in the Post. You probably have lots of rant 'n' raves of your very own, which you should write down and send to the Post, Rant 'n' Rave department, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, Ill. 61701. Rant 'n' raves must be typed, double-spaced, with 1 1/4" margins all around and your full name in the upper right hand corner of every page. (If you didn't realize the last sentence was a joke, you're on your way to being an Ideal Student.)

--Phoebe Caulfield





ISU Leader's Letter Leaked

PostNote: Some low-down, disloyal, and probably over-paid secretary sneaked the Post-Amerikan a copy of ISU's new president's Welcome-Back-to-School letter. It was a rotten thing to do--we admit it. Dr. Lloyd wanted to start a new tradition, and now that we've got the letter first he'll probably drop the whole idea. But just think, if he had sent the Welcome-Back-to-School letter to every student, every faculty member, every staff worker, and posted it on every bulletin board, he would have used up enough trees to wrap (but not box) almost 50,000 Big Macs. Now ain't that just something else?

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

August 22, 1977

Dear Students:

Welcome back to your University!

I know how exciting it is to start a new year. New friends, new computer print-outs, new staged achievement level goals. Yes, and this year a new President, too! That's why I'm taking this minute of your precious time...to let you know where you stand with your President.

First, I do mean to say that my University is your University, too. Why, already I think of all 19,000 of you as part of my family...shareholders, so to speak, looking to me for guidance in this great quest for cash we call life.

Obviously, any father-son relationship like ours places certain responsibilities squarely upon as yet ill-developed shoulders, but the kind of respect that the football team has for the Coach is never easily achieved. Sure, you can call me "sir" if we happen to meet on one of the rare occasions that you have legitimate business in Hovey Hall. Just don't forget that when I say that I've said what I have to say I mean just that, I've said what I have to say.

What I mean to say is that I don't mean for you to think that "shared governance" has any meaning. Notions of equality are not respectful, and democracy is just another uncontrolled event as far as I'm concerned.

After all, I must faithfully execute my responsibilities, too. The buck does stop here. Maybe \$4,000, a mansion, a car, several dozen administrative assistants isn't up to what State Farm provides its President but it's better than what any of you pull down and I worked my way up as a lobbyist and that's a tough patch to hoe, I want to tell you. Besides, I have more important things than mere money to think about... appropriations, line-item budgets, zero-base accounting, alumni, gridiron expenses. Why just last night I was mulling over tax-free annuities.

Secondly, I have said what I have to say. Maybe Neal will have something to add later, but for now I just want you to keep your noses to the grindstone because I know this can be a profitable year for all concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd I. Watkins
Lloyd I. Watkins,
President,
Illinois State
University, Inc.

Sept. 20
7-10 p.m.



Black Greek Night at

Sept. 20
7-10 p.m.



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Sept. 20



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as door prizes

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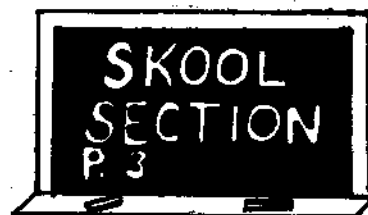
Also:

Every
Sunday Night
starting Sept. 4
7-11 p.m.

Soul Nite at
Skate 'n' Place

adm. \$2 plus
.50 skate rental

Questions Every High School Woman Should Ask



1. Can you play soccer, basketball, football?
2. Were you ever taught to use a saw?
3. Did you ever pretend to be dumb?
4. Do you babysit? What do boys do to earn money?
5. Do your brothers have more freedom than you? In what way? Why?
6. Are your brothers asked to help clean house?
7. Is education more important for you or for your brothers? Why?
8. How many boys are there in your typing class?
9. Would you be interested in birth control information as a service in your school?
10. Did you discuss masturbation in your sex education class? Lesbianism?
11. Would you know what to do if you needed an abortion?
12. What do you want sex education to be?
13. How many famous women do you know about (not counting Presidents' wives and movie stars)?
14. How many paragraphs (pages) cover the women's suffrage movement in your history texts?

15. Who are Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mother Jones, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth?
16. How are women portrayed in the books you read?
17. How do your classes react to 'ugly' women teachers?
18. Have you noticed that there are college scholarships (for football) that discriminate against women?
19. In extra-curricular coed organizations, do women make decisions? Or do they take minutes?
20. Did you ever hesitate to speak up in a coed organization?
21. Are girls with boyfriends considered more fortunate? What do they gain?
22. Did you ever lie about having a boyfriend? Why?
23. Do you ask boys out? If not, why not?
24. Do you believe boys get more sexually aroused faster, at a younger age, and more often than girls? Who told you that?

25. Are you hung up about being or not being a virgin? Why?
26. Should boys be more experienced sexually? Why?
27. Do you ever hug or kiss your female friends?
28. If you were in a dangerous situation would you rather have a man defend you or defend yourself? Can you defend yourself?
29. Are you the teenybopper, bitch, cheater, foxy lady, or 'honey' type portrayed in rock music?
30. Are you flattered by catcalls on the street?
31. Do you like your body?
32. How much time and money do you spend on makeup? Why?
33. Why did you start wearing nylons or bras?
34. Will you be a failure if you don't get married?
35. Do you think of unmarried women as 'bachelorettes' or 'old maids'?
36. Is your mother an oppressed woman?
37. Did an older person ever ask you if you have a boyfriend? How did you feel? Do peers ask the same thing?
38. Do you shave your legs and armpits? Why?

Thanks to FPS and Massapequa Free Press for this article.

Stimeling Says Kids Must Suffer

We'd better watch Bloomington District 87 School Supt. George Stimeling very closely.

Stimeling, a staunch anti-unionist and defender of the status quo, recently expressed his nostalgia for the days when "street kids" stayed on the streets—or better yet, in institutions—instead of in the schools.

In June, our local Kaleidoscope program reported that its students, who are wards of the state for one reason or another, have been integrated into regular classrooms in District 87 and Unit 6 for a year.

Kaleidoscope reported this experiment a big success. Sixty per cent of the students were able to stay in the public schools. That percentage is very positive, considering that Kaleidoscope includes so many children who've repeatedly been in and out of institutions and trouble with authorities (police, teachers, parents, etc.).

Unit 6 Supt. George Evans, and Kaleidoscope director Alan Speer, agreed that the students did very well, and reported no real problems.

But Stimeling doesn't like these "street kids" in "our" environment. The paragraph (July 7) quotes him saying, "They should do their adjusting in the environment that caused their problems in the first place."

He must realize that he's saying that children should adjust to being beaten up by their parents; should adjust to being shuffled around among over-worked, bumbling, competing social service agencies; should adjust to the painful, mindless, prejudiced, judgmental stereotyping done by people like Stimeling himself.

Yet Stimeling can't even adjust to District 87 helping out students whose parents, (he suspects) don't pay taxes in Bloomington.

Remember these attitudes of Stimeling's, and remember that they color every pompous statement about our educational system that pops from his lips.

—Phoeba Caulfield

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SKOOL STOPPERS TEXT BOOK

**Irresponsible
Journalism
Department**

"California,
Tumbles into the sea.
That'll be the day I go back to
Eddindale."

Sick of school? I mean are you really
sick of school? I mean do you feel
that public schools are slowly killing
every person in them, stifling their
creativity and individuality, making
them into non-persons. You don't have
to sit there and complain about it.
You can FIGHT BACK!!!

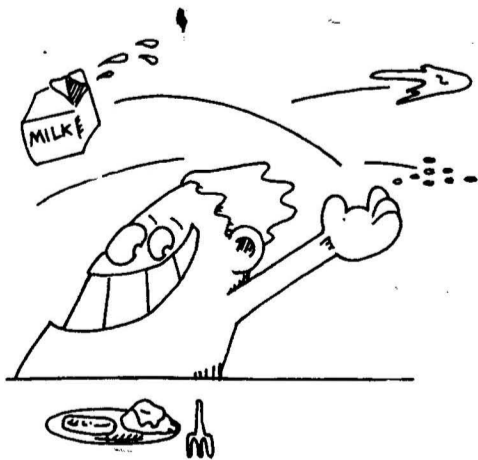
The following suggestions are not for
people who are not yet sure whether
school is good or bad. It is written
for students who realize the way compul-
sory education and grades destroy the
natural curiosity so many children
feel. It is for students who realize
how the tracking system keeps the poor
people and minorities in our society on
the bottom while leaping the rich and
powerful on the top, who realize the
danger of teaching complete obedience
to authority, and who are fed up with
the racism and sexism in schools. It
is written for students who have "gone
through channels" trying to correct
these problems and who are tired of
helplessly waiting while the schools
destroy more and more minds each day.
It is written for young people who
realize that because they are trapped
in school they don't have a chance to
learn what they need to know to create
a free and good life.



How many dress code violations
can you spot on this student?
Hint: exposed navel counts as
one.

Before you try any of these ideas,
think about the effect they will have
on the situation in your particular
school. Not all these suggestions are
appropriate for all situations. Be
flexible.

1. Get a syringe (minus needle) or simi-
lar device. Mix both tubes of epoxy
glue with a little rubbing alcohol. You
now have about half an hour to fill locks,
door jams, etc. before the glue hardens.
If you can't get the epoxy glue and syringe,
a tube of airplane cement can also be used,
although it is not as permanent.
2. Call the school from a pay phone and leave
the phone off the hook. The way some (but
not all) phone systems work, this will tie
up their phone for as long as yours is off
the hook.
3. Draw or paste something "obscene" on pull-
down wall maps or movie screens.
4. Start an information service to let new
students hear opinions and warnings about
the teachers and administrators before
enrollment day.
5. Bad food? Have a good old fashioned food
riot.
6. In gym classes, or in hallways between
classes, have massive searches for "lost"
contact lenses, telling people not to walk
through the hall or "you might step on them."



7. If you still have a dress code, protest by
having everyone do something disruptive that
does not violate the code. For example, dye
your hair green with food coloring.

8. Free all animals in the biology classroom.

9. Write a "consumer report" on the
"education" you've been consuming. Distrib-
ute it to parents at school functions.

10. Periodically have students go to the
office to have some rumor confirmed or denied.

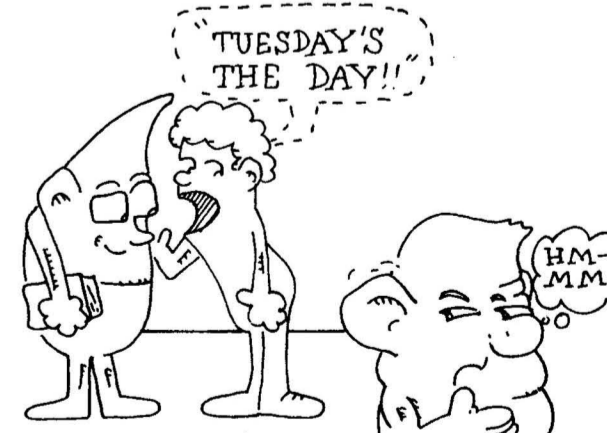
11. Perform citizen's arrests of administra-
tors for destroying the minds of youth, then
telephone the police to come and take the
criminals into custody. (This would be an
excellent guerilla theatre action.)

12. Have giant coughing and sneezing
epidemics in class or study hall.

13. Rub lipstick, glue or vaseline onto the
doorknobs of the administrative offices.

14. Swallow something that will make you
vomit. Walk into the principal's office and
puke all over the carpet, desk, etc. Then
apologize profusely.

15. Remove contents of teacher's mailboxes,
print up everything that's confidential or
interesting.



16. Leave notes and hints that "Tuesday's
the day".

17. Impersonate parental voices and make
irate phone calls to the office.

18. If your school has a suspended ceiling
(that is, a ceiling composed of rectangles
or squares resting on a frame, so that the
rectangles can be pushed up), you can put
dead fish, or anything else, above them.
Or put the fish into empty lockers and glue
them shut.

