

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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9-1983

## Volume 12, Number 5

Post Amerikan

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Party pains / landlords / student legal services / calendar

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

# POST AMERIKAN

Vol. XII No. 5

Sept. 1983

Hospital dumps aides...see pages 12-14



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THE POST AMERIKAN--BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL'S  
ALTERNATIVE SINCE 1972

Volume 12, Number 5 September, 1983  
P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701

Member Alternative Press Syndicate  
Indexed in the Alternative Press Index

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings. We put out ten issues a year. Staff members take turns as "Coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, graphics, photography, paste-up, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, and news tips from our readers, and if you'd like to join us call 828-7232 and leave a message with our answering machine. We'll get back to you, usually within a week.

We like to print your letters. Try to limit yourself to the equivalent of two double-spaced typewritten pages. If you write a short, abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. Long, abusive letters, however, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles. Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe that it is very important to keep a paper like this around. If you think so too, then support us through contributions and by letting our advertisers know you saw their ads in the Post Amerikan.

The deadline for submissions for the October issue is September 22.

## Post sellers

### BLOOMINGTON

Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front  
Ault Pharmacy, 1102 S. Main  
The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main  
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main  
Bus Depot, 523 N. East  
The Coffee Shop, S. Main  
Common Ground, 516 N. Main  
Front and Center Bldg.  
Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington  
Haag Drugstore, 110 E. Oakland  
Law & Justice Center, W. Front  
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  
Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main  
Pantagraph (in front of building),  
301 W. Washington  
The Park Store, Wood & Allin  
Red Fox, 918 W. Market  
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A Main  
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main  
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
(at exit)  
U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe  
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Washington St., across from courthouse  
W.W. Bake Shop, 801 E. Washington

### NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)  
Blue Dahlia, 121 E. Beaufort  
ISU University Union, 2nd floor  
ISU University Union, parking lot  
entrance  
ISU Milner Library (entrance)  
Fink's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)  
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north  
Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.  
North & Broadway, southeast corner  
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main  
Record Service, Watterson Place  
Redbird IGA, 310 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

## Post-Amerikan ad rates

Display ad rates are \$100/page. 10% discount for a six-in-a-row contract; 20% discount for a 12-in-a-row contract.

SIZE	REG.	10% off	20% off
1/6 page..	\$16.67..	\$15.00..	\$13.33
1/5 page..	20.00..	18.00..	16.00
1/4 page..	25.00..	22.50..	20.00
1/3 page..	33.33..	30.00..	26.67
1/2 page..	50.00..	45.00..	40.00

### BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS

Ads the size of standard business cards (3 1/2" wide by 2" tall) will be reduced slightly and appear in the paper as one column wide 3" and 1 3/4" tall.

### Rates for Businesses

6-in-a-row contract.....	\$42.00
12-in-a-row contract.....	\$72.00

### Rates for Individuals

One insertion.....	\$6.00
6-in-a-row contract.....	\$33.00
12-in-a-row contract.....	\$60.00
Make-up Charge.....	\$1.00

## Thank you

This issue is in your hands thank to: Robin, Jeff, Danny, Laurie, Diana, Michael, Bobby, Sue, J.T., Mark, Dave, Melissa, Deborah, Susan, Nadene, Linda, Cindy, X, Bumper, Ralph, Kathy, Bill, Holly, Terry, Stan, and Susie (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

Special thank to Bob K., Ethan E., Cathy C., and Sue F. for their contributions. And to the wonderful staff at Chez Daniel for the delicious food.

## 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
Draft Counseling.....	452-5046
Gay/Lesbian Information Line.....	829-2719
HELP (transportation for handi- capped and senior citizens).....	828-8301
Illinois Dept. of Public Aid.....	827-4621
Illinois Lawyer Referral.....	800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope.....	828-7346
Mid Central Economic Opportunity Corporation.....	829-0691
McLean County Health Dept.....	454-1161
Mobile Meals.....	828-8301
McLean County Center for Human Services.....	827-5351
National Health Care Services (abortion ass't in Peoria).....	691-9073
National Runaway Switchboard.....	800-621-4000
in Illinois.....	800-972-6004
Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....	828-4195
Occupational Development Center.....	828-7324
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help).....	827-4005
or.....	800-322-5015
Parents Anonymous.....	827-4005
Planned Parenthood.....	827-8025
<u>Post Amerikan</u> .....	828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services.....	827-5021
Prairie Alliance.....	828-8249
Project Oz.....	827-0377
Rape Crisis Center.....	827-4005
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center.....	827-5428
TeleCare (senior citizens).....	828-8301
Unemployment compensation/Job Service.....	827-6237
United Farmworkers Support.....	452-5046

# Phoebe gets a phone

I moved into a new apartment this month and needed a telephone.

Since I'm in the enviable position of not having any transient friends who run up insurmountable General Telephone bills in my innocent name, I anticipated no problems. I expected to call up a service representative; provide them with my name, address, employer, personal history, and dental records; write out a check for my life savings; and be hooked up to the world in a day or two.

The first time I called the service department and got a recording ("All of our service representatives are busy at this time. If you wish to hold . . .") followed by a stunningly awful rendition of "Yesterday," punctuated intermittently with the same recording in case I forgot who I was calling, I was still fresh and cheerful. (I hadn't yet grappled with the fact that I also had no gas, no electricity, no bed, and no toaster.) I amused myself by making grotesque faces into the receiver. But my repertoire of funny faces didn't last the 20 minutes I held out, hoping to get a service rep before "Mockingbird Hill" came on.

I finally hung up, having other calls to make from my friend's phone, believing I'd catch a service rep next time.

But next time was 12:05, and the recording said that the offices are closed between 12 and 1, the lunch hour.

And the next time was quarter to four (that's 3:45, digit-heads). I got the recording and the music; I hung on, cracked a beer, and opened my detective novel, ready to practice perfect patience.

At about 4:30, I detected a change in the recording-music-recording-music drone. I snatched the receiver off my sweaty shoulder, only to hear a new recording saying that Gen Tel's offices were now closed for the day. I devised an entirely new grotesque face, capturing disbelief, rage, defeat, and total loss of my faith that perfect patience is rewarded.

Put all this into the context of one of those days so hot that no matter how you sit, your thighs are sticking to each other or to something worse.



The next day I went to another friend's house to use the phone. It was still hot. I got the recording. I got the music. I got the recording. I got tears in my eyes. Twenty minutes later, during a lilting "I'm only in it for the love and affection," my muffled screams were strangled by a real human voice.

"Oh . . . oh . . ." I gasped, "I can't believe you're really there."

"We've been very busy," she said severely. I looked at my second beer guiltily. It was only 10 a.m.

We soon got on better terms, with her efficiently getting the info she needed and me saying how nice it was to hear her voice. Then . . .

"Who was the tenant of that apartment before you?"

"Why, I don't know."

"Was it so-and-so?"

"Uh . . . I really have no idea." (Dumb, dumb.)

"Well, we can't install a phone there until we know the name of the last tenant, to make sure we're putting the equipment in the right place."

I bumbled through a few weakly phrased and strangely answered questions about the ruling.

"I can call your landlord and get the name. Who is your landlord?"

I told her.

"And do you have his number?"

I began looking for my friend's phone book, then stopped. "You're the phone company," I pointed out wearily. "You have his number."

My landlord moves around town a lot in his work, and thus isn't readily available all the time. But my service rep said she'd keep trying to reach him, and I could call her tomorrow and see if she'd gotten him.

"No . . . call you . . . no . . . I can't," I whimpered. "It took me two days to get you this time."

Then she offered to call me when she got him. "What is your number?"

"I don't have a phone," I moaned. "That's why we're talking."

Realizing that she had a near loony on the line, she said I could call the main switchboard and contact her personally.

I said thanks, goodbye, but I had no faith. I had visions of her never finding my landlord; of him not knowing the previous tenant's name; of the previous tenant having had a phone-freak sweetheart in Hawaii and having made the apartment forever banned from GTE service; of how poorly those tin cans and strings functioned when we were kids.

My friend bounced jauntily into the room, looked at me.

"I can't believe you're crying about your telephone," he said. ●

--Phoebe Caulfield

## Why GTE put Phoebe on hold

Well, evidently the previous tenant of my apartment was the right sort of person, because I did end up with a telephone (see adjoining story). I still don't have a toaster.

And my attempts to get a phone did provide me with material to complain about, which I did repeatedly and at length.

Another Post reporter, bless his investigative heart, decided to call Ellis Corso, Service Office Supervisor at GTE, and find out just why I'd had so much trouble getting a service rep.

Corso said, "We've had a problem in the last month." He said that people were calling more to inquire about their bills because of the recent rate increase. Though previous rate increases had caused the same problem, the present volume of calls is "higher than anticipated." He also admitted that the same problems will continue

or worsen in late August, when the town is flooded with students moving in and ordering phones.

If both of these problems are really temporary, the reasonable thing to do is to hire temporary personnel to handle the high volume. There are certainly plenty of folks who'd welcome even temporary work.

But Corso rejects this solution, saying that temporary help make too many mistakes and require too much training.

"It takes two months to train a girl," he pointed out twice.

"How long does it take to train a man?" our intrepid reporter inquired.

"About the same," Corso said.

When asked how many of the reps are male, Corso said about 25%. I bet they don't like being called girls,

either.

Corso said he was surprised to hear how long I'd waited to get a service rep. But then, maybe anything could surprise him. He also said that he was unaware that Gen Tel customers could be inconvenienced by the lunch-hour closing of the business office. (His own employees could tell him that lunchtime is the only time they have to do business with places that shut down at 4:30.)

Our reporter's questioning may have done Gen Tel customers some good: Corso said he'd immediately order that people on hold not be cut off at noon or at the end of the day. But does that mean "the girls" will have short lunches and longer stays after closing? Finally, would overworked and justifiably pissed regular employees make fewer errors than temporary help? ●

--Phoebe Caulfield



# Appellate judge labels calls for burying

In a blistering attack on the Normal Police Department's tactics for breaking up student parties, an Illinois Appellate Judge likened Normal's finest to 5th century barbarian hordes during the sack of Rome.

"I've never seen an appellate judge come down so hard on a police officer," George Taseff, ISU Student Legal Services attorney, told the Post-Amerikan.

Justice Webber's diatribe was actually a dissenting opinion in an appeal of an ISU student's conviction for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

The case stemmed from a well-publicized debacle in the fall of 1980, when then-Police Chief Richard McGuire ordered his storm troopers into a private party who began making arrests.

The ensuing confrontation, highlighted by a nighttime march of two thousand students demanding McGuire's resignation, triggered what for three years

has been known as the "party issue" in Normal politics.

Here are some excerpts from Justice Webber's mid-August opinion:

"We have in the instant case a clear situation of a government unable to control itself with a hapless student as its victim. It is one more chapter in the mournful and disheartening vendetta between the student body at Illinois State University and the police in Normal, Illinois."

"The majority characterizes the event as a raid on a college beer party. In truth, it more nearly resembles the Visigoths entering Rome. The entire Normal police department had staked out the premises for about 45 minutes, and in apparent frustration because no one was misbehaving, dispatched one of their number into the house. Various reasons were assigned: to discover the identity of the occupants; to arrest them; to close down the party;

## Repressive party law pushed

With some allies on the city staff and council, Normal Police Chief David Lehr initiated, drafted, and pushed a heavy-handed new ordinance supposedly designed to regulate "outdoor public assemblies" of 200 or more people.

Actually, the unprecedented measure proposes sweeping restrictions aided at banning--not regulating--outdoor student parties.

Apparently not satisfied with Normal's recently passed ill-advised and selectively enforced noise ordinance, Chief Lehr decided to come up with

tougher stuff.

Under Lehr's ordinance, anyone sponsoring an "outdoor public assembly" would have to meet impossible conditions. The ordinance requires a \$3000 advance cash deposit with the city. The measure also calls for party sponsors to provide a certificate showing proof of liability insurance for personal injury and property damage--in amounts greater than a standard home owners insurance policy would provide.

Sponsors also would be required to hire an off-duty cop for each 100 guests. A trash receptacle of

specified size and a toilet are required for each 50 people attending. Sponsors must also provide a fence around the site of the gathering, and guarantee police free access to the premises.

The permit application requires tons of information about the sponsor, the musicians, and the guests. According to the ordinance, the permit application must be forwarded to the police department "for an investigation of the applicant."

If that's not enough to discourage sponsors, how about this: the ordinance says that no music shall take place at an outdoor public assembly after 10 p.m. on weekdays and after 1 a.m. on weekends. That's not a restriction simply on amplified music--that's any music. If someone whistles at the wrong time, Lehr sends in the goons.

The ordinance is specifically (and probably therefore unconstitutionally) directed solely against students. Just about any other sort of public gathering is specifically exempted from the regulations of the ordinance. For example, gatherings sponsored by public schools, church schools, government agencies and churches are excepted, as are assemblies sponsored by a family for "family purposes such as a reunion, wedding, funeral or similar type of activity."

Lehr probably intended that his ordinance apply to gatherings involving alcohol or large music concerts whether alcohol is involved or not. But it's written so sloppily that an open-housing march would be illegal if anyone sang "We Shall Overcome."

Naturally, someone along the way realized that the proposal might be unconstitutional in one way or another (probably dozens of ways). After the city attorney pointed out certain problems with certain provisions, the ordinance was tabled.

But a diluted version of Lehr's proposal is still lurking around city staff work meetings and committee-sponsored hearings.

Lehr's proposal isn't passed. Much of it probably won't be.

But it is an outrage that such an ordinance could even have been written let alone seriously considered by three city council members.

--Mark Silverstein

## Normal police plan to attend parties

10-4 BUD!!  
THIS IS THE "?!\*!"  
PUNK THAT SOLD ME  
THE CUP!!!



COME ON--  
RESIST SOME  
MORE- \*!!?@!  
PUNK!!

In the latest of the Normal Police Department's innovative attempts to control student parties, Chief David Lehr announced that his troops would begin attending parties that are advertised publicly.

According to Lehr's mid-August announcement, the new tactic is aimed at stopping underage drinking and illegal alcohol sales.

Lehr claimed that police will show up at the party's advertised starting time and will make no effort to hide their presence.

On heavy nights, when officers are scattered around at lots of parties, Lehr said he may even ask Normal employees from other departments to attend parties. (Will they be asked to gather evidence, too, and testify in court?)

Although Lehr claimed he saw no legal problems with his new plan, former ISU Student Legal Services attorney George Taseff disagreed. "The whole plan smacks of a police state," Taseff told the Post Amerikan. "And it definitely is of questionable legality."

"It is a provocative act on the part of the police," Taseff continued, "and totally irresponsible in light of Justice Webber's comments in the recent appellate court dissent" (see adjoining story).

According to Taseff, no host need feel compelled to allow police to attend a party. Police can be asked to leave, just like any other uninvited or unwanted guest.

--M.S.

