

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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4-1979

## Volume 7, Number 10

Post Amerikan

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BLOOMINGTON—NORMAL

25¢

# POST AMERIKAN

April 1979

Vol. VII No. 10

**Cops  
go berserk  
in jail shakedown**

See pages 16 & 17

MCLEAN COURT



ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

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

G. JOEVER

# ABOUT US

Anyone can be a member of the Post staff except maybe Sher. Brienen. 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 is paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

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

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community.

We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader.

We welcome all stories and tips for stories, which you can mail to our office (the address is at the end of this rap).

If You'd like to work on the Post and/or come to meetings, call us. The number is 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885 or ask for Andrea at 829-6223 during the day.

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 us at 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be sent to: The Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701. (Be sure you tell us if you don't want your letter printed! Otherwise it's likely to end up in our letters column.)

# Post Sellers

## BLOOMINGTON

Book Hive, 103 W. Front  
 Eastgate IGA, at parking lot exit  
 The Joint, 415 N. Main  
 Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front  
 The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main  
 The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main  
 South West Corner--Front & Main  
 Mr. Quick, Clinton at Washington  
 Downtown Postal Substation,  
 Bl. Post Office, E. Empire (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  
 The Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
 Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust  
 Man-Ding-Go's, 312 S. Lee  
 Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main  
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire  
 Doug's Motorcycle, 1105 W. Washington  
 K-Mart, at parking lot exit  
 Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main  
 Lay-Z-J Saloon, 1401 W. Market  
 Pantagraph Building (in front)  
 North East Corner--Main & Washington

## NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort  
 Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main  
 Mother Murphy's 111 1/2 North St.  
 Ram, 101 Broadway Mall  
 Eisner's, E. College (near sign)  
 Divinyl Madness, 115 North St.  
 Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU  
 Baker's Dozen Donuts, 602 Kingsley  
 Cage, ISU Student Union  
 Midstate Truck Plaza, Route 51 North  
 Upper Cut, 1203 1/2 S. Main

## OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under The Sun, E. Main St.  
 Monmouth: Head's Up  
 Peoria: That Other Place, NE Adams  
 Sound Warehouse 3217 N. University  
 Decatur: Coop Tapes and Records,  
 1470 Pershing  
 Springfield: King Harvest Food Coop,  
 1131 S. Grant Ave. East  
 Urbana: Horizon Bookstore, 517 S.  
 Goodwin

# GOOD NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous--828-5049  
 American Civil Liberties Union--452-4831  
 Clare House (Catholic Worker)--828-4035  
 Community for Social Action--452-4867  
 Countering Domestic Violence (PATH)--827-4005  
 Dept. of Children and Family Services--829-5326  
 Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (Social Security Admin.)--829-9436  
 Dept. of Mental Health--828-4311  
 Gay Action/Awareness Union--828-6935  
 Gay National Educational Switchboard--800-227-0888  
 Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 829-7868  
 HELP (Transportation for handicapped and sr. citizens)--828-8301  
 Ill. Lawyer Referral Service--800-252-8916  
 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  
 Mobile Meals (meals for shut-ins)--828-8301

National Health Care Services (abortion assistance in Peoria)--691-9073  
 National Runaway Switchboard--800-621-4000 in Illinois--800-972-6004 (all 800 #'s toll free)  
 Occupational Development Center--828-7324  
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help)--827-4005  
 Parents Anonymous--827-4005 (PATH)  
 Planned Parenthood--827-8025  
 Post-Amerikan--828-7232  
 Prairie State Legal Aid--827-5021  
 Project OZ--827-0377  
 Public Aid, McLean Cnty. Dept. of--827-4621  
 Rape Crisis Line--827-4005 (PATH)  
 SAW (Student Association for Women, ISU)--438-7619  
 Small Changes Alternative Bookstore--829-6223  
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center--827-5428  
 Tele Care--828-8301  
 Unemployment Compensation/Employment Office--827-6237  
 United Farmworkers Support Group--452-5046  
 Women's Switchboard--800-927-5404

# Attention Poets !

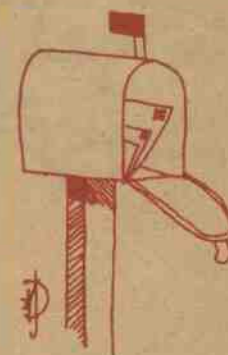
We Post folks have decided to start printing poetry again. Perhaps you can remember, or maybe you have forgotten, or it could be that you never even knew--but, a long time ago, the Post printed poetry. Because it is so difficult to decide what makes a poem "good" or "bad," the old policy was very flexible--all poems were accepted and printed. However, due to a lack of space and some very questionable material, the whole subject of poetry was dropped. Nobody wanted the responsibility of "judging" the poetry and a collective decision was impossible.

Well, whether it be masochism or a hunger for power, I don't know, but I have suggested that the Post bring back poetry, and I have accepted the ongoing responsibility of sorting through all the poems submitted. To overcome the old difficulties, we had

to come up with a new policy, so basically, here's how it works: after all the poems are read, I will choose the ones I think should be printed. The decisions will not be a judgment of "good" or "bad," but a decision based on the appeal the material would have to the readers of the Post. The poems I have chosen will be sent to the staff for a final reading, so the final decision will not be made by a single person.

We think this is the best way for us to get poetry back in the paper, and that a few poems each month are better than none at all. Send your poetry to the Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3542, Bloomington, IL, 61701. (Keep a copy, because we won't be returning poems sent to us.)●

--V. Laszlo



Andrea's favorite graphic op

Imagination  
is seizing  
power

CLASSIFIED  
ADS

Wanted: 3-4 bedroom house for 4 working adults with pets. 828-0368●

CAMERA: Yashica FX-2 SLR w/case. Yashica f2.8 135 mm lens. Automatic flash. Excellent condition. \$250.00 Phone--828-8988.

Any women interested in forming a WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE, call Susan or Julie at 828-7192.●

Phoebe: We still love you. Please come home.

# Uptight parents fail to shut down NCHS play

Like a cold little hand on the shoulder when you thought you were alone, The Bad Seed does kinda give ya the Creeps. But does that mean it should be bounced from the boards at Normal Community High School?

No, the Unit 5 Board decided, even though 53 parents asked for the cancellation of the play and the Pantagraph editorial called it "gamey."

When the parents complained to the school board Feb. 19, the kids had been rehearsing the play for two weeks. The "hells" and "damns" had already been axed from the script--such language wasn't the problem. No, the parents complained of the subject matter and the theme not being suitable, and they said the young actors "could not possibly be comfortable" with the roles.

In a blinding flash of common sense, the school board decided that its members should read the play and reconvene to discuss the issue. A week later, the board heard several speeches by students and parents defending the production, and then voted 5-1 to go on with the show. Each board member, though, vowed that they didn't like the play.

As soon as I heard of the little drama summarized above (which, in itself, wouldn't make a bad high school play), I was ready to jump into the fray, since I'm a teacher, writer, and would-be corrupter of youth.

I remembered that the play was about a thoroughly evil child who commits murders, but I couldn't remember anything "gamey"--anything that would cause such a strong parental reaction. So I read the 1954 novel by William March and the 1955 play adapted from it by Maxwell Anderson. I wanted to check out this unsuitable subject matter.

I'm very suspicious when adults want to protect young people from some literary work.

A lot of times they claim it's the sexual content they object to, but I don't believe it. I'm thinking of Catcher in the Rye and Grapes of Wrath, two books that adults have tried to keep out of high school libraries. I don't think for a minute that the mild, indirect sexual content of these books is what offends: I think it's the strong, direct, anti-authoritarianism of their messages that sends grown-ups running for the blue pencils.

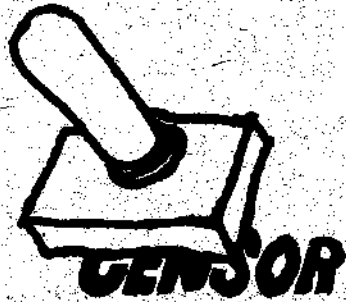
So my thoughts as I read The Bad Seed were, "What's in here that's so threatening to adults? What is it that they won't even mention, calling it unsuitable and distasteful?"

I found four possibilities.

First, in both the novel and the play there is a sympathetic (though eccentric) character who's a devotee of psychoanalysis. In one scene, she

mentions that her psychoanalyst, a friend of Freud's, thinks that homosexuality is a matter of personal preference, not morality or mental sickness. That's all. No one supports her statement, no one agrees with it, it's just there. Or not there--I wouldn't be surprised if Mrs. Breedlove's reference to gayness got slashed long before the parents got hold of the play.

The other three possibilities have to do with the way the play presents ideas that challenge the way we like to think of things.



We like, for example, to think of children as innocent: "trailing clouds of glory," as Wordsworth says. The Bad Seed says it ain't necessarily so. The child, Rhoda, has been unemotional, acquisitive, and calculating ever since she was able to express herself--and her parents are aware of it. She feels no affection, no remorse, and only acts sweet and charming as a screen (and does it very well). It is chilling.

But is it gamey?

We also like to think that we are the masters of our fates, the captains of our souls. No way, says The Bad Seed. The child, it turns out, is uncompromisingly evil because her mother is actually the daughter of a renowned mass murderer. The mother, Christine, doesn't find out her true parentage till near the end of the play, and then accepts the idea that she has unwittingly carried "the bad seed" and passed evil traits along to her daughter. And while we're willing to say that we inherited our sense of humor from a grandfather, our green thumb from mom and our mathematical ability from Aunt Clytie in Arkansas, we don't want to think that bad character traits are passed along genetically. It's disturbing.

But is it unsuitable?

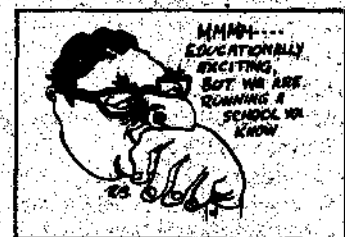
Finally, we like to think that good triumphs over evil, and it doesn't in the play The Bad Seed. (However, in the 1956 movie version, little Rhoda is struck down by lightning in the end, no doubt to the horror of William March and Maxwell Anderson.) In the novel and the play, Christine

tries to kill both Rhoda and herself; she does commit suicide, but Rhoda recovers from her overdose of sleeping pills and, it's implied, lives to kill another day. It's creepy.

But is it offensive?

Is it unsuitable to expose young people to ideas about life that we find disconcerting? Of course not. No one's going to perish or become a degenerate from pondering a couple of weird ideas (or I, for one, would know it).

And if we're going to talk about weird, unsuitable ideas, how about the run of the mill high school play, in which lovely girl meets handsome boy and after a few minor complications (he gets mad for two days because she didn't show up to watch him play in the Big Game because she broke a fingernail at the last minute and simply couldn't go out in public), they pledge lifelong loyalty to one another, and supposedly get married and live happily ever after? Now that's offensive to the high school kids' intelligence and to their acting ability, but I've never heard of parents objecting to such plays.



In contrast, The Bad Seed has several positive qualities as a high school play. It has intellectual content, whether we like it or not. It avoids sickly-sweet romance, and the resulting stereotyped roles for the actors. In fact, the roles have a depth that makes use of the actors' talents and energies instead of insulting them. And, very importantly, most of these challenging roles in The Bad Seed are for female actors, who so often find themselves cast as minor, stock characters in plays which focus on men.

So fortunately, the show will go on, and audiences who are looking for a hearty chuckle over the romantic antics of a dizzy blonde can wait for the next Doris Day/Rock Hudson rerun on TV.●

--Phoebe Caulfield

Post-note: I wrote this article before the play was performed.

## The rape of the Black Hills

Once again white America is taking away Indian land and killing the native people. It began when the Governor of South Dakota recently abolished all of the State Environmental Protection Agencies. Since this meant that no environmental impact statements had to be filed, Union Carbide and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) decided to resume uranium mining projects in South Dakota that they had abandoned in 1972.

One million acres of land are now under exploration in the Black Hills area, with over 100,000 acres already staked out in claims. Mining is scheduled to begin this spring. The TVA plan five major pit mines, three of which will divert water from the Cheyenne River and pump it back in--thus contaminating the water. Besides trashing the water, uranium mining leaves behind piles of radioactive mill tail s to blow freely in the

wind. (See Post, V.7, #9 p. 16.) Plenty of mill tailings are still left over from the last mining projects.

The Black Hills are sacred to the Dakota people. To destroy the Black Hills would mean the end of their history as a nation. The Black Hills belong to the Dakotas under 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. The United States has offered the Indians \$17.5 million for the Black Hills--the price the land might have been worth in 1868. But the Black Hills are not for sale, and the Indians continue to struggle for the full possession of their own land.●

--Arielle Leaf

Post Note--For more information on this subject see the Late Winter edition, Vol. 11, no. 1 of Akwesasne Notes.



# Vets uncover local communist cell

The Kingsley Communists have been found out! This ultra-secret group of Bolsheviks has apparently been organizing in Bloomington-Normal for many years. They were so fiendishly clever in their infiltration of our community that they managed to take over an entire neighborhood: they all live along Kingsley and Center Streets.

The credit for exposing this unknown Red Menace belongs to Leslie A. Smith, a dedicated Commie fighter who poses as a member of the Combined Veterans Organizations (CVO) of McLean County. Although the POST has not been able to discover Smith's real credentials, it's apparent that he's an agent of either the FBI or the CIA. How else could he come up with the brilliant strategy that he used to unearth the dirty Commies in our midst?

Here's how Smith (an obvious cover name) did it: once he determined that the beds in the Center-Kingsley area all had Communists under them, he got his front group, the CVO, to ask that the names of the streets be changed to Veterans Drive. The CVO pretended that they wanted the name as a "living memorial" to veterans from the twin cities. They proposed that Veterans Drive begin at College Avenue in Normal and continue through Bloomington to the National Guard Armory at 1616 S. Main, where Center St. couples back into Main.

City officials must have been in on the Red-baiting scheme, since they appeared to give serious consideration to changing the names of these streets. And, as Smith and his cohorts must have known, it was just too much for the anti-American Reds to take. They blew their middle-class cover by objecting to the name change.

Every single one of the Center-Kingsley residents surveyed by the Daily Pantagraph (2-19-79) was against re-naming their streets! The Kingsley Communists claimed that the main reason behind their opposition was the expense and hassle they would have to go through to change their personal business records. One godless Commie even went so far as to say that "Kingsley is a nicer sounding name."

But Leslie Smith exposed these desperate lies for the Communist prop-



# YIPPIE Conference

The Illinois State YIPPIE Conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, in Springfield.

There will be discussions about state and national smoke-ins, YIP benefits, and the building of mid-west solidarity. Information will also be given on the national YIP conference in New York.

We need your participation to make Illinois a political front in fighting the ever-repressive government trying to snuff YIP. All ideas are welcome!

Springfield YIP at 2734 1/2 S. Glenwood, the house in the alley of Summit and Glenwood, right across from old YIP house. Floor space will be available. Phone info: (217) 789-4355 or (217) 528-9125.

# Other midwest actions

May 4: Mifflin St. Block Party, Madison, Wisconsin

May 11: Columbus Smoke-In, OSU Oval info: YIP, POB 8234, Columbus, Ohio, 43201 (614)291-2936

May 13: Mother's Day Smoke-In, Bring your mother! info: Box 166 Wright Bros. Station, Dayton, Ohio.

May 13-18: Disrupt the American Psychiatric Association Convention, Conrad Hilton, Chicago info: YIP, POB 87254, Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 764-1909

June 9: Rock Against Racism, Lincoln Park info: Chicago YIP

June 23: Chicago Smoke-In info: Chicago YIP

aganda that they were. "I feel anyone who opposed it is communistic," he told the Pantagraph. One of the Kingsley residents, a Mrs. Henry Miller, is the wife of a veteran, but that didn't fool Smith. He knows agents of the Kremlin usually hide behind such respectable images. He cut right through Mrs. Miller's cover with his relentless logic: "If they're patriotic, they will not oppose it. A true patriot would be glad."

Smith and the CVO don't plan to stop with the Kingsley Reds. They're out to expose all the Commies in the area.

They've now proposed that Belt Line Road be re-named Veterans Drive. This use of the name-change tactic is diabolically subtle: since no one lives along the Belt Line, objectors will not be able to claim inconvenience as their reason for opposing the change. All opposition will clearly be Communist inspired.

And, indeed, the Belt Line ploy has already flushed more Red birds out of the underbrush. The POST-AMERICAN has learned that some wierdo hippie pinko freaks have actually suggested that the name of the Belt Line not be changed to Veterans Drive but that it be renamed War Resisters Drive, in honor of the real heroes of the Vietnam conflict.

Leslie Smith hasn't yet given his reaction to this idea, but whatever he says, he couldn't possibly be any more perceptive and intelligent than he's already been. And who knows what other Commie-hunting tricks he has up his patriotic sleeve. Watch out, all you McLean County Marxists--your street could be next!

--Ferdydurke

# Thousands protest mid-winter death sale

Despite snow and subzero temperatures, thousands of protesters made their way to the town of Rosemont, Illinois, on Feb. 18 to demonstrate their opposition and outrage at a thing called "Defense Technology '79," a military conference and arms trade fair. This so-called arms bazaar ran from Feb. 18-21.

People in the area had been trying for many months to stop this "bizarre" event, and as a result, many exhibitors had dropped out. But unfortunately there seems to be no shortage of merchants for death. The show went on.

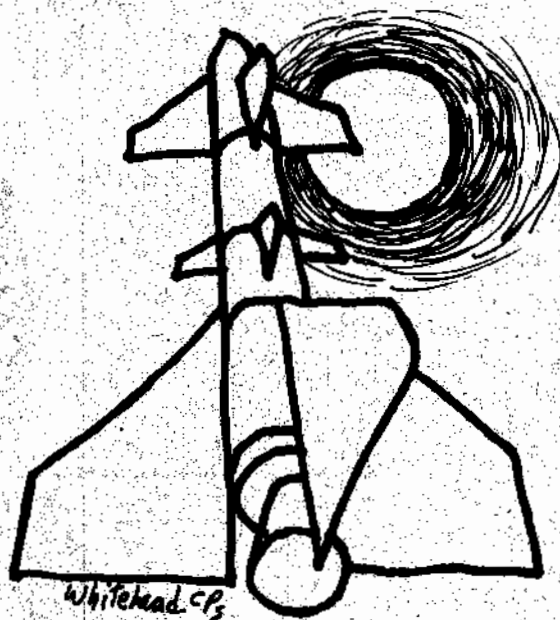
It was a glorious sight to see those folks out there marching in the snow. They carried signs and colorful banners: "Make love, not warheads"; "Cowards hide behind guns and leaders."

The protesters included people of all different beliefs and backgrounds. The Yippies were there right along with the Christians, the Nazis, the Maoists, the no-nukes groups, and the Socialist Workers' Party. It was a gas.

One could easily spot the death merchants because they were the only fools carrying brief cases and wearing trench coats. They were greeted with loud chants urging them to stop the arms race and save the human race. Silly protesters. I guess they don't know that so far no dollar value has been placed on human life, so their suggestion is simply not profitable.

This weird event is an other example of good ole American capitalism going too far. The US sells weapons to countries all over the world just to make a buck. Then the government tells us that we need more nuclear warheads because all of these other countries now have the power to destroy us. It's just a silly little game between the world governments and the weapons industry, but our lives are at stake.

--Arielle Leaf



Some facts on U.S. involvement in the arms race.

- 1) The United States has at least 31,000 nuclear warheads which is the equivalent of 625,000 Hiroshima type bombs.
- 2) The U.S. is selling weapons to some of the most repressive governments in the world. In the 1950's and 60's U.S. foreign arms sales to the Third World countries averaged \$230 million a year. In 1978 they were \$11 billion.

# Hospitals required to provide some free care to poor people

Have you ever been overburdened by medical expenses? If so, you'll be interested in Title VI of the Public Health Service Act.

This specific title is known as the Hill-Burton Act, and it has been in existence since July 22, 1972. The Hill-Burton Act defines certain responsibilities of hospitals, long-term care facilities, outpatient facilities, rehabilitation facilities, and public health centers which receive financial assistance from a federal grant, loan, or loan guarantee.

