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The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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Accused Rofstad murderer may be innocent. See pages 16-21.

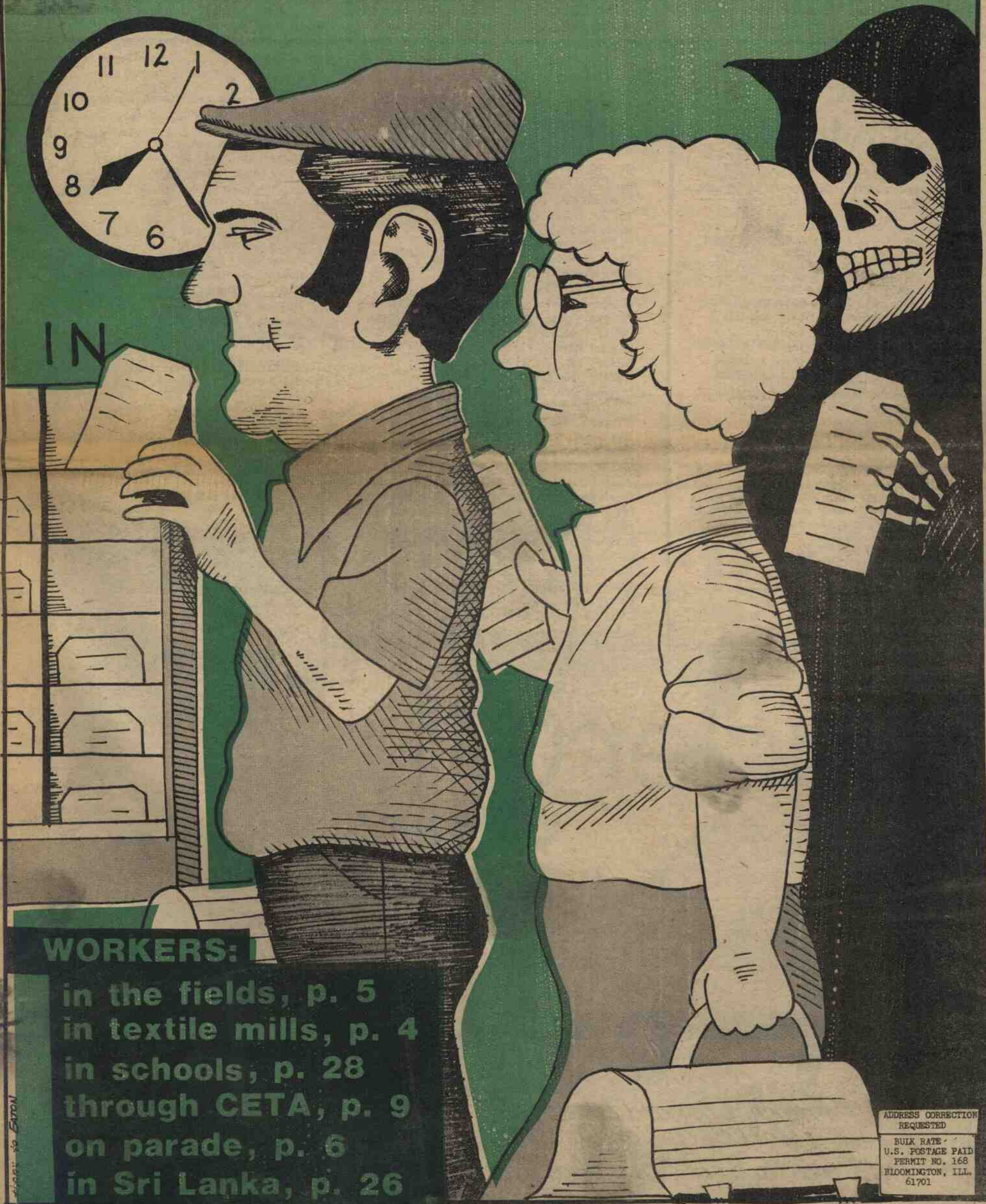
Bloomington Normal

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POST AMERIKAN

OCT. 1977

Vol. VI No. 6



WORKERS:

in the fields, p. 5
 in textile mills, p. 4
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 through CETA, p. 9
 on parade, p. 6
 in Sri Lanka, p. 26

ADDRESS CORRECTION
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 61701

Art by Eston

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, September 16
Friday, September 23: Potluck
Friday, September 30
Wednesday, October 5: DEADLINE
Friday, October 7: Layout Begins
Sat. & Sun., October 8 & 9:
LAYOUT, beginning at noon
Tuesday, October 11: Stuff new papers
Friday, October 14, meeting

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.)

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 452-4831
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
Ill. Lawyer Referral Service 800-252-8916 (toll free)
Kaleidoscope 828-7346
Lighthouse 828-1371
McLean County Health Dept. 829-3363
McLean County Mental Health Center 827-5351
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

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
Mr. Quick, Clinton at Washington
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
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
Bonafide Gas, 914 E. Oakland
Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main

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
Normal Comm. High School, 303 Kingsley

OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under The Sun, 437 E. Main St.
Peoria: That Other Place, 901 NE Adams
Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op, 407 E. Adams
Pontiac: Semmens Drug Store, 123 Madison St.

Yale Faces Sex Harassment Suit

OOB--A class action suit has been filed on behalf of female undergraduates against Yale University for discrimination against female students by denying them an equal opportunity in education because they have to cope with sexual harassment. The suit says that Yale failed to deter sexual harassment of female undergraduates and that through its refusal to create appropriate procedures to address complaints and its failure to investigate cases, interfered with the educational process of the students. (This wording sounds petty, considering that some of the cases of "sexual harassment" cited amounted to rape, such as the case of a music teacher who raped one of his students who came to ask his assistance when she was stunned after being in a car accident).

One of the plaintiffs is a male faculty member (no doubt to lend the suit "credibility") who alleges that the atmosphere of distrust created by the sexual harassment has interfered with his teaching and the students' effort to study and their relationships.

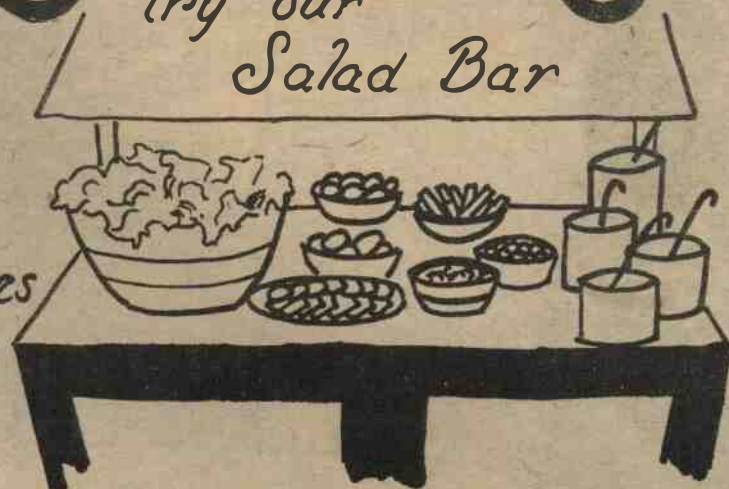
The suit demands that Yale be ordered to institute procedures to receive complaints, make investigations and take disciplinary action against those employees of the university who engage in sexual harassment.

the gallery

111 e. beaufort normal

small salad .75

Lettuce
Tomatoes
Onions
Pickles
Crackers
Pears
Beets



Try our Salad Bar

large salad 1.50

Ham
Celery
Cheese
Carrots
Bacon Bits
Cole Slaw
Salami

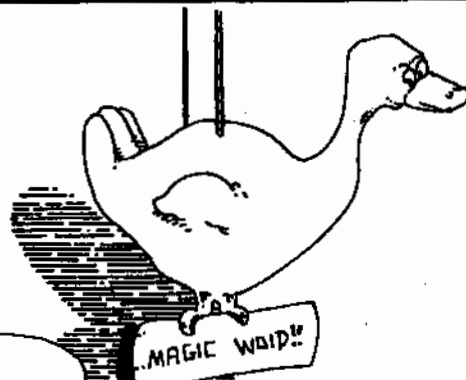
French, Thousand Island,
Garlic, Italian Dressing

12 noon to 8pm Tues., Weds., Thurs., Fri.
5pm to 8pm Sat., Sun., Mon.

Julie H., Where are you??
The Post

Finance Minister: I think we should take up the tax.
Mr. President: How about taking up the carpet?
Finance Minister: I still think we should take up the tax.
Mr. President: He's right, you know. You have to take up the tacks, before you can take up the carpet. (Duck Soup, 1933)

POISONALLY, I COULD NEVER TRUST A PAPER WITH STANDARDS LOW ENOUGH TO PRINT MATERIAL ABOUT ME!!!



DEATH OF MARX

America recently lost one of its greatest revolutionaries--Groucho Marx. For over 60 years this skilled satirist poked and pricked all authority and pomposity, celebrating a liberatarian joy and humor.

For the Brothers Marx, nothing was sacred. Government, Wealth, Power and the Military all sank before their stinging barbs and tripped over their cunning slapstick.

Born in the ghetto poverty of New York's lower East Side in the 1890's, the brothers grew up in a world of socialist agitation and early trade unionism.

To escape poverty, their mother pushed them on the Vaudeville stage.

Their popularity grew, first from behind the limelights at the Playhouse Broadway and then after 1928 through talking pictures all over the world.

But they never forgot their humble roots. Their satirical sword was sharpened on the rich, the powerful, the inflated.

The Marx Brothers satirized blue-nosed American elites, at whose hands they themselves had suffered. The sting of childhood poverty never left, and, even after achieving success, they were denied entrance to clubs and social affairs because of their Jewish background which led Groucho to quip, "I'll join the club and beat you over the head with it."

Their film plots were stock. The brothers, part thief and part Robin Hood, usually pursued wealth; Groucho chased a rich widow.

Chasing success meant mingling in high society, the brothers scampering through a field of smug windbags and pompous fools deflating and insulting them.

One was never sure if the Marx Brothers ever reached their illusory golden goal. Invariably they retreated, having instead helped love triumph and people sing.

Two of their most popular and finest films, Horse Feathers (1932) and Duck Soup (1933), struck home to Depression-mired America.

The university, with boring, irrelevant lectures, jocks and campus love, received Horse Feather's kicks. Groucho, as the new university president, fulfilled higher educations' highest moment -- winning the big football match. With a streetsweeper's cart and a stack of banana peels, the brothers whipped the jocks and took the field.

Duck Soup is one of the finest anti-war films ever made. Wearing the uniforms of every kind -- from George Washington to Russian Commissars to Confederate Generals-- the brothers exposed the mass hysteria and mythology of war. Political and personal opportunism were seen as the reasons for national aggrandizement.

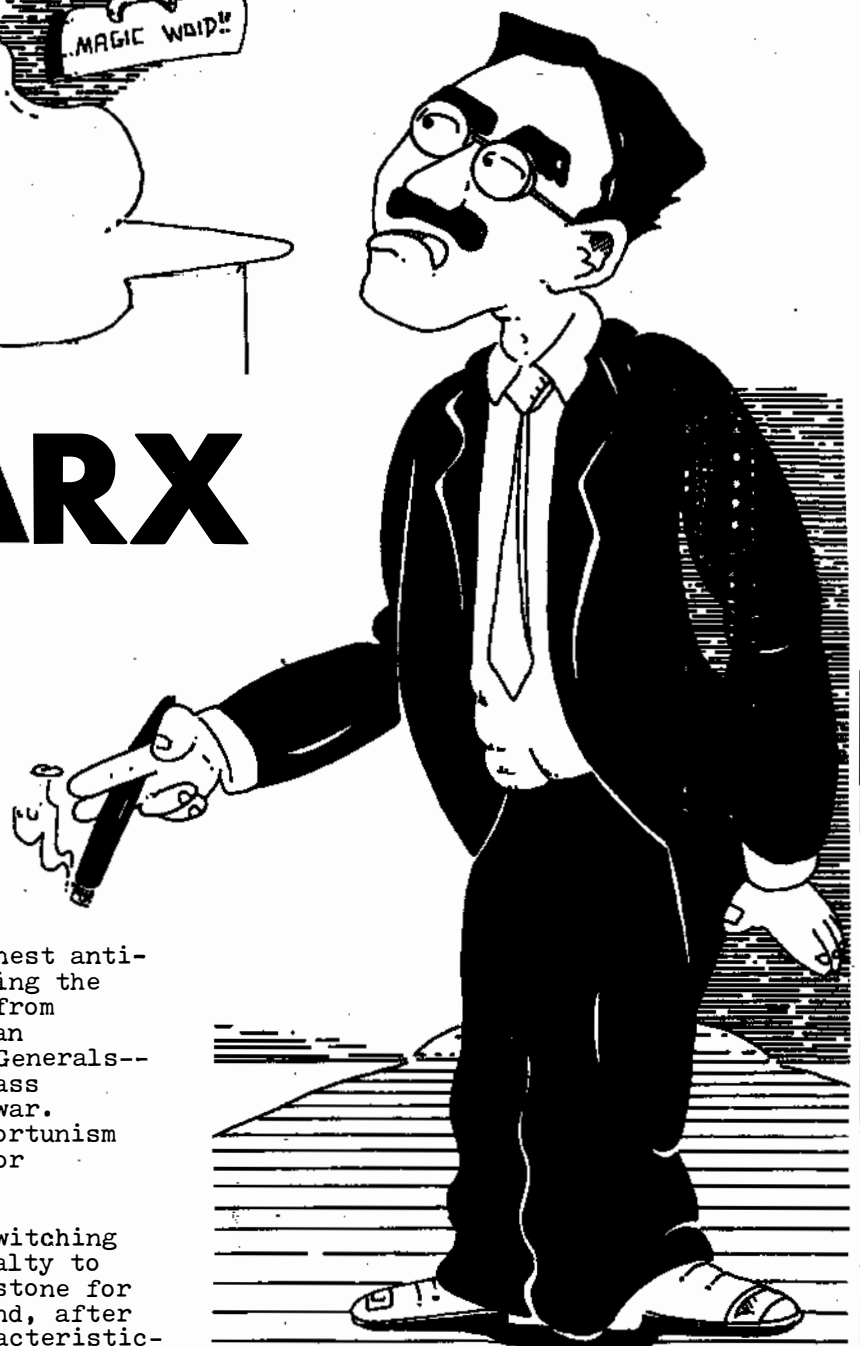
The brothers, constantly switching sides, showed national loyalty to be the same -- a stepping stone for personal wealth. In the end, after winning the war, they characteristically rebelled against their victorious nation.

But they left a heritage of cutting social satire. A generation of 60's and 70's rebels rediscovered their anti-establishment films. Their humor and tactics were emulated through underground comics, guerilla theatre and the Yippies.

A nation of hustlers was epitomized by their outrageous gold-seeking.



When trumpet strains of the "Marseillaise" were heard, Groucho exclaimed: "Ah, the 'Mayonnaise'! The Army must be dressing."



Like their famous cousin Karl -- the ghost of the London Museum -- the quartet sought the triumph of the poor and the downtrodden.

The brothers, though opportunist, always shared communally. What belonged to one belonged to all, especially the outcast.

Their music was only shared with the poor. In A Night at the Opera, the brothers deserted their golden quest for a musical romp. Their audience was poor immigrants on the ship's deck. In A Day at the Races, a black shantytown shared their musical joy. The local police attack and the Marx Brothers, in the blackface, hide with their comrades. Their open embrace of black society and their cutting remarks toward white police were quite shocking for the 1930's America. At the film's end, the black community was the first celebrating their triumph.

Of course, their films are not above criticism. Women characters were either pedestaled love objects, strumpets or battle-axes, rarely full human beings.

Their tactic of insult wouldn't go too far in the real world.

But fun and high spirits always triumphed over greed.

Groucho Marx is dead. But as long as the film rolls and we aren't afraid to laugh at foolish self-importance and false wealth, all the brothers live on. And at least Lennon is still alive.

--M.G. Matejka

J.P. Stevens & Labor Day Rally for Justice

Labor Day is a national holiday set aside to honor the contributions of working people. Unfortunately, many American workers are not enjoying their rightful share of our nation's prosperity, due to flagrant violations of, and loopholes in, federal labor laws. Two such groups of workers are the J.P. Stevens workers and the migrant farm workers.

In support of these workers, a number of Peoria, Ill., groups formed a coalition to set up a Rally for Justice on labor day, September 5th, at 7:00 p.m. outdoors at Glen Oak Park in Peoria. The coalition requested a one-dollar donation from those who attended the rally, and some people gave more. The donations were divided between the two groups of workers to aid them in forming unions.

The coalition is composed of Peoria's labor leaders, members of the clergy, the Peoria-area United Farm Workers Support Committee, the Heart of Illinois chapter of the coalition of Labor Union Women, the Heart of Illinois chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and other concerned citizens.

Feminist singer and musician Kristin Lems, with Tim Vear, provided beautiful and enlightening music. Lems and Vear were followed later in the evening by singer Ruth Powell and piano player Freddie Lee.

Labor day evening was warm and delightful, and about 100 people, mostly from Bloomington-Normal and Peoria, showed up to support the Rally for Justice. I agreed with Kristin Lems when she acknowledged the small but high-energy crowd by

saying, "We shouldn't be concerned about the large number of empty chairs, but concentrate on the small number of people who did turn out."

J.P. Stevens is a billion-dollar multi-national corporation whose headquarters are in New York. Almost all of its plants, 85 textile mills employing 44,000 people, are located in the southern U.S. J.P. Stevens Company has the worst record of labor violations in U.S. history.

The J.P. Stevens company has moved most of its operations from the eastern U.S. into North and South Carolina, where it has taken control of the political, social, and economic life of the communities where its textile mills are located. J.P. Stevens rules everyone and everything "with an iron hand," according to John Bolt Culbertson, an eminent southern lawyer.

The workers' requests are for desperately needed improvements: a union, improved wages and working conditions, the correction of poor health and safety conditions in plants, an end to racial discrimination against and harassment of workers, and adequate pension and insurance programs.

Some J.P. Stevens workers put together a film entitled "Testimony." Here is what some workers said in "Testimony":

"I had to have a radical mastectomy and when I asked them (J.P. Stevens) for a lighter job, my supervisor told me that I could go ask the welfare for help. He informed me that I could either run the job no matter what it did to me, I could quit, or else he would fire me-- this after 26 years of my life and when I needed them, they gave me nothing," testified Mildred Whitley.

John Bolt Culbertson, the lawyer mentioned earlier, interviewed 17-year-old Richard Gregory, whose first job was with J.P. Stevens.



Culbertson: "How long had you been working on your machine when you were hurt?"

Gregory: "About a week."

Culbertson: "Was the danger of the machine explained?"

Gregory: "No. I was pullin' carpet. It slapped over. When it came loose I just fell down on those rollers and caught my hand. Lost my fingers. Then they told me they didn't need me. They let me go."



Culbertson also interviewed Kathy Peace, an 18-year-old with no work experience before she was hired at J.P. Stevens.

Peace: "I was running a tufting machine in the Riverine Plant at J.P. Stevens."

Culbertson: "Had you been given any instructions how to run this machine?"

Peace: "No sir."

Culbertson: "And how long had you been working on it when you lost two fingers?"

Peace: "About an hour and 45 minutes."

Peace is not able to work, there was no rehabilitation, and nothing was done by Stevens to salvage her.

Another J.P. Stevens worker says, "You don't have a lunch break. You eat while you're working. You lay your sandwich down in lint. And lint gets in your drink. And you have to drink that drink."

J.P. Stevens claims to have very few lost time accidents. But they have a rather special way of keeping count. For example, an electrician had a serious electrical shock while working in one of Stevens' mills:

Worker Accidents

"I woke up in the intensive care unit of the hospital. That same day the supervisor came to see me. And he asked me whether I could report back to the plant for 20 or 30 minutes. In a way, I was scared not to report back. He could replace me."



So the worker, Chester Stone, did report in. And Stevens didn't have to report a lost time accident to their insurance company.

Two weeks later Stone's finger was amputated. Soon after that he had a facial stroke.

"The doctor says it could have come from me comin' out of the hospital too quick. Or the electrical shock," says Stone.

Still to be heard in court is the charge of Robert Mallory, a black truck driver, that when a white truck driver earning \$3.35 an hour at Stevens left for a better job, Mallory replaced him at \$2.35 an hour.

Racial Discrimination

Explains Mallory, "And I asked why I couldn't get the same thing that the white man was gettin'. And I never got an answer whatsoever out of all of 'em. And he (the previous driver) had five trailers and I got 13. Put more work on me and less pay. Been workin' with 'em 28 years."

"I got a wife and ten children and I need every dollar I can get."

The J.P. Stevens employees work in amounts of cotton dust twelve times higher than allowed by the federal government. In short periods, 30 times higher.

The result of violating the government regulations so seriously can be the deadly brown lung.

Conditions

Lundee Cannon, another Stevens worker, commented, "The dust problem where I work is terrible. Workin' at the pace we have to work, I get lint and cotton in my throat and mouth. I spit up wads of cotton half as big as my thumb. And this is not once a day, but it's every hour.

"Sometimes every 30 or 40 minutes."

Rally for Justice Cont.

Professor Emil Malizia of the University of North Carolina directed a study on industry for the state. Malizia found that "North Carolina pays the lowest industrial wages in the country. Number 50. Right on the bottom of the list.

"An industrial worker in North Carolina earns \$55.00 a week less than the U.S. average. And the cost of living here isn't significantly lower.... Why? Profits aren't the problem. So what does explain the earnings gap?

"It's because North Carolina is the least unionized state in the country. As a result, the state's economy is being ruined."