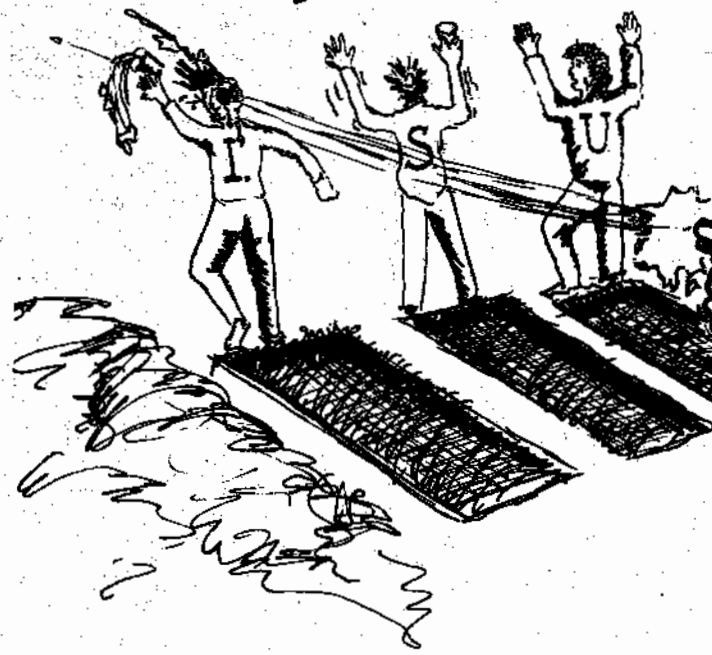
# NPD 'barbarians'; the hatchet

to discover evidence;--each one just a little more contrived than its predecessor.

"In any event, some officer was charged for a glass of beer and the case was made: illegal sale of alcohol. Even as long ago as when this writer attended college, it was not unusual for an impecunious host to ask his equally impecunious guests to contribute towards the cost of the keg. Perhaps that era was more indulgent, but it was never considered an offense worth the time of the police.

"Just how many officers entered the premises is unclear, but it is clear that the defendant appeared on the stairway and elected to bad-mouth them. He was then set upon by three of the officers, each of whom outweighed him by 50-110 pounds and stood from three to ten inches taller. They pushed the defendant and pinned him to the stairs with a choke hold, jumped upon him, twisted his arm, pulled his hair and pounded his head on the stairs. The majority characterizes this as a 'scuffle.' I suggest that it partook more of a brawl."

Justice Webber accused the Normal police of using disorderly conduct as "a catchall offense . . . a charge of convenience, if nothing more serious can be found." After pointing out that the conduct of someone so charged must alarm, disturb or provoke others, Justice Webber said "Here the record is replete with testimony that it was not the conduct of the defendant which alarmed others, but the conduct of the police."



"This was a close case," Judge Webber continued, "as indicated by the fact that the trial judge kept it under advisement for almost five months before rendering a decision. It is also a case which demonstrates an appalling waste of judicial time and effort.

"Conflict and confrontation between town and gown are as old as the medieval universities of Europe, but I find it of significance that many institutions of higher learning are located in this Fourth Judicial District, including the University of Illinois itself; yet the vast bulk of cases of this type arise at Illinois State. It is about time that the police and the students there bury the hatchet, if only in a shallow, well-marked grave."

--M. S.

## Landlord no friend of mine

High on my list of greedy individuals who daily commit crimes against the people are none other than landlords. Under the legitimizing disguise of a capitalist in a free society, this criminal is allowed to exploit other human beings for the accumulation of capital and the achievement of personal gain and power.

It's an affront to the spirit of free humans that one individual can gain ownership of a necessity of survival and charge other people to live. Recourse against these insidious criminals is limited because their actions and greed are considered legitimate business practices in our society.

In my opinion, among the more notorious landlords in our community is the wealthy Lynna L. Bonnell, one of the contributing investors in Bonnell Rental Properties, Inc. This is the same Ms. Bonnell who was a contributing investor in the now defunct Oasis Mobile Homes, Inc.

When Oasis Mobile Homes went belly up into bankruptcy, approximately 48 tenants lost their hard earned deposits. Ms. Bonnell did not need to dip into her own wealthy pocket to pay off the



money rightfully owed other people. Even more aggravating is the fact that during the bankruptcy proceedings, the records revealed that the tenants' deposits had been spent, apparently on normal operating costs.

Recently, another action by Ms. Bonnell, this time on Bonnell Rental Properties, Inc., came to my attention. Ms. Bonnell ordered everyone who is a resident of 314 E. Locust to remove their air conditioners.

I find this rather appalling in light of the recent deaths from over-exposure to heat. Equally appalling is the fact that Ms. Bonnell has no legal authorization to be making such orders. As she herself states, "cooperate with me as it is not in the lease, but this is your written notice and will be enforced immediately." It seems Ms. Bonnell wishes to charge every tenant with an air conditioner \$40 extra a month. Where she comes up with this nice round figure is beyond me. However, there were tenants who were going to pay it. That building is extremely hot.

I feel that if Ms. Bonnell feels that written notices are the way to amend legal contracts between two parties, without the consent of the other party, the tenants of 314 E. Locust should

make written notices of their own. How about a written notice that a swimming pool is to be dug within a week, and for every day it is not in existence after a week, tenants will subtract \$40 from their rent until Ms. Bonnell begins owing them money? Or a written notice that although there is no housing statute on how hot an apartment can become, this building is sweltering and the tenants want you to divert \$40 of their rent towards purchasing air conditioning for the whole building? Better yet, let the wealthy Lynna L. Bonnell pay for them out of her regard toward the needs and comfort of fellow human beings.

Finally, I am not sure what Ms. Bonnell's orders really mean. (I have enclosed a copy.) She says, "Tenants with air conditioners in windows on Monday August 5, 1983 will be charged an additional \$40 per month every month the air is in the window." I am not sure that it is physically possible for air to be in a window, nor would the air in a window with an air conditioner be different from that without an air conditioner? What does air in a window have to do with \$40 anyway? Secondly, she says that the written notice will be "inforced" immediately. Does she really intend on enforcing the "inforced" written notice?

I'm sorry for dragging on, but the content analysis of this written notice has become confusing. Anyone who knows anything about air in windows and why this costs \$40 and how she intends to enforce the "inforced" written notice is probably a landlord as well. . . .

--Michael T. Schroeder

Post Note: If Bonnell Inc., or any other landlord has indiscriminately raised your rent or abused your lease agreement, call us up at 828-7232.

Effective as of Friday August 5, 1983 all air-conditioners are to come out of all windows. The owner pays the electric bill and all the air conditioners are going to run up the bill. Tenants with air-conditioners in windows on Monday August 8, 1983 will be charged an additional \$40.00 per month every month the air is in the window.

Please co-operate with me on this matter as it is not in the lease but this is your written notice and will be enforced immediately.

Truly yours,

Lynna L. Bonnell

Lincoln Oil update

# More poop on



Answer this question: Why do you think people steal? No, wait--you can't write a 1000-word essay. Here are your choices: a. they don't earn enough money, b. they're stupid, c. it's an easy thing to do, d. they're dishonest.

How would you answer that question if you thought getting a job depended on your response? Well, if you apply for a job with Lincoln Oil Company, which operates the Pit Stop stores in town, you'll have to figure out which of the answers they want you to pick:

A couple of issues ago (v. 12, no. 3) the Post-American ran a story about the "honesty test" that Lincoln Oil gives perspective employees. Since that article appeared, another reader has taken the test and lived to tell about it. Doris applied at Lincoln Oil after having read the Post's earlier account, so she was prepared to some extent for the kind of mind games she'd have to play. Nonetheless she was offended and amused by how pretentious the whole thing is.

"We'd just like you to take this little test," she was told. "It's not used for hiring or firing decisions. It's just for our records." Actually Doris found that last remark more alarming than anything else about the test. Her answers are on file, and who knows where and when they'll be used again?

According to Doris, the test isn't a polygraph but it's intended to do the same thing. It reminded her of some psychological inventory or personality profile she'd seen in undergraduate psych classes.

She was given a printed, standardized test that took almost an hour to complete. Remember: Doris was

## Food for thought

# Let them eat cake

Charlottesville, Va., has become the 100th city to begin organizing a "Let Them Eat Cake Sale" as part of the burgeoning nationwide campaign to raise funds for hard-hit local citizen groups and to educate the public about the impact of Reaganomics.

"The enthusiasm has surpassed all expectations," said Peter Harnik, director of the event. "We now predict that organizations opposing

the effects of administration policies will raise half a million dollars through the cake sale--that's 5 times what we'd originally thought."

Scheduled for Oct. 3, the First National Let Them Eat Cake Sale will feature slices of locally baked cakes sold in informative, educational cakeboxes designed by 6 prominent cartoonists on such

current themes as unemployment, senior citizens, hunger, and war.

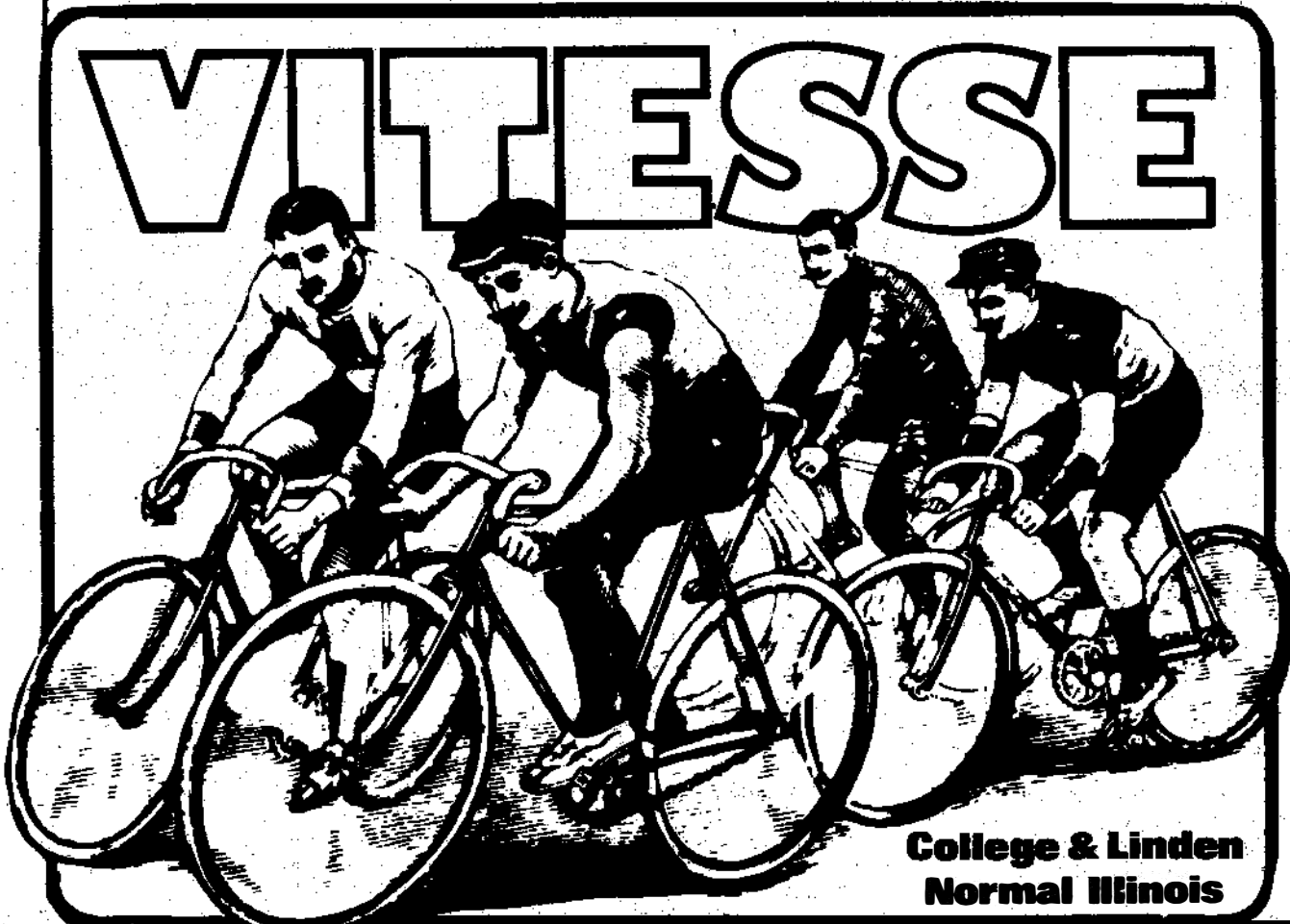
The event, which organizers say will be the largest bake sale in history, takes its name from Queen Marie Antoinette's alleged remark when she was told that the poor of France had no bread: "Well, then, let them eat cake!"

"That was nearly 200 years ago," said Harnik. "Yet today we see official arrogance and callousness that's just as bad, if not worse."

Money raised through the cake sales will go directly to local groups working on such issues as hunger, homelessness, seniors, unemployment, children, environment, and peace. Many of the participating groups are raising money to replace services that the government formerly provided. Others are using the funds to press for restoration of curtailed programs or to educate the public about current administration budgetary priorities.

Each slice of cake in its own cakebox will sell for about \$2.50, according to organizers. In addition, money will be raised through special pastry concoctions such as "Guns-or-Butter Cookies," "Banana Republic Cream Pie," and "Fund Raisin Bread."

The First National Let Them Eat Cake Sale, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization supported by grants and individual contributions and located at 918 "F" St., NW, Washington DC 20004. Write to the national office for more info about starting your own sale. ●



# employment tests

applying for the position of Pit Stop manager, not for an appointment to the Supreme Court.

The test presented provocative or intimidating statements--like "we all know that everyone has stolen something"--and solicited reactions. The above question about why people steal is typical. It's multiple choice, you can't leave it blank, there's no "All of the above" or "None of the above" option, and you can't add to or explain your choice. You're stuck with three oversimplifications or some meaningless doublespeak that says people steal because they're dishonest.

The test also used a number of set-up questions: what would you do with an employee who lied?--reprimand, fire, suspend, or have him arrested? What would you do with an employee who quarreled with a customer and used obscene language? with an employee who had been smoking marijuana? (How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?)

Many of the questions had to do with authority figures: cops, judges, executives. How many police do you think are corrupt? 20%? 40%? 60%? 80%? Do you think judges can be bribed? (Is that in Chicago or somewhere else?)

There were also questions about feelings. Are you happy a lot? Do you ever cry? (Is that before or after I finish this test?)

Then there was a chart that listed drugs and chemical substances and asked the applicant to indicate: have you ever tried it? how often? have you ever purchased or sold it? Doris said this list was extensive--more than just pot or speed. It named every drug you ever heard of. (Remember: "it's just for our records.")

After thinking about this test, Doris decided that the kind of personality they want is one who's afraid of authority but not immobilized by it. They're looking for employees with

straight, white, middle-class values, and the test is designed to reveal such creatures.

