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Inside: vasectomy, tenant blacklist, Mitsubishi, more

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

POST AMERICAN

Feb. 1985

Vol.13 No.9

LOVE IS LIKE KNOWLEDGE!!
SOME JOYOUSLY ACCEPT IT AND SHAPE THEIR LIVES WITH IT, WHILE OTHERS CONSIDER IT A CRUEL JOKE— LIKE A GLASS OF SALT WATER GIVEN TO A THIRSTY MAN!! — I WAS IN LOVE WITH SONDRA— AND I KNEW SHE HAD FEELINGS FOR ME — BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DID, SHE REMAINED SOMEHOW **COLD** AND **DISTANT!!**
UNTIL ONE DAY...



SANDRA, DARLING!! I HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU!! A VALENTINE'S DAY PRESENT!!

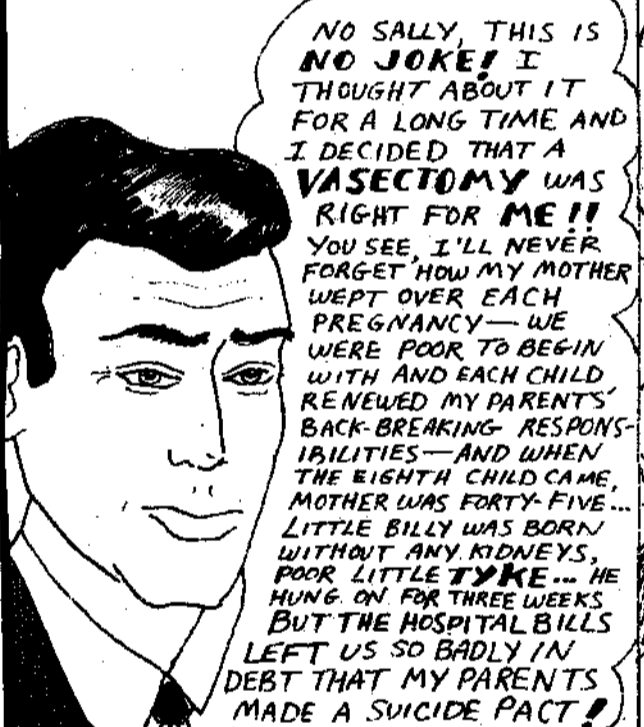
IF IT'S CANDY, YOU KNOW I CAN'T HAVE ANY! I'M ON A DIET!



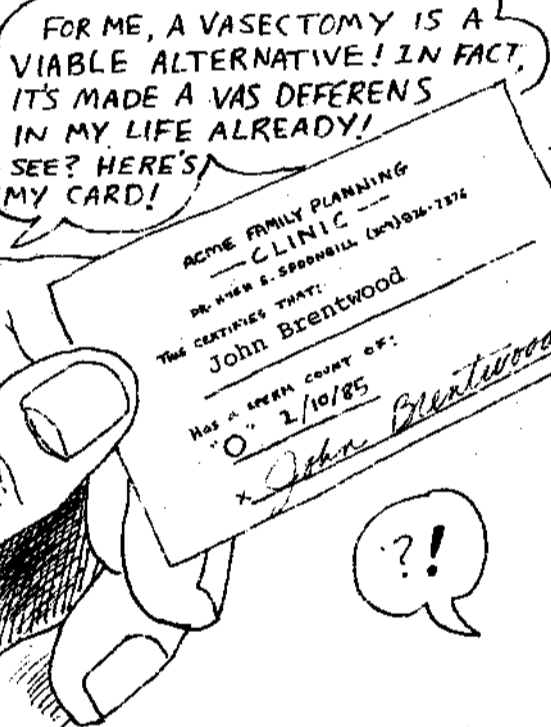
NO, DARLING, IT ISN'T CANDY... I'VE ... I'VE HAD A VASECTOMY!!



WHY— DON KENTWOOD!! IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF JOKE TO GET ME INTO BED— I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!



NO SALLY, THIS IS NO JOKE! I THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME AND I DECIDED THAT A VASECTOMY WAS RIGHT FOR ME!! YOU SEE, I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW MY MOTHER WEPT OVER EACH PREGNANCY— WE WERE POOR TO BEGIN WITH AND EACH CHILD RENEWED MY PARENTS' BACK-BREAKING RESPONSIBILITIES— AND WHEN THE EIGHTH CHILD CAME, MOTHER WAS FORTY-FIVE... LITTLE BILLY WAS BORN WITHOUT ANY KIDNEYS, POOR LITTLE TYKE... HE HUNG ON FOR THREE WEEKS BUT THE HOSPITAL BILLS LEFT US SO BADLY IN DEBT THAT MY PARENTS MADE A SUICIDE PACT!



FOR ME, A VASECTOMY IS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE! IN FACT, IT'S MADE A VAS DEFERENS IN MY LIFE ALREADY! SEE? HERE'S MY CARD!

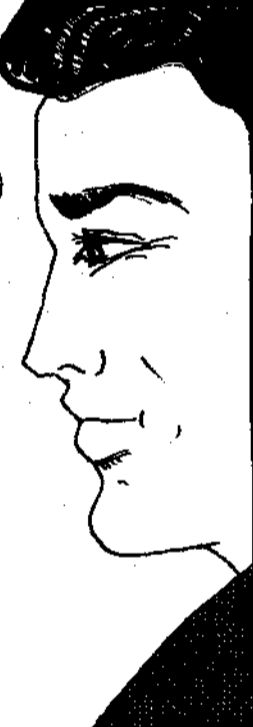
ACME FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC
DR. JOHN S. SPORNHILL (M.D.) 822-1234
THE CERTIFICATE THAT:
John Beentwood
HAS A SPECIAL COUNT OF:
"0" 2/10/85
John Beentwood

?!



WHY DAN!! WHAT A LOVELY WAY OF SAYING THAT YOU'RE THINKING OF ME!

OH, SUE!



OH, DON, OH DON! I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE! IT'S LIKE A FIRE BURNING INSIDE ME!!



SO REMEMBER, FELLAS! IF YOU HAVE A WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE, BUT NO KIDS IN YOUR FUTURE, GIVE THE GIFT THAT SHOWS YOU TRULY CARE! FOR VALENTINE'S DAY THIS YEAR, WHY NOT GET SNIPPY! GET A VASECTOMY!!
(more details on page 10)

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POST AMERIKAN

Nifty! This is Volume 13, number nine...number nine... number nine... for the month of February, nineteen eighty five. Dig it!

ABOUT US

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 will get back to you as soon as we can.

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 letters 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 January 24. For more on our holiday closing, see page 11.

In this issue

PAGE	
3	B-N TENANT BLACKLIST TAKES NOSEDIVE Landlords' sleazy practices exposed as organization crumbles
4 & 5	POLICE BEAT: OFFICER WROAN SUES WAITRESS FOR "DEFEMATION" Seems he gives a damn about his bad reputation POLICE CRACKDOWN ON "KNOWN DERELICTS" 1982 memo and victorian era law hassle street people
6	SCHOOL OFFICIALS, PANTAGRAPH HAVE SHORT MEMORY Supreme Court screws students, business as usual in B-N
7	GTE INSENSITIVE TO SYMBOLISM Phoebe won't let GTE off the hook
8	HOSTILITY TO DISSENT PERVADES REAGAN'S FIRST TERM A litany of repression and erosion of rights
9	WILL MITSUBISHI BE GOOD FOR YOU? MgM raises questions about potential factory's benefits
10 & 11	VASECTOMY: HIS & HERS A couple share their good news: no more stork worries
12	PATCH, DON'T REPLACE THOSE MUFFLERS One less worry for people who drive beaters
13	DDT ALIVE AND WELL IN YOUR BACKYARD Spirit of DDT ban violated by manufacturers
14	CLEAN CHIMNEYS ARE SAFE CHIMNEYS Keep the homefires burning, but not your house
15	NEW TECHNOLOGY/SAME OLD GREED Cable companies try to steal money from out-of-work performers
18 & 19	URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS: NO HONEYMOON Your bladder will thank you for reading this
	MISCELLANEOUS OUTRAGES . . . 7 LETTERS . . . 16 & 17 CABLE COMIX . . . 15

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON
 Amtrack station, 1200 W. Front
 The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main
 Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
 Bloomington Public Library (in front)
 Bus Depot, 523 N. East
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 D. J.'s Variety, 297 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
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
 Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main
 Pantagraph (front of building),
 301 W. Washington
 The Park Store, Wood & Allin
 People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrisey
 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 St. (in front)
 Blue Dahlia Bookstore, 124 E. Beaufort
 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, 111 1/2 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)

Good Numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049
 American Civil Liberties Union.454-1787
 Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035
 Community for Social Action....452-4867
 Connection House.....829-5711
 Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005
 Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022
 Draft Counseling.....452-5046
 Gay/Lesbian Info. Line.....829-2719
 HELP (transportation for senior
 citizens, handicapped).....828-8301
 Ill. Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
 Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916
 Kaleidoscope.....828-7346
 Metropolitan Comm. Church.....829-2719
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161
 Mid Central Community Action...829-0691
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301
 McLean Co. Center for Human
 Services.....827-5351
 National Health Care Services
 (abortion assistance,Peoria)691-9073
 Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195
 Occupational Development Center828-7324
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone
 Help).....827-4005
 Or.....800-322-5015
 Phone Friends.....827-4008
 Planned Parenthood.....medical.827-4014
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 TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301
 Unemployment comp/job service..827-6237
 United Farmworkers support....452-5046
 UPIC.....827-4026

Thanx

This issue is in your hands thanks to Deborah, BS, Bobby, Diana, Nadene, Ralph, Dave, Melissa, X, Bumper, Rich, Chris, Drue, Laurie S., Pink Bob, JT, Sue, Clarence, Diane, Laurie D., Jacqui, Laurie H., and Mark (coordinator) --and others we probably forgot to mention.

Special thanx to Cathy for her generous contribution.

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 this handy form with your new address and return it to us, P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City/state/zip _____

B-N tenant blacklist takes nosedive

For the past several months a group called the Property Owners and Managers Association (POMA) operated a tenant credit check and reference service for subscribing members. The service, run by Earl Anderson of Slavens Collection Agency, for a membership fee of \$5 a month, provided landlords and property managers with a "Problem Tenant List." Other services were available, including written credit checks on prospective tenants for fees ranging from \$8 to \$12.

The tenant blacklist was a xeroxed list of as many as four pages containing as many as 86 tenant listings. The list was arranged by Social Security number in numerical order, accompanied with the aggrieved landlords' complaints. In some cases, the tenant listed still resided at the property if an address was given.

On the skids

Fortunately, for tenants and probably also for POMA, all POMA activities have been suspended. Sue White, a Slavens employee and one of Anderson's co-workers, told this reporter that POMA's demise was caused largely because they "were not getting the reports from the landlords."

"Disuse of POMA forced the discontinuation of the operation," she said. The business is also up for sale.

A number of the larger rental agencies in Bloomington-Normal subscribed to POMA's services. Among them were Weaver Associates, Lincoln Square, Mobile Home Managers, Shelbourne Development and Bonnell Rentals.

Stepped in trouble

Although POMA had been operating quietly for a while, it seemed to be heading for its share of troubles. Credit reporting agencies, like the Credit Bureau, are obliged to abide by all laws set forth in the 1971 Fair Credit Reporting Act. This act, enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, provides some protection for consumers with respect to their credit ratings.

Robert Lancaster, manager of the Twin-Cities' Credit Bureau said the creditor is "obliged by the Fair Credit Reporting Act to report to the consumer that there was information about his credit history provided by a credit reporting service."

The Fair Credit Reporting Act therefore provides a consumer who has been accused of having a poor credit history with the right to challenge that record or to provide other information to add to his/her records.

POMA's "Problem Tenant List" included information ranging from tenants writing NSF checks to delinquency in timely rent payments to "having unruly children." Some of the information accuses certain tenants of being "verbally abusive" and offering a place to stay to "unauthorized residents." Such additional commentary would not be found in any other credit reporting establishment and seems to be circulated with no clear intention of informing a prospective tenant of what they are "charged with."

Lancaster of the Credit Bureau said that anyone can begin and operate a credit reporting agency without a special licensing (other than filing papers of incorporation). However, he warned, they must attempt to be fair in reporting the facts and live up to the intent of the 1971

legislation. Earl Anderson and the local rental agents apparently had a different agenda.

The real issues

POMA's disseminating of a tenant blacklist, if it was widespread and heavily used, could be extremely damaging to low-income persons who always spend a large proportion of what income they have on housing. Melissa McGrath of Mid-Central Community Action Agency expressed her concern that POMA "would blacklist people who move because their rent is too high or because the landlord has not kept up his/her/its end of the bargain."

Jerry Kaluzny, an attorney for the Prairie State Legal Services, also voiced McGrath's concerns and added that if the listing was not true, it could be contested in a libel suit against the credit reporting agency.

McGrath noted that the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development suggests that no more than 30% of available household income be used for housing. Utilities are an entirely separate issue, according to HUD. McGrath said her agency constantly sees people using upwards of 60-70 percent of their incomes on housing. A tenant

blacklist would further limit the ability of low-income persons, especially those with larger households, to find suitable housing.

Bloomington-Normal is not an inexpensive community to live in. Low-income people compete continually with ISU and IWU students seeking relief from the high-rent districts in the student ghettos. The January 24th Pantagraph want-ad listings for apartment and house rentals, although inconclusive, provide an insight into the accelerating housing problem.

Of 71 apartment units the average rental cost was \$321.40/month. The average rental of 16 houses listed was \$333.75 monthly. Out of 87 units available, only 32 rented for \$300/mo. or less. Only 8 of the units cost \$250/mo. or less. Only one unit rented for under \$200/mo. None of these costs included any utilities.

