

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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4-1977

### Volume 6, Number 1

Post Amerikan

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Anyone can be a member of the POST staff except maybe Sheriff King. All you have to do is come to the meetings and do one of the many different and exciting tasks necessary for the smooth operation of a paper like this. You start work at nothing per hour, and stay there. Everyone else gets paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-Amerikan has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up here and asking who's in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informa-

## ABOUT US

tive, and not available in other local media. We will not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material or inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories or tips for stories. Bring stuff to a meeting (the schedule is printed below) or mail it to our office.

These meetings are held at the Post-Amerikan office, and if you'd like to come, call us. The number is: 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885.

### MEETINGS

Friday, March 25 . . . . 6:30  
Potluck--  
Friday, April 1 . . . . 6:30  
Friday, April 8 . . . . 6:30  
Deadline & Meeting--  
Wed., April 13 . . . . 6:30  
Layout--  
Sat. & Sun., April 16 & 17  
Friday, April 22 . . . . 6:30  
Potluck--  
Friday, April 29 . . . . 6:30

You can make bread hawking the Post--15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be mailed to: The Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701 (Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed! Otherwise it's liable to wind up in our letters column.)

## Post Sellers

### BLOOMINGTON

Book Hive, 103 W. Front  
Cake Box, 511 S. Denver  
The Joint, 415 N. Main  
Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front  
News Nook, 402 1/2 N. Main  
The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main  
South West Corner--Front & Main  
Downtown Postal Substation, Center & Monroe Bl.  
Post Office, Empire & Fairway (at exit)  
DeVary's Market, 1402 W. Market  
Harris' Market, 802 N. Morris  
Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington  
Blasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main  
Discount Den, 207 N. Main  
U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market  
U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee  
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland  
Bus Depot, 523 N. East  
Park Store, 909 S. Allin  
Pantagraph Building, in front of it  
Eddy's Market, Washington & Allin  
Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust  
Man-Ding-Go's, 312 S. Lee  
K-Mart, at parking lot exit  
The Blue Room, 803 Morrisey Drive  
Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.  
Of Mind and Body, 606 N. Main  
The Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
Apache Junction, 204 S. McClun  
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main  
Lazy J Saloon

### OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under the Sun, 188 W. Main  
Peoria: That Other Place, 901 NE Adams  
Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op, 407 E. Adams  
Pontiac: Semmens Drug Store, 123 Madison St.

### NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort  
Pat's Billiards, 1203 S. Main  
Redbird IGA  
Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North St.  
Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.  
Ram, 101 Broadway Mall  
Hendren's Grocery Store, 301 W. Willow  
Co-op Bookstore (in front)  
The Galery (in front)  
SE corner, University & College  
New Age Bookstore, 101 Broadway Mall  
Co-op Tapes & Records, 311 S. Main  
Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union  
Cage, ISU Student Union  
Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North  
Upper Cut 1203 1/2 S. Main

## Work on the Post

We're looking for folks to write stories. If you can write, call the Post and tell us what kind of story you'd like to do. If you aren't sure, other people can suggest things.

People who can help do layout one weekend a month are also real welcome. You don't need experience. If you can type, great!

Call 828-7232 for more info. If no one answers, leave your name and number on our answering machine, and we'll get in touch.

## Alternatives For Consumers

One important way to avoid paying high prices is to buy second-hand. Whether you buy from a friend or from a second-hand store, chances are that you pay much less than you would in other stores for the same item. A 90% savings is not uncommon.

Sometimes the older article, being constructed of better material than new models, is even superior in some ways.

You can buy second-hand in several ways. First, you might put classified ads in such papers as the Post-Amerikan and The Penny Saver (a Bloomington paper with a 14-word limit for free ads) at no cost, asking for items. Second, you might be on the lookout for the myriad of yard, garage, and basement sales that come to Bloomington-Normal in warmer weather. Third, you can go to a second hand store such as Salvation Army (236 E. Front, Front & Prairie), The Thrift Shop (221 E. Front, between Prairie and East streets), Goodwill (428 N. Main, Main and Market streets), or Small Changes (409A N. Main, with used books.)

These stores have a great variety of items.

Fourth, you can go to Bloomington-Normal library sales, for inexpensive books and records.

Since it is not uncommon in our society for people to throw away things that are in good condition, you can also retrieve discarded items. This may include expensive appliances and furniture, and since an item is not legally possessed by someone after s/he discards an item, you run no legal risk.

All these approaches have several things in common. First, they offer you a product at a much lower price than you usually would pay. Second, they conserve valuable resources (metals, glass, cloth, oil, etc.) by recycling good products. Third, they put the money in the hands of individuals and non-profit organizations rather than large profit-making corporations. Thus the money you do spend often goes to a better use.

--Dave Burdette



To whomever called up the Post-Amerikan March 14 Or 15th wanting to write stories: we got your message, but the part with your name and phone number got lost. Please call us again. We want to hear from you.

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FOR SALE: electric appliances, books, furniture, glass panes, hardware, handmade bongos, water pipes, and other pipes, etc. LOW PRICES. Call 452-4831 and leave your number or stop by at 301 E. Olive, Apt. 2, and ask for Dave (best time: Sunday after 4).

Two women moving to Bloomington-Normal in August would like to hear about any health food or housing co-ops in the area. Please write to: Julie Huffman, 611 1/2 W. Cottonwood, Freeport Il. 61032.

Let your soul sing. Learn to play the piano: classical, blues or jazz. Call Rod Luther at 452-6192.

# Pantagraph Suppresses County Jail History

To commemorate the closing of the 97-year-old county jail, the Pantagraph ran a full page article on March 13 featuring the highlights of the jail's history.

But the Pantagraph didn't even mention some of the jail's most significant recent history.

More than half the Pantagraph's full page article lists dates from the 1920's on, with short paragraphs describing that day's important jail-related event. Although recent history is given a lot of space, there is no mention of an extensive year-and-a-half FBI investigation of jail officials for violations of prisoners' civil rights.

Beginning in late 1973, the FBI interviewed dozens of ex-jail inmates who had experienced or witnessed beatings inflicted by Sheriff King and his deputies. The FBI also investigated charges that Sheriff King had denied medicine to prisoners and used such brutal disciplinary measures as the medieval black box and stand-up cell.

Before the FBI's investigation became public knowledge, the Pantagraph initiated what became a three-part series in early 1974. The paper reported a dozen incidents which included beatings and denial of medicine.

Despite dozens of allegations against Sheriff King (the Post-American had been carrying articles, too), the Pantagraph supported King's reelection in 1974.

The Pantagraph commemorative page even suppresses mention of the newspaper's own charges against King. It says, "The files record nine suicide attempts, 22 fires, eight 'falls,' five beatings, and three deaths within the walls of the jail."

The Pantagraph is including beatings one inmate inflicted upon another in its total of five reported beatings. But the paper is ignoring its own earlier reports of deputies beating prisoners.

In summer 1975, the U.S. "Justice" Department announced they would not recommend prosecution of Sheriff King and his deputies. The decision "does not mean we did not believe that some of these things did not happen," but that "we do not believe the matter can be proved," a "Justice" Department spokesperson was quoted in a 1975 Pantagraph. In other words, the Sheriff did it, but a jury probably wouldn't believe the testimony of ex-convicts against a sheriff.

Also ignored in the Pantagraph's spot history was an October 11, 1974 demonstration against Sheriff King and his jail policies.

TV stations reported that 500 demonstrators participated that evening in a peaceful protest. Sheriff King was hung and burned in effigy from a tree outside the jail.

Instead of recalling a peaceful march on the jail, the Pantagraph's commemorative page recalled

the November, 1974 march on the county jail. After some demonstrators fought back against police-instigated violence that day, police nabbed six people on trumped-up charges. A Post-American photographer was thrown through Kresge's plate glass window by an angry Bloomington cop, after being arrested.

Admittedly, the Pantagraph was pressed for space, I can understand that they might choose to mention only one of two demonstrations which were held a month apart. I can even understand that they would choose to emphasize the more sensational demonstration, even though fewer people participated.

However, the complete suppression of any mention that Sheriff King had ever been criticized or investigated for violations of prisoners' rights must have been a conscious decision to suppress a part of history.

--Mark Silverstein

## Evergreen Communications forced to sell WJBC/WBNQ?

The same company cannot own both a newspaper and a radio station in the same community, a Washington D.C. Court of Appeals decided March 1.

The ruling may force Evergreen Communications --the holding company which owns the Pantagraph, WJBC/WBNQ, and 10% of Telecable--to sell the radio stations.

But action will not come right away. The FCC is appealing the court ruling. The FCC wants to allow joint ownerships to continue if they existed prior to 1975.

In 1975, the FCC decided to issue no more new radio licenses to companies which own newspapers in the same town. The FCC allowed existing cross-ownership arrangements to continue, and that's what the Appeals Court

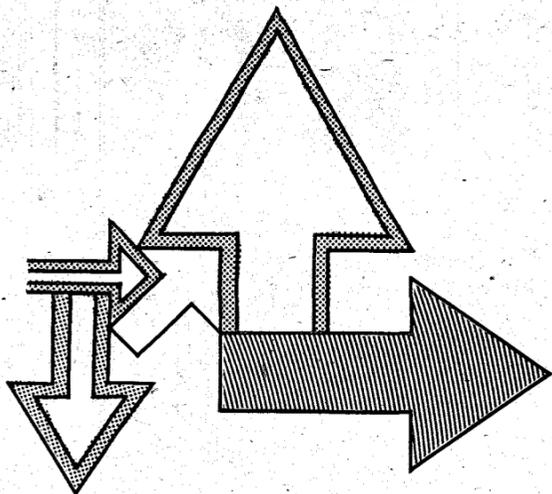
overturned.

An exception to these rules, according to the court's decision, is if the cross-ownership is "in the public interest."

Naturally, they didn't define "public interest."

In explaining what Evergreen Communications will do about the court decision, company president Davis Merwin told of his commitment to grapple with the deep moral and ethical questions concerning a media monopoly's social responsibility: "We'll do whatever the law says we must do," Merwin said. (This is the same comment another Pantagraph spokesperson made about their discriminatory help wanted ads.)

He was quoted in his own newspaper.



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# Illinois' top narcs



Photographed by the Galesburg Free Voice as they waited to testify in favor of the MEG funding bill, these five men are almost surely all high-ranking narcs in different Illinois MEG units.

If other Illinois MEG units operate like the one operating in the Bloomington and Peoria areas, then the director is also an undercover agent.



The only narc here whom we can positively identify is pictured at the bottom of this page. He is Jerry LaGrow, director of the Peoria-based MEG. LaGrow has made undercover buys in Bloomington.

Who are these other narcs?

Here are the possibilities:

Keith M. Kostelny, director of the Joliet-area MEG.



Gary Fred Bossio, director of the Southern Illinois MEG.

James A. Cunningham, director of the Quad Cities MEG unit.



Michael M. Wait, who attended the legislature hearing representing the Vermillion County (Danville) MEG.

Robert S. Taylor, Deputy Director of the Cook County MEG.

Richard Pariser attended the hearing representing "Illinois MEG units," but didn't say which one.

Jerry LaGrow also said he represented "Illinois MEG units," but we already know he is the Peoria MEG director.

Four of these six names match up with these four unknown narcs. Readers are invited to supply information.

For the full story on the MEG funding bill hearing, see adjoining story.

(These photos provided by Galesburg Free Voice.)



# House Committee

The House of Representatives Township and Counties Committee approved two MEG funding bills March 16, after an unusual hearing guarded by special security forces and marked by an irregular ban on picture-taking.

The MEG bills should have been heard by the House Judiciary Committee, whose members usually deal with matters affecting the criminal "justice" system. Many of the Judiciary Committee's members are lawyers; some are even civil libertarians of sorts.

But Tom McMasters, MEG bill sponsor, pulled a few slick tricks and got his bills assigned to his own highly conservative Township and Counties committee. David Watkins, who serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Peoria-based MEG, bragged about McMasters' maneuvers at a Feb 12 MEG board meeting.

The MEG bills got the uncritical approval McMasters expected: 16 yes votes, no nays. Two committee members abstained.

Seven Illinois MEG units are counting on the MEG funding bill, which would appropriate state money to replace the expiring federal grants MEG depends on now. The bill calls for local units of government to come up with at least half of each MEG unit's budget before state funds are released.

Committee officials apparently expected some sort of disruption at the MEG bill hearing. When a state rep commented that armed Secretary of State's police are never seen guarding a committee hearing, McMasters retorted, "Well, if you'd seen the demonstration they did over in Peoria, you'd be glad they were here."

McMasters was referring to guerrilla theatre staged at a MEG board meeting in Peoria February 12. Dressed in ski masks, suits, and motorcycle helmets to mimic a disguise once worn by MEG agent Ford Conley, 15 people crowded into the boardroom and read a statement condemning MEG's continuation. No police appeared, nor were they necessary at the Feb. 12 demonstration.

Jerry LaGrow, head undercover narc for the Peoria-based MEG, attended the March 16 committee hearing prepared to testify, but instead sat silent, glaring as photographers snapped his picture.

LaGrow's counterparts from other Illinois MEG units also attended the hearing prepared to testify, but instead sat silent as Galesburg Free Voice editor Mike Richardson snapped their pictures, too.

(Those photos are printed in the left hand column of this page.)

MEG articles on these pages by Mark Silverstein, unless otherwise signed.



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&  
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828-3422

# approves MEG funding bill

After the picture taking, the committee chairperson prohibited photographs. To explain the unusual move (reporters from many newspapers usually take photographs in committee hearings, Chairperson Yourell said that photographs "endanger the very being and livelihood" of narcs..

Despite such scary claims about the power of photographs, the Peoria Journal Star published MEG chief LaGrow's picture the next day, March 17. Previously, LaGrow's face had appeared only in the Post-Amerikan, the Galesburg Free Voice, and the ISU Vidette.

No "respectable" daily paper had dared challenge LaGrow's fantasies about the dangers faced by a super-spy losing his "cover." Channel 19 TV once humored LaGrow so much that they broadcast a two-part interview which allowed the TV audience to see only the back of LaGrow's head as he answered questions!

The only witness testifying against the MEG Funding bills was Mike Richardson, who used to contribute articles on MEG to the Post-Amerikan before he started the Galesburg Free Voice in Spring, 1976.

Richardson used arguments he thought were more apt to be accepted by a group of conservative legislators.

