

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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8-1986

## Volume 15, Number 4

Post Amerikan

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Sup. Ct; pot busts; ♀'s music; skateboards; hot pix

Bloomington-Normal

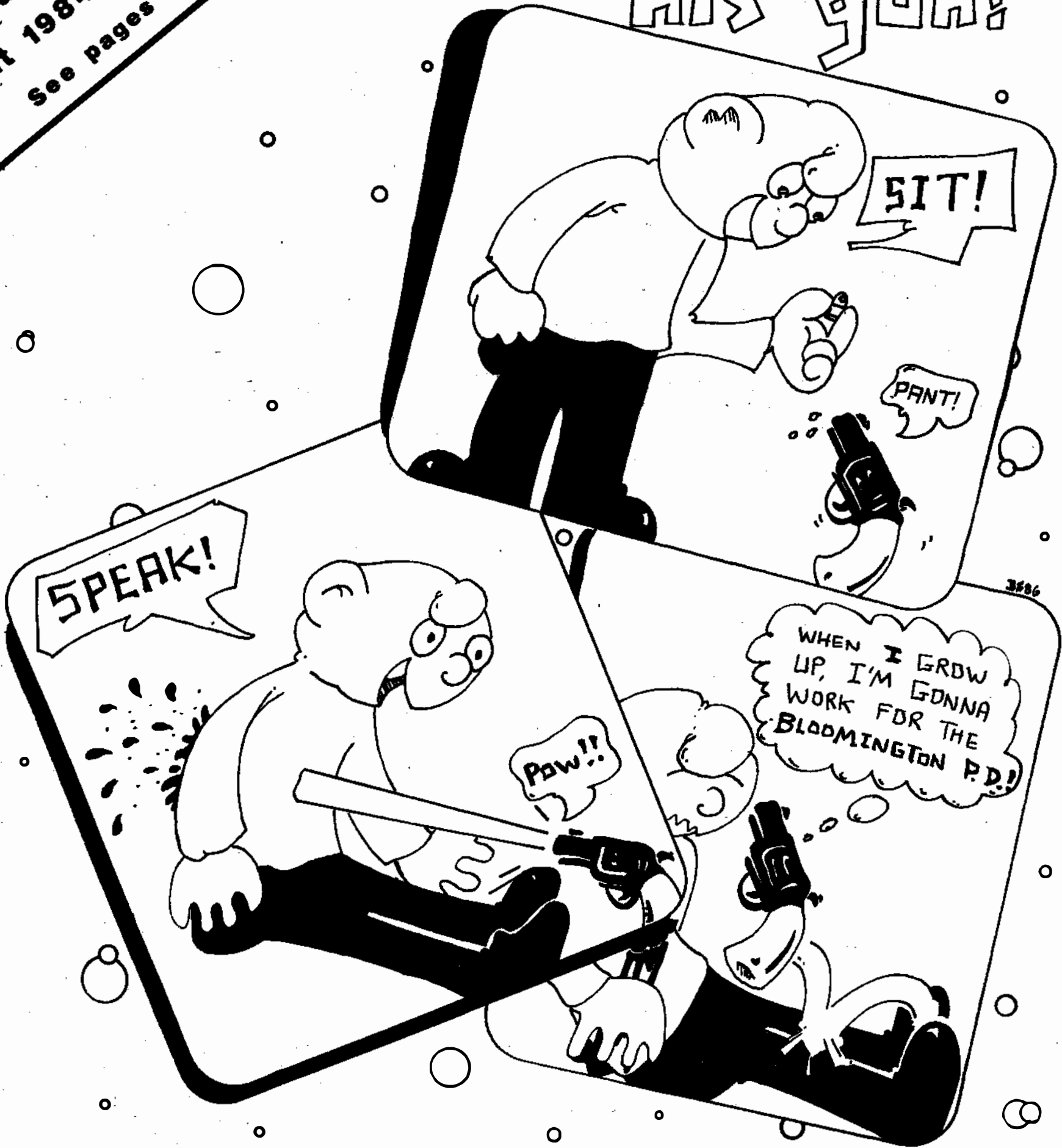
25¢

# POST AMERICAN

Vol.15 No.4  
Aug-Sept 1986

Sanders  
pulled gun  
at 1984 ISU riot  
See pages 10-12

## A boy and his gun!



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 168  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

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POST AMERICAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

# POST AMERIKAN

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## About us

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings.

We put out 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 Sept. 4, 1986.

## Post Sellers

**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 & Morrissey  
 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 Gallery, 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       | Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195   |
| American Civil Liberties Union.663-6065 | Occupational Development                |
| Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360 | Center.....828-7324                     |
| Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035 | Operation Recycle.....829-0691          |
| Community for Social Action....452-4867 | Parents Anonymous.....827-4005          |
| Connection House.....829-5711           | PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone     |
| Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005 | Help.....827-4005                       |
| Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022 | Or.....800-322-5015                     |
| Draft Counseling.....452-5046           | Phone Friends.....827-4008              |
| HELP (transportation for senior         | Planned Parenthood....medical..827-4014 |
| citizens, handicapped).....828-8301     | bus/couns/educ..827-4368                |
| Ill. Dept of Public Aid.....827-4621    | Post Amerikan.....828-7232              |
| Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916   | Prairie State Legal Service....827-5021 |
| Kaleidoscope.....828-7346               | Prairie Alliance.....828-8249           |
| McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161     | Project Oz.....827-0377                 |
| Mid Central Community Action...829-0691 | Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005         |
| Mobile Meals.....828-8301               | Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428 |
| McLean County Center for                | TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301  |
| Human Services.....827-5351             | Unemployment comp/job service..827-6237 |
| National Health Care Services--         | United Farmworkers support....452-5046  |
| abortion assistance, Peoria..691-9073   | UPIC.....827-4026                       |

## MachineAid



Two Post workers survey the crop of newly painted machines.

## Thanks

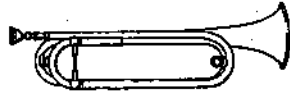
This issue in your hands is thanks to Chris, Dave, Sue, Susie, Laurie H., Laurie D., Bobby, Val, Melissa, Bumper, Ralph, Diane, Peg, J.T., Dan, Kay, Deborah, Cathy, and Mark (coordinator), and probably others we forgot to mention.

The shiny new bright red machines (which you may have noticed when you purchased this issue of the paper) are thanks to Dave, Val, Mark, Bumper, Sue, Susie, Chris, Stan, Laurie H., Laurie D., Laurie S., Lynne, Brad, Cathy C., Cathy A., Deborah, Diane, and Mark J.

Resistance fund raiser

# Counter-intelligence cabaret

"A good morning from YRUU..."



"Many public figures often have an undue scrutiny placed upon their statements... that is to say that people listen to what they say."

On the other hand, there are those not-so-public figures whose statements are barely ever heard... until they put their shows on the road.

I pledge a billion, to the flag  
Of the right-wing government  
of El Salvador

Dave Lippman is part of a rare breed. He is a topical songwriter, which is to say that his work addresses issues that should be of importance to anyone living above ground in the modern world. And particularly to those living on the high ground that is the United States:

And to the death squads, for  
which it stands

Lippman popped into the Pledge of Resistance benefit concert at Normal's Newman Center on June 27 with a full dose of songs, insights, and statements, splashed with a humor that made it all go down easy.

One nation, underfed, indefensible  
With liberty for just us, over  
all,

Lippman's show packs a variety of routines, voices, and characters, including the infamous George Schrub, anti-folksinger from the Committee to Intervene Anywhere, whose mission it is "first to fight for right, then for farther right." Lippman's approach is somewhat similar to that of Eugene Chadbourne, sans bullshit.

"Hey, Mr. Congressman, did you know there's such a thing as a Marxist Christian?"

Lippman roused the audience with political mockery set to the tunes of songs from all generations. Here's his permutation of "Cockles and Mussels":

In Hollywood city  
Where the pearls are so pretty  
I first caught a whiff  
Of sweet Ronald's cologne  
As he wheeled his wheelbarrow  
Stuffed with bullet and barrel  
Singing cockpits and missiles  
Alive, alive-o

And, of course, there's Lippman's version of "Eleanor Rigby," titled "President Reagan," which answers that musical question, "All the lonely fascists/Where do they all come from?"

But Lippman is not all jokes and satire; he maintains a deeply serious side as well. His recent travels in Central America inspired his "Conqueror's Song":

I don't fight for conquerors  
I fight to bring them down

Being a Dave Lippman in the face of the modern music industry isn't the easiest thing to be. Lippman pays little attention to the one topic record companies and radio stations can't seem to get enough of--- that of heterosexual love. Neither does his art fit into any of the established genres flowing apart from the mainstream.

And so, while Dave Lippman may develop every other aspect of his performance career, he'll never develop a respectable bank account.

He obviously has other things on his mind.

Stories that are given to ya  
Are stories that should go right  
through ya  
They're only there to woo ya  
The truth we spit upon

"... the existential radio station."

For information on tapes and publications, contact: Dave Lippman, P.O. Box 40800, San Francisco CA 94140.

"Remember, you were born to shop."

-MJ

## Madigan gets casket after Contra aid vote

Reacting to President Reagan's victory in the Congressional vote on military aid to the Nicaraguan contras, members of the Bloomington-Normal Pledge of Resistance delivered grave markers and a casket to U.S. Congressman Edward Madigan June 26.

Madigan voted in favor of military aid.

Dressed in black, faces painted, carrying crosses bearing the names of Nicaraguans already killed by the contras, the group marched as a funeral procession from the Empire St. post office to Madigan's office at

Prospect and Washington--on the east side of Veteran's Parkway.

Some of the Pledge members were arrested last year for blocking the entrance to the downtown IRS office. With no plans for civil disobedience, the antiwar funeral procession paraded through Eastland Mall, site of past arrests for the exercise of free speech on private property. Before Eastland officials could object to this non-shopping behavior, the group was already through the mall, on its way to Veteran's Parkway and beyond.

It was rush hour. Veteran's Parkway was jammed. Within two minutes, the

Pledge's antiwar banner got more exposure than it would in a half dozen downtown courthouse vigils.

Signs advertising something other than roads and commodities are rare out in mallville. One van driver was so engrossed that he just plowed right in to the car ahead of him, bouncing it across the median. No serious injuries.

Madigan was not in his office to receive the group. But his employee cheerfully accepted the casket and grave markers. She promised to relay to the Congressman our displeasure with his vote.

--Mark Silverstein

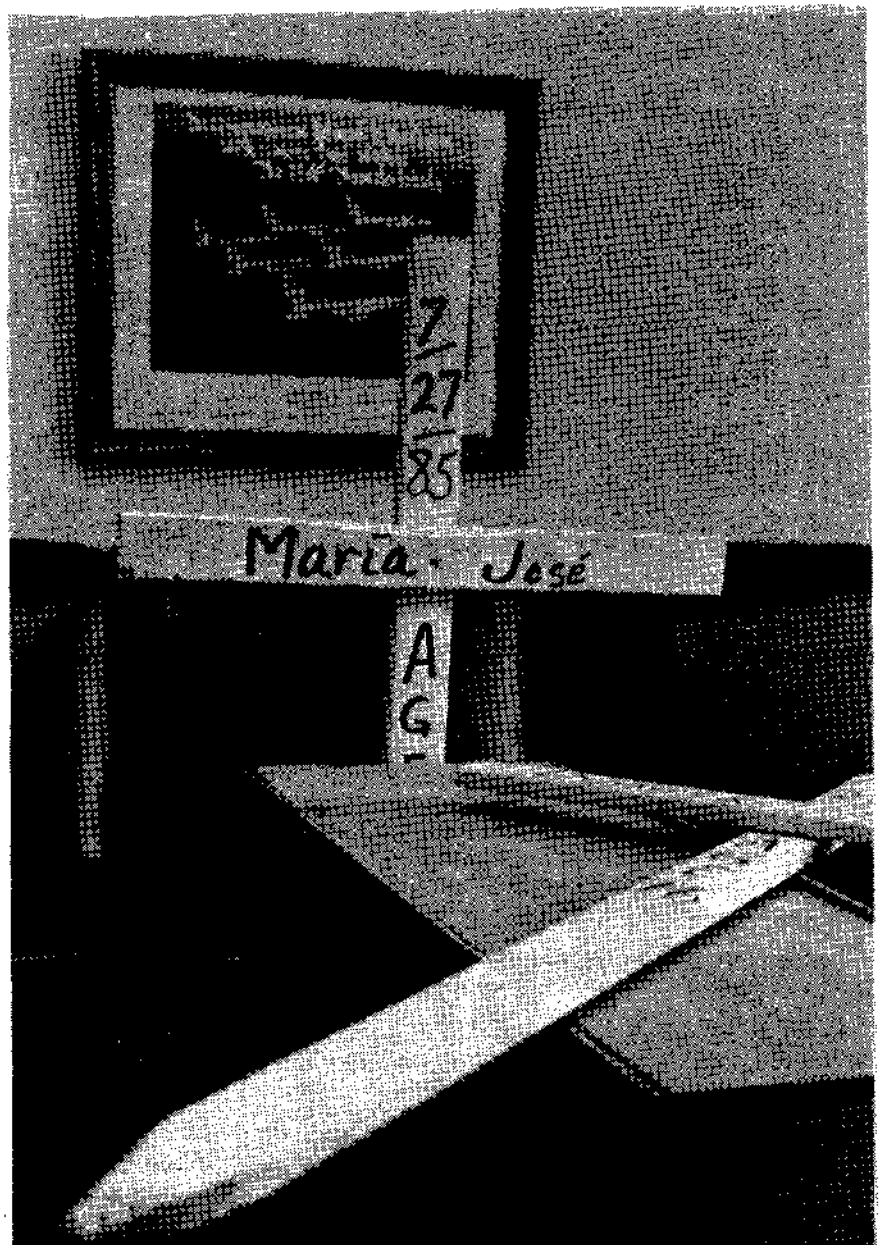
## Pantagraph nixes pledge coverage

Arriving for the start of the procession to Madigan's office, I was delighted to see that the Pantagraph had sent a reporter/photographer. She snapped photos, took notes, and accompanied the group on its route.

