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City council; benefit; cops; workers

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

POST AMERICAN

April 1984
Vol. 13 No. 1

The 80's:
Education
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OR WEIGH!!

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SCIENTIST? WEIRD?

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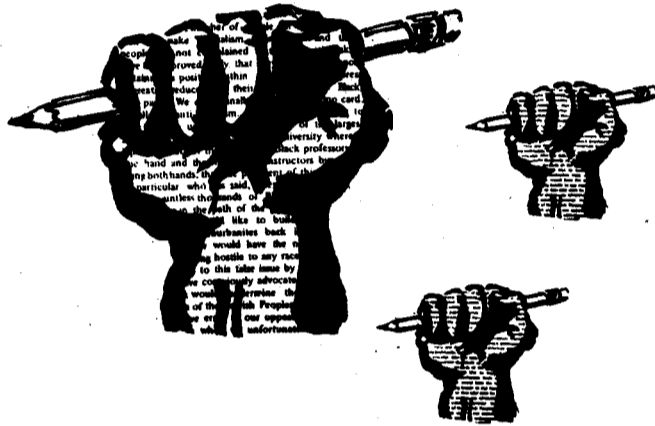
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POST

A·M·E·R·I·K·A·N

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL'S ALTERNATIVE

SINCE 1972

Vol. 13, No. 1 April 1984

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, photography, graphics, paste-up, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis. You are invited to volunteer your talents.

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. If you'd like to join us call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine.

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 submitting material for the next issue is April 19.

Thanx

This issue is in your hands thanks to: J.T., Diana, Tom, Sue, Mark, Dave, Susie, Bobby, Melissa, Russell, Kathy, Ralph, Bumper, Dan, X, Rich, Have, Becky, Bill, Nadene, Imogene, Lynne, Robin, Jeff, Frank, and Deborah (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

Special thanx to Gelsomina and her La Dolce Vita restaurant, with her cute help and exciting dining atmosphere. Also thanx to Craig J. for his generous contribution to the Post.

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.

Name _____
Street _____
City/State/Zip _____

Post sellers

BLOOMINGTON

Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front
The Back Proch, 402½ N. Main
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Front and Center Building
Law and Justice Center, W. Front
Lee Street (100 N.)
Main and Miller streets
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
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 and Clinton streets

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
ISU University Union, 2nd floor
ISU University Union, parking lot
entrance
ISU Milner Library (entrance)
Mickey's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.
North & Broadway, southeast corner
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

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
Metropolitan Community Church..829-2719
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
Operation Recycle.....829-0691
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone
Help).....827-4005
or.....800-322-5015
Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
Planned Parenthood.....827-8025
Post Amerikan.....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



School prayer

Our Father, who art in classrooms...

The Senate recently defeated a proposed amendment calling for mandatory, vocal prayer in our nation's public schools. The measure received a majority of the Senate vote, 56-44 in favor, but fell short of the needed 2/3, 67 votes, to pass.

Pat Robertson, of the 700 Club, President Reagan, the Christian Broadcasting Network, the measure's sponsors, and most of the conservative movements in the U.S. have vowed not to let the prayer amendment die. It will undoubtedly be brought up again next year, especially if Reagan wins reelection.

I find the school prayer issue very interesting. But it does confuse me. I'm not sure how a bunch of well-educated, literate people (the Senators) can think that the Constitutional prohibition against state religion does not apply to the establishment of a written, vocal, uniform prayer in classrooms.

I am old enough to remember prayers in public schools. We used to, in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade, have to line up double file in front of our classroom doors and recite a prayer before we could go home for lunch. This ritual always made me crazy. In the first place, I wanted to go to lunch. The prayer was not grace, and didn't count as grace. Grace was not said until the food was on your plate in front of you, and you said grace while the food got cold. Even if we'd said the same prayer at school that we said at the table, it did not count, and we still had to say it again while the hotdogs turned icy.

School prayers would also cause fights. It wasn't the real "Lord's Prayer" (according to the Protestants) if you said "trespasses" instead of "debts" and stopped it in the middle. It wasn't the real "Our Father" (according to the Catholics) if you said "debts" and added a bunch of stuff to the end. There was no discussion of differences and no toleration of diversity. The debate ran along the lines of "Is not, is too, is not, is too," and usually ended in a black eye or bruised knees. Fortunately there were no Jewish kids in my school to further confuse the issue.

I am sure that my grade school thought they were doing all of us a big favor. And since all the fights took place off school grounds, there was precious little they could do about the eventual outcomes of their enforced piety.



I do not remember anything about the praying itself except that it was a hassle which we all had to endure in order to go home for lunch. If we had been being especially bad, we would have to line up for the prayer early and stand there until we all behaved. I also remember getting into trouble if we all didn't bow our heads and close our eyes. It was a great opportunity to grab a girl's hair, because by bowing her head, she would actually pull it. You were just holding it.

I don't remember the prayers doing a whole lot for my moral growth. I did gain quite a reputation on the battlefield, but I don't think that's what they had in mind.

I don't think kids are very different today. I still think that prayers would cause fights, confusion, and could still be used as punishment. I bet little girls' hair would still be fair game.

That's if, of course, the prayer were not written universally. I've been trying to think of who could come up with a prayer that would be acceptable to all the different religious groups in the country without offending any of the others. It'd have to be somebody that the country universally recognized. (Walter Cronkite isn't doing much these days.)

The prayer would probably have to start, "To whom, or what, if anything or anyone, it may concern: This is the 4th grade class at P.S. 24." After that, it gets fuzzy. The problem is this: a universally acceptable recitation would mean nothing to anybody; a recitation that did have some substance would be offensive to a great many. Maybe we should just let the children in our schools pray when they need to, before a geometry test, before a history quiz, before a biology final, and before a clutch free throw.

And we should leave the mandatory recitation restricted to times tables, French Dialogues, and calisthenics counts.

After all, they open sessions of Congress with a prayer, and just look at the mess the government is in. Education already has enough problems all its own.

Teacher offers alternative

Post-Note: We caught this letter in the Pantagraph and were delighted, as you can tell from the cover. The author kindly gave us permission to reprint.

Dear Editor:

As a teacher I have pondered the current flap concerning prayer in the schools. I fail to see what educational benefits would occur were we to reinstate prayer. I do, however, have a modest counterproposal. That is, multiplication in church.

Imagine just one minute during each service, as the minister, priest or rabbi intones "six times nine" and the congregation responds "fifty-four."

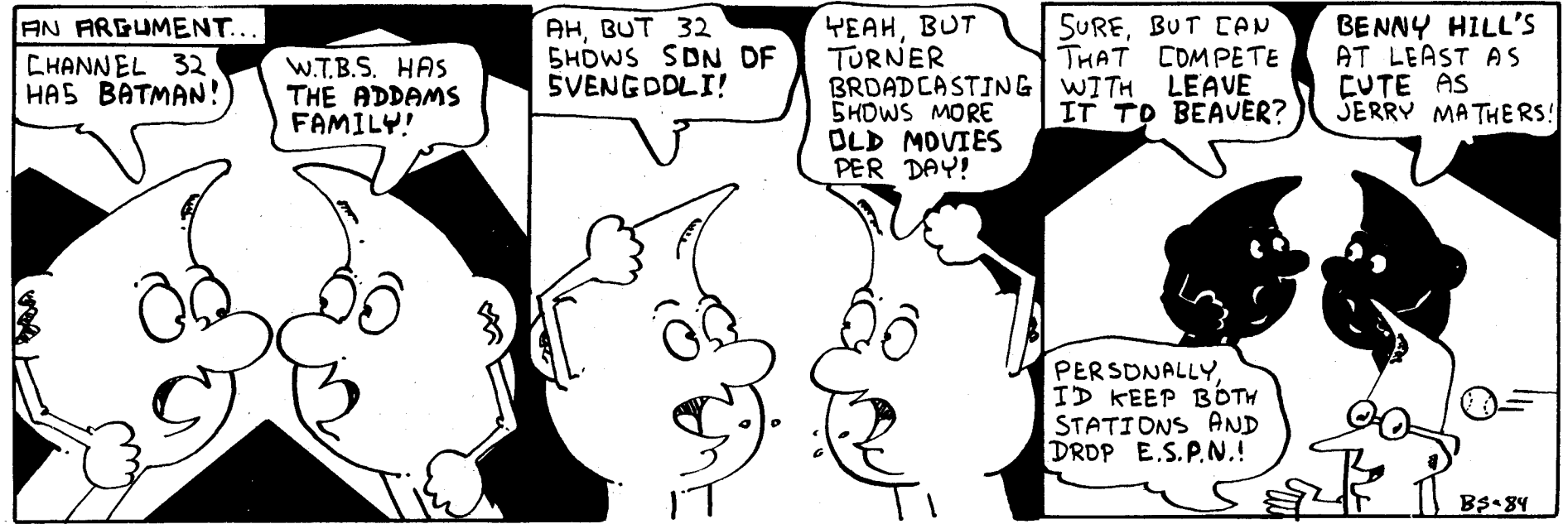
Why, with the help of an enlightened legislature, we might even be able to work a little bit of spelling into the evening service.

Doug Williamson

--Letter to the Editor, Pantagraph, 15 March 84

--Deborah Wiatt

COMIX



The new slavery: workfare chains

Post-note: Workfare is a program designed for people who receive general assistance from the township (usually single people with no children) to work off their benefits doing different jobs around the community. It is not a job training program, however. Workfarers earn \$3.35 an hour, which the township pays directly to the landlord or to a storekeeper in the form of vouchers. The township assigns the jobs and the hours worked (workfarers may not work extra for extra benefits). Here is an easy-to-believe fable about a workfarer. We'll have more on the program next issue.

Meet Beulah (not her real name). She is white, middle class, educated, and living in one of downstate's most affluent communities, Bloomington-Normal, a.k.a. "Twinkletown," named after one of its mayors. Beulah once took a course in college on poverty, "The New Poor: Who Are They?" Now she knows. She's it.

"The New Poor, c'est moi," said Beulah, trying to make a cardboard martini out of foodstamps.

Luckily, Beulah is no longer borderline poor, i.e. having a car or a bank account. She is penniless in pure form; her food stamp application is a work of Reaganomic art filled with fat zeroes and lean times. It makes life so much easier for the harried social workers who must decide quickly who shall eat, and who shall eat forms. They could tell, by the neat handwriting where Beulah had written "nothing" in the Income Box, that this welfare cheat would play ball.

And, oh, how Beulah wanted to play ball! All she wanted was a job. Beulah didn't want to build a new life on blocks of free cheese and butter. She wanted credit cards, not clogged arteries.

Then, a wondrous thing happened: One of Bonzo's safety nets from the circus in Washington, D. C., swooped down on Beulah. The next thing she knew she was on a beautiful plantation, where she got her rent paid. They even gave her free tokens to ride the toy buses around the plantation, and extra change for a laundromat in Ohio.

This plantation was called "Workfare" and everybody loved it. The workfare boss loved it because he could get out of the fields and behind a desk; the workers loved it because it "allowed them to have a positive work experience" while working alongside union laborers making three times as much money. Beulah could tell Bonzo believed in freedom at his circus. No matter where she went on the plantation, Beulah never had to worry about money. That symbol of greed never touched her hands.

She had the right stuff for Workfare, especially when it was discovered that Beulah could find a typewriter without

help and could type a letter within the same day and not do damage to herself or others. They had a star on their hands and they knew it. So off she was sent with one bus token, a sandwich made of food stamp forms, and a warning not to show up drunk. Thus did Beulah fulfill a childhood dream: to return to them ol' clerical cotton fields back home.

Beulah, unfortunately, had a short but memorable stay with her first employer, the Normal City Hall, climbing and descending the career ladder in record time.



In fact, by the end of this story she turned to crime, hoping the comforts of jail would be better than its cheap imitation--Workfare.

Upon arriving at the seat of government in Twinkletown, Beulah took off her coat and got an immediate promotion from clerical cotton picker to legal secretary, without, unfortunately, a raise in salary. Her predecessor was now counting volleyballs in the Parks and Recreation Department. Recreation. Indeed, paid leisure seemed to be what Twinkletown was all about.

But Beulah did not want to vacation. She wanted to work, to type, to file, to xerox, to CONTRIBUTE. And she

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KOOL RAY

Wed. 18

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Thur. 19

to be announced

Fri. 20

to be announced

Sat. 21

Jump 'n The Saddle

Thur. 26

from Texas **TEDDY BOYS**

Fri. 27

OOZE MAGAZINE

Sat. 27

MADAME X

MAY

Wed. 2

MECHANICS

Thur. 3

diATribe

Fri. 4

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*Note

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unemployed to poverty, despair

did. For \$168.00 a month in benefits Beulah performed the job which would pay \$11,000 to a non-workfare person, to start. How did she know? The job was advertised in the Pantagraph. Beulah saw this as a golden opportunity to help everyone involved: she needed a regular job and they needed a secretary. Did the Workfare people help her get the regular job?