What about unions in J.P. Stevens plants? Some workers comment that J.P. Stevens keeps black people and white people angry at each other, hoping that as long as the workers are fighting with each other they will never unite enough to unionize.

Many workers state that they would never have their children work at J.P. Stevens. But chances are that most children living in communities where Stevens mills are located will wind up working there, like it or not. In Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, over half the town's workers are employed by J. P. Stevens.

Stevens also discourages unionization by creating a climate of fear around the issue.

In Statesboro, Georgia, for example, Stevens intimidated its workers so heavily about forming unions that a court ruled the company must recognize the union because no fair election could be held.

J.P. Stevens simply closed the plant, throwing everyone out of work.

Not one of the 85 Stevens textile manufacturing plants has a union contract.



"I spit wads of cotton half as big as my thumb--sometimes every 30 or 40 minutes."

One representative for the Stevens workers is Reverend Patrick J. Sullivan. He has been working for the AFL-CIO Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union to assist in its 14-year struggle to help the 44,000 Stevens employees push a national boycott of Stevens products.



Father Patrick Sullivan--National clergy coordinator, J. P. Stevens Boycott.

Father Sullivan's job is to communicate to Roman Catholic leaders and organizations the plight of Stevens employees-- as well as the plight of southern textile workers generally-- and to enlist support for the union's programs to improve the Stevens workers' situations.

The American labor movement calls on all consumers to stop buying J.P. Stevens Company products. You'll find them hiding under the brand names boxed in with this article.

To win justice, the J.P. Stevens workers need our support-- they cannot do it alone. They have learned that lesson well.

--Michael

Note: Information for this article comes from the film and booklet "Testimony."

The American labor movement calls on all consumers to stop buying products of the J.P. Stevens Company. You'll find them hiding under these brand names, among others:	
<u>SHEETS & PILLOWCASES</u>	<u>TABLE LINEN</u>
Beauti-Blend	Simtex
Beauticale	
Fine Arts	
Peanuts	<u>HOSIERY</u>
(comic strip figures)	Big Mama
Tastemaker	Finesse
Utica	Hip-Lets
Utica & Mohawk	Spirit
Désigner Labels:	
Yves St. Laurent	<u>TOWELS</u>
Angelo Donghia	Fine Arts
	Tastemaker
	Utica
<u>CARPETS</u>	
Contender	
Gulistan	<u>BLANKETS</u>
Merryweather	Forstmann
Tastemaker	Utica

Non-Union Vegetables Poisonous

The Rally for Justice (see preceding article) also supported another oppressed working group-- the migrant United Farm Workers (UFW).

Yes, the national boycott is still in effect. The Rally for Justice coalition urges everyone to continue the fine job of boycotting California table grapes, iceberg lettuce not bearing the UFW union label, and Gallo wines.

The United Farm Workers of America are struggling not for "frills" or luxuries but for basic needs. Their demands are so basic that most laboring Americans have taken them for granted for many years. Their demands are:

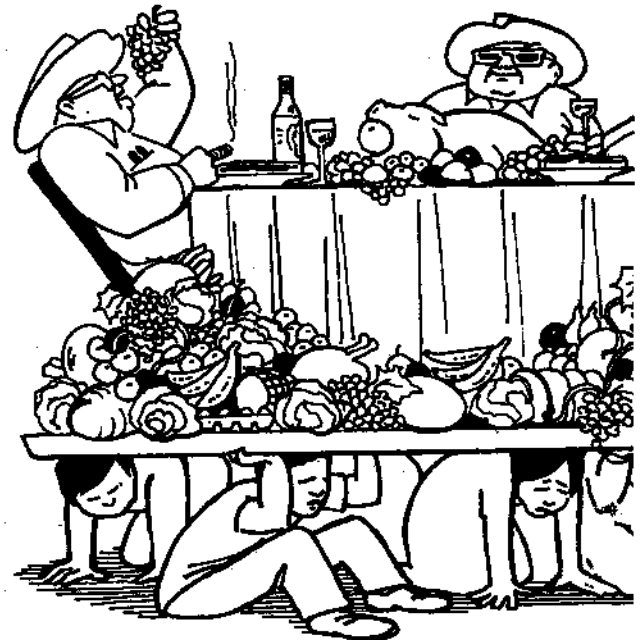
--a union hiring hall. This is the right to work out of a union hiring hall rather than through a labor contractor. This would give the farm workers the right to accept or reject a job. Presently, they can be "rented out" in lots with no power to refuse to work for a particular grower.

--elimination of child labor in the fields. In California, one fourth of the farm workers are young people under 16.

--health and safety standards. The UFW asks for the ban of persistent pesticides (80% of the farm workers suffer from some form of pesticide poisoning), toilets in the fields, and cool drinking water with individual paper cups provided.

Even more important than these demands is the demand for decent wages. Farm workers are paid about \$1,500 a year. A whole family might make \$2,700 a year.

Farmworker families often live in two-room houses, sometimes with electricity, but usually with no toilet, sink, bathtub, or shower.



Farm workers are specifically excluded from collective bargaining laws and unemployment insurance. Farm workers are excluded from the federal minimum wage laws.

Guy Costello (pictured) the UFW Midwest Boycott Director, spoke at the Rally for Justice. Just back from UFW organizational meetings in California, Costello was very excited and optimistic

In more than one way...

tic about the Teamsters finally leaving the fields and allowing the farm workers to form a union of their choice without Teamster harassment.



Guy Costello... Midwest Boycott Director, United Farm Workers.

The next task for the UFW is to encourage the growers to sit down and negotiate the signing of contracts. The UFW firmly believes this will eventually happen, as the boycotts have been very effective.

The boycott, which the UFW believes to be the only effective non-violent means of protest, applies economic pressure on the growers to bring them to the bargaining table.

As Cesar Chavez said, "Strikes and the boycott are Union's front line of defense."

We are beginning to see great results from the pro-UFW boycott, and we need to keep up the good work.

--Michael

"Business Attitudes" Prompt WAKC Format Change

It's the Friday night meeting before story deadline. Story punk has the floor. He says to me: "Are you going to have your music article done?" And I say, "Yes." Then somebody asks the question that is already on my mind--"What's it going to be about?" I mumble something about WAKC switching from a country-western format to a pop format.

Well, I got away with just saying that at the meeting, but when I got home I realized I had no idea where to begin. Then an idea hit me. I would lower my musical tastes and actually LISTEN to WAKC. Yes, for an agonizing 2 1/2 hours I listened and took notes. I wrote down all the songs played, plus comments on their format: boring jokes, insipid contests, propagandistic commercials (which were, fortunately, few and far between), uninformative "total information news," and a pattering disc jockey who couldn't even tell what time it was. I would have listened longer, but to my surprise they signed off at midnight.

After reviving myself with a Steely Dan album, I went back and looked at my notes. Steve Miller, Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, and The Commodores were played often. I remembered the many times I had heard WAKC claim to have "the best music in the twin cities" and thought "Wait until WESN comes back on the air." It took me only an hour and a half to hear a song played twice. Then 10 minutes later another one repeated. Then 20 minutes later another. Then another! Not as bad as WIS, but close. The final item in my notes was the sign-off at midnight.

My conclusion: This the worst of the worst. Never before have I heard such a poor pop station (don't think it is a rock or "Adult Contemporary," station, just because you read it in the Vidette).

Let me justify this conclusion. 1. Roy Irwin, (I think that's his name, but he doesn't talk clearly enough for me to be sure) the last disc jockey of the night, signs off the air every night by whispering sweet nothings into his lover's ear via the airwaves. 2. I happened to be listening one morning to the CBS network news. Usually their last news item tries to be in a humorous vein. Just when the newscaster was about to reveal the punch line, the disc jockey started a loud song completely covering up the punch line. 3. I tried to call one night to ask some questions. I let the phone ring for a full three minutes before I got disgusted and hung up. Some "Contact Line." 4. I asked WAKC Program Director Ron Rodgers how they determine "the best song in the twin-cities." The number one song, according to Rodgers, is determined by the charts from Billboard and Record World magazines, from radio stations that they respect, and from record sales and requests in Bloomington-Normal. For the most part the number one song is determined

from sources outside the twin-cities. Rodgers commented that the people of Bloomington-Normal really did not have much say in determining "the number one song in the twin-cities."

"New" Sound

Two weeks after the format change, the Vidette ran an article introducing WAKC's "new" sound. Ron Rodgers explained it like this: "What we do is take the hard stuff off the top...and get the teeny-bopper music from the bottom, but, yes, we play the popular hits." Sounds questionable in theory and is even worse in practice. I listened a long while before I heard a hard rock number. Most of the music is overplayed banal disco.

Rodgers did speak some truths. He said that WAKC couldn't fill the twin-cities' need for a country-western music station. He also said that they couldn't get any "community support", another way of saying sponsors don't make enough profits, for country music. Very true. But if WAKC had improved their C-W format maybe "community

support" would have risen. Rodgers blamed "business attitudes in the Normal-Bloomington area" instead of blaming the radio station's format. "Business attitudes," which is still another way of saying sponsors' profits, would have changed fast if WAKC had had a decent C-W format.

Rodgers also commented on how his "new" sound "is similar to WBNQ and WJBC, but there are subtle differences." Right again, except the differences aren't subtle. WBNQ plays a better selection of pop music (if there can be a good selection of pop music), and WJBC is much more informative (which isn't saying much). WAKC is just adding to an already glutted market.

Instead of WAKC improving their C-W format and maybe obtaining some respect as a music station, they have taken the easy way out of their financial difficulties and gone commercial. Since there probably won't be any new country broadcast outlet in Bloomington-Normal in the near future, C-W fans will either have to find a non-local station or change their taste in music.

--Dyndsdales

Bloomington's non-controversial Labor Day

On September 5, downtown Bloomington appeared much different than usual. The first Labor day parade in years was occurring.

A fairly large crowd lined the sidewalks to see the parade. I personally took part in the parade because I see Labor Day as an important day, a day with a great deal of potential. Labor Day to me is not only a day to recognize labor as important (though that too is good), but also a day to consider what can be done to better the lot of laborers, and to assist the labor movement. This can include, employment, and working to reverse the legal setbacks working people in Illinois have recently suffered in the areas of worker's comp and unemployment compensation.

The Labor Day parade in Bloomington largely did not do this. Many labor supporters and union members paraded, but few expressed opinions (publicly) on the issues affecting labor. Instead of communicating the important issues facing working people, and expressing the viewpoint of labor, the parade was "non-controversial." Companies were allowed to put floats in the parade which were not even related to Labor Day.

The parade did, however, allow labor (organized labor in particular) to jointly participate in a parade to affirm their solidarity to themselves and the public.

It is interesting that State Senator Harbor Hall, refused to speak at the Labor Day parade. He said that he thought he wouldn't be welcome. State Representative Gerald Bradley did come, and spoke, although he had just voted against labor on the critical issues of worker's comp, and unemployment compensation. There were no other speakers.

Labor Day was an interesting event, not only because of what it was, but also because of the possibilities it revealed. Perhaps next Labor Day more people will take advantage of its potential for productive labor activism.

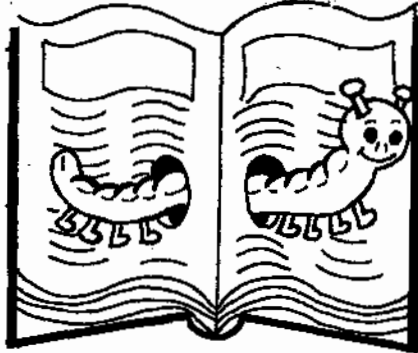
Dave Burdette

THIS FALL, WHY NOT CATCH UP ON YOUR READING?

the Book Worm

NEW HOURS:
TUES, WEDS,
THURS, SAT:
8-6
FRI 12-6
CLOSED
SUN-
MON

BESTSELLERS
WESTERNS
SCIENCE FICTION
STAR TREK FANZINES
MYSTERIES
ADULT BOOKS
ROMANCE
GOTHIC



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DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON

TRADE-
SELL
NEW & USED
PAPERBACKS &
MAGAZINES

REASONABLE
PRICES FOR
A LOT
OF GOOD
READING

Persistence Provides Shocks About IPC Bills

Most of my friends, when they get their electric bills, are likely to moan, groan, clutch their heads, and complain to their pals. Then a couple days before or after the payment's due, they'll grit their teeth and write out the check and shove it in the mail before they have to think too hard about it.

But my roommate isn't like that, and Illinois Power Company is heartily sorry, in more ways than one. And all you teeth-gritting check-writers are going to be sorry when you find out what he found out.

He found out that most of us got screwed on our bills for July.

When he opened the bill due August 29, he noticed that it was more outrageously high than usual. Did he moan, groan, and write out a check? Not him. He proceeded to read the fine print.

IPC's meter readers had been on strike during that billing period (a billing period is about a month--there's four summer ones and eight winter ones--but it doesn't cover from the first of the month to the last of the month for everybody. Different households have their bills come due at different times of the month. I'm going to use "billing period" and "month" interchangeably from now on, because I think "billing period" sounds stupid.) Because of the strike, lots of households had their bills estimated, and there was a pretty yellow card in the bill that said that the estimate was based on "your previous usage."

Now not only does my roommate read fine print, he also keeps the house bills carefully filed (yeah, weird dude). So he took a look at our "previous usage" that this little gem of a bill was supposedly based on.

Hah. This bill had us estimated at using 22 KWH (kilowatt hours) per day. The month before, we'd used 17 KWH per day, and the equivalent month last summer (yeah, he keeps 'em that far back), we used 16 KWH per day. This estimate was a 29.4% increase over the month before, and a 37.5% increase over the same month a year ago. So where did IPC get off with this estimate stuff? Did they think we'd likely installed a pinball parlor in the basement?

But this little yellow card also said that if the estimate was too high, the difference would be credited to our next bill. So if it was me opening the electric bill, I would've just thought, far out, next month we'll get a really low bill.

But my roommate isn't like that. He thought about how IPC was getting 30% more money from us this month than it deserved, and he thought about how IPC might be getting that much more from everybody, which amounts to a lot of moola, and he thought about how IPC was probably glomming up something like 14% return by having that money invested in some shady South American corporate operation, instead of sitting in our bank collecting its measly five and a quarter for us. And he thought, is that fair?

He also remembered an article in the Pantagraph that said everyone should brace themselves for a high electric bill because they were estimated, and estimated on the high side. Which supported his thoughts about how much extra money IPC was getting that month.

Supposedly, July was so hot that everyone had their air conditioners blasting away, and that was why IPC jacked up the bills so much.

But everyone doesn't have air conditioners. For example, we don't.

My roommate is not the type to just sit around and think all these nasty thoughts. So he called the power company and talked to Karen Phillips, a customer service person whose job is to be nice to people like my roommate. She was, too.

She said that our bill was estimated low in comparison with others. She said that some of them had estimates doubling their bill. The way IPC made up the estimates was to take sample readings of homes here and there to get ideas of what increase was going on due to the heat in July. But Ms. Phillips said they didn't try to figure out who had air conditioning and who didn't, because it would take too many people to figure it out.



I could've come up with a better plan for estimating those bills than IPC did, and I'm not even the business type. For one thing, they could've used last summer's usage as a base for everyone, which would reflect at least whoever had air conditioning last summer, and then whoever got new air conditioning this summer would get the higher bill next month. And people who were going without air conditioning for the first time this summer would get a lower bill next month. I bet this would make everybody's bill closer to right and require fewer adjustments than this crazy system of charging people 30% extra just because IPC has decided that we spent July in air-conditioned comfort.

Anyway, Ms. Phillips kindly offered to just forget the bill and send us a bill for two months, based on a real meter reading, next time.

My roommate isn't used to corporate representatives gracefully giving in to his gripes that way. He said, what? Can anybody who doesn't like this get their bill cancelled? She said sure, and she said that lots of people had called up to complain and ended up getting their bills cancelled. So my roommate says, why didn't they say that on that little yellow card we got with our bills? (He really is persistent.)

Ms. Phillips told him that many people like having their bills estimated, so they don't get socked with a big fat two-month one. (If you're thinking that that's true but it doesn't really answer the question, you're right. We still don't know why IPC didn't tell us on the card that if we didn't like the estimated bill, we could get it cancelled. But we can guess.)

That's not all they're not telling you about your electric bill either. Later the same day, my roommate was bugging the the customer service supervisor, Mr. Aman (I really mean it when I say he's persistent). In this conversation, Mr. Aman casually mentioned that anyone can get two reprieves from late payment charges a year, if they call up and ask for them, even if it's the customer's fault that the bill didn't get paid on time.

So twice a year, you can space out on your bill and not have to pay the extra fine for being late. But you have to know that you can do it. Mr. Aman said that he thought it was common knowledge. But we're common, and we've been buying electricity from IPC for years, and we didn't know it.

Besides, they're always putting junk in our bills telling us stuff that's common knowledge, like that insulation cuts down

on your heating costs. So they should tell us things like how we can get our estimated bills cancelled and not pay our late payment charges while they're at it.

But that's not all they're not telling us. And this last thing could cost you a lot more than just giving IPC a free loan to invest in some banana republic dictatorship for a month, or paying late payment fines because you don't know you can get out of it.

Your overestimated bill could ruin your chances to get into a Rate 1 class. Rate 1 is the cheaper rate that you get as a reward for using less than 15 KWH per day during the summer. If you get put in Rate 1, you pay a lower rate during the winter months. For a family using 500 KWH a month (or 17 KWH a day) during the winter billing period, Rate 1 would cost \$14.59, and Rate 2 would cost \$20.40. That's almost \$6 a month difference, or about \$50 a year (figuring on eight winter-rate billing periods).

If you get put in the Rate 2 class, you can earn a place in the Rate 1 class, but it's hard. You have to stay under 15 KWH per day every month this summer and next summer, except one. So you have eight chances, and you can blow it once, and still make it into Rate 1 (for the winter of '78-'79). You just need to stay under for seven out of eight summer months.

But if your bill was overestimated very far this time, it could look like you blew it during July, when really you didn't. Your bill could say that you used 18 KWH when really you used 14 KWH, and no matter how low your bill is next time to make up for the money difference, your chances for getting seven out of eight under 15 might be blown. And that could cost you (and earn IPC) \$50 or more.

Here's an example of how this overestimated bill could blow someone's chances:

May 1977 bill: 16 KWH
June 1977 bill: 14 KWH
July 1977 bill: 18 KWH (OVERESTIMATED BILL)
August 1977 bill: 10 KWH
May 1978 bill: 12 KWH
June 1978 bill: 13 KWH
July 1978 bill: 14 KWH
August 1978 bill: 13 KWH

See? If it weren't for that overestimated bill, this customer would qualify for Rate 1 in the winter of 78-79.

Mr. Aman insisted that my roommate would find out that the IPC estimate really was correct--that is, that we did use about 22 KWH per day in July. But when we got our two-month bill, it showed that we used about 18 KWH per day.

Now, my roommate is a very special person not only because he reads fine print, keeps good files, is persistent, and has such a computeresque mind, but because he can sit around for a couple hours beginning at ten o'clock on a weekday morning and be noseey about his electric bill. Most people, even if they had all the qualities my roommate does, wouldn't have the time to follow up on it--and the customer service thing is only open during regular business hours, which means that nine-to-fivers would really have a hard time calling in to chit-chat about how their electric bill was figured out. So there you are.

My roommate wants me to put somewhere in this article how nice and courteous and patient Ms. Phillips and Mr. Aman were, especially Ms. Phillips, while he was being persistent. Not all people he calls up are like that. These customer service people are probably hired for having these valuable human qualities. I wish they were doing something like teaching people to read, which uses all the good humor and patience one can muster, instead of having to sell their good qualities to the electric company so its bigwigs don't have to take the flak they deserve.

--Phoebe Caulfield

I Ain't No Mamma

Okay, now, listen. I know I've been dieting since March or February. Really since I was ten years old, but I have been dieting. Which doesn't make a whole hell of a lot of difference to some people. Well, anyway, I've lost 31 pounds and I've got 139 more to go, so I ain't no sylph. But still, you've got to listen to me. Here's my story. Late one night in August I invited this friend of mine to go to a bar with me, 'cause he was gonna be 21 years old. As we all know, being 21 and able to drink "hard" liquor is something worth celebrating. So, I took my friend to a bar and we had three drinks each.

I hadn't drunk a lot of hard liquor since the fourth of July, so it went to my head and body. I was having a good time being drunk and celebrating my friend's birthday. Well, the bar closed so we bought some brandy and decided to go get drunker. We also decided to get something to eat first, 'cause the liquor was making me feel like I needed some food in my stomach.

We drove to an all-night restaurant and sat down to order some food. I immediately asked for and got crackers 'cause I felt like I was going to puke. While we were waiting for our orders to arrive, I got up, ran to the bathroom, and puked. (It feels good to get rid of that poison.) I came back to our table feeling very relieved.

Our food came & Bob started to eat. I took a couple of bites and felt like I was going to puke again. I really didn't want to throw up again, so I drank my whole glass of milk. I took another few bites of food and, again, felt like I was going to lose it.

While I was losing it, getting it together and again losing it, two men and a woman came in and sat at a table on the restaurant aisle. There was a lot of commotion at their table and they too, were obviously drunk.

Since I was feeling sick again, I ran to the counter to ask for another glass of milk. As I was running, one of the men in the new group, who was clean-shaven, thin, well-groomed and red-necked, yelled "Hey Momma!"

Oh, that outraged me. All my life people have made fun of me for being obese. It hits me especially hard since I'm trying to lose weight (even though I was falling from my diet that night to drink & eat & celebrate). Well, I shrugged it off and returned to my table, settled my stomach somewhat with my milk.

