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gay news; sad news; buses; busts; cable tv

Bloomington-Normal

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POST AMERICAN

May 1981
Vol. 10 No. 2



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MEG agent lies & deals

MEG undercover drug agent Ron Gilchrist delivered amphetamines and marijuana, got high himself, bought alcohol for an underage drinker, and perjured himself in court, according to reports reaching the Post-Amerikan.

Such conduct, though illegal, is not unusual for MEG informers, that sleazy collection of riff-raff pressured or paid to turn in their friends and acquaintances.

But Ron Gilchrist isn't a MEG informer; he is a MEG agent--a career police officer temporarily assigned to undercover work with the narc squad.

Marty Baxter, a Bloomington resident busted by Gilchrist in recent months, told the Post-Amerikan that the MEG agent smoked pot, sometimes supplying his own marijuana to pass around. Baxter also said he received amphetamines from Gilchrist. "They were good, too," Baxter told the

Post. "They really worked."

Baxter gave me the name of a witness he said could corroborate these charges.

Sure enough, the witness (who was not willing to be named in the Post-Amerikan) definitely remembered agent Gilchrist delivering 7 or 8 capsules --black beauties--to Marty Baxter. The witness said he also received visits from agent Gilchrist, had smoked pot with him, and sometimes smoked pot that Gilchrist supplied.

The underage drinker who allegedly received alcohol from agent Gilchrist couldn't be contacted in time for this month's story. But this isn't the first time that MEG has been charged with breaking alcohol laws in order to enforce the marijuana laws.

Gilchrist's alleged perjury occurred in the April 20 jury trial of Robert Borries, who was convicted of delivering marijuana to the MEG agent. The evidence consisted of agent

Gilchrist's testimony on one side, and the testimony of Martin Baxter, Teresa Baxter, and defendant Borries on the other: three against one.

Martin Baxter told the Post-Amerikan that Gilchrist didn't just lie--he lied poorly, contradicting himself on key points. But thanks to Judge Keith Campbell's siding with the prosecution, the jury zipped out its guilty verdict in only 35 minutes.

Within 2 days (incredibly quickly for these matters) defense attorney Charles Reynard had filed a request for a new trial. Even though it is written in legalese, the sense of indignant outrage at the verdict comes through in the request.

Reynard's motion characterizes Gilchrist's testimony as "internally conflicting and inherently improbable." Which is fancy talk for calling somebody a bad liar. ●

--Mark Silverstein

ABOUT US

The Post-Amerikan is a worker-controlled collective that puts out this paper. If you'd like to help, give us a call and leave your name with our wonderful answering machine. Then we'll call you back and give you the rap about the Post. You start work at nothing per hour and stay there. Everyone is paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up and asking who's in charge. Ain't nobody 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 deadline for the next issue is June 4.

If you'd like to work on the Post and/or come to meetings, call us at 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885.

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Mail, which we more than welcome, should be sent to: the Post-Amerikan PO 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 on our letters page.

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Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
SE corner, Washington & Clinton
The Last Page, 416 N. Main
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Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (Social Security Administration)--829-9436
Dept. of Mental Health--828-4311
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Gay Action/Awareness Union of McLean County--452-5852
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--in Illinois--800-972-6004 (all 800 #s toll free)
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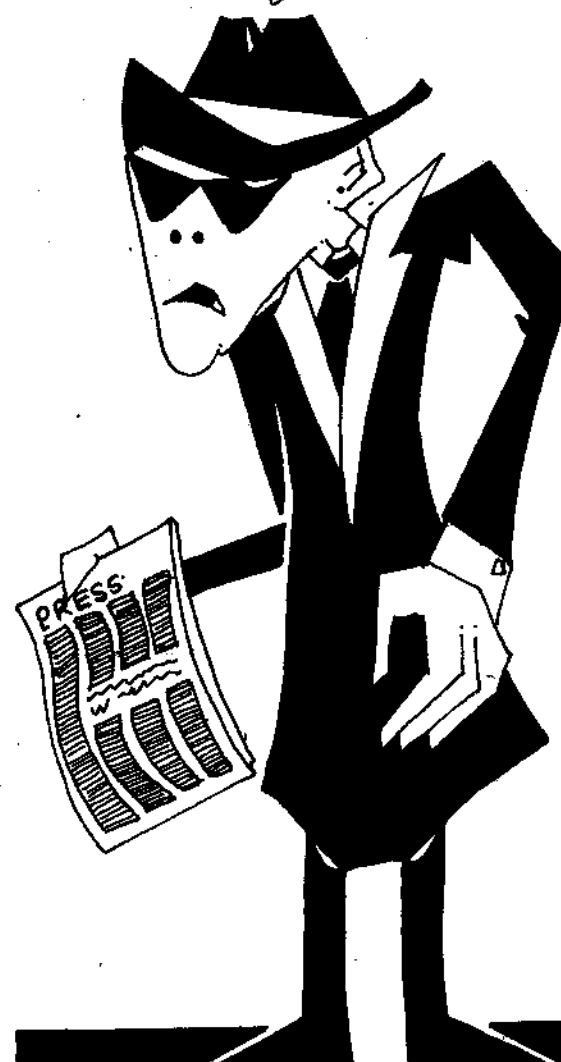
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Yes, that's our phone number--and now we have an answering machine! So you can call and leave us a message anytime. Be sure to leave your phone number if you want us to call you back.

A GOOD HEADLINE IS
BETTER THAN DRUGS!

So there you are. We have Thompson building a rep for fighting drug abuse. We have about 48 inches of coverage of Thompson's statement in the Pantagraph, with all kinds of official types speculating on the effects of the new law, when really nothing will happen. We will all just keep on bumbling through our lives hoping that as the police state closes in on us, it will always be administered with such inept bluster.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Gov upchucks: teacher-narcs splashed in papers

I wonder what kind of world people live in sometimes, like whether they walk around with their ears stuffed with muzak and their heads full of the Brady Bunch or what. If the state legislators, newspaper editors, and school officials would just think for a minute once in a while, they could live calmer lives and not waste so much ink and paper.

Take April 23, for example. Gov. James Thompson proposed a plan to curb drug use in the state's public schools by forcing all school personnel to act as narcs. Teachers would legally be required to inform the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement (IDLE) if they suspected a student of drug use. The punishment for not snitching would be the loss of your teacher's certificate (therefore, your job).

Well! Your first reaction is probably, Gasp! Shudder! They can't turn teachers into police (any more than they already are)! This is Terrible!

It's terrible that the gov is a fascist, all right, but we know that. His Nazi mentality has been obvious from the start. But if you think through this school proposal with your brain, you'll see that there's nothing to get all bent out of shape about.

Because even if it passes, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.

Teachers will not turn in their students. The proposal includes a part that requires the teacher to "testify fully in any judicial proceeding resulting from such a report." Now, even though the teacher is protected from suits over a report, no one wants to testify fully anywhere, especially when they're trying to survive a teaching job in a high school.

They also won't turn in their students because they know that the signs of drug use are also the signs of normal teenage life in Amerika. That stupefied dazed look could just as easily come from an overdose of filmstrips in citizenship class as from pot smoking; that inability to pay attention for longer than a 10-minute stretch probably comes from TV abuse, not chemical downers; those jagged emotions can come from sitting down at the supper table every night of your life with your parents, as well as from speed. Who's going to say what symptoms come from what horrors, and who's doing anything about the non-drug horrors anyway?

As far as horrors go, have you talked to a high school teacher lately? They won't turn in their students because they probably either do or are sorely tempted to do drugs themselves. Besides the routine coffee, cigarettes, and alcohol, many high school teachers now are of the pot generation themselves. Others do prescribed and nonprescribed

uppers and downers. That's the kind of job it is.

Teachers will not lose their certificates for not turning their students in. Even if a student gets busted and found guilty, IDLE would have to prove what went on in each of that student's teachers' heads in order to convict them of "suspicion of student drug use." How will they do that? And who will take the time to do it, when the courts are all bogged down already? Finding teachers who suspected drug use and didn't snitch is a ridiculously hopeless effort, and I don't believe anyone will take it on.

Finally, students will not trust or distrust their teachers any more than they already do. Most students will remain unaware of the new laws: I can't imagine the school administration informing them of it, and most don't read the newspapers. Students who trust their teachers completely usually aren't the type to keep a bottle of whisky and a toot of PCP in their lockers. The ones who don't trust their teachers now won't change. The ones who are so messed up that they confide in a teacher about a drug problem are going to be exactly that messed up anyway, and they're going to blab, law or no law. Usually they choose to blab to the kind of teacher who would never turn them in in a thousand years, law or no law.

A very good year--for Exxon

Even though it was a bad year for business in general, the big oil companies, led by Exxon with profits of \$5,650,000,000, cleaned up again in 1980.

In the latest Fortune 500 listings, 8 of the 10 companies earning the most profits last year were oil companies. Of the 14 firms reporting net incomes (profits after taxes) of \$1 billion or more, all but 3 were oil companies.

Exxon also established a record by becoming the first corporation to post sales of more than \$100 billion in a single year. That means Exxon took in, from you and me, about one-sixth as much as the entire federal government.

The top 8 oil companies combined took in \$335 billion in sales, or the equivalent of about 11% of the total U.S. GNP. Although those sales include foreign operations, the sheer size of the oil business is a measure of its ability to control economic--and political--life in the US, especially considering how few hands hold all that power.

Another interesting measure of the shift of wealth and power that's going on in the US is the total return to investors, which includes both dividends and increases in stock prices.

Last year an investment in Shell Oil increased in value by 120%. That means that if you had \$10,000 invested in Shell stock at the

beginning of 1980, your stock plus the dividends you received would have been worth \$22,000 by the end of the year.

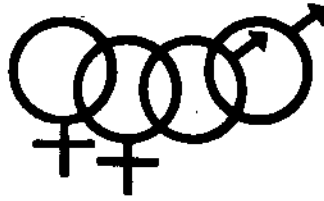
The lowest return on investment among the top 8 oil companies was Mobil's 53.1%--which ain't bad compared to an average for all industries of 21% and an inflation rate of about 13%.

Obviously, the people who own and run the oil companies aren't worried about the inflation they're causing by gouging consumers. They're staying way ahead of the game.

--D. LeSeure



Gay rights

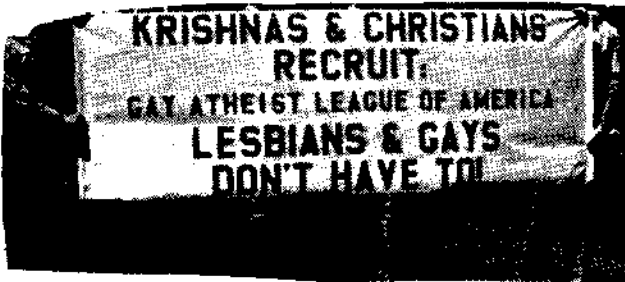


In what was probably the biggest victory for gay rights forces in Illinois thus far, a committee of the Illinois House of Representatives voted 9-4 in favor of the five bills (H.B. 357-361) which would ban anti-gay discrimination in jobs, housing, public accommodations, credit, and real estate transactions statewide. This is the second time in history that gay rights legislation has gotten out of committee in the Illinois legislature.

The sponsors of the bills are Rep. Elroy C. Sandquist, Jr. (R-13), Rep. Woods Bowman (D-11), and Rep. Susan Catania (R-22). Catania is also the chairperson of the Public Institutions and Social Service Committee that approved the bills to be sent to the floor of the House.

The nine affirmative votes were the minimum number needed for recommendation.

"This is excellent," observed a pleased Sandquist. "This is the first time we've ever gotten all five bills out of committee." He attributed the successful vote in large part to the "hard work of the members of the Illinois Gay Rights Task Force."



Wonderful step

Rep. Ellis Levin (D-12), a co-sponsor of the legislation, also expressed his pleasure at the vote, saying that it "shows the sophistication of the gay community in focusing in on what legislators understand--votes."

Sandquist predicted that the bills will probably come up for a House vote sometime in the middle of May. Catania called the vote a "wonderful first step" but pointed out that the only previous time a gay rights bill reached the floor of the House (in 1977) it received 38 votes--a simple majority of 89 votes is needed for passage.

"There are 177 people in the House, and we now have to work on them all," said Catania.

Following more than an hour of favorable testimony, committee members voted on the bills in numerical order. The first bill (H.B. 357) bans discrimination in public university and college employment, and the rollcall vote was 9-3, with one member, Rep. Margaret Smith (D-22) voting present.

Nothing personal

As the same rollcall was being applied to the other four bills, Smith changed her vote to "no," and the final tally was 9-4. Smith said that she "has nothing against gay people personally" but could not go on record "for posterity" as "condoning" such a lifestyle. She said she lives by "certain principles" and that people are here to "replenish the earth."

Two key favorable votes were cast by William Henry (D-21) and Mary Jeanne Hallstrom (R-1). Henry, a black legislator from Chicago's west side, had been extensively lobbied by a gay black man from the board of the Mattachine Midwest Society.

Hallstrom pointed to the "excellent testimony" as a major factor in her decision. "There was no way after listening to the testimony that I could vote against people having rights," she said.

Testimony began with remarks by Sandquist that "if any group in society does not have their rights protected, then all of us are in danger of losing our rights."

We are everywhere

Sandquist was followed by IGRTF co-chairperson Helen Hillegass, who cited the diversity of the gay community in Illinois: "We are black, white, and Latino; we are rich, and we are poor. We live from Cairo to Rockford, from Quincy to Champaign, and from Springfield to Chicago."

Veteran lawyer Paul R. Goldman, from Chicago, told the committee that hardly a week goes by that he doesn't come into professional contact with a person "whose job is threatened or who has been denied fundamental rights."

Ann Greene, a member of Parents and Friends of Gays, gave some of the simplest and most eloquent testimony. Mother of a gay son, she reminded the committee members that "for every gay person in Illinois, there are two of us parents."