But there was nothing in the paper. Not one photo, not one sentence.

Polls showed that two-thirds of the American public opposed military aid to the contras. But to the Pantagraph, the local public expression of that majority sentiment is apparently not significant.

RIGHT: Casket and grave markers placed in Madigan's office after his vote to aid the contras. In the background hangs Madigan's framed photo of air force jets soaring in patriotic glory. BELOW: After Congress voted to aid the Contras, the Bloomington-Normal Pledge of Resistance led a funeral procession through Eastland Mall.





# Big court says: 'Stick it in your ear' -- and

In Georgia you can get 20 years for giving someone a blow job. Or getting one.

If you shoot the mayor of San Francisco, they put you in the slammer for 5 years or so. But in Georgia, oral and anal sex, even between consenting adults, even in the privacy of your FHA-approved home, can get you 20 years!

And five members of the Supreme Court of the liberty-loving United States of Amerika don't care. They made their attitude quite clear in the recent decision of *Hardwick v. Bowers*, which challenged the Georgia statute that criminalizes "sodomy."

They also don't care that you can get 15 years in Tennessee or 30 days in Arizona or a \$200 fine in Texas. If you perform or submit to a sexual act that involves "the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another," you are a criminal in the state of Georgia. And you're a criminal in 23 other states and the District of Columbia, depending on their definition of "sodomy," which can mean practically anything that's not penis in vagina for less than six minutes with the male on top in a dark room not more than three times a month (birth control optional but not encouraged). And in 20 of these places it doesn't matter what the gender mix is: mouth and anus are sexual no-nos.

## Little impact

Some people say that these laws are seldom enforced and have little impact on the private sex lives of consenting adults. Then why are they on the books? And why do they often carry such whopping penalties? Obviously some people are terribly afraid of something, and they have gone way out of their way to write their fears into the law books.

Technically, the Supreme Court didn't support sodomy laws in the *Hardwick* ruling. Justice Byron White, writing for the majority, claimed that "This case does not require a judgment on whether laws against sodomy between consenting adults in general, or between homosexuals in particular, are wise or desirable."

Nevertheless, the existence of such laws and the Court's implicit endorsement of them are likely to have several adverse effects.

effort to restore the 26 state laws that were repealed or struck down in the last 25 years.



First of all, the laws are on the books and the Supreme Court has said they're constitutional. How do we know they won't be enforced? They certainly can be used for harassment, especially against people the police or their bosses don't like. As the AIDS crisis heats up further, who knows what punitive measures the self-appointed guardians of morality may decide to take against gays and others who might get blamed for the spread of this terrifying disease? Sodomy laws provide the ready means to go after scapegoats.

## Bye-bye privacy

Second, the *Hardwick* decision sets the stage for further limitations of personal and private liberties. There may not be a sodomy law in Illinois today, but at one time all 50 states had them. This ruling may prompt an

Third, the decision increases the psychological baggage that gay people have to carry around. Not only did the Court legitimize the stigma attached to variant forms of sexual behavior, but it also gave its stamp of approval to queer-hating. It didn't matter to the court that the Georgia law applies equally to heterosexuals and homosexuals. White, Burger, Powell, Rhenquist, and Day used the *Hardwick* case as a chance to lash out at gay people.

Justice White's opinion is blatantly homophobic. He compared gay sex to adultery, incest, and other sexual crimes, and went beyond the issues of the case to review the history of prohibitions against homosexuality (see adjoining story). "What I was absolutely astounded at was the vehemence of the majority's opinion and the transparent hostility and

## Preacher says Big Court not the law

Three days before the Supreme Court issued its scandalous ruling in the Georgia sex-law case, tv evangelist Pat Robertson told the *Washington Post* that he doesn't consider the Court's decisions the law, and that the president and congress are not obligated to follow them. How timely!

Robertson, host of the infamous "700 Club," an especially obnoxious Xian evangelical program, is making a bid for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination. Robertson also heads the notorious Xian Broadcasting Network (XBN).

In a June 27 interview, Robertson said that public officials are bound to support the Constitution as they see it. "I don't think the Congress of the United States is subservient to the courts. . . . They can ignore a Supreme Court ruling if they so choose," said the religious crackpot.

Robertson made these comments when asked whether, as president, he would uphold *Roe vs. Wade*, the decision that legalized abortion. "I think *Roe vs. Wade* is based on very faulty law," the bible-beating fanatic declared. However, Robertson said he would support the 1954 Court ruling which ordered school desegregation. "No question they ruled correctly," the crackbrain admitted.

Actually, Robertson has been blathering about the Supreme Court for some time now. On June 14 he told the National Right to Life Convention in Philadelphia, "With the wonderful process of mortality tables, only one more seat is needed for reversal" of *Roe vs. Wade*. In the same speech the twice-born dunderhead denounced the "five unelected men in black robes" as "despots." The cracked pot calling the kettle broken.)

Anyone who has the stomach to watch Robertson's daily broadcast of "The 700 Club" (what does that mean?) has heard the lunatic rail against the Supreme Court more often than he attacks Satan. On May 1 he blasted the Court as "coercive utopians"; on May 16 he branded them "a runaway maverick organization"; and on June 6 he made an "appeal for the Judge of all the earth (Walter Cronkite??) to overrule the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States."

Shitferbrains has also called for packing the Court or impeaching current members. "All that is needed today to change it is a simple majority of Congress and a signed-into-law (sic) by the President and we would suddenly have eleven Supreme Court justices instead of nine." He continued: "And I might also add, that they do not serve for life, they serve for good behavior, and there are

many who feel this is no longer good behavior." (This whacko, remember, is running for president.)

Well, I bet the Rev. Mr. Robertson is singing a very different loony tune about the Big Court's sodomy ruling. A confessed homophobe and breeder, Robertson probably can't wait to start sending the sex police into bedrooms everywhere from West Los Angeles to Castro Street and the East Village.

On the other hand, the addlepatented sometimes point the way. Rabid Robby has made it quite clear that trashing the Supreme Court is acceptable behavior, even among the re-born, goody-goody set. More important, it seems only fair that if a religious mucky-muck like Robertson can pick and choose which S.C. rulings he wants to obey, the rest of us peons can do the same.

So: if you suddenly get the chance to do something that involves your sex organs and the mouth or anus of someone else, go right ahead. Pat Robertson said it was okay.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: *Chicago Tribune*, June 27, 1986; People for the American Way news release, July 2, 1986.

# nowhere else

bitterness toward gay people," said Joe Easley, co-chair of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund.

## Obsessive focus

Even dissenting Justice Harry Blackmun seemed dismayed by the majority's anti-gay attitude. Pointing to "the Court's almost obsessive focus on homosexual activity," Blackmun sharply observed that "Unlike the Court, the Georgia legislature has not proceeded on the assumption that homosexuals are so different from other citizens that their lives may be controlled in a way that would not be tolerated if it limited the choices of other citizens."

Blackmun also chided the majority for misconstruing the Hardwick case and not seeing it as a privacy issue: "What the Court really has refused to recognize is the fundamental interest all individuals have in controlling the nature of their intimate associations with others."

The anti-homosexual character of the Hardwick opinion could be legally devastating to gay Americans. This ruling will result in continued, and possibly increased, use of sodomy laws to justify other anti-gay court decisions--even in non-sodomy related cases. Sodomy laws are the last refuge of homophobes and are frequently cited to support the argument that gay people are habitual lawbreakers. The argument is then used as the basis for denying custody of children to gay parents, refusing to recognize gay organizations on college campuses, and so forth.

The highest court in the land had an opportunity to ease the fear and hostility that plague the lives of 10 to 15 percent of the population. Instead, five judges turned their backs on several million citizens and said, in effect, the Constitution doesn't protect you.

## Backlash

The one compensation of the Hardwick ruling is that it has created a backlash. The decision is so offensive that it prompted some of the largest pro-gay demonstrations since the 1970s. People turned out in

New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Dallas, and even Cincinnati to express their anger at the Court's decision to allow states to regulate private, consensual adult sex.

Many nongays are also upset by the high court's ruling (see adjoining article). The Hardwick decision brings out into the open the contempt the American government has for its gay citizens. Official expression of that contempt has made many people uncomfortable and may result in new support for gay rights efforts. And if nothing else, many heterosexuals recognize that the Georgia law criminalizes a lot of their sexual activity too.

Yet it's hard to foresee any significant change in the present trend toward restricting individual liberties. Gore Vidal thinks that the liberty-stripping has become part of the system and that "it's time to hold a constitutional convention to restore our system to what it once was, or perhaps what it ought to be."

He may be right. Reagan is packing the courts with alarming rapidity--by 1989 half of all federal judges will be his appointees. And with arch-conservative Rehnquist as Chief Justice, and the new associate appointee a rampant breeder of the Papist persuasion, the Supreme Court promises to offer less and less protection from the Reagan-Falwell-Helms assault on civil liberties.

After all, the U.S. Supreme Court is seldom more than a sounding-board for the prevailing prejudices of the day. In 1857 the high court denied individual rights to blacks, in 1873 it denied rights to women, and in 1944 it denied rights to Japanese-Americans. All of these groups had to struggle long and hard--and are still struggling--to reverse the impact of these injustices. How long will it take gay people to do the same? I don't expect to see it in my lifetime.

--Ferdurke

Sources: The New York Times, 1 July 1986, pp. 10-11; Newsweek, 30 June, 7 July, 14 July, 1986; The Advocate, issue 452 (Aug. 5, 1986).

# Amerikans don't like big court ruling

According to a poll taken by the Gallup organization for Newsweek magazine, 47 percent of those Americans who were aware of the Supreme Court decision in the Georgia sex-law case don't approve of the ruling. Only 41 percent do approve. (Gallup found that 73 percent of those polled knew about the case and its outcome.)

When the question was phrased more generally--"Do you think that states should have the right to prohibit sexual practices conducted in private between consenting adult homosexuals?"--57 percent answered no, while only 34 percent said yes. An even greater number--74 percent--thought states should not have the right to ban private heterosexual activities.

Asked whether they think "homosexuality has become an accepted alternative lifestyle or not," 61 percent replied no (up 3% from 2 years ago), while 32 percent said yes and 7 percent didn't know.

According to an analysis by Newsweek, there was greater disapproval of the Supreme Court decision among middle-aged Americans (54%) than among any other age group, but there was virtually no difference between men and women on this issue.

Among the other results of the poll were these:

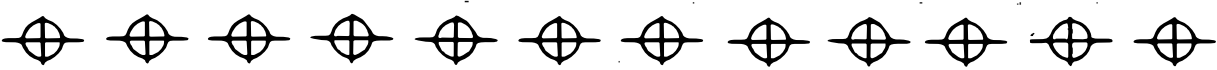
--Fully 25 percent of the respondents said that they or their acquaintances were avoiding people they knew to be homosexual or suspected of being homosexual--because of AIDS. This figure was more than double the 13 percent who answered the same way last August (1985).

--Only 29 percent of the people polled said they had any homosexual friends or acquaintances; 67 percent said they didn't.

--Asked how often heterosexuals engage in oral or anal sex, 42 percent said it was commonplace, 33 percent it was not commonplace, and 25 percent said they didn't know.

--According to Newsweek's analysis, women are more likely than men to have homosexual friends and to think that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. Women are also much less likely (19%) than men (32%) to avoid known or suspected homosexuals.

--Source: Newsweek, 14 July 1986, p. 38.



# Worse than rape?

One of the most outrageous parts of the Supreme Court's decision in the Georgia case was the heavy reliance on tradition and past law to justify the validity of sodomy laws. In essence the Court's majority said that since people have been kicking queers around for centuries, it's all right to go on kicking 'em around.

In his majority opinion Justice White declared that "Proscriptions against that conduct (sodomy) have ancient roots"; and in his separate concurrence Chief Justice Burger said anti-queer laws have existed "throughout the history of Western civilization."

Burger went on to point out that "Homosexual sodomy was a capital crime under Roman law." That's true--the emperor Justinian claimed that sodomy should be outlawed because it caused earthquakes. Is that what the Supreme Court of the United States had in mind in 1986 A.D.? (I've been known to say "the earth moved" on several occasions when I was performing a "sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another," but I didn't mean it literally, Mr.

Burger.)

Justice Harry Blackmun got downright snippy about this "ancient roots" line, and in his dissenting opinion Blackmun quoted Oliver Wendell Holmes on the matter: "It is revolting to have no better reason for a rule of law than that it was laid down in the time of Henry IV."