On the other hand, the test steered clear of any explicit items that might prompt discrimination suits: no questions about sex, race, religion, or marital status. That doesn't mean the test is a sophisticated psychometric instrument. It was administered and scored by the office secretary. A kind of paint-by-number Rorschach with do-it-yourself scoring.

Doris said that she didn't try to figure out what the test-makers or test-users wanted her to say about why people steal and other metaphysical riddles. None of the answers was adequate to account for the problem of evil in an imperfect world.

Doris decided to be completely honest in her answers.

Doris didn't get hired. ●

--Ferdydurke

## Getting fired for peanuts

Losing a steady job is really no laughing matter, but Bloomington resident Stephanie Purkey is still chuckling over the bizarre way she got fired from the Pantagraph a couple of years ago.

First, here's background material:

Stephanie had been shopping at Kroger's on Main and Emerson for 8 years. She'd been working at the Pantagraph, taking classified ads, for 4½ years. Kroger's is a big advertiser in the Pantagraph.

While grocery shopping one day, Stephanie checked out a bag of peanuts that had been opened and resealed. Suspicious that they might be stale, she pinched one out of the package and tasted it. Sure enough, it was stale. It was also the cause of a shoplifting bust.

"They called it retail theft. I call it being a careful shopper," she laughed.

### One for Paul Harvey

Even the police thought it was funny to take someone in for literally stealing peanuts. "This is one for Paul Harvey," one of the cops said. "If I was Kroger's, I'd keep this one under my hat," another remarked.

Stephanie's boss at the Pantagraph didn't think it was so humorous. Howard Duvall, when her pretrial hearing was coming up, began asking her if there was something she could

do to avoid open court, like "forfeit your bond, or something."

"I told him, 'I didn't have to pay any bond; all I did was eat a peanut,'" Stephanie says.

The very day of her pretrial hearing, Stephanie got fired. Her bosses, Duvall and Woody Shadid, said that they were firing her because she had given out confidential information on a classified advertiser.

She had. A former fellow Pantagraph classified worker had called with a question about one of the ads, and without thinking she had answered the question, with her boss standing right behind her.

"Now, if I was intentionally doing wrong, would I do it with my boss standing there listening? Of course it was inadvertant. If I was cheating, I'd go out to a phone booth to give out the information."

### Frequently broken

Stephanie added that the rule against giving out information on advertisers is one that's frequently broken and has never to her knowledge been used as grounds for firing before.

She strongly suspects that the Pantagraph just didn't want one of its employees making one of its advertisers look ridiculous in open court. "I think they wanted to disassociate from me before the trial." In support of her

suspicion, there's the fact that a note saying that she no longer worked at the Pantagraph was posted at the phone operator's station on the day she was fired, even while she was working there finishing off the day.

Stephanie thinks the Pantagraph's fears for their advertiser were unfounded anyway. "The people who shop at Kroger's are still going to shop there, no matter what I say in court. It ain't like I'm the Pied Piper. Now, people who know me, who know what happened, maybe they won't squeeze the tomatoes the way they used to," she says.

### Not sniffers

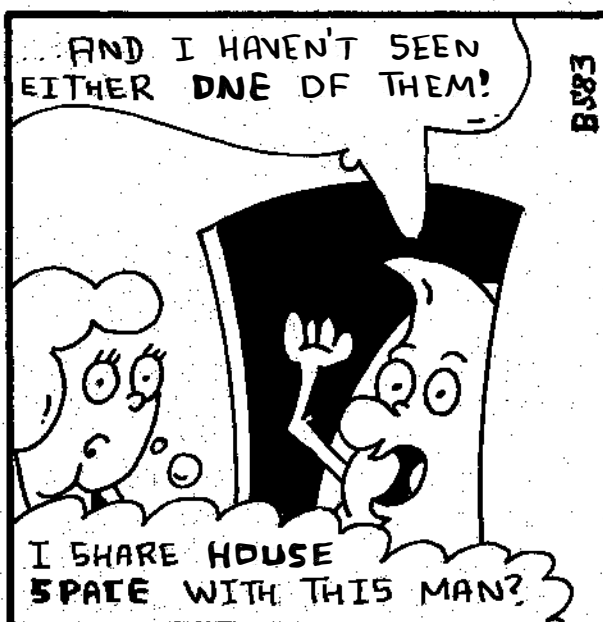
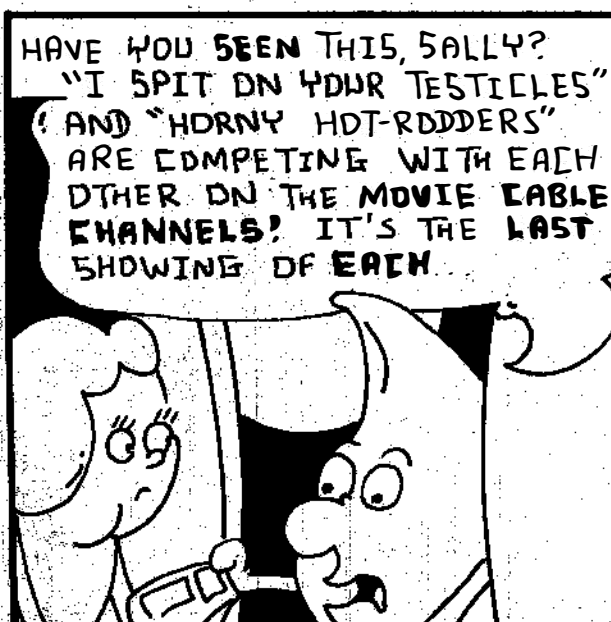
"I've got a friend who sniffs the shampoo in the store," she added. "A lot of people sniff stuff. I said to the Kroger man, 'Why don't you grab the sniffers?' He said he would if he could."

Stephanie's job hunt was considerably harmed by the question, "Why did you leave your last job?" because the official reason was that she'd given out confidential information.

With evidently unquenchable high spirits, Stephanie concludes, "Oh, it wasn't so bad. It led to a great career change, you know." She now washes dishes at the Steak 'n' Shake. ●

--Phoebe Caulfield

## Call Comics





# ISU students confront racism in South Carolina

A trip south after school is a common thing for many university students, enjoying days in the sun and languishing on warm beaches.

But for a group of students from Illinois State University this past spring, their trip south had a very different purpose--living and working in a poor black community, trying to understand that reality better.

Fourteen students from ISU, affiliated with St. Robert Bellarmine-Newman Center, the Catholic students' center on campus, travelled to Sumter, South Carolina, to spend a week at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, pastored by Dr. Willis T. Goodwin, to help restore the old church parsonage for use as a community center.

The students, 11 women and 3 men, joined by community members, faced long days in the hot sun, scraping years of paint off the old frame building, gutting walls and restoring woodwork. But besides this outward change, there were interior changes from confronting our still racist society.

Sumter, S.C., population 24,000, is located 30 miles east of Columbia and about 90 miles inland from Charleston. The students found a typical small town when they entered, until they drove "over the tracks" to the predominantly black southside.

Forty percent of Sumter's population is black, and 20% of the black housing lacks rudimentary indoor plumbing, still depending on outhouses and wells. The average black home in this community is only worth \$15-20,000, compared to the \$50-60,000 for a white home.

As a whole, South Carolina is 49th in the nation in wages and barely half of all eligible blacks are registered to vote. That figure is not far off for the white population either, with only 55% of eligible whites registered.

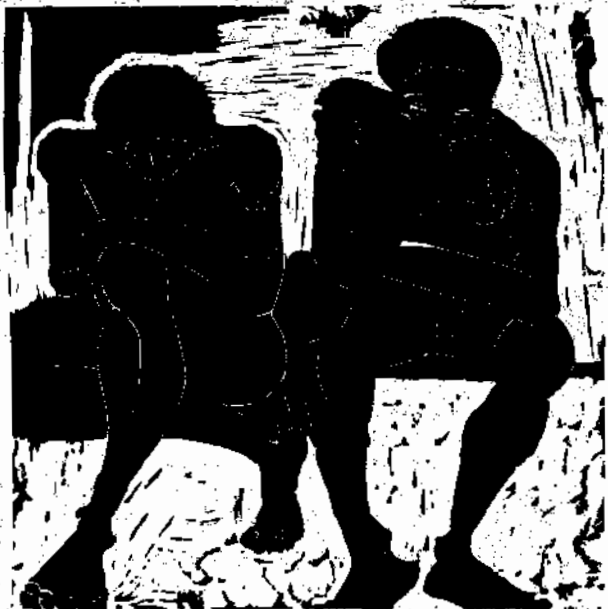
The days of chipping paint in the hot sun were an eye-opener, but even more so the long evening discussions, in which students conversed with community members and with Dr. Goodwin.

Following are a few excerpts from journals and diaries kept during the week's stay. Besides recording the experience of meeting a new community, entries tell of inward reflections, as the problems and challenges of racial separation in our society were mulled over.

"Why did Sumter look so aesthetically pleasing until we crossed the railroad tracks to the south side, to where people lived in dilapidated wooden shacks with broken porches and tiny yards? Why did that one woman have only a broken pump in her back yard, and why did the city charge the poor so much money to hook their houses up to city water lines? Why was it that the area was so blatantly ignored by the street department, that every time it rained heavily Bee Street flooded people's yards and people had to roll up their pants and wade if they wanted to leave the house?" --Anne D.

Perhaps most amazing to the students was the warm reception they received. They expected antagonism, weren't sure of their reception, and instead found a community which overflowed to welcome them, and shared what they had with these newcomers.

"I know the work project in Sumter was a most valuable experience for all of us, in different ways. I can never forget working and singing side by side with all these people I've been afraid of for so long, those 'lazy, lying, degenerate, dishonest, good-



LNS/cpf

for-nothing spooks' I was taught to avoid--the same people who accepted me, a total stranger, who fed me, laughed with me, and got embarrassed with me, the people who have a history just like I do, who have dreams, struggles and fears . . . just like me." --Anne D.

The welcome was overwhelming as the exhausted group from Illinois straggled in from their all-night drive, to be told they were expected for choir practice in an hour. Practicing for 3 long hours that night, the Illinois students found themselves part of a gospel choir the next morning, marching in, learning to swing and sing gospel style:

"What awesome experiences! I find my mouth agape with anticipation of every minute and my heart filling up with excitement and spirit. We actually sang with the choir in the service. I was in tenor heaven. I could hardly believe my eyes or ears! So beautiful to be a part of the people. The singing was so joyous and spiritual. We got soul!" --Cathi I.

The work on the house continued, scraping, chipping old paint, and tearing out the plaster inside. The long hours of work left time for thought, especially since almost every evening had a discussion lasting into the morning's wee hours.

"Before I ever reached Sumter, I expected to work hard and to learn about the area and the people there, but I didn't expect to get so stirred up inside as I did. I now realize that we're blind to a lot of present-day injustices because we've been led to believe in school and at home that racism was a brief problem in history which got snuffed out when Congress passed laws against segregation. It's difficult for us to see that not a lot has changed. . . . Since we place a lot of trust in our 'legal system,' it bothers us to see that changes in our laws mean nothing, really. It's not easy to see that attitudinal change and conversion of heart is the only change that matters when it comes to



how people treat one another. And that change can't happen without a lot of sweat, education and dialogue between us, as we work side by side with one another." --Anne D.

The culmination of the trip came on Thursday evening of the week, with an ecumenical prayer service. The students from Illinois had an opportunity to share their songs and some liturgical dance with the people of Sumter, and the joy and love of the week literally overflowed into the church aisles, the service ending with everyone locked hand in hand, singing "We Shall Overcome."

"Our liturgy sharing was wondrous. Everyone together as one people. Standing there and looking into the eyes of the folks and trying to only attempt to imagine what they are seeing and hearing is something else. Despite color or creed, we are truly one people. We are called to be more." --Cathi I.

"For me the climax of the trip happened Thursday night. After communion everyone started hugging and kissing. To see these older black women hugging and saying how beautiful everything was and that they have hope now, it was something I'll never forget. Then we all joined hands, and sang, 'Deep in my heart, I do believe, We Shall Overcome someday.' I don't think I've ever felt like that moment, I was completely overwhelmed with joy. I believe that even the most prejudiced person would have been touched by this." --Carol B.

A short week goes quickly. One can ask what it has led to. A side of a 2-story building has been stripped and painted, some interior work has been done.

But some even deeper interior work has been done by a group of young people from Illinois. They've had to confront the lingering stains of racism in our society and meet some of the thousands of faces still affected by it. A small community in South Carolina learned that they were important and that someone cares about them. Plans are already being made for future efforts.

The small ripples will continue. There will be a group from Illinois, on the verge of careers and choices, who will think twice about our society's structures, who will not be so afraid of, feel so distant from, black America. And this will hopefully lead to a new and different perspective in their lives, and the lives of people they touch.

"I've been to Carolina for real. It was an experience I never had dreamed of. The hope of bringing about change and justice is alive within me. I only pray that I do not lose my enthusiasm. Prejudice is ugly and unjust and it is through experiences such as Sumter that I discover how terrible it really is. Those folks are a part of me now." --Cathi I.

"What I learned from this trip is very difficult to express. It was an emotional trip, a feeling trip, filled with laughter, tears and so much beauty. It's very hard for me to deal with any prejudice or racial statements now. An instant anger flairs up inside of me. I just have no tolerance for it anymore. I only pray that by relating my experience of Sumter to other people, they will question their prejudice. It's a tremendous task, but I'll always have those warm faces from Sumter to give me strength and inspiration." --Carol B.

--Mike Matejka with Cathi Inerra, Carol Banasiak, and Anne Duback

# THE STORY SO FAR:

SWEET COE'D JILL BARRINGTON, ANGRY THAT HER CAMPUS DREAMBOAT "BOYFRIEND" CHAD ISN'T PAYING HER ENOUGH ATTENTION, DECIDES TO BE SEEN ABOUT TOWN AND ACCOMPANIES SISTER KAT (our heroine) TO A NIGHT SPOT... WHERE SHE HAPPENS TO SEE CHAD, WHO HAPPENS TO BE ADMIRING THE SAME YOUNG MAN SHE HERSELF HAPPENS TO BE ADMIRING!! CAN IT BE? CHAD-GAY?

**GAY!!** THE VERY WORD STUCK IN MY THROAT AND RANG IN MY EARS AS I CHOKED BACK THE SOBS AND STRUGGLED VAINLY TO MASTER MY TEARS! BLINDED BY THE PAIN OF THE MOMENT, IT TOOK TIME FOR ME TO ACCEPT THE COMFORT AND WISDOM OF...

YES, GAY! I WAS THUNDERSTRUCK! MY MIND WAS A JUMBLE OF IMAGES AND MEMORIES AS I TRIED TO INTEGRATE THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT! BUT THE FEAR AND REVULSION WAS TOO MUCH FOR MY TORTURED MIND TO COPE WITH... I SUCCUMBED TO THE RISING TIDE OF TEARS!