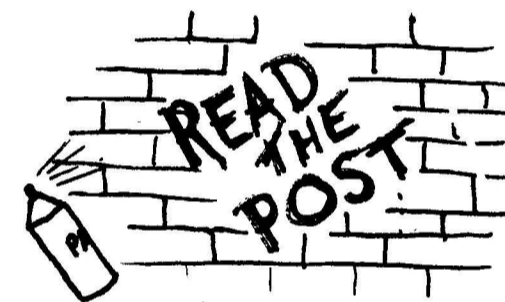
19. Put signs on your locker saying "this
locker will self-destruct if opened for in-
spection."

20. Give your school library a subscription
to the Post-American, and insist that they
make it available to students.

21. Print up false notices frequently, doing
them the same way the school does and
distribute them in teachers' mail boxes.
Eventually they'll never know what to
believe.

22. Make your own passes, forms, tickets,
etc.--or lift them out of teacher's desks.

23. Need a signature? Collect things that
have teacher's signatures on them. Paste
them all down on a sheet of white paper and
either xerox or print up a bunch of copies.
(When getting started you might use a piece
of carbon paper under the signature with
the carbon side facing down on what you
want signed. Then trace over the name with
a steady, relaxed hand. Practice makes
perfect.)



24. Do some revolutionary wall painting.
All you need is a can of spray paint (Red?)
plus a little imagination and courage.
Then write your favorite slogans on walls,
sidewalks, blackboards, etc. If you are a
perfectionist you can make a stencil, but
that limits the size of what you can do...
WEAR GLOVES or you will certainly get tell-
tale paint on your spraying finger.

25. Are certain teachers or administrators
misbehaving? Print up a rat sheet with their
names and telephone numbers and distribute
it. Now students can call them up at any
time to reprimand them--3 a.m. for example.
Also, you could order them pizzas, plumbers--
think big!!

26. Get hold of a film to be shown at a
school assembly and splice in parts of
another movie of your own choosing, before
the assembly. A little imagination on your
part will make for an unforgettable day.

27. Put up posters all around the school.
To make them stick permanently, use Pet
Evaporated Milk for glue.

28. Start wailing in the halls.

29. If you can't find any skunks, let
chickens loose in the school.

30. Create a "WEB OF THREAD" in your
classroom. Have everybody in the class
bring a spool of thread--with a few extras
for people who forget. Tie your thread onto
something and pass the spools around till
you are out--winding thread around everything.
(It's best to pick on one of your more
dullwitted teachers for this one). Explain
that you did it in the name of art.

31. Carry and pretend to sell oregano
cigarettes and aspirin with the name filed
off.

32. Ride a bicycle down a busy hall.

33. Save your book reports and essays.
Give them to other students to use next year
or re-use them yourself with different
teachers.

34. Play with lighting and microphone con-
trols during "important" assemblies.

35. Start a campaign to have the letter Z
(or the word "ORK!") appear everywhere as the
mark of angry students.

36. Set up a fake school and hire away the
lousy teachers, or put up notices inviting
the whole school to a going away party for a
teacher who isn't really leaving.

37. Read the school budget. Reprint and
distribute a list of the stupid expenditures.

38. During some important test (SAT,ACT,
etc.) have some student who is good at each
subject stand up and read off the correct
answers for as long as possible. When
they're finished or silenced, have someone
else stand up and do the same. The test
results will be worthless and it will have
to be given over, at great cost to the
school.

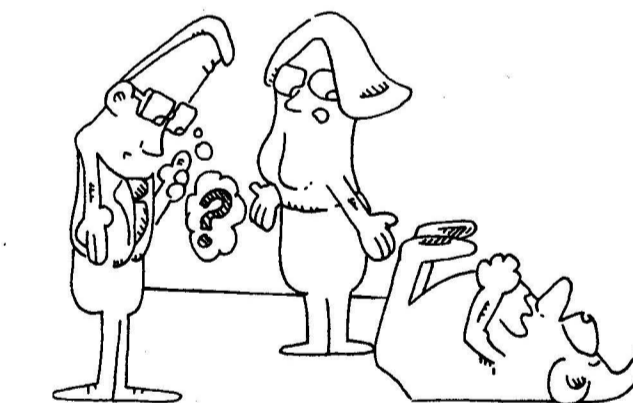
39. Take down the American flag and put up
one of your own. The best way to do this is
to lower the flag that's already up, replace
it with your flag and cut the rope about a
foot below where the flag is attached. Then
tie a slip knot around the other end of the
rope, making it fairly tight. Now pull on
the end of the rope that is hanging down to
raise the flag. At this point, there's no
way your flag can be lowered without
someone climbing up the flagpole.

40. Put alarm clocks (or tape players with
some loud rock and roll--Captain Beefheart
will do) in various lockers. Set the alarm
clocks so that they will go off about every
10 minutes, then close and lock the lockers.

41. Have a group of people march around the
school with a flag singing the Star Spangled
Banner. If the administration tries to punish
you, telephone the Pantagraph, radio stations
and patriotic groups and complain that your
school is being run by pinkos.

42. In a class where there is a rule
against gum chewing have everyone blow
a bubble at the same time one day.

43. Demand that all equipment being stored
rather than being used be made available to
students.



44. Use your "free choice" book reports,
term papers, etc. to read revolutionary
literature and further the political
education of yourself and your class.

45. Have a student lay on the ground. When
a teacher comes, scream "he jumped" and point
to the roof or a third floor window. Mumble
"They dared him" or "Maybe it was the LSD."

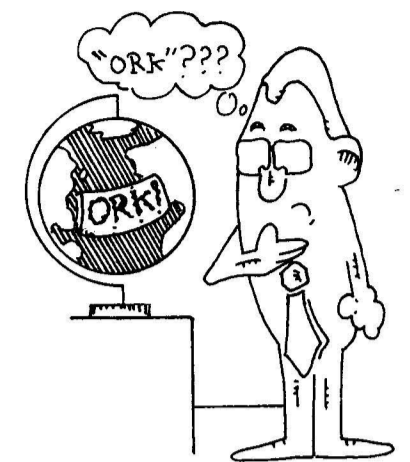
47. Make an address list of disliked adults
in your school. Answer sex ads for them--
or order them a few gross items (C.O.D. of
course).

48. Toss handfuls of BB's on the floor of
busy halls, assemblies, graduation
ceremonies...weddings, funerals.

49. Steal cafeteria trays or plates, burn
large holes in them, and turn them into the
school washer saying "I guess the food did
it."

50. Leave phony letters of resignation from
teachers or administrators on the principal's
desk.

51. Photograph teachers and administrators
constantly--even without film.



52. Splice into your school's intercom
system (from a remote hidden spot) so you
have your guerilla radio station, play on!

53. Hang your teacher! Hang a hangman's
noose from a tree, make a dummy and hang it.
Pin notes on it, like "Blakeman in '77". To
add realism, put holes through the body, then
let diluted ketchup trickle down.

54. Put a rotten apple or stale sandwich on
teacher's desk.

55. Take the door of the administrative
office off its hinges but leave it standing
there, so that when the principal tries to
open the door in the morning it will have a
slightly crushing effect.

56. Place a piece of flypaper (sticky side
up) on the teacher's chair. A little im-
agination in writing something on the opposite
side can make a very interesting teacher.

57. A little tinkering with a wrench and you
can have the water fountains spurting like
Old Faithful.

58. Two common sense tools to own and use
are wirecutters (fences) and bolt cut-
ters (chains, padlocks). Available at
any hardware store.

59. Get some of the punch cards that
your school uses for programming or
taking attendance. Punch new holes in
them, either with a keypunch machine or
a screwdriver. Then switch the cards
with others wherever they are stored.
If you can figure out the code the
cards are punched by, this has even
more possibilities. You can often be
just as effective without actually re-
punching the cards by redistributing
them a few days after you collect them
(particularly when they're used for
attendance).

60. Lunchroom Antics. Anything that
will upset the Lunchroom supervisor!
Popping milk cartons, breaking plates,
and making general havoc of the lunch-
room.

If you can think of any other ideas send them
to the Post American, Box 3452, Bloomington,
IL 61701. (Thanks to the people from FFS/
Youth Liberation in Ann Arbor, Michigan.)



Local psykiatrist holds

Evidence of an outrage, knowledgeable contacts, and a source who's willing--even eager--to talk: what more could you need for another gripping Post-Amerikan expose?

Access to the source, that's what.

In mid-June, a patient on Brokaw Hospital's psychiatric ward phoned the Post. She complained about the way another patient there was being treated. She reported that the patient, who we're calling John, had to follow a strict schedule which included doing hospital work as part of his therapy. She said if John didn't follow the schedule exactly, he was fastened to his bed with locked leather straps called "restraints". His schedule began at 9AM; that morning, when his doctor found him still in bed at two minutes till nine, the doctor ordered him put in restraints. Our source said that John was supposed to be punished even more seriously by being put in "lock-up," but both isolation rooms were already occupied.

John had signed himself into the hospital voluntarily; this meant that he could sign a form saying he wanted out. In the five days after he signed it, if the doctor didn't start commitment procedures in court, he could get out. Our informer said that John kept signing these forms, but every time he was "bullied" or "threatened" by his doctor or his family into tearing them up.

Our source told us that her friend had described his dilemma when he came to her room to pass out water (one of his hospital jobs). She said that the purpose of his therapy program was not to help him, but to teach him to obey, "like a trained animal." She asked John if he wanted her to call the Post-Amerikan, and he said yes. She gave us his room number so we could verify what she said.

First contact

We called him. He confirmed everything the woman had said. He read us his schedule, which went from 9AM to 9PM. He said that he lost free time or was

put in restraints if he didn't get up in time or didn't follow the schedule. He said he wanted out, but was afraid of being committed by the court if he signed a voluntary out-slip. His doctor had told him that if he could follow his schedule perfectly for a week, he could get out and not risk going to court.



I asked John if the problems that originally made him sign himself into Brokaw had anything to do with an inability to get up on time or follow a schedule. He said no. He said he'd held the same job for nine months and had served two years of probation without getting in trouble.

We asked John if Post reporters could come up during visiting hours and interview him. He said yes, and that he did want a story in the paper. We sent a photographer up that evening, and we planned to get hold of Post contacts in the fields of counseling and psychotherapy so that someone knowledgeable would help do the interview sometime in the next few days.

We were naive. We should've rushed over there and done a full interview that very minute, experts or no experts.

Importance to us

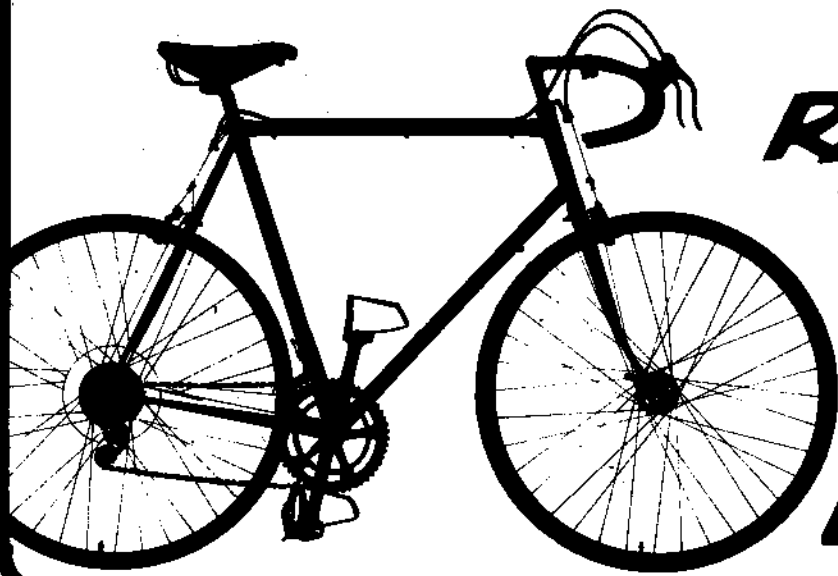
We wanted this story. It was important to us in a lot of ways: first our consciousness about civil liberties told us that John was being practically held prisoner--held with threats instead of iron bars, but nonetheless held. Second, our personal experiences as weirdos, hippies, radicals, feminists, whatever, were touched by his position. We'd all felt the pressure to learn to cooperate, submit, "fit in" with the status quo. As a teenager, one of us came close to being committed just because she was unmarried, pregnant, and refused to go hide out in an unwed mothers' home. Another had been tricked into signing himself into a mental hospital in Chicago.