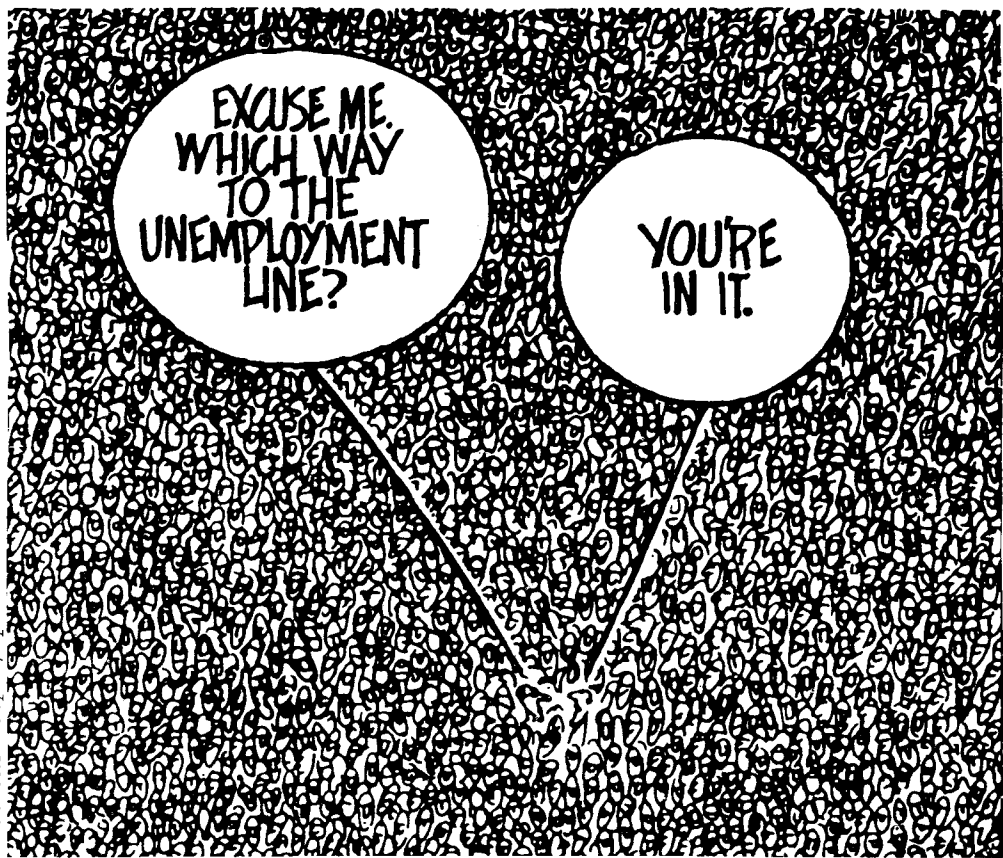
No. They made it impossible, so Beulah had to stay on Workfare so they have evidence showing how great their program works.

What Normal City Hall did was illegal under Workfare rules. They had no job order filed with Workfare for a "legal secretary," only "clerical" paying minimum wage in benefits. Besides, it is illegal to place Workfare recipients in jobs that are open to regular job-seekers, which insures workfarers' status as tax burdens instead of tax payers.

But a Bloomington Township worker in the office of General Assistance admitted telling the Normal City Hall Personnel Director that Beulah had "good skills," thereby opening the door for a free legal secretary. Beulah had not been informed that she had the right to refuse a job she was not assigned to do. On the plantation, cooperation is encouraged. The threat of a rent cutoff is enough to keep most Workfare slaves in line.

Beulah begged to be sent somewhere else, especially after innocently applying for the regular job, but her feelings were not considered in the light of smoothing over an "administrative misunderstanding." "It does not concern you," said Township Supervisor Ms. Twinkletoes. "Yes, it does," cried Beulah, "How will I ever get that job with you interfering?" Since Beulah had to serve her full sentence of 50 hours of involuntary servitude, she was sent back to the Normal City Hall. She was not allowed to sit at the Legal Secretary's desk, even though on it was the only available typewriter.

How did Beulah spend the rest of her time as a clerical cotton picker? By getting another promotion, naturally. People do move up quickly in



For the People/cpf

Twinkletown, especially when they're not getting paid.

Where did they put Beulah, the clerical Workfare slave? At the Personnel desk, of course, where Beulah typed her own job description, and considered firing the entire staff while the Personnel Director was out sick. Beulah noticed that the mayor, Mr. Twinkletown himself, treated her with much more respect after observing her rapid rise to power.

As for Beulah, she wants to use her new office skills. But, alas, job training money is scarce. So she got herself into the place where they pay your rent while you further your education: prison. Luckily, she lives in McLean County where stealing a loaf of bread gets you a nice long sentence. Beulah is doing well in her classes, and even got an A in Urban Guerilla Terrorist Typing. They are already calling her the "clerical Patty Hearst."

Beulah was philosophical as she practiced typing "K-I-L-L-M-Y-L-A-N-D-L-O-R-D" and "I used to want to work for State Farm; now I just want to bring down their computer."

Speaking of State Farm, and the other corporate "Good Neighbors," do they have any concern about folks like Beulah? (We know they will have fewer jobs in the future.) Or is their attitude toward the poor more like, "Let them eat Fate"?

"We will," says Beulah, "for now. But we will never forget the bitter taste."

Or the stench. Perhaps it is from fertilizer. After all, it is spring. Planting season. Clerical fields forever. Somebody's got to be the manure for the corporate harvest.

"But this time," says Beulah, flicking her ashes, "we're going to be doing some planting of our own!"

--Joan M. Glize

Small business no small venture

It all began with an idea and the return address on a thank you card. The idea was for a simple new cat toy; the result was a package deal of toy and accompanying illustrated game manual, plus assorted bureaucratic bullsh*t as well.

Several years ago I pieced together a prototype "pussy whip" from scrap wood dowel and string. My three cats loved this new toy. Friends who witnessed their antics told me how clever and potentially profitable it might become, but it wasn't until I met Bill that this dream became reality.

The TabbyGrabber toy is simplicity itself, so its solo marketability was uncertain. It's the game manual which makes the TabbyGrabber unique. With my written text and Bill's illustrations, the resulting eight page comic book/game manual is filled with cartoon cats and tongue-in-cheek feline commentary--a minor work of art.

Enter the red tape. Since any small modification of the toy would render a patent meaningless, we decided to avoid the expense and hassle of applying to the U.S. patent office. However, the booklet and name needed protection, so we applied to the Copyright Office to register the manual and the TabbyGrabber trademark. This accomplished,

we decided to become a legal partnership to ensure equity of profit. I hadn't considered giving this collaboration a name until, while addressing thank you notes, I was confronted with that square inch at the upper left corner of the envelope. The thought of writing multiple return addresses led to the inspiration of a pseudonym.



Our house is located Oak Street, so "Oakhaus" seemed the perfect solution, not only for return addresses but also for our alliance. Life, however, is not always that simple.

First we had to obtain certification from the County Clerk for d/b/a (doing business under an assumed name), have it notarized, then filed among the thousands of other quasi-essential documentation stored at the courthouse. The fees for this were

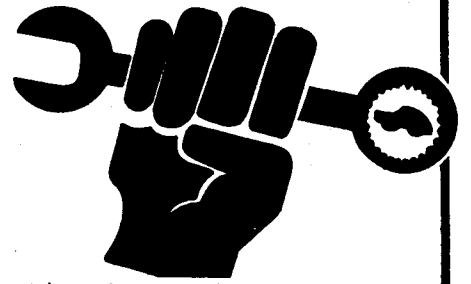
nominal, but upon fulfilling the second requirement for d/b/a (three consecutive weekly inclusions in the legal notice section of the Pantagraph classifieds), I was shocked at the resulting charge of \$30.24.

Thus far this venture has exceeded \$50 merely for administrative costs. I have been assured that this will all be tax-deductible, but the fiscal year is far from over. As for taxes, I was informed by a fellow entrepreneur that I would need to apply for a sales tax number (more regulations). I have diligently saved every receipt, but I fear that tax time '85 will bring frustrations of omissions and disorganization.

Being a fledgling business, we have yet to worry about social security taxes, zoning ordinances, consumer protection, liability insurance, hazardous substances, etc. However, our venture into cottage industry will be as legit as government requires, no matter how arbitrary or irritating their rules may be. I'm sure that the IRS and all the red-tape regime will make certain of that. I only make pussy-whips--they make the rules.

--R.A.F.

Workers' rights-- where do you turn?



George answered a want-ad, guaranteeing "base pay plus commission" for telephone sales. He worked a week and was fired; he has yet to see a paycheck. His employer claims there never was any base pay, that all sales are on a commission.

Janet went to work for a fast food restaurant. The manager began to taunt her about her looks, told her to "shake her hips" when men came in, and continually asked her if she was "getting enough." Janet and another woman eventually quit, but only after a lot of tears and feelings of disgust.

Fred worked as a cafeteria kitchen helper. Coming down with a stomach infection, he was hospitalized. Returning with his doctor's signed excuse, saying he would need three more days to recover, he was fired--because he didn't give four hours notice that he wouldn't be showing up on the day he went into the hospital.

All three of the above situations (the names have been changed) are ones in which local people have found themselves in the past month. These cases surfaced because the individuals called the Trades and Labor Assembly, the local AFL-CIO organization, and asked for help.

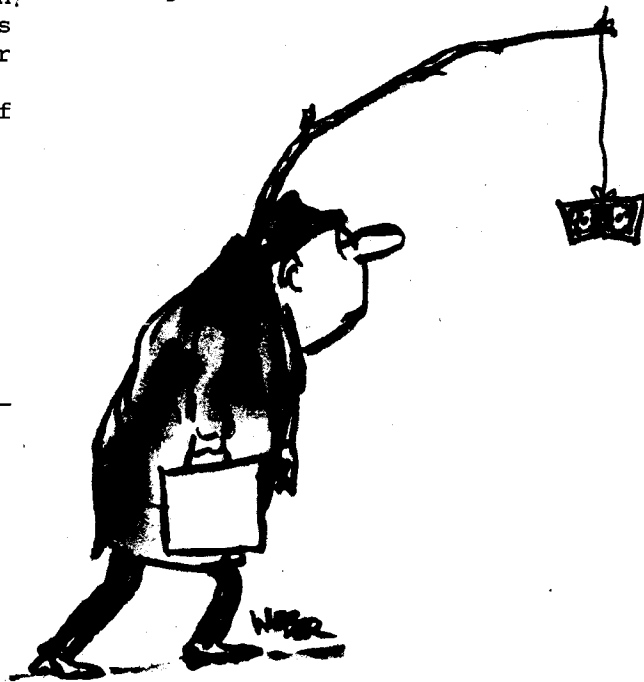
Their problems are typical for the workforce now--jobs with low pay and abusive bosses. With Reagan's recession, we are living in a boss's world, which means plenty of eager applicants to replace uncooperative employees.

In cases like these, there is often not a lot that can be done, especially when there is no union contract or clear employee guidelines to work from. Recovery of even minimal paychecks can mean long waits and hearings, and many people would rather forget that, so the employer profits.

But there are things that can be done. And for those who are out of work now, or scraping along on minimum wage, here are a few places you can turn when there is trouble.

Number One: Stop and think before you accept a job. If an employer looks sneaky, shady or suspicious when you go for an interview, don't expect that you'll be dealing with Mr. Nice Guy on the job tomorrow. Be clear about wage rates, working conditions, and politely ask if they have an employee manual or list of regulations. Often it is better to have no job than to get trapped with a bad operator. Be especially careful with the current rash of fly-by-night sales operators, particularly telephone solicitors. They promise big commissions and base pay, yet rarely deliver. Often there is a hidden clause, which says you have to make so many sales before you receive anything. Or they might have you sign a form waiving your base pay, and saying you will only work for commission.

Number Two: If something does go wrong, don't be afraid to call the appropriate authorities. Most state and federal agencies are set up to make their investigations in a way that hides the identity of the complaining workers, and will often check the records for the whole workforce, not just the complaining individuals. This will often result in a ruling that benefits everyone in the workplace, not just the one who complained. Below is a list of good numbers.