Hospitals assisted in this way are required by law to provide free or low charge services to people who are unable to pay their expenses. Each facility or hospital must choose one of the following options to determine how much money it will devote to free or partially free services:

1. A hospital may certify to the state agency (Ill. Dept. of Public Health) that it will not exclude any person from admission because the person can't pay for needed services. It must make free or affordable services available to these people. (They also have the obligation to inform you of the Hill-Burton Act.)
2. A hospital may advise the state agency that its level of free or low charge care to persons unable to pay will be equal to or greater than 10 percent annually of the sum of all Hill-Burton assistance received and still within the time limitation. (This means that the hospital must provide at least an amount equal to or greater than 10% of the sum of all the money used in the state under the Hill-Burton act.)

3. A hospital may advise the state agency that the proposed level of free or low charge care will be equal to or greater than the sum obtained by subtracting Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement from the facility's operating costs and then taking 3% of the remainder. (This means that the sum of money that will be used for free services will be equal to 3% of the hospital or facilities operating costs minus payments made by Medicare or Medicaid.)

4. If the hospital contends it is unable to meet one of the above options, that facility may submit to the state agency a detailed account of the extent of free or low charge services it is currently providing and proposes to provide. In such cases the state agency will establish, under procedures established by this act, a level of free or low charge services to be provided by the facility. (This simply means that if the hospital does not choose a way in which to provide free services the state will pick one for them.)

These procedures are watched by the Illinois Department of Public Health.



In order to determine who's qualified for free or low charge the hospitals consider such things as health and medical insurance, personal and family income, size of family, and any other financial resources and obligations of the patient or family.

If you feel you have been slighted by a hospital because of not being aware of the Hill-Burton Act, you have the legal right to request a copy of the hospital's procedure providing this subsidy. Good luck trying to get something from the hospital. Probably the best way to find out about a hospital's free service procedures is to write or visit the Ill. Dept. Of Public Health at 525 West Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62761. Talk or address your letter to Michael Casstevens or Bob Bishop.



# Transit management incompetent -- bus driver

It's amazing enough that the Transit System Board of Trustees has not already fired Peter Weber as its General Manager, but events now call for his immediate replacement.

Thursday morning, March 22, the local radio station WJBC announced that Transit bus service would be cut and some bus drivers would be laid off. The Daily Pantagraph carried the more complete story of what was decided at the Wednesday March 22 Transit Board meeting. The meeting was about cuts in service and about problems the System was having with the fleet of new FMC coaches bought three years ago.

All of the employees of the Transit System learned of the coming lay-off from the media except two transit union officials. They were told not to say anything to anyone until the news came via the media, and they complied. The management personnel were furious the morning of the announcement because they hadn't been told. They weren't the only ones who were angry.

Most of the drivers learned about their possible lay-off from bus riders, a very nice way to learn that you might soon be unemployed. One month ago Weber assured union officials that they would get plenty of notice if there was to be a layoff.

I think Peter Weber is generally responsible for most of the Transit System's problems, but the Transit Board Chairperson, Robert Tate, must share this responsibility. Tate got Peter his job. Three years ago Weber was appointed general manager and the former manager, Francis Bowling (Penny), was demoted to her present job as Superintendent of Transportation; that is, boss over the drivers only.

Why this switch was made was a mystery to some; however, those who know Weber know that his mother has been a personal friend of Robert Tate and family for years. Nice to have friends, isn't it?

Now Peter Weber and Robert Tate have both been elected for three year terms. We can expect history to repeat itself.



Weber and Tate bought the FMC bus fleet in spite of mechanics' warnings that they would be buying junk. At that time they refused to be bothered with expert opinion and did not even hire a diesel consultant to examine the worth of the coaches. Only 8 out of 20 FMC coaches are reliable now, and they are quickly falling apart.

Weber cannot get along with his chosen management team. Steven Whalen, assistant manager, has given notice and is eagerly awaiting a good job at State Farm. The mechanics' boss, the Superintendent of Maintenance, has also quit, and two of the other office personnel have threatened to quit.

Peter Weber enjoys full use of the Transit Company car. His wife has been seen frequently taking the kids to school and doing her shopping in the car. All gasoline is provided by the Transit System.

Peter Weber has been seen frequently using office hours to study for the ISU courses he takes. Employees have been unable to reach him because he is too busy.

Weber was ordered by the Transit Board not to waste any money fixing the old company car (which had continual problems until it retired permanently). Weber spent over \$200 dollars trying to get it to run. If he used "his" company car only for transit business, perhaps they would not need a second car.

Weber ordered bus drivers to use the company car to haul bus passengers even after union officers informed him that Illinois State law required a special license for such purposes, which the car did not have.

Weber has timed many bus routes so fast that drivers must either speed to keep on schedule or face customer abuse and management reprimand. Examples of this are the west Normal leg of the Yellow G route, the middle Bloomington to downtown Normal leg of the Green A route, the entire Pink D route, and the entire Orange H route.

It is time that new management take over the operation of our city's bus system--so we will have a bus system.

Concert and workshop April 10

# Holly Near & J. T. Thomas: *speaking to our special lives*

We of the Small Changes Bookstore and the Just Your Basic Vegetarian Restaurant collectives are proud to announce that we are sponsoring a Holly Near/J.T. Thomas concert here on Tuesday, April 10. That afternoon, ISU's Student Association for Women is sponsoring a free Holly Near workshop. (For more info on both events, see the back page ad.)

We would like to share with you some of what we know about Holly Near and J.T. Thomas.

Holly Near was born and grew up on a farm in California's Potter Valley. She started singing and performing

when she was seven, and also began writing her own songs early on. Before she was 21, she had sung at teas, weddings, prisons, mental institutions, and clubs; sung and danced in summer stock; and acted in television, film, and on Broadway.

She has joked in concert about all the political turmoil of the 60's not making an impact on her until 1971, when she was 21. She then joined the Free the Army Show and began to pursue a desire to blend her art and politics.

In the FTA Show, Holly travelled with Jane Fonda to entertain G.I.'s and servicewomen who were against the Viet Nam war and racism. The FTA Show toured Japan, Okinawa, the Philippines, and Hawaii.

When Holly returned to the U.S., she worked with the Indochina Peace Campaign, again with Jane Fonda. She now does concerts and workshops through alternative networks, which enables her to maintain control of her art form as well as offer support to women's cultural organizations, political groups, and schools.

Holly Near's lyrics show an incredible understanding of the lives of many different kinds of people--working people, people of color, people of different nations, children, older people, disabled people, straight women, lesbians, hippies, "crazy" women, institutionalized women. Her music is dynamite.

Holly performs for thousands of people every year, both here and in other countries. Her recent concerts have

been sponsored by anti-nuke organizations, lesbian mother defense funds, lesbian/gay rights groups, Native American support committees, and other groups doing progressive political work.

Holly records for Redwood Records, a women's recording company, and tours regularly with J.T. Thomas. She has recorded four albums in the past five years.

This is what Holly Near has to say about her choice to work outside the mainstream music industry: "I don't want to be pushed around like a sponge soaking up money that is then unequally distributed between all the promoters... I like doing music that speaks to our very special lives as we struggle on this earth. I don't get very excited by songs that are repeats of last year's love songs on AM radio."



J. T. Thomas has also been involved with music all her life, playing piano since she was young.

J.T. has been a composer in residence for the last three years at The First All Children's Theatre in New York City, for which she has written several shows. J.T. received an ASCAP Award for her musicals.

One of her ambitions is to compose for Broadway, and she continues to write as she travels with Holly. Even without a piano, J.T. Thomas, who has perfect pitch, composes and rehearses in her head.

J.T. also played the piano on Holly Near's newest album, "Imagine My Surprise."

I went to the concert where J.T. and Holly first performed together, and it was a thrilling experience. Holly had realized only at the last minute that her previous accompanist couldn't perform with her on that tour. Months earlier on another tour, she had met J.T. Thomas and played music with her for a few hours, not publicly.

When Holly realized she was without an accompanist, she remembered J.T., who had offered to accompany her when she already had an accompanist. They arranged the tour by telephone from opposite coasts, and actually met with little time to rehearse before the concert. And they were still wonderful together! I would never have guessed that they hadn't been performing together for months.

The promo we got for the Holly Near/J.T. Thomas concert says that "J.T.'s work with Holly Near is impeccable, moving to the moods of the singer as if they worked off of one single heartbeat." Which I think is a little corny, but true.

A Near/Thomas concert is not only an inspiring political experience, but is also a complex, powerful, polished artistic experience. Those of us working together to produce the concert and workshop are tremendously excited about bringing Holly and J.T. to Bloomington-Normal, and we hope you will join us on April 10. ●

--Andrea Bauer

Post-American page 6



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# Near/Thomas production integrates progressive politics

Post-American  
page 7

Anyone who has seen Holly Near and J. T. Thomas in concert knows that it is a political and cultural experience. Those of us who have been working to bring them to Bloomington now realize that producing their concert is also a political and cultural experience. What Ginny Berson of Olivia Records said about their women's recording company is also true of the Near/Thomas concert: "Process is our most important product."

We Small Changes women had been talking idly for months about how neat it would be to sponsor a Near/Thomas concert, but never dreamed how easy it would be to get a booking. Then one day, sparked by dire financial need and a spirit of what-the-hell, SC and JYBVR wrote Near & Thomas' agent in Washington D. C. (Roadwork) and asked.

After some debate about how much of a financial risk the Just Your Basic Vegetarian Restaurant (JYBVR) folks would be taking we decided to go ahead with it. (JYBVR has the initial money to put up for the concert.)

Amy, the agent, began to send us lots & lots of goodies in the mail, and we were talking to each other on the phone a lot. We were amazed & impressed by two things when we got the contract & publicity information: their helpfulness & their politics.

All the information is very detailed and thorough. We got sample press releases and public service announcements. We also got glossy photos & biographical info about Holly & J. T. But possibly the most life-saving thing we got is an 11-page booklet called "Concert Planning Suggestions."

The booklet, written by Holly & sent out by her recording company (Redwood Records), starts & closes with recognition that many of the groups getting the booklet have never produced a concert before (which is true for all but one of us working on this concert).

One suggestion from Redwood's planning booklet has been tremendously helpful in organizing the concert. They propose that producers divide the concert responsibilities into twelve parts (tickets, lobby, publicity, etc.) and choose a coordinator for each area and a general coordinator. I don't know how many coalition meetings it would have taken us to figure out a system on our own for dividing up the work.

The booklet includes detailed notes on each area of responsibility. We were pretty overwhelmed by the time we finished reading it. ("What have we gotten ourselves into?")

And then in the closing, just when we needed it, came this comforting rap: "If this is your first concert production, remember that no one ever produced a concert before their first one."

## Progressive process

The lyrics of Holly Near's songs show a striking awareness of both the many how's and who's of oppression and of how beautiful and strong people (especially women) can be when they're fighting back. Her production notes & the Near/Thomas contract reflect the same awareness.

First of all, Holly & J. T. (through their agent, Amy, of Roadwork) were very flexible about money, and very patient with us while we figured out how the contract could work from our end. Although Small Changes and the veggies hope and expect to make money, Holly asked that we not bill the concert as a benefit. We are paying her for the concert, and she thinks that

## WORKSHOP

ISU's Student Association for Women is sponsoring a free Holly Near workshop at 1:00 on April 10 at ISU's Union. The workshop promises to be exciting and inspiring. Don't miss it.

For more info on the workshop, see this issue's back page. ●

calling it a benefit would be misleading to people.

One of the requirements of the contract is that people in wheelchairs be able to get into the concert building and its bathrooms. (Not exactly what you would find in, say, a Rolling Stones concert.) This attitude parallels one of the graphics on Holly's latest album, Imagine My Surprise -- a picture of people in wheelchairs protesting the showing of the movie "Coming Home" in a theatre not accessible to handicapped folks.

## Woman power

Redwood's notes strongly encourage producers to seize the concert as an opportunity for women to do things they might not usually do and to learn new skills. For instance, the following is from the notes on concert logistics (section d., about sound):

"If there is a woman in your community who knows about sound then we are in good shape. If not, let this event be an occasion for some interested women to begin developing sound skills. If you work with a sound man, ask him to apprentice a woman. Make sure he understands that this means you want him to teach her skills... not just have her carry his equipment for him."

We thought the idea of an apprentice was excellent. At our concert, a woman and a man with sound experience will be doing sound and teaching two women who've never done it.



The notes also include a statement that they have been written "with the assumption that a core group of women will be working together on this concert/event." I think it's positive to assume that women-only groups can and will be handling all the technical decisions, even though our coalition includes both men and women.

## Working together

I also think it's neat that Redwood assumes that Near/Thomas concerts will be produced somewhat collectively.

Our decision-making coalition was at first made up of the Small Changes women, the JYBVR folks, some of the women from ISU's Student Association of Women and Denny DeBourbon of Bloomington's New Age Music. It's remained basically the same, with lots of input from some of the other people working on the concert.

I've realized, with something of a shock, that working in a coalition organized for just one project is much different from working in a small ongoing collective (I'm one of the Small

Changes women). Working with eleven other people, many of whom I don't know very well, has different problems & rewards from working with 3 or 4 other women I see day-to-day.



I think it would probably be helpful for us hyper-active hippies, lefties & feminists, who do things like produce concerts, to analyze the coalition process in the same way we're trying to analyze the collective process. We could all study the basic three C's: collectives, cooperatives, & coalitions.

One of the things I like best about the way Holly, J. T., and Amy deal with producers is how they try to balance the needs of the musicians, producers, and the people paying to see the concert. Here's what the Redwood notes, written by Holly Near, say about ticket price:

"Ticket price is always a problem. I feel it should be calculated according to your community custom combined with your projected production costs. If there are women who genuinely cannot afford tickets, you may want to admit them free or for whatever they can afford. The problem with this is that sometimes it is the women who can afford it who ask to get in free and truly poor women are too proud to ask. This happens because of lack of class and money consciousness.

"Some producers use a work exchange program where if women do some work on the concert (leafletting, ticket sales, etc.) they can get free tickets. Some producers keep advance sale tickets the same price as at the door since any other way puts at a disadvantage working people, homebound mothers, elderly people and others who either can't get to the advance ticket outlet or who don't have cash in advance. If the artist is working on a percentage basis, she should have some input into decisions regarding ticket price and free/comp tickets. I feel the artist should have input into the ticket price regardless of whether she is on a percentage basis or not, since if the community feels the ticket price is too high, she will be criticized for it."

I'm very encouraged and inspired by the way that Holly Near deals with being nationally known and having a lot of power and influence in feminist circles. The Near/Thomas contract, for example, specifies that J. T. Thomas get equal billing on the leaflets. And Holly's anti-star stand comes through in her self-description: cultural worker.

I think a certain amount of audience/performer split, competition and star mentality are, unfortunately, still part of the counter-culture and specifically, of women's culture. There are probably other women who have talent, consciousness, and energy comparable to that of Holly Near (although I must confess I find it hard to imagine). In the next few years, few of them will tour nationally. Few of them will cut albums. Few of them will be able to reach the number of people that Holly Near reaches.

It's wonderful to know that Holly Near herself realizes this and is so strongly committed to struggling for changes. ●

--Andrea Bauer



# Just Your Basic Vegetarian Restaurant

We are a collective of five people (3 womyn and 2 men) who are committed to vegetarian lifestyles for a variety of reasons.

Meat-eating, we feel, is oppressive to animals because it means they are needlessly slaughtered.

We believe it is oppressive to poor people around the world because the grain that is used to feed animals for the rich to eat could be better used to feed people.

It is becoming more apparent that meat is not healthy food for humans.

All of these factors account for our vegetarianism.

that are both fun and personally fulfilling.

We've been together for over a year now, and we've learned a lot. We've practiced collective decision-making. We've discovered a lot about working and communicating together. And we've found out that opening a restaurant is, if anything, even harder than it sounds.

Those of you who have been supporting us and following our progress know that it hasn't been easy. Part of the difficulty is simply the nature of the beast--what makes an alternative business "alternative." We strive to make decisions that everyone in our collective feels good about, and lots of times that means dealing with people's personal feelings and putting a lot of time and energy into communication. That makes our operation considerably slower than a traditional, straight business.

Two of the other things that are holding us up are finding a location and some more money. We feel that it's important to open our restaurant in a central, downtown location so poor people, students, and other folks who don't drive cars can get to it. Since there are very few vacant buildings that used to be restaurants in either downtown Bloomington or Normal, it's going to take a whole lot of money to make over and equip one of the available storefronts. And we just don't have it.

Raising funds has been a slow and sometimes painful process. It has been frustrating for us, because our efforts always seem to draw from the same people--our friends and long-time supporters, who are very wonderful, but really don't have much more money than we do. But we're still trying!

It's our hope that our two latest benefit concert efforts, in coalition with the Small Changes Bookstore



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Our restaurant collective grew out of this commitment and our desire to share it with our community by making good, healthy, inexpensive vegetarian food available in Bloomington-Normal. At the same time, we want to create an unoppressive workplace for ourselves--jobs

collective, will net us enough money to at least get a foot in the door. Our first concert with Small Changes was on Sunday, March 25, and featured local womyn musicians. The Equinox Band and Lynn Lloyd of Champaign, and Marita Brake of Normal performed at the Lay-Z-J Saloon in Bloomington. Our next event will be a very special concert featuring Holly Near and J.T. Thomas at 8:00 p.m. on Tue., April 10, in the Consistory Auditorium. We hope lots of folks join us for this one. It's going to be a wonderful evening!

So, to all of you who have been supporting us and/or anxiously awaiting our opening, keep the faith! We haven't lost sight of our goal, and it's getting much closer to becoming a reality. In the meantime, eat more sprouts!●

--The JYBVR Collective

## looks like a sleepy, serene community.



## look again.

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

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# Small Changes: an exciting experiment in alternative business

Most stores you walk into are clean, antiseptic, impersonal. They are businesses--big empty boxes filled with corporate products, cellophane-wrapped, mass-produced, mass-marketed. You don't expect to get anything from a store except what you pay for and maybe a smile from the cashier.

So, when folks walk through the door of Small Changes Non-profit Alternative Bookstore, it's not too surprising that many of them stop after a few steps, look around in confusion and ask, "what's an alternative bookstore?"

We tell folks to wander around and see for themselves.

There's the community bulletin board loaded with notices about a gay rights task force meeting, an anti-nuclear film, the beginning (hopefully) of a women's Health Collective, anti-rape resources. Next to the bulletin board are the wooden book shelves carrying titles like Anarchist Collectives, Men Loving Men, Making Your own Baby Food, Herbal Highs, What Lesbians Do.

From there to the magazine rack proudly displaying the Post-American, Christopher Street, Country Women. And there are also the 25¢ used books, the free clothes exchange box, the lending library, the free periodicals, the womyn's bulletin board, the sitting room with its cluster of couches, chairs, coffee mugs, and the posters--Uppity Women, Gay Liberation, Free All Political Prisoners in Chile.

Some people want to know more about us once they've seen the store.

We tell folks that we're run by a collective of womyn. There's no boss here. Everyone in the group has her say. We make our decisions by group consensus. There are lots of advantages to collectives. Rozanne says: "I like working in a small group. The closeness and like-mindedness of our collective makes me comfortable. I especially like working in an all womyn's collective. I get lots of support and strokes from my other collective members."

Andrea adds: "A whole lot of what I get out of the bookstore is the growth and fun that come with working in a collective of all women on something that means a lot to us. At its best, being part of the bookstore collective starts to break down the division between work and play. And it's an excellent place to work on learning healthier ways to relate to other people."

Small Changes is also non-profit, which means that all the money we make is channeled back into the store. We would pay salaries if we had the funds to do it, but no-one's gonna become a wealthy, fat cat off this store. That'd raise prices and put the money in the pocket of one person at the expense of many others.

We also carry literature that often can't be found in other places. As Luma says: "Lesbians, gay men, womyn, vegetarians, hippies can find books and information here that reflect their real lives. They can look around and know they are part of a large, vital community." And Julie: "I get a lot of personal satisfaction from helping the folks who come in find out what they need to know...like helping a lesbian mother find out what her rights are,

or helping a pregnant woman track down information on midwives and home birth. I like the feeling that I'm helping to influence people's lives through the information that I help make available to them."

Small Changes is alternative because it's about community. "I feel like I am part of a movement which is building womyn's community and culture," states Rozanne. Says Andrea: "The bookstore is a dynamite place for community building to happen. I think the bookstore has already contributed to the growth both of individuals and of the community, and I see the potential for lots more of that."

This is what the Small Changes collective had to say about being an alternative bookstore in 1976 when we first opened:

Small Changes was organized by a collective of seven women who come from different backgrounds and have different philosophies and politics, but agree on at least four important political ideas. These ideas brought us together as a bookstore collective.