The good justice Holmes would have a lot to be revolted about in Burger's concurrence. Not only did the Chief Pooh-Bah cite Roman law, he also pointed to the first English law criminalizing sodomy, which came in the court of King Henry VIII--and we all know what a moral and sexually upright guy Henry was. It's a wonder Burger didn't cite the Third Reich, which sent homos to concentration camps, or Khomeni's Islamic police state, where queers are executed after they've been tortured.

But the number-one outrage in this "we've-always-done-it" routine had to be Burger's citation of William Blackstone, the 18th-century British jurist and legal high lama. Here's the exact quote from Burger's opinion:

"Blackstone described 'the infamous crime against nature' as an offense of 'deeper malignity' than rape, an heinous act 'the very mention of which is a disgrace to human nature,' and 'a crime not fit to be named'."

Can you believe that? Anal or oral sex between consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes is worse than rape??!! That's got to be the most obnoxious male heterosexual self-justification rap of all time! Shit, Bubba, you might be a vicious, no-good, slobbering mad-dog rapist, but at least you ain't queer. Jest don't go stickin' it in somebody's mouth or anus now, y'hear?

In Georgia a man was acquitted of rape but found guilty of consensual sodomy with a woman. I'll bet that's a decision Mr. Burger can get behind.

--Ferdurke

Source: New York Times, 1 July 1986, p. 10.

Search warrants, possession busts

# Bloomington police target

The Bloomington police department has launched a new drug enforcement campaign aimed at small-scale users and dealers.

Concentrating on petty marijuana busts, the Bloomington police department's drive represents a change in local drug enforcement strategy.

Not since the demise of the Peoria-based MEG (Multi-county Enforcement Group) has Bloomington seen so much law enforcement effort devoted to the covert detection and apprehension of minor pot users and dealers.

When it operated in Bloomington, the Peoria-based MEG unit was widely criticized for going after small-timers. But even MEG did not purposely seek arrests for mere possession of small quantities of illegal substances.

### Out-MEGed MEG

Bloomington has out-MEGed MEG. Armed with search warrants, Bloomington police have busted people in their own homes for mere possession--not sale--of marijuana.

Based on information volunteered from a landlord, for example, Bloomington police got a warrant to search a tenant's residence for marijuana. With a nine-year-old's information about his mother, Bloomington police got a search warrant and arrested the mother for possession of minor amounts of pot and cocaine.

After Bloomington left the MEG unit several years ago, most local drug enforcement has been carried out by the undercover agents of Task Force VI of the Illinois Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). MEG admitted targeting the "street-level" dealer. But DCI has generally sought undercover buys of larger quantities from middle-level dealers. Bloomington and Normal both contribute a full-time officer to the DCI task force.

The DCI task force still operates in Bloomington-Normal. But Bloomington police officials are apparently not satisfied with DCI's target of middle-level drug dealers.

### Home searches

The Bloomington police department has adopted the goals of the discredited

MEG unit: targeting small-scale dealers and users. And in its enthusiasm for searching people's homes, the new Bloomington campaign threatens to become even more intrusive and petty than MEG ever was.

Thousands of otherwise law-abiding Bloomington residents possess illegal substances in the privacy of their homes. Until recently, most local drug enforcement activity was not concerned with these citizens. With Bloomington's active new drug enforcement push, however, pot smokers must start worrying about the knock at the door. Court files reveal some of the new efforts by Bloomington detectives:

### Landlord

\*\* Early in 1986, a local landlord entered his tenant's apartment when the tenant was not home. The landlord spotted marijuana and informed police. Based on the landlord's observations, Bloomington police obtained a search warrant for the tenant's residence.

\*\* When 18-year-old Deborah Stevenson accidentally shot herself while playing with a gun in early February, Bloomington police asked her all about it. She named the gun owner and also said he had marijuana in his apartment. Based on her information, Bloomington police got a search warrant. According to court documents, eight officers were assigned to serve the warrant, search the apartment, and make the bust.

### \$10 buy

\*\* Bloomington police detective Rick Davis smoked a bowl of marijuana during an undercover pot buy in early February, according to his own report. (See adjoining story.) The transaction started when detective Crowe received a call from "an informant." The informant offered to help get someone busted for selling "narcotics." The "narcotics" turned out to be merely marijuana and look-alike speed (caffeine).

The Bloomington narc squad might have budget problems. Davis originally agreed to buy an ounce of marijuana. But he later tried to change the deal to a mere \$10 buy.

Bloomington police were not very protective of their informant's identity. In their reports, they printed his name and address: Virgil Reichard, 1830 W. Illinois.

### Tips

\*\* Acting on what they described as a "tip," Bloomington police bought a small quantity of drugs from Aaron Moore in January. Moore obligingly told police that Claude Prather was in possession of drugs. When police received the same information from Danny Davis (who was in custody on a forgery charge), police got a search warrant for Prather's apartment.

\*\* Another "tip" led police to get a search warrant for the home of a west side couple last May, according to a small Pantagraph article. When they discovered marijuana plants growing, police hauled in the couple for manufacture of cannabis and possession with intent to deliver.

### Snitches can smoke

\*\* Based on the word of an unidentified informant, Bloomington police detective Charles Crowe got a warrant to search the home of Janet Johnson. According to Crowe's April 16 application for the warrant, this unnamed informant bought thirty dollars worth of pot six separate times in the last five days from Ms. Johnson. The informant apparently bought this marijuana for his own use (or for sale), because there is no evidence that Bloomington police ever saw the pot from these six buys.

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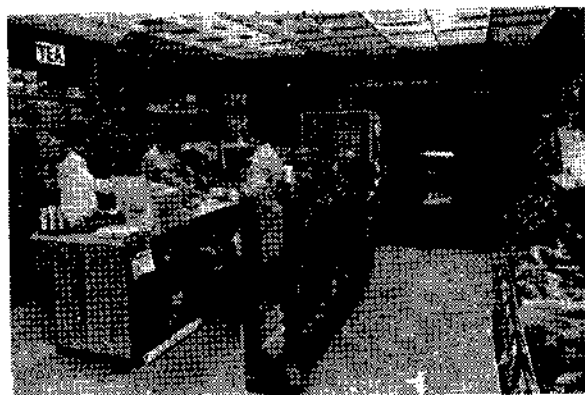
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# small-scale pot users, dealers

Because Bloomington detectives did not see the pot themselves, Crowe had to persuade the judge that the marijuana was genuine:

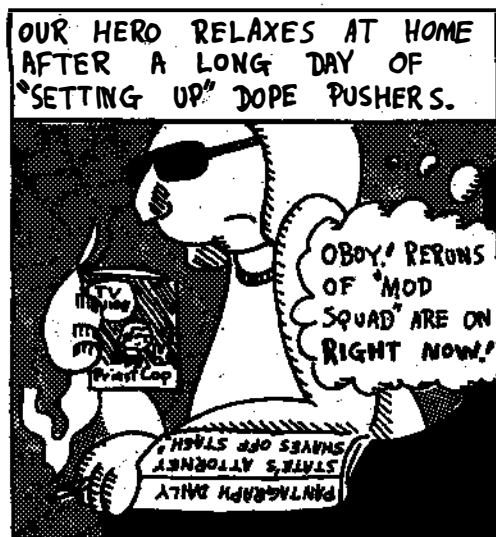
"Informant has used cannabis regularly on a daily basis, for several years, and has told applicant [Detective Crowe] informant knows the effects of using cannabis upon his body," the search warrant application said. Because the informant got a good enough high smoking Janet Johnson's pot, Detective Crowe explained, the informant believes the marijuana is real.

Court files reveal that police did find marijuana in Janet Johnson's house. But police filed no charges against her.

## Up your ladder

\*\* Searching Janet Johnson's house apparently allowed Bloomington police to move "up the ladder" of marijuana distribution. When Johnson's supplier arrived at Johnson's house at 1410 N. Lee to deliver a bag of marijuana April 18, Bloomington detectives were waiting for her. This time police filed charges. In their report, police said they had "received information" that the delivery of marijuana would occur. In their list of possible witnesses against Johnson's supplier, the prosecution listed Janet Johnson, but claimed that her address was unknown.

\*\* Operating at the Union 76 truck stop with a citizen's band radio last January, Bloomington police made a daring hand to hand buy of marijuana



from a passing trucker. Five officers were stationed at the truck stop as one officer broadcast on his radio "Anyone out there got any smokin' dope for sale?" The several-hour operation produced one arrest for delivery of less than 10 grams of marijuana--a misdemeanor.

## Snitching on mom

\*\* The Bloomington detectives' new fondness for searching homes brought them to new lows in May. A Bloomington woman was arrested for possession of small quantities of marijuana and cocaine. The Pantagraph reported that police got the search warrant after a tip was phoned into Crimestoppers. In court, the prosecution revealed that the information came from the arrested woman's nine-year-old son.

It's bad enough when police encourage kids to turn in their parents (for "crimes" that thousands are committing). It got worse when Judge Witte imposed this condition when he set bail: the woman is forbidden to associate with her two children.

Witte didn't care that she had legal custody of her children. Witte didn't wait for the Department of Children and Family Services to investigate. He didn't care that there'd been no finding of guilt. He didn't even

bother to hold a hearing. With one heavyhanded stroke of his gavel, Judge Witte took her children away.

The lab report (two months later) showed that the alleged cocaine was not even a controlled substance. But charges of possessing between 2.5 and 10 grams of marijuana (a piddling amount) are still pending.

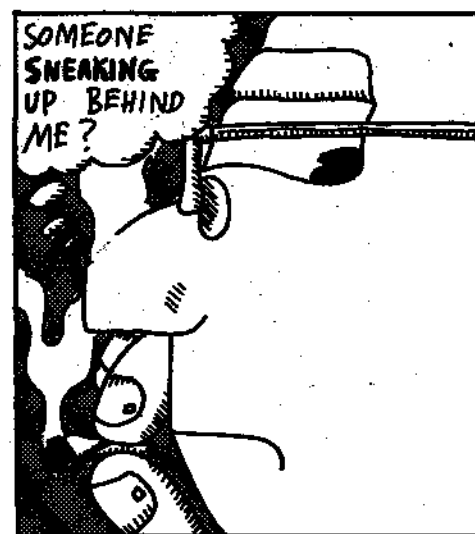
\* \* \* \* \*

Police have always had the power to get these search warrants and make these petty busts. But they have usually restricted their active efforts to various levels of drug sellers. Until recently, the hundreds of small occasional dealers and the thousands and thousands of local residents who get high--but do not deal--could feel relatively safe from police scrutiny.

That condition has changed. The smallest pot dealers--even those who sell only to a small circle of friends--are now targets. The police want to make arrests, even for mere possession. The Bloomington police

are looking for informants and they are looking for information. If they get it, they'll be coming through your door.

--Mark Silverstein



## Narcs can lie, smoke dope

From reading court files to write the adjoining article, I can see that it's time once again to dispell a couple myths about undercover drug agents.

Narcs can lie. They can smoke dope. They can do both and still bust you.

Many people persist in believing that if you ask narcs if they are police agents, they have to tell the truth.

According to police reports, several minor drug dealers in Bloomington apparently believed this myth. People who believe this myth get themselves busted.

In their reports, the undercover officers tell about being asked if they are narcs. They say no. They make the buy, then make the bust.

In court, a defense attorney might try to make a big deal of the narc's

admitted lie about his identity. It won't matter. You'll be convicted.

Narcs can also smoke dope. Since they aren't supposed to actually get high, they say in their reports that they "simulated" smoking pot. Sometimes they say they don't inhale.

Here's how Bloomington undercover detective Rick Davis described his smoking pot in a February report:

"At one point he loaded the pipe and handed it to me. Due to the fact that in R/O [Reporting Officer] opinion, he was testing me to determine if I would participate, R/O did light the pipe and drew smoke from it but did not inhale the smoke. After a few puffs from the pipe, it was cleaned out prematurely and thrown back to the male."

--M.S.

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Speaking  
of

## Kristin Lems: Born for change

There you are--at a party full of feminists or folk music lovers or activists (or all three)--when the inevitable happens: someone asks, "Whatever happened to Kristin Lems, anyway?" And no one ever seems to know. Well, I'm happy to report that we at the Post Amerikan have finally found the answer to that question.

It can't be answered in fifty words or less, though. No one's caught her napping.

For those of you who missed the last decade or so, Kristin Lems is a singer/songwriter who makes funny songs (her "pop hit" is a ditty entitled "Mammary Glands" that Dr. Demento gave considerable air time to), topical songs ("Too Cheap to Meter" is a commentary on nuclear energy), and what she jokingly called "fight songs," written to support and encourage overworked activists (she based "We Will Never Give Up" on a quotation by Jill Ruckelhaus). She also writes love songs and relationship songs and all the other stuff writers write about.

### Albums and tours

In between recording her four albums (*Oh Mama*, *In the Out Door*, *We Will Never Give Up*, and her new one, *Born a Woman*) and touring the country playing benefits, rallies, and university concerts, Kristin also founded the National Women's Music Festival, originally based in Champaign, and got herself a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. She was indispensable to the fight for the ERA--no rally was complete without Kristin's voice urging us on.

After the defeat of the ERA, though, she seemed to disappear. Well now we can tell you where she's been . . .