The clergy were represented by Rev. Gregory Dell of the Wheadon United Methodist Church in Evanston and Rev. Tom Kinzie of the First Church of the Brethren in Springfield. Dell said that homosexuality is "not a sin biblically or morally" and added, "Discrimination, as surely as nails and wood, is an instrument of crucifixion."

Dancin'

Just when I thought the gay rights movement in Illinois had died and gone to San Francisco, the Public Institutions and Social Services Committee suddenly brought it back to life. That committee of the Illinois House of Reps voted April 21 to send all five of the proposed anti-discrimination bills to the full House with a favorable recommendation (see adjoining story).

I don't place a lot of hope or trust in the legislative process as a way to end gay oppression, but I must admit the committee hearings were kind of exciting. Well, maybe not exciting, but more interesting and encouraging than I expected them to be.

For one thing, there were almost 300 gay people in the gallery--so many that they had moved the hearings from a smaller meeting room to the House chambers of the state capitol. You get that many determined lesbians and gay men together in one place and there's bound to be some strong vibes bouncing around the room.

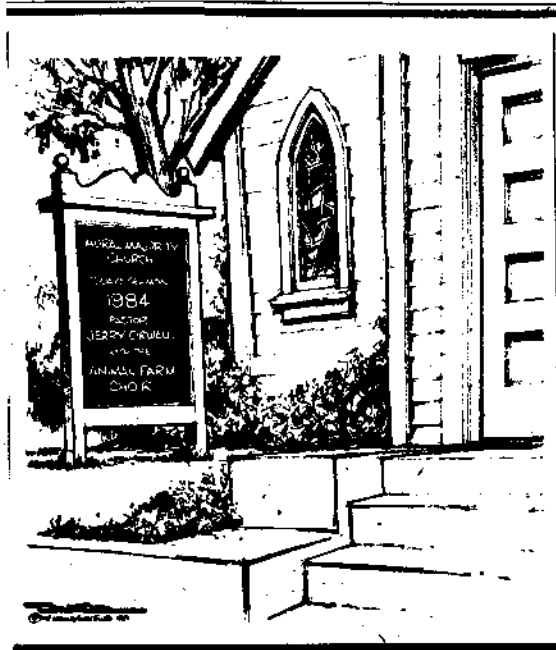
Actually, we conducted ourselves with a great deal of decorum. Many in the group were in suits and dresses--the men had on the suits and the women were wearing the dresses--and we all had buttons that read "I'm Gay and I vote" (I should have added "when there's a decent candidate" to mine, but that would have negated the message.)

I think the presence of so many openly gay people milling around the capitol, just like we belonged there (which we do), and using the cafeteria and the restrooms must have been a bit unnerving to the folks who usually inhabit the premises. They couldn't very well ignore us. I wonder what the teachers and guides told the groups of school kids that were getting the grand tour that day. ("Those are just the happy people, Johnny, now come along and don't get too close to them.")

The hearings themselves started off in a routine way--late and confused. But finally Susan Catania, that lovely lady from Chicago, got things underway. Catania may be a Republican, but she's a cool woman and certainly knows how to get a bill through committee with a minimum of fuss.

The testimony itself was a mixed bag and terribly predictable--a psychiatrist, a lawyer, a mother, two ministers, a black fag, a white dyke, and anonymous statements by a liberal association (American Bar) and a liberal council (of churches).

Anne Greene, the mother of a gay son, was my favorite--she talked simply, without appeals to the bible or the great god Freud, telling the legislators that it's all right to be gay, that her son is happy, and that he and his friends deserve to be protected from discrimination.



advance in Springfield

Also testifying were a gay man and a lesbian from Chicago, both of whom lost their jobs because of their gayness. "I can be terminated from my job simply because I love a woman," said Doris Shane, a respiratory therapist. "That's not fair, and I'm asking you to change it."

Dr. Jules Masserman of Chicago, former president of the American Psychiatric Association and current president of the World Association of Social Psychiatry, also testified in favor of the bills.

Rep. Bowman closed the testimony by emphasizing the privacy issue: "You wouldn't want people peeping through your own keyhole any more than I would. I ask you to pass this legislation and close that keyhole."

Sandquist then read statements of support from the Illinois State Bar Association and the National Council of Churches.

All over Illinois

Catania read into the record the names of individual supporters, most of whom had come to Springfield to attend the hearings. Large numbers had arrived on three buses from Chicago, representing a number of the city's gay organizations, among them the National Coalition of Black Gays, Blazing Star, the New American Movement, Lutherans Concerned, the Tavern Guild, Dignity, and the Good Shepard Parish of MCC.

Supporters had also come from all over the state, representing such organizations as Gay Illini in Champaign-Urbana and the Gay People's Alliance of Bloomington-Normal



Two names were read into the record as opposing H.B. 359: Timothy Elder of Caterpillar Tractor Co. and John Venardos of the Associated Employers of Illinois. (H.B. 359 would prohibit anti-gay discrimination in employment, real estate transactions, financial credit, and public accommodations.)

Sponsors warned supporters, heartened by the committee victory, that the Public Institutions Committee is much more liberal than the full House and that lobbying work there will present a tremendous challenge.

Levin called for supporters to contact their legislators as early as possible. "Don't wait until May," he stressed, urging backers to schedule individual meetings with their representatives in addition to the usual letters and phone calls.

--Thank to Stephan Kulieke
Gaylife

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the gay lib blues

By contrast, the man from the psychiatrist industry thoroughly confused everybody with his jargon about monozygotic ova and some nonsense about Freud's acceptance of homosexuality. (As Thomas Szasz recently pointed out, Freud's views on the subject are clearly oppressive, and we shouldn't kid ourselves about it.)

I was quite surprised that no one from the opposition was there to rant and rave. But I learned later that the Moron Majority was off intimidating legislators elsewhere, trying to get them to punish librarians who supply children with "harmful materials" (i.e., anything that gets them to think). Or perhaps they were afraid to enter a room full of so much evil--300 homosexuals acting like they're decent people, fergodsakes.

When the vote finally came (an hour or two later), everything happened so fast I almost missed it. Catania doesn't mess around--she had the machine oiled and tuned up, and boom, boom! it was 9 to 3, with one member voting "present."

As Catania and team started applying the same roll call vote to the other bills in the package, Rep. Margaret Smith, a black Democrat from Chicago, changed her vote from "present" to

"past" (somewhere in the Middle Ages, I think). She said she was voting no, not because she has anything against us personally (just our jobs, homes, etc.), but because she believes in the bible, blah, blah, blah, the children, blah, blah, men and women together blah, blah, blah, have to draw the line somewhere, blah blah. Tiresome.

Nonetheless the bills passed (they needed only 9 votes), and we all gave a standing ovation (we did not cheer, as the papers said--we left the pom-poms back at the office) and we filed decorously out of the chambers. Then we made a mad dash for the nearest gay bar, only 2 blocks from the capitol (how convenient for thirsty legislators!), where all 300 of us tried to order a drink at the same time, and boogie on a disco floor designed for six thin couples.

Actually, the time at the bar was probably the most exciting part of the trip. The sense of community and gay spirit was electric. It was part relief and part celebration, part surprise (they hadn't expected the bills to pass so easily) and part recovery (how comforting to be back in a gay bar, away from quizzical looks, where we could take off those ridiculous jackets and ties and let our hair down again.)

I don't for a minute think the gay rights bills will pass the full House --I'll be surprised if they get more than 30 votes--but for a time there it was nice to feel legitimate and accepted, to think that the government might actually give a damn or at least recognize our existence.

But, as with all good times, this one came to an end. We clicked our ruby slippers together and, sure enough, we were back in Kansas. The media did give the committee vote a good deal of coverage, and we did pull together, somehow, to get 9 votes from a liberal committee. But those are minor advances in a war of awesome and terrible oppression. Temporary relief of symptoms, yes; but the disease is far from cured.

--Ferdydurke

Cable tv franchise Cities lost chance

Post-Note: These articles are the second of two parts on Telecable's new 15-year franchise to operate in Bloomington-Normal. Last issue's story examined the issue of rate deregulation.

While public debate on cable TV last winter and fall was sidetracked on the issue of rate deregulation, Telecable won its major goal--securing a new 15-year franchise on its own terms.

Having made only a couple minor concessions in the eight months of negotiations for the franchise, Telecable came out the winner. The Bloomington and Normal city councils passed up a major opportunity to wrest increased service concessions out of the cable company.

The franchise commits Telecable to an expansion to 20 channels by the end of 1982 and 36 channels by 1990. Except for three "local access" channels, all the expanded programming will be pay TV, like Home Box Office--available only at extra cost. The cities could have negotiated for more channels to be included in Telecable's basic rate. The cities could also have demanded much more from the three local access channels than they will get.

More channels

The city staff committee negotiating with Telecable didn't even try to get the cable company to bring more far-away independent TV stations to Bloomington. "We were only asking for what everyone else had," committee member Paxton Bowers told the Post-Amerikan. "Nobody seems to be unhappy with what we've got here."

But many late-night TV watchers are unhappy, especially when they can tune in to Chicago's channel two (WBBM) or



Atlanta's independent station (WTBF) only during the middle of a movie. Because of Telecable's limited channel capacity, both of these stations must wait for their channel slot until another station goes off the air. (Atlanta appears on Cable 5 only after WEEK from Peoria signs off; Chicago's WBBM appears on cable 11 only after Channel 32 signs off).

City negotiators could have required, in the new franchise agreement, that Telecable use two of its new channel slots to eliminate the doubling up. Telecable could have been required to offer Chicago's WBBM and the Atlanta station on their own channels, all day long.

That requirement was not written into the franchise, and Telecable's program director told the Post-Amerikan that she "didn't know" if the doubling up would continue or not.



Local Access

Including three local access channels--public, education and government--in the basic rate package was Telecable's idea. They represent a minor expansion and continuation of what has already been happening somewhat on cable channel 10. In the mid-70s, Federal Communications Commission regulations required that these three local access channels be set aside when a cable system expanded to 20 channels. Bloomington Corporation Counsel Paxton Bowers wasn't clear on whether those FCC regulations are still in effect. What is clear is that Bloomington-Normal could have got more out of these channels than they will be getting.

Public access programming offers the potential for extensive grass-roots participation and decentralized communication. Telecable officials snowed city staffers with the line that since few use the public access channel, the company shouldn't spend much money to improve the studio.

That's how Telecable slipped by with only a \$150,000 commitment for public access--a mere \$10,000 a year. Other cities have demanded much more of their cable companies, some requiring extensive studio facilities plus full-time personnel to help citizens create programs. Cities with an active commitment to public access are rewarded with extensive use of the channel. During the negotiations for the franchise, Telecable successfully covered up its long history of discouraging use of the public access channel (see adjoining story).

For the government access channel, Telecable will provide a character generator--a TV typewriter. It will enable the cities to televise "bulletin board" type announcements of city meetings and services.

Wrong idea

City negotiators purposely shelved a more innovative and democratic use of the government channel--televising meetings of the city council. As a condition of the franchise, Telecable could have been required to provide the equipment for televising the meetings.

I've often been interested in one or two items on the council's agenda, but I can't sit through the stifling four-hour meetings. If the council meetings were on the tube, I could just tune in to issues I wanted to follow. The rest of the time I could space out, snicker, make cracks, even yell "you asshole" to the appropriate elected representative. Televising the council meetings could foster a healthy democratic growth in people's interest in public affairs. Friends getting together for evenings of beer and pot might tune in the Monday night circus for background entertainment. Televising council proceedings would make our representatives appear more human, as they reveal themselves to be the same inarticulate



stumbling fools we meet in everyday life.

That's just what the city officials objected to, when they decided they didn't want their meetings televised. According to Paxton Bowers, televising of council meetings "would give the wrong impression" and the meetings

continued next page

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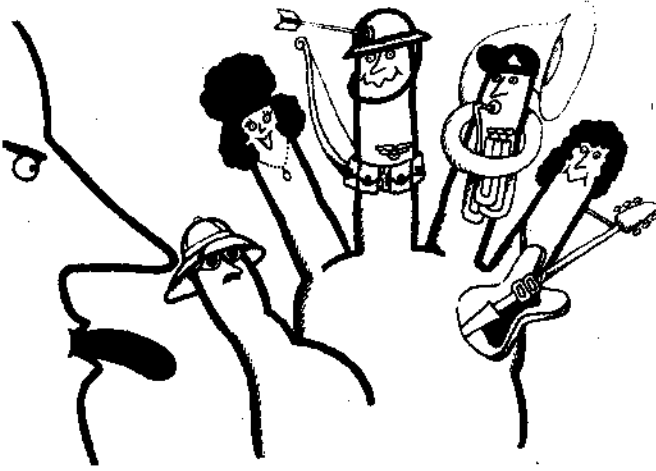
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SEMINARS ON VOWELS AND CONSONANTS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

"would be misinterpreted." When turning on the TV, Bowers said, people are used to viewing something that is well-prepared. Summing up his faith in democracy, Bowers told the Post that "People aren't prepared to evaluate these meetings very well."



The council's public reasons for looking askance at televising meetings were the disruption factors--the bright lights and the cameras would "disturb" the proceedings. But Champaign has been televising its council meetings on cable for years with no problems.

In addition, the latest TV technology renders bright lights unnecessary and cameras unobtrusive--even judges have ruled that TV cameras don't violate the courts' sacred sense of decorum.

Another imaginative use of cable TV probably wasn't even discussed by city staff. Champaign's cable TV franchise requires the cable company to wire things up so that a cablecast could be beamed to a certain neighborhood, while other neighborhoods could receive other signals. With Bloomington moving to a ward system, such wiring would permit each ward to have its own programming. With 2-way cable a certainty in the future, neighborhood wiring would permit ward-by-ward discussion of local issues. Or perhaps the government channel could be rigged up with the potential for instant ward-by-ward referendums. For instance, ward representatives could take a break during council meetings, cablecast a message directed only to their wards, and receive a computer-tabulated summation of constituents advisory votes on the issue.