Number Three: Consider organizing a union. If you are working somewhere terrible, with an abusive supervisor and poor conditions, you can have a union. Unions are not just for people in certain fields, but for anyone who's employed, whether that's in an office, a restaurant or on an assembly line. A good union organizer will help hide your identity, and will help you as a group of workers pull together. You would be amazed how sympathetic, kind and thoughtful bosses and supervisors can be if they find that their employees have contacted a labor organization.

Here are some numbers and places you can contact. Not all will be able to help you, but someone should be able to refer you to the right place.

Illinois Department of Labor:
Back Wage Claims: 312-793-2808
Back Minimum Wage Claims:
312-793-2804

Discrimination in Employment:
312-793-6200
Occupational Safety & Health:
800-972-3185
Workers' Compensation:
800-972-4606
General Information:
312-793-2800

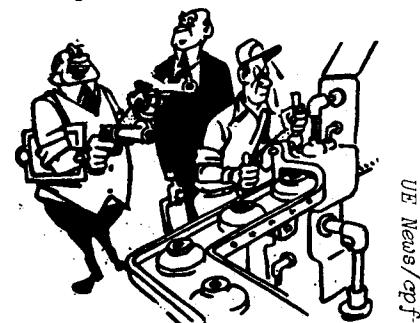
Addresses for written information are:

Illinois Dept. of Labor
100 N. First St., 5th Floor
Alzina Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706

U.S. Dept. of Labor
230 S. Dearborn, 16th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60604

The Illinois Dept. of Labor publishes a fine little booklet called the "Illinois Labor Law Handbook--A Guide to Workers' Rights," which spells out in very clear terms where you should turn in times of trouble.

National Labor Relations Board
Peoria 1-671-7080
This is the federal organization specifically entitled to protect workers' rights to organize. If you are trying to unionize, or if you speak up to your boss about a situation with the agreement of your fellow workers, you fall under their jurisdiction.



"I'm experimenting with a new production method."

Human Relations Commission
Bloomington: 828-7361
Normal: 454-2444

If you are discriminated on the job because of age, sex or racial background, you can call this office. If you are abused, especially sexually, and that can include verbal abuse, this office can be of great help.

Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor, AFL-CIO: 828-8813
If you want to find out about organizing a union, these folks can direct you to the right organization to help you. --MgM

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Glass - 1c lb.



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RECYCLING WEEK

APRIL 22-28

McLean County's Only Full-Service Non-profit Recycling Center

Turning breech babies before birth

It's estimated that 3-4% of babies are breech births, with the bottom parts of their bodies birthing first (rather than the usual head-first way). Locally, as far as I know from other women, all these breeches are uniformly born as hospital, Caesarean babies. Women should know that breech birth is a variation on the usual way of birth, and definite skills are needed to help with such births. But all breech birth is not pathological, not disease that can only be relieved by surgery.

The (ancient) skills of how to attend a vaginal breech birth are not being taught in medical schools anymore. Fear of malpractice, reluctance to violate now-standard procedure, and medical fashion for overuse of Caesarean surgery influence most MD's a great deal. If there are any available birth attendants skilled in vaginal breech birth, women should start spreading the word to one another. Breech mothers deserve choices in birth too!

In the meantime, please tell anyone with a diagnosed breech baby that others have successfully used prenatal exercises to turn their babies to the

usual head-down presentation. As described in Special Delivery, a woman may want to try this procedure:

"Twice a day, with an empty stomach, lie on your back on the floor for ten minutes with about three pillows under your bottom and none under your head. Your pelvis should be raised about 9 to 12 inches, knees bent and feet on floor.

This should be done twice a day from the thirtieth week until the baby turns head down (usually 2-3 weeks), then discontinued."

At least two local women and two in northern Illinois I know have done the exercise and avoided breech delivery. Juliet DeSa Souza, an MD, has reported an 89% success rate overall, with 96% success in her private practice with using tilting to turn breeches.

Suggested reading:
Rahima Baldwin, Special Delivery.
Ina May Gaskin, Spiritual Midwifery.
Nancy Warner Cohen, Silent Knife: Vaginal Birth after Caesarean and Caesarean Prevention.

--S.F.

The Tilt Position for Turning a Breech

Starting the eighth month on, have the mother spend 10 minutes twice a day lying on her back on the floor, with knees flexed and feet on the floor, and three good-sized pillows placed under her bottom, or better yet, have her lie on a tilted board. It's an awkward position but in one study, 89% of the babies spontaneously turned to vertex position without version. Do only if the baby is already in breech position.

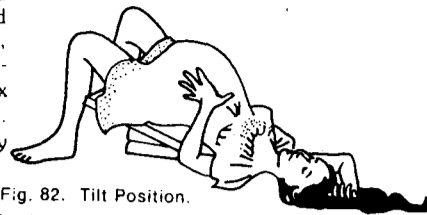


Fig. 82. Tilt Position.

--from Spiritual Midwifery by Ina May

Death before dawn

A prominent American recently spoke a prayer containing these words: "Jesus promised there will never be a dark night that does not end. Our weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

These are fine words. They come from President Reagan's televised speech to a convention of religious broadcasters.

The prayer would appear to contain an error for one Julio Sandeval, a Sandinista militia man in Nicaragua. Sandeval was guarding a health center that was supported principally by the American religious group, the Unitarian-Universalist Association. Suddenly the Contras attacked.

The Contras are the forces being given covert aid by the United States with the vigorous endorsement of President Reagan to harass the Sandinista government.

The Contras blew up the health center and tortured Sandeval to death. (They cut open his legs and abdomen and hung him from a pole.) Joy did not come to him in the morning. Perhaps Reagan's prayer doesn't apply here.

But wait. Reagan went on to say, "He promised if our hearts are true, his love will be sure as sunlight." Obviously, that's the catch. Sandeval did not have a pure heart.

-- Russell Dunwilling
Sources: 3 Feb 84 NY Times
15 Feb 84 Unitarian Universalist World

Hmmm

The Defense Intelligence Agency was running up a bill of \$25,000 a month for calls from its offices to a New York City Dial-a-Porn. But according to an inspector general study, an electronic block has been installed to stop this.

--Feb. '84, Nuclear Times

Civil liberties groups defeated attempts of the Reagan administration to throw out the Freedom of Information Act. In response the Reagan administration reclassified "thousands and thousands" of documents so they would not fall under the FOIA.

March '84 correspondence from the American Civil Liberties Union
132 West 43 Street
New York, NY 10036
Attn: Membership Dept.

In 1971 six black police officers from Columbus, Georgia, removed the American flag emblem from their uniforms to protest discriminatory hiring and promotion of blacks, police brutality toward black citizens of Columbus, and other outrages. When complaints to their superiors were unproductive, the officers picketed police headquarters. Finally they were discharged for removing their flag emblems. In May, 1983, the officers won the suit they brought against Columbus. The case is now in district court to determine remedies. The officers were complimented by the court of appeals for their respect for the flag and the ideals it represented.

Winter '84 Civil Liberties

--Russell Dunwilling

Seek counseling, not pills

As concerned citizens we must watch out for our own well being, as far as drugs are concerned. It appears that the medical profession takes a delight in dispensing drugs to cure so-called mental depression, anxiety, or any related frustrations we may be encountering in our lives. From my own personal experience I can recall approximately 7 years ago when I was going through some sort of anxiety due to being overwhelmed by bills. The kind doctor at that time proceeded to write out a prescription for Valium, which I refused, indicating to him that I needed to know why I was feeling the way I was; I did not want to mask the problem with medication.

It's 1984 but seeking counseling still indicates to many that we must be "crazy," yet it is perfectly all right to take as many pills to hide whatever is truly bothering us. If I were in the medical profession, I would be thoroughly ashamed to be associated with doctors who dispense medication so freely instead of finding out from the patient what is truly the problem.

It is also sad that there are not many doctors who are caring enough to suggest counseling rather than making "big bucks" through prescribing drugs. What is also a very frightening factor is that many prescription drugs can

even alter personality or become habit forming.

What I am advocating is a stronger control on prescription drugs. I also urge individuals to find out why a doctor wants to prescribe a certain drug, and to seek counseling because in the long run it will do more for you than any sort of "fake happiness."

I also think that the government should investigate the medical profession and check to see why certain drugs are prescribed. Perhaps they will find that the doctors are indeed getting rich off of patients who should otherwise be seeking counseling.

There are many agencies that do counseling, and you can find it surprisingly inexpensive.

--Vicki Saks

Post-Note: The idea expressed in this article has been lived out in many people's lives. If you or a friend have experiences that illustrate Saks' main point, please write them up for the Post-Amerikan. We'll fix your spelling and stuff.

105 Broadway • Normal

GUITAR WORLD

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

A joy to rent from?

If a total stranger stopped you as you approached an apartment house and said, "You don't want to rent a place there. The landlady is a crook!" would you believe him?

Janet Schafer didn't. Now she says, "I should've listened to him!" The owner in question is Joy Ekstam, who runs several apartment houses in town. Janet Schafer (not her real name) rented an Ekstam apartment in a four-unit building at 702 W. Washington from May 1983-January 1984.

Schafer's rent was being subsidized under Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 8 plan, which helps renters and owners of already-existing, often older, buildings. A HUD representative, in our case Juanita Reese, must inspect and pass each apartment to be covered by Section 8.

The conditions Schafer found at 702 W. Washington made her marvel that it had passed.

At first, the cockroaches were worst. They infested every nook and cranny. When Janet took her five-year-old son to the hospital because she'd found him bleeding from the ear one morning, the doctor pulled a cockroach out from deep inside. The child suffered temporary loss of hearing. Janet had a new baby in October: she once found three bugs sharing its crib.

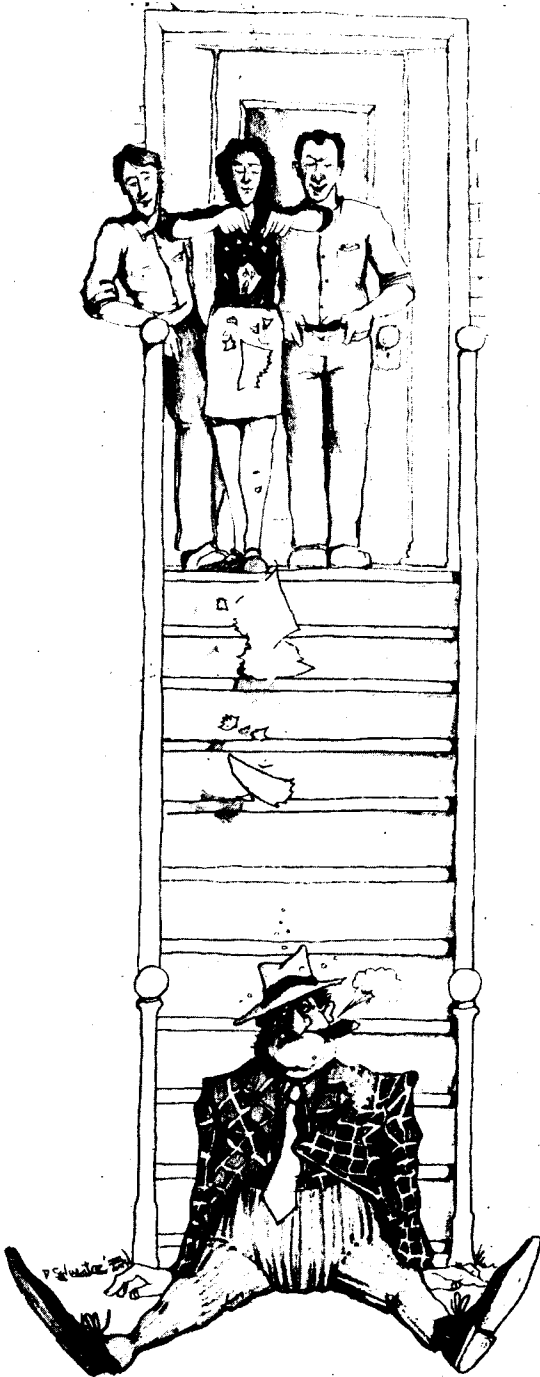
No action

She reports that she continually called Ekstam and described the problem, asking her to spray for bugs. She got no action. She finally called Juanita Reese, who called Ekstam. After five months of complaints, the apartment got sprayed.

But if you've ever had a serious roach problem, you know that one spraying barely daunts the evil pests. They get among your paper bags and eat the glue out of the seams. They swarm the insides of warm objects like electric alarm clocks. They hold mass rallies behind the baseboards. They scramble over the bodies of their dead, laughing at the guy who comes to spray.