Our first position is basic. We feel that radical social change is necessary, that the ideals of peace and freedom and self-determination we were brought up on are not the realities of our lives, or most other people's lives.

We also believe that small groups can be a vital, workable means of deep social change. In order for this to be true, we believe that these small groups must have continuous consciousness-raising within them and must also continually make connections with other like-minded groups and individuals. To be most effective, small groups should be made up of people who are close to each other and caring about one another.



A third position that we hold as a group is that for now, we as women can be most effective basing our political action on the experiences, the oppression, and the strengths that we have as women. This belief will come through in the stock of the store, which will have a definite but not exclusive emphasis on books for women.

Last, but certainly not least, we share a commitment to a joyful struggle. We are people involved in a struggle whose climax may very possibly not come in our lifetimes. But we are also people who strongly intend to improve our daily lives, and by god have fun doing it. It is as important to us to become more loving with one another, to hang out and deepen our friendships, to laugh and become daily stronger, healthier, saner, and happier, as it is to contribute to a more future-oriented,

very often painful struggle for revolutionary change.

Revolution is important to us. Equally important is reform, in the sense of a joyful re-forming of the ways in which we look at ourselves and deal with other people.

Two years later these ideas still hold true for us.

Small Changes has seen lots of changes since it's been in existence. We now have a collective of 5 womyn; 3 were members of the original collective, and 2 are treasured late comers. We have numerous wonderful supporters who've helped us to keep growing by painting a sign on our window, donating used books, clothes, and even a magazine rack, washing our windows, tearing down a wall and redecorating. We've even acquired a small band of dedicated "groupies" who help staff the store and beg for work to do.

When Small Changes opened on Dec. 15, 1976, we proudly displayed 77 new books for sale. Well, even though we're still small by some standards, our stock has increased by leaps and bounds, and it keeps growing. In addition to new and used books we now also carry womyn's albums and songbooks and a small selection of underground newspapers, gay and womyn's magazines.

We've also expanded our selection of free goods. Our pile of give-away magazines and leaflets keeps getting bigger and bigger. Our clothing exchange box is overflowing. Possibly one of our neatest free services has been the addition of our lending library, which is packed with interesting books that folks can check out and read.

Over the past 2 years we have learned that one of the major problems of starting a store with only \$400 as we did, is that expansion is slow and difficult, and money is not always easy to come by. We have developed several schemes to deal with this. Some of our supporters have been donating monthly pledges which go into a salary fund.

Also, we are pooling our energies with another collective, the Just Your Basic Vegetarian Restaurant folks, in sponsoring some benefit concerts. Our first concert with these folks featured some local womyn, The Equinox Band and Lynn Lloyd from Champaign, and Marita Brake from Bloomington. Our second concert will be April 10, at 8 pm at the Consistory featuring Holly Near.

Holly Near is a remarkable performer: a singer, a songwriter and a storyteller. She is working with pianist/composer J.T. Thomas, whose playing is impeccable. The themes of her songs include such diverse topics as growing up on a farm, the death of Karen Silkwood as she fought the nuclear plants for workers' health rights, and the women who were pirates off the eastern coast in the 18th century.

We hope this unusual performer will provide our many friends and supporters with an exciting way to enjoy themselves and contribute to collectives at the same time. See you at the concert--and at the bookstore!•

--The Small Changes  
Collective

Women's music

# Cultural revolution in our time

In the past, women's role in music has been that of listener, and the male-owned and operated music industry has worked hard to keep it that way. Music is a powerful cultural/political force, so of course women have been kept from being recognized as artists and from easily acquiring technical and artistic skills.

Oh, the men allow two token women musicians per company to record, but those women better damn well return the investment, or else. And none of those uppity songs neither.

Power-crazed companies have a justification for the lack of women artists and low amount of promotional money for those artists they do record. They say that women don't want to hear other women, not acknowledging that they've never asked us what we want to hear.

Women are tired of waiting for permission and are jumping into music-making without it. Not bothering to beg the male profit-minded structure for support, many women are grouping together to form artists' collectives, women's recording companies, women's distribution centers, women's production companies, and alternative radio stations.

The music itself is a far cry from the commercial pap we're fed over the radio, the tranquilizing pulp that encourages us to buy at male-owned stores, and the rude chords that muffle our objections to being put on HOLD over the telephone. This is music about us, music that tells herstory about love, life, and struggles in the world of male power. Fight back, be proud, reclaim your body, support each other, love who you want: these are themes the powermongers would rather we not hear. But women are singin' 'em loud.

Recording companies that are woman-owned and operated, like Redwood Records (who record Holly Near), give their revolutionary music the recording care that only women can. The WASP music industry sends out new records "packaged in shrinkwrap for your protection," with finger prints, boot stomps, and other marks of questionable quality. Customers respond with up to 30% returns on major industry albums.

But in women's recordings by women's companies the production receives loving care. Women apprentices have achieved the technical skills necessary for quality. Now other women are their trainees.

Distribution of women's music began with mail orders, but demand for this art form led to merchandising through

## Midwife bill

A bill to create a regulating act for the practice of midwifery will be introduced in the Illinois General Assembly sometime this session. The bill, House Bill 166, will be introduced by Rep. Deuster and will be handled by the Human Resources Committee.

Exactly what effect the act will have on the practice of midwifery in Illinois is not clear at this time. People interested in this bill should write for further information to Rep. Deuster, c/o State Capitol, Springfield, IL or to Kristina Johnson, Women's Advocate, Ill. House of Representatives, Springfield, IL 62706.



alternative stores. Now a market for women's music has prompted even straight commercial/capitalist outlets to stock albums from women's catalogs.

But the artists can't rely on recordings alone to spread the music, so women are spreading into another previously male-dominated industry--concert production. Woman-oriented concert production gives artists more control over their performances. Child-care, access for handicapped people, and tickets for sisters without money can be provided. Believing that women can learn the technical knowhow of lights and sound control and concert production, the artists give them control in these areas to insure that women who want to learn have the chance.

Yet another male industry, that of radio station production, is now open to women. In 1970 the Radio Free Women (RFW) Collective started one station, publically airing

feminist/women's issues and music. Now RFW has grown into the Feminist Radio Network, which employs only women, proving once again that if we want it we can do it.

Women's music is much more than songs about our lives. It is the story of how we can provide for our artistic needs and maintain control of our unique art forms through all-women avenues. We're no longer at the mercy of men to define our music and sing our songs.

For more information:

Olivia Records, Inc.  
P.O. Box 70237  
L.A. Calif. 90070

Redwood Records  
P.O. Box 40400  
S.F. Calif. 94149

Feminist Radio Network  
P.O. Box 5537  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
(202) 244-2331

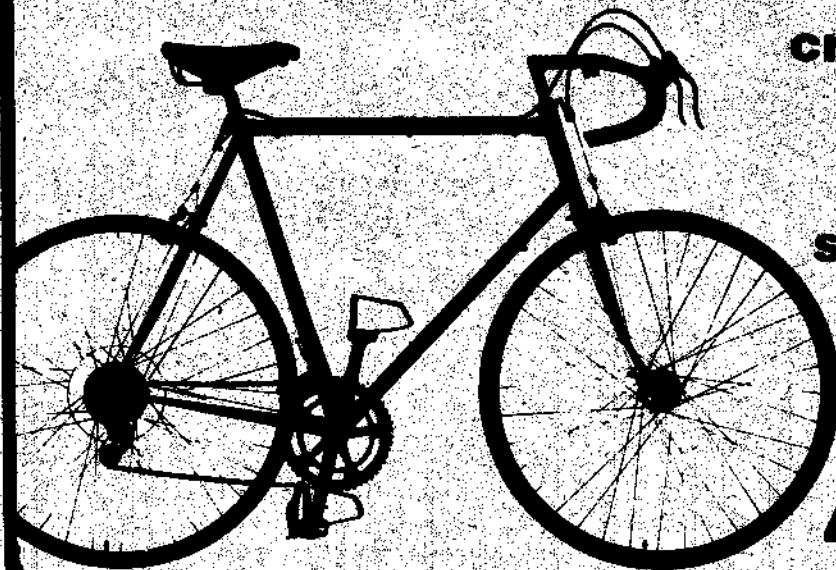
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# "China Syndrome" raises tough questions about nukes

"The China Syndrome" is a knockout movie. It's primarily a fast-paced thriller, but because the plot centers on a near-fatal accident at a nuclear plant, the film also makes a very convincing political statement about nuclear energy.

The story is simple enough. Jane Fonda and Michael Douglas, as members of a Los Angeles news team, happen to witness what the public relations man smoothly calls "a routine turbine trip." On further investigation, the reporters learn that what they saw was, in fact, far from routine and was, instead, "a potentially costly event," as the nuke jargon puts it. This "event" means a malfunction that could have resulted in a "meltdown" called the China syndrome because theoretically it could burn all the way through the earth to China. This, in turn, would lead to the destruction of the plant and the creation of a radioactive cloud capable of killing half of Southern California.

While influential private interests attempt to suppress the story, the newspeople try to expose the real dangers of the accident. They also learn that it could well happen again before the story ends.

The fact that John Taylor, an executive of Westinghouse (which makes nuclear reactors), calls the film "an overall character assassination of an entire industry" tells you just how politically successful it is.

But "The China Syndrome" is not a paranoid film. It plays on our fears, as all good thrillers do, but it does not do so in a mindless, irresponsible way. The movie is intelligently skeptical in its portrayal of the political issues.

Jane Fonda is simply superb in the role of a popular, ambitious TV reporter who is drawn into investigating the nuke incident by her radical cameraman (played by Michael Douglas, who also produced the movie). At first Fonda is hesitant to defy the station big-wigs, who want her to stick to cutsey stories about birthday parties for tigers and medical care for pet fish. But as she learns more about the dangers of the accident and the way the whole thing is being swept under the carpet, she can't help getting involved.

The device is simple but effective. Fonda's politicization is ours. We get involved along with her, discovering what she discovers and sharing her growing fear and anger.

I especially liked the way that the sexism that Fonda encounters in her bosses is linked to the condescending paternalism of the nuclear-power bosses: the station manager treats Fonda (don't bother your pretty little head about serious news) in the same way that the officials and PR people treat the general public (don't worry about these complicated technical matters, we know what's best for you).

When Fonda finally breaks out of her pretty-girl mold and lets her own thoughts and feelings guide her, we're right there with her.

This pattern of increasing awareness is carried out in different ways with other characters in the story. Jack Lemmon plays the part of a shift supervisor who has dedicated his life to the service of technology. He has to overcome this heavy investment in order to help expose the menace that he reluctantly comes to acknowledge and fear. Lemmon is not one of my favorite actors, but he sure does a bang-up job in "The China Syndrome."

The conflict between workers and the corporate powers does smack of melodrama--the little good guys against the big bad wolves. But "The China Syndrome" does not, it seems to me, make a dishonest use of this age-old struggle. For one thing, the changes in character are not easily accomplished. These people have a lot to lose, and the actors make us feel the pain and difficulty involved.

Also, nobody is presented as a pure-hearted hero. Fonda's pursuit of the news story is motivated by her own ambition to become a top-notch reporter as well as her desire to discover the truth. Lemmon still believes in technology and is driven to desperate action both by fear and by a desire to save the plant. And in his attempt to inform the public, he's bumbling, unsure, and not very effective. He's hardly a knight in shining armor.

In a similar way, the movie deals sensibly with the complexities of nuclear technology. The subject is incredibly complicated, and scientific facts just don't make good drama. In fact, I sometimes think nuke pushers intentionally engage in highly technical discussions in order to confuse and bore us into submission.

"The China Syndrome" walks that old fine line between drama and documentary. It doesn't bewilder us with a flood of facts, but it doesn't insult our intelligence by ignoring the technical details altogether. We are given enough scientific and mechanical data to show us that the story's questions about nuclear safety are valid.

Where the movie succeeds best, though, is in its presentation of more easily understood problems. It forcefully dramatizes the human elements that are crucially connected to nuclear technology. The film shows us the dangers of trusting too much in elaborate technology and in discounting human error. It reminds us just how greedy, self-serving, and arrogant corporate executives can be.



Unlike Lemmon, the other plant workers continue to do what they're told and don't question the myths and lies their bosses feed them. But one other character--Lemmon's best friend and co-worker--also experiences a revelation. At the very end of the movie, this man's feelings for his friend win out. In a thrilling moment, he finds the courage to defend Lemmon publicly and to deny the slanders that the nuke officials are using to discredit Lemmon's actions. Like Fonda, this character decides to trust his own emotions and instincts and to reject the garbage that the people in power are dispensing.



"The China Syndrome" makes a compelling case against nuclear energy because its plot is based on the very real and very human tendencies to cut corners, to take the easy way out, to make a fast buck, and to be awed by the authority of vested interests. But the movie doesn't comfort us with fantasy. The nuke owners are still in charge at the end. Their control has been shaken and their authority questioned, but the struggle is far from over.

-- Ferdydurke

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Mike Asteman

# Boiler blues became

It all started on January 8th, when we found out that in our basement was not a furnace, but a DOOM MACHINE!

I noticed a funny odor in the air of our apartment as I was getting ready for class that day. I thought the smell was coming from bathrobe. My bathrobes get pretty musty sometimes. But by the middle of the afternoon the smell had driven Kathy, my roommate, and Julie, the other tenant of our two-apartment reconverted frame farmhouse, out of the building.

They called our landlord, a prominent Urbana lawyer by the name of Hurshal Tummelson, to report their alarm. Tummelson came over to investigate, and went into the basement. What he found there was a dangerously overheated boiler, part of the steam heating system.

The metal of the boiler was on its way to red-hot. The door of the furnace had popped open from the heat. Some water was on the floor of the basement. And, as we learned later, the boiler itself had cracked. The air



in the basement was sizzling hot from the metal of the furnace.

An inept Tummelson fiddled with a few dials and valves and then, thankfully, decided to call in his plumbers, Kobel Plumbing and Heating.

Kathy and Julie were there when the plumbers came to investigate. They found out from the plumbers that the boiler, which ordinarily contains the water which, as steam, travels through the radiators, had drained. The plumbers said that, had Tummelson continued to play around with the furnace, the whole damned building would have blown sky-high.

The plumbers made morbid jokes about the decrepit heating system and told Julie and Kathy to sleep with one eye open! Julie and Kathy were aghast! We were supposed to live in a house that might explode any minute!

Because natural gas burns under the boiler to heat the water, Julie called Illinois Power in to investigate as well. The IP representative found a significant level of carbon monoxide seeping from the furnace. This appalled us. Julie's bedroom is right above the furnace room.

For most of the two years that Julie has been living in this building, she's been sick. She wakes up in the morning with puffy eyes and a swollen tongue. She's been unable to shake off colds and a case of mono. Her ferns die when she puts them in the bedroom. She had bought a humidifier, thinking that the problem was insufficient moisture in the air.

Could Julie's health problems have resulted from a perpetual case of mild carbon monoxide poisoning? The Illinois Power person said yes.

Well, the plumbers "fixed" the furnace. They poured a substance called boiler-sealer into the cracked boiler. Boiler sealer is a substance which congeals upon contact with the air. It flows into the cracks of a boiler and hardens. You can get the same kind of stuff to fix a hole in your car's radiator. They filled the boiler up with water again and said that the doom machine was in repair.

Needless to say, we were skeptical. That's an understatement, really. We were scared. Neither the plumbers nor the IP people would express much confidence in the system. And we didn't really feel like sleeping with one eye open. You can't get much rest that way.

So Julie and Kathy had the bright idea of calling in the City of Urbana housing inspector. The law. The Representative of the People.



The strong Arm which could muscle a landlord into providing safe housing.

Two Urbana housing officials, Dickerson and Johansen, inspected the furnace and found other things, besides the cracked boiler, to concern them. There was far more water being held in the boiler than

there ought to be. And they agreed that the boiler was in questionable repair. With all of this expert testimony that the furnace was simply not in good shape, we started to push for a more comprehensive repairs

## PATRONIZED

During the two-week period when we bitched and bitched and bitched, we encountered one prevalent attitude on the part of all these men. We were constantly patronized. No one would explain in very clear terms exactly what was wrong. It was as if this simple mechanical system was far too complex for us to comprehend. We were told by Koble, Dickerson, and mostly by Tummelson that everything was fine. We should trust them. We ought not worry our pretty little heads.

But our pretty little heads happen to have some pretty good brains inside of them. We worried. We didn't trust the bastards.

Tummelson stated unilaterally that the furnace was fine and that he would not do any further repairs. If we didn't like it, we could move out. Dickerson, the building inspector, was suggesting that we move out too, but for a different reason: he didn't think the furnace was safe.

Kathy, burned out from taking her Masters's degree exams and struggling with poor health, packed up her things and had them sitting by the door while she tried to locate another apartment. Julie, flat broke, didn't know how she could finance a move. I was feeling stubborn. I have 41 boxes of books that are no pleasure to cart from one apartment to another. And, because we'd signed a lease that made us responsible for the rent until August, I didn't want to give in.

I knew that if we left without written documents proving that the place was uninhabitable, Tummelson would be able to soak us for the full rent. It was his strategy, I think, to be so uncooperative that we would break the lease.

## ATTACK

So we began a two-pronged attack on the landlord and his flunkies, the guys who would tell us that the furnace was a piece of trash but wouldn't sign any papers to that effect.

First, we began to investigate the legal agencies that could put pressure on the landlord to repair the furnace. The Urbana-Champaign Tenant's Union is a well-established, well-staffed organization that began to give us legal advice about our rights.



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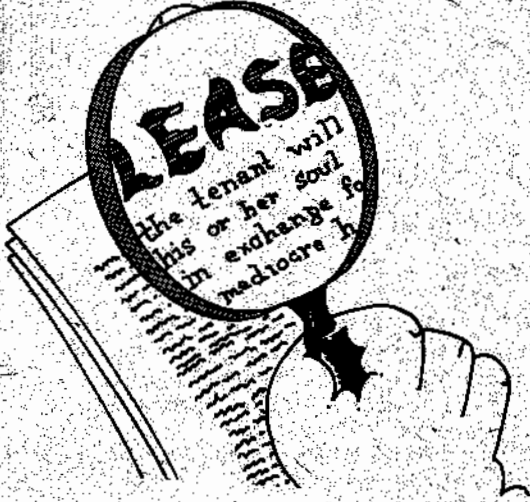
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# song of triumph

We had a right to a copy of building inspector's report. We could file a complaint which would authorize them to act in our behalf. We found out that Lincolnland Legal Aid would probably be able to assist us. We could, according to a social worker friend, call in the Attorney General. We considered media outlets, like Action line.

At the same time, we started asking persistent, pointed questions of the



plumbers. What had caused the boiler to overheat in the first place? Had the boiler cracked and let the water drain out? Why hadn't the flame under the boiler shut off? Finally we began to get some answers.

The plumbers revealed that the whole problem had been caused by a malfunction in the safety valve, called the low-water cut off valve. For years, this safety valve had been ignored. Water was supposed to be flushed through this valve weekly to clear it of sediment and rust that builds up inside. But because the

landlord had been remiss in this basic maintenance, the valve system had filled up with sludge.

If the low-water cut-off is functioning properly, a float will drop when the water in the boiler falls below a certain level. When the float falls, an electric current shuts off the flame under the boiler. No burning flame, no overheating.

## BLAM?

When the valve is filled with sludge, the float can't drop. The flame keeps burning. The furnace overheats like a an empty kettle on top of a lit burner. And if it continues to overheat--Blam!

We made what we thought was a very elegant suggestion. Why not repair the safety valve? **Everybody** was amazed at the simplicity of the solution. Koble agreed. Dickerson agreed. They even convinced Tummelson and he agreed.

So with jubilant shouts of victory, Kathy, Julie, and I watched a brand new, second back-up safety valve system get installed, and and heard Dickerson, the City of Urbana building inspector pronounce the system safe. We felt the confidence that comes from really understanding how the system works and had the satisfaction of knowing that we had fought until they had made the building safe for people to occupy.

So we thought. Several days after the work had been completed, Kathy and Julie at around midnight went into the basement, just to check things out. They were practically knocked off their feet when they opened the basement door by a strong gassy odor. Once again, we called the Illinois Power people to check out the gas.

Remember the carbon monoxide that had been detected earlier? When the IP person came, he found a **lethal** level of carbon monoxide gas in the basement. We were to **evict immediately**.