Later I returned to the bathroom to pee, again passing the obnoxious man's table. By this time it had become well established that the people at the table are truly as painful as hemorrhoids. As I passed, the same man said, "Hey Momma, why don't you sit down?" Again, I was really offended-- also kind of revolted by his "duh" attitude. (He wanted me to stop running around so much.)

On my return from the bathroom the same jerk again made an offensive remark. I didn't respond, just got more steamed up inside. I was most pissed 'cause he was obviously making fun of my obesity.

My friend and I changed plans, decided not to drink any more, and decided to leave the restaurant and go home.

When we left, we passed the mouthy man's table. I looked him straight in the eyes and said, "No snide remarks," because by this time I'd had it. But, undaunted he called me "Momma" again!! Oh!!

(As we paid for our checks, the waitress apologized for the jerk's behavior. She didn't need to, but it was a nice gesture.)



As I drove Bob home I told him how mad I was, so mad I could cheerfully have maimed that guy in the restaurant. Bob said, "Well, maybe you should do something about your feeling." I thought, god, I'm losing weight, what else can I do? Bob hints that I should go back and tell Mr. Mouth that I was really offended.

So after I dropped Bob off I rushed back to the all-night joint. I'd decided to tear this guy's ears out. By the time I got back to the restaurant I was starting to chicken out, but I walked in and the thoughtless oafs were still there.

My feeling of suspense built. My anger built. I thought: Here I am a fat woman who's ready to rip this guy up. What should I do?

I walked straight up to Mr. Mouth's table. I leaned up against a chair. I looked him straight in the eyes. (God, I was shakin'.) But I acted cool.) I said, "I ain't no Momma! Never have been no Momma! And I really don't want to be called no Momma!"

He looked at me in astonishment and said, "I know you."

I responded (deciding ripping this guy up ain't worth goin' to jail for), "Listen, buster, all my life I've had to deal with people teasing me about being overweight and I'm fed up with it. I think you shouldn't be so mean to people who are overweight." (In my body, I was rejoicing, in my soul I was crying with relief.)

He answered, "You shouldn't feel so bad and I'm sorry." That's all I needed.

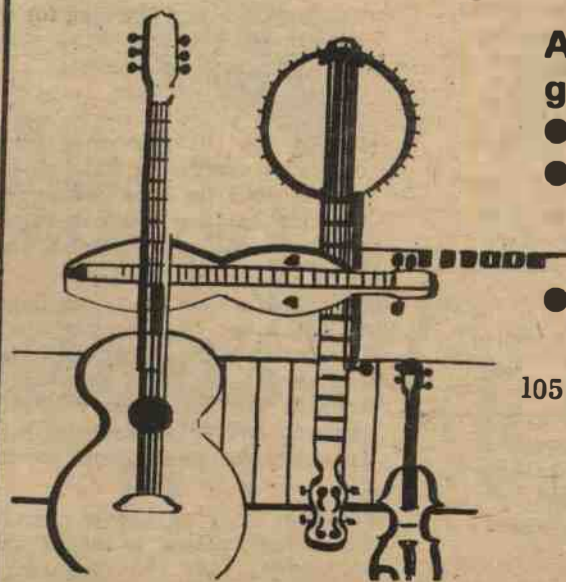
But I said, "Try to be more considerate and Thank You."

I ran out of that all-night joint and rejoiced. I was so happy I did it. I stood up for my rights. Yes, I have a right to be fat. Yes, other people have a right to be thin. And people have a right to have bushy hair. But nobody has any damn rights to make me feel like I belong to a slimy category of people that should be spit on!! By god, I stood up for my rights. Let's all do it.

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AX-IN-HAND



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- Cracks and other dryness problems
- Check out the Dampit Humidifier

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CETA ORIENTATION: GETTING TO KNOW YOU

These days, everybody's got an angle. The push to consume goods and services is enormous, and no matter what you may be offering people, you've got to learn to get right in there with the best of 'em and develop a good sales pitch.

CETA's pitch is, basically, the power of positive thinking, and what they're offering is promoted as both a skill and an attitude: getting ahead.

The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) of 1973 is "a federal program under the Department of Labor, designed to provide job training and employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged, unemployed, and underemployed individuals."

I went to the McLean County CETA in August to see if I was eligible for the CETA program.

"Intake" is made up of three parts. An intake worker helps you fill out your work history and personal statistics forms; a second worker talks to you and determines whether or not you are



eligible; and a counselor sets up a time for you to come to the required three-afternoon group orientation. My orientation was scheduled for three weeks later, and I was given very little information about the CETA program at my intake--this vagueness and delay may help explain why so many people don't return for their orientation. (The figures I have seem to say that although the McLean County CETA did 371 intakes in a year, only 86 of those people finished orientation.)

Orientation the first day lasted about 3 hours and included an overview of CETA's goals and history (with a slide presentation put together locally) and a detailed explanation of the five different programs CETA offers. There were, very roughly, about 30 people in my orientation group.

All of the CETA people I dealt with were always friendly and good-tempered, with the following exception.

On that first day, several people were signing up for CETA typing classes. A male CETA worker asked that all the people signing up who could already type raise their hands. When everyone hesitated, he said, very irritated, "C'mon, girls, either you can type or you can't!"

I was offended, not only at the use of "girls" to describe a bunch of women, but because I think it's downright silly to expect people to know (without an explanation) how fast you mean by "being able to type."

However, this same CETA person was perfectly nice every other time I saw him.

The second day, orientation lasted only an hour or so. We CETA participants took the WRAT--Wide Range Achievement Tests.

Wishful Thinking

The third day was the day they laid the raps on us.

We were told repeatedly not to believe that there is a "they" who keeps us from reaching our goals. Since the group was mostly women and included several blacks and an older woman who was replaced in her former job by a very young woman and was being turned down all over

because of her age, this advice seemed pretty dumb.

It's hard to believe that anyone working constantly with chronically unemployed people could be so naive, but the two CETA workers delivered the lines like they believed 'em.

We were encouraged to shoot high, to expect the most from any prospective job situation. In a little exercise, we were asked to rate how much we had expected from the CETA program upon entering it on a scale from one to five, with five representing the highest expectations.

One person responded with one, none with two, seven people had moderate expectations (3 on the scale), eight answered with a four, and 12 people had the highest expectations possible on the scale.

While the CETA worker said that it was "very good" that so many people had such high expectations, she said that all of us should have come into the program with the highest of expectations! The exercise was used to make the point that we should approach all job interviews with high expectations; think positive.

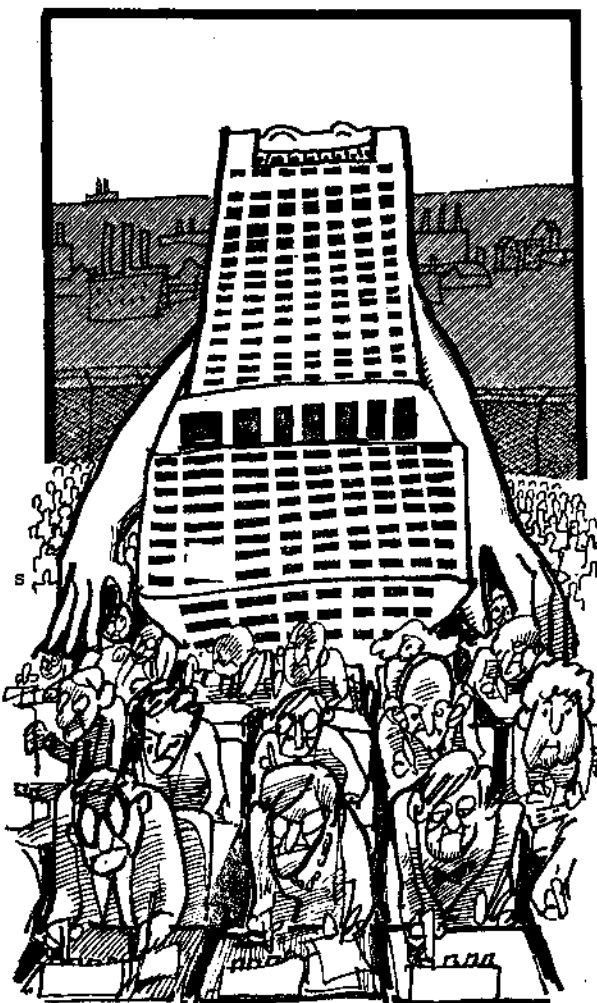
I've known of so many women who try to meet all the heavy demands placed upon them in their roles of wife, mother, cleaning lady, wage-earner, etc., and blame themselves when they fail, that I think it's much healthier and constructive to make realistic evaluations of what you're up against in daily life situations. Men, too, are often thwarted in their career plans because of power politics within companies, economic conditions, etc.

The CETA workers were urging us to believe that not only could we all get jobs, but that we could eventually, with committed and responsible planning, all get jobs that we would enjoy.

Facts

Paul A. Samuelson, in *Newsweek*, August 29, 1977, quoted from a 1977 summary of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, a study of 5,000 families done by the University of Michigan for the federal government:

"To date we have found virtually no evidence that... such attitudes and behaviors as personal confidence, ambition, achievement, motivation, future orientation, trust in others, planning



INDUSTRIAL WORKER/cpf

ahead, economizing, and avoiding risks... so often associated with financial success do, in fact lead to economic improvement."

Samuelson himself adds, "Instead to be in poverty is to be old. To be black. To have been educated. To be a female head of household. Changes in family composition turn out to be crucial factors.

"The Bible says you cannot increase your stature one cubit by thinking on it. Neither can you become white, young, male and financially secure by taking a Dale Carnegie self-improvement course or by resolving to be parsimonious (penny-pinching) and energetic."

Amen, brother.

CETA's narrow pull-yourself-up-by-your-bra-strap attitude was also bad for group dynamics, I thought. When one person in the class questioned the advisability of going into every job interview with high expectations, others agreed. When the CETA worker continued to respond with the same home-office think-positive line, a frustrating polarization developed and discussion stopped. People would possibly have felt less shut down if the CETA worker had felt more free to explore the new viewpoint.

Handouts

A one-page reprint from *Your Attitude Is Showing* by Elwood N. Chapman, although passed out & discussed in class to support CETA's think-positive attitude, stood in contradiction to it in a couple subtle but unfortunate ways.

The leaflet, called "Dealing with Supervisors" had no parallel called "Dealing with Employees," which says a lot by itself about where CETA participants are expected to land in a job situation--and it ain't at the top. This expectation prevailed despite the fact that in my CETA group there was one person with a master's degree in one area and a bachelor's in another, and several other folks with at least some college education.

Also, the leaflet all the way through referred to the supervisor as "he" and "him," another pants-down glimpse at who really is expected to achieve what.

The actual advice given in the leaflet was pretty questionable, also. An example: "Whenever possible, take the positive approach and try to make your supervisor look good." Much more realistic advice than much of CETA's, but pretty grim nonetheless. I've heard that same posture described in less pretty terms.

Another handout called "13 tips on Succeeding in a New Job" (unidentified as to source) advised us, among other things, to "make friends, but don't make close friends too soon." This puzzled me until the CETA worker explained that it means you have to be careful who you get chummy with at work: your new friend may be someone in bad with the management!

My last gripe is that CETA doesn't ask its participants to do an orientation evaluation. With so many forms to fill out, one more couldn't hurt.

Getting It Straight About Gayness

The first of many challenges when writing anything about homosexuality is defining it. Who do people think about when they think about gay people?

Well, Anita Bryant, the Sunshine Kid, thinks about male teachers lurking in darkened grade school buildings, waiting for an unsuspecting lad to return after classes for a forgotten notebook. (Or so she says--I think she really knows better.)

David Reuben, author of Everything You Always Wanted to Know, etc., thinks about fat people, men named Dick and Peter, and prostitutes. Or so he says.

Aunt Mildred and Uncle Walt might think of Milton Berle, paid bunches of money to wear a dress and encourage people to eat at Lum's.

Truck drivin' Bob might think of the "lady truck driver" wearing boots and overalls who reacted so rudely to his sexual overtures.

Definitions

In this article, we're going to define homosexuality as the ability to form intimate relationships with people of the same sex.

This still leaves it pretty much up for grabs since the definition hinges on "intimate" and not sexual. We're not defining homosexuality in strictly sexual terms for at least a couple of reasons.

First of all, a person can be homosexual and never or rarely actually have sex with other people of the same sex, just as people can be heterosexual and never or rarely actually have sex with other people of the opposite sex. (Although some studly men don't seem to believe it.)

And second, although we find some of Freud's ideas very questionable, we do agree with him that elements of sexuality are present in every caring relationship. What is "sexual" and what is "only" sensual or affectionate is very hard to separate, and probably people shouldn't bother trying so hard to make the separation anyway.



Also notice that our definition refers to the ability to do something and not to the whole person doing it. Many people define themselves as homosexuals and still have the ability to form intimate relationships with people of the opposite sex. And vice versa.

Our definition applies to everyone, potentially. Anybody can learn how to form intimate relationships with same-sex people, although it ain't always easy.

In this article we're also going to make distinctions between homosexuality and gayness as asserting one's political affiliation with people who are oppressed because of their sexual and/or affectional preference. Gayness, then, is a label you stick on yourself rather than one somebody else sticks on you. It's self-determined. And it's consciously political, whereas our definition of homosexuality includes people who don't think of their sexuality in political terms. A similarity between the two definitions is that a person can be either gay or homosexual and not necessarily be sexually active, either at all or with same-sex people.

Women who are gay often prefer to be called lesbians because of significant differences between the personal/political lives of gay men and gay women, which we'll go into a little later on.

Liberal Myths

We're not going to take the defensive route of explaining how homosexuals aren't child molesters, etc., in this article. That's

been more than adequately covered in many books, magazines, and other media. (See partial reading list at the end of the article.) Instead we're going to discuss some of the liberal myths gay people themselves sometimes offer to gain acceptance by what is sometimes called, unthinkingly, "average America." (We don't believe there really is such an animal.)

The first liberal myth goes this way: Homosexuality isn't something people choose, and it isn't something that can be changed. ("I was just born this way, so don't dump on me.") Of course, this kind of statement is usually accompanied these days by an assertion that it is really "OK" to be a homosexual, anyway. (2,4,6,8-- gay is just as good as straight.)



We know as a fact that people do choose to be gay (we did) and since people can change from being straight, it seems like they should be able to change from being gay too. The gay people we know don't want to change.

We think that some people choose their sexuality and others do not, regardless of what those specific choices are. For some homosexuals, gayness is a personal/political choice. For others, homosexuality is the result of very early, very strong attraction to the same sex. For most straight people, heterosexuality seems to be the result of socialization reinforced by strong sexual attractions to the opposite sex later in life.

At any rate, we believe that all of us have the potential to be any way at all sexually. Which doesn't mean that all people will act on those different potentials, or even that they should.

Why do those people who choose to be gay do so?

Some of us were brought up in homes where we were encouraged to grow to our fullest and best potential.

Some of us find it much easier to avoid sexist game-playing in gay relationships.

Some of us, through involvement with feminism and/or the men's movement, want to concentrate on and deepen our same-sex relationships.

Both men and women may want to avoid sexual relationships with each other, where men's oppression of women is such a personal, confusing, and energy-draining problem. They instead explore same-sex sexual relationships, where society's expectations and conditioning don't throw the partners into vastly different and unequal roles from the start. This exploration can be temporary or on-going.

Not A Threat

The second liberal myth is that homosexuals are "just like everyone else." We don't threaten the status quo; we're not out to destroy the family.

One thing that homosexuals undeniably have in common with straight people is our diversity as a group. None of us are just like "everyone else." There is no everyone else that thinks in an "average" way. Many of the people who make up that group of "everyone else" (straight people) are themselves threats to the status quo; they're opposed to the nuclear family or something like

that. Similarly, some homosexuals believe and act one way, some another.

Many gay people do, however, think that gayness itself--not necessarily individual homosexuals--is a potential threat to the status quo (sexism, racism, capitalism, institutionalized dominance relationships--those where the-powers-that-be give you no choice but to screw over or be screwed over).

Believing that gayness is a positive, growing way to be really does open up a whole Pandora's box of questions about sex roles. It's kind of like Eve eating the apple to gain knowledge of good and evil, and like Eve, we pay heavy when we question the established order.

Some people have to believe that homosexuals always play male-female (butch-femme) roles in same-sex sexual relationships. Otherwise, what does it mean that there are all these people out there exploring new kinds of relationships, attempting as much as possible to do away with oppression in their intimate lives? And what if the people making those brave attempts start making dangerous connections about the screwy ways men and women are taught to deal with each other, and how those ways aren't necessary or good, and how we're taught to accept the screwy forms of government and the screwy ways we deal with property and "crazy people" and young people and...?

Why it could get out of control.

Dominant Mothers

The third, and possibly favorite, liberal myth is that homosexuality is not a result of "abnormal" family conditions, like dominant mother and passive father.

Wait a minute! Are we saying that homosexuality is a result of abnormal family conditions?

Of course not. We may be weird, but we're not that weird. Nobody knows how much or how family situations influence sexual development. If anybody claims to, ask them about their toilet training, 'cuz there's definitely something wrong upstairs.

One thing wrong with this liberal myth is its underlying assumption about sex roles in families. Dominant/passive intimate relationships are wrong, no matter who's being which.

We also suspect that those poor "dominant" mothers may be assertive women, labeled "disturbed" by straight white male psychiatrists, who, like granddaddy Freud, just can't figure out what it is women want. (After all, middle-class women have the most modern conveniences, the poor ones have all those charming babies, and the "rich" ones have rich husbands, which is almost as good as being rich yourself.)

And a lot of those dominant-mother/passive-father situations may be, in reality, marriages uncommonly and disturbingly free of accepted sex roles.

Conversion

Our fourth liberal myth is: Homosexual people aren't out to convert others to homosexuality.

This myth, as are the others, is well-intentioned. It's motivated by a desire to put to rest the child molester myth. (Funny how often new myths are concocted in an attempt to destroy old ones.)

Again, this myth is untrue only as a blanket statement intended to include all homosexuals. Probably, some homosexuals out there somewhere would be absolutely long-suffering and passive if they fell in love with a so-called straight person, but I haven't met any yet.

But seriously, folks--many gay people do believe that we have something valuable to share and that more people should realize

Getting It Straight... (cont.)

that they can make choices about their sexuality and intimate relationships.

Also, it's good to keep in mind that one-- or even two or five or ten--opposite sexual experiences does not make a person straight, completely and forever. And one same-sex sexual experience or relationship does not necessarily make a person gay, completely and forever. Sexuality's main virtue is that it is complicated. Thinking about it could keep our minds in expert condition. And since we all have homosexual and heterosexual elements, it's really impossible for someone to convert from being exclusively one to exclusively the other.

The last reason this liberal myth (that gay people don't try to make converts) is so creepy is that it implies that gayness is not worth converting to (at the same time it implies that gayness is so attractive that you really have to worry about all these potential "conversions"). Also, it ignores the fact that there's a high-pressure campaign to sell each and every one of us on heterosexuality from day one.

Lighten up!

Fear

This myth that no gay people want to "convert" straights is designed not only to answer the child-molester myth but also to pander to people's fears of gayness. It would be more constructive to ask why people are afraid of gayness. The book Society and the Healthy Homosexual discusses in depth the list of reasons; we'd like to mention a few here.

For many people, just-your-basic fear of the unknown gets mistranslated into what they consider justifiable disgust.

Homosexuality or the fear of it enters into every male-male close relationship. Gayness challenges the basic masculine self-image that men grow up with, and this challenge makes men defensive and fearful.

And finally, people do, somewhat justifiably, fear that homosexuality is a challenge to the status quo (which includes, by the way, those afraid-of-intimacy male-male relationships mentioned above).

Unimportant

Another liberal myth is that homosexuals are such a small percentage of the population that we're not "dangerous."

People rely far too heavily on Kinsey's magic 10% judgement about homosexuals. It's impossible to determine how many of us there are, since homosexuality is defined in so many different ways and people's sexual/intimate orientations change.

Also, since elements of homosexuality/gayness are present or potentially present in each of us, we are a non-measurable group. While this does not make us any nonsensical "revolutionary vanguard," it does have all kinds of fascinating (or scary, depending on what side of the

fence you're sitting on) implications. We may get dangerous yet!

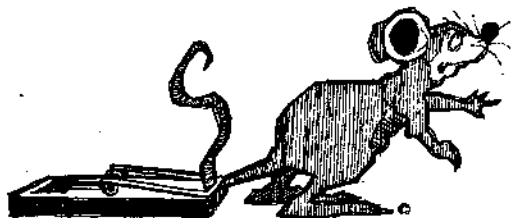
Promiscuity

A sixth liberal myth goes like this: Homosexuals aren't any more promiscuous than anybody else and besides, we can't get married, so what do you expect?

You may have noticed right off that this is a contradictory argument. (Some people never quite get it.) Defensiveness often gives rise to contradictory arguments, just as it often gives rise to new myths replacing old ones. Such haste to cover all bases acknowledges that the contention that homosexuals are more promiscuous than straight (or the reverse argument) is unprovable.

As in the previous myths, this myth points up more about what that hard-to-pin-down beastie "society" is up to than it does about what that equally slippery beastie known as "gay people" is up to.

"Promiscuity" is another very complicated subject. Usually, it seems to be a catch-all word for three extremely different ways of relating sexually to other people: loving, non-monogamous attempts at utopian relationships; casual, non-intimate, sometimes nameless sexual encounters; and screw-overs veiled as attempts at "liberated" relationships (What do you mean, no? Aren't you liberated?).



