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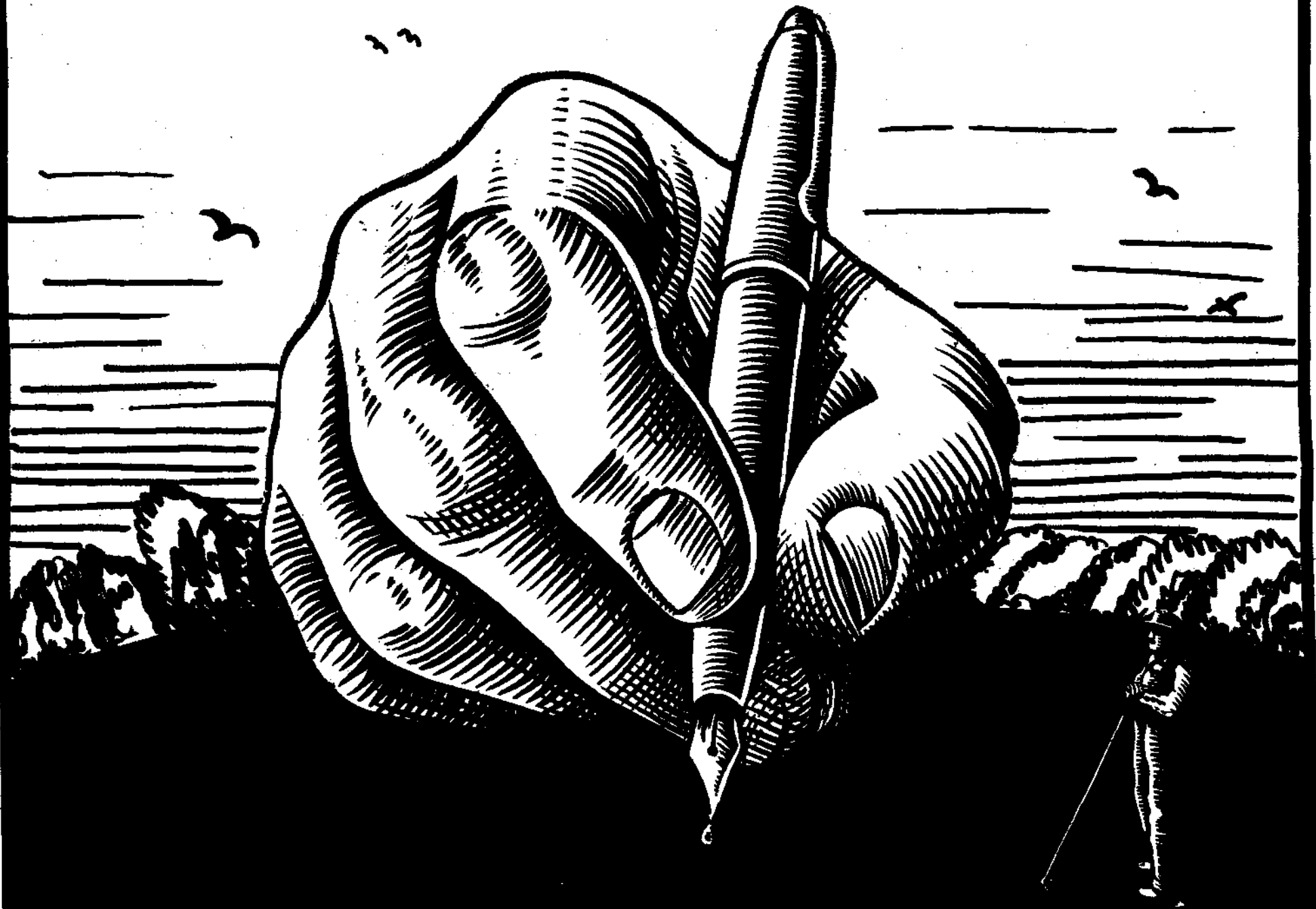
POST AMERICAN

Bloomington-Normal

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Ten years together



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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 April 22.

We like to print your letters. Try to be brief. If you write a short abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. But long abusive letters, especially ones that set forth ideas you can read in *Time* magazine every week, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles.

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

You can make bread hawking the Post-- 15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies, on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call us at 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be sent to: 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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That Other Gift Store, 111 W. Front
Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front
The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Discount Den, 207 N. Main
Gene's Drive-in, 1019 S. Main
Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington
K-Mart, at parking lot entrance off
of Empire
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
Last Page, 416 N. Main
Law & Justice Center, West Front
Main and Front, southwest corner
Main and Washington, northeast corner
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
Pantagraph (in front of building),
301 W. Washington
The Park Store, Wood and Allin
Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
Steak n Shake, Locust and Clinton
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire (at
exit)
U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
Washington & Clinton, southeast corner

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
Blue Dahlia, 121 E. Beaufort
Bowling & Billiards Center, ISU
Cage, ISU University Union
Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main
Drastic Plastic Records, 115 North
Eisner's, East College & Towanda (at
College entrance)
Fink's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North
North & Broadway, southeast corner
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
Record Service, Watterson Place
Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main
Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway (in
front)

OUTTA TOWN

Urbana, Horizon Bookstore, 517 S.
Goodwin
Blackburn College Bookstore,
Carlinville, Illinois

good numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
American Civil Liberties Union 454-1787
CETA 827-4026
Clare House (Catholic Workers) 828-4035
Community for Social Action 452-4867
Connection House 829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence 827-4005
Department of Children and Family
Services 828-0022
Department of Health, Education and
Welfare (Social Security) 829-9436
Department of Mental Health 828-4311
Draft Counseling 452-5046, 828-4035
Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 828-9085
God 800-JC5-1000 (in New Jersey, 201-
555-1212)
HELP (transportation for handicapped
and senior citizens) 828-8301
Illinois Lawyer Referral Service
800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope 828-7346
McLean County Economic Opportunity
Corporation 829-1921
McLean County Health Dept. 829-3363

Mobile Meals (for shut-ins) 828-8301
National Health Care Services (abortion
assistance in Peoria) 691-9073
National Runaway Switchboard 800-621-
4000; in Illinois 800-972-6004
Occupational Development Center
828-7324
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone
Help) 827-4005 or 800-322-5015
Parents Anonymous 827-4005 (PATH)
Planned Parenthood 827-8025
Post-Amerikan 828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services 827-5021
Project Oz 827-0377
Public Aid, McLean County 827-4621
Rape Crisis Center 827-4005 (PATH)
Small Changes Bookstore 829-6223
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center 827-5428
TeleCare 828-8301
Unemployment Compensation/Job Service
827-6237
United Farmworkers Support Group
452-5046
Women's Switchboard 800-927-5404

New domestic violence law can protect victims -- but it won't

Domestic violence is a crime often committed behind closed doors. Ninety percent of all victims of abuse within a home are women. Many fear reporting the crime because of threat or actuality of continued abuse.

On March 1st, the Illinois legislature passed a law which purports to provide protection to any household member who is abused. This law is known as the Order of Protection Act and can forbid further abuse and temporarily bar the violent party from the home for up to one year. In considering the potential effects of this new law, the word can needs to be looked at closely.

A court of law can issue an order of protection through the State's Attorney's office in cases where the victim is willing to press criminal charges or is in imminent danger of abuse. An order can also be issued in conjunction with a divorce, annulment separation, child custody hearing, or when the victim chooses to press charges through civil court.

If a victim chooses to file an order of protection through the State's Attorney's office, the abuser is noti-

fied of the charges and can contest the alleged abuse within 7 days, unless the victim is in imminent danger. In a case where imminent danger is determined, the abuser receives no prior notice to the order. This is known as the Ex Parte Order and expires within ten days.

If the abuser violates one or both of the two protections provided under the order, they can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor, and sentenced to up to one year in prison and a \$1000 fine. In addition, the court can require counseling, the payment of court costs, temporary support, and other financial expenses resulting from the abuse.

Linda Schwartz, Director of Countering Domestic and Sexual Violence feels that with increased education of law enforcement agencies and victims of abuse, the order of protection will discourage the high incidence of domestic violence.

But will that education come about, and will it be enough?

In at least one instance since the law was enacted, the police have failed to inform the victim of her right to file

for an order of protection. Maybe this occurrence was an exception to the way our local police are responding to the new law.

And maybe the State's Attorney's office and the judges within McLean County have become more conscious of the victim's right to protection. But if these aren't the case, then it's unrealistic to expect a significant drop in the incidence of domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Law can provide protection for victims of abuse, but without the cooperation of the police, the prosecuting attorneys, and judges, it won't. Until those in charge of enforcing this law begin to see abuse within a household as a serious crime against the victim, the order of protection will provide nothing new.

The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and others who struggled for two years to get the Order of Protection Act passed deserve to be commended. Whether it will allow victims to come out from behind the doors of their homes to talk about and take action against the abusive treatment remains to be seen. ●

--M.M.

Helms and Schweiker are headed our way

"This land of ours was divinely inspired," says U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina. "Thomas Jefferson and all the rest were not smart enough to come up with this system. They got down on their knees and prayed for it. That's what makes our country unique."

Never mind that Jefferson didn't believe in any sort of God that intervenes in human affairs, Helms knows what's what, and he's coming to pass the word, and probably the collection plate, at the annual Association of Commerce and Industry dinner at Illinois State University's union April 19. The fun starts at 7 pm.

Richard Schweiker, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, who thinks there's too many social services, will be in town a week earlier to warm up the right-wing locals. Schweiker's coming to honor U.S. Rep. Edward Madigan at dinner at the ISU union at 6:30 pm, April 12.

These two deserve a royal reception from our side.

Helms, of course, is the leading right wing nut, not only for his crazed pronouncements but also for his ability to raise huge sums for other right-wing nuts.

Helms has organized or helped organize a whole slew of radical conservative groups in the last few years, including the Conservative Caucus, the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, the Senate Steering Committee, the Coalition for Freedom and the Congressional Club. All of these groups dispense money and lies in defense of right-wing causes.

The Congressional Club raised over \$7 million for Helms' reelection campaign in 1978 (compared to the \$2.1 and \$2.7 million raised by the big spenders in the 1980 New York and California campaigns). In 1980, the group raised almost \$8 and spent over \$4.5 million for Ronald Reagan's campaign alone.

Helms is noted for such verbal gems as his claim that there was "evidence that the Negroes and whites participating in the march to Montgomery (in 1965) engaged in sex orgies of the rawest sort." Martin Luther King's "outfit," Helms claimed, was "heavily laden at the top with leaders of proven records of Communism, socialism, and sex perversion."

During a Senate debate on Medicaid payments for abortions he said, "As for this rape and incest argument that always comes up, this is a



red herring. . . whereby people come in 4 months later and say, 'Oh, by the way, I was raped 4 months ago.'"

The complete list of Helms' peculiarities includes: ardent support for guns, defense spending, capital punishment, and tobacco subsidies for those lucky few (like his wife) who own the rights to receive them. Naturally, he's against abortion, labor unions, rights for women and minorities. He's gone so far as to claim that the framers of the Constitution intended for women's place to be in the home.

Helms is known for introducing off-the-wall amendments to Senate bills, and for his first few years in the Senate he was considered something of a fool.

Not so. Helms' tactics forced his opponents to vote against issues, like abortion rights, that he later used against them.

In the very first political campaign that he was involved in, his man, a senatorial candidate from North Carolina, used blatant black- and red-baiting tactics to win the election. He next worked for Georgia Senator Richard Russell, who ran for president as a segregationist.

After that, he spent 12 years doing radio and TV editorials full of traditional far right charges. For instance, he called Walter Cronkite a "hysterical crybaby" who "has been a participant in a vast ultraliberal mechanism tirelessly dedicated to brainwashing the American public."

In his own first campaign in 1972 against Nick Galifianakis, he slyly played on his opponent's Greek name by featuring the slogan: "Jesse Helms: He's One of Us."

Since he took to raising huge sums of money, he's participated in similarly slimy smears. In the 1980 Senate campaign involving his colleague from North Carolina, Robert Morgan, Helms' forces charged Morgan with voting against the B-1 and voting for "allowing unions to use forced dues for political purposes." Both charges derived from obscure votes by Morgan in response to two of Helms' notorious amendments. In fact, Morgan supported the B-1 and was not a union supporter.

However, Morgan was replaced by Helms supporter John East. Helms used similar tactics and infusions of large sums of cash to get Jeremiah Denton elected in Alabama and Alfonse D'Amato elected in New York. All three are now members of the right-wing Senate Steering Committee, a group of 25 crazos headed by Helms.

While Helms has always been in the John Birch fringe, former Republican Senator Schweiker is a more recent convert. In 1976, for instance, he won an 80% approval rating from the liberal Americans for Democratic Action. In 1977, the year after he was chosen to be Ronald Reagan's 1976 running mate, he got a 15% rating from the ADA.

Some have since charged him with political opportunism, not a new charge in Washington, but as one writer put it, Schweiker "hasn't had the wit to conceal his opportunism or the grace to come up with some plausible excuse for it."

Once a liberal on social issues, Schweiker is now in charge of gutting the programs he helped to create. He also switched his stand on the controversial Clinch River breeder reactor, and after once being a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, he decided that states should have the right to rescind their votes for ERA.

He has, however, always opposed gun control and abortion and supported prayer in the public schools.

One of his most recent outrageous moves was to propose a rule which would force family planning clinics receiving federal funds to notify the parents of any minor who came to the clinics seeking contraception.

The new rule, which will take effect in late April, is clearly designed to discourage teenagers from going to family planning clinics. Although over half of the parents of teens who go to clinics know about the visits, over half of the teens whose parents don't know say they would simply stop going if their parents must be notified. But only 2 out of 100 say they would stop having sex.

The result will be more pregnancies, more abortions, and more ruined lives, especially since the risks for both mother and child are greater if the mother is still a teenager.

The only hope for stopping this wretched rule is to object to Schweiker or to Marjory Mecklenburg, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, Room 725H, US Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington DC 20201.

--D. Le Seure

Gray Panthers may sue Moral Majority

Philadelphia--The Gray Panthers, a national lobbying and activist group for senior citizens, reportedly is considering legal action against the Moral Majority. A new publication from the right-wing fundamentalist group, edited by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, cites the Gray Panthers as an example of left-wing groups receiving indirect financial aid from the federal government.

The book describes the Panthers, who lobby for improved nursing home and health care facilities for the aged, as a "pro-Castro activist group which encourages multi-generational, mixed sex and communal living."

--Gay Life



Police could have nabbed

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As far as McLean County law enforcement authorities are concerned, the case of two brutal home invasions and rapes last fall were closed March 16, when 22-year-old John Erbe was sentenced to three years in prison.

Erbe was sentenced for attempted burglary.

Although Erbe was never charged with the rapes, State's Attorney Ron Dozier is satisfied that the rapist has been caught. "We know Erbe did 'em," Dozier told the Post-Amerikan.

The rash of home invasions by a knife-wielding intruder occurred in late October and early November. Victims were all young women living near Illinois State University.

In the first, Oct. 26, the man with the knife tied up and gagged a 20-year-old ISU student, but ran away when he realized others were in the apartment.

A few days later, the same man sneaked into an apartment occupied by three ISU women students. He threatened them with his knife, tied them up, and raped two of them.

Both attacks were widely publicized. They received even more media attention the next week--when the Pantagraph and the ISU Yidette published a composite drawing of the attacker drawn by a police artist.

The Pantagraph published the police artist's sketch on November 3.

In the next week, Normal police detective Andy Wood told the Post-Amerikan, his department received "a bunch of names" to check out of people who resembled the sketch.

No one turned in the name of John

Erbe, nor did police seek out Erbe to interview him.

Police should have been aware of Erbe's existence. In August, 1980, all area police departments received notice that convicted rapist John Erbe was being released on parole. He'd served 4½ years on a 4-10 sentence.

According to court records, Erbe's conviction stemmed from a late 1975 home invasion where Erbe broke into a young woman's apartment and raped her several times at knifepoint.

Records show that Erbe is not your ordinary convicted rapist (if there is such a thing). A McLean County court has declared Erbe to be a "Sexually Dangerous Person."

It's not easy for prosecutors to get someone declared a Sexually Dangerous Person, and it's not supposed to be easy to get out of prison once you've been declared one.

The label requires that the court find that the person has a "mental disease" which gives him a propensity to criminal sexual assaults.

Unlike ordinary rapists, a Sexually Dangerous Person is not sentenced to a set time in jail. The declaration "allows a person to be held in indefinitely, until cured, so to speak," Ron Dozier told the Post-Amerikan.

The court file contains a history of Erbe's assaults showing that he liked knives and especially liked to use them to force other people into sex acts.

Besides the 1975 rape, Erbe was also charged with using a knife in July, 1975, allegedly robbing a young man and ordering him to perform oral sex.

In 1976, while awaiting trial for rape, Erbe was charged with deviate sexual assault; several times, the court file says, Erbe used weapons and threats of violence to force another prisoner into oral and anal sex.