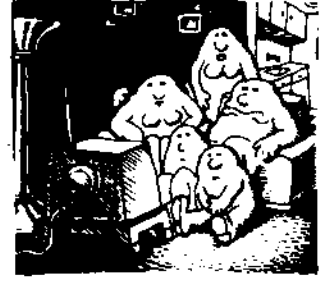
Monitoring complaints

The Telecable franchise has no system for collecting complaints and holding the company accountable. The franchise does list lack of responsiveness to consumer complaints as one of the "abuses" which could prompt cities to reinstate rate regulation. But the franchise provides no system for the city councils to assess the frequency or severity of consumer complaints, let alone whether the company deals with them properly. Council members chose to be satisfied with one member's statement that "citizens will call us if they are not satisfied with cable service." During the cable company's last rate increase request, some council members who wanted to

assess subscribers' satisfaction with cable service were forced to rely on Telecable's own consumer survey. Things won't be much different under the new franchise, unless the cable TV committee working on rules for local access channels also recommends setting up something like an independent cable TV board.

That committee is supposed to decide what specific equipment should be part of a public access studio, establish guidelines for the access channels, etc. (Telecable was so anxious to nail down its 15-year franchise that the company signed the agreement before the details of its contribution to and operation of the local access channels were decided.)

Telecable's meager \$150,000 could go into improving its own studio for public access programming. Another plan being checked out is a deal with Illinois State University. Telecable would donate the \$150,000 to ISU's TV department, which in turn would take over the cable company's responsibility for operating the public access channel.



It's too late to renegotiate more money out of Telecable. But it's not too late to draft very stringent guidelines which will ensure that the public access channel will finally (see adjoining story) be truly open to the public.

--Mark Silverstein



SIR I AM A POOR LITTLE LAMB SEEKING EQUAL TIME IN YOUR CLASSROOM!

BIBLICAL CREATION

Telecable's new franchise

Here are the highlights of the new 15-year franchise Telecable has obtained from Bloomington and Normal:

***Channel expansion. Telecable will replace all its wiring, allowing expansion to 20 channels by 1982 and 36 channels by 1990. Subscribers will have to pay a one-time \$25 fee for a converter to receive the extra channels.

***Subscribers who pay only the basic rate will receive only three of the new channels--the "local access" channels. The rest of the new channels will be pay TV.

***Telecable can raise its basic rates without council approval, as long as the increase is in line with the Personal Consumption Expenditure Index.

***Telecable will contribute \$150,000 as payment for its responsibility to maintain a studio for the public access channel. A city staff committee will decide in the next year how the money is to be used, and what guidelines to develop for the local access channels. The \$150,000 might be used to update Telecable's own bare-bones studio or might be donated to Illinois State University's more extensive studio. The latter would occur only if ISU agreed to take over Telecable's responsibility for dealing with members of the public who wish to use the public access channel.

A's

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Corner Lee & Oakland



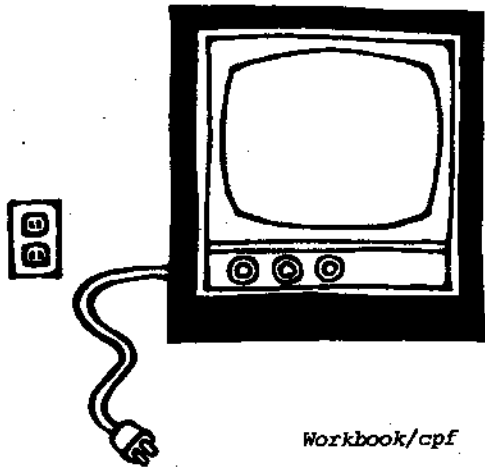
Violated FCC rules

Telecable actively discouraged

One issue during negotiations for Telecable's new franchise was how much money the cable firm should be required to spend to update and maintain a studio for its public access channel.

Until a 1979 court ruling, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) required cable companies to maintain a public access channel, open to anyone who wants to cablecast. Purpose is to air "wide and diverse points of view." Even after the cable TV industry's lawyers overturned the FCC rules, our local Telecable company was still required to offer the public access channel--it was built into the local franchise.

Rules for the access channel require that Telecable offer the first 5 minutes for free. The company can charge a small fee for extended time, but only enough to pay for the cable employees who operate the cameras.



Workbook/cpf

In other words, any nut off the street has the right to come into Telecable, talk on TV for 5 minutes, and the cable company has to pay for it.

During franchise negotiations with city staff, Telecable officials deceptively downplayed the importance of the public access programming, saying no one used it much. The cable folks took the attitude, "Gee, we don't know why no one seems interested in public access. But as long as the public isn't using it, we don't need to spend much on a studio."

The city staff committee fell for it, too. Note the sympathy for Telecable's position in this quotation from a committee report on the franchise negotiations (underlining mine):

"According to Mr. Kolbus (Telecable manager), over the past decade, the public access studio had been used rather infrequently, only a couple times per year on the average. For this reason, Telecable was understandably reluctant to invest large amounts of money in studio equipment."

Conscious violations

Actually, Telecable has carried out a conscious policy of actively discouraging local citizens from using the public access channel. Telecable's policy violated FCC rules and the spirit of the firm's franchise agreement with the cities of Bloomington and Normal.

In 1976, I learned firsthand about Telecable's dedication to minimizing use of the public access channel.

Some friends and I were planning to stimulate use of public access by getting a regular 5-minute show together. We planned to talk, read poetry, play music, interview guests --anything just to get the channel used. With time, we figured, more and more local folks would be interested in using this untapped resource.

As video freaks in cities with active public access programming have learned, interest in the channel develops only as people start using it and learning it is there.

So in August 1976, a friend and I asked Telecable manager Ray Kolbus about free public access. Since I believed that FCC rules clearly guaranteed the public unrestricted, uncensored access to the cable, I was very surprised at how openly Kolbus was ready to place bureaucratic obstacles in our path. Immediately after our interview, I wrote 3 pages of notes on our conversation.

When it took the cable manager 20 minutes just to "find my files," it

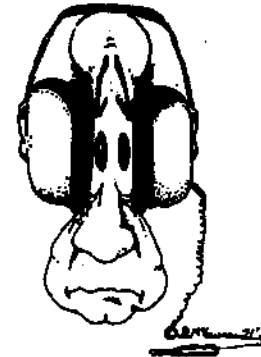
was already clear that he didn't spend much time informing people about public access.

Smeary contract

Kolbus produced a smeary, almost illegible 3-page contract that he claimed users must sign before being allowed on the public access channel.

I asked for a copy to take. Kolbus said he had a clear copy I could read, and handed it to me.

I wanted to study the contract before signing it, and asked again if I could have a copy to take with me. Kolbus said I would get a copy after I signed it. I said I wanted to read it thoroughly before signing, and the cable manager sarcastically pointed out that I was holding it in my hand and could read it as much as I wanted before signing. When I offered to pay him to xerox the contract, Kolbus said he wouldn't do it that day--he had a lot of things to do.



I finally pointed out that the contract obligated the public access user to accept all manner of legal liability. I said that sort of heavy commitment should be checked out by a lawyer. Kolbus agreed to let me pick up a copy of the contract --but not until 3 pm the next day.

Later, Kolbus said it was OK to show the contract to a lawyer, but "we just don't want you showing it around a lot." Kolbus also said, "I'm assuming that this (contract) is not to be duplicated. You are not to make copies and make it available to 10,000 people around town."

All those people

Kolbus then said that Telecable just can't have "all those people" coming in and wanting 5 minutes of free public access time. "Of course," Kolbus went on, "if they call up and want to inquire about it, that's OK."

I acknowledged that I hadn't noticed Telecable taking out ads saying that free public access is available.

"That's the way the game is played," he replied.

(The only paid advertising of public access I have seen in the last 4½ years was while Telecable was negotiating for its new franchise. One paltry line in a regular Telecable ad said "public access channel available." Is this the advertising Telecable VP Gordon Herring insincerely complained had no effect?)

THE NEW DEAL

OPEN
DAILY
AT NOON

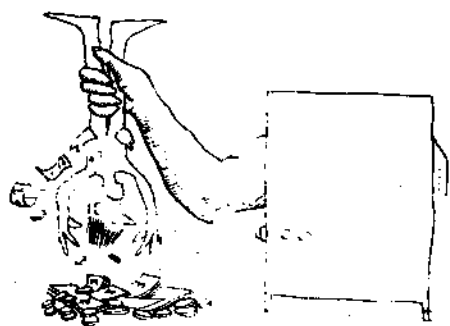
HAPPY
HOUR
4-6 PM

SPECIALS
DAILY



THE
GOOD
TIMES
ROLL
at
405
N. MORRIS
BLOOMINGTON

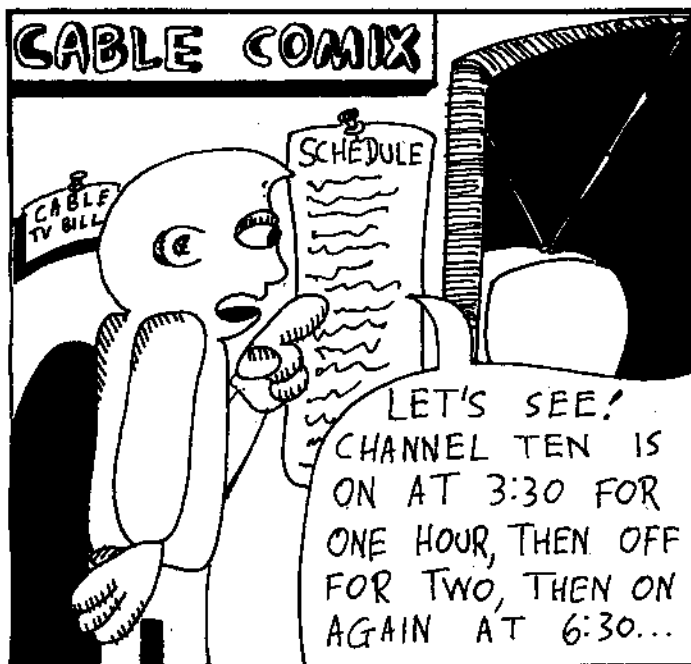
use of public access channel



Working papers/cpf

When we were trying to begin a regular 5-minute program, channel 10 was the designated public access channel. The only regular programming on the channel was the 6-6:30 pm news put together by Illinois State University students. Since that was the only time anyone was likely to be watching channel 10, I wanted our 5 minutes to directly follow the ISU news.

But Telecable manager Kolbus wouldn't allow it.



Although the public access channel is supposed to be available to anyone on a "first-come first-served non-discriminatory basis," Kolbus claimed that he had assigned the 6:30-7 pm slot on channel 10 to ISU. Kolbus admitted that ISU seldom used the slot, but still refused to let me broadcast even on a night when he knew in advance ISU wouldn't be using the time. How about if I got ISU to waive their reservation for a particular night? No, Kolbus said.

I asked about the 5:55-6 pm slot, just before the ISU news comes on the air.

Kolbus claimed that ISU needed 15-20 minutes to "tune in their equipment," preventing any use of channel 10 just prior to the news.

When I pointed out that Kolbus was trying to make sure that no one would see my program, Kolbus replied, "I'm not going to let anybody tag on to ISU news."

Kolbus said he'd have to wait until I did one show before deciding whether to allow another one. He said that "community acceptance" would be a factor he'd take into account, based on how many and what kind of phone calls he got.

Don't like problems

"I don't like problems. If I'm getting a lot of phone calls, that's a problem," Kolbus said.

Referring to the home office of Telecable's parent company, Kolbus also said he didn't know "how much Norfolk wanted public access used."

At the time I talked with Kolbus, FCC regulations specifically prohibited cable companies from exercising any control over the content of public access programming (except for obscenity, lottery information, or advertising). But the cable companies still worried about lawsuits, especially suits for possible libel or copyright violations resulting from public access broadcasts.

Telecable's 3-page contract called for prior submission of all materials to be broadcast. The contract allowed Telecable to refuse to air any programming which might result in a lawsuit (not a successful lawsuit, just a suit).

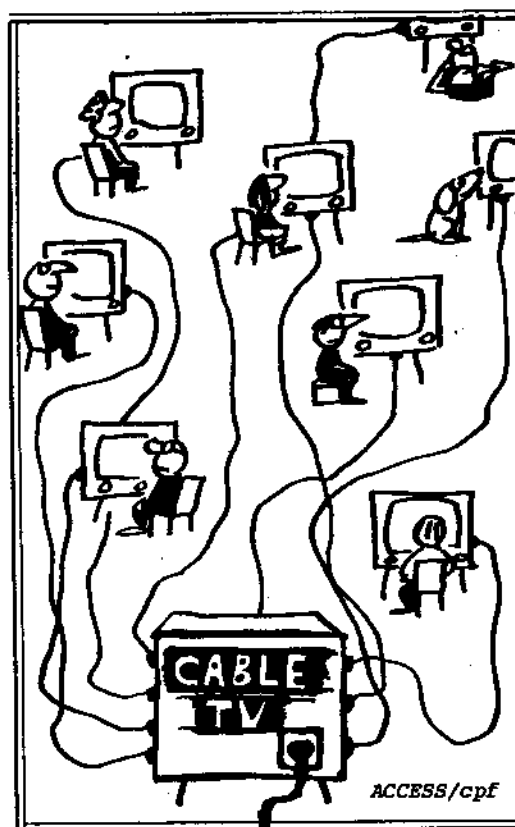
Even the written contract didn't go so far as to require the prior submission of a script for a live broadcast, but Kolbus insisted that even the content of live broadcasts must be evaluated prior to the broadcast.

"Mr. Kolbus," I said, "I feel you are stretching the restrictions far beyond what the FCC intended when public access was created."

"That's the name of the game," he said.

And Kolbus played the game successfully.

He threw up enough impediments that my friends and I didn't have enough



energy to fight the cable company's restrictions. We wanted to use the public access channel, not have a court fight. Even though the American Civil Liberties Union was ready to fight Telecable, our energies fizzled. The public access channel remained unused, and tame during the few times it was used.