## REPAIRED

Tummelson was furious when we called him. No, he would not come out, he said. But soon, at one o'clock in the morning, he was there to make sure that "we girls" all had someplace to stay. It was kind of satisfying to see him forced to be so concerned. A landlord is, I believe, responsible for providing temporary housing if a residence tenants have a right to occupy becomes uninhabitable.

The plumber showed up soon afterwards to find--as we discovered the next day, a bird's nest and some dead birds blocking the chimney which carried waste gas up and out of the house.

So the furnace is once again (knock on wood) in good repair. At least, if the water in the boiler boils away again, the new safety valves should shut off the flame.

What we learned from all this toil and trouble is to fight them. Don't let them back you into a position where you're legally responsible, as we would have been had we broken the lease. Make them fix their buildings instead of letting them rent to unwitting tenants who don't know that the building they're moving into is unsafe. We all have to live in these buildings, so we all need to explore every possibility, find every legal agency to help us assert our rights. Safe housing is our right...•

--Martha Washington

## Use good sense in buying medicine

Many consumers have the habit of buying certain "brand names" without bothering to compare different products for ingredients and price. This is especially true in the area of medicine, even though stricter labeling requirements make comparison shopping in medicines easier and potentially more profitable. It can result in buying better products at less cost.

Often a more expensive brand (the more well-known, "prestige" brand) will contain the same exact ingredients as the discount brand. The consumer of medicines should remember that it is the amount and kind of ingredients--not the name brand--which indicates how well a product will work. Even the cheapest medicine products have to meet certain federal standards of purity (the Food, Drug, and Chemical standards).

An example can be found in pain-killers. Norwich aspirin contains just as much aspirin (5 grains, or 325 mg.) as Bayer aspirin does, and costs much less. Walgreen's No-Aspirin and Super-X Pain Reliever both contain as much acetaminophen (5 grains) as Tylenol.

Acetaminophen is a non-aspirin pain-killer which is helpful when an individual must take pain-killers daily or more often on an empty stomach. (Occasional use of aspirin, however, should not hurt an individual without ulcers. A glass of water after an aspirin will help.)

Acetaminophen is also good when one has a severe headache, and wishes a stronger pain-killer: two aspirin and two acetaminophen will produce a stronger pain-killer. For most

people, aspirin is the cheapest pain-killer, and is effective.

For nasal congestion, and the sneezing and runny nose associated with colds and allergy, the most effective (and cheapest) remedy with the least side-effects seems to be nose drops or spray (drops are less expensive, and just as effective). An effective ingredient is phenylephrine hydrochloride (HCl). It is found in Neo-Synephrine and other brands. The best method is to dilute it; buy the 1% solution and dilute it down to 3/8% by adding three tablespoons of water to a one-ounce bottle.



Being an intelligent consumer also means being an assertive patient. It is a good idea to know what you take. In the case of prescription medicine, this might mean going to the library, and asking for the PDR (Physician's Desk Reference) and looking up the brand name of the drug to see what it is.

The PDR will tell what the uses are (called indications) and when the drug should not be used (contra-indications). Side-effects are also listed

(not under that name), and one should note that these are only possible side-effects--they do not occur to everyone by a longshot. But if you do have these side-effects, you will know a possible explanation. If they are severe enough, you should ask your doctor to reconsider his or her prescription.

The PDR has many long words. You (like me) may need a medical dictionary to look up many of these words; but the PDR can be decoded, it just takes some patience and a good dictionary.

The PDR has another use. Once you've found out what chemical or chemicals the brand name contains, you can look up the chemical in another section and find out what other brands have the same thing. You can then go into a discount drugstore (not to push Walgreen's, but it does have a book with prices in it) and see which of these brands is least expensive. By buying the least expensive brand at a discount drugstore, you may save a significant amount of money.

But you must be assertive. After you've found a less expensive alternative to the brand and store your doctor is prescribing, you have to inform him or her. Hopefully she/he will be cooperative--if she/he is excessively stubborn about letting you get off less expensively, you might well consider another doctor. But that's up to you.

I think consumers should be "armed with the facts." If we are not, we may end up buying an inferior product and paying out a lot more money than we have to...•

--Dave Burdette



# 'Norma Rae'--Union Maid

With its steady diet of little love tales, saccharin disco musicals and galactic horse operas, Tinseltown rarely bothers to convey real life with that special and dramatic power it holds.

Well, finally it has.

"Norma Rae" is a real movie about real people who could just as easily be you or me. And beyond that, it will probably go down as one of the greats in film history, a tale of struggle and human warmth which is realistic and touching.

"Norma Rae," produced by Martin Ritt and starring Sally Fields, in a superb performance, is the story of a modern-day labor struggle--and more. It's the story of the transformation of one "lower-class mill hand" woman into a dignified and fighting-proud woman.

"Norma Rae" is set in a very real modern battleground--the textile mills of the American South. The name of the factory could just as well be J. P. Stevens, as the cotton dust settles around the victimized mill hands.

This epic doesn't pretend to be about a gigantic, "class struggle" revolution, with militant workers confronting exploiting bosses. Instead it deals with people familiar to all of us, part of all of us. People who are struggling to earn an honest day's wage, and maybe make the world a little better for their children while they're at it.

Norma Rae is just another worker in the mills, like both her parents. She has two children, one legitimate and one not. Her husband was killed in a beer bottle clash. Norma's "just gettin' by," and tries to find some meaning in life by having frequent sexual trysts at the local motel.

*Solidarity Forever!*

But something's missing, and she grapples for a sense of dignity and purpose. And she's fascinated by a young man, played by Ron Leibman, who leaflets the mill at every shift and hangs around being friendly. He's trying to organize a union, and no one gives him half a chance, partly because he's Jewish and undoubtedly communist. But this oddness is what intrigues Norma.

Slowly, surely, Norma Rae and a few of her fellow workers become convinced that a union is their only salvation. Norma Rae's search for meaning ends with her transformation into a fighting woman.



The film succeeds without being melodramatic or depending on the violence often typical of organizing situations. We see, instead, the hard moments, the long hours over the typewriter, the leafletting and churning the mimeograph machine that are crucial to an organizing campaign.

Slowly, Norma Rae learns she has rights, and a new-found dignity blossoms. And her change into a committed fighter, able and willing to stand up for her rights, sparks the rest of the mill hands to life.

The only unanswered questions have to do with the male-female relationships. Norma remarries during the film and loves her husband, but he remains indifferent to the organizing effort. Yet her relationship

with Reuben, the organizer, remains touchingly platonic (non-sexual). This is a realistic problem of such campaigns and changes: one human being can change, and a spouse or friend can suddenly seem miles away. The film attempts to portray this separation, but it falters because the husband, Beau Bridges, remains a "nice guy" enigma, without a full character.

But Norma Rae shines through. And from someone manipulated by the foreman she becomes a true leader, able to shut down the entire mill.

Producing the movie itself required sacrifices. Martin Ritt was turned down by 3 studios before Twentieth Century accepted it, but with a cut in his pay. Ritt has made political films before, like "The Front" and "The Molly Maguires," but in this instance he's succeeded beyond those films, capturing the slow changes and long struggles of daily life.

An honest experience of a labor struggle shines through. But even more touching are the people--honest, sometimes frightened, working people, trying to survive their daily grind. These are real people, people we are, people we know. And that's what makes "Norma Rae" special. Go see it. •

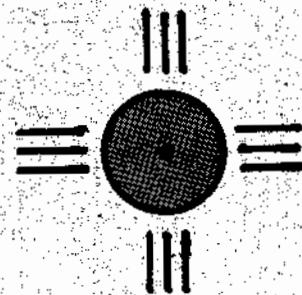
--MGM

Watch For: "The Deer Hunter," starring Robert DeNiro, about steelworkers let loose in a Vietnam hell; "The China Syndrome" with Jane Fonda, about nuclear no-no's; "The Bell Jar," in which Sylvia Plath comes to the screen; and "On the Yard," a realistic look at prison life.

*History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation thru its own efforts.*  
-Emma Goldman



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# News media aid state in Pontiac frame.up

by Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition

If Governor Thompson and his political cronies get their way, the Pontiac Rebellion of July 22 will result in one of the largest legal lynchings of black people in the history of this country.

Further, the State's refusal to end the deadlock, their announced plans to build new prisons far away from prisoners' families, the actual shipping of some prisoners out of the state (even further from their families and supporters), all suggest that Thompson has a major "law and order" plan up his sleeve.

And the July 22 Rebellion will be used to justify it.

The details of Thompson's plan are not clear at this time. But it is clear that his plan involves both the use of the electric chair and massive repression of the State's present and future prisoners who are mostly black.

It also seems likely that Thompson will try to use his plan to boost him to the U.S. presidency.

## Early reports

While the major news media do not all support Jim Thompson's Presidential ambitions, they are supporting his plans.

The first reports of the July 22 Rebellion and the following "news analyses" built up three images.

The first was that the cause of the rebellion was "overcrowding" and "understaffing."

The action itself was portrayed as a spontaneous "riot."

The people involved, according to media, were "animals," "vicious," and "drug addicts" (and all were black).

Let's look at some examples:

"Governor Thompson Saturday night blamed the 'tragic' rioting at the Pontiac Correctional Center on 'chronic' overcrowding of inmates and shortages of guards." (Chicago Sun Times, July 23, 1978)

"There are just a lot of vicious people inside. It was a spontaneous anti-authoritarian move." (Charles J. Rowe, then Director of Department of Corrections, quoted in Chicago Sun Times, July 24, 1978)

"If people are going to act like animals, then we have to treat them like animals. I feel like a zookeeper trying to tame and trying to train and getting my arm bit off when I try... People talk about rehabilitation, but you have to be rehabilitated before you can be rehabilitated." (Ex-Stateville Warden, Morris, quoted in Chicago Tribune, July 30, 1978)

Also, these early "reports" included a flood of articles about the dead guards which were clearly designed to provoke sympathy for the guards and hatred for the prisoners:

By turning a spontaneous act of human resistance to brutal conditions into a senseless act caused by crowding too many animals into one pen, the media helped to justify Governor Thompson's plans.

Yet despite such skillful propaganda, some problems developed with the plan.

First, a suit by prisoners over the conditions of the deadlock after

July 22 brought out considerable response in sympathy with the prisoners.

Secondly, it became clear to government investigators that it would be hard to make massive use of the death penalty without some sort of conspiracy. Thompson's line that the "riot" was a spontaneous attack by some wild animals had to be altered.

## Creating conspiracy

The Chicago Tribune, one of the state's most influential and sophisticated daily newspapers, handled this situation particularly "well." First they turned loose one of their finest right wing propagandists--Bob Weidrich--to write a series of articles on prisons in Illinois.

Weidrich's articles (20 to date) hammer relentlessly on the theme that prisoners are vicious, drug-crazed animals:

"In the darkness I tried to imagine what it must be like to be confronted by rioting prisoners armed with homemade knives and steel pipes..." (Weidrich, Chicago Tribune, October 2, 1978)

"Pontiac State Prison guards charge a majority of the 2000 inmates are on a constant drug trip..." (Weidrich, Chicago Tribune, October 3, 1978)

"If there's enough of them, they won't need knives, they'll just beat you to death or use a guitar string to cut your throat." (Weidrich quoting a guard, Chicago Tribune, October 3, 1978)

"For decades official and public neglect of the state's maximum security institutions has permitted them to lapse into cesspools of violence." (Weidrich, Chicago Tribune, November 8, 1978, emphasis added)

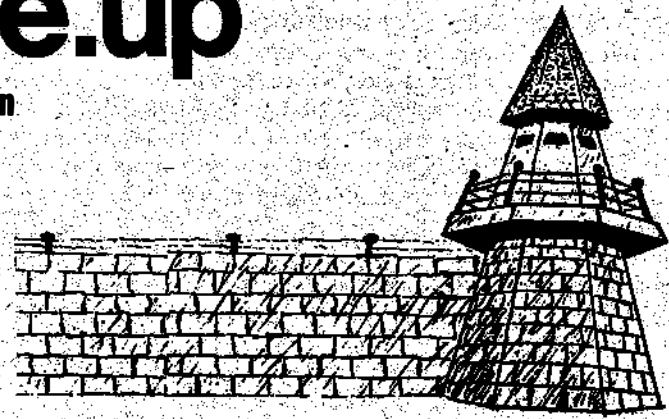
"They were like a pack of wild dogs once they smelled blood." (Weidrich quoting a guard, Chicago Tribune, December 3, 1978)

Weidrich also introduced another element into his articles--the answer



to Thompson's need for a conspiracy. It was that "street gangs run the prison."

Weidrich and the Tribune editorially have hammered on and on about "gangs" in prisons. Eleven of Weidrich's articles between October 26 and January 22 focus on the idea that the rebellion was planned and that "gangs" run both Pontiac and Stateville.



In an interview with Danny Dill, a guard injured during the rebellion, Weidrich quotes Dill's contention that the action was planned. "It happened so fast. It was so well organized." (Chicago Tribune December 3, 1978)

In an article published on November 29, Weidrich describes "a prisoner with a warden's power." On December 4, "Gangs Still Hold Power in Prison," Weidrich prints his second interview with Dill, in which he puts forth Dill's view that the guards who died on July 22 were victims of a gang hit contract. On December 14, Weidrich charges that many of the (black) guards are themselves gang members.

So the line put forth by the Governor and the Tribune has changed. The "riot" is no longer a spontaneous response to overcrowding, but an example of what happens when you let "street gangs" run the prison. Now all Thompson has to do is to fire a few prison officials and execute those accused of being gang leaders in the electric chair. To date Thompson has fired Pinkney (former warden at Pontiac), two of Pinkney's aides, and Charles Rowe (former Director of the Department of Corrections). He has at the time of this printing gone to the grand jury seeking capital indictments.

## More distortion

But the Tribune has not stopped even at this. Their most masterful stroke was their misuse of a truly fine piece of investigative reporting by Bill Recktenwald. Recktenwald worked as a guard inside Pontiac, took pictures, and wrote a series of three articles that showed the brutality of the institution and many of its guards. But the thrust of the Recktenwald articles was turned completely upside down by the Tribune in its later articles, to the position of "this is what happens when you let the gangs run an institution."

Just before the release of the Recktenwald series (but after they were written), Weidrich comments on the firing of Pontiac Warden Pinkney:

"Pinkney is only a sacrificial goat on the altar of the liberal thinking which holds that all men are capable of rehabilitation... In theory that's nice. In practice, it can be disastrous as any guard and many an inmate can tell you. Give gang leaders the run of the prison. Invest them with authority almost equaling that of the warden. And pretty soon it is the inmates, not their keepers, who are running the prison." (Weidrich, Chicago Tribune, October 26, 1978)

"An institution out of control" is the Tribune's new line. While they put some blame on Thompson, the real scapegoat is Charles Rowe, who Thompson conveniently fired. (See Weidrich article of November 1, 1978, and Tribune editorial of November 2,)

Meanwhile the Tribune and Weidrich, with support from other major news

Continued on next page



# Prisoner condemns sheriff's 'totalitarian' methods

**POST NOTE:** Because a butcher knife was discovered missing from the county jail's kitchen, Sheriff Steve Brienien ordered a massive evacuation and search of the entire jail area March 2. All 57 prisoners were stripped, bodily searched, and taken outside to wait under shotgun-toting guards while other officers searched each cell.

As the Post goes to press, the knife still hasn't been found.

On March 3, two prisoners released from the jail talked to the Post-Amerikan about the shakedown. Later, the following letter arrived from prisoner Bob Love.

We are printing Love's letter, and adjoining stories add details from interviews with Sheriff Brienien and the released prisoners.

Visit the McLean County Jail for a little touch of Hitler's action. Our new Sheriff, Steve Brienien, has the touch of a true totalitarian. Himmler would have really liked to have our sheriff's staff running his SS.

A good example of this is the humiliation and degrading of the prisoners in the large-scale evacuation and shakedown on March 2nd of this year. Guards pulled the inmates out of our cellblocks to be shaken down one at a time in front of a closed circuit TV camera monitored by women guards.

After the shakedown, the inmates were told to strip, then to bend over and grab their ankles. Then we were checked out to see if in fact there was a knife hidden up somebody's anus.

It seems to me that if this kind of check is necessary, it should be done

by a doctor, not a deputy sheriff. This kind of degradation breaks a person's spirit, especially since the complete strip-search was done in front of a TV camera, and the prisoners didn't know who was watching.

After the shakedowns, the inmates were cuffed with our hands behind our backs and walked to the outside garage and told to sit down. "If you move, you will be shot. Do you understand?" These were the exact words of Chief Deputy Ed Farrell.

Wearing only our coveralls, we prisoners sat out in 34 degree weather for about three hours. We weren't able to move, even to go to the bathroom. It seemed like any moment we would hear the gas pellets drop, and that would be the end of us as it was with the Jews in WWII.

"What more could happen?" asked one inmate who didn't even know what was going on and why.

Some of the men weren't even allowed to put on shoes and were sitting in this cold, damp garage while guards wore their coats. If they were cold, surely they must have known we were too. A woman's voice came over the microphone from the control room and said, "What's the matter? Are you cold?"

When we were taken back to our cells, we found out what else could have happened. Our personal mail had been gone through, magazines and books were confiscated, and all except one pencil was taken away. Some people in GED classes, as I am, need more than one pencil.

What kind of people work for our sheriff? What kind of person would look at pictures of another man's wife or sweetheart, read personal mail, and then not even have the respect to put the letters back in the envelopes?

Could there have been a knife in the mail? Is that why it was necessary for them to go through our mail and pictures?

Or is it because these guards are people that like the chance to use their power over a person behind bars?

Also, aren't these guards paid enough to buy candy bars? I ask this question because I had two candy bars missing after the shakedown. When I asked where they were I was told, "I don't know." The wrappers were in the next cell over, and the man there didn't have any candy.

I guess during the shakedown a guard got hungry so he helped himself to my candy. After all, it was free.

After the shakedown, they kept us on lock-up two more days--until Sunday March 4th.

If there was something missing from the kitchen, what do we have to do with that up here? We never get within 20 yards of the kitchen unless there is a secret door I don't know about.

We were told we could not have anything to read until later. We don't have access to law books, which is one of our rights.

The staff decides if our mail is going out or coming in. If they don't think we need it, we don't get it. I have had undelivered mail in my personal property envelope that I was never told about until last week.

I haven't even been convicted yet and I feel like I'm waiting to be executed. The sheriff's staff seems to think that the constitution of the United States should be rewritten. The warlords that run this county's jail apparently believe in guilty until proven innocent, not innocent until proven guilty.

If you have a public defender, you'll be lucky to see him before you get into court. Then all he can say is "I got you a good deal. Plead guilty." They very seldom try to win a case for you. Between them and this county jail, it's no wonder there are so many young people sent to prison. The system makes you plead guilty, just to get out of this jail.

If the taxpayers of McLean County only knew how the officials run this county law enforcement agency, I believe they would ask for an investigation into these matters.

I have seen older people come into this jail who have been smoking for 25 or 30 years. They have had their smoking privileges taken away. Can you imagine what that would be like?

People who have medicine for heart problems have their medicine taken away until it can be analyzed, which by then could be too late. If you come into the jail on a Saturday morning and need your medicine, you can't have it until Monday night because that is when the doctor gets here.

There is no doctor here on the weekend.

These are just some of the everyday problems of this county jail. As I write this letter, I even wonder if it will make it out of this jail. I've sent notes to the jail warden before to ask to see him. Once while I was out cleaning two days later, I found my note in the social worker's trash can.

If they don't want you to talk to anybody about the conditions in this jail, they just keep you out of contact with the outside world. Even the sheriff doesn't get letters written to him. First it goes to a shift sergeant, then a social worker, then the warden. If these people feel it is important enough, the sheriff might get it.

Most of the time it doesn't make it past the social worker, though.

An investigation of this county jail may save someone's life. Would you want to be treated like this?

Only you, the people of the county, can put an end to the endless torments and psychological games played in this jail.

The jail social worker has more say than the guards do. She doesn't know if she is doing the right things or not, but she tries to be a dictator in her own way. One problem is that you can never see her because she spends more of the day downstairs eating than she does



up here talking to the inmates. I could go on for days about this jail, but in the shakedown they also took most of my paper.

I still do not know what kind of weapon they were looking for.

This is what we in this cell block would like to know: did they ever find the knife they lost?

--C Block Robert Love

## Prisoner held illegally

Sheriff Brienien's March 2 strip-search and shakedown of all the jail's prisoners is even more outrageous when you realize that many of the prisoners have never even been convicted of a crime--they are just housed in the jail while waiting for relatives of friends to bring bail money.