THE NEXT FEW DAYS I WAS IN MISERY... I COULDN'T EAT OR SLEEP! I WOULDN'T EVEN ANSWER THE PHONE! FINALLY KAT CAME OVER AND SAT ME DOWN FOR A SISTER TO SISTER TALK...

**MY SISTER, the PUNK ROCKER**

CHAD! CHAD! HOW COULD HE DO THIS TO ME? HOW WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO FACE MY FRIENDS? OH, MY LIFE IS RUINED!!

OH KAT! HOW COULD CHAD TREAT ME THIS WAY? WHEN I THINK OF HOW I THREW MYSELF AT HIM! AND HE MUST HAVE BEEN LAUGHING AT ME THE WHOLE TIME! NOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER! WHEN HE NEVER MENTIONED A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP, I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE HE RESPECTED ME! NOW I KNOW IT WAS BECAUSE I COULDN'T SATISFY HIM—THE WAY A MAN COULD!!



OK, SIS, I'VE LET YOU HAVE YOUR LITTLE CRYING SPELL, AND NOW IT'S TIME TO STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF! NOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN TOO FOND OF CHAD, BUT NOW I SEE HIM IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT! CHANCES ARE HE WAS NEVER LAUGHING AT YOU—ONLY FEELING LIKE A FOOL FOR TRYING TO CONVINCE EVERYONE—INCLUDING HIMSELF—THAT HE WAS STRAIGHT!

OK, OK! BUT THE POINT IS—LYING TO HIMSELF MUST BE FAR MORE PAINFUL THAN HIS "COMING OUT" IS TO YOU! HE'S PROBABLY GOING THROUGH A LOT OF SHIT NOW, AND YOU CAN EITHER STAND THERE AND WALLOW IN YOURS, OR YOU CAN OFFER TO HELP HIM THROUGH HIS! HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TURN A SUPERFICIAL RELATIONSHIP INTO A REAL FRIENDSHIP!! BE HIS FRIEND, NOT HIS GIRLFRIEND!

HER WORDS SEEMED TO ECHO OVER AND OVER IN MY HEAD! I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO! IT WAS LATE AFTERNOON WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ON CHAD'S DOORSTEP—SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!!

BUT... BUT HE LIED TO ME!!

SNIFFS  
HMMM...

?!!

IT WAS AWKWARD AT FIRST, BUT AFTER I HAD CONVINCED CHAD OF MY SINCERITY HE BEGAN TO OPEN UP TO ME IN WAY NO MAN HAD EVER DONE AND I BEGAN TO GLIMPSE A SENSITIVE, WARM, VULNERABLE PERSON WHO HAD BEEN HIDDEN IN YEARS OF SELF-DECEIT AND FOOT BALL JERSEYS...

AND WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE YEARS I SPENT HARASSING PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T CONFORM TO COVER UP MY OWN INSECURITIES! THE PAST TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE WERE SO FULL OF AUTOMATIC MACHO RESPONSES I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN A ROBOT! I MEAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO COMPETE IN EVERY POSSIBLE SPORT EVERY YEAR??

OH MY! HOW AWFUL! ALL THOSE GRASS STAINS IN YOUR LAUNDRY!



**MEANWHILE,** IN A PUNCHED-OUT STUDENT APARTMENT ACROSS TOWN...

THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE PUNK QUEEN IN THIS TWO-BIT TOWN, AND THAT'S ME! SO SOMEBODY BETTER TELL THIS KAT BARRINGTON TO MOVE OVER, 'CUZ ANGINA SPITZ IS MOVIN' IN!

**NEXT PUNK WARS**



# AIDS and the CIA

The call has gone out to increase federal funding for AIDS research. While we all want to know more about what causes AIDS and how to stop it, gay people need to be careful about putting their trust in the medical profession, which itself must bear major responsibility for making gay sexuality more dangerous than it need be.

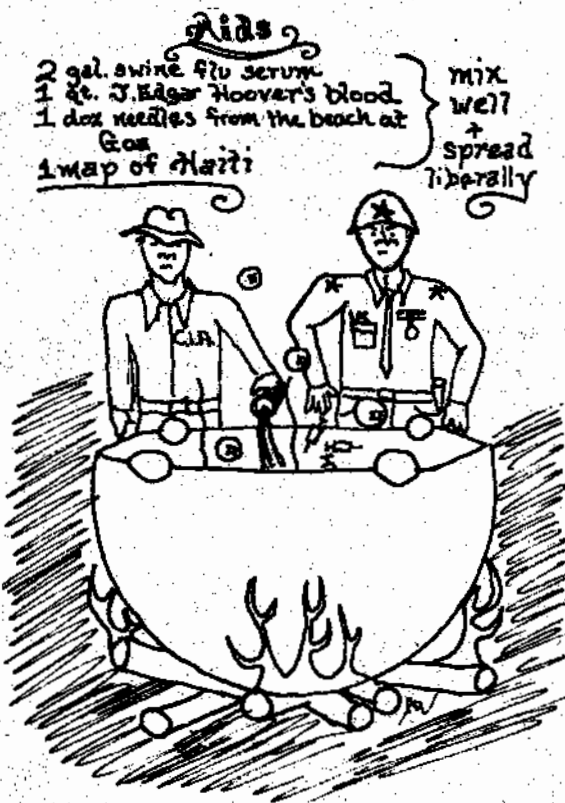
We need to consider that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) often does more to maintain disease than to control it. Look at their history.

In 1932, CDC began an experiment on 600 black men, which was only discontinued when the press discovered their crime in 1972. Four hundred black men were watched to see what the effects of untreated syphilis would be on their death rate (the other 200 were used as "control subjects"). Even after the "experiment" was ended in 1972, treatment for the surviving men was delayed almost a year. As one newspaper reported, the CDC "sees the poor, the black, the illiterate and the defenseless in American society as a vast resource for the government" (James H. Jones, Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, 1981).

But the CDC has been hardly more trustworthy in dealing with straight white people. In 1976--after Gerald Ford had pardoned Nixon and needed to refurbish his own election campaign--the politicians attempted to restore faith in the government by creating a Swine Flu Panic. When their flu vaccine began killing people, their political ploy flopped and the Swine Flu Crusade dropped into the dustbin of history. In the process, of course the drug company who manufactured the vaccine made a good profit, which they shared with the Republican party.

There is a frightening likelihood that AIDS has been funded all along

by the federal government. If the theory of Dr. Jane Teas (Harvard School of Public Health) is correct that AIDS is caused by a virus related to the African Swine Fever virus, then there is evidence that the CIA is responsible for introducing the disease in the western hemisphere.



A Newsday article reprinted in the Boston Globe (9 Jan. 1977) reports that CIA operatives received the virus at Ft. Gulick (a CIA biological warfare training station in Panama), then travelled to Navassa (a U.S. controlled island just off the coast of Haiti), and then to Guantanamo--the U.S. naval base on the island of Cuba. The virus was then spread to Cuban pigs. From there it spread to the Dominican Republic (1978), to Haiti (1979) and reappeared in Cuba in 1980.

According to James E. D'Eramo, the African Swine Fever virus in Haiti initially killed "80 to 100 percent of the pigs in a given location, but as it spread from one pig feeding lot to another the mortality rate of the pigs decreased to a mere 3 percent." Currently, according to Dr. Teas, "the Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. governments are in the process of destroying the pig population of Haiti in an attempt to control the African Swine Fever infection, with the United States footing the \$18 million bill" (NY Native, #64).

The African Swine Fever Theory would suggest that the CIA effort in Cuba got out of control, spread to Haiti, and then to people. But a newly published book--Robert Harms and Jeremy Paxman's, A Higher Form of Killing, The Secret Story of Chemical and Biological Warfare, 1982--suggests a more sinister possibility.

In their epilogue, Harms and Paxman point out that chemical and biological warfare and research continue in the United States under the Department of Defense. The current \$1.2 trillion allocated for the military leaves plenty of room for circumventing the rules of international law.

In testimony before the House Committee on Appropriations in 1969, a military spokesperson explained "Within the next 5 or 10 years, it would probably be possible to make a new infective micro-organism which could differ from any known disease-causing organisms. Most important of these is that it might be refractory to the immunological and therapeutic processes upon which we depend to maintain our relative freedom from infectious disease." And a 1975 military manual promises forthcoming "ethnic chemical weapons which would be designed to exploit naturally occurring differences in vulnerability among specific population groups."

## GOD! I FORGOT TO RENEW MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE POST-AMERIKAN



**POST-AMERIKAN**

Send me a subscription, \$4  
 Send me a t-shirt, \$6 donation  
 XL L M S  
 is my donation to the Post

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I remembered to take out the garbage, leave food for the cat, turn off the air conditioner, pay the telephone bill, and water the philodendron. But all of that means nothing, without a Post-Amerikan subscription. My life is empty... I desperately seek thrills and find them all sordid and meaningless...

Don't let it happen to you.

For the next 12 issues, send \$4 to Post-Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington IL 61701.

# connection?

AIDS sounds like such a weapon which knocks out the immunological defenses of the individual. And the U.S. military attitude towards lesbians and gay men is well known; they claim we are unfit for service.

Agent Orange (with its dioxin component) should be studied closely for parallels or links with AIDS. The U.S. government has certified that Agent Orange is harmless - an excellent example of manifest dishonesty and unreliability in medical research. The International Symposium on Herbicides and Defoliants (Ho Chi Minh City, Jan. 1983) found that dioxin toxicity includes chronic hepatitis and disturbances in immune function, among other effects.

The difficulty with AIDS is only superficially medical. True, we don't know the cause or the treatment for the disease. But we do know the cause of syphilis and we do have an effective treatment and have had since the 1940's. For religious reasons the disease has been retained in order to punish people for their sexual liberties. The CDC doctors called in "bad blood," and even after the revelations of 1972, some believed they had been smeared by the press for the "good" work they had done.


Instead of checking out the CDC, the CIA, or the medical-pharmacological establishment, too many gay people readily surrender to the lie that our sexuality is crippling us. They say our sex is adolescent, compulsive, retarded, irresponsible, sinful, and dreadful. Such teaching has encouraged the spread of syphilis and such teaching will surely impair our struggle against AIDS.

We must not trust doctors, politicians, or other professionals to do for us what we must do for ourselves. We cannot let others, however well intentioned, speak for us. ●

--Charley Shively, Fag Rag, #40 (1983)

**The All-new**

**My Sister, the Punk Rocker T-shirt**



Mail To:  
PO Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL  
61701

I need a My Sister the Punk Rocker T-shirt.  
Here's my \$6.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Size S M L XL  
Here's my generous donation of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Proceeds go to the Post.

## AIDS hysteria spreads

A dramatic outbreak of queer-bashing by gangs of teenagers has erupted in Seattle. The attacks have been linked to AIDS panic.

At least 6 gay men have been attacked in the past month in the Broadway area, the city's largest predominantly gay neighborhood. Gay-owned businesses have been the

targets of rock-throwing and firecracker-throwing. Reports indicate that references to AIDS and "disease carriers" are frequently shouted by the attackers.

A police detective quoted one apprehended basher as saying, "If we don't kill these fags, they'll kill us with all their fucking AIDS disease."

Elsewhere, the annual Reno Gay Rodeo went on as planned (Aug. 4-7) despite efforts by religious groups to use the AIDS panic as a pretext for banning the event.

The Pro-Family Christian Coalition took out full-page ads in Reno papers using the phrase "AIDS Alert." In the ads the group called on the county commission to close down the rodeo because the expected audience of 50,000 created a "health crisis" in Reno. In news accounts, a coalition member was quoted as saying that gays "ought to be put to death."

On July 26 the commission refused to take any action on the fundamentalist group's request. The Reno Gay Rodeo donated a portion of its proceeds to the AIDS/KS Foundation. ●

## Learn to hate commies in Florida

There are two things required for high school graduation in Florida. One is passing a functional literacy test. The other is taking a course called "Americanism versus Communism."

The course has been required in Florida high schools since 1961. On May 31, the Florida House of Representatives voted 89-26 to retain the course as a requirement for graduation.

the House UnAmerican Activities Committee and Senate internal security subcommittee. Young also questioned those sources.

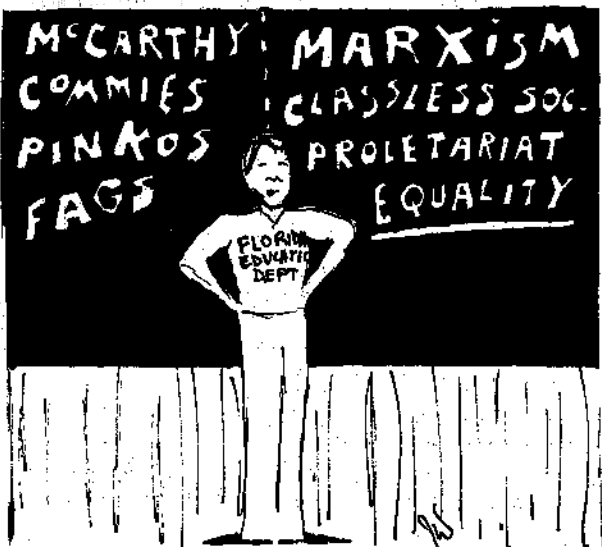
But he was not to get away with that kind of commie-pinko talk. As Rep. Ileana Ros put it, "Communism is an evil and it should be taught that way. We should teach students the fallacies of communism, just like drugs." The Florida House agreed.

I'm so glad that we live in a country where our freedom to think and to learn and to speak and to question isn't thwarted by our government, the way it is in Russia. ●

--Deborah Wiatt

--Gay Community News

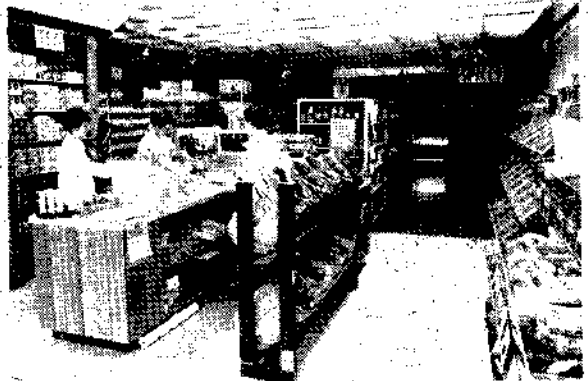
"... SURE, IT LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER, BUT, YOUR JOB'S NOT ON THE LINE!"



State Rep. Walter Young proposed that the course be changed to one called "Comparative Political and Economic Systems" because the mandated course requirements were infringements on academic freedom.

Seems that, by law, the course must teach "the evils, dangers, and fallacies of communism by giving them a thorough understanding of the entire communist movement." Instructors of the course are prohibited by law from teaching or using any text that might present communism "as preferable to the system of constitutional government and the free enterprise competitive economy indigenous to the United States."

Materials for the course are, again by law, to be drawn from the records of



# Common Ground

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COMMON GROUND now offers you the opportunity to cut food and vitamin costs by 10%. You may obtain your 10% discount club card in the following two ways:

- (1) You may purchase a discount card for a yearly fee of \$10.
- (2) You may earn a free discount card by accumulating \$50 worth of COMMON GROUND sales receipts. Simply save your receipts until you have a total of \$50, at which time we will present you with a FREE 10% discount card good for one year.

