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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

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Volume 7, Number 2

Post Amerikan

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Four pages of narc pix!!

See MEG section, pages 12-20.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

25¢

POST AMERIKAN

June-July 1978
Vol. VII No. 2

M E G
Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group
Peoria County Courthouse - Room 23
Peoria, Illinois 61602
May 22, 1978

Mr. Mark Silverstein
Post Amerikan
P.O. Box #3452
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

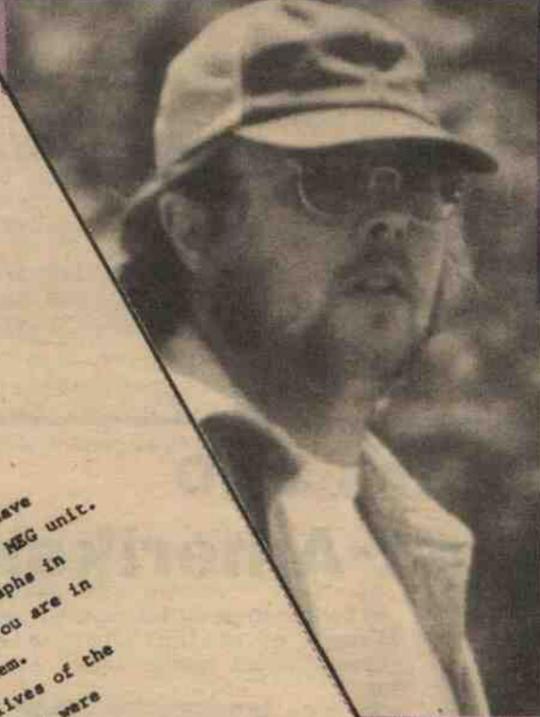
Mr. Silverstein,
I have received information that secret photographs have been taken of undercover police officers working for the MEG unit. I understand that you plan to print these photographs in your next edition. I respectfully request that, if you are in possession of such photographs, you do not print them.

I make this request because I fear that the lives of the agents would definitely be in danger if such pictures were published in your paper.
Thank You, in advance, for your cooperation.

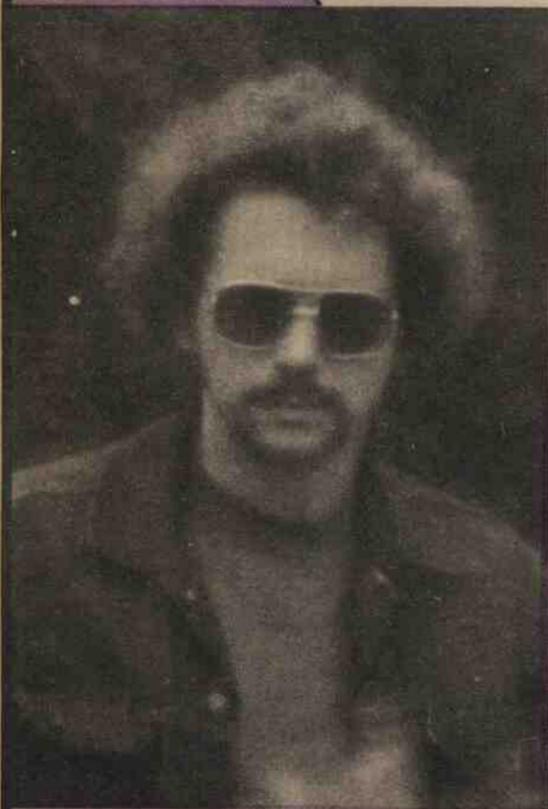
Jerry LaGrow
Jerry LaGrow
Director

JL/bzh

MEG Special Agent Terry Ziegenbein



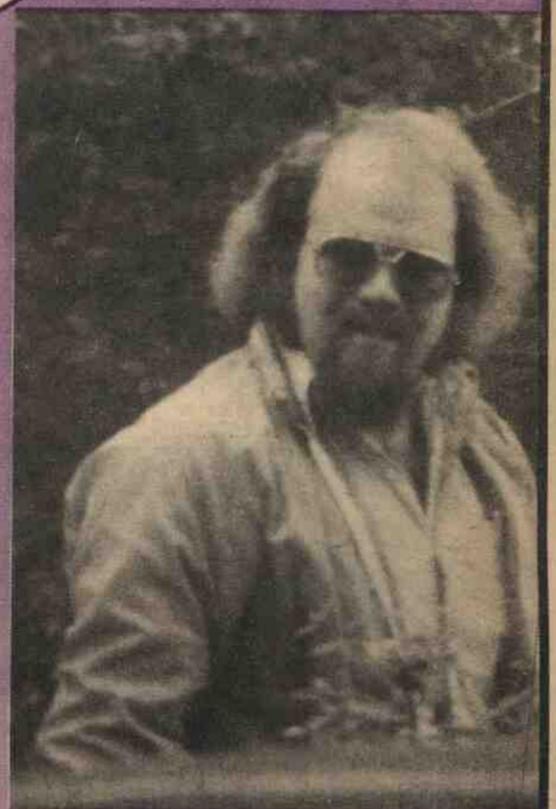
MEG Special Agent Bill Muir



MEG Special Agent Bobby Friga



MEG Special Agent Larry Wight



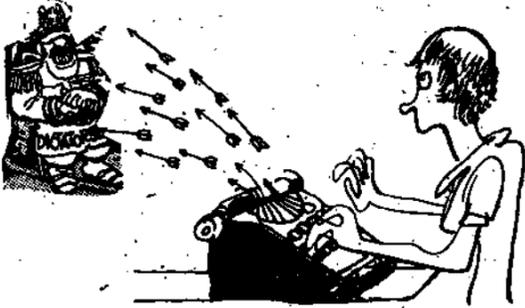
MEG Special Agent Mark Williams

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

ABOUT US

Anyone can be a member of the Post staff except maybe Sheriff King. All you have to do, is come to the meetings and do one of the many different and exciting tasks necessary for the smooth operation of a paper like this. You start work at nothing per hour, and stay there. Everyone else 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



5 years ago ...in the Post-Amerikan

Our cover five years ago featured a photo of a couple of hippies with their feet up on Illinois State University President David Berlo's conference table. Student occupation of Berlo's office occurred slightly before his resignation (also announced on the cover). Berlo resigned during official investigations of his sleazy spending on the ISU president's mansion. The Post-Amerikan documented \$402,339.66, plus university employee labor as the price taxpayers paid for the mansion--quite a deviation from the \$150,000 ceiling which the Board of Regents had set.

A separate article discussed Berlo's famous bathtub, which measured 5½ by 7 feet and had showers at both ends. That bathtub boosted the total contract price by \$1,527.35.

The June 1973 cover of the Post has two other interesting features: it says the date is Dec. 1972 (someone spaced out), and it has a new price. The Post went up from 10¢ to 15¢, with hearty apologies and explanations on page two.

Two articles relating to sexism appeared in this paper. "Women Confront Rape" summarized a Rap on Rape sponsored by the Tuesday night women's rap group. The Rap featured speakers from Chicago Women Against Rape (CWAR). "New Male Rock" reviewed records by male artists who

attempted in their music to confront issues of sexism/heterosexism and the traditional macho image of rock.

On page three, a Post reporter exposed two local violations of the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, which requires office holders to publicly disclose ownership interest in companies which do business with the unit of government they hold office in. S.S. "Joe" Schneider, then Bloomington city council member, neglected to disclose his \$10,000 worth of Corn Belt Bank stock. Since the city deposited money in Corn Belt, Schneider was legally required to disclose his holdings. Corn Belt Bank's Certificate of List of Stockholders in the county recorder's office did show Schneider's stock. It also showed \$6,000 worth of stock owned by city treasurer Paul Krueger, who was also violating the ethics law by neglecting to report his holdings on his economic disclosure form.

Working toward the ideal state of well-rounded indignation, we reprinted an article detailing how livestock are doped up with "hormones, antibiotics, and other drugs whose long-term effects on humans are untested," in order to make them grow fast and big. The article is titled, "That Fatted Calf is a Junkie."

---Phoebe Caulfield

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, 402½ N. Main
The Book Worm, 310½ N. Main
South West Corner--Front & Main
Mr. Quick, Clinton at Washington
Downtown Postal Substation, Center
and Monroe
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
Record Rack, 402½ N. Main
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
J&B Silkscreening, 622 N. Main
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)

NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
Pat's Billiards, 1203 S. Main
Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.
Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
NCHS, 303 Kingsley
Eisner's, E. College (near sign)
Divinyl Madness, 115 North St.

Co-op Tapes & Records, 311 S. Main
Bowling and Billiards Center,
I.S.U. Student Center
Baker's Dozen Donuts, 602 Kingsley
Cage, ISU Student Union
Midstate Truck Plaza, Route 51 North
Upper Cut, 1203½ S. Main

Common Ground, 516 N. Main
North East Corner--Main & Washington

TA TOWN

Gallesburg: Under the Sun, 437 E.
Main St.
Peoria: That Other Place, 901 NE
Adams
Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op,
407 E. Adams
Urbana: Horizon Bookstore, 517 S.
Goodwin

ALTERNATIVE BOOKSTORE

NON-PROFIT



SMALL CHANGES

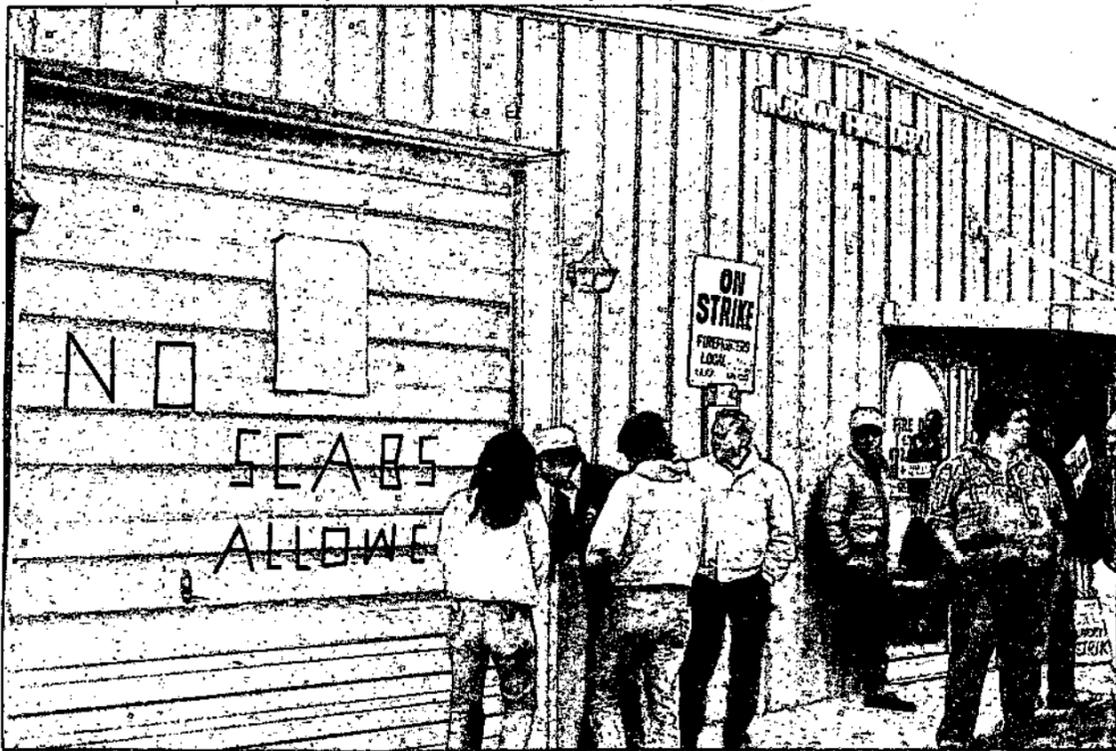
Women's Books, Health Care,
Non-sexist Children's
Literature, 25-cent Used Books
and MORE

409A N. MAIN
BLOOMINGTON

829-6223 10-6 MON-SAT

Eagles find nest uncomfortable

vol. 7, #2, page 3



Crowds gather at Substation #2 for spontaneous going-away party honoring scabs.

Birds are jumpy animals.

All it takes is a bang, boom or beep, and off they fly, scurrying.

The Town of Normal found this out May 8, at no small cost.

That's when they imported Eagle 9-11 of Laurel, Maryland, a so-called group of "professional firefighters", to break the Normal firefighters' strike.

Union folk have one word for such birds--"scabs."

They're about as welcome as vultures in a graveyard, crows in a corn field, or a new flock of pigeons in the dome of the old courthouse.

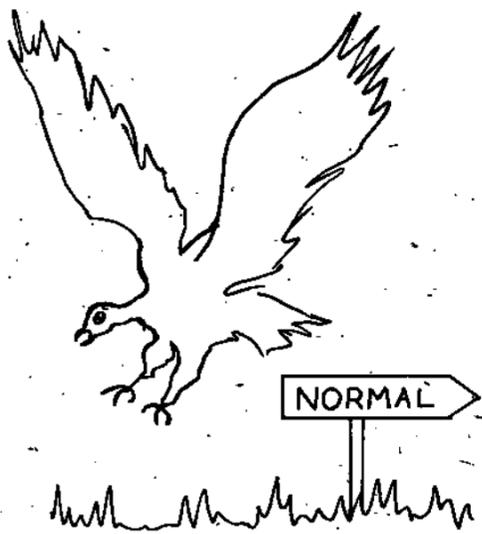
Throughout the firefighters' strike there was a constant fear the city would bring in strikebreakers.

On Sunday May 7, the firefighters were firm and determined, but discouraged. Having had no negotiations for three weeks, they prepared a new offer to the city.

Expecting a reply, firefighter representatives, friends and families gathered at City Hall on Monday.

They were shocked speechless.

Mayor Richard Godfrey set a May 15 deadline for the firefighters to return to work, and announced that the city had hired Eagle 9-11 to supplement fire services. The Mayor was quite careful to point out to the outraged crowd that Eagle 9-11 firefighters were not strikebreakers, but only on experiment by the city in "contractual services."



After angrily confronting city personnel and council members, the wives and supporters stormed toward Station No. 2, where three of the scabs were lodged. Police blocked their way, but not before a firefighter's wife kicked in the door.

Inside, the scabs were protected by private security forces, Regional Investigators of 429 N. Main, who were hired to help out the Normal police force.

That day, the police were put on 12-hour shifts. The city definitely feared something.

Firefighters' wives, although constantly watched by police, maintained a picket at Station No. 2. They visited Fire Chief George Cermak, who had promised to take a stand if outsiders were brought in, but he tried to slip home, to avoid the wives.

The Eagles, hearing the beating on the walls and constant shouts of "scab!" and "come out and fight like a man" from the wives, allowed the press to visit. They attempted to convince the press they were not strikebreakers but "professional firefighters." They seemed unaware of the seriousness of the situation.

That night, the scabs did not sleep easily. Someone cut their cable TV line. Their gas line was shut off and padlocked. The phone rang, the radio buzzed.

Outside, student supporters maintained a picket line, shouting "scab" and harrasing those inside. Their presence meant a sleepless night for Normal police, also, who were out in force and sped past Station No. 2 every five minutes.

Bringing in the Eagles was not the city's only trick that day, however. It also petitioned Judge William Caisley to release the striking firefighters from jail. Caisley, fearing he was being used and not believing this would insure adequate fire protection, refused.

Why the city wanted the firefighters released is not known. Perhaps, the city thought it could justify hiring scabs if the firefighters were free. Or the city could have been trying to provoke violence between freed firefighters and the scabs.

Sometime that night, the Eagles realized all was not well in Normal. The next morning they asked to leave and their request was granted.

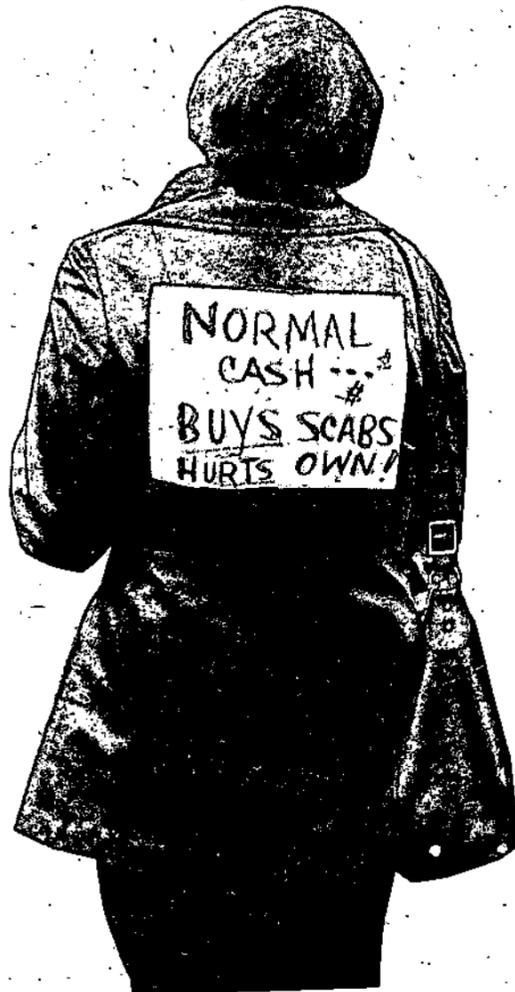
Late Tuesday afternoon, a covered truck pulled into No. 2, and was tailed from there by Bloomington firefighter Barry Hockersmith. The press, also alerted, traced the vehicle to the Bloomington-Normal airport. There, an alert journalist, knowing the name of one of the scabs, had him paged. He responded, and said he was definitely leaving town.

But the city refused to open up No. 2 for inspection. Had the city brought in new "eagles"?

Tuesday evening a large crowd of firefighter supporters, including many working people, met at No. 2. Someone hung a small noose. A sign, reading "No scabs allowed" was pasted on the door, while the crowd occasionally pounded on the steel-sided building and yelled for the scabs to come out.

Finally, the city allowed an inspection. Bloomington firefighter Ronald Brucker went in and reported to the crowd that the station was clean. The crowd dispersed.

(Monday, May 15, the day of the contract signing, a final Eagle appeared. Cruising down Route 51, he stopped at the first motel, the Falcon, which was also strike headquarters. Learning of the situation, he visited



the strikers, bought a "Welcome to Normal" t-shirt and left.)