### Algeria

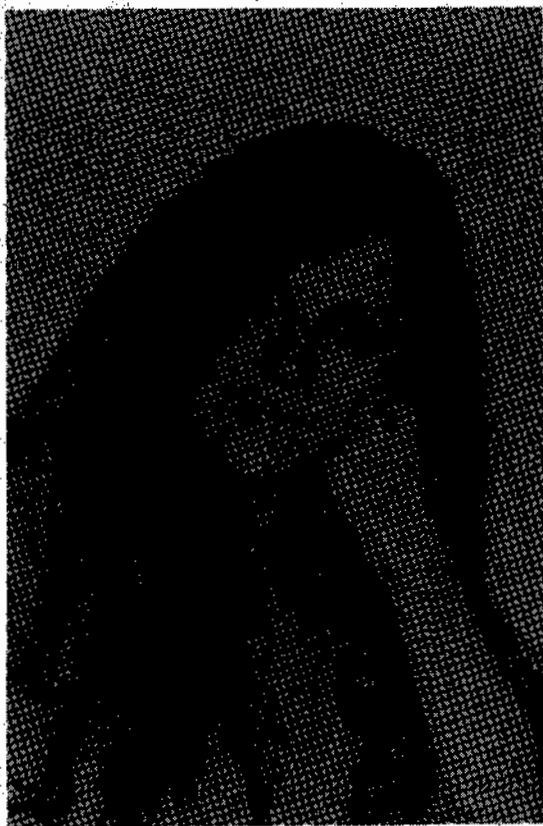
She spent a few months recovering from the blow of the ERA's defeat, then won a Fulbright scholarship and promptly rushed off to Algeria, where she traveled around the country training other English teachers.

She's home again, though, living near Chicago, and she's been a busy bee ever since she's been back.

Working with writer Karma Ibsen-Riley, Kristin has put together a musical called *Saint Jane and the Devil Baby*, about Jane Addams. Set in turn of the century Chicago, during the industrial revolution, the play relates an attempt to discredit Addams and her work. Addams' opposition claimed that a pregnant young woman staying at Hull House was carrying a devil baby, setting off a furor of recrimination.

The play was performed for a backer's audition last fall, but didn't get the support it needed--mostly, Kristin thinks, because the women didn't have the right connections. They have sent it to a number of companies, and they hope it will be produced soon.

Kristin is also back to performing. Now that *Born a Woman* has been released, she will be touring to promote sales and let folks know she's back. The album, which should be available through Appletree Records (the catalog number is FF379; if you need to order it), represents fifteen



(photo by Marla Cohen)

years of songwriting and shows some pretty significant changes when compared to her previous albums.

Musically, Kristin has developed a lot more polish. She has gone back to the piano, which she's played since she was a toddler, and the album has less of a strictly folk feel as a result. The album also has a much more electric sound, although it's hardly what you would call hard rock. She makes more sophisticated use of the talents of drummer Laurie Haag, guitarist Peg Wood (both

Bloomington/Normalites), bass player Lynn Keller, and the other assorted musicians, than she has on previous albums.

The result: the right sound for each song's genre. And there's a lotta different genres here, folks--every thing from rock-n-roll to an Olde English folksong. The album still has continuity, though, even with all the changes in mood.

### Political style

Kristin has also made some changes in her political style. While she still "sees everything through feminist eyes," she's writing and singing more about other issues and less about feminism. During the ERA fight, nearly seventy five percent of her songs were about feminism--now, she says it's more like half. The songs on the new album cover peace ("Where Do the Animals Go?"), pop culture ("Trivial Pursuit"), and class distinctions ("Rosina"), as well as songs about women's lives.

She's also less overtly political, in an attempt to win a broader audience. The politics are still there. But her last album dealt solely with feminism, and primarily with the ERA push, so she "wanted to make something for the people who felt left out."

If sales go well enough, she plans to make another album next year--she says she has enough songs to do an album a year for the next five years.

### Alternative songbook

In addition, Kristin is also working on a songbook, comprised both of her songs and the large repertoire of other folks' songs that she performs. Both piano and guitar parts will be included, since, as she points out, it is nearly impossible to find alternative sheet music for recreational musicians that has anything but guitar chords.

Meanwhile, the L.A. Women's Choir will be recording one of Kristin's songs, "Days of the Theocracy."

So now you know, and the next time you're at a party and someone asks "Whatever happened to Kristin Lems?" you can leap into the empty pause in the conversation and say "You know, I was just reading in the Post Amerikan last week . . ."

--Chris M.

(If you can't find the album through Appletree, you can order it from Kristin by sending \$8.50 to 136 Main, Evanston IL 60202.)

In search of variety . . .

# Women's Music: Ready for change?

Last month several thousand women and a handful of men gathered for a long weekend at Bloomington, Indiana's National Women's Music Festival, and this month a few thousand more women are frolicking in the woods at the Michigan Womyn's Festival. If you think these fans have gathered to hear songs performed by the likes of Olivia Newton-John or Belinda Carlyle, think again.

## What is it?

"Women's Music" is a specialized area of pop music which caters to feminist-lesbian women, though its fans and performers are not necessarily feminist, lesbian, or even women (though they are usually 2 out of the 3). The lyrical content is typically woman-oriented--politically, philosophically, and/or sexually--and the musical side is akin to the 1970's sensitive singer/songwriters or mellow California rock, heavy on piano or acoustic guitar. The main difference is the overwhelming number of women's names listed on the album covers and the somewhat unusual use of female pronouns in the lyrics.

The women's music movement sprang out of the political and social changes of the women's movement in the early 1970s. Lesbian and other female performers were seeking out a safe, creative environment, the artistic freedom not to be found among the gold chains and hairy chests of the mainstream music scene.

It was to become the cultural outlet of the women's movement, music which was beginning to speak from women's experience, not with words like "my boyfriend's back and you're gonna be in trouble," but "lean on me, I am your sister, believe in me, I'm your friend." Most pop music had (has) little to say for feminists, and even less to say for lesbians, and female musicians and songwriters were frustrated functioning in a mostly male world where the phrase "not too bad for a woman" (or worse yet, "girl") could be heard with annoying regularity.

## In the beginning...

In January of 1973, Olivia Records, the first women's music label, was formed. Self-proclaimed as a "lesbian-women's music collective," Olivia vowed to make available to the public "music that speaks honestly and realistically about women's lives." Early releases featured Meg Christian, singing such feminist classics as "leapin' lesbians" and "Ode to a Gym Teacher," and Cris Williamson, whose first Olivia album went on to sell over 150,000 copies (no small feat considering that advertising support was virtually non-existent and its reputation spread almost entirely by word of mouth).

In addition, Margie Adam and Holly Near also became women's music superstars, easily identifiable by merely their first names (in much the same way as "Bruce" is to rock fans), and many others released albums on women's labels.

It is tempting to pigeon-hole musicians based on the genre from which they operate, and the temptation is no different for women's music. In

fact, it is a more salient possibility in the virtually self-contained women's music industry, complete with its own production and distribution systems.

With the advantage of a cooperative community atmosphere also comes the danger of short-sightedness, narrow-mindedness, and incestuous development of musical style. A close examination of the first crop of women's music releases reveals some diversity of style, from the traditional folk and bluegrass influences of Rosalie Sorells and Betsy Rose to the political folk-pop of Holly Near and Kristin Lems to the intrapersonal balladry of Cris Williamson and Margie Adam.

Recent releases include brief forays into rock by Tret Fure and technopop by Sue Fink. However, the influence of the limited group of producers, engineers, musicians within a musical subculture has led to a certain sameness within the women's music scene, with Cris Williamson as the obvious role model.

## National Women's Music Fest

From its politically and socially inspired beginnings, the women's music scene has evolved into something entirely different. Those attending the recent National Women's Music Festival were treated to a fairly homogeneous group of talented but largely unoriginal Cris Williamson sound alikes.

Gone was the call for sisterhood and sense of community once prevalent at the fest. Gone was the sharing, song swapping, and spontaneous jamming. And most sadly, gone was any sense of political commitment. In its place was a generic form of lesbian love song, singer-songwriters typically performing alone and singing, almost exclusively, their own songs.

There was also a surprising display of sexism, exemplified by the whistles and catcalls that a particularly androgynous stage crew member had to suffer while moving equipment between sets. Would that have been acceptable behavior if a male audience had been doing the same to a female crew member?

## It depends

Based on past experiences with the NWMF in Champaign, this year's festival was somewhat disappointing, primarily for the reasons listed above. But perhaps for those attending for the first time, or for those more firmly engrained in the subculture, there was no problem. For others, perhaps, it was a letdown. So the question is, "Is there something wrong with women's music?" And the answer can only be, "It depends."

It depends on the expectations, wants, and needs of the audience. If it only wants beautiful lesbian love songs, then the market is being met. However, if the audience desires a larger variety of music which speaks from the female experience, then something is missing. A single choice for jazz (Alive), rock (Tret Fure), acapella harmony (Sweet Honey in the Rock), etc., is simply not enough. Holly Near works hard to keep a social conscience in women's music, but she cannot do it alone.

Even accepting that love songs are really what this movement is all about, there is still something missing, and that is the lack of ensemble playing among women musicians. There is a notable repetition of names on studio albums--Cris Williamson performs on and co-produces Tret Fure's album, who in turn does the same for Williamson, while Diane Lindsey plays bass for both and all three of them appear on Olivia's tenth anniversary release, "Meg and Cris At Carnegie Hall," which Fure also mixed and co-produced. The list goes on. One has to wonder if there are really so few musicians to go around. Judging by the NWMF, this appears to be the case. Most performers played alone or with only one or two others. Williamson appeared with Fure and a Holly Near associate, bassist Carrie Barton (and an unidentified drum machine), Sue Fink performed with a lone guitarist and a bank of computers, and an ill-advised Alix Dobkin sang several songs to a pre-recorded instrumental track (shades of "Bandstand?" MTV?). A few other side people were sprinkled around the main stage, showcase, coffee house, and open stage performances, but they were too few and too far between.

## Different drum?

Where were the drummers, the electric guitarists, where was the beat? It would seem that women are doomed to play alone, limited to writing highly personal and yet somehow cliché-ridden love songs, with accompaniment on piano or acoustic guitar. Young female musicians had best look elsewhere for role models, or yet another generation of Cris Williamson clones will appear.

Women's music is great for what it is, but what it is severely limited. Those looking for a wider variety of music from the women's experience might also listen to albums by Rickie Lee Jones, the Roches, Joan Armatrading, and Joni Mitchell. For guitar heroines, try Bonnie Raitt. For drummers, well, keep looking, somebody's bound to come along eventually. As for the women's music genre, be sure to check it out for yourself, but here are a few suggestions. Listen to "The Changer and the Changed," Cris Williamson's first Olivia album. By today's technical standards its not really up to par, but it did set the pace for much of what has followed. Meg Christian and Holly Near each have a greatest hits - type album available, and try Olivia's tenth anniversary release, "Meg and Cris at Carnegie Hall," for a nice overview. If you want to dig deeper, listen to Alix Dobkin for separatist philosophy, Alive! for jazz, Tret Fure for a beat, Sue Fink for high tech whimsy, then maybe take a shot at Ronnie Gilbert, Nancy Vogel, Teresa Trull, June Millington, Deidre McCalla, Debbie Fier, Casselberry and Dupree, Kristin Lems, Lifeline, Mary Watkins, Linda Tillery, Kate Clinton for comedy, and others probably not too numerous to mention.

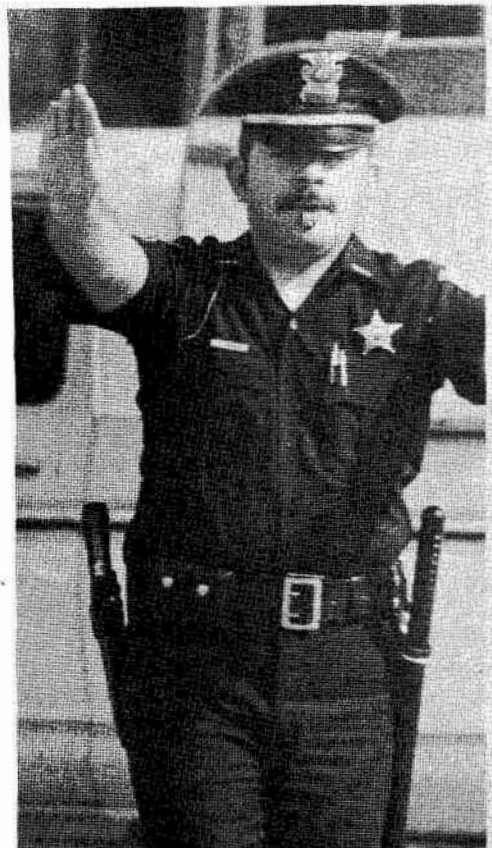
Keep in mind that in spite of all the fine music available, there is always room for lots more. If you know of any female bands or performers that Post readers might be interested in reading about, please let us know.

--LH



Reprimand secret until now

# Officer Tom Sanders pulled gun during '84 ISU beer riot



ABOVE: Officer Tom Sanders

Bloomington police officer Tom Sanders whipped out his revolver while on riot-control duty in Normal during the tense early morning hours of October 4, 1984.