And because Telecable successfully kept the channel unused, the firm got away with committing only \$150,000 for public access studio improvements during the entire term of the 15-year franchise. That's only \$10,000 a year.

In contrast, other cities require cable operators to have much greater annual budgets for public access equipment, including full-time staff. Hayward, Calif., for example, has only a third as many cable customers as Bloomington-Normal. But the city requires the cable company to shell out \$30,000 per year for public access.

No wonder Telecable officials are smiling about their new franchise.

--Mark Silverstein

Welcome in Spring
105 Broadway • Normal
GUITAR WORLD
We teach you to play,
then sell you the right guitar.

Normal gays mark 10-year history

In the fall of 1971, thirteen men met in the dorm room of one of the men each week in Walker Hall on the campus of Illinois State University. These men were so uptight about what they were doing that they always assigned one person to watch the door. What they were doing was discussing what it means to be gay on a small midwestern campus.

This group was called the Gay Men's Rap Group, and it was the beginning of gay organizations in Normal. Later the group would be called the Gay Liberation Front, then Homophile ISU, and finally, when women became interested, the Gay People's Alliance (GPA). That is the name of the organization today, 10 years later.

GPA was first officially registered with the university in 1973. The alliance drew up a constitution, made budget requests, and obtained office space just like any other student organization on campus. Although the office was lost due to a misunderstanding with Student Affairs Office in 1977, the group has just recently been re-assigned a room and a desk in one of the Student Association's buildings on campus. GPA continues to survive. During the past 10 years, GPA has been responsible for a number of

important and unusual events in Bloomington-Normal. In 1972, the group sponsored a dance in the old union building. Hundreds attended from all over the area, including the poet Allen Ginsburg. As the story goes, Ginsburg was speaking on campus at the same time as the dance, and a group of lesbians kidnapped him and took him to the dance. This event inspired him to write a poem about Normal, Illinois, which was first published in the ISU paper, the *Vidette*.

Sexuality conference

In 1976 GPA sponsored a sexuality conference on campus. Participants from all over the country came to hear lectures, attend workshops, and see movies on a variety of topics related to sexuality, including S&M and masturbation. A popular part of the conference was the film festival, which featured a documentary on lesbian mothers and an erotic depiction of male-male sexual behavior.

As a result of the sexuality conference, a group called the Citizens for Decency through Law was organized in McLean County to combat the "evil" presence of gays and other sexual libertines in central Illinois. Today, GPA is still alive and open, but the Citizens for Decency have apparently crawled back into their closets.

In October 1977, a national Gay Blue Jeans Day was planned. The point of the event was to let people know how it feels to be considered gay. Anyone who wore blue jeans was taken to be gay or a gay supporter.

The national event was called off, but the news reached Normal too late to end GPA's plans for the day. Gay Blue Jeans Day went ahead as originally scheduled in Normal, Illinois. Since this was one of the few places that held the event, ISU's gay people received a lot of media attention, including coverage by several TV stations and a column by Roger Simon in the Chicago *Sun Times*. A local paper interviewed several people in jeans, including some grade school students who said they knew why they were dressed in blue jeans: "Sure, my mommy has friends who are queer!"

Notable events

Other notable events in the history of GPA include the appearances by Elaine Noble, an openly gay state legislator from Massachusetts, and Rita Mae Brown, author of the popular lesbian novel *Rubyfruit Jungle*.

In addition to these special events, GPA has been involved in a number of other activities over the years. Alliance members regularly speak in classes and for community organizations. Three gay people from Bloomington-Normal appeared on a Peoria television station in the episode of "The Baxters" which dealt with the issue of gay teachers. GPA members have taken part in demonstrations at three Anita Bryant concerts in the area, and at least 10 GPA members and alums participated in the 1979 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. All of this activity has not pleased everyone, of course. Several years ago state Rep. Weber Borchers led a campaign to get the university to quit funding GPA. But his complaints didn't get very far. The Decatur rep was later indicted for mail fraud--and GPA still gets university funds, like any other student organization.

GPA today

At present, Gay People's Alliance at ISU has a membership of about 30 people, depending on the topic of the week's meeting and how much homework everybody has to do. GPA is an active organization, both politically and socially. The group provides counseling and support for gay people of all ages, as well as educational programs and political activities. Most recently, several GPA members attended the committee hearings on the gay rights bills up before the Illinois state legislature (see story on page 4).

Although the 10-year history of the organization has included moments of triumph and glory, GPA has also experienced hardships and felt apathy in the recent past. But a decade of hard work and continuing survival has made Gay People's Alliance one of the strongest, most vital organizations on campus. We're looking forward to another 10 years of struggle and gay pride.

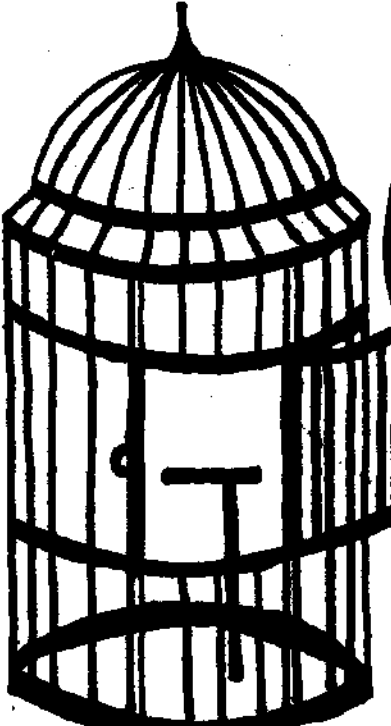
--Steve Kleiser
GPA chairperson,
1980-81

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10 years

of

Gay Pride

ISU Gay People's Alliance



Not 'My Place,' our place

Jerry Warren, new owner of Bloomington-Normal's only gay bar, "My Place," has been spending all his time implementing the new plans he has for the bar. The redwood is gone, the bird mural is gone, and the overhead lights are going. He says he wants "My Place" to "look like a bar for once, and not a restaurant." (My Place is located where the old Grand Cafe was, and about the only things missing until Warren took over were the smell of good Chinese cooking and the fortune cookies.)



But times are finally a-changing, and Warren has big plans for the bar. "Eventually everything is going to be painted black and grey," he said. "I'm into art deco and I want the bar to reflect that."



Painted walls and ripped out redwood are not the only changes he has in mind. In the kitchen area there is going to be a small store, selling My Place t-shirts and Post-Amerikans, among other things. "I want to put a fireplace up there," he said, pointing to a small area of the terrace. "And maybe I'll take out the table and put cushions around. I think that would be nice."

There are finally pitchers in the bar for beer, new records for dancing, and a 50¢-a-beer night every Thursday.

"I don't want this to be my place," he said, smiling at the joke. "Because it isn't. It's their place. Everything I'm doing I'm doing for the customers. I want them to have a nice bar where they can come and relax and have a good time. I want them to feel good when they walk in and keep on feeling good until they leave."

Warren feels that this bar is very special. "It's different from the bars in Champaign and Peoria," he told me. "I don't know what it is, exactly, but this bar just has a different feeling. It's comfortable. The people here are great. They're friendly and relaxed and just nice. I think it's incredible."

Miss Gay USA, who was present during the Grand Opening, thinks it's incredible, too. "She told me that this was the only mixed (men and women) bar she'd ever played where the men and women got along and even seemed to genuinely like each other."

He is afraid he's going to have to raise his prices for drinks soon. He says he doesn't want to, and I believe him. "I don't want people to feel ripped off, but the price of alcohol keeps going up, and the overhead on this place is out of control. And I'm not in this to make a lot of money," he added. "That's not my goal at all. I want to make a nice place."

I think he just might. ●

--Deborah Wiatt



First Annual IMHRA Awards Banquet

The Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association (IMHRA) presents its First Annual Awards Banquet. The Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 16, 1981 from 6:00-9:00 P.M. at the McCormick Inn, 23rd and Lakeshore Drive, Chicago, Illinois. The keynote speaker for the Banquet will be Mr. Richard Hatcher, Mayor of Gary, Indiana and President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The purpose of the Banquet is to acknowledge individuals throughout the State of Illinois who have continuously given their time and energy to promote and advance human relations/human rights in the State of Illinois and who through these efforts have made our state a better place to live and work.

The IMHRA is a state association of municipal human relations commissions. The IMHRA was incorporated in September of 1973 with its primary purpose being to foster amicable intergroup relations based on equality of opportunity and improved balance of settlement and delivery of services for all Illinoisians.

Dignitaries from throughout the state shall be on hand and everyone is encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$15.00 and may be obtained from the Bloomington Human Relations Commission, 109 East Olive Street, Bloomington, Illinois, 828-7361, ext. 218/219.

For further information, contact:

Tim Walker, Director
City of Bloomington
Human Relations Department
109 East Olive Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
PHONE: 828-7361, ext. 218/219



If you have been raped,
sexually attacked, or
assaulted, call us for
legal, medical and
psychological assistance,
referrals and alternatives

Call PATH

827-4005

and ask for the

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

New bus plan wou

Changes in bus routes proposed by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission would cut some very early morning service but would generally provide better bus service during work-travel hours, especially in west Normal.

The proposal, which is still under-going changes and which must be approved by the transit system board, involves changes in the present C, D, F and G routes.

The plan calls for increased service during peak morning and afternoon hours on all 3 revised routes; buses would run every 30 minutes (as they did before the collapse of the old buses 2 years ago) instead of every 60-90 minutes.

On the revised Yellow G route buses would run every half hour all day.



The G route would cover west Normal, southeast Bloomington and the Normal-College Hills-Eastland run. It would also pass State Farm and Illinois Agricultural Association.

The new routes are intended to provide more direct service between employees' homes and major east-side employers, as well as Illinois State University.

The planning commission also used information on revenues from the existing routes to prepare its proposal. Peak hours are supposed to recover 30% of the cost of running the buses, and non-peak hour service should bring in 20% of the cost of operation.

These cost criteria are the reason for the recommendation for cuts in very early morning service on some routes. In effect, areas of sparse ridership would lose service if the transit board approves the plan.

Some streets, like Emerson, would no longer be directly on a bus route under the new plan, and at least one part of town--the Burn-Lincoln area--would virtually lose service altogether.

The planning commission also proposed 2 special routes that would run only

during peak work-travel hours. These routes, however, probably won't be started any time soon, according to transit manager Pete Weber.

One special route would run from west Normal through downtown Bloomington and on to State Farm. The second would run along the east side of Veterans Parkway and connect that area to major east-side employers like IAA, State Farm, and the malls.

Though it hardly provides the large-scale increase in bus service that the Post-Amerikan has long advocated, the new plan may be a small step in the right direction. For one thing, it would provide better service than any time since 1978.

Also, the new plan will probably encourage employees to ride the bus in larger numbers. That's got to be good--because of reduced traffic and road work and because of the increased community-mindedness that this friendly form of transport provides. And increased ridership among the State Farm crowd could lead to further expansion of the whole system. We can hope anyway, however cynically.

But there are also clear problems with the new plan. First, the

Letters...letters...letters...

Rainbows in Washington

Dear Post readers,

We who are sisters and brothers, children of God, and Friends of Nature, bound together by our Love for each other and our desire to live in Peace, humbly invite Everyone everywhere to join with us in Gathering Together--for the purpose of expressing our sincere desire, through Prayer, that there shall be Peace on Earth and harmony among all People.

Now is the time for All People to affirm their allegiance to the governing forces of Love within us for the salvation of Humanity. Therefore we now consecrate our

combined energies to the task of spreading Light upon this planet. We invite Everyone to join hands and hearts this 4th of July for Silent Prayer together.

We revere the sacred nature of our Mother Earth, the Oneness and essential Unity of all Beings. This is a spiritual gathering, an absolutely Free, non-commercial Celebration held for the healing of all minds, hearts, bodies and souls.

Come bring your Light and let it Shine.
Rainbow Peace Gathering

PostNote: The Rainbow Peace Gathering will be in Washington state July 1-7. For further information and a map, write to Box 9712, Seattle WA 98109 or Box 5577, Eugene OR 97405.

Likes Luke Spencer

Dear Post Amerikan:

I just wanted to say that I was in town visiting some friends and I went to the benefit for Small Changes Bookstore Sunday night.

I had a great time. One Reason--the Band! Luke Spencer really rocked my socks off. Their songs and musicianship impressed me a lot.

So few bands in this area (as I recall, since I used to live here) are good musicians. Most of them won't take a chance on original tunes or new wave.

As far as I'm concerned Luke Spencer may be the New Wave of the future. Let's hope so! Here's to one good time!

Wayne C. Lassell C07631
Box 608, cell 616
Tehachapi CA 93561

Bob Gilbert
Box 14
Los Angeles, CA



Eyes bugging out

Dear Post,

I seldom write letters to the editor, but National Letter-to-the-Editor Week is almost upon us, so I consider it my Patriotic Duty to write and say that the "LSD Safe As Life" pictorial just had my eyes bugging out!

Could you please give us more of this stunning creature? Would it be asking too much for a photo of her in an old, flaking leather jacket, with maybe chrome stars falling out, leaving delicious light patches of soft, lamb-like leather in their stead?

Or maybe a nice, crisp Easter suit?

"Feelin' Feverish"
Lobotomy Junction, Ill.

What's happening

Dear Friends,

Every P.A. is full of great stuff. I could subscribe to the Daily Pantie Graff six years and still not be aware of what's really going on back in Bloomington, Normal. Thanks to you all and especially my friend Ferdydurke. Hope to see you by autumn.

R. Jay

ld help employees

emphasis on revenues is worrisome. Rather than cutting service because of low revenues, it would be better to seek new taxes to expand service enough to make bus riding really attractive--easier and cheaper than driving.