Eagle 9-11 is headed by Rick Ulrich, formerly head of the DeKalb Fire Department. There is some question of his record at DeKalb, and little is known of Eagle 9-11's work record.

Eagle 9-11 may have been the Town of Normal's fatal mistake in the strike. Their threat of firing strikers and the hiring of scabs only reinforced the solidarity of the strikers and their supporters.

Even more critical, Eagle 9-11's fleeing from town left the firing threat meaningless, for there was no one to replace the strikers if they were fired.

So, labor proved its strength and right to protect its jobs through a united action, and the firefighters, with a little help from their friends, were able to endure the worst threat.

Normal Fire Fighters

After nearly two months of strike, the Town of Normal signed its first union contract with the International Association of Fire Fighters on May 15.

As the strike--the longest for fire fighters in history--neared its end, the situation became tense and desperate, with the city threatening to fire the strikers and attempting to bring in outside strikebreakers.

The strike began March 21, when the city council tried to legislate captains and lieutenants out of the union bargaining unit.

On March 31, the fire fighters received a 42-day sentence which was divided into alternating days of "work release" and jail. The union bargaining team was sentenced to a full 42 days incarceration.

Contract negotiations began in earnest again the week of May 7, after a lapse of three weeks. The city had made its final contract offer April 14, and it had been unanimously rejected.

Sunday May 7, the fire fighters and their negotiating team met in an early morning session with Judge William Caisley, where they worked out a proposal to the city.

Expecting a reply, fire fighters' families and friends gathered at a special city council meeting Monday morning May 8. Instead of the expected reply, Mayor Richard Godfrey announced the hiring of "Eagle 9-11," a "team of professional fire fighters" from Laurel, Maryland. Godfrey denied

this was strikebreaking; he called it an "experiment in contractual services."

The mayor also told striking fire fighters to return to work by Monday, May 15, or face dismissal. That afternoon, the city moved to have the fire fighters released from their 42-day jail sentence, but the motion was denied by Judge Caisley.

Scabs

The entrance of "Eagle 9-11," better known as "scabs" in union parlance, marked a turning point in the fire fighters' strike. The city, hoping to intimidate the fire fighters by hiring replacements, instead found its option of firing made meaningless, as angry citizens forced the "eagles" to flee.

Then on May 10, serious negotiations seemed to begin. The city discussed the union's proposal that captains and lieutenants could join the union bargaining unit, accepting the compromise of a no-strike clause for captains. Some council members observed the sessions, and both sides seemed to leave pleased.

Then the next day, the city returned to the bargaining table and denied all the agreements of the previous day.

The situation grew tense, as the men were slated to complete their 42-day sentence the next day. Would they return to work under a contract? Would the strike resume?

The city council tried a "back-door" move. Hours before release the city gathered the fire fighters at Station

No. 1 to try to convince them to settle; the union bargaining team was excluded. Nothing came of the ploy, however.

Normal was again in the national spotlight that night, with the fire fighters soon to be released from jail. Sheriff John King, fearing a "mob action" at Station No. 1, sent deputies to keep the dozen or so media representatives off the fire station grounds. At the county jail, a CBS-TV team from Chicago, reporting on the strike for the next evening's national news, lost a cameraman, when Sheriff King arrested him for filming in the covered parking area adjoining the Law & Justice Center.

After their supporters were chased away by Sheriff King, the fire fighters were released about 1 am Thursday, May 11. They went to strike headquarters for a quick party and reunion with their families.

The strike was resumed, with the fire fighters dividing into shifts to answer fire calls and maintain picket lines. However, Bloomington fire fighters took the May 11 calls so the Normal fire fighters could reunite with their families. Negotiations continued that day.

Unanimous

Friday night the fire fighters and their families gathered at strike headquarters after negotiations stalled again. Firing loomed. Union president Ron Lawson asked whether they should continue the strike.

The roll was called. Unanimously, 22-0, the strike continued.

VICTORY!!

It was a night you'd remember forever.

The kinda thing you'd tell your grandchildren about, a high point which somehow carries you into the clouds, knowing you'll come down a different person.

It was the night the Town of Normal signed its first union contract, and the people of firefighter's Local 2442 celebrated victory.

City Hall tried to play glum, pretending there were no victors, leaving the room when the contract was signed.

But that didn't dim the spirits of the firefighters or their friends. With a signed contract in their hand, they left city hall, climbed on their fire rig, and returned "home."

"Home" to Fire Station No. 1, "home" with a contract, a union charter and their emblem.

"Home" without deputies, guards or the shadow of a jail sentence or firing over their heads.

"Home" with tears, songs, and rejoicing.

The day's celebration began before the city council meeting, when the firefighters gathered at strike headquarters in the Falcon Motel. Those on duty "borrowed" two fire trucks and joined the crew, as Union President Ron Lawson presented the contract for ratification. It was unanimously approved.

Everyone had a beer, thanked and hugged each other, joking and laughing. The children climbed all over the rig.

As council time drew near, the firefighters went to the meeting on one of the rigs.

With the firefighters awaiting the big moment like kids at Christmas, the city council finally came to the matter of "An agreement with the International Association of Firefighters."

Roll Call

Council member Paul Harmon began to speak. The crowd held its breath. The city council wasn't going to double-cross us now, was it?

No. Harmon finished his statement in support of the contract.

The roll call was taken.

5-2.

Council members Vernon Maulson and Paul Mattingly had voted against the contract, but the majority ruled.

Jubilant Cheer

A jubilant cheer arose from the crowd, and for once, Mayor Godfrey left his gavel alone.

The city representatives signed the agreement, and then, while union representatives prepared to, the city council members went to the back room. Somehow, they couldn't bear the sight.

Mayor Godfrey made a statement about the terrible human and emotional costs, and how the town would be long scarred. True. He declared there were no winners. The happy faces of the firefighters contradicted that statement.

President Lawson told the council he just hoped they wouldn't have to endure the same thing two years from now. "So do I, Mr. Lawson," countered Mayor Godfrey.

With contract in hand, the firefighters returned to Station No. 1. Assembling at the driveway, everyone marched in triumphant.

As the crowd entered the doors, a jubilant shout arose. "It is ours." No one was in the building but union

firefighters, their friends and families. There was no doubt who the victors were.

Proceeding to the station room, the union contract, the charter from the International Association of Firefighters, and the Local 2442 logo (24 men, 42 days in jail) were all hung on the wall amidst cheers.

President Lawson told everyone, "We've all got a lot of future to look forward to."

J. Dale Berry, legal representative of the strikers, said a few words after being warmly received by cheers and applause. Looking back over 56 days of strike, he never imagined it would last this long, including the 42-day jail sentence. But somehow everyone did more than survive, becoming better people in the process.

Mike Lass, International Representative, spoke next, reading a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. He too was warmly received.

And the speeches were constantly disrupted by cheers, choruses of "Solidarity Forever" and "We're Gonna Roll the Union On."

The moment of triumph, so long awaited, had finally come.

56 days of strike, 42 days of jail. A city council which had said they would "let buildings burn" or "let the men rot in jail" had finally signed.

These guys weren't rotting, they were very alive. The victory had been won.

And like any people's movement, there were no personality cults or big stars. This was everyone's victory, from Pyro the fire dog's wagging tail to everyone who had endured a long picket line, a wet morning's rally in the rain, or a too long night in jail.

Victory is too sweet for words.

---MgM

Win First Contract

That night, the city council and administration gathered at Station No. 1 for a pajama party. Sure that their deadline would have its effect, they were ready to welcome the returning fire fighters the next morning.

The next morning, the fire fighters were there. The city council emerged, only to be greeted by choruses of "We shall not be moved" and "We're gonna roll the union on." No one returned to work. To their further consternation, probationary fire fighter Jim Schrepfer, in the station on a union pass, walked out to join the strike.

Having broken off negotiations, the city was now eager to return to the bargaining table. A session was set for that afternoon.

Before hand, the fire fighters rallied with friends at Machinist Lodge 1000. In an emotional experience, labor leaders from across the state gathered in testimony to the Normal fire fighters. Promising that "your fight is our fight," organized labor produced moral and financial support.

Bargaining continued late that night, resuming the next afternoon, Sunday, May 14. At 9 pm, a possible agreement was announced.

Then at 2:30 pm May 15, a back-to-work agreement was signed, and four fire fighters resumed duty.

Monday passed quickly; jubilant fire fighters gathered that evening at strike headquarters, the Falcon Motel. Those on duty at Station No. 1 "borrowed" two fire trucks and joined their friends. The union membership ratified the contract amidst cheers, jokes and much picture taking. "Boys, we got ourselves a contract," declared President Lawson.

After riding the rig to city hall, the fire fighters waited for the council's move. After some hesitation from Paul Harmon, and two negative votes from Vernon Maulson and Paul Mattingly, the contract was signed.

After long cheers and applause, Mayor Godfrey made a short statement about there being "no winners or losers" and

Ron Lawson talked about the future everyone had to look forward to. And International Representative Mike Lass gave the final touch with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., summarizing the 56 days of strike and the 42 days in jail:

"We will match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity



HARD-WON: As Mayor Richard Godfrey tries to look like a good sport, the rest of the City Council having vacated the chambers, Local 2442 President Ron Lawson signs the first union contract in Normal's history. Fire Fighter Bill Kerber and Captains Ron Patterson, Frank Hanover and John McAtee look on.

comparing the bitter situation to the Civil War.

But looking very much like winners, the people of 2442 assembled at Station No. 1. Amidst tears, songs and cheers, they marched back in, tacking their 24/42 emblem on the wall, their union charter and their new contract.

Fire fighters' lawyer, Dale Berry, said that "I know we'll never be the same...We'll all be better people."

to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. We will not hate you, but we cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws...We will soon wear you down by our capacity to suffer. And in winning our freedom, we will so appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process."

---MgM

Solidarity Forever!

Solidarity Essential

This started as an article about an unfortunate confrontation between local union people and some Normal fire fighters and our supporters at Bloomington's Lay-Z-J Saloon on Tuesday night, May 16. The union laborers objected to us fire fighters attending a "Welcome Out Party" at the Lay-Z-J, a non-union bar.

But after writing the first draft of an article, I found out more about the union folks who initiated the confrontation and where they were coming from.

Part of what led to the confrontation is that Local 2442, the Normal Fire Fighters Union, had a breakdown in communications with some of its supporters. Some other people took offense and made a public scene. The result did not look good for the cause of union solidarity.

I'd just as soon forget that and move on to positive things. The sense of solidarity from the fire fighters strike is exhilarating, a thrill, one of the best things that ever happened to me.

I've only just begun here to express my thanks to all of our supporters. Your efforts bolstered us immeasurably.

It's past the last minute for turning in Post articles. I wish I'd had as much time to spend writing this positive story as I did on the piece I scrapped. More later.

Again, thank you everyone, for your support.

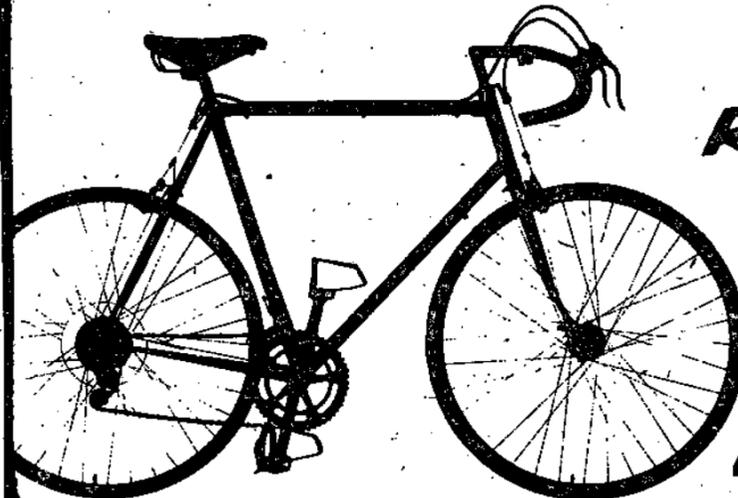
--Tom Korn
Local 2442
I.A.F.F.

New shipments of Motobecanes just arrived

WITESSE

Cycle Shop

College & Linden
Normal Illinois



RALEIGH

SEKAI BICYCLES

Telephone
454-1541

Runaway

When we talked with Brenda Fleming on April 24, her situation was ugly in a way that only a 15-year-old's situation can be.

On February 18, Brenda had run away from a fanatical Christian foster home in Chenoa to live with her mother. As a runaway, she knew that a warrant was out for the police to pick her up if they saw her. The cops carried her picture in their cars. She couldn't sign up for school because the cops would pick her up there. She couldn't trust her court-appointed lawyer to help her, because he was appointed to "act in her best interests" as he saw them, not as she did, since she is a juvenile. And she couldn't get her caseworker, Cheryl Bills, who'd already once promised to send her home and sent her to jail instead, to tell her over the phone what would happen if she turned herself in.

wanted to go to school

On April 24, everything was hanging in the air. Brenda said she wanted to go back to school and "start shaping up," but she didn't want to end up in jail, at the Mary Davis Detention Home (kids' jail), or back with fanatical foster parents. She wanted to live legally with her mother Chris Guitierrez, as she had been doing illegally for about two months. And Chris wanted her to live there too. And it seemed a long three years before she reached the age of 18. Dodging the cops for three years seemed her best choice--but dodging would keep her out of school and out of work.

This ugly situation started in May 1976, when Brenda was 13 and too wild for her mother to handle. Chris complained to Assistant State's Attorney Wagner that Brenda stayed out all night, "partied too hard," and didn't let her know where she was. Chris asked him to get someone to talk to Brenda, someone that she'd have to listen to. She felt powerless.

Little did Chris know she was giving up the last shreds of power when she she approached Wagner. As Chris said, "The next thing I knew, they had her gone." A judge declared Brenda to be a Minor in Need of Supervision (MINS) and she was sent off to Salem Children's Home in Flanagan, Ill. Usually, the social worker said, the juvenile justice system manages to make things much worse than they were to start with.

Brenda's case is a good example of that. She says that she acted up two years ago in rebellion against her mother's husband, who she hated and feared. She was labelled MINS in May 1976. In December 1976, her mother kicked her abusive husband out for good, and Brenda was ready to go home. She says the root of her wildness was gone, and she and Chris could get along all right.

But by December, the state had Brenda and Chris too deeply caught in its machinery to take such a common-sense measure as sending Brenda home to see how things worked out.

visits made difficult

Brenda stayed at the Salem home until August 1977. At this home, her house parents were "always running (her) mother down." They told her that her mother would ruin her life. They made it hard for her to see her mother, and she says they interrogated her after each visit with her grandparents: Did she see her mother there? Was she alone with her? What did they talk about?, etc. Later at her foster home in Chenoa where she stayed from Jan. 1978 to mid-Feb. 1978, the foster parents also criticized Chris and objected to the mother and daughter's visits.

The house parents at Salem tried to tell Brenda that "holding hands was wrong" and said that she'd been "conducting herself like a little whore." When she told her juvenile probation officer she was sexually active, she got "a big lecture," but not a word about birth control.

At Chenoa, too, Brenda's foster parents tried to keep her away from sex rather than encouraging her to make her own informed decisions about it. They told her that she could not date anyone over 17 (as though men under 17 are asexual!) and they also told her that Ken Simons, director of Juvenile Court Services and the big honcho, said that he'd put a warrant out for the arrest of any man over 17 that she went out with--for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The Augsburgers, the Chenoa foster parents, also told her she had to stop writing letters to her boyfriend in Heyworth, who was over seventeen.

Such invasions of privacy were commonplace. At one point, foster father Bob Augsburger stole Brenda's letters from her dresser drawer while she was at school and took them to Cheryl Bills and Ken Simons at the Juvenile Court Services. When Brenda found that her dresser had been rifled and her letters taken, Augsburger admitted that he'd done it, saying "it was for her own good." Among the letters were some from her mother which the foster parents thought were particularly important for Simons and Bills to read, (Ironically, in one of the letters, Chris suggested that Brenda should try to get her own mailbox so her mail couldn't be tampered with. This type of advice is, no doubt, the kind of thing that caused her mother to be labeled a "bad influence" on Brenda.)

At the heart of such self-righteous disrespect for individuals, especially young ones and female ones, is, of course, Christianity. Both the homes at Salem and at Chenoa shoved fundamentalist Christianity down Brenda's throat, in spite of her protests that she did not believe in it and thought it was "ignorant." At Salem, the children were punished for saying "gosh" and "gee whiz" because these expressions were naughty corruptions of "god" and "jesus."

Refusal to go to church was against the house rules, and as such, carried the threat of removal to a "secure facility" (again, kids' jail).

skirts lengthen

At Chenoa, the superstitious atmosphere was even thicker. Brenda was required to go to church with her foster parents every night, and forced to go to religious retreats on weekends. The Augsburgers, who Brenda still describes as "nice people," wanted her to lengthen all her skirts and grow up to be a missionary.

When you ponder these violations of conscience, remember how great these foster parents' control over Brenda's life was. Any time, they could say that they couldn't handle her and send her back to court to be reassigned, probably to kids' jail, since Juvenile Court Services could claim that foster homes didn't work out.

Brenda says that the Juvenile Court Services people say "every kid should have a religious background." She says Ken Simons "really pushes that." His choice of foster homes certainly gives away what kind of religious background he thought kids should have, even if they are principled atheists like Brenda. Brenda knows another teenager who Ken Simons drove to Mary Davis Home (jail). She says that Simons made the culprit read the Bible all the way over there.

Actually, in Brenda's case the Godpushers were breaking the law. The Juvenile Court Act of 1970 says that

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runs home

the child's natural parents keep the right to determine the child's religious affiliation, even when the child is "in placement" (that means in a foster home or in jail). But Chris was never consulted about Brenda's religious training.

The entire philosophy of Ken Simons' Juvenile Court Services is widely criticized. The practice that grows from this philosophy is to take kids who have been living a very loose, nonrestricted life and put them in a tightly controlled and ordered life.

The idea is that their free lifestyle caused them to get into trouble, and a regimented lifestyle will straighten them out.