Low-income people face these bleak prospects daily--the waiting lists for public housing are backed up a year or more. The last thing low-income people need is a secret list generated for landlords and containing damaging and perhaps wrong information to make a hardship insufferable.

--Andy Hollowell

OCTOBER 1984
PROBLEM TENANT LIST

Decatur area/frequent delinquency w/rent, NSF check writer,
left premises unclean

left unit owing rent

left unit owing rent

frequent delinquency w/rent, left owing rent

left unit owing rent

left unit owing rent

left unit owing rent, damaged property

left unit owing rent

W Olive, Apt A, B/frequent delinquency w/rent, NSF
check writer, tenant is being evicted

left unit owing rent

damaged property(children), left premises unclean, broke
lease, unruly children

frequent delinquency w/rent, left unit owing rent, NSF
check writer, had to evict and take to court to get rent

W Walnut, B/frequent delinquency w/rent, left unit
owing rent, NSF check writer

left unit owing rent

Curtis Ct, Apt 1, N/frequent delinquency w/rent, tenant
is being evicted for nonpayment of rent

left unit owing rent

Lot Clarksville Tr Ct, Lexington/frequent delinquency
with rent, left unit owing rent, damaged property

frequent delinquency with rent, NSF check writer, frequent
disturbances

left unit owing rent

North Main St, B/frequent delinquency w/rent, left unit
owing rent, unpaid utilities, left premises unclean, tenant
still resides at this address

left unit owing rent

(1)

Here's page 1 of POMA's October blacklist. Social Security #'s and addresses have been omitted to protect the innocent.



Officer Wroan sues

Normal police officer Gary Wroan, apparently tired of being the target of numerous civil rights lawsuits and citizen complaints, has decided to sue the victims of his abuse before they sue him.

In a suit filed January 23, Wroan charged that Dea Draper defamed him when she complained about Wroan's conduct to Normal Police Chief David Lehr.

Draper's complaint, which Chief Lehr said resulted in an internal investigation, charged that Wroan was guilty of conduct unbecoming a police officer at Big Rudy's Too on June 15.

Lehr refused to tell the Pantagraph the results of the investigation.

Last June 15, Draper was a waitress at Big Rudy's Too. Gary Wroan, off duty, was a patron at the bar. Ms. Draper apparently had difficulty getting Wroan to leave at closing time.

According to Wroan's suit, Draper told the Police Chief Lehr that "Officer Wroan stated he knew what car I drove and also what car all the Drapers drove and that he would get us if I gave him any more problems about leaving Big Rudy's Too."

Most people who are treated rudely by police officers never get the courage to file a complaint with the Chief of Police. It's hard to believe that someone would just make up a story and run down to the cop shop with it.

But Wroan's suit charges that Draper's

Police ordered crackdown on "known derelicts"

In June, 1982, Assistant Chief of Police Michael Leary ordered a crackdown on what he called "known derelicts" in the downtown area.

He instructed his men to stop "known derelicts," to charge them with possession of open alcohol if they had any, or to charge them with an antiquated (and unconstitutional) city ordinance which bans "vagabonds" from our town.

The Post-Amerikan has obtained a copy of the crackdown instructions, which were issued as "Special Order No. 5-82."

Here is the text of the order:

TO: ALL POLICE PERSONNEL
FROM: M.F. LEARY, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: JUNE 8, 1982
SUBJECT: DERELICTS WITHIN DOWNTOWN AREA

Bloomington Unlimited, Inc. has brought to our attention that some of our known derelicts are

moving in on the Court House square this year.

This condition must be addressed now, so as to minimize any harassment of local employees going to and returning from their place of employment as was the case last year. Therefore, when the officers you assign to this detail check out the known derelicts, do the following:

1. If these people have in their possession an unsealed alcoholic beverage container or a container containing an alcoholic beverage, charge that person with a violation of Chapter 6 Section 25(d) of Bloomington Ordinance. (1979-143).
2. If these people do not have any alcoholic beverages on their person or in their possession, insist they move out of the area or charge them with a violation of Chapter 28, Section 62 of the Bloomington Ordinance.

For the text of Bloomington Ordinance Chapter 28, Section 62, see the adjoining article.

This about covers it

"Vagabond" ordinance ordered enforced

Here is the text of the ordinance Asst. Chief Leary ordered his officers to enforce against any "known derelicts" who couldn't be nailed for possession of open alcohol:

Sec. 62 VAGABONDS. All persons who are idle and dissolute or who go about begging; all persons who use any shell game, sleight of hand or juggling trick or other unlawful game to cheat, defraud or unlawfully obtain money or other valuable thing; pilferers; confidence men; common drunkards; common nightwalkers; persons lewd, wanton, or lascivious in speech or behavior; common brawlers; persons who are habitually neglectful of their employment or their calling and not to lawfully provide for themselves or for the support of their families; all persons who are idle or dissolute and who neglect all lawful business and who habitually mispend their time by frequenting houses of ill fame, gaming houses, or tippling shops; all persons lodging in or found in the night time in sheds, barns, or unoccupied buildings or lodging in the open air and not giving a good account of

themselves; all persons who are known to be thieves, burglars or pickpockets, whether by their own confession or otherwise or by having been convicted of larceny, burglary, or other crime against the laws of the State, punishable by imprisonment in the State prison, or in a house of correction of any City and having no lawful means of support or habitually found prowling around any railroad depot, banking institution, broker's office, place of public amusement, auction room, store, shop, or crowded public way, or at any public gathering or assembly or lounging about any courtroom, private dwelling houses or outhouses or are found in any house of ill fame, gambling house, or tavern shall be deemed to be and they are declared to be vagabonds.

The ordinance does not spell out any penalty for this heinous crime, and it is not known if Bloomington police actually rounded up any "known derelicts" under this ordinance.

--Mark Silverstein

Pantagraph says 'say hello'

Asst. Chief Leary's 1982 orders for a crackdown on "known derelicts" was a response to pressure from Bloomington Unlimited. Bloomington Unlimited is an association of downtown Bloomington businesspeople and property owners.

The Daily Pantagraph was a founder of Bloomington Unlimited and is one of the organization's most influential businesses.

But in its public posturing, the Daily Pantagraph appears to differ from Bloomington Unlimited in its view of the targets of Leary's order.

In an editorial January 8, the Pantagraph said "Too often we have turned our heads from street people we encounter and from the entire problem of the homeless."

The editorial suggests "we should do what we can as individuals by donating time or money to agencies such as the Salvation Army, Home Sweet Home Mission or the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen--or just by saying hello to people we pass."

Now that doesn't sound like the sentiments of businesspeople who would have police bring in the paddy wagons, does it?

waitress for 'defamation'



Gary Wroan

allegations were false, defamatory, and made "knowingly, maliciously, and with intent to injure the plaintiff's reputation and good name."

Actually, a brief look at Wroan's record shows that Draper's allegations were actually made in support of Wroan's reputation--his alleged behavior at Big Rudy's Too sounds exactly like something Gary Wroan would pull.

**When Wroan joined the Normal Police force in May, 1979, he told the Pantagraph that he'd always wanted to be a cop. He went at it with a vengeance. Even his superior admitted Wroan was "overzealous" for busting a young woman for picking a flower in downtown Normal.

**Wroan's pettiness continued in fall, 1979, when he staked out liquor stores trying to catch underage students with beer. He even busted kids for illegal possession when they were only helping a legal buyer carry unopened packages from the stores. (Some of these were thrown out of court.)

**Wroan's arrogance has even been directed at middle class Normalites. Jon Svensson, who ran for State Representative several years ago, contested the speeding ticket he got from Wroan. In an Oct. 1980 trial, Svensson testified that Wroan started to pull his gun when he stopped Svensson for speeding.

**Wroan was a defendant in a 1981 civil rights suit charging the Normal Police Department with

illegally strip-searching ISU student Jacqueline Tascher. Tascher had been arrested on a traffic charge. The suit was dropped after Normal agreed to a substantial cash settlement.

**During pre-trial discovery hearings in the strip-search suit, Normal City Attorney Alan Novick told a U.S. judge that the file of citizen complaints lodged against Officer Wroan was "voluminous," according to Tascher's attorney George Taseff.

**In December, 1984, Gary Wroan was named as a defendant in yet another civil rights lawsuit. That suit charges that Wroan illegally entered the residence of several ISU students in late 1983, held them at gunpoint and handcuffed them until convinced that they were indeed the legal residents of their own home.

Wroan's defamation suit is without precedent in McLean County. In 1983, Bloomington police officers Turner Rouse and James Brown sued some people they'd arrested for resisting and aggravated battery. But Brown and Rouse were suing over injuries they received in the fight allegedly started by the people they arrested. (The Bloomington cops' lawsuit drew sharp public criticism from State's Attorney Ron Dozier, who charged that Brown and Rouse hadn't done all they could to avoid the fight in the first place.)

Wroan is the first local police officer to sue a citizen simply for complaining about the officer's

conduct.

Lawyers have generally discouraged lawsuits such as Gary Wroan's. That's because lawyers like to get paid.

Under the standard fee arrangements, lawyers take suits on a contingency basis. If the lawyers lose, they don't get paid. If they win, they get a percentage of the money awarded to the client.

Since Wroan is a public figure, there's not much chance he'd win a flimsy libel or defamation suit. And if he did win, there's probably not much money to be squeezed out of someone who worked as a waitress at Big Rudy's Too.

What does it mean that attorney Steve Skelton decided to file this lawsuit on behalf of Officer Wroan? It might mean that Steve Skelton has decided to donate free labor to the cause of intimidating citizens who complain about cocky abusive police officers.

While idealistic lawyers sometimes do take certain cases for free, there is another possibility to consider: perhaps Gary Wroan is paying for Skelton's legal services, at an hourly rate, win or lose.

In that case, the only winners will be the attorneys: Steve Skelton and the other attorney, the one who will take Dea Draper's waitress tips in return for getting this outrage thrown out of court.

Catching 'bad guys'

In an early 1980 Sunday feature, Patrolman Tommy Sanders told the Pantagraph why he liked his job.

"I like catching bad guys. Especially getting people off the street who

usually wind up hurting other people," Sanders was quoted.

"The police department allows an officer to do his job without any political interference," Sanders said, according to the Feb. 3, 1980, story.

Programs to make life warmer

Community Action Agency's Crisis Intervention, Housing Referral and Shared Housing Programs are three ways to ease financial binds.

Through the Crisis Intervention Program, Community Action can provide assistance to low-income residents of McLean and Livingston Counties who are

in life or health-threatening situations when other resources have been exhausted.

Community Action will pay a portion of a security deposit or the first month's rent in cases where people are threatened with eviction or lack of housing. Food assistance may also be

given to those who are waiting to receive food stamps or are in other temporary crises.

Help with medication payments is also available. Besides helping pay for prescriptions, Community Action has medical equipment such as walkers, canes and wheelchairs that may be loaned free on a short-term basis. Space heaters are also available.

The Housing Referral and Shared Housing Programs will attempt to assist people in locating housing which is adequate and affordable on low incomes. Shared Housing, our newest program development, will match individuals who might wish to share housing for financial savings or companionship (See other Community News item).

People at or below 125% of the poverty level can obtain assistance through any of these programs. If you know someone who might benefit from these programs, please have them phone our office for an appointment.

For further information, contact Community Action at 829-0691.

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Student searches

School officials, Pantagraph have short memories

A new Supreme Court ruling recently gave school personnel more freedom to violate the privacy of students through personal searches.

The Jan. 16 Pantagraph reported, though, that the new rules would have "little if any impact" on local schools.

Is that because the students never did have much constitutional protection anyway?

Nooooo. It's because searching students is "such a rarity in the twin cities." Lying blantly, George Stimeling, school superintendent, blithely told the Pantagraph that "in all the years I have been here we have not searched a student."

Stimeling was superintendent in 1977, when a drug crackdown at Bloomington High School went wild. The crackdown was covered in both the Pantagraph and the Post-Amerikan.

In interviews, Stan Holzauer (Dean of Students), Judith Vance (Dean of Girls), Jack Ingold (School Board member), and John Colclasure (BHS Police Counselor) all discussed the personal and locker searches that were being done as part of the crackdown.

Interviews with BHS students in the Post-Amerikan documented at least nine searches, one of them a strip search, of students suspected of possessing drugs. In those cases, the searches were entirely fruitless: the students were innocent. Other students

interviewed by the Post had been searched and found holding, then turned over to the police and sometimes expelled from school as well.

Today's grownups constantly complain that young people today have no sense of history, no concept of the past (their inability to remember exactly what they were doing when JFK was shot is frequently cited). Yet Stimeling and the Pantagraph both say that events that happened seven years ago did not. I'll bet the young people involved do remember exactly what they were doing when they got shook down at school.

--Phoebe Caulfield

AMA wants 'team players'

A friend of ours recently had an interview with the American Medical Association that gave her a distinctly uncomfortable feeling about the AMA's research practices.

Our friend, Ms. Lawn*, is applying for jobs as an economist in both academic and non-academic workplaces. She has had several interviews, but none so odd as the AMA's.

"They didn't seem to care at all about how good of an economist I was. In fact, the two interviewers who asked all the questions were lawyers, I think, and the other interviewer, who was an AMA economist, never asked a single one." The questioners asked Ms. Lawn things that clearly revealed that they knew nothing about economics.

What they really seemed interested in, though, was whether Ms. Lawn was willing to do exactly as the AMA told her to and, she suspects, come up with the results they desired.

Throughout the interview, variations on a single question kept recurring: Are you willing to do closely supervised research? Do you realize that this will be different from pursuing your academic research, because you will be closely supervised? Does being closely supervised bother you? Would you be willing to make changes in response to criticism from your superiors? Do you know that you will be expected to pursue the lines of research indicated by your superiors?

All of these are, perhaps, routine questions--except for their reiteration and tone. (And, of course, their source--the AMA is, after all, dedicated to protecting the status quo and income of its members, not to the pursuit of truth.) Combined with the fact that there were no serious economics questions to

answer, these factors lead us to believe that what the AMA was looking for was not a crackerjack researcher, but a team player.