Jon Snyder was arrested on a drug charge and sent to the county jail to wait for bail. The sheriff's police are supposed to release a prisoner when someone brings the bail money.

But when Snyder's ex-wife arrived with the bail money at 1 pm Friday March 2, the Sheriff's police were already planning their massive

search and shakedown. Since the cops didn't want Snyder to miss any of the fun, they told his ex-wife to come back with the money in the evening.

Snyder didn't get out until 11:30 that night. Until his release, nobody even told him that his ex-wife had arrived with the money earlier.

If the sheriff's police had obeyed the bail law, Snyder would have been released at 1 pm Friday. Instead, Snyder was forced to endure a strip search, an anal inspection in front of TV cameras, and to spend much of the day freezing outdoors with his hands cuffed behind his back.

--Mark Silverstein

## More on jail shakedown

The writer of the adjoining letter, Bob Love, was in one of two cellblocks who were taken to the outdoor sallyport to wait while the jail was searched.

Chuck Long was in a different cellblock and was taken--along with most of the jail's prisoners--to the "yards", an outdoor cement-floored area on the jail's roof.

After the strip-searches and anal inspections of each member of his cellblock, Long said Correctional Officer Dave Goldberg addressed the group. "You will be taken now to the yard and told to sit down. If anyone moves or stands up, we will shoot to kill and ask questions later," Goldberg said, according to Long.

Long said prisoners from other cellblocks were already in the yard. He said two deputies were standing guard with 12-gauge pump shotguns, and a sergeant had a .45 machine gun.

After 45 minutes in the yard, according to Long, chief Deputy Ed Farrell came

out. He told everyone to shut up or else they would be forced to lie face down on the cement until they were brought inside.

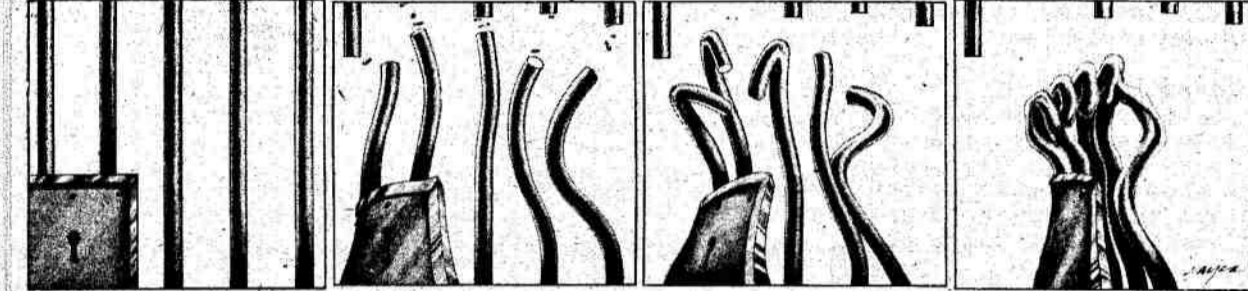
Long said some of the men had already been outside for several hours and were getting cold. He said most of the prisoners had no shoes, and a lot didn't have socks.

When he returned to his cellblock, Long found a lot missing. All reading material had been confiscated; some items purchased from the commissary were gone, and photos and pictures that prisoners had on the walls had been taken down.

Long said that the jail trustees had been saying that a jail employee--not a prisoner--had taken the knife the officers were searching for.

After putting prisoners through this unnecessary and degrading ordeal, now Sheriff Brienien, too, understands that none of the prisoners was guilty.

-M.S.



## Anal search not degrading, sheriff says

When interviewed by the Post-Amerikan, Sheriff Steve Brienien admitted that female correctional officers could easily have watched the strip-searches and anal inspections of each of the jail's 57 prisoners March 2.

The massive search and shakedown was ordered after a large butcher knife was discovered missing from the jail's kitchen.

Instead of searching the men in their cellblocks, Brienien instructed his officers to make each prisoner strip in the jail's hallways. The hallways all have closed-circuit TV cameras which are monitored from the jail's control room.

After stripping, each prisoner was ordered to bend over for an anal inspection.

Female correctional officers work in the control room, and Sheriff Brienien admitted that they could have been watching the anal searches on the TV monitors.

"But that's no violation," Brienien

added quickly. "There's no civil rights violation in that."

I told Brienien that prisoners in contact with the Post-Amerikan thought that the anal search, especially in front of TV cameras, was unnecessarily degrading and dehumanizing.

"Well, I'd have to take exactly the opposite position," Brienien added firmly.

Brienien went on to defend his actions by talking about the potential danger posed by a butcher knife being loose somewhere in the jail.

Did he think they would find the knife hidden in someone's rectum?

Although the knife was never found, Brienien doesn't think his shakedown was an overreaction. "At least we know it's not in the jail," he said.

The prisoners are now vindicated, apparently, but they never received any apology. Brienien says he is now investigating jail staff and civilian employees, and many are being asked to take polygraph tests.

--Mark Silverstein

## Media aid frame-up (cont.)

media, completely smother the Recktenwald series with a barrage of articles (18 by Weidrich alone!) that hammer at the theme that Pontiac and Stateville are out of control, run by "gangs."

### Fighting back

The Tribune is engaging in a subtle form of jury screening. No matter what jurors are selected, they will have been influenced by the overall pattern of Tribune articles, editorials and news analyses. And that pattern is designed to justify mass executions.

With Rowe fired and a new position established about Pontiac, Thompson hopes that the way is clear for his plan of genocide and repression.

Will Thompson and his allies in the media be able to pull off a mass

lynching and their repressive "law and order" plan? The answer to that is no! All of us united in the City Wide Coalition to Free the Pontiac Brothers, including the Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition, are determined to turn Thompson's plan into a shambles. We are doing this by organizing speaking engagements, developing a slide show, and distributing this and other literature that tells the truth about Pontiac.

We are raising money for the legal defense of anyone indicted for the Pontiac rebellion. We are building a movement to defend the Pontiac Brothers and to put an end to Thompson's efforts to climb to the Presidency over the bodies of black prisoners. We would like you to help us in this effort.

(Write to PPSC, 2955 E. 88th St., Chicago 60617)



A lot of people know what food stamps are. But for readers who don't, here is a short explanation.

The government's Food Stamp Program lets low-income people buy food more cheaply. You spend the stamps like money at food stores.

Let's say you go to the Public Aid office at 719 W. Chestnut in Bloomington to apply for food stamps. How do the workers there decide if you get them or not?

First, eligibility (whether or not you can get them) for food stamps is figured out according to national rules. These national standards are set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The same standards are used by every county in the country to figure out whether a person is eligible.

First, Public Aid must accept an application for food stamps from any person who wants to apply. Jimmy Carter can apply. The Easter Bunny can apply. A five-year-old can apply. Anybody can apply.

Now, mind you, it might not do you any good to apply. But they have to let you do it.

## HOUSEHOLD

The food stamp people use the term household a lot. A household could be one person or it could be twenty. A household is all the people who live together, buy food together and eat it (at least sometimes) together.

Household has to do with money. If you share both living and food expenses with other people, you're part of a household. If you pay for your food yourself, you're a household all by yourself.

You don't have to be related to the other people by blood or marriage to be part of a household.

Two or more people living in the same house but not sharing food are each separate households.

It's important to know what the food stamp people mean by household because all of the eligibility standards go by household. If there are other people in your household, you have to meet the eligibility standards as a group.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

To get food stamps, you have to live in the same county in which you apply for the stamps. You don't always have to be a citizen of the U.S., but some classes of "aliens" (non-citizens) aren't eligible.

At least some of the information that the food stamp people hand out doesn't say that you have to have an address to get food stamps. But an outreach worker for the program has said that you do have to have an address. And the application form asks for your address.

So, it's probably a very good idea to get an address before you apply for food stamps, even if it's only a place to park your car--if you're living in one--and pick up your mail.

Depending on a lot of different things, you may have to be registered with the Illinois Employment Service for work if you're not working at a paying job--or are on strike--when you apply for food stamps. Here are some examples of people who don't have to register: people who are physically unable to work, AABD recipients, people under 18 or over 65, and people who take care of dependent people.



Now the complicated part of figuring out whether someone is eligible for food stamps has to do with their resources and their income. If you have too many resources or too much income, you can't get stamps. (Resources are things like cash, savings and checking accounts, property, clothing, etc. I'll explain more as we go along.)

## RESOURCES

The Food Stamp Program divides resources into two groups. In one group, you can have as many as you have and still get stamps. In the other, you can only have so much or you're ineligible.

First I'll list the resources that don't count. They are called exempt resources. You can have any of these and they don't make it any harder to get food stamps:

1. Homestead property. This is property that you own and you live on.
2. Clothing and personal effects.
3. Household furnishings.
4. One licensed motor vehicle in value up to \$4,500 (car, motorcycle, etc.). Also, you can have a second licensed motor vehicle if it's for your job if less than \$4,500.
5. Cash value of life insurance policy--one per person.
6. "Income-producing property essential to self-support or property producing income consistent with its fair market value." This is a hard one to figure out, but it has to do with renting to people. If you own property and rent it out, the property itself doesn't count at all. But you subtract insurance, interest, and taxes from the rent and then count what's left as income, which we'll get to in a little while.
7. Payments under Title II, the Uniform Reloca-

tion Assistance and Real Properties Acquisition Act of 1970. This is money that you get from the government when it knocks your house down and tells you to move.

8. Native American lands.
9. Prorated or averaged income for self-employed persons or students. (This will be explained more when--if--we get to income. I hope you can hold out that long.)

OK. Those things are resources that don't count when figuring out if you can get food stamps.

Next, I'm going to list the things they do count. Of the things in the list that follows, your household can have up to \$1750 worth of stuff. But, if your household has two or more people in it and at least one of the people is over 60, then you can have \$3000 worth of stuff instead of \$1750. Any more and that's it. No food stamps.

These are called non-exempt resources, or assets:

1. "Readily negotiable liquid assets." Examples of these are cash, savings and checking accounts,

In 1961, one of the first eight food stamp programs began on a trial basis in Franklin County here in Illinois. By 1969, all Illinois counties had the Food Stamp Program, which is part of Public Aid.

In June, 1975, an Outreach Plan was started to get the word about food stamps out to all

# FOOD

## How to Get 'Em

U.S. Savings Bonds, Certificates of deposit, stocks and bonds.

2. "Money received as lump-sum benefits." For instance, income tax refunds.
3. "Non-liquid resources." This would be land, buildings, boats, planes, etc. But remember, it doesn't include the property you live on. This category also includes those extra cars you couldn't squeeze into number four in the other group of resources.

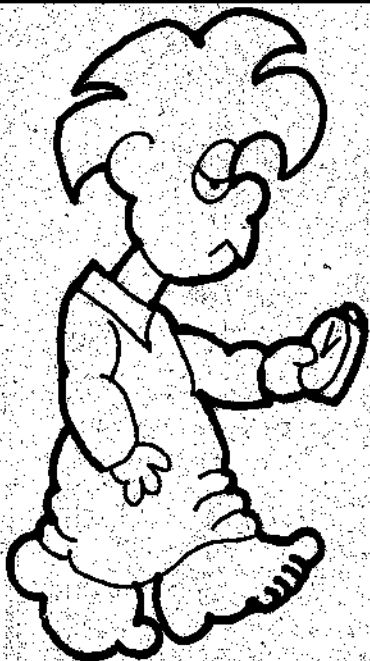
## INCOME

We're finally at income, which I've been promising to explain for quite a few paragraphs.

If you're part of an "assistance household"--if you're already getting some kind of public aid--you can ask the Public Aid people for information about how much income you can have and still receive food stamps.

If you're not already getting some kind of public aid, this is the rap on income and food stamps.

Like resources, income is divided into two groups--the income that matters when figuring



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out whether you can get food stamps and the income that doesn't matter.

The government demands that you report all income, whether it's exempt (the kind that doesn't count) or non-exempt (the kind that does). Some people are pretty upset about "welfare cheaters," and they're not talking about the airlines that the government pays to keep flying back and forth across the ocean with hardly any passengers. That's called a subsidy.

And they're not talking about all the money Nixon gets to sit out in California and get a tan. That's called--well, you can call it whatever you want.

Anyway, what with the "welfare cheater" hysteria, if you don't report all your income, it's possible you could get into bunches of trouble--if they catch you.

### INCOME THAT DOESN'T COUNT

So here is the list of exempt income--income that they don't count. Remember, they figure out the income of the household as a whole group.

they pay your bills, that's counted as non-exempt income.

4. Medical payments made by a non-household member for your household. This is an exception to the last rule (no. 3).
5. Irregular income under \$25 for every three months which you can't count on ahead of time. This could include shoveling walks, mowing lawns, babysitting, etc. But it can only add up to \$25 for the whole household.
6. "Non-recurring lump-sum benefits" like income tax refunds and insurance settlements. These things are counted, but they're considered resources instead of income.
7. 20% of your gross income from your job or training.
8. All loans except educational loans.
9. Compensation received for services performed under Title VI, Older Americans Act.

### INCOME THAT COUNTS

And this is the list of non-exempt income, the money they do count when figuring out if you are eligible for food stamps:

1. "Compensation received as an employee." This is what you earn at your job--wages, tips, etc.
2. Self-employment income and farming operations, except the following four things:
  - "A. Payments on principal for real estate or capital assets.
  - "B. Payments on principal of the purchase cost of income-producing real estate.

"C. Depreciation or dependency deductions claimed for Federal Income Tax.  
 "D. Net loss in any previous period."  
 (If you're self-employed, when you figure out your income for food stamps, you subtract your costs from the gross and that's your income. Then this income, which is called net income, is averaged by the food stamp people over a year. If it's farm income, the averaging may be uneven to match the way the money really comes in.)

3. Payments from roomers or boarders. This is another complicated area, unfortunately. A

roomer is somebody who pays you to live in the same house you live in. All the money the roomer pays your household (to live in your home) is considered income. Roomers are not counted as part of your household. A roomer can get food stamps.

A boarder is somebody who pays you to feed her or him regularly but doesn't pay you to live in your home. Depending on how much the boarder pays you, either part or all of the boarder's payment is considered income for your household. If a household has three or more boarders, the whole household is ineligible because then it's a boarding house, and boarding houses can't get food stamps. A boarder, like a roomer, is not considered part of the household and you only receive food stamps as an independent household.

A roomer-boarder is somebody who pays you at least \$50 for both lodging and meals. Subtract \$50 from what the roomer-boarder pays you for lodging and meals and that amount is what is counted as income for your household.

If somebody is paying you less than \$50 for room and board, that person is considered a member of your household. And that changes everything: his or her income and resources are then added in with everybody else's.

### MORE INCOME THAT COUNTS

We still have five more kinds of non-exempt income to cover, but they're easy ones:

4. Payments received as annuities, pensions, etc. SMIB payments subtracted from social security benefits are included in this.
5. Assistance payments and payments for foster children.
6. Payments from government programs like CETA.

of the state's low-income people.

In May 1977, the Post printed four pages about food stamps--what the regulations are, how to get them, how to complain. Since President Jimmy recently handed down to us new, not-so-improved food stamp regulations, we are plugging in the changed regulations and reprinting our 1977 article about

# STAMPS

## and Stuff Like That

Post-American page 19

1. The earnings of a member of the household who is under 18 and who is in school at least half-time.
2. Payments from Uniform Relocation Assistance (the money the government gives you for moving expenses when they knock your house down to build a parking lot).
3. Any gain or benefit which is not money. This means groceries, clothes, etc., that a friend just gives to your household. This does not include somebody who's not in your household paying for your rent or utilities, though. They can buy something to give you as a gift, but if

"C. Depreciation or dependency deductions claimed for Federal Income Tax.  
 "D. Net loss in any previous period."  
 (If you're self-employed, when you figure out your income for food stamps, you subtract your costs from the gross and that's your income. Then this income, which is called net income, is averaged by the food stamp people over a year. If it's farm income, the averaging may be uneven to match the way the money really comes in.)

3. Payments from roomers or boarders. This is another complicated area, unfortunately. A



7. Payments made by somebody who's not part of your household for things like your rent and utilities. But remember, if they pay medical bills, it's exempt income.
8. (The last one!) Educational grants, loans or scholarships that can be used toward everyday living expenses. So, you don't have to count money you get for tuition and required lab fees. This money that you get that's used for daily life will be averaged over the time covered by the loan or whatever.

Whew! We have only one more long, dreary list about income to plow through. This list is called allowable deductions from income.

### DEDUCTIONS

These are things that you can subtract from your income. And the smaller your income, the better your chance of getting food stamps. So, it's to your benefit to make sure the food stamp worker knows about any of these things:

1. Deductions from your job income that the law or your employer makes you take out. This includes local, state, and federal income taxes, social security taxes, and required union dues --anything that you don't have any choice about. If you can choose whether to deduct something from your wages, it doesn't count.



# Common Ground

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2. Food Stamp office graciously allows a standard deduction of \$65.
3. A household can deduct up to \$80 to cover costs of dependent care deduction. Dependent care deduction is money spent for baby-sitters or child care or for care for adults who are unable to care for themselves.
4. Shelter costs in excess of 50% of net income (net income is income minus deduction of 20% of earned income and minus the standard deduction of \$65). This means that your household is allowed to spend 50% of their income for rent and utilities. If you spend more than 50% you are allowed to subtract whatever is left from the \$80 in dependent care deduction #4 if you have that deduction, if not you can subtract the entire \$80 or what you need of that \$80.
4. Payments for child care if you're working or going to training classes for employment, like CETA. Your babysitter doesn't have to be licensed, and there's no maximum on this deduction—you can subtract the whole amount you spend.
5. Unexpected expenses because of things like property damage or loss from fire, theft, flood, storms, etc.
6. If they're not covered by a grant, you can deduct required lab fees and tuition for school.
7. Court-ordered payment for child support, alimony, or both. You can't deduct child support or alimony payments that you make just because you want to, and you can't deduct any money you give that's more than you were forced to pay by the court.

That's it for income!!

Based on your income, here is how the food stamp worker will figure out whether you qualify for food stamps:

If you're the only person in your household

and you make more than \$277 per month net income, you can't get food stamps. If you make \$277 or less, you can.

(Here's how you figure out your net income: First figure out your non-exempt income and then subtract your deductions from it.)

With two people in your household, the household's net income can't be more than \$365 and still be eligible for food stamps.

With three people in the household, the maximum net income is \$454 per month. With four people, it's \$542.

With five household members, the maximum is \$630. With six it's \$719. With seven, \$807. And with eight, it's \$895 net income per month.

For each extra household member over eight, add \$89 to \$895.

These dollar amounts can change every six months, but the basics of the program won't change very much for a while.

It's important to know that **YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGURE ALL THIS OUT BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR FOOD STAMPS.** The food stamp worker will help you figure it out, or do it for you. But I think it's a good idea to know ahead of time how they figure out if you qualify and what questions they'll ask.

It's easier to keep from getting screwed over that way.

## PROVING YOURSELF

Now, they're certainly not just going to take your word for anything. That's not the way things are at all.

You have to be able to prove all the statements you make about your resources and income. And of course, you do this by bringing a bunch of important paper with you when you apply.

If you pay rent, take a recent rent receipt with you. This should have on it the date, your rent rate, your address, your name, and the owner's name. Also take utility receipts.

If you own your home, take a recent property payment receipt. This should show the amount you paid and the date.

To prove what you make at your job, you should take your last paycheck stub or a statement from your boss.

If you get pension benefits (like social security, veteran's, railroad, retirement, disability, survivor's, etc.), you should take your award letter, check stub, eligibility notice, or monthly statement. If you don't have any of those, the food stamp worker can contact the office of the agency you're getting benefits from, but that might delay your stamps.

If you have trust funds, the food stamp worker will contact your trustee.

If you're getting unemployment or workingfolks' compensation, take your check stub, eligibility notice, or benefit card.

If you're making alimony payments, take your award letter. If you're making child support payments, take your divorce decree or court document.

If you rent to somebody, take copies of receipts and appropriate tax documents.

If you get dividends or interest payments or both, take your bank book or stock certificates.

If you're getting CETA or WIN payments, you should get a statement from the CETA office or, for WIN payments, from the county office.

If you're self-employed, take your tax forms. (If it's good enough for the feds, it's good enough for the locals.)

If you're getting payments for foster child care, the food stamp worker will contact the right agency.