And of course they don't just move into one apartment in the building,

like people do. They spread like-- well, like cockroaches. Schafer told us that Ekstam doesn't spray all the apartments at once--a guarantee of future invasions from neighboring territory.



When winter came, cold began to compete with bugs as the Schafers' worst enemy. The place was so poorly winterized that on many days the temperature remained at 60 degrees

even with the furnace running constantly. Although Janet didn't have to pay the heat bill, she paid in discomfort and hassle. She kept calling Ekstam, telling her that if she would bring the plastic and duct tape over, Janet herself would put it up on the windows. In the end, Ekstam brought her "enough newspapers to cover four windows."

Wind and snow

Snow drifted in under the back door. Wind whistled through the socket covers. This was no place for anyone to live, let alone a new baby. "We were sick all the time," Schafer says.

Though it was the cold that finally made Janet escape to her sister's and insist to the HUD office that she be approved to move to another apartment under Section 8, there were plenty of other failings in the apartment. The ceiling leaked from the plumbing of the apartment above. Leaks into the closet ruined clothes. Plaster fell. The outside cellar door broke, and when residents complained about the children's safety, Ekstam rather ineffectively spread a tarp over it. A neighbor says he sighted six mice in a week. Though the HUD people were told that utilities were furnished, Ekstam had Schafer pay the electric bill on the side.

When Janet found another place to live, she "took everything apart and sprayed it" before moving. She also needed to have Juanita Reese inspect the new apartment, which Schafer says is 100% better. Reese couldn't find any defects in the place, though she went over it carefully, and finally said that the shower was dirty and must be cleaned before the apartment would clear for Section 8. Janet laughed when she told the Post this, recalling the flagrant inadequacies that Reese must have passed over in the Washington Street apartments.

Schafer suspects that the Ekstam apartment "will probably pass again. I wouldn't be surprised if there are tenants there now, with hardly any changes." If that's true, those new tenants may at this moment be swatting the ceiling before they have their family over for dinner, so the cockroaches won't fall in the food. That's what Janet Schafer did last Christmas.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Post Note: How 'bout you? If you've had landlord problems, why not write to the Post? Or call us at 828-7232.



"I am sorry to hear your ceiling is coming down... You will be sorry to hear that your rent is going up..."

Union Cartoons/cpf

Didn't you see?

In January, a local citizen wrote a letter to the Pantagraph connecting Karen Silkwood, the Kerr-McGee Oil Company, and the Clinton nuke, whose fuel rods are from Kerr-McGee. The letter was published on Feb. 4, except for one sentence: "As Dan Craft's phone calls confirmed, Karen lived a life as miserable, cheap and lowly as any employee at Owens Nursery or Sugar Creek Packing Company in Bloomington." The letter-writer sent his original to us, with a note saying, "A Pantagraph: a device for making things bigger or smaller. How did this letter become smaller? What editor decided to take words out?"

--P.C.

APRIL 1984 ENTERTAINMENT

THE gallery

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NORMAL

Sun. APRIL FOOL'S NITE
Rich & Mitch
"SILVER" (No Cover)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DJ Jeff Forberg's DANCETIME Gamma Phi Nite	TOM MAC	New Wave Nite w/DJ Mark Johnson	OLD TIME GALERY NITE Willie Berry and others	Changes 5 - 7:30 DARTZ	DARTZ	POST AMERIKAN BENEFIT Toxic Shock GDANSK Band diaTribe
DJ Jeff Forberg's DANCETIME Gamma Phi Nite	JOHN BRIGGS' ORIGINALS	THE SPOONS	THE SPOONS	Changes 5 - 7:30 NIGHT-WATCH	NIGHT-WATCH	POTPOURRI and TOM MAC
DJ Jeff Forberg's DANCETIME Gamma Phi Nite	JIM VASILOU TRYS HARDER	New Wave Nite w/DJ Mark Johnson	RICH & MITCH "SILVER" (no cover)	Changes 5 - 7:30 The MECHANICS	The MECHANICS	FREE EXPRES-SIONIST GROUP ENTERTAINS
DJ Jeff Forberg's DANCETIME Gamma Phi Nite	FRANK POWELL SINGS?	New Wave Nite w/DJ Mark Johnson	OPEN	Changes 5 - 7:30 The INVISIBLE parrots	The INVISIBLE Parrots	OPEN STAGE
DJ DANCETIME	June 1 RICH MARGHERIO	see Spike for bookings	"WE ARE THE ALTERNATIVE"			

Bloomington city council

[Note: In last month's Post Amerikan, Ferdydurke calmly reported a Bloomington City Council work session. The session was of special interest to us because the Council considered a proposal by the Human Relations Commission (HRC). This proposal would give the HRC the opportunity to protect single people, gay people, veterans with unfavorable military discharge, renters with children under 14, and renters who are handicapped. If these groups were discriminated against in housing or employment, the HRC could help them. Without this addition to the existing ordinance, these groups are not legally protected at all in Bloomington. The HRC proposal also asked for an increase in the maximum penalty it may give to an offending landlord or employer. The penalty is now \$1000; the HRC would prefer \$2500.]

The Bloomington City Council came up with its own version of the Jane Fonda Workout. It's called the discrimination shuffle, a 60-minute exercise in evasion that includes ducking the issue and batting "the ball" into somebody else's court.

After their March 12 work session on proposed changes in the city's human relations ordinance, the council members weren't even winded. In fact, some of them were barely breathing. Only the audience was tired--of trying to figure out when these guys were going to say something meaningful.

Mayor Buchanan began the meeting--the second one the council held on this

matter (see Post, v. 12, #10)--by declaring that it was his opinion that there was a "lack of consensus that the ordinance needs changing." This declaration surprised council person Steve Simms--he didn't know of any consensus or lack of one. Neither did those of us who had attended the previous work session. At that meeting (Feb. 13) only one council member (Donn Pierce) had voiced opposition to the proposed changes. Except for Simms, who came out in support of the modified ordinance, the rest of the council had hemmed, hawed, studied their fingernails, asked questions, made puzzling comments, and generally failed to commit themselves on the issues.

Clearly his-honor-the-mayor knew something the rest of us didn't. Clearly, during the last month, the business of the council had been conducted, however informally, on the phone and in the back halls. But Buchanan assured Simms that no official poll had been conducted; it was just his "impression" that there was "little enthusiasm" for changing the ordinance.

Then the mayor threw "the ball" to the Human Relations Commission (HRC), asking them to re-defend their proposal, without giving them a clue as to what objections the council had.

Hezekiah Webb, Chairperson of the HRC, made an admirable effort to hit the mayor's curve. Webb pointed out that the Commission had debated some of the

changes for several years and had decided unanimously to send their proposals to the council. "It's appropriate for us to re-define what we can do to enhance intergroup relations in the community," Webb said.

The only council member to address the changes directly was Donn Pierce. He had figured out that the 25 complaints that the HRC had received but couldn't handle in the last 3 years because of lack of jurisdiction didn't amount to sufficient justification for expanding the coverages of the human rights ordinance. According to Pierce's calculations, those 25 cases would have yielded only 4 valid cases a year (the others would be dropped due to lack of probable cause). For Pierce, 4 cases a year wasn't enough discrimination to warrant his concern.

Pierce didn't say how many cases would constitute "reasonable justification" for extending legal protection to other groups. I suspect the number would have to be pretty high to impress Mr. Pierce, since he doesn't belong to any of the unprotected groups (single persons, gay people, veterans with an unfavorable military discharge, renters with children under 14, and the handicapped). Hezekiah Webb's response--that the HRC feels that only one case demands their attention--didn't seem to move councilman Pierce.

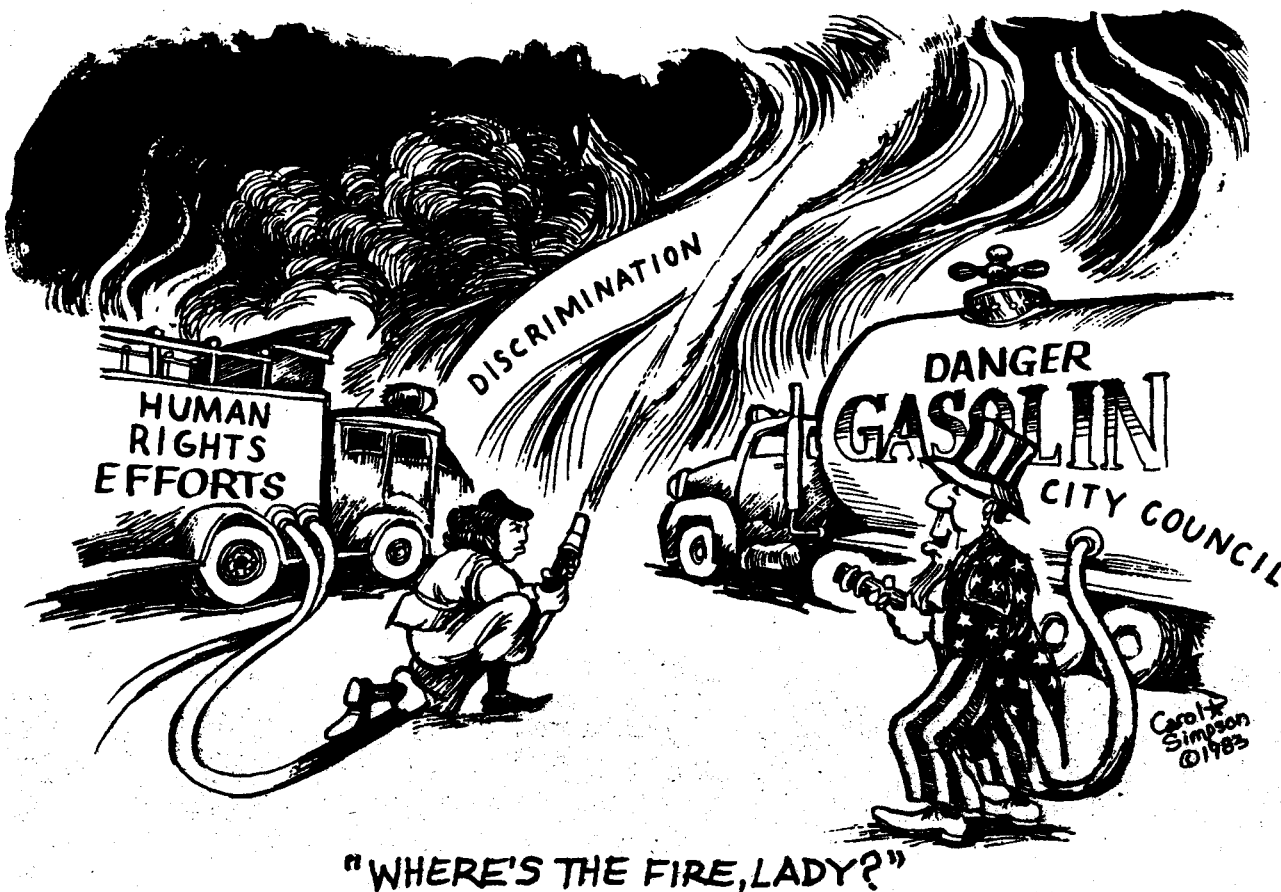
Although Pierce sought to make his objections sound like the result of impersonal statistical analysis, the fallacy in his approach is obvious: people don't complain to the HRC because they know it won't do any good. If you have 25 complaints when there's no coverage, it's reasonable to expect more when protection is offered.

I suspect Pierce knows this. I also suspect he has other, more personal objections to expanding the human rights ordinance.

Pierce also expressed his opinion that there was justification for increasing the ordinance's \$1000 limit on damages (the second part of the HRC's proposal asks to raise the amount to \$2500). This reversed his position from the last meeting, when Pierce worried about what he called a "250% increase" in the damage ceiling.

After this initial discussion of the actual merits of the proposed ordinance, the meeting turned into a contest between the mayor, who tried to say everything he could think of, and the council, who tried to say as little as possible. Jesse Parker won: he didn't say anything.

Walt Bittner managed to waste ten minutes by asking about a cooperative agreement with the state Human Relations Commission, which seemed to have very little to do with the



City manager backs ordinance, Pantagraph waffles

In his memo to the Bloomington City Council, City Manager William Vail recommended that the proposed amendments to the Human Relations Ordinance be passed. Vail supported both parts of the proposal--expanding the definition of discrimination to include more groups and increasing the amount of damages or fines.