Perhaps it's true of a lot of kids in trouble that they run wild. But it doesn't follow that putting them in extreme restraint will help them. In fact, overstrictness practically insures that they'll violate the more confining rules, or be so miserable at the drastic loss of freedom that they'll run away.

go to jail

Brenda ran away from Salem in August 1977, and remained at large until the end of December (except for a stay of two hours at Morgan Washington Home). She and her mother talked her situation over when they saw each other at Christmastime, and Brenda decided to turn herself in after the holidays. Chris and Brenda called the caseworker Cheryl Bills, who "promised that Brenda would definitely not be jailed and there was a good chance she would be able to return home."

So on Jan. 3, Brenda and Chris appeared willingly in court. Brenda was sent directly to Bloomington City Jail for 24 hours.

Brenda says of her foster home in Chenoa, "I tried being the way they wanted me to be for quite a while, but finally I just thought, 'I ain't going to do this no more.' I think it's ignorant to do something that you don't believe in."

On Jan. 4 Cheryl Bills showed Chris the recommendation that she wrote, saying that Brenda should be sent to Mary Davis Detention and that Chris was uncooperative. (Chris had helped locate Brenda and communicated with Juvenile Court Services regularly while Brenda was on the run; she resents Bills' claim that she was uncooperative. The next time Brenda ran, from Chenoa, Chris had wised up and really didn't cooperate.)

Bills refused to talk with Chris about the abrupt turnaround from her promise that Brenda could probably go home, and that she would not spend any time in jail. The report written by the Juvenile Court Officer (in this case, Bills) is usually carried through by the judge without much questioning, so Bills knew all along that her promises to Chris and Brenda were empty.

When the Augsburger's showed up willing to take Brenda, Bills revised her report and recommended a new foster home. After an experimental week living with the Augsburger's, Brenda was formally sentenced to their custody. She stayed six weeks before running again.

Brenda moved back to Chris' house in Lexington when she ran from Chenoa in mid-February. By mid-April, she was tired of dodging cops and anxious to go back to school. Chris and Brenda both started calling Cheryl Bills, asking what would happen if Brenda turned herself in. Bills would only say, "I don't know. I have no idea," which is ridiculous since she's still the one that would write the influential report to the judge.

When we talked on April 24, Chris said, "Something's got to be done, cause I don't want her to stay a runaway, but I don't want her to turn herself in if this is going to happen all over again."

Brenda was picked up on Main Street in Lexington on April 27 and taken to jail. She was released in Chris' custody the next day, and appeared for a dispositional hearing (sentencing) May 2.

Cheryl Bills presented a report and recommendation to the judge dated March 21, 1978--almost a month before she kept telling Chris and Brenda that she didn't know what would happen.

'structured, confined'

The recommendation said, "This Juvenile Court Officer would recommend that upon Brenda's being taken into custody, that she be placed in the program at the Mary Davis Home. Brenda needs a structured confined facility; and Mary Davis is exactly that. If the court does not feel Brenda should be placed at Mary Davis, I would ask that her case be dismissed and that she be placed in the custody of her mother. Brenda has demonstrated her unwillingness to cooperate with any type of unstructured placement facility. Outside of a secure facility, this Juvenile Court Officer would have nothing to offer Brenda. Brenda's mother has stated that she would not cooperate with myself or the Juvenile Court Service Office. Thus perhaps it is time that she be given the full responsibility for Brenda. I would hesitate to do this for I believe placing Brenda back in her mother's home would be detrimental to her welfare. However, again, there is nothing to do with Brenda outside of placement at Mary Davis."

Bills held to the Mary Davis recommendation when she testified in court, although under cross-examination she admitted that she had never even visited Chris' home in Lexington as part of her investigation. But Judge Knecht decided to follow the other option, to cut Brenda loose, saying that he'd read both Chris' and Brenda's letters in the Post-American (March and May issues).



So the story has a happy ending, as long as you don't think too hard about how it would be to spend your 13th to 15th years the way Brenda did.

And there's a little matter of \$1400. Because Brenda's father is dead, she receives a social security check of \$200 per month. The state has sent this money directly to Juvenile Court Services since May 1976, to help pay for her detention. But for a total of seven months out of these two years, Brenda was on the run and did not receive any benefits from the \$200 a month that Juvenile Court Services collected. As far as she's concerned, there's \$1400 unaccounted for.

That'd buy a lot of bibles-- maybe enough to threaten every foster child in the area.

--Phoebe Caulfield



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Good samaritan saves spitter

One day a couple months ago, Dan Cremeens, a Bloomington man, was near the old downtown Bloomington State Farm building. He turned his head toward the street in order to hit the gutter, and spit.

Unfortunately for Cremeens, a police car containing Officer Joe Rusk and his partner was cruising north on the same street at that very moment. Cremeens was looking in Rusk's direction, and Rusk misinterpreted Cremeen's spitting. Paranoid? You bet!

The police stopped their car and shouted across the street at Cremeens. They told him to keep moving, and mentioned something about maintaining the same direction. Cremeens said that maybe he wanted to change his mind and go north. This got the officers all upset. How dare he tell them which direction he wanted to walk!

Rusk ran across East St. shouting, followed by his partner. Rusk started pushing and shoving Cremeens, continuing to yell at him. They shoved Cremeens against the State Farm building, at which point Rusk's partner asked Rusk, "Do you want him?" Rusk replied that he did, and Cremeens was handcuffed and taken in.

Cremeens never knew the charges against him until he got to the police station, which isn't unusual. At the station he was charged with disorderly conduct, which isn't unusual either. At that point, however, something unusual did happen.



During the pushing and shoving scene by the police, a large crowd had gathered around that busy downtown site. One member of that crowd, a concerned citizen whose identity remains a mystery to Cremeens, went to the police station directly after Rusk took Cremeens in. That concerned citizen complained.

Cremeens said that a well-dressed, good-looking, forty-ish

man came into the police station and told the police that he saw what happened. He said he didn't like the way it was handled, and told the police he wanted to talk about it.

At this point, Cremeens said, the cops took the man into a back room, so Cremeens couldn't hear any more that was said. All he knows is that shortly after that, the charges against him were dropped.

Of course, not all of us could do such a service for our fellow citizens. Imagine walking into the police station in your faded, frayed blue jeans and "Smoke Columbian" t-shirt and telling a cop, "I don't like the way you handled that bust." They'd book you for disorderly conduct faster than they did the person you were defending.

No, as long as maleness and wealth are the things that determine who has power in our society, only rich men will be able to make public servants listen to them. But credit this particular powerful person for speaking up on behalf of a less powerful human. We have to make them start listening somehow!

--Amanda Ziller



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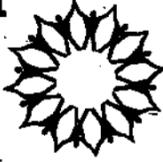


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Sun Day Shines On

May 3, was national Sun Day, a celebration of the sun and solar energy. From the rising of the sun in Maine to its setting in Hawaii, bubble-headed solar energy nuts and normal folks from all over the country joined with other nations around the world to salute the sun.

The First Annual Central Illinois Positive Energy Convention got rained out. The rescheduled sun weekend promises to be bigger and better, and if the rented tent doesn't leak, it won't be rained out either. It's set for Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18.

Sun Day was cloudy over much of the U.S. The Solar Symposium at Illinois State University was luckier than most. The sun shone clear for the Sunrise Service, although the wind still had a touch of winter about its edges. While it clouded up and blustered much of the morning, by afternoon it was almost pleasant. The crowds that came to see the speakers and exhibits showed an interest in solar energy that was quite encouraging. All in all, it went well.

There were several solar collectors on display, including a homemade window box air collector, a Grumman Sunstream hot water collector, and an exhibit by Illinois Power Company, where few people asked questions. Information was available in abundance. Sun Spot received one shipment of eleven 42-pound boxes of it. Send a self-addressed envelope with lots of postage to Sun Spot to get your own personal pile.

Lovins Speaks

On May 4, as part of Sun Week in northern Illinois, energy expert and part-time visionary Amory B. Lovins came to Illinois to speak. The event was held in Freedom Hall in Park Forest.

If you ever get a chance to hear or see Lovins, do so. Your children will be taught Lovins like we were Einstein. He's just too much.

Solar enthusiasts point to California as a model for what solar legislation can do. There the person who puts in a solar system can take 55% of its value off his/her taxes.

But Lovins pointed out that even this subsidy is less than that given through taxpayers' contributions to such follies as the Alaskan oil pipeline. (The pipeline has now created a temporary oil glut on the west coast.)

Nuclear subsidies are even higher. When the National Energy Act passes, its solar subsidy won't go half as far as California already has gone. We need a solar lobby in Springfield.

Alliance Conservative

Of particular interest to opponents of nuclear power were Amory's remarks concerning the "white paper" prepared by the Prairie Alliance. This paper demonstrates that there are more than enough easily-taken conservation measures and renewable energy sources to completely remove the "necessity" of the Clinton nuclear power plant, a plant Lovins referred to as "your local turkey."

His main comment on the figures reported by Charlotte Ford were that they were much too conservative! Not only don't we need Clinton, but we could also reduce the need for some existing plants too. Further, these measures cost less and produce from 2 1/2 to 4 times as many jobs per dollar invested compared with nuclear power. They are also safer, cleaner, and produce long-term jobs of the type that are needed most by the unemployed.

The Clintonuke is a Turkey, Really!

Amory Lovins knew what he was saying. Clinton is a turkey, at least that is the reputation it carries among the 15 to 20 nuclear power firms contacted by an engineer who no longer works there. Wherever he went, others laughed when he said he had worked at Clinton.

Sun Weekend

Mark the third weekend in June on your calendar and come out to the "Second" First Annual Positive Energy Convention at Timberline Rec Area, off Rt. 117 in Goodfield, between Peoria and Bloomington, off I-74. Exhibits include a dozen solar energy firms and energy conservation companies, an arts and crafts fair, slide shows, films, and speakers on solar energy, do-it-yourself projects, puppet shows on solar mythology; a wood-based pottery-firing bonfire Saturday night, and booths by the Coalition for Political Honesty and the Prairie Alliance for Safe Energy Alternatives. Music by central Illinois musicians will make the warm summer air resound with good vibes amidst whole food concessions by Common Ground, Honey Tree, and Just Your Basic Vegetarian Restaurant.

Sunday afternoon a series of Sun Runs will be held. The races are open to all, and are divided into age groups. First prizes are certificates for free solar collector panels (one per winner) when a complete solar hot water heating system is purchased from Grumman. The net result is a \$305 discount on a system that could cost between \$1000 and \$2000 to install. Following the Sun Runs will be a New Games Tournament, featuring games that all can play, games that

celebrate our differences rather than pitting us against one another. Volunteers are needed to be referees. Call 829-5195 if you want to help with the Sun Weekend activities. Bring your friends and frisbees. It's all free unless you camp. That will cost each group of five or less \$4.50 plus \$1 for electricity if you want it.

The "First" First Annual was rained out, but rain is just one more form of solar energy. The sun evaporated all that water and created the heat that made the winds that brought it here. Being this close to a badly built nuclear reactor, there are worse things that could fall out of the sky.

Seabrook Action Day is June 24

On Saturday, June 24, thousands of concerned citizens will congregate for the fourth time at the site of the controversial Seabrook, N.H., nuclear power plant. The event will be national in its impact, and a 30-mile bicycle trek from the Bloomington court house to the gate of the Clintonuke carrying signed petitions supporting solar energy and urging the phaseout of nuclear power is being planned to show support for the Seabrook action. Similar contingents from Champaign-Urbana and Springfield will walk or bike from their homes to the site. The action is being planned in Bloomington-Normal by Jacqui Tippel and friends. Contact her at 454-1095. Get your bike tuned up, get your legs in shape, and let's all have a good time!

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Communities conference in August

Since the cultural revolution of the sixties, intentional communities (planned communal settlements centered around ideology or values of one type or another) have been springing up across the U.S. Some of these are religious in orientation. Others are centered around B. F. Skinner's behavioral science ideas as outlined in Walden Two. Others are thinking in even larger terms: that they are social laboratories for testing out lifestyles for the future of civilization.

August 22-27, there will be a "West Coast Communities Conference." The conference will bring together individuals in various intentional communities, and people interested in the subject though not necessarily living in community. It will take place in San Francisco and at nearby Harbin Hot Springs, 1,000 acres of land two hours north of the city, with large natural hot baths.

The conference is sponsored by Kerista Village, a democratic intentional community established in 1971. The purpose of the conference is to delve into the "software" (interpersonal and group dynamics) that go into making a successful community. Subjects such as polyfidelity, group marriage, decision-making and economics will be explored. For more info write: Communities Conference, c/o Kerista Village, P.O.B. 1174, San Francisco, Ca. 94101 or phone: (415) 566-5640 or 566-9386. The conference sponsors encourage conference participants to give workshops on their areas of interest. Write for details.

For the party that stole Nel's music: If you know him, he doesn't deserve it. Any returns, even just the tapes would be appreciated.

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Cooperative art gallery moves

Near Normal Artworks is a cooperative gallery that was organized to provide local artists with an alternative environment to show and discuss their work. The gallery has recently moved and recently changed its name. Formerly called Gallery 210, Near Normal Artworks is now located on the second floor of the Monroe Building, 101 W. Monroe St. in downtown Bloomington. If you stand in front of Small Changes Bookstore, look across the street and up to the left, you will be able to look right in the window of the gallery.

Members of the gallery cooperative share the rent, hang shows, maintain the walls and staff the gallery when it is open to the public, 11 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Each member has a one person show once a year. Besides members' shows there have been several group shows showing work of all the members at one time. There was a show of Xerography which is art using image produced with a Xerox machine.

A more recent show entitled Kitsch and Mail Art was advertised across the nation. All entries were mailed in, none were rejected. The show was very popular. There was a wide range of "mailed art" including such stuff as postcards, books, dressed up dolls, handkerchiefs and even a pay bed pan.

Shows that are coming up are works by Nancy Van Kanegon that deal with the ideas of costume, ritual and sexuality. The show's title is Grotesquerie.

Nancy's show was on view during the time the gallery was changing locations, so it was felt that not many people had a chance to experience it. And for anyone who has seen it the show is going to be somewhat different. It is worth seeing again. Nancy's work can be viewed through June 10.

Shows usually open on Sunday evenings from seven to ten. The Sunday following the closing of Nancy's show (June 11) is the opening date for Jack Davis' show "Roll Play." His work deals with sexual imagery as well. Included will be photographs, crocheted penises, some in containers. Davis says that he is interested in demystifying the power of the penis.

The next show will be a group show opening on July 2.

Anyone wishing to have their work reviewed for membership should contact either Corky Neuhaus at 829-1471 or Jack Davis at 828-6935.



SOLIDARITY THEATER: July 9, professional actors from the Labor Theater, Actor's Equity (AFL-CIO), tell the story of organized labor in a play entitled "Pass It On." All proceeds to the Normal Fire Fighters Strike Fund, watch for time, place and further details.

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letters

FBI surveillance

Post Note:

In our Jan. 1978 issue (VI #9) we printed a story about FBI interference in the local Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) chapter in the late 1960's. We'd got the information on the FBI actions due to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's request for FBI documents under the Freedom of Information Act. One dirty trick the FBI pulled was sending a poison-pen letter to an SDS member's parents, telling them she was sleeping with a married man, in hopes that the parents would demand that she come home and leave her political work. We were unable to contact the former SDSer when we wrote the article, but this month she wrote us the following letter.

Dear Post,

Thanks for the copy of the article written by Phoebe Caulfield. Most of the information in the article was news to me.

My father never said a word about the forged letter. I guess he's still trying to protect me. There was a rift between my father and myself at that time and I suppose this letter just drove the wedge in even farther.

My dropping out of SDS was for my own personal reasons and not because of these FBI activities which I was unaware of.

We weren't, however, ignorant of being spied upon. It was not unfounded paranoia. When two other people and I were arrested in Normal for passing out leaflets at one of the high schools, we found concrete evidence of

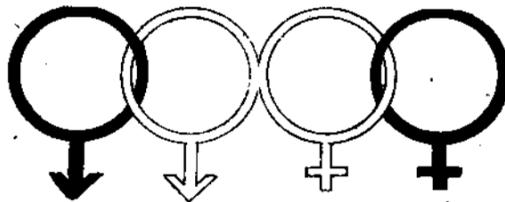
their espionage. The other woman and I asked to go to the restroom. We were taken by a matron to an upstairs room. When we got inside, we found strips of developed film hanging on one wall. Upon closer inspection we found pictures of the interior of the Abyss where we lived.

On another occasion yards of wire and a microphone were found in the attic. I guess that we didn't realize ourselves just what kind of an impression we were making on the government. As far as my political beliefs now, I guess I've been traveling in the same direction ever since I left SDS. I realized at the time that no peace would ever be won by fighting. Violence only breeds more violence.

The only way to achieve peace is by practicing it. You can't lose.

Thanks again.

Good luck and peace to all,
Cathy (Krummel) Perez



Gays & feminists support strike

Dear People of the Post Amerikan,

During the recent firefighters' strike there were a lot of people who supported the firefighters by going to the fire station each morning during the shift change, by going to city council meetings, by talking about the firefighters' struggle in the community. The straight media seemed to categorize these supporters as either firefighters' wives, union people or students. There were a lot of people there who didn't fit these categories, and there were a lot of people who were there because they are committed to fighting oppression no matter what form it takes. Some of these people belong to oppressed groups themselves, namely women and gay people. Even though there seemed to be little Feminist consciousness in the speech making and even though there were anti-women and anti-gay slurs directed toward the scabs, the women and gay people continued to support the union in its struggle.

I want the people who support the firefighter's union to know that there were women out there and there were gay people out there supporting the union because they themselves are oppressed and know what it is to fight against oppression. I would like people to remember this when the gay struggle goes to the streets and then we will need support in our struggle.

--Jack Davis

Prisoner wants penpal

Dear Post,

I was just sitting here reading your paper, which I find to be very interesting and informative. I am an inmate on death row at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio. I am sure that it isn't necessary to elaborate on the drama that my sentence has created. I am a very lonely man here on death row, and I am in desperate need of a meaningful correspondence with someone who cares. I only ask that you print my letter, in hopes that someone will write. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely in need of your letters,
Larry E. Kaiser
#143-970
P.O. Box 45699
Lucasville OH 45699

Mission helps homeless

Dear Post,

Thank you for printing our reply in full to your story concerning "Help for the Homeless." We appreciate it very much.