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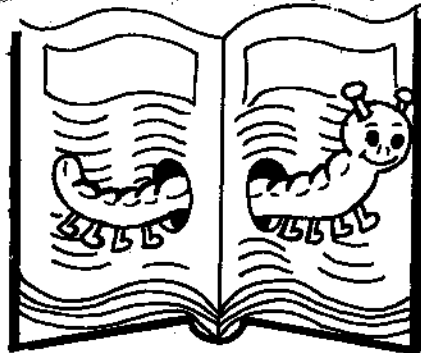
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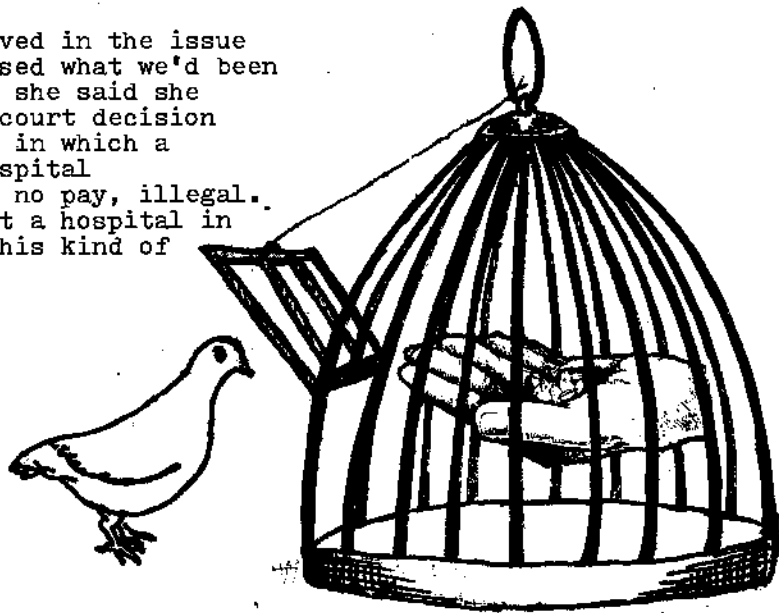
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READING

patient incommunicado

On the adolescent ward there, a teenaged girl had to wear a dress, nylons, and makeup every day--as part of her therapy, doctor's orders--to teach her to behave like a lady (in other words, sanely). She was punished with shots of the heavy tranquilizer thiorazine if she didn't follow these rules. The government classified another of us as a "sociopath" when he told a draft board in 1968 that he smoked marijuana, didn't feel particularly guilty about it, and intended to continue.

So when I say that we had pretty firm ideas about what the mental illness racket is all about, I don't just mean that we cried at the end of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Finally, we were involved in the issue because when we discussed what we'd been told with a counselor, she said she thought that a recent court decision had made work therapy, in which a mental patient does hospital maintenance tasks with no pay, illegal. She said she heard that a hospital in Rockford had to stop this kind of



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therapy recently. So there was the possibility that illegal things were going on at Brokaw, which of course intrigued us.

Incommunicado

On June 17, John called the Post-American office and left a message on our answering machine. He asked for a Post reporter to get in touch with him quick. He said the doctor had threatened again to have him committed. The next day, a reporter heard the message and called Brokaw. Our friend wasn't in his room--he was in lock-up. No phone calls allowed.

Our reporter called every morning for the next four days. The nurse told him that only family members were allowed to talk to the patient, even though we had a tape of John's request to talk to us. The nurse said that the reporter would have to get permission from the doctor, but she refused to tell the doctor's name. She said the reporter could get the doctor's name from the family, but refused to give any information about how to contact the family. She said if the reporter knew the patient well enough to talk to him, then he should know the family. Finally she accidentally let the doctor's name slip.

The reporter then called the psychiatrist, Dr. Harston. The reporter explained that the patient had requested to see him. Harston said it would not be good for the patient to see the reporter, and ordered the reporter to stay away

from all his patients or he would call "the law." (And this is the man who's trying to teach someone else to cooperate!)

We really felt weird about this situation. We were worried about what was happening to John, and we were afraid he was in isolation because he had talked to the Post. The last we'd heard from him was an urgent message to get in touch, but we hadn't been able to for five days. We didn't know if our persistence would make things harder on him in the hospital, or what.

Finally, the reporter who'd called Harston sent John a registered letter saying that we'd received his message and hadn't been able to get to him. The letter also contained a copy of the American Civil Liberties Union views on the rights of mental patients. We did get the postal slip back that told us he'd at least signed for the letter.

That was the only communication we had until he got out--more than 6 weeks later--except for two disappointing efforts to visit him. One Post contact got in to see him, but only got to talk with him in the doctor's presence, and only for one minute.

A couple weeks later, two Post reporters got to see him in his isolation room, but after just three minutes or so (in which they found out that he did still want Post involvement) the nurse turned up to say he had to pass out water. The Post people were waiting until John was done, when the nurse mysteriously reappeared and told them that the doctor had ordered no more visitors except family, and they had to leave.

Released

Finally, on July 28, a Post reporter called the hospital and found out the patient had gone home. We called him there, and arranged an interview the next day with a reporter and a counselor. That interview is the basis for the adjoining article.

John told us then that suspected Post reporters were usually the only ones not allowed brief visits, and that the doctor told the nurses not to give him any more letters from the Post reporter who'd asked Harston's permission to visit.



Keeping a person away from the press when he has freely chosen to contact them is taking a lot of power away from that person, away from the press, and ultimately away from the community that press serves. Because no matter what opinion you form about the adjoining story--whether you agree with our analysis, side with the doctor, or think we should all be put away--the fact remains that we almost didn't get that story, and you almost didn't get to read it, all based on one man's judgment of what would be "good for" another.

--Phoebe Caulfield



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(Post note: This article was co-written by a worker in the mental health field and a reporter.)

Usually, when people try to protect themselves by leaving a dangerous situation, this behavior is seen as being rational, responsible. Apparently this view does not apply when the person is a patient of Dr. Harston, a Bloomington psychiatrist.

John (not his real name), 19 years old, felt that he was too strung out on drugs, had lost his job, and was starting to have "strange thoughts." He was on probation for a theft two and a half years ago in Texas, and was afraid that if he continued hanging out with the same crowd he was currently in with and doing the same things, he would end up in trouble. If his probation got revoked, he would automatically get a 5 year prison sentence.

He decided he needed to go to see a friend in North Carolina for a week or so. He felt that the vacation would get him away from the drugs and potentially dangerous associates, and would give him a chance to get his head clear so he could stay out of trouble. His parents offered to pay for the vacation completely if he would go see a shrink here first, and if the shrink agreed that the vacation was what John needed. They chose Dr. Harston. John agreed, and saw Dr. H for a couple weeks.

Then Dr. H started to push John to sign himself into Brokaw's psychiatric ward. John's folks supported the doctor. John signed himself in, and it was then that his troubles began.

No exit

The first week at Brokaw, John attended occupational therapy, (a fancy name for arts & crafts) saw Dr. H daily for 15-30 minutes, and was placed on medications (drugs), mainly a muscle relaxant. By the end of this week, John felt that he'd pulled himself together and was ready to leave the hospital. He filled out his release form. The rules regarding this form give the doctor five days in which to file commitment papers in court, to protect the patient and community if the patient is "dangerous to himself or others." Harston thought John was, evidently, because he told John that if John tried to proceed with the release paper, he would certainly have John legally committed. This commitment would mean that John was no longer in Brokaw voluntarily, but was there under the control of Dr. H and the law.

John didn't sign the release. He knew that he had more hope of getting out sooner if he didn't go to court. Even though he felt that he was sane, he knew that the judge would take a doctor's word over his, and give the doctor's evidence more weight.

"Therapy"

Up to this point it is difficult to imagine what Dr. H hoped hospitalization would do to help John. John's goal was to remove himself from a potentially bad scene and get his head clear so he wouldn't slip further into that scene. This goal had been accomplished, but H still insisted on hospitalization. If Dr. H's goal was to have John make even more permanent changes in his life style, no such plan was obvious at the time, and John had never agreed to further changes.

And no reasonable person would expect medication alone to solve a problem--especially a drug problem.

Dr. H. clarified his goals for John the second week of hospitalization. John told us that Harston's professional analysis was: John needed to learn to follow rules, for this would make him a happier person. Based on this, "therapy" began.

Schedule

John was placed on a work schedule. Every minute of his time, from 9 AM to 9 PM, was scheduled, including his free time. The schedule included occupational therapy, visiting hours, and a study period, since part of the "therapy" was that John should do his

"Therapy":

Most sane adults cannot, do not, or positively would not follow this type of schedule, especially if it were given to them with such weak explanations and if it was supposed to accomplish goals they'd never agreed to. If we get up two minutes before or two minutes after our usual waking time, there are no drastic consequences. In fact, anyone who firmly believed that there would be drastic consequences from getting up two or three minutes late would be considered kind of crazy.

Punishment

Yet John did suffer drastic results when he wasn't up at two minutes till nine (the time his schedule started): he was strapped to his bed with locked leather straps (restraints) during his free time, and eventually sentenced to lock-up, a locked room with only a bed, a table, no TV, no phone, no bathroom. In lock-up, a patient has to call the nurse to go to the toilet. (John ended up spending six weeks in lock-up. It's a miracle that he retained his sanity.)

Concerning John's treatment plan, Dr. H told a Post reporter, "This is a very important therapeutic program. . . . He needs to learn to cooperate with the hospital, with his parents, and with Society. He needs to gain a better self-concept." Here, his goals for John are clearer: compliance with authority, respect for discipline, acceptance of the status quo. Dr. H. played the role not only of psychiatrist but of parent, disciplinarian, and policeman as well.



homework for his G.E.D. Like all patients on the psychiatric floor, John was scheduled to help in such duties as passing out ice water and dinner trays to other patients. On all other floors of the hospital, these duties are performed by paid staff. Is there something therapeutic about working for no pay?

When the Post reporter said that Harston's plan to teach "cooperation" sounded more like teaching John to submit, Dr. H replied, "I am becoming increasingly convinced that it would not be good at all for John to be talking with you."



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Sanity Equals Obedience

Dr. H's tools were threats and punishment. As our original source told us, John signed a release slip several times, and was scared or bribed into tearing it up every time. There was the threat of commitment. Then there was the threat of Dr. H getting hold of John's probation officer and getting his probation revoked (whether H could really do this or not isn't clear, but it was a dandy threat). One time as John lay strapped to his bed, a member of his family refused to give him any cigarettes unless he tore up his signed release form.

Like most of us would, John found this intolerable. He ran away again during his fifth week of lock-up (he just split while he was passing out ice water--oh yes, he got out to do his hospital chores). The hospital put out an APB on him, and the police quickly found him and brought him back--to face a meeting with his parents, his probation officer, and the doc. The probation officer produced an already-written letter to Texas authorities. The letter asked that compliance with Harston's "therapy" be added on to his conditions of probation. That would mean that

John said recognized that to be released he needed to play Dr. H's "power game." Power is the basic issue of this story. Because Dr. H is a medical doctor, a professional backed by years of training and experience in psychotherapy, most people won't question his power to decide whether a person is rational or not. An in his opinion, John was not rational: "His (John's) judgements are so disturbed that his decision-making is disturbed. He needs help with this."

On the phone the Post reporter kept saying that John had asked to talk to a reporter, because Harston kept saying the Post was intruding, "sticking your nose in other people's business," "getting yourself too involved," etc. Finally the doctor said, "His (John's) requests are not legitimate, as far as you're concerned."