Fortunately, a superior officer with a cooler head spotted Sanders's foolishness. He ordered Sanders to put his gun away.

Up to 2,000 ISU students had been roaming the streets of downtown Normal, smashing windows, uprooting traffic signs and blocking traffic. Students were angry about anti-student policies of the Normal City Council and at a police crackdown on student parties. Enthusiasm over another Chicago Cubs victory that evening bolstered the rowdy anti-authoritarian mood.

### Secret Reprimand

Two days after the riot, Sanders was officially reprimanded (in secret) for unnecessarily drawing his gun. He was given two days off without pay.

Because Sanders shot an innocent man in 1980, the City of Bloomington is paying out a \$600,000 settlement. At the time of the 1984 melee in Normal, Sanders faced three additional lawsuits charging police brutality and

When Sanders drew his gun at the corner of North and Broadway, the Normal police--with reinforcements from the County and Bloomington forces--were trying to prevent students from returning to Normal City

### If there was any officer who could have turned ISU's 1984 beer riot into another Kent State, it was Tom Sanders.

violations of civil rights. Two months earlier, the public learned that the FBI was conducting its own investigation into allegations of Sanders's brutality.

Sanders's actions during the riot and his subsequent suspension have never been made public. But the information is contained in police documents released to me--after a 14-month battle--under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. (See adjoining story.)

Hall. Earlier in the wild evening, students smashed city hall windows, trashed a squad car, and posed for TV cameras, chanting "Fuck [Police Chief] Lehr, we want beer."

During the early hours of the melee, police did not try to disperse the crowd. Then police changed strategy. By 11 pm, with riot-equipped reinforcements in place, the Normal police lined up across North St. and tried to force the students back to campus.

A lot of police officers showed professional restraint in the face of numerous barrages of rocks and bottles. But Normal police hadn't had riot control training in more than a decade.

It showed.

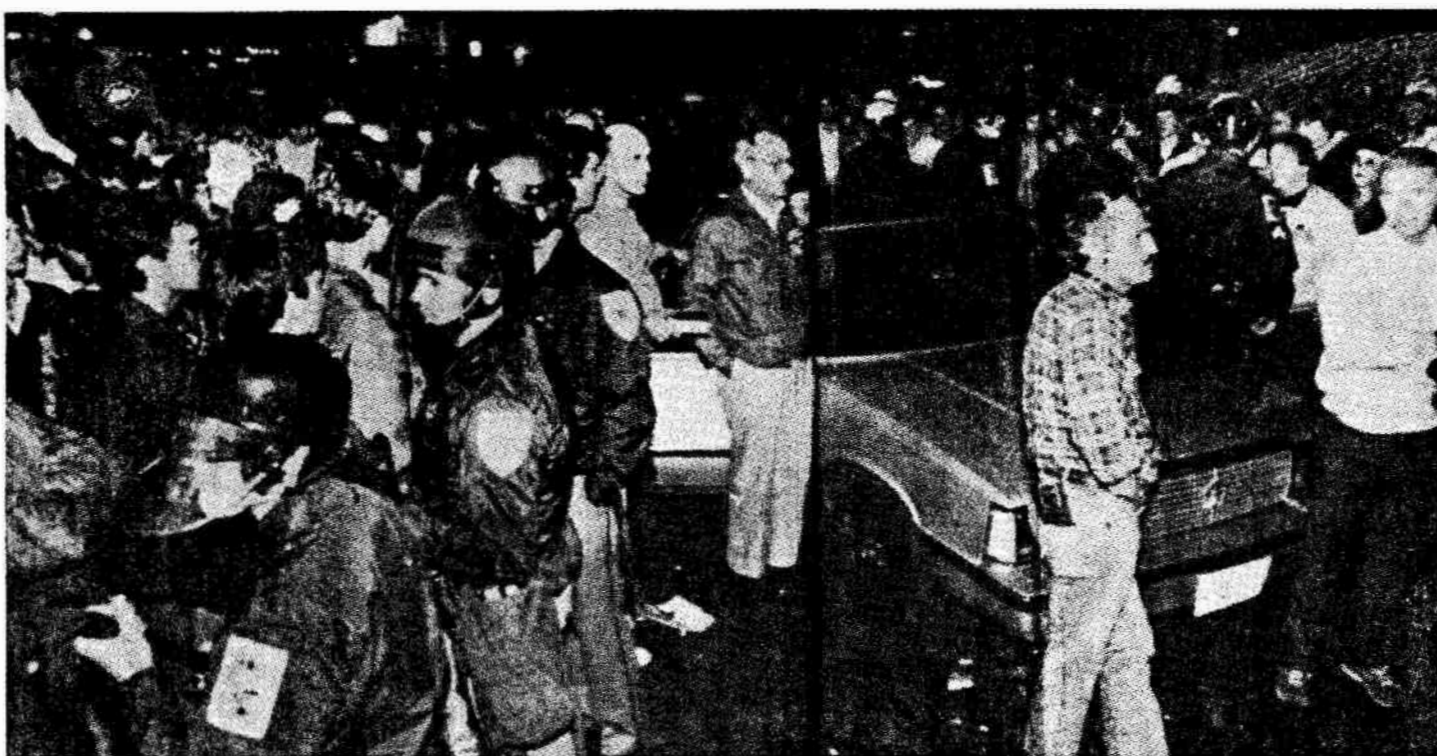
For the first couple blocks, police were fairly successful in forming the standard riot-control line and moving students west on North St. But as police marched west past Fell St., there were no buildings to anchor the ends of the line. Police had only empty parking lots on each side, and rioters easily slipped behind the line.

To make things worse, some officers left the line, following some rock-throwing students into the Julian Hall parking lot. These cops were soon surrounded, cut off from the rest of the officers, with rocks and bottles landing everywhere.

Here's a paragraph from what I wrote in the Post American at the time:

"At this point, the cops' lack of training could have had disastrous consequences. If any of those surrounded cops had got hurt, got extremely angry and panicked, they could have struck back at some students. If any students got severely hurt in that situation, the entire crowd of students might have escalated their violence. If that happened, one of the panicked, surrounded cops might have started shooting."

BELOW: The intersection of Broadway and North streets, about the time officer Tom Sanders whipped out his revolver. A wall of cops blocked rioters' access to the intersection, while Police Chief Lehr (in checked shirt) paced impotently about.



I didn't realize how close we came.

Sometime during this period of the riot, several Bloomington cops, including Officer Tom Sanders, were blocking traffic on Broadway from entering the intersection with North St.

### Gun pointed

Sanders didn't think an approaching pickup truck was slowing down fast enough. He pulled out his gun and pointed it at the approaching truck, according to one officer's report. The truck stopped one or two car lengths in front of Sanders.

Sanders's superior officer ordered him to put his gun away. "The speed of the approaching vehicle, in my opinion, was under 10 mph, and was slowing down," Sander's superior wrote. "Officer Sanders did not try and move out of the path of the vehicle as it approached."

\* \* \* \* \*

How severe is a two-day suspension?

Here's a comparison. Before Sanders's suspension, the last Bloomington police officer disciplined for unnecessary gunplay was Detective Charles Crowe. In 1983, Crowe violated Illinois law and Bloomington police department policy (and common sense) by shooting (and wounding) a fleeing misdemeanor suspect in the midst of bystanders at Eastland Mall. (That settlement cost Bloomington only \$15,000--a bargain considering the fact the police detective could have been charged with attempted murder.) Crowe got a three-day suspension.

If three days off is what you get for actually shooting someone, then two days off is an unusually stiff suspension for unnecessary display of a weapon, especially since nothing happened, no one was injured, and no citizens complained.

### Unusual officer

But Tom Sanders is an unusual officer. If there was any officer in any Twin City police department who could have

(Please turn the page.)

## 14-month FOIA fight

# Police tried to keep reprimand secret

This is the first public revelation that Officer Tom Sanders pulled out his gun in the middle of the tense student riot in 1984.

Bloomington city officials and police supervisors have tried to stop this information from getting out.

It makes them look bad. Even though Sanders received a reprimand for drawing his gun, police supervisors should have known not to send Tom Sanders to Normal that night.

I learned of Sanders's reprimand after using the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to get police documents.

### Not easy

It wasn't easy.

Over a fourteen month period, I had to meet with the Chief of Police, write numerous letters, file two written appeals, and threaten several times to go to court.

That threat gained some credibility in June, 1985. That's when the American Civil Liberties Union sued the City of Bloomington on my behalf, asking disclosure of citizen complaints filed against Bloomington officers. That suit is still pending.

In this case, I asked for documents relating to suspensions and reprimands of Bloomington police officers.

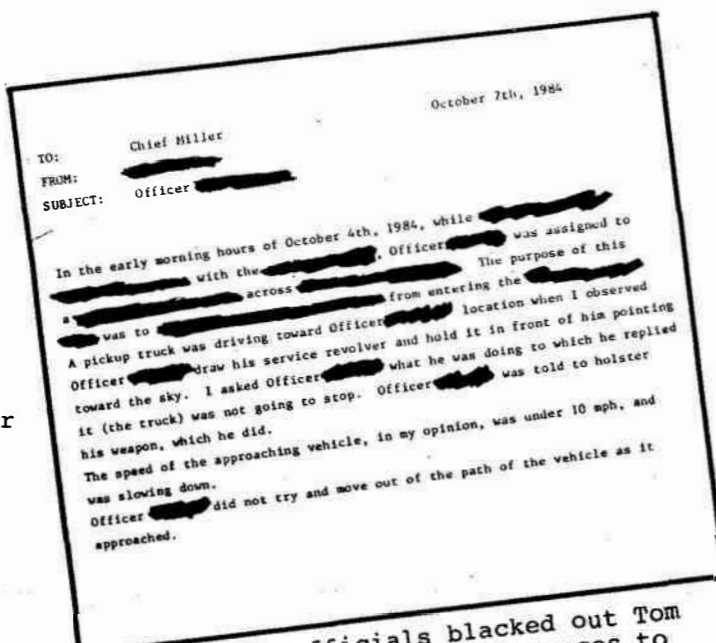
### Blackouts

The documents I finally received were heavily censored. A section of the Illinois FOIA says that public bodies don't have to release information if disclosure would be "a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

City officials are very concerned about invading personal privacy. They stretch this exemption as far as they think they can.

The documents I received show that an officer was disciplined for unnecessary display of a weapon. They contain the reports of several officers who saw the weapon drawn. But city officials blacked out the names of all the police officers.

They didn't stop there. City officials also tried to black out all information which would reveal that the disciplined officer's misconduct



ABOVE: City officials blacked out Tom Sanders's name and all references to the incident's location.

occurred in Normal during the student riot. Were they trying to protect privacy, or cover their ass?

Whatever they were trying to cover, they didn't cover it quite well enough.

They didn't black out the date. They blacked out the names of the streets where the incident occurred. But in one spot, they forgot to black out the word Normal.

### Spy tricks

That got me curious enough to look closer. City officials apparently did the blacking-out in two stages: first with a ball point pen, then with a heavy felt tip marker. In one spot, they forgot to use the marker. Sanders is visible through the ball point crossout.

That really pricked my curiosity. And started the eyestrain. As I looked for more careless markouts, I learned a spy trick. If you hold the blacked-out sections to the light in just the right way, you can sometimes just barely see some of the letters underneath.

I saw enough to know that Tom Sanders was the officer being disciplined.

But I wanted city officials to confirm it. I filed another administrative

appeal under the Freedom of Information Act. I pointed out that Tom Sanders has been the subject of a great deal of local public controversy. So was the riot, which made national news. I argued that disclosure of Tom Sanders's conduct at the riot was a matter of public concern, not an invasion of his personal privacy.

### CYA exemption

I also argued that city officials had only one possible reason for blacking out the location of the incident: to cover their ass. The Illinois Freedom of Information Act does not yet permit municipal officials to withhold information on the grounds that disclosure might expose their own misconduct or cause them embarrassment.

City Manager Herman Dirks partially granted this second administrative appeal. He conceded that the incident occurred at North and Broadway in Normal. But he still refuses to admit publicly that it was Tom Sanders who drew his gun that night.

--Mark Silverstein

## Sanders reprimand too hot for Pantagraph

When a frequently-investigated frequently-sued officer pulls out a gun in the middle of a student riot, that's news. Even if we find out about it almost two years later, it's still news worth printing.

The Pantagraph almost printed this news in June.

I said almost.

Reporter Steve Arney was assigned to the story. He looked at the documents I'd received. I showed him how to hold them up to the light so that he could see Tom Sanders's name. He saw it.

Arney was concentrating on the Freedom

of Information Act angle. He was also going to identify Sanders as the reprimanded officer. It was going to be a Sunday feature. Arney came over and got copies of the blacked-out documents to use as artwork.

Later that night, Arney called me. Arney said his editor changed his mind. Arney still had the story assignment, but he couldn't name Tom Sanders.

No story ever appeared in the Pantagraph.

That's one reason we put out the Post American.

## Police gave up screening Sanders' assignments

Sending Officer Tom Sanders out on a riot control assignment is asking for trouble. Sanders's supervisors knew it.

They even tried doing something about it. Once. Only a couple months earlier.

In late July 1984, in response to a Pantagraph inquiry, city officials publicly acknowledged that Officer Sanders was the subject of an FBI probe. The FBI was investigating allegations of police brutality and violations of civil rights.