Even more evidence for that conclusion comes when Ms. Lawn compares the AMA interview with her other non-academic interviews. The Federal Trade Commission's interview was "hard-core pure research. They just wanted to know that I was smart enough to cut the mustard." The Iowa Commerce Commission had their cards on the table: they were interviewing for a straightforward consumer advocacy job (an economist to do the research on the impact of utility rate hikes, for example). And the FDA wanted to know whether Ms. Lawn would have the patience for the job, which involves a lot of working with non-economists and a lot of boring paperwork. The American Medical Association was the only interview that had a disturbing undercurrent, a feeling that she was being checked out as a good citizen of the Brave New World.

--Phoebe Caulfield

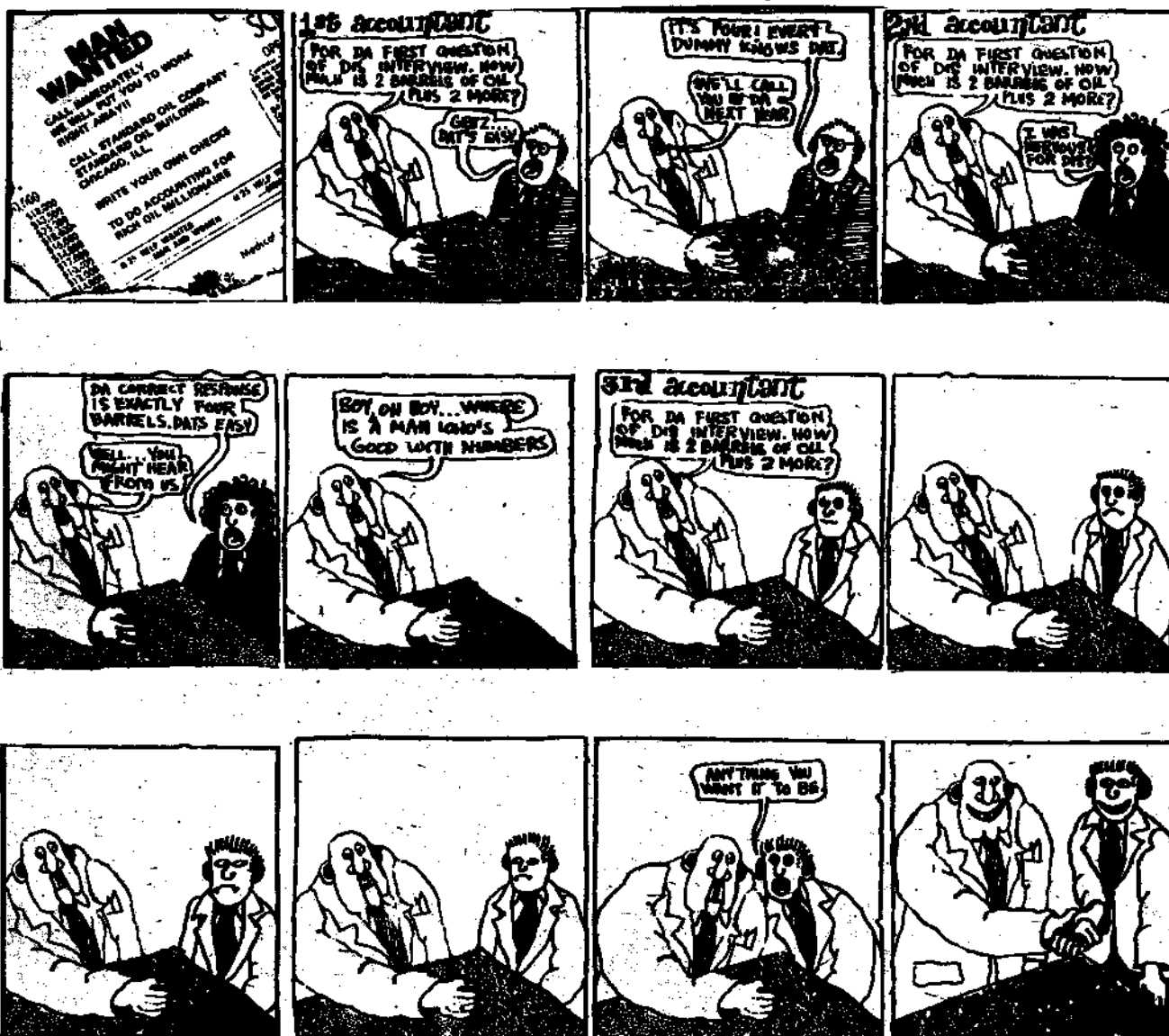
Homesharing-- why struggle alone

Mid-Central Community Action started a unique program called "Homesharing" on January 2nd. Homesharing will match homeowners who have extra space that could be rented with individuals or households seeking lower-cost housing. To meet program requirements, either homeowner or tenant must meet the income guidelines of Homesharing. Community Action developed the Homesharing program in response to the housing crisis low-income residents face in McLean County because of high rental costs.

According to Melissa McGrath, Outreach Services Coordinator for Community Action, "Many low-income households cannot realistically afford the high costs of housing. We hope this program can offer other options aside from monetary payment for rent. For example, someone might provide childcare or housecleaning and cooking in exchange for rent." In this way both parties lower their housing costs or receive some other service which they may need. The program will not match those who may wish to share their homes due to needing health care.

Other advantages to the program could be providing the homesharers with a sense of companionship, security and/or a cooperative environment. According to Ms. McGrath, matching of homesharers will be based on interviews with a Community Action counselor. However, the final decision to enter a Shared Housing arrangement will be worked out by those sharing the housing.

For further information on the Homesharing Program, contact Community Action at 829-0691.



Rising Up Angry/cpf

GTE insensitive to symbolism

Taking your phone off the hook: a simple, soul-healing, selfish statement. Nothing is gratifying in exactly that way. There is drama in the gesture, significance in the vision of that squat black bug without its hat, its tentacles poking up, fruitless and ridiculous, telling everyone that you are, in all senses of the word, BUSY. Perhaps taking a long hot bath, but, at any rate, busy.

No more. Those days are over, and now your phone may dangle gloriously only for a very brief time before you hear a horrible mechanical noise blaring from the receiver. Then you must go like a good girl and put things back where they belong; there's just no playing hooky allowed.

My friends look puzzled at me when I whine about this cultural loss. They say, "Well, you can just unplug your phone," and "You can always turn the ringer off." Literal-minded ninnies,



I snort to myself. "It's just not the same," I say, weakly, out loud.

On the most pedestrian level, those alternatives do not tell the world that you're busy; they tell the world that you are not at home (or that you have the granite nerves to endure a squawking phone without picking it up). Who wants your friends to assume that you're at the laundromat or the grocery store when they could imagine you deep in fragrant bubbles, sipping a glass of wine and reading fashion magazines?

But it's the loss of poetry that truly saddens me. After all, "off the hook" is . . . off the hook--an act, an image, and a reality joyfully and forcefully expressed. How pitiful that now we must be either "unplugged" or "turned off."

--Phoebe Caulfield

Miscellaneous outrages you may have missed

Pantagraph prints mayoral candidate's lies

Jesse Smart, who has the most misleading surname of any Bloomington council member, got away with a real whopper in the Dec. 11 Pantagraph.

Since Smart is running for mayor, he received a paragraph's attention in an article giving an overview of all 12 mayor and city council candidates.

Here's how the Pantagraph summarized Smart's position in the Dec. 11 article: "Smart advocates open debate in the legislative function of the city."

Actually Smart advocates the opposite of open debate. He is actually dumb enough to admit it to newspaper reporters. But since the newspaper reporters have no memory, Smart's lack of smarts might not be that dumb.

In the first few months of 1984, the Human Relations Commission asked the city council to extend its anti-discrimination protection to several new groups, including gays.

Jesse Smart wouldn't say much at all in the council meetings. But his private comments to a Pantagraph

reporter were printed March 18.

That article quoted Smart saying that 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."

Emilie Krebs wrote the March 18 article with Smart's quotations. Krebs also wrote the Dec. 11 article describing Smart as an advocate of open debate.

City to monitor condo dwellers

Developers of a proposed condominium ghetto near ISU have reached a bizarre agreement with the Normal city council, according to a Dec. 18 article in the Daily Pantagraph.

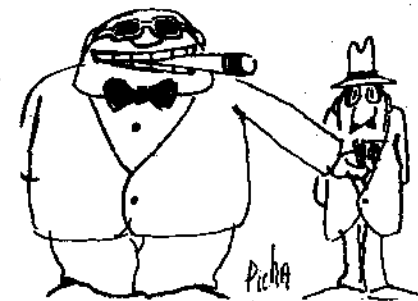
The developers agreed to keep track of all the owners and occupants of the condos and to provide current lists of those names to city officials.

City officials have been concerned that the condos, to be located on a proposed extension of North Adelaide St., will become packed with more than the legally permitted number of occupants. During part of the negotiations, city officials blocked developers' plans to include basements with the two-story townhouses. Officials feared students would

convert the basements into separate, additional dwelling units.

Under the final agreement, the condos will include basements. But developers agreed to write restrictive covenants into the deeds. These covenants will obligate the condo owners not to allow more than the legal number of occupants in each unit.

That agreement should be enough. The city's additional demand that developers provide lists of owner and occupant names is an unprecedented and uncalled-for invasion of residents' privacy. If city officials were not expecting the development to attract mostly students, they would never have dared plan to keep such lists of names.



Indecent arrest

In an early December story, the ISU Vidette presented a short round-up of student arrests during a recent weekend. Charges lodged by Normal police included an offense I thought had been long gone from the lawbooks.

Normal police arrested a student for "indecent language," according to the article, which quoted police Sgt. Frank Phillipponi.

Hostility to dissent pervades Reagan's first term

The first four years of Reagan policies and a conservative Senate produced a broadside attack on First Amendment rights and a reversal of many of the post-Watergate reforms which protected the right to dissent and work for political and social change.

With the reelection of Reagan and continued conservative control of the Senate, attacks on freedom of political expression are likely to continue full force. Grass roots education and citizen pressure are crucial if we are to prevent the further undermining of democracy by measures claiming to protect it.

Silencing the citizenry

In his efforts to push through changes in political, social, and military policies, Reagan sought to limit public debate and curtail dissenting opinion. He manipulated public opinion through disinformation and restrictions on public access to

government information and increased surveillance of opponents.

He broadened FBI powers and unleashed the CIA in the U.S. by authorizing it to spy on domestic political organizations (Executive Order [E.O.] 12333). He increased government secrecy through an executive order which severely weakened the Freedom of Information Act, so critical in curbing government abuse of rights (E.O. 12356).

He attempted to censor government employees for the rest of their lives in a directive aimed at stopping embarrassing leaks (National Security Defense Directive [NSDD] 84).

Red-baiting revisited

He revived the use of the McCarthy-era McCarran-Walter Act to deny visas on ideological grounds. In an attempt to discredit criticism of his policies, he red-baited peace and freeze activists, and cast opponents of his foreign policy as terrorists or supporters of terrorism.

By shrouding government actions in secrecy, increasing government spying on its citizens, and justifying his attacks on constitutional freedoms as necessary to protect the Constitution, Reagan has demonstrated a lack of trust in the U.S. people and a lack of confidence in the strength of a democratic form of government.

Restricting rights

The Senate-approved crime package, in addition to increasing the power of the prosecutor through sentencing reform, authorizes preventive detention of persons before trial if a judge thinks they are dangerous, a measure which could be used to confine political activists.

Congress also approved a bill restricting public access to CIA records, HR 5164, a bill which had generated much debate within the civil liberties community. Congress gave the CIA this exemption from the Freedom of Information Act just as there were more revelations about the agency's illegal operations in Central America.

Both the House and Senate challenged the constitutionality of Reagan's bill which would establish criminal sanctions against providing "support services" to countries or groups the Administration labels "terrorist" (S 2626/HR 5613).

However, Congress did approve one of Reagan's terrorism bills, S 2625/HR 5612, which sets a dangerous precedent by establishing the broadest definition of terrorism yet signed into law: an "act of violence"

(including violence against property as well as persons) which violates criminal law "and appears to be intended...to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion."

By this definition, plans to push down a government fence to hold a sit-in would be an "act of terrorism." The new law provides for exceptionally high rewards to informers who report on these acts or "conspiracy" to commit them.

Secrecy and surveillance

The re-election of Reagan means intensified attacks on the First Amendment right to dissent.

Perhaps the most important immediate threat lies in the likelihood that White House advisor Edwin Meese will be confirmed as Attorney General. He will be able to use the power of that office to pursue his repressive agenda, in which government secrecy and surveillance and more cutbacks on due process rights are a top priority.



The administration has already announced its intention of issuing a directive similar to NSDD 84 to "curb leaks," although it has yet to give an example of a leak which the censorship measure would have prevented.

Reagan also plans to propose some form of anti-terrorism legislation which, if it resembles any one of the drafts discussed in the 98th Congress, will threaten lawful dissent. And he is certain to continue his rhetoric to discredit opponents as "terrorists" or terrorist sympathizers.

--Thank to NCARL
(National Committee Against
Repressive Legislation)
201 Massachusetts Ave. NE #310
Washington, DC 20002

Speakers slated at IWU

Illinois Wesleyan's Student Senate will sponsor two speakers in February.

Tatiana Yankelevish, daughter of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, will address "Human Rights in the Soviet State" on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy will speak on "Minority Awareness" on Thursday, Feb. 28. Abernathy succeeded Martin Luther King as leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Both programs are in the main lounge of IWU's Memorial Center.


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Will Mitsubishi be good for you?

Will Mitsubishi be the savior of Bloomington-Normal's unemployed, an industrial shot-in-the-arm for the local economy, restoring lost factory jobs, all under the halo of revered Japanese management techniques?

