

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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12-1985

### Volume 14, Number 7

Post Amerikan

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Our Xmas list; poetry; hot-headed cops; poster

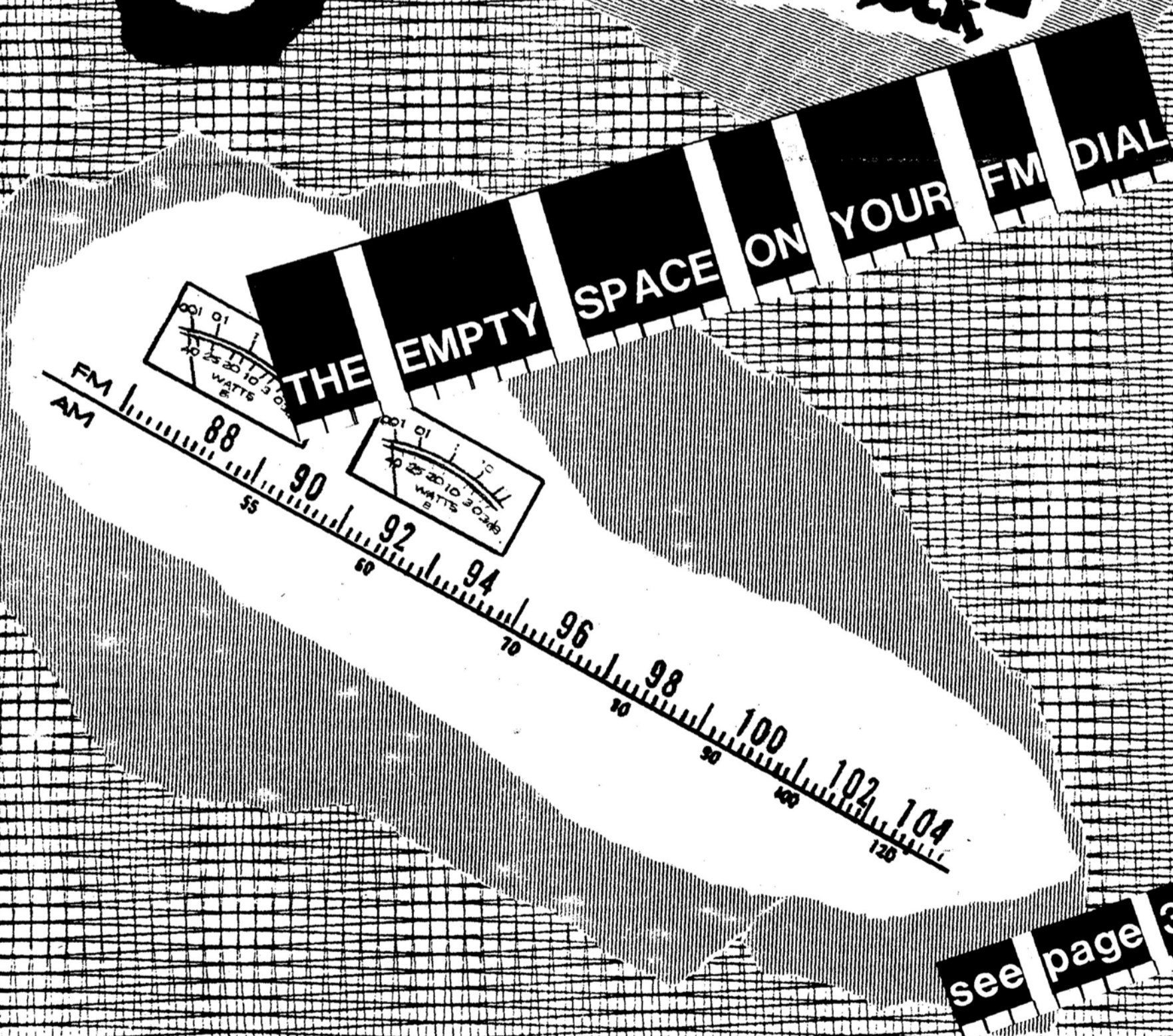
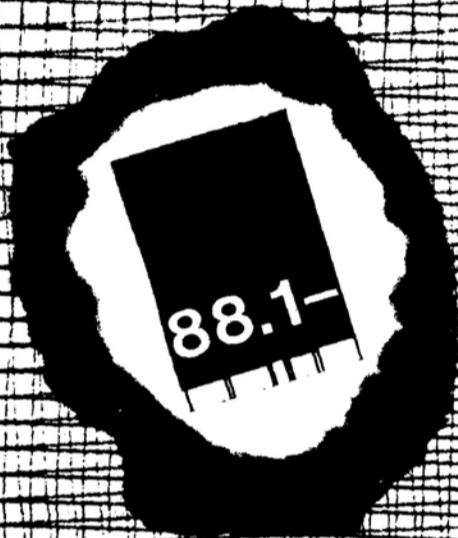
Bloomington-Normal

25¢

# POST AMERICAN

Vol.14, No.7

Dec. 1985-Jan. 1986



see page 3

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**About us**

**In this issue**

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 nine issues a year. Staff members take turns as "coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, photography, graphics, pasteup, 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 next deadline for submitting Post material is January 9, 1986.

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- BLOOMINGTON**  
Amtrack Station, 1200 W. Front  
The Back Porch, 402 N. Main  
Bloomington Public Library (in front)  
Bus Depot, 533 N. East  
Common Ground, 516 N. Main  
Front and Center Building  
Hit Shed, 103 E. Mulberry  
Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.  
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  
Upper Cut, 409 N. Main  
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
Washington and Clinton streets
- NORMAL**  
Blue Dahlia Bookstore, 124 E. Beaufort  
ISU University Union, 2nd floor  
ISU University Union, parking lot  
entrance  
The Galery, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)  
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north  
Mother Murphy's, 111 North St.  
North & Broadway, southeast corner  
Stan's Super Valu, 310 N. Main  
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway  
(in front)

**Good numbers**

- Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049  
American Civil Liberties Union.663-6065  
Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360  
CAPIE/Childbirth & Parenting  
Information Exchange.....452-0310  
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  
HELP (transportation for senior  
citizens, handicapped).....828-8301  
Ill. Dept of Public Aid.....827-4621  
Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916  
Kaleidoscope.....828-7346  
McLean-Co. Health Dept.....454-1161  
Mid Central Community Action...829-0691  
Mobile Meals.....828-8301  
McLean County Center for  
Human Services.....827-5351  
National Health Care Services--  
abortion assistance, Peoria..691-9073  
Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195  
Occupational Development  
Center.....828-7324  
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  
bus/couns/educ..827-4368  
Post Amerikan.....828-7232  
Prairie State Legal Service.....827-5021  
Prairie Alliance.....828-8249  
Project Oz.....827-0377  
Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005  
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428  
TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301  
Unemployment comp/job service..827-6237  
United Farmworkers support.....452-5046  
UPIC.....827-4026

**Thanks**

This issue is in your hands thanks to Chris and Diana (co-coordinators), Susie, Mark, Dave, J.T., Bumper, Ralph, Rich, Julie, Nadene, Melissa, Sue, Deborah, Val, Ralfie, Laurie D., Laurie H., Bobby, Judy, Mark J., Nancy, Lynne, J.D.T., Tom L. and the sump pump.

**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.

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Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_



# WESN: the empty spot on your FM dial

The bottom line, I think, was that the administration just didn't want to deal with the station.

--J. D. Thomas

**Question:** How long can a progressive-minded, free-spirited radio station stay afloat in the midst of an increasingly reactionary, high-gloss culture, especially when its studios are housed by one of the Midwest's most notoriously conservative private colleges?

**Answer:** Only temporarily, it seems.

Yes, WESN is off the air, and if and when it returns, it will never be the same. Illinois Wesleyan University's student-run radio station, a long-time bastion of creative programming, free speech, and progressive and diverse forms of music, is for the time being nothing more than an empty spot at the far left of your FM dial; if it reappears, it is destined to show signs of increased commercialization, slickness, and sorrowfully, the end of amateurism.

For those attentive to and appreciative of the local modern music scene, WESN has long provided a showcase for progressive and alternative acts. Since the removal of Robin Plan from WRBA a year and a half ago, it's been the only game in town. However, Jon Thomas, WESN's just-fired station manager, doubts that this tradition will be re-established.

Thomas himself is deeply wrapped up in the WESN controversy; he was, after all, at the helm when the ship sank. Thomas fielded attacks of "unprofessionalism," "poor management," and "failure to fulfill FCC requirements," etc., just as the rug was being pulled out from under him. The IWU Student Senate moved to relieve Thomas of his position, then closed the station on Oct. 30, just two days later. The Senate claimed it needed time to restructure WESN.

But just what does this restructuring mean? Well, for one, it portends the elimination of the "unprofessional" type DJ from the WESN format. Unfortunately, what the people who now hold the cards for WESN do not realize is that it is precisely this "unprofessionalism" that is attractive to many in the listening audience. So what if a DJ plays an entire album side? It might seem like a heinous crime to some, but I must admit I've done the same in the privacy of my own home--sometimes even with the doors unlocked!

And what about DJs soliciting listeners to play music over the phone lines when studio equipment is malfunctioning? I call that practical ingenuity, not unprofessionalism. And what about all the foul-ups, bleeps, and blunders? Hell, without them, WESN wouldn't be half as fun to

**Post Note:** The following quotations are personal observations about the demise of WESN from ex-station manager J. D. Thomas.

## *the scapegoat speaks:*

There was the danger that once WESN went dark, it would not open again. We had very little to work with, but we hung in there and did our best. I think it was worth the effort, and I think a lot of listeners appreciated the DJs' tenacity.

During the budget hearings of spring, 1985, my request for a budget increase was basically denied. The budget for 1984/85 was \$4,820. Anyone who tuned in during this time knew that WESN's signal was unreliable at best. The remote control was broken and water damage from the January flood was taking its toll on the equipment. At times, the only operable equipment was the two cartridge decks, and the power was cut to ten watts. I felt it was important to stay on the air as long as possible, however. WESN had hit the lowest point of its existence, but a lot of people still believed in us, and most of the employees were determined to see us through the hard times.

The WESN Restructuring Committee first met on November 13. Since it was open to the public, I went. Lewis, through his puppet manager, wishes to have a 12 hour broadcast day, divided into three four hour time slots--"Contemporary Rock," "Jazz" and "Classical."

When you get right down to it, the Senate needed to clean up the station. I was doing just that, but they needed someone who could conform to the Wesleyan ideal. I, on the other hand, had a tendency to go barefoot a lot. Somehow, this was taken to mean that I wasn't taking things seriously.

Above all, they needed a dramatic purge to show they were serious about turning the screws on the radio station. This, they did. And, as Jim Lewis warned, I became the scapegoat.

listen to. The point is, WESN's DJs come across as people, not as dry, automated voices; it would be a pity to see that change.

But change seems inevitable, especially when one looks up and sees that dark spectre that looms above all movement on the Wesleyan campus: the IWU administration. Glenn Switchenberg, Dean of Students, descended upon WESN's studios before the shutdown with Stu Salowicz, music director from WJBC, who also happens to be a Wesleyan alum.

Switchenberg claims that the visit was just a natural checkup; however, I don't imagine that he could have kept himself from feasting his hungry eyes on all the broadcasting equipment that would fit in so nicely with the Communications Program to be instituted at IWU in 1990. What a beautiful coup that would be, the administration's "taking control" of all the tape decks, transmitters, microphones, etc., that Student Senates throughout the years have purchased out of their operating funds, assuming that they were making expenditures toward a student-run station.

Associate Dean Jerry Israel senses the future, but indicates that the administration will play the waiting game for now: "The timing is poor as we are not ready to do anything yet."

And so the fate of WESN seems sealed. It is bound to become a more slick, commercially-oriented station, maybe a sort of scaled-down WLS (as suggested by the hiring of a new station manager who gained his experience at WLS-AM and FM in Chicago). Whether the real coup de grace was delivered by the Student Senate or the administration is hard to tell; one wonders about the actual autonomy of the Senate in the first place.

Whatever the case may be, the WESN that used to be will be sorely missed by those many listeners who appreciate a fresh, creative, and progressive approach to radio broadcasting. Just two weeks ago, a couple of days after the station went off the air, I was listening to another live radio show, this one out of Chicago, and two notorious DJs were speaking about the pathetic state of college radio.

"Except for that one at that small college in Bloomington," said one.

"Yeah, that one's pretty good," said the other.

That's the way it used to be, anyways.

--MJ

# WESLEYLAND

"Home of the conservative"

It is known, however, that certain members of the Board of Trustees and administration have never liked the station. "Professionalism" and "conformity" are encouraged at IWU. WESN was not very professional and never conformed. Instead, it was a bunch if people on the air having fun. WESN was more than just a toy, though. For some of us, it was the only reason for coming to IWU in the first place.