Pending the investigation, the Pantagraph reported, shift supervisors were screening which calls Sanders would be sent on.

The paper quoted a "city administration source" saying shift supervisors are "exercising caution" in Sanders's assignments.

Shift supervisors weren't worried about what Sanders might do, the Pantagraph's source explained. Oh no. They claimed they were trying to avoid frivolous lawsuits. With an FBI investigation and several police brutality suits already pending, the Pantagraph's source explained, city officials worried that Sanders's name recognition might make him a target.

People might "set up" Sanders and then scream police brutality.

"If there's a high violence-probability call for example," the source was quoted, "do you send Tom or do you send someone else? That's the judgment call."

One day later, however, the Pantagraph reported that police supervisors were not screening Sanders's assignments.

Asst. Chief Mike Miller said such a plan had been considered and later dropped.

The reasons: it was impractical. Assignments are often made on the basis of incomplete, sketchy information. Corporation Counsel David Stanczak told the Pantagraph that supervisors would not be able to steer Officer Sanders away from every potential trouble spot.

But that doesn't mean they have to go asking for trouble. When Bloomington police supervisors sent Tommy Sanders to Normal October 3, 1984, they knew there was a full-blown riot.

If there was a time Bloomington police supervisors should have (and could have) screened one of Sanders's assignments, that was the night.

--M.S.

# Sanders pulled gun during ISU riot

(Continued from preceding page.)

turned ISU's 1984 beer riot into another Kent State, it was Tom Sanders.

And his supervisors knew it before they sent him to Normal that night.

Ever since he started work for the Bloomington Police Department in 1977, Tom Sanders's impetuous aggressive actions, poor judgment and quick temper have caused headaches. The first to get headaches are the people (often black) on the receiving end of Sanders's fists, billy clubs, flashlights and firearms. Then police

supervisors get the headaches, when the investigations and the lawsuits finally get going.

## Shot dog

Sanders has enjoyed pulling out his gun. He shot a neighbor's dog while walking (off duty) to his parents' house in 1978. Even after his impetuous shotgun blast caused permanent brain damage to an innocent man in 1980, Sanders didn't learn his lesson. He pulled his gun on a (black) fleeing shoplifter at Eastland Mall in 1981. In 1982, only a few

weeks after the Pantagraph reported that the Attorney General was investigating allegations that Sanders used racial slurs and brutality during a minor arrest, Sanders held his gun to the temple of a black man whose house police were searching. He also threatened to shoot the man's German Shepherd. (The search, by the way, turned up no contraband.) In 1983, Sanders applied to join the police department's SWAT team.

Police supervisors know Sanders is jumpy with firearms. They also know Sanders does not behave well in crowd situations, especially where the crowd may be hostile to police. In 1979, for example, Sanders's macho behavior started a riot at Bloomington's Red Lion Inn (see adjoining article).

Nothing happened when Tom Sanders briefly drew his gun during the 1984 student riot. But something could have happened.

## Supervisors' fault

Knowing Tom Sanders's history, police supervisors knew that official discipline was in order. Knowing Tom Sanders's history, police supervisors realized they should never have assigned Tom Sanders to riot control duty that night.

That might explain why Sanders's suspension was handled so quietly. It might explain why police and city officials never gave up trying to keep the public ignorant about what happened. Because if the public knew what happened, they might realize what could have happened. And then the public might wonder why police supervisors sent their most volatile officer to ISU that night.

--Mark Silverstein

## at Red Lion Inn

# Sanders started riot in 1979

On Oct. 6, 1979, Tom Sanders answered a fight-in-progress call and almost single-handedly started a riot outside the old Red Lion Inn in downtown Bloomington.

Over the weeks, tension had been developing between Bloomington police and young people outside the night spot. Patrons accused police of harassment. The last weekend in September, a rowdy group had tossed beer cans and called police "pigs."

When Sanders arrived at closing time in the early morning of Oct. 6, the fight he was supposed to break up was already over.

Most officers would have left things alone. There was no longer any fight to break up, and a crowd of 100 patrons in various states of sobriety were still milling around on the sidewalk outside the bar.

But Sanders inflamed the gathering--

which he called "a crowd of jeering people"--by following one of the alleged fighters into the city parking garage across the street.

Sanders hadn't even bothered to wait for a back-up officer.

Sanders had trouble cuffing his suspect, so he pulled out his billy club. That was too much for the suspect's friend, who grabbed Sanders' arm. Then someone grabbed the friend. Then everything was up for grabs.

It took six arrests (mob action, aggravated battery) and twenty cops from four police agencies to clean up the mess Sanders made.

In his report, a McLean County deputy included this quotation from an observer: "None of this would have happened except everybody got upset when the cop pulled out his nightstick."

AS WE CONTINUED OUR QUEST ACROSS FLORIDA, BRAVING LARGE INSECTS AND RUDE GAS STATION ATTENDANTS, I FINALLY DECIDED THAT FINDING MY DUBIOUS LOU OF A FATHER COULD NEVER BE WORTH THE INCONVENIENCES I WAS SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF...

# MY SISTER, THE ICONOCLAST

LOOK IT UP.

WE HAD TRACED HIM TO A SMALL ISLAND IN THE KEYS BUT OUR MONEY HAD RUN OUT IN KEY LARG-O... HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY AFFORD A BOAT TRIP? WELL, I, FOR ONE, HAD HAD ENOUGH OF THIS FARCE, AND I WAS PRETTY DARN CLOSE TO THE END OF MY SILKEN CORD!



WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL HITCH A RIDE ON A FISHING BOAT!!



LATER... I HATE FISH AND EVERYTHING IT STANDS FOR! AND THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO!



SO FAR, I HAD SUFFERED THROUGH DIRTY RESTROOMS IN TENNESSEE, RANCID COTTAGE CHEESE AT TRUCKSTOPS ALONG THE WAY, FLYING COCK ROACHES IN MIAMI AND PILES OF FISH GUTS ABOARD A BOAT CALLED "SWEET PEA" BUT NONE OF THIS COULD PREPARE ME FOR THE SHOCK THAT WAS TO GREET ME SHORTLY... ACCORDING TO ISLAND LOCALS, ROBERT BARRINGTON RAN A SMALL WEST INDIAN IMPORT BUSINESS, WHICH WAS NOT HARD TO FIND ON A TINY ISLAND...



WELL! YOU COME TO DA RIGHT PLACE! I AM HE!





# They killed my sister

On January 19, 1986, my sister, Sally Ann (Barth) Swearingen, died of a rare lung cancer known as pleural mesothelioma. This disease was caused by inhalation of asbestos fibers over a long period of time (8-10 years). From diagnosis to death took 3 days. The cancer grew from a small spot on her lungs to such a size that she could no longer breathe. She died with her heart beating over 150 times a minute. She was 43 years old. She left a husband and 2 children. She taught elementary grades at the Wheatland, Iowa, school for 8 years and Calamus, Iowa, for 1 year.

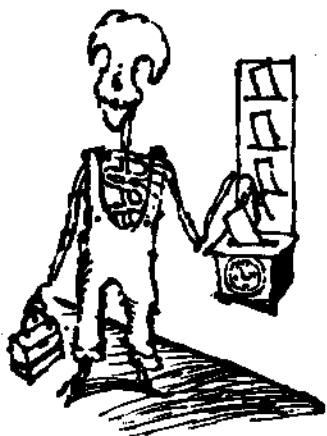
## Powdery substance

She had complained to her family about having to wipe a white powdery substance off her students' desks practically every morning. She knew that the heating pipes were insulated with asbestos. She knew asbestos causes cancer. She wiped the powder off the desks of her students so they wouldn't be exposed.

She told the school administration and board that this hazard existed. But they didn't do what was needed to take care of the problem. My sister needed the income; she made waves until the waves started to splash in the face of the school board. She couldn't afford to lose her job. She continued to wipe the powder from the bookcases and desks of her room.

Asbestos is a family of similar materials that all occur naturally as a kind of soft rock made up of compressed fibers. One of the best known insulators, it protects what it covers from heat, corrosion, or electrical damage. It is also strong and durable. The mineral fibers can be handled in ways similar to vegetable fibers--they can be spun, made into felt, or bonded with other substances to form durable materials. In all, some 30 million tons have been used in the U.S. since the beginning of the century, and by its end, some half million people will have died as a result of their exposure to asbestos.

Asbestos produces disease only when it has been inhaled. The miniscule

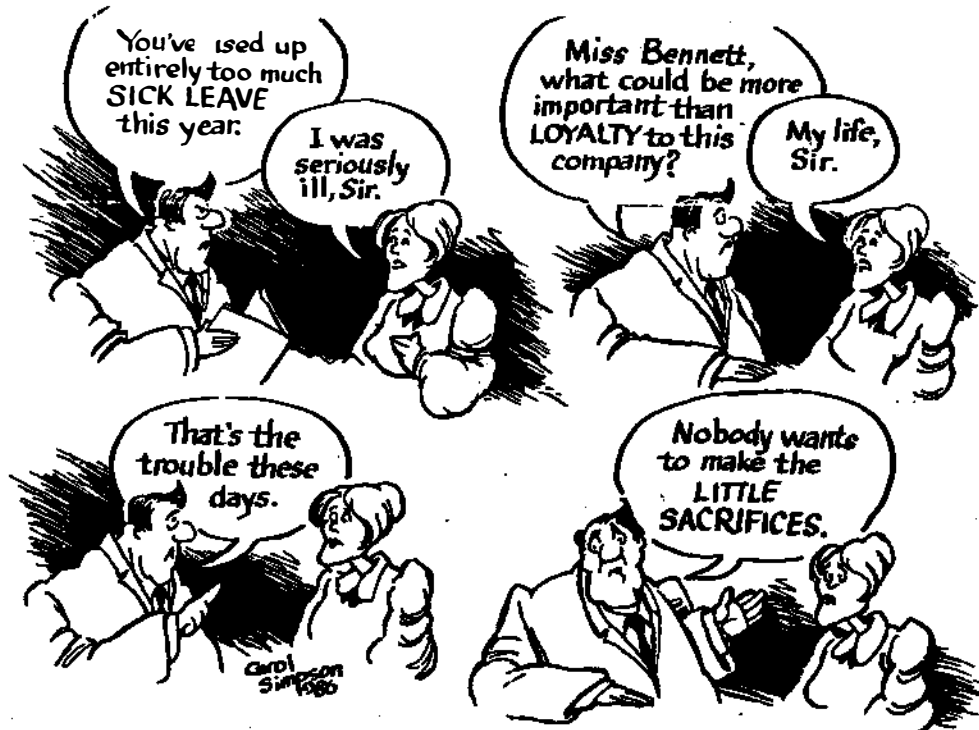


fibers are drawn into the lungs and taken up by the cells responsible for cleaning the air passages, but because of the strength of the asbestos fiber, they cannot be easily broken down by the cells for removal. Instead, the fibers remain in place or slowly migrate toward the periphery of the lungs. The tiny size of the asbestos fiber and its needle-like property appear to increase its ability to cause disease.

The three main types of diseases caused by asbestos are: asbestosis, a disease occurring almost only in people who have worked with asbestos or products containing it; lung cancer, also occurring among people who have worked with asbestos; and mesothelioma, occurring mainly in people who have been exposed to asbestos dust. Mesothelioma can occur even after a limited exposure to asbestos dust and may affect people who were not directly involved in handling the material, such as relatives of asbestos workers, or in the case of my sister, a teacher who wiped off the shelves and desks of her classroom every day.

Shortly after my sister's death, I went to both the Wheatland and Calamus schools that she taught in and took some samples of pipe wrapping, ceiling tile and insulation. I found that asbestos existed in large quantities, especially in the Wheatland school. The boiler room, which is on the same level as her classroom and about 100 feet away, has its insulation hanging in sheets, exposing the art class immediately outside its doors and her room, which is next to the art classroom. I also noticed the conglomeration of pipe insulation at the ceiling was in poor condition in the art room.

I saw that the insulation of the pipes



in the stairways was crumbling and small piles of white powder were evident on the floor.

Because of the minuscule size of asbestos fibers, the slightest breeze (or the wind created by a person walking by) can disturb fibers on the floor, wall, or desktop and make it airborne again for hours and hours. Take this information and multiply it times the activity that takes place during a school day in a classroom and between classes, and you have areas where the fibers are constantly circulating in the air. Then at night the janitors sweep the floors and stir up even more! These events can happen in school or workplace.

## Stalling

The Calamus and Wheatland superintendent was less than amiable to me on my last visit to the schools on May 29th. He told me that he was too busy with the school year and that the asbestos problems I confronted him about would be taken care of sometime. He told me the same thing last January. He said I wasn't telling him anything new. He knows where the asbestos is. He's stalling, but what for, another death? My grief has turned to anger.

A teacher who was a close friend of my sister's has decided not to pursue the issue any more. She told me she was afraid of losing her job. Could it be there has been pressure from "higher ups"?

What can be done about this problem? It has caused one death already. How many more of the teachers, workers, and students are going to get a cancer and die 1, 5, 10, or even 20 years from now? What can you do to stop it?