Or will this company be a barely-above-minimum-wage, hard-driving, typical factory, with a tough and mean-spirited management?

Many questions, comments, and opinions are flying around town, as the possibility of the Japanese manufacturer coming this way was announced. In this day and age, any employer, especially one who would have room for regular factory-worker-type-folks, would be more than welcome in this town, or any other. At the same time, numerous racial comments have been circulating too, with many people fearful that a "Jap" manufacturer would bring some strange and alien presence to our little ol' lily-white homeland-heartland.

Jobs, of course, are welcome anywhere. Even Bloomington-Normal, which shunned industrial employers for many years, is finally being receptive to an auto factory. Of course, any modern auto plant is robotized and computerized, not the smoke-belcher of yesteryear.

But factory jobs, and particularly well-paid factory jobs, spur other employment, as gas stations, grocery stores, and others line up, along with the new roads, sewers, and other connections that will have to be built. Who knows, maybe a Japanese auto maker is what it will take to finally get a west-side grocery store in Bloomington.

What kind of employer?

Perhaps the outstanding unanswered question, however, is what kind of employer is Mitsubishi? The mythology is thick in this country about vaunted Japanese management techniques, but little is being told of the underside of Japanese labor relations, and how the average worker is still at the bottom of the stack in Japanese society.

I do not know what kind of employer Mitsubishi is. I know that historically it has been a favored company, with a long history of military links to the Japanese Imperial Government. Many a die-hard World War II vet who cries "Remember Pearl Harbor!" at the mention of Mitsubishi's name is not doing so out of a general anti-Japanese grudge, but because it was Mitsubishi's ships and dive bombers that sank the American fleet.

But like most pre-World War II Japanese manufacturers, Mitsubishi innovatively changed after the war, and Japan, unhampered by the need to maintain a military economy, shifted its production and research might into fulfilling consumer fantasies. And now, in a strange reversal of role, following years of cameras, transistors, and vcr's, the Japanese are ready, through the power of their capitalist might, to "conquer" the United States, and are received with open arms and red carpets by numerous communities, including our own.

Jobs for life?

Working at Mitsubishi might be great, or it might be a real drag. Security is much desired these days, and everyone has heard about Japanese workers having "jobs for life." Little is said, however, that it is only the cream of the Japanese workforce, middle management, and skilled workers, who attain that position. The majority of the nation's workers still face seasonal lay-offs and unemployments, just like the workers in this country.

Credit can be given to the Japanese for their ideas of "co-determination," allowing workers a say in the workplace. Many American bosses could take a tip from this. But although the idea sounds great, it is not always so rosy perfect back in the island homeland. Playing a variation on the old work teams, who must compete against others on the shop floor--not just in production, but also to see who can come up with the most new ideas that week. It ends up with folks working, eating, playing, and sleeping "company," a concept whose popularity would quickly wane here in the land of the three day weekend.

Plus we must remember that Japanese society is only a few years out of feudalism. Looking at the Emperor's face was a crime less than 50 years ago. Deference toward one's betters is an idea still alive in Japanese society and accounts for many attitudes in the Japanese workforce.

Company unions?

Finally, although there are some militant unions in Japan, they are small and not that powerful. At many of the large Japanese automakers, communist-controlled unions were broken in the 1950s, replaced by docile company unions. So many Japanese workers are left powerless when faced with forced overtime, daily jumping jack periods, or any management decisions at the workplace.

What will happen in Bloomington-Normal? If the plant does come here, one hopes good things will follow, especially for folks that have been job hungry for a long time. And Japanese management didn't climb to the top of the capitalist heap without a certain amount of savvy and wits, which we hope means they'll treat their workers with decency and good sense.

But getting more questions answered, especially about Mitsubishi's record to its own employees, would help us make decisions about the long-term future, and the long-term good, of Mitsubishi for Bloomington-Normal.

--MgM

Gay caucus joins voter organization

An independent gay and lesbian caucus joined the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO) in early January. Chairman of IVI-IPO James P. Chapman noted the growing political activism of the gay and lesbian community throughout Illinois. "The IVI-IPO is proud to have the opportunity to invite gay and lesbian activists into our ranks" Chapman said.

Caucus organizer Steve Jones stated that "the formation of the Independent Gay and Lesbian Caucus is a major event for the gay and lesbian community and the political life of the state and city. This is the first time that a mainstream political organization in Illinois has reached out to gays and lesbians and invited them into its ranks."

The Independent Gay and Lesbian Caucus will be actively seeking to draw politically active gays and lesbians into the issues IVI-IPO has long been associated with, including civil rights and civil liberties, women's rights and the ERA, quality education and health care, for employment and strengthening social security, for election reform, against patronage, and against the use of government for private interests.

Founded in 1944, IVI-IPO is the largest independent political organization in the state.

THE GALERY

111 E. BEAUFORT, NORMAL, 452-9192

Jan./Feb. 1985
Entertainment

January		February				
Mon. 28	Tue. 29	Wed. 30	Thu. 31	Fri. 1	Sat. 2	Sun. 3
MIKE HOGAN	Clarence Goodman	Happy Blues Band	BEAUFORT STREET QUARTET	HUMAN HANDS (from Champaign)	FUN and ANGLISH	Nameless Dread and Dr. Butcher
SILVER	JOHN WALSH	MIX	SERIOUS BUSINESS	The CLIQUE	Wreckin' Ball	THE LOOK
FRANK POWELL	Rich Margherio	OLD WAVE	THE WONDERS w/ BRUCE BROOKS	THAT HOPE	OUT OF ORDER	POST AMERIKAN BENEFIT w/ Toxic Shock
MITCH QUERFELD	To Be Announced	BEAUFORT STREET QUARTET	To Be Announced	THE SPOONS	HEAD FIRST	The Edge

Vasec his an



The big snip

Yes, I've had the Big Snip. I've heard every spayed and eunuch joke in the book (Sam Spayed they call me), had my genitals manhandled under the glare of hospital lights, gone under the knife and lived to tell about it with my voice unchanged. The things we do for love.

In truth, I'd considered getting a vasectomy for some time but never had sufficient cause to do so. I've had plenty of reason, sure, but who said reason was enough to get me in a surgical setting where godknowswhat could happen? Let's be real here.

I was free and unattached, not all that sexually active, so what (I thought) was the point? Those women I did see were Moderne Types who took care of themselves with birth control, so why (thought I) did I need to be responsible?

The answer is obvious: birth control today ain't 100% effective and in some cases ain't all that good for the woman's health either. Accidents can and do happen. To put all the responsibility on one half of the sexual partnership is (let's say it and get it out of the way) piggish.

I was being a chump.

I got confronted with my own chumpiness once I found myself in my first good long-term relationship in years. We are both in our thirties, a time where you start considering more than you had before (or at least more than I had before) what you're going to do with your bodies.

Birth control, the pill most specifically, gets riskier when you start talking long-term use--we're talking blood clots and blood pressure problems here--while childbirth itself grows in risk to both mother and child as the years pile on.

It was time to put up or shut up.

Preparations

We decided to go through with the operation in December '84, in order to take fullest advantage of my health insurance. We were going to do it up big.

Though it is possible to get snipped inside the doctor's office, I was having it done as outpatient surgery at Mennonite. (None of the doctors in Bloomington, to my knowledge, do it in their office, anyway. Going out of town for the job would've meant a trip in an ailing Pacer that would've been more trouble than it was worth.) I'd never really had any kind of surgery before--got my tonsils out at the age of four, but that doesn't count since I don't remember it--and was kind of looking forward to the experience.

First step was an office visit to the doctor. Both Becky and I were expected to go, and the experience made her so mad I was glad the good doctor didn't keep any sharp instruments on his desk. The man reminded me of the character Robert Prossky plays on Hill Street Blues: bluff to the point of offensiveness and about as socially adept as your average Pentagon official.

"The Little Woman" and I had to pay for the operation in advance (to avoid my chickening out, perhaps?),

show up at the hospital on a designated Friday a.m. with my scrotum shaved, and prepare to abstain from sex for a week(!). Don't worry, we were told, I probably wouldn't be all that up for sexual intercourse the first few days after, anyhow. Thanks a lot, Doc.

The big day

I'm not the kind of person who spends too much time anticipating (either positively or negatively), so I didn't feel my first twinge of operational anxiety until the morning of the Big Day. In order to avoid the spectre of unhygienic pubes, Becky had to shave me all around the little hanging sac between my two testicles. Talk about your basic show of faith.

There she was, kneeling before me in the bathroom, holding this disposable Bic shaver right where I remember getting kicked as a kid playing touch football once (touch football, my ass!), and I had to hope her hand didn't start shaking. Lucky for me, it didn't, or else this article'd be about a different operation altogether.

Then we bundled up and walked over to Mennonite (still couldn't trust that Pacer), then went through the usual routine of fill out forms and wait. Hospital waiting rooms are all boring--too many inspirational magazines--and



anything Becky, and I could say to each other would only add to our anxiousness, so we both just sat there quietly and waited.

Finally, the time came: I was led to the outpatient surgery area, made to strip into the inevitable robe and cheesy pair of footies, and the two of us got to sit and wait some more. At least the surgery waiting area had a television.

The cold room

Two contestants into The Price Is Right, I was called. Leaving my glasses behind (trying to make it hard for me to identify the culprits later, eh?), I was walked into the surgical arena, a chilly, overly bright room with an operating table and much impressive equipment. I got to spread myself out on the table, cringing from the cold, then watch as a nurse stuck an I-V full of valium in my left arm.

Then, a big disappointment: after pulling my robe up, another member of the surgical team placed a hanging towel between my head and the target area. "Hey," I protested to Doc. "I want to see what's happening. Can't I watch?"

"Next time bring a periscope," he replied.

And so I was snipped and cauterized. I didn't feel very much, except chilled, and before I knew it I was back in the surgical waiting room with Becky. The television was still on. Perry Mason was just starting. The two of us sat there watching it, and I swear to this day I don't remember a damn thing about the episode. Then I got dressed, wheeled out, and cabled home.

Yeah, I was valiumed out; now I knew what Jackie Susann was writing about. Our cabdriver was an old friend from my days hanging around Divinyl Madness Record Store. I have no idea if I said anything intelligible to her or not.

Aftermath

I spent the rest of the day feeling pretty stoned, watching Laurel and Hardy shorts on the Betamax and cartoons on regular television. My balls had turned purplish and had stitches in them that I was told would come out of their own accord in a couple of days. I could not take a bath for at least a day: a genuine sacrifice, since I'm a profligate bathtaker known for long reading binges in the tub.

By evening my nether regions started to ache; by nighttime they started to ache even more and to itch besides. I kept covered ice packs on my crotch most of the day.

For the next few days, I kept finding bloody stains in my shorts. I laid on the living room pull-out couch all day Saturday, too. Becky, who had made sure of having Friday off from work, had to go to work on Saturday, which was fine by me since it gave me a chance to groan out loud more. I walked around like an old rodeo rider.

By the time the ache had lessened, my pubic hair had grown enough to be really irritating. I went back to work on Monday, giving the kids in the group home an amusing visual spectacle as I tried to walk around as naturally as possible. The hardest part, though, was remembering not to scratch in public.

I went back to the doctor's that Monday for a follow-up examination, and to his eyes I looked good (a fine job where you get to look at purple testicles once a week!). I kept finding little pieces of loose stitching and having to soak my underwear in cold water all week.

But eventually, I stopped noticing my operation. That week went by and, yes, we were free to have sex once more, though we were pretty, um, careful with each other the first few times.

My voice hasn't changed and my facial hair hasn't started falling out.

Sometime in February I get to go back to the doctor for sperm sampling, just to make sure the operation took (sometimes the sperm tube reconnects itself), and I'm really curious to see how this testing business is done. Hopefully, I'll get to watch this time.

--BS 85

tomy: d hers

A cut for both of us

Early in December, my lover gave me a gift most precious: freedom from worry over unwanted pregnancy. For altogether too many years, I have relied on contraceptives, both oral and non, always concerned either that they would not be effective, or that they were detrimental to my physical well-being, breeding clots, cancer, and high blood pressure. Meanwhile the cost of lovemaking continued to rise, until even Planned Parenthood became prohibitive. Thus, after discussing what we wanted our life together to entail, and deciding that children were not to be a part of our future, we sought to effect a permanent solution to the fertility situation.

We never seriously considered sterilization in the form of tubal ligation, considering its cost, the increased complication factors and recuperation time, and my poor surgical candidacy. Bill had thought about vasectomy in the past, but had had no real need to pursue it until we became lovers. We did not decide at the outset of our relationship to take such a permanent step to curtail pregnancy, but as our commitment grew, we realized that eventually the matter must be settled. So, Bill sought the advice of several friends who had chosen the surgery.

Vasectomy is a relatively simple procedure, often performed in the surgeon's office, but most commonly done on an out-patient basis through a local hospital. Hearing that a certain local urologist was very reliable, we made arrangements for a preliminary appointment.

Upon arrival at his office, we were handed the standard forms to complete, as well as a paper stating that since vasectomy is a voluntary procedure which not all insurance companies deem to cover, we would need to prepay \$275 in surgeon's fees before the date of the operation could be confirmed. Having decided that somehow we would handle this financial jolt, we had only to meet the man who would soon have our sexual future resting in his hands.

The man himself

It is unfortunate that such a man could be so lacking in human rapport and sensitivity as this one appeared to be. Not merely the sexist asshole I perceived him to be, his blunt abrasiveness was evident even in his relationship to Bill.

He was properly clinical in his description of the surgery and post-operative care, as well as the possible complications which might arise. However, I could not help but bridle at his neglect to address me directly, repeatedly referring to me as "your wife" or "the little woman," never treating me as an informed, active participant in the affair. However, I waited until later to vent my spleen, content to learn as much as I could to better prepare for the event to come.