Second, the new routes don't do much to improve bus service on the west

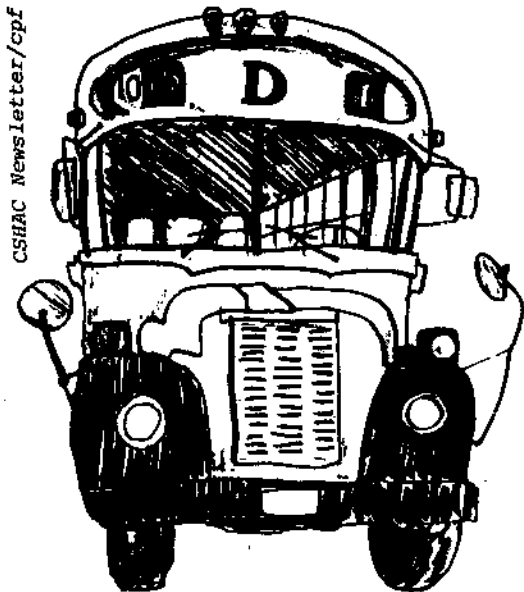
side of Bloomington, even though the plan itself says that "the most obvious conclusion to be drawn (from the analysis of revenues) is that the west sides of both Bloomington and Normal deserve additional service."

Regional planner Mike Lamney points out that there will be some improvements on directness of connections on the F route which goes into west Bloomington, but transit manager Weber admits there are really no major benefits for that part of town in the new plan. Instead, as I mentioned before, the plan is aimed at the State Farm crowd--of course, they ought to be riding the buses, too. Nonetheless, a little improvement in west-side bus service wouldn't hurt, especially when it's so "obvious" it's deserved.

The third problem is that the proposed cuts in early morning service will be made--if they are made--without identifying the people who use the buses at those ungodly hours. In fact, it may be that bus service is more crucial to those people than to others who ride in larger numbers later on. It has to be more difficult to find a ride at 6 am than at 7:30, and in the winter it is often actually dangerous to try walking from west Bloomington to any major workplace at 6 am.

Even conservatives can see that it's better to run a slightly higher deficit for buses than to force 2 or 10 people out of their jobs. Well, some conservatives can see that, and so, surely, can the transit board.

--D. LeSeure



Keep night buses going

Although the numbers aren't all in, the experiment in night bus service seems successful enough that the bus system can make a case for its continuation next fall.

Ridership during the first week of 25¢ fares was about the same as it was during the first week of free service. That was about half as many riders as during the third week of free rides.

No fares were charged during the first 3 weeks of the Night Rider service, and 25¢ is being charged during the second three weeks. The service ends May 9 with the end of school at Illinois State University.

The 6-week experiment was complicated by the Easter weekend and the coming of final exams at ISU, both of which probably reduced ridership.

Bus system manager Pete Weber also reported that late-night ridership --after 11:15 pm--was almost nil, which means that that service will probably be lost even if night service is resumed in the fall. However, Weber said service may begin earlier than the 7 pm start during the experiment.

Resumption of night service will also be affected by the Normal Town Council's peculiar rationale for starting it in the first place--which was to divert ISU students from having loud parties. The Normal and Bloomington councils both put up money for Night Rider service, and they'll be making the decision again this summer.

I doubt that Normal's anti-party goal was achieved, but it was pretty silly to begin with. Night bus service should be continued, and expanded, on its own merits.

The merits are many, including keeping drunks off the streets and reducing automobile use. But number one is the service buses provide to people who don't have cars--especially to women, who must always fear the assaults of the other, violent and aggressive sex.

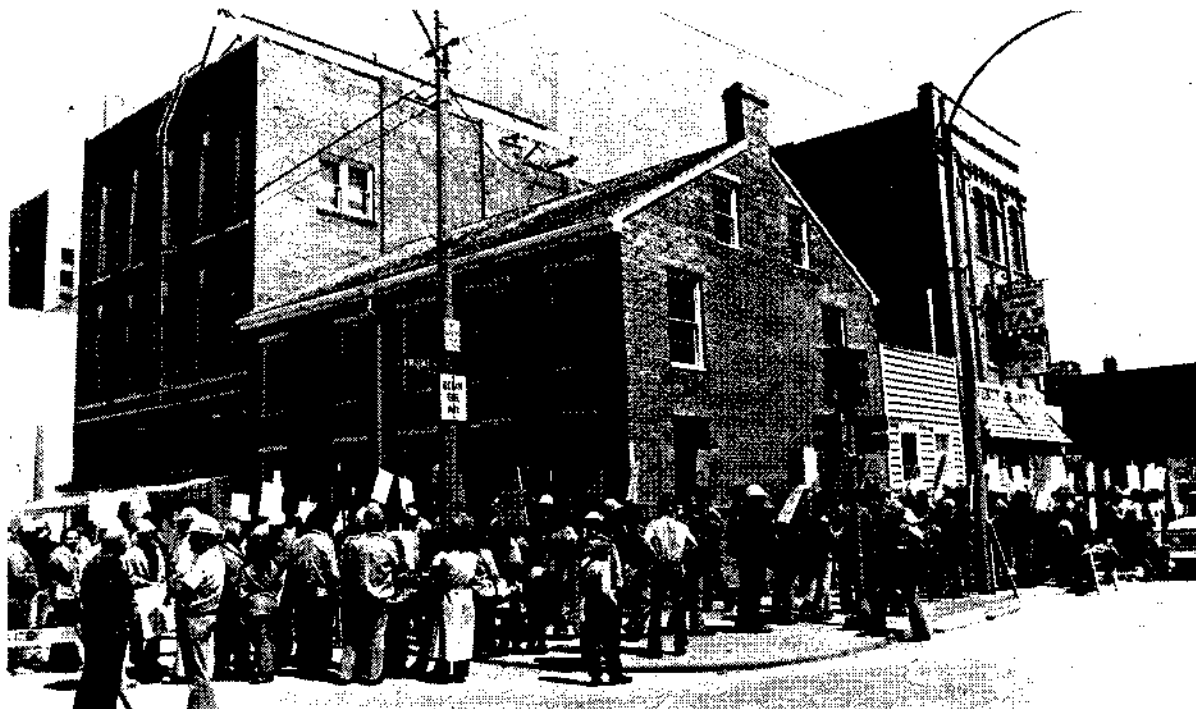
--D.L.

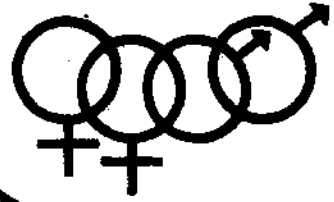


Sesquicentennial celebration hit by union pickets

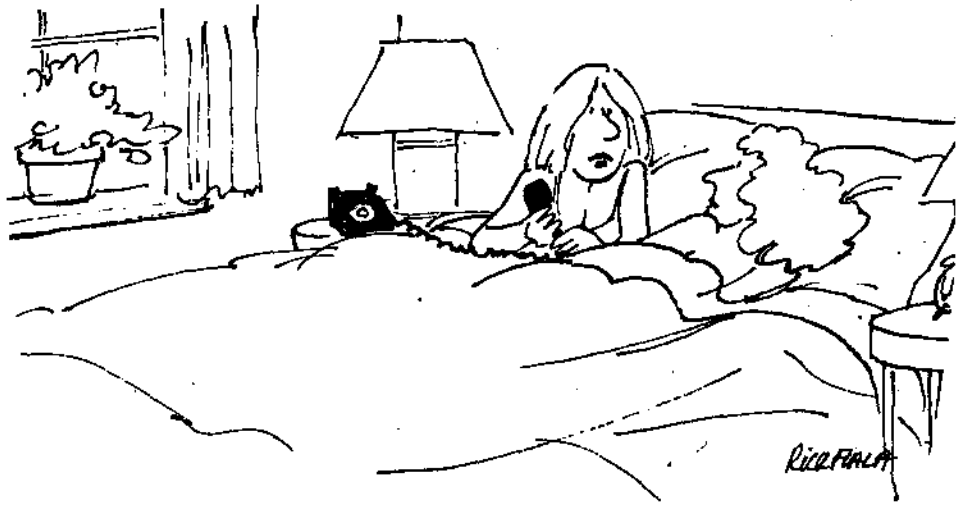
During McLean County's sesquicentennial celebration April 25, members of local labor unions threw an unwelcome surprise party for McLean County dignitaries officiating at the dedication of the newly-restored Miller-Davis building in downtown Bloomington. The 150-strong labor picket helped counterbalance the overly rosy "Isn't everything wonderful in McLean County?" theme of most of the 150th anniversary celebration. Everything did look rosy during the sesquicentennial parade, as union members marched with everyone else. At the parade's

conclusion, union members hurried to the Miller-Davis building, surrounding it with a spirited picket line before officials could arrive to give speeches at the much-publicized and long-awaited dedication of the historic building. Union members said the contractor who handled the building's restoration violated his agreements to use union labor and pay the federally-mandated prevailing wage. According to the Pantagraph, speechmakers delivered their orations through "a forest of picket signs."





Deep in the heart of oppression



"It's my parents. Quick, help me think of something heterosexual to say."

The fact that gay people are oppressed is certainly not news. We can be fired from our jobs, thrown out of our apartments, denied access to public accommodations, kicked out of the military, and arrested for simply being in most of these United States.

Our lovers are not acknowledged by the state, meaning that we cannot marry, we cannot declare nonworking lovers as exemptions on income tax returns, we cannot in most states list our lovers as beneficiary for life insurance, and if we leave a will giving everything to our lovers, our families can have the will broken.

If we are hospitalized, our lovers will not be treated as spouses or as family. Our lovers will not be given spouse status in a credit union or in company functions.

We exist in most of society as non-people. A bill pending in the Illinois House (which would insure basic civil rights for gay people) would change a lot of that. But it would not change the oppression from our families, our friends, and ourselves.

We all recognize that certain classes in our society have certain privileges. White privilege and male privilege are the two most common and most easily identifiable. White people, by the very nature of our society, have an extra added advantage simply by virtue of their being white. Men, too, simply because they are male, have an easier time of it and a better chance at making it in this society.

We acknowledge the existence of these privileged classes and strive to change things.

But there is another privileged class, one which is very rarely acknowledged or thought about: the heterosexuals.

Now, don't get me wrong. Most of my best friends are straight. So I do not intend to say that all straight people are jerks and should die or that they should stop being straight just to make me happy. After all, I don't intend to stop being gay just to make them happy, and I do try to be liberal about this sort of thing.

But I would like to see a heightened awareness from straight people everywhere that they are a privileged class, that simply because they are heterosexual they have more rights, more power, and more freedom than I have, simply because I am gay.

More power, you readily admit. More rights, yes, but that is changing. But more freedom? Come off it.

More freedom. Heterosexuals have the freedom to walk through Miller Park at sunset, holding hands and stealing kisses by the lake. I do not. They have the freedom to openly acknowledge their lovers publicly. They have the freedom to walk into work surly and bitchy and explain that they had a tiff with their sweetie that morning. They have the freedom to go to a disco and dance with their partner or their potential partner

without fear of anything but treading on someone's feet.

They have the freedom to say to their families, "We have to go to Terry's folks' house this Christmas, so we'll try to get to yours some other time," and to have everyone understand. They have the freedom to sit together on their own front porch without panicking the minute a car drives by. They have the freedom to be. And I do not.

And I've taken some freedoms back, or tried to. But it is different knowing that what you're doing is half because you want to and half because you know you shouldn't. I have sat with my lover in Miller Park, one eye intently on her and one watching out for the cruising patrol car that could have us arrested.

I have hiked with her at Dawson Lake, holding her hand along the trails while I explained to her in excruciating detail the courtship rituals of web-spinning and non-web-spinning spiders, while we both pretended we did not see the shocked and disapproving looks from our fellow hikers nor heard their callous comments after they had passed us.

I have slept with her in my back yard and tried not to think about the neighbors who were probably watching and wonder if they would bomb the house in the morning.

I have had my arm around her on my front porch and tried very hard to squelch the impulse to jump away when the man came to deliver the Sunday Tribune.

I have stayed with her in motels and had the people at the desk try to deny us a room because we said we only wanted one bed. The verbal harassment was ended by the presence of a reservation and a Diner's Club card, but the nonverbal harassment followed our every move for three days and ended only when we left.


Helen Reddy sings a song which says "The best part of a good love's free and easy." It would be a lot more easy if it were a lot more free.

So don't stop declaring your love openly and honestly. But while you are doing it, remember your privilege, and remember that those without that privilege have love to declare, too.

--Deborah Wiatt.

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Fund aims to help pay for abortions



Women without hope

Each of the stories below is true. They were collected from case histories from women's clinics all over the country. Each woman was too poor to pay for her own abortion and was not eligible for government assistance.

Hope P. Age 18, single. Attempted suicide by taking various drugs. Her situation was desperate since she was unable to communicate with her parents and was in financial distress.

Claire Z. Age 22, unmarried, no children. Underwent experimental radiation treatment 2 months ago at the University of Chicago for a thyroid problem. She and her physicians were unaware that she was pregnant. The doctors later advised her that radiation could cause grave fetal damage.

Rosemary T. Age 26. Has two young children; husband recently killed in a tractor trailer truck accident. She couldn't deal with another child at the time.

Diane W. Married, 27 years old, has 2 children. Her husband has an inoperable tumor on his spinal column which will eventually snap his spinal cord, causing paralysis. She is in college seeking a degree so she can support her family after her husband is disabled. Both feel they cannot provide for another child.

Anne J. Age 15, still in high school. She did not tell her parents about her pregnancy since her father is an alcoholic and both parents were very difficult with her older sister's pregnancies. Incest suspected.

Marylou F. Divorced, mother of 3. Age 40. She's in the methadone program at Milwaukee County Hospital. She became severely depressed when she learned of her pregnancy and threatened suicide. She had attempted suicide twice before. Social worker felt abortion necessary to prevent another suicide attempt.

Barbara T. Age 13. She'd lived with her mother for about 6 months, though she had tried to run away several times. Her father lives in another state. During counseling, she said she was afraid of her mother, who she claimed physically abused her and is on drugs, having been jailed in the past for drug abuse and robbery.