However, there was still an error in your reply. The Home Sweet Home Mission has not recently opened its doors to women and children. In fact, this part of our program was established on the Mission premises since 1954. Before that time, the Mission housed women and children through local hotels while still providing them with food, counseling, clothing, etc. within the Mission proper.

The difficulties that we have in dealing with families are not (as was implied) here on the Mission premises, but rather in finding long term solutions to their problems in the community at large--such as employment, medical attention, schooling, and housing.

Sincerely,
Darryl L. Eslinger
Executive Director

North St. *Normal*

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A (not so) brief

MEG is an undercover narc squad headquartered in Peoria. The agents operate in six Central Illinois counties: McLean, Tazewell, Peoria, Fulton, Knox, and Warren.

MEG stands for Metropolitan Enforcement Group, and represents a new concept in law enforcement, especially drug law enforcement, which the federal government began pushing in the late sixties and which grew in the early seventies.

The idea is that small units of government--cities and counties--would pool their police efforts and form multi-jurisdictional police forces. The idea was that cops in metropolitan areas where several cities are close together would not be limited by their usual political

boundaries.

There was another new element in the MEG concept--at least in the MEG concept as it was written up in Illinois. Instead of the traditional approach of trying to stem the flow of drugs by busting large dealers, MEG units would actually admit that they were after what they called the "street level" dealer.

This is another way of saying small fry.

When Richard Nixon the crook president and his crook attorney general John Mitchell (now in prison) pushed their "get tough on crime" package through in the late sixties, the MEG concept became a priority in the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

(LEAA). The LEAA was the agency which divided the huge federal anti-crime budget among the states.

In Illinois, the LEAA's money goes to the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC). At LEAA's urging, the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission began plans to set up MEG units in Illinois with LEAA's federal money. MEG units were appearing in other parts of the country, too.

By 1971, Illinois had its first MEG unit--a truly metropolitan collection of about 50 Chicago suburbs and Cook County.

By 1973, officials at the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission were already planning to set up more MEG units with their federal money. They laid plans for 6 more MEGs, including the 6-county one headquartered in Peoria.

The ILEC board said it wanted an evaluation of the already existing Cook County MEG before it would fund any downstate MEG units.

Criminologist John Webster, hired to study and evaluate the Cook County MEG, submitted a 100-page report which called the narc unit a disaster. He said it should be dissolved, and no more MEG units funded.

In early 1974, the ILEC board approved funding for 6 downstate MEG units in Illinois. To meet the criticisms contained in Webster's report, the Commission forced the new MEG units to adopt a set of guidelines which were supposed to prevent the kind of abuses and petty busts which had characterized the Chicago MEG. One instruction was that MEG units should

About the cover

The photos printed on the front cover, along with the narc pictures in this issue's centerfold, were all taken secretly by a team of Post-Amerikan photographers. The team took photos on several different days in mid-May, and the agents did not know they were being photographed.

The letter from MEG Director Jerry LaGrow reproduced on the cover is real. We received it a few days after Post photographers concluded their photo-taking missions. We don't know how MEG found out that we had the photos.

There are some additional MEG agents who we know about, but do not have photos of.

There are also some suspected agents who we do have photos of, but do not have enough proof to print their pictures.

In his letter, Jerry LaGrow claims that printing these photos will endanger his agents. He likes to pretend he's busting play-for-keeps big syndicate types, when really MEG's primary victims are very small occasional dealers, young people selling to their peers.

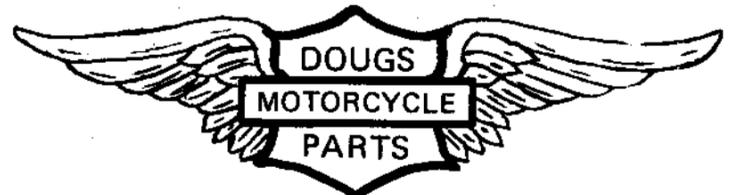
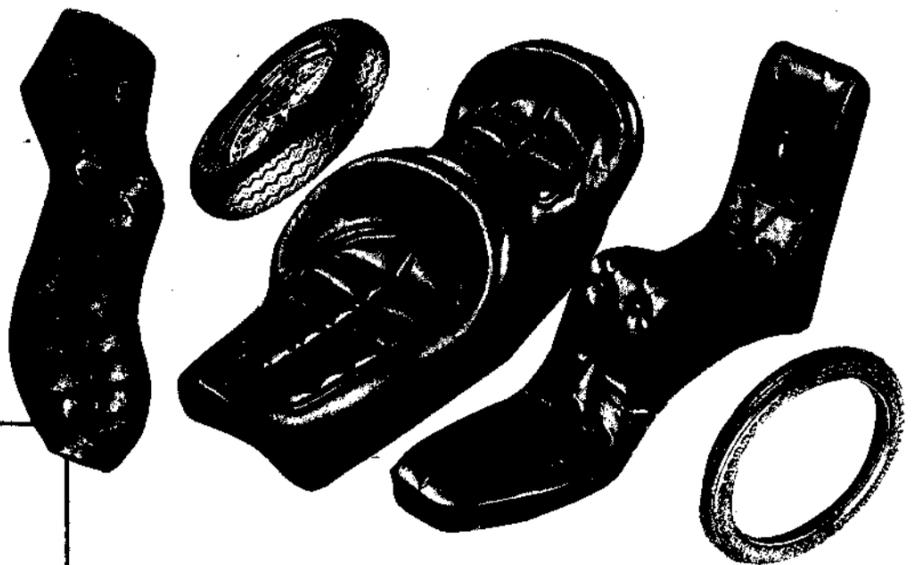
We don't think LaGrow really believes these photos will endanger his agents.

But if the agents are really worried, they can change their line of work.

Save \$20-\$35 on all seats in stock!

Also low, low sale prices on all tires and tune-ups.

Every Saturday is Wheel & Deal day!



NOTICE:
We have many brand new parts that have been here for quite a while. I would like a little more space, so if you will come down, we will give you the best price we can on many items. Some are even below cost.

Thanks,
Doug

1105 W. WASHINGTON ST.
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61701
PHONE (309) 829-8941

10 - 4:30 Mon. - Sat.

history of MEG

go after hard drugs, and leave enforcement of pot laws to local police.

In 1974, the Peoria-based MEG began as a federation of six nearby counties and the cities of Peoria, Pekin, Galesburg, Peoria Heights, East Peoria, and Bloomington.

The grant was set up to last three years, and the federal money had to be matched with money from the local units of government.

Some units of government contribute personnel--a city cop or a sheriff's deputy. Other units of government contribute money.

In March, 1974, Jerry LaGrow was hired to be MEG's Director, and the unit began gearing up. The narc squad began its actual operations in July 1974.

The first busts came down in the fall of 1974, and the first public criticism of MEG's tactics began shortly thereafter. The narc squad has been embroiled in controversy ever since.

The principal of Pekin High School got fired when the school board found out he had sneaked a MEG informer into the school to spy on teachers and students.

By early spring, 1975, the Post-Amerikan began a series of investigative articles about the sleazy secret police and their unethical, and sometimes illegal, operations.

Almost every issue of the Post-Amerikan since then has continued coverage of the undercover spies.

When MEG Director LaGrow mouthed off

to the press that a MEG defendant who was acquitted was really guilty, he got slapped with a \$6 million libel suit, which is still pending after three years.

In the fall of 1975, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a \$1 million civil rights suit on behalf of a defendant who had been entrapped by MEG. At the same time, the ACLU documented a list of 8 charges of improper MEG conduct, and demanded an investigation.

Almost a year later, the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, pondering that investigation's results, agreed that ACLU had a point. MEG got its wrist slapped.

By late 1976, MEG's original three-year federal funding was running out. MEG's survival depended on getting a bill passed in Springfield, replacing the federal money with state support.

In Bloomington, about 350 people demonstrated against the proposed MEG funding in an October March Against MEG.

At a press conference kicking off plans for the march and rally, organizers released a detailed and documented indictment of the MEG unit's history, listing each outrage point by point. This document was later introduced into the public record in Springfield, at a legislative committee hearing about MEG's funding.

MEG's federal funding expired in July, 1977, and the narc agency had to lay off narcs and cut down expenses to make it through the summer. In Sept. '77, the MEG funding bill was signed by Governor Thompson, and the financial future of the downstate Illinois MEG units was assured.

It wasn't until Nov. 1977 that the new state money began flowing to the MEG units. The narcs immediately hired new agents, leased new cars, and began intensifying their hunt for new victims.

From spring 1977 until fall 1977, the MEG unit was slowing down, laying off agents and conserving its buy money. Only in recent months have the people in the six county MEG area begun to feel the effects of the new beefed-up narc unit--now operating at full capacity.

Over the years, two of the original MEG members--Galesburg and the County of McLean--dropped out. But the cities of Monmouth, Morton, Marquette Heights, Tremont, and Chillicothe have all expressed interest in joining the secret police squad.

According to Bloomington Police Chief Harold Bosshardt (who is the chairperson of the MEG board), these new cities haven't been able to join MEG because of the way the inter-governmental contract is presently written. But a new contract will be adopted soon, and Bosshardt expects the new MEG members to join up after July.

Narc pix

Why do we do it?

MEG is a network of secret police agents and informers in the midst of our community.

MEG and its agents take advantage of our trust in each other to infiltrate our homes and schools, our places of work and our places of leisure. They gain our trust and betray us. They work against us.

MEG encourages its informers to betray their friends and lovers, creating dissension in a community which ought to be building bonds of trust and interdependence.

Because of MEG, our brothers and sisters lose their jobs. They get kicked out of their apartments. Because of MEG, people waste thousands of dollars they can't afford on lawyers who don't do much of anything, and our poorest brothers and sisters get stuck with the public defenders who do worse than nothing for them. Ultimately, MEG physically breaks up our community, taking our people off the streets and locking them up in cages.

MEG uses its illegitimate power to wreck the lives of people who do no more than get high and share their highs with small groups of people.

True, some of MEG's victims share more dangerous drugs with each other, drugs which are dangerous to their bodies and minds.

But even if some of our brothers and sisters are tearing themselves up with dangerous substances, MEG and its jails are no help. MEG does more damage to our lives than the most dangerous of the drugs circulating in our community.

MEG is not, and never has been, an agency designed to fight or prevent drug abuse. The most deadly form of drug abuse is alcohol abuse. But no one dares suggest that the alcohol users and dealers be arrested and jailed--because the people in power legalize the drugs they use themselves.

The real crime MEG victims are guilty of is not using or selling dangerous substances, but using or selling dangerous substances different from the particular dangerous substances accepted by the dominant groups in society.

If we have a problem with abuse of dangerous substances, then the way to deal with it is through community, not through isolation.

Secret police agents are intruders in our community. MEG informers are betrayers of our community.

As long as there is a conflict between our values and the values of the law, we cannot tolerate secret police among us. If we ingest illegal substances, our very lifestyles are illegal. Secret police spies eventually could begin collecting information about the rest of our lifestyles--our associations, attitudes and beliefs, our political opinions and activities.

As long as secret police are allowed to persist in our midst, we have to continually look over our shoulders, we have to keep our guard up, we have to be distrustful. MEG's very existence interferes with the building and strengthening of community. MEG's very existence interferes with the spontaneous building of ties of solidarity and trust among our sisters and brothers.

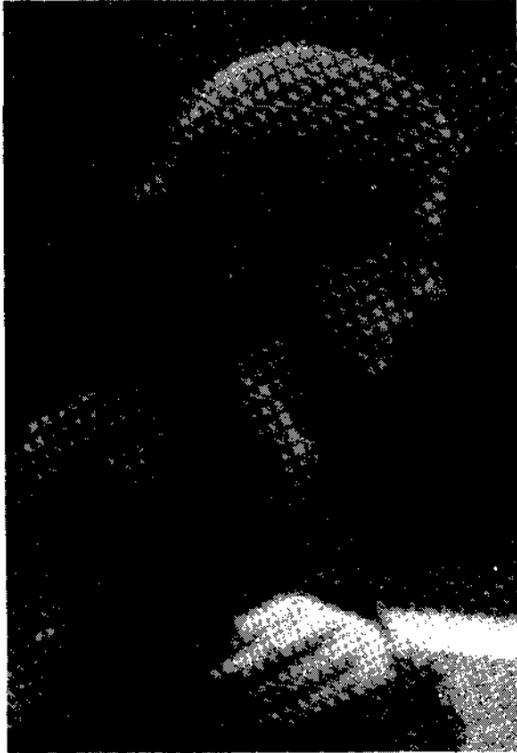
And MEG has got to go.

When a secret police force isn't secret anymore, some of its hideous potential for harm is gone.

By printing photos of MEG agents, we help remove the undercover agents' cover.

To MEG agents and their informers, we say get out of our lives. To potential informers, we say think about it again. Don't turn against your brothers and sisters.

The **gallery**
Summer Good Times
MON. HAPPY HOURS 11-10 pm
 95¢ Drafts 50¢ Bar Drinks 60¢ Pizza
TUE. Customer Appreciation Hour
 9-10 pm 1st Drink Free 85¢ Max
WED. Guy's Nite 8-10:30 pm
 35¢ Drafts 50¢ Bar Drinks
THU. Ladies 60¢ Pizza
 35¢ Drafts 50¢ Bar Drinks 8-10:30 pm 60¢ Pizza
FRI. HAPPY HOURS 4-7 pm
 35¢ Drafts 50¢ Bar Drinks 60¢ Pizza
SAT. 2 for 1 Sale 7-8:30 pm
 Buy 1 slice Pizza 2nd one FREE
SUN. 50's Night 50¢ buy
 Bar Drinks, Hamburgers, Tenderloins
 Fish Sandwiches 7:30-9 p.m.



Paul Brenkman

Paul Brenkman has been a MEG agent for at least a year and a half. He also works full time at the Caterpillar plant at Mossville. Brenkman used to work at Caterpillar's East Peoria plant, but was transferred after busting a batch of his co-workers in the summer of 1977.

When Brenkman's photo was taken, he was not driving one of the cars MEG leases. Instead he was driving his own car, a dark green 1977 Oldsmobile 442 Cutlass, PB 3973. The "442" lettering on the car stands out distinctively.

Maybe Brenkman bought the car from his own relatives--his uncle owns Brenkman Oldsmobile in Pekin.

Brenkman has been living at RR 2 Chillicothe, according to the City Directory.



?????????

We don't know if this man is an actual MEG employee, but he is definitely associated with the narcs in some way. He drove to the MEG office with special agent Larry Wight as passenger. Both men entered the building, though the man pictured here left within fifteen minutes.

MEG agents usually drive new cars, but they do have a couple older ones confiscated from defendants. This man drove an older green 4-door Ford Galaxy, JE 4132. A check with the computer at the Secretary of State's office produced the same result as license checks of all known MEG cars: the computer simply said "no record on file."

**Keep
police
our
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Bill Muir



Free Voice photo

Bill Muir is a Knox County sheriff's deputy assigned to work undercover for MEG. The photo on the right was taken by the Galesburg Free Voice in spring, 1977--before Muir began undercover work. The center photo was taken nine days after the photo on the left; during that time Muir began growing a beard. Muir has been seen driving a copper colored Grand Prix 416 738 and a very dark colored Camaro, 149 798. Muir has a non-published phone number in Galesburg.

Is that a MEG agent in my house?

Thousands and thousands of people in Central Illinois have had to ask themselves this question over the last few years.

With MEG's pressure tactics turning mere users into "dealers," and MEG's informers periodically using entrapment and sometimes outright fabricated evidence, you don't have to be a dealer to be wondering if you will soon be a MEG target.

Based on familiarity with MEG's tactics and operations, the Post-Amerikan is offering these tips on dealing with a suspected MEG agent.

1. First of all, MEG agents do not have to tell you they are narcs when you ask them. When MEG agents are undercover, it is their job to lie. They will lie about everything, including about being a MEG agent. Cases have gone to court where MEG agents admit, on the witness stand, that they lied to their victims about being narcs.

2. The person you suspect is a MEG agent probably came over with one of your old friends or acquaintances. You may think you are safe as long as you sell only to your old friend, letting your friend deliver to the suspected agent. You are wrong. As long as you make the drug delivery in the suspected agent's presence, you are not substantially changing the amount of evidence potentially against you.



You are safer if it is your word against a sleazy informer's word, instead of your word against a MEG agent's. But even if you deliver with only an informer present, you can still be arrested.

Sometimes, MEG trusts its informers enough to let them make buys and testify in court.

Sometimes an agent will claim that the informer was searched prior to the sale, was clean, and then sent into your house. When the informer comes out ten minutes later with an illegal substance, the agent waiting in the car outside can testify that the informer must have obtained the substance in your house.

3. Check out the suspected agent's car. Compare it to the list printed

in this issue of the Post-Amerikan. MEG agents change their license plates frequently, but they are stuck with their fleet of 10 leased cars for a while. New Camaros and Firebirds are favorite MEG cars. MEG agents keep a locked evidence box in their trunk.

Ask to look inside the suspected agent's trunk.

MEG agents also have police radios installed somewhere in their cars. Ask to look inside the glove compartment.

Most MEG agents' cars are new, but they do have access to a few clunkers confiscated in drug cases.

Get the license number, and call the Post-Amerikan.

4. If the suspected agent gives you his or her phone number, ask whose name it's listed in. Then call Directory Assistance for that town and check out the number. MEG agents almost always have non-published numbers. If your suspected agent's number turns out to be non-listed when you call Directory Assistance, ask your suspect why. Call the Post-Amerikan and give us the suspected agent's phone number.

5. MEG agents commonly work in pairs. One agent tries to buy drugs while another agent watches the house from a parked car. When the suspected agent is inside your house, go outside and scout out any suspicious looking parked cars in a several-block area.

6. MEG agents are not allowed to smoke pot with you, but they do anyway. In court they claim they are "simulating" marijuana smoking. Technically, a MEG agent is guilty of delivery of cannabis when they pass that joint back to you, but no MEG agent has ever been indicted for it.

7. If you know a suspected agent's exact address, you are probably not dealing with a MEG agent. MEG agents are usually very vague about where they live, and they usually claim to live in another town. Pin down the suspected agent on where she or he lives, and check it out.