And when homosexuals push the marriage angle, it's another indication that we're trying to conform to what we see as "normal" rather than examining what we really want and do not want for ourselves. We're letting our perceptions of the world influence us, rather than trying to have an influence on our world. It's kind of a butch/femme relationship with "society," with society dominant and us passive.

Man-hating

Yet another liberal myth is that lesbians don't hate men.

Some do, some don't.

Wouldn't you?

People have good reason for "hating men." Viet Nam, Exxon, Kent State and anti-abortion laws, to name but a few. (The

book Combat in the Erogenous Zone has an excellent chapter on man-hating.)

The personal politics of man-hating deserves to have at least 12 books written about it. From the length of this article, you might guess we're going to try to write them all here and now, but we aren't. We'll just make a couple of points.

First of all, most people who "hate men" don't really hate everything about all men in all situations all of the time. We all have our soft-hearted (or soft-headed) moments, to one degree or another. Lots of people say they hate dogs without really hating all dogs. And lots of people who "hate children" just hate the idea of having a child themselves and like other people's children just fine. And it works the opposite way too. Somebody can say they "love candy" and despise peanut brittle. These kinds of generalizations may be a sorry abuse of the language, but they have the strong force of tradition behind them.

Also, it should not be assumed (although it can be true) that women or men who prefer to work and love mostly or entirely with same-sex people hate the opposite sex. Throughout the centuries, many, many straight men have dealt mostly or entirely with other men without being accused of woman-hating, even though they often richly deserved that label.

And it should be noted that it's not only some lesbians who "hate men." Man-hating is not even confined only to women, for that matter. Our patterns of relating to other people have been so sorry for so long that many women have internalized hatred of women as a class. It's easy to see where they got it--men have a long and proud tradition of women-hating (women are dumb, they're only good for one thing and not much good at that, my first child better be a son, etc.).

Gay Men vs. Lesbians

The last thing we want to discuss isn't a liberal myth, but rather the relationships between gay men and lesbians.

Lots of politically active gay people are discouraged and defensive about lesbian separatism and the hostilities between gay men and lesbians. Lots of gay people even think lesbian separatism is "wrong."

There are enormous personal/political differences between gay men and lesbians. It seems that women much more often develop into lesbians along with (or because of) a developing political consciousness than men develop into gay men along with a developing political consciousness. In other words, women seem to much more often choose lesbianism than men choose gayness. When gay men and lesbians get together over an issue, if the women are keenly aware of sexism and have an analysis about other forms of oppression and the men aren't and



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Getting It Straight... (cont.)

don't, there are bound to be problems. And it's not the responsibility of the women to keep working with the men and put a lot of energy into the political/personal progress of the men.

Also, for women, gayness is very often not only a positive choice toward something good (other women), but also a choice against something. And that something can be as overwhelming and general as patriarchy (a society's system where the men run everything) and/or as specific and immediate as men themselves.



For men, too, gayness can be anti-patriarchal (and for some it's probably anti-female, unfortunately). An openly gay man gives up a lot of male privilege, but I don't think there are so many men becoming gay men for this reason that we have to worry that they'll take over New York City in the near future. (Heavy credit to the men who are trying to give up male privilege, though.)

So this, too, has an effect on how gay men and lesbians can relate to each other. Just like in the so-called real world, in gay groups the men are still men and the women are still women, no matter how hard "queer-haters" may find that to believe and no matter how hard gay men and lesbians may try to work around it.

Also, whereas lesbians active in the gay movement very often are also involved in the feminist movement, gay men are more likely only to be active in the male-dominated gay movement. Here are some reasons we think gay men don't get involved in the

feminist men's movement (not to be confused with male-male groups like the Elks Club). By the way, these can apply to straight men too.

The feminist men's movement invites men to think about their role as oppressors, which isn't very much fun for any of us to do.

There's not as much of a tradition of men's groups as there is for women's groups. They are hard to find or start and hard to keep going.

Many gay men have the same sexist attitudes (or new and improved ones) as non-gay men. As well as making them less likely

to be interested in getting in the men's in the first place, it makes it hard to develop a non-hierarchical, growing group.

So we support lesbian separatism and the feminist men's movement. But most of all we support the smashing of sloppy thinking!! The next time somebody tries to sell you an old tired myth about homosexuality, whether it's the old-model reactionary kind or a new-model liberal myth, don't buy it!

--Alice Wonder and the Lavender Knight

Very Partial Reading List

General

--Society and the Healthy Homosexual by George Weinberg. Very basic, very good, very broad--appropriate gift for your parents if they want something to read about your "condition."

--Homosexual Oppression and Liberation by Dennis Altman. Heavily intellectual reading, but worth it if you're into the politics of gayness.

About lesbians

--Lesbian/Woman by Martin and Lyon. Basic.

For Lesbians

--Lesbian Nation by Jill Johnston. Political, extreme, hilarious, brilliant, written well but in an outrageously unique style.

--What Lesbians Do and Loving Women. Both beautiful, both mostly about sex.

For gay men

--Men Loving Men by Mitch Walker. "A gay sex guide and consciousness book." Very good.

About young people

--Growing Up Gay. A Youth Liberation anthology--very good.

Most of these books are available at Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main St. in Bloomington.

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letters

We encourage you readers out there to write us letters. So go right ahead and write and we'll probably put it in the paper. If you don't want your letter published, please say so in the letter. We've also been known to turn letters into full-fledged articles. So if you have a problem, gripe, or think something is particularly neat, let us know.

Bad trip in Brokaw

I am writing in regard to your September issue "Local Psychiatrist Holds Patient Incommunicado."

I had a similar experience when I was in Brokaw Hospital April 5, 1977. I went to Brokaw to kick an alcohol habit I had. I knew that I couldn't kick it on the street cause I knew for a fact I was going to have DT's.

I first went to Brokaw with a bad hang-over and the shakes. I was shot up 4 different times in the emergency room before being moved to the psych ward. Now that just made things worse. I was taken directly to the lock-up where I was strapped down. "Both arms, both legs."

I was not at the time in DT's. "DT's come on at least 48 hours after your last drink."

The next morning I wasn't allowed to feed myself, the nurse did it for me. I was taken down for X-rays, then returned to lock-up. They allowed me 5 minutes for a shower with an orderly watching me. After that the straps came off. But not for long.

The next night I started experiencing hallucinations. I started screaming and freaking out and was returned to the straps. Maybe that was for my own good, but here is my hassle.

After coming out of DT's 3 days later I was unstrapped. Only to remain in the lock-up, and my parole officer was called. The only time I could have a cigarette was when they got around to it.

I saw my doctor, who is Don Chapman, and told him my head was pretty straight and asked him to move me to a regular room so I wouldn't have to stare at four walls. He told me I would stay where I was until released. I asked him if I could use the phone. He looked around the room and said, "Sorry, it looks like you don't have one."

I wasn't strapped down anymore but I walked around my bed all day. My brother brought me cigarettes but I couldn't have them. Every time I wanted one I had to call the

nurse, who would take her sweet time. I wanted to sign out but that never did materialize.

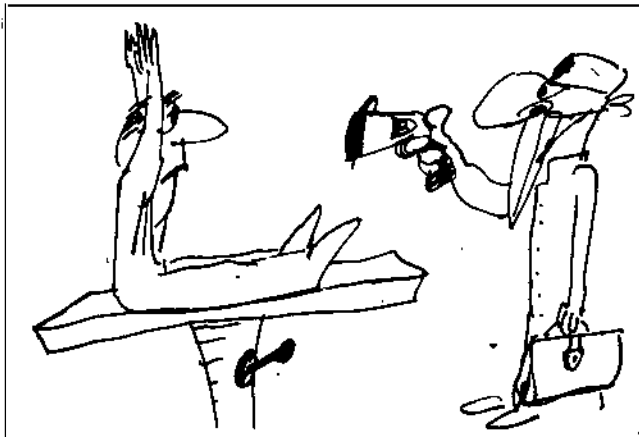
Dr. Chapman was very upset with my alcohol problem. I asked him if he had a grudge against me. He said, "You're damn right I do. I'm sick and tired of treating you for alcoholic DT's." He also said maybe sending me back to prison will cure my problem.

I had no warrants from the police on me. I was informed that I would have a parole hearing April 15. Still my request for signing out was never heard. I was able to shower every day and afterwards was locked up again.

Now I know from experience that when a person is having DT's he is not supposed to be left alone. DT's are a very heavy scene and you can die from them. But I was left alone. I just wanted to let you people know that John (the subject of the Post story) isn't alone. Good thing about John is that he was finally released from Brokaw. I was released from Brokaw and turned over to the Department of Corrections.

In my opinion, Brokaw should be investigated.

Thank You,
Dennis Dailey
#C-71238
Box 711
Menard, Ill 62259



More school stoppers

Dear Rant and Rave,

If the parochial school system manufactured steel I would've been labeled scrap. The brainwashing and mind-suppression is worse in the Catholic schools. For some reason, I always felt the urge to do some serious rabble-raising. The Rant and Rave column would've been a useful tool. Being somewhat successful at school rejection, I felt compelled to offer some suggestions.

1. Have someone fake as if they've passed out. Five or six people can carry them out.
2. If you have to wear a coat and tie, go to the attic or local Salvation Army. Wear the worst.
3. Always have someone telling the teacher they have to use the lavatory.
4. If they try to force you to sing, do it loud and out of key. Or just scream.
5. Take all the chalk and erasers.
6. A screwdriver is all that is needed to take a desk apart.
7. Throw harmless objects at your friends. Be sure they throw back.
8. A telephone can be used for night-time harassment.
9. Praise Allah every morning.
10. Avoid making messes that the janitor or other students will have to clean up. Don't give the underpaid Civil Service people a hard time. I have to advise against a food riot. When we run out of oil, we're all going to starve to death.
11. Ask a priest or nun what they do for sex.
12. If you know they're going to call home and tell on you, use your smarts to get the home authority to stick up for you.
13. Change the flags at night.

--Tom

Wants Post to grow up

Dear Post-Amerikan,

The "Skool Stoppers' Textbook" does not really relate to the political/economic causes of the conditions at Bloomington High School. The students at BHS have been quite capable of carrying out anarchistic actions or in the words of the administrators "vandalism" for years. One incident comes to mind: all of the boys bathrooms were locked because cherry bombs were being flushed down the toilets and the sink's faucets were stolen. The water was left to run over on the floor from plugged drain.

But Mr. Bryant, BHS principal, and company have been dealing successfully with such "problems" for years. The focus of the article is not clear. Is it the position of the P-A that the teachers are the students enemies? Why wasn't the role of Dr. Norman Vincent and the Board of Education mentioned. Certainly Mr. Bryant follows directives from Superintendent Stimeling's office, and the superintendent serves the Board and the Board is controlled by the local economic powers.

Education helps to legitimate the authoritarian work process engendered by capitalism. The schools emphasize

and reward those aspects of personality that account for success on the job, moving the student easily from the educational system into the workplace. Thus a series of studies have revealed a remarkable congruence between the characteristics approved and disapproved by teachers and by job supervisors: perseverance, dependability, consistency, punctuality, predictability, etc. are rewarded by both; creativity, independence, etc. are punished. State Farm does not need a creatively aware political workforce.

Instead of giving your readers pseudo-radical rewrites of Youth Liberation Literature the P-A should analyze the root of the problem--The Capitalist Economy. As a starting place you might want to read or review Bowles and Gintis's Schooling in Capitalist America.

Come on Post-Amerikan, do you really think that the stealing of forms and hall passes from teachers desks is revolutionary? Any student at BHS knows that you get them by the pack from a friend in the print shop! "When I was a child I thought as a child." Isn't it about time for the

Post Amerikan to grow up or at least mature?

A Reader

POSTNOTE: Five articles on pages 10 through 15 of the April 1977 (Vol 6, No. 1) Post and two other articles in last month's issue deal with many of the issues raised in this letter and with other problems at BHS.

Turned away

Dear Post:

I'm always reading about landlords who discriminate against people with children; how about landlords who discriminate against people without a wife and children? Oscar Cohn, one of Bloomington's biggest slum lords, does. He refused to rent a \$70.00 a month apartment to me because he didn't want a single man with "all sorts of women" shacking up there. Maybe I'm wrong, but I think my money's just as good as anyone's.

Well, check it out; I'm mad and needed to tell someone.

Thanks,
Mick Tosh

Reader sides with bankers, sneers at poor



POST NOTE:
 You may wonder why we shot this letter so small and gave it such a tacky headline. Well, we think that if you read it, you won't wonder any more. It's long, too. We really are fair-minded enough to print letters we don't like, but when they get this long and repetitive, we begin to wonder just how far fair-mindedness should go. This is how far.

Dear Post:

I am writing this letter in respect to the article "Banks Have Power Over Housing" in your September issue, and I would like to comment on specific sentences in it.

The article begins: "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 cannot 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."

In response to the previous phrases, I would like to say: In our society, the expansion of credit and the absence of personal wealth has made critical the value of borrowed money. Coupled with very high taxes, it is very difficult these days to become rich and therefore people no longer put an important emphasis on using one's own money. In addition, inflation, which constantly cheapens dollars, makes people want to put their money to use as quickly as possible, and not save it for something "bigger" since their savings will, in most cases, dwindle faster than they accumulate. All these factors contribute to the de-emphasis of personal wealth, and the emphasis on borrowed money. This condition today has increased to the point where it perhaps is even as the Post says, but I wonder whether the bad condition is the fault of the banks, for I cannot see how they are responsible for a single factor that I have listed. They are not to blame for their own power, for they have done nothing to extend it. Their power is properly the power of borrowed money, and not properly their own.

The power to destroy neighborhoods is, perhaps a power which banks would choose not to have. Therefore, I think it is slanderous for you to say as you have said in these paragraphs.

In paragraph 11 is said: "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.)"

This paragraph is false, and I find it hard to understand how they control, the two costs the article writer mentions.

Banks do indeed decide what interest to charge, and how many loans to make. But these respective decisions are based on current money-market values which change daily, and not on the caprice of bankers. Bankers are as much mystified by the reasons and causes for these changes as anyone else. I would sooner believe they can control sunspots than I would believe they can control these two factors. In fact, some theorists, among them successful stock analysts, claim sunspots are the very things on which these depend. They are admittedly dependent on psychological factors, which, in America, are very hard to predict let alone control. Let the

great depression be evidence of this. If, however, they could exert this control, they could make themselves millionaires without even trying. I almost wish they could, for I believe it would probably make our economy more stable than it is today.

In paragraph 9, you speak of banks reclaiming mortgages. "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."

It is, indeed, unfortunate when an owner loses his or her house, and when a bank must reclaim the house and take a loss on their investment. The writer of the article, though, speaks about this occurrence in a curious way, for, alluding to the "control" of interest rates and numbers of loans in paragraph 11, he or she says:

"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."

This paragraph is so ridiculous it is hardly worth discussing. There are so many things wrong with this, that upon consideration, I doubt anyone can believe it.

First, I have said, it is not the bank's power which gives them so much control over housing, but our own withered powers, which de-emphasize personal wealth. For how is it to be imagined, that with all today's restrictions on unfair trade, that a certain set of people could be the author of so much evil, merely by passing money from one hand to the next? By what power from providence could they author such evil mischief? I think we should rather inquire, from whence comes our author's unreasonable prejudice.

It is not a self-serving purpose which supplies the banks with their power, but our own unhealthy dependence on what they supply. This is not the fault of the banks.

Even supposing the banks possess all the power the author says, it would be used only for a very modest gain if it was used only to keep from losing money on bad loans.

If bankers did possess this power of controlling interest rates to the extent that housing opportunity is arbitrarily controlled, they should go into the housing business themselves, and after fighting the prices at which houses are sold, they could make a fortune as land-barons. They should, and would, if they were as evil as the author says.

In the next paragraph (12), we learn that whatever the author is trying to say, and whatever he or she is trying to prove, he or she is just about done saying it, because she/he is about to clinch the argument. So far this has to be the silliest article that has appeared in print in many years.

There are, indeed, many paragraphs left in the article, but as a famous man once said, "If I take up a spool, and find it pack thread, I do not expect, upon continuing to discover silk."

Therefore, I will not examine closely the remaining paragraphs, but will only point out the last two which will lead me into some comments of my own about banking.

First, I would like to say, that I am very sorry to see the Post print articles of this nature. If such material could be confined to perhaps a few paragraphs, it would not be so offensive. I like many of your articles, but when the paper in which good articles appear also contains this nonsense, one feels disappointed.

Speaking of a decision made by Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan, the author says "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."

In this paragraph, s/he seems to believe that Bloomington Federal should make their decisions according to the needs of the people, and not in the interests of their own profit.

Let me record the last paragraph of the article. "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?"

In the last paragraph, s/he seems to assert that Bloomington Federal should not adjust and accord their investments until they have discovered what other people want them to do.

It was said of a famous Roman, that after luckily acquiring many riches in war, he felt need to ask the sovereign if the money, vast as it was, was all truly his. Thus was the reply--"It certainly is, and you may do with it whatsoever you please." The man again asked, "But I do not know, O sovereign, if I have the knowledge to spend so large a sum wisely, and therefore I don't know if I am rightly entitled to it." The Sovereign answered: "The money is certainly yours, and you may spend it in any way you choose; whether you spend it well or ill the right to spend it is indisputably yours, and it cannot be usurped by anyone in the realm, including myself."

The world has universally concurred that the ownership of money confers the right to dispose of that money in any way the owner chooses, whether he disposes of that money wisely or poorly. Such a right is necessarily attendant on the ownership of money, for without this right, money becomes nothing, and can neither be used nor abused.

This is a maxim which no government has ever denied, and which no law has ever opposed. That the poor should ever have the power of dictating to the rich how they should invest their money is not to be expected, for this is a right which the rich, who are much more skillful at handling money, do not themselves have, for they still retain sovereignty over only that money which they themselves own. If it can be conceived that riches will ever be utilized according to the advice of the public, it is not to be supposed that the poor will ever be consulted, who have little skill in the use of money. The rich will certainly be preferred as public counsels, for they have demonstrated their skillfulness.

Now when people voluntarily cede their right to dispose of their riches, they let the rich invest for them, who are wiser than they. Those who have obtained this reputation have not obtained it by a government edict, but only by the consent of many different people who have given them their money to invest. These people to whom money is given to invest, are bankers.

If some free-thinker would choose to argue these facts, and if s/he would tell me that s/he knows better how money should be lent than do the bankers themselves, then I say that he should pursue his convictions with all his or her energy, and should become a banker, in order to show the rest how it is properly done. S/he should enter into the poor neighborhoods (where the people are supposed to be most abused by bankers), and solicit investments, by propounding his or her new systems of banking which will favor the poor. S/he can tell that s/he has opened a new bank, whose investments will be more in favor of the poor than other banks. S/he may persuade as many of the poor as s/he chooses, as far as I am concerned, but I am afraid that not many people will put their money in his or her bank. If s/he is successful, then I will be glad, and I will call him or her a very good person, and I will call other banks to observe his or her examples.

However, from what I have seen of his or her writing, I doubt whether s/he has a system which can benefit either the poor or the rich. S/he is like the lead ball which can never ring however hard it is clapped. Heated with invective, s/he fills pages with prejudicial notions, but can neither inspire others to act, nor can act him or herself.

Our Author also asserts that the loans made by banks are prejudicial and improvident to the needs of the community.

No one has ever disputed that, from the community's point of view, the good effects of money are sometimes arbitrarily bestowed. It cannot be but that the present system of economics will be prejudicial to the poor, for the present system awards those who are most skillful in manipulating money, not those who are least skillful, as are the poor. For it is not to be supposed that the poor are poor by choice, but that they who are poor would all choose to be rich. It is only their own unskillfulness that keeps them from being other than poor, and I know not why bankers should be particularly blamed, simply because they have money.

Besides, supposing that bankers do have the obligation to insure the small-time borrowers of America with loans, how is the level of profuseness to be determined? It may be said that banks frequently withhold loans in the best interests of the community. This I will not argue, for I can only suppose that bankers are mystified by those same elements which mystify everyone else, one's obligation towards the welfare of each member of the community, and the proportion of the cost such welfare entails.

That bankers could and can do more, I will not refute. But it is a well-accepted maxim that s/he who may do more, may do less. S/he who has lent money many times on precarious terms may withhold future profuseness. S/he who has gambled many times for the small borrower may disregard some requests, if s/he is perplexed with insecurity.

What are reasonable demands which we can make upon bankers when the nature of the loans which they make now are dubious? Everyone in the investment field knows that one of the principal deterrents to the investors is an insecure or indefinite future. The state of the economy is not the only factor influencing the minds of investors, but their ability to depend on a reliable picture of future conditions is also important, for what good will it do the investors to know that the future is promising, unless they know which investments are most promising? For the state of the market is, today, not such as would reward the hazardous investor.

Now this knowledge of proper investments depends on a just notion of future economic conditions, which can as much be vitiated by public outcry as by any acts of the government. Therefore, the favorability of future investments (on which the small homeowner must ultimately depend on his or her mortgage) is as much harmed by these ridiculous harassings from the public about how bankers' money should be spent as it can be by any means whatsoever. Therefore, the small-time borrower has every reason to hope that these articles written in his or her behalf by uninformed poor people should have little effect.

I hope you will not mind my not signing my full name to this letter, but as far as I can tell, custom in no way obliges a letter-writer to sign his name, as articles themselves are frequently not owned by their respective authors, and I have no particular desire to have my name known.

TYPIST'S NOTE: No wonder you don't want us to know your name. This has got to be the most outlandish response to an article that I've read in a long while. First, how dare you? Imply that poor people haven't the skill to handle their own money? Or large quantities of money? Poor people are kept poor by the capitalist system that you support. Also, the rich people are not all intelligence and responsibility, as you would lead us to believe.