To prove how much cash you have, you will sign a statement of that amount. If you have bank accounts, take your bank books. If you have stocks or bonds, take your stock and bond certificates. If you have real estate or a prepaid burial plan, take your title, deed, or contract document.

## SPECIAL OPTIONS

Well, that's it for long lists. I promise.

There are some special options in the food stamp program that you should know about before you apply. You can find out more about these options when you apply or by calling the Public Aid Office at 827-4621. The number is listed in the telephone directory's white pages under McLean County Department of Public Aid.

For instance, you can get a proxy if you want. A proxy is a person who can buy and spend your stamps for you.

Also you can have an authorized representative. This is a person that you say in writing can apply for food stamps for you, instead of someone in your household doing it. Applying for food stamps includes an interview, so this representative will be interviewed instead of you.



There are also special options for elderly people, for migrants, and for people living in an area that's been declared a disaster area.

It is sometimes possible to get emergency food stamps or "expedited services." If a person is eligible for expedited services, his/her application must be processed within 2 days. In other words, if a person who is eligible for expedited services submits an application with the DPA office on Monday, the Authorization to Purchase (ATP card) must be mailed by Wednesday afternoon or be ready to pick up at the office by Thursday morning.

Now in order to be eligible for expedited services a person must be determined to be destitute or have zero income. The Departments' definition for a destitute household is one that has received all income from a terminated source prior to the date of application for food stamps or are not going to receive more than \$25 from a new source within 10 days after the application. A person will be verified for food stamps for one month under the expedited services and all that has to be verified or checked to receive these services is the households' identity and residency. The food stamp office will then verify or check your income and bills within the month for their correctness.

## HOW TO APPEAL OR COMPLAIN

If you think that you should have gotten food stamps and the food stamp worker tells you that you can't, you can appeal. This is called a "fair hearing."

**YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TOLD ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING WHEN YOU FIRST APPLY FOR STAMPS. IF THEY DON'T TELL YOU, ASK.**

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# MORE FOOD STAMPS CONTINUED

You can either just ask for a hearing or you can put it in writing. Another person could do it for you, too. The Public Aid people MUST help you make out your request and prepare your case. If legal services are available, the public aid people should tell you about them.

If you are told you can't get food stamps, and you want to have a fair hearing, tell them **RIGHT AWAY**. It's probably best to put it in writing.

Also, if you ever get any information from the Public Aid office that you don't understand, ask them about it **IMMEDIATELY**. Sometimes there are time limits on things, and they don't tell you about them. It's important to read carefully everything they give you or mail to you, and if you don't understand something, ask questions.

If you want to complain about the way you've been treated or about a final decision that says you can't get food stamps, there are several things you can do. They might not do any good, but you can try.

One thing you can do is complain to the county supervisor, Gail Gillette. She's at the Public Aid office at 603 N. Center, Bloomington.

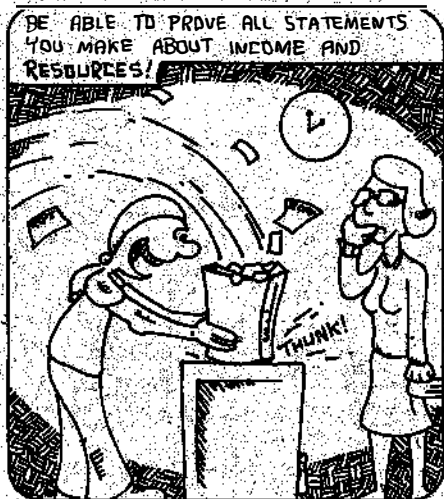
Another thing you can do is call or write to the Peoria regional office of Public Aid. The phone number there is 1-691-2200. (Try it collect, first.) Complaints made to both Gail Gillette and to the Peoria office are acted on at least sometimes.

It's always a good idea to put your complaint in

writing. You could also complain to the state director of public aid in Chicago. You can get that address from the Bloomington office.

## READ THIS EVEN IF YOU SKIP THE REST

**CALL AHEAD** if you're going to apply for food stamps. They're supposed to let you apply on the spot, but lots of people say that doesn't always happen.



**KEEP THE ORIGINAL COPIES OF ALL OF YOUR RECORDS.** When the food stamp worker asks for information to put on file, ask if she or he can make and keep a xeroxed copy of your

original receipt or whatever. You might need your original later, especially if it's a medical statement, something that is very popular with welfare agencies.

**KEEP ALL THE MAIL AND STATEMENTS** you get from the public aid office. If a problem comes up, you may need them. Write down the dates and the names of workers you talk to. Try to take a witness with you to meetings if you think they might be important.

If you have questions or problems when you apply or want to talk to somebody beforehand, you can call the Legal Aid office at 827-5021.

**REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE IMPORTANT.** That may sound strange, but many people have said that Public Aid workers were rude or nasty or impatient with them. Remember that you have rights, and one of them is to have things explained to you until you understand.

It's very unfair that the welfare system is so confusing and complicated, and the responsibility often ends up on you to try to make workers explain it to you. But a lot of the time that's how it is. If you can, take somebody along to help you out.

**Don't be ashamed.** It's certainly not just low-income people who have problems with math or with reading or with talking to people with snotty attitudes. It's the responsibility of the Public Aid workers to make sure you understand what's going on. If they won't take the time to explain things to you, or if they are nasty, complain.

## Another student stomped by food stamps

Not having any money is no fun at all--but trying to get some is even worse.

I knew I should have applied for food stamps last year, but at that time you could only apply from 8:30 to 10:00 AM Monday through Wednesday or some other ludicrous schedule which my packed class schedule made impossible. However, a recent policy change--walk-in 8:30 till 5:00--gave me a chance to try my luck.

I arrived at 2:45. By 3:15 I had seen one woman with tears in her eyes and an old man with a hopeless slump to his shoulders come out of the interview office, and I was feeling a little apprehensive. About this time the receptionist signalled me and told me I might as well leave. When I questioned this, as only two people remained ahead of me, she said, "Well it's getting close to 4:00."

"I thought you posted hours until 5:00," I replied. Yes, she said, but they stopped interviewing at 4:00. I told her I would wait anyway.

I wasn't seen until 4:10, but was entertained in the interim by the receptionist chatting on the phone to her boy friend (ever wonder why it's always busy when you call?) and gossiping with her co-workers about past and present clients.

Finally I was ushered into the hallowed halls of the interview cubical, where I spread out my ID's and pay stubs. The interviewer regretfully informed me that I would need scads more verification of my assets and justification of my need (and existence, I think). "It's Carter's new program," she explained. "When it first started, we were told it would mean greater eligibility and more benefits. But a desk audit of over 200 clients showed us it's more paperwork, reduced eligibility, and less food stamps for every client." I wasn't real surprised--but then she started in on the new rules.

I needed to show a bank statement of my checking account. "I've never had to get that before!" I said. "You do now," she answered.

"We're going to send this form to ISU so they can indicate how much financial aid you're getting."

"Why? I know how much I get--I'm the one they sent the award letter to."

"I know," she said. "And the title to your car."

"What?!?"

"And we're sending this form to your mother so she can tell us if you're a dependent."

"You're kidding! I'm 25 years old and I need a note from my mother for Chrissake?"



NICK THORLESON/cpe

"Look," she said apologetically, "I've had to send notes to the mothers of 45-year-olds if they're students."

When I left the office I was outraged. I felt helpless, degraded, powerless to deal with my situation. The patriachs had effectively put me in the position of asking Massah for "another bowl of peanuts, please."

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# New food stamp rules explained

As of March 1, 1979, new food stamp regulations went into effect. Some basic changes were made, and if you are on food stamps you are already probably feeling the effect of these changes.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which regulates the food stamp program, attempted to simplify the operation procedures by adopting these new regulations. Unfortunately, as happens in the case of most aid programs, simplification usually means a cutback for the recipients. It is much easier for the caseworker to figure the food stamp income of people under the new regulations because there are not as many deductions from the income to take into consideration. Medical bills are no longer deductible from a person's income. People are only allowed a maximum of \$80 a month to cover both shelter costs that exceed 50% of their income and child care (babysitting or day care fees both for children and adults who are unable to take care of themselves).

In place of these deductions, the USDA has graciously given all applicants a standard \$65 deduction. They have also raised the standard deduction of 10% of all earned income to 20%--that means they subtract 20% of your earned income to come up with the figure they feel is your income. This deduction is only for earned income and does not affect people on social security or public aid.



LNS/cpf

Some of the other major changes are that you no longer have to pay for your food stamps. Payment for food stamps caused a dual problem in that people on fixed incomes had a hard time coming up with, for example, \$20 at one time to pay for \$40 worth of food stamps. In this situation, dropping the payment plan for food stamps was good, but on the other hand now a person in the same example will receive only \$20 worth of free food stamps and will have to pay sales tax on the other \$20. (There is no sales tax charged on items bought with food stamps.) This 5% for sales tax does not seem like much, but it soon adds up.

Another small but important change is that the requirement for cooking facilities to receive food stamps has now been dropped. You can live in your car and still receive food stamps.

Another major change is in the area of emergency food stamps, now called "expedited services." The rules now state that if a person is eligible for expedited services, his/her application must be processed within two days. In other words, if a person who is eligible for expedited services submits an application with the Department of Public Aid on Monday, the Authorization to Purchase (ATP) card must be mailed by Wednesday afternoon or be ready to pick up at the office by Thursday morning.

Now in order to be eligible for expedited services a person must be determined to be destitute or have zero income. The Department's definition of a destitute household is one that has lost all income before



the date of application and won't receive more than \$25 from a new source within ten days after the application. A person will be given food stamps for one month under the expedited services, and all that has to be checked is the household's identity (who lives there) and whether the household is in McLean County. The food stamp office will then verify your income, or lack of it, and bills within the month for their correctness.



The expedited services is somewhat of a radical change, in this county at least, because our Department of Public Aid seemed to operate under the false policy that there was no such thing as emergency food stamps. People would have to wait ten days or longer. These new regulations force them to act within two days.

Another change is in the area of work registration. The rule is still that all people receiving food stamps between ages 18-60 have to register for work. But the exceptions to this rule have changed. The Department has added four new exceptions to the list:

- 1.) Members of a one parent household who are caring for a child or children under the age of 12 or who are caring for adults who are incapable of taking care of themselves are not required to register for work.
- 2.) People receiving or who have applied for unemployment compensation will not have to register for work because they already had to register to receive unemployment.

3.) Students attending an educational institution beyond the 12th grade who are attending part-time must register to work at least 20 hours a week. (I might mention this requirement, if unmet, does not disqualify an entire household, just that one person.)

4.) Students who are over the age of 18 but still attending high school must register to work whenever there is a school vacation that exceeds 30 days. (This requirement, if unmet, can disqualify an entire household.)

Changes 3 and 4 are obviously aimed at squashing some of the myth that the food stamp program is so often misused by students.

The total amount of allowable assets has been increased from \$1500 to \$1750 for a single household but has remained at \$3000 for a two-person household with one person over the age of 60.

Households receiving AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and SSI (Supplemental Security Income) are no longer automatically eligible for food stamps; they have to meet the income and asset standards.

As is typical of most government benefits, changes in the regulations may look good on paper, but they generally are for the worse for the recipients. For the majority of food stamp recipients, they may read that there are going to be new food stamp regulations, but they will feel it only when their food stamp allotments are cut. With only 67% of eligible people receiving food stamps in Illinois and only 15% of eligible senior citizens receiving food stamps in Illinois, you wonder why they are trying to cut down the amount of stamps that people are receiving now.

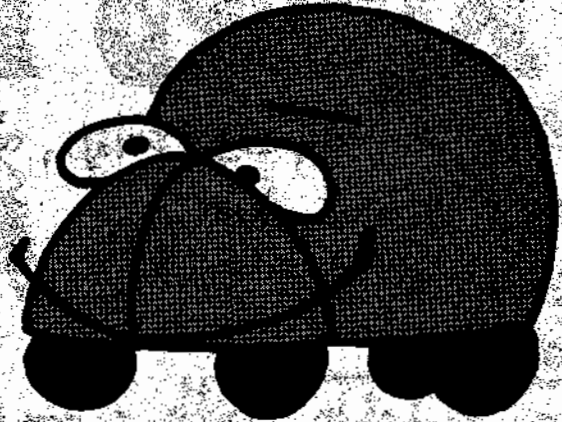
It seems that the Department should be working on signing up those eligible people instead of worrying about how to cut those benefits some are already receiving. But, as usual, the priorities seemed to be a mixed bag of serving the people and watching the budget.



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# Gays begin take-over of U.S.

Just when you've given the country up to the fascists, something happens to rekindle hope. At least that's the way it's been with the struggle for gay rights' legislation. Last fall John Briggs and Anita Bryant were breathing down our necks. Now it seems, the dragons have (temporarily) retreated to their caves, and a small wave of pro-gay legal action is rippling across the country.

It's certainly not the Revolution, but several American cities and states have made encouraging moves. What's particularly interesting is that these latest developments have come about with little or no gay agitation and have not yet met any organized resistance.

Here's what's going on around this great straight land of ours:

1. Troy, New York, became the 43rd community in the U.S. to ban discrimination against gay people. The Troy city council voted unanimously to pass an affirmative action plan that prohibits discrimination in city hiring; it includes gays along with women, racial minorities, and the disabled.
2. The Detroit city council voted 8-1 to implement a city human rights ordinance, which insures equal access to education, employment, medical care, housing, and places of amusement. Gay people are included in the protection. No major opposition has been voiced in Detroit, not even from the Catholic Archdiocese, which has been quiet as a churchmouse.
3. The state of New Jersey appears to be entering the 20th century, despite the lame-brain efforts of Joseph Maressa. A state appeals court ruled that prosecution for homosexual

activities was an unconstitutional invasion of privacy. This decision caused State Senator Maressa to withdraw his bill that would have made homosexual acts punishable by up to 5 years in jail and a \$7,500 fine (see Post, vol. 7, #9).



But not without some more of Maressa's inane remarks: He told gay people not to celebrate by "going out into the street". He also blamed the press for opposition to his bill: "I never intended to put anyone in jail, break into anyone's bedroom or break down any door. It's not the homosexual's fault that he's homosexual. I just want a stigma attached." Keep talking, Joe, keep talking.

4. It's still debatable if Virginia really is for lovers. That state is revising its rape laws, which, strangely enough, include the law

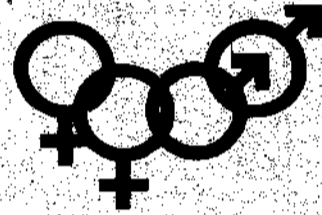
against sodomy. At present, Virginia law prohibits all sodomy (anal intercourse). Legislators first talked about revising the sodomy statute to make anal and oral sex legal only for heterosexuals. But the latest reports are that the proposed changes may be dropped. Meanwhile, the city of Richmond is considering a civil rights bill that includes sexual orientation.

5. In California, two gay rights bills (banning discrimination in employment) have been introduced in the legislature. And Gov. Brown called for gay rights legislation in his state-of-the-state message. Also, the city of San Jose is suffering financially for refusing to proclaim Gay Pride Week, taking back its resolution in support of Gay Human Rights week, and voting down a resolution to oppose the Briggs Initiative. The city is being boycotted and at least 4 organizations have cancelled conferences that had been scheduled for San Jose.

Shoot! If this keeps up, gay rights might even come to Bloomington-Normal. It shouldn't be too hard to organize a boycott of this town, but would anybody notice?.

-Ferdydurke

Note: Information for this article came from Off Our Backs, March 1979.



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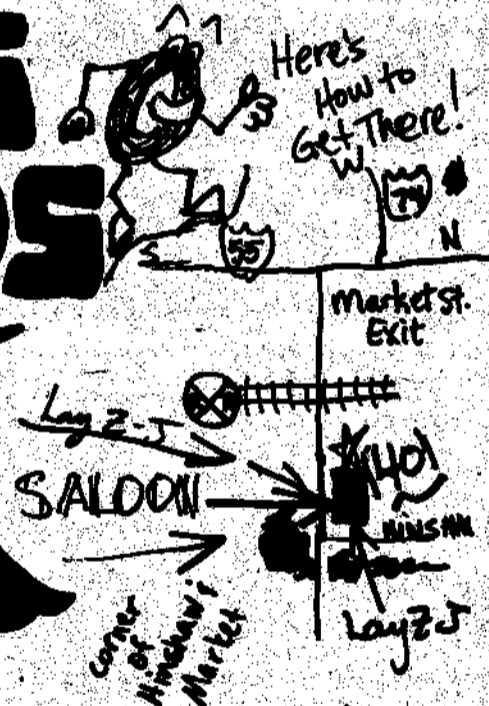
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# 'Word is Out' coming to town

At last "Word Is Out" is coming to Bloomington-Normal! This highly acclaimed documentary about gay people will be shown at ISU on Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in room 145 of the Center for Visual Arts (CVA).

The film is being brought to town by ISU's Gay People's Alliance, and it won't cost you a penny to see it. That's right--you can enjoy this funny, touching, wonderful movie for free!

"Word Is Out" is so good that even the straight press liked it. The New York Times found it "graceful, funny, and often very moving," and the San Francisco Chronicle said "it gives us the most intelligent, telling cinematic look to date at the homosexual experience in America, but beyond that, it is quite funny and speaks not only to the homosexual, but to all of us who have experienced the pain of being different; which is to say, all of us."

This praise from mainstream sources shouldn't put you off. "Word Is Out" makes a strong political statement about gay oppression. It shatters stereotypes and demonstrates how gay people are able to overcome tons of disapproval and societal guilt and still remain strong, loving human beings (see the review in the Post, vol. 7, #6). You'll hear about shock treatments, court battles, police harassment, and family rejections. You'll also hear about tender love, romantic affairs, and the companionship, loyalty, and joy that are also part of being gay.

If you have any question about what it means to be gay, if you have any doubt about the political relevance of the gay experience, you should see this movie. It will move you and make you laugh and cry. It will also make you think. You can't afford to miss this film.



## VD tests no longer free

On March 1, 1979, the McLean County Health Department started charging a fee for some service in its V.D. program. Patients may still come to the Health Department for consultation and advice with no charge. When diagnostic services are necessary, there will be a fee of \$4.00, which covers the necessary exam and laboratory fees. Since the State of Illinois supplies medication, there will be no charge for treatment.

Care will be arranged for individuals unable to pay for services.

If you have any questions, please contact the McLean County Health Department at 829-3363. Ask for Mrs. Elinor Vance, V.D. Program Coordinator.

"for her own good"

# Unwanted rescue leads to lock-up

Being powerless is having other people think they know what's best for you and then forcing you to do it. Being powerless is screaming "NO" and being ignored. Being powerless is being locked up against your will. Being powerless is having your anger laughed at.

Powerlessness is about being women, workers, racial minorities, children, gay people. Most especially powerlessness is about being so-called "crazy". This is a story about powerlessness.

On February 25 the Pantagraph carried a story about a woman they called Charity. She was wandering the January streets wearing only a light jacket. Sandy Cordero, Bloomington city clerk, found Charity, talked to her, and decided she needed help. Despite the fact that Charity kept telling Sandy that she was not her friend and despite the fact that Charity fled from Sandy's car, Sandy persisted in "helping" Charity. The results of Sandy's efforts is that Charity is now serving 60 days at The Adolph Meyer Zone Center --the mental institution in Decatur.

Stephen Gleason of the Pantagraph reported, "Charity is angry with Sandy. She thinks Sandy took away her freedom. She feels betrayed." Clearly, Gleason believes that certain groups of people have the right to impose their will on others and receive thanks for this. He may as well have written the primary reader on oppression: "See Charity get angry. Charity is angry with Sandy. Isn't Charity crazy?"

I think that Charity, whose real name is Hope, has a right to be angry. Anger is the most healthy reaction she could have--because she was betrayed.

Hope was betrayed by Sandy, who never saw her for the person she really was.

Sandy said: "She was just a poor, little girl. She smiled so cute." The Hope I know is a 29-year-old woman who often smelled 'cause she didn't take baths and who wandered the streets of Bloomington-Normal bumming cigarettes.

To Sandy, Hope was a wayward child needing rescuing. Sandy quotes Hope as saying: "We're all in business. Not friends." Sandy is in the business of rescuing.