None of these women was eligible for government assistance to obtain an abortion, although forced child-bearing could easily harm all of them for the rest of their lives.

--The Abortion Fund

A nonprofit group called The Abortion Fund is raising money nationwide to help poor women pay for abortions.

Congress cut off funds for Medicaid abortions in 1978, and the US Supreme Court ruled last year that the government is not required to pay for abortions. The Abortion Fund is a reaction to those actions.

There are about 2.6 million Medicaid-eligible women of child-bearing age, and about 350,000 will not be able to get an abortion this year because of lack of money.

Those women will face "a stark, and, sometimes dangerous, choice," said Mary Framer, head of the new fund. "Many will become desperate and risk their lives by turning to back-alley butchers or inducing abortion themselves by crude and dangerous methods.

"Some will sacrifice food and other basic necessities. A few, suffering from severe emotional distress, will commit suicide."

The fund plans to pay from \$55 to \$135

for each abortion, and will ask for reduced rates from doctors and clinics. Each woman will be asked to pay \$25 for the abortion and to repay the rest at 50¢ a week so the fund can pay for others' abortions.

The fund hopes to raise \$5 million by November to start its campaign. That amount would pay for up to 40,000 abortions. Fundraisers point out that John Anderson raised \$8 million in 9 months from 210,000 people. The Abortion Fund's goal would be reached if 200,000 people each gave \$25.

This plan will offer hope to many women, but its existence is a sad comment on the sorry state of our society. Here we are, denying hundreds of thousands of women one of the things that is most important to becoming a whole, free person--reproductive freedom. Yet Alexander Haig doesn't have to go door-to-door collecting for his MX missiles. It's madness.

If you want to help get The Abortion Fund going, use the nearby coupon.

--D. LeSeure

Women's group gives yahoo, cretin awards

Little Rock, AR--The Arkansas Women's Political Caucus has awarded the "Keep 'Em Ignorant" award to sponsors of the state bill requiring the teaching of "creation science" along with evolution in public schools. Sen. Jim Holsten and Rep. Cliff Hoffman, both Democrats from North Little Rock, received the award, which the caucus dubbed an honor for "Scientific Cretinism."

The women also presented the "Yahoo of the Year Award" to Rep. Jerry King for sponsoring a resolution to ban a non-credit course about homosexuality at the University of Arkansas. King also backs the "creation science" bill and another which would limit abortion.

--HerSay

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I will contribute \$_____ each month. Please send me a monthly statement. I may cancel anytime.

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Out of the closet

BOSTON--Elizabeth Dunker is an elegant 75-year-old woman who wears her silver hair in a bun at the nape of her neck, favors floor-length skirts over slacks, and plays the harpsicord. She doesn't fit anyone's stereotype of a lesbian.

But a softball glove, a gift from her lover, sits among the other mementos from a long life. At age 73, Dunker joined a woman's softball team, fell in love with the pitcher, and decided she was a lesbian.

"Coming-out" stories are an important part of gay culture, but Elizabeth Dunker's is an unusual one within this unusual genre.

Young lesbians predominate at social and political events that have given gay culture more visibility during the 70s, according to Dunker. But she also suspects that few gay women "even knew they were gay before this era."

Dunker's life is full of treasure-hunting and exploration--she has been through the Himalayas and Freudian analysis--but her eighth decade has surprised and pleased her with discovery about herself.

"Why are there so many lesbian mothers? Because they didn't know when they were younger that there

were any options for taking care of their sexuality," she said. "You graduated, married a man to fulfill your sexuality, and had children. Then you discover it's not right for you, and you have to get out of the marriage. That's pretty much what happened to me."

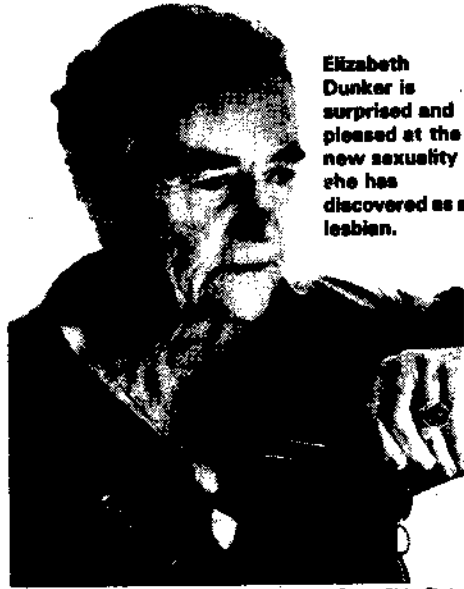
At any age

Dunker believes she was born gay but didn't realize it until recent years because of the social norms of her era. If nothing else, her story illustrates that sexual identities and preferences aren't necessarily locked in at any age.

Elizabeth Dennison Dunker was born with a silver spoon in her mouth. Her mother came from one of the original Plymouth, MA, families, and her grandfather founded the Dennison Manufacturing Co. in Farmingham, MA.

She said she identified with her adored father who was a trustee of Antioch College and a member of Franklin Roosevelt's National Resources Board. Her mother was an emotionally distant figure who "did good works" and whose life revolved around her husband.

Dunker saw her parents as having an extraordinarily happy, sexually active marriage, and she expected



Elizabeth Dunker is surprised and pleased at the new sexuality she has discovered as a lesbian.

Boston Globe Photo

Rape Crisis Center needs money

According to Mr. Reagan, if we Americans want art we "are going to have to pay for it." The same is true for social services.

The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County is barely keeping its head above water financially. It needs your help.

This RCC is one of the oldest in the state. It has been serving the victims of sexual assault and their families and friends since January 1974.

Over 500 people per year receive the benefits of an experienced and dedicated Rape Crisis Center, either by getting information, having speakers talk to them, or receiving direct rape counseling from the trained volunteers.

The RCC is a completely volunteer organization. It receives no federal, state, county, or city money to survive. It depends on private contributions, and it needs contributions now. The RCC needs about \$100 per month to pay for its four pagers which keep the volunteers in touch with any calls, for advertising, and for incidentals like stamps, envelopes, and paper.

\$100 per month is not a lot of money, but it is more money than RCC has. Won't you please help? Anything you can give would be most appreciated. Since the RCC is totally volunteer, there are no administrative costs. All money is put into service for clients.

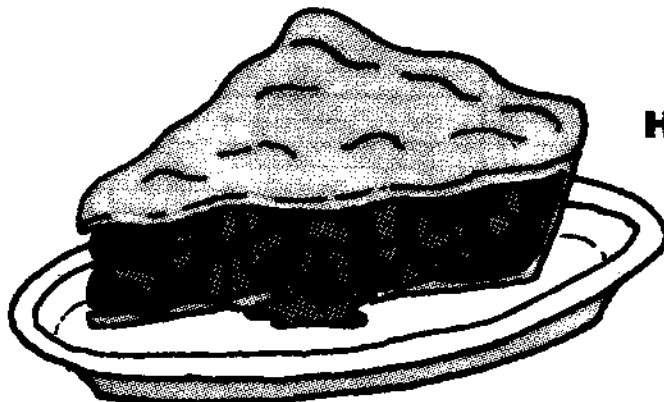
Make your checks payable to the Rape Crisis Center, and send them to P.O. Box 995, Bloomington IL, 61701. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

--The Rape Crisis Center Board

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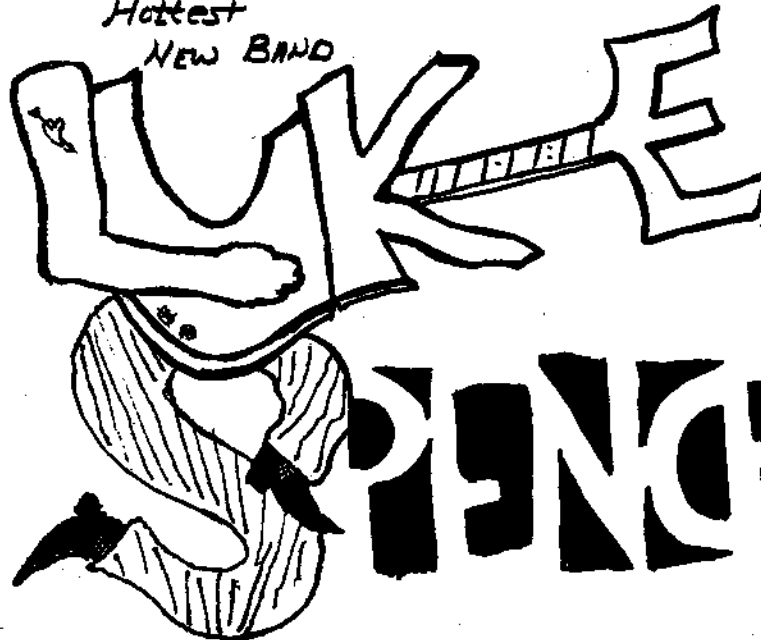
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at age 73

a love affair as great as theirs must be waiting somewhere for her, too. She launched into a restless, lifelong search for such an idealized relationship. "I was constantly falling in love, and it was never good enough," she said.

She also recalls crushes on various female classmates at college at Antioch and Vassar, but she always shrugged them off.

She met her husband at a Vassar dance. "He looked magnificent. My father thought he was wonderful.... Falling in love was easy. I was 21 when we married."

A mismatch

The splendid union turned out to be a mismatch. Dunker's husband wanted to become a captain of industry--she wanted to "change the rotten capitalist system." He hated Roosevelt; she loved FDR. After 17 years of marriage and three children, the Dunkers finally divorced. He later died.

During a period of soul-searching and psychoanalysis, Dunker began to wonder why she had always felt attracted to women. But she didn't allow herself to wonder too much--in New England in the 40s, lesbianism was as unimaginable as moon shots and nuclear holocausts.

She got a job teaching at the Woodstock Country School in Vermont, where she taught music and managed the school's finances for 20 years. But an isolated up-country town was an even less likely place to come out as gay, and she set her scanner for appropriate males.



"Janie, I've decided to go straight."

In 1954 the great love affair she had always been looking for seemed to materialize when a man who had fallen in love with her 31 years earlier at Antioch College sought her out. But he was married. They met for secret romantic trysts for a couple of years. Then he died.

She kept looking

But Elizabeth Dunker was not about to content herself with romantic memories for the rest of her life. She kept looking.

When she retired from Woodstock 10 years ago, she moved to Cambridge, MA, "because that's where the action is."

She trained as a counselor at a Cambridge women's therapy center and there she "discovered how interesting women could be." She met some gay women who offered to introduce her to a young lesbian who had fantasies about an affair with an older woman.

Dunker said she was open to the idea, and at age 73 she joined a lesbian softball team and fell in love with a woman who was 40 years younger. They had a tempestuous affair that lasted only a few months. Dunker said she knew the affair wouldn't last, for a number of reasons. "It hurt," she said. But the two women have stayed friends.

Her young lover introduced her to the lesbian community and helped radically change Dunker's identity. "As a lone woman, I don't get invited to many married people's homes. But I find the lesbian community extremely supportive, lovely and easy to make friends in."

She joined a new organization called Older Lesbian Energy (OLE!) for gay women over 40. She began a new career as a staff member of a Cambridge feminist therapy collective called Janus, which specializes in counseling lesbians.

Gay grandmother

Elizabeth Dunker's grown children think she's an eccentric going through a phase. Her 19 grandchildren hold a range of views--some think it's neat to have a gay grandmother, others find it a taboo subject. One visiting granddaughter went to a gay bar with Dunker and had a great time winning at billiards.

Some of her counseling clients are older women, and Dunker is as concerned about older people's rights as gay rights. "I know several older women, 50-plus, who are considering a relationship with another woman partly because there are so few really nice old men available," Dunker said.

Do older women need sex? "Sex at 70 is superb!" Dunker announced. "The myth that sexuality for women stopped with menopause is completely nuts. It's very easy for me to feel extremely passionate. And it feels the same way it used to."

"What older women need," she added in a more solemn voice, "is love."

--Thank to Carol Stocker & the Boston Globe



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Spending more for less: the

The Pentagon budget is going up faster than even the oil companies' profits. Reagan's budget for 1982 calls for \$188.8 billion in military spending, up almost \$43 billion from 2 years earlier--a 38.9% increase. But what will the big bucks buy?

More of the same. More high tech weapons: missiles, planes, ships. Yet there is a growing awareness, in the military establishment, that these costly weapons don't work.

An example: the Air Force is fond of a jet fighter called the F-15, which costs between \$15 and \$25 million each,

depending on how you figure the costs. The plane is loaded with complex electronic gear--45 computers--so much stuff, in fact, that something is always breaking down. Because of such breakdowns, a fleet of F-15s can be counted on to make only one flight per day per plane.

The Air Force has another simpler plane, called the F-5, which costs only \$5 million each. Since the F-5 is simpler, it breaks down less often. A fleet of F-5s makes 2.5 flights per day per plane.

Now you can buy 1000 F-5s for the same price as 250 F-15s. Since the F-5s

are more reliable, you can have 2500 flights from them compared to 250 for the F-15s, which gives you, in effect, 10 times as many planes. The clincher: the Air Force's own tests reveal that three F-5s can shoot down one F-15. Yet the Air Force prefers the more costly plane.

Impossible

Another, slightly different, example: the big, news-worthy military project now is the "rapid deployment force," which is designed to intervene in the Middle East to protect US access to the oil fields. This is the goal, even though no one claims that it's possible to protect oil facilities from being destroyed by almost anyone determined enough.

But there's another catch to Middle Eastern operations by the rapid deployment force (RDF). In the Saudi desert, for instance, each US soldier, along with supporting equipment, would require about 12 gallons of water a day. A GI canteen holds one quart. Similarly, the engines of a KC135 tanker plane, used to supply the RDF, must be injected with 670 gallons of distilled water every time they are started up.

A Washington Post reporter explored this water problem with military planners recently, asking whether it was possible to carry that much water to Saudi Arabia or to distill it from sea water. They all said it was impossible. Yet Reagan has asked for an extra \$2.5 billion for the RDF.