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- September 16 -- " " " -- \$1.00 cover
- September 17 -- BLUE RIBBON BAND -- southern rock, \$1.00 cover
- September 20 -- BEER NIGHT, all the beer and wine you want plus live music with SKILLET -- \$3.00 cover
- September 21 -- MIDNIGHT SUNRISE -- country rock
- September 22 -- To Be Announced
- September 23 -- Full Moon Consort progressive rock
- September 24 -- Full Moon Consort rock

- September 28 -- ALL STAR FROGS -- on Trouserworm Records, \$1.00 cover
- September 29 -- " " "
- September 30 -- JIM SCHWALL BAND -- \$1.50 cover
- October 1 -- NATCHEZ -- progressive country, \$1.00 cover
- October 5 -- WHITE WING -- rock, 50¢ cover
- October 6 -- To Be Announced
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- October 8 -- " " "
- October 12 -- APPALOOSA -- \$1.00 cover

WATCH FOR OCTOBER BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL!!

letters

Write to a prisoner

Dear Post:

I am a resident here at the prison at Menard, Ill. And my main function for writing you is to see if there is a place in the Post Amerikan for a pen pal club. I myself don't get too much mail from the outside of these walls, and I thought the people who read the Post might write to guys in here so the guy that don't get much or no mail at all might enjoy hearing from the free world. And my name is Stanley Carey #62656. Thank you.

Stanley Carey
62656 Box 711
Menard, Ill. 62259

Disputes minimum wage article

Dear Post,

In September's Post, Dave Burdette argues incorrectly in support of higher minimum wage legislation. Simple economic analysis leads to the conclusion that a higher minimum wage rate is likely to lead to increased unemployment. Who is most likely to become unemployed as a result? Repeated empirical studies reveal that Black teenagers suffer the most from minimum wage legislation, followed by White teenagers, college students, and the aged. (Doubters should take a peek at the Review of Economics and Statistics, May 1977.

All of the above is routinely taught in principles of economics classes. It is distressing to see the Post ignore both theory and empirical evidence at the same time. The Post, and Mr. Burdette, would probably be better advised to push for some type of income maintenance

program would not carry with it the obnoxious unemployment that is associated with rises in the minimum wage.

I believe that a majority of individuals support the idea that society should make strong attempts to eliminate poverty. But, there are good ways and bad ways to attempt to do so. Minimum wage legislation, from nearly everything we know, is an inefficient way to attempt to eliminate poverty.

In the future, why not print a story about the negative income tax, and some of the interesting experiments with income maintenance programs that have been conducted around the country? Or, print nothing at all on the subject. Either course of action would be preferable to your circulating worn-out and invalid nonsense about minimum wage legislation.

James V. Koch

Author replies

Dear Mr. Koch:

I disagree with your assertion that a higher minimum wage necessarily leads to significantly higher unemployment. Employers who need employees will keep them in their employ despite a higher wage, which they almost always can afford. On the other hand, employers will not employ more workers than they need simply because the wage is lower. They will seek to minimize the number of employees to the greatest possible extent, whether the minimum wage is raised or not. Small marginal employers, who would be most likely to have problems paying an employee more, are not subject to the minimum wage law anyway, because the minimum wage only applies to those who earn a certain amount of money and employ 25 employees.

The negative income tax may help to compensate for a mis-distribution of wealth in society (i.e. poverty), but such things as minimum wage lessen the mis-distribution of wealth that occurs in the first place (low wages). Thus the minimum wage is more direct, and not an income tax. Also, welfare is thought of as earned. What it amounts to is that giving welfare to someone who earns an inadequate wage makes the recipient obliged for something that was earned (a decent income).

Many studies show that a rise in minimum wage does not necessarily mean higher unemployment. The negative income tax may be a good idea, but it is no substitute for a decent job for a decent wage.

D.B.

Another reply

Funny how those principles of economics courses hardly ever mention the corporation, the single most important economic development of the 20th century. And isn't it just hilarious how capitalist theory finds free markets in most every direction. But seriously, the negative income tax probably is a better idea than the minimum wage -- just as long as it isn't as far below the poverty line as the new minimum wage.



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In Rofstad murder case:

State's Attorney may be prosecuting innocent man

If State's Attorney Ron Dozier has his way, 40-year-old mental patient David Wittmer will be stuck with the rap for murdering ISU student Carol Rofstad in December, 1975.

Though he had never been a suspect, Wittmer voluntarily "confessed" to the killing late in May 1977. Dozier filed murder charges a month later.

He shouldn't have. The evidence supporting those murder charges is flimsy.

Even Dan Sadler is not convinced that Wittmer is guilty, the McLean County State's Attorney confirmed in a Post-Amerikan interview Sept. 6. Sadler, Normal's head detective, supervised the extensive year-and-a-half long investigation into Carol Rofstad's murder.

Usually, police stop investigating when charges are filed. But in this case, more than two months after Dozier pressed murder charges against Wittmer, Detective Sadler is still investigating another suspect in the Rofstad slaying: Byron Tuggle, former student body president of Illinois State University.

State's Attorney Dozier confirmed Sept. 6 that the former student leader is the suspect under investigation. He'd been under investigation for at least six weeks before Wittmer's surprise confession.

Hearing set

As the Post-Amerikan goes to press, a Sept. 16 hearing is scheduled to determine if Wittmer is mentally competent to stand trial. Because of the defendant's 25-year history of psychiatric attention and institutionalization, Dozier believes Wittmer will almost certainly be found incompetent. If so, then no court will ever decide whether the evidence against Wittmer is convincing or not. He could remain charged with murder--but never actually convicted--the rest of his life.

Rofstad, a 21-year-old ISU student, was found unconscious in front of her sorority house on the morning of Dec. 23, 1975. She had been hit in the head three times with a heavy piece of wood and spent the night lying outside in sub-freezing temperatures. She died on Christmas eve. Rofstad's purse was not taken, and though her clothing was messed up, police never asserted that she had been sexually molested.

Wittmer did not surface until May 1977--a year and a half later--when he began telling officers in the Macon County Jail in Decatur that he killed Rofstad. Wittmer was being held in the Decatur jail after his arrest for attacking an elderly woman and stealing her purse May 20. Wittmer committed the purse-snatching right after he escaped from the Adolph Meyer Zone Center, a Decatur mental health facility which was still Wittmer's official residence when he confessed to the Rofstad murder.

Decatur jailers didn't even pay attention to Wittmer's confession at first, but finally called Normal police when they found out that Wittmer was living in Bloomington--at the Johnson Shelter Care Home--when Rofstad was killed in 1975.

her home during the Christmas holidays in 1975 when Carol Rofstad was killed. She says he never left the house.

July 22: After examining Wittmer, a court-appointed psychiatrist concludes that the defendant made up his confession, and that he probably did not commit the murder. The psychiatrist said Wittmer was fit to stand trial, but was probably incapable of functioning outside a mental institution. Dissatisfied with the psychiatrist's conclusions, Dozier gets a court order to have a second shrink examine the defendant.

Sept. 6: More than two months after Dozier filed charges in the case, the Pantagraph reports that the Normal police are still working on the Rofstad murder, investigating a suspect other than Wittmer. The paper also reports that the second court-appointed psychiatrist concluded that Wittmer is unfit to stand trial, and was probably insane at the time of the crime. (That's the report Dozier wanted in the first place.)

No charges: something was missing

From the first time David Wittmer claimed to have killed Carol Rofstad, authorities doubted his story. Macon County jailer Mark Cheviron was quoted in the Pantagraph saying that Wittmer's information on the killing may have come only from the newspaper. By the time the Pantagraph first reported Wittmer's confession, Normal detective Sadler had already talked to the mental patient three times and was planning on interviewing him further. At that point, Sadler told the Pantagraph he had no idea if charges would be filed because he was still trying to decide if Wittmer was making up his confession. The Pantagraph also added, "police sources said the man's statement was probably an attempt to get attention."

About a week after Wittmer first confessed, State's Attorney Dozier went with Detective Sadler to interview Wittmer. The June 7 Pantagraph quoted both Dozier and Sadler still expressing uncertainty about Wittmer's claim to be the murderer. "It's no doubt," the Pantagraph quoted Sadler, "there's something missing, or we would have filed charges the first night."

Dozier was quoted saying, "It's hard to say. I'm in the same position as Detective Sadler."

Nothing more was reported in the press until Dozier pressed murder charges June 28.

Charges filed: was something found?

As Sadler said, murder charges weren't filed in early June because there was still "something missing." But there was still a lot missing when Dozier finally filed murder charges on June 28.

Dozier told the Pantagraph that Wittmer was capable of the Rofstad murder because he had attacked people in Springfield and Decatur. But this information was not new to Dozier and did not explain why he now believed Wittmer's confession, when he was uncertain before.

In fact, the day charges were filed--charges which were based almost entirely on Wittmer's confession--is the day the public learned that Wittmer had taken back his confession.

Dozier implied that he based his new judgment on his assertion that the Rofstad attack was "remarkably similar" to Wittmer's attack on an elderly woman in Decatur. But major, significant differences between those two assaults make Dozier's conclusion questionable.

Disregards evidence

In addition, Dozier revealed that charging Wittmer with Rofstad's murder required him to ignore evidence which Normal police investigators had long considered reliable.

Ever since a witness to the Rofstad killing provided police with a description of one of two men seen struggling with a woman near Rofstad's sorority the night of the murder, police had worked on the theory that the witness saw the murderer and an accomplice. The witness' description provided the basis for a police drawing, and police hoped to find someone who resembles it. Wittmer does not fit the description at all.

In fact, Dozier has now discarded the "two-man theory" entirely. He has to in order to convince himself that Wittmer committed the murder. Dozier has also decided that the witness, who first came to police several days after the murder, didn't see anything having to do with the Rofstad killing.

Time discrepancy

Dozier says that a one-hour time difference between when Rofstad was seen walking home, and when the witness saw a woman struggling with two men, has never been explained. But criminal cases using human witnesses recalling times and facial features frequently contain minor inaccuracies. And if the times reported are accurate, Carol Rofstad could have walked around for an hour before reaching her sorority.

Rather than try to account for the

apparent one-hour time discrepancy, Dozier told the Post-Amerikan he prefers Wittmer's confession, because "the timing works like clockwork."

But if Wittmer made up his confession, he made it up after hearing repeated radio broadcasts telling exactly what time authorities thought the murder had been committed.

Attacks not really similar

The "remarkable similarity" between the attack on Carol Rofstad and the attack on the 74-year-old Decatur woman is not as remarkable nor as similar as Dozier would have the public believe. In fact, the only similarity seems to be the victims' sex. Rofstad was struck with a board, while Wittmer used no weapon in knocking down the woman in Decatur. While Rofstad was attacked at night, Wittmer committed his Decatur purse-snatching in broad daylight, in front of several eyewitnesses. His motive was clearly robbery, to get money for cigarettes and to aid his escape from Adolph Meyer Zone Center.

Dozier would have us believe that Wittmer was trying to take Rofstad's purse, too, but was scared off by a passing car. (Rofstad's purse was not taken.) If Wittmer was so careless about witnesses in Decatur, why does Dozier believe the same man would have been so careful to remain unseen on a dark night, when a passing driver would have had difficulty seeing anyway?

In addition, Wittmer's mother, whose comments are reported later in this article, says her son "never went out at night in the wintertime. He couldn't stand the cold, and he was afraid of the dark." The Rofstad attack occurred on a cold winter night, while Wittmer attacked the woman in Decatur during the day in the springtime.

Reports of the psychiatrists examining Wittmer bring out further details which dispute Dozier's contention that the two attacks were "remarkably similar."



ABOVE: State's Attorney Ron Dozier filed murder charges against David Wittmer, despite uncertainty about the man's guilt. Normal police are still investigating another suspect in the Rofstad murder.

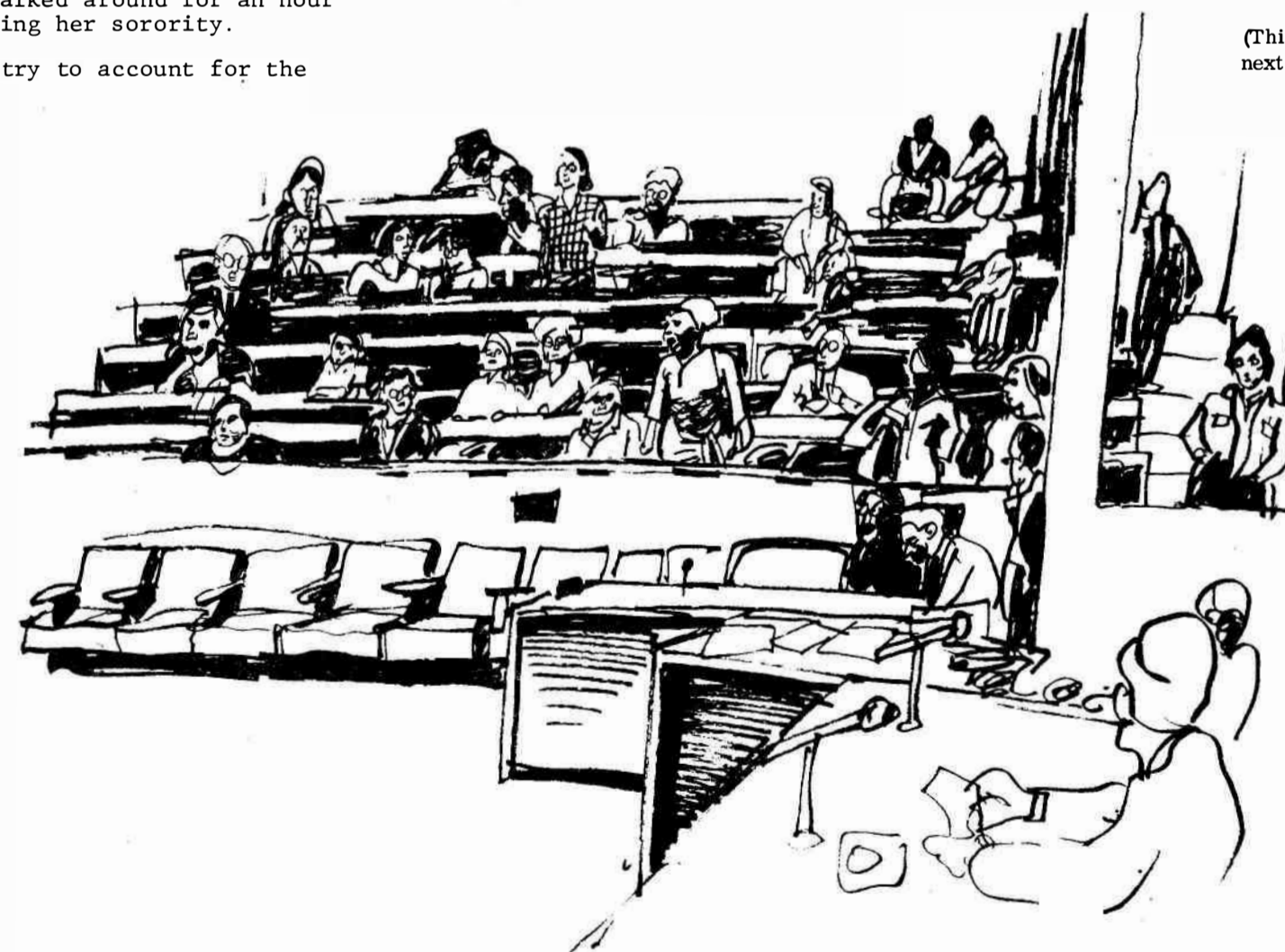
Bypassing the grand jury

With the uncertainty about Wittmer's guilt that Dozier had expressed early in June, it seemed unusual that the State's Attorney would sign murder charges on his own instead of taking the evidence before a grand jury. In addition, Dozier was moving for, and expecting, an official declaration that Wittmer was mentally incompetent to stand trial. Such a course of events would mean that the evidence wouldn't be taken before a trial jury, either.

Was Dozier making a one-man grandstand play, trying to clear up the Rofstad case with a murder charge that he would never be compelled to back up with evidence?

As an assembly of citizens empowered to hear evidence and indict people for crimes, the grand jury is an excellent place for the State's Attorney to test his judgment on "iffy" cases. Instead of the State's Attorney weighing the evidence by himself, the grand jury votes on whether to charge the suspect. The State's Attorney also gets the opportunity to gauge the probable reaction of a future trial jury by

(This article continues on the next page. Why don't you?)



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Accused killer of Carol Rofstad

the grand jurors' reaction to his evidence.

Whatever he wants

In a Post-Amerikan interview Sept. 6, Dozier said the legal issues brought up by Wittmer's possible insanity would be too hard for the grand jury to understand. Also, Dozier said there would be "no real purpose" in taking the case to the grand jury, because "I could obtain whichever decision I wanted from the grand jury, depending on how I chose to present the evidence."

Such an appraisal of the grand jury is common among critics of the institution, who have long said it has become a mere rubber stamp for prosecutors. But Dozier's comments are probably insulting to the grand jurors who have been coming in for several days every two months since Dozier took office. Dozier has made more use of the grand jury than did the previous State's Attorney.

Could Dozier have been afraid that the grand jurors would have become a little uppity, maybe asking why the chief investigating officer in the Rofstad case didn't really believe Wittmer was the man? Was Dozier worried that the grand jurors might question discarding the police's long-believed two-man theory of the murder, and might question disregarding the report of the eyewitness police had believed before?

Maybe the grand jurors would have questioned Dozier's assertion that the Rofstad killing and Wittmer's Decatur purse-snatching both reflect the same method of operation.

Although Dozier avoided presenting evidence to a grand jury, and he will probably get out of having to present any evidence in court, he claims he didn't plan it that way. Dozier says he thought a preliminary hearing--where some evidence of Wittmer's guilt would be presented--would be held before the hearing on Wittmer's fitness. (But Dozier would not have to present any more evidence at such a hearing than Wittmer's confession. The confession itself--even though retracted by the defendant--would be enough evidence to get through a preliminary hearing.)

As it turns out, Dozier was wrong. The question of Wittmer's fitness to stand trial will be decided before any evidence against Wittmer is heard.

And if Wittmer is found unfit to stand trial, then no evidence against him will be heard. And Dozier will get off the hook--he will not have to show whether or not he now has more evidence than he did at the time Detective Sadler said there was still "something missing."

Mother says he's innocent

Wittmer retracted his confession before he was ever charged with the Rofstad murder. But the public first learned of the retraction the day charges were filed, when the Pantagraph published an interview with the murder defendant's mother, Mrs. Lucille Wittmer.

The Post-Amerikan has also interviewed Mrs. Wittmer, who continues to support her son's innocence.

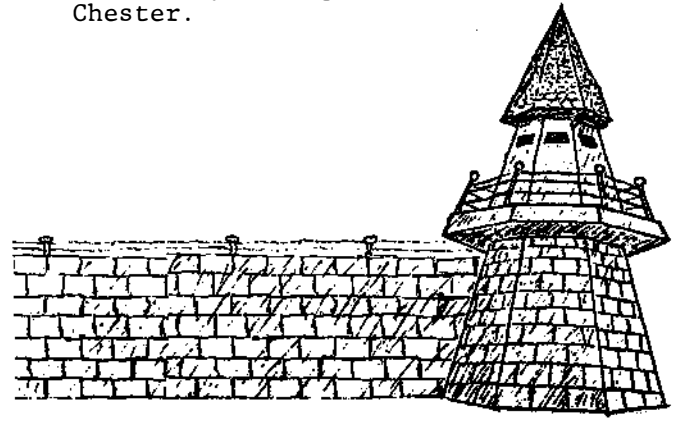
Mrs. Wittmer says her son was on leave from the Johnson Shelter Care Home during the Christmas holidays, 1975. He spent several days and nights in her house, including the night Carol Rofstad was killed. She says her son never left the house.

"He never ever went out at night in the wintertime. He couldn't stand the cold; he was afraid of the dark, he had an inferiority complex, and he couldn't even face people. He didn't even know that girl'd been killed until he heard it on the radio," Mrs. Wittmer told the Post-Amerikan.

Back to Chester

Mrs. Wittmer said every time she visits her son, he explains that he just made up that confession so he could get out of Adolph Meyer Zone Center and back to the state mental hospital at Chester where he spent several years in the past.

Reports of psychiatrists examining David Wittmer all agree that the man has a very strong desire to return to Chester.



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may be innocent

(Continued from preceding pages)

Mrs. Wittmer said that Detective Sadler had talked with her before murder charges were filed. She said she explained that her son was innocent. "I think Sadler was convinced that David never went out that night," Mrs. Wittmer told the Post-Amerikan, "until that Dozier got hold of him."

Mrs. Wittmer had strong words for "that Dozier," saying he "badgered" her son. "That Dozier was keeping at David and keeping at him, trying to make him think he did it," she told the Post-Amerikan.

(Actually, Dozier says he only travelled to Decatur once to interview Wittmer.)

"Find the real killer"

Referring to the State's Attorney's filing of charges, Mrs. Wittmer said, "He just convicted an innocent man, that Dozier did. Why don't they find the real killer, instead of letting him run loose?"

Mrs. Wittmer did not know at the time that Detective Sadler, unconvinced that her son's confession was valid, was still investigating an earlier suspect.

Asked about the "similar attacks" in Decatur and Springfield that Dozier attributed to her son, Mrs. Wittmer explained them. She said that her son hates living in the Adolph Meyer Zone Center, and wants more than anything to be returned to the hospital at Chester. Once, her son escaped from Adolph Meyer, snatched a purse in Springfield, and used the money to buy a bus ticket to Chester. He was returned to Adolph Meyer, but he continued to run away.