--J. D. Thomas

# Thieves explain crimes

Like Charles Kuralt, Bloomington's Tricycle Thieves are on the road. They play in twelve states, and that number continues to grow as they are planning a southern tour this winter. The band, which was formed in June, consists of Michael Goodrich, lead guitar and vocals, drummer Kenny Callahan and James McManus, bass.

Goodrich co-founded the Uptown Rulers in the summer of 1980 and remained with the band until their break-up last spring. He also played with Blind Shelley And The Seeing Eye Dogs as well as performing solo while a student at Eastern Illinois University. Callahan also played with the Rulers off and on for about four years. In addition to that, he is an alumnus of The Duke Babb Band. McManus was a member of diATribe and That Hope until his "retirement" a little over a year ago.

Nowadays they are full of energy and enthusiasm. They find pleasure in whatever experiences they might have on the road. Listening to old Aerosmith or Replacements in the middle of Iowa at 5 in the morning, sharing a few beers with new friends, and an occasional napping on a frat house pool table feels just right.

Kuralt never had it this good.

Leroy: Since the inception of The Tricycle Thieves you have enjoyed a great deal of success. During your first month of touring you were playing four nights a week and have continued at that pace. You're constantly adding new venues and building crowds at the old ones. Are you ready for a breather?

James: I wish we could be on the road seven days a week because I'm having the greatest time. People are really good to us. I love playing, and I'd like to do it every day. For me, part of the tension in diATribe came from not playing often enough. There was the frustration of not being able to get a gig and having to work full time elsewhere to support the music.

Michael: One minor problem is the lack of time to devote to practice and development of new material. We have worked up five new original songs during sound checks, but we haven't had a formal practice session since we started touring.

Leroy: You've departed from the musical styles associated with your previous bands. How would you describe your music now?

Kenny: We have a rule. No ska or reggae. We play rock and roll, jazz, blues, R and B and swing. No reggae though. It's not me. I feel like I'm back to my roots now.

Michael: I don't want it to be a genre thing. I just know that this song came out of me and it's right and it works for me. Our music varies from funky, complete folk songs, a la drums and bass, to funky soul numbers, to something with jazz chords with a rock and roll beat.

James: I'm satisfied to say that we're a rock and roll band. When I studied music I was a bit of a snob because I felt that most types of rock lacked the complexity that I was into. But now I realize that that was bullshit. It's the simplicity that lures me to it now. It's emotional and basically fun.

Leroy: In addition to the change in musical style you have reduced the number of musicians in your band to three compared to the five or six in the others. Have there been any difficulties adjusting?

Michael: It's tougher in some ways. I play more guitar now than when I was with the Rulers. We were involved in a genre thing. There was a certain guitar effect that seemed to be warranted. The guitar chords I was playing were stunted and muffled. We thought that was the way it was supposed to be. The good thing about this band is that there's no way you're supposed to do anything. What you do is what comes naturally to you. I get more full sound because I'm playing guitar the way I was meant to play it. Also with just three guys there's less confusion and things get done faster, such as set-up and sound check.

Leroy: Are you writing any music?

James: I'm working on some material, but it might take a while because I tend to be lazy about it.

Leroy: Michael, you've written all of the original material that The Thieves are playing. Do you have any particular influences?

Michael: Most of it has to do with my mood at the time. I'm not going to deny that I have influences. I don't walk around with blinders and earmuffs on. It seems like every time I was compared to somebody, the comparison was at least partially right although



Kenny: I feel real good about the situation. There are fewer problems because there are only three of us. This way there are fewer hassles and musically a lot fewer arguments.

Leroy: James, a little over a year ago you decided to quit live music. As a matter of fact Michael was interviewing That Hope for The Post Amerikan when you announced this. What made you change your mind?

James: Several things. I was going through a real hard time then. I had just split up with a girlfriend and I was a bit schizophrenic. I was worried about whether I was worth anything doing what I was doing. So I thought I should go back to school which was fun and everything, but I realized that what I really wanted to do was play bass. I'd go out and see bands and become envious. I wanted to be up there. Michael and Kenny started playing together after The Rulers split up. They decided to get a band together and told me that they wanted me to be their bass player. I've known Michael for a long time and we've played music together before. So after a few months of practicing with these guys, I jumped up and said "I'm ready," and I'm glad I did.

Leroy: You're even doing some vocals now.

James: In addition to harmonies, I'm singing "Sex Killer" by Jeffrey Lee Pierce and "Can't Put Your Arms Around A Memory" by Johnny Thunder. Singing feels loose and comfortable for me.

I was not consciously trying to do something like that. You don't sit there and say "I want it to be a genre thing. I want it to sound just like this." It works for me, and I'm not lying to me.

Leroy: How does the band work out the arrangements?

Kenny: Mike brings in an idea which may be a little rough and instead of saying "do it this way or that" he tells us to do what we want because we're two thirds of the band.

James: We generally work out our own parts, but we're always open to each other's ideas.

Michael: The music comes from all of us.

Leroy: What about recording?

Michael: We've booked studio time in December. We're going to go in and essentially do our live show, with the exception of minor embellishments. That way when people come and see us they won't be wondering about the other guitars and vocalists that were on the record.

Kenny: Getting a recorded product out right away is one of our short-term goals. Our long term goal is to record with a label. And I know that whatever we record will be on an album. I don't like little, bitty records, especially if they're red. Just a big fat piece of vinyl full of our songs.

# Childbirth and Parenting Information Exchange

CAPIE was formed by a small group of parents in June 1984, as a new consumer group dedicated to insuring that all parents have adequate information to make responsible parenting and child-birth decisions.

Although the group is not sponsored by any doctor, hospital, or other institution, it is a group affiliate of the International Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth (NAPSAC). NAPSAC believes that

- \* good nutrition
- \* skillful midwifery (the philosophy of midwifery)
- \* natural childbirth (un-medicated, vaginal birth)

- \* home birth
- \* breastfeeding

would assure better, safer births and healthier babies and mothers in the majority of instances in this country today.

To meet these and other goals, CAPIE presents public informational meetings on a variety of subjects, including:

- \* Routine Hospital Birth Procedures and Their Alternatives
- \* Trusting Your Instincts as a Parent
- \* Natural Childbirth Film Night

- \* Holidays for the Whole Family

Other projects include serving as a reference for birth and parenting services in the area, including doctors and hospitals, and maintaining books and other reference materials dealing with alternative topics.

While public meetings and reference services are available to any family, membership in CAPIE is encouraged and appreciated. Annual dues of \$12 (tax-deductible) will secure a subscription to the quarterly NAPSAC News, support the work of NAPSAC and CAPIE, and provide opportunities for involvement with other local families with similar interests.

For more information contact Sue Frizzell at 452-0310 or Laurie Bruce at 663-4039.

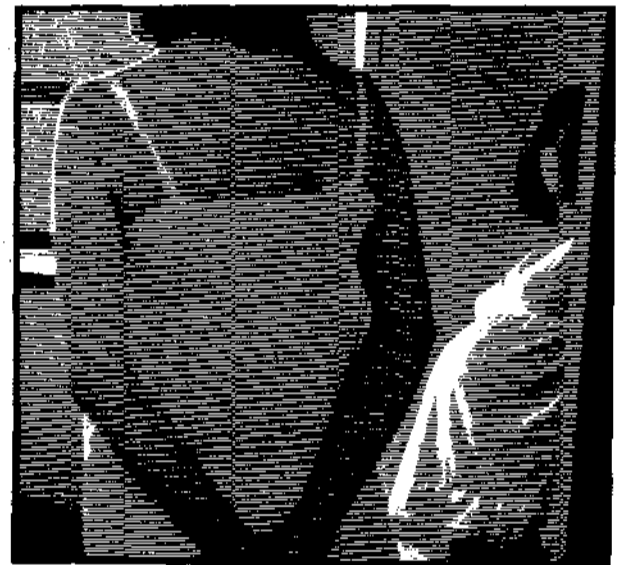
## Home Birth Directory available

Valerie Morris, a childbirth educator from Elgin, has compiled and published The Illinois Home Birth Directory. The directory consists primarily of questionnaires printed as they were completed by childbirth educators and birth attendants throughout the state. With the aid of this book, people interested in giving birth at home will become aware of the wide range of options currently available to them.

The directory features a variety of birth attendants: physicians, nurses, nurse-midwives and lay midwives. The birth attendant entries indicate whether the person is accepting new clients, what the attendant's fees are, what fees include, whether or not they can/will accept insurance payments, and whether they have a sliding fee scale and/or barter system. The birth attendant questionnaires also list who accompanies the birth attendant to a delivery, what kind of hospital/medical backup is available, and how far the attendant will travel to be at a delivery.

The childbirth educator entries list class duration and cost, organizational affiliation, if any, and class outlines. They indicate whether or not the teacher has a sliding fee scale or is open to a barter system, what she feels is the most important thing she has to offer to couples planning a home birth, and whether she would be willing to attend a home birth as an extra support person.

The compilation of the above information alone provides a unique, useful and much-needed resource for expectant parents here in Illinois. But The Illinois Home Birth Directory doesn't stop there! Morris has also included a wealth of additional information. There is a discussion of common questions regarding home birth. There are several birthing tales from Illinois home births. There are listings for even more resources in Illinois--organizations devoted to safe alternatives in both childbirth and parenting. And, finally, there is an excellent glossary of medical and



technical terms relevant to childbearing.

Because this directory lists independent childbirth educators, it is a valuable guide for all prospective parents, not just those who are considering home birth. Independent childbirth classes tend to be strongly consumer-oriented, while hospital-based classes may essentially teach pregnant women how to be "good patients."

Valerie Morris has provided an invaluable resource for those seeking birthing alternatives in Illinois. The Illinois Home Birth Directory will make freedom of choice in childbirth a reality for many who might otherwise not be able to locate the necessary knowledge and support.

The Illinois Home Birth Directory is available from the author for \$5.95, postpaid. Send a check or money order to:  
Valerie Morris  
491 Lincoln Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120

--Julie Huffman

## That Hope record christened

That Hope, a four-piece Bloomington band, will host a record release party for their new album titled "Eight Dollar Hat" on New Year's Eve at the Gallery.

A review of the album will appear in the next issue.

--Leroy Thomas

# Holiday Schedule

**Planned Parenthood  
WILL BE CLOSED**

Thursday, Nov. 28

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 31

Friday, Nov. 29

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Wednesday, Jan. 1



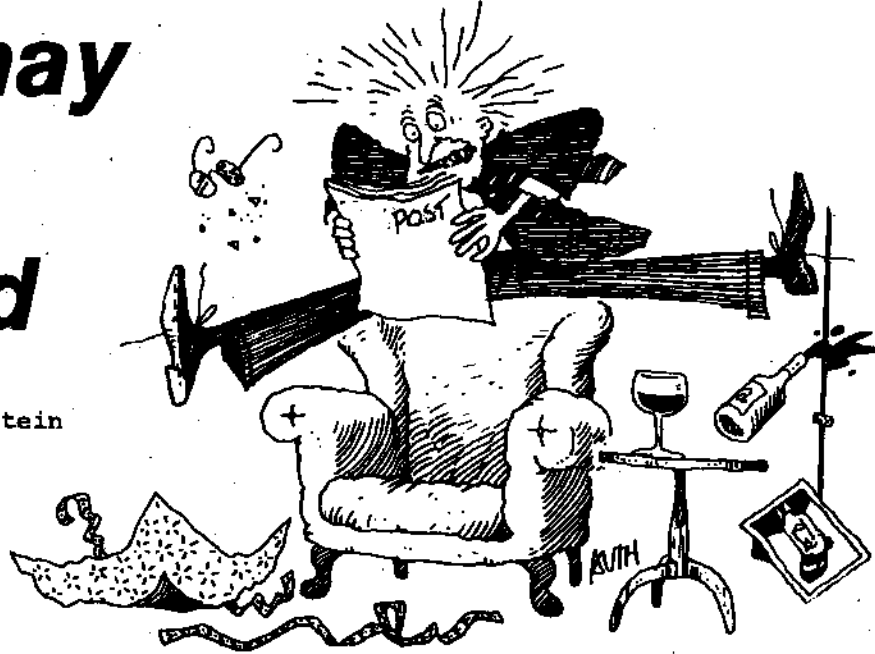
**Planned Parenthood®**  
of Mid Central Illinois

318 W. Washington, 3rd floor  
Administration, Education, Counseling 827-4368  
Medical Services & Supplies 827-4014



# Miscellaneous outrages you may have missed

Compiled by  
Mark Silverstein



## Untrained deputies cause unnecessary overtime

Because some McLean County Deputies type their reports too slowly, Sheriff Steve Brienen has asked the County Board to budget an additional secretary for his department.

According to a Nov. 6 story in the Pantagraph, Brienen hopes to cut down on "unnecessary" overtime caused by deputies who must type their reports by the time-consuming "hunt and peck" system.

With an additional secretary, Brienen said, deputies could dictate reports into a tape recorder. The new secretary could transcribe them later.