With frugal management, lots of scrimping and a timely loan by a friend, we were able to pay the \$275 just barely by the deadline. So, with fee paid on Thursday, we had only to wait until early morning Friday to perform one last pre-operative task: shaving the surgical site.

Armed with a new disposable razor and can of non-mentholated shaving cream, I most carefully scraped the hair from Bill's testes, as he lay back, trying to act nonchalant about the whole thing. The doctor had emphasized that it should be as completely denuded as possible, and if I wasn't sure I'd shaved enough, to just take off a little more. I finally decided that surely enough was enough, so we mopped up and prepared to head to the hospital.

At the hospital

We walked through the brisk early December morning to Mennonite Hospital, since the car failed to start on this of all mornings. Upon arrival, we first ran the gamut of bureaucratic paperwork in the admitting office. Luckily the procedure was relatively painless, far less complicated than other hospitals.

We were ushered to pre-surgical waiting, where Bill donned the latest in hospital fashion--cotton shift, robe and booties with non-slip grips. There we waited, holding hands, reassuring each other that everything would be all right, that the results were worth the inconvenience.

Finally, the nurse came for Bill, advising him to leave his glasses, watch, and wedding band with me. I was left in the room to wait, nervously watching The Price is Right and wishing that I were in the room down the hall with Bill, if only to hold his hand and stroke his brow.

Waiting...

I wandered around for awhile, not venturing far for fear of missing Bill's return. I found the post-op area and continued my vigil for what seemed a lifetime, though it was no more than 45 minutes.

At last Bill was wheeled into post-op, pale and disoriented, but obviously alive and well. The chair he sat in was more of a chaise lounge, and he was blanket-wrapped against any chill. The nurse offered Bill juice and collee, showed us how to work the small chairside TV and checked his vital signs, then went to attend to other patients.

The anesthetic had made Bill very spacey, so he was content to just sit back and regain his senses. Knowing he had come through safely let me relax, and soon his usual wit returned manifested by his peavishness over not being allowed to keep his glasses to watch his surgery.

We waited an hour or so before leaving sitting through an episode of Perry Mason without much comprehension. The nurse returned a couple of more times to monitor Bill's vital signs, then told us we were free to leave whenever we wished. After changing into his street clothes, Bill was wheeled to the exit by a volunteer, who waited with us until the taxi I had summoned arrived.

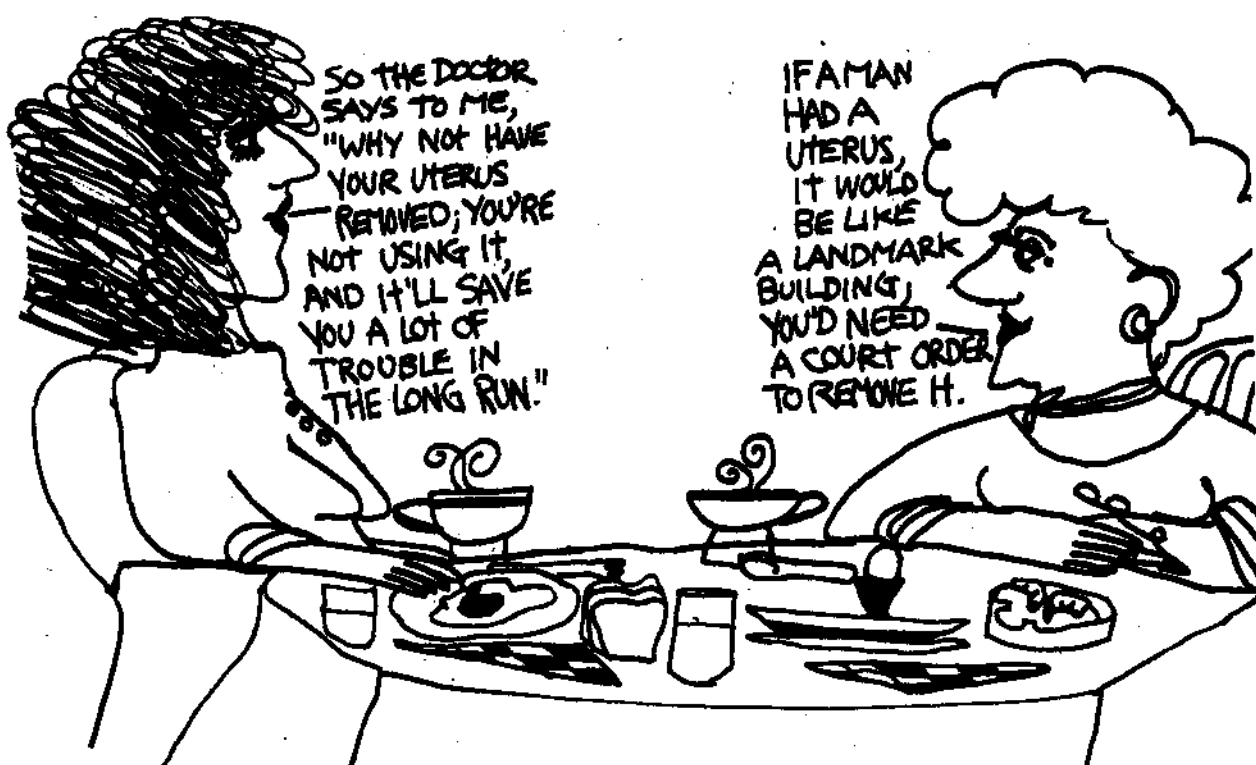
Recuperating

At home, while Bill changed into his official recuperation garb, a bright red union suit he had picked up at Ragstock before its demise, I pulled out the sofa bed, put on clean Snoopy sheets, plumped up the pillows and laid out all the necessities: TV remote control, the latest trashy horror novel, non-aspirin pain reliever, an ice bag.

Still not feeling much pain, but wearied by the experience, Bill prudently rested the remainder of the day, watching television, reading, dozing, and letting me care for him.

Now the ordeal was over; it would take time to heal the incision and bring life back to normal. I am proud of my lover, and vastly relieved.

Perhaps someday we may foster a child. For now, however, I am glad that I'll no longer have to worry monthly when my cycle is late. Bill will have a sperm sample tested next week, my pill pak is nearly empty, and I will take my last pill tomorrow night. Then I will truly be able to enjoy my lover's gift.



Patch, don't replace, those mufflers

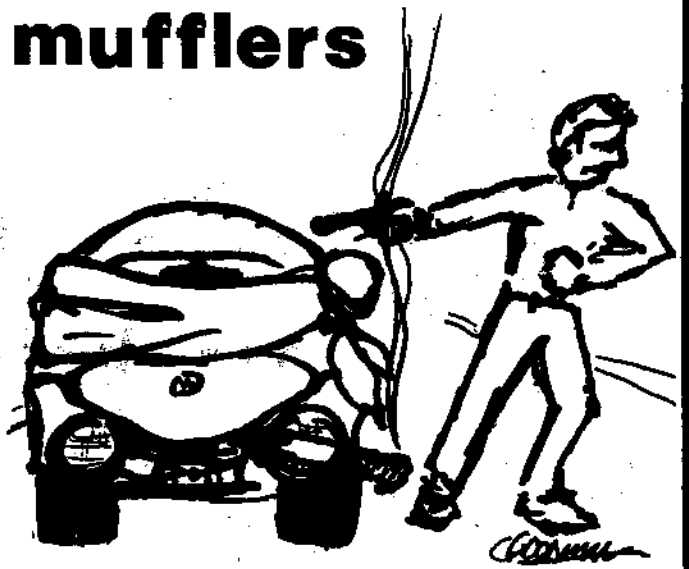
I generally don't give testimonials, but for the sake of old-car drivers of Bloomington-Normal, I have to make an exception. Those of us who drive old "beaters" do so for a reason: we don't have enough money to buy "good" cars. Consequently, neither do we have the money to pay for all those repairs. Every time the car breaks down, we anguish over whether or not to finally pull the plug on the old thing.

The worst repair decision to make is what to do when the muffler breaks. Who can afford to buy a brand new exhaust system for a car that might fall apart next week? Well, Fred

Groves Servicenter on South Main solved that problem for me last summer. For \$20, they patched my old muffler. Here it is the dead of winter, and my muffler is still muffling just fine.

So if you think you can find better things to do with your money, ask Fred Groves to patch your muffler, and maybe you, too, can spare yourself the stress of having to decide whether to keep the old thing or to look for a "new" old car that muffles itself.

--Lynne Belcher



Home Recordings sampler: Start here if confused

I've been writing reviews of the Home Recordings releases for several months now--you know, those nutty groups like Big Hair, The Dits, The Bob and Jeff Show, Schmaz, That Hope, The Sediments, and Pink Bob's Stereo. In case you missed the previous reviews, let me reiterate that the people who make these tapes are so far out in left field that they aren't even in the ballpark, and, if the truth be known, they're probably sitting in the bar across the street waiting for the game to be over.

The Home Recordings Sampler contains tracks by all the Home Recordings luminaries (or should I say lunatics?) and includes a few other assorted bits and improvs. That's a lot of nuts in one cookie. But let me say right here and now that this is the absolute best of Home Recordings. The music is widely diverse, yet remains unusually

unified, held together by a similar thread of giddiness. There is just enough variety to stave off the monotonous disjointedness (a common problem with the solo tapes), but not so much variety as to make the listener feel adrift in a sea of alphabet soup.

I recommend this tape to veteran noise nuts and dabblers in nuttiness as well. It is truly entertaining. However, one last word to the producers of the booklets which accompany Home Recordings tapes--you flunk penmanship and need practice spelling. Remember kids: neatness counts! A few of my favorite numbers would include:

"Lock and a Bagel"--That Hope
Comprised of inspired yodelling.

"Bozo's Wife"--The Dits
What might you expect from a song entitled "Bozo's Wife"?

"1-2-3-4"--The Dits
My personal favorite. Souped up Tupperware drums, searing guitar solo.

"The First of Five"--Scott and the Hin.
Musical wallpaper. Not exactly riveting, but at least interesting in a meditative sort of way.

"Not Your Average Everyday of People"--Scott, Dean and Ed.
Put the fear of god into me, lemme tell ya. I'm through with letting my peer group bully me into drinking.

"Fish Distribution"--Schmaz
Trashy, yet catchy heavy metal anthem which puts Dr. Butcher to shame.

--LVD

Election '84 Silver lining explained

With the election over and Ronnie settling into office once again, confident in his "mandate from the people," an awful lot of people seem to be settling into despair. After all, Reagan won by a landslide of 49 states, in what is being called a one-issue election centering on the economy. With the media ignoring most of the other issues and the economy in an upswing, it looks like the voters had one hand on the ballot and the other on their wallets.

Doesn't it?

Now that the Republican party is in power again, no one seems to be talking about the fact that in the states where R.R. won, the percentages were very close. The networks' predictions clearly if grudgingly illustrated how close the poll figures were. And Reagan didn't win all the states (well, I know, Mondale only got Minnesota and D.C. but still. . .)

Fritz Mondale managed to get a fairly consistent 40-45% of the votes, and this is in a nation where stage presence and charisma are traditionally primary concerns in the voters' minds. The voters in this country tend to vote for the most personable, interesting candidate, and if he happens to be good leader material (whatever that is), it's usually a lucky coincidence.

You have to admit that Mondale's stage presence is lacking. People may have voted Ferraro in on charisma, but not Mondale. Yet he got 40% of the vote. Now, if it's unlikely that anyone would vote for him because they like his style (come on, what style?), that means that 40% of the voters voted on the issues.

Unprecedented, maybe, but true: 40% of the American electorate voted on the issues, against Reagan and for Mondale, despite the fact that the economy was in an upswing credited to R.R.'s economic policies and claimed to be long term. Now, I know that's not enough to win the election, but it's an awful lot of people who care.

I think we're dealing with the "half-full vs. half-empty" syndrome. You can say that 60% of the voters chose Reagan, and therefore we are doomed and we might as well go home, or you can say that 40% voted for Mondale despite the resistance, and therefore we had better do whatever it takes to keep those people caring, while Reagan's policies wake up the other 60%.

--Pollyanna

105 Broadway • Normal

GUITAR WORLD

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

Having trouble getting organized?

War Resisters League Training Program for Organizers, August 12-22, 1985.
A program to train organizers in the nonviolent movement. Political philosophy, current issues and techniques of organizing are explored through discussions with experienced resource people and personal sharing. Programs in the East Coast and the West Coast. Maximum participants 20. To receive an application and brochure, contact WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012 (212/228-0450). Application deadline July 5, 1985.

DDT alive and well in your backyard

DDT is alive and well in the United States. The story has been surfacing piecemeal during the last several years--from government biologists, water supply officials, and alert newspaper reporters--and what is now emerging is a pattern of widespread distribution of a banned substance in "legal" pesticide products.

At the center of the revelations is dicofol. This chemical, which is registered by the federal government to kill mites, especially on cotton and citrus crops, is manufactured in Italy by a process that adds an extra

oxygen atom to the chemical structure of DDT. It is imported to this country by the Rohm and Haas company of Philadelphia and distributed widely under the trade name Kelthane. Some formulations have been found to contain as much as 14 percent DDT. Dicofol is an ingredient in at least fifty other pesticides now on the market.

The general decline in environmental levels of DDT has come to an abrupt end in several parts of the country. A market basket survey carried out by the National Resources Defense Council found that DDT was the most common

pesticide residue on California produce, while dicofol ranked second. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists in the southwest discovered rising DDT levels during their continuing study of the wings of ducks and starlings.

Other studies have disclosed DDT, at levels high enough to cause concern, in the waters of the Rio Grande and the Arroyo Colorado; a government biologist reported that fish and birds in the latter area contained DDT breakdown products "that are within or above the range known to cause population declines." An independent biologist has detected DDT concentrations in West-Coast peregrine falcons comparable to those existing prior to DDT's ban, when the species was in serious trouble. Rohm and Haas see no link with dicofol, blaming old environmental pesticide residues or runoff from Mexican farms. But EPA biologists are pointing a finger at dicofol, too.