Once you have your discount card, simply present it at the checkout counter for a 10% discount on every purchase.

**Our wide selection of wholesome foods now includes gourmet coffee beans fresh produce**



# St. Joseph's Hospital dumps nurses aides; claims no loss in care

Post-Amerikan

vol. 12, no. 5  
September 1983

page 12

Last month the hospital that touts it itself as "A Caring Team" abruptly fired 28 experienced employees and tried to disguise this drastic reduction in patient care as a shift from "team nursing" to a "total patient care system." The 28 firings were part of a year-old program that had already eliminated 62 nurses-aide positions through attrition.

Although St. Joseph's administrator Frank Brady claimed in a Pantagraph article that the decision to eliminate 87 full-time nurses-aide positions was made a year ago, all of the former aides interviewed by the Post-Amerikan said they had no warning that they'd be fired. In fact, several ex-employees told the Post that they had been reassured several times in the past few months that their jobs were safe.

Brady also tried to downplay the impact of the mass elimination of nurses aides by claiming that the hospital had recruited "highly skilled registered nurses" to offset the loss of so many employees. But the Post-Amerikan has learned that some of the RN replacements are still not on the job more than 6 weeks after the 28 aides were unexpectedly canned.

And no matter how you juggle the labels, replacing 90 nurses aides with 46 registered nurses still means a net loss of 44 workers (some of them part-time). Trying to pass this situation off as an "improvement" in patient care is a lot like calling ketchup a vegetable.

The way the recent firings were handled makes a cynical mockery out of the hospital's new slogan--"A Caring Team." Several ex-aides told the Post that they weren't told until they reported for their shifts on July 7 that they no longer had jobs. They were sent home and told they'd get 2 weeks severance pay. Although they were told not to inform other employees about the firing, one woman found out from her niece, who also used to work at St. Jo's, that neither of them had a job anymore.

### Sudden firings

"It was a real kick in the teeth," said one former employee. Another said she was "devastated by the news." A current hospital employee told the Post that "sudden, traumatic firings" are "a rule with this administration."

The fired employees feel that the hospital administration deceived and betrayed them.

One woman claims she was told 4 times not to worry about her job, even as late as the week before the firings. She said that 6 months ago, when the hospital began its expensive "Caring Team" promo, administrator Brady held an employee meeting in which he answered a question about jobs by assuring everyone there would be a place for them in the hospital.

This same source told the Post that she and some other aides confronted

Anna Lee Fenger, head of nursing services, about the RNs being hired. Fenger assured them that no one would be fired. Almost everyone the Post talked to about the St. Joe firings claims that Fenger misled them with false assurances of job security.

Another ex-aide says that she had a job evaluation only a week before she got the axe and was told her position was safe. She later heard that the paperwork to fire everybody started as early as June 6, a whole month before the mass firings occurred. Other sources reported that aides were

"They are not a caring team. They can't tell me they cared about us when they did this to us."

given in-service training for the new "total care" program and were told by the RN running the session that they would have jobs in the new system.

The fired workers were told that the reason they were let go suddenly was that if they continued to work after the notice they'd do a bad job. But a truly "caring team" would have given the people slated to be laid off some advance warning, allowing them to look for work while they still had jobs. There was no effort to transfer or re-assign workers within the hospital, and the attempt to give "job assistance" was an empty gesture.

One person described the effort by the personnel department to give "help" in finding other jobs as "pathetic." The help consisted of a letter with job listings in it. A friend went to one of the places listed and was told: "We're not hiring. Who told you we were hiring?"

The job assistance was supposed to last for 90 days, but the letters have already stopped coming. As one woman reported, she can't find work of any kind.

Almost all of the people fired are women, many of whom are the sole support of their families. "A lot of us depended on that job," one woman told the Post. "It was our only support."

She also said that because of recent

"I really cared about that place. I felt that I gave really good patient care. But I don't trust them now. I don't trust that hospital."

assurances about her job she took out a loan from the credit union. Now she's stuck with the payments. "I never would have taken out that loan if I knew I would be laid off."

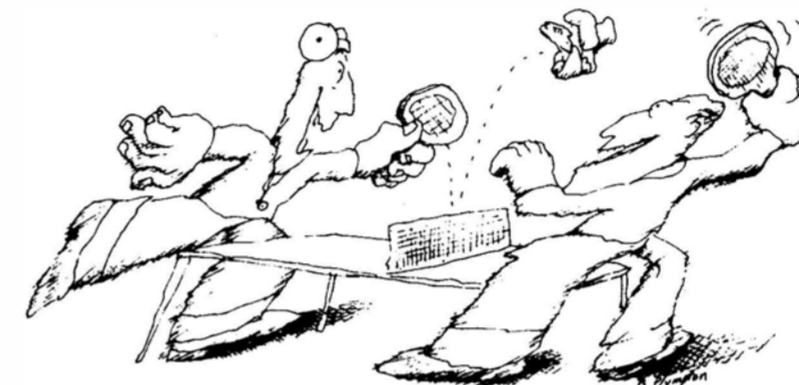
Another woman bought a car just before she was fired.

One of the women who talked to the Post said she's pregnant and already has two small children (ages 4 and 5). Although her husband is working, her part-time job was very important to them. Now she can't even get unemployment benefits because the unemployment office requires that she look for full-time work--which, given her situation, she really doesn't want.

Many of the fired employees gave St. Joseph's hospital a lot of years of loyal service. Several of them worked there more than 10 years. One angry unemployed aide said, "We worked holidays, we worked every other weekend. I myself would work overtime whenever they needed me." She's not sure an RN would do the same.

### "I was professional"

These people also resent it that the hospital administration is crowing about replacing the aides with "highly trained professionals." Said one woman: "When I was on the job, I was professional. I did my job."



Health Pac/cpf

## Check into the Sheraton--it's cheaper

It costs \$152 a day to be a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital. That's for a semi-private room (they have only private and semi-private rooms). That's the basic price--other items, like water pitchers, will be added to your bill.

St. Joe's hasn't raised its basic room charge for more than a year, one of its business office employees told me. But according to another hospital worker, St. Joe's is charging a lot more for individual services and for items that used to be part of the basic room service. Like water pitchers. (I wasn't making that up.)

Nationwide, hospital room charges went up 13.3% in 1982. That's more than triple the 4% general increase in consumer prices for the year, according to figures published by

the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 1981 hospital costs went up 17.5% to \$118 billion--nearly a quadruple increase in the last 10 years.

That's a lot of money pouring into hospital coffers. A lot more than the rest of us are getting. Where's it going?

Well, in Bloomington-Normal, it's not going to nurses aides. And soon it won't be going to poor people. And not a lot of folks are getting refunds for unsatisfactory service. (See adjoining articles.)

So what's left? Well, there are those expensive, little-used pieces of equipment that're available at other local hospitals. ("Brokaw has a machine that goes bleep; we've got to have one too.")

And there are those slick,

expensive, but unnecessary tv and newspaper commercials that proclaim St. Joseph's a "caring team." (What they're caring about--money? themselves? a machine that goes bleep?--isn't specified.)

And, then, there are those highly paid administrators, who make no medical contributions to the hospital but pull down huge salaries, presumably to reward them for making tough decisions and brutalizing low-level employees.

For \$152 a day you can get a much nicer room at the Sheraton and have plenty left over for meals. The rooms are private, have tv and free water pitchers, and there aren't a lot of sick people around. A machine that goes bleep is probably extra.

--Ferdurdurke

## St. Joseph's aims to reduce free care

The good Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital are trying, as quietly as possible, to get out of their obligation to provide free health care to people who can't pay for it.

A tiny, one-time classified ad in The Daily Pantagraph July 28 announced that the Sisters "no longer are participating" in the Hill-Burton Act, a law that requires hospitals that have received federal aid to provide free medical care for the poor.

St. Joseph's got a federal low-interest loan to finance the hospital's construction in 1967. That would ordinarily have obligated the hospital to provide free care for 20 years, but St. Joseph's claims that since it gave more free care than was required in previous years that it should be freed from the Hill-Burton rules four years early.

The hospital's pull-out is not final until after a government audit, but St. Joseph's has already taken down the signs notifying its patients of its obligations under Hill-Burton.

"We have met our obligation," said Ray Kolodzieski, director of the hospital's business office. "Of course, we will still continue, as Catholic hospitals have always done, to give uncompensated care to the needy."

According to Kolodzieski, the hospital doesn't like the fact that Hill-Burton rules won't let St. Joseph's take a person's assets into consideration when determining whether the person is eligible for free care.

The implication is that people should be forced to sell their houses in order to pay their hospital bills.

Kolodzieski said that St. Joseph's will develop "better guidelines than Hill-Burton." Until then, however, the hospital is still using the Hill-Burton guidelines.

Kolodzieski admitted that the hospital probably will not give as much free care in the future as it has in the past. St. Joseph's won't have to give any free care, but it will choose to give some, he said. Kolodzieski didn't know the exact amount.

St. Joseph's will continue to provide emergency room care regardless of people's ability to pay. That doesn't mean it will be free care--just that the hospital will worry later about getting the money.

According to Jack Porter of Prairie

State Legal Services, hospital bills are the single most frequent item to appear among the debts of the people Porter sees who are in desperate financial shape.

Porter estimates that he personally suggests to about 25 people a year that the Hill-Burton Act is the best way out from under their hospital bills.

Not all of those people are in debt to St. Joseph's, of course. But a 1979 Post-Amerikan survey of local hospitals showed that St. Joseph's provided by far the most free care of the three hospitals.

That statistic will no doubt change now.

--I.S. & M.S.



**NOTICE**  
 The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, O/S/A St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center, declare that they no longer are participating in the Public Health Service Act as amended, 42CFR Part 134. If there are any questions concerning the above, please phone 662-2111, Extension 464, or visit the Business Office at 2201 East Washington, Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

This is the complete text of St. Joseph Hospital's announcement that it will no longer provide free medical care to the poor under the federal Hill-Burton Act.

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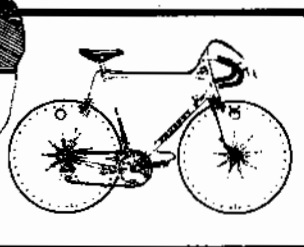
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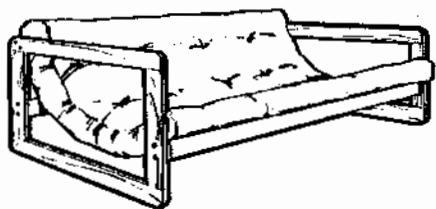
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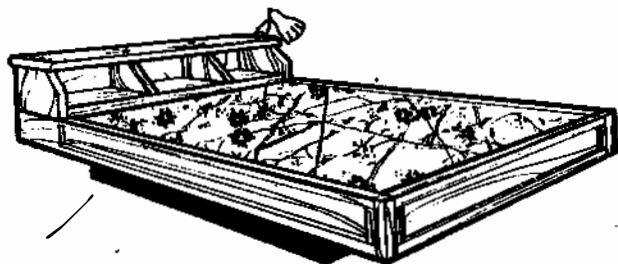
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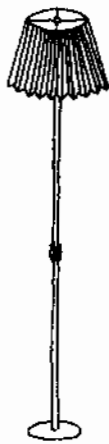


Clip 'n' Clamp Lamps  
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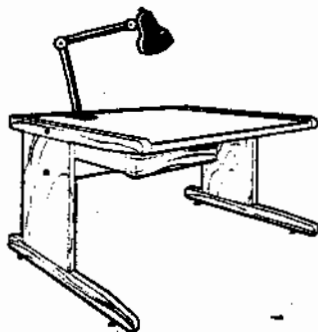
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This story  
continued  
from  
preceding  
page.

Post-American  
September 1983

page 14

up and see what's going on over there," said one employee.

Some of the populace just might find out what's going on when they become patients at the hospital. One or two hefty malpractice suits may wake up Mr. Brady and his cohorts. ●

--Ferdydurke

## Guaranteed service?

## Don't bank on it

The June 13, 1983, edition of the Pentagraph carried an interesting section called "Progress '83." It was, in case you missed it, chock full of articles and advertisements from the county's major employers. One of the county's major employers (and major advertisers) was St. Joseph's Hospital.

St. Joe's, we are told in the article, offered a guarantee to its patients in January 1983. The guarantee reads: "We believe in the quality of patient care, therefore, if you are not satisfied with your care or service, you will not be charged for that service."

Sounds fair. Sounds good, even. Sounds like St. Joe's really is a "caring team."

The article continues: "As of April 5, there had been just 27 complaints and the hospital had only been required to refund \$280."

The hospital had only been required to refund \$280? Required? What is this required?

The guarantee says that if you're not satisfied, you won't be charged. Twenty-seven people weren't satisfied. But the "caring team" only parted with \$280. Something seems wrong here. Did one poor schmuck get the whole \$280? Or did 27 folks get \$10.34 each?

The guarantee says nothing about having to prove that you were not satisfied with the care you got at St. Joe's. It doesn't say that you have to swear or affirm in a court that you were not satisfied. It doesn't even say that you have to cross your heart, touch pinkies, and spit to show everybody that you really weren't satisfied.

It says that if you ain't satisfied you don't have to pay.

Obviously that is not the case. You do have to prove to someone on the "caring team" that you are justified in being dissatisfied. And if the hounding and the harassing and the guilt-tripping works, you probably will get something knocked off your bill. The "caring team" will come through. They're as good as their words (the ones in the fine print, of course).

But the "caring team" does care. It cares, first and foremost, like every team does, about the team itself. The team is its primary concern. Everything and everyone else comes in a distant third. ●

--Marshall Law

# Amerikan Almanak

Compiled by

Holly & friends

Send items to Amerikan Almanak, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington.

Mon., Aug. 22  
Free film at Bloomington Public Library. "Rocking Horse Winner" 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Tues., Aug. 23  
Free film, "The Bicycle Thief" Bloomington Public Library 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Free "Walk with a Naturalist" 5:30 p.m. Comlara Park Ranger's Station

Wed., Aug. 24  
Free film "Small Change" Bloomington Public Library 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Communist Party outlawed in U.S., 1954

Thurs., Aug. 25  
Free program, "The Galaxies" at Miller Park Recreational Center 7:30 p.m. Register at Bloomington park district.

Free film, "The Magic Flute" Bloomington Public Library 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Film, "Fame" ISU's Capen Auditorium. Shows at 7 & 10 p.m. Admission \$1.75

Free "Walk with a Naturalist" Comlara Park Ranger's Station 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 26  
Free film, "400 Blows" Bloomington Library, 2 p.m. only

Free program, "Tall Grass Prairie" by Dr. Anderson. Comlara Park Ranger's Station, 8 p.m.

U.S. women win the right to vote, 1920.