He said existing procedures to monitor MEG's behavior don't work, and that ILEC guidelines which try (unsuccessfully) to control MEG's overzealousness would be completely dis-

carded under the proposed MEG funding bill.

The Free Voice editor also criticized the MEG bill's statement of the narcs' purpose, which now includes marijuana busts as a goal. (A fourth to a third of MEG's busts now are pot busts, violating their present statement of purpose.)

And, to counteract MEG's insistence that they are after the big dealers,

Richardson read the committee a Daily Pantagraph report of one of Jerry LaGrow's few honest moments: "MEG was not brought into existence to get the top dealer. We buy the same kinds of drugs as the kids in the neighborhoods at the same prices and in the same quantities, and we go after convictions on that basis."

But the Counties and Townships Committee did not really gather to discuss the MEG bill's merits; they gathered to approve the bill. And that's what they did.

## Student Lobby Group Fights MEG Bill

The Association of Illinois Student Governments (AISG) came out against continued MEG undercover units, according to the organization's mid-February press release.

Headquartered in Springfield, the AISG describes itself as an affiliation of student governments which collectively "represent" 133,000 state university students.

The ISU Student Association is a member.

AISG lobbies in Springfield on behalf of what it considers students' interests.

And, according to AISG Executive Director Jim Conway, funding MEG is not in students' inter-

ests.

"Many of the people MEG busts are not big drug dealers," Conway said. "Typically, informants are people that have been drug dealers themselves who have made deals with the authorities to 'rat' on their friends and others in exchange for freedom or immunity."

Conway cited cases of MEG informants handing out drugs, including amphetamines, and smoking pot with suspects in order to set them up.

AISG intends to combat the MEG funding bills currently pending in the Illinois legislature.

Growing like  
a weed....

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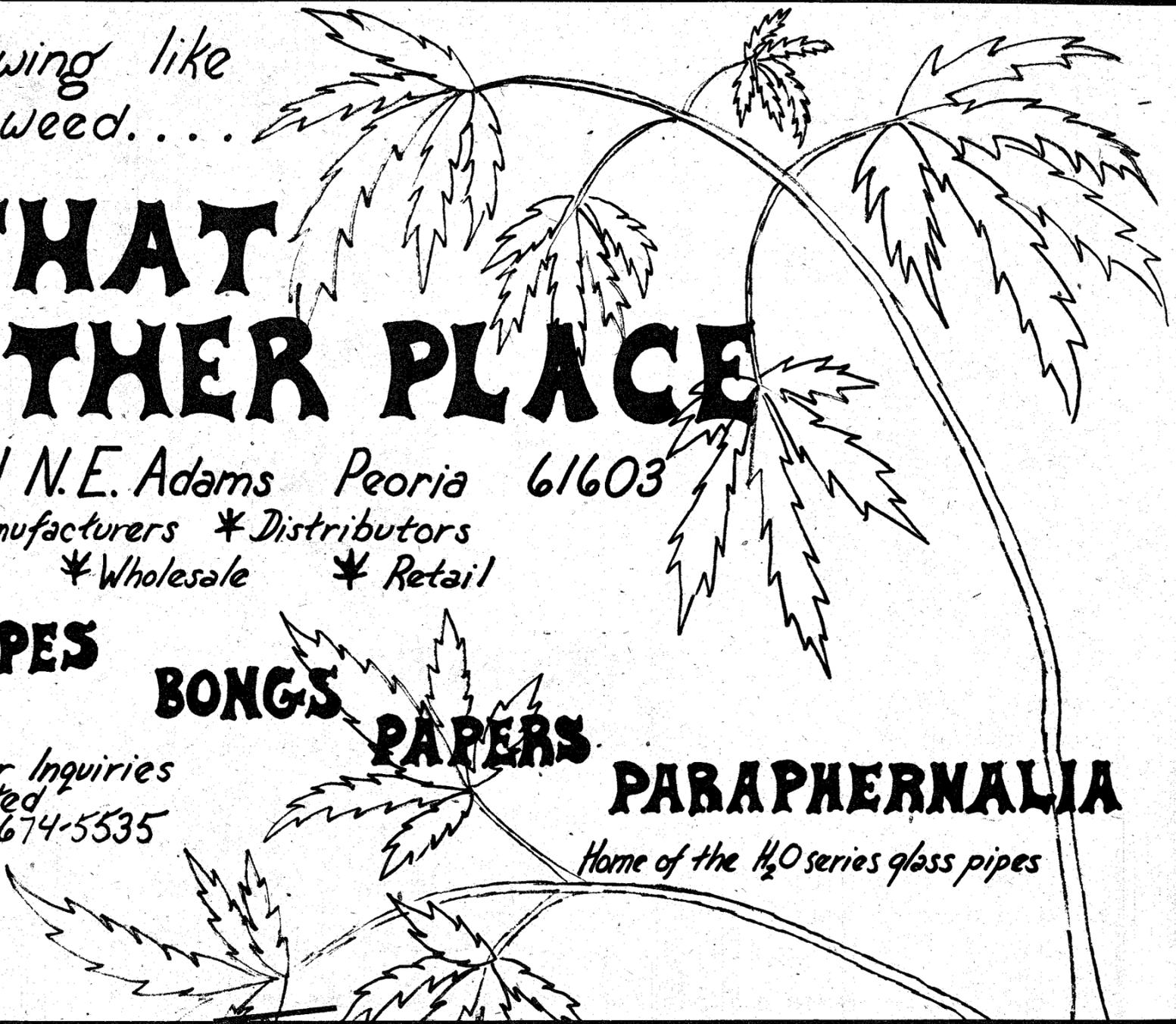
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## PAPERS

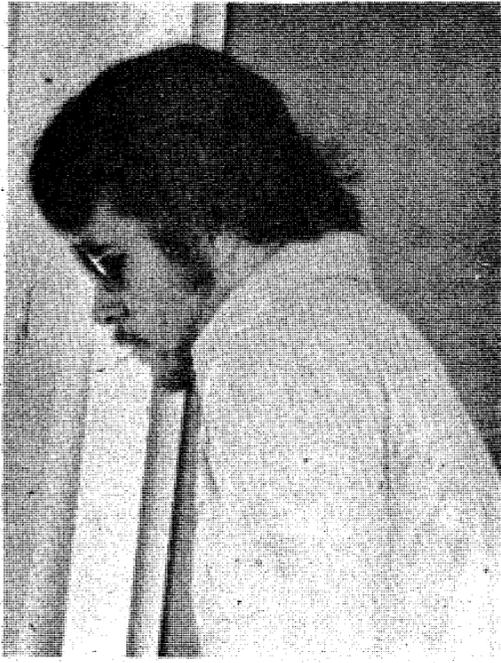
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## MEG agent uses drugs himself



ABOVE and BELOW: MEG agent Bill Trowbridge, as he looked in May '76.



POST NOTE: Written from prison by a victim of MEG's unethical tactics, this letter was sent to the Galesburg Free Voice, which passed it on to the Post-Amerikan. The author was busted in Warren County, the westernmost county of the six the undercover narcs operate in.

Dear Post,

I am presently being held in the Warren County Jail awaiting sentencing. - I've been here since Oct. of 76. The reason I'm writing this letter is to make your readers aware of some of the unjust tactics employed by MEG out of court, and how they screwed me in court.

The MEG agent who busted me was William Trowbridge, alias "Richie" or "Bill Richards." I was one of the first he busted after joining MEG. I was busted for unlawful delivery of cannabis, between 30 and 500 grams. (Big deal!). Agent Trowbridge testified in court that I made a sale to him on June 11, 1976. This is perjury because my aunt (whom I was staying with) testified that I was in Peoria all day and night.

Just to clear the air, and point out Trowbridge's unethical motives, let me tell it the way it really was. I did make a sale to this guy, but on June 4 and not June 11 as I was charged with doing. I had seen this guy around before but didn't know his name. I knew for a fact he did drugs and parties with the best of them.

He has been seen doing some speed at a party and has made buys where no arrests were made. Before he bought from me, we smoked some of

his pot. Also, the two bags I sold him were quite a bit larger than the bags the lab weighed. I don't deal drugs, although I have made some non-profit sales to compensate for the money I spent on it. Even this is usually done only for close friends. I didn't feel right about selling to Trowbridge, but did, after he pressured me into it.

Because of his underhanded tactics and the lies he told in court, I will be going back to prison for at least 1-3 years and possibly even a 2-6. I plead guilty to a robbery charge in Chicago in 1974 and only got 1-3 for that. Since I've made parole I've stayed out of trouble and have been trying to make a go of it. I have less than 4 months to do on parole.

In parting, I would like to credit Trowbridge with being insensitive to the real drug problem and for helping its cause. I would comment on the work he chooses to do, but I doubt if you'd publish it.

Lastly, I would like to thank the state's attorney of Warren County, Fred Odendahl, for literally messing up my life and destroying all efforts I have made toward rehabilitation.

It's sad to look at Warren County's judicial system and see that it's not concerned with protecting society, nor is it concerned with aiding the offender's rehabilitation. The judicial system is being used as a means to obtain a "good record" for furthering political aspirations, as I'm sure is the case with Mr. Odendahl. What a Rip-off!

William Hastings  
Warren County Jail

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# MEG breaks Open Meetings Act

By holding a special board meeting without notifying the press, the MEG Board of Directors violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act, March 8.

Both the Post-Amerikan and Galesburg's daily paper, the Register-Mail, were illegally excluded from the special meeting, which was held in Peoria.

I asked MEG board chairperson Harold Bosshardt (who is also Bloomington Police Chief) why the Post-Amerikan wasn't notified, as the law requires.

"Oh, that was an executive session," Bosshardt replied.

(Executive sessions are closed meetings, but they can by law be held only to discuss certain things, like hiring and firing and buying land.)

But it wasn't an executive session, anyway. Reporter Norma Cunningham, a Galesburg writer for the Peoria Journal Star, attended the meeting and wrote a news story. A regular fixture at MEG meetings, Cunningham seems to be MEG's favorite reporter. She treats MEG more sympathetically in her stories than other daily newspaper reporters do.

Either MEG gave Cunningham the legally required special notice of the emergency meeting, or her habitual MEG contacts somehow clued her in.

The Open Meetings Act requires public bodies, including MEG, to give annual notice of their regular meeting schedule to those newspapers that request it. In addition, when a special meeting is called, the press must get the same notice the board gets. So if board members get phone calls, the press must get phone calls. If board members get letters, the press must get letters.

MEG does recognize the Post-Amerikan as a valid newspaper, as defined by the Open Meetings Act. Bosshardt replied to the Post-Amerikan's formal letter of asking to be notified of meetings; he sent the regular meeting schedule, and indicated that he would follow the other rules of the Open Meetings Act.

But he didn't.

MEG has been unhappy with the Open Meetings Act ever since reporters besides Norma Cunningham have been coming to MEG's meetings.

MEG searched for a legal excuse to stop Post-Amerikan reporters and photographers from attending, but couldn't find one.

Last November, MEG board members discussed adding a provision to the proposed MEG funding bill that they wanted to free MEG units from having to follow requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

"Oh, you didn't miss much," Bosshardt assured me after I found out I'd missed the meeting. "All we talked about was how to get the twenty thousand dollars."

Actually, it was ten thousand dollars, if the Peoria Journal Star report was right.

To balance its budget, MEG needed a commitment of \$10,000 more in money or people power. Pekin police chief Don Smith agreed to donate an extra agent for six months, and Knox County Sheriff Peterson agreed to donate one of his deputies for another six months.

But contrary to Bosshardt's claim, money was not the only subject discussed at the illegally held MEG meeting.



Harold Bosshardt, MEG board chairperson, and Bloomington Chief of Police. He may be facing thirty days in jail.

Board members also expressed resentment about a recently published long three-part series on MEG that appeared in the Peoria Journal Star.

(Though Norma Cunningham usually covers MEG for the Journal Star, she didn't write the series MEG was so upset about.)

Board members also discussed their chances of getting the MEG funding bill passed quickly and the annual statistics for the other six Illinois MEG units. And those are only the items of discussion which ended up getting reported by Cunningham in the Peoria Journal Star--there could be more.

The Open Meetings Act provides criminal penalties--up to 30 days in jail--for officials found guilty of violating it.

## Annual report blows MEG's image

MEG's 1976 annual report shows once again that MEG is busting mostly young people, people in their teens and early twenties, and that MEG is virtually ignoring the hard drugs it's supposed to go after. The report was prepared by the Illinois Bureau of Investigation.

Out of 211 arrests in 1976, only 18 involved heroin or cocaine. (Reflecting an outdated view of the substances, IBI statistics lump heroin and cocaine together. You can't tell how many arrests are heroin, or how many are cocaine.)

Eleven of the 15 people arrested for delivering heroin or cocaine were 21 years old or under. These are the tough street pushers that Jerry LaGrow and his superspy chums like to fantasize about busting.

Out of a total of 211 arrests, 110--more than half--were people twenty-one or under. IBI's report lumps the remaining arrests together as "over 21." You can't tell how old they are. Many are likely in their early twenties.

Fifty-four of MEG's 211 arrests were for marijuana--about 25 per cent. This is down from last year, but still outrageously higher than the 2% pot busts considered tolerable by the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission.

Most of the remaining arrests are lumped together as "controlled substances." They include drugs normally prescribed by doctors, such as amphetamines, barbiturates and tranquilizers. They also include LSD, PCP, MDA, and others.

How many of MEG's arrests involve drugs that have a "legitimate" medical use? You can't tell from the arrest statistics.

However, a list of purchases in 1976 break the drugs into more categories. Not counting heroin and cocaine, 85% of the rest of the controlled substances MEG bought were barbiturates and amphetamines--drugs used (with doctors' approval) in the mainstream of American life.