Number 1 is to identify possible violations of federal regulations. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) limits composition to 1% for applying asbestos through spraying. Any material that was used for insulation of pipes, boilers, or fire protection in home, business, or school up until the early 1980's is suspect. I took a small sample, put it in a plastic baggie, and sent it to Randolph and

Associates, 8901 N Industrial Rd., Peoria, Il. 61615-1589 for testing. The fee for analysis of each sample is \$35 and comes with a complete breakdown of material composition and percentages. The samples I found contained 25%-40% asbestos. I think \$35 is well worth the price of knowing if you or your children are involved in continued exposure. Note that the physical act of asbestos sampling is hazardous to your health, and should be done by a licensed asbestos worker.

Number 2 is get your local PTA organized if a school violation is found. And call OSHA at (312) 353-4716 for Illinois or (515) 281-3606 for Iowa

if it is in your workplace. Call the American Federation of Teachers School Asbestos Task Force at (202) 879-4400 and ask for either R.C. Newell or Ruth Whitman., For more information call the EPA's Asbestos Hotline at (800) 424-9065. Asbestos dangers have been known for decades . . . there is no reason for us to be plagued with a trail of death in this day and age. Fight back! It's your life they are dealing with.

--Doede Barth

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# P-A's alcohol stance questioned

Dear Collective,

I've been at fault for not writing you before to tell you which articles I have really liked. I support much of what you publish and look forward to getting Post Amerikan. Unfortunately, that's not why I'm writing now. Your article "Beat the heat: What to do if arrested for DUI" (June-July 1986) has infuriated me.

Driving under the influence of alcohol is totally irresponsible and dangerous. So is your article. The issue at hand is not how to beat the rap. Go spend a night, any night, in a hospital emergency room and see the results of drinking and driving. People are injured, paralyzed and killed daily from "throwing caution to the wind" and driving "in our wasted conditions." Taking a mint and calling a lawyer will not bring someone back to life. Please do a follow-up article that is equally informative and educational about the reality of drunk driving.

There is also another issue buried deep inside this article, about the drug itself. Alcohol abuse and alcohol addiction are nothing to make light of. This article obviously encourages drinking and driving, but ultimately it encourages drinking in and of itself. As a politically progressive journal, I expect Post Amerikan to have progressive politics. The drug alcohol has become a political issue.

Alcohol is a major cause of accidents

## Post stereotypes frats

Dear Post People,


I was disappointed to once again read in your paper a shameful and stereotypical portrayal of fraternity people ('On the Subtle Art of Barflying'-June/July 1986). We all know 'frat' people drink Heineken and drive Porsches, just like all gay people lisp and wear pink tights.

Kindly stick to challenging, not supporting, silly misconceptions.

Thank You,  
Dick Glick

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and death. It is also a frequent factor in domestic violence, rape, and incest. Countless people are incarcerated as a result of alcohol-related problems, many times with no memory of the events leading to arrest. Alcohol addiction is frightening and life-threatening. Alcohol is also a legalized and effective method of social control. It's extremely hard to organize large groups of people into action when the majority of us are numb from drugs.

I've always found your column The Underground Barfly extremely offensive for the same reasons. And I imagine many of your readers find this series quite funny and entertaining. But why do you suppose that is?? Think about it. I hope that someday you will realize how many people are being destroyed by alcohol and that you'll stop promoting this "get high" propaganda. The 60s gave us the freedom to experiment with drugs and booze; the 80s have given us the related serious health problems, political disorganization, and the undeniable pain of drug addiction.

Let us please spend our precious time and resources educating each other about the harmful effects of alcohol and about alcohol addiction. Let us immediately do something revolutionary--let's encourage each other to stay clean and sober.

Cheers.....  
Sue Doell



## Bovary likes P-A

Dear Comrades,

Right now, I have read about half of the June-July issue, and I think it was a great issue. I thought the articles about DUI defense and the asphalt plant were particularly informative and well written.

The graphic accompanying the article about military exercises in Honduras (p.10) was very effective. Even if someone didn't read the article, he or she would still get the idea that Honduras is crawling with U.S. military bases and personnel. One look, and you think, "Jesus! Have we got all that shit down there?!" The story of how Chicago became a NFZ was also excellent.

I'm glad you asked me to keep submitting articles, which I will try to do.

I will miss all of you.

Your accomplice,  
Madame Bovary

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## Post reader stays inside car

Post-Amerikan:

I was very glad to see the Post publish the Underground Barrister's column in the last issue. We readers have needed some practical legal tips for a long time.

I'm sure lots of other readers have wondered what to do if pulled over when driving home after drinking.

I wondered, though, about author's advice to get out of the car. The Underground Barrister suggests getting out of the car, license in hand, walking to the rear of the car (without stumbling, staggering or falling) and silently handing the license to the officer.

Why is this better than simply sitting in the car, license in hand, waiting for the officer to approach? We've already been advised to put our license on the dashboard before starting out, so that an officer would not observe us fumbling with our wallet while trying to get the license out. It seems that getting out and walking to the rear of the car gives the officers more opportunity to observe what they might interpret as an impaired condition.

Also, I was under the impression that some officers want a driver to stay inside the car.

When I was driving through New York state several years ago, I had no license plates--only an Illinois license-applied-for sticker. When police stopped me to investigate, I obligingly got out, with my license in hand, and started walking back toward the officers.

The two officers apparently saw my exit from the car as a threatening move. Both immediately pulled their guns and frantically ordered me to "freeze." They looked almost as shook up as I was.

The officers later told me that when stopped by police, I should always stay in the vehicle unless an officer asks me to get out. The officers' forceful illustration of their point proved memorable, and I have always followed their advice, even back in Illinois.

In conclusion, it seems that the drinking driver should remain in the car until asked to get out. This would prevent nervous officers from getting upset and also would limit the officers' ability to observe any effects that prior drinking has had on the driver.

Keep up the great work. I love your paper.

--avid Post reader

## Florida exiles like Post

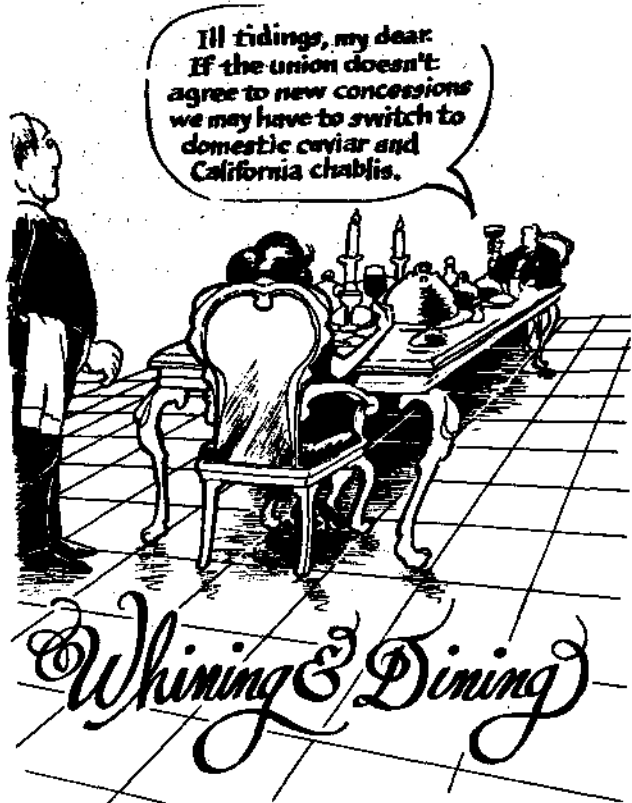
Hello to Post Amerikanites!!

Yes! Please renew our subscription. Thanks for letting us know--sometimes we just don't remember. Keep up the good work. We have really enjoyed keeping up on the news in B/N!! Looks like some things have changed--some good, some bad. Real sorry to hear about the Galery--where does everyone go now? I know this donation isn't much, but hope it helps a little.

Hugs to everyone there we know and love. Keep the good work alive--we miss y'all and are with you in spirit--

--Michael and Karen Meagher

We sure wish there was a P-A in Jacksonville! Nothing at all around--



Bank fishing only

# City closes West Side Country Club

At the July 28th Bloomington City Council meeting, the City officially closed the Kalamaya gravel pit to swimmers and boaters. Fisherpeople, however, can still fish from the bank between sunup and sundown, thanks to Councilman Jesse Parker.

Better known as the West Side Country Club, or just "the pit," the gravel pit off Bloomington's west Market St. has been a haven for unsupervised recreation for years. If you wanted a place to go swimming without a million little rugrats screaming in your ear, or to soak up a few quiet beers, the pit was the place to go.

The fishing is probably better there, too, than in most of the lakes hereabouts. Of course, if you stepped off the ledge into the deep end, or tipped your canoe and couldn't swim, you were dependent on yourself or your fellow frolickers to get you out of trouble. But everyone accepted the risk willingly.

No lifeguards whistling at you to stop horsing around, no kiddy kops searching your cooler, the pit was a friendly place for friendly people to have some fun without having to have someone (other than themselves) be "responsible."

What changed it all? What caused the city to close this loophole in the anti-fun code enforced by most officialdoms and bureaucracies? Insurance.

Supposedly, what prompted the city's concern about the pit was the early summer drowning of a woman who stepped off the ledge into the deep end. The council didn't mention, but the Pantagraph did, that it was 3:30 in the morning when the woman, who didn't know how to swim, stepped off the ledge, and that her blood alcohol level was .39 percent (four times the state's definition of drunk).

Don't get me wrong. The loss of life was a tragedy. But there's not really a trend of non-swimmers getting drunk enough to drown in a glass of water at Steak 'n' Shake and then falling into the deep end of the pit. The tragedy was not an adequate cause for the city's action.

Forgive me for being cynical, but I can't help thinking that it's not concern for the citizens that caused the city council to close the pit to swimming or any contact with the water. It's the likelihood of getting the pants sued off them that has them scared. You could see the horror in city manager Herman Dirk's eyes when he imagined next year's liability insurance premium for the city. As a result, he pushed strongly for closing down the pit completely. No swimming, no boating, no access, period.

Only Jesse Parker saved access to the pit for bank fishing. He wanted to have boats allowed, too, but was voted down for monetary reasons. "Once you allow them on the water, they'll be tipping over their boats and swimming anyway, and how can you enforce the law?" was the sentiment of the rest of the council. You could almost see the scorn in Herman Dirk's eyes when Jesse Parker admitted that he fished in a boat at the pit several times a year.

Forgive me again, but I think it was concern over lawsuits, not concern over people, that closed the pits. And that includes my own alderman, Steve Simms, I'm sorry to say.

I guess what scares me most about all this is the realization that "1984" is closing in on us, not from the State directly, but from the State through the insurance companies. The day when I can't leave my house and say or do anything controversial or for which I must take responsibility seems a step closer today. Not simply because the State forbids it, but because the State forbids it because I might hurt myself and sue them. The Rust brothers become Big Brother.

--dave nelson

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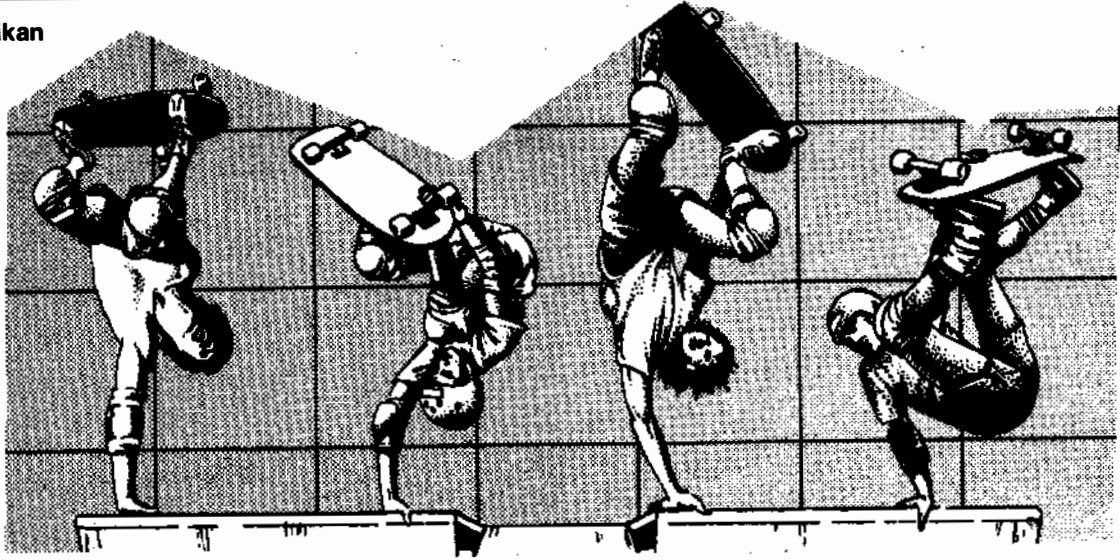
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**Normal  
proposes  
skateboard ban**



# Everything you always wanted to know about skateboarding

In early July, the Normal city council considered an ordinance banning skateboarders from the streets downtown. The proposed ordinance was tabled and is scheduled to come up again at a city council meeting Aug. 4. This incident has brought the previously innocuous skateboard scene of downtown Normal into the public eye, and one may be asking, "Just what is this skateboard business all about, anyway? And why is it causing such a ruckus?"