8. MEG agents don't usually use their real names while working undercover. If you can get a peek at the suspected agent's ID cards or credit cards, you can see if their fake ID's match their current fake names.

9. Check out the photos in the Post-Amerikan, paying special attention to facial features. As soon as this issue of the paper comes out, the agents will begin trying to change their appearance. The photos printed here were all taken in mid-May.

Welcome in Summer!

guitar world

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**713 N. MAIN
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452-1165**

This man has been driving to and from the MEG office in a silver Firebird with a stripe along the side and over the top, license number 405 379.

He has been identified as Terry Ziegenbein, a MEG agent responsible for recent MEG busts in the Galesburg area. Ziegenbein is a Pekin cop assigned to work for MEG. The Pekin City Directory lists Ziegenbein's address as 2015 Windsor. The phone number is unlisted now, but an old directory says the number is 347-1920.



Terry Ziegenbein

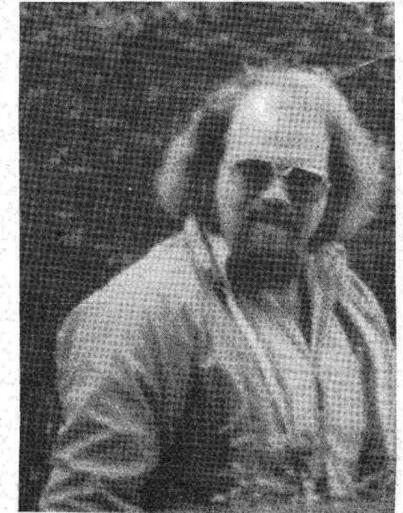


??????

We do not know this woman's name, but she is definitely associated with MEG. She has been driving the same blue Camaro with the 'bashed-in' left front fender that was later driven by MEG agent Bobby Friga.



Mark Williams is responsible for MEG's most recent batch of busts in Bloomington. He is a Tazewell County deputy who has been assigned to MEG from the time he was first hired about a year and a half ago. The Pekin City Directory



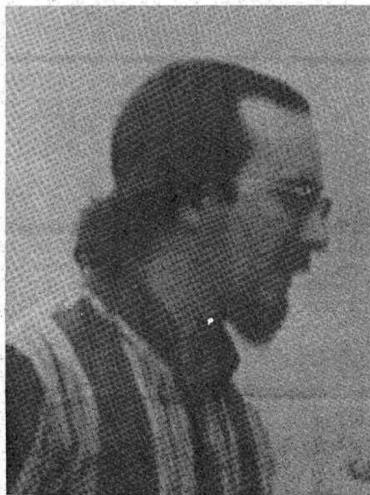
lists Williams as living in Washington, Illinois.

According to his own self-description at a Pekin trial, Williams is 5' 6" tall and weighs 185.

Williams has been seen driving a light yellow Ford Econoline 150 van, with no side windows, 43 243 H.

Mark Williams

A community united in solidarity cannot be infiltrated. Memorize these faces.
If you have any information about any of these people, call the Post-American at (309) 828-7232.



??????



MEG defendants in two cities have identified this person as George Blackburn, a special agent who has busted people in both Tazewell and Knox counties. Blackburn is a Peoria County Sheriff's deputy assigned to the MEG unit. He has an unlisted phone number in Peoria. Even if this photo is not George Blackburn, the man pictured is definitely associated with the MEG unit--he was seen driving a known MEG car with special agent Larry Wight as passenger.



Bobby Friga

Bobby Friga is a Bloomington police officer assigned to work for MEG. Friga has been undercover since 1976, when he took the place of Agent Bill Stephens. Stephens was forced to resign from MEG and from the Bloomington police force when he was convicted on a child molesting charge.

Friga lives at 508 Seville Road, Apt. 4 in Bloomington, and has a non-published phone number. Friga has been seen driving a blue Camaro with a bashed-in left fender. At first, the car's license plates were 356 184. They were later changed to TH 1982.

Friga has busted people in several MEG counties. During the fall of 1977, Friga worked extensively with MEG "special employee" Rod Meyer, also known as Confidential Source #22. Friga has also been seen driving a brown Firebird with a stripe along the side and over the top, 381 427.



Larry Wight



Larry Wight is a Peoria city cop assigned to work undercover as a MEG agent. Wight has worked for MEG since 1976, and has been promoted to "team leader," according to court records. He has a non-published phone number in Peoria.

MEG's 'special employees'

To infiltrate the social groups which are targets of MEG undercover investigations, the narcs rely on informers, who are called "special employees" or "confidential sources."

At a minimum, the informer's job is to introduce MEG agents to friends and acquaintances. Once introduced, the agent then tries to make drug buys.

More active informers will actually set up drug deals, then introduce the agent as the buyer.

Even more active informers become go-betweens in the drug buys, especially when careful dealers refuse to sell directly to the newly-introduced agent. In a lot of MEG cases, agents have simply lied about what happened--successfully claiming in court that the dealer sold directly to the agents.

A small proportion of MEG "special employees" actually make undercover buys which MEG will admit to in court--the informer's name will appear on the indictment as the MEG employee who made the drug buy. This procedure is risky to MEG, since it could require the informer to testify in court. Since informers are not sworn police officers, and since their unscrupulous behavior, shady backgrounds and sleazy tactics are more obvious to a jury, informers have even worse credibility than MEG agents.

Motives of MEG informers are varied. Some are simply twisted personalities who take a perverted delight in screwing over their acquaintances. Others begin working for MEG to get out of their own busts. MEG's standard deal is to "help" a defendant with her or his charges in return for nailing five people. Instead of taking responsibility for their own actions and taking the consequences of getting caught, these slimy characters break solidarity with their friends, preferring to see five people do time instead of only one.

Over the years, the Post-Amerikan has published numerous examples of the outrages committed by MEG informers. Two of them busted women they were sleeping with. Others were caught selling drugs themselves while helping MEG bust dealers. Others busted people through outright entrapment. One MEG informer admitted giving false information to MEG in order to "get" a person who was competing for his girlfriend's attention.

Following is a partial list of people who have worked for MEG as informers. A lot of names are missing. Readers are invited to furnish information which will help make the list more complete.

CS stands for Confidential Source. MEG gives them all numbers, and apparently began giving the numbers out in the spring of 1974. The higher the number, the more recently the person began working for MEG.

All of these people worked as informers for MEG at one time or another. Some of them are still working for MEG, but others nailed their quota of friends and stopped working for MEG. But we haven't stopped remembering.

Steve Caldwell, of Bloomington, is MEG's CS #141. Caldwell set up a long-time buddy, who is now stuck with a 2-6 year sentence. See Post-Amerikan VI #12.

LaVonja Carter, of Bloomington, is listed as MEG's CS #101.

Ford Conley is now a deputy sheriff for Peoria County, and lives in Rome, Illinois, according to the Peoria City Directory. Conley began as MEG's CS #28 in 1974, set up his roommate and girlfriend, and eventually got

hired as a full-time MEG agent. He was forced to resign after an IBI investigation of MEG confirmed Conley's sleazy tactics, which included pretending to hand out drugs by giving out red capsules filled with baking soda.

Gerald Daniel set up several people in Bloomington in 1975, including one woman with whom he was having a sexual relationship.

Roger Davis, originally from Delavan, has the honor of being MEG's CS #1. Davis worked as a confidential source for almost two years, busting people in Delavan, and sometimes working in Bloomington. In 1976 he worked undercover for the Johnson County Sheriff in Vienna, and was interviewed for a job as a MEG agent. He is presently with the Pekin police department.

Francis Embry of Chenoa worked as a MEG informer in late 1974 in rural McLean County.



Michael Fein, originally of Hopedale, also worked as an informer during MEG's early days.

David Ferguson, of Peoria, is listed as MEG CS #91 in Peoria County case 76 cf 5106.

Joe Frost, of Bloomington, set up an entire group of his friends so he could get probation on an armed robbery charge. See Post-Amerikan V #8, Dec. 1976.

William Allen George of Bloomington is listed as MEG's CS #48, according to McLean County court records.

Cindy Getz of Morton is listed as MEG's CS #123. She and CS #124, Jeralyn Mueller, busted a set of friends in Morton, including Cindy's ex-fiancé. See Post-Amerikan VI #8.

Susan Gidner was a MEG informer who Jerry LaGrow "loaned" to the Pekin police in late 1974 to enroll in Pekin High School to spy on students and teachers. MEG obtained a forged transcript from Bloomington High School to provide Gidner's faked credentials as a transfer student.

Donald Gillespie, Jr. was busted by MEG, and then turned informer, according to a story on Gillespie's

probation hearing in the Bloomington Pantagraph. The July 1975 news story said Gillespie was "in telephone contact with MEG more than once a week."

David Hillman of Galesburg served as MEG's CS #136, introducing his friends to agent Marilyn Kohl.

Reid Jacobsen, MEG's CS #72, was an ISU student when he set up a friend in Bloomington in late 1975.

Herbert Lucas Jr. was the MEG informer responsible for at least one December '76 MEG bust, according to a story in the Peoria Journal Star 10/11/77.

Alan Marshall of Heyworth worked as a MEG special employee in the fall of 1974, according to his own testimony in a McLean County court case.

William C. Martin is now doing 5-10 for a \$3800 LSD sale he made while working as a MEG "special employee." Martin was set up by William Voweill, who was working as an undercover informer for the Elmwood police. As a MEG informer, Martin had already set up William Voweill. In other words, the two informers set each other up, and both were busted.

Mark Alan McFarland must have started working for MEG in 1974, since his number is CS #27. He was still actively working for MEG as late as September, 1976, when he worked in Fulton County with Special Agent Larry Wight. McFarland also set up people in Bloomington in early 1976.

Rodney Meyer, MEG's CS #22, is apparently a dedicated and trusted informer. Meyer is responsible for a large number of busts in Tazewell County in 1978. As late as April, 1978, an agent's court testimony indicated that Meyer was still actively working undercover for MEG.

Jeralyn Mueller of Morton is MEG's CS #124. Mueller set up her roommate's boyfriend during the summer of 1976.

Ray Neumann of Bloomington is MEG's CS #112.

John Orrico, of Galesburg, was MEG's CS #108. Orrico was one of four MEG informers that MEG Director LaGrow swore were killed as a result of their work. Orrico died in a motorcycle accident, with no evidence of foul play.

Russell Robbins of Saybrook is listed as MEG's CS #109. He busted several people in rural McLean County. See Post-Amerikan VI #3 for a photo and interview with Robbins.

Jeff Sielaff of Bloomington worked as MEG's CS #5 in 1974.

Shelby Stiger worked for MEG in 1974, and set up a batch of his friends. In one case, Stiger's work was clearly entrapment, and produced a \$1 million civil rights suit against MEG. The suit was eventually dismissed because MEG managed to evade legal responsibility for the actions of its "special employees," and there was not enough evidence to prove that the MEG agents were consciously a part of the entrapment.

Steve Warsaw worked as a MEG informer in rural McLean County in 1974.

Randy Wyant, of Colfax, worked for MEG in 1975, even making buys and testifying in court. A lot of Wyant's cases got dismissed, however, when defendants passed tests on their contentions that MEG's "special employee" had been selling drugs.

Mic Yeitz, of Bloomington and Chenoa, set up a lot of his old friends in the summer of 1975. Yeitz worked as CS #62.

If you can help complete this list, call the Post-Amerikan (309) 828-7232.

Phone MEG!

(309) 673-3465

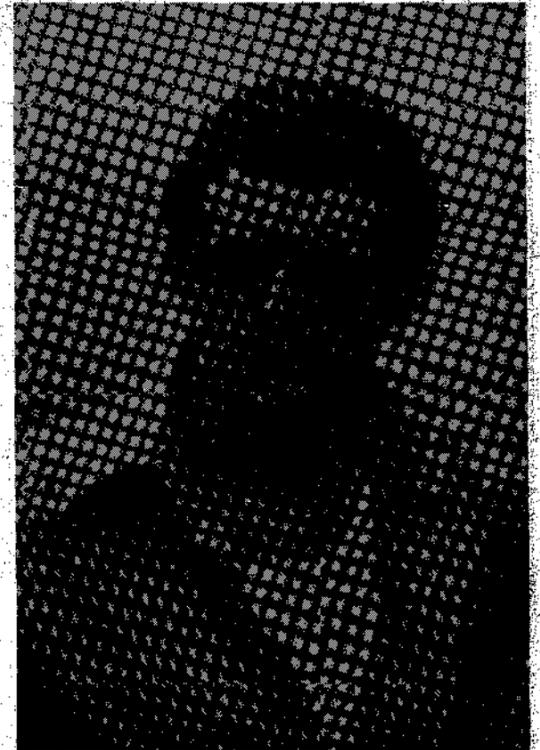
Call the undercover spies yourself and tell them what you think. When MEG's office is empty, an answering machine takes your call and lets you leave the creative message of your choice.

Visit MEG's secret office!
600 Abington,
Room 206, Peoria

There's no room number posted, but it's the only solid steel door in the building.

?????????

We are not sure what this person's name is, but he is definitely associated with MEG. He was a passenger in a MEG car driven by agent Friga, and has also been seen driving a brown Camaro--identical to known MEG Camaros--to and from the office building which houses MEG's headquarters.



**secret
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arn
faces.**

Jerry LaGrow

Jerry LaGrow has been MEG's Director ever since the drug unit was formed in 1974. Before moving downstate, LaGrow worked for the Cook County MEG unit and the Chicago police department's narcotics squad. LaGrow is still technically an employee of the Chicago police department, though he has been on leave for four years to work for the Peoria-based MEG unit.

LaGrow is a fanatic who passionately believes that people who use illegal substances are garbage. He is also a liar. (See P-A VI #4, V #6)

As late as 1976, LaGrow was still making undercover buys for the MEG unit.



Narcs not pictured:

Chris Cardinal

Christopher E. Cardinal is the MEG agent responsible for some recent busts in Peoria, according to court records. In 1976, according to the Peoria City Directory, Cardinal was a process server for the Peoria County Sheriff.

Cardinal's last listed address is with his parents, at 3404 N. Indiana in Peoria, 685-9217. The special agent's parents own and operate a tavern called Cardinal's Roost at 4307 N. Sterling, reportedly a favorite hangout for cops.

Dean Bacon

Dean Bacon has been a MEG agent for several years, and has participated in undercover work all over MEG's six-county area. Along with Larry Wight, Bacon acts as a "team leader."

According to the Pekin City Directory, Bacon

owns a house at 1304 Lincoln, and his phone number is unlisted. He drives a brown 1978 Monte Carlo. In mid-May, the plates were 237 852.

Fred Campbell Winterroth

Fred Campbell Winterroth is the MEG agent responsible for a batch of busts in Monmouth in late 1977. He also busted a couple people in Bloomington the previous summer.

Mari Groppi

Mari Groppi, 23, formerly of Bloomington, is a newly-hired MEG employee. After graduating from Danville High School in 1973, and completing two years at Danville Junior College, Groppi attended Illinois State University in Normal. In her last year at ISU she worked at Roland's at Eastland Mall. After graduating as a Corrections major in June, 1977, Groppi moved back to Danville, where she worked for the Vermillion

County Sheriff's Department.

Groppi moved back to Bloomington-Normal late in 1977, beginning work at a new job. A co-worker remembers Groppi's aspirations to be a narc, and recalls her taking off a day off of work to go to a MEG job interview in Peoria. In January, Groppi quit her job in Bloomington.

In March, Groppi was seen in a Bloomington bar frequently accompanied by a man later identified as Rod Meyer, MEG's Confidential Source #22. When some locals pulled out a camera one day, Meyer immediately turned his head, and ran from the camera. The car he ran to is the same copper colored Grand Prix, 416 738, later seen driven by MEG agents Bill Muir and Larry Wight.

Upon accepting her new job, Groppi moved to Peoria, where she has a non-published telephone number.

MEG's cars

The MEG undercover narcotics unit leases a fleet of 10 vehicles--all '77 or '78 models--from Deeds Auto Leasing in Chicago.

In addition to its fleet of shiny new cars, MEG has begun to acquire older vehicles confiscated from defendants in drug cases. They have at least two of these non-leased cars, and possibly more.

MEG agents switch vehicles frequently, sometimes driving one car, sometimes another. They also change the license plates.

The blue Camaro with the bashed-in left front fender was driven by the unnamed blonde female (see photos) a couple times, and bore license plates 356 184. The next week the same car, with the same bashed-in fender, had new plates--TH 1982--and Agent Bobby Friga was driving it.

To prevent a routine license plate check from blowing the identity of one of its undercover vehicles, MEG has a non-disclosure arrangement with the Secretary of State's Driver's License division.

Such an arrangement is recommended in the federal government's manual for organizing and operating a narc outfit like MEG:

"...an agreement should be made with the state motor vehicle bureau to have all inquiries returned as 'not yet in file,' and a notification made to the (MEG) Director regarding who made the inquiry. Therefore, if a citizen requests a license number check, as is legal in many states, the Director can then find out who is inquiring about the unit vehicle."

--from Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit Manual, by Manuel R. Garcia, published by the U.S. Government. (See Post-American VI #9 for a full article on this book.)

An employee of the Secretary of State's office ran a computer check for each license plate for each vehicle driven by a known MEG agent. With one exception, each license plate check produced a reply of "no

information on file" from the computer. Agent Paul Brenkman's plate check came through, and we know that Brenkman drives his own personal car --not a MEG agency vehicle.

Here is a list of vehicles associated with MEG:

- 1) A light yellow Ford Econoline 150 van, with no side windows, license 43 243V--driven once by Agent Mark Williams.
- 2) A copper-colored 2-door Grand Prix, 416 738, driven both by Agent Larry Wight and Agent Bill Muir. The front license plate was crumpled so that only the two middle numbers were visible in mid-May.
- 3) A Silver Firebird with a stripe along the side and over the top, 405 379, driven by MEG agent Terry Ziegenbein.
- 4) A brown '78 Monte Carlo, 237 852, seen both at the MEG office and in the driveway of Dean Bacon's house in Pekin.
- 5) A reddish-brown '78 Oldsmobile Cutlass, 437 024, was driven by MEG Director Jerry LaGrow.
- 6) A brown Firebird with a stripe along the side and over the top, 381 427, was driven by Agent Bobby Friga.
- 7) Dark colored Camaro, 149 798, driven by agent Bill Muir.
- 8) A blue Camaro with a left front

fender still bashed in as of May 26. This vehicle bore license plate 356 184 in mid-May, and was driven by an unnamed blonde woman associated with MEG. Later, the same car, with plate TH 1982, was driven by Agent Friga.