Hope was betrayed by this society, which punished her for dealing the best she could with an environment hostile to women. Hope was wandering the streets in January because she had no safe place to live. As Hope recognized, there are "bad men" at The Home Sweet Home Mission. And she had already been, as the Pantagraph reports it, "abused (raped? beaten? molested?) by the men at the Hamilton Hotel." Hope was locked up in a mental ward for trying to escape that scene.

And Hope was betrayed by the mental health system, which is trying to destroy her way of coping with her world against her will. Whatever hurts Hope has suffered, she has found a way to cope with these--a way that has kept her going for 15 years. It is her choice whether or not to change that coping style.

Even though I believe that Sandy acted in genuine caring and concern for Hope, I strongly disagree with the action she took. I believe that if Sandy were not so alienated from her own powerlessness as a woman she would not have contributed so to Hope's powerlessness. Realizing the lies that keep each of us powerless helps us recognize the lies that are used to keep other groups powerless. And there are too many lies about people like Hope.

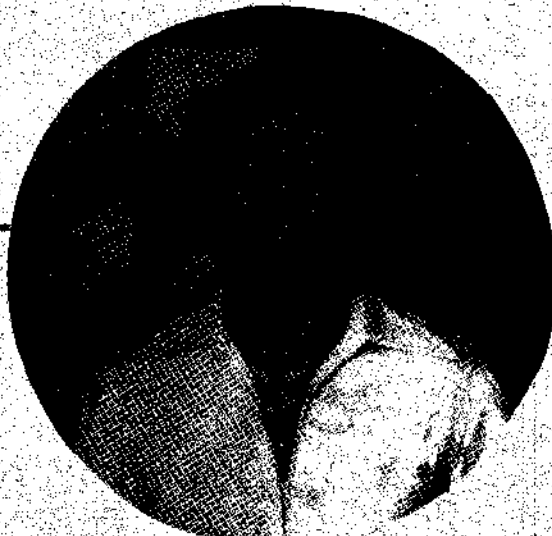
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# Hearings to begin on IPC rate hike

Formal hearings began on Monday, March 5, before the Illinois Commerce Commission in Springfield to decide whether or not Illinois Power Company (IPC) will get its proposed 14.6% rate hike to pay for the Clinton Nuclear Power Station (See Post V.7, #9). These hearings will be going on through the summer and the final decision will be made in the fall.

witnesses in order to prove that IPC does not deserve the rate increase. Some local groups that are intervening include Prairie Alliance, the McLean County Economic Opportunity Association, and the Central Illinois Consumer Energy Council.

A public hearing will be held in Bloomington-Normal on April 20, tentatively scheduled for 7 pm in the Bloomington City Council Chambers. All are welcome to participate. For more information call Susan at 828-7192.

Several organizations representing IPC customers are intervening in this rate hike case. These groups will bring in witnesses and cross examine IPC

## Unity through food

## Women's potluck

The monthly womyn's potluck is scheduled for Sunday, April 1, at 3:00 p.m., at 109 E. Locust, Normal. It's a combination dinner and All Fools' Day celebration. Costumes, party hats, mind-altering refreshments and all manner of female craziness are encouraged.

These potlucks have been happening for several months, and continue to get neater. It's hard to say which is better--the food or the talk. The potluck is open to all womyn who want to get together with other feminist-minded womyn. You may want to know that many of us are vegetarians. For more information, call Small Changes--829-6223. Hope to see you there.

## men's, too

This month's potluck for men in the community will be held April 22, at 306 W. Mill St. It will begin at 6:30 p.m.

These potlucks provide an opportunity for politically aware men to get together informally and enjoy each other's company. There is no official business--just good talk and good food (most of it vegetarian). In fact, the variety and quality of the food are outstanding!

For more information you can call Michael at 828-8988 or Jack or Chris at 828-6935.

## HURRY! Feds giving out free money

If you've been getting those ugly red notices along with your utility bills these days...SUPRISE...the Fed bureaucracy has a program that has proven effective and might not even have any serious side-effects.

It's called the Emergency Energy Assistance Program, and it's available in McLean County through the McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation at 1018 West Washington in Bloomington, near the train station.

You could qualify to have up to \$250 of your Northern Illinois gas and Illinois Power Company bills paid. There's also a food and clothing allowance if you can prove impending starvation or nakedness. The trick is, you have to be 60 years or older, or one of the "other qualified persons" subject to disconnection.

To qualify you need proof of all your income for the past year (March 1978-February 1979), including wages, public aid, student aid, and self solicitation. And you need to have your power bills or proof of payment of them. The biggest qualifier is your income level. A family of two could be eligible with an annual income of \$5200, or a family of five with an income of \$9025.

We checked it out and it really-really works. The \$250 paid off the power bill and was enough to keep the gas company off our backs for another whole month! If you don't live in McLean county, check with your local Community Action Agency for more information. In B/N, call 829-6521 for an appointment.

--The Gang

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# SMALL CHANGES

# Menstrual sponges: alternative to tampons

Most womyn, from puberty to menopause, deal with menstrual care every month. Most womyn regularly spend money on tampons or napkins, and then just add them to the ever-growing garbage heap we call planet Earth. And most womyn don't even know what materials are used to make these means of sanitary protection.

We consumers have no way of knowing what ingredients go into tampons; it's a trade secret. Some manufacturers have been known to use chemicals, wood fiber, or plastic. Others have been known to use asbestos, which causes cancer. And some have even been low enough to add an anti-coagulant, which slows down clotting and makes the flow heavier. More tampons, more waste, and more of our dollars in their pockets!

Well, enough is enough! If I'm going to continue to have my menses regularly, I want to have more control over what goes into my body. And I certainly don't want male capitalists to profit from my monthly cycles. That's why I'm excited about the increasing availability and use of silk sea sponges as an alternative to tampons. They're inexpensive, organic, and reusable. They're not harmful to womyn's bodies or to the Earth.

Sponges come mainly from the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, and they were once the bodies of living sea creatures. Therefore, they should be treated with awareness and respect. Good ecological sense

and reverence for life demand that you take care of your sponge so it lasts as long as possible--six months to a year or more.

When you get your sponge, you should check it to make sure there aren't any pieces of coral or rough spots in it. If there are, remove them. Then tie it up in a piece of cloth and drop it into boiling water for about one minute. After this initial sterilization, you should never need to boil your sponge again. Boiling will only make it shrink and fall apart faster.

When you get your period and are ready to try out your sponge, moisten it with water and squeeze it dry. Then push it firmly and gently into your vagina with your fingers. If it's too bulky, remove it and cut it down a bit. If your vagina is large, you can wear two sponges at once. Some womyn attach a piece of dental floss to their sponge; this makes the sponge easier to remove. It will take a little while to get used to the sponge. Be patient.

The sponge is as absorbent as a "super" tampon; that can tell you how often you should rinse it. After removing the sponge, rinse it first in cold water, to prevent staining, and then in warm water. Squeeze it dry and reinsert it.

It's really best to have two sponges. While you're using one, wring the other out well, tie it up in a clean piece of cloth, and hang it in an airy place to dry. If rinsing your

sponge in a public restroom is a problem for you, carry a spare and a plastic bag in which to stash your used sponge until you get home.

If odor becomes a problem, soak your sponge overnight in a solution of vinegar and water. Rinse it well before you use it again.

Check your sponge often for signs of wear and tear. When it begins to rip easily, it's time to throw it away. If pieces of sponge tear off in your vagina, they can cause infections. That happens frequently with tampons, and the cotton fibers are a lot harder to locate than pieces of sponge. Sponges are much less irritating to the vagina than tampons are.

I hope I've convinced you of the economical and ecological virtues of the menstrual sponge. Don't spend another cent on costly, hard, wasteful tampons. Instead, invest in cheap, soft, reusable sea sponges. They are now available at Small Changes Bookstore for \$1.25 Each. They are also available by mail from the following places:

The Soap Opera            regular-\$.95  
312 State Street        super-\$1.50  
Madison, WI 53703      plus shipping

Luna Sponges            \$1.75 each  
P.O. Box 33585  
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--Isis Equinox

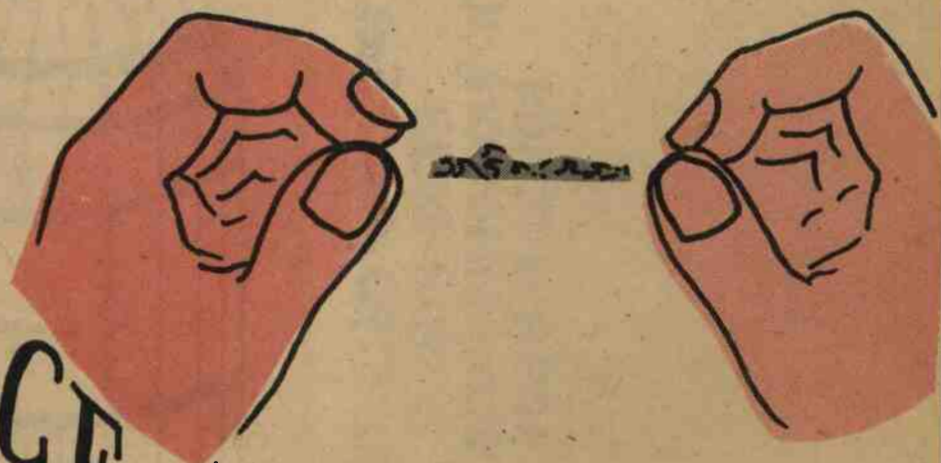


## INTRODUCING THE NEW INVISIBLE ROLLING PAPER

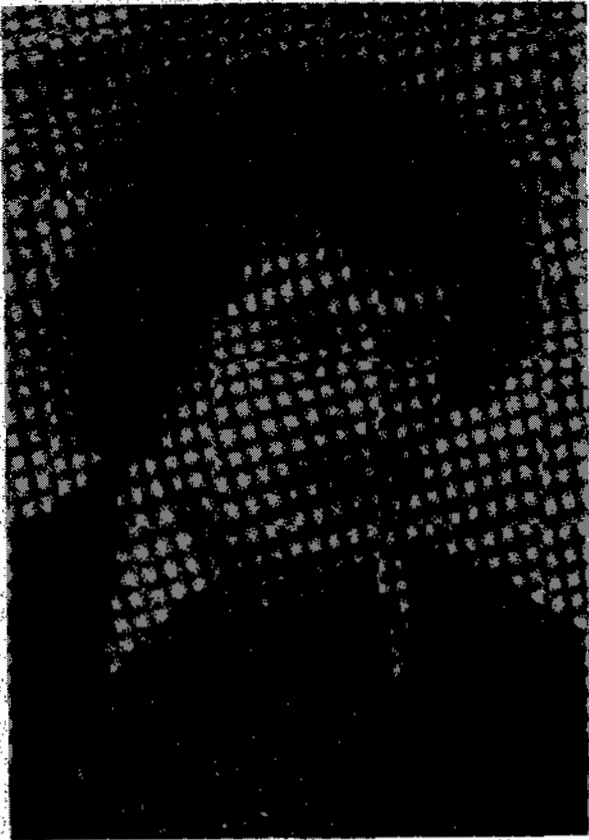
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**MEG Agent Mike White**

Mike White is one of the undercover narcs' "team leaders." He may have changed his appearance since this photo was taken Feb. 1.



Last issue, we named Linda Etaugh as a new MEG agent. We also published this narc's photo, without identification. A reader identified this woman as Linda Etaugh. If you know more, call the Post.

**McLean County might join MEG**

McLean County may once again become a member of MEG, according to discussion at the undercover narcs' board of directors meeting Feb. 28.

McLean County was one of the original 12 units of government which pooled resources to form MEG in 1974. Membership dropped to 10 in 1976, when both the city of Galesburg and the County of McLean pulled out.

For a couple of years, MEG directors have talked about deciding on a procedure for admitting new units of government into MEG. At different times, Morton, Monmouth, Canton, and Normal have been mentioned as possible new members.

MEG is finally about to adopt a formula which will allow new members in.

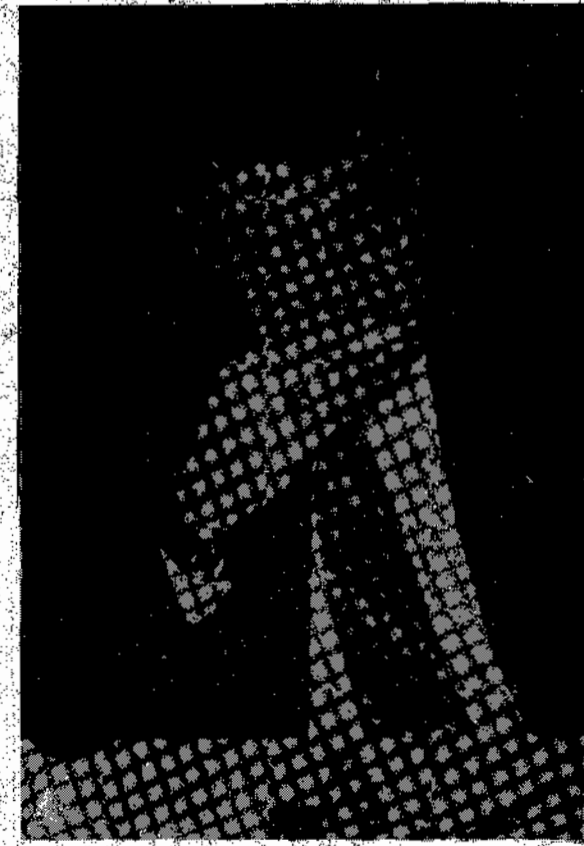
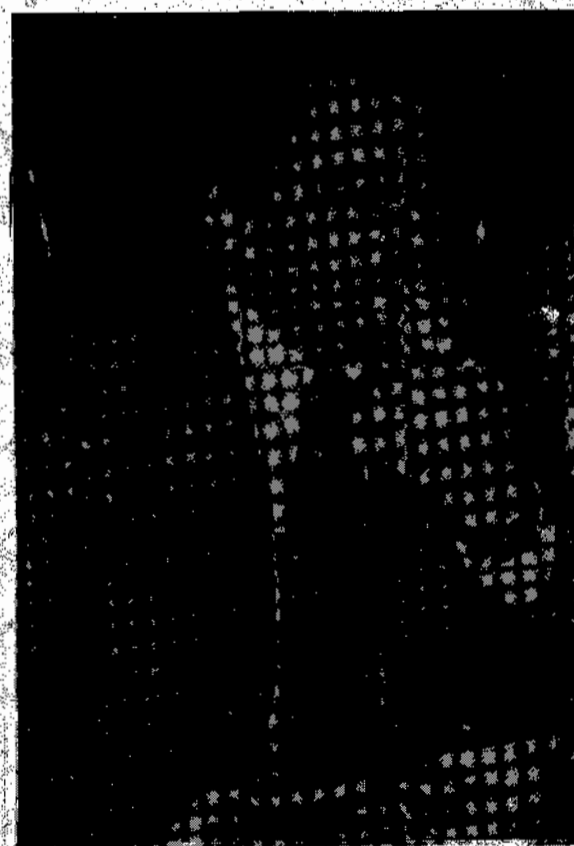
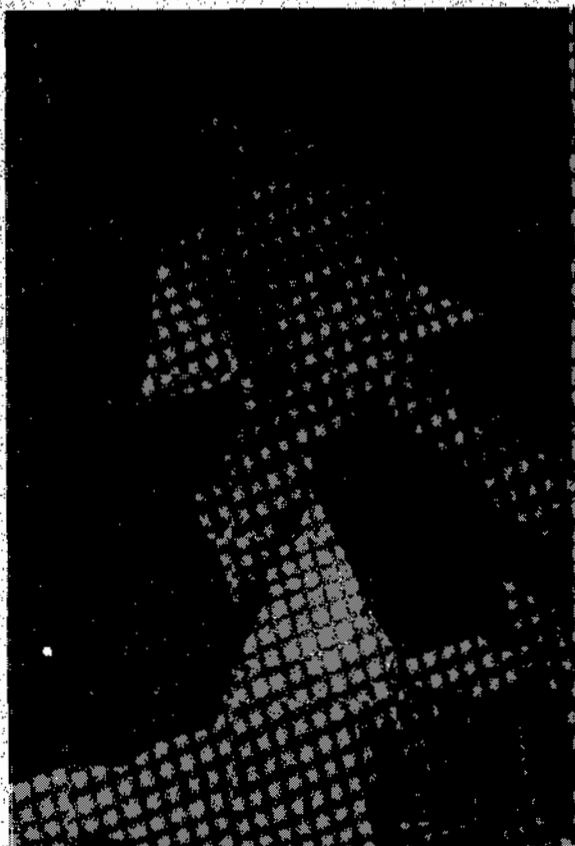
When McLean County participated in MEG, Sheriff King's police force contributed one full-time deputy to work undercover. The county pulled out at Sheriff King's urging in 1976.

Talk about McLean County rejoining is apparently connected to the recent election of Sheriff Brien.

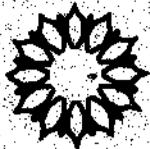
Interviewed by the Post-Amerikan, Brien confirmed that he is thinking about joining MEG, but is still undecided.



**MEG board members hard at work**



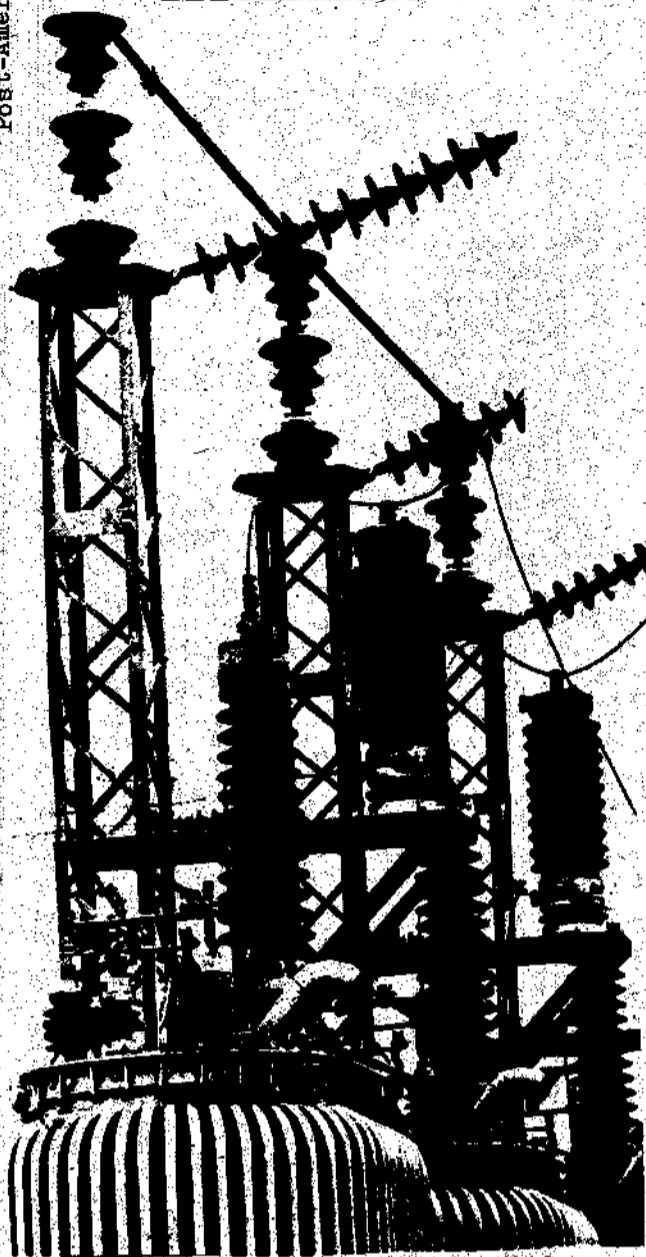
Photographers caught these MEG board members in the midst of tough decision-making at their Feb 28th director's meeting. Chomping on a sweet roll at left is East Peoria Police Chief Roach. Chomping on a sweet roll in the middle is Pekin alderman Wallinger. Wishing the world would go away at right is Pekin Police Chief Smith. (He had a sweet roll too, but could do no more than cast longing gazes at it, as he didn't want to be photographed eating it.)



**The Sun Spot**

by B.C.  
P.O. Box 463  
Bloomington IL 61701

# 'China Syndrome'



Jane Fonda, Jack Lemmon and Michael Douglas star in "The China Syndrome," a tense thriller based on a near meltdown of a nuclear power plant in southern California. Well acted and well-directed, the film begins to build tension from the outset, and viewers are kept on the edge of their seats throughout the film. They leave the theatre white-faced, drained of energy, and thankful that there are some people far-sighted enough to be working to stop nuclear power.