Erbe was only 16 when arrested for his 1975 rape. Prosecutors had him tried as an adult. Erbe was convicted of rape while the petition to have him declared a Sexually Dangerous Person was still pending. He got 4-10 for the rape and six months later, in October 1976, Erbe was officially declared a Sexually Dangerous Person. He was sent to the Department of Corrections psychiatric prison in Chester. According to law, Erbe would not be released until he was "cured," even if after he finished his time for the rape conviction.

"Society would have been well-served if Mr. Erbe had stayed in as a Sexually Dangerous Person," State's Attorney Dozier told the Post-Amerikan.

But a federal court ruled that Illinois didn't require a high enough level of proof before declaring someone a Sexually Dangerous Person. John Erbe was one of two McLean County residents to benefit from that decision, according to Dozier.

No longer considered a Sexually Dangerous Person, Erbe needed to worry only about his 4-10 sentence for rape.

No psychiatrist ever pronounced Erbe "cured," but he was back on the streets in McLean County by August, 1980.

Almost a week after police published the composite drawing of the suspected rapist/home invader, the Pantagraph reported that a man with a knife awoke

a Normal woman in her bedroom Nov. 8. She screamed, ran into another room, and locked the door. The man left.

Police said the man's description was similar to the description of the man who'd committed the earlier home invasions.

Meanwhile, police still hadn't talked to John Erbe. They didn't know about him.

"We just don't have a list of convicted sex offenders," Detective Andy Wood told the Post-Amerikan. "We just get the names of people released on parole. I don't think any local police department can push a button that says 'sex offender' and get out a list of names."

On Monday November 10, John Erbe started sneaking into another apartment housing women near the ISU campus. Wearing socks on his hands, armed with a knife, Erbe stuck his head in the wrong door this time.

Visitors at the apartment immediately recognized Erbe from the composite drawing in the paper. They chased him, finally catching Erbe a mile later.

Once in police custody, Erbe was immediately suspected in the previous home invasions and rapes. According to court files, Detective Andy Wood immediately saw the resemblance between the police drawing and John Erbe.

Erbe was locked up for attempted burglary while police searched for evidence to tie Erbe to the rapes and home invasions.

Bob Johnson was Erbe's parole officer. If Johnson thought that his parolee resembled the police's composite drawing, he apparently kept that information to himself.

When contacted by the Post-Amerikan March 16, Johnson said he'd have to talk to his superiors before he could answer any questions.

Later in the day, Johnson referred all my questions to Department of Corrections public relations man Nick Howell in Springfield.

Howell has not returned my phone calls.

On November 10, John Erbe and four others participated in a line-up viewed by one of the rape victims.

According to court records, she picked Erbe out. But she wouldn't say she was "positive" he was the man, only that she was "pretty sure."

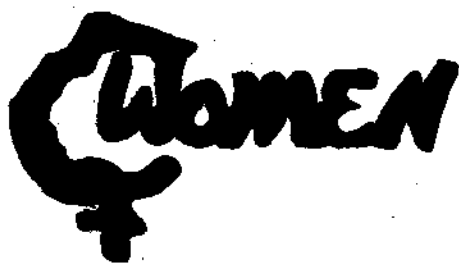
That less-than-conclusive identification was apparently enough to make prosecutors back off from filing a rape charge.

As State's Attorney Dozier told the Post-Amerikan, "We didn't have an identification."

Court records also show that Normal police obtained an unusual search warrant while pursuing the Erbe investigation, a court order to procure samples of John Erbe's saliva, blood, pubic hair, and head hair.

Last fall, Normal Police Chief David Lehr took part in a question-and-answer session after a film sponsored by the Rape Crisis Center.

Lehr was encouraging women to report



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assaulted, call us for
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rape suspect sooner

suspicious happenings to the police. I asked the chief a question about the police department's ability to use such information in a subsequent rape investigation.

I used the example of a woman I know who'd been pretty flipped out by a strange man who kept following her, staring at her, driving his car back and forth and around the block when she walked to and from the bus stop. She was afraid he was trying to find where she lived. She was also afraid that she was only one of several women this weirdo might be following.

My friend reported this weirdo's license number to Bloomington police, who took the extra-legal (he hadn't broken any laws) measure of talking to the fellow about his behavior. He stopped following her.

Did police detectives keep good enough records, I asked Chief Lehr, to pull this weirdo's name and license number for a later investigation, if necessary? If police were later investigating a rape, would they have it together to look this fellow up and question him if they needed to?

Emphatically yes, Chief Lehr answered. When speaking to the audience at the Rape Crisis Center program, Chief Lehr was very reassuring about the police department's investigative thoroughness.

* * * * *

Police didn't catch John Erbe; alert ISU students did it. They caught him in the midst of a break-in, which may have been another attempted rape.

Yet police had the information to catch John Erbe sooner--if they had only put it together.

Why hadn't police questioned John Erbe earlier, at least to see if his appearance matched the police artist's drawing of the rapist/home invader? I asked Chief Lehr these questions March 16.

At first, the Chief was defensive.

"You don't arrest someone without probable cause," the Chief said.

Yes, but you often question people without arresting them.

"You have to have something to base your questions on," the Chief said.

I mentioned Erbe's record.

Chief Lehr admitted that his department gets a list of parolees who are released, and their crimes. But the list isn't indexed by offense.

"What you are asking is that we have a list and we check," the Chief said. "We don't like the idea of rapists walking the streets," Chief Lehr went on, "but just because he has a rape conviction doesn't mean we can harass him."

* * * * *

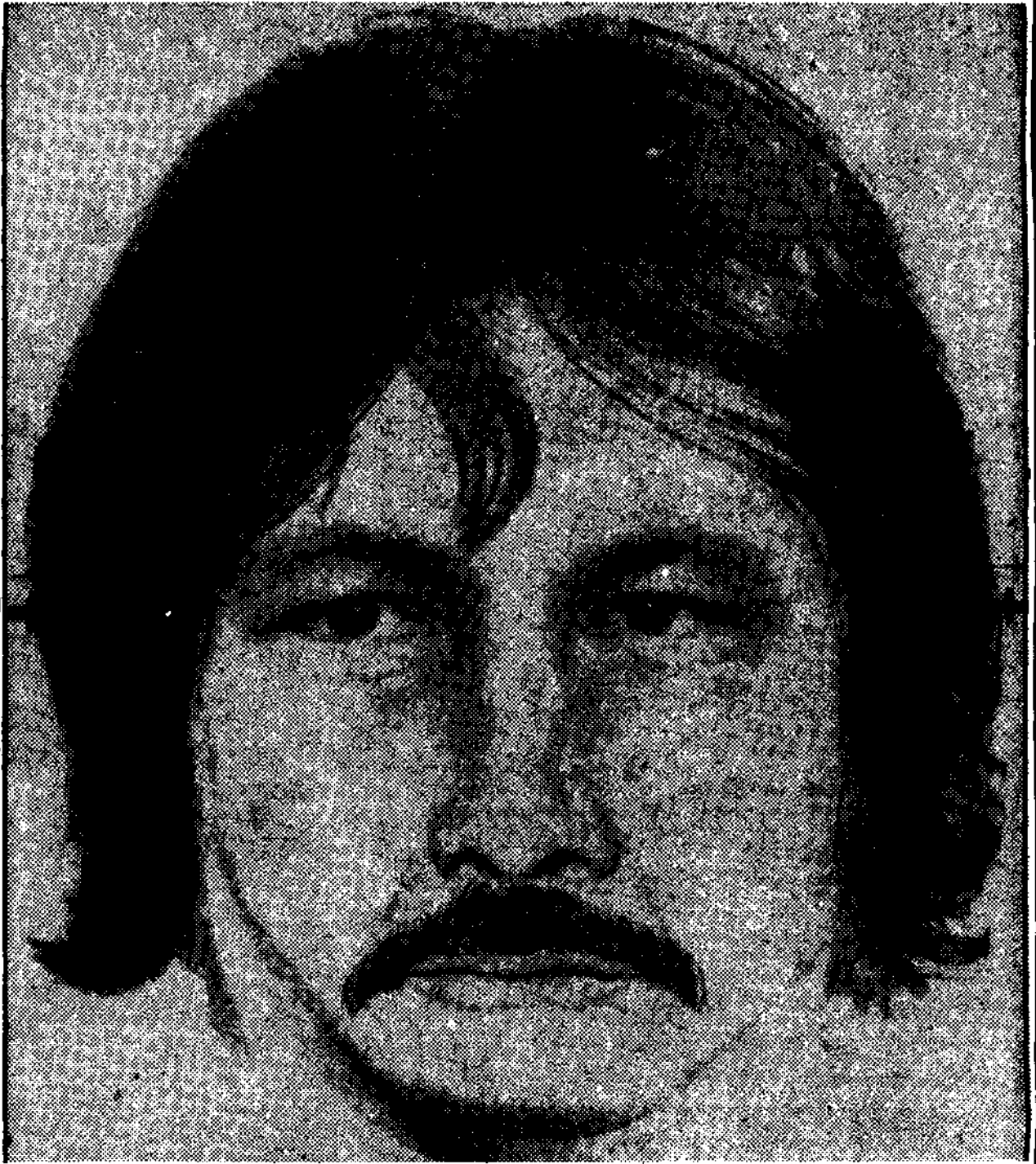
Since prosecutors decided there wasn't enough evidence to convict Erbe of rape and home invasion, all they had was attempted burglary. The sentence could have been anywhere from two to five years. Judge Campbell chose three years.

As long as John Erbe doesn't lose any good time while in prison, he will be released around the middle of May, 1983.

The Department of Corrections will send notices of Erbe's release to the local police departments.

And, unless local police procedures change, that will be that.

--Mark Silverstein



Last fall, police circulated this drawing of a knife-wielding rapist wanted in connection with two home invasions in Normal. Law enforcement authorities believe the man is John Erbe, who has been sentenced to prison for attempted burglary.



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- 12 Willis McGrinnis & The Rat Pack
- 13 Mike Hogan
- 14 Food and Money
- 15 The Slam
- 16 Manassas Junction
- 17 Ashby Osterman Alliance
- 18 Rich Margherio
- 19 Bob Bogaert Post-Amerikan Birthday Party
- 20 The Sangamon River Bandits
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A sickening fairy tale

A man, an accident,

Once upon a time, in a sleepy little town called Gloomington, in a sleepy state called Hillynoise, there lived two young people called Bob and Helen. And they were very happy. They had been recently married and had moved to Gloomington because it was such a nice, sleepy, place, and they lived in a nice little house on a nice quiet street, and they didn't bother anybody, and nobody bothered them, not even the door-to-door evangelists or the ding-dong lady from Avon.

But it was not to last, because on the first day of October of that year, Bob and Helen had an accident. Oh no! How did it happen, you ask? Well, it happened just like this:

Bob and Helen decided that wouldn't it be nice if they had a couple of birds to brighten up their nice little house so they went out and got in Bob's nice little go-cart and started to drive to the pet store. Bob's go-cart was really lovely and nice, and he was really proud of it because there were only a dozen in the whole world like his and he took real good care of it and made sure it ran nicely and looked nice all the time. But then it happened.

Bob was driving his go-cart north on a one way street, doing the speed limit, and was just entering an intersection with another one-way street when this lady driving a great big go-cart called a Fraud Koogah was coming along the other one-way street. Now this lady was supposed to stop at the intersection because there was a big sign that said "Stop" there, and another big sign that said "Cross traffic does not stop," but did she stop? No she didn't! What did she do? Did she brake? Did she try to stop? Nooo...she accelerated! Yes, she stepped on the gas and accelerated!

What about Bob? Was he paying attention? Did he see her not stop? Yes, he did! "Oh nooo!" he cried, and quick as a whip he pulled up on the handbrake in his go-cart, spun the steering wheel hard to the right, and slammed on the footbrake with so much force that the pedal came off!

Bob couldn't stop in time, and he hit the Fraud's left rear fender. The Fraud was accelerating so fast that it pulled Bob's poor little go-cart forcefully in the direction in which it was travelling, with the result that Bob's go-cart spun around 180 degrees and it rear-ended the corner street sign and wham! it came to a stop.

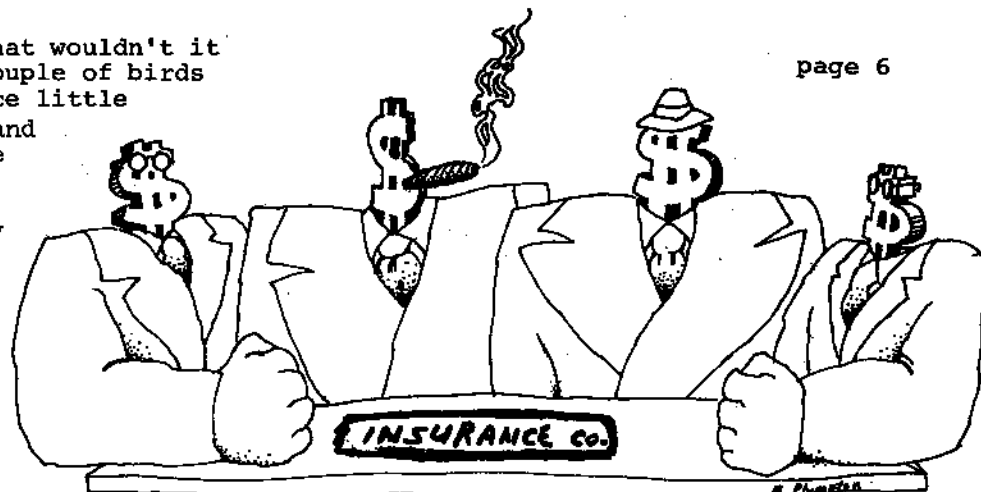
Poor little silver and black go-cart! Its front end was all mashed in, and bits and pieces of it lay broken all over the street. What was Bob to do? He thought it would be a good idea to call the police and to contact his insurance company, Somestate, the "reasonable hands people," so he asked Helen to go into "The General's" fried chicken store on the corner to use the telephone.

But before Helen went into "The General's," both she and Bob went over to talk to the lady who was driving the Koogah. The poor woman was all flustered and shaky, so Bob decided he could not help things by being angry (although later he would wish otherwise), so he calmed himself down as much as he could and asked her what had happened and why she didn't stop. Well, she told Bob and Helen that she was really sorry, and that she had been confused, because she didn't in Gloomington but in the town of Suburbana, and Gloomington had so many one-way streets that she forgot which went where.

Then she said that she saw the stop sign, and then she saw Bob coming, and she did not think she could stop in time without hitting Bob, so she decided to accelerate through the intersection and hopefully get to the other side before Bob hit her. Of course it did not work, and Bob hit her anyway. The good thing was, though, that Bob had swerved when he tried to stop, because if he had not, he would have hit her door and would have either injured or killed her.

At this point a really nice police officer arrived and put on the flashing red lights and came over to make sure everything was under control.

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Helen went inside the chicken store to call the insurance company, since, obviously, someone had already called the police. While she did that, the officer (whose name was B. Russel Tomasse), Bob, and the lady who was driving the Koogah all got into the police go-cart.

The lady told the policeman exactly what she had told Bob and Helen. He filled out an accident report, and he apologized to the lady but had to charge her with failing to stop at a stop sign. He also had to confiscate her driver's license unless she could pay him the thirty-five dollar bail bond in cash. She had no cash, so Bob nicely offered to pay it for her (something else he was going to regret later on). But she declined, and she decided to follow the policeman's go-cart in her Koogah, which was still drivable. Bob's go-cart, however, had to be towed away.

Well, the policeman called a tow-go-cart and stood with Bob looking at the go-cart's front end, and at the bits and pieces on the road, and at the skid marks on the street that showed where Bob had swerved and where he had hit and spun around (something very important that would be overlooked over and over again in the days to follow).

After his poor go-cart got towed away, Bob talked to the insurance man from Somestate, Mennis Moulting, in the claims office in Dukkatuh. He went over what happened, and Mr. Moulting told Bob to file the claim through the lady's insurance company, since she was at fault, and that way he would save his insurance deductible. Then Bob and Helen walked home; the birds would have to wait.

Now the fun begins, because Bob was about to learn all about the ins and outs of the insurance business.

The woman Bob had hit was insured by State Ranch, so he called their claims office the following morning. Mr. Kurl Crusher told Bob that he would send him an accident form to fill out. Bob offered to take Crusher out to the scene of the accident to show him what had happened, to measure the skid marks on the road, and to go over the whole accident with him, since where Bob came from that was the efficient way things were done. But Mr. Crusher said that wasn't necessary, that he'd

an insurance company

page 7

go out on his own or send someone out to look at the scene. (No one ever went out, however, no matter how many times Bob offered to go with them and even to take photographs for them. Every time he offered, he was told that it was not necessary.)

Anyway, the following Monday Bob took the accident form to State Ranch and left it with Mr. Crusher's secretary. Later, he spoke with Mr. Crusher, who needed the police report before making a decision. They also needed to get a report from the lady in Suburbana. "Don't worry, Bob," Mr. Crusher told him, "we'll get these any day now."