And of course the doctor pulled rank: he claimed that this therapeutic program was too hard for the Post reporter to possibly understand and judge. Of course, this gets psychiatrists out of all kinds of binds, because if the ordinary person can't apply common sense and the wisdom of experience to evaluate a psychiatrist's actions, then the psychiatrist's practices will go unquestioned--and usually do. We found that people are scared to voice doubts about what a psychiatrist does to a "crazy person," even if they would bravely voice doubts about a sheriff doing the exact same things to a "criminal."

Power

Because Dr. H is the expert dealing with an "irrational" person, he assumed the sole responsibility for giving John "therapy," choosing the goals, identifying success, and controlling who he talked with and got mail from. John being "irrational," was not included in the decision-making process.

John said that he was offered no alternatives to H's plan even though he clearly communicated his unhappiness with the plan by rebelling against his work schedule and running away from the hospital. Our community does have other programs, like Lighthouse, that might have been more tolerable and helpful, but John didn't know about them. Ironically, probably John had chosen the best therapy all by himself when he decided to go to North Carolina--and of course, being able to analyze your problems and figure out solutions for yourself is one sign of sanity.

The focus of the doctor/patient relationship was on discipline and external cooperation. It was very directive--that is, the doctor told John what he should do based on the doctor's own ideas of what John should be like. If they're going to insist that nuttiness is an "illness," like measles, and that it should be treated like an illness (with medicine and doctors), then here's the medical analogy of what happened between John and his doctor.

John has a stomach ache and wants some PeptoBismol. His folks say, "are you sure that's a stomach ache? Go see the doctor, and if he says it's a stomach ache, we'll get you some PeptoBismol." So John goes to the doctor, and the doctor puts John in the hospital and takes his tonsils out, because the doctor believes that everyone should have their tonsils taken out in order to be healthy. When John says, "What's all this about? All I had was a stomach ache!" the doctor says, "How would you know? Are you a doctor?"

--by Riverfinger and
and Phoebe Caulfield



Photo shows John locked to his bed in Brokaw's psych ward, as punishment for not waking up exactly at 9 AM. Called "restraints," the lockable leather straps are supposed to be used only when a patient is out of control. Instead, they are used as "therapy," to teach the consequences of not following the rules. (Since we aren't publishing John's real name, we're also keeping his face out of the photo.)

bucking the doc would mean five years in the slam, just like stealing a Cadillac would.

Giving in...

Where did this leave John? In Brokaw hospital with a work schedule to follow. Disobedience brought lock-up and threats of commitment and imprisonment. He decided to do the All-American thing: make a deal. He said that if the probe officer wouldn't send the letter, and if the doc would let him out of lock-up and back in a regular room, he could follow his schedule for a week perfectly and earn his way out of the hospital.

These clear signs of impending sanity (wheeling, dealing, and accepting unreasonable premises when they're offered by Authorities), doc, cop, and pop all no doubt heaved gusty sighs of relief. They took him up on the deal, even though it did let him out of lock-up and also out of one week of Schedule-following.

Getting out

He went back to the ward, followed his schedule perfectly for one week, and got out of the hospital.

This brings up another weird thing that might drive you nuts if you thought about it very long (but that's the trick--not to think about it). Harston claimed to John, to John's folks, to the Probation officer, and to the Post, that John was crazy enough to be committed. Yet he also believed that following a schedule perfectly for one week would make John sane enough to walk the streets. If this is so, they ought to print up this amazing schedule and hand it out on the street corners.

Now you may wonder why John did not comply with this wondrous schedule four or five weeks earlier and save himself a lot of grief. In John's words, "It was such a bunch of bulls--t," which is exactly what most sane adults would say if someone tried to tell them this schedule was going to drive the bats out of their belfry. And he did what most sane adults would do if someone tried to force them to follow this schedule--he rebelled, passively and actively, in little and big ways. And, like most sane adults would, when he saw that compliance was the only way to free himself, he complied.

John did escape one night, but his brother found him and brought him back to Brokaw. After that, the probation officer technically had grounds to bust him because he'd been missing from his "place of residence" (Brokaw's psych ward) after probation curfew. The probation officer really pushed compliance with "therapy."

After he got back, John again overslept, and this time a lock-up room was open and ready for him. John says that when H sentenced him to lock-up, it was for oversleeping, not for running away; in fact, he says that the doctor never even discussed his escape with him. This seems confusing and weird, to get such heavy punishment for oversleeping and to have escaped, which seems like it would be a heavier crime in the doctor's book, never even mentioned. It's certainly not something that would foster a sense of order and proportion to the world. Odd things like this, with everyone else pretending they were not odd, could almost drive you nuts.

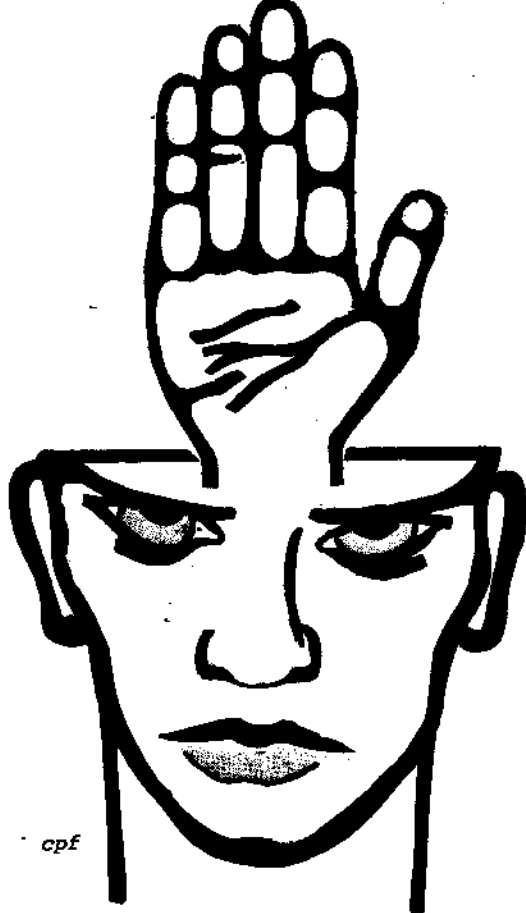


By being put in lock-up, John "lost" a week. Before, the doctor had told him if he would follow the schedule perfectly for a week, the doctor would let him out. After lock-up, though, John had to follow the schedule perfectly for one week in lock-up, and then follow it perfectly for another week out of lock-up.

Shrinks' Power is Real, But

POST-NOTE: This article originally appeared in the October, 1972 Post-American. We have revised some of it and shortened it.

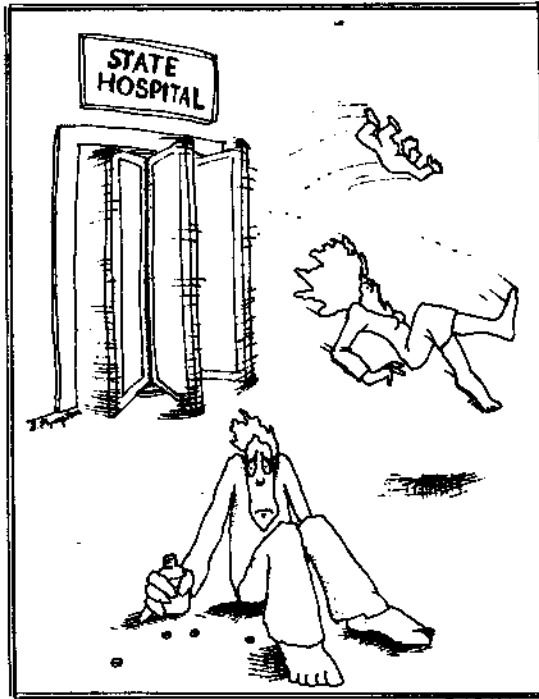
Doctors, mostly psychiatrists, are raking in millions every year on a non-existent disease called "mental illness." Unlike ordinary physical illness, this mental "illness" can't be seen on a microscope slide, nor heard in a heartbeat. Many times it's not even felt by its supposed victims. But psychiatrists continue to diagnose cases of mental "illness" with the same confidence and unquestioned authority of an ordinary doctor diagnosing a case of measles.



Just the name of this supposed disease should arouse suspicion. Though people are used to talking about their minds, there is really no such part of the body. The brain is the closest thing,

but that's not exactly what people mean when they talk about their minds. And doctors, when speaking of "mental illness," are not talking about brain injuries or infections.

No doctor has ever seen a "mind," because "mind" is not even a physical concept. "Mind" is a



Healthpac/cpf metaphysical concept, and one gets suspicious finding supposed hard-core scientists like doctors getting into the metaphysical.

The symptoms of "mental" illness are not clear physical injuries or pain, the kinds of symptoms which usually bring the doctors. The symptoms of "mental" illness are behavior. People who are "mentally" ill are people who don't "act right" according to other people.

Just as the very concept of "mental" illness is unscientific, so is its diagnosis. Instead of an objective examination of a microscope slide, a heartbeat, or a physical injury, the diagnosis of "mental" illness requires a subjective interpretation of another person's behavior.

Somehow doctors have managed to use the prestige of medicine and science to set up (and gain acceptance of their right to set up) a set of judgments about how people should behave. And these judgments have nothing whatsoever to do with doctors' original job--healing the body.

Real diseases are the same in different cultures and countries. A tubercular lung looks the same whether it's in China or the United States. But "mental" illness, in both its causes and symptoms, varies from culture to culture. It also varies from group to group within a given culture.

This means that psychiatrists are in the business of prescribing how to behave and how to view the world in terms of a given culture's needs and morality. When the culture is composed of differing sub-cultures, the psychiatrist becomes the spokesperson for, and enforcer of, the dominant group's standards of behavior.

In the U.S., a person literally believing he or she speaks with dead ancestors would be showing "symptoms" of "mental" illness. Even if this individual felt no discomfort or pain and had no desire to see a physician, he or she would still be displaying "symptoms." (In fact, doctors often use "little insight into his own condition" as further proof of a patient's illness.)

But in other societies that have existed, conversations with dead ancestors were common accepted parts of life. Do the believers in "mental" illness consider whole cultures to be composed of sick people? Or maybe how mental illness is defined depends on what standards are found in each society. Can anyone imagine physicians considering the plague a disease in some countries but a healthy condition in others? That's what doctors do with "mental" illness.

The role of psychiatry is not always bad. There are two sorts of people supposedly suffering from mental illness. Some people have "problems in living," and should have some help with their problems--as long as they want that help, and feel they have a problem. But the help wouldn't even have to come from a medical doctor like a psychiatrist--why not a counselor, or even a guru?

Radical Therapy as

"Radicals" are those who believe in root changes not mere adjustment. Radical therapists believe that therapy is a political process and that we can not remain neutral."

That is the statement that encouraged us to attend the second annual Midwest Radical Therapy Conference over Memorial Day weekend. We went not really knowing what Radical Therapy (RT) was and left with several new viewpoints and lots of good feelings. It was especially exciting to find therapists who dared criticize and attempt to find alternatives to the established system of therapy. (To see just how oppressive straight therapy can be, read the articles about therapy in this issue of the Post.)

For lots of people, most therapy is just another weapon used by society to enforce conformity. Therapy is what the juvenile court hopes will stop you from being a delinquent; therapy is what your husband pays for to make you enjoy housework; therapy is what your parents suggest to you when they find out you're a lesbian. So, how can something positive be called therapy? And why Radical Therapy?

Radical Therapy is political. But then, so is all therapy. So what's the difference?

Often straight therapy claims that it works purely from a psychological viewpoint. That means that it pretends that giving a tranquilizer to a loud, disruptive person in a mental hospital is a psychological decision, not a political one--RT recognizes that its influence is political and actively uses Marxist, feminist, classist, socialist and racist analyses to understand ourselves.

RT's view of craziness is based on political

analysis. People feel alienated because they are oppressed. When we are lied to about our oppression we become isolated from each other. Oppression, lies and isolation leads to alienation and feelings of craziness. From RT's perspective people are healthy; it is the system which is sick.