The nuclear industry is tottering on the brink of total collapse, and this film may well be the shove over the edge. General Electric, which manufactures Boiling Water Reactors of the type being built in Clinton, tried to block the film's pre-release publicity by withdrawing support for Barbara Walter's TV interview with Jane Fonda. Viewers of the interview had to wonder whether GE is paranoid or whether the interview was cut since there was virtually nothing anti-nuclear in it.

The Atomic Industrial Forum, the public relations arm of the nuclear industry, has long exerted powerful pressure on sponsors of television programs which criticize nuclear power in any way. It is not inconceivable that the AIF exerted pressure to have certain remarks removed from the Fonda interview. On the other hand, the entire nuclear industry is getting increasingly paranoid about any dissent on the nuclear issue. Perhaps GE is paranoid and the interview was cut.

The film was originally entitled "Power," and its creators kept very tight-mouthed about its content up until shortly before its release, so as not to attract the wrath of the AIF and its cohorts.

While the film is fictional, it draws upon events that really happened. One scene is a variation of the Karen Silkwood murder case, with security agents from the nuclear industry running a car off the road. Inside the car is a person carrying damaging information to a public hearing on nuclear safety. As you know, Karen Silkwood was killed while the character in this film survives, but in both cases the damaging information is removed from the scene before officials arrive.



The damaging information in the film relates to falsified X-ray photos of critical welds in cooling pipes inside the reactor. The nuclear industry is notorious for botching welding jobs and inspections. The Duane Arnold nuclear plant in Palo, Iowa, was shut down in June, 1978, because of faulty welds in cooling pipes. The welds began to crack, and the nuke had to be shut down for nine months until repairs were made. When the water was returned to the pipes, a blockage occurred. It turned out that ten lead blocks, used to protect welders from radiation in the reactor vessel, were left inside the cooling pipes. The lead blocks were washed into the bottom of the vessel and have since been recovered, although fragments of lead and aluminum remain unaccounted for.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 TO BE ANNOUNCED	3 CICERO SLIM & THE WORLD WAR III BAND	4 CAMBRUSCO	5 PORK & THE HAVANA DUCKS	6 DR. BOMBAY	7 CODY JARRETT
9 DAVE CHASTAIN FREE BEER from New Age Music	10 HEADSTONE	11 HEADSTONE	12 PORK & THE HAVANA DUCKS	13 DAVE CHASTAIN BAND	14 ALESHA
16 TO BE ANNOUNCED FREE BEER from Rape of the Locks	17 TO BE ANNOUNCED	18 DAISY DILLMAN BAND	19 DUKE TUMATOE & THE ALL STAR FROGS	20 CACTUS JACK	21 DIAMOND T BAND
23 TO BE ANNOUNCED FREE BEER from Divinyl Madness	24 ALESHA	25 PORK & THE HAVANA DUCKS	26 COALKITCHEN	27 NIGHTOWL	28 NIGHTOWL

**Sat. April 7**  
**The CODY JARRETT BAND**  
"GANGSTER ROCK"

**Wed. April 18**  
**DAISY DILLMAN**  
MIDWEST'S #1 COUNTRY ACT  
--Prairie Sun Reader's Poll

30  
CORKY SIEGEL

**April 14 & 24**

**Mon. April 30**  
**Corky Siegel**

**Fri. April 20**

**Fri. & Sat. May 4 & 5**  
**WINTER BROS. BAND**  
with special guest  
**Dave Chastain Band**

All dates subject to change. Please call the "J" to confirm.

ALL LAY-Z-J MUSIC PROVIDED BY **New Age Music**

# based on facts

In "The China Syndrome," a near-meltdown occurs because of an earthquake and a stuck guage. While this may seem to be an unlikely scenario, a guage did stick in a similar manner at a nuke west of Chicago. And five nuclear plants in the East were shut down by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this month because they were built with insufficient protection against earthquakes. The design, it turns out, was based on erroneous computations.

Seeing "The China Syndrome" should be enough to convince people of the dangers of building nuclear plants in earthquake zones even with no design errors involved.

## NUCLEAR SHUTDOWNS AND THE CONSPIRACY THEORY

When the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently acted to shut down five operating nuclear power plants in the Northeast, many anti-nuke kooks (as their opponents call them) let out a mighty cheer. There is a possibility that it may be a trap. Consider these facts:

(1) At their annual meeting last year, the powerful Atomic Industrial Forum agreed that 1979 was to be the year they would take the counter-offensive, making best use of their overwhelming advantages of money momentum, and access to the public to sweep aside public doubts about nuclear power. This campaign has already begun with expensive advertising on television and in periodicals. One tactic is to suggest we have to choose between an all-electric future and freezing in the dark, usually in caves.

(2) Earthquakes, while possible anywhere at any time, are not generally a large threat in the Northeast.

(3) The insufficient safety of these plants was documented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as early as 1974, according to documents made public by the Union of Concerned Scientists. Why weren't the plants shut down in 1974? Why were they shut down in 1979, shortly after the disappearance of Iranian oil and a reduction in exports by other oil producers?

Conspiracy theorists suggest that the nuclear advocates may have in some way engineered the timing of the shutdowns to coincide with the oil shortage, thus driving home the conclusion that we cannot do without nuclear power. With that conclusion well-established, the next step is to grease the skids, clear the road of obstacles, and accelerate the plans to build more nuclear plants.

Because of its distance from coal fields, the Northeast depends upon oil and nuclear power for most of its electricity. When oil is scarce, a threat to existing nuclear plants makes the freezing-in-the-dark scenario more plausible. With a good example in hand, public relations can work wonders. If the Conspiracy Theory is right, watch for more advertising that emphasizes hardships in the Northeast caused by shutting down obviously safe power plants because of non-existent threats like earthquakes in Maine.

The Prairie Alliance for Safe Energy now has an office and a telephone. (It must really exist.) The office is in the Campus Religious Center,

210 W. Mulberry St., Normal. The phone is (309) 452-8492. Regular hours will be instituted so people wishing to help bring about a safe energy future can call in.

The Prairie Alliance usually meets at the Center on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The second Wednesday is a planning/coordination meeting for dedicated folks. The fourth Wednesday is a public education meeting usually featuring a film or a speaker.

## COMING EVENTS

1. Ralph Nader will debate Mr. A. David Russin of Commonwealth-Edison of Chicago in the University Union Auditorium at Illinois State University on Tuesday, April 24, 1979, at 8:00 p.m. This event was rescheduled from January 30, when Nader's opponent was to have been Daniel Kane. (Kane refused to come to ISU a second time unless he was paid.)

The topic of the debate will be "What Role Should Nuclear Power Play in America's Energy Future?" Eight specific issues will be debated, and the audience will be invited to participate by way of a before-and-after opinion poll. Tickets will be available the day of the debate at the Union box office.

2. Dr. Rosalie Bertell, world-famous expert on the links between low-level radiation and cancer, will be at ISU April 13 through 20. She will speak at the Campus Religious Center at noon April 13 and April 20. Her topics are "Energy and World Order," and "Nuclear Power in the Interdependent World." You can bring a brown bag lunch or buy a simple soup and salad luncheon at the Center at cost.

# Youth Job Fair

- \* Allows employers to interview and hire potential applicants
- \* Allows young people to apply for available summer and part-time employment
- \* Allows community youth experience in the procedures of employment applications, interviewing and hiring

WHERE: Bloomington Public Library Community Room (205 E. Olive)

WHEN: Saturday April 28, 1979

TIME: 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

**Free and open to the public**

.....  
**For more information call  
Bloomington Human Relations  
Department at 828-7361 ext. 218**

# Paraquat spraying to continue

Paraquat spraying of marijuana fields will continue as usual in Mexico, according to a report by High Times correspondent A. Craig Copetas, who accompanied President Carter on his recent trip to Mexico.

White House Press secretary Jody Powell was quoted as saying that Carter and Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo did not discuss the environmental and health aspects of the controversial herbicide paraquat during their meetings.

Said one American cultural aid: "The paraquat program may have become a bargaining point for Carter. Another official said that the Mexicans were shocked that the most successful Mexican-American cooperative program was under intense public pressure in the U.S. to be discontinued.

Mexican attorney general Oscar Flores Sanchez, in charge of the Mexican end of the program to wipe out pot, was said to be outraged that the bi-lateral program might have to take into account the health of American marijuana smokers.

"Let them spray all the herbicides they want," said an American who farms pot in Mexico. "We have turned our production to smaller, more potent plots of marijuana that no government will ever discover." •

(High Times)

# POST should grow up

Dear Post-Amerikan:

I read your recent M.E.G. articles with distaste. While I think it is admirable to express concern about possible abuses of power by the police, I wonder at your blatant way of ignoring the illegal activities of the drug users you so righteously defend. I for one would rather have the Illinois Legislature represent my views on drug use than a "news-paper" whose "news" is how to destroy my brain and avoid the police while doing it. Surely you don't believe that you are providing an important service to the public by combatting the enforcement of laws the public desires. If you don't like the drug laws, argue about them intelligently. Argue that drug laws arbitrarily impose the morals of others on you or that drug "crimes" are victimless. Form a lobbying group. Write your representatives in government. Just quit acting like mental midgets, Post-Amerikan. If you can't succeed in changing drug laws, it's because the majority of the people believe that drugs are dangerous. I challenge you to convince them that they're wrong and not act like little children hiding from their parents.

I am enclosing only my initials so that your "newspaper" which advocates peace and freedom of expression will not pursue its ugly habit and publish where I live, what make of car I drive, and where I work so that other peace-loving young people can find me and beat me up for expressing views contrary to yours.

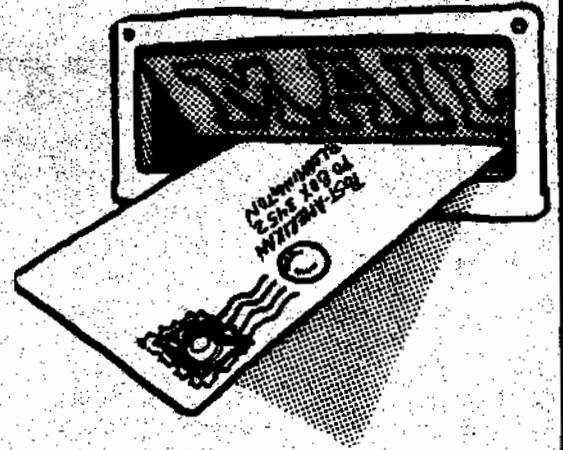
T.C.N.



RING AROUND THE MOUTH MR. CLEAN



TNS/cpf



## Post-Amerikan is great

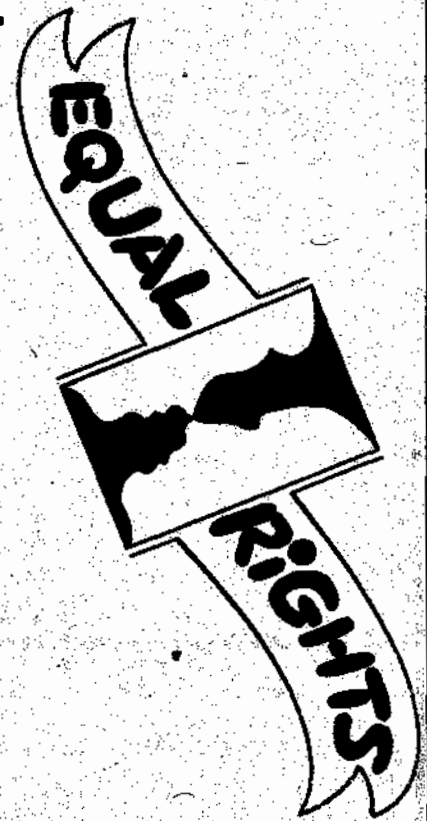
Dear Post-Amerikan:

I'm doing two 3-year sentences for sales of LSD and pot to a MEG agent named Bill Muir. - If only you had printed his picture in the Post a few months earlier...at least I was alerted to the oncoming bust. Peoria police got a friend, Robin Coonce, and I in an early morning raid at his apartment, where I had spent the night. Robin had sold to Muir and an I.B.I. agent named Joe Costello. Robin got sentenced to 4 1/2, 3 1/2, 3 and 2 years for sales of cocaine, PCP, speed, and pot.

I think MEG is beginning to get a little too effective. People are losing a lot of trust because of all their informants running around stabbing their so-called friends in the back. I like the work you people are doing to at least slow it down and warn us of who to watch out for. I don't know how many copies of your paper you sell in a month, but I can say on the average that every one paper goes through about 5 people or more. Mine would go through about 20 in just a month's time. Keep up the good work.

--Dave DeFord

\*\*\*\*\*



## Wants more info

Dear Post-Amerikan,

I enjoyed your recent issue (garbage, spy vs. spy) very much and I, like most other dopers, appreciate all the work that you do to help the cause and to stop the secret police.

All that I ask is for you to print more information, as much as you can (hopefully a photo) on MEG's confidential source Mike Williams, as I, personally, know four people by that name.

Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,  
Mike Williams

# PAIR-A-DICE

## Records and tapes

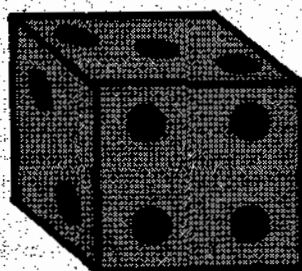
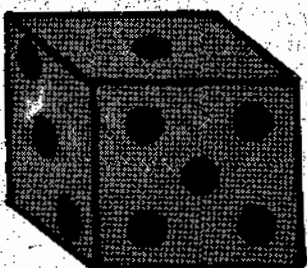
## -T-Shirts-

Largest selection of transfers in Bloomington-Normal

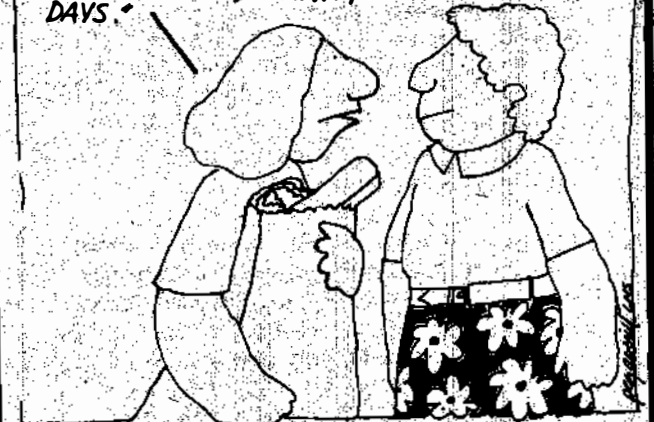
New inventory of pipes and bongs arriving daily

702 S. Evans  
828-8831

Tues.-Thurs.  
11-7:30  
Fri.-Sat.  
11-9



"IT'S BEEN ONE OF THOSE ALL STRUGGLE NO UNITY DAYS."



# letters

## Teens resent sheriff's storm troopers

Dear Post-American:

We are writing to you about the recent raids at the Poison Apple on Sunday night (teen night). Sheriff Steve Brienen and his stormtroopers busted four kids on charges of illegal possession of alcohol and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. And hassled at least 40 more.

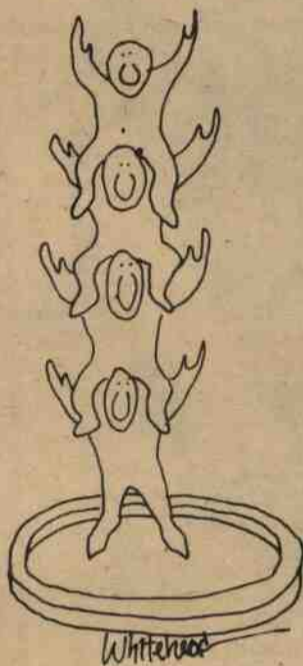
These assholes came into the Apple without consulting the management, and proceeded to walk around, grabbing people's glasses of coke trying to find alcohol, carding mature-looking adolescents to see if they were over 18, and waiting outside so when people left, they would stop them and search their cars for any contraband. They also plan to do this once a month.

It is getting to the point where you can't go anywhere without having gestapo agents breathing down your necks.

PLEASE HELP US! What are our legal rights as minors? Can we prevent them from harassing us and searching our cars? Please let the public know what these S.O.B.'s are doing, and what we can do about it.

Concerned Teens

P.S. Keep up the good work.



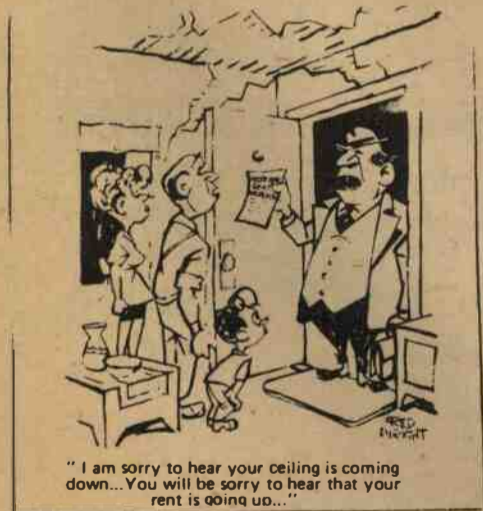
## Welfare system needs reform

Dear Post:

This month Ed Madigan, the representative from the 21st Congressional District, sent most of his constituents a report. One item in this report was the results of his 1978 district questionnaire. To me, one of the most disappointing results was that concerning President Carter's proposed welfare reform. This reform would abolish the food stamp and housing assistance programs, and replace them with one consolidated cash stipend. Over 80% of those responding to Madigan's poll opposed this proposal.

Also, I feel that welfare reform is important, and the constituents of this district should support it if they do not now. The food stamp program has several flaws, which cannot be corrected easily. First, it discourages people from taking advantage of viable alternatives to high food costs. These include buying garden produce and food items at discount stores, where the seller is usually not licensed (this would include farmer's markets). Canning and preserving of food, and gardening are not encouraged because such basic items as canning jars and fertilizer cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Our present welfare system, with some exceptions, does not offer general assistance to single individuals. If a single person (not handicapped, with no children, and not a veteran) becomes unemployed, s/he can be literally "out in the cold" with no funds since unemployment and worker's compensation do not cover everybody. Food stamps don't pay rent or other expenses.



Union Cartoons/apf

Several responses come to mind. In the past, I noticed that Rep. Madigan has not been above using highly slanted questions in his questionnaires and then citing the results to justify his stands on issues. Also, his questionnaire may contain an inherent bias; those favorable to Rep. Madigan and his policies would be more likely to open mail from him and return the questionnaire.

All these "reports" and questionnaires are sent out with the taxpayers' money. Usually the reports seek to build up Madigan and support his policies. Why should I pay for Madigan's "propaganda" and slightly biased polls when many private polling services are doing a thorough job at no cost to the taxpayer?

Food stamps do NOT assure that "irresponsible poor people" will feed their children, or even themselves well, if they do not make the effort. It will give them more financial ability to do so, to be sure, but so would a cash stipend.

Food stamps can be used to buy junk food, sugar to ferment wine, etc. Although regulations forbid it, food stamps can and are directly and indirectly sold, and there is no foolproof and inexpensive way to stop this practice. Thus foodstamps do NOT assure that the occasional irresponsible parent will necessarily feed his/her child.



What our myriad of aid programs DOES do is increase red tape and the inevitable cost of needless duplication. It assumes poor people who receive food stamps primarily because they are unemployed and can't find work are irresponsible and must be regulated. As I said before, even if the poor are irresponsible (and most are not), there is no way to regulate their spending habits effectively.



People on welfare are not "bums." They are unemployed or marginally employed, and are required by law to register for full time work in order to receive assistance. These requirements are gradually getting stricter, and toll-free lines to turn in welfare cheaters are becoming common. If our society truly had "full employment," much relief would be unnecessary. But the fact is that there is still significant unemployment, and I feel that those who want work deserve a decent living standard until they are able to find it. That includes the single. I feel that a decent living is a RIGHT to those who are willing to make some effort. However, it is popular to blame those on welfare, even though these people are often making a reasonable effort.

--David Burdette

# HOLLY NEAR

Women  
and  
Men Welcome

with pianist

J.T.  
THOMAS

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## Free Workshop

"An Informal Conversation  
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Tuesday, April 10 at 1:00 pm

Illinois State University Union, 1st Floor West Lounge

Sponsored by Student Association for Women

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