But by Thursday all they had was the report from Suburbana. So Bob went down to see Mr. Crusher in his office to try to speed things up. Mr. Crusher was out to lunch (literally), so Bob asked to see his supervisor, Jon Dozing. When Dozing came out with Bob's file, he looked at the reports in the file and told Bob that he was 20% at fault. Bob was shocked. He wanted to know why. Dozing showed Bob what the woman from Suburbana had written about the accident. She said that she had stopped at the intersection, looked both ways, did not see Bob, and drove out when Bob mysteriously appeared out of thin air, on a clear bright afternoon, the only go-cart on the whole road (a downhill grade at that) and hit her.

Well, Bob was fuming. Where was the police report? Dozing said that they hadn't received it yet (a full week after), so Bob and Helen rushed to the police station and were back in twenty minutes with a copy of the police report. Dozing looked at the report, raised his eyebrows, and in less than a minute he had made his decision (in front of Bob, Helen, and the secretary). Bob was 10% at fault.

Poor Bob! Now he was really confused. He had shown that the other driver had lied, and he was still at fault. He wanted to know what else he could have done, or what he did wrong. "Well," Mr. Dozing replied, "I don't know, because I was not there." But whatever it was Mr. Dozing didn't know was enough to make poor Bob 10% at fault. His question would never be answered.

As for the lady from Suburbana, Bob would learn later that she filed two more statements, one of which was at least five pages long. But Bob mysteriously remained 10% at fault.

What it came down to, Crusher explained later on, was a new "law" that had been made called comparative negligence. Since this "law" had come into effect, he told Bob, he had not paid 100% to anyone. So Bob called the

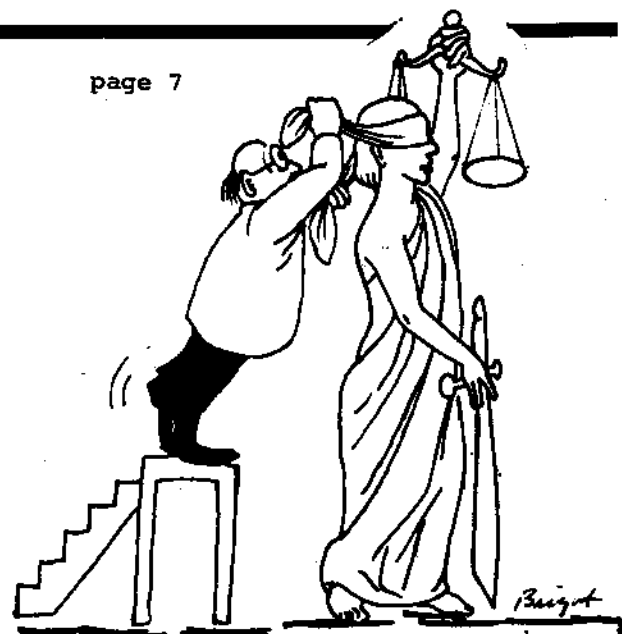
Hillynoise Board of Insurance in Sproingfield, where he was told that there was no such law. Rather it was a series of guidelines that some judge had made up to help insurance settlements to be more fairly decided. Unfortunately, the person said, some of the insurance companies were abusing the guidelines and using them as a means of deferring their settlements. 10% here, 20% there--it adds up. And all the Insurance Board could do was to recommend to the respective insurance companies a review of the settlements that they had made. But the only way they could do that was if the persons involved in the accidents approached them first. All in all, she said, the Board felt like a "tiger with no claws." The guidelines had no set standards, and the companies were being irresponsible because of that.

Bob's next step was to talk with the department head of the go-cart division at State Ranch, a man called Nave Weird. Mr. Weird told Bob he would look into the case overnight, speak with Mr. Crusher and Mr. Dozing, and call Bob back in the morning. When he did, Mr. Weird told Bob that he agreed with Bob that he was not at fault, but, Mr. Weird continued, he was not going to reverse the decision--even though he could--because he did not want to affect the way they made their decisions in the future, and he did not want them to question their competency. So Bob would have to accept the 10% fault so that Mr. Crusher and Mr. Dozing could feel good about themselves.

Something else that was really interesting was that Crusher had told Bob that his office did not have a copy of the guidelines, that they had only talked about them in a meeting. Yet Mr. Weird insisted that they must have a copy, that it was company policy.

Bob decided to go through Somestate to get his car fixed. Somestate wrote Bob a nice letter telling him that they would try to get 100% from State Ranch, yet in December they called Bob to say that they accepted the 90%/10% settlement. Bob was shocked. He called the Cheapcargo office of Somestate to find out why that had happened.

The woman he spoke to got Bob's file out and told Bob that it looked like Bob had run a yellow light and that was why he was at fault. Bob was really upset, because there was no traffic light at the corner of Croakland and Pain streets in Gloomington. Later on, the mysterious traffic light would disappear in the records, and Bob would never find out if it was in



the Somestate file or the State Ranch file.

Meanwhile, before this happened, Bob had talked to all kinds of people in the same predicament. He had tried to get some media coverage in newspapers and tv stations, but nobody would touch the story.

Even the Gloomington Seismograph said, "Don't call us, we'll call you." Bob would later be told by the Deputy State's Attorney that there was a conspiracy of silence because State Ranch employed so many people and advertised so much.

At home Bob was under a lot of strain. Helen was not sleeping nights because of severe headaches she started getting a few weeks after the accident. She had had occasional headaches before the accident, but they had traced those to her glasses being too weak for her and they had gotten new glasses for her. The headaches she was getting were a lot more severe, and they made her shoulders and neck as stiff as a board. So, in December, when she had a series of especially bad headaches, they decided it was time to see a chiropractor.

The chiropractor could not understand why Helen was so tense, so he ordered her to have X-rays taken of her neck and shoulders. The first thing the chiropractor who took the X-rays said to Helen was, "You've been in an accident, haven't you?" This was the first time Bob and Helen had even considered the possibility that the headaches were related to the accident. This would become important later on. As it happened, anyway, Helen had to see the chiropractor twice to three times a week after that.

Bob was now stuck. He had told Mr. Weird that he would pay 100% of the settlement if Mr. Weird, Mr. Crusher,

continued on next page

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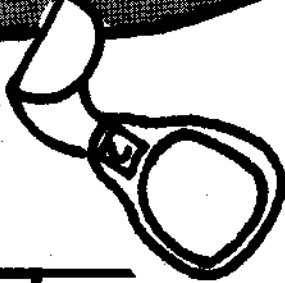
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A man, an accident

continued from preceding page

or Mr. Dozing could tell him what else he could have done, or what he had done wrong. Nobody could give him an answer. Yet he was still 10% at fault.

Time passed slowly for Bob and Helen. They had Bob's go-cart back, and eventually they were out only \$40 because of their insurance. But Bob was not happy. The people at State Ranch could not answer his question and finally Mr. Crusher refused to talk with Bob any more when Bob asked him to give a taped statement about the decision. As far as Mr. Crusher was concerned, the case was closed.

In February of the following year, Bob finally got hold of the Somestate accident file, but he could find no trace of the yellow light that he supposedly ran. It was explained to him then that the settlement was made by Somestate because Bob had hit the rear left fender of the Fraud Koogah, which indicated that there was enough time for most of the Koogah to get through the intersection, so Bob was not in control.

But Bob pointed out that he had swerved to the right to avoid the Koogah, he was braking, and the Koogah was accelerating, so obviously he hit her in the rear left. No good, he was told. If he had accelerated and hit her in the front, or if he had gone through her door and killed her, he would have been okay, but because he was so careful, he was in the wrong.

As for State Ranch, they had a different story when Bob went back to see Mr. Dozing with a Seismograph reporter who decided to do the story. Mr. Dozing told Bob that the decision was made with several of his colleagues and with much deliberation (yet Bob and Helen witnessed the decision when



they had given him the police report months before).

Dozing also said that they based their decision on a statement the Suburbana driver had given them. She had said that Bob was speeding (yet she originally said she had stopped, looked both ways, and did not see Bob).

Well, the story has not ended. Bob is still trying to clear his name, but with not much success. Helen is still going to the chiropractor; her headaches are still occurring, though not quite as severe.

Like all good fairytales, this one has morals. The morals of this tale are: a. of course this could never happen in America; b. that someone cannot be presumed guilty until proven innocent; and c. insurance companies aren't always necessarily in the insurance business.

This story, by the way, is of course a fabrication. Any resemblance to real people or real events, though tragic, is purely coincidental. Drive safely. You aren't as protected as you think you are.

--Bob Sabga



'Ladies' greet Schlafly

Cleveland--Local feminists became "ladies" and outdid Phyllis Schlafly on Feb. 12 during Schlafly's appearance at the City Club.

In *These Times* reports that in honor of Schlafly's visit the Pro-Choice Action Committee and the Akron NOW chapter transformed themselves into Ladies Against Women (LAW) and the Coalition for Harboring Indefinite Chastity and Kaffee-klatsch Sentimentality (CHICKS). Outside the City Club, the "ladies" carried signs reading "Suffering Not Suffrage," "Sperm Are People Too," and "You're Nobody Till You're Mrs. Somebody."

Chants included "Hit us again, hit us again! Harder, harder!" and "Fifty-nine cents is to-o-o much!"

Inside the club, several barefoot and evidently pregnant "ladies" joined members intent on listening to Schlafly's speech.

Publicity released before the event listed as co-sponsors such groups as Another Mother for World Domination, The Vulture Forum, League to Protect Separate Bedrooms, Bedtime for Bonzo Anti-Evolution League, Voice of the Unconceived, Future Fetuses of America, and the National Association for the Advancement of Rich White Straight Men.

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Our first year--how it all began

It had casual, swollen lettering for a masthead, a marijuana leaf for a symbol, fifteen cents for a price and this motto: "Man (sic) is Descended from Guerillas." Neither masthead, leaf, motto, nor price were to remain after five issues. The paper and its name, though, were to stick around awhile.

The first issue of the Post Amerikan came out on April 3, 1972, the day it came back from its printer (a print co-op in Champaign that has since gone the way of a lot of early seventies co-ops). Produced by members of the ISU community (faculty member Rex Rexford wrote most of the first issue's articles), the premiere P-A issue sold out on campus in only two days.

"That was perhaps the height of freak identity on campus," Chuck Willer, an early Post worker recalls, "probably three years behind the rest of the country. We sold almost a thousand copies of the paper just by hawking to students on the quad."

Much of the Post's early material came out of this sense of freak identity. In the opening issue's eight pages appeared: "Rock vs. Computer" (a criticism of computerized rock station WBNQ-FM), "May Day Is J-Day" (a call for massive public dope smoke-ins), and a record review. There was also a report on the protest spurred by then Secretary of Defense Mel Laird's dinner appearance at Bloomington's Scottish Rite Temple. Title of the last article: "Laird Eats It." A two-page centerspread poster rounded the issue out.

"Will B-N support its own 'underground' publication?" the issue's opening editorial asked. "The Post-Amerikan is not certain of that question, but we have enough confidence that the answer is 'yes' to begin a community newspaper that will be published on a bi-weekly basis, even during the summer."

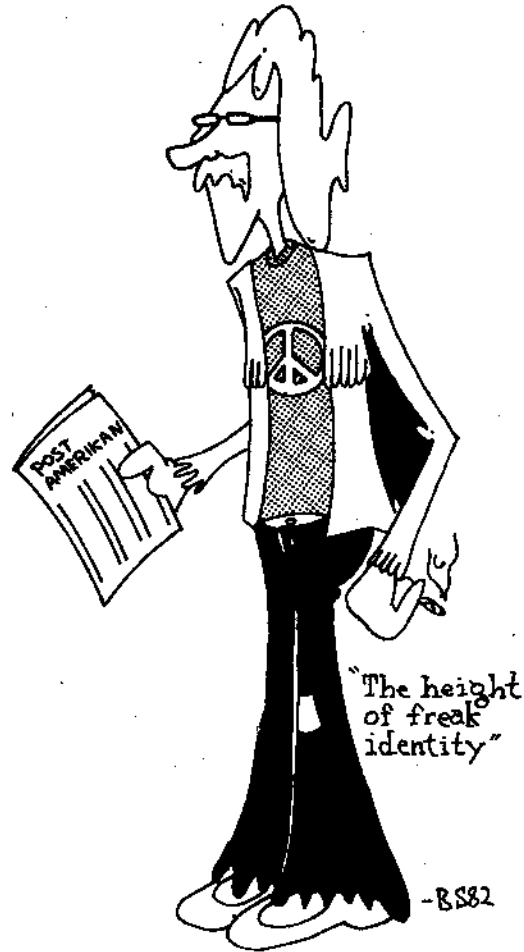
The early P-A was far from a community paper, however. Its strong university ties kept it school-oriented--all of its staff were either faculty, student or married to faculty or student. But it had hopes.

It would take time to come close to realizing those hopes, though. In the meantime, issue two came out, with a faculty member's three-page diatribe against the educational system (and ISU's teacher education program in particular), a reprint article condemning sociology (that was as boring as it sounds), another two-page poster, the first installment of a bizarre serial entitled "Captain Commie Ciller," and a cartoon condemnation of local group Citizens for Decency and their campaign against stag films on campus. That cartoon was the first to appear in the P-A by Bill Sherman, whose scratchy, half-formed work was to dominate the paper's graphics for much of the early years.

Several anti-war reprints appeared in that second issue, and they signalled the thrust of the paper's next two issues. Members of Concerned Students Union, a loose-knit group of ISU radicals, planned a series of spring anti-war activities (right at the start of

Nixon's big bombing push in Vietnam), and the Post worked to publicize these protests--as well as the controversies surrounding them.

Issue three, also, contained the P-A's first articles on the women's movement: a review of the Chicago Women's Liberation Rock Band, an article on ISU's new Women's Center entitled "Women's Center Trucks Along" (remember trucking?), and "Women Protest Yourselfes."



But many freaks and radicals at the time, including those associated with the P-A, had ambivalent (to put it nicely) attitudes towards the women's movement, and these articles almost didn't make it into the paper. It would be almost a year, in fact, before the paper and its staff actively embraced feminist articles. Before that would come a series of controversies that would fragment the paper's staff.

Other controversies, though, were of primary concern during those first issues. Rexford, dissatisfied with the Concerned Students Union and suspicious of their (non-violent) campus protest, was to write a condemnation of campus anti-war activity. After writing it, and submitting it for the fourth issue, he resigned from the paper.

That left the Post without its foremost backer and writer. Willer and Sherman, the latter fresh from a tenure as editor of ISU's student paper, stepped in and pulled together the fourth issue. Most of issue four's articles were written with speed and speculation. One article, entitled "Kops," for instance, was little more than a series of nasty comments about the Bloomington city calendar's blurb describing its police department..

Issue four was also the last bi-weekly Post.

Number five was advertised as the first monthly issue as well as the paper's first free issue. The paper has remained somewhat monthly, but it was free only once. Its cover was a parody of an ISU Vidette collage cover--certainly somewhat of a mistake for a paper that kept insisting it wanted to branch out into the community--and its contents were similar to issue four's: anti-war reprints, music and movie reviews, and theoretical pieces. The Post's minuscule staff was more concerned with getting a paper out than with content changes.

But with its July issue, number six, the Post Amerikan finally took a step towards its long-professed goal of being a community paper. Until then, the paper had been loosely structured around its one or two "editors," its articles haphazardly sought out among friends and acquaintances. But now steps were being taken toward building a co-operative staff. The paper's first staff recruiting meeting was called.

While much of the staff that arose from this meeting was still university-linked (and basically friends with each other), a change was heralded in the July issue with an editorial written "from an ex-editor's desk": "This issue is the first one comprised by new and outside people, a larger group than before. Hopefully, it is better rounded. We hope to keep it so."

The Post's masthead had changed, and the paper cost a dime. Its monthly issues started being put together more consciously, its staff holding meetings just to argue over content and theory. Its cover story, celebrating the new look, left campus and concerned itself with the forming of a new community food co-op.

It would take some time for the paper to shed its university image, however. For one thing, it was still burdened with more theory than news. (Issue seven contained, though, perhaps the first real Post-style local story: a report of an adult bookstore raid written by paper newcomer Mark Silverstein, who would become one of the paper's most visible reporters.) The staff was new and unused to putting together a real monthly community paper.

But it was on its way. ●

--D. Colt (reprinted from P-A, vol. 6, #1, with revisions by Bill Sherman)

Post Amerikan, vol. 11, #1



April 1982 page 9



Post - Amerikan

To highlight the varied perspectives on the Post-Amerikan, its history, and its role in the community, we asked public officials, leaders of community organizations, and other long-time readers to send us a few words of congratulation or comment on our tenth anniversary. Here are the letters we received.

Dear Post,

The Post-Amerikan is ten years old. It hardly seems possible. It seems like the fifth anniversary was only a couple of years ago.