Organizations such as National Audubon Society are asking EPA to honor its original ban on DDT and suspend dicofol's registration. Guided by its general counsel, William Jordan, EPA accepted the Rohm and Haas contention that DDT is merely an unavoidable contaminant of dicofol, outside the original ban.

A final irony here is that buyers of dicofol are not even aware that it contains DDT. Because DDT in this case is considered an unavoidable "impurity" manufacturers need not list it on their product's label as an ingredient. Thus, DDT is being spread even by the pure in heart.

Now DDT is building up in wildlife tissues once more. Folly dies hard.

--Frank Graham, Jr., "DDT Is Alive and Well," *Audubon*, Nov. 1984, pp. 36-39.

Dicofol 4EC	41.1%	Security Red Spider & Mite Spray	0.4%
Acme Bagworm Spray	3.6%	Security Rose & Flower Dust	1.0%
Acme Kelthane Red Spider & Mite Spray	18.5%	Dicofol 1.6-EC Agricultural Miticide	18.4%
Acme Kelthane All Round Spray	2.0%	Black Leaf Kelthane Mite Killer	18.5%
Clean Crop Dicofol 1.6-EC	18.5%	Black Leaf Systemic Plus	0.9%
Clean Crop Dicofol 4EC	42.0%	Formula GH-21	10.0%
Pratt Mite Spray Containing Kelthane	18.5%	Formula GH-31	12.0%
Pratt Rose & Flower Dust or Spray	1.5%	Florida Citrus Spray	4.0%
Rigo Red Spider Mite Spray	18.5%	Florida Citrus Spray Wettable	6.8%
Kelthane 35	35.0%	Florida Garden Spray	3.2%
Kelthane EC	18.5%	Rose Dust	1.5%
Kelthane 4F Flowable	41.0%	Rose Spray (Garden of South)	3.6%
Kelthane MF	42.0%	Kelthane	18.5%
Science Fruit, Nut & Garden Spray	3.2%	Rose Spray	4.0%
Science Kelthane EC	18.5%	Ortho Isotox Insect Killer	3.0%
Science Rose & Floral Dust	1.5%	Ortho Isotox Insect Spray	2.0%
Science Systemic Spray	0.9%	Ortho Orthene Insect & Disease Control	3.0%
SA-50 Kelthane EC	18.5%	Ortho Rose & Flora Dust	1.5%
Flora-Fog Kelthane Greenhouse Fogging Miticide	10.0%	Ortho Rose & Flower Jet Duster	1.2%
Kelthane EC Miticide	18.5%	Dexol Kelthane	18.5%
Rose Dust in Squeeze Duster	1.0%	Dexol Red Spider & Mite Spray	18.5%
Tomato & Vegetable Dust in Squeeze Duster	1.5%	Grotone Kelthane EC	18.5%
Superiors Extra Value 2% Kelthane Dust	2.0%	Vigoro Kelthane EC	18.5%
Kelthane Emulsifiable	3.0%	Vigoro Multi-Purpose Insect Spray	2.0%
Unico Fruit Spray	1.5%	All-Purpose Systemic Insecticide	0.9%
Ferti-Lome Citrus Spray	4.1%	Fruit Tree & Vegetable Liquid Insect Spray	0.9%
Ferti-Lome Mite Spray	10.3%	Home & Garden Insect Spray	0.9%
Ferti-Lome Red Spider Mite Spray	10.3%	Fords Endox Insect Spray	0.9%
Hi-Yield Kelthane Spray	10.0%	Helena Dicofol 4E	42.0%
Security Dystox-R Insect Spray	0.9%	Lanco Dicofol 1.6-EC	18.5%
Security Home Fruit Spray or Dust	2.0%	Lanco Dicofol EC	18.5%
Security Kelthane EC Miticide	18.5%	Lanco Dicofol 4EC	42.0%
		All-Mitee EC	18.5%

IWU cancels Acacia charter

As most of us now know, late in the evening on 15 January, 1985, the Acacia fraternity, IWU chapter, was notified that its charter had been rendered void. This action apparently came without warning from the Dean of Students, Glenn Swichtenberg.

As far as we understand, IWU has never voided a fraternal chapter or even suspended one. This move is unprecedented. Since this was done without warning, and revocation took place before a suspension (which under the circumstances would have been more reasonable, although still unfair), it constitutes a violation of generally accepted routine.

Acacia is the only fraternity which "did not act like a fraternity," being more liberal in its membership require-

ments and rituals. It is an organization of individuals. They encompass the "preppie" to the "punk" yet not only do they get along well under the same roof, they do so voluntarily. They are not fashionable, but are an example of society a little deeper than fashion-conscious America. Acacia is an organization a little different than the popular conception of the beer-chugging, obnoxious "frat boys." They read, and think. Each one does so differently, but they get along well enough that society at large can take a lesson from them.

The closing down of Acacia is seen as individuality being squelched under the thumb of conservative authority.

At this time, the Elliotsville Coalition for Peace demands a better reason

for the disbanding of Acacia than "Their membership is down, they're having financial problems, and I'm sick and tired of telling them not to have parties" (Dean Swichtenberg).

The membership and finances of Acacia are no concern of IWU, and as far as we know, there are other fraternities that have had more parties that came to the attention of IWU authorities.

While we await this explanation we demand that Acacia's charter be restored.

All of the cards are now held by a conformist administration afraid of non-conformity.

--The Elliotsville Coalition for Peace

Clean chimneys are safe chimneys

When the Alberta Clipper sailed through a week ago, local fire departments had their hands full with fires originating in wood-burning heating stoves and appliances.

Heating with wood, if the wood is obtained at a reasonable cost, can help folks wrestle with winter gas and electric bills. But an uncleaned seldom-inspected chimney can cause more grief than aid.

Creosote

Creosote is a normal by-product of a wood fire. It is in the form of small black particles which cling to the sides of the chimney after being carried to their resting place by the updraft within the chimney.

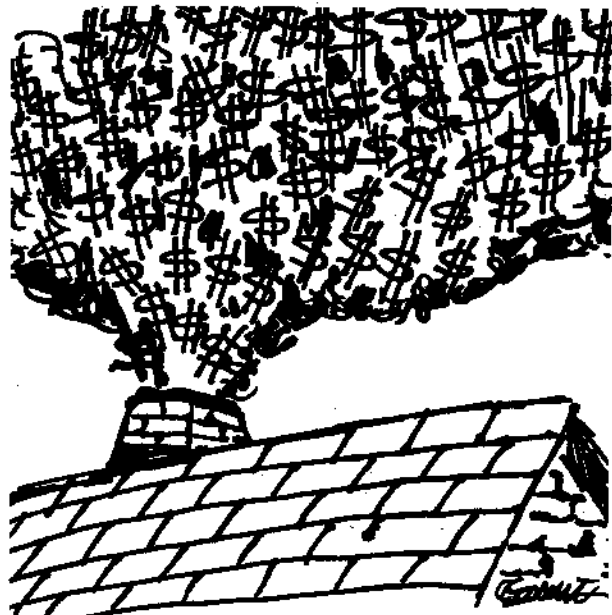
Stoking up a good hot fire a couple of times a day (550-600 degrees) helps to burn off some of the creosote but as the fire dies and the chimney cools, more creosote is added.

As a rule of thumb, a 1/16th inch accumulation of creosote is about the maximum acceptable thickness that should be allowed to develop. Additional coatings of creosote in either masonry or pre-fabricated triple-insulated chimneys heighten the chances for a chimney fire.

When a chimney fire occurs, the super-heated creosote bursts into an inferno, fed by the air supply below and drawn upward by the draft. Temperatures as high as 2500 degrees can damage the inner chimney surface, and ignite wood framing members of the house adjacent to the chimney. Fireballs of burning creosote can be belched out of the chimney onto the roof or scattered onto nearby buildings.

Preventing and stopping fires

Prevention is the best bet. Try to inspect your chimney frequently. If you feel any hotspots, especially in a masonry chimney, do not start a fire. It may have lost mortar between the bricks. Have a professional chimney sweep or fire inspector look it over.



If you're sure of the integrity of your chimney, run down to Furrows or wherever you can get a good stiff brush with flexible extension handles. Brush out the chimney so you can collect most of the creosote. Protect furniture and carpeting with a large sheet that you can dump out and reuse.

Some chimney caps come with a screen to keep out birds. These screens are known to plug up with creosote and ice during nasty weather. So, if your stove or fireplace backpuffs a lot, check the chimney cap first for an obstruction.

Should you be unfortunate enough to have overheated a dirty chimney and you hear a loud roar or see the inferno, act immediately! Shut down your damper completely to eliminate oxygen from below, plus all thermostat gates and secondary burn intakes on airtight stoves. Call the fire department!

Selecting your wood

Try to get seasoned hardwood. It will burn more evenly, more efficiently, and hotter. You will realize less creosote accumulation.

Beware of folks who say they have oak skids to use for firewood. If you know oak, go ahead, but watch out for substitutions. Most skids are of pine which burns quickly and very hot, releasing oodles of creosote into your chimney. This isn't to say you cannot or should not burn pine. In some parts of the country, hardwoods are scarce and pine is plentiful. Just be aware of the hazards and be prepared to clean that chimney more often.

Happy heating!

--Jay Tea



Your dog eats better than this hippie.

That's right. Sprouts, bean curd, Blatz beer. And do you know why? Because she works for the Post Amerikan. And the Post Amerikan is a non-profit organization and that means no salaries, wages, tips or other compensation for Ms. Hippie. But Ms. Hippie and the others like her at the Post Amerikan aren't complaining for their own sake--no, they just want to keep bringing you their wild propagandistic opinions and delightfully wry observations of the world around us. But that gets difficult when we have no money. Think of us as the Underprivileged Newspaper. And you could help. A \$10 donation costs a measly ten bucks. A subscription to the Post costs a measly \$4.00. That's just 33¢ a month. For the price of a lousy cuppa coffee you could make a group of needy lefties so happy. Think of it. Or buy one of our classy T-shirts. Or come to the Post Amerikan Benefit. Or write us a letter telling us you love us. Is there anybody out there?

YES!

Yes, I want to support a

- leftist propagandist
- gay activist
- deluded nut
- depressed feminist

- Send me a subscription, \$4
- Send me a T-shirt, \$6
- Got no money, but I like you.

name _____

address _____ city state zip _____

For the next 12 issues, send \$4 to Post Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702

Cable developments

New technology/same old greed

There are some new developments in the air (and over the wires) for the cable television industry, and as we have come to expect from the cable folks, "greed" is the operative word.

A business based on appropriating the creative efforts of others for its own profit, the cable industry is currently trying to weasel out of paying those who create and to keep what they charge the consumer for the privilege of seeing. (Remember, these are the same people who send hit squads to your neighborhood in search of illegal hook-ups and who threaten you with fines and prosecution, not to mention disconnection, if they find one at your house.)

Most of what goes out on cable is simply gathered up, free of charge, and sold back to the consumer. Some of these signals are regular over-the-air broadcasters, available without cable, while others are satellite, microwave, or distant broadcast stations that your rabbit ears can't pick up. Most important, though, is the fact that virtually all of what is broadcast is copyrighted material, and that is where the controversy begins.

Cable operators, functioning under what is known as a "compulsory copyright license," are required, under the Federal Copyright Act of 1976, to make semi-annual copyright payments based on their gross basic service revenue. These fees are collected into a general fund and disbursed by the Library of Congress, and who gets what is determined by the Copyright Royalty Tribunal. (Some of the money, for example, is put into a fund for unemployed actors and craftspeople.)

The current royalty rate is 3.75% of basic rates, which works out to about 22 cents per subscriber per month. The total for the first six months of 1984 was \$40 million. Divide that by the total number of hours of programming shown on cable nationwide during six months time. And while you've got your calculator out, if \$40 million is 3.75% of gross basic revenues, just how much money are these people taking in?