Most of us, on the left at least, know we don't need to spend \$190 billion a year to protect the U.S. We don't even need to spend that much to maintain our domination of the "free world." So why do we do it?

I may be naive, but I think Jesse Helms and the other crazy, right-wing militarists really believe in the Russian threat. I know they're corrupt, but I don't think corrupt enough to deliberately buy expensive planes when cheaper ones would do the job.

Maybe I'm naive, but I don't think the crazy politicians have the kind of power (not yet) to get away with that sort of thing, no matter how much Lockheed pays them.

The problem

The problem is the bureaucracy, and it's the same problem that the neo-conservatives are screaming about in the social service agencies.

As Atlantic writer James Fallows put it: "Yes, the Pentagon is in the business to devise war plans and understand the enemy and protect the nation; but before any of those things, it is in business to spend money."

Everyone who has worked in an established bureaucracy, government or

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Pentagon is a bureaucracy, too



In the military, these natural pressures of a bureaucracy are compounded by another fact of life: a great number of the senior officers find jobs in the defense industry after they retire from the military. They know that if they cause a lot of trouble, they won't have a fat job when they retire.

Not only do the defense companies not have to bribe the top officers to go along, in many cases these officers are actively helping the defense industry--and working against the interests of the government--while still on the government payroll.

I favor drastic cuts in the military establishment, for all the usual reasons, but I am a realist. Smaller cuts would help us all, and the way to do that is to change the rules the bureaucracy operates under--so that it's not in the interest of the indiv-

idual bureaucrat to promote expensive, unworkable weapons.

--D. LeSeure
with thanks to James Fallows, whose Atlantic article provided many of these arguments.

The Top 10 Producers of War Materials

1979 Pentagon Contracts

General Dynamics	\$3,492,100,000
McDonnell Douglas	3,229,200,000
United Technologies	2,553,600,000
General Electric	2,042,500,000
Lockheed	1,796,600,000
Hughes Aircraft	1,556,900,000
Boeing	1,514,500,000
Grumman	1,364,200,000
Raytheon	1,249,400,000
Tenneco	1,092,600,000

corporate, knows the scene. "The goal of every good bureaucrat is to get an exclusive franchise on what he is doing," wrote Dr. Thomas Amlie who worked 19 years at the Naval Weapons Center. "If nobody else is doing it, no one can measure how well or how poorly he is doing it. If he supervises more people, his grade level goes up. The only requirement is to stay busy, generate paper, and make no mistakes."

In short, promotion depends on spending money, and security depends on spending it in a way which nobody else can say is wrong. In the Pentagon, the perfect solution to these problems of bureaucratic life is to run a project for some new super weapon. The high tech marvels of the modern military are superbly expensive, and they carry certain prestige. Since they're new and expensive, nobody else is doing the same thing. And, if it doesn't work, you simply point to the computer printouts that show it was supposed to and claim that you didn't get enough money to do it right.

Craziness sane?

So you can see how something that looks absolutely crazy from the outside, like the MX missile or the RDF, was really a sane project from the point of view of the personal advancement and security of each bureaucrat involved.

Get ahead with the GOP!



Republican National Committee

Blood & ashes for Haig

I've heard of taking it to the streets, but if you can take it to the front office, all the better.

Five demonstrators protesting U.S. involvement in El Salvador managed to get within a few dozen feet of the office of Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

While two of the demonstrators diverted the attention of guards, three others spread ashes and a substance that "looks like blood" on the carpet outside Haig's office.

The five protesters were admitted to the building after convincing officials they were seeking information from the press office of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Haig was conducting a staff meeting in his office just a short distance from where the demonstrators spread the ashes and blood.

The five were quoted as shouting that the U.S. "should get out of El Salvador."

--Associated Press

VITESSE



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Bong bill bounces back

An anti-paraphernalia bill introduced by Bloomington state Sen. John Maitland cleared the Judiciary II Committee unanimously April 21. The bill would ban sale of bongs, water pipes, stash boxes, coke spoons, testing kits, and dozens of other articles sold as aids or accessories in illegal drug use. The bill also provides for closing down head shops and confiscating merchandise.

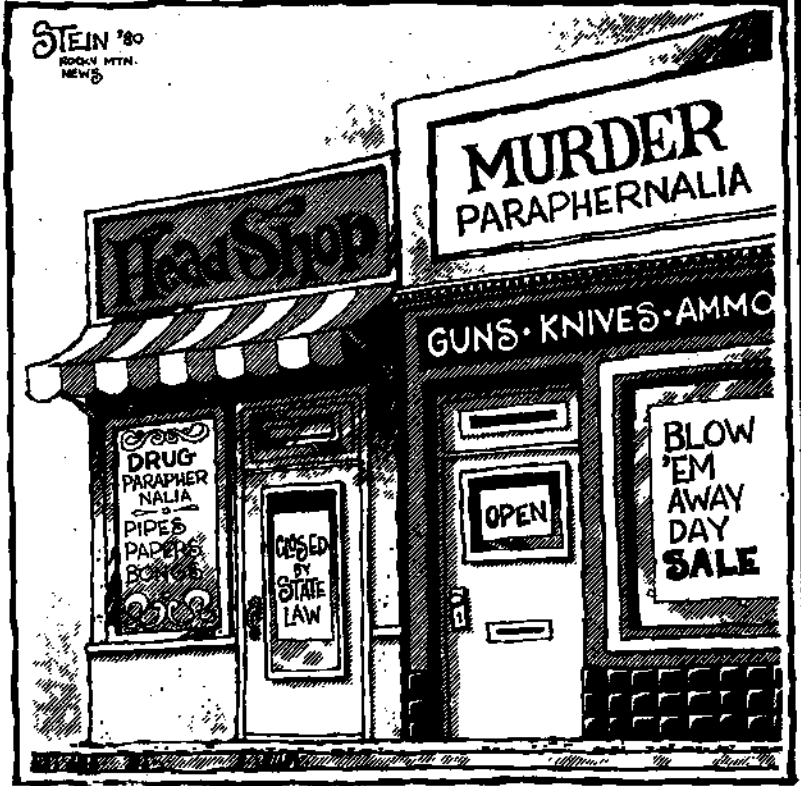
The bill does not attempt to ban possession of paraphernalia, which Maitland tried in his unsuccessful bill last year.

Like any anti-paraphernalia bill, Maitland's suffers from problems with defining just what products are to become illegal. Since the definition of the banned objects is tied to what they are "intended" or

"designed" for, the law asks police and courts to look into the minds of the manufacturers and sellers. The American Civil Liberties Union opposes the bill, partly because its vagueness will lead to selective enforcement and drawn-out court battles.

Both McLean County Sheriff Brien and State's Attorney Ron Dozier testified in support of the bill. Dozier said it was contradictory for the state to declare drug use illegal while allowing "open display of paraphernalia."

--M.S.



Post-American Vol. 10, No. 2

May, 1981 Page 20

COMMUNITY NEWS

PATH summer training

Summer training for new PATH volunteers begins June 22. PATH, Personal Assistance Telephone Help, is a 24-hour information, referral, crisis response, and problem-solving agency serving McLean County. PATH's phones are staffed by paraprofessionals who have completed a specialized training program in preparation for their volunteer service.

PATH volunteers have an excellent opportunity to develop personal resources and to become familiar with and utilize community resources. The 6-week training session includes group and phoneroom training. Once training has been completed, volunteers meet an 18-hour-a-month commitment for 6 months.

Initial interviews will be June 22. Applications must be received by Juliana Sullivan at PATH by June 17. For further information or an application, call Sullivan at 828-1022 or 1-800-322-5015, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 2 pm.

IWU plots pen confab

The Illinois Wesleyan University Writers' Conference will be Aug. 2-7 with workshops in six areas.

The workshops and their instructors are: juveniles, Bettie Wilson Story; fiction, Harry Mark Petrakis; article writing, Melvin Lorentzen; satire and personal opinion essay, Charles Merrill Smith; poetry, James McGowan, and biography and research, Robert Bray.

Applications and manuscripts must be in by June 26, although some applications without manuscripts may be accepted after that. The basic fee is \$100, plus \$20 for the first manuscript and \$5 for each additional manuscript. Manuscripts may be a maximum of 20 pages (or 10 poems) for each workshop and will be critiqued by the workshop instructors.

Additional information is available from Kate Romani, IWU Writers' Conference, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington IL 61701, phone 309-556-3065.

Beware of manure tanks

Liquid manure systems are an efficient and increasingly popular method for disposing of or recycling animal wastes. However, a recent series of accidents involving liquid manure disposal systems caused 8 deaths and 2 cases of near-fatal illness.

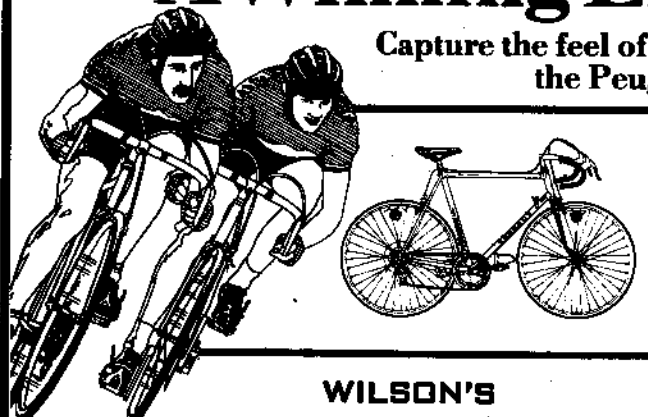
Investigation following the fatal accidents revealed extraordinarily high levels of toxic gases present within the liquid manure storage tanks. This highlights the need for increased awareness on the part of farm personnel of the potential hazards posed by these systems.

The McLean County Health Department recommends that no one enter a liquid manure tank without wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus. Any person entering one of these tanks should also be tied to a cord or rope held by another individual standing at a safe distance away. Finally, buildings housing liquid manure tanks should be well-ventilated.

For more information on system safety, phone John Berger at the health department, 454-1161.

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Schlafly says victims are to blame

Phyllis Schlafly, noted authority on sexual relations, has announced that she's applying her famous "they-get-what-they-ask-for" theory of sexual harassment to a whole range of other crimes.

"It's time we quit blaming the criminals for their behavior. It's the victims who cause all the trouble. They ask for everything they get and then complain about it," said Mrs. Schlafly, perceptively. She made her remarks in an exclusive interview with the Post-Amerikan to announce her campaign to repeal various legal penalties for robbery and burglary.

"If banks didn't make such a display of all the money they have, they wouldn't get robbed," Schlafly declared. She pointed out that bank robbers "intuitively understand" which banks contain large amounts of money and secretly desire to have it forcibly taken from them.

"I'm not talking about the virtuous, discreet banks. But those vulgar suburban ones that give away flashy prizes and advertise friendly personal service are just asking for trouble," Mrs. Schlafly continued. As support for her theory, the alleged wife and mother cited the words of famous bank robber Willie Sutton, who said he robbed banks "because that's where the money is."

Schlafly, whose legal studies presumably included training in logic, further stated that mugging victims are obviously asking for what they get. "Muggers hardly ever ask for money from people who are certain to say no," she said. "If people wouldn't wear expensive clothes and jewelry, they wouldn't get held up."

She also pointed out that burglars "intuitively understand" which homeowners want their homes broken into. "The way people decorate their homes in gaudy materials and equip them with expensive appliances and such, they just cry out, 'Burgle me,

WORKING THE LOGISTICS FOR A TRIP TO THE MOVIES (WHEN YOU DON'T OWN A CAR)



burgle me!" Mrs. Schlafly reasoned.

Schlafly further announced that she is working on theories that will show that people who cross busy streets are just asking to be run down, that people who have necks are inviting strangulation, and that presidents who make public appearances are just dying to get shot.

--Ferdurdurke

Post-Amerikan Vol. 10, No. 2

Psst!

Pass this Post to a friend!

May, 1981 Page 21

Sex change for Bonzo

It turns out that Bonzo, the chimp who co-starred in the 1951 movie "Bedtime for Bonzo" with President-elect Ronald Reagan, was a lady. Although Bonzo was billed as a male chimp of superior intelligence, Reagan finally admitted that, in his words, "Bonzo was a girl."

Reagan played the part of a professor trying to teach the chimp, although it may have been the other way around. Anyway, Reagan said on a United Airlines flight election eve that "Bonzo wore a piece of monkey fur in a critical place to

hide the fact that she wasn't the right gender."

Bonzo apparently didn't take kindly to her gender change. Reagan says the chimp once nearly strangled him when he happened to lean over her cage and she grabbed his necktie. To his alarm, Bonzo pulled the tie until the knot was as small as his fingernail.

Says Reagan, "They had to cut the tie." Too bad somebody didn't hide the scissors.

--Zodiac News Service

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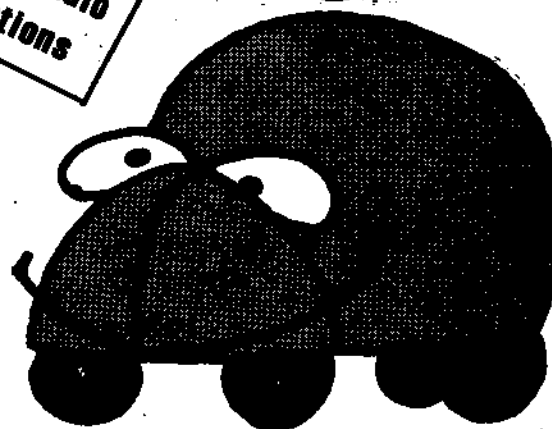
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Designer leashes at issue in palimony suit

Using the Lee Marvin palimony decision and the recent Billie Jean King suit as incentive, courts in this country are being flooded with similar outraged lover complaints.

In California, Rex the Wonder Dog is suing Benji for half interest in Benji's three-story dog house in Long Beach, a life-time supply of dog biscuits, and 60% control of Benji's new designer leashes. "We were very, very close for a long time, if you catch my drift," choked Rex. "I helped him get his start in this business, and he said he'd always love me and would take care of me. But now nobody remembers Rex the Wonder Dog. Nobody. Including my ex-lover, Benji."