That the Post has survived for ten years without a "chain of command" is quite remarkable. It is a tribute to the determination and diversity of the paper's staff.

The Post fills a community role; its longevity proves that. The Post is also a unique blend of excellent reporting and absurd trash (with everything in between those extremes). I manage to find something objectionable in almost every issue, while I also find exceptional material a few pages away.

The most memorable issue I recall was the "Garbage" edition when the Post raided the MEG trashbin and gave the public another view of the narc squad. That issue made the Peoria MEG unit the laughing-stock of law enforcement in Illinois for months afterwards.

Congratulations to the Post on the first decade. Best wishes for the second decade.

Mike Richardson
former publisher of the
Galesburg Free Voice

Dear Post:

From a believer in the free flow of information and all that other journalistic stuff, thanks for being around to help stimulate thought.

Despite what some people say, you know, you do have something in common with the New York Times. Most of their writers have funny names too.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

Bernie Schoenburg
Pantagraph reporter

Dear Post-Amerikan,

No one person could possibly recollect a place and time in history where so many of such supposed and magnificent talent could produce so much wordiness with such little effect, result, and influence.

It is, indeed, as if your critics, detractors, and "the authorities" had dictated this ground plan, and your staff merely followed it through.

Therefore, I suppose, you should be both enlightened and congratulated on this, your 10th anniversary.

Thank you,

Ray 'Spike' Spakowski
Pink's Pizza

Dear Post,

Can it really be 10 years since the Post-Amerikan was founded? A sure sign that we're all getting old.

The most outrageous things I have seen in the Post were Mark in his Che Gueverra outfit and a picture of me grinning like a Cheshire cat. The most disappointing was no one interviewing me on my talk with Castro.

In all seriousness, I do believe the Post has provided a voice for people with differing points of view who would, otherwise, have difficulty in expressing them through other channels. You have raised issues that that, subsequently, received broader airing as a result.

And I have to say that with me, at any rate, you have been fair. I was wronged in an article in which the reporter misquoted me, and you gave me the opportunity to correct the situation at length.

My major problem with the Post would be the same that I have for any medium that practices advocacy journalism, that of not presenting a balanced picture of both sides, but that is a criticism I have of national news magazines, some television news feature programs, and selected other media. At least, with the Post, we know that it is an advocate.

From my own standpoint, I have tried and hopefully succeeded to treat the Post and its staff fairly. And since I do believe in freedom of the press, along with belief in the need for a responsible press, I certainly concur in the thought that in a democracy, all points of view must be heard.

Cordially,

Dick Godfrey
Mayor of Normal

Dear Post-Amerikan,

Happy anniversary!

Upon retrospection, I realize that my relationship with the Post has endured through two marriages, four cities, two states, and a major career change. Are you ready for mid-life crisis?

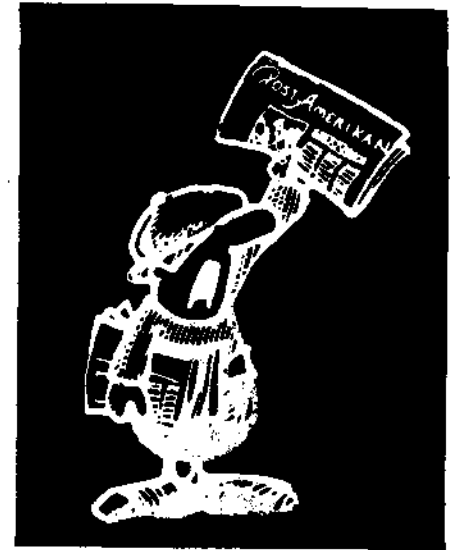
The most outrageous and wonderful thing I've ever seen was the Post picture of the sheriff walking down the street picking his nose. On the serious side, the Post provided support and encouragement, plus the only fair press coverage, during the Springfield Homemaker's Strike in 1979.

My favorite things in the Post are articles by Deborah Wiatt, Mark Silverstein, and Phoebe Caulfield. Deborah because she believes in the tooth fairy, Mark because of his unswerving dedication to uncovering corruption and injustice, and Phoebe because of her unswerving dedication to uncovering the ludicrous.

Thanks, Post. Hope we both make it another ten.

Love,

Pamela Sioux-Hogans
Colorado reader



Dear Post:

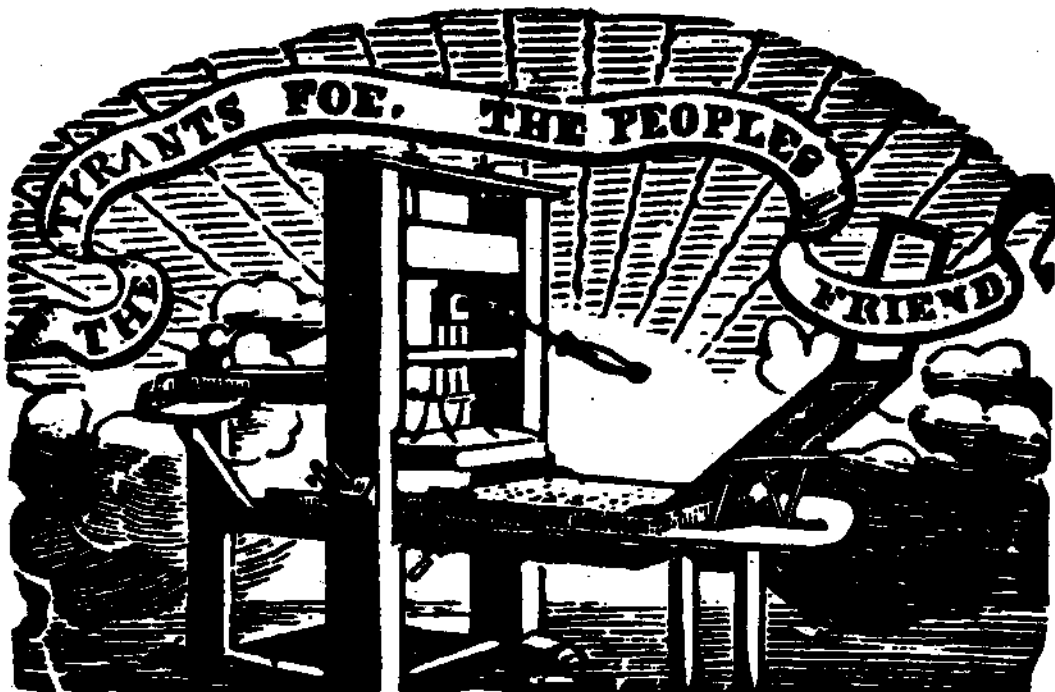
The Post-Amerikan has certainly given many Bloomington-Normal officials, and some other citizens, food for thought on many occasions. Your portrayal of some events, in my opinion, has been rather sensational and overstated. However, in most cases, you express a point of view that deserves consideration. I am not a regular reader of the Post-Amerikan. Most of the issues I see are those when someone brings a special article to my attention. In particular, my contacts with you have always resulted in my learning from a different perspective and I hope, at least sometimes, that you have felt the same way.

Yes, I certainly do still believe in freedom of the press even though, at times, I believe that the general public has some difficulty in coping with information as it is dispensed by the free press. I believe the press does owe it to the public to differentiate between opinion and fact and partial disclosure as opposed to full disclosure of information. Then, I believe the public would be better informed and better educated.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to express a few opinions to you. And I certainly can state to you that my feeling toward you and your operation is much more positive than negative.

Yours very truly,

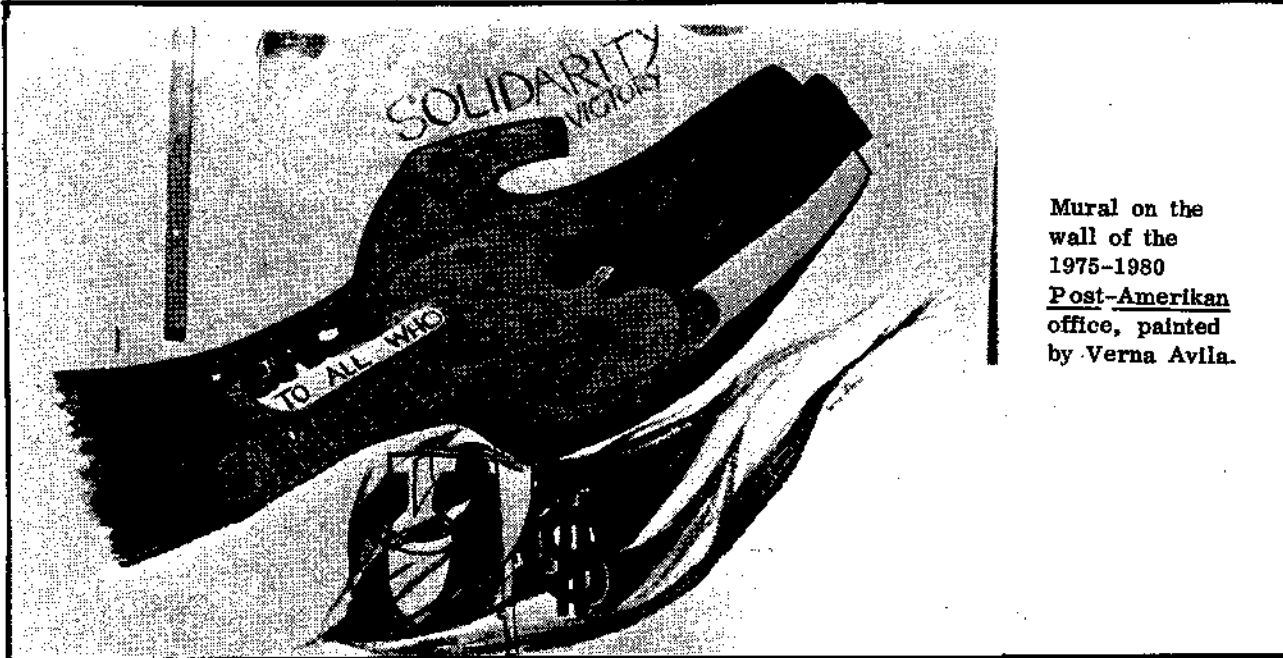
Bill Vall
City Manager of
Bloomington



Birthday Party!



Post Amerikan,
vol. 11, #1
April 1982
page 11



Mural on the wall of the 1975-1980 Post-Amerikan office, painted by Verna Avila.

Dear People,

Hey thanks! What should I say? I could start out by saying that if one more obscure, left-wing, so-called "newspaper" sends me one more letter asking for my praise and endorsement I'm gonna scream. What do you want from me, anyway?

I know it's been ten years. I know you've worked your asses off to make the Post-Amerikan the great publication it is today. In the past I have even been allowed to make my own small contribution to your paper. Your dedication has paid off. The Post has been a strong force in the B-N area for ten years now. And the struggle continues. Please don't stop. My monthly Post is like a letter from home. Many of these writers are my friends. All of these writers do their very best to keep the Post-Amerikan strong and relevant.

Hey thanks!

R. Jay Gibson
New Orleans reader

Dear Post,

Congratulations to the Post on 10 years of successful publication. Over the last 10 years, the Post has made important contributions to the free flow of information in our community. That contribution has been greatest when it has investigated and exposed local outrages such as the activities of MEG, the monopolization of the building industry, and the city of Bloomington's transgression of the separation of church and state. Keep up the good work.

Tom Eimermann
American Civil Liberties Union

Post-Amerikan,

Congratulations on ten years of alternative publishing in Bloomington.

I grew up in Bloomington and was trained in parochial schools. In my youth I was convinced I was not only exceptional but somehow a misfit. Much later I discovered that I was merely gay. That fact has colored the rest of my life and relationships.

What has impressed me most about your paper is your willingness to cover items of interest to gay people. Bloomington is still a small town with a lot of people who are threatened because of variant sexual preferences. Oh, yes, tolerance, perhaps, but honesty is not yet a characteristic of most "religious" people.

Keep up your efforts, your coverage of gay news alternatives to the established media.

A suggestion: Soon you should block out where you want the P-A to be in ten more years, not only as a newspaper and a public forum--also look to your own individual personal goals.

A friend in Houston

Dear Post-Toasties,

Congratulations on the first 10 years!

I have lived in a number of central Illinois towns over the last ten years, but the Post has been the most rewarding and educational experience.

In solidarity,
Greg Stoewer
Post staff member,
1975-1978

Dear Post-Amerikan,

We thank you for a decade of concise and unbiased reporting where the black community is concerned. Of course, we do not receive fair and accurate reporting from the guardian of the twin cities, the Pantagraph; this we understand. But this only means that it was not intended to serve the black community; therefore, since the black community, due to our own unwillingness, has not developed a press to serve ourselves, we will find ourselves being subjected to the winds of prejudice and racism.

We know that a lot of negative attention has surrounded the Post but that wasn't enough to make you call it quits, and that's good. More than anything else it gave us something in common in the eyes of the Establishment. Think about it--the despised, the rejected, the unloved, the unwanted--is this not black people in this country? I'm sure you met with some of that same kind of treatment in establishing yourself here. So we thank you very humbly for providing a fair vehicle for the black people of this county to express their views. Congratulations.

Sincerely,
Gary Gaston
Local reader

Dear Post,

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary! Many more of the same!

Here's my comment: X X X X X

There may have been times when the Post-Amerikan has tested our commitment to the "open marketplace of ideas," yet without it that marketplace would be significantly poorer.

And, of all the mass media in our region, the Post-Amerikan most closely resembles what the American press was like 200 years ago when the First Amendment gave us freedom of the press.

Today, when cynics say that only those corporations which own presses have this first freedom, they must add, "except for a few publications like the Post-Amerikan."

Those of us who think freedom of the press should belong to the people need the Post-Amerikan more than we realize.

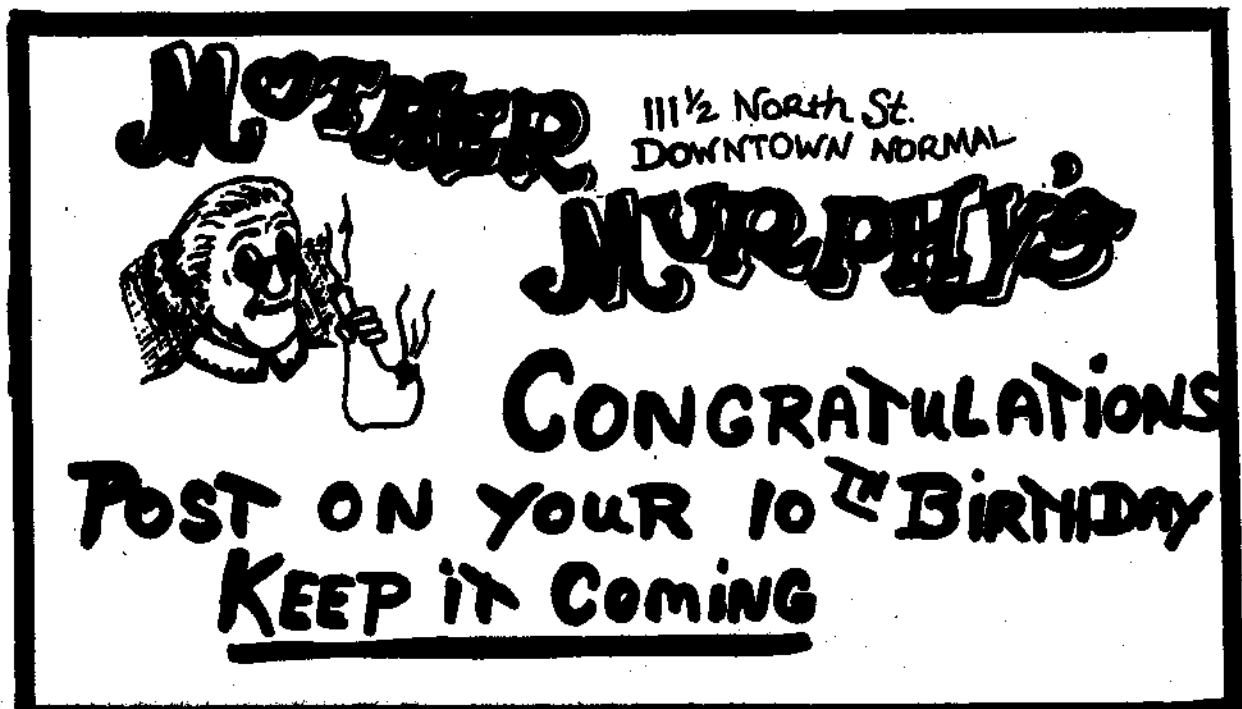
Here's to the next 90 years.

Sincerely,
Mike Shelly
Journalism Coordinator,
Illinois State Univ.

Dear Post,

On behalf of the Bloomington Human Relations Commission, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Post-Amerikan newspaper for ten years of press coverage in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. A paper such as the Post-Amerikan makes for interesting reading and occupies a useful place in our community. Best of wishes on your 10th anniversary.

Sincerely,
Tim Walker
Executive Director,
Bloomington HRC





Berlo resigns!