"They treated him terribly at Adolph," Mrs. Wittmer says. "They would take away his radio, deny him cigarettes half the time, lock him in a cell for 24 hours as punishment for running away, 24 hours without cigarettes."

Wittmer is very attached to chain smoking, and consumes up to four packs a day if he can get them.

Wittmer's last attempt at running away from Adolph Meyer got him arrested. He was caught for knocking down a 74-year-old woman and stealing her purse May 20.

At that point, Mrs. Wittmer said, her son made up his confession so that they wouldn't send him back to Adolph Meyer Zone Center.

Mrs. Wittmer said her son knew details of the Rofstad case from listening to repeated radio news broadcasts from the Christmas period he spent at home. "He was always listening to his radio," Mrs. Wittmer said.

the psychiatrists' reports

Two court-appointed psychiatrists have examined Wittmer to determine his fitness to stand trial in McLean County, and both their reports contain details supporting Wittmer's innocence.

The first shrink, Dr. Lynn Cunningham, besides reporting clinical findings, even offered his own opinion that Wittmer did not kill Carol Rofstad.

"My examination does not allow me to state definitively that he did not commit this crime, but it left me with the strong impression that he did not," Dr. Cunningham's report said.

State's Attorney Dozier, already upset that Cunningham found Wittmer fit to stand trial, at first released only a portion of Dr. Cunningham's report to reporters. Only later did the media find out that the shrink thought Wittmer was innocent.

Shrinks disagree

Though he was the first psychiatrist appointed by a McLean County court to examine Wittmer, Cunningham's was the second official examination in as many months. Earlier, Wittmer had been declared incompetent to stand trial for the Macon County purse-snatching charge.

After receiving Cunningham's report, Dozier immediately asked that another psychiatrist be appointed to examine Wittmer. Dr. James McClure completed his report in September, and his report satisfied Dozier. It said Wittmer was incompetent to stand trial, and was probably insane at the time of the Rofstad killing.

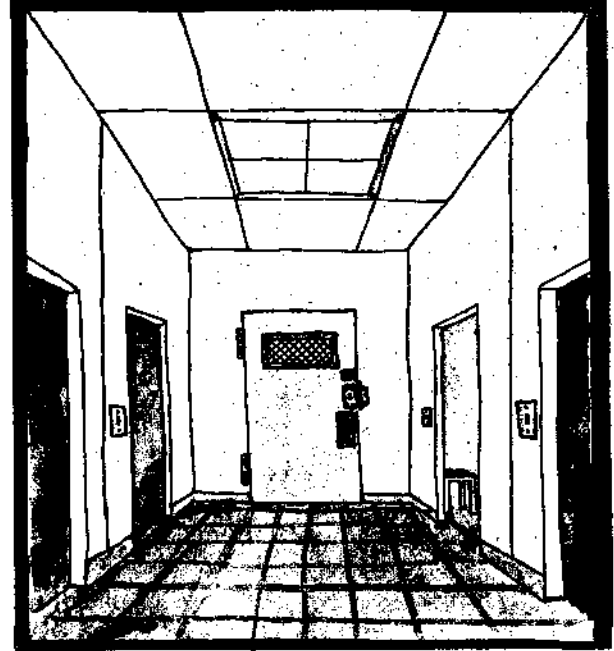
If Wittmer did stand trial, he could be found not guilty on the grounds that he was insane at the time of the crime. However, that legal defense would require Wittmer to say that he did commit the murder.

Both psychiatrists reported that Wittmer explained to them that he had made up his confession to the Rofstad killing so that he could be sent to Chester State Hospital.

Cunningham's exam

Dr. Cunningham said Wittmer is "a chronic schizophrenic who will never be able to function adequately outside of a mental institution." Cunningham went on to cite Wittmer's obvious preference for Chester, and to recommend that "the most effective and humane way to deal with him would be to commit him to the security hospital at Chester."

Cunningham's examination revealed that



Wittmer had "an unusual facility for remembering digits." In addition, he can remember dates very well. Dr. Cunningham said Wittmer knew the exact date of John Kennedy's assassination, plus the month and year of the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

Cunningham's report continued, "Mr. Wittmer is one of the most fully institutionalized individuals I have ever encountered. When we have come across these people in the past, it is fairly common for them to be willing to do anything or admit to anything in order to be sent back to an institution. It is also not uncommon for them to have a strong preference for one institution or another. The fact that he was able to remember the exact date of the murder is not surprising since he does have facility for remembering dates."

In saying Wittmer was fit to stand trial, Cunningham qualified his judgment, restricting it to the time of the examination. Cunningham added that Wittmer's "chronic psychotic illness" flares up acutely at times, and at those times "he would be rendered unable to appreciate the criminality of his acts or conform his behavior to the requirement of the law."

Cunningham's report failed to speculate--as the court had asked--on whether Wittmer was having one of these "acute episodes" in December, 1975, at the time of the Rofstad

(This article continues on the next page. Why don't you?)



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Dozier files charges but...

Police still investigating

killing. Such a conclusion would have allowed Wittmer, if he did stand trial, to claim innocence on grounds of insanity at the time of the crime.

McClure's report

Dr. James McClure, the St. Louis psychiatrist who performed Wittmer's next court-ordered examination, pleased Dozier. Instead of offering any opinion on Wittmer's guilt or innocence, Dr. McClure simply reported on Wittmer's statement and condition, and provided the requested conclusions. McClure concluded that Wittmer is not competent to stand trial, and also was probably insane in December, 1975.

Dr. McClure also reported that Wittmer repeatedly argued that he had made up his confession and that he had done so only to prevent getting sent back to Adolph Meyer Zone Center.

McClure's report quotes Wittmer saying that after his escape from Adolph Meyer,

"I took \$20 from a lady's purse, and I took a bus to Chester, and at Chester people came from Adolph Meyer and took me back. Then they sent me to jail, and while I was in jail I did not want to go back to Adolph Meyer so I confessed to a murder so I could go back to Chester. I just thought about it while I was in my jail cell. I didn't really do it. I never would hurt anyone. And now I am sorry I confessed, because I am still not back to Chester, and it wasn't the truth."

Though he may not even realize it (and both psychiatrists say Wittmer can remember hardly anything about the purse snatching), Wittmer can and did hurt someone. When he stole the 74-year-old woman's purse, she suffered a broken shoulder bone and three broken ribs.

In providing details of Wittmer's purse-snatching assault in Decatur, Dr. McClure's report casts further doubt on the State's Attorney's contention that the attack was "remarkably similar" to the attack on Carol Rofstad.

McClure said that before trying to steal the elderly woman's purse, Wittmer had asked several different women walking by if they would give him fifty cents for cigarettes.

To back up his point that Wittmer's judgment is impaired, McClure related more details of the purse-snatching:

"Copies of police and witnesses' reports concerning the purse-snatching by the subject in Decatur, Illinois, make it quite apparent that the snatching was impulsively carried out in daylight in the presence of a considerable number of competent witnesses, many of whom immediately came forward to give statements. Indeed, one seems to have been another woman in the immediate vicinity, whom the subject had just accosted with a demand for cigarette money, giving her a chance to observe him closely just before the attack on the other woman, to witness the attack itself, to describe him in detail, and, predictably, to identify him later."

That doesn't sound like the man who, according to Wittmer's own retracted confession, failed to get Rofstad's purse for fear of being seen by a passing motorist.

Sadler's not convinced

To explain why Normal police were taking several weeks to investigate Wittmer's confession before filing

"Was Dozier making a one-man grandstand play, trying to clear up the Rofstad case with a murder charge which he would never be compelled to back up with evidence?"

murder charges, Normal's Chief Richard McGuire told the Pantagraph, "When we charge someone with this murder or any other murder, we want to be sure it's the person we think committed the crime."

But when murder charges were filed, the Normal police detective who headed the investigation was apparently not sure that Wittmer committed the murder.



Detective Sadler declined comment, but Dozier admitted that Normal's chief investigator is not convinced by Wittmer's confession.

"I think Sadler would tell you that he doesn't believe the confession or disbelieve it, that he just can't tell," Dozier said.

Dozier said that Sadler was wavering about whether charges should be filed or not, "but we were all wavering," the State's Attorney continued.

At the time charges were filed June 28, Dozier said that Sadler, Assistant State's Attorney Dan Leifel, and Dozier

all agreed "that there was enough to file the charges." (In legal procedure, the amount of evidence needed to file charges is less than the amount of evidence needed for conviction.)

But when asked whether Sadler believes they have charged the right person, Dozier replied, "I don't think he is convinced to any point of certainty."

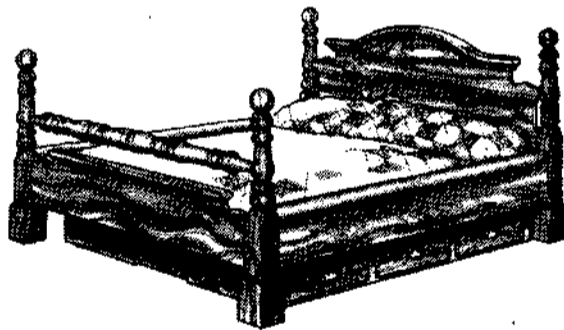
Another suspect

Wittmer's confession interrupted Sadler's investigation of another suspect in the Rofstad case. In the Sept. 6 interview, State's Attorney Dozier confirmed that Sadler was investigating Byron Tuggle at the time Wittmer confessed. According to Dozier, the investigation of Tuggle is still continuing.

Both the Pantagraph and the ISU Vidette have published reports describing how extensive that investigation was before Wittmer's confession temporarily interrupted it.

The Pantagraph said Normal police were interested in a suspect who reportedly knew Carol Rofstad, and that police had questioned between 35 and 40 friends and acquaintances of the suspect in the six weeks prior to Wittmer's

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Rofstad murder case (Continued from preceding pages)

confession. Characterizing the investigation as "intense," the Pantagraph said that police had confiscated a truckload of the suspect's belongings which had been abandoned in a basement. The paper said police were looking for clues in the truckload of books, letters, magazines, clothes, and furniture.

The ISU Vidette, too, reported that Normal police had been investigating a suspect in the Rofstad case at the time Wittmer confessed. The ISU paper said that police had questioned between 30 and 50 people, some of whom had dated the suspect. "Sadler seemed so confident they were onto the right person he tacked a picture of the suspect on his bulletin board," the Vidette reported August 22.

Dozier 'reasonably certain'

Ron Dozier agreed that it is unusual for police to continue investigating after charges have been filed, but maintains that because of Wittmer's insanity, it is an unusual case. "I don't think we can get the degree of finality or absolute certainty that we can in most cases," Dozier told the Post-Amerikan.

Dozier said he is "reasonably certain" that Wittmer committed the Rofstad murder, and he doesn't believe the Normal police investigation will come to anything. "I don't think Tuggle did it," Dozier added.

Dozier admitted that his primary evidence against Wittmer is the now-retracted confession. But if Dozier admitted at first that he wasn't convinced by Wittmer's confession, why is he convinced now? Dozier said that he changed his mind after his assistant Dan Leifel reviewed Wittmer's 25-year psychiatric history.

That history, Dozier said, convinced him that Wittmer was capable of the Rofstad murder. In addition, Dozier claimed that details of Wittmer's assault in Decatur suggested the same Modus Operandi as the Rofstad killing. (Evidence disputing this assertion has already been presented.) Finally, Dozier said he didn't believe Wittmer was capable of making up the confession he gave.

Despite the questions of Wittmer's guilt, the defendant would probably have suffered the same fate whether Dozier filed murder charges or not.

Dozier agreed that if convicted of the murder, Wittmer would most likely be sent to the state mental hospital at Chester, which has security comparable to a maximum security prison. If found unfit to stand trial, Wittmer would also most likely be sent to Chester, Dozier agreed.

Wittmer locked up anyway

Since Wittmer had already been found unfit for trial in Macon County, he was already headed for Chester even before Dozier filed his charge.

In other words, Dozier's murder charges are not really doing anything to keep Wittmer off the streets. He would be kept off the streets anyway.

Since there is doubt about Wittmer's guilt, and since he was about to be put in a maximum security mental hospital anyway, what was Dozier trying to accomplish by filing charges?

Members of the grand jury might have asked that question, if Dozier had taken the case to them. They might have been interested in Detective Sadler's doubts about Wittmer's guilt. They might have listened to Wittmer's mother's contention that her son never left the house. They might have examined the details of Wittmer's purse-snatching

and rejected Dozier's claim that there was a significant similarity to the Rofstad murder. The grand jury might have objected to disregarding the Normal police's long-standing two-man theory.

And, in view of all this, the grand jury may have chosen to hold off charging Wittmer at least until Sadler concluded his investigation of another suspect.

After all, Wittmer wasn't going anywhere. If the grand jury had wanted to indict Wittmer later, he

could still be found in the custody of the state Dept. of Mental Health.

As the Post-Amerikan goes to press, Wittmer is being held in the McLean County Jail, waiting for a Sept. 16 hearing to determine his fitness to stand trial. If he is found incompetent, as seems likely, he will probably be sent to Chester. And if he is innocent of the Rofstad murder, he will probably spend the rest of his life charged with a murder he didn't commit.

--Mark Silverstein



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One Year Later ...

Normal Dope Squad Arrests First Suspect

Only a year after its formation, the Normal Police Department's drug unit made its first arrest. Early in August police busted a 23-year-old Bloomington resident for allegedly delivering less than 10 grams of marijuana to Normal's undercover operatives.

Only misdemeanor charges could be filed, because the quantity of pot sold was so small.

First begun with \$5,000 in August 1976, Normal's drug squad was set up as a special effort to investigate trafficking in a specific list of illegal drugs. Marijuana was not one of them. Enforcement of the marijuana laws was left to its existing pattern--occasional possession arrests when members of the patrol division stumbled across some pot.

When I questioned Chief Richard McGuire about his drug unit, he still believed that the Town Council had not meant to pay for an active campaign against pot. "It was not our intent to go out and arrest somebody who sold a joint or two," McGuire told the Post-Amerikan Aug. 9.

I pointed out that the drug unit's first case was a charge of selling a joint or two.

"Well, obviously, you don't know everything about it," the chief replied.

McGuire refused to explain how his drug unit--despite its oft-stated intentions to the contrary--wound up with a small-time pot sale as its first (and only) case. He claimed an explanation might jeopardize operations going on right now.

Like other drug-law enforcement operations, the Normal dope squad employed an informer to set up its drug buy. It selected Donald Wayne Houghton, whose credentials included a long history of involvement in drug law enforcement. Unfortunately for Houghton, most of that history involved drug laws being enforced against himself.

In 1977, Houghton had a record of several misdemeanors, a pot conviction, and was on probation for selling cocaine in Florida. At the time he began working for Normal police, Houghton also faced two felony charges filed by MEG: sale of pot and sale of heroin. By the time Houghton struck a plea bargain in the summer of 1977, he also faced charges of criminal trespass to a vehicle, driving while intoxicated, battery, and aggravated battery (the latter charge for allegedly entering a woman's home through a window and attacking her with a knife and a pop bottle).

Belleville State's Attorney Clyde Kuehn complained last spring that the informers MEG employs (and whose jail sentences MEG helps lighten as a reward) are sometimes more dangerous to society than the targets of MEG investigation.

Houghton is now doing 2-6 years in the penitentiary on the heroin sale charge. The others were dropped. How much jail time did he save himself by turning informer and setting up Normal's big marijuana sale case?

Chief McGuire refused to say whether other informers used by Normal's drug unit are motivated by legal pressure.

In a February, 1977, Pantagraph story, Detective Sadler is quoted saying that his unit had already made some drug buys. None of those buys has produced an arrest. (The marijuana buy set up by Donald Houghton was made in May, 1977.)

I asked Chief McGuire why Normal police hadn't arrested the people the drug unit claims to have purchased drugs from.

He said they had made "some arrests."

I pointed out that they had only arrested one person.

McGuire said there had been more than one.

I asked if the Pantagraph headline "First Drug Arrest Made" was wrong.

McGuire said he hadn't read it, because he was away at the time.

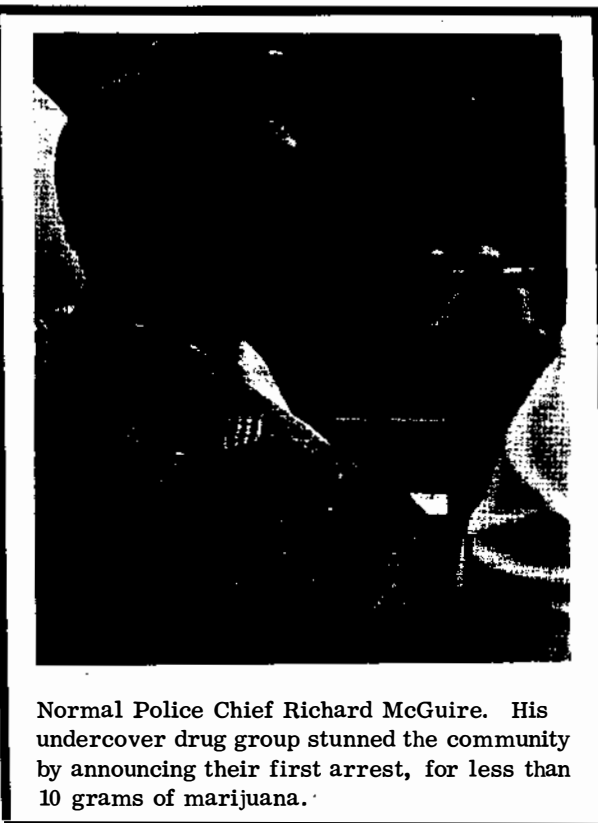
I read the chief the relevant portions of the Pantagraph story about his drug unit's first arrest.

McGuire then said the article may have been right, that the August arrest might be the first case made by actual undercover buys. McGuire said police had made some arrests made by the patrol division.

(But I had asked about cases developed by the detective-run drug unit, cases involving undercover drug buys.)

I asked again how come the police hadn't arrested the other people they'd bought drugs from.

McGuire said, "Some we weren't able to develop and some may be pending." But the real story is



Normal Police Chief Richard McGuire. His undercover drug group stunned the community by announcing their first arrest, for less than 10 grams of marijuana.

that the Normal drug unit has always been more talk than action.

The program had been set up to run on an eight-month trial basis, with a report expected to go to the Town Council at the end of March 1977.

By February, when the Pantagraph did an article on the unit's progress, only \$500 of the \$5,000 budget had been spent. Detective Dan Sadler, the unit's boss, was quoted as being unaware that he could pay informers money. Earlier reports in the press would have set him straight.

Chief McGuire's plan to set up a 24-hour drug information hotline never materialized. Called AIDS (Anti-Illicit Drugs in Society), the program would have hired an operator to receive anonymous tips on suspected drug dealers and users. Rewards of \$25 to \$500 would be paid for "good" tips. Chief McGuire pooh-poohed civil libertarian objections to the program's proposed use of anonymous tips but still couldn't find anyone willing to hire on as the program's operator.

Also in February, the Pantagraph quoted City Manager David Anderson conceding that the drug unit has "not been terribly successful."

But the March report on the unit's effectiveness was never made. Instead, Anderson said, he had been reporting on the unit's progress to the council "all along." Those reports were never released to the media.

According to Anderson, the council decided to continue the drug unit after April 1 but made that decision in a manner that did not attract media attention. (There was no report in either the Pantagraph or the ISU Vidette, despite both publications' keen interest in the drug unit's progress in previous months.)

During a work session on the police department's budget, the council allowed \$1000 for "crime prevention" and \$500 for "criminal investigations." Money from those accounts will be used to buy drugs and pay informers, Anderson told the Post-Amerikan.

In the summer of 1976, City Manager Anderson had recommended that Normal join MEG. His recommendation was controversial, and he changed his mind. Three weeks later, he recommended formation of Normal's own drug unit as an alternative to MEG. Anderson wanted to experiment for eight months with what he called "an in-house narcotics enforcement unit."

So in the spring of 1977, after eight months of experiment, with only \$500 of the \$5000 budget spent, no arrests, and the city manager's publicly quoted evaluation that the dope squad had "not been terribly successful," the Town Council allowed the special drug unit to continue operations.

Now, after more than a year of operation and only one minor case, City Manager Anderson escalated his praise. The drug unit, he said, is "a moderate success."

--Mark Silverstein

Some Late News

After the adjoining story was written, I interviewed State's Attorney Ron Dozier about the Normal police's use of Don Houghton as an informer.

While agreeing that Houghton ordinarily would have received some break on his penitentiary sentence in return for working as an informer, Dozier said there was no actual agreement with the state's attorney's office. Dozier said Houghton didn't receive a break because "he committed another criminal offense after he was out." That offense, Dozier confirmed, was the aggravated battery mentioned in the adjoining article.

Dozier said that Houghton also helped Normal police make a cocaine case. The defendant is a juvenile, which prevents the case file from being a public record.

--M.S.

MEG Skimps Through Summer: Hopes for Fall Cash

The financial fate of Illinois' seven multi-county enforcement units should be decided by Sept. 16, an aide to Governor Thompson told the Post-Amerikan.

Unless Thompson vetoes the MEG funding bills, the appropriations will automatically become law, the aide said. Sept. 16 will mark the legal limit 60 days, that the bills can be in limbo awaiting Thompson's approval.

The Peoria-based MEG which operates in Bloomington has cut its expenses to make it through the summer, while conducting a vigorous lobbying campaign to urge Governor Thompson to sign the bills. Without state money, the MEG group would either dissolve or continue on a greatly reduced basis.