Benji was visibly shaken when he spoke to reporters. "The only thing I ever promised Rex was a rose garden. He has that. Just ask him. I don't know why he's doing this to me, but it won't work. I feel sorry for him, but his threats and suits won't scare me.

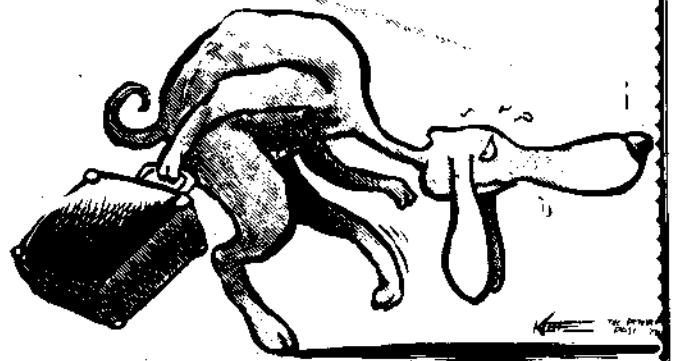
I intend to get just as nasty as he is, if it comes to that."

Lassie, a long-time friend of Rex, is scheduled to testify in court. "I don't want to tip my paw," she said, "but this is not the first time Benji has pulled something like this. I hope this teaches him that he can't play on the emotions of his 'friends' and get away with it every time."

Rin Tin Tin would not comment on the Rex-Benji suit, being involved in a similar case with Augie Doggie himself. "I don't want to damage either case by comment," he said.

Augie Doggie had no such qualms. "That blasted cur is suing me for non-support of his cartoon habit. He is claiming that after we got involved he started watching 10 to 12 hours of cartoons per day, all of them mine. Now he says he can't stop. He wants the rights to all my cartoons and a Beta-Max to watch them on. I don't even have a Beta-Max," he complained.

Doggie Daddy, now living in a home for the caged, is in full support of his son. "Augie would never turn someone on to cartoons," he said. "He's just not that kind of dog. I remember once when Heckyl and Jeckyl came over to visit and Augie suggested they watch a Disney nature film instead of cartoons. If Augie could do that, he could not do what Rin says he did."



Fire this irresponsible deputy!



A McLean County sheriff's deputy disrupted a peaceful north Bloomington neighborhood April 20, when he inconsiderately and illegally blocked a sidewalk with his police car. Dozens of youngsters were forced to detour their Big Wheels into the street, risking death and dismemberment, not to mention temporary pain to their mothers. Summoned by outraged neighbors, a Post-Amerikan photographer rushed to the scene and snapped this shot of the deputy appearing to be relieving himself against the squad's back tire. When confronted by the Post-Amerikan, the reckless cop hopped in his squad car and fled, refusing to identify himself. Neighborhood residents have demanded that Sheriff Brien investigate this incident immediately and discipline the offending deputy.

A stranger suit just filed involves two estates. Sergeant Preston, heir to the estate of Yukon King, is suing Roy Rogers, heir to the estate of Bullet, for breach of promise. "They had decided to put their properties together," said the Sergeant. "Rogers now owns 300 acres of choice Yukon forest. But where is the 300 acres of western ranch land that is rightfully mine? Rogers owns that, too! Even though Yukon King isn't with us anymore, this is something I feel I must do. You can't just go backing out of promises just because the participants are both dead."

Rogers is dismayed at the suit. "I always thought you should let dead dogs lie. But Preston seems to have a different idea entirely. I just don't know. I guess if he wants half the ranch he can have it. I won't let Bullet's name be dragged through the mud if I can help it."

Rogers sighed, "It's a dog's life."

Apparently..

--Sues Canal



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COMMENTARY **Anti-sex crusaders don't practice what they preach**

I take it you've heard about the brief, gaudy career of Jack Gregorio, self-appointed protector of morals and children in Tampa, Florida. One week he's carrying a placard that says "Save Our Kids from Smut" and leading his Taxpaying Parents Against Kiddie Smut in a campaign to remove sex-education books from the library. The next week he's being arrested and charged with "sexual battery" against a 17-year-old boy and performing a "lewd and lascivious act" with an 8-year-old girl.

What fascinates me about this flaming hypocrite is not just his spectacular self-destructiveness (although the irony is almost too pointed to be true) but that he's the latest in a long line of noisy moralists who've been caught with their pants down, so to speak, performing just those sexual acts that they made their careers loudly denouncing.

It kinda gives me hope that the repressive loudmouths who are currently storming around the country will inevitably do themselves in.

My optimism comes from a look at the list of prominent people arrested for sexual indiscretions and misdeeds--it reads like a Who's Who of the Far Right:

--Last month it was Rep. Jon Hinson, a conservative Republican from a bible-belt district in Mississippi, who got caught fooling around with a male employee from the Library of Congress in the men's room at the Longworth House Office Building. He pleaded not guilty, checked into a hospital for something called "dissociative reaction," and finally resigned from his congressional post.

--Last year, Rep. Robert Bauman (R-MD) was arrested for performing an "unnatural act" with a 17-year-old male. The head of the American Conservative Union, and an active anti-gay, anti-ERA, anti-abortion crusader, Bauman said he had a "drinking problem," and the court sent him off to some alcohol treatment center.

--Five years ago, the Rev. Billy James Hargis got nailed for practicing what he preached

against. Five students, four of them men, at American Christian College in Tulsa, where Hargis was president, went public with the tales of their secret sexual assignations with Rev. Billy, who had just launched a Crusade for Christian Morality in Tulsa. Hargis blamed his behavior on "genes and chromosomes" and, despite the scandal, managed to resurrect a number of his religious scams.



--In the same year, 1976, retired army Major General Edwin A. Walker, an avid Commie fighter and defender of Amerikan morals, was entrapped in a Dallas restroom. Before that, G. Harrold Carswell, a Nixon nominee for the Supreme Court, was arrested in similar circumstances--he propositioned an undercover cop in a Tallahassee shopping-mall john and took him for a little ride into the country to have sex. (I never did learn whether he was arrested before or after the sexual act; perhaps it was coitus interruptus.)

Now, there are any number of observations you could make about this sorry parade of exposed duplicity, and I'm sure a good many have occurred to you already. But at the risk of being obvious, let me share a few points that the Gregorio story brought back to mind:

1. What scares and disgusts the anti-sex zealots is really inside themselves--they are trying, however unconsciously, to destroy their own feelings and longings by identifying and condemning them in others.

2. The volume and intensity of their denunciations have little to do with moral conviction and a whole lot to do with trying to pull the polyester over everybody's eyes, especially their own.

3. They seem bent on getting caught. (Or else they're so busy hiding their sins from themselves that they don't bother to hide them from others.) Billy James Hargis didn't pick up hustlers in another town--he had sex with his own students and threatened to blacklist them if they talked. Rep. Hinson didn't go to a discreet call-boy service--he cruised the public johns in the House office building.

4. They have about as much self-awareness as a can of Spam, and are so out of touch with themselves that they treat their sexual activities as something that comes from outside. When caught, they blame pills, alcohol, bad genes, or some other form of the Devil.

5. The discrepancy between what they practice and what they preach will, in all likelihood, come out, and their moral crusade will, temporarily at least, come to a halt.

6. The next wave of anti-sex hypocrites will have learned nothing from the downfall of their predecessors and will launch a new campaign against gay people or women's rights or kiddie smut or rock-n-roll records--or whatever reminds them of their own unacceptable humanity.

7. The rest of us, like Faulkner's Dilsey, will endure. ●

--Ferdydurke

Thursday - 50¢ beer night

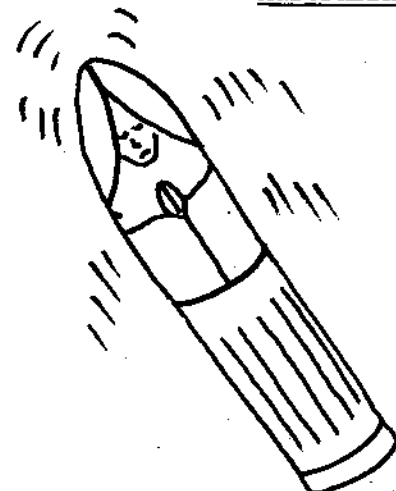
424 N. Main 9-1 T-Th 9-2 F-S

Wanted Virgin, got dildo

Ninety-one-year-old Adelaide Douglas, a florist in Queensland, Australia, complained to authorities when she received a nine-inch dildo and a sex manual in the mail. She had ordered a Virgin Mary statuette.

Darryl Christmas, a spokesperson for AVA Enterprises, acknowledged the mistake, explaining that the mail-order firm deals both in sex aids and religious trinkets. "We are serious people," he said in his apology. "I am the secretary of the local Vegetarians Against the Nazis group."

--Australia Express



Junior cops learned burglary techniques

Normal's 5-year-old police cadet program suffered a much-deserved setback April 9, when one of the 16-year-old junior cops was nabbed burglarizing the station's detective room.

The cadet and a buddy were stealing both money and marijuana. It was his third unauthorized foray into the locked detective room in two months.

The cadet program recruits would-be law enforcement officers from the ranks of high school students, dressing them in uniforms and initiating them into police procedures.

According to the Pantagraph, cadets learn to use radio equipment, answer the phones, and complete paperwork on minor criminal complaints.

Cadets' more controversial, but less publicized, role has been undercover work for the Normal cops. Cadets tested Normal bars and restaurants by ordering beer in 1979. Cadets roamed Normal's streets and parks last July 4, ready to pinch kids lighting firecrackers. Last fall, cadets infiltrated Illinois State University parties.

The cadets' youth and their misguided enthusiasm combine together to pose a threat of overzealous pursuit of investigations, especially against their peers. Consider the following quotations from a 1977 Pantagraph story on the cadet program.

"There's a heavy-duty dope problem in Normal," Cadet Greg Fillmore told the Pantagraph. "We (the cadets) will prove our value one of these days." Fillmore also said, "I can think on a younger person's level. I've had people spill their gut to me who wouldn't talk to a police officer."

Cadet Fillmore's enthusiasm for his work leaked out as he described apprehending a 14-year-old runaway he picked up hitchhiking. He'd recognized the kid from a photo at the police department. "I noticed the young man out there," the 17-year-old cadet told the Pantagraph, "and I put the snatch on him."

Although the cadet caught in the detective room did swipe some marijuana, Police Chief Richard McGuire said the evidence room immediately adjoining remained secure. The burglary won't affect more than one pending drug possession case, according to the chief.



But why was marijuana being kept in the detectives' room instead of the more secure evidence room? Was it the detectives' personal stash the cadet was pilfering?

The Daily Pantagraph used the burglary as an occasion to mention two previous episodes of cadet misconduct. In 1977 a cadet was caught stealing blank traffic tickets. He was filling them in with fictitious ages so friends would appear old enough to buy alcohol. Another cadet was caught impersonating a Normal cop.

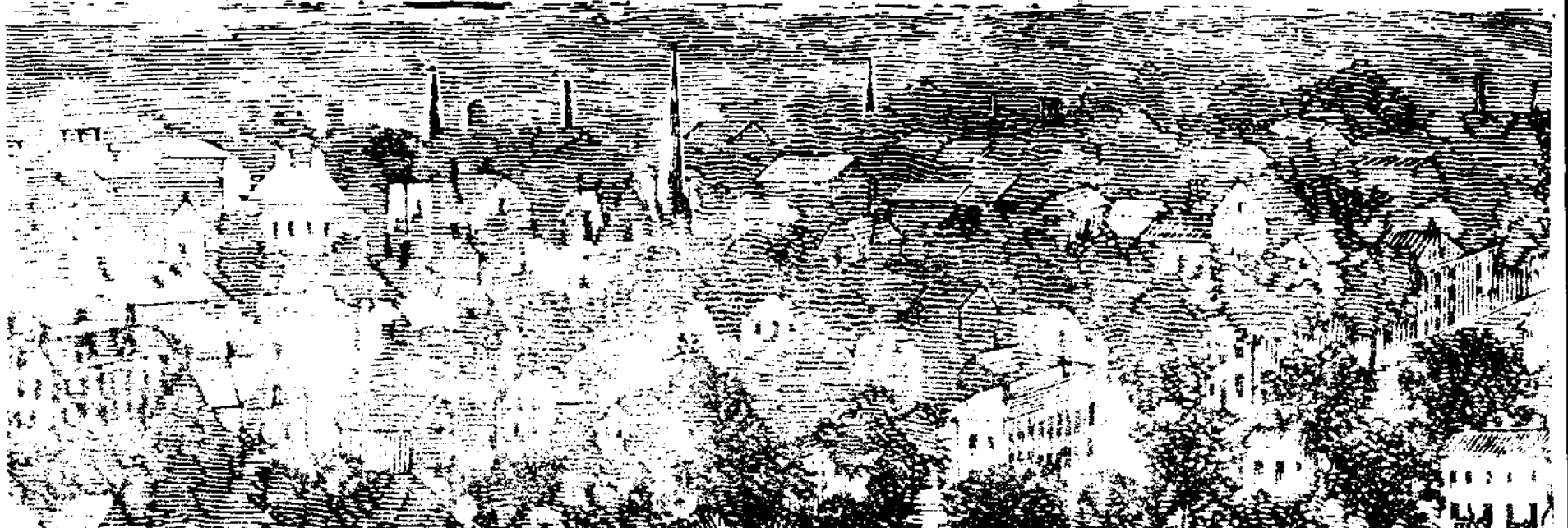
Neither of these two incidents had ever been made public before, prompting the question of what other questionable activities have been going on in the police cadet program.

But outgoing Chief McGuire stands by the program. "Our cadets have done a real fine job for us," McGuire told the Pantagraph.

--Mark Silverstein

Post-Amerikan Vol. 10, No. 2
May, 1981 Page 24

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

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