But if typing reports is currently considered a necessary and routine part of a deputy's work, why not hire only those deputies who are qualified for their job?

Police currently have to pass tests showing that they know how to use their weapons. But (fortunately), police officers spend more time typing than shooting.

Lots of traditionally women's jobs can only be filled by job applicants who pass a typing test. Why not make prospective police officers prove they can type, too? Or would that offend our constabulary's notion of proper sex roles?

## Mitsubishi brings substandard trailer court

The new auto plant is already bringing some housing blight to Bloomington-Normal.

Because the new plant will create the need for more low-cost housing, the Normal city council has approved developer Jack Snyder's plans to build an overcrowded substandard trailer court on the city's north side.

Hoping to attract industrial development to the land at Linden and Northtown Road, the council unanimously rejected the trailer court plans in early 1984.

Snyder convinced the council that with the economic incentives offered in the new west side enterprise zone, he could no longer hope to attract industry to his land.

(In other words, planners rushing to promote the enterprise zone package failed to anticipate what their efforts would do to land outside the enterprise zone. Or maybe they did anticipate the impact, but didn't care.)

According to a Pantagraph article, Snyder planned to pack 318 units into his 48 acre trailer court, but scaled it down to 288 in a last-minute bid for council approval. And he got it. But even with the decreased density, the trailer court's lots are still too small to meet Normal's code without special waivers.

Waivers? No problem. The Normal city council is very flexible.

## Nuke plant spawns deadly amoeba menace

First they banned swimming. Now the Illinois Department of Public Health has banned water skiing at Clinton Lake. Why? When Illinois Power Company starts up its nuke plant, discharges into the lake will be warm enough to provide a comfy home for Naegleria fowleri, an amoeba which likes to swim up your nose and into your brain and kill you.

This rare but deadly amoeba usually hangs out only in warm waters far from Illinois. But it also likes to show up in lakes that receive the warm water discharged from power plants.

When the Clinton nuke was first on the drawing boards, the power company heavily promoted the recreational benefits of the lake it would build.

When the Clinton nuke was first on the drawing boards, the plant's discharge wasn't going to be so hot, either.

In the early 1970's, the Illinois EPA regulations set the maximum temperature of the discharged water at 90 degrees.

Complying with that regulation would have placed a great economic burden on Illinois Power Company, according to Illinois Power Company.

So the sympathetic Illinois legislature passed a special law voiding the EPA regulation. Instead of a maximum temperature of 90 degrees, the special legislation allowed discharges as hot as 96 degrees. According to an Oct. 17 Pantagraph, current regulations even permit the company to discharge 99 degree water 12 per cent of the time.

If IPC hadn't successfully bent the ear of the legislature, swimmers and water skiers might have been able to use Clinton Lake.



## Jumer's rumors

I wouldn't be able to get the city to pour a curb cut for my driveway. But based on rumors that Jumer's Hotels might build a 175-room inn at College and Veteran's Parkway, Bloomington is ready to spend a half million dollars on an intersection to accommodate the project.

Jumer's hasn't even decided for sure yet, according to a mid-November Pantagraph article. But Bloomington officials are so eager to please that they've already assigned a half million of an upcoming bond issue to Jumer's fancy driveway.

## Ropp hops thru logic hoops

State representative Gordon Ropp wants legislation to deal more strictly with truants, according to a Nov. 5 story in the Pantagraph.

Ropp says 25% of high school freshmen don't graduate. Ropp then said that these students who drop out end up with idle time on their hands. "They just think up things that get them in trouble, and we end up spending \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year per person to keep them in correctional institutions," Ropp was quoted.

Shocking. According to Ropp, 25% of all high school freshmen drop out and wind up in prison. Ropp, presumably, stayed in school and graduated. See, anybody can.

NOVEMBER

Tue. 26 David Marshall  
Wed. 27 Mussolini Love Squad  
Thu. 28 THANKSGIVING CLOSED  
Fri. 29 Renegade  
Sat. 30 Shabella

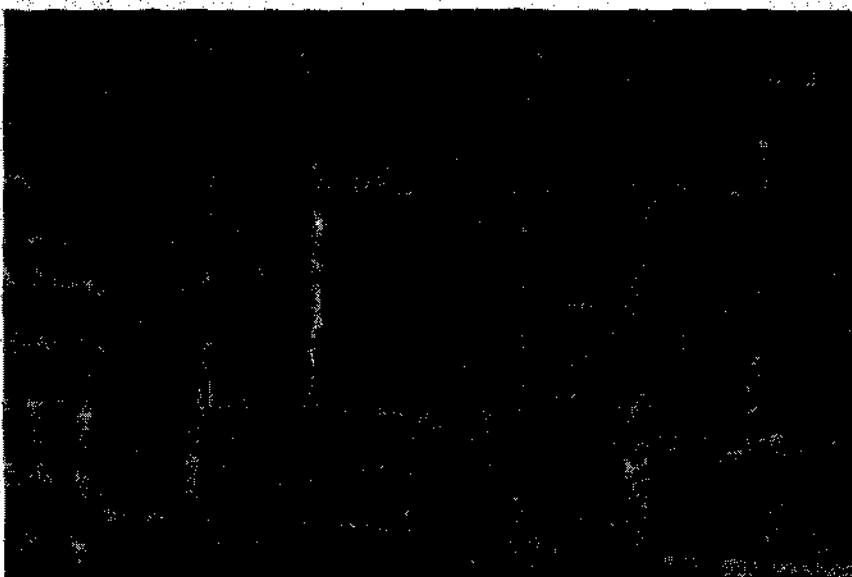
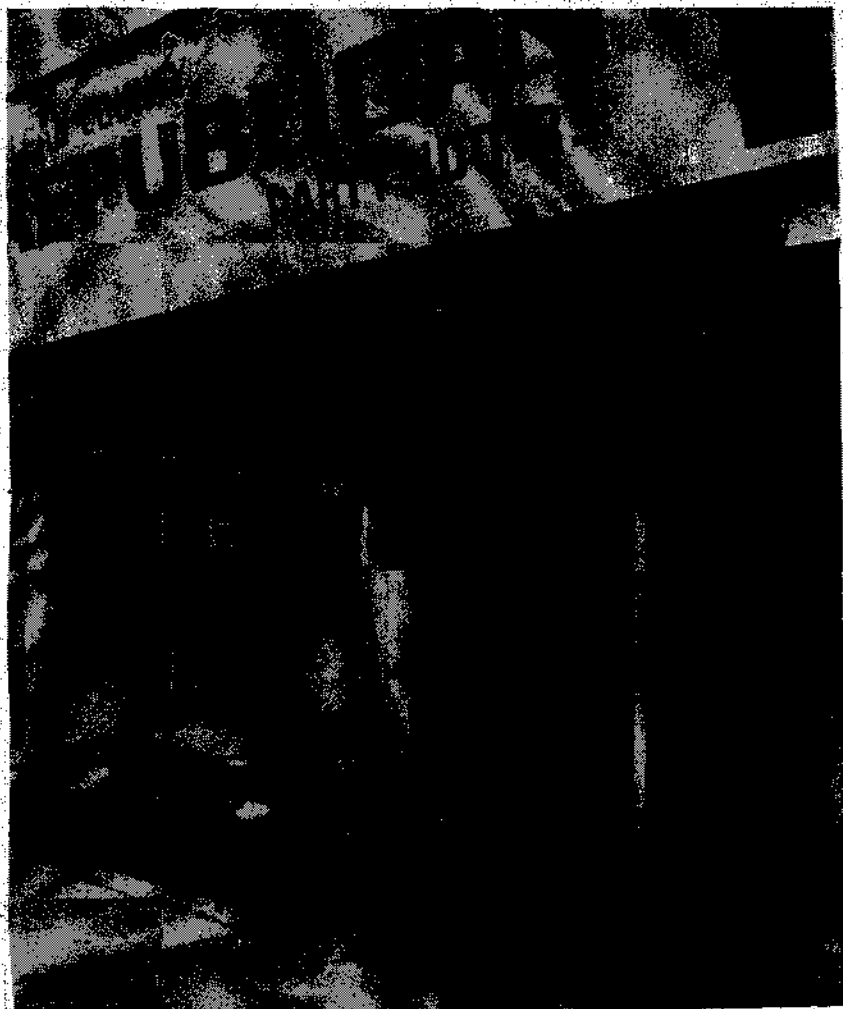
DECEMBER

Tue. 3 Rich Margherio  
Wed. 4 Comedy Show  
Thu. 5 Edge  
Fri. 6 Tricycle Thieves  
Sat. 7 Fire Power  
Sun. 8 Vile Secretions  
Tue. 10 Jeff Bernius - Moore + Metzger  
Wed. 11 Rockin' Roots  
Thu. 12 TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Fri. 13 Action Potential  
Sat. 14 That Hope

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# Swastika decorates Republican entryway



The old-fashioned mosaic tile entryway at McLean County Republican Headquarters (left) includes a few swastikas (see close-up, above). Seeing a Post photographer in action, a Republican worker emerged from the party headquarters and explained the swastikas this way: 1) They are the landlord's fault, not the Republicans' fault; 2) the symbols have been there for many years; 3) the Republicans used to cover them up with stickers, but the stickers came off; 4) the swastikas are harmless Indian symbols anyway.

# Commie sympathizers infiltrate Bloomington City Hall

Post-Note: They had Post Amerikan writer Mark Silverstein on WJBC Forum in late October. Here's what he said:

The actions of city officials are diverting your tax dollars to the coffers of the American Civil Liberties Union.

You know the ACLU. They made Bloomington sell its nativity scene. They made Normal re-write its sign ordinance so it complies with the Constitution.

Now the ACLU is in court to get Bloomington to obey the new Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

Here's the background. A year ago I asked for copies of citizen complaints made against Bloomington police officers. The pages I received contained large sections that were blacked out. The city even blacked-

out the names of the officers.

Corporation Counsel David Stanczak justified the deletions with a creative misreading of the law and some inventive claims about the legislature's intent.

I asked State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie about the legislature's intent. She sponsored the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. She told me that the legislature clearly intended that the citizen complaints I requested were to be disclosed.

The ACLU will win this case. All they need is a judge who admits he can read the page in front of him. If they can't find one in McLean County, they'll appeal. It shouldn't be that hard to find a judge who can read.

You'd think Bloomington officials would start admitting they can read the law too. But instead, they are

digging in, becoming more obstinate, inviting more litigation. After my suit was filed last summer, I asked to look at minutes of meetings of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. These are public meetings of a public agency. But it took several weeks and detailed review by city officials before I saw a single page. And David Stanczak had even deleted some names from these public minutes of public meetings. What's he trying to do, make the ACLU rich?

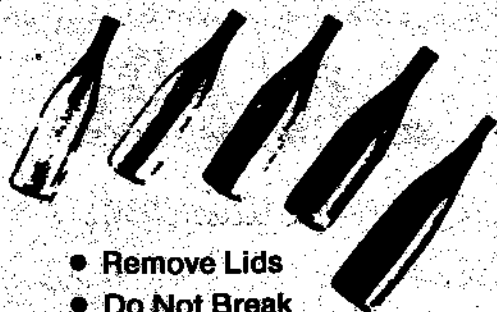
I don't begrudge the time our Corporation counsel spends poring through piles of papers with his bottle of white-out in hand. It keeps him from more dangerous pursuits, like evicting old ladies from their substandard houses or watching sexy videotapes to prepare a new decency ordinance.

But the value of Stanczak's wasted time is not the only cost of this official stubbornness. When the ACLU wins, Bloomington won't have to turn over just the documents I requested. Bloomington will also have to turn over buckets of money to pay for the ACLU's attorneys' fees. You know what lawyers charge for their time.

If some closet pinko commie symps in city hall want to contribute to the ACLU, that's fine with me. But they should make private donations with their own funds. And if you taxpayers don't want your money going to the ACLU, tell your city officials: obey the Freedom of Information Act.

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### Free Speech Crackdown

# Normal officials defy federal court order

For more than a year now, Normal residents Bob and Marilyn Sutherland have displayed a sign in their yard expressing their opposition to U.S. policy in Central America.

Their sign is in technical violation of Normal's sign ordinance.

But in January, 1984, a federal district judge in Springfield ruled that Normal's ordinance was unconstitutional. He issued a permanent injunction against its enforcement.

"Specifically, the Town officials may not prevent persons from displaying signs concerning political beliefs and positions, nor may they enforce the size restrictions on such signs," Judge Ackerman's order said.

Howard Cotton, a five year employee of Normal's inspection department, apparently doesn't care what a federal judge says or doesn't say.

On November 13, 1985, Cotton ordered the Sutherlands to remove their sign



In defiance of a federal court order, Normal officials ordered Bob and Marilyn Sutherland to remove the sign (above) which has been posted in their yard since September, 1984.

within ten days.

"Failure to comply," Cotton's letter said, "will result in the violation being turned over to the Legal Department."

Cotton, who claimed a complaint prompted his removal order, told the Sutherlands that their sign violated a provision of the ordinance which specifies what signs are permitted in the Sutherlands' neighborhood.