In backing the additional coverages, Vail acknowledged that "we all agree that discrimination in any form is wrong" but "defining discrimination in the broad sense tends to never cause many of us to specifically address the problem." Vail said he believes that "further defining discrimination will allow all of us a better opportunity to express our true feelings and to deliver a message as to what those true feelings are. A more specific definition of discrimination will offer an opportunity to better address discrimination in our community to whatever extent it exists."

On the other hand, the Pantagraph appeared to waffle on the issue of extended coverage, although their editorial stance was far from clear.

After saying that it may be "the correct course" not to approve the proposed changes, the March 24 editorial went on to note "there remains the gnawing feeling that something important is being left out of the discussion."

In a cryptic, if not downright confused conclusion, the Pantagraph editorial writer said "there ought to be public goals to shoot for and standards within reach," and that "getting there is a private test for all the community's residents." And: "We would urge them all, council representatives included, to dig for those deep-set biases tuned to individual rights."

Council shuns rights debate

Post Amerikan

Page 11

proposed changes in Bloomington's ordinance. If it did, Bittner didn't make any connections; he just asked a bunch of questions and said nothing about the answers he got.

Steve Simms tried to get the meeting back on track by asking if the council could consider the two parts of the ordinance (the coverages and the fine) separately. Simms also reiterated his support of the entire proposal, saying that it's unfortunate if the city has even 4 people a year discriminated against. "That's a frustrating, degrading process," said Simms.

Mayor Buchanan made several more attempts to sum up all sides of the question at once. He seemed to be trying to speak for the silent four (Kroutil, Parker, Smart, and Bittner) and argue with them at the same time. This required that he talk out of both sides of his mouth.

First the left side of the mayor's mouth said: We can all agree that discrimination generally should be eliminated. But we can't go into court on that basis.

Then the right side said: One concern is that employers might be victimized by somebody going on a fishing expedition. Might that result in frivolous allegations? Where do we draw the line? How do we stop at these additional groups?

The left side: I've reversed my position (from the last meeting); I now have fewer problems with the fine increase.

The right side: I'm concerned about additional coverages, the element of the unknown. How many others classes will want coverage?

The left side: My concern is overwhelmed by the work of this commission. I'm still in support, comforted by the job that has been done. I support both parts of the ordinance.

In the waning moments of the session, Buchanan tried to get the council to talk out loud. After saying that the HRC should determine what to place on the agenda of the next city council meeting (March 26), the mayor asked for an informal vote. He confused council member George Kroutil by asking a two-part question: do you support all or some change in coverages? Kroutil said, "Not all. Yes. Some." But before he could specify which groups he supported, the mayor quickly assured him that he wouldn't have to reveal his prejudices.

After that it was a simple yes (1-Simms) or no (5-everybody else). The mayor said he would vote yes in case of a tie, which there obviously isn't going to be. The second part of the proposal--the fine increase--didn't get voted on.

Buchanan concluded with these remarks: "The Council has given direction" And: "Commission, welcome to the real world." Nobody had any idea what he meant.

*** **

Since the March 12 meeting, two developments have occurred:

1. The HRC met and decided to submit the entire ordinance to the city council for its approval or disapproval on March 26. The Commission is also asking the council to consider the fines and the additional coverages separately--and to vote separately for each of the five proposed groups to be included in coverages. Since the HRC is presenting a single ordinance and not a number of variations (with or without fines and particular groups), it will be interesting to see if the council actually considers each change separately or continues to take the easy way out and vote on the package as a whole.

2. The members of the council spoke to

a Pantagraph reporter and admitted that they hadn't debated the issues openly and didn't intend to if they could avoid it. In the Pantagraph article (March 18), various members of the council also revealed their individual objections to the additional coverages. It came as no surprise that they didn't want to grant protection to gay people and to people with unfavorable military discharges.

In case you missed the article, you might be interested in reading some of the more revealing remarks made by the men who have been elected to represent the citizens of Bloomington and determine policy for the government of the city. (Running commentary free of charge.)

George Kroutil: "If a gay wants to live gay, that's his business, but personally I don't approve of that life style." (Apparently he does approve of discriminating against people he doesn't approve of.)

Kroutil also said that he had no problem with the other groups but would vote against all new coverages rather than argue single issues (gay rights) publicly.

Jesse Smart: The gay rights issue is something "you just don't debate in public. I don't think we want to open up that issue to debate. I don't think we ought to be publishing comments on that subject." (Who said you can't argue with a closed mind?)

Smart supported his objection to civil rights protection for gays by quoting the bible and claiming he follows the words in Leviticus 18:22.

Jesse Parker: Adding coverages is "opening a can of worms that doesn't need to be opened. I don't see that there's a need to go spelling

Cont. on next page



You can help this machine.

Or you can turn the page.

As you may have noticed, time has been hard on those once-bright, friendly red boxes that sell the Post Amerikan on street corners. People who lose their quarters are sometimes not kind, either. And winter cold adds another freezing blow to an already traumatized organism.

For just pennies a day, you can provide a machine with new plexiglass, sturdy legs, some much-needed nuts and bolts, and maybe even a little paint.

Or you can let them rust.

Think about it.

--Sally Struthers

Yes, I'd like to adopt a Post Amerikan machine. I'm sending \$_____ to help pay for the bare necessities of life on the streets.

Bloomington city council, cont.

out (protections) when there are already enough laws to go on."

Parker thinks it would be better to allow legal professionals to make decisions involving discrimination because of sexual preference. (Is that doublethink or just ordinary gobbledygook?)

Donn Pierce: "The ordinance today appears to reflect Bloomington citizens' attitudes." (Especially those whose attitudes include discrimination against gay people, single people, and the other groups not covered by the existing ordinance.)

Walt Bittner: "The present ordinance we have works and will continue to work." (Unless you're single, gay, or someone with a kid under 14, an unfavorable military discharge, or a guide dog.)

Steve Simms did make some sensible replies to his fellow council members.

On not debating issues in public: "This is what the council is about--to bring out public debate. What the hell are they on the council for if they don't want a public debate?"

On gay people: "I'm not condoning gay life styles, but recognizing these people as human beings; they have the same rights."

On Donn Pierce's claim that the numbers don't justify change: "We're getting ready to spend \$5 million over 5 years for flood controls that impact between 2 percent and 10 percent of the population. But we're paying attention because it affects the quality of life. Here we're being asked to guarantee a quality of life without spending any money."

I guess we can take heart that there's at least one voice of reason among our elected officials.

--Ferdydurke

Leviticus also says...

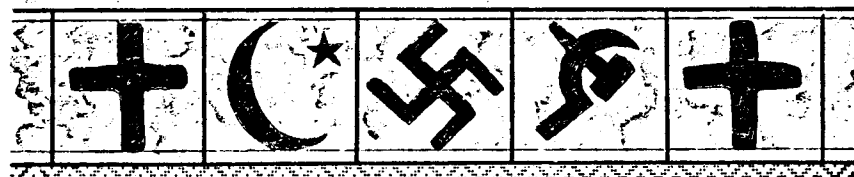
Jesse Smart was quoted by the Pantagraph as saying he follows the words in Leviticus 18:22, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination"; and that's why he opposed the granting of civil rights protection to gay people (see adjoining story).

But Leviticus 19:26-28 says, "You shall not eat meat with the blood in it. You shall not practice divination or soothsaying. You shall not round off your hair from side to side, and you shall not shave the edge of your beards. You shall not gash yourselves in mourning for the dead; you shall not tattoo yourselves." Do you suppose Jesse Smart doesn't eat rare meat, get his hair cut, shave his beard, or have any tattoos?

Leviticus also says, "When your brother is reduced to poverty and cannot support himself in the community, you shall assist him as you would an alien or a stranger, and he shall live with you. You shall not charge him interest on a loan, either by deducting it in advance from the capital sum, or by adding it on repayment" (25:35-36). The next time I'm out of work, I'm heading for Jesse Smart's house; he's a follower of the words in Leviticus. I'm going to hit him up for a loan, too. Those Leviticus rates are a whole lot better than you get at the Bank of Illinois.

The Book of Ferdydurke says: Those who claim they follow Leviticus ought to read it first.

--Ferdy.



"Welcome to the real world"

On February 28, the Bloomington Liquor Commission held a hearing on charges against Dan Cochran, owner of Twylla's Place, a gay bar and restaurant located at 523 N. Main Street. During that hearing the liquor commission made the unprecedented move of allowing two witnesses to testify anonymously.

Liquor Commissioner Stephen Stockton said an agreement had been reached in a pretrial conference that certain witnesses' names and addresses would be omitted from hearing records. The reason: these people "might suffer reprisals in employment and with their families" if they became publicly associated with a gay bar.

In other words, the Bloomington Liquor Commission officially recognized the potential for discrimination based on

sexual preference. Of course, if the city of Bloomington had a human relations ordinance that included gay people in its protection, then the Liquor Commission wouldn't have to bend the law in order to protect its witnesses--at least from employment and housing problems.

The Liquor Commission should talk to the City Council and tell them about the real world of hatred and discrimination toward homosexuals. Or does the City Council already know and not care? Judging by the comments that council members Kroutil and Smart made about gay people (see adjoining story), I'd say they're part of the problem that the Human Relations Commission is trying to solve.

--Ferdydurke

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 Call **PATH 827-4005**
 and ask for the
Rape Crisis Center

Amerikan Almanak

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

Compiled by Holly and friends

Tues. March 27

*Film: "Camille" ISU Ballroom
6 & 8:15 p.m. \$1.00

Wed., March 28

*Music: Diatribe (local New Wave
Musique). Mosey's.

*Film and Speaker: Steven Fuer-
stein, "The El Salvador Elections";
film, "In the Name of Democracy"
ISU Bone Student Union, 2nd floor
West Lounge. 7:30 p.m.

*Gay People's Alliance meeting.
8 p.m. 112 Fairchild Hall, ISU
Topic: Medical awareness

Fri., March 30

*Music: Battlefield Band at New
Friends of Old Time Music. 8 p.m.
ISU's Prairie Room. \$1.00

Sat., March 31

*Lecture: "Islam and Its Global
Dimensions" 7 p.m. Bone Student
Center. Free

*Recycling drive at Sears parking
lot (Eastland) and Turner Hall,
ISU. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sun., April 1

*April Fool's Day. Write your
congressman today.

Tues., April 3

*Film: "The Passenger" ISU Circus
Room. 6 & 8:15 p.m. \$1.00

Wed., April 4

*Students for a Free Palestine
meeting. 8 p.m. room 223
Stevenson Hall, ISU.

*Gay People's Alliance meeting.
8 p.m. 112 Fairchild Hall, ISU
Topic: Gay history

Thurs., April 5

*Theatre: "Fiddler on the Roof"
8 p.m. ISU Braden Auditorium.
Call 438-5444 for ticket info.

Fri., April 6

*Theatre: "Fiddler on the Roof"
8 p.m. ISU Braden Auditorium.
Call 438-5444 for ticket info.

Sat., April 7

*Theatre: "Fiddler on the Roof"
See above dates for info.

Sun., April 8

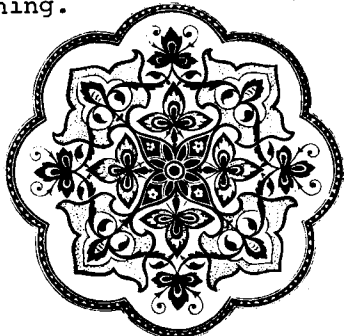
*Music: Bloomington-Normal Sym-
phony Concert and Civic Chorale.
7:30 p.m. Braden Auditorium.

*Metropolitan Community Church
meeting at the Unitarian Church,
1613 E. Emerson (the Walker Room).
7 p.m. Call 829-2719 for info.

*POST AMERIKAN BENEFIT
8 p.m. The Gallery. \$2.50
See ad on page 16.

Mon., April 9

*Students for a Free Palestine
demonstration--in memory of Dier
Yasain. 11:45 a.m. ISU Quad.
Refreshments and discussion that
evening.

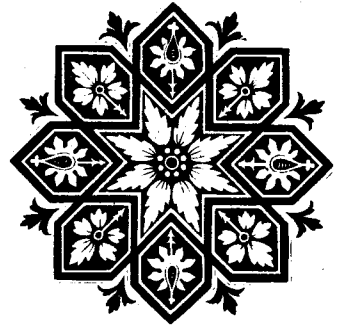


Vol. 13, No. 1

April 1984

Page 13

BUT WE ALREADY BEEN TO
THE OPERA TWICET THIS
MONTH, EDDIEBOB. LET'S GO
TO THE DANCE CONCERT.