Sat., Aug. 27  
Operation Recycle Day--bring recyclables to ISU's Turner parking lot, Sears parking lot in Eastland or the OR warehouse at 1100 W. Market, Bloomington

Meeting of NAPSAC (National Assn of Parents & Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth) 2 p.m., 2908 Grandview, Blm.

Fourth Annual Cultural Fair, noon to 9:30 p.m. Miller Park Dance, music, speakers, NAACP voters registration, art displays and more. Call 452-9231 or 828-8465 for more information.

Sun., Aug. 28  
Art opening--"Children's Art from the People's Republic of China" McLean County Art Center. Runs through Sept. 24.

Free "Priarie Walk" with Dr. Anderson. 2 p.m. at Comlara Park Shady Hollow Nature Trail

25,000 people march on Washington to demand full civil rights for black people, 1963.

Mon., Aug. 29  
Film, "Pink Panther" ISU Union Film Board. Call 438-5444 for times and cost.

Meeting of the Peace & Justice Coalition at 8 p.m. Newman Center, Normal.

2230 people watch nuclear blasts at close range so military offi-

cers can test the effects, Nevada testing grounds, 1957. Observers later develop cancer; VA claims no responsibility.

Tues., Aug. 30  
Film, "A Shot in the Dark" ISU Union Film Board. Call 438-5444 for more information.

Free "Walk with a Naturalist" 5:30 p.m. Comlara Park Ranger's Station.

Wed., Aug. 31  
Film, "Return of the Pink Panther" ISU Union Film Board. Call 438-544 for information.

Gay People's Alliance first meeting of the semester. 8 p.m. ISU's Fairchild Hall, room 112.

Thurs., Sept. 1  
Film, "The Pink Panther Strikes Again" ISU Union Film Board. Call 438-5444 for times, etc.

Film, "Caddy Shack" ISU's Capen Auditorium. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.75 admission

Free "Walk with a Naturalist" Comlara Park Ranger's Station 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Sept. 2  
Film, "Revenge of the Pink Panther" ISU Union Film Board, call 438-5444 for more details.

Union displays at Eastland Mall, including union craft, free giveaways, and labor history.

8 months till B&L's wedding; make your shower plans now.

Sat., Sept. 3  
Labor Day union displays at Eastland Mall.

Sun., Sept. 4  
Bloomington-Normal Nuclear Freeze meeting. 8 p.m. 304 S. Evans, Bloomington.

Labor Day union displays at Eastland Mall.

Mon., Sept. 5  
Labor Day Parade 10 a.m. Begins at Front & Center, proceeds west on Front to Lee St., south on Lee to Wood St., west on Wood to Miller Park  
Parade theme: "We Shall Be Heard, Solidarity Day III," a preparation for the 1984 elections & a protest of Reaganomics.

Tues., Sept. 6  
Film, "Hair" ISU Union Film Board. 438-5444 for information.

Wed., Sept. 7  
Gay People's Alliance meeting. 8 p.m., ISU's Fairchild Hall, room 112.

Thurs., Sept. 8  
Film, "My Body Guard" ISU's Capen Auditorium, 7 & 10 p.m. Admission \$1.75

Fri., Sept. 9  
Film, "Tex" ISU's Capen Cinema. Shows at 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.75

Sat., Sept. 10  
Film, "Tex" Capen Cinema (ISU) Shows at 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.75

Operation Recycle pays cash for aluminum and glass, 9 a.m.-noon, every Saturday, 1100 W. Market.

Sun., Sept. 11  
Film, "Tex" Capen Cinema \$1.75, shows at 4 & 7 p.m.

CIA and ITT overthrow government of Chile, 1973.

Mon., Sept. 12  
A great day to send for a subscription to your favorite newspaper, the Post Amerikan.

Steve Biko, black leader in South Africa, killed in prison, 1977.

Tues., Sept. 13  
Film "Twelve Angry Men" ISU Film Board, 438-5444.

Attica NY prison rebellion crushed as state police kill 39 prisoners and guards, 1971.

Wed., Sept. 14  
McLean County Wheelers (Bicycle Club) meeting, 7 p.m. at Bloomington Federal Savings community room. For more info, call Vitesse, 454-1541.

Gay People's Alliance meeting. 8 p.m. 112 Fairchild Hall (ISU)

Thurs., Sept. 15  
Film, "All That Jazz" ISU Capen Cinema. Shows at 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.75 admission.

Fri., Sept. 16  
Film "The Godfather" Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.75

Sat., Sept. 17  
Film, "The Godfather" See Sept. 16.

Sun., Sept. 18  
Film, "The Godfather" Capen 4 & 7 p.m. \$1.75

Working Women's Association founded, 1868.

Mon. Sept. 19  
Run, skip or jog to Common Ground or Roper Acoustics to get your tickets to see Bright Morning Star in concert on Sept. 25.

Tues., Sept. 20  
Film, "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" ISU Film Board, call 438-5444 for info.

Wed., Sept. 21  
Gay People's Alliance meeting 8 p.m. 112 Fairchild Hall (ISU)

Thurs., Sept. 22  
Film, "Kramer vs. Kramer" Capen Cinema (ISU), shows at 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.75

Deadline for letters, stories, and ads for the next issue of the Post Amerikan.

Fri., Sept. 23  
Film, "Tootsie" Capen Cinema 7 & 10 p.m. Admission \$1.75

Last day to buy tickets to see Bright Morning Star in concert. Tickets available at Common Ground in Bloomington and at Roper Acoustics in Normal.

Sat., Sept. 24  
Film, "Tootsie" Capen Cinema 7 & 10 p.m. Admission \$1.75

Sun., Sept. 25  
Bright Morning Star in concert! ISU's Hayden Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$4 in advance, \$4.50 at the door.

# ISU nearly loses Student Legal Services

After years of deteriorating health and decreasing vitality, ISU's Student Legal Services (SLS) could have ceased to exist this summer.

The contracts of student attorneys George Taseff and John Tielsch expired June 30, but they accepted a temporary contract from July 1 through August 5. The Student Association had not begun conducting interviews for Taseff's and Tielsch's replacements when their regular contracts had ended.

Witnesses at the SLS reported that some applicants for the vacant positions were brought over by Student Association (SA) personnel and given tours, but others wandered in alone and said they were told to "come over and look around." In one instance, an applicant with a 1:00 p.m. interview had to wait around for the SLS to find another interviewer--the scheduled interviewer was out of town that day.

admonished all who would apply a band-aid to the deep wounds sustained by SLS. Eimermann, who also administers the paralegal intern program, warned that until his interns could "receive adequate supervision and appropriate professional experiences," he would not assign them to Student Legal Services.

## Honest effort

In the weeks that have passed, Eimermann noted that an "honest effort to improve the situation" was underway and agreed to place three interns with SLS. On August 4, SLS hired Bill Campbell, the new director. Taseff and Tielsch would remain until August 21 to assist while Campbell was trained. In turn, Campbell was in charge of hiring two additional attorneys. A decision on the new attorneys is expected by August 24.

reason for the budget freeze was not made evident to the SLS search committee until November 1982. At least SLS was spared the embarrassment of hiring someone without the funds to do so.

Tielsch claims the University has turned down each subsequent proposal for hiring a third attorney, and has refused to meet with the Student Association or the SLS committee to discuss the problem.

Bills for \$2,000 worth of legal publications purchased in 1981 were never processed by either the Student Association Assembly or the University administration. The SLS staff had made all parties aware of the shortfall in December 1981, and despite a new procedure developed for paying bills in 1982, these expenses still weren't paid. Publishers terminated all services to SLS.

The 1983 budget contained \$14,000 for hiring a new attorney. Seeing that no extra help was to be hired, the SLS used about \$5,000 of the money for other crucial needs. The remaining \$9,000, however, will "lapse" into the general fund at ISU.

## Recommendations

Tielsch strongly recommended removing Michael Schermer from his role as SLS fiscal agent. Schermer is accused of criticizing, impeding, and blocking SLS committee proposals without "offering any constructive alternative." A recent rumor had it that Schermer had quit, but when I called his office August 19 an assistant denied Schermer was stepping down.

Schermer's main responsibility is with the Office of Student Life. SLS feels that their recommendations often conflict with decisions of that office. Removal of Schermer as fiscal agent would possibly streamline the economic funding of SLS. Ironically, during the early 1970s Schermer was part of a progressive ISU Student Association which helped to create SLS.

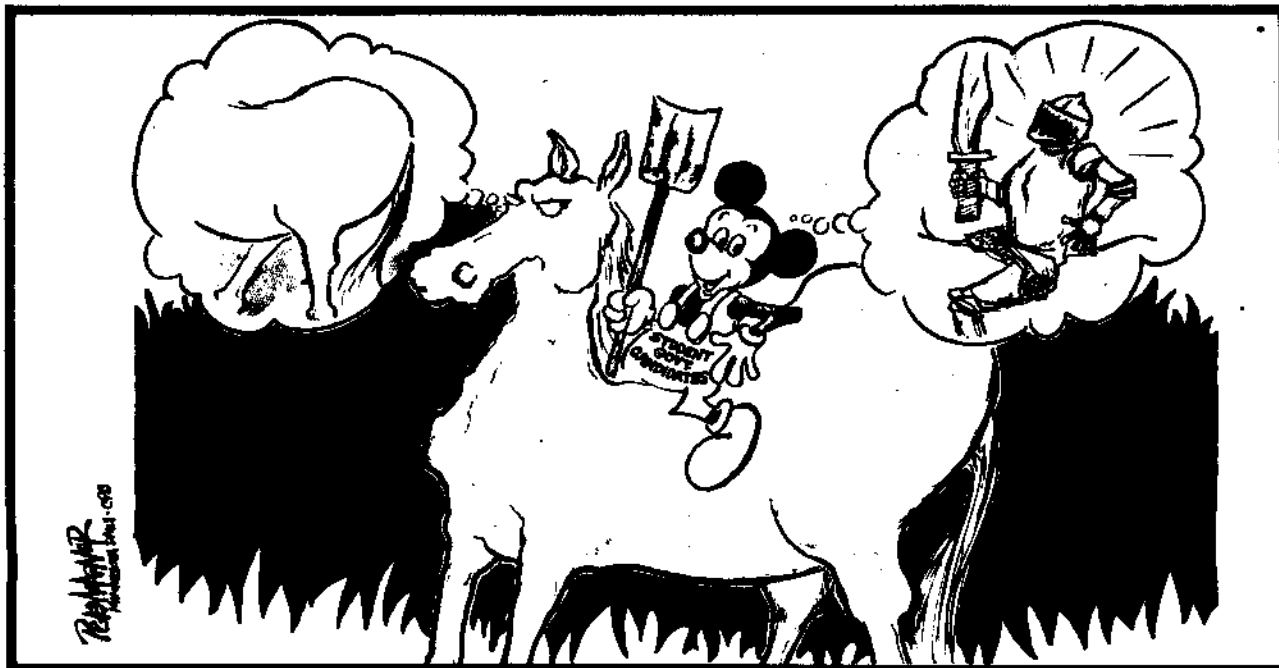
Budget expenditure procedures, according to the annual report, are too time-consuming and interfere with the SLS's routine functioning. The overall budget and specific provisions for a law library seem to draw fire "from some quarter." Tielsch and others feel the SLS committee should be charged with the responsibility for policy and budget-making.

Not escaping criticism was the Student Association. SLS claims the SA and its executives have abdicated their responsibility for keeping SLS viable. The SLS feels that if the Student Association cannot be trusted advocates for SLS, the legal program should be terminated or administered by the University.

Tielsch proposes several other ideas to restructure SLS and remove administrative hassling from its daily routine. Becoming university employees, contracting for services with attorneys in the community, and the incorporation of SLS are among suggestions for revamping the program. A written agreement with the University detailing the goals and duties of SLS attorneys has been requested for some time. Tielsch says in the annual report that oral agreements about SLS attorney duties and tasks are insufficient.

Given its history of obstruction and overt hostility toward the SLS program, the University must be held accountable for any loss of SLS's effectiveness. Meanwhile, Student Legal Services at ISU is emerging from its summer crisis weak, inexperienced, and in need of a thorough rebuilding effort. ●

--Jay Tea



## Crisis time

In a letter dated June 30, the day the student attorneys' contracts expired, Peoria attorney Sandra Henry told ISU President Lloyd Watkins and SA President Steven Bedingfield that she and other SLS committee members were greatly disappointed by the indecision and lack of communication between the University and the Student Association.

Such conditions had led to unpaid book fees for SLS and the expiration of subscriptions to legal publications. The hiring of a third attorney for a preventative law program was further delayed by a surprise requirement by Student Life Director Michael Schermer for a "Preventative Law Plan." Schermer single-handedly rejected the program late this spring, ending all debate on the matter until the Fall 1983 semester.

Matters did not improve as the summer dragged on. Political Science professor Tom Eimermann, in a letter to SA President Bedingfield,

A major point of contention between Taseff and Tielsch and the rest of the SLS Committee--the hiring of an additional attorney to assist with the caseload and also establish a preventative law program--appears to be partially won. Campbell will not only act as SLS director but also as a student attorney.

Eimermann feels that the lines of authority need to be more clearly defined so the Student Association, SLS, and the University can communicate more easily. He also said that the politics and negotiating between the Student Association and the University must be removed from the day-to-day operations of the SLS. However, Eimermann said it is "not realistic to expect an independent funding base for the Student Legal Services." SLS, which is now dependent on student fees, could represent students against the University only if it were independently funded. Currently, students with claims against the University must find other legal representation.

## Dirty laundry

SLS's lack of basic finances and enough attorneys to carry on did not happen all of a sudden. John Tielsch recounts the history of SLS's troubles and makes recommendations for changing and solidifying Student Legal Services in the agency's 1983 annual report. According to the report, SLS nearly collapsed in 1976, spurring an effort to strengthen the program. The rebuilding culminated in 1981 with the addition of a third attorney.

In 1982 Marilyn Kueper resigned as staff attorney. The SLS committee began interviews in September 1982 to fill the vacancy. In October a job offer was made and, luckily, refused--the SLS committee discovered that they could not hire Kueper's replacement anyway because the University froze the budget for the third attorney's salary in August. The

## Moving?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post-Amerikan will not be forwarded. (It's like junk mail--no kidding!) Fill out the handy form below and return it to us.

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## Looking for a few fat men

The U.S. Marine Corps has never been the mecca of logical thinking, but its most recent gaffe is simply awe-inspiring.