An early victim of the Post-Amerikan's combination of sleazy character assassination and solid investigative reporting, ISU president David Berlo resigned just when we were getting warmed up. The triumphant photo was shot during a short-lived student takeover of the President's office.

Food: A special 17-page section

Paraquat & pot, p. 4

Bloomington-Normal
POST-AMERIKAN
 Vol. 7 No. 1
 May 1978

While fighting for their first union contract in 1978, Normal firefighters spent two months on strike, including six weeks in jail. The Post-Amerikan, its staff, and friends helped organize community support for the strikers, who eventually won a decisive victory.

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Nixon's presidency gave us lots of material for jeering, ridicule, and gut-level political commentary, like this ugly characterization.

Bloomington-Normal
POST-AMERIKAN
 December 1973
 VOL 2 NO 3

HA HA HA!
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Inside: Red Wheel & Gen Tel-Exposed!
 BEHIND CLINTON POWER PLANT
 new co-op network

Taking seriously the investigative reporter's mission to dig up dirt, Post staffers stole several sacks of MEG's garbage early in 1979. Although the undercover narcs had ripped their paperwork to shreds before disposal, teams of Post jigsaw puzzlers re-assembled the pieces. The result: a special issue with tons of information on the covert narcs' clandestine operations.

Bloomington-Normal
POST-AMERIKAN
 March 1979
 Vol. VII No. 9

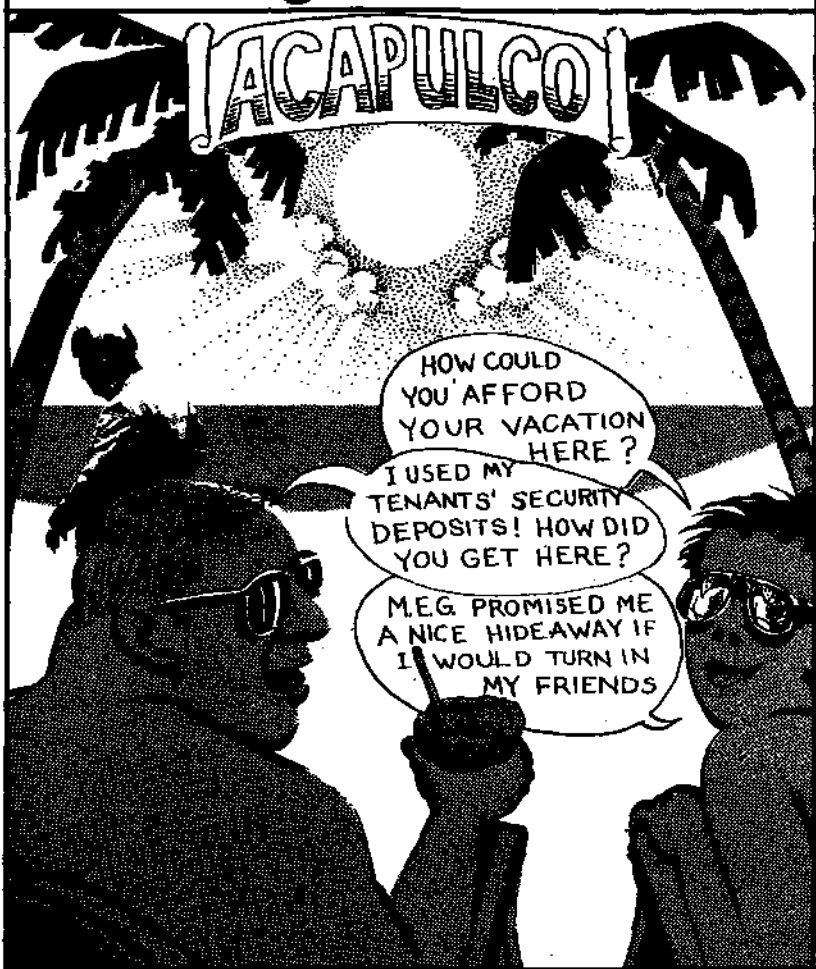
P-A PRINTS TRASH
 section 9-24
 LAND MINE

CONTENTS: Memos, letters, reports, orange peels, agents' phone messages, pot seeds, case lists, chicken bones, informers' notes, Post-Amerikans...

POST-AMERIKAN
 BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 142
 BLOOMINGTON, I.
 61701

MEDICAL CARE M.E.G. CHOWS DOWN DR. RUDNICKI
 ZIONISM & RACISM TENANTS GET JUSTICE BIG MAC

December 1975 Bloomington-Normal 25.
POST AMERIKAN
 Vol. IV No. 9



A combination plate: this cover covers our continuing attacks on both slumlords and narcs. Note the strange fellow under the palm tree on the left. He is a real narc, disguised to foil Post photographers.

We've always enthusiastically supported gay liberation. One of our few genuinely pretty covers, this androgynous figure graces an issue focusing on gay pride.

dumpsters; turkey busts; retraction; stateville; county jail
 Bloomington-Normal
POST AMERIKAN
 Vol. VII No. 2
 June-July 1977

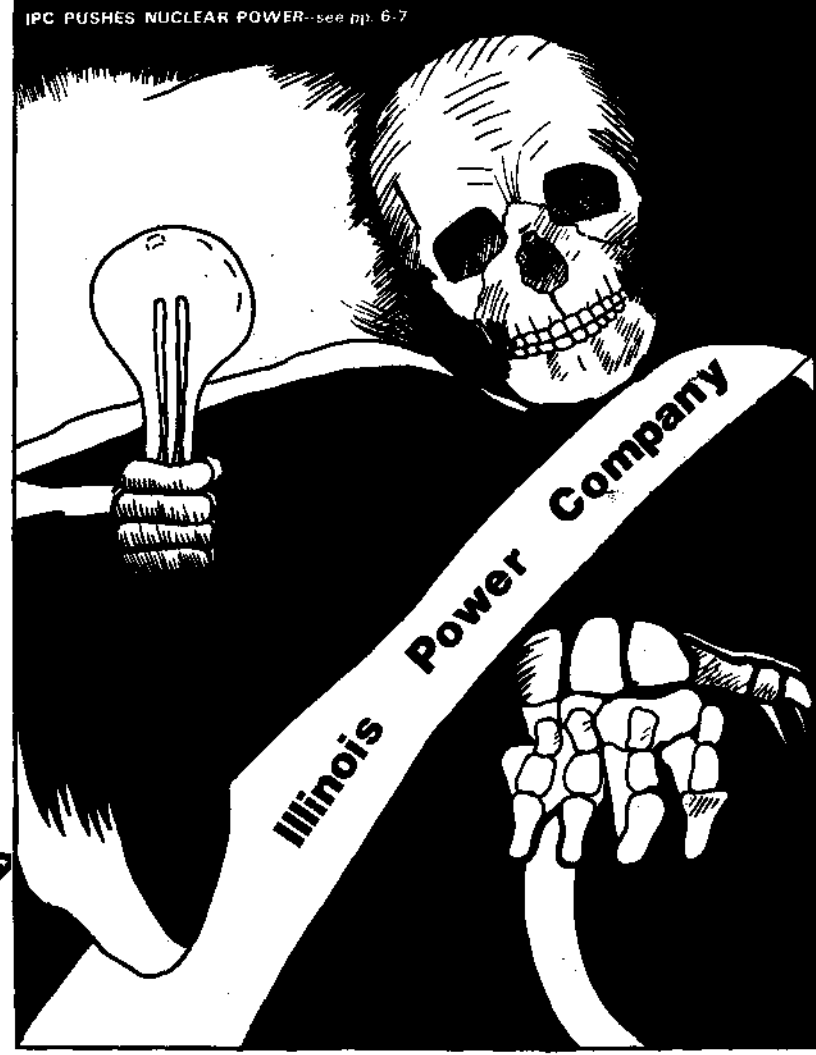


Ten years after:
 gay pride marches on pages 9-24
 My son, the gay person page 13
 Lesbian mothers page 14
 Gay rage page 18



Gen Tel; P.O.; Housing; Jail; Cops; MEG; A...

POST AMERIKAN
 IPC PUSHES NUCLEAR POWER--see pp. 6-7



The figure of death has often appeared on our cover--too often, Michael says. This time, Death represents the grasping Illinois Power Company, a familiar foe, forcing us to buy a nuke plant with our electric bills.

We thought attacking the commercialization of Easter with a cover featuring a crucified Easter bunny was hilarious. But members of Normal's powerful Cavalry Baptist Church couldn't take a joke. A committee began paying personal visits to Post sales outlets, threatening that they would be boycotted by the 1500-member fundamentalist congregation if they continued to sell the Post-American.

compost, missiles, nukes, jails, mortgages, pigheads, nuts
 BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
POST AMERIKAN
 Vol. 9 No. 1
 April 1980





'How come you

When we talk to folks about the Post-Amerikan, it seems people often ask about our relationship with the law. Do we get a lot of harassment? Do we ever get sued? Do government officials put legal obstacles in our way?

Most of the time, actually, the law has worked for us--but only when we have the energy, the knowledge and the free time to make it do so. The following little stories will give you an idea of how we've managed to squeeze by the obstacles of the State for ten years.

While covering a story on overzealous enforcement of shoplifting laws at Normal's Eisner store, Post writer Mark Silverstein visited the grocery to snap a photo of the store's undercover plainclothes cop. Normal police Sgt. Frank Fillipponi moonlighted at Eisner's, endlessly circling the aisles behind a half-full grocery cart, watching, watching.

Confrontation developed after Silverstein snapped the undercover cop's photo. After being informed that picture-taking was against store policy, Silverstein agreed to refrain. But Fillipponi pushed the issue, demanding that the Post photographer expose his film to light.

Confused by his double role as a cop and an Eisner employee, Fillipponi said that violating store policy was against state law. If the Post staffer would not ruin the film, Fillipponi threatened, then Silverstein would be placed under arrest.

He was, resulting in one of the shortest court cases in McLean County. ACLU attorney Gary Johnson got the charges dismissed before Silverstein even got into the courtroom for arraignment. The film was returned, intact, in time for the Post-Amerikan deadline.

Members of the Normal city council tried to suppress distribution of the Post-Amerikan in 1976. Acting on complaints from owners of Chuck's Deli and the Alamo II, the council directed city corporation counsel Frank Miles to draft an ordinance which would prohibit vending machines on the city's sidewalks. Council members openly admitted that the Post-Amerikan's coin-operated boxes in front of downtown Normal businesses inspired their action.

Unfortunately for the council, Frank Miles reported at the next meeting, the U.S. Constitution guarantees newspapers the right to place vending machines on sidewalks.

The council passed an ordinance banning soda pop machines from the sidewalks, and went on to the next item of business.

A city council member's retaliation for past Post-Amerikan stories shut down a major portion of the paper's distribution system in 1974, when Bloomington police suddenly began enforcing a long-forgotten ordinance. Acting on orders from council member S.S. "Joe" Schneider, police ordered the Post-Amerikan's coin-operated newspaper vending machines removed from the city's sidewalks.

Schneider was getting back at the Post for articles which revealed that both he and city treasurer Paul Krueger had illegally failed to disclose certain bank stockholdings on forms required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. After writing the articles, Post staffer Mark Silverstein filed criminal

charges against the two officials.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union and the Supreme Court, Bloomington's ordinance violated the principle of freedom of speech along the public right of way. Threatened with court action, the Bloomington city council passed a new ordinance in 1975, which specifically permitted newspaper vending machines on the sidewalks.

(Meanwhile, the State's Attorney dismissed the ethics charges against the two city officials, because there was "no evidence of criminal intent" in their violation of the law. Besides, hadn't they suffered enough?)

Some of the Post-Amerikan's earliest investigative reporting began in the spring of 1973, with a series unraveling the cover-up of just how much ISU President David Berlo had overspent his authorization to build and furnish the university's presidential house.

Even with an observer from the American Civil Liberties Union present, University VP Eric Johnson flatly refused to allow Post reporters to see such obviously public records as purchase orders and vouchers. It took a

strongly worded letter from the ACLU, with the threat of court action, before Post reporters gained access to the records, which showed that Berlo had diverted funds from numerous university accounts to hide his overspending on his presidential mansion. Many attribute Berlo's subsequent resignation to pressure generated by revelations of his lies about his overspending, which was the subject of an Illinois House committee investigation at the time he quit.

The Department of Corrections Administrative Regulations, incorporating decisions of federal courts, guarantee that penitentiary prisoners can have just about any reading material they want, short of bomb-making manuals or hard-core pornography. Every penitentiary in the state except one allows prisoners to receive the Post-Amerikan without interference. But ever since the Post began covering details of life in Pontiac penitentiary in 1979, the prison administration has refused to allow the paper behind the walls. A prisoner's lawsuit is taking the issue to federal court.

On several occasions in 1975 and 1976, MEG chief Jerry LaGrow asked the McLean County State's Attorney's office to file charges against Post-Amerikan workers who snapped photos of undercover agents entering and leaving the courthouse. According to State's Attorney Ron Dozier, LaGrow wanted P-A workers charged with disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, or anything the state's attorney's office could dream up. Dozier, who was an assistant state's attorney at the time, recalls that his boss, Paul Welch, turned MEG down.

How we (excuse the expression) work

You may have been wondering how the Post has kept going for ten years and exactly how we do it. There is no exactly how, but I can give you some general ideas.

Get it out of your mind that someone is making a buck. No one is paid; the paper itself doesn't pile up extra money; funds from advertising and contributions and sales pay for the printing, office, materials, and equipment. We work regular jobs, or try to.

Post staff is divided into three groups, according to level of commitment. Bluebirds are folks who are committed to coming to the weekly meetings and regularly contributing to the everyday work of getting the paper out. Redbirds can take or leave the meetings, but regularly do important tasks like taking care of the machines, distributing papers, feeding the staff during layout week-

end, typing mailing labels, and agreeing to drive ninety miles to take the paper to the printer on half-a-day's notice during a snowstorm in a vehicle that we're pretty sure will make it, but. . . .

Post-Toasties are everyone else, maybe including you, who put out good vibrations about the paper and irregularly help us out by doing things like selling tickets or leaf-letting for a benefit, finding new advertisers, and turning us on to articles.

We don't have an editor. The boss role is fulfilled by a different brave soul each issue, who is called the coordinator. This person is supposed to keep track of articles and ads, organize the production process, and lie awake worrying. Luckily, we have enough coordinators so that each of us has to do it only once every nine months or so.

We edit the articles, make the ads, type everything in columns, decide which articles to print and where in the paper they will go, and paste everything down so it's ready for the printer's camera, all during the amazing period called layout weekend. It begins on Friday evening and goes until we're done on Sunday evening. On Monday morning someone takes it to the printer and waits for it, then brings it back to the office where distribution people take it to stores, machines, and dorms, and send out the subscriptions.

At the next meeting we do a page-by-page critique of the paper and report any responses we've gotten to it. We congratulate ourselves, breathe a sigh of relief that nothing was too messed up, and begin to think about doing it all again.

--Phoebe Caulfield

guys aren't in jail?'



General Telephone Company's security detectives looked up Post-Amerikan staffers in late 1973, threatening to send us to jail if we continued publishing certain types of articles the phone company didn't like. Seems that Gen Tel had gotten themselves a special law passed in Springfield, aimed specifically at the alternative press, which had a nasty habit of printing information which tipped readers on how to make free long distance calls. Besides turning readers on to the credit card code every year, the Post-Amerikan had also published plans which showed how to build a "red box"--an electronic gadget which tricked the phone company's equipment into thinking that a long distance call hadn't even happened.

Despite our feeling that Gen Tel's new law was an unconstitutional prior restraint on freedom of the press, we backed off. Who had time and money for a court fight?

Across the country, phone companies were getting similar laws passed in state legislatures, but the campaign to shut up the underground press wasn't totally effective. To this day, Overthrow (formerly Yipster Times) continues to print the credit card code. Overthrow can be contacted at POB 392, Canal St. Station, New York, NY, 10012.

When Judge John Campbell expelled two Post reporters from his courtroom and conducted a trial behind locked doors in 1978, the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board thought they finally had something they could nail the erratic judge on. It took a year, but the people who investigate judges for misconduct finally filed the equivalent of an indictment against Campbell, who was forced to sit through a formal trial-like hearing before the Illinois Courts Commission in 1980. After listening to two days of testimony, the judges who make up the Courts Commission had to choose sides between a couple of hippie reporters and an eccentric member of their own profession. Judge Campbell got off.

Declaring that the Post-Amerikan was "not a bona-fide newspaper," Bloomington Police Chief Harold Bosshardt in 1975 barred Post reporters from seeing the same police reports made available to reporters from WJBC and the Pantagraph. He changed his tune shortly thereafter, after the American Civil Liberties Union threatened to sue on behalf of the Post-Amerikan.