Tues., April 17

*Film: "Jail House Rock" ISU's
Ballroom. 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00

Wed., April 18

*Music: Diatribe. ISU Circus Room
8 p.m. 50¢

*Meeting: Students for a Free
Palestine. 8 p.m. 223 Stevenson
Hall, ISU

*Meeting: Gay People's Alliance
8 p.m. 112 Fairchild Hall.
Social occasion (aka party)

Thurs., April 19

*Deadline for next Post
Amerikan. Send articles,
letters, money, etc.

Fri., April 20

*Theatre: "The Lower Depths"
ISU's Westhoff Theatre. 8 p.m.
Call 438-2535 for info.

Sat., April 21

*Theatre: "The Lower Depths"
Westhoff Theatre. 8 p.m.
438-2535 for information.

Sun., April 22

*Theatre: "The Lower Depths"
ISU's Westhoff Theatre, 8 p.m.

Tues., April 24

*Film: "Barefoot in the Park"
ISU's Ballroom, 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00

*Theatre: "The Lower Depths"
See April 20 listing.

*Meeting: Committee in Solidarity
with El Salvador. 310 Stevenson
Hall, ISU. 7:30 p.m.

Wed., April 25

*Theatre: "The Lower Depths"
ISU's Westhoff Theatre 8 p.m.
For ticket info. call 438-2535

Thurs., April 26

*Theatre: "The Lower Depths"

Fri., April 27

*Music: Geoff Poister, New Friends
of Old Time Music. ISU's Prairie
Room. 8 p.m. \$1.00

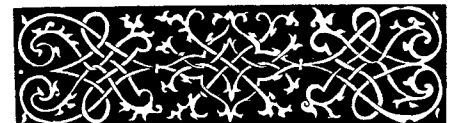
Sat., April 28

*10-kilometer run sponsored by
Operation Recycle. See Community
News items for more info.

Sun., April 29

*Nature Walk: Wildflower walk.
2 p.m. Comlara Park (west ent.)

*Art and Music benefit for Rape
Crisis Center. 2 - 4 p.m.
First United Methodist Church,
Normal.



Tues., April 10

*Film: "Wild Strawberries" ISU
Circus Room. 6 & 8:15 p.m. \$1.00

*Meeting: Committee in Solidarity
with El Salvador 7:30 p.m.
Stevenson Hall 310, ISU

*TV Film: "The Killing Floor"
about labor organizing in WWI,
PBS. Check listings for time
and channel.

Wed., April 11

*Music: "Multicultural Arts Pres-
entation" 8 p.m. ISU's Kemp
Recital Hall

*Gay People's Alliance meeting.
8 p.m. 401 Stevenson Hall,
ISU. Gay Literature (readings)

Thurs., April 12

*Speaker: Author John Williams,
public reading. 8 p.m. IWU's
Main Lounge

*Dance: University Dance Theatre
ISU's Stroud Auditorium. 8 p.m.

*Opera: "Albert Herring" featuring
William Chamberlain. Westhoff
Theatre. 8 p.m. Call 438-2535
for more information.

Fri., April 13

*Dance: Univ. Dance Theatre.
8 p.m. Stroud Auditorium (ISU)

*Opera: "Albert Herring" See
April 12 for information.

Sat., April 14

*Dance: Univ. Dance Theatre.
*Opera: "Albert Herring"
See April 12 listing.

Sun., April 15

*Nature: A walk by the light of
the moon. 7 p.m. Shady Hollow
Nature Trail, Comlara Park.

*MCC meeting in the Walker Room,
Unitarian Church, 1613 E. Emerson
Call 829-2719 for more info.

Black woman charges excessive force

Patrolman Tom



More lawsuits could be on the way. Since December of 1982, the Post Amerikan has reported on at least seven incidents where Tom Sanders has used excessive force. Four of these incidents involve blacks, lending weight to the lawsuits' claims that racism plays a part in Sanders' out-of-control behavior.

Judge acquitted Winston

Barford's claim that Sanders used excessive force has already been established by Judge James Knecht. Knecht presided over Luella Winston's Oct. 1980 bench trial on the aggravated battery and resisting arrest charges.

Knecht found Winston not guilty of both charges. In addition, Knecht accompanied his acquittal with an unusual written order.

Knecht wrote first that Officer Sanders did use excessive force while arresting Luella Winston. Sanders used so much excessive force, Knecht wrote, that Luella Winston was legally justified in using force to protect herself. Therefore, Knecht said, Luella Winston's actions (biting Sanders' shoulder until it bled) did not constitute aggravated battery.

Knecht's written ruling is included in the complaint filed against Sanders. Attorney Barford hopes that the court will accept that the question of whether Sanders used excessive force has already been decided.

What happened

In the early morning hours of May 26, 1980, Tom Sanders went to Holton Homes on a report of a loud party which was disturbing some neighbors. According to Barford, the party had been at Luella Winston's house, but had moved by the time Sanders arrived.

According to Sanders' police report, he asked Luella Winston to travel down to the station in her own car, so that he could charge her for

disorderly conduct and let her bond out.

According to attorney Barford, Winston did not want to go down to the station unless she was under arrest. "Arrest me here if you're going to arrest me," was Barford's description of Winston's position. Barford said Sanders didn't want to arrest Winston there "because everyone could see there were no grounds."

Winston says she was never told she was under arrest. But eventually Tom Sanders handcuffed Winston. He then dragged her along the ground to the squad car, holding her only by the handcuffs. Barford says Winston was "thrown" into the squad car and got her foot caught in the door as Sanders shut her in.

'Slowly but firmly'

When he wrote his police report that evening, Sanders must have already known he'd screwed up. Check out the defensive, yet resentful tone of his description:

"Officer Tom Sanders slowly but firmly closed the door so her leg would bend properly, and the door would close. She of course acted as if it were injured. However, there was no force applied against the natural bending of her knee or ankle joint, and no hyper-extension of the limb. Only the force of her pushing against the door would have occurred."

Ms. Winston was eventually taken to St. Joe's Hospital for injuries to her foot and her wrists.

Racism

Let's look at the situation that night through Tom Sanders' eyes. Sanders told the grand jury "this was during the time the Miami situation was in progress and we were short-handed and had noticed some restlessness in the area all night. The fact is, we were very careful not to antagonize anyone because we just simply didn't have the manpower to

A lawsuit charging Bloomington Patrolman Tom Sanders with racism, police brutality, and violation of civil rights was filed in federal court in Springfield in early March.

The suit was filed by Bloomington attorney Michael Barford on behalf of Luella Winston, who Sanders arrested for aggravated battery and resisting arrest in May, 1980.

The suit charges that Sanders filed a false police report, gave false testimony, and used excessive force in making the arrest.

The suit also charges that Sanders was "motivated by racial and class-based discriminatory intent." Luella Winston is black and lives in Holton Homes, a west-side housing project owned by the Bloomington Housing Authority.

Third suit

This is the third lawsuit to be filed against Patrolman Sanders. The City of Bloomington recently settled one suit for \$635,000, stemming from a 1980 incident in which Sanders impulsively shot an innocent man (see adjoining story.) Another pending lawsuit, also charging racism, seeks redress for Sanders' bashing Alan Mann on the head with a flashlight while arresting him for the minor ordinance violation of drinking in the parkway in front of his home. (See Post-Amerikan Vol. 12 #4, Aug. 1983, and Vol. 11 #9, Dec. 1982-Jan. 1983.)

Suit settled

Sanders shoots innocent man; city pays \$635,000

The first of a series of lawsuits arising from Bloomington Patrolman Tom Sanders' impulsive, aggressive behavior has been settled. The City of Bloomington will pay \$635,000 over a period of years to Charles Vasquez.

Vasquez is suffering permanent brain damage after being shot in the head by Officer Sanders at the Regal 8 Motel in August 1980.

Sanders arrived at the motel to deal with what he thought was a case of kidnapping by armed men. It turned out to be what State's Attorney Ron Dozier called a "lover's quarrel."

According to Dozier's explanation, Kenny Heistand had taken the keys to his girlfriend's truck, refusing to return them. By the time Sanders arrived, though, the incident was over. Heistand had returned the keys.

But when Heistand saw Sanders arriving, he fled. Heistand dove into the back seat of a car being driven out of the motel parking lot by Vasquez.

Even though other squad cars were approaching the area and could have intercepted the fleeing car, Officer Sanders fired his shotgun. The second blast stopped the car, and also stopped Vasquez's working life.

No charges were filed against Vasquez. A minor charge was filed against the fleeing Kenny Heistand, but it was later dropped. No guns were ever found in the car.

At the time, Bloomington Police Chief Lewis DeVault said Sanders' shooting was "totally justified." State's Attorney Dozier said Sanders was "legally justified" in the shooting, because he thought he was shooting at a fleeing felon. (Sanders wasn't actually shooting at a fleeing felon--no felony had taken place. But he thought he was, and that makes the shooting legal.) But State's Attorney

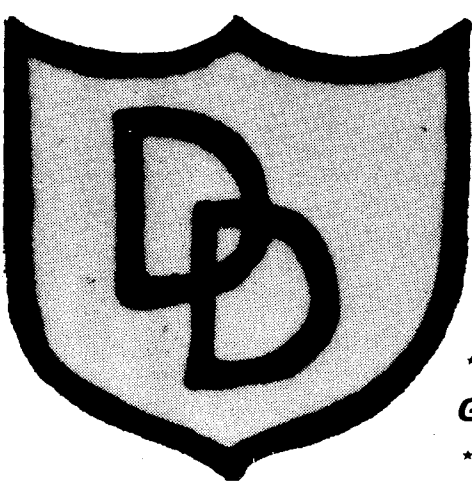
Dozier said he questioned Sanders' judgment in the matter.

Sanders' judgement has been questioned many times since that 1980 shooting, but police department higher-ups don't seem motivated to do anything about it. (For a more complete story on the 1980 shooting, see Post Amerikan Vol 11 #8).

--M.S.

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Sanders sued third time

handle it."

The "Miami situation" Sanders refers to was probably the several-day outburst of rebellion, outrage, and angry rioting which erupted in sections of that city's black community in May, 1980. The disruptions were a response to an all-white jury's acquittal of a white police officer who had groundlessly shot and killed a black man.

Before he even went out to Holton Homes, Sanders was prepared to view what he saw in terms of blacks rioting in Miami.

This is a portion of the evidence Barford cites in making his case that Sanders' racism and class prejudice were a factor in his actions. "That, and the fact that in other cases Sanders has used racial slurs," Barford added.

Another quotation from Sanders' police report reveals his racist and inflammatory view of the situation: "She attempted to evade officers and rallied a mob about her and refused to be taken into custody."

Why does Sanders use the word "mob" instead of "group" or "crowd"? And doesn't the word "rally" when used with "mob" imply unjustified agitating and troublemaking, or a sinister manipulation of a collection of individuals into one unified force? With rioting in Miami already on his mind, does Sanders' use of "rallied a mob" means he's thinking of 1960's media portraits of H. Rap Brown or Stokely Carmichael, who network TV portrayed as "instigators" and

"agitators" who fired up angry crowds to attack cops and burn buildings? Instead of saying Winston "rallied a mob," why didn't Sanders regard the situation as "Winston yelled to her friends, protesting the arrest"?

According to Sanders' report, he dragged the handcuffed Luella Winston through a crowd of about 100 people. (Barford says there weren't nearly that many.)

Judgement

But let's remember Sanders' state of mind. This occurs on a night when he claims to have perceived "some restlessness in the area." Sanders connects this "restlessness" with Miami, where many blacks are very angry about how they are treated by white cops. So in the early morning hours, after many had been drinking at



what had been called a loud party, surrounded by what Sanders has called "a mob" which he claims numbers 100 people, Tom Sanders decides it is very important to arrest a black woman for the minor crime of disorderly conduct and drag her handcuffed along the ground to his squad car.

Is this the sort of behavior which Sanders considers "being very careful not to antagonize anyone"? Is

this the sort of judgment the City of Bloomington wants its police officers to exercise?

Discretion

According to Barford, Sanders conceivably had grounds to file a disorderly conduct charge against Luella Winston "for her role in hosting the party which caused a disturbance." But Barford points out that Sanders was entitled to exercise discretion in how to file the charge. Instead of actually arresting Winston, forcing her to go to the station and post bond, Sanders could have simply sent Winston a notice to appear in court. "Since the party at Winston's house was already over," Barford said, "a notice to appear would have been especially appropriate."

"I'm not saying police shouldn't go into Holton Homes and shut down a party," Barford said. "The residents of Holton Homes want police protection. It was a pressure situation where Tom Sanders had to make a decision."