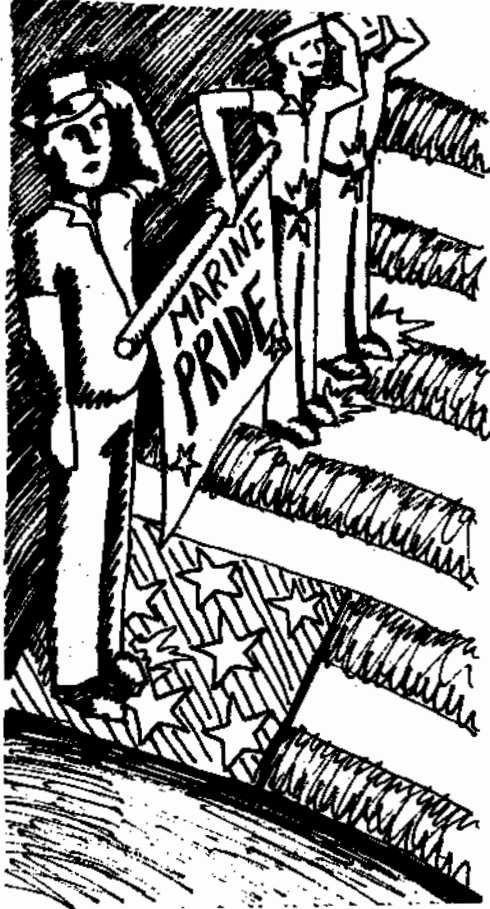
The tv show *Fantasy* planned to unite Lance Cpl. John Terry with his half-sister--on the air. The two have never met.

But Lt. Col. Victor Taylor, Terry's boss, said no way. Why? Because Terry is 13 pounds overweight and "unfit to represent the Marines on national television."

Smart move, Vic. The Associated Press has already distributed the story nationally, so we all know that the guy is overweight. What does making him and his family miserable accomplish, except to make you look like an insensitive jerk? And if he's unfit for tv, how fit is he for combat?

"Our considerations override any personal convenience," replies the colonel.

That's always been the trouble, hasn't it?



## USA founded by atheists

Jerry Falwell must have a nasty set of toothmarks on his feet after his blatant lies and errors at the recent "God and USA Festival."

Literally every word the Clown Prince of Christianity said was untrue. "The Founding Fathers came here not seeking gold, but seeking God."

Sure, Jerry.

Any moron knows that Jamestown was a purely mercantile colony that was almost abandoned due to the lack of easily available precious metals such as the Spaniards were scooping up in Central America. The religious--and noxiously intolerant--Massachusetts colonists didn't arrive until 13 years later. By then the Virginians had already introduced the first legislative assembly. So any "founding" had already been accomplished by the time the religious refugees got here.

"We're not a secular nation, we're a nation under God," Falwell lied again.

"You'd think the country was founded under atheism," complained the priest who founded the Festival, Peter Mascari, speaking of current church-state separation efforts.

The priest speaks truth.

The U.S. was founded by avowed anti-Christians who didn't care who knew it. They left enough documented evidence of this to drown even Falwell's ignorant prattling. Benjamin Franklin: "The U. S. Constitutional Convention, with the exception of three or four persons, thought prayers unnecessary." John Adams: "This would be the best of all possible worlds if there were no religion in it." Thomas Jefferson: "Gouverneur Morris has often told me that General Washington believed no more in Christianity than he did himself" (Washington always refused to take communion when he went to church). Jefferson again: "The Christian world is composed of two classes, fools and hypocrites." Tom Paine: "I do not believe in the creed of the Roman Church, the Protestant Church . . . or any other church."

Three of the authors of the Declaration of Independence, the author of *Common Sense*, the first three Presidents . . . obviously Falwell is out of his head to say this nation was founded by godly men.

Nor has it been maintained by godly men. Lincoln said flat out: "I am not a Christian." "If Christ were here now there is one thing he would not be--a Christian," declared Mark Twain.

Clarence Darrow, Luther Burbank, Albert Einstein, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, H. L. Mencken, Robert Ingersoll, Ethan Allen, Thoreau, Woodrow Wilson, Poe, Whittier, Edison, Patrick Henry (and even Frank Sinatra and George Carlin) are all on record against God. Even this small sampling is responsible for more good to the country than all of Falwell's so-called Moral Majority will ever accomplish with its deliberate cruelty and perversion of truth and justice.

So if I may borrow a word from the Christian canon: Shut the hell up, Jerry.

## Angels of mercy bedevil us-- again

Yes, your favorite House of Healing is at it again. Not satisfied with treating a residential block like the Nazis treated Lidice, Brokaw Hospital has decided to use their sprinkler system to inconvenience as many people as possible. In the process of watering their lawn, including the median in the street, they managed to water more sidewalk and pavement than grass. Much of the time pedestrians have no chance to stay dry, and the same is true for cyclists.

As usual, Brokaw is placing its precious facilities ahead of people. A weird attitude for a hospital, but par for the course here. What do they care? The patients will pay for the water bill. Image is more important than curing the sick, isn't it?

Well, isn't it?

## Serves you right

To the constituents of Dan Crane: "You get what you pay for."

## News Grievs

compiled by Scaramouche

### Get on the bandwagon

Let's hear it for the Mennonite Church! I never thought I'd ever praise a religious group's actions, but this bunch deserves it. The big Mennonite convention voted, by nearly 3-1, to "let its employees refuse federal income tax withholding as a protest of U.S. military policy."

Of course it's illegal. Of course the IRS will rain righteous ire down on them. Of course they'll go to jail. But it's a great idea anyway. The government can only lose face by jailing people who want peace.

Why don't the rest of us follow suit? Prisons are overcrowded anyway. If enough of us boycott, it'll choke the criminal injustice system. So talk to your employer--if you're lucky enough to have one--and get in this campaign. Live a little.

We teach you to play,  
then sell you the right guitar.

Welcome back,  
students

105 Broadway • Normal

GUITAR  
WORLD

# Community News

## WIC has food for women and kids

Post-Amerikan Sept. 1983 18

WIC is a program which provides nutritious foods for health, growth and development, encourages regular health care, and promotes good nutrition through education. A special food package is home delivered without cost to those pregnant or nursing women, infants, and children under 5 years old that demonstrate a need for these foods.

The foods in the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Supplemental Food Program package, along with other foods which the client purchases herself, help promote a healthy pregnancy and lactation. These foods also help children grow properly and provide resistance to disease. The food package provides certain nutrients known to be especially important to good health and normal growth. WIC promotes good eating habits through nutrition education. It is important to remember the WIC package is a dietary supplement and cannot provide good health and normal growth in itself.

Foods included in the WIC package are: milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, and orange juice (for women and children up to 5 years); iron-fortified formula, infant cereal, and infant juice (for infants).

WIC stresses the importance of ongoing health care and encourages regular health care through referral to private physicians or other health care agencies.

All nutrition education practices of the WIC Program concur with current recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Dietetic Association.

Clients receive nutrition education designed to promote understanding of the relationship between good nutrition and health. Education is provided through individual counseling and group sessions.



As stated before, WIC is available to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women and to children. Program participation is initiated through a clinic appointment. Eligibility for the program is determined by a health professional based on the following criteria: 1) residency in McLean County, 2) physical need (determined by screening), 3) nutritional need (determined by dietary evaluation), 4) financial need.

### WIC INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES INCOME BEFORE TAXES

Family Size	Weekly	Monthly	Annually
1	173	750	8,991
2	233	1,009	12,099
3	293	1,268	15,207
4	353	1,527	18,315
5	412	1,786	21,423
6	472	2,045	24,531
7	532	2,304	27,639
8	592	2,563	30,747

Each additional family member \$3,108

Factors which identify risk and allow for eligibility:

- \* Pregnant teenager
- \* Drug abuse, including alcoholism and smoking
- \* Breast-feeding
- \* Anemia
- \* Underweight or overweight
- \* Inadequate or excessive weight gain during pregnancy
- \* Others as applicable

This is an equal opportunity program, open to all persons regardless of race, color or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap, write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Clinic appointments may be made by contacting the WIC Clinic, McLean County Health Department, 905 N. Main, Normal, IL 61761, ph. 454-1161.

## Operation Recycle expanding, needs help

Don't throw it away. . . RECYCLE IT. Operation Recycle (OR), Bloomington-Normal's only full-service recycling service, is looking for more recyclers. Operation Recycle is a community, not-for-profit small business with an office and warehouse at 1100 W. Market (in the Mid Central Economic Opportunity Corporation building).

Operation Recycle is looking for more volunteers as our recycling efforts expand. If environmental action is important to you, here is a chance to make a difference.

Volunteers are needed for a few hours a week or month to help process recyclables, work at recycling drives, do some carpentry projects, and help with recycling publicity and education. Contact Myra Gordon at 829-0691 to get involved.

Operation Recycle has been in existence for 13 years but only recently became a full-time business with the new goals of providing jobs to some of our area's unemployed and of encouraging recycling to earn money among the low income residents of McLean County.

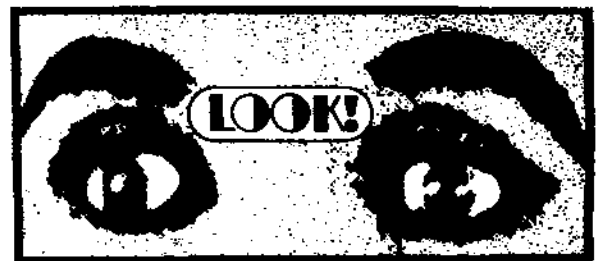
OR recycles newspapers, tin cans, aluminum cans, all other aluminum, container glass, corrugated cardboard, grocery sacks, and office paper.

It's easier now to recycle. There are three ways to do it. OR continues to have recycle drives every 5-7 weeks at the Sears, Eastland parking lot, and Illinois State University Turner Hall parking lot on West College Avenue. Future drives are Oct. 15 and Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you can't hold on to recyclables that long, bring them to the recycle warehouse at 1100 W. Market any Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. OR will pay 20¢ a pound for aluminum cans and ¼¢ a pound for glass on Saturday mornings only.

Or you can leave newspapers, tin cans, glass and aluminum at our 24-hour drop-off stations at 1100 W. Market and 501 E. Stewart St. in Bloomington. Four to five more stations are planned to open in the next 9 months.

Recycling in this area is not just a drop in the bucket. In July, for example, residents of McLean County recycled through OR 43,220 pounds of newsprint, 22,490 pounds of corrugated cardboard, 27,200 pounds of glass, 496 pounds of aluminum and 1,340 pounds of office paper.



Recycling is a habit. A stack of paper 17 feet high saves a tree. A ton of paper saves an acre of trees. Start saving your forest today.

# A's

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trade

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Bloomington  
Corner Lee & Oakland

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IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

OPEN NIGHTLY 'TIL 4 A.M.  
PRESENT THIS AD AT THE BAR  
FOR A DRINK. LIMIT ONE PER  
CUSTOMER PER NIGHT

### Classicists against nukes

Zubin Mehta, music director of the New York and Israel philharmonics, will Conduct "Musicians Against Nuclear Arms;" a benefit performance on Oct. 24 at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. Pianist Daniel Barenboim, soprano Jessye Norman, and violinist Itzhak Perlman will join 200 musicians from virtually every professional orchestra in the metropolitan New York area, including members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera orchestras, in the benefit performance.

Proceeds from the concert will support the work of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Education Fund of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. Both groups advocate a bilateral, verifiable United States-Soviet Union freeze on nuclear arms production and deployment.

Call 212-874-4098 for ticket information.

Many pregnant adolescents face a myriad of problems--medical, financial, educational, and others--and all too often don't know where to turn for answers. A new interagency council has been formed to help meet the needs of this population in McLean County. Comprised of health, social-service, and counseling agencies and educational institutions the Committee on Adolescent Parent Services (CAPS) is working to facilitate knowledge of and use of existing services so that all pregnant adolescents receive adequate prenatal care and preparation for parenthood.

In the U.S., one of every 10 teenage girls becomes pregnant each year, for a total of 1.2 million teenage pregnancies annually (the highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in the world). 30,000 of these pregnancies occur in girls under the age of 15. Medically, this is a high risk population with a maternal death rate 60% higher than for more mature women and an infant death rate 24% higher than for babies born to more mature women.

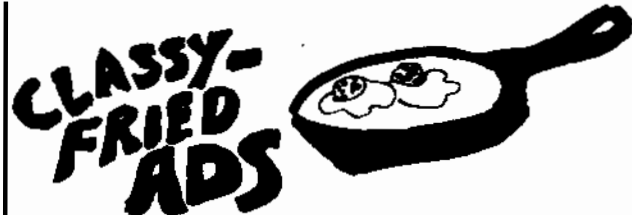
An accepted index of health status is the fetal death rate. In McLean county the fetal death rate in 1982

was 6.4 per 1000 births. The east Central Illinois Health Systems Agency states that the number of fetal deaths for our area should not exceed 6 per 1000 births.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that pregnant women have no fewer than 12 prenatal visits to a physician, beginning no later than the first trimester. A review of birth certificates from 1980-1982 conducted by MCHD reveals that the number of prenatal visits is up from 7 to 9.4 in girls 17 and under and that the mean month of initiation of prenatal services has gone from 4.4 to 3.93 in girls 17 and under.

Increasing awareness of and promotion of services offered by community agencies, a goal of CAPS, is expected to be beneficial. The council is presently developing brochures for agencies and clients describing services provided by each agency. Other goals are 1) an indepth analysis of services 2) identification of gaps and 3) joint planning among agencies.

For more information on CAPS or on services available to pregnant teenagers, call 454-1161.



FOR SALE: Winter spinet piano in excellent condition. \$500. Call 829-2059 or 828-6473.

NORTH IRELAND, a solution to the crisis. Send \$6.95 for Beyond Orange and Green by Belinda Probert to RECON Publications, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia PA 19134.

NUCLEAR POWER won't work. Read The Unviable Option (384 pp.) by John Berger. Send \$5.95 (includes handling) to RECON, P. O. Box 14602 Philadelphia, PA 19134.

BIG GROUP SALE. Fri, Sat, Sun, Aug. 26, 27 & 28. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 1009 W. Monroe, Bloomington. Clothes, books, records, household items, and other terrific stuff.

"They're doing exactly what Woody Guthrie and I tried to do when we came here 40 years ago-- exactly." Pete Seeger

"... perhaps the best since the Almanac Singers." St. Paul Dispatch

"It's wonderful to see the spontaneous dancing erupt as Bright Morning Star sings and plays." Village Voice

Bright Morning Star, a six member New England-based folk band will be performing on September 25, at 7:30 p.m. at I.S.U.'s Hayden Auditorium. In their four years together, Bright Morning Star has traveled from coast to coast, performing at folk festivals and union halls, big city auditoriums and down home coffee houses, at demonstrations and celebrations. Their backgrounds range from classical music to rock and roll, from folk to top 40, from symphony orchestra to avante-garde theatre. They combine their musical and theatrical skills in a journey through the worlds of drama, politics, people, humor, satire and spirituality. Tickets are available beginning the first day of September for \$4 at Common Ground in Bloomington and Roper Acoustics in Normal. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$4.50.