In order to reverse the whole process leading to craziness, RT believes that we need to regain our sense of personal power. This can happen in co-operative small groups which focus on increasing our awareness of our social situations, making contact with other oppressed people and taking action to gain control of our lives.

So, RT is group oriented--change comes from people sharing their experiences, strengths and support with each other in relationships of equality. This differs a lot from straight therapy where often a trained (usually expensive) professional is seen as having the power to cure individuals.

RT is also more broadly based than is straight therapy. Traditionally, straight therapy focuses mostly on the individual and so uses mainly psychological theories. RT focuses on three different levels-- the individual, individuals interacting with each other in small numbers, and the society. As such RT deals not only with psychological ideas but with such issues as the influence of the power structures of families, the diet on individuals, the political-economic forces of the time, and the support systems available to an individual.

Just how broad RT is can be seen by looking at a sample of the workshops offered at the convention: therapy for lesbians, men and competition, dream work, adults living with children, death and dying, feminism for men, play therapy, non-monogamy, liberating masturbation, battered wives.

For us one of the most exciting things about this convention was to meet people who not only used RT ideas in counseling others, but who also incorporated these beliefs into their



own lives. Many of the people belonged to RT collectives in order to continue growing and learning about themselves. All around us people were struggling with issues of sexism, racism, classism, and power in their own lives and relationships.

The conference itself reflected RT values and philosophies. On the first day of the conference anybody who was interested could organize

"Mental" Illness Isn't

But others say they have no especially crippling problems, but they are nevertheless diagnosed as "sick" and recommended for treatment. In some cases they are forced into mental hospitals.

When we realize that psychiatrists deal with actions and feelings rather than disease, it means that people are being forcibly confined for their way of living--a way of living with which they are content.

The people who have broad decision-making power in a society traditionally set up certain guidelines for acceptable behavior (laws). In theory the whole society agrees that the behavior which is unacceptable (illegal) can be punished.

The laws are written and public. They specifically define unacceptable behavior.

In practice, though, laws are very often either unjust to start off with (heavily slanted in favor of the already powerful), enforced against some people and not others, or hard to understand. But even so, laws are much more commonly agreed on and clearly defined than "mental illness" is.

Psychiatrists can imprison people for behavior which is not illegal--it need only be "sick" or indicative of "mental" illness. This means that psychiatrists can imprison people for legal but unacceptable behavior. And they do it to "help" the patient back to "health."

Even though the American Psychiatric Association voted in 1973 to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders, many psychiatrists still claim that homosexuality is a disease. (The fact that 20,000,000 Americans were "cured" in one day by the APA's decision that homosexuality is not a disease shows how real "mental illness" is.

Alcoholism is now a "disease."

Drug use is an indication of "sickness."

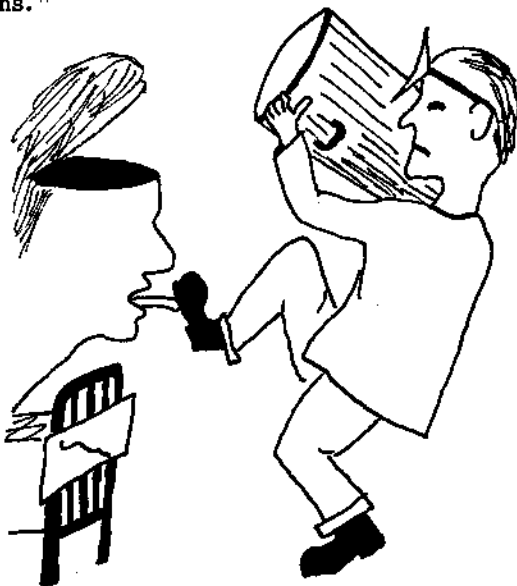
Karl Menninger, in his famous book, The Crime of Punishment, says that the prison system should be turned over to psychiatrists. Menninger says that anyone who breaks the law is mentally ill!

Students of criminology are well aware that the entire American population has probably, at some time, broken some law.

This means that almost all the population is "sick." We all have this "mental" illness!

But no doctor could ever examine one of us and objectively diagnose this disease. The doctor couldn't perform an autopsy and locate our "sickness." That's because we don't have a disease or an illness. That supposed illness exists only in the definition and judgment of our behavior.

Later, the pamphlet shows even more clearly its narrow class and moral bias. According to the National Association for Mental Health, "mentally healthy adults" are "people who are good parents, good mates, good workers, good neighbors, good citizens."



And who do the psychiatrists represent when they make these judgments about our behavior?

"What Every Child Needs For Good Mental Health" is a pamphlet published by the National Association for Mental Health. The pamphlet runs down all the characteristics of the good suburban middle-class home, including "love, faith, guidance, control," etc. Apparently, one must be socialized into the middle class to be healthy. Anybody else is sick.

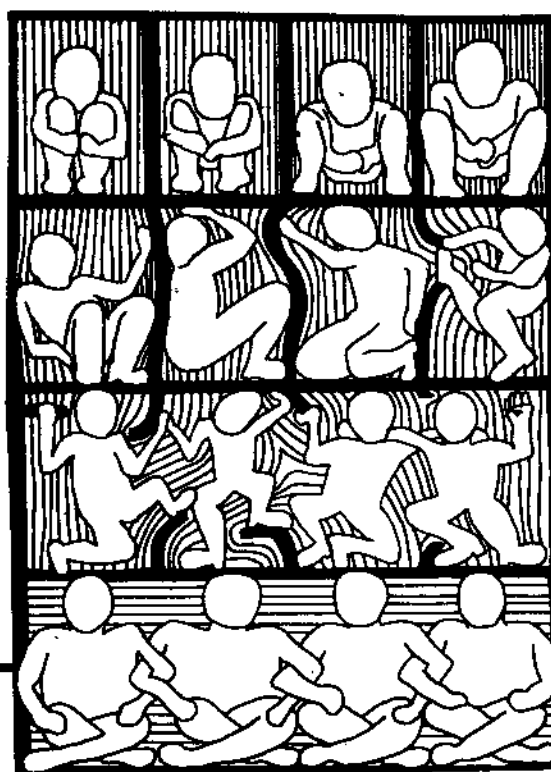
At UCLA there is a free clinic to "treat" "gender problems" in 3-7 year old children. A young boy has a gender problem, according to the clinic's list, if he doesn't take enough interest in rough and tumble sports, if he has effeminate gestures, etc. I guess definite stereotyped sex roles are essential for good mental health. The National Association for Mental Health funds the clinic.

Remember all those anti-dope commercials on TV? One of the big mental health organizations put those on, too. A shrink even told me once that no one can use recreational drugs and also be mentally healthy. You could use alcohol recreationally, though, and still be mentally healthy.

What "mental" illness comes down to is this: moralism hidden behind scientific "authority" and credibility.

The shrinks pretend that their definitions of "mental" illness are based on something other than the personal beliefs, prejudices, class interests, and hang-ups of the ideal middle class solid citizen.

By calling unacceptable behavior a "disease," by making an analogy with real physical sickness, psychiatry attempts to give its judgments a scientific air of eternal, unquestionable, and universal truth.



an Alternative

workshops, activities and help plan the weekend. Similarly, on the last day an open feedback session was held. Here we discussed the possibilities of co-operative meal planning, scholarships and how to reduce costs so more people would attend. Throughout the weekend time and space set aside for children and women-only, men-only, lesbian-only activities.

We do not want to give the impression that all of straight therapy is bad. We, like many others, have had some very positive experiences with straight therapists. However, when dealing with straight therapy the rule of "buyer beware" applies. We, as clients, have to search carefully for a feminist therapist, or the therapist who is not oppressive to gay people, or children, or blacks or....

It is encouraging, though, to know that there are a growing number of therapists who can be trusted because they are dealing with power issues in their own lives.

P.S. There are Radical Therapy groups and problem-solving groups forming all over the country. Also the RT group in California puts out a quarterly paper (Issues in Radical Therapy) and has published books like Therapy and Politics, Ed. by Hogie Wycoff, Scripts People Live, by Claude Steiner. These two books and others are at Small Changes bookstore. Small Changes can also give you info. on contacting RT and problem solving groups.

P.P.S. A point we forgot to mention in the article is that RT breaks down the medical model. RT takes the magic away from the doctors and puts the magic in our hands.

Luma Nichol
Sally Friedman

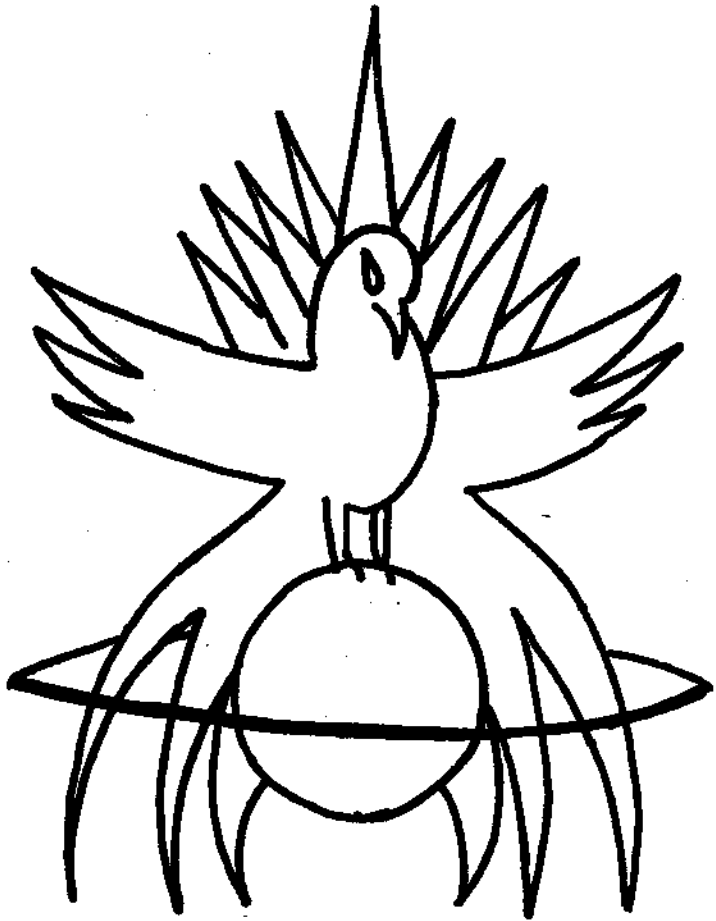
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manager**



Vicky Foley



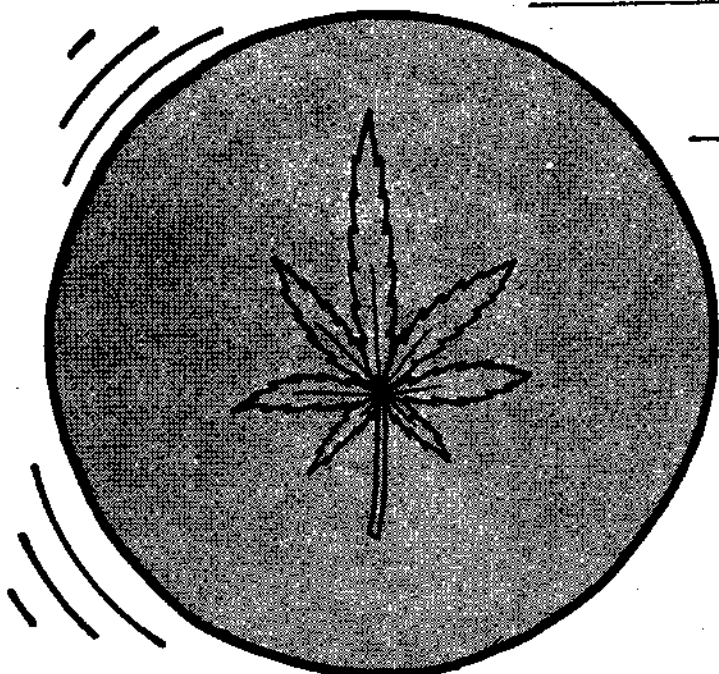
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Cancer-causing cosmetics

The Food and Drug Administration is beginning an investigation into cancer-causing properties of 27 popular shampoos and lotions. This investigation came only after a report on these products was prepared by Dr. David Fine for the National Science Foundation and released at the American Chemical Society's March meeting.