In those pressure situations, Barford says, Tom Sanders' judgment becomes worse when he thinks his authority is being questioned or challenged. "And he has particular problems dealing with blacks."

In the second count of his suit, Barford alleges that long-standing policies and practices of the Bloomington Police Department help to create incidents like this one (see adjoining story).

--Mark Silverstein

Rights violations due to police dept. policies

Who's responsible?

When he sued Bloomington Patrolman Tom Sanders for police brutality and violations of Luella Winston's civil rights (see adjoining story), attorney Michael Barford also sued the City of Bloomington.

Barford's suit charges that certain policies and practices of the City of Bloomington and its police department are ultimately responsible for the violations of Luella Winston's civil rights.

Winston's is not an isolated case. It is part of a pattern. Like two other civil rights suits Barford filed last summer (see Post Amerikan, Aug. 1983), Barford's suit describes that pattern and pins responsibility for that pattern on specific policies.

Barford's suit charges that the Bloomington Police Dept. has a "policy and practice" allowing officers to "inflict summary punishment" on minority groups. Barford's suit includes young people as a minority group which suffers this police harassment.

Barford specifically mentions that police bring false charges, file false police reports, give false testimony. He says police use excessive force to make both legal and illegal arrests. He charges that police deny prompt medical treatment, use abusive language, and engage in unwarranted harassment of citizens.

Barford's suit charges that the City of Bloomington condones these practices, actively or passively, in the following way:

First, Bloomington "negligently and recklessly" hires people who should not be cops at all. The police department then fails to adequately train the officers it does hire.

Second, the Bloomington Police Department does not adequately monitor the actions of its officers.

According to the suit, the city "fails to detect officers' illegal conduct, or the city is aware of the conduct and condones it. In addition, the city fails to have in place a meaningful reporting system for citizen complaints. The city also "fails to advise citizens of their right to challenge unconstitutional police conduct by the filing of complaints, fails to act upon the complaints it receives or the reports it receives of obvious or probable violations of citizens' civil rights."

The police department's unconstitutional hiring practices contribute to the pattern of violation of citizens' civil rights, according to Barford's suit. Barford says the police department is supposed to have an affirmative action program to actively recruit minority applicants.

The police department does not have such a program. In addition, Barford charges that the police department discriminates against those minority group members who do apply for positions.

According to Barford, the Bloomington police department includes only one black officer. There are no women officers, no hispanics.

If the City of Bloomington took steps to change the policies and practices that Barford's suits attack, the extent of police harassment and excessive force could be significantly reduced. If nothing is done, Bloomington could be defending itself against even more lawsuits in the future.

--Mark Silverstein

Pantagraph finally sees pattern

Congratulations to Pantagraph reporter Robert Green, whose March 3 story was the newspaper's first notice that there might be a pattern in the behavior of Officer Tom Sanders.

Writing the routine story of the new lawsuit filed against Sanders (see adjoining story), Green added a few paragraphs pointing out that Sanders has been sued twice before for his actions as a Bloomington cop.

No reporter had noted the pattern when the second suit was filed.

Back in the summer of 1982, the Pantagraph reported that the Illinois Attorney General's office was investigating a complaint that Officer Sanders had used racial slurs, excessive force and violated a suspect's civil rights during a minor arrest. The paper did not mention that the officer was the target of one lawsuit already.

A few months later in 1982, the Pantagraph reported an additional complaint: that Officer Sanders broke his hand punching a suspect in the booking room and that the suspect required hospital admission. The paper didn't mention that Sanders had been named in earlier public complaints.

To help Pantagraph reporters and their readers notice these significant patterns earlier, here's a suggestion: why doesn't the newspaper routinely mention the names of the police officers when reporting arrests, especially arrests for harassment-potential offenses such as disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, aggravated battery, and obstructing a police officer? The public would be better served if other Tom Sanders types were discovered earlier.

--M.S.

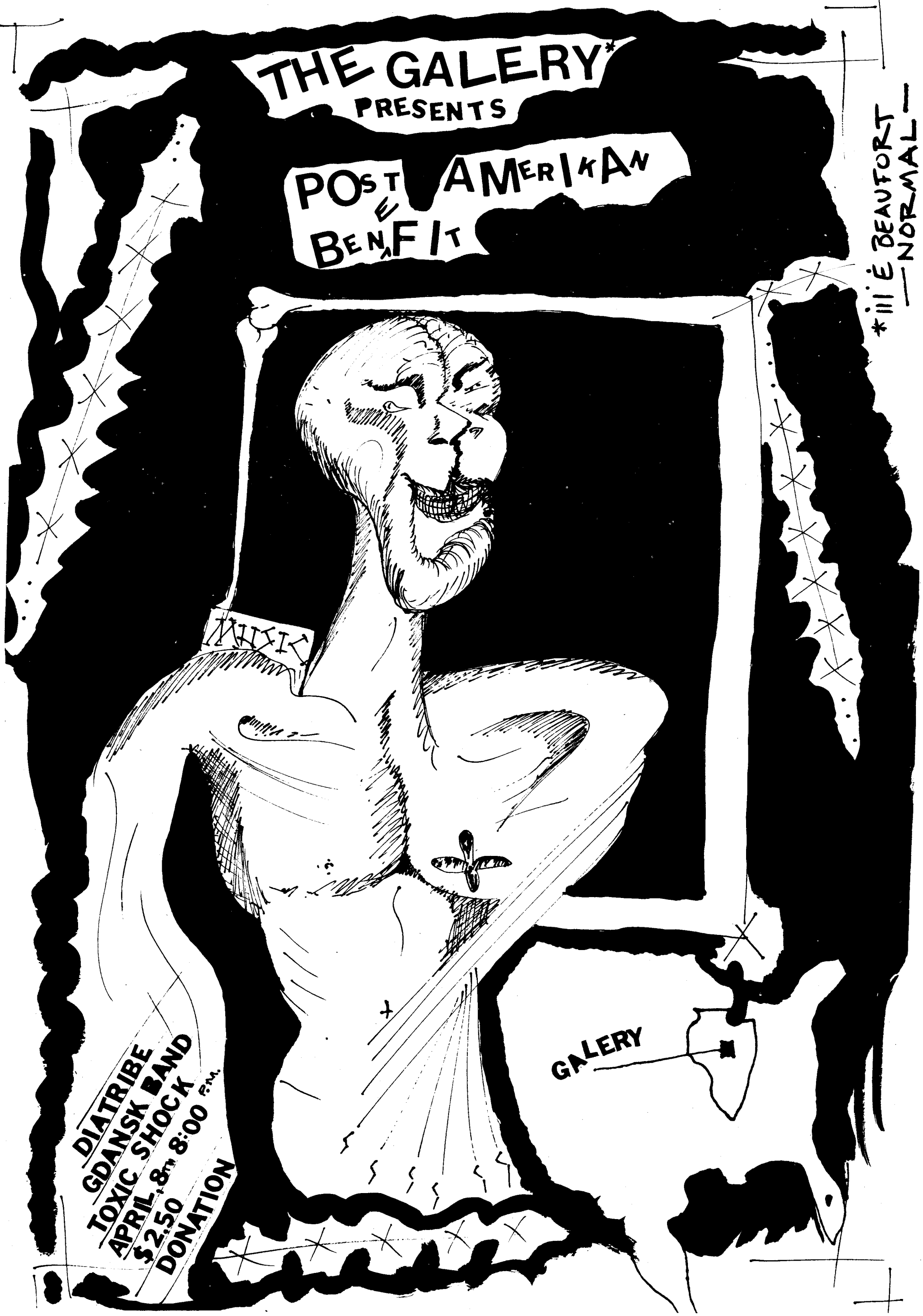
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GALLERY



'Citizen informant' shy about publicity

Joe Carroll, the gallant law enforcement helper who spied on his neighbors and eavesdropped on their visitors, is shy about publicity.

Carroll, 1126 E. Olive, turned in a list of license plates and summaries of allegedly overheard conversations to the DCI Task Force last fall, according to McLean County court records (see adjoining story).

I telephoned Carroll to interview him about his law enforcement experience. I identified myself as a Post Amerikan reporter, gave my name, and started asking questions. But Carroll was more interested in asking me questions.

He especially wanted to know my address. (Fortunately, I'm well out of binocular range.)

"I gotta know your credentials, see," Carroll explained. "For all I know, you might be one of these dopeheads yourself."

Carroll seemed somewhat mollified when I replied affirmatively to his question about whether Dub Sprague (retiring Bloomington police narcotics detective) knew me. Carroll and I did talk for a few minutes.

Carroll was upset that his name might be appearing in the paper in connection with his spying. "You put my name in that paper, it's gonna cost you some money," he threatened.

"You don't mess around like that," he continued, "that's dangerous stuff."

I explained that his name appeared in the public court file. I asked if the DCI Task Force had led him to believe his name wouldn't become public.

"Well, I told Dub Sprague that," Carroll said. "I told them I don't want my name in the paper."

Every police detective and every undercover narc in McLean County knows that the Post Amerikan routinely prints the names of informants in drug cases. Why didn't these law enforcement officers inform Joe Carroll that his name probably would, indeed, appear publicly?

--Mark Silverstein



Citizen informant spies for secret police

The secret Major Crimes Task Force, operated in Bloomington-Normal by the Illinois Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), has broken new ground in the field of gathering information on people it suspects of drug trafficking.

The DCI encouraged a neighbor with no police affiliation to keep watch on the suspects' house.

According to McLean County court records, the neighbor was Joe Carroll, of 1126 E. Olive. He was spying on the residents of 210 S. State, which is almost right across the street.

"On 9/9/83, Detective [Jeff] Sanders received information from a Citizen Informant (C/I) concerning suspicious activities at 210 S. State Street," a DCI Task Force report reads. "The following registration plate numbers were supplied by C/I:"

A list of nineteen license plate numbers followed, along with the names and addresses of the people to whom the plates were registered.

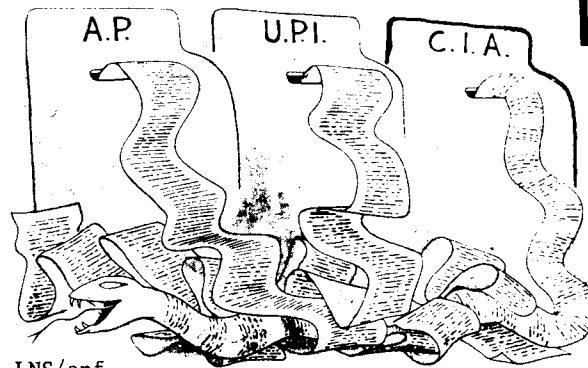
Nothing in the report states whether the drivers of all nineteen cars actually visited 210 S. State. Nothing explains whether all these cars were observed on one day, or whether the list represents an accumulation.

Some of the names are underlined, but nothing in the report explains the underlining's significance. (I recognized one of the underlined names--the Task Force busted him several months later when they came to his house with a search warrant and found marijuana.)

Eavesdropping

According to the Task Force report, the Citizen Informant also provided information allegedly obtained by eavesdropping on people entering and leaving 210 S. State. The Citizen Informant also reported that a "large package" had been delivered to 210 S. State by the occupant of a particular vehicle.

Some of the residents of 210 S. State were finally busted for drugs in late Sept., 1983. From reading the evidence in the court files, it seems that the DCI did not need any of the Citizen Informant's information to make their arrests. (The DCI got an agent into the house after an acquaintance of the residents turned into an informer.) But the DCI's easy acceptance of this sort of information, gathered by an ordinary citizen spying on his neighbors, raises a lot of questions.



LNS/cpf

Questions

Two questions: what does it take to become a "Citizen Informant" and what sort of safeguards test the accuracy of their information?

According to Floyd Aper, Supervisor of Agents for the DCI Task Force, Citizen Informants are even less supervised than the notoriously unreliable "Confidential Sources." ("Confidential Source" is narcotics agent language for "snitch.")

According to Aper, a Citizen Informant is sometimes merely an anonymous caller, or someone whose identity the agency does not know.

"Basically, we don't know who the Citizen Informant is, at least initially," Aper told the Post Amerikan.

In this particular case on State St., DCI did know who their informant was. In that case, Aper said, a Citizen Informant is "someone who we have not documented as a Confidential Source."

Although they frequently violate their agreement, Confidential Sources are required to refrain from certain sorts of activities while working for a law enforcement agency. They operate under certain restrictions. Citizen Informants do not operate under such limitations.

Computer files?

What happens to the information the Citizen Informant has turned in? Are the names of nineteen people whose cars happened to be parked on State Street permanently filed as suspicious characters? "The records are kept," Aper told the Post Amerikan. But how are they kept, and are the cross-referenced? Aper's answer was non-committal.