**The All-new My Sister, the Punk Rocker T-shirt**

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★ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 ★ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 ★ City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 ★ Size S M L XL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ★ Here's my generous donation of \_\_\_\_\_  
 ★ Proceeds go to the Post. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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 P. O. Box 3452  
 Bloomington IL 61701



# letters

## Remembers '50's Bloomington

Dear folks,

Passed by Normal en route to my family (annual summer visit) in Champaign, recalling the old daze of bohemianism in late '50s Twin Cities, first record stores to carry Chicago Blues, the furtive joints, the first civil rights campaigns (picketing Penney's in '60) and the earliest anti-war mass demo in '65; that was when I checked out for Other Parts.

Thought about all that when I saw a box with the Post-Amerikan. The struggle goes on! And unlike me

at 12 or 15, at least a kid in middle Illinois has P-A, Champaign-Urbana DSA, some co-ops and singing groups and so forth. Because in some ways things are actually worse than back in the '50s --a lot of the right-wing Republicanism was still isolationist in foreign policy, the fundamentalists weren't as organized & mean, the cops had less fancy equipment in those days--the counter-institutions are all the more necessary. Keep Up the Struggle! Enclosed \$5.

A long way from home,  
Paul Buhle

## Planned Parenthood needs help

Dear Post,

Since the early beginnings of Planned Parenthood, volunteers have played an integral role in providing family planning services to our clients. Without their support, it would be difficult to provide quality counseling, clinic services, or educational programs to the number of clients we now serve in the Central Illinois area. In addition to assisting our agency, volunteers gain valuable para-professional experience.

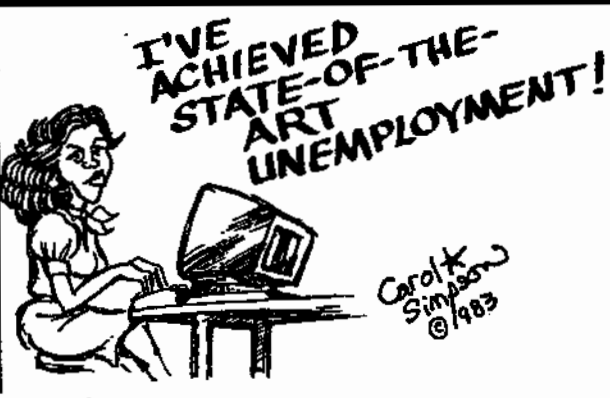
We are now in the process of recruiting volunteers for training in the following areas:

1. problem pregnancy counseling

2. rap leader/youth counselor
3. media and community relations assistant
4. parent education assistant
5. interpreter and advocate for the deaf
6. research assistant
7. front office assistant
8. male outreach worker

The mandatory information session for all programs will be Saturday, Sept. 10, at 10 am at the Planned Parenthood office, 201 E. Grove (second floor), Bloomington. For more info, call us at 827-8025.

Kim Davis  
Counseling Coordinator  
Planned Parenthood



Carol K. Simpson © 1983



## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

If you want to talk to one of us  
Call PATH 827-4005  
and ask for the  
Rape Crisis Center

## Another loyal reader

Dear folks,

Here's my kick-in to help you meet your expenses. Wish it could be a lot more.

I really enjoy reading your paper. Keep up the good work, and don't get discouraged (as if you needed ME to tell YOU that!)

Bob Koyak  
Berkeley CA

## Prisoner wants correspondence

Dear Post,

Just read one of your newspapers, and enjoyed it very much. Your newspaper deals with a lot of issues others won't even touch.

Could you please include me in your prisoners' pen-pal listing. I'm a warm, sincere man of 29 who wants correspondence with other warm, sincere people.

As I said earlier, I really enjoyed reading your newspaper. It's very interesting and very informative, and it's the best newspaper I've read while here in Menard Correctional Center. As a reader, I thank you people very much for putting together such a good newspaper.

Yours truly,

Robert M. Jastromb, # A-50294  
Menard Correctional Center  
P. O. Box 711  
Menard, IL 62259

## Walt the violent

Dear Editor,

This letter has to do with movie critics, Walt Disney Movies, and the lack of responsibility by which they are rated.

In my opinion the judgement used in rating most Disney films and probably all Disney cartoon films is none. Critics take one look at a film's title; "Ah! Disney! Nice, sweet, give it a 'G'." Example: Just recently, against my will, I went to see "Snow White." During the movie, there are several parts--for example, the queen making the poison apple--that had I been a small child going to see the sweet Disney film with my mother, I would have been scared sh\*tless.

Some of the parts that should have easily kept the movie from being rated 'G' had the critics paid any attention to the movie were: the Terrible Forest, the queen making the poison apple, and the final scene where the witch is killed. During the movie, many children cried, and all the children around me were clinging to their mothers (or fathers).

So at the end of the movie, the prince and Snow White run off to live happily ever after with the knowledge that, through the help of the low-intelligence movie critics, they can be sure of a secure life and an undeserved 'G' rating.

Ain't fairy tales wonderful!!

A movie critic's critic,  
Jason Morgan

P.S. Congratulations on a great paper, keep it up!!



**Sexism  
in sports**

# NBC 1, female athletes 0

I watch sports. I admit it. I watch football and the basketball and even professional bowling. So when I discovered that NBC was broadcasting 15 hours of the World Track and Field championships in Helsinki, I was overjoyed.

By and large, NBC Sports did a passable job. They spent way too much time covering men's events and not enough time on women's events for my taste, but it was passable coverage. I am also not at all interested in the nationalistic medals race that NBC never fails to push. But if NBC wants to maintain that because the US won 23 medals and the USSR only 22 we're a better country, there is little I can do.

Like I said, they did a passable job. Until their Saturday afternoon recap, that is.

Dick Enberg did an hour-long piece of all the major events which had been run. One of the high points of the Helsinki games came from a Czechoslovakian woman, Jarmila Kratochvilova.

It seems there is a thing in track and field called the "impossible double," which is winning both the 400 and the 800 meter runs. Until last year, no one had ever been able to accomplish this double. Last year, a man did.



In Helsinki, the first woman won the "impossible double."

Kratochvilova won the 800 meter run. The next day, she not only won the 400 meter race but also set a new world's record while she was at it. Not a bad two days' work.

Dick Enberg, however, had some problems with it. Or, more precisely, with her.

Kratochvilova is not a dainty, petite woman. She can bench press 200 pounds. Enberg told his audience that fact many times, as though her ability to lift weights somehow mars her victory.

"Not to take anything away from her, but . . ." Enberg started, "others have expressed the hope, and we share the hope, that female athletes in the future will not have to look so masculine."

How dare Dick Enberg, who is paunchy, balding, and kinda ugly himself, complain about the way a female athlete looks? How dare some cream puff who can probably not run from his cushy office to his car without keeling over comment on the physical appearance of a woman who can run 400 meters in 47.9 seconds?

Kratochvilova is a Slav. Amerikan

sportscasters have always had problems with Slavic women. Quite often Slavic women are not svelte. She also comes from Czechoslovakia, a communist-bloc nation. And we all know that all those commie women take steroids to make them look (and run) like men.

Enberg also failed to mention that Kratochvilova is 32 years old. She's also married. Somebody thinks she's attractive, even if Enberg doesn't. But perhaps his only problem is that a big, brawny, 32-year-old Slavic housewife can run circles around all those tiny Amerikan women he seems to favor. Not everyone can look like Mary Decker. Not everyone wants to.

Besides, Mary Decker is tall and gangly and can win races. Mary Ann Dickerson is short and small-boned and can win races. Jarmila Kratochvilova is big and sturdy and can win races. What better message to give to young girls?

I would like Dick Enberg to issue a formal, on-the-air apology to both Kratochvilova herself and to all those women out there (like me) who do not measure up to his idea of perfect womanhood and were personally and politically offended by his callous and stupid remarks.

For those of you who would like to write and give Enberg some sh\*t about his blatant sexism, you can write to him at:

Dick Enberg  
c/o NBC Sports  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York NY 10020

And, not to take anything away from Dick Enberg, but I do wish that in the future NBC would use broadcasters who are easier on the eyes and much prettier to look at. Somebody like Mary Decker, perhaps. Or Jarmila Kratochvilova. ●

--Deborah Wiatt

## Olympic Committee sued

The International Olympic Committee is involved in a class action sex discrimination suit. Approximately 30 world-class women runners, who represent most of the world's top female long-distance runners (including USA's Mary Decker), have filed suit in Los Angeles charging the Olympic Committee with sex discrimination.

The women want a 5000 meter run and a 10,000 meter run included in the Olympic games. Male Olympic runners run both distances. The women feel that not allowing them to run in 5000 and 10,000 meter races is a clear case of discrimination.

The Olympic Committee, strangely enough, does not agree. It believes that no one would pay to watch women run in circles for that long a period of time. (Why they would pay to watch men run in circles and not women is an interesting question.)

The Committee also says that women runners are not in the same class as men runners, and that if you took the top 500 male runners in the world and had them run 10,000 meters the difference in time between the first place

runner and the last would be about a minute. But if you took the top 500 female runners and let them do the same thing, the time difference would be more like 5 minutes.

Therefore, the Committee maintains, female runners are not well-enough trained or evolved to run such long distances.

The women runners claim that if they never get the chance to prove that they can run, they will never be able to show that the Committee is wrong. The women want to run, and they are going to court to try to get their chance.

I certainly hope they win their suit. A victory in this case will be a victory for female athletes everywhere, as well as a nice reminder to the Olympic Committee that this is, after all, the 20th century, and the rules from the games on Mount Olympus no longer apply. ●

--Deborah Wiatt

Source: A very nice man from the New York office of Sports Illustrated.

GEORGE F. TASEFF  
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encore! encore!

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KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT, JER, OK?

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# The undermining of Robin Plan

Ever get that vacation paranoia? That worry, on the last leg of your trip away from home, that things just aren't gonna be the same once you get back? Maybe your apartment will be ransacked; maybe your shiftless friends will have forgotten to feed the cat, and the beast will go for your throat in a fit of madness and starvation the minute you open the door.

Or maybe circumstances at work will have changed for the worse.

That last is what happened to Robin Plan, WRBA's individualistic new wave deejay. Two weeks out of town and the feisty platter spinner came back to a radio station decidedly less hospitable to her brand of programming. The atmosphere around little 1440 AM had gotten decidedly chilly--one woman's vacation paranoia depressingly realized.

But for the full story, we need to backtrack a bit. As regular Post readers know, the WRBA story goes back to last winter, when deejay Plan was struggling to get her new wave radio show (1:00 to 6:00 on weekdays) on a firm footing in a station not known for its particularly open-minded ways.

Thanks to media coverage in both the Post and the Pantagraph's Preview section, as well as deejay Plan's own tireless boosterism, the "New Wavelength" program received a slew of supportive mail, enough to keep the show on the air.

Deejay Plan's show gained momentum over the next few months and by July had established its own willful personality: an eccentric mixture of synthesized "new wave" a la Human League (but generally less well-known than the "Don't You Want Me" kids), purist punk, regional power pop, rockabilly, reggae and historically significant rock-and-rollers (everyone from Chuck Berry to sixties garage bands like the Chocolate Watch Band to the Ramones) plus the regular "artier" experimental foray (otherwise known as "Noxious Noise.")

Listener involvement was high: the longer the show went on, the more obscure the listener requests became. "New Wavelength's" monthly playlist became a valuable resource for new music fans looking for a record fix.

In short, the show was riding high.

Until our heroine left for a two-week vacation in the midst of baseball season. Sports are big at RBA (for obvious fiscal reasons) and more than one new music fan found themselves flicking their car radios elsewhere on a summer weekday afternoon after hearing half of the "New Wavelength" was going to be pre-empted by Cub inactivity.

With much of early August's airtime slated for baseball and (double yawn!) exciting week-long coverage of the McLean County Fair, deejay Plan scheduled a two-week vacation out of town.

A sub deejay, one with comparable musical tastes, was picked by Robin to guide the "new Wavelength" through those two weeks, and fans were prepped for the temporary personnel shift. Don't worry, deejay Plan told her listeners, I'll be gone but Loren'll be playing the same kind of music--and taking your requests.

The vacationing Plan didn't reckon with the machinations of RBA's station manager, however. First day sub deejay Loren came into the station, the manager was waiting with a stack of heavy metal and top fortyish albums. These, he told Loren, were the records that were going to be played while Robin was gone. When later asked to explain this decision, the station manager would point to the increased sports programming during Robin's vacation: new wave and punk, in his opinion, did not mesh well with sports. As if heavy metal did...

The next two weeks went by with WRBA afternoons devoted to the Same Ol' Shit, poverty level WLS programming without the benefit of that old war horse station's established personalities. By the time deejay Plan had returned home all types of rumors were spreading among the regular listenership: new wave was out and the station was going to retreat to the bland safe format of WBNQ--or, worse, go back to country.

At the same time, ironically, an article on the "New Wave Length" would appear in trade mag Billboard. In it, the station manager would wax supportively about Robin's program. "This type of music doesn't fit in

the station's format," he told the periodical. "But if it continues to grow we might run it from sign-on to sign-off."

The man was obviously talking out of both sides of his mouth. Second day back from her vacation, deejay Plan was to have a lengthy meeting with him, the substance of which was as follows:

New wave programming as a whole was drawing negative phone calls from older radio listeners, the ones who traditionally tuned into the station at contest times and then switched back to country or "Problems and Solutions";

two major advertisers had withdrawn ads, refusing to be associated with the music;

and while he the station manager appreciated the discoey synth new wave, most of that punk stuff--and, of course, "Noxious Noise"--was beyond the pale. Besides which, some of the material Robin played wasn't even "new wave." Old rockabilly reissues and English folkies like Richard Thompson didn't fit under the loosest definition of the term, perhaps because Robin's show had evolved past the confines of strict "new wave" and into the broader and less readily classifiable realm of "alternative music."

In any event, the upshot of that meeting was that deejay Plan was back to square one--and-a-half when it came to maintaining station support for her format. "If I kept to straight synth songs," Robin says, "I might still have the full support. But Chuck Berry has more to do with new wave than Duran Duran." And while synth pop may be big in top 40 at the moment, it's worth noting that the first regional radio to play any music by superstar revivalists the Stray Cats was RBA's "New Wavelength."

The point is that pop music has always flourished best in an atmosphere of risk-taking and audience participation. Nine months ago, the Stray Cats would've been considered non-commercial, their brand of rockabilly too rambunctiously rock-and-roll for commercial success. Today every local bar band scene has at least one copy band doing the same kind of tunes.

"New Wavelength's" listeners like to think of themselves as being on the cutting edge of modern pop, ahead of dinosaurs like Chicago's WLS. This is a viable commercial audience to consider, especially in a university town where so much of the buying power (read: advertising target) is in the paws of a group typically considered more open to "experimentation."

In short, deejay Plan's show makes sense in Bloomington-Normal, a few disgruntled callers to the contrary.

And now Robin is being asked to prove it once more--with a petition and new ad revenue. The petition, with the ludicrous target number of 5,000 signatures (could "Problems and Solutions" even generate that much?) is due in November. As for newly generated ad revenue, deejay Plan is soliciting salespeople to try and drum up some new customers. For information on either, phone Robin at the station during her show. ●



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