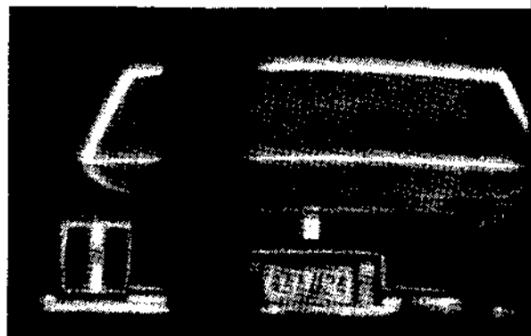
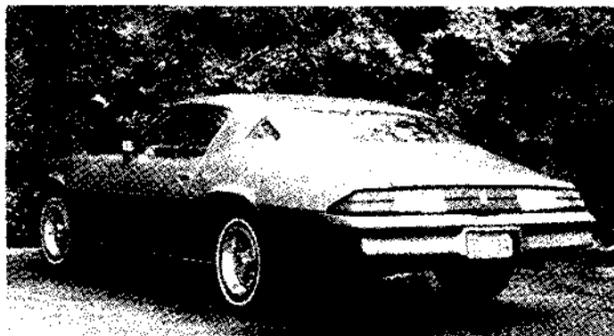
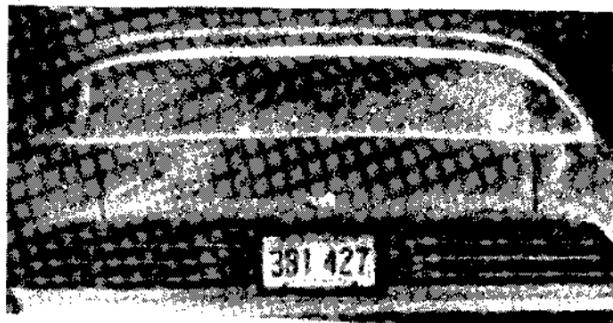
9) A dark green 1977 Oldsmobile 442 Cutlass, PB 3973, is Agent Paul Brenkman's personal car. The "442" lettering stands out distinctively. Brenkman drove the same car a year ago--before MEG leased its current batch of cars.

10) A green 4-door older Ford Galaxy, JE 4132, was driven by one of the unidentified men whose photo appears in this issue. Special Agent Larry Wight was a passenger in the car. Of all the vehicles listed here, this Ford Galaxy is the only one older than a '77 or '78, and the only one with any visible rust. The license plate check produced the typical MEG car result of "no information on file," but this is not conclusive evidence. This car may be one of the MEG-owned vehicles confiscated from a drug defendant. The car could also be a non-MEG car, the driver of which just happened to have some business with Special Agent Wight, and the license plate of which just happens to be not on file with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

11) MEG has at least one more new Camaro--a brown one whose plate number we didn't catch.

With the publication of this information, MEG can be expected to begin changing the license plates on its vehicles.

RIGHT: One of two new Firebirds MEG agents drive. BELOW RIGHT: This Oldsmobile Cutlass was driven by MEG Director Jerry LaGrow. BELOW: MEG leases at least three new Camaros. This blue one has a bashed-in left front fender. BELOW LEFT: In a clever ploy to thwart counter-surveillance, MEG agents crumpled the front plate (416 738) of their copper-colored Grand Prix.



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Doctor's interrogation humiliates patient

"Now you're going to particularly like this," the doctor told "Mary" during a pelvic exam.

The doctor who said that is James G. Brown, a gynecologist who practices out of the Franklin Avenue Medical Center in Normal.

Mary, whose real name isn't Mary, endured Brown's slurs and insinuations a couple of years ago when she was about 18.

She went to Brown on the advice of an older family member because she was having severe menstrual problems--very bad cramps, vomiting, blackouts.

At the time, she said, "I knew nothing about gynecologists." She learned a lot very quickly about the hypocritical moralism, the cruelty, and the god-complexes that are common among doctors.

"He sat at his desk and I sat at the other side," Mary said. Having established the proper power relationship, Brown began the questioning.

"He asked if I was married, if I was engaged, if I was lavaliered, if I was going steady, if I dated one person," Mary said.

"All the time his glasses kept sliding down his nose. He was looking over

his glasses and he kept crinkling his eyes more and more as I kept saying 'No.'"

When Mary answered that she was having sex with only one person, Brown asked, "Are you sure?"

Brown never gave any reason for his questions.

Later he asked Mary if she was taking any medication, and she told him she was taking birth control pills. She asked him how dangerous they were.

Brown replied that the pills were pretty safe but that most gynecologists were against them because they were causing the spread of venereal diseases. He said VD was spreading because men didn't have to use condoms anymore.

Next came the pelvic exam, Mary's second.

"The whole exam was very painful," Mary said. "Maybe part of it was my fault because I didn't relax, but he certainly wasn't helping me relax."

In fact, Brown seemed to do his best to make Mary uptight.

Just before he did a procedure called a bi-manual, during which he inserted two of his fingers into Mary's vagina, he said, "Now you're going to particularly like this."

"His tone was very, very suggestive," Mary said. "not suggestive of me going to bed with him. The idea was that because I was such a lowdown slut that I would really enjoy this."

Brown also kept asking Mary if she was sure she had only one sex partner.

By the time he asked a third time, "I was really mad," Mary said. "I was in tears."

"I told him, I'm not promiscuous, if that's what you mean."

"I never said you were promiscuous," he told me. He acted as if he hadn't done anything wrong."

Mary says Brown was "definitely" trying to make her feel ashamed. "His whole manner," she said, "said to me that premarital sex is awful and you're an awful woman for doing it."

"I can't say how ashamed I felt."

Then after inflicting all this pain, emotional and physical, Brown gave Mary a prescription for some pills that turned out to be pain-killers.

The pills not only didn't solve Mary's menstrual problems, they also contained so much codeine that they left Mary feeling knocked out.

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Herbicide cloud sweeps Brazil

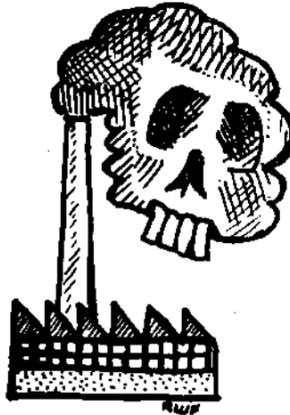
A toxic cloud formed from a U.S. herbicide dumped in the Atlantic Ocean swept over Southern Brazil killing 3 and sickening thousands in late April.

The herbicide, Agent Orange, had been dumped in the ocean after international pressure forced the U.S. to stop using it as a defoliant in Viet Nam. The casks apparently ruptured allowing the deadly chemical to bubble to the surface and form a 286-mile long cloud of poison.

Agent Orange contains the known cancer-causing chemical, dioxin, and medical workers in Viet Nam have linked the herbicide to sharp increases in birth defects and cancer there.

In Brazil, large numbers of sea and land animals were poisoned. The UPI reported, for instance, that "sea lions bleeding from the nostrils have been crawling onto the beaches in the stricken area and collapsing dead on the sand."

--LNS/Free for All



Steel bosses don't suffer

While steel industry executives complained about falling profits and demanded government help, the top bosses of six big steel companies raked in salary increases averaging 13% last year.

At Bethlehem Steel, where 7300 workers lost their jobs because the company was in such bad shape, chief executive officer Lewis F. Foy got a \$44,000 raise that pushed his salary up to \$296,000. Adding its incentive compensation, Foy "earned" \$406,982 last year.

U.S. Steel's Edgar B. Speer hauled home \$372,972 an increase of \$48,000 from 1976. These figures, of course, reflect only the execs' regular salaries, which are easily doubled by stock options, plane rides and other "perks."

-Dollars & Sense

Only \$1.18 for 10 years

The myth of greater wealth forever is getting old: the average weekly take-home pay in February of this year was only \$1.18 more than it was in 1967, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

Sure, the average take-home pay now is \$173.40 compared to \$90.86 in 1967, but that \$173 only buys as much as \$92.04 did in 1967.

-Post-Amerikan

Women try rapist

In Milan recently, 400 young women stormed a local high school, punching teachers and staff as they broke into a classroom. They dragged out an 18-year-old man and shoved him into the cafeteria, where he was put on trial for raping his girlfriend. He was found guilty and beaten. When his male classmates broke into the cafeteria, police were called to quell the riot.

--Take Over



Gay rights protection smashed Dade County was only the beginning

In three U.S. cities in the past two months, gay people have watched their rights vanish overnight.

On April 25 voters in St. Paul, Minnesota, used a referendum to repeal a 4-year-old ordinance that outlawed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

On May 9 voters in Wichita, Kansas, passed a similar anti-gay referendum.

And on May 23, citizens of relatively liberal Eugene, Oregon, also voted in a referendum that removed the protection of gay people's rights in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The Eugene City Council had included protection of gay rights in its human rights ordinance in November 1977.

In St. Paul, the anti-gay rights

crusade was led by the Concerned Citizens for Community Standards, who are mostly fundamentalist Baptists, working with the support of the Catholic bishop David Maloney.

We didn't really need these three bitter experiences to prove that gay people are not in any immediate danger of winning popularity polls. But, as long-time gay activist Frank Kameny says, "no matter how obnoxious, unpopular, offensive, strange, or personally revolting you choose to be, you have the undeniable right to earn a living, reside where you want to, and so forth!"

Although the recently-smashed ordinances protecting gay rights were certainly potential tools for improving gay people's situations, the law has never given any oppressed group something that can't be taken away again.

The gay rights defeats in these three cities do not necessarily mean that there is growing hostility to our cause.

Instead, the defeats show us--as if we needed yet another lesson--the inability of the Amerikan legal system to insure that any minority's human rights will be protected.

--Alice Wonder and Riverfinger

Coors includes gays; boycott continues

The Adolph Coors Brewing Company has added "sexual preference" to its equal employment opportunity policy. The company, which has been the target of a successful gay boycott, announced on March 10 that its hiring policy now reads: "The company does not discriminate on hiring in the areas of race, color, creed, sex, sexual preference, age, handicap or national origin."

In San Francisco, one of the Coors Gay Boycott organizers said that "adding of sexual preference to its personnel statement will have no teeth in it unless there is unionization."

-Lesbian Tide

A pinch too much

On April 10, eight waitresses on strike at Dos Banditos restaurant in Madison, Wisconsin, won all their demands at a meeting with management and went back to work.

The strike, which began on April 6, was called after owners and management refused to listen to the waitresses' grievances. Issues in the strike were favoritism and sexual harassment by management.

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Mike Anton

High Times says paraquat just a scare

Government warnings about paraquat are just scare tactics, according to *High Times*, the magazine which first exposed the herbicide spraying program over a year ago.

"They've been spraying pot with paraquat in Mexico for two years why haven't any cases of sickness been reported until this month?" asks a *High Times* editor, Michael Chance. "And they've been spraying citrus fruits and soy beans in Mexico with paraquat or 2-4-D, which is worse, for 10 years."

"Look, if you were in the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), you'd be sitting on top of the world right now. People are afraid to smoke pot. Isn't that what these assholes have always wanted?"

High Times has called for the resignation of NORML's (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) Keith Stroup, because he urges a nationwide boycott of Mexican marijuana. NORML responded by labeling *High Times* an "industry spokesman"—the industry being the drug-dealing industry.

-Take Over

(POST NOTE: U.S. Government and herbicide industry sources both indicate paraquat will cause permanent, or fatal, lung damage if inhaled in large enough amounts. There is no reason to doubt this information. The only question is whether paraquat-contaminated grass contains enough of the herbicide to cause this damage.)



Testing your grass

As far as we know, all labs that test marijuana for paraquat contamination are still swamped. The two labs in Illinois won't take any new samples until mid-June at least.

If you want to try and get your grass tested anyway—and you don't mind waiting—here's two places to try:

Pharm-Chem Research Foundation, 1844 Bay Road, Palo Alto CA 94303, phone 415-322-9951. Send about one tablespoon of grass, a five digit number ending with a letter for identification (like 43796R) and \$5. Wait at least three weeks and call for results.

"Street Pharmacologist" c/o Up Front, P.O. Box 330589, Coconut Grove, Fla, 33133, phone 305-446-3585. The cost and procedure are the same as for Pharm-Chem.

Post-American



Viewers incompetent

For the first time in history, television viewing has declined last year, according to both the Nielson and Arbitron television rating services. Advertising agencies on Madison Avenue, who spent \$7.65 billion of their clients' money in TV this year, did not take the news well. Rather than give people credit for choosing not to watch what we don't like, the agencies, in all their psychological expertise, attributed the decline to people's inability to cope with the confusion of complex TV schedules.

- Time

Death on wheels

The workers in the Detroit coroner's office went on a wildcat strike to protest the unsafe condition of the truck used to pick up bodies.

The doors of the morgue truck fly open unexpectedly, causing bodies and stretchers to fall out on the street. The truck also shimmies badly.

-Take Over



Grass provides heat

The city of Eugene, Oregon, burned 8 tons of high quality marijuana recently -- to provide steam heat for downtown.

The weed, Thai sticks, had been seized in Southern Oregon in March. It was mixed with wood chips so that resulting smoke would not affect nearby residents.

-Take Over

Doctors want right to mystify

The AMA recently came out strongly opposed to a proposal by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that would require all prescription drugs to be accompanied by a leaflet explaining in clear and readable language just what the drugs are made of, what they do and what their potential side effects are.

AMA representatives insisted in testimony before Congress that such information would interfere with "doctors' rights." What patients should and should not know about drugs, said Dr. Lowell Steen, a member of the AMA's Board of Trustees, should be left to the "professional judgement" of doctors.

-New Age Journal

No masks in public.

South Carolina police have used a 110-year-old anti-Ku Klux Klan law to arrest a consumer activist.

Mary Hardee, 27, was busted as she paraded about in black clothing wearing a smiling light bulb for a head with lightning bolts sticking out of her ears. She was masquerading as "Ready Kilowatt", who is the mascot of many electric utility companies.

Hardee was arrested in Columbia during a demonstration against a proposed rate hike. The 19th century anti-KKK law, which is rarely used, prohibits people over 16 from wearing masks in public.

-Take Over

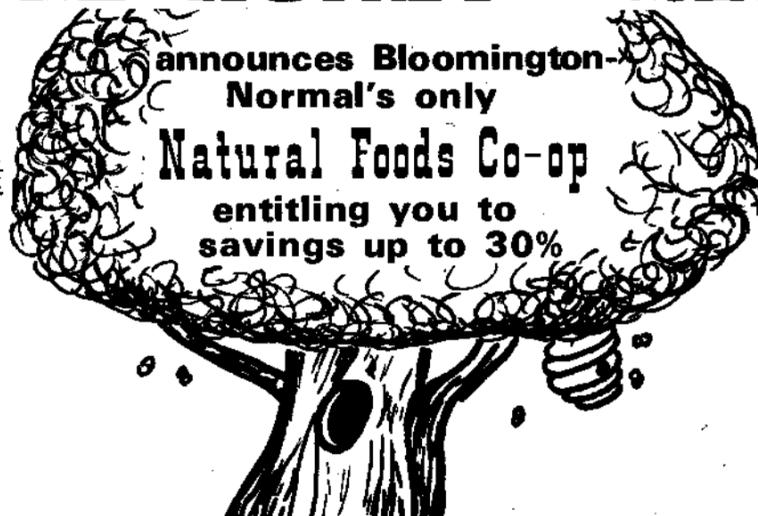
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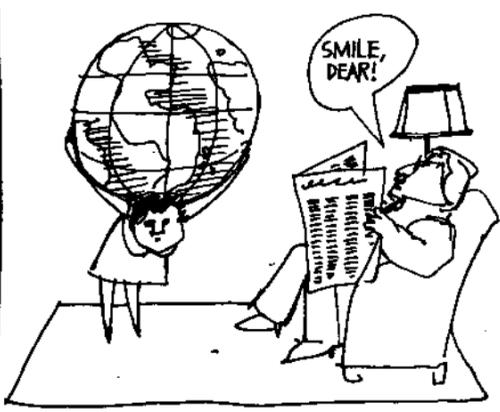
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**Sexism, racism
astounding?**

When women's, minority and consumer groups began complaining about a \$1.5 million ad campaign by the California Milk Advisory Board, the board's public relations honchos were "astounded."

The ads feature pictures of white women saying: "The milk-white look is a trim healthy body, a clear, clean complexion." Protesters pointed out that the ads "distinctly convey the message that beauty, vitality and desirability belong only to white women."

PR flack Bob Lowry says he's "astounded" by the strong reaction to ads about such an ordinary food.

--Dollars & Sense

Off on the right foot

The U.S. Government and the Postal Service are joining together to tackle the rip-off enterprises which advertise in the back of comic books. A spokesperson explained the action: "A kid's first experience with the free enterprise system should be a positive one."

Off Our Back/LNS

Olin's excuse wears thin

A federal court judge has ordered Olin Corporation to create a fund of about \$500,000 for local non-profit groups as punishment for illegally selling rifles to South Africa.

In its defense, Olin argued that only low- and middle-level corporate employees were involved in the deal and that the sale of 21,000 rifles and 20 million rounds of ammunition wasn't profitable anyway.

The judge didn't buy Olin's story and declared that the crime was of "great magnitude."

Less than a week later, a federal grand jury indicted Olin on charges of concealing its dumping of 38 tons of highly dangerous mercury into the Niagara River from 1970 to 1977.

The corporation has signed an agreement limiting

its dumping to a fifth of a pound a day or 73 pounds a year. Olin dumped 150 times that amount.

Once again, Olin claimed that low-level management was responsible for the crime.
-Wall Street Journal/LNS

mad squad

An enterprising airline last summer hired two psychiatrists as special security guards with orders to arrest anyone showing signs of "mental instability." Within minutes after they began looking for subjects, one of the psychiatrists arrested the other.