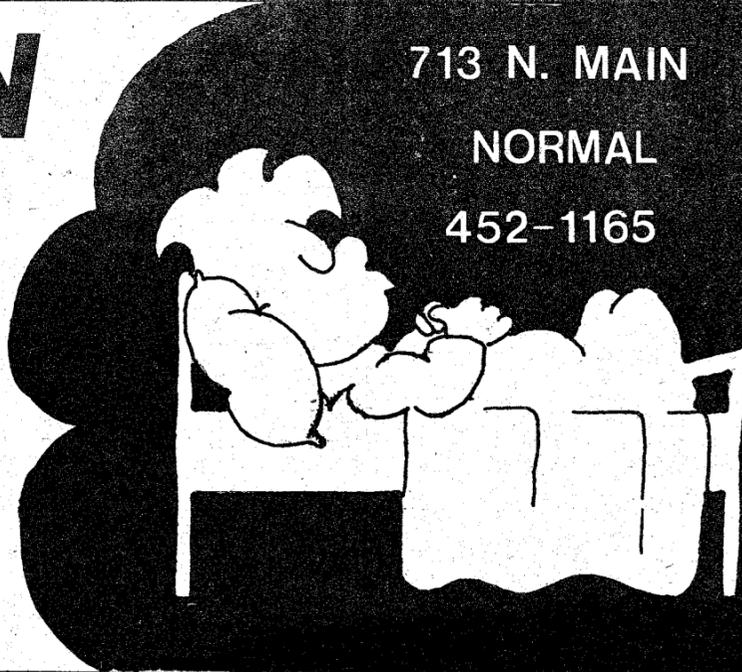
So once again, MEG's statistics support the statement published repeatedly in the Post-Amerikan: MEG mostly busts people in their teens or early twenties, arresting them for marijuana or for drugs frequently prescribed by doctors. Few MEG busts involve the so-called "hard" drugs.



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# Bulldozers Won't

"Save the park!"

For once, City Hall heard a popular rallying cry, and Bloomington's Ewing Park will be safe--"forever"--from attack by developers' bulldozers.

And the victory was won at a truly public hearing, held March 14 at City Hall.

--A hearing that saw the largest turnout (200-plus defenders of the park) in at least four years.

--A hearing that saw the city council unanimously reject a proposal to sell or trade over half of Ewing Park supported by City Manager William Vail and Parks Director Glen Ekey.

The popular movement to save the park had begun two weeks earlier when the Pantagraph first reported Ekey's plans.

The main points in Ekey's arguments, as he presented it over the two-week controversy, were:

--That the park is not used enough to justify the city's costs in maintaining it. (He said that mowing alone costs the city \$5000 per year.)

--That the park should be a small "neighborhood" park serving only the area within a half mile of the park instead of a "community" park which would serve people within a 2-to-5-mile radius. (Ekey, using federal definitions of parks, argued that Normal's "community" Ash Park serves most of the same area that a "community" Ewing Park could serve.)

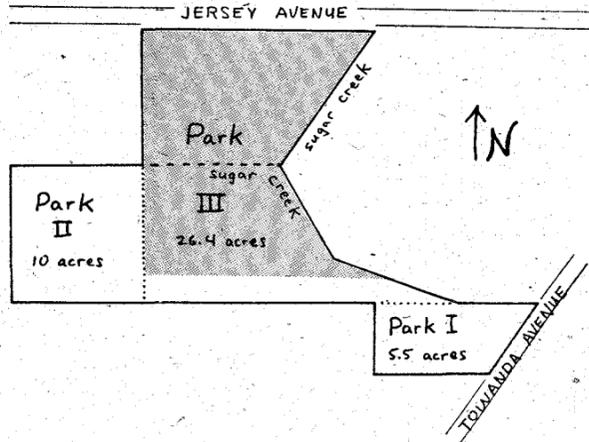
--That the city doesn't have enough

money to turn Ewing into a "community" park anyway.

--That the part of the park that he wanted to sell or trade was so valuable that the city could get a better and larger park elsewhere, possibly in the southwest part of town.

Ekey wanted to sell 23 acres of the 42-acre park. These 23 acres were the most recent additions to the Ewing Park complex.

The older parts, Ewing Park I and Ewing Park II (see map), were donated to the city by Hazel Buck Ewing in 1956 and 1960, respectively.



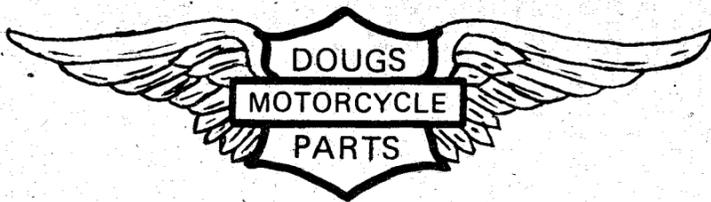
## Ewing Park Complex

The map shows the three parts of Ewing park. The shaded area is the part City Parks Director Glen Ekey wanted to trade or sell.

The newer area between those two parts was called Ewing Park III during the two-week controversy. Park III is mostly an open grassy area with few trees (although local residents had offered to plant trees at their own expense).

Even before Park III was purchased from private developers in 1968, the city had grand plans for the park's "development"--including a swimming pool and ski slope. These plans helped the city get a federal grant for half of the \$148,194 purchase price.

Because federal money helped buy Park III, both the federal and state



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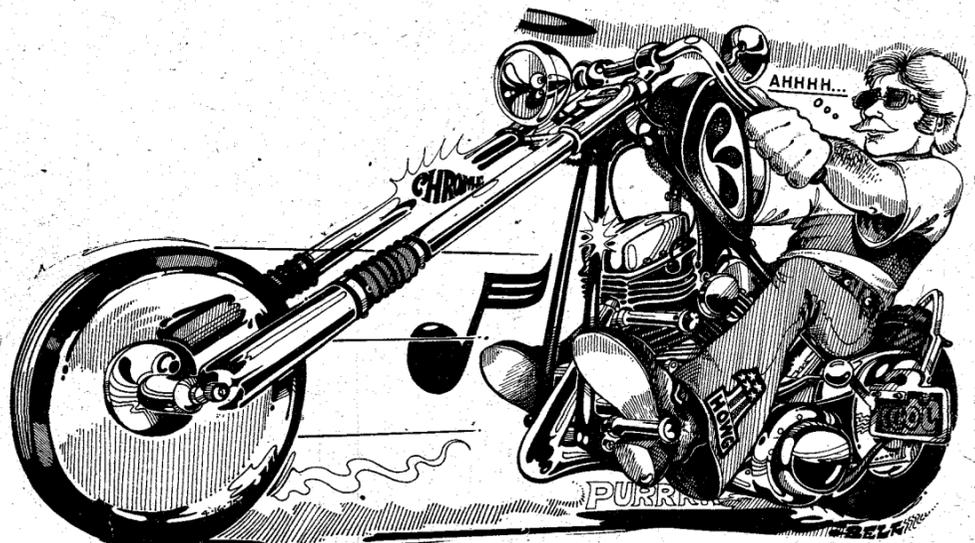
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# Get This Park

Bureaus of Outdoor Recreation have to approve any sale or trade. The federal agency did tell Ekey a sale was permissible if enough land were left to connect Parks I and II.

Despite all the grand plans, very little was done to "develop" Ewing Park--which may be just as well.

Ekey says the lack of action was due to lack of money. Council member S. S. "Joe" Schneider implied it was because the parks department was in a "shambles" when Ekey took it over three years ago.

It has also been suggested that Sugar Creek running through the park makes it impossible to "develop" all those fancy recreational facilities. It is not "economically feasible" to build the necessary bridge over Sugar Creek.

That word "economics" is the key to Ekey's approach to the controversy. He thinks that if all other things are equal, the city should use its limited funds to buy the largest and most natural parks available.

These ideas led Ekey to entertain offers from two or three developers, one of whom was Jack Snyder.

Snyder wanted Park III and he might have been willing to trade a piece of land along Six Points Road for it. Snyder's land is wooded, and Ekey thought it could be an "instant" park.

Snyder, of course, would have built expensive houses on Park III, which would mean that the land would not likely ever be a park again. Scratch one park.

And Snyder, who has a bunch of developments going all over town, would have made a big profit. (Among his projects are: a shopping center near Zayre's, a condominium office building at Center and Washington streets, a subdivision in southeast Bloomington, and some "modular" homes in southwest Bloomington.)

It's always bad news to lose even part of a park. But part of Ewing Park would have remained (Parks I and II and the unshaded strip in between, shown on the map).

And it might have been a good idea to have an "instant" park in Snyder's modular development, since he's sure to pack the reasonably priced homes as close together as the law allows.

But "business" (or "economic") arguments are not the way to approach collective questions, and they're especially out of place concerning parks.

Yet the city council didn't think so. Schneider said the city should "develop" Ewing Park or get rid of it. Richard Buchanan said a "truly Bloomington" park would be better than one right next to Normal where "neighbors from the north" can so easily use it.

The councilmen's business instincts were their undoing, however.

Immediately after the Pantagraph revealed Ekey's plans, there was an immense upsurge of opposition to the possible sale or trade.

Residents organized the Ewing Park Association and began an immediate campaign to save the whole park.

By the time of the public hearing, none of the council members were willing to oppose the more than 200 park supporters and their 3572-signature petition in favor of saving the park.

But the victory was marred by the many things that went unsaid. (See adjoining story also.)

For instance, the possibility of keeping all of Ewing Park and buying part



These people are typical members of the largest crowd to attend a Bloomington City Council meeting in four years. More than 200 people, mostly east-siders, showed up at City Hall to oppose a scheme to sell part of Ewing Park.

of Snyder's southwest land was never taken seriously.

Also, there was no challenge to the city's priorities for spending city (that is, collective) money.

No one asked why there's city money to build a road--on short notice--to Snyder's proposed shopping center site south of Zayre's.

No one asked why city money is building another of Snyder's proposed developments for people who aren't even expected to live there before 1995

(see Post Vol. 5, No. 10, p. 20), while even Ekey admits that the city needs another 45 acres of open space right now.

No one asked why the city took Snyder's offer seriously in the first place, when it's clear that any ordinary person who wanted to swap a subdivision lot for a piece of Ewing Park would simply be ignored.

Why?

--D. LeSeure

## When Money Talks, Who Listens?

I don't suppose it's often that City Council member S.S. "Joe" Schneider and I see things the same way.

But good ole S.S. did bring up the interesting point that he hadn't seen as many people participating in city government in four years as he saw in one night during the Ewing Park controversy.

It's kinda funny, ya know.

Inside of two weeks, people managed to organize the Ewing Park Association. They got T-shirts made that proclaimed "Save Ewing II."

They collected over 3500 signatures. They ran ads on the radio and in the Pantagraph.

That's a pretty fair piece of organizing. And it took a little cash, too.

Now I'm all for saving parks.

And so's good ole S.S.

"Drive by my own yard," he said, "if you don't think I love bushes and trees and open space."

That's 35 Country Club Place.

(Or, S.S. said, you can count the 97 acres of open space he and eight others own near Carlock, if his yard doesn't impress you.)

What bothers me is that it took "a fire next door," as S.S. put it, to get all that east-side organizational skill (and money) working.

Well now, maybe I'm not being fair.

People who live in the \$50,000 and \$60,000 and \$70,000 houses around Ewing Park are used to being listened to--at work, at the country club, places like that. It's only natural that they do

something to save their park.

As S.S. said: "A few years ago on the street on which I live, we had a problem. We organized, and solved it."

Yep. The Fairway Drive was not connected to Country Club Place.

But what's this about saving the park so that kids can play little league football?

And what were those nasty murmurings of approval from these well-off people when they heard their leaders protest the injustice of taking away part of their park so west-siders could have a new park?

Yet Parks Director Glen Ekey said: "We feel, in all sincerity, it (the sale or trade) is in the best interests of the overall population of the City of Bloomington."

Well, it was his idea.

But as good ole S.S. said of the people who organized to stop extra traffic on Country Club Place: "Most of those people haven't been back since."

And, he said, in the last four years, "I have not seen the organizational talent that's been used tonight."

Well, I'm sure S.S. would like to believe the businessman who told me he would "probably" come out to save the west-side O'Neil Park if it were threatened.

I would like to believe him, too.

But that guy left the public hearing early. So did I.

At BHS

10.

# Truants Sentenced to Study Hall Jails

How do you make high school students go to their classes? At Bloomington High School, the answer is basically, "Jail them if they don't."

The high school's policy is this: If students build up four truant (unexcused) absences from a class, they are dropped from the class and must spend the time in a study hall instead. They lose credit for all the work in that class they've done so far, and thus they must take the class over again if it's required for graduation.



According to Stan Holzhauser, dean at Bloomington High, the purpose of the policy is to "get the student to accept the responsibility to meet his (sic) class on time... in other words, to get the student to accept his (sic) responsibility to get an education. And it is working, very well."

The question is, who's it working for?

Not the student, probably. Even if the student who would otherwise be truant does show up in class, his or her spirit won't exactly have the eagerness needed to dredge up scraps of wisdom and fact out of the dank puddle of busywork, bull, and boredom of the typical high school classroom.

And no one even pretends that the student learns anything in study hall. Someone (admittedly, someone who's kind of out of touch) might argue that students study in study hall, but the students who would study there aren't the type who'd be sentenced to very many of them. And there are students at BHS who've worked their way down to something like six study halls and one class. No one except those who've achieved stupidity by an act of will would claim that a truant kid has enough homework to fill up all that time.

So it's clear that the study hall really serves as a place where the person is forced to go, to examine his or her conscience and decide that from now on he or she better follow the rules--in other words, it serves as a jail.

The policy doesn't work for the teachers' benefit, either. Any teacher will tell you that students who attend class under threat are no joy to have there. Militant apathy, sullenness, and resistance to learning characterize the student who is just serving time, and these qualities can drain the warmth and enthusiasm of even the best teacher. The administration should provide teachers with conditions where they can do their best work--instead, this policy makes them into part-time jailers.

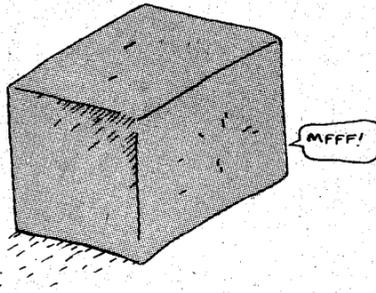
And the teachers who must sit with study halls are jailers even more. No fulfillment can come from a hour spent purely as an authority figure, someone to keep the kids in line when they don't have any meaningful work to do. The teacher feels betrayed, disillusioned. Is this what the honored profession is all about.

Teachers and students both would probably prefer suspension or expulsion as punishment for truancy. However, even administrators caught on to the idea that letting a kid out of school for wanting out of school was no real punishment--so they designed a system sure to make the offenders, and their teachers, miserable.

Our community should also ask what makes truancy such a big problem to require such drastic and destructive "solutions." If students hate going to class, why? The BHS policy is a classic case of treating the symptom and not the cause.