The earliest Post-Amerikans were sold mostly by street hawkers peddling the paper to passers-by. Across the country, underground papers were subject to haphazard police harassment, and Post hawkers kept a wary eye out for patrol cars. Returning home from a post-midnight spree of paper selling outside Bloomington's old Red Lion Inn, a Post hawker thought he was in for it when two cop cars, lights flashing and sirens blaring, pulled him over. But the cops just wanted to buy a couple copies of the Post-Amerikan for themselves.



November 1974. The second demonstration in three weeks against Sheriff John King's treatment of prisoners, which included beatings and use of medieval punishment cells known as the black box and the stand-up cell.

Equipped with helmets and riot batons, police lost their cool, and began pushing and clubbing demonstrators to clear the streets.

Post-Amerikan photographer Dave Nelson was getting it all on film.

After a lull in the confrontation, police suddenly charged down Main St. Bloomington police Sgt. Charlie Crowe,

commander of the police riot squad, personally moved for photographer Nelson.

Although Nelson offered no resistance, Crowe grabbed the photographer and threw him through Kresge's plate glass window.

As he was being led to the squad car, Nelson successfully passed his camera to friends in the crowd, keeping the film out of police hands. He was acquitted in a jury trial nine months later, as was Post staffer Jim Thomas, who was also busted at the demonstration.

The activities of Post-Amerikan workers forced McLean County to alter its procedures for dealing with drug delivery cases. In late 1976, State's Attorney Ron Dozier told the Pantagraph that Post-Amerikan photographers and sketch artists had been too successful in capturing the likenesses of undercover narcotics agents for publication. Henceforth, Dozier said,

drug cases would go through the grand jury, which allows agents to testify in secret. In addition, use of the grand jury eliminates the defendants' rights to a preliminary hearing, a stage in the criminal proceedings that required agents to appear and risk being photographed.

Because a Post-Amerikan artist could sketch portraits of narcotics agents so well, authorities tried to bar him from a courtroom early in 1976.

Assistant State's Attorney Brad Murphy moved that a preliminary hearing which required the testimony of a narcotics agent be closed to the public. When the judge agreed to hear the motion, Murphy asked that the hearing on the motion also be closed to the public. It was. But since Post workers waiting outside could observe through the courtroom's glass door, Murphy had the hearing moved to another courtroom.

After a closed hearing on whether to close the preliminary hearing, Judge Kelley ruled in favor of the Post-Amerikan. The preliminary hearing was opened up, and Post artist Jim Ecklund sketched the narc as he testified.

From the time Post-Amerikan reporters first attended their meetings in 1975, members of the MEG Board of Directors resented the fact that the Illinois Open Meetings Act required them to admit the alternative press. MEG's efforts to get the law amended failed in 1977, but they didn't give up.

In early 1979, a Post-Amerikan reporter and an honest state's attorney stopped the MEG Board from conducting an illegal executive session, which was to have discussed "vehicles, tactics and personnel." Since only "personnel" was a legal topic for a non-public meeting, MEG was forced to discuss the other matters in front of Post reporters, or not at all. The board passed a resolution to talk to legislators on the matter.

In late 1979, MEG got its way. The Open Meetings Act was amended. Now organizations like MEG boards may exclude the press from meetings that talk about informant sources, assigning undercover personnel, purchase of undercover cars, prior or future investigations, or any budget matters regarding these subjects.

A popular regular feature in the Post-American during 1973 was the crossword puzzle, created with high hilarity by two staff members and worked, in the same spirit, by hundreds of readers, who we suspect cheated. You can too-- if you can't put your head back ten years, the answers are on page 23. This puzzle appeared in Vol. 2, No. 9, December 1973.

ANOTHER

NEW, GIP, COUNTERCULTURE and =REVOLUTIONARY... CROSSWORD puzzle!

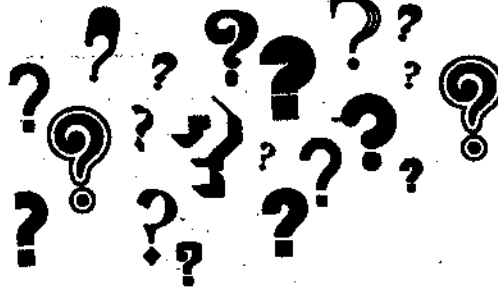
Across

1. Think tank Kilsberg worked for
5. An aunt who is main character in a movie often shown around New Year's.
9. Where the US and USSR compete for inecllity: the space ----.
13. an uncle tom cookie
14. subject of Skinnerian brain-washing in A Clockwork Orange
15. Expression of incredulity used by old comic-strip characters, but never by anyone you know.
16. Concept important in both existential philosophy and olympic high-jump
17. What you put your #19 across on
19. What you better get in gear
20. What you watch when you're too stoned to do anything else
22. Brain waves involved in heavy meditation
24. One of a pair of syndicate tools
25. On ---- Hawkin's Day in L'il Abner, the women chase the men
27. Where rich people go to relax from the tensions of administrative duties..
30. a good type of dope; mythical in most cases
32. What we'll be saying to Nixon soon
33. It's -- against them
35. Where the bourgeoisie barbeque
37. US organization that helped overthrow Allende
39. What adheres firmly to hippie skin, according to Red-neck jokes

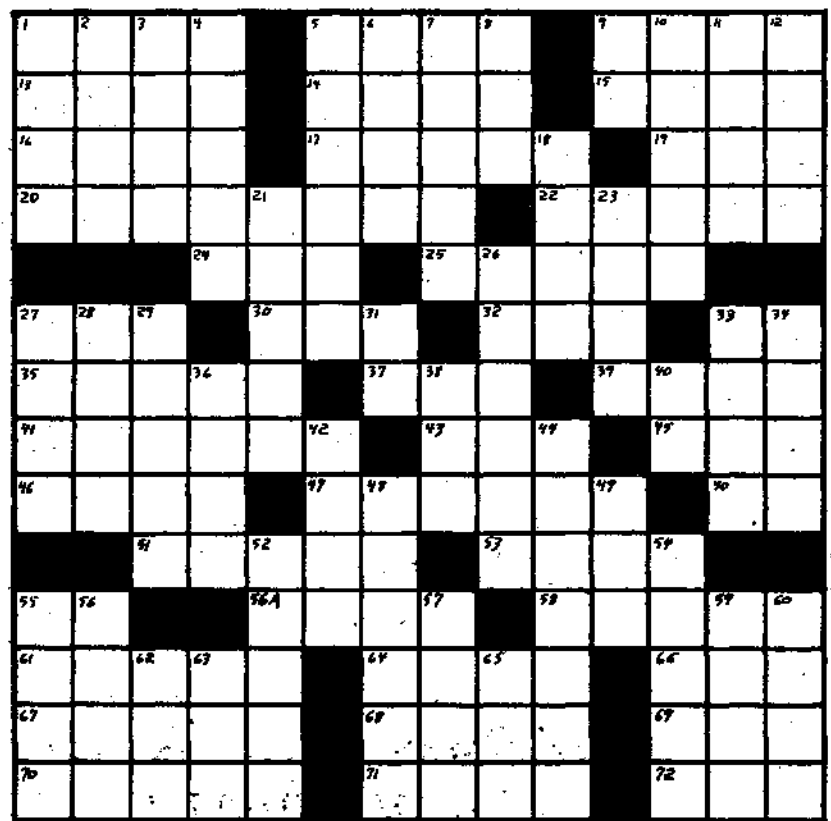
41. What you won't be getting in your gas, cause you won't be getting gas anymore
43. Common first word of a statement in an argument
45. School of Oriental wisdom translated as "the path" or "the way"
46. A person of the group which agelst advertising says is the best, happiest, and most attractive
47. You might do something just for this
50. Typical instrument of entertainment among stoned people
51. You can tell reactionaries by the color of their ----
53. How long it usually takes to start getting off on LSD
55. initials of Sebastian Dangerfield
- 56A (sorry) Royal Society for Haters of Society (abbr.)
58. Product of lots of beer drinking
61. State of necessity, as in "I ---- go to the john." colloq
64. Upper-class kids begin climbing the "ladder of success" on the top ----.
66. Place where our fine upstanding boys got corrupted by sex and drugs.
67. George Metesky was Abby Hoffman's ----.
68. Ancient Egyptian sign, often worn as pendant like peace symbol
69. Super Sonic Idiocy (abbr.)
70. A member of an oppressed group in 17th century Salem
71. Commodity often replaced by soybeans
72. You need at least one to listen to rock music

DOWN

1. What juvenile delinquents do to drunks
2. If women took over the men's Johns, they would be a liberated ----.
3. A comment of approval
4. If you find this puzzle too hard, either you're too ---- up, or we were
5. First word of a dance popular in the 60s
6. the lowest among female voices
7. When people are hungry, they have a revolution; when a cat is hungry, it ----.
8. a skeleton in the closet may be an endoskeleton or an ---skeleton
9. concerning (abbr.)
10. spiritual love
11. The name of a person who sold out to a pig oil company; also, the name of what he sold out for
12. If a notoriously ugly Ford had a sister, what might her name be?
18. Term often used in the repression of female children
21. Songwriter famous for paradoxes and naming spices
23. Translation of, "His statements are inoperative."---- "He ----!"
26. Normal's mayoral list has included a Raiten, a Spear, and - -----. (2 wds.)
31. Slang term for bisexual: --/DC.
33. Mountain range that divides Europe and Asia.
34. What you should do in the name of love
36. Woman's name: Dev---.
38. Tribe who suffered heavy casualties in Nigerian Civil War
40. Common name for a monster in late-night horror movies
42. Substitute for street gang among older men
44. If they made a movie where the woman's clitoris was located in her mind, they would probably call it Deep ----.
48. Refuge of Indian meditators
49. Big refuge of beatnik and hippie meditators
52. To stay with someone free of charge.
54. What you do after you "wash that man right out of your hair"
55. Western vegetarian who was very vocal about his opinions
56. Famous for inoperative clock
57. Written symbol used by Tolkien creatures
59. Way-out travel agency (men only) (abbr.)
60. Native ruler in Africa
62. What your parents have when they find out that you take LSD.
63. What males get from distant relatives for high school graduation: a tie ----.
65. No known address--what police files say about you after you go underground



vol. 11, #1 April 1982 page 16



Letters

Machinists charge G.E. with coercing unionists

Dear Post-Amerikan,

Machinist Lodge 1000 has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board charging the General Electric Company with restraint and coercion of our shop committee members and stewards while they are performing their union activities.

The company is trying to change the layoff policy and bumping procedure of the hourly employees at the Bloomington plant without negotiating with the union.

The company put the hourly employees on a 36-hour work week as of March 1 and laid off 52 hourly employees.

Also, approximately 130 hourly employees have been bumped into other jobs, some into lower paying jobs. Meanwhile the salaried (management) employees continue to enjoy a full work week with no cut in pay, and the company just recently put on more supervisors to supervise the hourly employees.

Now, this just does not make good sense to us. Why would a company cut hourly employee's hours, reduce their number by layoffs, and at the same time put on more supervisors to supervise less people. This couldn't be to featherbed the salary jobs, could it? I will leave that up to the readers to decide.

We presented two arbitration cases against the Modine Company on Feb. 22 and 23, 1982. We hope to win these two cases. We had another case to arbitrate against this company on Feb. 10, 1982, but on the day of the hearing, the employee that we were arbitrating for ended up in the hospital. The company tried to force us to arbitrate the case without this person being present. After some argument it was decided the case would be held after the person involved was well enough to attend.

--Coleman H. Smith,
Business Representative
Machinist Lodge 1000,
I.A.M. & A.W.

Watch out for 'yellow cheese' My Place ripped him off

Dear Post,

Just finished reading my daily newspaper and for about the tenth time I read about how these nasty Soviets are trampling all over the world and killing innocent people with chemical warfare! "Yellow-Rain" I think they called it.

Well, being the informed source that you are, I wondered if you heard anything about Reagan's "Yellow Cheese." My neighbor told me that Reagan was giving away free cheese those who were too unfortunate to afford to buy it. But he also said something about the quality of the cheese and strongly suggested that it may be some sort of biological weapon against innocent people!

I heard people even had to sign something saying that the Government wasn't responsible if something went wrong with you after eating it! Well, I don't know if I can believe it or not, but, if it's true just think how many innocent poor, minority, elderly and handicapped people might fall ill or die from this cheese. What would President Reagan do then? What do you think?

-- Healthy, hungry and curious

Post Amerikan

vol. 11, #1 April 1982

page 17

BOB AND LOU

NEW AND USED
FURNITURE

Store #1 812 W. Market (309) 827-6621
Store #2 1116 S. Main (309) 829-3122
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

**Tell our advertisers
you saw their ad
in the Post-Amerikan**

**Progressive
Hair
Design**

20% off on
hair design
with this ad

Michael Meagher
Fox & Hounds
102 W. Phoenix
Normal, Illinois 61761
309/452-9472



Gary & Julie Stutzman
Landscape Gardeners
834 W. Oakland
829-2093

- Lawn care: rolling, power raking, fertilizing, mowing.
- Tree, shrub trimming.
- Integral/Organic method.
- Organic gardening.

Drastic Plastic

We sell, buy, and trade used albums and cassettes.

102 North St.,
Normal
10-6 (T,W,F,Sat)
10-9 (M,Th)



Shop: 309-828-1714

★ Diesel Dick's ★

206 W. Empire

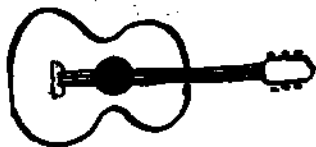
- *Car & Truck Repairs*
- Foreign & American
- *Starting *Welding

Alan J. Dick RR 12, Box 44
Owner Bloomington, IL 61701

LITTLE BLACK BOOK INC. Dating Service

HELPING PEOPLE
MEET PEOPLE
P.O. Box 704,
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Guitar Lessons



by Marita

Music for the mind, body and soul

452-7436

Hi Post:

Just want to call your attention to some false advertising you may not have been aware of. About a month ago I decided to go out to My Place bar. I haven't had much opportunity to go out lately, and being strapped financially, I thought I'd take advantage of Tuesday's 50¢ beer night, which had been advertised for months.

So after paying my 50¢ cover charge, I went to the bar and ordered a draft. An opaque PLASTIC cup was put in front of me and a very indifferent bartender said, "One dollar." When I asked which beer was 50¢, he replied, "None." Then when I pointed out that Tuesday was currently advertised as 50¢ beer night, he said he didn't know anything about it. I did buy that first beer; hindsight makes me regret it.

When I confronted the person working the door with the same question, he replied, "Well, it shouldn't be advertised that way" with a don't-ask-me-I-just-work-here attitude.

Well, since \$1.00 wasn't nearly worth that plastic cup of watered down draft beer, I left, wishing that I hadn't even wasted my \$1.50.

It was great that Bloomington had a gay bar at all, but maybe the reason that they closed is that they just didn't care. A bartender is supposed to be slightly friendly. One who acts like he's copped an eternal attitude probably made some already insecure or nervous gays feel very intimidated--especially if they weren't used to bars.

It's too bad--the place had lots of potential.

Eric

Classifieds

STOP INVESTING IN RACISM! Send \$4.95 (includes postage) for South Africa: Foreign Investment and Apartheid, 104 pages, to RECON, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

STRATEGY AND TACTICS for organizers. Send \$4.95 (includes postage) for Plotting Directions: An Activist's Guide, 64 pages, to RECON, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay groups announce plans

The Gay People's Alliance at Illinois State University has scheduled the following programs for April:

7th--a discussion of pornography;

14th--a gay-straight rap: an open discussion about gay people and gay issues especially for non-gays and people just beginning to deal with their own gay feelings;

21st--a presentation by representatives of Gay Alcoholics Anonymous from Springfield (tentative); members of the Equal Rights Amendment coalition may also make a presentation to the alliance;

28th--a fun evening of video entertainment for gay people and their friends.

GPA meets at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in room 112 of Fairchild Hall on the ISU campus. For more information about meetings, you can call 828-9085.

GPA is also in the process of organizing a 10-year reunion for next fall, Labor Day weekend. Anyone interested in attending or knowing of past members of GPA should get in touch with the organization, either by writing to 225 N. University, Normal (GPA's office) or by calling 828-9085.

The Lambda Council of McLean County continues to hold meetings every 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m. The next meeting will be April 4.

The council's newsletter (WINGS) is due to be printed soon. If you'd like to receive a copy, call 828-9220.

Other on-going activities of the Lambda Council include the men's rap group, which meets every Monday evening from 8 to 10 p.m., and the Friday evening coffeeshouses which have been meeting every couple of weeks in the late evening. The continuation of the coffeeshouses will depend on how much interest--and attendance--is shown in the coming weeks. Both of these meetings are open to the community. For more information, you can call 828-9220.



Menopause workshop

Planned Parenthood of Mid-Central Illinois will hold a Menopause Workshop on April 20 (a Tuesday) from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The location is to be announced later.

The workshop will include these topics and presentations: "What to expect physically and emotionally: myths vs. common experience"; "How menopause may affect you and others in your life"; "Pros and cons of replacement therapy" (presented by a local M.D.); and "Feeling good about yourself before, during, and after the menopause years."