--Mother Jones

New Pepsi pushers

Pepsi-Cola's newest racket is getting children to sell their "healthful" sugar-plus-caffeine drinks as part of the children's "education."

Pepsi-Cola encourages students to sell its soft drinks for school credit at pep rallies, basketball games, and other school functions. Then, each spring, the kids write their Pepsi-selling success stories for a chance at national prizes: shares of stock in the Pepsi-Cola Company.

Off Our Backs/LNS

Kerr-McGee resorts to law

Kerr-McGee, the company that Karen Silkwood worked for when she was killed in a suspicious car accident, has subpoenaed all the records and material for a planned film on Silkwood. Silkwood died on her way to a meeting to reveal dangerous practices in Kerr-McGee's Oklahoma plutonium-processing plant.

To contribute to the Silkwood Defense Fund or for more information, you can write to Larry Cuno, 2270 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90046.

Off Our Backs/LNS

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Post banned from Pantagraph library

The Daily Pantagraph maintains in its office a clipping library, which is privately owned but is available to the public to use for local research. As a research tool, it is invaluable. It's the only comprehensive, indexed newspaper clipping library in town, a daily record of the social and political climate of the community. The use of this vast store of local information has recently been denied to Post staffer Mark Silverstein.

to use the Pantagraph library after that issue, librarian Diane Miller told him he could not. When he asked why, she said, "I think you know why." When he asked who made this decision, she replied that it wasn't important.

Managing editor Gene Smedley admitted to the Post that he made the decision, but he was vague about why. He said his decision was based on Silverstein's "past

Silverstein had always been allowed to use the Pantagraph library, although he was known to work on the Post, and although he had written and signed articles critical of the Pantagraph. His privilege was suddenly revoked, Silverstein said, after vol. VI, no. 8 of the Post came out.

That issue reported an investigative story which the Pantagraph had consciously suppressed. That issue also contained ex-Pantagraph reporter Mark Spencer's own statement, explaining that he quit the Pantagraph because they had refused to print his story, which Spencer said was basically the same as the adjoining one in the Post. (Weeks after the Post published the story-- which detailed the real circumstances behind council member Nelson's tax evasion charges-- the Pantagraph finally printed it.)

The first time Silverstein tried



misuse" of the library, but he "didn't want to humiliate him by elaborating" on the nature of the misuse.



Miller, the head of the library, also said that Silverstein was banned from the library because he "misused" it. She didn't want to embarrass him by telling the Post what he did, either. Whatever it was, it was quite a reflection upon the whole Post staff. Miller said she wouldn't let any of us into the library if she knew who we were. We may be forced to go underground!

It seems that the Pantagraph is no longer content to merely suppress selected news as it happens. Now they're trying to hide from us what happened in the past, too.

--Amanda Ziller

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vol. 7, #2 page 26

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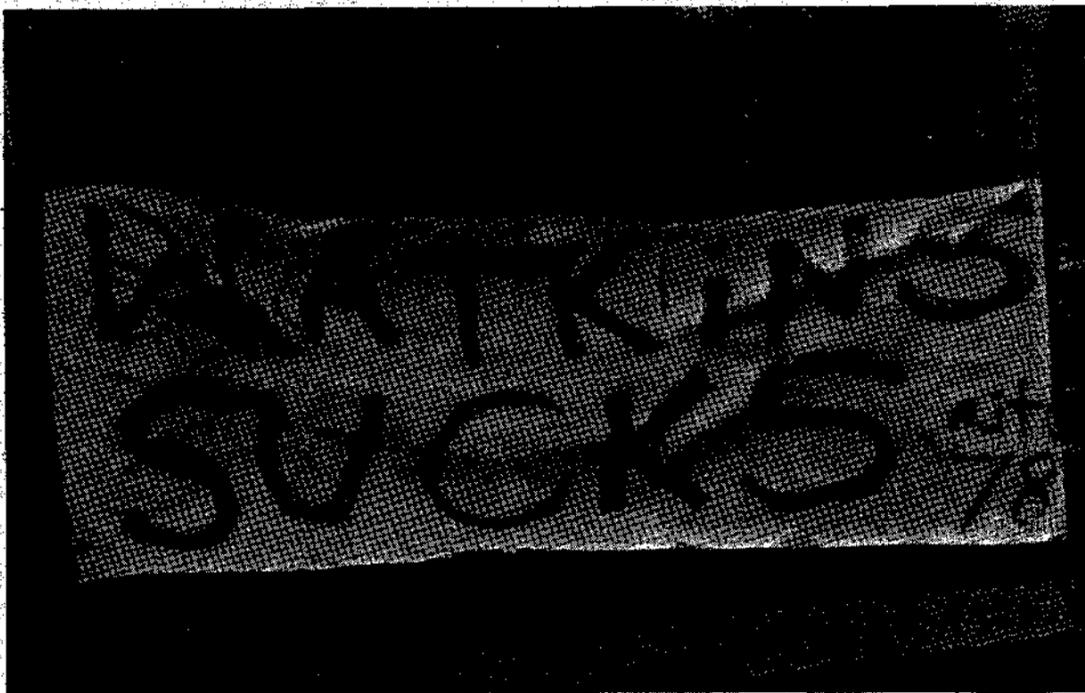
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On April 29, nearly a thousand people gathered on the ISU quad for some impromptu music and fun--and for a visible protest against ISU president Watkins' cancellation of the traditional outa control stoned drunk irresponsible Rites of Spring. Watkins and flunkies attempted to substitute a sanitized version of the celebration, called Springfest, but the Dionysian spirit of spring proved irrepressible.



This banner appeared at the renegade Rites of Spring. We approve of the healthy anti-authoritarian spirit of the banner; however, like many terms of derision, the word "sucks" implies a disgust for (fear of?) gay people that we certainly don't endorse. Many people, both gay and hetero, have found that "sucks" doesn't deserve to be downgraded in this way at all. Try it and see.



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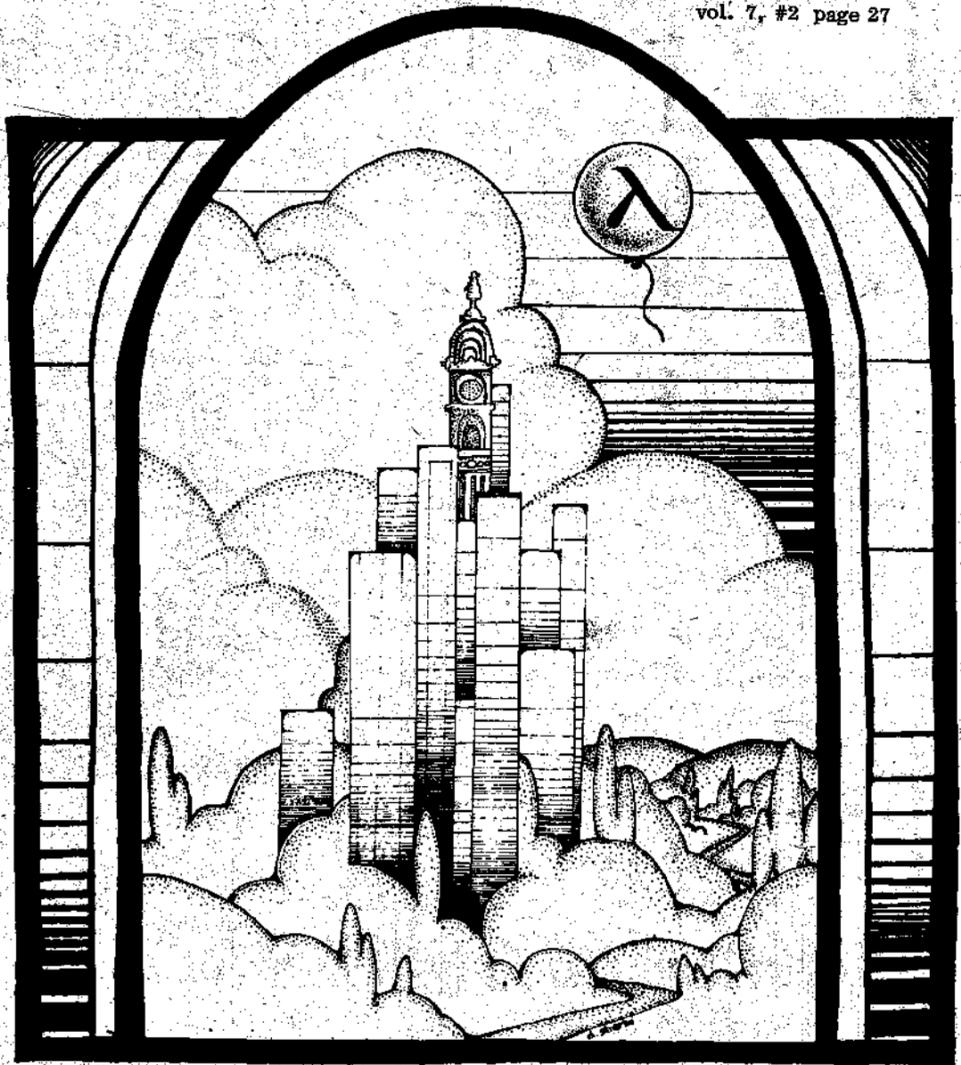
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A Wrinkle in Time

-- a feminist fantasy



Children's books have devastated the female self-concept for as long as they've been printed. Women and girls have typically been portrayed as weak and passive observers of the heroic deeds done by men and boys. But take heart, fantasy lovers! Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, a book for kids that can be savored by people of all ages, is a delightful and reinforcing feminist fantasy.

Published in 1962, before the current feminist movement existed, *A Wrinkle in Time* uses sex stereotypes only in creating negative characters; stereotypes have no positive value in the book. Through skillful characterization, L'Engle puts down traditional sex roles.

The main protagonist, Meg, is female, as are most of the other good and positive characters. Women in books are often helpless creatures waiting to be rescued by strong men. In *Wrinkle*, however, Meg rescues not one, but two male characters.

A Wrinkle in Time is a classic tale of good versus evil, in which all the agents of good are either strong, active females or gentle, nurturing males. IT, the evil power that threatens Meg's father, her brother, and ultimately her entire planet, is depicted as a strong, unyielding man. L'Engle carries stereotypical masculine characteristics to great extremes in her description of IT; as the only

oppressive male, he is a total oppressor, and not only is he unable to deal with love, he is destroyed by it.

Meg's father, her brother, and her friend, Calvin, the good males in the story, are complete opposites of IT. They are both physically and verbally affectionate; they are gentle and giving. They are non-athletic, intellectual, passive, and, in the end, helpless and dependent upon Meg.

The female characters are all good, and they are, for the most part, a combination of the best traditionally masculine and feminine characteristics. The supernatural sisters who guide Meg and her companions throughout their strange travels in time and space are very strong, very powerful, and very nurturing. Meg's mother is a brilliant scientist, a perfect example of a working mother.

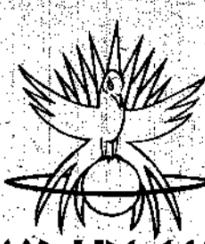
Meg, the heroic time-traveler, is far from being a stereotypically feminine character. She is not conventionally pretty; she is a mathematical genius, but she does poorly in school. She is aggressive; she fights back, physically, when she or someone she loves is insulted. Meg is a non-conformist; she's stubborn; and she's bad-tempered. All of these qualities enable her to overcome the terrible power of IT. When she becomes aware of the fact that just because of these qualities she is loved by many people, Meg realizes the power of love. It is with this new-found power that she is able to defeat IT, who represents conformity, mind-control, oppression, and other manifestations of male-dominated society.

A Wrinkle in Time is a thought-provoking book for both children and adults. The non-stereotyped characters are refreshing. It provides us with a delightful heroine, a liberated mother model and several wonderful female fantasy creatures. But beyond that, it explores through fantasy the possibility of a world totally dominated by masculine forces, and reveals the need for a balance of the characteristics traditionally seen as masculine and feminine, both in the world and in every individual.

--Amanda Ziller

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FOOD STAMPS: same game,

Author's Note: The following article describes a battle over words, words which will make up the rules that will control the new foodstamp program. It is a long battle, and contains 4 distinct "rounds", which could take several months.

ROUND 1 USDA proposes new rules, people have a chance to comment.

ROUND 2 USDA reads comments, and publishes final rules.

ROUND 3 The rules are sent to each state, and they are written into proposed welfare manuals, these rules are again published and people have an opportunity to comment.

ROUND 4 The state finally puts the new program into operation.

"The Government wants your ideas by June 16th."

In 1977, Congress passed a new food stamp law which changes the food stamp program a lot. Congress had known for years that the current program wasn't working very well. The idea was that poor people should at least have enough to eat, but in some places 50-70% of the folks eligible for foodstamps weren't even bothering to apply. Then there were all these stories about food stamp cheaters, driving around in Cadillacs. So in 1977, they made some very dramatic changes.

Under the new law, a person will no longer have to buy a percentage of

stamps in order to get the free stamps. The state will simply give people the "bonus" value of the stamps. Applications will be much simpler; an applicant will not have to prove as much, but s/he will not be eligible for as many deductions. Congress made a lot of other changes in the law which will be discussed later in this article.

Congress left a lot of the decisions on how to make the new law work up to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the various state welfare agencies. On May 2, 1978, USDA published a set of proposed rules on how the new food stamp program should work. The people can send written comments on these proposals until June 16, 1978, to USDA in Washington, D.C., and USDA must

DCFS FIRES UPPITY WORKERS

POST-NOTE: In Volume 6, #12 (April 1978), we reported a struggle between Homemakers/Counselors in Springfield and their boss, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) bureaucracy. The Homemakers/Counselors, who developed day-to-day relationships with their clients, became sensitive to the weaknesses of the DCFS superstructure.

The Homemakers/Counselors presented DCFS with a list of demands, mostly asking that the clients be treated with more respect and dignity. DCFS responded with a series of moves that ended with the Homemakers/Counselors losing their jobs. One of the fired women wrote the following reflections on the struggle.

The Sangamon County Homemaker office stands empty now, desks pushed up against the walls, phone lines hanging from the ceiling like so many severed arteries. In one corner a pile of

discarded placards -- "Homemakers are for People," "Homemakers Care," "DCFS Serves Itself," "300 Children Robbed of Services," and on and on -- it occurs to me that I could use the wooden handles to stake tomatoes -- if indeed I had the energy to plant any.

It's an empty, hollow feeling this room leaves me with. Vivid pictures of the last week come back -- everyone trying to be funny and sarcastic and "high," and then one woman saying that we were the only friends she ever had, and we all were suddenly huddled on one couch, holding one another, laughing and crying and just holding, holding.

What other job will I ever find where women kiss each other hello and good-bye, where people cry with one another over successes and failures, where I can tell my supervisor he's full of s**t and win his respect for saying so? Probably not many, folks.



What happened here was rare, this combination of Sixties refugees who happened to come together and take a stance against the particular bureaucratic idiocy of the Department of Children and Family Services in Illinois. The result was -- once felt -- only too familiar. Opposition-Exhaustion - Co-optation.

First the Department tried to oppose our actions by cancelling our contract. Then, when we fought the cancellation, they exhausted us with petty bulls**t manipulations such as a program audit which left us in a state of limbo for over a month.

Now, the god-damned Governor has co-opted everything we said. He has publicly stated that DCFS is a corrupt and demoralizing organization, and has initiated a reorganization which will hopefully bring about many of the changes in attitude and service which we, the Sangamon County Homemakers, had demanded.

The two officials with whom we had particular grievances -- the Area Administrator and the Sangamon County Field Office Supervisor -- have been removed from their positions. Unfortunately, the state, in also dismissing the Home Management Staff, has thrown out the baby with the bath water. Ultimately, we both won and lost. My personal feeling is that the cost was too great. My personal resolution is to never come out from the under-ground again, but rather to remain a guerrilla-fighter against bureaucratic bull.

During the time that the "Incredible Homemakers Hassle" was coming to an end, I happened to read *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, by Tom Robbins. Toward the end, one of the characters explains what went wrong for the "Cowgirls," and it also makes a fitting eulogy for the Homemakers, who were definitely the outlaws of the Social Service scene in Springfield.

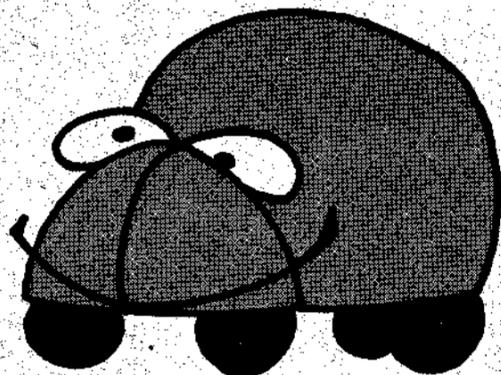
"I've lived most of my entire adult life outside the law, and never have I compromised with authority. But neither have I gone out and picked fights with authority. That's stupid. They're waiting for that; they invite it; it helps keep them powerful. Authority is to be ridiculed, outwitted and avoided. And it's fairly easy to do all three. If you believe in peace, act peacefully; if you believe in love, act lovingly; if you believe every which way, then act every which way, that's perfectly valid -- but don't go out trying to sell your beliefs to the System. You end up contradicting what you profess to believe in, and you set a bum example. If you want to change the world, change yourself."

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new rules

consider all comments they receive and change their proposed rules to reflect the comments and criticisms they receive. (See attached "How to Comment Kit" for address).

Usually, the only people who comment on proposed regulations are welfare agencies, who worry about "administrative convenience" and not about how recipients feel. So, it is very important that people who have received food stamps use this chance to tell the government how they feel about food stamps, and what would make the program work better for them.

If you want to know more about these regulations, and how to comment, there are a couple of ways to find out. You can call USDA in Chicago, 312-353-1044, and ask for a copy of the new food stamp regulations. Milner Library at Illinois State University or other large libraries subscribe to the Federal Register and you can read the regulations there.

McLean County Legal Aid will be holding two public meetings on the proposed regulations on June 1st and June 8th at 7:30 at the Western Ave. Community Center, 1300 W. Locust, Bloomington, Illinois. People will discuss the new regulations and help people prepare comments. A model comment will be included later in this article. USDA will make changes in the proposed regulations based on the number of comments they receive.