Hatred of classes doesn't come down to bad teachers, with too many course preparations, too many students per class, too little time to prepare lessons, grade papers, keep up in their field, or just relax. It could come down to the bitterness teachers feel when they realize that half or more of their duties are paperpushing and prison guarding--duties that have nothing to do with their ideals as teachers and which sometimes, in fact, are the opposite of their ideals.

YOU BETTER LEARN SOMETHIN' IN THAT BOX, KID!



Hatred of classes doesn't come down to bad students, either. Many students who hate going to class are intelligent, eager, joyous learners on the job, on the basketball court, on the streets--somewhere other than the confines of the conventional classroom. Other students who hate going to class are those who have weak backgrounds in reading, who see nothing but humiliation and confusion in their courses. Others are those who get depressed about what dreary messes their high school classes are.

Yet Dean Holzhauser wants these kids to "accept their responsibility to get an education." I'd like to know, who ever gave them this responsibility? Built right into our schools is the assumption that students are irresponsible--that they can't choose their own teachers, walk down the hall to the bathroom, remember what they learned, look out for their own safety, or develop their own values without being told when, where, and how to do it by adults.

What if a BHS student did perceive a responsibility to get an education, and decided that to fulfill it he or she needed to spend a day in the library, uninterrupted? Or needed (gasp) a whole day to take his or her motorcycle apart? Or needed to go to Springfield and demonstrate against nuclear power plants? Or needed to go into the woods, take peyote, and see god?

Well, huff puff, says Holzhauser and his crew, YOU have to take the responsibility, but WE get to define what education is. Now go to your study hall.

--Phoebe Caulfield.

At Local Schools

# Police

In the late 60's, the only schools that welcomed police officers into their halls were those deeply in trouble, where students' and teachers' physical safety was in danger. However, today the high schools in our community are not dangerous places--and yet they've become a regular beat for local cops.

At Normal Community High School, Bloomington High School, and Bloomington Junior High School, police "counselors" are a part of the school's everyday staff.

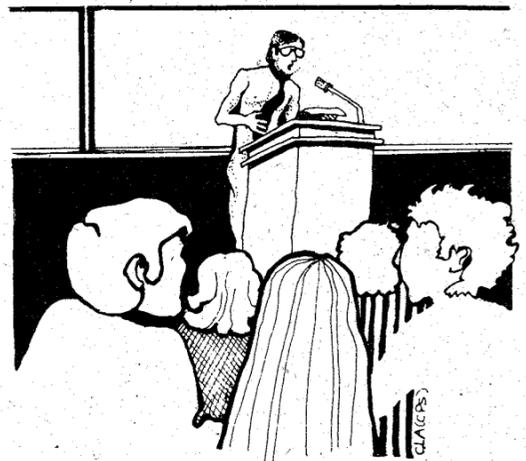
Bloomington High police counselor, William Rusk, said in an interview that his job was created in 70-71, during the "race riots" at Bloomington High School.

He says that the purposes of having a police counselor in the school nowadays are "just to talk to kids that come in with personal problems or legal questions," and to create friendlier relations between police and teenagers. He is there from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. five days a week for these purposes.

Rusk clearly does not perceive his job as anti-student or as police spy on teenagers. He sees his role as important and beneficial to the students.

But many people, including myself, are disturbed about this role.

First of all, talking to kids that come in with personal problems sounds chummy and harmless. But when we asked Officer Rusk what counselor training the police counselors have, he had to admit, "Actually, none." He said the title is just a "job description." But it is a very misleading one.



The school does have trained people to discuss personal problems with the students--guidance counselors. If these people don't have time to counsel all the students who need help, why not hire another trained guidance counselor, instead of letting an amateur handle it?

Second comes the police counselor's handling of legal questions. I personally think that a student would have to be pretty dumb to ask a cop about any touchy questions of legality, but let's pretend that it could happen, anyway.

# "Counselors" Juggle Roles

SKOOL SECTION  
P. 6 OF 6

Police do have some knowledge of the law, of course. Officer Rusk did mention though, that he doesn't always have the answers to students' legal questions. He checks them out and gets back to the student with the answers later.

A legal adviser would be a great thing to have in a high school--but wouldn't it make more sense to have the adviser be a member of the legal profession? A lawyer or paralegal would know the ins and outs of the law better, and students would discuss matters more freely than they would with a police officer, who they might fear would use their questions against them later.



If Officer Rusk is concerned with students knowing their legal rights, he's surely at odds with the BHS powers. In 1973, a BHS teacher let his students read the Post-American in class after they finished taking a test. Stan Holzauer, Dean, called the teacher into his office and chewed him out. He said the Post was an attempt to subvert authority.

To prove his point, Holzauer pointed out a column in the paper titled "Legal Street Sheet," which consisted of questions and answers about people's legal rights. The information was from a booklet titled A Citizen's Guide to the Law, which had been prepared by a legal aid class at ISU. The Bloomington Police were helping to distribute free copies of it, and the Post American was reprinting a chapter each issue, as a public service.

This information about citizens' legal rights, Holzauer said, was an attempt to subvert duly constituted authority, because its only purpose was to arm kids with technicalities that they could use to get around authority!

So BHS is not very likely to go out of its way to provide students with excellent legal advice, and Officer Rusk is not likely to be in a position to give it even if he could.

The third purpose Officer Rusk mentioned was service to the police and the community by improving police/teenager relationships. Officer Rusk said that the department wanted the kids to know that police officers are people "to go to rather than run from."

He's talking about building up trust for police among teenagers. My reply to this is that it's only ethical to promote trust in a group that is actually trustworthy--and most of us know very well that the Bloomington Police Department has members who would gladly exploit a kid's trust in them to gain information on the kid's friends and associates, or even on the kid him-or-herself. The result of the kid's trust might be friendlessness, jail, or both.

Actually, I suspect that both the police department and the high school have other purposes for the police counselor's presence that Officer Rusk listed--perhaps purposes that he's not even aware of.

Stan Holzauer, at least, used the police counselor this year for his own personal reasons.

Holzauer had awakened one day to find that someone had driven over his lawn in the night, tearing it up. Holzauer's neighbor's son said that he had seen what looked like a certain BHS student's car driving around in the neighborhood the night before.

On this shaky evidence, the accused BHS student was yanked out of class a couple days later and questioned by the police "counselor" about the vandalism. He hadn't heard about Holzauer's ruined lawn, so he couldn't even figure out what the cop was talking about at first. The cop never read him his rights, although he was questioning him about a criminal offense. He also told the teenager that he was operating on "an eyewitness report," which was not true, since the accuser never claimed to see the car drive across Holzauer's lawn anyway. Also, he would not tell the accused student who this alleged witness was.

The accused student's mother was upset about the incident. She called the police counselor, who never seemed to be available or to have time to call her back. So she called Bloomington Police Dept., where they

assured her that her son's rights were respected. The department called back the next day and told her that the police "counselor" never questioned her son--only reprimanded him and told him to drive more carefully.

Even if that were true, the son was innocent and needed no reprimand from the police. The mother pointed out, "If someone drove over my lawn, I wouldn't have the police at BHS at my disposal to check out all my wild suspicions about the students." But Holzauer, since he does have the police officer at his disposal, didn't hesitate to use him--and the police department cooperated in this misuse of power.

Officer Rusk told the Post, however, that he tries not to do police work, like arrests and interrogation, at the high school. He claims that he will only call a student in if the student is already named in a criminal complaint at the police department. This was clearly not the case in the Holzauer incident. Perhaps he conveniently forgot about that, since it doesn't fit in with his idea of his job.

Officer Rusk also claims that he is not there to narc on students, and that he will only do something about drugs if he sees a flagrant violation. Some BHS students, though, say that the police "counselor" does sometimes "have little talks" with students who he suspects of drug use--and that his suspicions are sometimes based on student rumor, or on a student's failure to respond to his "chumminess."

All in all, it seems that Officer Rusk's glowing analysis of his job and its purpose doesn't always correspond with its realities.

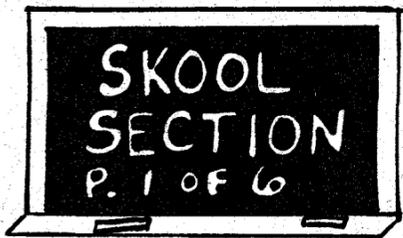
--Phoebe Caulfield



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"I do agree this textbook has a bias. I've discovered the same thing in other texts. High school students get a pollyanna view of the world in general."  
--a BHS teacher

Every year more than 400 students take a one-semester government course at Bloomington High School. They have no choice: the state requires that they take government class for graduation.

For each of the last six years, 400 students have studied Magruder's American Government, a textbook that gives them a grossly unreal view of their government.

There is simply no question that Magruder's is biased. Both of the people who now teach government at BHS agree that the book has a "slight bias" (on a three-part scale: distinct bias, slight bias, or no bias at all).

One teacher flatly rates the book as "inadequate" in comparison to other available government texts.

At its most innocent, Magruder's pretends that the ideal of government of, by and for the people is an actual fact.

At its most guilty, Magruder's lies. It ignores whole popular movements and omits thousands of facts that don't fit its image of America. And it distorts history to make the United States look like the world's great white hope.

**Lies**

Lies are usually hard to pin down because history and government, like everything else, can be explained different ways. But Magruder's does offer lies as truth. For example:

--"The state has not been the tool of the dominant class in the non-communist world." (p. 23)

(Is that why laws favoring corporations are passed exactly the way corporate lawyers write them? Is that why people from the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations dominate the "new" Carter government?)

--"The economic gap between workers and owners has narrowed almost to the point of extinction, especially in the United States." (p. 23)

(Is that why Nelson Rockefeller could spend several million dollars of his own family's money on his political campaigns? Is that why farmworkers fight corporate agribusiness in California?)

By the way, all quotes are from the 53rd edition of Magruder's as revised by William A. McClenaghan and published by Allyn and Bacon, Inc., in 1970. That means students have been asked (or forced) to learn lies for at least 53 years.

**Missing Truths**

It should already be clear that Magruder's likes the U.S. just the way it is. That means it supports the big business and big money interests that have controlled the country at least since the civil war.

Obviously, some things don't fit into Magruder's picture of a perfect country. Things like protest movements. So, the text forgets to mention such things as the women's, the labor and the anti-imperialist movements--despite the fact that all these movements have been trying to change the U.S. government throughout the last century.

Perhaps the worst of these lies by omission concerns the women's movement, which has strong, indisputable roots going back to the anti-slavery movement.

For instance, Magruder's index has only 12 entries under "women." But don't imagine that those entries really deal with women's issues. The index mentions women only because the publisher knows it has to.

For instance, three of the 12 entries refer to the League of Women Voters and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The only reason the references are listed is because of the word "women" in the groups' titles.

The real spirit of Magruder's treatment of women is captured in this quote:

"Mr. Johnson appointed our first Negro ambassador--also a woman--to Luxembourg in 1965." That's the whole reference to women on page 326.

Here are some other examples of lying by leaving out truths:

--The women's suffrage movement is dismissed, without mention of its radical, organized character, in three sentences.



--Nowhere in Magruder's six-page discussion of labor history and labor law is the Industrial Workers of the World mentioned, even though it was one of the most important--and radically anti-capitalist--union movements. The text does mention the less radical Knights of Labor, and it spends a couple of pages explaining laws that reduce the power of unions.

--Nowhere does the text mention the national controversy over imperialism that followed the Spanish-American war, although that public challenge to imperialist land-grabs was as important then as the debate on Vietnam in the 1960's and 1970's. Magruder's does have a whole chapter ("The American Empire," pp. 584-99) devoted to justifying and glorifying expansion and the official U.S. empire.

--Nowhere does Magruder's examine the vast influence of corporations on the government, and its discussion of the influence of private wealth is limited to a few paragraphs about the supposed progress made in controlling campaign contributions.

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# AND DAMN LIES

Pretty clearly, Magruder's is anti-woman and anti-labor but pro-business. It has a bias in favor of imperialism and capitalism--a bias which leads it to a dangerous super-patriotic, our country-is-always-right viewpoint.

## Distortions

In order to justify this bias, Magruder's indulges in a consistent pattern of distortion, a pattern that is clearest in its discussions of U.S. foreign policy. For example:

"We had hoped to work with the Russians through the UN to build the peace after World War II. It was soon clear, however, that the Communists had not abandoned their plans of world domination.... (p. 340)

"...In the hope of preventing World War III, communist entrenchment had to be stopped somewhere, and soon; there is no telling how far it might have gone had South Korea not been defended.... (p. 342)

"...Through the years of the Cold War we have waged a continuing struggle against the threat of international communism. Our chief antagonist in this fight to preserve and, eventually, extend the limits of the free world has been--and today remains--the Soviet Union...." (p. 348)

Notice that the book says it is all right for the U.S. to expand the "free world" (that part dominated by the U.S.) but that the Russians are evil for seeking "world domination." Yet, the logical result of expansion of the "free world" is "world domination"--by the U.S. instead of the U.S.S.R.

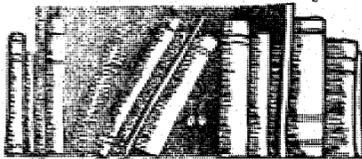
Even though the 1970 edition was published several years after a majority of the U.S. people began to oppose the war in Vietnam, Magruder's repeatedly defends that war.

Even though the people wanted the war stopped, the people's government is right, according to Magruder's, in showing the world that it "is ready and willing to fight to preserve freedom wherever and whenever it becomes necessary." (p. 344)

In every case, Magruder's pretends that the selfish position of the U.S. is the only right position. It pretends that the U.S. is always right, never wrong.

The key to this lie, of course, is the word "freedom." Magruder's uses "free" to mean capitalist or free enterprise economics, but sometimes it's just a word to describe a U.S. ally. Thus South Korea, Nationalist China, and other dictatorships are "free."

(Freedom is a good thing, but freedom ought to mean something more than a ruthless freedom for some people to make as much money as possible, regardless of the cost in human suffering.)



Since the U.S. is always ready to fight for "freedom," Magruder's naturally says that free enterprise is the best economic system. Not only the best, but also the one everybody should use:

"One needs only to look at the great achievements and the standard of living of the American people to see the advantages of our economic system. We view trends toward nationalization and socialism in other countries with grave misgivings. We believe that a well-regulated capitalistic system--one of free choice, individual incentive, private enterprise--is the best guarantee of the better life for all mankind." (p. 17)

After that kind of simple-minded distortion, there should be an Exxon ad on the next page. An ad telling us how great the oil companies are for making huge investments (and profits) overseas, how it makes America stronger or some such nonsense.