Products under investigation are: Clairol Herbal Essence, Breck Shampoo for Dry Hair, FP Baby Shampoo, Mennen Baby Magic Shampoo,

Head and Shoulders Shampoo, Wella Balsam, Johnson's Baby Lotion, Noxema Skin Cream, Keri Lotion, Nivea Cream Lotion, Sea and Ski Suntan Lotion, Extra Strength Desitin, Scholl Cocoa Butter Lotion, Nutraderm Dry Skin Lotion, Bain de Soleil Suntan Creme, Diaparene Crado, Scholl Rough Skin Remover, Almay Deep Mist Extra Rich Lotion, Avon Topaz, Revlon Young Blush, Max Factor Ultralucent Waterproof Makeup, Clairol Creme Formula Hair Color, Helene Curtis Everynight, and Extra Body Conditioner.



Illustration by Martha Geering

Man bites machine, wins

The latest man-versus-machine item comes from the National Labor Relations Board.

A Colorado man swore at a machine, banged it with his fists and finally kicked it twice when the machine wouldn't deliver his soda pop. The NLRB has ruled that he should not have been fired from his job, which he was.

The Board said that even though Mark Garber, a worker with A.M.F., Incorporated in Boulder, produced a large dent in the machine, he should not have been kicked off his job for deliberate destruction of property.

The NLRB ruled instead that "it is commonplace for human beings to bang or kick a machine which doesn't deliver the promised goods." The Board also noted that Garber was the only employee ever to be discharged for this action, and that he just happened to be a union activist in the company.

United against nukes

The success of New England's Clamshell Alliance has inspired a similar coalition to take shape in California, and the West Coast version also borrows its name from a popular ocean mollusk.

The fledgling Abalone Alliance was created at a recent statewide organizing conference attended by nearly 100 individuals and representatives of local anti-nuclear groups. The delegates agreed on a six-point "declaration of resistance to nuclear power," pledging themselves to work for a "permanent halt to the construction and operation" of nukes throughout California and beyond.

"We got a lot of inspiration from the Seabrook folks," says David Hartsough, an Abalone organizer with People Against Nuclear Power in San Francisco. "We're initially trying to organize a similar kind of direct

action campaign against the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant."

The Diablo plant, located near the city of San Luis Obispo, where the organizing conference was held, has been the most controversial of California's nine existing or contemplated nukes. Now nearing completion it sits only two miles from an active earthquake fault and atop an ancient Indian burial ground.

"The anti-nuke movement can unite other movements, from Native Americans to anti-apartheid protesters," says Sam Lovejoy, a long-time anti-nuclear activist in New England and a member of Clamshell. Lovejoy attended the Abalone conference and came away impressed. "The involvement is much broader than for any movement I've ever seen, including Clamshell," he says.

Locked up

Mother Jones--Out of every 1000,000 U.S. citizens 215 are in prison. That's the highest imprisonment rate in the world.

Worse still, the rate is rising, and U.S. prisoners serve the harshest sentences in the world (except for some political prisoners in totalitarian states), according to a report in Crime and Delinquency magazine.

Not surprisingly, the U.S. states most likely to imprison their residents are those with large non-white populations.



Workers suffer

In April, the National Center for Disease Control reported that workers in Ortho Pharmaceutical's Puerto Rico plant have developed sex disorders from estrogen exposure while making birth control pills. Several days later investigators from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began collecting air samples at an Ortho plant in Raritan, NJ, in response to an employe complaint.

At the Puerto Rico plant 12 of 23 women workers suffered from intermittent vaginal bleeding, and 5 of 25 male workers suffered enlarged breasts which became sensitive and discharged fluids.

Seniority

In two May 31st decisions, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld systems of seniority that discriminate against women and minorities, making difficult in the future to contest prejudicial seniority policies.

In one case, Carolyn Evans challenged the United Air Lines seniority system. She lost her job as an airline stewardess with them in 1969 under their policy not to employ married women as stewardesses. When that policy was found to be in violation of the Civil Rights Act, she was rehired in 1972.

Using the argument that her original termination was illegal, she asked to have her earlier service considered in her seniority status. The court voted against her in its 7-2 decision disallowing her earlier service to be counted.

In the other case, minority workers lost out to the Teamster's Union in Texas.

These rulings act to bar modifications of seniority policies in existence before the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This allows past discrimination to go uncompensated and makes it difficult for women and minorities who enter at the bottom of a seniority list and are most often the "last hired and first fired" to challenge predominantly male, white industries.

by l.a.w.



J.E. ANDERSON C.P.S.

Judges says hitchhikers provoke rape

A panel of judges in California has declared an open season for rapists who attack women hitchhikers. In a judgement handed down at the end of July, the California Court of Appeals voted unanimously to set free a man convicted of raping a woman he had picked up in his car.

The written decision by Judge Lynn Compton explained in practically so many words that any woman who stands by the side of a road with her thumb up deserves whatever she gets.

"The lone female hitchhiker," Compton wrote, "in the absence of an emergency situation, as a practical matter, advises all who pass by that she is willing to enter the vehicle with anyone who stops and in so doing advertises she has less concern for the consequences than the average female. Under such circumstances it would not be unreasonable for a man in the position of the defendant here to believe that the female would consent to sexual relations." **LNS**

Free Trade Zones: American Companies Get Rich Overseas

By MgM

Palua Penang, Malaysia--

Run-away shops-- industries moving overseas to exploit cheap labor-- have caused great controversy in the U.S. and have been attacked by unions.

But in Southeast Asia, the trend is boosted through "Free Trade Zones"--tax-free industrial areas near urban centers.

Troubled by communist insurgency and the Viet Nam victory, foreign investors have avoided Southeast Asia. The Free Trade Zones are an attempt by Asian governments to attract foreign capital with cheap labor and temporary tax-free status.

The government officials apparently hope that an influx of foreign capital will provide the answer to their countries' growing mass of restless unemployed.

In Penang, an island off Malaysia's northwest coast, American and Japanese multi-national corporations employ over 25,000 people at low wages.

The majority of these plants are involved in electronics, requiring labor-intensive precision work with delicate machinery, usually the assembly of transistors diodes and integrated circuits.

These parts are then shipped back to the U.S. and Japan for assembly into calculators, televisions and computers.

Typical of these companies is National Electronics, whose National Semiconductor (NS) subsidiary in Penang employs over 3,500 workers--mainly female--constructing tiny electronic components under microscopes.

Asked why the Santa Clara, California-based firm opened a Penang subsidiary, the manager frankly replied, "In the U.S. we would have to pay someone \$8.00 an hour to do this. Here we can do it for a fraction of the cost."

Since coming to Penang in 1970, the company has expanded its operation to six buildings with 90,000 square feet of working space. NS has opened new plants in the Free Trade Zones of Singapore, Malacca (Malaysia), Bangkok, Indonesia, Hong Kong and the Phillipines.

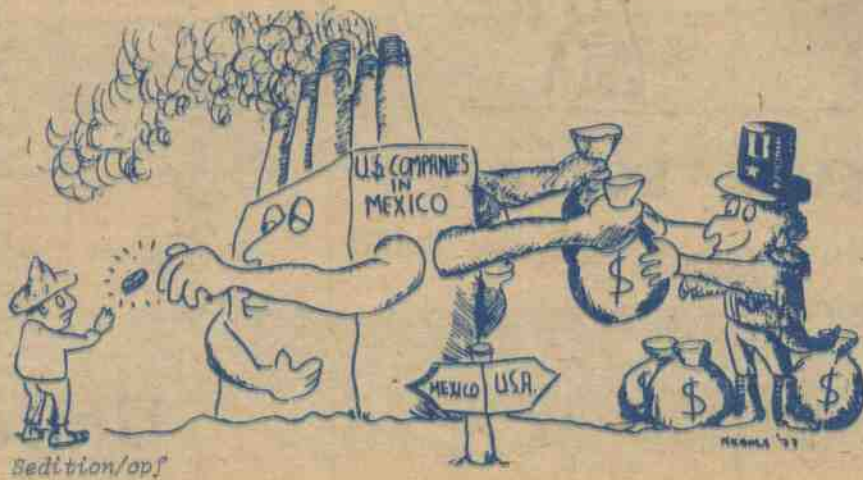
National has only one brand name--Novus--under which it markets digital watches and calculators. Most of the plants' production is subcontracts from other American firms--IBM, Honeywell, Boeing, General Motors and Kodak.

Young women are specifically recruited for this labor, on the grounds that they are a more marginal

Turnover is high, about 30% a year, and it takes at least 2 weeks to train for the simplest job. So, many inducements--except higher wages--are used to build a stable work force.

The young women are given free mini-skirt uniforms by the company and T-shirts are available with productivity cartoons on the back.

Beauty contests and cosmetic classes are frequent to keep the women's minds on "feminine" things. Company picnics, a subsidized cafeteria, bus service and a low-priced store selling beauty aids are all available.



and docile labor force. The women are paid about \$4.40 Malaysian per day (about \$2 U.S.) and the men \$5.

Business is booming with the plant operating three shifts per day. The work is tedious and exacting. Looking through microscopes, workers connect and test miniscule gold wires and electronic circuits.

Some firms are quite successful with these campaigns. Local managers praised Motorola for its "family" program, in which employees are continually reminded of Motorola's "fatherly" concern for them.

Plant managers said they frequently praised the workers, telling them "they were better than American workers."

Even with low wages, these tactics have some success. Working in air-conditioned, clean factories, the electronic workers feel superior, even though they are paid less or no more than other workers.

Yet the women have very little chance for advancement or change--because they are discriminated against simply for being women--and marriage is being seen as the only escape from the drudgery.

So next time your calculator clicks on, a jet flies overhead or you pick up an Instamatic, the young women in the free trade zones will have played a crucial part. And the next time American unemployment zooms while corporations record higher profits, the multi-nationals will be found happily making new homes on foreign shores.



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Post-American staffer MgM is sending back articles from Southeast Asia, where he has been spending several months. He also wrote the story on the facing page.

WWCT: AN ALTERNATIVE

if you've been flipping around your FM radio dial lately you might have noticed some good contemporary music coming over the airwaves.

One year ago WWCT FM 106 in Peoria, was an automated beautiful music station. In the course of the year the station changed to automated easy listening (Judy Collins, Joni Mitchell, etc.) to 12-hour automated and 12-hour live rock and roll, to the present 24-hour live format of an "album" station. Their music ranges from pop music, to blues and jazz, to good hard rock and roll. They'll even throw in some Bluegrass for effect. As some people might have noticed, the pop music is starting to become more prevalent; usually during the morning and afternoon. Who is to blame?

The person playing the music has a pick of 400-500 different albums. That's a pretty big choice. Then why are we constantly being bombarded by "Top 40" songs on a cultural album station? One of the reasons might be WWCT's popularity.

Twice a year a listener survey called Arbotron is taken. In April-May of 1977 WWCT had the most listeners in the 18 to 34-year-old category in central Illinois. WWCT had 2200 listeners, mostly male. WXCT was second with 800 and WIRL was next with 700. (XCT and IRL are both "Top 40 music" stations even though they claim to be contemporary stations.)

So if you were a disc-jockey (I hate that term) on WWCT and you had a lot of requests for songs like "Don't Stop" by Fleetwood

Mac, or "Jet Airliner" by Steve Miller, what could you do? You could risk losing them as listeners and tell them to turn to a pop station, or you could play their requests. But what would you rather have: good music or a lot of listeners with bad taste?