"Our central depository does have an indexing system," Aper replied. "It's possible those names have been entered."

Aper said the privacy laws prevented him from checking for me to see if the names supplied by this particular Citizen Informant have been entered in a permanent computer index.

Aper admitted that names of innocent people often come up in this sort of investigation, but asserted that it was no different from a homicide case where names of witnesses interviewed become part of the record.

"We don't have time around here to go head-hunting," Aper said.

I told Aper that I'd seen an empty box of Baggies in a neighbor's garbage. Was he interested?

"Yes," Aper answered. "Our eyes and ears are always open."

I was kidding. Was he?

--Mark Silverstein

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Art and Music for Rape Crisis Center

The Rape Crisis Center will again this year sponsor an art and music benefit. Rhondel McKinney, a local photographer, has donated a limited edition of one of his photographs of a central Illinois bean field in spring. The edition is limited by size--the photographs will be 16 x 20 --and will be available to the public for a \$150 donation to the Rape Crisis Center. A print of the photograph (8 x 10) can be seen at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In addition, glassblower Joel Myers has donated a piece of glass to be auctioned by written bid.

This year's concert will be held on April 29, from 2-4 pm, at the First United Methodist Church in Normal, 211 N. School Street. The concert will feature the Stringtown Road Band, a local bluegrass band. Admission to the concert is \$4 or whatever you can afford. People are encouraged to bring picnic lunches to the concert.

For more information about how to get a photograph or how to submit a bid for the glass, call 827-4005 and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.

Coupon/ refunding workshop

You're invited to attend a coupon/refunding workshop on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm at 1100 W. Market, Bloomington, IL. Learn how to save as much as \$100.00 a month on the national brand supermarket products you use every day. Many people do not realize all the dollars their garbage cans devour.

Coupons and rebate forms will also be available. How and where to find rebate forms will also be discussed.

If you are interested in learning how to save money on your grocery bill, please plan to attend.

Lab animal protests in April

On Saturday, April 7, MOBILIZATION FOR ANIMALS will be holding a daylight picket and candlelight vigil at the Federal Building in Chicago. The protest will begin at 12 noon and last until 12 midnight. Come any time during that 12 hours, and stay as long as you can.

Everyone is encouraged to bring signs and banners identifying their cities and organizations, or with photos, graphics, or animal rights slogans and quotations. Bring candles or flashlights if you plan on attending the candlelight vigil. You are also encouraged to bring any fur coats or other such items which you no longer wear for ethical reasons. At one point in the protest, they will be put in receptacles to be cut up and given to animal shelters, for use as bedding for homeless animals. If you have wondered what to do with furs you can no longer in conscience use, this is a way to at least in some way return them to the animals.

Carpools are being arranged, and material is available on parking. For local information contact Anne Schwartz, 919 N. Howard. Wheaton, IL 60187, 312-665-2810. For national information contact MOBILIZATION FOR ANIMALS, P.O. Box 1679, Columbus, OH 43216, 614-267-6993.



Operation Recycle buying paper

Make money on your old newspapers by bringing them to Operation Recycle, McLean County's only non-profit community recycling center. The center will now pay one-half cent per pound for newspapers at its Saturday morning buyback at 1100 W. Market St. in Bloomington.

Operation Recycle also buys aluminum cans at 25¢ per pound and glass containers at 1¢ per pound from 9 am to noon every Saturday. Newspapers must be tied or in grocery sacks. Only newsprint is acceptable; no magazines, junk mail, etc.

Glass containers must have all metal rings and lids removed. Windows, mirrors, light bulbs, etc. are not recyclable. Please do not break the glass. Colors may be mixed.

Operation Recycle has also opened another 24-hour drop box in the K Mart Parking lot for those wishing to donate materials. Other drop boxes are at 501 E. Stewart St. and 1100 W. Market.

The next recycling drive will be Saturday, March 31. Operation Recycle needs volunteers. Contact Myra Gordon at 829-0691 for more information.

Labor union film slated

"The Killing Floor," a feature-length dramatic film about Chicago Stock Yard workers' efforts to build a union, will be broadcast nationwide as a special two-hour presentation on American Playhouse series, Tuesday, April 10th, at 9 pm ET over PBS. "The Killing Floor" is the first production in the MADE IN U.S.A. TV series on the history of workers in America.

"The Killing Floor" is based on actual characters and events and tells the story of Frank Custer, a black sharecropper from the South who becomes a union organizer during the World War I era. According to Executive Producer Elsa Rassbach: "It's a story which shows how the labor movement survived a difficult period and, at the same time, cast down new roots for the future."

The film stars Damien Leake, Emmy Award winner Moses Gunn, and Academy Award nominee Alfre Woodard.

More than 30 unions and the AFL-CIO have provided support to help launch the MADE IN U.S.A. series and to make the \$1.5 million production of "The Killing Floor" possible.

The MADE IN U.S.A. series has been seven years in the making. As the October, 1983, AFL-CIO Resolution presented by the Industrial Union Department states, MADE IN U.S.A. is "the first major series on labor designed for prime-time programming" and "one of the most ambitious, potentially significant efforts in the field. . . ."

Writer to read at Wesleyan

Acclaimed Amerikan author John Williams will give a public fiction reading on April 12 at 8 pm in Illinois Wesleyan's Main Lounge.

Williams' novel Augustus won the 1973 National Book Award. It was called "a masterpiece" by Dan Wakefield of the L.A. Times, and an "absolutely astonishing, impressive technical performance" by Orville Prescott in the N.Y. Times.

A versatile writer, William's other works in print include 4 novels, 2 books of poetry, and many essays, stories and poems in anthologies.

Admission is free.

Operation Recycle sponsors run

Operation Recycle(OR) will sponsor a 10-kilometer run on Saturday, April 28 as part of its activities for Illinois Recycling Week (April 22-28). The course is an accurately measured new course through the west side of Bloomington and Normal.

The run will start and end at the recycle warehouse, 1100 W. Market, Bloomington. Computerized run results will be available at the completion of the race.

Entry fee is \$5. T-shirts will be awarded to first 200 entrants. There will be awards to the top three finishers in each age category.

Entry blanks are available from the Operation Recycle office and from most sporting goods stores. American Cellulose MFG., Inc. will cosponsor the run.

OR's other plans for Recycle Week include a display at Eastland Mall, educational activities in local schools, and the free distribution of 500 pine tree seedlings. Bookmarks and posters will also be distributed to call attention to the importance of recycling.

Recycling Week begins on Earth Day and ends on Arbor Day. Operation Recycle is McLean County's only non-profit community recycling center.



Ground Nicaraguan coffee on sale for \$3.00 for 8.75 oz. Profits go directly to Nicaraguan people. Contact Michelle George at 828-5662.

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Reader touched by article

Post Amerikan:

I've been reading your paper now for a couple of months, since I moved in with my cell mate, J. R. Hofstetter here at Menard Correctional Center.

I read an article by Janice Quinn called "Treatment Worked But The Patient Died!" It touched me very much since my uncle passed away from cancer also, and they never found it until it was too late. The doctor was from Champaign, and he also had recommended the chemotherapy treatment for my uncle. Before my uncle passed on, he lost almost

all of his hair, as well as his weight.

I'd really like to see more articles on this matter, because I too feel the public should be informed!

The reason I'm writing is to ask if you could run an ad for me in your "Hostages Need Letters" column. I'd appreciate it very much! Also, if at all possible, could you tell me how much a subscription would cost for your paper?

The articles you run about all the city "informants" are really great, too. See, the reason I'm here in Menard is because of an "informant," and because I wouldn't inform on my friends or associates.

I'd appreciate it very much if you could send me a newspaper and also run my ad:

Duane Maulding N-7970
Box #711
Menard, IL 62259

I don't get much mail and with all your great readers, surely there is someone out there who cares enough to answer.

Thank you very much for your time and most of all for such a "great" newspaper!

Sincerely,
Duane Maulding

Hostages need letters

Five more hostages of the Department of Corrections have told the Post that they'd like letters from the outside. Send correspondence to:

Michael Benson N-34567
Box 7711
Centralia, IL 62801

Jerome Townsend A-81195
P. O. Box 7711
Centralia, IL 62801

Tyrone Walton A-51140
Box 711
Menard, IL 62259

Danny LaVelle N-34170
Box 7711
Centralia, IL 62801

James R. Hofstetter A-87767
Box 711
Menard, IL 62259
This person would like to hear from previous correspondent.

Reader exposes informer

Dear Post:

I'd like to thank you for your expose on DCI and some of their informers. I myself enjoy reading the Post and have been a faithful reader for 10 years!

I may have a little information that might help reveal one of the DCI informers, Thomas Ryburn. I found his confidential source number in my transcript. It's written like this: 81 G George 3486.

Keep up the good work. Here is a small donation, and I hope it will help.

A faithful reader,
Carol Beehn
A67603
Box C
Dwight, IL 60420



Co-opting the Convention

Dear Post Amerikan,

We are looking for folks who really dislike Reagan to go to Dallas in August. Among other actions, we propose the entrances to the Republican Convention be blockaded at certain times.

We also want to do a Rock Against Reagan concert during the convention.

For more information, please call me (John Entwistle) at 212-533-5028 (New York City) or Peter Omarzu at 312-363-4466 (Chicago).

Love and Revolution,
John Entwistle

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For more details on the Dallas '84 planning conference this Nov. 19-21st, for groups and individuals interested in setting the themes and tactics of next summer's protests, write: Freeze Reagan/Bush in '84, P.O. #708, Madison, Wis. 53708; or call: 212-533-5028... 412-582-0628.

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Water dept. home invasions halted, then resumed

For a brief period last month, the Bloomington Water Department instructed its meter readers not to go inside people's homes unless someone answered the door.

It was a change triggered by inquiries from the Post Amerikan, which had criticized the water department's existing policy. Water meter readers are currently instructed to go ahead and enter an unlocked house, even if nobody is at home.

Such entries without the homeowner's consent or knowledge had been criticized by the American Civil Liberties Union, which promised action. Water Department Supervisor of Accounting Judy Whikehart was defending the policy. So was Bloomington Corporation Counsel David Stanczak.

But City Manager Bill Vail told the Post Amerikan last month that the policy will be changed. The practice of meter readers entering people's homes, Vail said, "was left over from the horse and buggy days." "If that's in the ordinance," Vail declared, "we'll get that changed."

(Actually, nothing in the Bloomington water ordinance authorizes meter readers to enter unlocked homes. The fact that both Judy Whikehart and David Stanczak believe such authorization is in the ordinance demonstrates the need for the City of Bloomington to run an in-service literacy program for its employees.)

According to Corporation Counsel Stanczak, no ordinance changes have yet been prepared. However, meter readers were instructed to stop going into people's houses, unless the residents answered the door.

"About 24 hours later," Stanczak said, "the city manager received a blistering phone call from an elderly handicapped woman."



The woman routinely unlocks her door at meter reading time. When she couldn't get to the door to answer the meter reader's knock, he followed the new policy. The woman was left with a card asking her to read her own meter, a task impossible for her in her condition.

According to Judy Whikehart, that phone call was enough. The meter readers went back to the old policy. Whikehart said the change didn't even last two or three days.

She also said that the death of the superintendent of the water department, Bob Duncanson, has temporarily halted the water department's move toward a new policy.

"Ideally," Stanczak said, "we want to get entirely out of the business of going into people's houses. We will be bringing up an ordinance that will eventually require everyone to have outside reading devices."

Currently only one third of Bloomington homes are so equipped.

How about just stopping the entering of people's homes when they're not home?

"We want to get out of that real quick," Stanczak said.

Unfortunately, nobody in the water department seems bright enough to figure out how to do it without inconveniencing customers like the handicapped woman who depend on the meter readers' unaccompanied entrance.

Maybe the government could set up a service which could deliver pieces of paper with writing on them to residences all over town. They could call it the Postal Service. Then the water department could use this Postal Service to send letters to all their customers, maybe with a return postcard enclosed. Water customers could be asked to send the postcard back if it's OK for water meter readers to enter their homes.

Then the meter readers could have the information right on their clipboards. They'd know which homes to go into no matter what, and which houses to go into only if someone answered the door.

Since the water department seems reluctant to use the obvious solution (the postal service), why don't they just have their meter readers leave a printed form at each house on their next monthly rounds? Customers could be asked to send their responses in with their next bill.

This solution will cost less than defending the current practice in court in an ACLU-initiated lawsuit.

--Mark Silverstein

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