(Continued on following page)

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## BRAIN-WASHING: DOES MAGRUDER'S SUCCEED?

Right off, it's safe to say that students don't swallow everything Magruder's American Government tries to feed them.

"Sometimes they find it laughable," BHS teacher Mary Ann Munson said. "They pick it up without my having to tell them."

Nonetheless, both Munson and her colleague, Robert Fisher, know that their students believe many of the attitudes peddled by Magruder's--the free enterprise myths and the belief in the superiority of the United States, for instance.

Munson says students accept those notions because they're all around the students at home, in the Pantagraph, everywhere.

"It's kind of in the water," she said. (My god, were the Birchers right?)

Both teachers agree that BHS has a very conservative student body and that Bloomington-Normal is a conservative community.

"Students don't hear the truly radical side," Munson said.

"They're certainly not going to hear it from the Pantagraph," Fisher added.

"Both of us try to confront them (with new ideas)," Munson said. "You'd be amazed at how much intolerance there is even among themselves."

But, she said, "there is a limit to what I would say in class. There's not the same freedom as in college."

Fisher disagrees on that one. He says there's "nothing too sensitive" to raise in the classroom as long as it's done in an "objective manner."

Ah! If there are limits in the classroom (and what is "objective" anyway?), then is not the pursuit of knowledge lost? What is the purpose of public school education?

"The whole function of the education system is to inculcate certain values," Munson said. "Maintain the status quo," Fisher added.

Neither teacher was referring to themselves when they said those things--only to other teachers, other schools. Fisher, at least, doesn't consider himself a typical BHS teacher.

And both do use some admirable approaches.

Fisher spends a lot of time on civil liberties and criminal law. He tries to show students how government directly influences them and how they can affect government.

Munson tried a similar approach by having her students follow bills through the state legislature, and she found that her students were reluctant to write to state legislators.

"The thing they learned is that it's very difficult to be informed," she said.

How true. But what happens when they do become informed? What, for instance, do Fisher's students think of the Illinois criminal code?

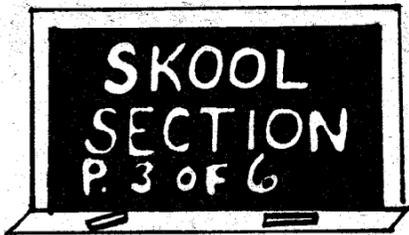
"They think it's very unfair." Particularly in the way the law treats different people different ways.

Ah. There are rays of hope left in this world. And I'll give you one more dim one.

The Gallup poll shows that college students and young people in general still believe in free enterprise. But. The very same people are very suspicious of business in general and corporations in particular.

Maybe that means corporate propaganda is backfiring. At least it's not working the way corporations want it to.

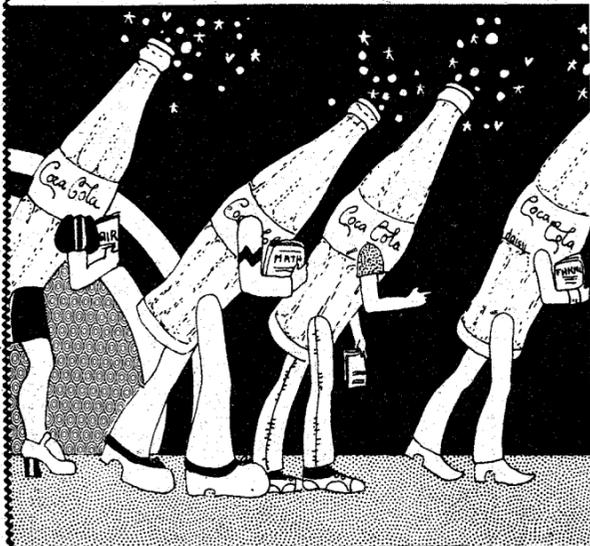
That's got to be a ray of hope, eh?



# LIES CONT.

(Continued from preceding page)

Magruder's of course, doesn't mention foreign investments or admit to any kind of exploitation. Nor does it explain how the U.S. fights to preserve "freedom" so that U.S. corporations won't lose billions of dollars when foreign governments nationalize industries in attempt to help their own people.



But the worst part about that last quote is the line about "a better life for all mankind." It's similar to the battle cry of Christian missionaries who want to convert everybody--whether those people want to be Christian or not.

Overall, Magruder's claims of U.S. superiority add up to a very dangerous attitude: Since the U.S. is superior, everybody should be like the U.S. That's what that last quote says.

But what is the difference between a philosophy that claims that everybody should live under capitalism and a philosophy that claims that everybody should live under Russian communism? Nothing, because neither system is perfect. Both lie, cheat and steal for the benefit of the rulers.

The real problem is that this bias leads to a kind of blind, racist nationalism. We already know perfectly well what ideas like that lead to. They lead to wars like Vietnam.

That's not an opinion; that's a fact. (Remember, Magruder's itself tells us we must be "ready and willing to fight to preserve freedom (sic) wherever and whenever it becomes necessary." This book wants us to die for the greater glory of the corporations and the wealthy men who run them.)

The outlines of Magruder's bias are clear: it favors corporations, growth and imperialism--in short, the powers that be.

Although Magruder's never goes so far as to actually change the words in the Constitution (it comes quite close on page 267), its picture of the U.S. government is close to pure fiction.

Only one question remains: Is the fantasy merely pollyana-like or is it 1984.

(For a few answers and some guesses, see adjoining stories.)

--D. LeSeure

# Creeping Capitalism:

It's no accident that Magruder's American Government made it into BHS classrooms. The accident would be if it, or one of its similarly biased fellows, hadn't appeared there.

The reasons for these low expectations lie in the selection process, which basically has three parts:

- Selection by the teachers.
- Approval by the school administrators and the school board.
- Production by the publishers.

BHS has used Magruder's for six or seven years and may soon get a new government text. If it does, this is how it will happen:

The teachers who teach government will recommend a new book, which most likely will be the book that their Lead Teacher (department chairperson) will recommend to the school administration.

From there, District 87 administrators will have to approve the book and recommend it to the school board, which has the final--absolute--say.

Ordinarily, this process is pretty automatic, which means that the book the teachers want is likely to be the book the school board buys. But there are limitations.

First, there is the problem of money. BHS would have had a new text this year except for an apparent policy to limit each department to one new book per year. This year BHS got a new world history book because the old one was even older and worse than Magruder's.

In any case, money talks: all books must be used for five or six years for "economic" (or business) reasons.

The chain of command is also a problem. Any of the people who have to approve the teachers' chosen book could reject it. This means that in the somewhat unlikely instance that someone recommended a "radical" textbook--or even one that challenges conventional patriotism--it would almost certainly be rejected--if anyone along the line actually examined it.

That may seem like a cynical viewpoint, but take note of how many former athletic coaches hold high places in local school district administration. Coaches are not known for their progressive ideas (maybe because they swallowed the competition ethic hook, line and sinker).

Nor is the administration the only obstacle to non-sexist, or generally progressive, textbooks.

School boards, like every other unit of local government, are dominated by middle and upper class males--usually by successful businessmen.

Obedience to Authority



There's nothing more humiliating than having to ask permission to lay an egg. Ask any duck.



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# The Road To The Classroom 15

Now, successful businessmen are seldom radicals. They almost always think they made it on their own--the hard way--and very few of them are likely to challenge the status quo.

The Unit 5 school board, for instance, hates the idea of even talking to its teachers. When the board finally did agree recently, by a 3-2 vote, to talk to the Unit Five Education Association (the teachers' "union"), it insisted that there was to be nothing resembling negotiations--no talk of salaries, working conditions, recognition of the union.

In other words, Magruder's is the school board's kind of book.

Remember, too, that the school board has absolute power over the schools between elections--at least short of court action. If board members oppose something, it's finished.

Now it's time to look at the problem from another end--publishers' end.

First, the publishing industry (like all major industries) has become increasingly concentrated in recent years. This means that while there may be three companies selling three different books, there is really only one corporation owning all three. That tends to reduce the selection of books to a bunch of books that are all very similar.

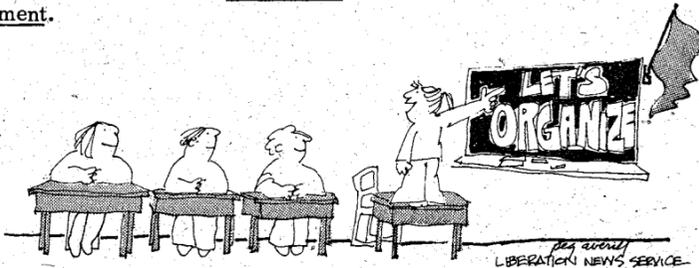
Second, corporations, and especially big corporations, are usually pretty satisfied with the way things are. That means that corporations tend not to publish books that challenge the status quo--unless there's a lot of money in it, which there usually isn't.



Third, corporations and the editors who work for them know about the kind of people who sit on school boards. There's a lot of money in public school textbooks, and corporations want as much of that money as they can get. So, they publish texts that are acceptable to businessmen.

Finally, since there is a lot of money at stake, the corporations that dominate the textbook markets compete fiercely. But that doesn't create variety--unless it's the kind of variety that NBC, CBS and ABC offer as TV entertainment.

All of this--administrations, school boards, and corporations (all run by men)--adds up to a pretty dismal picture. Adds up, in fact, to Magruder's American Government.



BHS students, though, may be lucky and get a good textbook next year. They certainly will get a better book, unless the administrators or the school board refuses to buy the book their teachers recommend.

But good luck is not enough.

Fortunately, there is a remedy available. It's called democracy. (It's not a total cure but it's gotta help.)

Teachers and students should have the dominant voice in how schools are run. The school board can still pretend to represent taxpayers if it must--but it should not run the schools.

Right. Authoritarian control of schools by businessmen must end. It's an outrage. There is no democracy when every democratic institution is dominated by the same interest--money.

What does money do to education? It trains people to have faith in capitalism and to follow orders. Absurd. My corporation right or wrong.

No.

Imagine, instead, the schools as real training grounds for genuine, local, participatory democracy.

Sure, schools run by teachers and students will need more teachers, but the present system is so short of teachers that it's a disgrace. At BHS, teachers must teach all six 55-minute periods five days a week.

Besides, there are some ways democracy could save money. Eliminate all varsity sports, most administrators, school board members' expense accounts. Stop buying expensive, depersonalizing audio-visual equipment. Machines and coaches teach damn few useful, human things.

And besides that, money should not be the deciding factor in education.

End the business dictatorship in education now!

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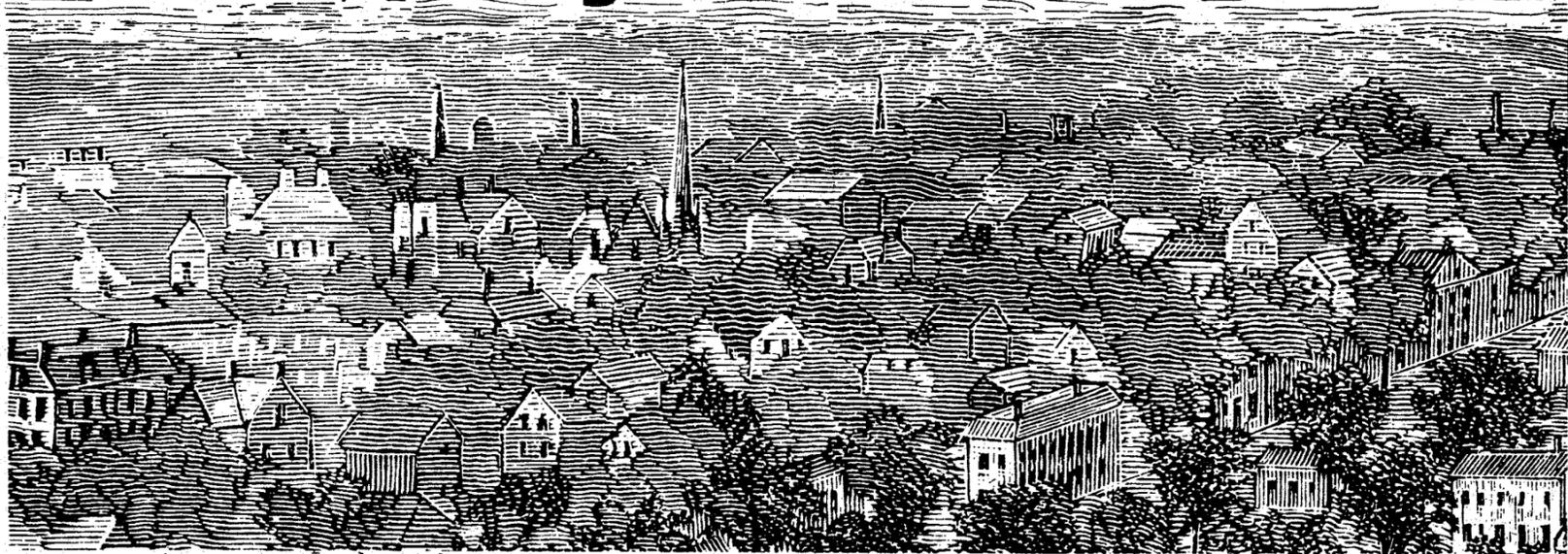


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# looks like a sleepy, serene community.



## look again.

Five years of the Post-Amerikan. Hard to believe, isn't it?

An eight-page, black and white paper has grown to over 30 pages, appears regularly, and now uses color. Big changes.

Printing quality has improved, photos are sharper, and the written word is more polished.

Big changes.

But some things haven't changed. The angry militance against an unjust war and a megalomaniac president that produced the Post is still present. Except now, much of that energy is directed against injustice here in town--against bankers, landlords and bosses; against cops who think with their billy clubs; against secret police spies lurking undercover.

Another thing hasn't changed. People who read and write the Post dream of a new tomorrow--a tomorrow without bosses, sexism, division and hatred. A tomorrow that we the people control for our own welfare.

We're proud of five years of struggle; but we still ain't satisfied, and we're going to continue shaking the rotting timbers of a sick society.

With great pleasure, we bring you this fifth anniversary issue. Besides the usual local news and events, it contains some special extras: a look at our past, both distant and recent, and a fantasy trip into the possible future.