For more information about this workshop, contact Planned Parenthood at 827-8025 or send your name, address, and phone number to Planned Parenthood, 201 E. Grove, Bloomington IL 61701.

Midwest music network gathers

The Midwest People's Music Network spring gathering will be held at the Waite House in Minneapolis MN on the weekend of April 23-25.

Activities will include music and discussion workshops, a round-robin song swap, an open concert on Saturday evening, with informal jams afterwards.

Registration for the weekend is \$30. This includes a snack on Fri. evening, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Sat., and breakfast and lunch on Sun. Meals will be provided by Stone Soup Catering, a local worker-owned collective.

To register send the following information: Name, address, phone, workshop suggestions, workshops you wish to convene, housing needs, and any other pertinent data. Send all registration info by April 8 to Midwest People's Music Network, 3-20 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55407. MPMN hotline for this gathering is 612/823-8169 (no calls after 10 p.m.).

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Plowshare place

An overnight workshop on non-violence will be held April 16-17 at Plowshare Place, 709 W. Jefferson, Bloomington.

Plowshare Place is a cooperative house established for the purposes of providing a supportive living environment for action-oriented pacifists and serving as a nonviolence resource center for the community.

The purpose of the weekend workshop is to explore personal meanings of nonviolence and to apply these to personal and political problems through techniques of conflict resolution. Resource people for the workshop include Kate Rehak, a member of the Newman Center community and an alternative school teacher; David Peacemaker, a member of the Wesley Foundation community and the Peace and Justice Coalition; and Michael Johnson, Political Science professor at Illinois Wesleyan University and a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The nonviolence workshop will involve nine hours of planned activities and informal personal sharing times. Planned activities will include discussions on non-violence, community building exercises, and conflict resolving activities.

The workshop begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday and ends at 4:00 p.m. Saturday. The cost of \$5.00 will cover two vegetarian meals and snacks. The workshop is limited to 20 people, and registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 14. For further information call 828-8092 or contact Michael Johnson at 556-3193.

Happy Hour
till 8 p.m.

Dancing

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Arms Race focus week - ISU

A four-day vigil, speakers, music and street theater are part of the Peace and Justice Coalition's planned Arms Race Focus Week March 29-April 1 at Illinois State University.

A vigil on the quad will be held at noon Monday through Thursday to show support for the nuclear arms freeze. Monday and Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in Prairie Room E the film Nuclear Countdown will be shown. The film describes the nuclear arms race.

Rev. Darrel Rupipper will address the topic "What is Civilian Defense? Alternatives to Nuclear Weapons, a Vision for the Future!" Monday, March 29 in CVA 151 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30 in CVA 145 at 7:00 p.m. Dan Day, a writer for the Progressive, will speak on the "Economic Effects of Defense Spending." His topic includes inflation, cuts in student grants and loans, unemployment, reductions in social programs.

A rally will be held in the quad at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 31 in support of the nuclear arms freeze.



Workbook/cpf

Apply for weatherization aid

The McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation is taking applications for weatherization assistance of homes and trailers in the McLean County area.

These services are available to all renters and homeowners who meet income guidelines. For one person, the maximum annual income is \$5,386., and for two people, \$7,113. Services such as insulation and storm windows are provided at no cost to qualified applicants. For more information and to apply, call 829-1921 or come to 102 N. Center St., 2nd floor, Bloomington, IL.

Post Amerikan

vol. 11, #1 April 1982

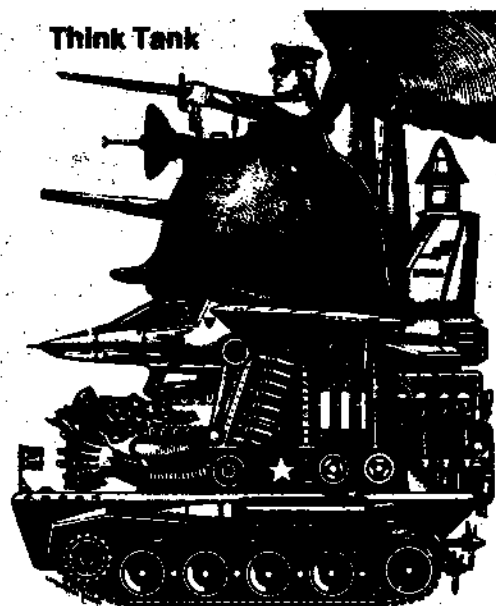
page 19

The rally will include speakers, music, and street theater. In case of rain, the rally will be held in the Formal Lounge of Fell Hall.

Also on Wednesday, March 31, Dr. Eric Jakobsson, bio-physicist and former weapons engineer, member of the executive committee of the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Nuclear War, will speak at 7:00 p.m. in CVA 149. Dr. Jakobsson's topic will be "Beyond the Mad Logic of Nuclear Weapons."

Anyone with questions on Arms Race Focus Week can call 452-2040 or 452-5046.

Think Tank



IWU military week

The Culture Committee of the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate and the Wesleyan Fellowship of Reconciliation will ask the question "Is the American military establishment a source of security?" during the week of April 5-9. The week's schedule includes seven films and discussions led by Wesleyan faculty, community activists, and a retired Lt. Colonel. Also featured is a lecture by Richard Deats, Executive Secretary of the National Fellowship of Reconciliation.

On Monday, April 5, 12:00 noon in the A.V. room of Sheean Library the film

The Price of Peace and Freedom will kick off the week, followed by a discussion led by Jerry Israel, History Department, I.W.U. At 7:00 p.m. Monday in Buck Auditorium, Richard Deats will give a public lecture.

The film Nuclear Countdown will be shown Tuesday, April 6, 12:00 noon in the A.V. room. The discussion will be led by Emily Dale, I.W.U. Sociology Department. At 7:00 Tuesday evening, Mary Campbell, I.S.U. Department of Social Work; Violet Hamilton, community activist; and Virginia Pirnat, a staffperson at Clare House, will lead a discussion on Women's Perspectives on the Arms Race in Buck Auditorium.

Wednesday, April 7, 12:00 noon in the A.V. room I.W.U. Drama Department member Carole Brandt will lead a discussion of the film, Bip the Soldier. At 7:00 p.m. Wednesday a film about masculinity in the military --Between Men--will be shown with commentary by John Claxton, a retired Lt. Colonel, and Robert Frizzell, Social Science Librarian in Buck Auditorium.

The film The War Game will be shown Thursday, April 8 at 12:00 noon in the A.V. room. Discussion will be led by John Heyl, I.W.U. History Department. At 7:00 p.m. in Buck Auditorium, the film Dr. Strangelove will be shown followed by a discussion led by Ray Wilson, I.W.U. Physics Department.

Friday, April 9th's noon film will be War Without Winners, with a discussion led by Bill White, Chaplain, I.W.U.

For more information call 556-3193.

CDSV starts training

Counter Domestic and Sexual Violence will be conducting training sessions for new volunteers starting April 5. Volunteers provide paraprofessional assistance to victims of abusive relationships by helping to staff a 24-hour crisis line and by serving as advocates for victims. The training will include such topics as: myths and facts about violence in relationships, assessing suicide potential, medical treatment and psychological effects of sexual assault, working cooperatively with law enforcement personnel, legal options for victims, and utilizing community resources. Call the YWCA at 662-0461 for further information.

Welcome in Spring!

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Libido Boys keep 'em dancing

In their Bloomington-Normal debut, the Libido Boys gave a receptive crowd at Fink's an extensive range of new wave and old favorites, as well as a few solid originals that brought the masses to the dance floor in almost no time whatsoever.

This LaSalle-Peru based band, showing an obvious enthusiasm towards their music and their audience, caused a cross-current of energetic fun that lasted the entire show. While drummer Ray Biagioni provided a frantic precision beat, guitarists Tony Innis and Greg "Goose" Leszczynski and lead vocalist/guitarist Chris Vasquez traded instruments and stage positions throughout the night, giving each song a sound as fresh as their selection of music.

The material chosen adequately displayed the band's precise harmonies,

steady beat, and clear sound. Popular hits by bands like the Ramones, Joe Jackson, the Sex Pistols, and David Bowie were mixed with an occasional rock'n'roll classic such as "Jumpin' Jack Flash," which was carried off with such flair that Mick himself would be pleased. Particularly impressive was their arrangement of the Monkees' hit "Steppin' Stone."

Little else can be said about this very danceable group except that they put a breath of freshness and excitement into rock'n'roll on the Midwest nightclub circuit.

The Libido Boys will be appearing at Fink's on Wed., April 21. Check them out for a guaranteed good time, but come early: Fink's has a limited seating capacity and strict Fire Marshall regulations. ●

--Ike and Tina

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MY SISTER, the PUNKY ROCKER
By Lovell B.L.

Panel 1:
PUNKY: YES, ITS TRUE - I WAS MORTIFIED WHEN KATIE SHOWED UP AT MY PARTY LOOKING LIKE THE BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN AND I WAS SURE CHAD WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME AFTER SEEING WHAT A WEIRDO MY SISTER WAS... YES, MY ONE IN A MILLION MAN WAS GONE, BUT I STILL HAD A CHANCE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT..

Panel 2:
WOMAN: THE PARTY BROKE UP PRETTY FAST AFTER THAT. I TOLD KATIE I WANTED TO TALK TO HER IN MY ROOM... I TRIED TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF FOR THE CONFRONTATION

Panel 3:
PUNKY: KATIE, EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE RUINED MY LIFE I CAN ONLY BLAME MYSELF IF I HAD TAKEN CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU MOVED TO TOWN YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME DECENT FRIENDS INSTEAD OF BEING SUCKED IN BY THOSE DEGENERATES!!

Panel 4:
WOMAN: JILL, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE TOLERANT OF PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES??

Panel 5:
PUNKY: TOLERANT?? UNDERSTAND?? THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR PEOPLE WHO DELIBERATELY LOOK AND ACT LIKE YOU DO TO ALIENATE THE REST OF OUR SOCIETY! YOU DON'T NEED UNDERSTANDING, YOU NEED SHOCK TREATMENT!

Panel 6:
WOMAN: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!! FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I'M MAKING MY OWN DECISIONS, NOT THE ONES PROGRAMMED INTO ME BY MY FAMILY! AND YOU OUGHT TO STOP MAKING STUPID GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT MY FRIENDS! THEY'RE VERY INTELLIGENT PEOPLE!!

Panel 7:
WOMAN: THE POOR KID WAS REALLY FAR GONE!! I HAD TO TRY AND SNAP HER BACK TO REALITY, AND FAST!!

Panel 8:
PUNKY: OH, COME ON!! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING WITH THAT ROUTINE?? I KNOW WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THEY ARE!! I WATCH PHIL DONA HUE! TO THEM, NOTHING IS SACRED!! NOT EVEN GOD OR THE PRESIDENT!

Panel 9:
WOMAN: AND LEAST OF ALL THIS BULLSHIT BOURGEOIS EXISTANCE YOU'RE SO FOND OF!!

Panel 10:
PUNKY: AND IS THIS WHAT YOUR "INTELLIGENT FRIENDS" ARE TEACHING YOU?? HOW TO TALK LIKE A LADY??

Panel 11:
WOMAN: GODDAM RIGHT. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I MUST GO HAVE UNUSUAL SEX WITH THE COMMUNIST WHO SELLS ME HEROIN. IT'S THE SHANK OF THE EVENING!

Panel 12:
WOMAN: NEXT: JILL CALLS OUT THE BIG GUNS

More gay films come out

The love that once "dare not speak its name" has become the Chatty Cathy of the silver screen lately. "Making Love" and "Personal Best" (see Post, vol. 10, #10) are not the only new movies to deal with gay relationships. Homosexual characters, mostly male, are turning up in a number of recent feature films, mostly comedies.

It may be giving too much away to note that a gay relationship is a factor in the clever plot of "Deathtrap," a suspense-comedy directed by Sidney Lumet. The film opened across the country a couple of weeks ago, and it's already among the top money-makers. The characters' gayness is a necessary plot device, but it's also presented as a totally understandable and acceptable part of the story.

"Victor/Victoria"--which opens with a scene of Robert Preston in bed with a younger man--plays a complex and hilarious series of turns on the question of sexual identity and sexual inclinations.

Julie in drag

Set in 1934 Paris, the film stars Julie Andrews as a down-and-out singer who encounters a gay entertainer (Preston) who has just lost his job. He gives her shelter and his ex-lover's clothes, and this is the inspiration for the rest of the plot: why not a nightclub act with Andrews in drag--as a young Polish count who sings and dances as a woman and then reveals herself as a "man"?

Victoria becomes Victor everywhere but in the privacy of the room and bed which she shares, quite companionably, with Preston. And Victor becomes the toast of Paris. Enter James Garner as the Chicago racketeer visiting Paris, who's smitten by the woman on stage--and is still smitten, although horrified, when she ends the act as a "man."

The fact that he has fallen in love with someone he believes to be a man causes Garner discomfort, but it gladdens the heart of his longtime friend and bodyguard, an ex-football player played by Alex Karras. Upon finding his employer in bed with the Polish count, Karras ecstatically announces that he, too, is gay and has been wanting to tell Garner for 15 years.

Judith Crist says that "Victor/Victoria" is a rollicking romp full of pratfalls, double-takes, and double entendres. But the heart of the matter, according to Crist, "is each character's sudden awareness of role playing and consideration of self."

Gay cops

"Partners"--a film in which a gay cop and a straight one are teamed up as undercover agents--has been moved up from its fall opening to one on April 30. The change was probably made to cash in on the financial success of the other feature films with gay themes, although the film company (Paramount) claims they are not exploiting the gay connection.

Ryan O'Neill stars as the heterosexual half of "Partners," with John Hurt as the gay police officer. Their assignment is to pose as a gay couple and catch a murderer who is victimizing the homosexual community of West Hollywood.

Despite the grisly murder premise, the movie is a comedy and is being marketed as another "odd couple." Paramount insists that the gay theme is being sidestepped, but *Variety* reports that the gay element is prominent in promotional trailers on "Partners."

Needless to say, the motion picture

industry will be watching the success of these films. "The conventional wisdom has it that people are not interested in homosexual things and won't go to see a movie about the subject," says Sherry Lansing, president of 20th Century-Fox, the company which produced "Making Love." But Lansing is optimistic about the commercial success of gay films. "I

would assume that if a film is reasonably successful, it will do an enormous amount to erase some of the negative cliches."

Less hopeful

Others are less hopeful. "I don't have great hopes for the proliferation of gay characters even if these films are successful," says Vito Russo, author of *The Celluloid Closet*, a history of the portrayal of homosexuality in the movies.

"It will always be safe to do things like 'La Cage Aux Folles'," says Russo. "Audiences will always come out to laugh at a man in a dress." But he doesn't think any great effort will be made to draw a character who's a human being first and also happens to be gay.

"Hollywood isn't geared toward minority programming in general. Movies are made for white, straight teen-agers, and the bottom line is money."

--Perdydurke



Ya know what I miss? I miss "Oh Mary this" and "Oh Mary that." That's what I miss!

Sources: *Variety*, 10 March 1982; *Saturday Review*, March 1982; *New York Times*, 21 Feb. 1982.

Hatch amendment oozes forward

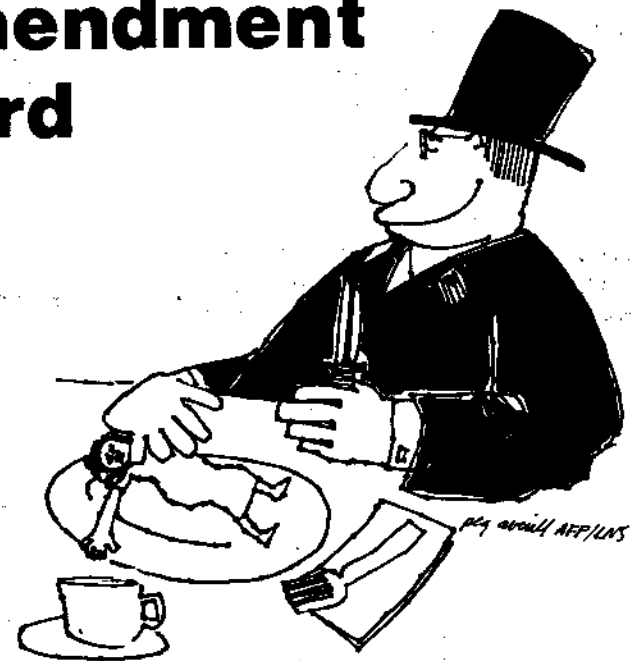
An amendment to the Constitution which would give Congress and the states the "power to restrict and prohibit abortion" passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a 10-7 vote March 10.

The bill to amend the Constitution sponsored by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) and sometimes called the federalism amendment, will go before the full Senate soon.

Two thirds of both the Senate and the House must approve the bill and three fourths of the state legislatures must ratify it before it goes into effect.