According to Cotton's letter, only a sign containing the name and address of the house's occupants is permitted. In addition, such a sign cannot be free-standing; it must be fastened to the house itself.

The Sutherlands' next-door neighbors have a free-standing sign with their name and address on it. Although this sign violates the same provision of the sign ordinance, Cotton has not ordered its removal.

Maybe he didn't get a complaint about that sign.

--Mark Silverstein

### Welcome to our little town

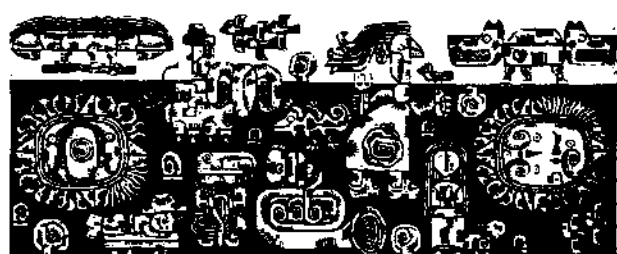
# All things Amerikan

First of all, a belated but still fond farewell to fired Normal police chief, David Lehr, who served faithfully and to the best of his ability during his tenure as the inspiring symbol of our law enforcement community; to whom many of our stolid citizens went with their problems. We can only hope his successor learns from his tactical errors. Hey, it's been a riot, Dave.

And while we're at it, let's also congratulate the state and B/N politicians who managed to get the Mitsubishi plant for us. Let's hope the plant managers are into ecology and don't save a little money by dumping toxic substances in the creek. I have a good feeling about this, really. The Japanese are a very neat and tidy people. They're also willing to learn about their new community and its preoccupations. I hope they learn to drive under the speed limit and drink Blatz beer. Maybe they'll start a country club.

### Vision

The thought of increased urban congestion as our little town grows warms my heart. As thousands of people pour in to compete for the opportunity to make fine quality cars, I can see the cheerful little trailer parks springing up here and there and, really, only good can come from growth, right? This plant is going to do great things for our community, because our civic leaders have vision. They are not going to do petty things here. They are going to take the swelling income from the influx of emigrating citizens and widen roads, put up new traffic lights, employ more policemen, build new sewer systems, pump more ground water and find another site for the mountain of garbage all the new folks are going to make. Any money left over, of course, will be spent on things like the first B/N Opera house, damming Sugar Creek in Normal and creating a reservoir for the new B/N marina (probably called Future Lake after the wonderful signs posted on the business loop), and lobbying for a new mandatory crash helmet law for anyone driving an economy car. In the unlikely event that there is any money left over after that, it can go to the new sports arena or the planned civic center.



Which reminds me of something ISU patted itself on the back for, the other week. Our monolith of higher education crowed that it was introducing a Japanese language class in response to the Mitsubishi decision because it "attempts to be on the cutting edge of scholasticism" or some such nonsense. Why they never had a Japanese language class before now seems to be a bit of an oversight on their part, especially in view of the exchange program with Japan that has been going on for a number of years. But we can't expect ISU to be perfect--the rest of us certainly aren't.

### Boosterism

I don't want to knock gung-ho promotion of our "centerpiece of downstate Illinois," but unbridled boosterism has historically landed our species in deep trouble. Once we get the plant, the fifty thousand new residents and the lake, the natural thing to build is a nuclear power plant. We could call it the Thompson Memorial Industry. TMI would get glowing praise from our local utility because it would produce expensive power at a greater volume than ever previously unneeded. We could tear down an area (say that den of pornography in downtown Bloomington) and put up a cooling pond and twin towers. It's really unfortunate that we won't be able to go water-skiing or swimming there because of the killer amoeba that seems to lurk in radioactive waters.

Our city councils seem overly boosterish to me. They have given so many tax incentives to our foreign friends that it's going to take at least ten years for the plant to begin paying back into the tax system. It was very thoughtful of the two groups throwing the area in hyperbooster drive, but the result is warp 8--a dangerous condition, as any trekkie will tell you. With the changing business environment, it seems quite possible that in ten years the plant may well be out of date, out of production and closed down. In that case, we can still walk by the rusting building and reflect on the vagaries of boosterism and business realities, while Mitsubishi is out finding a better ten year deal in Ohio.

### T.O.O. B.A.D.

Even our governor seems to be promoting us out of farmland and wildlife areas in a determined effort to make his mark on this state, rather like a child with a rubber stamp, playing with indelible ink. He'd like to call his scheme to bring renewal to our little patch of rustbelt a master plan to bring the land of Lincoln to the forefront of our group of declining states. I'm sure he'd like to call it something like Thompson's Obnoxious Obligatory Businesses And Developments. It's just T.O.O. B.A.D. for the rest of us.

--Divad X.

## Diesel Dick's

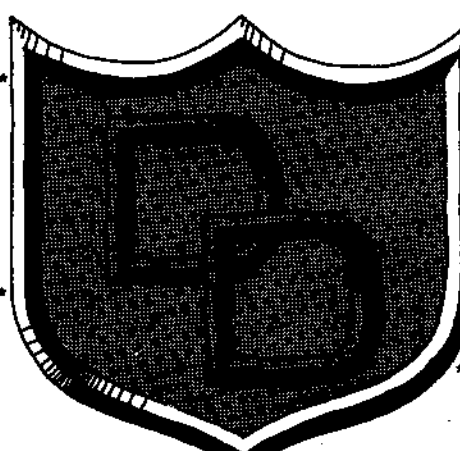
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From Project Disarm's call to Shut Down the Arsenal:

Rock Island Arsenal is central to everything that is wrong in the U.S. and in the world: the mass-production of instruments of death while millions starve, escalating armed intervention against popular revolutions in the Third World, and rapid moves toward a nuclear World War III...Our appeal is not to those in power, those who are committed to war. Our appeal is to the people: to take risks, to fight for international justice and not the "national interest." Being a Good American in 1985 is no different than it was to be a Good German in 1935. We must take direct action, to develop resistance to war...that can actually stop specific war plans and effectively challenge the war machine as a whole.

For 3 hours beginning at 4 AM Monday morning, October 21st, 400 or so activists attempted to shut down the Rock Island Arsenal by blockading workers trying to drive onto the island. The five-month organizing campaign by Project Disarm culminated in an action with 127 arrests. Many of these were people attempting to blockade Arsenal workers, and many others were arbitrarily arrested. Several people were beaten by the police and pinned with outrageous, trumped-up charges, including one felony charge. Dozens more engaged in innovative mobile direct action and were not caught. The Arsenal wasn't shut down, but as one Quad-Cities TV news show put it, "...it was anything but business as usual for the Arsenal today."

Rock Island Arsenal, the U.S. Army's largest, employs 9-10,000 civilians. 2,500 work on the production lines for howitzers that are supplied to the U.S. and to regimes including El Salvador, South Africa and the Philippines. The rest work in administration and research for the U.S. Army's AMCCOM: Armaments, Munitions, and Chemical Command. AMCCOM, headquartered at Rock Island, is a far-flung command that oversees research, production and deployment of all Army weapons, including chemical and nuclear, putting it on the frontlines of U.S. preparations to fight and win World War III. The production complex at Rock Island includes research and development of chemical and nuclear-capable howitzers and shells.

Arsenal workers must cross one of 3 bridges spanning the Mississippi River every workday morning. Because of overwhelming security forces on the bridges themselves, Project Disarm focused its blockading on the city streets leading toward them.

At 6:00 AM in Davenport, a women's group from Chicago, No Pasaran, drove two cars up to within 2 blocks of the bridge, jumped out and promptly chained the cars together and to parking meters on either side of the street. They then chained themselves to the cars, and a crowd of supporters gathered around to make the arrests as difficult as possible. The blockade succeeded for up to 30 minutes as several other groups blockaded secondary routes, and the crowd moved into and out of the street adding to the disruption.

In Rock Island, several mobile action groups carried out simultaneous blockades at pre-designated times on key arteries leading to the bridge head. One of these blockades stopped traffic on a main approach for up to 10 minutes using about 20 railroad ties. One police car was immobilized by paint on the windshield as it pursued a mobile group that was on foot. Rock Island Police Sgt. Anderson said, "Before the police's

efforts even began Monday, they had to repair 14 punctured tires...They (the demonstrators) would use guerilla-warfare type tactics where they would hit and run. It seemed like they were trying to lead our officers away from the main demonstration...On the bridge there were few problems, but the outlying radical groups caused numerous problems." The mobile groups kept moving and blockading for up to an hour and then coalesced into one large group which took over the street and marched toward the bridgehead, blocking traffic as they went. When met with a large police response, they dispersed. Only a few of the mobile blockaders were caught.

Tactical innovation pervaded the action. The timed mobile blockades demonstrated a level of coordination not often seen in the U.S. The women's action showed that a stationary blockade, with the participants submitting to arrest, can use materials and the element of surprise for maximum effectiveness. The DNA/Project Disarm guidelines include the use of "nonviolent bodily force" to free people from police, increasing the potential for resistance. And a principle in organizing is "no negotiations": no legal permits and no giving information to the authorities about plans for the action.

Police brutality was widespread on both sides of the river. In Davenport, the women were hit and kicked as they were arrested, and one arrested man was clubbed for refusing to leave a bus. Three women were charged with multiple misdemeanors, including assault. In Rock Island, a 4-car police tac squad attacked a group that was moving down a street. When people fled and freed one another, the police tackled people and clubbed them repeatedly with nightsticks and flashlights. "The cops were frantic," said Kim Clemons of Minneapolis, who was struck in the neck by a police nightstick, "They just went crazy on us." Three youths were caught. Two, a man and a woman, were charged with battery, and one 19-year-old first-time demonstrator who took 8 stitches in the head where the

police clubbed him with a flashlight, was charged with "attempting to disarm a police officer," a felony charge carrying a 2-5 year sentence.

The authorities' repression strategy included other elements as well. In Moline, 7 members of the Chicago Religious Taskforce on Central America were swept up before they had even reached the scene. This was just the most blatant example of numerous arbitrary arrests and intimidation tactics. The Moline Dispatch revealed that the Davenport police used 6 undercover agents on the sidewalk, mingling: undercover agents were also thick in Moline. People arrested in Moline were voice printed. The press played its role, blacking out coverage leading up to the 21st, following the lead of a June editorial in the Rock Island Argus. As the last option, the Arsenal had 110 MPs from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, stationed on the island itself.

Project Disarm, a Midwest regional effort which came together for the first Shut Down action on June 4th, 1984, is coordinated by Disarm Now Action Group of Chicago and members of the Quad-Cities War Resistance Community, a Catholic-based group. Participants came from anti-war and church groups, college campuses and high schools all over the Midwest (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio), Brooklyn and Ithaca, New York. Represented, among others, were the Northern Illinois Methodists, No Business As Usual youths from Chicago, Antioch College Ohio, U. of W. and Malcolm Shabbazz HS students from Madison, punks and U. of M. students from Minneapolis. Enthusiasm among participants ran high afterward. Legal defense is underway, particularly for those facing outrageous charges. Contributions can be sent to: Project Disarm, c/o 407 S. Dearborn #370, Chicago, IL 60605.

--Mike Haywood

Disarm Now Action Group, October, 1985

# Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

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and ask for the

## Rape Crisis Center



# Deputies start fight; local woman gets broken neck, six months

On Tuesday evening September 11, 1984, County Sheriff's deputies knocked at Cathy Griffin's door at 910 W. Front St. They had a warrant for her boyfriend (now her husband), Eric Gulyash, for failing to appear in court on a traffic charge.

The city cops had already nabbed Eric for that warrant the preceding Friday. But Cathy got it all straightened out that same day. She talked with assistant State's Attorney Tom Davis and Judge Ivan Johnson. They realized that Eric's failure to appear wasn't his fault. (It was his lawyer's fault.) The judge got someone from the Circuit Clerk's office to call the jail. Eric was released late Friday morning.

So when the County cops showed up at her door Tuesday night, Cathy knew there had been a mix-up. Someone had forgotten to get all the pieces of paper in the right places, leaving the Sheriff's Department with no official notice that they should not act on the warrant for Eric.

## Warrant no good

Cathy told the deputies their warrant was no good. She offered to show them the paperwork to prove it. If Cathy had been a middle class citizen living on the East side, deputies Sparrow and Thompson would probably have looked at her paperwork, radioed in to the Sheriff's office, and got the whole thing straightened out.

But Cathy's not middle class and she lives on the West side. Police know her and don't like her mouth. And deputy Brian Sparrow was already angry. He told Cathy to shove the paperwork up her ass.



"Don't worry about it. One day you're feeling down and you dish out 20 years to some poor devil. The next day you feel great and everybody gets a suspended sentence. It all evens out in the end."