Many of us in the 60's and 70's felt we were a whole new wave, something the world had never seen before. We talked of forming cooperatives, smashing the state, fighting for racial and sexual equality and ending war.

Few of us realized that our dreams and demands were not new. For centuries, Americans have fought for the same things in a battle begun before the Revolutionary War and fought by black slaves, women, and laborers.

This story of struggle is recorded in slave revolts, sit-downs, strikes and protest marches. This story rarely appears on the surface of school-taught American history, that grand panorama of presidents and money-hungry potentates. It lies submerged; we have to look for it.

The recent best-seller and television drama "Roots" woke up the nation. Many of us were shocked; many of us just nodded our heads, seeing similar events today. "Roots" excited people to begin discovering their own pasts. Who were my ancestors? What was their life like?

Most of us would find a story similar to "Roots." A story of struggle and survival, of chained slavery and wage slavery, of huddled immigrants, down-trodden natives, and whip-lashed backs.

Yet somehow people survived, keeping alive their spirit no matter how hard the battle, finding joy in their love, music and sharing to keep going another day.

With this in mind, we've recalled some forgotten stories of American history, dramas which took place here in Bloomington. They include a nationwide worker's rebellion, an 87-year-old woman who sparked action in our city, and a long struggle against the unwritten segregation of Central Illinois.

We look at the recent past, with photos of marches and celebrations collected from the Post's files, and a look at our own beginnings.

Inspired by the past, we look toward the foreseeable future. What changes have to be made in our lifestyle to escape alienation and ecological suicide? What communities can we build that follow natural rhythms? How can agricultural Central Illinois be saved from pesticides and nuclear power plants?

Included here are imaginative blueprints and sketches for balanced communities, beginning with a comparison of our present order with a possible balanced and sane future.

Five years isn't that long, but it represents a big part of our young lives. Who's to say if there's a Post-Amerikan in our future? That isn't important. What is crucial is that we find joy and meaning in our struggle, and to that struggle we dedicate ourselves. 'Cause we still ain't satisfied.

a sixteen-page special section

## Post-Amerikan Fifth Anniversary

# Visions of the Past and Future

### look again...

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look again...  
100 Years Ago

One hundred years ago.

1877.

The nation had just completed its Centennial celebration, a bit of immodest self-congratulation that had but one lasting result--popcorn.

The newspapers excitedly featured reports of the U.S. Army chasing (with an embarrassing lack of success) Chief Joseph and the Nez Percé Indians through the Idaho hills.

On slow days, the press barons filled in with bloodshed imported from the Balkan Wars.

It was a good thing there were plenty of distractions, for the country was gripped by a severe recession that was in its fourth year. Unemployment was high and wages were frequently cut.

Working people had tried protest marches and had seen strikes aborted by blacklisting and firing of participants. Fed up, it was no surprise that in July, 1877, the U.S. erupted with a massive, spontaneous general strike, marked by demonstrations, riots and a social take-over. Governments and capitalists confronted mass action as strikers took control of the nation's largest industry, the railroads.

The battle was lost, degenerating into riot and destruction when employers called on the militia (national guard) and U.S. regulars to guard their property. It would be many more years of struggle before working people would be organized enough to win.

The strike began quietly enough on July 16, in the tiny Cumberland town of Martinsburg, West Virginia. Word went out over the B&O Railroad that a wage cut of 10% would take effect immediately. Rail workers across the country had expected the cut and had attempted to organize a strike earlier in the month but had been defeated by the companies.

That failure left the Martinsburg workers no choice but to take matters into their own hands. So they refused to take trains out, allowing only passenger and mail trains to pass. Martinsburg, nestled in the mountains, effectively blockaded the east-west mainline of the B&O.

The railroad's reaction was immediate; it attempted to move trains, forcing a violent con-

# General Strike

frontation with the strikers. Soon the militia was called, but many of its members were laborers themselves and sympathetic to the strike. When West Virginia's state militia failed to break the strike, 300 federal troops were sent, and the trains ran again.



Strikers pull scabs from a train in Martinsburg, W. Va.

But the company had not yet won. All laborers were affected by the recession, so those trains didn't get far. Coal miners, canal workers and the unemployed, both black and white, poured from the hills and derailed the trains.

This pattern, of a strike beginning in one industry and spreading throughout the workingfolk, was the norm across the country. In this haphazard, spontaneous fashion, the strike spread, soon closing down all industry.

"Therefore let the clashing of arms be heard...in view of the rights and in the defense of our families we shall conquer, or we shall die."  
Piedmont, W. Va. Miners' leaflet

With trains unable to move, President Rutherford B. Hayes called up the Baltimore militia to go to West Virginia. But the people of Baltimore stoned the troops in the streets, preventing them from reaching the train station. Baltimore had joined the strike.

Pittsburg, in a similar, spontaneous fashion, became the strike center on July 20. The Pennsylvania Railroad, largest industry in the state, had cut wages earlier in the month and on July 20 announced it would begin running "double-headers"--two trains in one, with more cars. The action meant fewer workers and more dangerous conditions.

The Pittsburg workers "sat down" and refused to move trains. Militia and police were called, but both were sympathetic to the railway workers, as were the steel workers who soon joined the walk-out.

"It's a question of bread or blood, and we're going to resist."  
Andrew Hice, Pittsburg flagman

With the Pittsburg militia ineffective, the Pennsylvania Railroad asked for and got Philadelphia

## Pantagraph

The Bloomington Pantagraph, always known for its support of the people's struggle, had these choice comments for the strikers of '77:

"City of Pittsburg in the hands of Infuriated Demons"

"But it is in Pittsburg that the madness of the strikers and of the idle and lawless allies...has attained its most dreadful development...thus far. ...The excited and lurid dispatches that reach us read more like the narratives of the orgies of a wild Parisian mob of the First Revolution than an account of the transactions in an American city in the late nineteenth century.

This anarchy must be stamped out, summarily and mercilessly. ...The supremacy of the State authorities must be maintained at any cost."  
July 23

★★★★★  
"In the City"

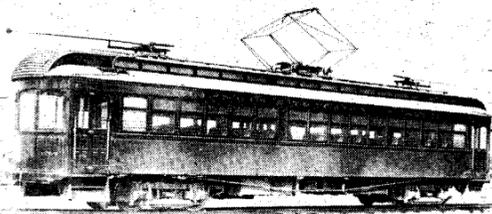
"The loudest declaimers against the methods adopted for the suppression of the riots are the saloon loafers, who have not done an honest day's work in six months... These scallawags are on the alert for anything that would give them

look again...  
25 Years Ago

Imagine a high-speed electric railway, linking cities, towns and rural areas in a safe, clean and quiet transportation network. Imagine being able to travel from Bloomington without needing a private automobile, with regular service on this railway.

Sound like an ecologist's dream?

In reality, the system existed and served our area for 47 years, before



For those of you who've always wondered, the device at the top center of this car is a Pantagraph. This photo was taken on the Bloomington-Peoria line before 1911.

## Take a Ride on the

growing automobiles and greedy bulldozers killed and buried it.

The Illinois Traction System once linked Bloomington with Peoria and Decatur with 24 trains a day. The complete system ran from St. Louis to Springfield, with branches to Peoria and to Champaign-Urbana and Danville.

Sadly though, the Bloomington branch closed Feb. 22, 1953, and on June 12, 1955, trains to Champaign and Peoria stopped; March 3, 1956, saw the last of the St. Louis-Springfield service, and electric suburban service out of St. Louis ended on June 21, 1958.

The auto and its interstate highway had strangled a great transportation network.

### 24 Trains

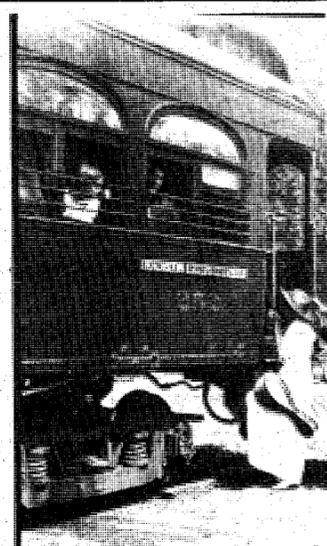
At the system's height in the 20's, there were 24 trains a day on the Bloomington line, 12 departing from Peoria and 12 from Decatur, all passing through Bloomington. Connections were made at Morton for sleeping car service into St. Louis during the night.

### All-Aboard

To imagine this system, let's take an imaginary ride, some time in the

1940's. Service by then had been reduced to six trains a day.

Our trip begins on South Madison Street, in the Traction's depot, which is now Capodice Produce. The depot had opened in 1941, replacing



Climb aboard for a ride into the past!

# Rocks Nation in '77.

militia on Saturday, July 22. Infuriated, the people of Pittsburg became a mob, scattering the Philadelphians into the countryside after an armed encounter.

Pillaging the Pennsylvania Railroad, Pittsburg citizens emptied over 2,000 freight cars, distributed the goods and set the cars afire. The railroad lost \$5 million worth of property, including 104 locomotives.

*"We must have our property."  
Railroad official, Pittsburg*

Federal troops were soon in Pittsburg, but by then rail workers had struck in Buffalo, N.Y., Altoona and Scranton, Penn., Cleveland, Columbus and Zanesville, Ohio, plus Chicago. Strikes begun by black workers spread to whites in Louisville and Galveston. Hundreds of smaller towns on rail lines were shut down.

## sez in '77

entry to their neighbor's pocket, and only need the assistance of a few of the loud-mouthed visionaries, who talk about 'the equal distribution of property' to organize a commune to gut and ransack the city."

July 25

★★★★★  
"...in Chicago, ...there was a great deal of the paltry nonsense indulged in by police and troops of shooting over the heads of the rioters, firing blank cartridges and generally handing with tenderness the creatures who were pelting the guardians of the peace with stones and brickbats.

...Shooting into a crowd is not a thing to be lightly or recklessly done, but when it become necessary to, shots should be fired at the mark, and with steady aim."

July 28

★★★★★  
"We have already said, and we repeat, that the really proper treatment in this sort of case would have been a shower of bullets, aimed straight at the throwers of missiles; but that prompt remedy not having been applied, the next best thing is a vigorous turn of the legal screw.

August 1

By July 25, Chicago was in a state of "war," with pitched battles taking place across the city. The strike then reached its most organized culmination in St. Louis.

A "Workingman's Party" had been politically organized, largely by European revolutionary exiles in St. Louis. After closing the railroads, strikers marched through the streets, successfully calling out every other industry. At political rallies, speakers exhorted the strikers to a city-wide take-over.



Baltimore workers attack troops.

Having successfully closed everything, the strikers realized that providing essential services would maintain their credibility. So they ran passenger and mail trains, baked bread and delivered food to the populace. Then federal troops arrived and the strike ended violently.

Chicago and East St. Louis were not the only Illinois communities participating in the nationwide disturbances. In Bloomington, though not affected by the wage cuts, rail workers sent

a message of support to their fellows and won a pay raise after mass meetings. Ten extra policemen were on duty.

Braidwood had a miner's takeover and Peoria large riots. Springfield, Urbana, Galesburg, Rantoul, Effingham and Decatur all had rail strikes. Miners and foundry workers went out in Minonk, Rock Island and LaSalle-Peru. Black roustabouts and river hands walked out in Cairo.

The U.S. Army and local militias were small and had to be rushed from city to city. Businessmen used the courts against strikers: strike leaders were "kidnapped" and hustled to Springfield, tried, and held in Sangamon County jail for the duration. August found the Springfield jail holding strikers from Peoria, East St. Louis, Urbana, Decatur and Flora.

Since the strikes were disorganized and spotty, so were the results. In some cities, like Bloomington, Rock Island and LaSalle-Peru, workers won demands. But in most places, especially when the military intervened, strikes were suppressed violently. In places like St. Louis workers captured the situation, but faltered when the military arrived.

*"All you have to do, ... is to unite on one idea--that the workingmen shall rule the country. What man makes, belongs to him, and the workingmen made this country."  
St. Louis Strike Leader*

In the 1870's, industrial America was in raw form. Workers were fresh off the boat or the farm and were working as employees for the first time in their lives. Working life was underpaid, unsanitary, cruel and dangerous.

The strike had been disorganized, but workers won some demands and taught wage-cutters a lesson. Workers and capitalists both recognized the power of united labor--a lesson not lost in the General Strike for the eight-hour day in 1885, the Pullman Strike of 1894, or numerous struggles since then. Though defeated, workers spontaneously assumed control without needing bosses.

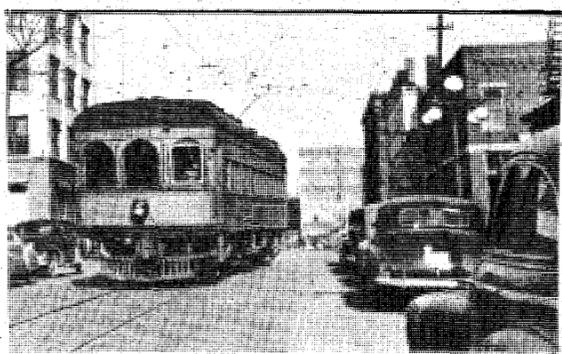
Many today call for "democratic" workplaces and the strikers of '77 proved common people are competent and ready to direct their own lives.

--MgM

## Illinois Traction System.

a station at Jefferson and Madison Streets.

Our train is just one car, seating about 55 people. The Traction's electric cars are large, about 56 feet long, and were built about 1913-14. Painted bright orange, they feature large windows, with decorative stained glass. The operator sits in front, and there's



Heading out on a fast run to Peoria, car 281 swings around the Market & Center curve.

a baggage compartment behind him. Then comes the seating area, complete with varnished Honduras mahogany wood interiors and green plush seats.

With the conductor's "All Aboard," the train starts south on Madison,

and soon leaves city streets for a private right-of-way, running to Decatur alongside today's U.S. 51.

Pastures flaunt bright spring wildflowers, their scent wafting through open windows. Rich, black earth is being plowed, as stops are made at Hendrix, Randolph, Heyworth and Wapella. Anyone can flag the train down at a cross-roads. At Wapella, the depot still stands in 1977, a small, brown brick building, just off 51.