These proposed regulations contain a lot of important rules that govern how the foodstamp program will operate. Many of them are a real improvement. Under the proposed rules, the welfare agency must give you stamps within 30 days. The rules also say that a group of people who eat together, can get stamps together, and form a household. This is a major improvement because you no longer have to count the income of other people who live in the house, but don't eat with you. The proposal also makes applying for stamps a lot easier because you only have to "prove" your income, childcare, and housing expenses once. If a change occurs, then you only need to send welfare a form, and include proof once. You should never have to "prove" changes in income or deductions again.

The proposed rules say that you don't have to fill out anything on the application except the name, address, and signature. The agency worker will help you fill out the rest. This is the type of rule that helps undereducated people, but which welfare departments won't like much, and will try and get USDA to change. Comments supporting helpful rules need to be sent to the USDA.

These are rules that USDA is proposing that are both good and bad, for example:

For the first time, the rules require "emergency" food stamps be given to anyone who applies and has no income, and no money with which to purchase food, on the day they apply.

Then USDA complicates things:

- an applicant who has some money but not enough for a month's worth of food gets emergency stamps within 2 days.
- An applicant who is broke but expecting money later in the month, will receive a full allotment of stamps until the week s/he expects to receive the money. A second set of stamps will be issued for the rest of the month.

The proposed rule is just too complicated. Comments need to be sent to USDA asking them to simplify these rules.

Another example: A major complaint about the current program many working recipients have is that it is too im-

possible to get to the Post Office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to buy stamps. USDA proposes to give the state, not the recipients, the right to choose between mailing the stamps directly to the people, and making them go to the Post Office. Comments should be mailed to USDA, which say recipients, not states, should be able to choose how the stamps will be distributed.



Three of the bad rules which need comment are:

Congress said food stamp offices should be in places and open at times that best serve the public. USDA has not proposed any rules on how to figure out when offices should be open. People need to comment on this. One answer would be to have an annual meeting of the community the office serves to decide when it should open.

Congress said that any striker can get food stamps. USDA is proposing rules that say if a court has said the strike should end, those who continue to strike will be denied stamps. USDA cannot change the law, and comments should be sent on this issue.

If the head of a household quits or leaves his or her job, without "good cause", the whole household can be denied benefits for 60 days. These are usually the people who need stamps most. The regulations should be expanded to define what good cause is, and include such things as illness, child care problems, transportation hassles, discrimination, or looking for a better job. The regulation needs to be changed to disqualify only the person who quits and not the whole household.

The changes in the law, and what the proposed regulations say will be

reviewed at the meetings June 1st and 8th. Legal Aid staff will collect people's comments on the new regulations and forward them to USDA. It's important that people comment, and make their views known.

How to Comment Kit

Here's a format you can follow, begin with:

TO : Nancy Snyder
Acting Deputy Administrator
for Family Nutrition Programs
US Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Washington, D.C. 20250

FROM: John/Jane Doe
1234 Paved Street
Anywhere, Illinois 99999

SUBJECT: Emergency Food Stamps

Your comments should state the following:

- Why the regulation is good and how it solves a particular problem; or
- Why the regulation is bad and why it does not solve the problem; and/or
- What changes you would like to see, if you can think of any, that would solve the problem.

Be sure, in your comments, to give examples from your own experience that show why you approve, disapprove, or recommend a specific change in the regulation. This can be particularly helpful in giving guidance to USDA.

Do not assume that just because the regulation has been proposed, it will become law. You should comment favorably on each helpful regulation, because there are likely to be many state agency representatives, and others, who may think that the regulations you support will not be helpful. They can be expected to comment on all regulations they support and oppose.

Make sure you sign the comments.

COMMENTS MUST REACH WASHINGTON, D.C. BY JUNE 15, 1978.

SEND all comments to: Nancy Snyder, Acting Deputy Director for Family Nutrition Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Washington, D.C. 20250

Waterbed myth #5

I'll get seasick sleeping on a waterbed!



Seasickness is caused by interaction of the inner ear nerves & the brain vision centers. Motion has little to do with it. Motion also has little to do with sleeping on a waterbed. After an initial undulation of a few seconds, a properly filled waterbed doesn't impart any motion at all. (Besides, you have your eyes closed and are probably asleep due to the incredible confinement of the waterbed, so seasickness is a moot point anyway.) Do you have any other waterbed myths you need dispelled? Just ask and we'll put you to sleep with our information.

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RECORD REVIEWS

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by Divinyl Madness Folks
 Herein and forthwith is one person's slightly educated and over exposed opinion on some recent musical recordings. Rating system as follows:
 P=paraquat
 IG=Illinois green
 M=Mexican
 C=Colombian
 H=Hawaiian

Biblical

Sunnyland Slim & Big Time Sarah--
 Patience Like Job--Airway 4746

Albert Luandrew is seventy years old and still smiling. Maybe that's why his fingers hold the agility of a promising young hand racer tempered with the knowledge of when not to run, but instead to slide, crawl, or roll sideways over the keys. Alias "Sunnyland Slim," this man plays some of the best piano blues ever spawned by Chicago. Ably aided on vocals by Sarah Streeter, Slim and his windy city sidemen turn an evening at home into a bouncing blues celebration.

hi-grade C



Strange

Wendy Waldman--Strange Company--Warner Bros. BSK 3178

There's no denying this lady's writing talent. It has been recognized and recorded by Maria Muldaur and Judy Collins. Ms. Waldman has also appeared on two Linda Ronstadt LP's. Musically "Strange Company" is consistently well done material in the vein of the aforementioned artists. Waldman plays a number of instruments and handles the flowing vocals with ease. Lyrically there are some outstanding moments:

"The wind in New York City, Lord,
 it's like nothing you've ever seen
 It rips through the halls and the concrete canyons
 Like in a desert cowboy's fever dream"

If there is any fault here, it is the ease of commercial accessibility, as most of the songs seem fit for AM play:

C

Second Wind

Delbert McClinton--Second Wind--
 Capri, GPN 0201

Emerging this time in an uptempo vein with the capable support of Muscle Shoals Horn Section, Delbert smacks us with a mixture of originals and standards, such as Willie Dixon's "Spoonful" and Taj Mahal's "Corinna." The McClinton-penned tunes grab the upper hand, displaying none of the "same-old-thingness" found in the standards. A lot of energy here, reminiscent in places of Southside Johnny's first LP, though the flavor of the vocal punch isn't quite as tasty. A solid effort.

hi-grade M

Born Again

Christ Child--Buddah BDS 5700

Fortunately not content to be swallowed by the "New Wave" movement without a struggle, Christ Child churns up a few whitecaps. Witness the almost ridiculous "Star Whores," a stirring satellite, if only because of the audacity of its approach: electronic prostitutes in outer space? "She's Just a Bitch" is a lesson in pure energy, while "Blow It Up" will rattle your woofers with the depth of its deliberate laid-back heaviness. Recommended listening, but be forewarned by the words of the Christ Child, "They want a taste? Let 'em eat rock."

H

What If?

Dixie Dregs--What If--Capri. GPN 0203

Certainly one of the most unusual albums this year, "What If" requires a listener of varied tastes. Steve Morse handles most of the writing, and his jazz-infected electric guitar is felt throughout the recording. The Dregs' string man, Allen Sloan, sounds like a Jean-Luc Ponty fan with country roots and classical desires. The percussionists, meanwhile, are dedicated funk lovers. The occasionally quick-changing tempos will leave your feet bouncing ridiculously, while the Dregs are feather-floating 'round yer head. A combination sandwich.

C

Not Alone

Roy Buchanan--You're Not Alone--
 Atl. SD 19170

For guitar lovers only. This is the one you've been waiting for. Buchanan has dropped the relatively simplistic r & b approach of his earlier material and opted for a spacy, ethereal background. Just as you begin wondering who the hell is on the turntable anyway, a riff pops out like lightning, splits your skull with a devil-god grin, and leaves you spinning in the rumble of the after-thunder without mercy. A credible version of Neil Young's "Down by the River" (the only vocals on the LP) and an incredible version of Joe Walsh's "Turn to Stone" are topped only by Buchanan's originals. This album is a gem. Don't miss it.

H

Street Punk

Lou Reed--Street Hassle--Arista AB 4169

I've been reading good reviews on this piece of crap ever since it came out. There's no blood 'n' guts rock 'n' roll here. And anybody who thinks some kind of artistically worthwhile emotional trip is going on must have forgotten the intensity of "Berlin." Reed's forte has always been his lyrical presentation. On "Rock 'n' Roll Animal" this was expertly punctuated by the blazing guitars of Steve Hunter and Dick Wagner. Not here. On "Berlin" Reed's incredibly non-involved approach spun a full 33 1/3 r.p.m. circle to capture the total involvement of the listener. Not here. Long live punk. The king of punk is dead--or resting. Still, I slobbered over this guy for too many years to dismiss him completely, and he does manage a good line or two.

low-grade IG

Alvin A-ok

Alvin Lee--Rocket Fuel--RSO 1-3003

The "fastest guitar alive" is back in stride with his best effort since "A Space in Time." This time the blazing axe garners a sense of direction from those flying phalanges, as Lee pens some memorable tunes, most notably the title cut, "Gonna Turn You On," "Ain't Nothin' Shakin'," "Blue Thing," and "Somebody Waltz." On the latter Lee's string stretching is stylistically superb--something he was never noted for. Occasionally the vocals are a little boring, but who cares? A good 'un.

high-grade C

Get It

Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers--You're Gonna Get It--Shelter 52029

This is a last minute addition based on one listening. Petty seems to be one of the few artists around who can write and play a no-frills rock 'n' roll that wanders into no other categorization. His vocals are emotionally taut while managing to sound as though they fall out of his mouth of their own accord. The band is tight to the point of perfection. I guess I like it.

H

Disgo to Hell

Bob Seger ran out of gusto.

Jimmy Lalumia & the Psychotic Frogs--
 Death to Disco--Death Records,
 Kill 001 (45 rpm single)

Appropriately dedicated to Van McCoy, this hot little commercial item takes a somewhat biased point of view. The chorus, for instance, reads, "...disco, disco sucks, try your luck, but don't get f**ked, by disco, it sucks..." Later on the Frogs get into more creative lyrics:

"Send Barry White to weight watchers' (give the world a break) all Donna-Summers' orgasms were fake!..."

The finale is a funeral march incorporating such semantic smears as "...just because they put this sh*t on our plates, we don't have to eat it..." If you like a somewhat raw sense of humor and despise disco, this one's for you

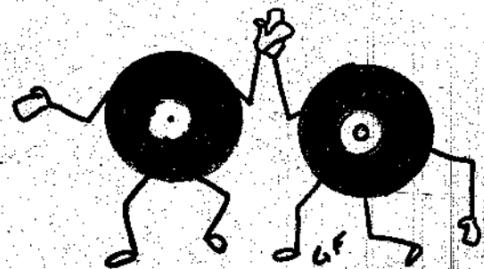
X

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

--Aldous Huxley

'til next month,

the quaker



Full Moon Consort



Studio

My first live exposure to A Full Moon Consort came with the news that the group would be in town one more time before breaking up.

In conversation with Chuck Sabitino, lead vocalist, composer, and reed player, and Joe Marshall, lead guitarist, I learned their intention is to bring the group back together on the west coast if management support and work opportunities are strong.

Both Joe and Chuck played frequently in Jake Jones, from the St. Louis area, frequently performing in Bloomington-Normal. All the material on the first Full Moon LP is penned by Chuck and arranged by the group. Lacking on the first album, is fifth member bassist "Peaches", who was added later to allow for more use of the keyboards. Of interesting note is that the album, recorded in December of 1976, was not released until the Spring of this year, on the Midwest label.

These days, the album songs, on stage, take on a more jazzy feel, with extended instrumental breaks on most. Chuck has a knack for snappy melody lines accompanied by earthy lyrics. This adds to the accessibility of the material, which accounts for its boom in local sales.

Titled "The Men in the Moon", the album complements their stage set, but unfortunately, for the time being, is the only Full Moon Consort available for listening.

Rate it a good time.



Live

The moon above the Lay-Z-J saloon is three quarters, on this Thursday, May 18th, but on stage it's A Full Moon Consort. From the minute Chuck, lead vocalist, started bouncing to the first few bars of the opener, I knew their final Bloomington show would be a memorable one.

Jazz was most dominant in the sound of the first set, including a couple new numbers, featuring some extended work by Chuck on the soprano sax. Joe Truttmann weaves very tightly around



Chuck's vocals adding much more to the already familiar material as well as showing growth on the newer pieces. Joe Marshall puts in a good rhythm line, soloing equally to the breaks by bassist "Peaches" and Steve Strayhorn, the drummer.

The group is tight and respect for each others' talents on stage is evident. Complimenting each other adds to the spirit and enthusiasm of performing on stage, and with each compliment the band seemed to get better.

Most, if not all of The Men in the Moon LP were performed, each song noticeably embellished with added breaks and arranging.

The second set was directed towards more danceable tunes, with covers of Stevie Wonder, Star Wars and the like.

Energy kept pouring through the microphones and out from the stage all evening, running up to closing time at the Saloon, which brought on the realization that one of the liveliest bands in the Midwest would soon be leaving the stage, for, possibly, the last time.

For the Listening:

Jake Jones - Jake Jones - Kapp KS 3648 (out of print)

A Full Moon Consort - The Men in the Moon - Midwest MW 2001 available at finer record shops

--Tim

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SO DON'T FALL ON YOUR HEAD

New bail law squeezes poor

It's always been easy to get into jail and hard to get out if you're poor. But starting July 1 things are going to be worse.

On that day a new bail law goes into effect, and the new law allows the government to keep your bond money if you have had a public defender.

Yes, if you don't have enough money to pay your own lawyer but you do manage to scrape up enough to post bond, just don't expect to see that bail money again.

McLean County State's Attorney Ron Dozier said that the justice system has generally taken people at their word when they say they can't pay a private lawyer--and that, he says, is a problem.

"People get the public defender who shouldn't," Dozier said, "because they have money or can get money. Now, anybody who can come up with some money, it can be used to pay the county's costs."

The county pays the public defenders, and the county will get the bail money under the new law.

Dozier admits the new law is full of loopholes, and agrees it's rather vague.

For instance, the new law doesn't say anything at all about how it's supposed to work. Nothing.

According to John McCullough, chief judge of the 11th Judicial Circuit, the basic decisions will at first be left up to the individual judges.

For example, the law doesn't say that the county must take the bail money -- only that it may take it. Does the county then have to ask for the money? No, the judge can point out the new law to himself and then order the bail money turned over to the county.

Nonetheless, McCullough says things are going to be up in the air until a few cases are appealed and boundaries for the new law are decided.

Two problem areas that the judge sees already are whether or not the county can keep the bail money if the case is dismissed or the defendant is found not guilty.

That's a good question: should an innocent person not have to pay to get loose from the long arm of the law just because that person has no money?

Does that make any sense?

Well, anyway I asked the good judge about a problem we at the Post thought up. What happens to the bail money if friends or relatives put it up?

That's "an incorrect way of posting bond," the judge said.

If your best friend or your mother loans you money to post bail, that's nothing to concern the judges. The loan is between you and your mother. The bail is between you and the court. The county is going to take your money to pay for your public defender. How you pay back your mother is your problem.

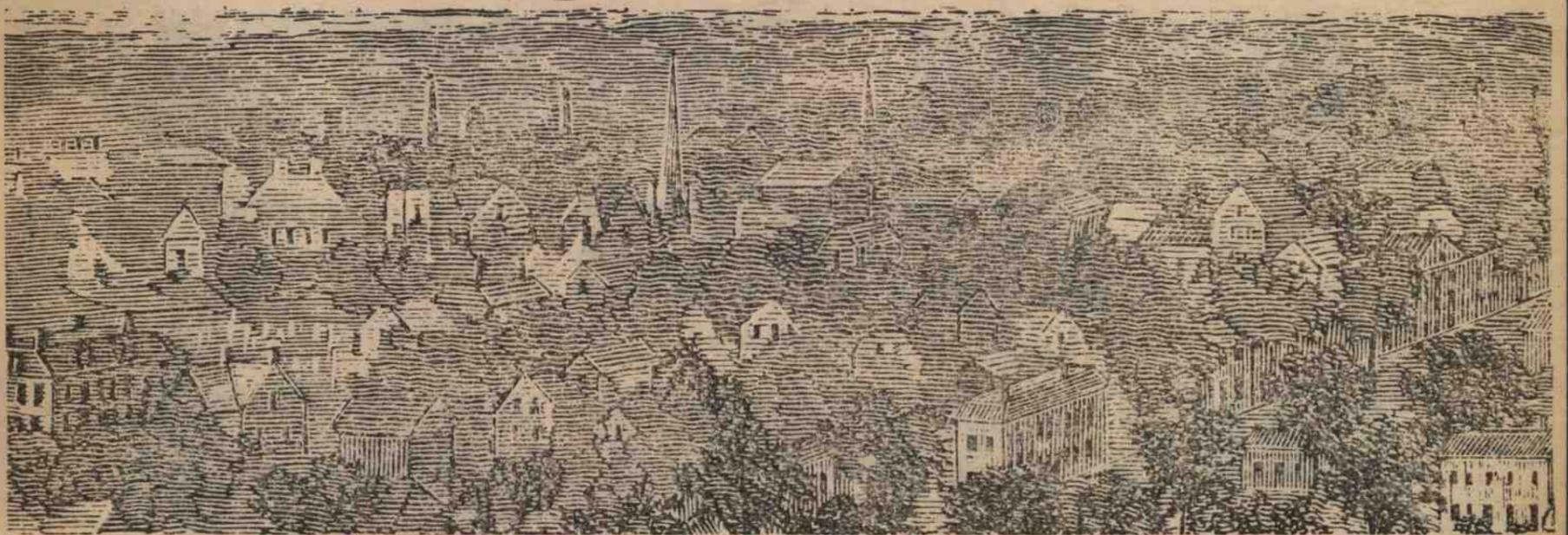
I guess the judge has got a point.

It is your problem when your friends and relatives won't (or can't) lend you money to post bond because they all know the county is going to keep it to pay for your public defender.

After all, you'll be the one still in jail--not the judge.

--D. LeSeure

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

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