The proposed amendment says that "a right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution." It also provides that more restrictive state laws would take precedence over federal law.

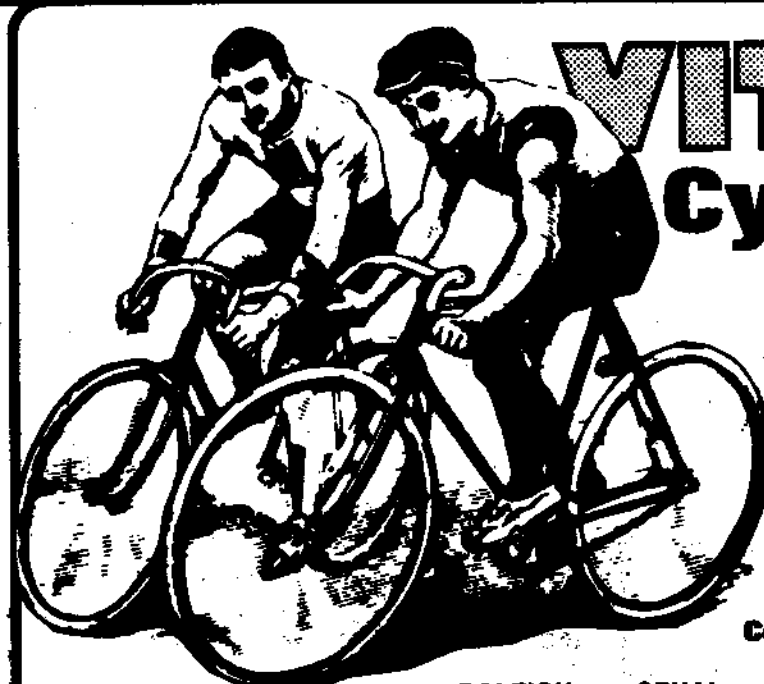
Some anti-abortion groups oppose the Hatch amendment because it doesn't outlaw abortion entirely. Those groups will rally behind Sen. Jesse Helm's Human Life Amendment



(HIA) which has gone straight to the floor of the Senate without going through a committee.

The HIA defines life as beginning at the moment of conception, thus making abortion and several forms of birth control equivalent to murder.

--D.L.



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'Making Love' left him hopeful

Thoughts were spinning through my head, and the entire Hershey Bar I had consumed before the movie made me very antsy, and I thought I was going to walk out any minute during the first hour. All the same, I stayed through the credits and the Hamlish/Sager song sung by Roberta Flack.

I went to see "Making Love" expecting to be greatly disappointed, and left somewhat hopeful. It definitely is a Hollywood portrayal of gays--rich, gorgeous, happy. (Through we are not a miserable lot, I would have liked to have seen Hollywood show what society has done to some gays' heads. There is a little oppression still around.)

Very clean, beautiful people. I know most of my friends fell in love with their first partner. I believe mine was a successful writer, also. But I was a highly paid physician at the time, too. (To be honest, I couldn't tell you who he was, and at the time, I doubt he could have either!)

The script is sadly banal, and the acting isn't much better. Though Kate Jackson is marvelous, the two men really haven't much talent, except in the bed scenes. It's very important to note that in the end of the movie the men all are very content with their lives (including the bore she married on the rebound to father her child), but Kate Jackson has a terrible look of compromise in her eyes in her final close-up. Typical for the silver screen.

We also are left with no impression that the child-Jackson has will be spared any of the growth traumas that both men related in the movie. There seems to be the same push on teaching the little tyke to shoot baskets and catch baseballs, all that jock stuff that made Bart so unhappy as a child. (When will tinsel town show little boys learning to knit?)

But: We are still portrayed sans limp wrists--good and bad--in a major

Fruit pies for Falwell

Fort Worth, TX--The Reverend Jerry Falwell got a little fruity during his address to the annual convention of the Bible Baptist Fellowship here when two women hurled pies at him.

The attack, staged in Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium in early March, caused many in the crowd to become "extremely violent," according to the police. The pie-throwers were chased by about a dozen members of the audience.

The police said the women's pursuers "roughed up" an unidentified man who attempted to intervene between them and the pie-throwers. The delegates pulled his hair, punched and kicked him, said the police, who took the man into protective custody temporarily. Although he said he could not identify the pie launchers, the man said they were protesting Falwell's opposition to abortion.

The two pie-throwers disappeared into the crowd.

--Gay Community News



motion picture as real people in real situations (with Tide on our shelves and the sound of dogs barking and children laughing in the backgrounds of our back yards). Could be your neighbor, America--the unmarried one you talked to over the fence last Tuesday. . . .

And we are seen as "normal" (though I always have sex with mittens on and keep a rope and a rubber hose under the bed just in case--oh, yes, and a knife; after all, "Cruising" was an accurate depiction, too!).

If you've seen it, good job. If not, do. It's our political duty to support this film.

--Steve Kleiser

Solution to Puzzle

R	A	N	D	M	A	M	E	R	A	C	E	
O	R	E	O	A	L	E	X	E	G	A	D	
L	E	A	P	S	T	O	O	L	A	S	S	
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P	A	T	I	O	C	I	A	D	I	R	T	
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"Making loot"

Twentieth Century Fox reports that the movie "Making Love" is doing "extremely well." The movie is the industry's first attempt to market a film directed at both gay and mainstream audiences.

"The film is doing extremely well in all markets," said Barry Lorie, Fox's senior vice-president in charge of publicity and promotion. "'Making Love' is a very, very successful picture, and it is playing at comparable levels in Tulsa and Salt Lake City as it is in D.C., L.A., and New York where there are large gay communities."

Fox spent \$9 million making the film and another \$5 1/2 million promoting it. It was released on Feb. 12 at 363 theatres, and the film grossed over \$3 million in its first four days.

Variety, the show business bible, listed "Making Love" second on their list of the 50 Top-Grossing films for the week ending Feb. 17, being surpassed only by the star-laden "On Golden Pond." In subsequent weeks, the gay-oriented film ranked 3rd, 5th, then 10th in the list of top-grossers. It was still pulling in a weekly gross of over \$900,000 from showings in 21 cities for the week ending March 10.

"Making Love" ran for a surprising three weeks in Bloomington.

Also in Variety's Top 50 for the week ending Feb. 17 were "Personal Best" and "Taxi Zum Klo," both both gay-related. "Personal Best" had opened in only two cities but still grossed \$137,000. "Taxi," which had been in release for 16 weeks (but in only 4 cities), had grossed \$550,000 to date.

In the following weeks, "Taxi" dropped out of the top 50, but "Personal Best" continued to climb--from 24th to 22nd to 12th, with a gross of over \$100,000 for the week ending March 10. But this film about lesbianism in women's sports was still being shown in only six cities.

It will be interesting to see how well "Personal Best" does in a more general release (it still hasn't come to Bloomington-Normal). But, if you're waiting for a general release for "Taxi Zum Klo," you'd best click your ruby slippers together and fly back to Kansas.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Gay Community News, 20 March 1982; Variety, 3, 10, 17 March 1982.

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April 1982 page 23

A's

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Alternative seed catalogs

If you're tired of the exaggerated claims, doctored color and chemically-treated seed of the major garden seed catalogs, there are alternatives--and once you've tried them you'll never have to resist the temptation of another Jumbo-Mammoth-Extra-Sweet again!

One of the best alternative catalogs is Nichols Herb and Rare Seeds. Nichols Garden Nursery, in Albany, Oregon, has been a family business for 25 years and now involves two generations. Nichols prints their own catalog so it's not fancy and you don't pay for it. Nichols believes year-round work for their 20-odd employees is more important. They won't sell your name to other junk mail operations, either. Service is prompt and prices are reasonable.

Nichols herb seed listing is extensive and informative, and they ship herb plants in the spring and fall. They sell dried culinary herbs and spices, herbal and botanical teas, seeds for sprouting, cheese, wine, and beer-making cultures and supplies, garden vegetables, "space miser" vegetables, oriental vegetables, flower and wild-flower seeds, gourds, moss roses, essential oils, books, garden aids, and organic insecticides!

The Nichols catalog also includes a list of pamphlets available which offer trade hints for the person interested in going into the herb and nursery business. The catalog is free from Nichols Garden Nursery, 1190 North Pacific Highway, Albany, Oregon 97321.

Johnny's Selected Seeds sells mostly organically-grown, untreated seed in small quantities and bulk, including garden vegetable seed, herb seed and

farm seed. Farm seed includes winter, spring and buckwheat, oats, winter rye, proso millet, sunflower, clover, alfalfa, rapeseed, and amaranth. The catalog contains many informative charts, germination guides and growing schedules. The catalog is free from Johnny's Selected Seeds, Albion, Maine 04910.

The Redwood City Seed Company's Catalog of Useful Plants is available for 50¢ from P.O. Box 361, Redwood City, California 94064. This catalog includes rare and unusual vegetables, herbs, fruits, nuts, berries, dye plants and a miscellaneous listing highlighted by aloe vera, belladonna, carob, coffee, comfrey, ginseng, jojoba, kudzu, luffa, marshmallow, pyrethrum, sequoia, sesame and others. The catalog is printed in black and white with small but classy woodcut illustrations.

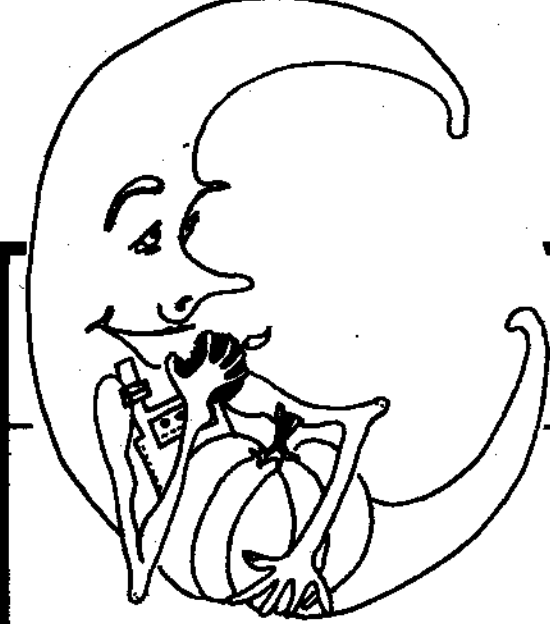
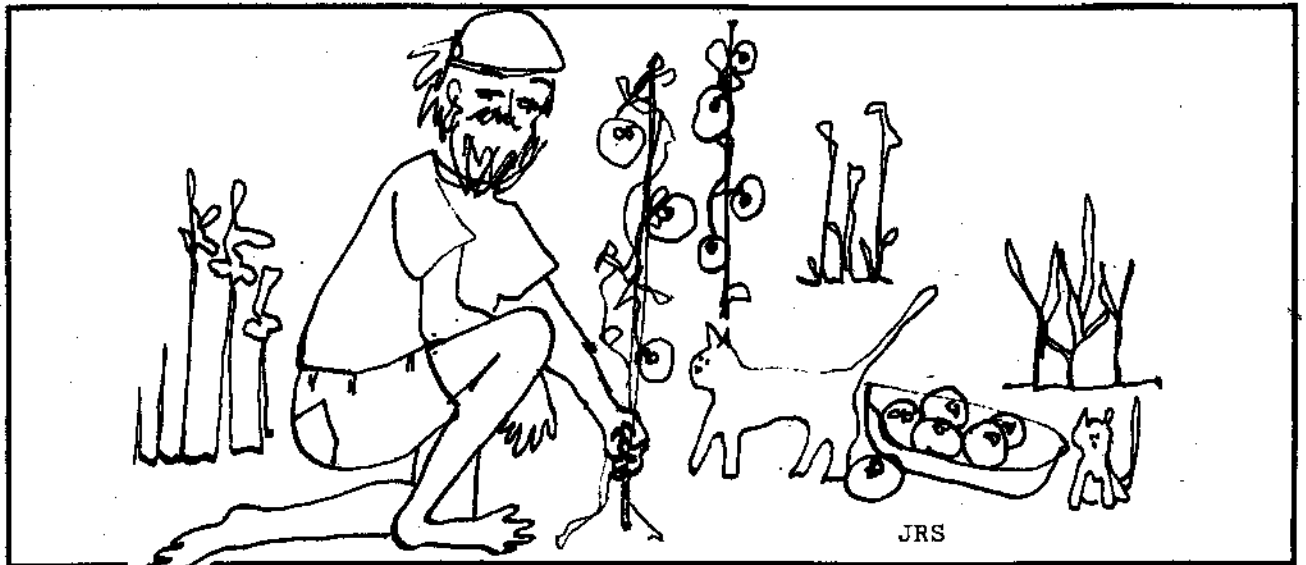
Tom and Judy Butterworth head the Butterbrooke Farm Seed Co-op in Oxford, Connecticut which produces pure, open-pollinated seed strains--not hybrids. This allows the gardener to save seed from this year's crop to use next year and so on. Their seed is also untreated. The motto of the co-op is "Seeds for People, Not Profit," and it seems to be true, since the seed packets cost only 25¢ each. Membership

in the Co-op is \$8.00 per year, which entitles you to a 10% discount. The Butterbrooke catalog is a legal-size sheet and is available free from Butterbrooke Farm, 78 Barry Road, Oxford, CT 06483.

Richter's Herb Seed Catalogue contains perhaps the most extensive and authoritative herb listings, and herb-related books. The catalog is well designed and contains good illustrations and photographs. Also included are gourmet vegetable seeds, wildflowers, alpine flowers, organic plant foods, natural insect controls, gardening supplies, and posters. The catalog costs \$1.00. Write Richter's, Goodwood, Ontario, Canada LOC 1A0.

One of the most unusual alternatives comes from Horticultural Enterprises, P.O. Box 340082, Dallas, Texas. Horticultural Enterprises sells "Semillas Auténticas Mexicanas,"--authentic Mexican chili-pepper seeds! The catalog is really a poster and features half-size illustrations of 30 peppers. H.E. also carries imported Mexican tomatillos, jicama, chia, cilantro, jamaica and epazote. The catalog is free. ●

--Gary Stutzman



The Fertile Crescent Almanac April 1982

<p>The average best fruit date for this area falls between April 15 and 25. Many vegetables can and should be started before then.</p>		<p>Moon sign: ☾</p>		<p>☾ 1</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 7:57 2</p>		<p>♂ 3</p>	
<p>Ask your garden store to carry insecticidal soap.</p>		<p>Ask your to Safer Agro-Chem</p>		<p>garden store carry insecticidal soap.</p>		<p>Ask your to Safer Agro-Chem</p>		<p>garden store carry insecticidal soap.</p>	
<p>Enters ♀ 12:14 4</p>		<p>♂ 5</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 11:27 6</p>		<p>♂ 7</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 2:34 9</p>	
<p>Prepare beds or coldframes for planting hardy flowers and herbs.</p>		<p>Plant flowers, herbs, broccoli.</p>		<p>Plant flowers, herbs, broccoli.</p>		<p>Transplant from indoors: broccoli, cabbage, parsley, cauliflower, herbs.</p>		<p>Transplant from indoors: broccoli, cabbage, parsley, cauliflower, herbs.</p>	
<p>Enters ♀ 13:00 11</p>		<p>♂ 12</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 1:42 13</p>		<p>♂ 14</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 11:14 16</p>	
<p>Plant onion and garlic seed.</p>		<p>Plant potatoes, onion sets, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes.</p>		<p>Plant potatoes, onion sets, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes.</p>		<p>Cultivation, weeding.</p>		<p>Cultivation, weeding.</p>	
<p>Enters ♀ 10:12 18</p>		<p>♂ 19</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 6:24 20</p>		<p>♂ 21</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 8:59 23</p>	
<p>Plan your biological control methods.</p>		<p>PLANT: especially root crops & flowers for abundance. Soak nasturtians overnight then plant in future squash beds and under fruit trees.</p>		<p>Prepare beds for potatoes and carrots, other root crops. Double-dig your soil and blend in compost.</p>		<p>Plant potatoes, carrots.</p>		<p>Plant leafy veg.</p>	
<p>Enters ♀ 10:49 25</p>		<p>♂ 26</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 11:44 27</p>		<p>♂ 28</p>		<p>Enters ♀ 11:10 29</p>	
<p>SPRING FORWARD</p>		<p>Prepare seed bed for Tuesday and Wednesday's planting.</p>		<p>Plant beans, sweetcorn, celery, squash, okra, melons.</p>		<p>Plant beans, sweetcorn, celery, squash, okra, melons.</p>		<p>You've worked hard. Take a trip with a good friend.</p>	
<p>Times adjusted from the Daily Planet Almanac 1982 P.O. Box 1641 Boulder, CO 80306</p>									
<p>♈ Aries ♉ Taurus ♊ Gemini ♋ Cancer ♌ Leo ♍ Virgo ♎ Libra ♏ Scorpio ♐ Sagittarius ♑ Capricorn ♒ Aquarius ♓ Pisces</p>									