Sparrow's statement launched a series of events (described in more detail further on), in which Cathy says she was thrown down her own steps, dragged through her yard, dragged over railroad tracks, and beaten in the legs with billy clubs. Because police cruelly ground a billy club into the back of her neck, Cathy eventually required surgery to remove pieces of broken disk from her neck. (She was wearing a collar when I interviewed her in April, 1985.) Police charged Eric with aggravated assault and escape. Cathy faced charges of aggravated battery and resisting a peace officer. The county deputies--who needed three back-up patrolmen from the Bloomington force--now face a lawsuit which is still pending in federal court.

## Police started fight

I have talked with Cathy, her son Derek, and Eric Gulyash. I also

observed the court testimony of Cathy's witnesses, who included John McClelland, a friend who was visiting that evening. All agree that police started the physical confrontation.

Everyone was inside the house except Eric, who was sleeping on a cot on the front porch. When the County cops came to the door, they asked for Eric. Cathy said she just knew they were there for that bogus warrant. Cathy told them she could get Eric in an hour.

The cops asked for everyone's identification. Cathy gave them a phony name for the person sleeping on the porch. Cathy said the cops started getting tough with her, telling her she could go to jail for lying to them and harboring a fugitive.

Cathy tried to explain that their warrant wasn't valid anyway. But the cops didn't want to listen to her. They wanted her to tell them again the name of the person sleeping on the porch. Cathy knew the cops were on to her.

Cathy said she stepped out onto the porch, woke Eric up, and told him he'd have to go with the cops.

The discussion about harboring a fugitive continued. Cathy remembers one of the cops saying that if she didn't shut up, she was going to go to jail.

John McClelland was standing in the doorway, just behind Cathy. He witnessed most of the physical confrontation that was to begin.

As things got more heated, Cathy remembers, she was screaming at the cops about how they had better leave her property, because they didn't have a valid warrant and she had the papers to prove it.

Deputy Sparrow told her to shove her papers up her ass.

## Cop squishes can

Eric started to get up to go with the cops. But first he grabbed a beer can that was near him. He started to take a drink.

Officer Brian Sparrow grabbed the beer can and crumpled it right in front of Eric's face. Beer splashed in Eric's face from the force of Sparrow's aggressive gesture.

Cathy reacted to Sparrow's action. "It was just a verbal reaction," John McClelland testified. "She didn't do anything physical."

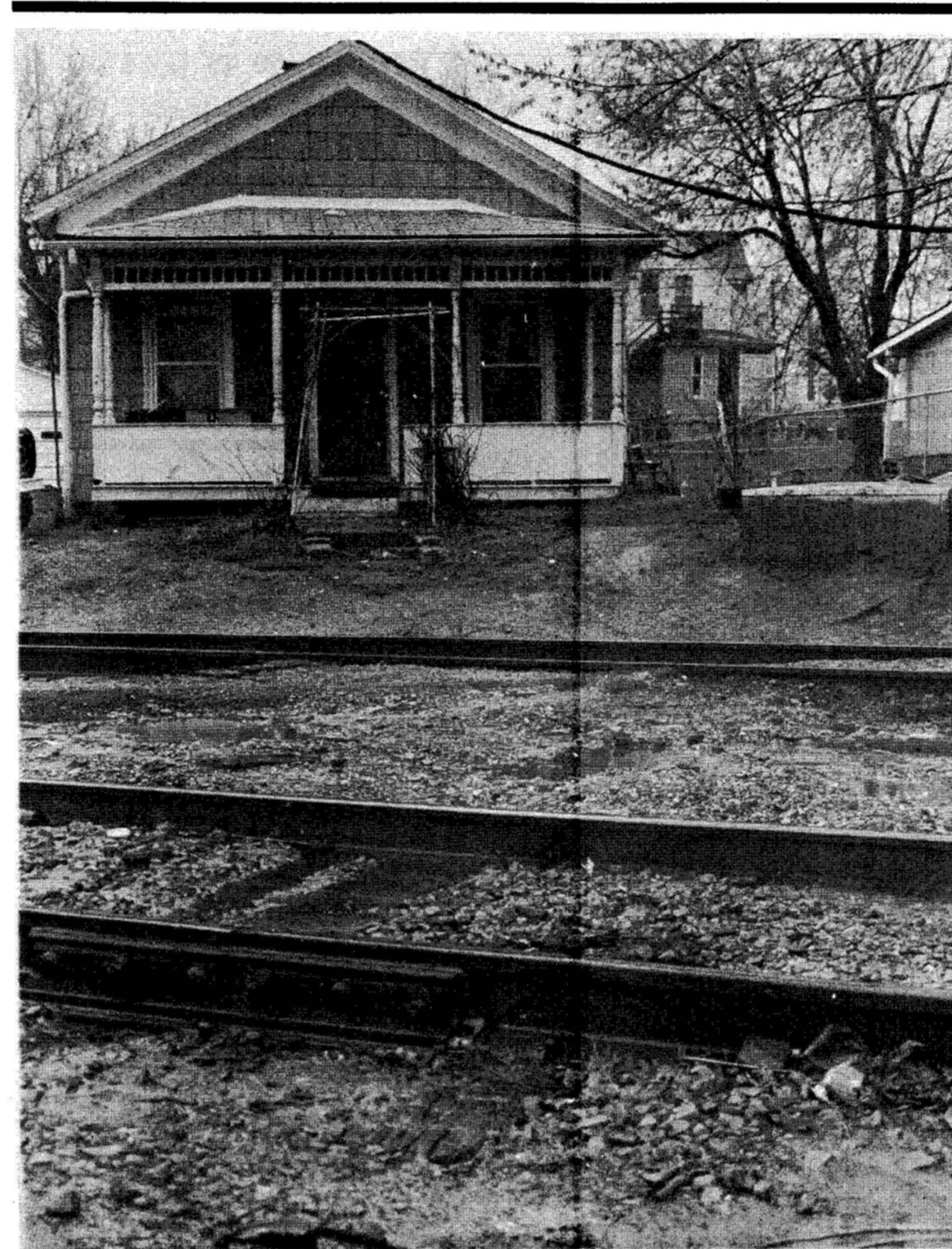
That's when Sparrow shoved Cathy forcefully back into John. "I think he [Deputy Sparrow] pushed Cathy down. I know I went down." John fell back into a recliner that was just inside the door.

Right after shoving Cathy back into John, Sparrow grabbed her and said "You're going to jail now." John testified that Sparrow picked her up and threw her down on the porch. Cathy immediately started kicking and screaming.

Cathy said Sparrow grabbed her by the arm or wrist and yanked her forcefully forward. She said the cop "flung" her down the stairs. She landed face first, head toward the sidewalk, body and legs still on the steps.

## 'Don't hurt her'

Eric saw Cathy yanked face down onto the porch and steps. He saw both cops go for her, one of them pulling her arm behind her back. Eric stood up from his cot and asked "Please don't hurt her." Sparrow got up fast and



Cathy Griffin's house at 910 W. Front. After flinging her down the porch steps, police dragged her across the railroad tracks, letting her legs dangle and bounce against the rails. While trying to get her handcuffed, police held her face down on the ground and forced a billy club into the back of her neck. Surgeons later removed pieces of broken disk from her neck.

hit Eric. Eric said the blow was somewhere between a punch and a shove. The force knocked Eric back onto his cot. He jumped back up, hopped over the porch railing and ran.

Here's how Deputy Thompson's report tells it. "Officer Sparrow told her she was under arrest and had to be pulled back out of the residence were [sic] she fell upon the porch and front two steps. R/O [Reporting Officer] had control of one of her arms to effect the arrest and Eric Gulyash then came at Officer Sparrow in a threatening manner as if to strike the officer. The subject, Gulyash, was pushed back down upon the blanket he had been sleeping with in order to avoid the battery."

But Thompson's description of events leading up to the arrest report contains a statement which Eric, John, and Cathy hotly dispute. When he reports Sparrow removing the beer can from Eric's hand, Thompson says, "The can was removed from his hand and he was told to stand up to be escorted by R/O's. At that point Ms. Griffin struck officer Sparrow upon the upper

chest and stated something out loud about the arrest situation."

Cathy, Eric and John all said that Cathy never struck Officer Sparrow. Sparrow's shoving Cathy back into John was the first physical contact.

## Not polite

Cathy believes the final straw for Sparrow was when she said "It's too bad people have to pay taxes to support assholes like you." That's when Sparrow shoved her and yanked her to the ground. "They never hit me for any reason but my mouth," Cathy said. "And they made the worst come out."

After she was thrown to the ground, Cathy's mouth got even worse. She screamed and yelled and kicked and resisted the officers' attempts to handcuff her. The cast she had from a previous wrist injury was hindering the cuffing, and the officers' efforts to cuff it anyway were causing her a lot of pain, which made her scream and yell and struggle even more. Cathy described herself as hysterical.

Deputy Sparrow chased after Eric, leaving Deputy Thompson alone to try to handcuff Cathy. He couldn't do it.

John testified that Thompson wrestled around with Cathy a lot. He threw her off the porch onto the sidewalk. He bounced her around face first and dragged her on the sidewalk. Thompson had only one cuff on her and couldn't get the other one on.

John tried to help calm Cathy down at one point, to get her to go voluntarily with the police. He said he almost succeeded when Deputy Thompson became newly antagonistic.

John ran to Cathy's father's house, then came back. When he returned, he saw that reinforcements from the Bloomington police department had arrived. They had their billy clubs out.

## Billy clubs

John testified that one county cop and one Bloomington cop had Cathy face down on the ground.

John saw the Bloomington cop center his billy club on the back of Cathy's neck. With a knee on each end of the nightstick, the cop ground the club into the back of Cathy's neck. They finally got Cathy handcuffed, using two sets of cuffs.

After getting Cathy cuffed, police dragged her across the railroad tracks which go through her front yard. John saw three cops--one carried her on each side while a third beat her legs with a billy club. Instead of carrying her legs too, the cops let them dangle and bounce over the railroad tracks.

Eric, meanwhile, had quit running. Handcuffed by Deputy Sparrow, Eric was back in time to see Cathy dragged across the railroad tracks.

When they got Cathy to the police van, Eric said, he saw a Bloomington cop beating Cathy's legs with a billy club.

When police hauled Eric and Cathy off to jail, they left Cathy's two sons (ages seven and twelve) in the house, without making any provisions for them or informing them about what was happening to their parents.

## Court

Aggravated assault and escape charges against Eric were dropped.

Cathy's aggravated battery charge was bogus. But the State's Attorney's office threatened to give Cathy three years in prison for the aggravated battery unless she accepted their plea bargain. They offered to drop the aggravated battery and give her six months if she pled guilty to resisting a peace officer. It was a bluff. She refused the offer. On the day she was to go to trial for aggravated battery, the State just dropped the charge.

But even when an arrest is illegal, it's still illegal to resist it.

In September, Cathy had a jury trial for resisting a peace officer. But Judge Witte refused to allow any testimony about the validity of the cop's warrant. Cathy was not permitted to explain that she'd taken care of the warrant the Friday before. She was not permitted to recount what she was trying to explain to the cops that night. She was not permitted to explain why she was angry with the cops or why she said things that made the cops angry with her. Evidence that the cop's warrant for Eric was invalid, Witte said, would have unfairly prejudiced the State's case against Cathy.

In court, none of the police officers remembered seeing any nightsticks or billy clubs that night. (Oh well, they can't be expected to remember everything.)

For resisting a peace officer, Cathy was sentenced to six months in the County Jail. She gets out during the days to go to work and be with her family, which is certainly better than a standard jail term.

But if McLean County Sheriff's deputies Greg Thompson and Brian Sparrow had been willing to look at Cathy's paperwork and listen to her story about Eric's warrant, she wouldn't be in jail at all.

--Mark Silverstein



## Change your life at the next P-A benefit!

Has your life seemed a bit drab lately? Is the discovery of Nutty Wheat Thins the most exciting thing that's happened since August?

Well, if you can hang in there, plan on getting perked right up at the next Post Amerikan benefit, slated for Jan. 25. First, the Post-Toasties will turn you on with their folksy, bluesy, jazzy gig (as you may remember, the Toasties are a self-styled coalition group and individual acts). Then, Action Potential will be rockin' the floor at the Gallery in Normal.

We're also considering auctioning off some Post Amerikan memorabilia like original My Sister, The Punk Rocker cartoons and Post vending machines that have seen the bottom of Miller Park Pond and typewriter ribbons stolen from narcs' garbage, selling colorful Post and My Sister T-shirts, giving out autographs, letting our fans see that we're just plain people, and, as always, stumbling into ill-advised liaisons. Look for more details in the next Post!



# The Post Amerikan's recommended Chr\*stm\*s list



Having problems deciding what to give for gifts during this, the most despicable of all holiday seasons, Christmas? When expectations formed by many happy childhood Christmases (life was simpler then) are dashed by the ugly realities of life as an adult? When the happiness of giving and receiving is transformed into a frenzied, foaming at the mouth quest for merchandise at the lowest possible cost? When you find yourself giving gifts just to be off the hook for another year? Well, good news! Relax. Pour yourself a few hot toddies and settle in to your comfy chair. And if, after that, you still think you really need to participate in this silly ritual, have a look-see at our Post Amerikan Recommended Christmas Gift List---your problems will be solved.