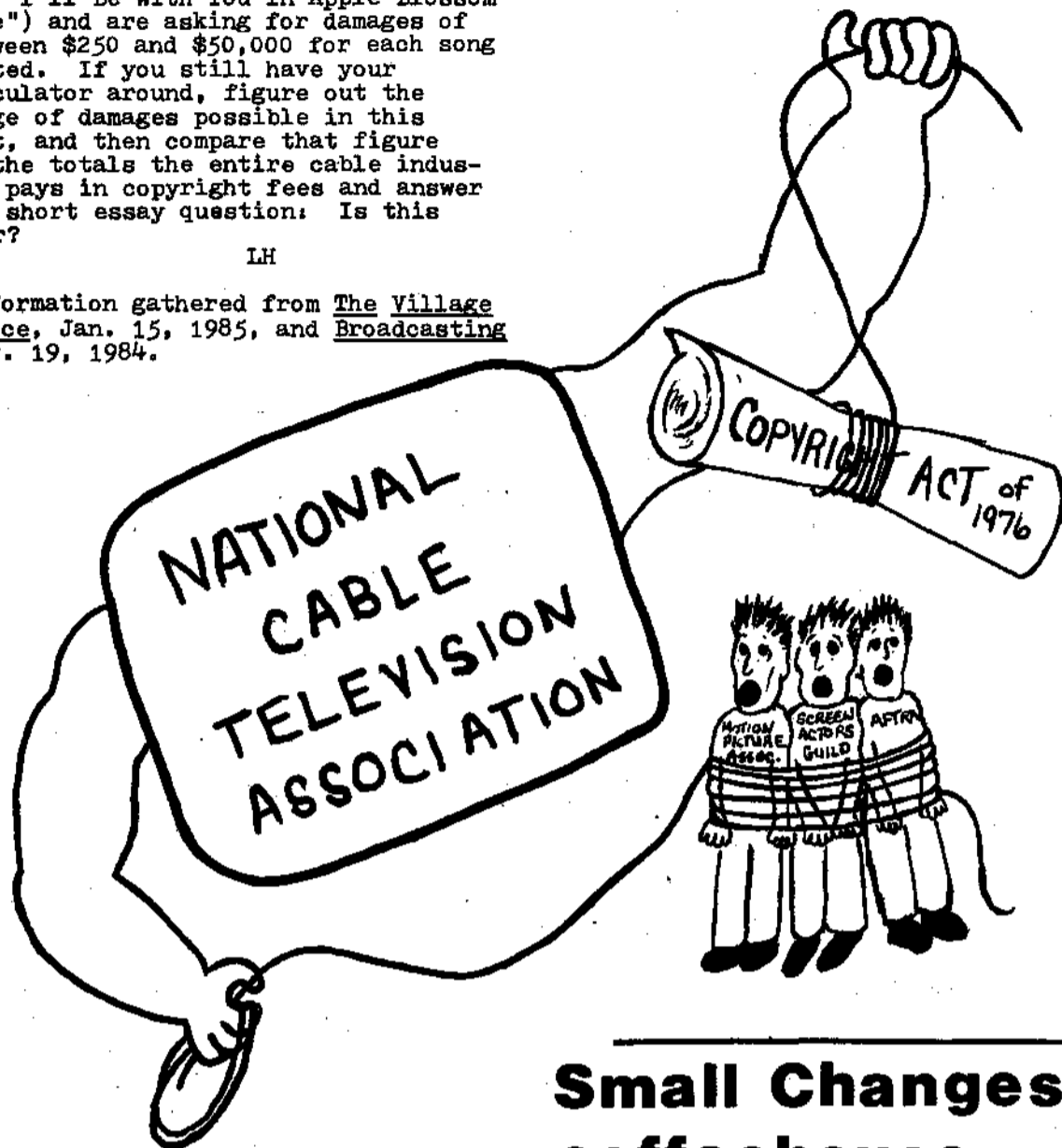
Whatever that amount is, it's not enough for the National Cable Television Association, which is gearing up for a campaign to get that 22 cents back. Consumers pay cable for the use of their service, but cable doesn't think they should pay the entertainment and sports industry for theirs. Think about that the next time you write a check to Telecable for your satellite package.

In a sort of related story, Bloomington's WBLN-TV and its parent companies are being sued for copyright violations in connection with ten songs broadcast over a two day period in April. The copyright holders claim that WBLN has not paid the required fees for the use of the songs (which include "I Only Have Eyes for You,"

and "I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time") and are asking for damages of between \$250 and \$50,000 for each song listed. If you still have your calculator around, figure out the range of damages possible in this suit, and then compare that figure to the totals the entire cable industry pays in copyright fees and answer the short essay question: Is this fair?

LH

Information gathered from The Village Voice, Jan. 15, 1985, and Broadcasting Nov. 19, 1984.



Scrambling for \$\$\$

Greed is also the major impetus behind some new developments at HBO/Ginemax, where a new technology has been invented to prevent consumers with home satellite dishes from receiving their signal for free. Beginning in February, HBO will begin scrambling their signals at the satellite. The scrambled signal will then be decoded at the local cable operator's base before being sent out over the wire. Those people with the home earth stations will now have to lease a very expensive decoding device in order to receive the signal, even if they live in an area not serviced by cable. HBO has reportedly spent over ten million to develop the process. Imagine how many classic films ten million could have bought, while subscribers are stuck with four more years of "Wild Horse Hank."

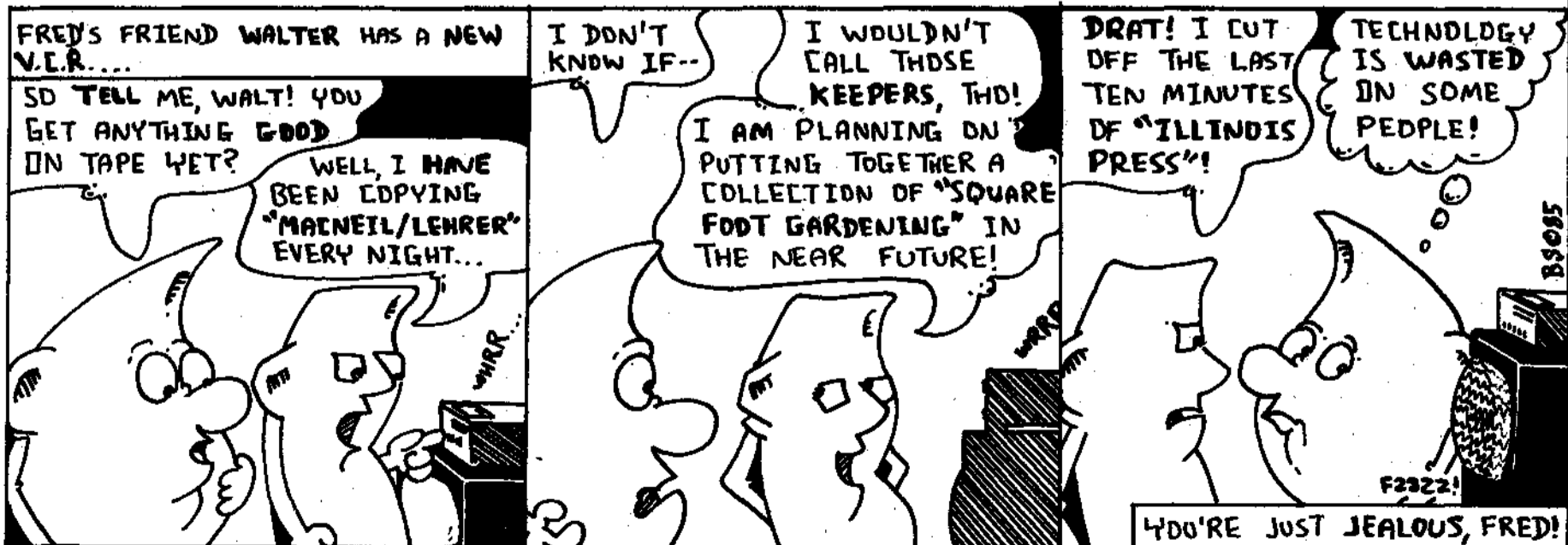
LH

Small Changes coffeehouse

Rumors of the demise of the Small Changes Collective are simply untrue. It is true that the bookstore has long been defunct, but the collective itself continues in its struggle to survive. The members are trying to put together a community library and intend to continue to sponsor coffeehouses. The next such event will be held on Feb. 15, at the Newman Center, 501 S. Main in Normal, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

We'd love to see you there--there'll be homemade goodies and open-stage entertainment featuring local musicians and writers. It'll be great fun, whether you come to share your talent or just listen and meet new people. The event is free, but any donations will be gratefully applied toward the bookstore's outstanding debts. Anyone interested in working with the collective is encouraged to attend!

Cable Comix



Post reader defends shrinks' "early

For the first time ever, I'm writing to you with something other than several paragraphs of glowing praise. I've loved to read the Post in the past and will love it again in the future, but right now I'm a bit haaked at whoever submitted and approved the item about Alan Spear and Center for Human Services (CHS) working on an "early intervention" mental health program. It was described by the contributor as a "chilling development" and in my opinion, the writer is pushing panic buttons all over McLean County with such an observation (Vol. 13, #8).

I left Bloomington-Normal in 1983 with three years' experience at a mental-health-related facility (not CHS) and used that experience (rather than my degree) to begin a career in the mental health field. Granted, without personal or professional experience with CHS, I cannot say whether or not Alan Spear is a homophobe. I can, however, suggest that perhaps the Post has jumped the gun in their evaluation of the program.

The writer attempted to draw a parallel between the new program and the National Institute for Mental Health's obsession with gender identification screenings in previous years. While I do not pretend to see the latter as terribly ethical, valuable or worthwhile in any sense, I feel it is unfair to assume that the objectives which CHS hope to achieve with their program are the same ones that the writer abhors. None of the information regarding the CHS program indicates that gender identification

problems are the target this time around. If so, Goddess help us and send them far, far away. But if not, the writer may be causing undue concern for parents who read the Post.

It is not uncommon for local mental health agencies to maintain an ongoing relationship with nearby schools to accept families referred for counseling.

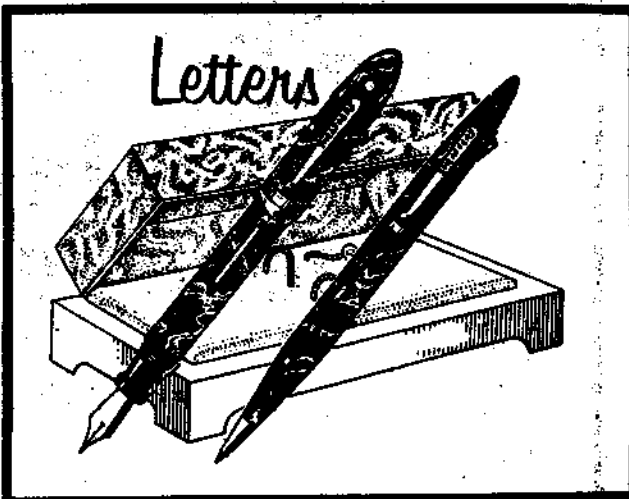
Many client families come to the agency I work for under this type of referral. A Headstart center to whom we are officially connected also refers families to us for treatment.

It takes some pretty serious school problems to warrant a referral for most families. This may mean a pre-schooler who tells a teacher what daddy

does to him/her when mommy's not home, a 5th grader who suddenly starts having explosions of rage in a favorite class, or shows symptoms of hyperactivity, or a first-grader who misses 1 of every 4 weeks in school because Mommy can't bear to be apart from him/her for 6 hours at a stretch. Many of these school problems can be "red flags" that indicate that things at home are upsetting a child, and intervention is warranted. When kids sense all is not well at home, they can't usually identify the problem clearly; they just know it has to stop. School is one of the few places in a child's world where people care what he/she is doing pretty much all the time; at home, the television is often the babysitter, and it doesn't care what the child does while watching He-Man or Sesame Street.

Often, a child in school will misbehave when he/she knows someone will catch and discipline him or her. The child may not know how to solve a problem in his/her family, but knows that if the school calls Mom and Dad, somebody outside the house may find out what's making the child act so weird. In a way, the child is taking on the family's problem and showing it to somebody, anybody who can fix it.

Anybody who's ever come from a violent, alcoholic or otherwise unstable family might look back into their school days and remember getting into trouble for no apparent reason. They might also remember that, if their family didn't experience some kind of intervention, the problems at home never really went



Broadcasting and the beer riot: busting the media party

I was fifty miles away when Normal's "beer riot" occurred, cringing quietly through two sets of Rhetoric papers (the assignment: analyze the argument of a magazine advertisement).

My lover told me the next day that the event had been chronicled by the Today Show, and later by the Dan Rather Show. My reaction, like Silverstein's and my NorBloom friends, was "Oh God, how stupid!"

Yet I was still fascinated, since I am obsessed with human motivation, and also since, although I know, like the Boy, that People Are Stupid, I had never witnessed firsthand such a fine example of mass stupidity. I wanted to know why so many people would do such a stupid thing.

The media's answer, including the Post's: "Because they're stupid."

My answer: Because of the media.

Silverstein's article "Wild Mob" presented me with a new and important bit of information, which either I or the popular press had missed: the crowd's initial focus, early during the fracas, had been on the TV camera. When this happened, the "old rad" got "turned off." Whatever possibilities for integrity this demonstration had were lost.

I agree. But I also think that it is this phenomenon which gives us the key to understanding the stupidity of it all.

Silverstein remarked that an appropriate time for a leader to appear was when the crowd had gathered at the minicam news van, in front of Normal's City Hall. But no leader appeared, and the crowd played to the camera. That camera was the single most powerful

force over the crowd that night. Lights on: shout and clench fists. Lights off: shuffle and mumble. Those ISU beer rioters, in their characteristically boneheaded way, had recognized the real leader.

The media (status) image of college life reinforces this consumer ethic. And among the attributes of Young Consumers on the Rise is the predilection for "fun," a commodity which advertisers claim to have packaged in cans, bottles, and kegs. (Other attributes include their incredible physical beauty, courtesy Maybelline, and their impressive athletic abilities courtesy Nike.)

But you can't buy beer in Normal if you're not 21, even if you have money.

The ISU beer rioters were, on an admittedly animal level, expressing their frustration at not being able to purchase a commodity which the media tells them is necessary to their identity as college students.

Oh, come off it

You object: The reasoning is paranoid, a plot of Pentagonal proportions: You don't think that 40 years, two generations, of commercial media availability is enough time for the industrial complex to perfect its manipulative technique?

Then why didn't those students bust the TV camera that night like everything else?

Because they had a halfass conception of its power. Because they knew, from watching TV, that televised demonstrations were more effective than untelevised ones. What they didn't learn from TV is that effective demonstrations usually have effective and articulate organizers, organizers who

~~intend to manipulate the media.~~

The reason they missed that is that they have been bombarded with the media saluting its own integrity. The Dan Rather Show is a commercial venture that calls itself the CBS Nightly News; it maintains that it is conveying the Truth; the viewer is supposed to trust it. It is difficult to cultivate a healthy skepticism toward the media when the media constantly outlines the approved methods of skepticism. Many, many TV viewers do not anticipate a bias, nor do they ever suspect any behind-the-scenes string-pulling. Americans have a naive trust in television, even in its advertising, that borders on respect.

It was this attitude that caused the rioters to respect the minicam. They recognized its potential power for them, but not its real, everyday power over them: the propagandist power that has told them all of their lives of their right to consume. That night, they unknowingly confronted the liar with the lie.