## Veteran skateboarder explains

I talked to Randy Vickers, a local skateboard enthusiast, about the skateboard scene in general, and about why skaters are running into so much trouble these days. Randy is 21 and has been skateboarding since he was nine.

According to Randy, at the time he started skating, it was just something that you did for fun, and the "sport" of skating has been around for a long time. As you improved, you learned to do a variety of tricks on your board, some of which had been perfected by other skaters and some that you made up on your own.

These tricks involve aerial feats like jumping off your board at high speed and then landing on it, and a variety of footwork and balance maneuvers like doing a handstand on your board.

Randy compares it mostly to a form of high-speed gymnastics. The competitive aspect comes in when skaters keep trying to out-do themselves and others, and many skaters devote themselves to this completely.



Skateboarding competitions are held in "bowls" or ramps: concrete spaces where skaters can build up to high speed and do their tricks. The contest can be very dangerous, and even with protective gear there are a great number of broken bones. For this reason, skateboard parks are almost impossible to insure, and all but two of the original 100 parks in this country have been shut down. Because of its riskiness and the fact that skaters prefer to learn their art independently, skateboarding has never become a major public sport and has pretty much remained low key as far as culture impact.

## Skate meets punk

Things changed, Randy said, when skating met with the punk culture. He noted that music has always been an

integral part of skating and that it was always aggressive music. At the time that Randy was perfecting his tricks, heavy metal music was the prevalent genre. "You need something really hyper for skating because it's pretty radical to be riding in these 15-foot deep pools and you want something to pump you up. And punk is really fast and blaring."

The merging of punk music and skating



happened mostly in Los Angeles, where skating was very popular. The top skaters at that time were also into the punk scene, and the younger, less experienced skaters were emulating their heroes. At the time that the connection between the two was growing stronger, the punk culture in Amerika was also gaining its own momentum.

As a result of this, what eventually happened was that, in many cases, the skateboard and skating became a part of the punk scene, instead of the other way around, until now in many ways they are one and the same. It is no longer necessary to be a skateboard enthusiast in order to carry around a skateboard, although most of the people I've seen on the streets seem to be working on some tricks as well as just carrying boards or using them for transportation.

There are books and magazines, such as Thrasher, that are a result of the merge. Indeed, Thrasher has even stated that it was the punk culture that was responsible for keeping skateboarding alive.

There are also bands, such as JFA (Jodie Foster's Army) that ply "skate-rock," a blend of skateboard and politically-oriented music, and in keeping with the aggressive/anarchistic statement of punk music, the hardcore/skateboard motto is "Skate and Destroy." (There's also an anti-punk skateboard faction called "Skate and Create.")

## Outlaw culture

According to Randy, skating has always been a kind of an outlaw thing. Skating is rebellious by nature--resisting organization and commercialism--and skaters like it that way. As with any rebellious endeavor, the authorities don't.

This brings us to the problems of present-day skaters in general, and the Normal skaters in particular. Because of the punk influence on skating, most of the skaters you see on the streets dress according to that culture. Their hair is shaved or spiky, and their clothes are

definitely not "prep." (A breath of fresh air in a dead zone, this writer feels compelled to add.)

Because of the way they look, they can be intimidating to people who can't abide a little difference. They also attract a lot of attention. And (shudder) there's usually more than one of them.

"That's the reason there's such a problem with it in Normal," says Randy. "There's so many skaters and they all get together and ride and then there's 25 kids all going insane on this wall (practicing tricks). Police get scared when there's groups like that."

Police paranoia about skateboards is not limited to Normal. Randy says that skaters all over the country are being harassed whether they look "punk" or not. "In Madison the law says you cannot skateboard on a street that has more than six feet of sidewalk and more than four lanes." However, Randy has been stopped on regular Madison sidewalks.

"I got pulled over one time and started doing some tricks on the side there, showing off to prove to the cop that I have enough control, that most skaters have enough control that they're not going to hurt anyone. I said that I had been doing it for about 10 years and have never hurt anyone. All he said was that there was a law against skateboarding in Madison. I was being very polite to him and all he could say was 'It's the law.'"

A 16-year-old friend of Randy's spent a night in jail when he received his fifth skateboarding ticket.

"I think that down here it's going to get even worse. They're just going to say that 'between these hours and in that part of town you can't skateboard' and then it'll get blown out of proportion to where all of Normal is off limits at all times. That's why we should be against the ordinance."

The skateboarders that I have talked to from Normal feel that they're being harassed. They contend that the ordinance is a thin disguise for an attempt to keep weirdness off the streets, and that they have never hurt anyone or anything by their actions. They protested at the last City Council meeting, and they'll be there again on Aug. 4. Anyone who advocates the right to be different and to do your own thing should be there to support them.

--DP

A very special thank you to Doris and Mark for donating the refrigerator to help chill out the Post! Beautiful, Baby! We luv ya!

# How you can avoid searches of your car



Every year thousands of people who would never be the target of a police investigation are busted for simple possession of controlled substances while being stopped for a minor traffic offense. A simple understanding of what constitutes probable cause for the search of your motor vehicle by police, and how to avoid it, can prevent the majority of drug busts that occur in this community.

Legal technicalities can work in your favor if you know the rules and take advantage of them. The basic rule is that a police officer cannot make a random stop of your car unless there is probable cause to suspect the presence of illegal contraband.

Probable cause has been defined by the United States Supreme Court as circumstances "sufficient to warrant a reasonable person in belief that an offense has been or is being committed, or that evidence of criminal activity is located in a particular place." The requirement that police have probable cause prevents them from making an unreasonable search or seizure or arrest in violation of the Fourth amendment to the U.S. constitution.

## Constitutional protection

It is important to note that there is less constitutional protection against search and seizure in your car than in the privacy of your home. Because of this, you should never give police a reason to stop your car for a traffic violation while in possession of any drugs. If you are stopped, you should make certain that no drugs or paraphernalia are in open view, which would provide probable cause for a search of your car and person if observed by the officer.

If you are driving home from a friend's party and get pulled over for speeding, the officer has a right to stop your car and issue a citation, but not to search your car unless you give him a reason or permission to. To search your car or person without permission in this situation, the officer must have probable cause to believe drugs, a weapon, or some other illegal contraband may be concealed. If you leave roaches in an open ashtray, rolling papers on the dashboard, or

hang roachclips from your rearview mirror, this could be sufficient evidence to provide probable cause for the search.

## "Mere suspicion"

If, however, you avoid open display of any incriminating evidence, courts have consistently ruled that police cannot stop or search a car on the basis of the officer's "mere suspicion" that contraband may be located in the vehicle. Any evidence seized as a result of an illegal search (one without probable cause) is inadmissible in court, and will often result in the dismissal of all charges.

To avoid being busted for drugs in your car, you should follow some common sense rules to prevent a routine traffic stop from escalating to a search of your car and person.

Never give the officer consent or permission to search your car following a routine traffic stop. If the officer asks to look in your car, tell him "not without a warrant." Unless the officer has probable cause to believe that your car contains contraband, it cannot be searched without either a warrant or your consent. By consenting to a warrantless search of your car, you are waiving your rights under the Fourth Amendment and are asking for trouble.

## Probable cause

Do not keep any drugs or paraphernalia in open view within your car. Such items can provide the officer with the necessary probable cause to search your car, so keep everything concealed in closed containers, under the seat, or in the trunk.

When carrying drugs in your car, obey all traffic laws to avoid being stopped by police for any traffic violation. Don't speed, run stop signs, or weave in the roadway. Also, make sure all headlights, taillights, brakelights, and turn signal lights are in proper working order. Defective lights and other equipment violations are a frequent basis for the police to make a traffic stop, so don't give the police this convenient excuse to stop your car.

Make sure your license plates and other registration stickers are current and properly displayed to avoid an untimely traffic stop.

Never carry more than 30 grams of cannabis in your car. If stopped and arrested for possession, you will then be charged with a misdemeanor offense. Any amount over 30 grams can bring a felony charge.

## Remain silent

Never say anything to the police if you are stopped and arrested for possession. By refusing to admit your knowledge of the pot inside your car,

you may be able to preserve a defense that you did not have immediate and exclusive control over the area in which the pot was found and, therefore, cannot be guilty of possession of the illegal substance. If the officer attempts to question you, say that you wish to remain silent and would like to talk to an attorney.

Avoid carrying more than one bag of marijuana. If you are arrested for possessing two small bags of pot, you can be charged with intent to deliver (a felony offense), even if the combined weight of the two bags is within the misdemeanor range.

If stopped by the police, you should get out of your car, remove your license from your wallet or purse, and meet the officer away from your car to restrict the officer's vision of the interior of your vehicle. Produce your license upon the officer's request and ask why you have been stopped.

## Be polite

By engaging the officer in a conversation concerning the reason for the stop, you are trying to focus attention on whatever traffic violation was observed, and to prevent the officer's wandering over to your vehicle and observing the contents of your vehicle. Be polite, and you will probably be given a citation and can be on your way. If arrested, however, do not talk to the police about the reason for your arrest, and do ask to speak to your attorney as soon as possible.

--The Underground Barrister

## Eat your words, Ron

President Reagan, campaigning for Republican candidates in Texas, made the following remark: "Even with all the tanks and gunships from the Soviet Union, my guess is that the Sandinistas would make it about as far as the shopping center in Pecos before Roger Staubach came out of retirement, teamed up with some off-duty Texas Rangers and the front four of the Dallas Cowboys and pushed the Sandinistas down the river, out across the Gulf and right back to Havana where they belong."

Well, all right. Let's remember that. And the next time president Rambo comes charging up Capitol Hill to ask the Congress for millions and billions to throw at the contras, let's just say, "Hey, tough guy, why don't you go get Roger Staubach and some off-duty Texas Rangers and the front four of the Dallas Cowboys and quit wasting huge sums of taxpayers' money of waging war against the democratically elected government of Nicaragua?"

--Ferdurke







# The Underground Barfly



Twenty Grand Tap

Y yucky  
 YY so-so  
 YYY some fun  
 YYYY groovy  
 YYYYY pure alpha

## All quiet on the western front

In our grueling effort to get back up off the mat after the recent pummeling that we received at the hands of our readers (see letters, p. 14), we've barely had the energy to get out there and investigate the social scene which happens to manifest itself in bars.

For a moment, we considered abandoning the Underground Barfly altogether and shifting our attention to another public social arena which might be less controversial (The Underground Mallfly? The Underground Church Mouse, perhaps? Nah.), but we decided to stay behind bars and take the licks.

So this month, we didn't go looking for excitement. Instead, we went looking for a place to hide from the heat of July---a place with no future, a place with no past, a place with no patrons and no story to tell. A place that didn't blare music out of a cracked jukebox speaker. A place that offered only the simplest pleasures---cool air, cold beer and maybe a game or two that didn't inhabit a video screen.

You guessed it. We found it at the Twenty Grand Tap, on W. Front, across from the Law and Justice Center, in downtown Bloomington. We've known about the Twenty Grand for years, sitting there in its narrow storefront, sandwiched inauspiciously

**Mini-review**

YYYY Twenty Grand Tap

On a small scale, it's rather grand.

between other frumpy buildings. Like the skinny kid who always got picked last on teams in gym class, its hangdog look never enticed us to venture in.

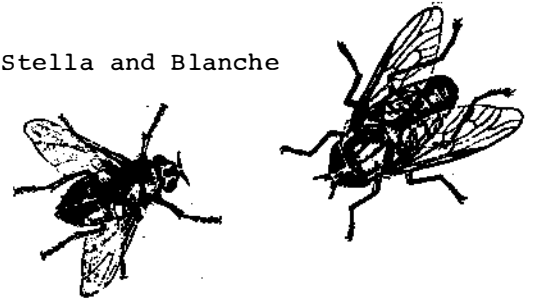
And, like so many of those under-achievers in gym class, this place turns out to be a little gem. A beautiful dark oak bar dominates the deep, narrow room, where one quietly easy-going bartender takes care of his customers' simple thirsts. No Singapore Slings here. And here's a plus for the union-minded drinker---the Twenty Grand Tap is supporting the Breen Beverage boycott (see P-A Vol. 15, #3).

Prices are average. Pitchers are \$3, soft drinks (in cans) are 75¢. We're not entirely sure, but we didn't notice any advertised specials. We got the impression that the proprietors of this bar aren't concerned about luring folks in off the street to blow their paychecks.

The quiet, somewhat old-fashioned atmosphere and the customers who mind their own business make this a swell place to go to when you want to be left alone, but the bar holds yet another treasure. Besides the half-size pool table, the pinball machine and the two video games, Twenty Grand is home to one of the noblest (and most endangered) species of barroom games---the tabletop shuffleboard. And what a shuffleboard! All twenty feet of it is made from smoothly polished hardwood, with none of that electronic gadgetry. Games are free, but the automatic scoreboard is available for a quarter a game.

We found the Twenty Grand Tap to be a wholly pleasurable place to cheat the sadistic summer heat. It's also a good place to go to nurse your wounds.

Stella and Blanche



### We know you're cool, but does anyone else?

One way to secure the coveted status of "cool" is to sport a Post Amerikan T-shirt. Just wear it and keep your mouth shut. A Post T-shirt speaks for itself. In tie-dyed colors (if you're lucky) or bright solid colors, it's a great way to say, "Hi. My politics are exciting."

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