For your little niece Mindy (or Shandy, Mandy, Brittany, Krysti or Tiffany): \$150 and a lawyer so she can change her name to one that has at least a little integrity.

For your nephew Trenton (or Ryan, Tate, Brandon, or Aryan): If you can't afford a lawyer for him, too (see above), give him a video tape of The Killing Fields or The Deer Hunter so he can see that, contrary to Rambo-lore, war just isn't all that swell.

For your teenaged brother: A selection of prophylactics to keep him dry during those raging hormonal showers. Also a book on astronomy so he can discover that the world does not revolve around his penis.

For your teenaged sister: Give her a prospective drawing of what she'll look like in forty years (or just have her take a good look at her own mother) and remind her that youth and beauty are temporary so she'd better latch on to something more substantial. Then give her a set of drums, a typewriter or a copy of Rubyfruit Jungle.

For your older sister (the one with the husband and all the kids): Give her a ticket to Las Vegas and \$50 in chips and see what happens.

For your brother (the one who's been in the closet for years and is afraid to tell the folks): Bring your favorite single male gay friend over to the house during the holidays and introduce him to your brother. This will kill two birds with one stone. Your brother will have a new potentially romantic interest and your parents (the dullards!) will finally know what's going on. Of course, everyone will hate you for a few years, but eventually they'll all be grateful. Remember, Christmas loves a crisis.

For your father: This has to be the toughest gift on the list. I think the best thing to do is to give him a life-like inflatable girlie doll and forget it. Fathers have so little to look forward to when they get older, and there's no one left at home to tyrannize.

For your mother: Give her the handy, deluxe bound set of the Dictionary of Mothers' Adages for all Occasions in two volumes. She can enhance her vocabulary of pointless (and pointed) statements in her spare time, adding such pearls of wisdom as "If I were you, honey, I'd think twice about dating such a skinny guy. You look big as a barn next to him!" Or give her the ever-popular K-Tel Tongue Sharpener! It's sure to bring a smile!

Happy shopping!

--LVD



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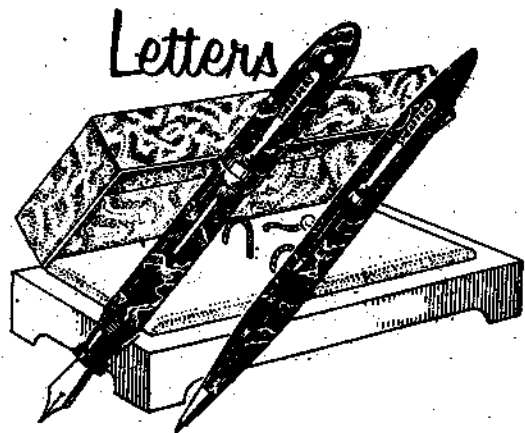
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## Turn the system against itself

Dear Post-Amerikan,

I am a prisoner law student and I have received many letters from prisoners incarcerated in Joliet.

Most of the complaints are frivolous or inconsequential in nature. However, let me offer a few pointers for those involved with the criminal "Just-us" system. These pointers work in the free world, as well as for those housed in the Department of "Corruption" (Corrections).

Pissed at a lawyer? Write the State Bar Association and request an attorney grievance form. The State Bar will furnish these forms. The lawyer will be notified and required to answer the grievance. A copy will be kept in his permanent file.

An attorney with grievances filed against him will be passed over, when, and if, he is ever considered for appointment for judgeship. Also, if a lawyer is running for some election, his attorney file is public record. See how many grievances have been filed against him.

Turn the system against itself! The warden wants to cut back on outside privileges? The landlord wants to raise the rent? Write or call the County Health Service and ask them to investigate the low water pressure, etc. Then contact the State Public Utilities Commission and have them investigate the County's inadequate investigation.

It's amazing what one can do. The local beer joint won't give you a tab? Put the Alcoholic Beverage Commission on them for health law violations. The A.B.C. board can always find a tavern in violation of some rule. If it is a real dive, put the County on them first, then complain to the state for the County's lack of action.

All the state and county employees are there to serve you! Put them to work. Maintain your individuality. Don't become a faceless number that can be pushed around by the ever increasing bureaucracy. For every action taken against you, there are at least three bureaucracies willing and able to investigate on your behalf, and a couple more to investigate them!

It's a judgement call. One can accept the system, hide from the system, or stand up and say, "Fuck the System."

Once a victim, always a victim is the usual story, but you don't have to be a victim. Once the system recognizes you have to be dealt with as an individual, you will get respect.

It works, and it's fun. Sometimes the truth comes out, sometimes it will be buried in paperwork, but personally, I've created more "cover-ups" than Richard M. Nixon!

Need some specific information? Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your question and I'll try to give you a few pointers.

In the Struggle,

Robert Warren Cassity  
977 Camp Road  
Salisbury, NC  
28144-0080

## Subscriber slips up

Dear Friends,

Please forgive me. What must have made me forget to renew my subscription. I mean, I can't survive without my Post Amerikan. What would I do? What would my postal carrier do? What would the people at the church sponsored preschool where I work start to think if I didn't bring in my Post Amerikan? Please, please take pity on me. Here is my money. I promise I won't let it happen again.

Thank you! Thank you!

Gail Van Glabbeek

## Prisoner needs letters

Dear Sir,

I was told you put my name in your newspaper. I've been moved to Joliet Correctional Center and if you would, I would appreciate you sending me your newspaper. I never received any responses from the ad you placed in your newspaper, probably because McLean County never forwarded my mail. You can send me your newspaper at the below address.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely Yours,

Stanley Ash #A66301  
P.O. BOX 515  
Joliet, Illinois 60432

## Community News

### Long-awaited women's potluck revival

All Bloomington/Normal women are invited to a potluck on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3:00 in the afternoon at 1311 W. Market in Bloomington.

In the years past local women would gather monthly to show off their culinary talents (from vegetarian to the cannibal variety), share views (from radical to ridiculous perspectives), and exchange information (of local and world significance).

Past experience says that a positively enlightening and entertaining afternoon can be expected. If you desire encouragement or more information, please contact Terri after 5:00 pm at 829-9667.

### Freeze coalition shows films

The Bloomington Normal Nuclear Freeze Coalition will show two films about weapons procurement and funding on December 5 at 7:30 PM. The films will be shown in the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library; the public is invited.

One film, "How the Pentagon Gets Its Money," examines the forces influencing defense spending, particularly economic and security concerns.

The film "Who's in Charge Here?" analyzes the economic effects of the arms race and points to more productive alternatives.

### Parties slated

The Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group will have a rap session on Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., at 209 Concord Drive, Normal (bring an unwrapped Xmas present for Gift Lift). The Winter Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., at Judy's. Please RSVP 454-2740 or 452-7665.

### No more weatherization intakes until spring

Mid Central Community Action Agency has temporarily stopped taking applications for the 1985 Weatherization Program which serves McLean and Livingston counties. According to Program Coordinator Ardis McKee, "The demand for energy improvements through our program is much greater than what can be provided within one program year." It is anticipated that applications will be taken again in early spring. For more information contact Community Action at 829-0691.

### Classy Fried Ads



1985 LIST OF ALTERNATIVE AND RADICAL PUBLICATIONS over 300 periodicals listed; \$2.00. Write: The Alternative Press Center, P.O. Box 33109, Dept. L, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Funk Rock Band seeking lead vocalist. Call 827-3981 or 827-0510.

For sale: One Peavey 65 watt TKO bass amp--\$190 or best offer. Call Nancy at 827-4951.

Star wars is here! Read Arming the Heavens: The Hidden Military Agenda for Space, 245 pages. Send \$8.95 (includes handling) to RECON, P.O. Box 14602 Philadelphia PA 19134.

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## Pigeons for my son

I gave the boy  
a pair of pigeons  
born and bred  
in my harsh prison.  
They had taped wings,  
and the instructions were  
specifically  
to keep them on for weeks  
until they'd gotten used  
to their new cages.  
He never liked  
the thought of me  
in prison, his own mother,  
and would not  
stay for long  
on visits.  
So perhaps I thought  
of souvenirs.  
But the tape from his pigeons  
he removed one day,  
and set them free.  
You'd think  
that would have angered me,  
or made me sad at least  
but I guess we're of one mind.  
Why cage pigeons  
who prefer free flight  
in the vaster, bluer skies?

--Mila Aguilar

Within the Philippine archipelago of over seven thousand islands, there operates another archipelago of 174 prison camps and detention centers, where President Ferdinand E. Marcos confines his opponents by decree, despite his announced suspension of martial law four years ago.

A "typical" isolation cell measures three meters square (with toilet), where prisoners are kept padlocked but for brief exposures to daylight. In the camps, men and women relieve themselves in buckets; where toilets and sinks are available, they are often clogged. The air is sepiated with dust, fruit-flies and mosquitos, so that prisoners have written that even the occasional breeze seems trapped inside. There is little water available for bathing, in some places only the rain, collected at intervals of six and eight months. The daily food budget of thirty to fifty cents (U.S.) is skimmed by "caterers" and guards, to allow only rice gruel, perhaps a small fish, a little coconut milk or soya, a rare egg. The drinking water is polluted. Prisoners suffer from malnutrition, vitamin deficiencies, beri-beri, tuberculosis, malaria and amoebic dysentery. Medicines are scarce.

### Torture

Upon apprehension, detainees are taken to what the military refers to as a "safe house," for a period of interrogation under torture which can last as long as a month. They are then transferred to a camp, provincial jail, barracks or "rehabilitation" center. Torture methods include beatings, electric shock, cigarette burns, thumb-tacks forced under fingernails, sleep deprivation, sexual molestation and the water ritual, whereby a victim's face is tilted back, and the mouth and nostrils filled to near drowning.

Those who survive complain of chest and leg cramps, insomnia, failing vision and psychological imbalance. For the latter, a word has been coined in the Philippine dialect Cebuano: the word *buryong*, "suggestive of food that has begun to ferment due to prolonged storage (buro) and psychosis (buang)." Without English equivalent, it describes the state of anxiety, fear, mental lethargy and disorientation that afflicts those who succumb to it.

Mila Aguilar, a Filipina poet who has been detained for a year, speaks of her poetry as among her defenses against *buryong*. On August 6, 1984, she was arrested along with Cynthia Nolasco and Willie Tolentino in La Loma, Quezon City, by the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISC) of the Philippines Constabulary. The three were blindfolded and taken at gunpoint to Camp Crame, where Mila was forced into isolation in a windowless room and, according to Amnesty International, endured beatings,

FOR FREEDOM WE SHALL  
LAY DOWN OUR LIVES.  
THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

kicking, strangulation, electric shock and sexual molestation while being held incommunicado for interrogation purposes.

### Subversion

The original military charge of "subversion/rebellion and/or conspiracy to commit subversion/rebellion and/or sedition" was reduced three days later by a civil court to mere violation of Presidential Decree 33, "illegal possession of subversive documents." Mila's companion, Cynthia Nolasco, categorically denies that the three were in possession of such documents, insisting that "they must have come from a military storehouse," (Malaya, January 23, 1985). The civil court set bail at P600 (\$33 U.S.), which the three paid in cash, but before they could be released, the military produced antedated Presidential Detentive Act(s), legalizing incarceration for up to one year without charges.

So began an unusual and telling confrontation between Philippine courts and the military. Mila Aguilar was kept in solitary confinement, then taken before Military Commission No. 25 and charged with subversion; before Special Military Commission No. 1, she was charged with rebellion. On the grounds that all such military commissions were to have been abolished with the lifting of martial law, the poet refused to enter a plea before these tribunals, so as not to recognize their legitimacy. The three then petitioned for *mandamus* (an order issued to an office, agency or corporation to follow an order).

On November 16, the civil court denied the military's motion, and on December 19, the Supreme Court ordered the release of Nolasco and Tolentino, despite the Presidential Detentive Act(s). They were released, but Mila remained in solitary. By early September 1985, the Supreme Court is expected to hear the case of Mila Aguilar, but if the court orders her release, it may be that only intensified international pressure can force the military to comply.

### Pressure

Could such pressure bring Mila Aguilar her freedom? The Philippines section of PEN International views her chances

# Marcos jails

as "about nil," but the efforts of such writers as Noam Chomsky, Nadine Gordimer, Denise Levertov, Audre Lorde, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Grace Paley, Adrienne Rich and Alice Walker have, in concert with other international efforts, secured her release from solitary and her transfer to Bicutan Prison, considered a government "showcase."


The Philippine PEN asserts that Mila is not in prison solely "for her writing," but because "the military believes that (she is a member of) a Communist conspiracy that is behind the insurgency of the New People's Army....The Communist Party in the Philippines is illegal and many members of PEN...have for sometime now been arguing for its legalization so that membership in it should not be cause for imprisonment." While continuing its work for Mila's release, Philippine PEN "would very much like to see...our American colleagues appeal to Washington so that no aid should be given to Marcos--aid which only entrenches him in power and lengthens the agony of the Philippine people."