Jerry LaGrow, chief narc in the MEG outfit, wrote to each city council and county board involved in MEG, requesting each political body to support the MEG legislation.

Last summer, LaGrow mailed a letter to civic groups all over Central Illinois, asking them to urge Governor Thompson to sign the bills.

LaGrow was so eager to generate pro-MEG publicity that he even violated the secrecy of a grand jury investigation to leak a grand jury document to the press.

Convened in late July, the Fulton County grand jury had been investigating the death of a local 19-year-old whose body was found earlier in July. He had disappeared in mid-June. When the grand jury decided he disappeared after attending a party where pot was being smoked, they started getting hysterical.

The grand jury wrote to Governor Thompson, somehow linking up the use of "narcotic drugs," the young man's tragic death, and the urgency of signing the MEG bill as soon as possible so that MEG could help clean

up this drug problem. (There was never even any evidence to indicate that the young man had smoked any of the pot that was being passed around at the party.)

Besides sending the letter to Governor Thompson, the grand jury sent a copy to Jerry LaGrow. Although the grand jury had not yet released its findings, LaGrow -- proud that his MEG unit had been praised -- leaked the letter to the Peoria Journal Star.

Bloomington Police Chief Harold Bosshardt is chairperson of MEG's board of directors. He told the Post-Amerikan that MEG has cut its spending and has limped through the summer with a reduced staff, awaiting Thompson's approval of the MEG bills.

Some cities and counties in MEG, like the City of Bloomington, pay their way by contributing a member of their own local police force to the MEG squad. These agents are still working for MEG, Bosshardt said. (This should mean that Bloomington cop Bobby Friga is still an undercover agent. Bosshardt reported that Friga was a MEG agent last fall.)

Agents who were hired with MEG cash are no longer working, Bosshardt said, but they are still required to testify in pending court cases.

Jerry LaGrow is still on salary, but other expendables like leased cars and office space have been reduced. According to Bosshardt, MEG now occupies only half the space it once used at its "secret" office at 600 Abingdon, Room 204, in Peoria.

More Late News

Just before the Post-Amerikan went to press, Governor Thompson revealed that he does intend to sign the MEG legislation, but not all MEG units will get funding.

Thompson said he will use his amendatory veto to cut funds for particular MEG units which he feels should not be allowed to continue.

Thompson would not say which MEG operations would be axed.

King Doesn't Keep His Threats Secret

Sheriff King is still into throwing his weight around, according to a report from Mrs. Kathy Barker.

Mrs. Barker, whose son Jimmy has been spending some time in Sheriff John King's hotel, said she phoned King Sept. 2 to ask why her son had been in isolation for three days.

"I have my reasons, but I don't have to share them with you," the sheriff said, according to Mrs. Barker.

Teasing the sheriff about the prospects of being defeated in the next election, Mrs. Barker said she couldn't wait until Carl Slayback became sheriff after '78.

According to Mrs. Barker, the sheriff then replied, "Well if that's the way you feel, I'll just keep Jimmy in the hole another week."

Whether King backs up his threat with action or not, he is running off at the mouth more than he should be getting away with.



Are Prisons Banning the Post?

Reports reaching the Post-Amerikan indicate that some Illinois penitentiaries are not allowing prisoners to read our paper. Other reports indicate that some prisoners in a particular penitentiary receive the paper, while others in the same institution never receive the copies addressed to them.

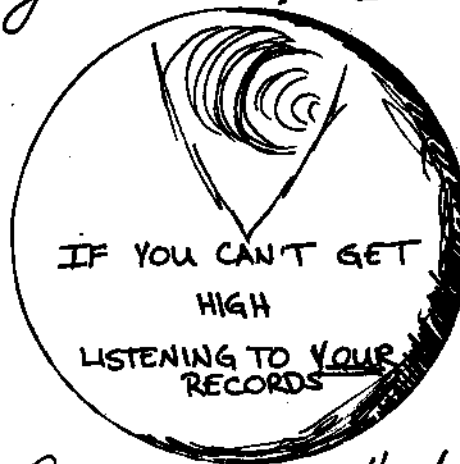
We are planning to check this out further. If any penitentiary has a policy of restricting prisoners' access to the Post-Amerikan, we intend to fight it.

Obviously, prisoners who are denied access to the the Post-Amerikan won't be able to read this. But if families of prisoners supposed to get the paper could get in touch with us, we would appreciate it. We need to know which prisoners actually receive their copies, and which ones don't.

DIVINYL MADNESS

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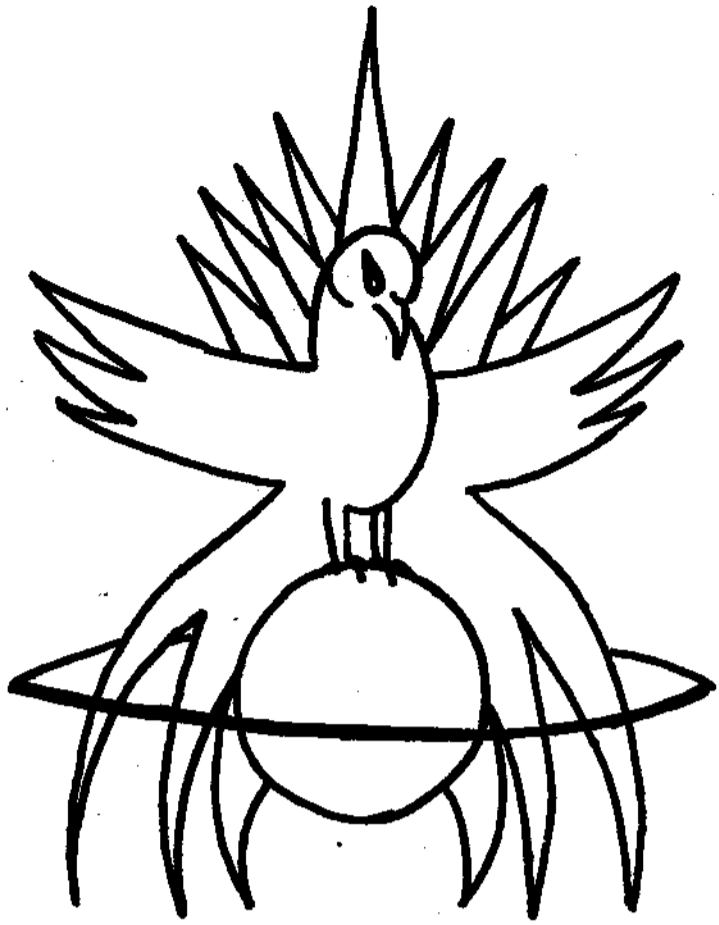
Reg. 698 L.P.'s always 457 or 3 for 12⁹⁵
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Celeste Hockhalter



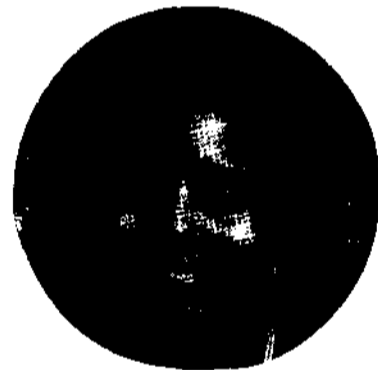
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Owner & Manager**



**Jan Rimbey
Ass't Mgr.**



Gail Cocking



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In stock at Small Changes

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This month we're printing some of the titles we have in stock. We're slowly broadening our selection, and especially want you to know about some of our new titles.

General

- Journey to Ixtlan a Separate Reality, and Tales of Power by Carlos Castaneda
- Sugar Blues by William Dufty. "exposing sugar, the killer in your diet--offering you a life-saving, sugar-free way to health."
- Beekeeping in the Midwest by Elbert R. Jaycox
- Female and Male by Clarice, Stasz, and Stoll
- Food Co-ops for Small Groups by Tony Wellela
- Sisters and Brothers, Sing! edited by Sharon and Tom Neuffer Enswiler
- Men's Liberation by Jack Nichols
- The Twilight of Capitalism by Michael Harrington
- Moving Toward a New Society by Gowan, Lakey, Moyer, and Taylor
- Action for a Change by Nader and Ross
- Hip Culture, six essays debating its revolutionary potential published by Times Change Press
- What Is That Country Standing Inside You, a bicentennial anthology of contemporary American poetry edited by James R. Scringour
- Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
- The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
- Orlando by Virginia Woolf
- A Male Guide to Women's Liberation by Gene Marine

--Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle, Love--- and the New Morality, two essays examining "how the ways in which people relate to each other in the most 'private' of personal relationships are affected by the kind of society in which they live" by Alexandra Kollontai

--The Story of a Proletarian Life by Bartolomeo Vanzetti. "We republish Vanzetti's 'Story' to confirm our continued faith in the innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti, innocence based on irrefutable and uncontested proof." (Sacco-Vanzetti Commemoration Committee)

--Liberated Parents, Liberated Children by Faber and Mazlish

--The Psychology of Play by Susanna Millar

--High School Sexuality: A Teaching Guide by the Women's Educational Project

--Holly Near: A Live Album

--"Ballad of the ERA"/"Farmer" and "Mammary Glands"/"Women Walk More Determined," two 45's by Kristin Lems

--Living with Lesbians, an album by Alix Dobkin

--The Will to Change by Adrienne Rich

By and about women

--Sassafras by Ntozake Shange

--The Awakening by Kate Chopin

--Riverfinger Women by Elana Nachman. "...the story of what it means to be women and lovers when you are seventeen, with the years just behind...and the years just ahead..."

--The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

--Becoming Orgasmic: A Sexual Growth Program for Women by Heiman, LoPiccolo, and LoPiccolo. "The ability to be sexually responsive is there within you: although it may be somewhat inhibited or blocked, it cannot be destroyed." (from the authors' introduction)

--The Hite Report and Sexual Honesty by Shere Hite

--Woman to Woman by Bonnie Charles Bluh

--Booklet for Women Who Wish to Determine Their Own Names After Marriage by Center for a Woman's Own Name

--Dialectic of Sex by Shulamith Firestone

--Up from the Pedestal edited by Aileen S. Kraditor

--Growing Up Female in America: Ten Lives edited by Eve Merriam

For young people

--Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

--Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzbugh

--The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

--Mom, the Wolf Man, and Me By Norma Klein

--Pippi in the South Seas by Astrid Lindgren

--The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden

--Youth Liberation and Young People and the Law by Youth Liberation of Ann Arbor

--Zenaida by Celina Andrade Campbell. A story for young children written in both Spanish and English, with a glossary included

--Return of the Forest Princess by Harriet Herman

--Peter Learns to Crochet by Irene Levinson

--Small Changes Collective

P.S. Small Changes is at 409A N. Main Street in downtown Bloomington. Our phone number is 829-6223.

Mental Health Center Tells Services

The McLean County Mental Health Center provides a variety of services for folks going thru personal/emotional, family, and psychiatric experiences. Our goal is to provide preventative, ongoing, and follow-up services to all people of McLean County who request them. These services include Outpatient, Sustaining Care and Emergency Crisis Intervention.

These three parts of the center work toward providing appropriate specialized care for all age groups, and if we cannot provide what is needed, we let you know what additional services you can find in the area (like alcohol and drug services).

Emergency Crisis Intervention consists of three folks on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, who handle crisis calls from families, runaways, law enforcement agencies, individuals, students, and social service agencies. Our Crisis Team, Project Oz, and the Department of Children and Family Services are part of the Illinois Status Offenders Services, which provides an alternative to detention for kids picked up for status offenses, like running away and violating curfew.

We will evaluate the situation of individuals going thru a psychiatric experience who contacts the Crisis Team, and will tell the person what services are available and how to use them. A Crisis Team member will usually go thru the procedures of other agencies with the person to explain what is happening and to provide support for the person. We have found that the person is more likely to seek other services if they have someone to act as their advocate and to let them know what rights they have in the system.

A depressed person calling at 2 a. m. need not wait until the next work day to talk to someone. They can get in phone contact with a Crisis Team member within fifteen minutes to set plans for that night and the next day. The person can get psychotherapy, medication, and/or hospitalization if needed. No one is refused psychotherapy, medication, or hospitalization because of lack of money.

The out patient staff (therapists) assist people in making changes in their lives and can work toward increasing personal growth. People are usually seen on a weekly basis. This is decided by the client and therapist. Again, the cost is on a sliding scale and no one is refused services because of their financial state. All taxpayers are indirectly paying for our services.

To contact someone for outpatient services, call 827-5351 during office hours (8:30-5 p. m.). After 5:00 p. m. our number is answered by the good folks at PATH. Tell them you would like to speak to someone from the Mental Health Center (unless it can wait until the next day). Emergencies are always seen immediately.

Sustaining Care is operated for individuals who have previously been involved in the Illinois Dept. of Mental Health system. The Sustaining Care staff offers supportive services to individuals and families, and many times are invaluable in keeping people from returning to the State facilities.

Mike Mucci
Beckett Sheppard
Sherry Phelps

McLean County Mental Health Center
104 E. Washington
Bloomington, Ill.
24 hour phone number: 827-5351

Community News

Clothing Exchange For Seniors

YWCA Senior Services will hold a used clothing exchange and sale every Thursday from 9 to 11 am and from 2 to 4 pm at its offices, 905 N. Main St., Normal.

The YWCA says that interested senior citizens should bring clean, mendable garments, or clothing that no longer fits, to exchange. Clothing may also be purchased directly.

Phone 454-1451 for more information.

Sri Lanka

Cooperation Promises

Post-American staffer M.G. Matejka is spending several months in Southeast Asia. In late August, he wrote to the Post-American from Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon):

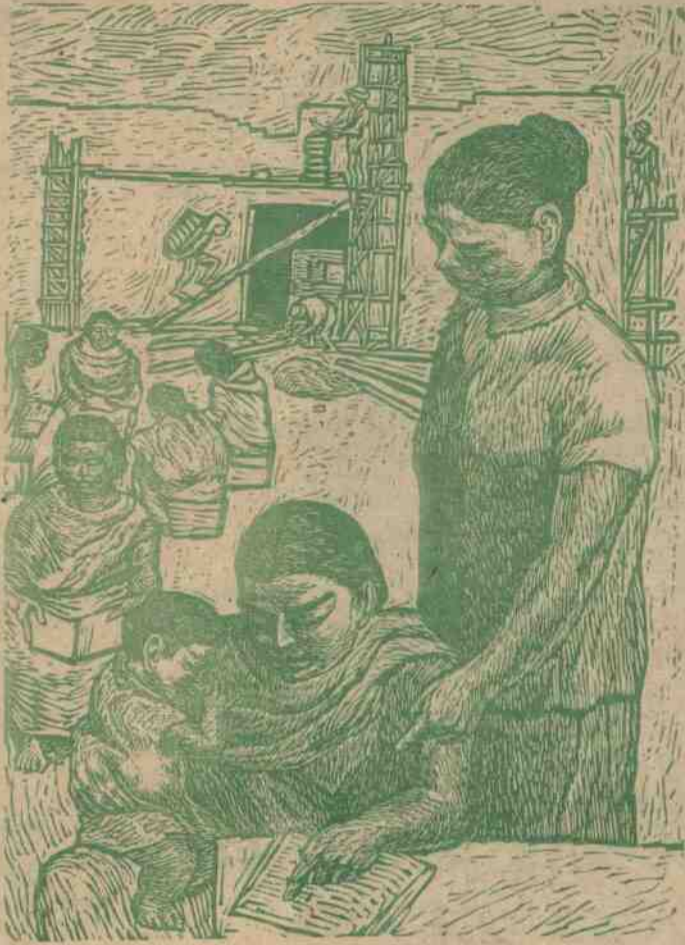
"These articles came to me the other afternoon when I was unable to leave the house.

"The troops and armored cars were out on the streets, and anyone leaving their homes would be shot. The Tamils (southern Indians) are a minority group here and are pressing for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka, with a Tamil Liberation Front, etc.

"The last week saw rioting and massacres on both sides--Tamil vs. Ceylonese. Quite horrid. It's very strange. You or I couldn't tell Tamil from Ceylonese if we had to. But they have been fighting for years.

"Imperialism is to blame, of course. The British (former colonial masters of Ceylon) firmly believed in 'divide and conquer,' and imported Tamils to Sri Lanka to be their lackeys in the civil service, etc., cutting the native Ceylonese out.

"So today you have a population in Sri Lanka of Tamils that includes the richest (civil service, bankers, etc.) and the poorest (the plantation laborers). Plus a nice 20% unemployment problem which keeps everybody angry and constantly blaming each other. Opportunistic politicians stir up racial hatred to get elected and profit from the whole damn thing. So sad to see racism the world over. Also very common in Malaysia (also formerly British) where it is Tamil vs. Malay vs. Chinese.



"The climate is very tense here. I predict this country will blow sky high within two years, but not in an organized sense. There is a youth insurgent group that arose in 1971 but was brutally massacred by the thousands. There are large gangs and bands of unemployed

who have found a living in politics and political intimidation. And the whole racial problem. It's just simmering.

"All the politicians claim to be 'socialist' and almost all use Marxist rhetoric, but practice and theory are miles apart. The organized CP (Communist party) and Trots (Trotskyites) sold out to the last government and were totally rejected at the last election."

Fortunately, all is not hopeless in Sri Lanka, as the following story relates:

5:30 a.m.

The temple gong resonates, my aching body groans as dawn's light steals through the palms.

Peering from the thatched hut, saffron shadows move about the well.

Another day's intensive labor awaits me with "National Heritage," a "people's development" organization in Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

Working through the people's Buddhist culture of communal effort and sharing, great strides are being made toward self-sufficiency at minimal cost.

Before work, we gather at the monastery's common, raise the "Lion Flag," a symbol of Buddhist philosophy, and sing songs. Beating temple drums, we march for a day of "sramadana" -- "donated labor."

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Return of Ancient Prosperity

Ceylon had a fantastic culture. A huge waterways system was built by free labor to irrigate thousands of acres.

Great temples and a beautiful Buddhist culture developed, based on a communal labor and shared harvests, which supported a population of 27 million.

Foreign invasions from the Tamil north India and Europeans decimated the system. In 1817-20 the British added the final blows, breaching the water tanks to subjugate the Ceylonese. The once prosperous population was reduced to 3 million by disease and starvation.

Today, a nation of 14 million depends on foreign food imports while paddy fields lie dormant without irrigation.

National Heritage, a non-governmental organization founded in 1975, mobilizes the Buddhist monks -- still the



respected community leaders -- for communal rebuilding of the ancient systems.

Twenty of us march off, 19 Ceylonese university graduates and 1 American, anxious to learn by doing and share with the villagers.

Rebuilding these irrigation systems is a matter of intensive hand labor. The tank beds, unused for centuries, must be desilted. Dike walls must be repaired and irrigation channels dug.

Two hundred villagers await us, happy for our help. My foreign face is an object of great curiosity, but after pitching in for the work I am readily accepted by all.

The monks lead us in prayer before beginning, and constantly move about, part cheerleader, part organizer.

In the knee-deep mud at the bottom, we dig out the silt, passing it by hand in small trays to the top.

The tropical sun is hot, insects buzz. But the people laugh, sing, cheer. Sweating profusely, I strive to keep up. Everywhere there is activity, women, men, children, the elderly, everyone in the village has a place and a job to share.

Thirteen acres will be added to production when the tank is clean, after a month's labor, bringing the total to 20. The newly irrigated fields will easily yield two rice crops a year, whereas now only one is certain through rainfall. The

Who's a psycho, Doc?

(ZNS)--It was out of the Keystone Kops.

The Police Journal, a magazine for cops, reports that one enterprising airline hired two psychiatrists as special security guards with orders to arrest anyone showing signs of "mental instability."

Within minutes after they began looking for suspects, one of the psychiatrists arrested the other psychiatrist.

project's total cost will be \$300 for tools and expenses, plus a lot of sweat and effort.

In the afternoon, the children grab the flags and beat the drums, leading us back to the village. These "parades" are quite ceremonial, never militaristic, usually led by children.

After a rice and curry picnic, we gather beneath a tree's umbrella to share and sing. The foreigner is required to add his voice and sing a number for the villagers.

As day fades, it's back to the tank again. This time not to work, but plunging in for a cool bath. The tanks, covering acres, are the communal bathtub, playground and laundry.

I discover one of the monks, a very young and beautiful soft-eyed soul, has been busy doing propaganda work. Tacked to various trees are beautiful poems, expressing our common effort and dreams:

"My blistered palms are hurting.
Through the pain,
I peep into the past.

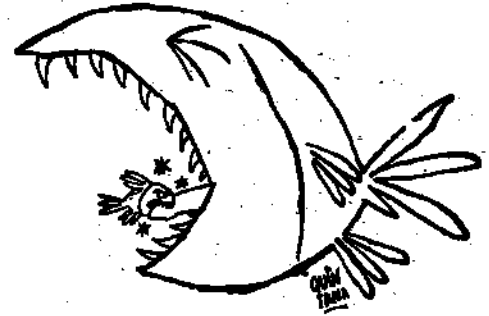
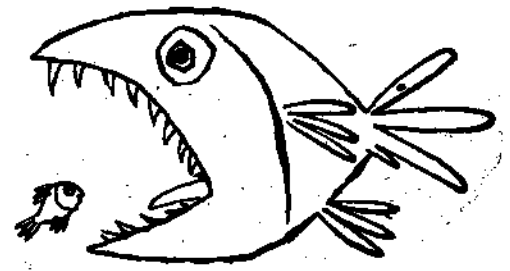
My ancestors
have not saved anything
for the nation.