Continuing south, the train passes through Clinton, Craig and Maroa. At Maroa, on the south end of town, 51's pavement is very wide, then suddenly narrows. The cars run down the middle of the street here. Emery, Forsyth and Decatur are the remaining stops on the trip

On a scheduled Limited, elapsed time for the journey was an hour and 35 minutes. Trains to Peoria were scheduled to make the trip in an hour and 15 minutes. Slightly longer than an auto trip today, but without traffic jams, hassles or the worry of driving. We could sit back and relax, read the paper or visit with neighbors.

The Traction was engineered by William B. McKinley, a Champaign banker. In 1890 he began acquiring streetcar systems throughout Illinois, and be-

tween 1900 and 1911 connected them with a high-speed electric railway. He owned over 600 miles of track in his Illinois Traction System, including the Bloomington and Normal Railway and Light Company. He was a U.S. Senator, Republican, from 1921 until his death in 1926.

### Rust in Peace

The Traction is now gone; remaining is the freight-only, diesel-powered Illinois Terminal Railroad. A few cars still offer silent homage in museums at St. Louis, Mo., Union and Monticello, Ill., and Worthington, Ohio, and the rusting right-of-way remains, a skeleton connecting cities and towns.

An occasional bus cruises the highways that adjoin the Traction but on a reduced schedule and without service to rural areas. The four-lane interstate, replete with chicken palaces and traffic roar, has replaced two steel rails and a humming copper-wire overhead, a system accessible to all, regardless of their ability to own or drive a car.

The hum of traction motors, flashing trolley sparks and melodic air-chime whistles have been replaced by snarling traffic, noxious pollution and automotive roar. In Detroit, they call it progress.

MgM



ALWAYS THE "SHORT  
Road" to a result is the  
PANTAGRAPH CLASSIFIED  
AD ROUTE.

ILL., FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1917. --FOURTEEN PAGES. THREE CENTS.

## GUARD THE CITY

Harry Rhoades, 88 of 707 W. Chestnut, remembers that night, having heard Mother Jones and followed the angry crowd.

Rhoades, now a veteran of 42 years in the Chicago and Alton Railroad shops, was a delegate to the Trades and Labor Assembly at the time. He remembers that South Main Street was being paved at the time, and paving bricks were stacked around. In their anger, the crowd "loaded that car clear up to the level of the seat tops with paving bricks."

The mob then proceeded to the Square, as Harry remembers, as "every streetcar went around the Courthouse. There were two or three streetcars parked there, one on Main, one on Jefferson. They pulled the trolleys on the cars."

Rhoades recollected the crowd as pretty determined. "There was a policeman," he said. "He walked right along with the crowd, he didn't try to stop nobody, he didn't say nothin'. About as peaceable a mob you could ever find, I guess. A couple of thousand, maybe more" participated.

From the Square, the mob marched on the company powerhouse on South Roosevelt Street, near the rail crossing.

### Power Plant

There, a nervous mayor, sheriff and chief of police awaited them. A row of policemen hid behind railroad cars. Shutting down the powerhouse would stop every streetcar in town.

The crowd rallied, surrounding the plant, demanding it be shut down.

The authorities, fearful, weren't sure whether to attack or give in. The crowd grew increasingly angry.

Finally, John Nitzel, first president of the new streetcar union, climbed up on the back of a car and voiced the demand. The crowd pressed; the police gave in--they agreed to shut down the place. Nitzel accompanied the

The crowd, refusing to disperse, confronted the mayor. They demanded that he intervene to settle the strike.

### Confronts Mayor

Mayor Jones pleaded that he had done his best.

"Liar," taunted the crowd.

Gene Downey, a shop employee, became a spokesperson and said the riot would end if the mayor would mediate. The mayor agreed, the crowd quickly dispersed, and soon the quiet, moonlit square only reflected broken glass.

Early the next morning, Superintendent D.W. Snyder of the B&N appeared at the mayor's office, refusing to negotiate or recognize the union.

Also appearing were over 1,400 National Guardsmen, called for by a panicked sheriff. The Guardsmen camped around the courthouse, fraternized with people and showed off their two new machineguns.

With the company still refusing to negotiate, some dramatic action was necessary. What could the streetcar workers do?

Luckily, workingpeople stuck together back in 1917 and knew that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

The car shops of the C&A railroad were the town's biggest industry, and the shopmen had seen their share of strikes and troops. Not about to let the streetcar men down, they left their jobs at noon on Friday, July 6, and marched en masse on City Hall.

This action finally brought results, as it threatened to shut down the whole city. Telegrams shot to Congressman McKinley, who stated he "recognized the right of men to organize."

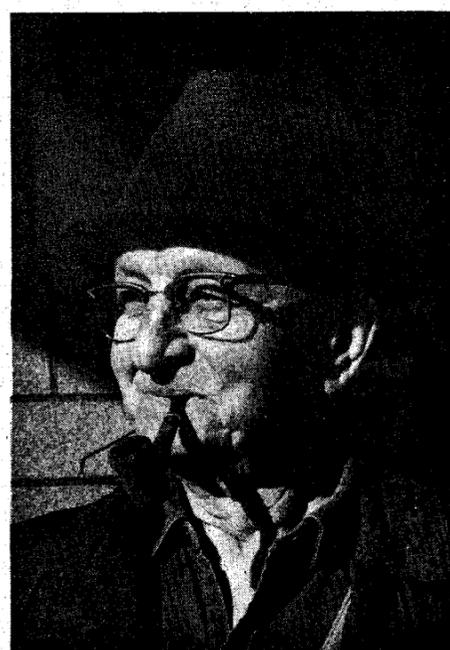
That weekend the strike committee and company met with the workers agreeing to return to work and the company allowing them to organize.



William B. McKinley (1856-1926) was a Champaign banker and owned the Bloomington and Normal Electric Railway. He also controlled the Illinois Traction System and the Illinois Power Company.



"Mother" (Mary) Jones (1830-1930) friend and defender of workers everywhere. She gave her life to miners, factory hands and railroad people. She helped incite the people of Bloomington to support the strikers.



Harry Rhoades, 88, of 707 W. Chestnut, remembers that wild night in 1917. For many years he was a delegate from the railroad car shops to the Trades and Labor Assembly.

police inside, and the crowd, satisfied with his inspection report, returned to the Square. As Rhoades remembered the crowd's tone, "They were going to shut it down, and they did!"

The company's office on Jefferson and Madison streets was the next target, and soon its plate-glass front was smashed. A rumor spread that strikers were being held in jail, and the crowd prepared to liberate them. With this, the police spread out, preparing to defend the jail no doubt. An ugly massacre was possible; warning shots were fired.

Monday, July 9, found all cars running and the strikers reinstated. Wage disputes were settled later with the company negotiating directly with the union. That union still exists 60 years later as the Amalgamated Transit Union, representing today's bus drivers.

What was the key to the strike's success? Solidarity. Workingpeople of Bloomington stuck together, whether they were on strike or not. Women, children and men all rallied in support, knowing the battle was their's as well. "An injury to one is an injury to all."

--MgM

look again...  
50 Years Ago

Clang-Clang

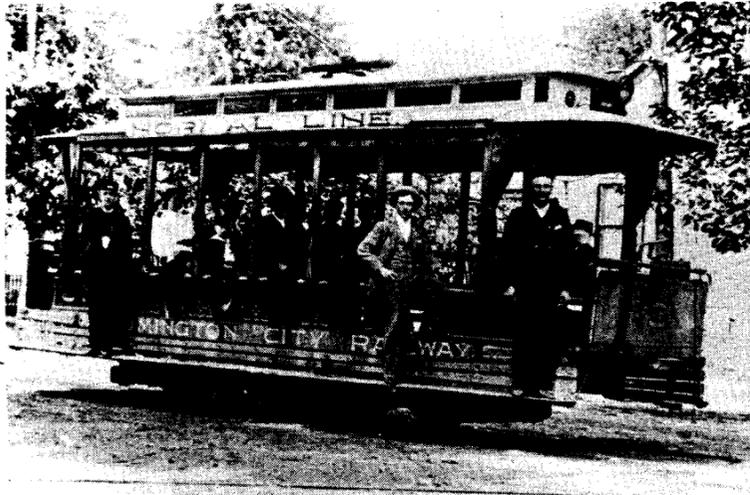
# Trolleys Gave Fine Service

Tired of traffic jams, nauseating automobiles and air pollution? Angry because you want to go to ISU in the evening, or out to a film, but can't because you don't have a car?

Sick of shopping-center neon and interstate concrete spreading like cancers?

Perhaps you dream of being able to travel across town at any hour, or find inspiration in designer's plans for modern mass transit, years in the future.

Perhaps you need to take a long look backward and realize that, before Detroit intruded, Bloomington and every city had safe, clean, reliable electric city transit.



Near the turn of the century these folks were quite proud of the new trolleys. This car, on the Normal line, was an Open car used exclusively in summer.

As in "Clang, Clang, Clang went the trolley."

Yes, at one time you could catch an electric car anywhere in town, ride for a nickel, and ride all through the night.

Unfortunately, that fine trolley system died Dec. 12, 1936, over 40 years ago, as oil-fuming diesel busses chased the streetcars from the streets.

It all began in 1867, when the Bloomington and Normal Horse Railway laid tracks on West Chestnut from the railroad station and up Franklin Avenue to Normal.

Tiny steam locomotives hauled the cars but were soon replaced by quieter and cleaner mules.

The mule-and-horse railway spread all over town. And May 19, 1890 witnessed the first electric trolley. Painted bright yellow, the first car left the Union Depot, making as "much noise as a sawmill."

A new era had been born. The lines were popular, but only the wealthy and middle-class could afford to use them regularly. Working-people walked. It wasn't till later that trolley became economical enough for everyone.

Nor was it an easy life for the car operators. David Law, who worked mule cars and electric cars from 1872-1889, told Pantagraph about his hard life in 1889:

"The average, well-dressed and comfortable citizens who ride... do not know a thing about us or men like us. We hardly see our children, for they are asleep when we leave in the morning and have gone to bed when we get back at night. The children of some of our drivers never see their fathers except every 10 days, when they get their day off."

At that time, streetcar men worked from 7:30 am to 10:30 pm with 10 minutes for lunch and 10 for supper. \$40-50 a month was an average wage.

With the adoption of electric cars, routes were expanded. On the Westside, cars ran north on Western avenue and Mason street, west on Washington and south on Allin Street to Miller Park. A South Main car ran to Houghton's Lake, near the present golf course. There was an East Washington and East Oakland line, plus cars ran north on Clinton and Franklin avenues into Normal.

There was a car every 20 minutes on all lines, with the Normal cars balanced so that one left every 10 minutes. From 11 pm to 6 am, service was reduced to one car per hour on each line.

Around the turn of the century, people often chartered a trolley for a party. Special open-sided cars ran in summer, closed cars the rest of the year.

The 1920's marked the height of the system. In 1923, the lines hauled 4,655,974 passengers over 18.2 miles of track in 22 cars.

The system was operated by the Illinois Traction System which was owned by William B. McKinley of Champaign, who ran streetcars throughout the state. Workers didn't always get a fair shake from banker McKinley, and Bloomington carmen struck frequently, successfully in 1902 and 1917. A worker or consumer controlled system would have been fairer to the car operators.

Communal aspects were appreciated on the trolleys. Fellow passengers worried if you weren't at your regular stop. Workingpeople rubbed shoulders with downtown businesspeople. Friendships lasting years were formed.

In 1936, the Illinois Traction sold the franchise to the National City Lines, which was buying every streetcar system it could get its hands on. When NCL bought a line, it immediately did the bidding of its owners--General Motors and Firestone Tire Company--by replacing trolleys with GM busses sporting Firestone tires.

NCL was broken up by federal court action in 1948, but not before it had wrecked almost every trolley system in the country. That's why electric trolleys are such a rarity these days.

So next time you're stranded around town, remember the good old days when you could grab a ride on a clanking trolley--any time. With the bus fare increase looming, remember the nickel fare. When you're caught in a traffic jam, consider that we ought to have public mass transit accessible to all instead of pouring all our resources into the private automobile.

Clang-Clang?

MgM

look again...  
40 Years Ago

## the great 1937 housewives' strike

(or, Was this one scripted in Hollywood?)

It's been great fun digging through the records of the past to write these history articles, a fascinating look at forgotten Americana.

But at times it can be damn frustrating.

Hours of microfilm eyestrain, hurried notes and false leads only make the blood boil, especially when it all leads the wrong way.

Like this little item from Bloomington's past:

"In Bloomington, Illinois, housewives went out on a sit-down strike, refusing to prepare meals, wash dishes, or answer doorbells until they received more compensation from their husbands."

Page 262 of Jeremy Brecher's book, *Strike!*, contains that stimulating lead. (By the way, *Strike!* is an excellent source on workingfolk's struggles.)

Bloomington housewives' sit-down strike! How many thousands were there? Did the city "fa-

thers" go out of control? Ah, to write a story combining labor's militance and women's liberation... how hip.

*Strike!* had no footnotes or reference to the event's date. Where to begin?

Spring, 1937, saw sit-downs by thousands of workers, inspired by the Congress of Industrial Organization's organizing drive and the successful sit-down against General Motors in Flint, Michigan. "Sit-down" became the national rage (pun intended).

Women sat down in GM's Flint Fisher Body #1; waitresses, factory workers, stenographers, and office workers sat down in Chicago; New York Woolworth's clerks and Philadelphia hosiery workers all used the popular strike tactic.

And in Bloomington, according to Brecher's book, the representative working woman-- the housewife-- sat down too. It was time for me to run to Withers Public Library, pore over early 1937 microfilm, and develop another case of eyestrain.

On and on...finally, March 25, right before Easter Sunday.

How many housewives?

Two.

What were their militant demands?

New Easter bonnets and spring coats.

Their husbands' excuse?

Poverty. (Remember, there was a Depression on.)

Disappointed, I returned to the Post-American office, grumbling that we had no story for 40 years ago. The great "Bloomington Housewives Sit-Down" didn't seem worth repeating.

But we had to have a story for 40 years ago. So instead we have this tale of a frustrated search, frustration being an apt comment for a Depression decade.

Digging up history is fun, but disappointing when it wasn't like you wanted it to be.

--MgM

look again...  
15 Years Ago

# Citizens charge betrayal as Council sells city light plant

After 70 years of operation and four referendums supporting its continuation, Bloomington's city-owned light plant shut down in 1962.

The City Council had sold the plant to Illinois Power Company.

In 1956, citizens voted 2-1 to refuse to sell the plant to Illinois Power. Six years later, Illinois Power offered double the plant's worth, on one condition: that the Council refuse to allow the people to vote again on the sale.