### Killings

Nadine Gordimer has written of a "double demand" imposed upon writers in regions of political conflict, "...the first from the oppressed to act as spokesperson for them; the second, from the state, to take punishment for being that spokesperson." In recent months, writers and journalists in the Philippines have borne that burden. According to the Philippine National Press Club, "The Philippines accounted for nearly one quarter of the global total of 29 reporters killed in 1984." The slain journalists include:

--Manuel Julian, 28, a newspaper columnist of the *San Pedro Express*, who was shot dead by gunmen inside a movie theater in Davao, about 600 miles south of Manila on June 2nd

--Nabokodonosor Velez, 47, a commentator for the labor-run DYLA radio station in Cebu, about 360 miles south of Manila, who was attacked by six gunmen on June 1 as he watched his 19-year-old daughter compete in a beauty contest



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# Philippine writers

--Charlie Aberilla, 64, a radio commentator and columnist with the Mindanao Scoop in Ilagan, shot down in the announcer's booth at radio station DXWG (while on the air, pleading for his life)

--Arturo Yonzon, La Union reporter, shot dead at point blank range in San Fernando in April 1985, apparently as a result of an expose he wrote about a local protection racket

--Tim Olivares, a reporter for Tempo, who disappeared in February and is presumed dead after publishing reports of a drug-smuggling scandal

--Vicente Villordon, like Velez, a commentator on Cebu City's DYLA radio station, shot dead by unknown assailants as he was leaving work in December 1984

--Alex Orcullo, editor of Mindaweek, "executed" at the roadside in front of his wife and son in Davao City in October 1984

--Jacobo Amatong, publisher and editor of the Mindanao Observer, gunned down with human rights lawyer Zorro Aguilar in Dipolog City in September 1984

--Noe Alejandrino, a reporter for the Manila Business Weekly, murdered in Bocaue, Bulacan, in September 1984

--Geoffrey Siao, a reporter with the Philippine Post, killed in March 1984 reportedly for his expose of irregularities involving government officials.

When Jacobo Amatong was taken to the hospital, he managed to whisper "Army--Army--Army" before his death. No one has been charged with the killing.

## Detention

During 1984, a documented 4,168 people were detained for participating in public demonstrations and other opposition activities. Of that number, 851 remain in prolonged detention, an unfavorable condition compared to mere imprisonment, wherein the prisoner is sentenced to a given period, and at least knows the date of its termination. Ironically, these detainees are themselves among the fortunate, having escaped being "salvaged" by the military.



LNS/cpf

Among the Philippine contributions to the twisted euphemology of the latter twentieth century, is this word "salvage," which in Philippine military parlance means "to save" information extracted from a victim before destroying the source, or "to save" a Marcos opponent from a life of opposition. Last year, there were 538 documented cases of "salvaging"; during the first three months of 1985, another ninety-three. A case is only considered documented, however, when a body is actually found.

The Philippine Supreme Court has come to the aid of such voices in the past, stirring hope for the outcome of its decision regarding Mila Aguilar. Last year, the government "withdrew" subversion charges against We Forum publisher Jose G. Burgos, Jr. and 12 columnists and staffers three months after the Supreme Court ruled a July 1983 raid on the tabloid's premises illegal. The bulk of prosecution evidence against Burgos and others consisted of documents seized during the raid, and, as a result, government lawyers admitted their case was weak.

Government attorneys also attempted to block a Supreme Court ruling that ordered the return of We Forum's confiscated equipment, but eventually lost in this effort, as well. We Forum was relaunched on January 21 (1985).

## Activists

"For these writers," writes Gordimer, "there is no opposition of inner and outer demands. As they are writing, they are at the same time political activists in the concrete sense: teaching, proselytizing, organizing. When they are detained without trial it may be for what they have written,

## Understanding prison

One can always not understand. The croaking of a hundred toads can muffle even the silence, and the hum of steady, unending rain can silence even my croak. One chooses what to hear and then again what one hears one can silence because one has chosen--

Prison is a double wall one of adobe the other so many layers of barbed wire both formidable. The outer wall is guarded from watchtowers. The other is the prison within, where they will hammer you into the image of their own likeness, whoever they are.

--Mila Aguilar

but when they are tried and convicted on crimes of conscience it is for what they have done as 'more than a writer.'" She quotes Camus: "It is from the moment when I shall no longer be more than a writer that I shall cease to write."

"I am tempted to join/The black rosary passing by/Which they say wards off evil./But I do not believe in God,/So for now I find refuge/In writing a poem" Mila wrote in "Poem Written Amid Struggle." In "To A Foreigner" she acknowledges that "you accuse me of sloganeering/and being unpoetic/By writing lines like/'Damn the U.S. Marcos dictatorship,'" and replies to this in still another poem: "In the face of class murder/How can we be lyrical?" One is reminded of Neruda's response to those who warned him against the inclusion of politics in his poetry: "the truth is, I do not wish to please them."

--from American Poetry Review



Post-American December 1985 Page 15

## Pall hanging over Manila

As the boat glides slowly Portward Carrying still the fresh winds From sea and countryside One can see the pall hanging over Manila, City of one's birth, One's most fevered child. The dissonance of cars bustling to and fro Greet ears used now to the silence of cicadas Chirping warmly from cool treetops-- And later the gray smirking faces lined up In jeeps reeking of sweat And soot-laden collars.

On the pall that hangs over Manila, City of my birth to violence, My most fevered child! On a hilltop at night Far from the smokestacks belching The daily black of exploitation I watch her, bejeweled now With varicolored gems of light Moving seeming slow from a distance. She lies, Hard black stone inlaid With clusters of gold and diamonds and rubies, Hiding the many sins lurking behind Esteros and seedy bars, Knowing yet unthinking Of the unfathomable grief she causes, Grief causing lonely acts Lonely acts pushing onward A hungry desperate people.

Manila: metropolis mushrooming Not out of any dream But the sweat of millions On steel-hot machines And the toll of millions more On placid-fertile greens.

--Mila Aguilar  
23 May 1980

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# NEA under fire for 'pornographic' poetry

On July 31 the House of Representatives met to vote FY '86 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Prior to that meeting, in a surprise move, Representative Tom DeLay (R-Texas) called a press conference on Capitol Hill in which he proceeded to launch the latest round in the conservatives' ongoing campaign to reduce government funding for the arts.

A major portion of DeLay's attack was directed at so-called pornographic poetry allegedly written under the auspices of NEA grants. Richard Arme and Steve Bartlett, two other Republican Congresspeople from Texas, assisted DeLay in compiling his press statement as well as a supporting packet of 11 poems bearing a cover page emblazoned in large, hand-printed letters: "Taxpayer Funded Pornography --How you can be awarded up to \$12,500 from NEA for obscene poetry."

## Pornography

In the Washington Times, Arme recounted how he "sat in (his) office with seven virile young men and not one of us could read . . . those poems aloud, they were that bad." The poems in the packet DeLay introduced as evidence of NEA-funded pornography were divided into two groups. The first section contained seven untitled and undated poems which use explicit language in describing anatomical parts and dealt with subjects such as death, love, alienation, and politics.

Frank Hodsoll, Chair of the NEA, refuted DeLay's allegations in an official letter, stating, "none of these poems was written earlier than the period of the grant. Thus, no Federal funds were involved." Allen Binder, an aide to Rep. DeLay, admitted to this reporter that none of these poems came from NEA files, none were submitted as part of an NEA grant application, and none were written during the period of an NEA grant.

## No federal funds

The second group of poems presented

## Filth is in the mind of the beholder

**Post Note:** The following excerpts contain the closest thing to "obscenity" our editors could find in the poems. Anyone wishing copies of the "pornographic" poetry Rep. DeLay referred to in his press release, please send a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope to: New Art Examiner, 300 W. Grand, Suite 620, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

### Some Life (excerpted)

I love your smells,  
I love the blood that stains your underwear  
I love the rash under your arms and the fat below your buttocks & between your thighs  
you pinch & wish away

Author: Marcus Grapes  
Grant: \$12,500, 1984

Poetry must see as its central task building a Marxist Leninist Communist Party in the USA  
So that even in our verse we wage ideological struggle over political line

Author: Amiri Baraka  
Grant: 1981 (NEA)

I also had a dream, early this morning in which I murdered with an ax or axe eight people I'd never seen before  
In yesterday's dream it was only three

Author: Michael Palmer  
Grant: \$8,000, 1977 (NEA)  
\$10,000, 1978 (NEA)

by DeLay consisted of four titled works, which DeLay introduced as follows: "They (the poems) are from 1984 and each author received a \$12,500 grant." The statement neglects to mention that of the four poems, three were written by Marcus Grapes, who received a single grant of \$12,500 in 1984, and one by Mary Crowe, who also received a \$12,500 poetry fellowship in 1984. Thus, the press statement implies that there

were four authors and four grants; in fact, there were two authors and two grants. Moreover, according to Frank Hodsoll, "the Endowment did not support the writing of these poems since each poet's Fellowship year began after they were written. Again, no Federal funds were involved."

--Allison Gamble,  
from New Art Examiner

## Rep. De Lay leads attack

**Post Note:** The following are excerpts from DeLay's press release about the so-called "pornographic poetry."

Today I will be offering an amendment to cut funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by 10% of the FY '85 level. The NEA is an agency where abuse is out of control. Taxpayers are being forced to subsidize pornographic poems. There is strong evidence of cronyism running rampant within the halls of the Endowment.

I have included a sampling of quotations from these poems, along with the amount of the cash award and the year in which these grants were awarded. I hate to reproduce these but I feel that many people would never believe the grossness of the writing if they were simply told it was obscene. Examples are required to make this point. So as not to tire you with this offensive material, I have taken the liberty of omitting vowels from the four-letter words.

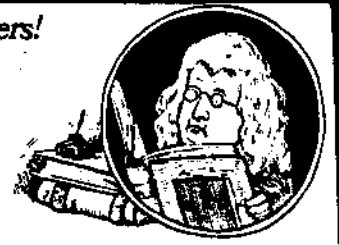
While I am by no means a literary critic, I think it is fair to ask why this sort of literature should be encouraged by our government with generous grants. One must distinguish between the "right to publish" and the "right to be funded." To qualify for the former, an American need only prove he (sic) exists, but for the

latter, he (sic) must prove that his (sic) work is, in NEA's own words, worthwhile of "exceptional talent." The right of an individual to free speech does not extend to the obligation of a newspaper to print his (sic) views, nor to the Federal Government to bankroll them.

--New Art Examiner

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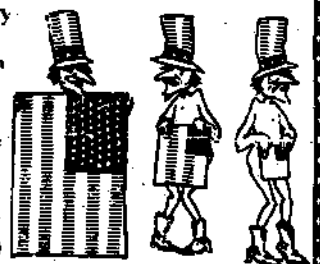
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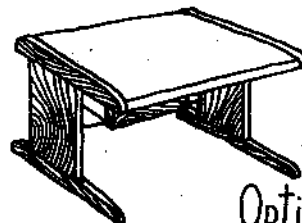
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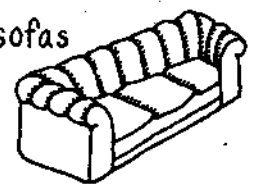
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# "Kiss of the Spider Woman -- biting realism

Most movies are well-advertised before their arrival in local movie theaters. There are preview-excerpts shown to the regular movie-goer that give a clear idea of what the movie is about. And the news media also often builds an audience by making attendance at a particular movie into a popularity index of a type of thinking. "Entertainment" movies seem to fall into three categories--humor, horror or "adventure," or some combination thereof. The "psychological drama" that falls outside those categories is a very precarious proposition and seems doomed to defeat due to lack of a paying audience.

Kiss of the Spider Woman is a psychological drama that cannot be abbreviated into a "preview-excerpt" to be shown to other movie audiences to build an anticipation for the film. The mating habits of the Black Widow Spider suggest to the curious that this movie is indeed about love and death, but still it is far too complicated for that simple a summation. When one sees all the Hispanic names in the movie credits with no easily recognized Anglo "stars" and some cultural art fund providing the funding, the viewer immediately should know that this is no ordinary entertainment movie.

The movie is about two prisoners in a South American prison. One is a realist, a revolutionary who knows that his prison stay is only a prelude to his death. If he reveals his secrets under torture or deception, he will die sooner. If he refuses to reveal his secrets, he will only prolong the agony of dying, but he may at least achieve the futile dignity of

martyrdom. The other prisoner is a worshipper of fantasy. His dreams and illusions are to him more desirable than reality. He is a homosexual criminal whose crime was against an underage boy.