One good program on WWCT is "The Poor Man's Concert." It happens every Friday night at 10 and features a guest artist for two hours. Some groups featured have been Van Morrison, The Allman Brothers, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, and Rush to name a few. The program was initiated by General Manger Lee Field and music is chosen by "Gentle Giant" Brian Reid. "The Poor Man's Concert" gives Central Illinois listeners a concert at home without having the hassles of high ticket prices or big crowds. Sure, you don't get to see the group but it's what you hear that's important.

There is a featured album every Saturday-Thursday night at 10. The only complaint I have is that they cut the album into 15-minute segments, but that could have something to do with stringent copyright laws.

I have been looking for a good contemporary station for a while. Unlike pop station WIRL, or computer-pop station WBNQ, WWCT seems to fit the bill. Turn it on sometime and you're almost always sure to hear excellent selections of music.

--Dyndsale

poetry

President Carter shows his teeth
in what passes for a smile today
and tells poor women
to become incubators
for people like he.
No money for choice,
no money for her,
no abortion of unwanted fetus;
but, carry it-- inside;
hold it close;
nourish it--
at your body's expense,
your heart's pain,
your mother's grief,
and give the life that forms
away
to moneyed people
who can buy a choice
and a life.
No money for choice,
but money for birth,
oh, yes--
but only if the birth
launches a babe into moneyed arms
clothed in benevolent smiles
as false as his promises.

--Tad

POST-NOTE:

We don't usually publish poetry. This one's a response to the recent decisions and arguments about abortions for poor women, and we wanted to put it in.



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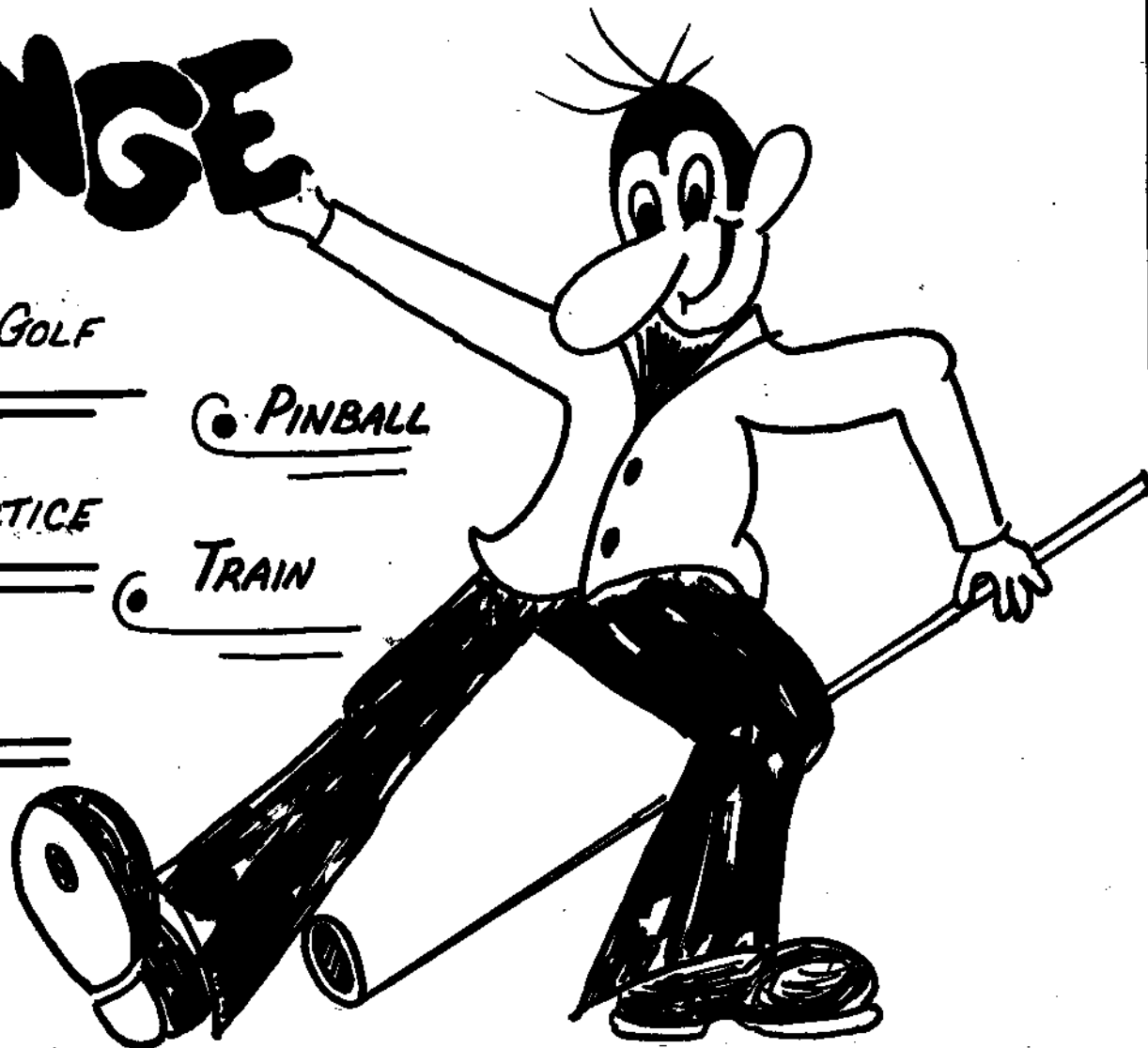
● BASEBALL BATTING PRACTICE

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● GAME ROOM

● GIANT SWING



FREE ROUND OF MINIATURE GOLF
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PICNIC TABLES FOR REUNIONS & PICNICS

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If you feel moved to write us a letter, go right ahead, and we'll probably put it in. If you don't want it published, please say so in the letter.

Letters

Wants Parking Banned

Dear Post,

My letter to you is of a serious nature, that needs to be taken care of immediately. First, I will explain my situation.

I was involved in a traffic accident Wednesday, April 20th, at approximately 1:00 p.m. in which I was wrongly accused of being the offender. It was raining out and my vision was obstructed by parked cars on Washington Street. When I looked both ways, there were no cars coming (that I could see). I started across the street, and part way out my tires skidded and I was unable to go any further. Suddenly the other car slammed into the left front of my car. The arresting officer failed to hear my side of the story, and I was given a ticket for "failing to yield," even though I did stop, look, and it was raining, and the other guy hit me proving he did not have control of his car.

My gripe is this: first, police officers should not be allowed to be judge and jury when they did not see the accident. If there were no witnesses neither party should be given a ticket, unless it is clearly obvious who was in the wrong. Second, and most important, there should be no parking on either side of Washington Street, mainly in the downtown area, because it is impossible to see around these cars.

I am doing everything I can to have parking banned from this street, or at least make it traffic controlled, as it is clearly a hazard and has been for many years not only for those that drive, but for those trying to cross the street on foot, as well. It is our right as citizens to know our streets are safe.

Mrs. Kim Carr

Reader Criticizes Post Story

Dear Post:

As News Editor of the Bloomington High School Aegis for the 76-77 school year, I would like to clear up a few discrepancies in the Post article (July-August issue) concerning suppression of an expose of the Mitzis in the Aegis.

First, let me point out that the main implication of the article was, to put it lightly, incorrect. According to the Post article, the administration somehow used scare tactics and its power to suppress an expose of the Mitzis, a high school sorority declared illegal by State law. However, the article failed to mention a few important facts--facts which throw an entirely different light on the subject of suppression at BHS.

Of course, the first task the Post felt inclined to undertake was to attack the administration. This is fine, since it appears that exposing power abuse and tyranny is the general nature of many Post articles; but in the case of the Mitzis issue, there was nothing to expose.

Principal Robert Bryant merely informed the newspaper staff of what could happen if we printed a story on the Mitzis, especially if we included names of a members. He explained the staff might be in for a great deal of flak and possible legal action from angry parents, but did not say we couldn't print the story.

Bryant didn't keep the Aegis from printing the story, he simply told us what we might be getting into. What really killed the story seems humorous when compared to the seriousness of the Post

Sources Defend Post Story

POST-NOTE: This letter is a reply to the one printed on the left.

As co-editors of the Aegis we sought out the administration for solutions to problems only through our advisor. Principle Bryant never "informed" the newspaper staff or gave personal explanations. We relied on fellow editors and on occasion discussed future articles with our families. Girls' Dean Vance and the mother Alan speaks of (Mrs. George) both warned against irritating such a large group of people but neither could substantiate risks involved.

As Alan reiterates, it was vague allusions to "what we might be getting into" that scared us. It was with this advice on potential hazards that we canned the story by a co-editors' consensus decision.

Nobody's mother directed the Aegis in 1976-77. The Post Article remains a correct analysis.

Greg George
Nancy Hoehn
Co-editors
Aegis 1976-77

article and suppression by power-hungry administrators. Only one person on the staff had the desire (or guts) to write the story; however, there was one slight problem--his sister was a Mitzis. His brother would not allow him to write the article since his sister and her daughter would be involved, and that's the real story of suppression at Bloomington High School.

I suggest the Post cease its practice of creating news and concentrate on reporting it--or would that reduce sales?

Sincerely,

Alan Ashman

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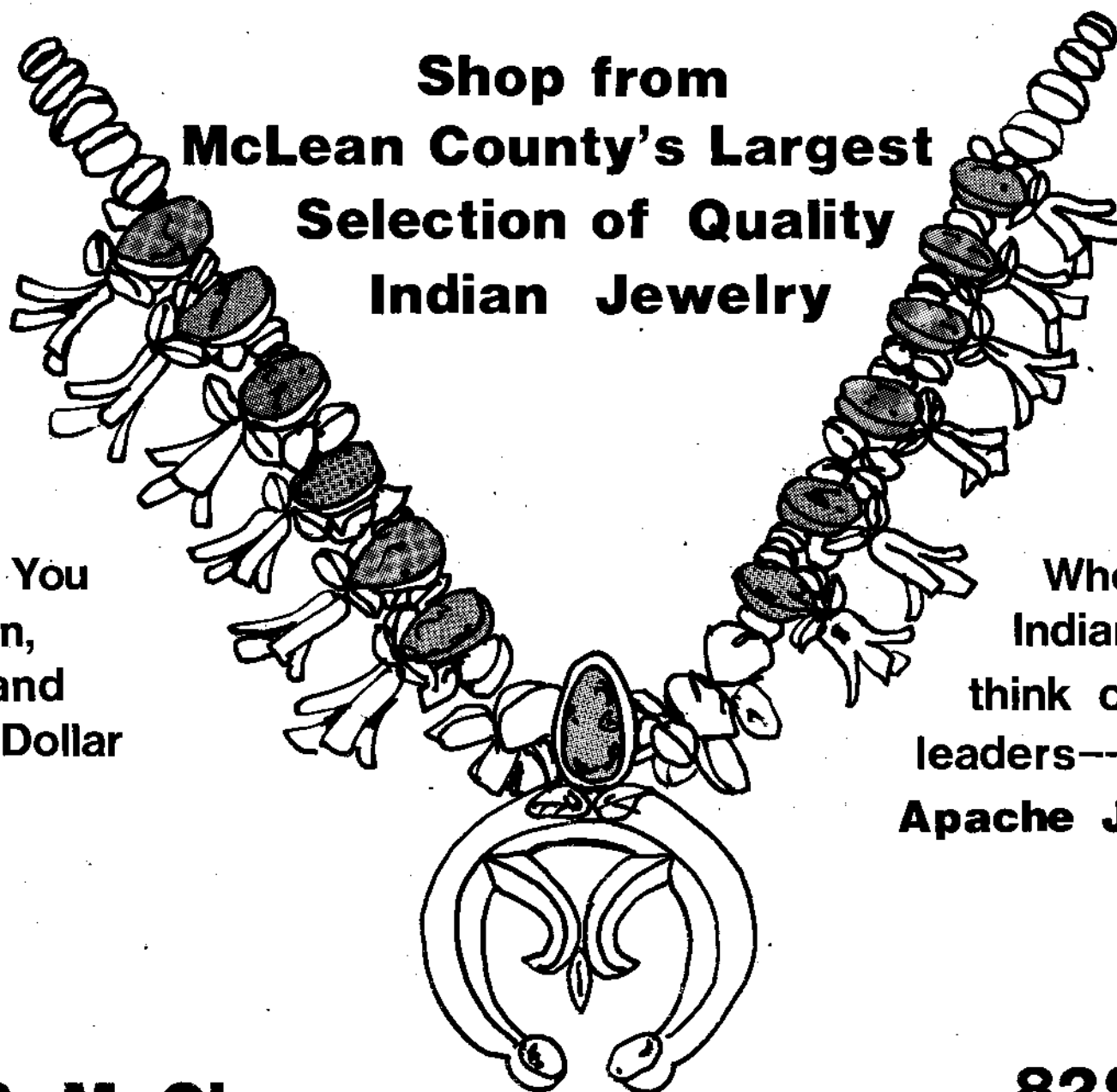
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Small Changes Becomes Resource Center

Since Small Changes Bookstore opened last December, lots of people have come in or called asking for information about women's rap groups, natural health groups, and so on. Soon after we opened, we started putting together a resource file of names and phone numbers of groups like NOW, ACLU, the Post-Amerikan, local home birth assistants, etc.