On my blistered palms
I see a path
toward an unbeatable future.
Friend,
let us pass something on to the

nation."
Ven. Anurnuradapura Summandala
(used with permission)

After sunset, we gather at the temple. Lotus flowers are passed hand to hand, symbols of our common offering. Chants sung, then an open forum. Villagers introduce visitors, discuss problems, children sing. Anyone is free to speak their piece. At closing the chief monk offers a few words and then a final prayer of blessing for all the earth.

After a late supper I collapse on my



cot, my body sore and aching.

But I'm very happy, having been able to share the people's life and dreams.

Not waiting for outside millions or big engineers with Caterpillar tractors, this village is self-reliantly building itself.

The Buddhist philosophy offers guidance. According to the Lion Flag, the people build toward "Right Livelihood" -- a balanced and ecological economic system, which shares with all and does not harm living things, which is compassionate and moral.

The final dream is a society that is "Buddhist in culture, socialist in economy, and democratic in administration."

A definite vision of a new tomorrow is offered, but not one of high technology and westernized life. One based on the ancient ceremonies of collective labor, harvesting and common sharing.

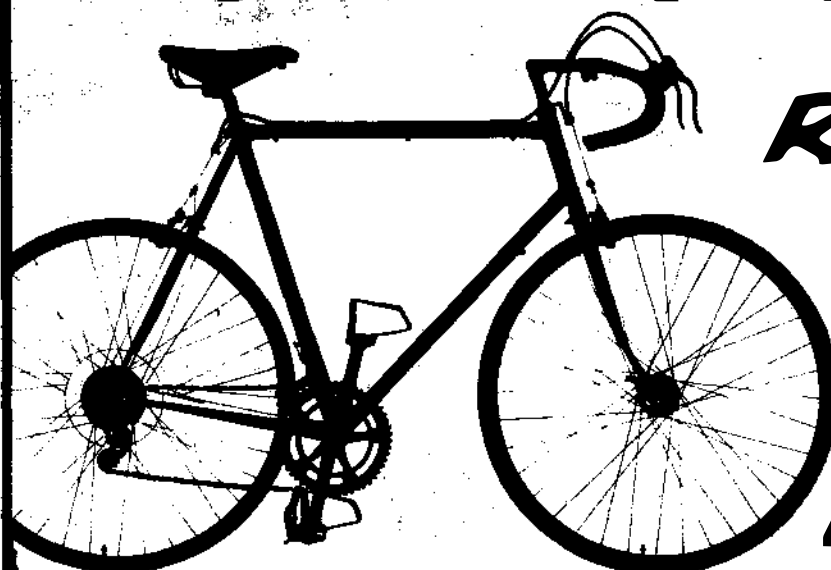
--M.G. Matejka
Kolabadama Village, Sri Lanka

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RALEIGH

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POST-NOTE: Last month, we printed lots of good hints for students in the *School-Stoppers' Textbook*. This month, we're listing ideas for teachers who are also outraged by what's going on in the schools.

Teachers' Guerilla

The Guerilla Manual is serious. Very Serious. Some tactics focus on generating support from parents whose kids are getting shafted by the schools. Others can serve to eliminate barriers isolating good teachers from one another. All are concerned with humanizing the schools. But since schools vary (mediocre-bad-terrible), applying any given tactic may prove to be a conservative, liberal, or radical act. If you want to find out where you and your school fit, just try No. 36 below. Or choose any tactic appropriate to your situation and discover, uncover, even recover the resources to take a second step... and then a third. . .

1. Set up an alternative in-service week, planned and carried out by teachers.
2. Alert students to place mousetraps in their lockers on locker check day.
3. File a suit against compulsory attendance laws.
4. Stop the gossip about kids in faculty lounges.
5. Have your English classes correct all office memos and return them.
6. Assist kids in setting up a curriculum evaluation committee.
7. Interest the local bar association in legal service for kids.
8. Help students photograph the school from their point of view and set up a display in town.
9. Send the school board a bill for chaperone services--take it to small claims court if they don't pay.
10. Take a tape recorder/witness/lawyer to the office when called in.



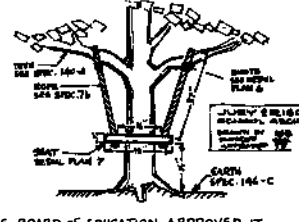
AS TEACHERS REQUESTED IT



AS PRINCIPALS ORDERED IT



AS CENTRAL OFFICE DESIGNED IT



AS BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED IT



AS MAINTENANCE INSTALLED IT



WHAT THE STUDENTS WANTED

11. Calculate and publicize the total hours wasted by bad jokes at faculty meetings, taking attendance, writing hall passes, counting lunch money, etc.
12. Give up classes on Fridays and have jam sessions.
13. Stop being afraid of parents.
14. Post walk-on-the-left signs in the halls.
15. Have teachers try going on a student's schedule for a day or two.

16. Help students draft a Students' Bill of Rights.
17. Print and distribute counter-brochures describing your district.
18. Stop teachers from busting lunch lines (tape signs on their backs?).
19. Alert students to boycotting lunch lines by brown-bagging it.
20. Demand a merit pay system for your administrators.
21. Arrange for a no-adults area for kids.
22. Have a bizarre thought.
23. Refuse to allow military recruiters to talk to your classes unless draft resistance advocates are also allowed to appear.
24. Post the Guerilla Manual on the faculty bulleting board.
25. Let students teach classes.
26. Have teachers try trading subjects once in a while.
27. Give a kid a day off if his or her parent comes to school instead.
28. Hold a school-wide free hour, open the labs, art rooms, etc.
29. Put a rocking chair in every room.
30. Convince the graduating class to use their gift money for something useful, beautiful, or subversive.
31. Demand that doors be placed on the commodes in the student cans.
32. Stamp out MUZAK on the PA.
33. Refuse to take lunchroom or playground duty.
34. Make a tape of the racist remarks in the faculty lounge and turn it over to the local Black Panthers.
35. Get your vice principal drunk and put him on a plane to Bangkok, Thailand.
36. Set aside a blackboard for graffiti for students and/or teachers.
37. Stop collecting lunch money.
38. Overload the office with bogus memos, proposals for new programs, non-existent meetings, etc.
39. Steal the SRA kits and throw them in the bay. Teach real.
40. Epoxy the principal's door shut.
41. Sabotage the AV equipment to see how long it is before anybody complains.
42. Hire a rock band to play for your classes and turn up the amplifiers.
43. Periodically, have hoardes of teachers (or students) go to the office and ask to have some rumor confirmed or denied.
44. Put silly-putty in the office ditto machine.
45. Leave phony letters of resignation lying around the school.
46. Wire a scrambler into the PA system.
47. Leave phony letters of application laying around the school.
48. Post negative directives on the hall bulletin boards: "Boys will not wear track shoes to school Thursday..." "Students will not wear black armbands...", etc.
49. Bring a community person at least once a week to teach, or watch, or take notes.
50. Put a suggestion box in your room. Use it.

BOOK WIVE

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BLOOMINGTON

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SUPPLIES

SMOKES

5 AM-6 PM
MON-SAT
5AM-12:30PM
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NEWSPAPERS
&
MAGAZINES

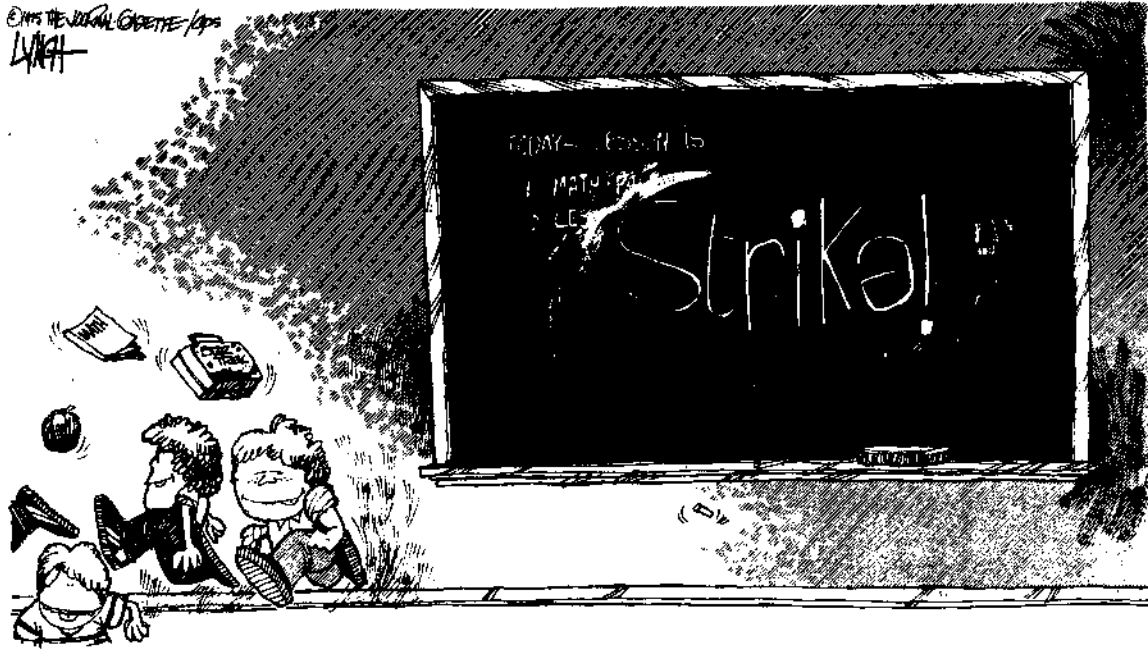
COMICS

GREETING
CARDS

ADULT
NOVELTIES
&
PAPERBACKS

828-3422

Manual



51. Demand that college placement bureaus quit working for sanctioned or struck districts.
52. Bring in doctors, carpenters, housewives, mechanics, engineers, cops, etc., and let your kids ask questions.
53. Ask the school board to fire the administration, let the teachers run the schools; and split the financial difference with the board.
54. Hire a lawyer and file a test suit over "...and any other duties" clause in your contract.
55. Plaster the faculty bulletin board with mind-bending articles about schools, books, plays, politics, movies, meetings, pot parties, etc.
56. Start an exchange program of teachers at schools within driving distance.
57. Attend school board meetings, take notes, ditto summaries, distribute.
58. Initiate public debates on education in your district.
59. Refuse to chaperone after-school dances, games, rooter buses, etc.
60. Have a guerilla tactics brainstorming party in your district.
61. Conduct evening seminars with parents on how schools fail their children and what's needed for kids to learn.
62. Refuse to teach more than 20 kids in the first three grades.
63. Make a deal with the office: you won't use the PA if they won't.
64. Telephone one parent every night to talk about his child, the schools, etc., for fifteen minutes.
65. Demand equal time with coaches to speak at the Rotary luncheons about last week's lesson and the coming week's big test.
66. Collect facts on budget breakdowns and publicize them.
67. Use parent conferences to agitate for change
68. Get some copies of school laws.
69. Use teachers to recruit new teachers.
70. Interview as a team--tell the board to take all of you or none.
71. Invite parents to class frequently, ask them to work as aides.
72. Demand that 90 percent of your state and NEA dues remain in your local district.
73. Meet with college faculties in your area and tell them what's going on in the schools.
74. Organize a classroom teachers association.

75. Invite your principal to your class every day. Invite him to teach a class.
76. Actively support teachers in the lower grades who are trying to improve conditions there.
77. Begin your next job interview by shouting "I don't take shit from anybody!"
78. Produce a teacher newsletter with tidbits of change, rebellion, successes, failures, etc.
79. Encourage students and parents to pressure for a real voice in curriculum decisions.
80. Invite the school board to visit your classes. Invite them to teach one.
81. Ban plastic (coffee cups, chairs, desks, food...).
82. Forget about the curriculum for a day and talk about the good books you've read recently.
83. Agitate for 15-minute breaks for students and teachers in am/pm for milk, fruit, smokes, etc.
84. Decipher the dress code.
85. Allow singing in the halls.
86. Buy your superintendent (a) a box of Uncle Sam cereal, (b) a dictionary, (c) a stuffed bunny, (d) a copy of Elementary Logic.
87. Insist on a Black Studies program in your lily-white school.
88. Plant grass in the chalk trays.
89. Publish a daily fact sheet with no comment and distribute in teacher mailboxes.

THE TEACHER'S GUERRILLA MANUAL
(thanked to the Teacher Paper, 1969)

What're Tricky Stock Deals for, Anyway?

When Pantagraph boss-man Dave Merwin said "We'll do whatever the law says we must do," he weren't just whistlin' Dixie.

I mean, if the law calls for some tricky stock deal to cover up the fact that The Daily Pantagraph and radio stations WJBC-WBNQ have got the same owners, why good-old-patriotic-law-abiding Davis U. Merwin, he's gonna give the law a tricky stock deal.

So what if this particular stock deal don't fly with the feds nor the courts? I mean, it's sure gonna buy a few more months and that means quite a few more bucks to buy some more months.

That's what monopolies are for, ain't they? Didn't you never play the game, for pity's sake?

I mean, don't them who owns Evergreen Communications Inc. own it fair and square, legally and all? And don't Evergreen own the Pantagraph fair and square? And don't Evergreen own Bloomington Broadcasting fair and square? And don't Bloomington Broadcasting own WJBC-WBNQ fair and square?

Ain't no U.S. District Court of Appeals busy-body judge has a right to tell Evergreen that it can't own a newspaper and a radio station in the same town, no matter if they are the two biggest sellers of ads for all the people anyhow.

I mean, Evergreen ain't stopping nobody from starting another paper, is it? Evergreen can't help it if there's hardly no decent competition for WJBC's ad sellers, can it? Just anybody could come in and start them a TV station, now couldn't they?

I mean, where's that judge get off saying Evergreen's gotta prove it's in the public interest if it's gonna keep on owning the paper and the radio?

After all now, the Federal Communications Commission itself figured it was fine and dandy to have a monopoly on news so long as you got it before 1975. And the FCC's gonna appeal that know-it-all judge's ass right on up to the Supreme Court, by God!

And don't forget now that the FCC's supposed to be lookin' out for the public interest and not no judges. I mean, the FCC even took a couple of licenses away once, I forget just when though.

Sure the FCC's gonna approve Evergreen's request to hand over its stock in Bloomington Broadcasting to the individual shareholders of Evergreen. Ain't no doubt about it. I mean, that's what made this country great, you know, individual radio stations and individual newspaper holding companies.

What difference does it make that the same individuals own the stock of the Pantagraph and the radio stations? This here's a free country, with individual freedom, ain't it? It's not like the same damn corporation'll still be ownin' all that stock, now is it?



Everybody nowadays wants to be the leader in Indian Jewelry.

**Make no mistakes because of fraudulent advertising
or false claims of leadership.**

We are the original leaders in Indian Jewelry and still are!

****We've been selling the longest.**

****We have the largest selection.**

****Our prices are the lowest.**

**At Apache Junction our leadership is based on quality,
not hollow words or empty phrases.**

Apache Junction

**Shop from
McLean County's Largest
Selection of Quality
Indian Jewelry**

**Offering You
Selection,
Quality and
Bottom Dollar
Prices**

**When buying
Indian Jewelry
think of the
leaders--think of
Apache Junction**

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Bloomington**

2 blocks east of Clinton--just off Grove

829-4411

Tuesday & Friday -- 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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Saturday -- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday & Monday

Cable Viewers get Unexpected Programming

Bloomington Telecable viewers expecting to watch one of BARNEY MILLER's funnier episodes the evening of Sept. 1 were unpleasantly surprised. Instead of that episode, they got to view 15 minutes of an evangelical telethon.

The situation comedy, BARNEY MILLER, is about police in a NYC precinct, and its humor is far more liberal than one might at first expect. The episode in question, as described in TV GUIDE, concerned a batch of hash-laced brownies that one of the precinct detectives received from a woman friend. He offered the brownies, not knowing what they were composed of, to nearly all the detectives in the precinct, and the show derived its humor from the incongruous sight of stoned police officers futilely trying to go about their duties.

Bloomington viewers were spared that sight. In its place, unmentioned in the tv listings, was a show sponsored by the First Assembly of Pekin entitled IT'S A MIRACLE. It appeared over cable for stations 19 and 17, the two ABC affiliates in the area, and its first 15 minutes were devoted to an interminable country religious song and an interview with the singer about how she'd been "saved." Not the sort of thing, presumably, the BARNY MILLER audience has turned on their sets to see.

The facts, as they can best be assembled, are these. IT'S A MIRACLE was scheduled by Peoria station channel 19 in place of BARNEY MILLER, and ads had appeared over the station for two and a half weeks before the showing. Despite this, programming people at the station say they only had one week before the show was to appear to warn listing services--obviously too late (they claimed) to get the listing changed. And nobody, apparently, at the station contacted Bloomington Telecable.

BARNEY MILLER did appear on channel 17 that night. But a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation prevents telecable companies from carrying the same major network show from two different stations at the same time. The station closest to the cable company is broadcast on all channels carrying the same network show. (The rule is a gimmick to protect advertisers.) So, Decatur's channel 17, being farther from Bloomington's telecable than Peoria's channel 19, isn't carried on the cable when both stations are broadcasting BARNEY MILLER. Instead, both spots on the telecable dial carry channel 19.

But, you say, channel 19 wasn't showing network broadcasting. That's true--and by rights, channel 17 should have shown since the two stations weren't both broadcasting BARNEY MILLER. The trouble was that channel 17, Telecable says, wasn't directly linked into the telecable system at that time because nobody knew of channel 19's switch. It took 15 minutes for repair people to get to the tower and get channel 17 over the cable system. BARNEY MILLER appeared midstory, though many viewers had undoubtedly switched it off by then. Is that clear? Good, because here's where it becomes confusing. You see, IT'S A MIRACLE wasn't the only program that channel 19 put on that night in place of a network show. A half hour before BARNEY MILLER, channel 19 used a special on a Peoria state representative instead of a network comedy called WHAT'S HAPPENING, which is a somewhat less controversial comedy about black teenagers. Yet WHAT'S HAPPENING was carried in Bloomington by Telecable--from Decatur's channel 17. So, Telecable did get it right once that night.

According to Telecable, it's powerless to prevent this kind of thing from happening. Since the FCC sides with 19 in the duplication dispute and since 19 has a habit of not warning Telecable when it plans to switch their programming, there's little telecable can do. A spokesperson for channel 17 the night of the switch also said that this sort of problem was not uncommon. They received a lot of calls at 17 that night and have received them in the past. They can't do anything.

Channel 19, meanwhile, says that there is no reason that the specific BARNEY MILLER episode, one that could strike some viewers as controversial, was pre-empted. (Channel 19, it should be pointed out, was the station that removed MARY HARTMAN, MARY HARTMAN because of its controversial nature.) The channel 19 program director, this reporter was told, wanted the telethon in prime time. The program director is Henry Osborne. All complaints on the matter should be directed to him at Channel 19, 500 N. Stewart St., Creve Coeur, Illinois.

And probably Telecable, too. If the cable service was able to keep one network show from being pre-empted, why weren't they able to do the same for the second? Telecable is a costly service, and viewers have the right to expect Telecable to avoid such mishaps. Yet obviously, they have happened and will keep on happening.

It may seem a bit small, complaining about the loss of one situation comedy, but television is our most powerful communications medium. A cavalier attitude from those who run it--or help broadcast it--should not be excused.

--D. Colt

A Free Press

I want a 12-issue subscription to the Post-Amerikan! I'm sending \$2.50.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

(for only \$3.00 more, you can get a T-Shirt too)

SUPPORT IT

I want a colorful 100% cotton Post-Amerikan T-Shirt! I'm sending \$3.00.

Name _____

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Size S M L XL

(for only \$2.50 more, you can get a subscription too)

A PLEA FOR SANITY

Everybody knows we're living in a period of unprecedented disillusionment. People everywhere are questioning even those basic assumptions which once bound their futures up safely and securely with the future of this society— a society they once felt themselves indispensable parts of.

Nobody trusts our government anymore. People hardly ever go to church anymore, and when they do, it's only to vandalize the premises and assault priests with their own crucifixes. The family is falling apart. Everybody steals (look at New York!). Why, just the other day a poll taken by the Opinion Research Corporation revealed that, even with reduced work hours and increased pay, more people are dissatisfied with their jobs than at any time since they started taking the poll 25 years ago!

It just doesn't make sense does it?

Decidedly a breakdown in the social fabric is at hand, and if you're not sure what it all means, you may be in for some rough times . . .

Unless . . . Unless you plan ahead for your family's future and begin today to keep a close watch on your emotions.

Yes, whatever the reasons for this disintegration, one thing's for sure: once the malaise starts spreading, nobody will be immune (especially not you!), and the only way to prepare for the inevitable onset of disillusionment and despair is to memorize

THE SEVEN DANGER SIGNALS OF DEPRESSION:

*a general and lasting feeling of hopelessness
inability to concentrate
loss of self-esteem
fear of rejection
misdirected anger
feelings of guilt
and extreme dependence on others*

AT THE FIRST SIGN OF ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS, FRIENDS, FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES:

*keep working
buy something
drink as much as possible
and follow your television's advice*

You know, more TV's recommend one amazing new psychic breakthrough than any other, and that's *confidence in the system*. Fast, safe and guaranteed by constant federal control, *confidence in the system* will keep you immobile longer . . . longer . . . longer . . . and tend to calm and obscure the miseries of disillusionment and despair.

Confidence in the system . . . here at home in easy to swallow democracy form, or over there in new fast-acting thought control.

Remember, nothing works quite so safely, or so effectively, as not thinking about it.

Confidence in the system . . . have some . . . today.

Television is a subscriber to the Advertising Code of Normality. Learn more, earn more with more TV more often. It's alright.