The viewer enters the prison cell during the telling of a fantasy movie by the homosexual to his cellmate. Each has his own understanding of this story-movie. One prisoner sees the story as a great romantic love, transcending ideologies and nationalities, where love, in defiance of the intelligence and higher loyalties of the lover, is enough to make the lover offer herself into a sacrifice. The other prisoner first sees the story as Nazi lies and propaganda, but then, touched as an individual, reveals that he personally has experienced a love that could not be bound by ideologies.

We also see the dreamer try to change the realist into a dreamer, and embrace personal love, rather than the futility of love of abstractions, such as "Freedom, Justice, and Universal Dignity." The realist tries to change the dreamer into a participant in reality--these are real scars where I was tortured, immediate death is my certain fate, I am still a part of the revolutionary struggle even here, imprisoned and helpless, Nazis fed faggots into the gas ovens.

The two prisoners, each operating according to his own true beliefs and highest desires, do change each other. The dreamer makes the revolutionary aware that he is an individual with personal fantasies and unrealistic desires. The revolutionary makes the

homosexual translate his dreams into reality--personal love at great risk and sacrificial discomfort and humiliation. The viewer is given the opportunity to see that, in his way, the dreamer does have a firmer understanding of some parts of reality than does the realistic revolutionary. He explains to the revolutionary who he is, in his story of the Spider Woman. But it is the revolutionary who offers love at the highest price.

This is not an entertaining movie, a movie that offers us release from harsh reality. But this is a very artistic movie and a movie that clearly analyzes the human spirit. The homosexual is at first only very entertaining, but then develops into a sincere character capable of considerable nobility. The revolutionary is a puzzle that is grudgingly and reluctantly revealed. There seem to be no unexpected defeats, and only moral victories--victories of the spirit over material coercion. The viewer is spared any graphic sexual display and is given the opportunity to understand that homosexual love is as capable of altruism as is heterosexual love. Both prisoners get their desire--the homosexual gives the revolutionary the capacity to dream and to achieve the only possible joyful release he can obtain. The revolutionary gives the homosexual the choice of being able to actually live the kind of love that he has dreamed about. It is a very interesting movie, an enlightening movie, rather than an entertaining one.

--Ralph Dring





Xians and AIDS hysteria

# Do what to your neighbor?

The other night, just for the heck of it, I re-read the parable of the Good Samaritan. You know, the one in the New Testament. In the Bible. The Holy Bible.

You remember the story. It was told by X, the reputed founder and inspiration of the mighty Xian religion. X had commanded some folks to "love your neighbor as yourself," and one legalistic type in the crowd wanted to know just how far he had to go with this cockamamie notion, so he asked X, "And who is my neighbor?"

In response, X told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

It's a simple tale, really. Nothing much happens: a man gets beaten and robbed and left to die; some members of the Galilean Moral Majority won't touch the guy and pass by him on the other side of the road; a Samaritan comes along, feels compassion for the dying victim, bandages his wounds, carries him to an inn, takes care of him, and pays for his extended care coverage. (Obviously "Samaritan" is an ancient word meaning Blue-Cross Blue-Shield representative.)

As I said, nothing much happens--it's a simple, straightforward tale of compassion in action. What is even more interesting--especially these days--is what does not happen in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

**No condemnation**

Amazingly, the Samaritan just helps the man. He doesn't berate the victim or blame him for his condition. He doesn't tell him that he shouldn't be hanging out in dangerous places or that he deserved what he got and should change his lifestyle and that what happened to him is god's punishment. The Samaritan simply feels compassion and does something to aid a human being in pain.

I wonder how many Xians in this country have read this parable. Maybe they don't have it in their bibles anymore. Maybe they've replaced it with the Book of Armaments or the parable of Ferdinand Marcos or the beatitudes of apartheid.

I mean, all these electronic preachers keep ranting about what a Xian nation we've got and how we should get back to X's teachings, and how we need prayer in the schools and creation in biology and nativity scenes in city hall and Pat Robertson in the White House. But what do they have to say about the Good Samaritan? Not one frigging thing.

Instead, Pat Robertson and Pat Buchanan (aka Ronald Reagan's director of communications) can sit around on the 700 Club and blame gay men for bringing AIDS to this country and complain about having to pay a "sin tax" to help AIDS victims who got that awful disease by bugging African lads and Haitian boys and each other.

**Moral outrages**

If the AIDS crisis and the AIDS hysteria have taught us anything, it's that Amerika is about as Xian as witchhunts and the Inquisition. The number of moral outrages that have been perpetrated in response to AIDS would make Torquemada weep for joy. Try these on for size:

--In New York, neighbors tried to evict a physician who treated AIDS patients;

--In New Orleans, a construction worker was fired after a magazine reported he feared he had AIDS (he didn't);

--In New Jersey, parents of students kept their children home because a fourth grader's sister had inherited AIDS-related complex from her mother;

--In Indiana, authorities sought to bar

a seventh-grade hemophiliac who had caught AIDS from a blood transfusion;

--In Texas, a company fired a homosexual who did not have AIDS and ordered all its employees to take a blood test;

--In Florida, an AIDS victim seeking to protect his dentist from infection reported his disease, and then was fired;

--In Colorado, health officials now keep a list of all persons who test positive for AIDS;

--In Texas, an insurance company has advised its agents to check the lifestyles of policy applicants, to screen out potential AIDS victims;

--In Florida, a judge has ordered a man charged with a sex offense (pub-

lity, Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) asserted that "God's plan for man was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" and complained that "in an age of ubiquitous pornography and blunt speech, it should not be so hard to say in plain English that AIDS is almost entirely a disease caught by men who bugger and are bugged by dozens or even hundreds of other men every year."

The message seems clear to me: In Xian Amerika if you've got AIDS and you're waiting for the Good Samaritan to come along, you have as much chance of seeing that as a camel has of passing through the eye of a needle. Xian Amerika would rather support dictators and accommodate apartheid than give aid and comfort to a bunch of queers.

Every now and then some benighted Xian asks us gay folk how we can reconcile our homosexuality with god or religion or Xianity. Seems to me the Xians have a lot of reconciling of their own to do; they need to reconcile their behavior and feelings with their very own teachings. And they should start with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Newsweek, Nov. 25, 1985; The Advocate, Nov. 26, 1985; USA Today, Nov. 4, 1985; The so-called Holy Bible, revised standard version.

Author's note: The use of X as a symbol for Christ and Christians is, in reality, not a snotty typographical affectation of a godless commie writer. It is, rather, a traditional abbreviation, once used by the Xians themselves as a code to protect themselves from persecution--sort of like calling yourself "gay" or wearing a blue handkerchief in your left pocket. I am not making this up; look in the American Heritage Dictionary under X, definition 1. It is also true that the godless writer of this article found it a lot easier to use the symbol than to repeatedly write out the hateful name of his persecutors.



It's very nice, dear, but do you think Des Moines is ready for it?

T.O. SYLVESTER

licly engaging in mutual masturbation) to take the AIDS-antibody test; the judge said he would require the test of others appearing before him on "sex charges";

--In Massachusetts a physician has actually suggested that the state invoke an old public-health regulation to quarantine "irresponsible" carriers of the AIDS virus and then send them to an island off the coast of Cape Cod, which was once used as a leper colony.

(Well, the Xians were wrong about leprosy for thousands of years; I guess we can't expect them to be reasonable and scientific about AIDS.)

**Little charity**

And the lies and the insulting remarks of public officials show little Xian charity and concern for the victims:

--writing in a national newspaper, a member of the Indiana legislature said: "Sodomy is an evil that may be the catalyst for a devastating plague ...";

--speaking about the passage of his amendment to give the Surgeon General the power to close gay bath houses, Rep. Robert Dornan of California said: "This is a tiny, small step forward to do something to help people who in many cases seem unable or unwilling to help themselves as far as stopping the transmission of this disease";

--addressing the House of Representa-

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What if somebody says you're gay?

# Surviving military witchhunts

Post Note: The following is from a leaflet written for military personnel. For copies of the leaflet, please contact the organizations listed at the end of the article.

The Pentagon says, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service." But if they try to kick you out for being gay, you can fight back and you might well win. On the other hand, if you want to get out for being gay, you can get an honorable discharge.

gay cases. The groups named below can help you find inexpensive or free



CHRISTOPHER STREET

**Things you should know**

1. The military regulations treat bisexuals the same as lesbians and gays. They define "homosexual" as anybody who ever wanted to have a lesbian or gay experience.
2. In the military, doctors, chaplains, and most legal assistants do not keep secrets. What you tell the psychiatrist can end up on your Commanding Officer's desk. Only a lawyer who is to represent you is obligated to keep information confidential.
3. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TALK TO ANYBODY.

**Things you should do**

If you want to get out of the military, or if somebody says you are gay:

1. GET A MILITARY LAWYER. If you follow the regs exactly, you may be able to stay in if you want, and you can get out. But if you mess up, you could get a bad discharge or court-martialed. The regs are complicated and tricky. You will need help. If they try to kick you out, you have the right to a military lawyer. Get one! But the military lawyer might not have experience with lesbian or gay cases. He or she might not have time to do a good job or may be prejudiced. Sometimes military lawyers are great, but sometimes they give bad advice that could get you court-martialed.
2. GET CIVILIAN COUNSEL. You also have the right to civilian counsel, but you have to arrange for it yourself. Civilian counsel means a civilian lawyer or military counselor who has experience with lesbian and

civilian counsel. You should talk to civilian counsel before you talk to the military lawyer and before you do anything else.

3. KEEP QUIET. If you want to stay in, anything you say can and will be used against you. You can even be discharged for saying what you think or feel. If you want to get out, saying the wrong thing can ruin your discharge or get you court-martialed. Military investigators are paid to convince you that they are your friends. Any discussion with one of them which lasts 30 seconds has lasted twenty-five seconds too long.

4. DON'T TATTLE. You may be asked for the names of people you think are lesbian or gay. Giving names will never, ever help you! The investigators will only despise you for selling out your friends--and your friends may end up in trouble.

5. MEMORIZE THESE RULES: "Say nothing! Sign nothing! Get counsel! Fight back!"

For more help, contact: Midwest Committee for Military Counseling, 421 S. Wabash, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 939-3349; or Military Law Task Force, National Lawyers Guild, 1168 Union, #202, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 233-1701.

--RECON Network

# Hooray for Norway

Norway has a national law which specifically protects gay people from discrimination and persecution. The 1981 statute makes it illegal to "publicly threaten, insult, or bear hatred towards, persecute or hold in contempt a person or group of persons on the grounds of homosexual orientation and way of life" or to discriminate in "professional activities or use of facilities."

France passed a similar law in July of this year.

In September Norway's supreme court found a fundamentalist preacher guilty of violating this gay rights law by making antigay statements in a radio

broadcast.

Hans Bratterud, an evangelist who receives some funding from the Moral Majority, received what is the first such conviction in history: a 30-day suspended sentence, a 2,500 kroner (\$315) fine and two years' probation for breaking the law.

Bratterud--who had said that "homosexuals should be removed from any leading positions they hold in our country"--welcomed the legal action. In court, he pleaded with the judges to make him a martyr by imposing the largest possible sentence.

"I ask the court to punish me as hard as possible," he said. "The only thing that can help Norway today is that I go in the footsteps of Jesus, who suffered and died for our sins. I witness before God and fellow human beings that I would have said it all over again. It would be a good thing for the country if my prayer that open gay and lesbian people lose their jobs be fulfilled."

The court refused to martyr Bratterud, though, setting a light sentence.

--The Advocate, Nov. 26, 1985

# Republican flier inspires Post-er response

Last month, the ISU College Republicans plastered Normal with a poster asking "What is the difference between a diplomat in Iran in 1979 and a student in Grenada in 1983?" The answer, at the bottom of the poster, was "Ronald Reagan."

One faithful P-A supporter created the response on the back page. We like it. We thought you might, too.

Merry Chr\*stm\*s!



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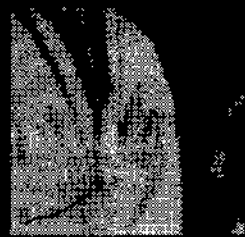
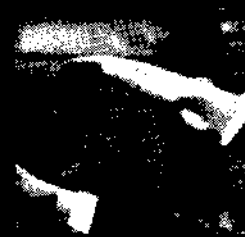
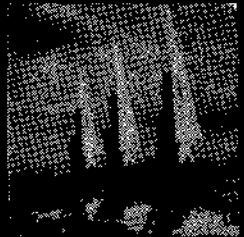
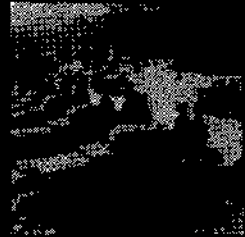
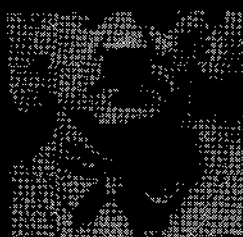


1985. College Student attends rally in Normal, Illinois



1935. Hitler youth attends rally in Potsdam, Germany

**ONLY FIFTY YEARS.**



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