But it's become obvious that much more is needed. Lately, more folks than usual have been coming in and requesting information that we don't have. And much more often than not, it's the kind of information you can't find in the yellow pages.

So, we're expanding our resource file, and we'd like people who are in a special interest group or who provide a progressive, non-rip-off service to call us. The more people who let us know they're around, the more helpful we can be to folks who ask us for info. Read on for some of the areas we're especially interested in.

We need to know about social service agencies and specific counselors, particularly those who deal with women, children, gay people, and minorities in a positive way.

We'd like to know of any reasonably priced, progressive child-care services or baby-sitting cooperatives.

We also get asked about sports, martial arts, and self-defense groups. If you're involved in any of those kinds of groups, especially if your group is for women, or is free, or is a cooperative, let us know.

We want to be able to tell people about non-rip-off, quality services--like car, truck and bicycle repair, typing, piano tuning, musical instrument repair, etc.

We also would like to know of any local progressive and/or literary publications. We now get copies of the Post, the Human Relations Commission bulletin, the NOW newsletter, Druid's Cave, the McLean County Poetry Review and Ludicrous Situations. Any others?

We'd like to have more information on interest groups that are either open to new members or willing to share experiences or other kinds of resources with new folks in town. This would include, for example, women's, men's and gay rap groups, people's law and health groups, youth liberation groups, and groups of people involved with animals (like beekeepers) and/or animal liberation.

We're sure that we've left out groups that people are interested in knowing about. So, if you have a skill or a special interest that you're willing to share or give info about, call us up.

Also, if you're trying to start something like a women's rap group, a living collective, or a health food restaurant and need more people, call us. We've started keeping a list of people trying to find each other.

We know that starting a resource center will be slow going, but we really think it's important and want it to work. People so often come into town and are snocked to see a bookstore like Small Changes, believing that there's "nothing happening" in Bloomington-Normal.

Well, after years of living here, we know better, but it is often hard to find people who share your interests and politics. So we'd like to get your help in developing our resource file into something really helpful for the community.

Small Changes' address is 409A N. Main St., Bloomington, 61701, and our phone number is 829-6223.

POST NOTE: The Post-Amerikan is also interested in spreading information about many of the same kinds of groups mentioned in this article, especially those of a consciously political nature and those which provide a low or no-cost service to people who need it. We'd like to run a page of news from community groups each month, so please get in touch with us if you want to see about getting some exposure.

Project Oz

A drug education program for adults is being offered by Project Oz and the Bloomington Human Relations Commission each Wednesday night in August. The programs are from 7 to 9 pm in the lounge of John Kane Homes, 1312 West Monroe. Free babysitting will be available and refreshments will be served.

The series is entitled "Drugs, Alcohol, and the Adolescent Culture." Educational games for adults will be offered on August 17. The topic for that session is "The Use and Effects of Drugs," specifically barbiturates, tranquilizers, narcotics, and amphetamines.

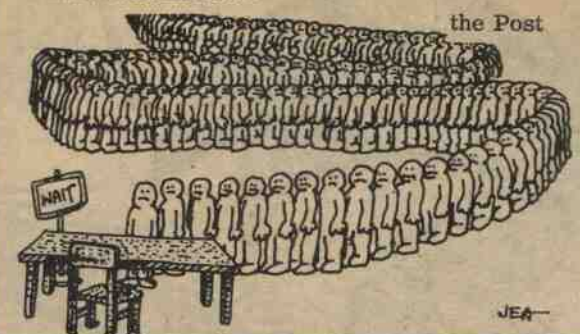
The same format and topic will be continued August 24th with emphases on hallucinogens, inhalants and cocaine.

"Parent and Child Communication" will be the topic for the final program on August 31st. It will feature a film and discussion.

There is no registration for the program, and attendance at all programs is not required. However, a certificate will be issued to those who complete the series.

Get in Touch

Would the person who sent us the letter about the escaped prisoner and the fatal shootout please contact the Post? We would like some more information.



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Downtown Bloomington



Local IUD Study

A study is being done by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America to test a new method of "morning after" contraception. The method being tested is one of inserting a Copper-7 intrauterine device within five days of unprotected intercourse that occurred during a woman's fertile period. Planned Parenthood of McLean County is where the study is being done locally. The study requires that a woman be between the ages of 18-25.

Advantages of this method are twofold. Not only might the IUD prevent pregnancy from the unprotected intercourse, but thereafter it can remain in place as continuing contraception. In a previous study, none of the 97 women who were fitted with a Copper-7, after unprotected intercourse, became pregnant.

Right now the only similar method available is commonly called the morning-after pill. It is not actually one pill that is taken, but rather a series of pills is taken over five days. Most women experience side effects that cause many to discontinue the series.

To be considered for the study a woman must have a complete medical history taken, have a physical exam, and laboratory testing. For more information call Planned Parenthood, 837-8025.

Interplanetary broadcast intercepted

Wet T-shirt contests amuse, outrage earthlings

(Post-American radio operators, while monitoring their usual radio bands, picked up this broadcast. The story was evidently being beamed to Venus by a fairly advanced anthropological exploration team.)

The Poison Apple discotheque south of Bloomington, Illinois, USA, Earth, holds Wet T-Shirt Contests.

This ritual includes human female contestants wearing T-Shirts, human male participants with buckets of water, and human observers of both sexes. The males dump the water on the females and then everyone looks at the females' breasts (mammary glands). Then the female with the best breasts (according to criteria set by popular Earthling magazines, TV shows, and movies) wins the contest.

Many humans object to this ritual. They say that it reinforces a common cultural idea: the idea that the bodies (specifically, the breasts) of the human females are objects provided by an omnipotent male somewhere in the sky (another weird cultural idea whose source we're still trying to discover) for human males to inspect and judge according to the criteria mentioned above (These criteria depict the acceptable range of size, shape, and firmness of the mammary glands.) The goal of this inspection and judgment appears to be

for the males (with the help of the criteria) to know which females are the most satisfying sex partners.



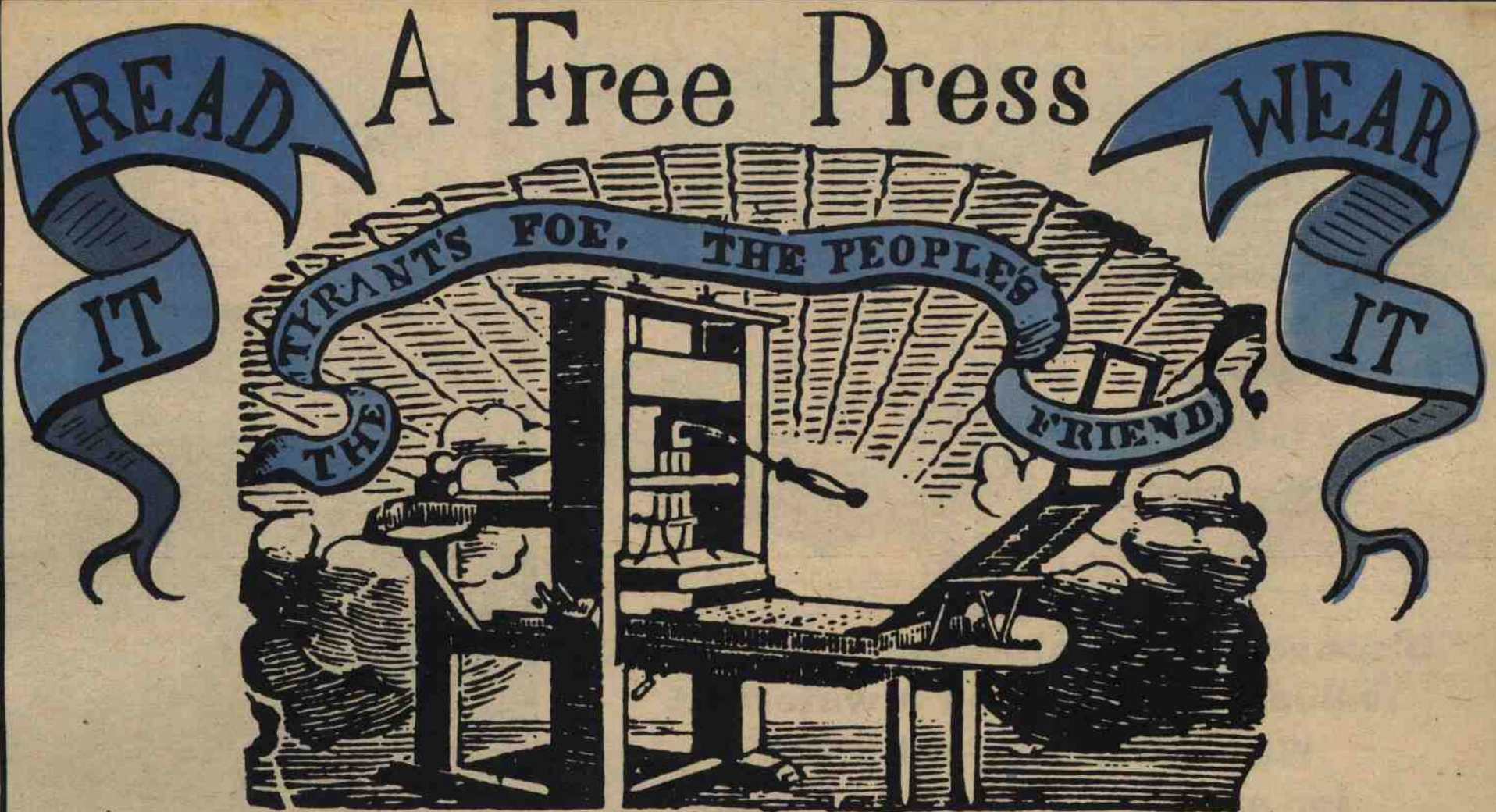
And this is where we've perceived the oddest parts of their culture. The inspection and judgment of the female breasts rarely leads to cop-

ulation between the male and the female unless the two potential sex partners act out a long ritualistic exchange of goods, services and linguistic cues first.

Furthermore, all participants and observers of the Wet T-Shirt ritual--in fact, it seems most of the earthlings--will insist, when questioned, that whether or not a female's breasts fit the cultural criteria for size, shape, and firmness is actually irrelevant to her satisfactoriness as a sex partner. However, both human sexes continue to mindlessly perform rituals (such as the T-Shirt ritual) which are based on the contradictory premise (which they claim not to believe). Lately, the human females seem to be withdrawing their support for these rituals, and many human males agree with this withdrawal.

In a similar phenomena, many Earthlings manage to simultaneously believe and not believe that the size of the male sex organ is relevant to his satisfactoriness as a sex partner. Because of this similarity, we expected Poison Apple discotheque to periodically hold a "Wet Gym Short Contest." However, we were quite mistaken. We intend to research this matter further.

--Quarga-El



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