'd probably buy it'

I mentioned earlier that during Normal's Consumer Uprising I was reading college students' papers which were supposed to analyze the rhetoric of a chosen advertisement. Class discussion had revealed a vague disbelief that perhaps the primary motive for all advertising was manipulative. The writing assignment failed dismally. Over half the essays reiterated the ad copy, and concluded with stuff like: "All in all, the Honda looks like a good car. I'd probably buy it."

Obviously, the writers will be buying more than a Honda, just like the ISU beer rioters want to buy more than beer.

...K. J. Flynn

intervention"

away. The same problems may also be occurring in that person's adult family: an abused child often grows up to abuse his/her own children.

An early intervention program is something likely to do a lot of good if done correctly. Visions of the Spanish Inquisition are unnecessary in the vast majority on instances. Granted, all mental health professionals are not created equal, and those among us who are unethical are found out about as frequently as crooked M.D.'s are. That is the nature of the beast. I happen to think it is worthwhile to attempt to intervene in a dysfunctional family system as early as possible, so that years of emotional problems for the present and the following generations can be avoided if at all possible.

As many of you have probably heard, issues such as domestic violence and alcoholism can be learned and/or inherited, and it is crucial to our collective future that these patterns become obsolete as soon as possible. Breaking the inter-generational chain of suffering anywhere we can is the first step.

Mental health professionals must behave ethically with all clients, including children. The field is still developing and mistakes will be made. This is grievous but true. I ask, however, the Post allow good to be done wherever possible. Jumping to conclusions is McCarthyish, immature and inappropriate. Be a watchdog, do it well, but do not condemn tomorrow in yesterday's name.

Thanks for letting me add my bit. I hope I wasn't too preachy. But then, it was the Post that taught me to speak out against prejudice.

Cajole

Never been busted?

Dear Post,
Thanks for reminding me that my subscription has lapsed. I'm choosing not to renew. It's been interesting keeping up with BlooNo over the years, but there's only so much time in the day to read, right? Good luck as you

continue the tradition...and, oh one more thing...I must admit that reading about narcs is pretty boring stuff after many years. Give it up, ok?

Linda Lewis



Porn laws need rethinking

In December 1983, the Minneapolis city council voted to add to its civil rights ordinance a section describing pornography as a practice of sex discrimination, and making pornographers liable to civil suits by women whose rights have been denied. Vetoed by the mayor, it was reintroduced shortly thereafter.

This ordinance, and a similar one adopted in Indianapolis in June 1984, contains a new definition of the term pornography, as well as a new legal approach to an old problem. Put together by writer Andrea Dworkin and lawyer Catharine MacKinnon, the definition reads like this:

"Pornography is the sexually explicit subordination of women, graphically depicted whether in pictures or in words." The definition lists nine specific ways this depiction occurs, focussing on presentations of violence toward women (torture and rape), objectification of women (disembodied body parts), and degradation of women (penetration by objects or animals).

The list also includes as pornographic cases where "women are presented in postures of sexual submission or sexual servility, including by inviting penetration."

The Minneapolis city council's Special Findings on Pornography call porn "a systematic practice of exploitation and subordination based on sex which differentially harms women The bigotry and contempt it promotes diminish opportunities for equal rights . . . [and] promote injury and degradation such as rape, battery, and prostitution and inhibit just enforcement of these acts."

Both ordinances see pornography as "central to creating and maintaining sex as a basis for discrimination." (Indianapolis Ordinance 24, proposal 228, 1984.)

The Indianapolis ordinance gives a person (primarily women, but it includes men, children, and transsexuals as complainants) who has been assaulted in a way that is directly caused by pornography [prove that in court!] to sue the maker, distributor, seller, exhibitor, and/or the perpetrator for damages.

A person may sue for having been coerced into performing in pornography, or into witnessing it. In addition, any woman (man, child, transsexual) may sue any pornographer in the name of womankind, since it is the existence of pornography that is a violation of her civil rights.

Well, that's the journalistic section of this article. Pretty dry, huh? That's mostly because I disagree with the approach Ms. Dworkin and Ms. MacKinnon are taking. Sure, the scum who are making mega-bucks (\$8 billion a year!) on pictures and movies of women being beaten and chained and sliced up need to take personal responsibility for the results of that sale.

Face it, though--this civilization (and I use the term loosely) is not big on personal responsibility. National leaders can wipe out whole populations through greed or just mismanagement, and heads of corporations wipe out whole towns because it's cheaper to dump toxins nearby--all without personal responsibility. Yet we expect pornographers to suddenly accept responsibility for their industry?

Besides, legislative action of any kind, even legal action of any kind, can at best be ineffective against an industry that can easily continue on the black market. Read your history to see just how effective legal reprisals have ever been against a black market.

Third objection: Does anyone out there seriously think these laws, as written, would stand up to a Supreme Court test? Especially since Reagan gets to play with the seating chart thereof?

But my fourth and major objection is that I think it is inaccurate and inappropriate to say pornography only degrades women. And I'm not talking about the "The oppressors are as degraded as the victims" syndrome of wishy-washy-ness.

Granted, in heterosexual pornography, women are generally (not always) in a position of submission, and some of it is very violent. But women are not the only ones degraded in pornography.

Even if you ignore the admittedly small amount of porn where women are violently dominant (and I don't say that's healthier), you really can't discount gay pornography. Is subjugation only subjugation when men do it to women? Or is this omission in the law an example of the "leave them alone and maybe they'll kill each other off" school of thought?

I realize I'm being destructive rather than constructive here. I'm not sure what to suggest instead. With government and corporate structures that reinforce brutal, uncaring attitudes toward humanity, it seems hopeless to legislate against a similarly brutal but smaller industry.

--Chris M.

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Urinary tract infections:

Most women are affected by urinary tract infections at one time or another. The signs are pretty obvious: having to pee a lot, a burning feeling when you do pee, cloudy or even bloody urine. Sometimes there is bladder pain, and sometimes there is lower back or stomach pain.

The area affected by a urinary tract infection (UTI for short) is the urinary tract (not surprisingly), ureters, and occasionally the kidneys. If your symptoms include fever and a backache, that might mean that the problem has moved into your kidneys--and in that case, you'd better see a health care person. An infection in the kidneys can cause serious problems.

But in most cases UTI will hang out in the urinary tract not really jeopardizing your health in any profound way, but creating pain and discomfort and making it impossible to sit through a movie, a class, a meal, or anything else that lasts a reasonable amount of time without running to the bathroom. It is a most inconvenient, anti-social problem.

Honeymoon disease

Doctors, in their clever way, have nicknamed it the "Honeymoon Disease" because often women will develop UTI after a period of particularly energetic sexual activity. In women,

the vagina and the urethra (where the pee comes out) are located closely together and a lover's hands or penis can carry bacteria from the cervix (the opening of the uterus), anus, or vagina and leave it near the urethra. Then that bacteria moves up the urinary tract and you have an infection.

Bruising or trauma of the urethra that can happen during wild sex can provide a breeding ground for bacteria that otherwise would be harmless. When you have UTI, sexual excitement can make the problem worse because during arousal the vagina and surrounding tissue all become engorged with blood and swell up, putting painful pressure on the urethra. Other times women are sensitive to spermicide or to the latex in condoms.

So UTI can be caused by moving bacteria around during sex, by trauma resulting from overzealousness, by rubbers, or by the creme that you put on your diaphragm, and it can be made more uncomfortable by preorgasmic excitement. But don't start thinking that you're safe because you've just broken off with your boyfriend--sometimes UTI doesn't have anything to do with sex.

Germ theory of health

Chemical sprays, foams, and douches irritate your skin and can provide a way for bacteria to travel to the urethra. Any irritant can make the

urethra susceptible. Generally UTI (which is also called cystitis, by the way) is caused by an overgrowth of bacteria known as E. coli. That's what the books all say, anyway.

I personally don't subscribe to the Germ Theory of Health. I don't believe that the problem is caused by too much of a certain kind of bacteria, but rather that the problem created a weakness that allowed the overgrowth of the bacteria. I see infection as a symptom of something more fundamental.

Maybe I'm being picky. Regardless of the nature of its role, there is usually a lot of E. coli present during a urinary tract infection--but occasionally some other bacteria is involved instead. If you have chronic UTI, tell your doctor to test you for Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, and Hemophilis. Each bacteria has its own remedies.

E. coli naturally lives in our intestines where it does a number of good things, including helping us to digest food. When problems occur, this normally helpful bacteria can get in the wrong place or start growing like crazy. E. coli grows quickly in urine, blood, and yeast.

So you might be more likely to develop it if you have a yeast infection, and if you do have UTI, you might notice it being worse during your periods. E. coli also likes to eat sugar, so women who are diabetic or prediabetic tend to have more problems with it than other women. That's because they have more sugar in their blood.

Mind and matter

Mental stress or depression can stimulate your body to make hormones that cause your cells to retain water. You don't pee as often, your bladder isn't flushed as often, and you are more apt to get a urinary tract infection. It's one of those downward spirals.

Every now and then (hardly ever) a woman has an anatomical problem that causes UTI. It's called a refluxing ureter and it means that somehow, because of the way that her body is structured, some of her urine flows backwards, emptying into the bladder. An x-ray of the urethra and bladder will reveal this problem, but it's very uncommon, so x-ray only as a last resort.

It's not uncommon for a woman to have



S.O.S. all AIDS worriers

There is a new blood test for treatment of potential AIDS victims. Now don't ask me where it's available because the Midwest is usually a bit slow to catch on to some areas of progress (excluding Minnesota, of course). The test involves detection of certain antibodies in the blood stream which could be indicative of a victim's possible exposure.

This does not mean a victim will lose a job, bank account, or even a life. It simply means that the potential victim will be informed of how to be alert to more serious symptoms and the appropriate measures to be taken in case these symptoms appear. And if they do, there are still measures which can be taken. AIDS does not mean an automatic death sentence. The results are subject to interpretation. A second opinion is never a bad idea if one has the time and money.

There is also a gammaglobulin vaccine for the hepatitis B virus. This is a fairly new breakthrough. The symptoms of hepatitis B sometimes mimic those of AIDS. But the key word here is vaccine. As my dear departed Grandma used to tell me, "A ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

--Sweet Gypsy Rose

Gay People's Alliance

GPA will sponsor the following programs on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 112 Fairchild Hall, Illinois State University.

- Jan. 30: Small group discussions on coming out: How do you know you're gay?
- Feb. 6: Cinema night
- Feb. 13: Valentine Party (see Vidette for details)
- Feb. 20: Combatting Gay Stereotypes in the Media
- Feb. 27: Gay/Straight Rap

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one UTI and to never have another one. But if you have chronic infections or if you have two infections fairly close together, it might be worth your while to do a little detective work and figure out what your body is reacting to.

Preventing the problem

There are a lot of simple, everyday things you can do to prevent a problem. If you wear underwear, make sure that it's cotton. Keep your hands clean and tell your lover to wash his or her hands too.

Never, never, never follow anal sex with vaginal sex without washing the penis. You don't want bacteria from your rectum in your vagina. Likewise, wipe from front to back.

Don't use deodorized tampons (they are silly products anyway). Pee often. Pee before and after making love.

Some women react to the dye in leotards or tights. Sometimes they're sensitive to detergent; hexachlorophene is especially irritating. Try a milder laundry soap.

Home remedies

As soon as you feel a UTI coming on, drink lots of liquids to keep your bladder flushed. Cranberry juice or cranapple juice, particularly the kind without sugar, is very good. Drink as much of it as you can possibly stand.

You're trying to create an alkaline situation in your bladder. There are some alkaline herbs that can be useful, too: uva ursi and nettle are the best ones, I think.

Barley tea is also good for UTI. Roast some barley, say half a cup, till it's brown. Add it to a pot of water and bring to a boil. Reduce the flame and cook for 20 minutes. Or make up a pot of barley for dinner and drink the water it cooked in.

If you relate to vitamin pills, you can try one gram of Vitamin C before each meal. It acts as an anti-bacterial in your urine. If you have an active infection, you might take 200 - 600 units of Vitamin E daily. Vitamin E will help prevent scarring of the little tubes in your bladder.

The herb goldenseal is good for UTI, especially if used immediately. Fill two gelatin capsules (oo size) with

goldenseal and swallow them with a small cup of warm water. You can find gelatin caps in most pharmacies. Goldenseal is a powerful herb, so you probably shouldn't use it if you are pregnant.

Bladder tea

For people who are energetic, here's an herbal formula called Bladder Tea which is said to be very effective.

One part each of the following:

- Bucha
- Uva ursa
- Parsley root
- Cleavers
- Juniper berries
- Marshmallow root

One quarter part ginger root
Combine and simmer one ounce of the herbs in one pint of distilled water for 20 minutes.

It's also a kidney tonic.

Like most infections, UTI is easiest to deal with if it's caught early. If it's too uncomfortable or if you're having fever and backache, see a medical person. After you're better, try preventive things and, if you start to get sick again, try home remedies as soon as you feel any symptoms.

If you do a home remedy and all the signs of infection go away, then good. Write and tell me about it. If you do one and nearly all the symptoms go away, but there's still something left, even something not terribly uncomfortable, get a lab test. A low-grade infection that persists is dangerous. A simple analysis of your urine will show whether or not you still have the infection.

Don't hesitate to use medical technology to your advantage, but remember--given a chance, the body heals itself.

--Alison Clement

Sources: A New View of a Woman's Body, The Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers; How to Stay Out of the Gynecologist's Office, The Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers; The Way of Herbs, Michael Tierra.

Clarification by Chris Galloway, Nurse Practitioner at the Madison Community Health Center, Madison, Wisconsin.

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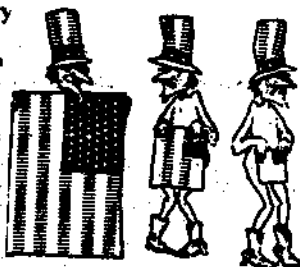
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