The plant served only a portion of Bloomington, but previous referendums supported expanding the number of customers.

Debate on the municipal power plant issue frequently strayed from conventional talk of taxes, investment returns, rates, etc., and moved to arguments on the merits of social ownership for the purpose of public service, versus private ownership for the purpose of private profit.

Indeed, it was the socialistic belief that institutions which supply the people's needs should be owned by the people, which probably spurred initial agitation for the city-owned power plant.

The "ideological leader" of the early forces favoring municipal power, according to Alice Ebel's history of the issue in Bloomington, was Val Simshauser, a "convinced and zealous socialist" who (somehow) managed to serve 10 years on the City Council as a Republican. Ebel calls Simshauser the "father of the municipal power plant," and attributes his tireless efforts on its behalf to his strongly-felt ideals of social justice.

Simshauser was dead before Illinois Power renewed its offensive on the city plant in the 1950's, but citizens' groups formed to organize against what they saw as a greedy monopoly's unwarranted, profiteering attack. In 1956, citizens voted down the proposed sale to Illinois

Power, by a 2-1 referendum vote. Plans were made to have the plant serve more customers.

But Illinois Power didn't give up. In 1958, they offered again to buy the city's light plant. The Council refused.

In 1962, Illinois Power offered again, this time hinting they would pay far more than the plant's real worth.

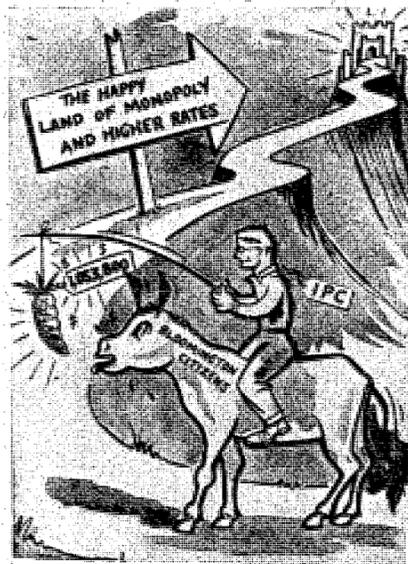
Money tempted Council members, but at least two pointed out that the issue should go to the people for a vote. After all, it had been a heated issue for years, but four referendums had all supported continuation of municipal power.

Four of the five Council votes were necessary to approve the plant's sale. But two Council members insisted on a referendum. Illinois Power said its offer was good only if there were no referendum. As long as the two Council members continued to demand a referendum, the sale was blocked.

Council member Walter Bittner (now Bloomington's outgoing mayor) held firm; he insisted that the people had a right to vote.

Council member Vernon Prenzler (now under investigation for possible anti-trust law violations in connection with his building materials, real estate, and contracting companies) betrayed the cause of public power. After promising to hold out for a referendum, Prenzler switched his vote, giving the pro-sale people the needed four votes. The people were denied their chance to vote in a referendum.

Angry citizens charged that the Council had accepted bribes from Illinois Power Company, but no proof emerged. The Citizens' Municipal Light League collected 5,000 signatures demanding an after-the-fact referendum. A suit challenging the sale went to the Illinois Supreme



The Carrot

This cartoon was published in a 1956 issue of "Citizens' Press," a publication fighting the light plant's sale.

Court, but ultimately failed.

The plant's sale was a setback to people who were inspired by the values which motivated Val Simshauser. But it was characteristic of the Cold War era.

In their national campaign to combat publicly-owned power, privately-owned electric utilities launched aggressive advertising campaigns. Publicly-owned power was equated with the worst excesses of Stalinist Russia; privately-owned utilities pictured themselves as paragons of patriotism--simply for being owned by corporate holding companies!

--Mark Silverstein

look again...  
55 Years Ago

# Workers' Co-op Store Expands



Recognize these old buildings at 529 and 531 N. Main?

The Melody Club? The black YFW?

Back in the 1920's, these buildings housed the "Bloomington Co-operative Society," a co-op store run by and for local laborers.

Originally opened just at 529 N. Main, the growing people's store expanded business rapidly. In 1922, they expanded into the corner building.

The store's expansion was described in a 1922 issue of the Searchlight, a weekly paper published by the Trades and Labor Assembly. Describing itself on its masthead as "Devoted to the Common Expression of the People," and as "Owned and Controlled by the Wage Earners of Bloomington," the paper carried an article strongly supporting the co-op store.

Speaking of the cooperative movement, the 1922 Searchlight said, "The movement offers the op-

portunity to all persons so inclined to become a member of a great economic movement....

With the training secured from the cooperative movement it will be possible for the people to operate successfully any branch of industry which they care to operate."

Leaders began agitating for the co-op's beginning in 1917, arguing that institutions which provide for workers' needs (like stores) should be owned by the workers. Farmers, workers and miners around the country were trying cooperative schemes, both to beat the high prices at company stores, and to take more control over their own lives.

The Bloomington Cooperative Society sold groceries and clothing downtown, operated a coal yard, ran a "cash and carry" store near the railroad, and operated at least two horse-drawn delivery wagons out of the downtown store. The society held educational and social meetings above the store, and initiated programs to "spread the word" about the cooperative movement.

Reflecting the different kinds of people it served, the store's first board of directors included a carpenter, blacksmith, professor, two railroad trainmen, a bricklayer, rural merchant, retail clerk, printer, locomotive fireman, miner, and a locomotive engineer. The store's first president and manager was L.J. Salch, a carpenter. The Searchlight emphasized that union membership was not a require-

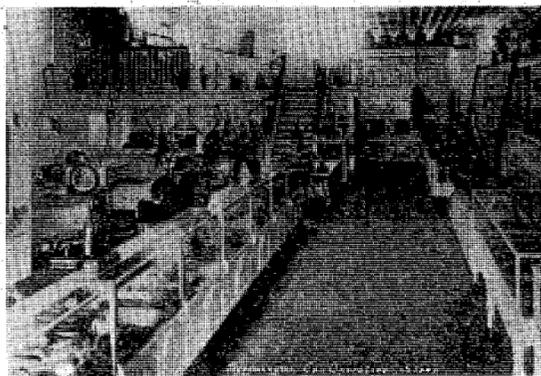
ment, because "Co-operation is a movement of, for, and by the common people, and no such restrictions exist."

At one time almost every community in Illinois had a workers' co-op, especially the mining towns. The Bloomington store was known as one of the largest and most aggressive in the state.

The jobless Depression killed most of these efforts. By 1935, a capitalist chain store, Piggly-Wiggly, occupied the site of the workers' store. Though the store died, the idea still thrives today, as new people strive to practice it.

(For more information, see C.E. Warne's 1926 Consumers' Co-operative Movement, available at Withers Public Library.)

--MgM and M.S.



Co-op store's interior, 1922

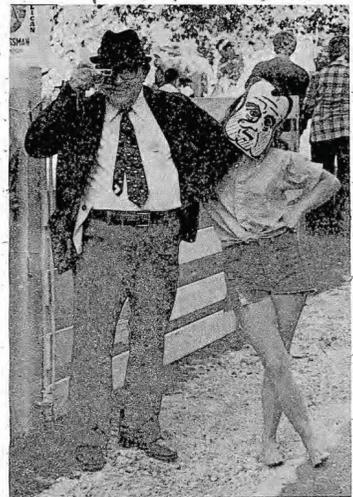
look again...  
The Last 5 Years

# The Past 5 Years in Photos



WHAT KIND OF MAN READS SMUT?

December '73 -- The Post brought about a new Pantagraph policy by publishing this photo of a local cop reading porno mags captured in an adult bookstore raid. The Pantagraph took the photo, but never printed it. After the Post published it on the cover, the Pantagraph began stamping all the prints they sell to the public with a threatening warning about needing permission for reproduction.



October '74 -- The Post caught this friendly demonstrator in a Nixon mask at the annual Republican picnic. It was just after Nixon's pardon, and masked demonstrators bumped into picnic-goers and immediately excused themselves with a loud "Pardon me!"



May '73 -- Two people give the victory sign after taking over the President's office at I.S.U. in May, '73. The administration had refused to lower the flag in the quad in honor of the four students who were murdered at Kent State.



August '75 -- The Post caught the head honcho himself, Sheriff King, in the midst of intimate communication with his nose.



January '73 -- Nixon had officially become President again in January, and people were fed up with his policies and his murderous actions in Vietnam. So they held an "Anti-Inaugural March" in Normal to let Nixon know how they felt. Tempers flared, and the demonstrator pictured above was arrested. The crowd was enraged, and demanded his release. Fearing the organized strength of the police, the police promptly released the demonstrator.



April '76 -- Assistant State's Attorney Brad Murphy demonstrated the sophisticated mode of communication he learned in law school to a Post photographer. At left, M.E.G. agent Ford Conley, seen elsewhere on this page in full costume, covered his face in shocked disbelief at the crudity of public officials.



July 4, '75 -- On Independence Day several people showed their faith in the U.S. Constitution by passing out copies of the Declaration of Independence to shoppers at Eastland Mall. Marion Tate, manager, threatened the group with arrest if they didn't leave his 'private property'. Tobe Easton stayed, was arrested for trespassing, and is shown being escorted to the squad car.



November '74 -- Police showed up for the second "Indict Sheriff King" march in full riot gear and looking for trouble. In contrast to the first march, which came off peacefully, police were apparently under orders to shut things down as soon as possible this time. People naturally became angry when police formed lines, shoved and clubbed people with no warning, and made two arrests by the County Jail. Everything broke loose then and police chased the demonstrators all through the downtown area, finally arresting four more at the square, including a Post photographer who was thrown through a glass door at Kresge's by Officer Charlie Crowe. Three of the six arrested were later found not guilty.



January '73 -- The women pictured here were one of the many groups that made up the "Anti-Inaugural March" in Normal.



December '72 -- Brothers and sisters showed their solidarity with the Post after an evening at the Red Lion. We suspect they also liked to see their pictures in the paper.



January '76 -- Two M.E.G. "undercover" agents escaped to a waiting car after a trial--a clear case of the blind leading the blind.



September '75 -- M.E.G. secret agent Ford Conley went to extreme lengths to escape Post photographers after testifying at a drug trial.



April '74 -- The Post used photos to show the brutality of Sheriff King's jail. Mel Armes, pictured here, was one of a long list of victims.

look again...  
10 Years Ago

## Holy family integrated in '67



ABOVE: "They say there's no room at the inn, dear; we've heard that jazz before," sign says on NAACP 1967 Christmas float.

Ten years ago black and white activists were agitating the local power structure, pushing for civil rights, integration, and fair housing. Through a variety of tactics, they tried to make government and the private powers-that-be responsive to the needs and demands of poor people and black people.

Many had been to Mississippi in preceding years, participating in social upheavals that rocked the south and shook the entire nation. People returning from Mississippi realized that the fight for social justice wasn't a thousand miles away; it was right here.

The NAACP and the US group--active locally in the mid-sixties--sometimes chose dramatic methods to highlight the issues and injustices that concerned them.

For several years running, activists used the Association of Commerce's annual Christmas parade to make a point.

In 1967, banned from portraying a black Santa Claus, the NAACP struck an emotional raw nerve in Bloomington society with a float portraying an unusual "holy family" scene. Black activist Merlin Kennedy dressed as Joseph, while a visibly pregnant white ISU student acted the part of Mary. "They said there's no room at the inn, dear; we've heard that jazz before," the float's sign read.

The float's planners were risking violence and arrests--many of the 20,000 parade watchers would surely be violently angry at a portrayal of interracial marriage, especially Joseph and Mary! (Probably reflecting a large amount of community prejudice, Judge Caisley refused to marry a racially mixed couple only a few months later.)

But the 1967 Christmas parade progressed without incident, unlike the year before.

In 1966, Merlin Kennedy tried to enter the Christmas parade dressed as Santa Claus. His sleigh carried a sign reading "Don't buy gifts this Christmas. Give love. Get off somebody's

RIGHT: Black Santa Merlin Kennedy made national news when police arrested him for joining the Christmas parade. (Photo from Jet magazine.)



back." However, the Association of Commerce had ruled that there could only be one Santa Claus (whose name was actually Emery White!)

Police stopped the black Santa's float in 1966. When Kennedy--still dressed as Santa--tried to walk down the sidewalk, police arrested him. The arrest lasted only a few minutes, though, because officers soon thought better of arresting Santa Claus, even if he was black.

Bloomington made national news that year, for banning a black Santa from the Christmas parade.

--M.S.

look again...  
30 Years Ago

## ISNU students fight segregation

Unwritten segregation was the law in McLean County for many years; it was a law maintained by tradition, unspoken, whispered about only occasionally.

There never were separate drinking fountains at the courthouse or separate schools. There was a distinct part of Miller Park lake for blacks to swim in and certain places where blacks weren't seen, like restaurants, especially the finer ones in town.

This racism lurked beneath the surface, rarely being challenged until 1947, when a group of Illinois State Normal University students picketed a segregated restaurant, the Pilgrim.

The Pilgrim fronted on School Street, next to the "Co-op" Bookstore. (The bookstore, now called Alamo II, later absorbed the Pilgrim's space.) So, just as the "Co-op" now enjoys heavy student traffic thanks to its prime location near campus, the Pilgrim was the most popular eating and socializing spot in the 1940's.

ISNU was much smaller than today's ISU campus, training teachers for elementary and high schools. There were less than 1000 students, and Normal was still a small town.

The picket line began on Wednesday, Oct. 1, while the rest of campus was busy with Homecoming preparations. Picketing began when the restaurant opened at 7 a.m. and lasted until 10 p.m., with three or four people on the line, relieved by others to maintain it for the full day.

It was a heavy action for Bloomington-Normal, and the pickets were not well received. The Pantagraph turned down the pickets' first letter explaining their position, and the Student Council, although opposed to racial discrimination, opposed the picket line.

Store owners were quite angry; a Vidette reporter attempting to garner their opinions was physically threatened by some owners. The Carl Martin Post of the American Legion in Normal refused the picketers' request to use their facilities for public meetings. On Saturday evening, Oct 4, the picketers were accosted by fellow students trying to start a fight. A faculty member intervened and chased the rowdies off.

But the pickets held their ground. As Charles McCoy, a picketer, explained to the Student Council, "A restaurant on the fringe of the campus which had racial discrimination policies is a reflection on the University. Sorry as we are to see them go out of business, we would rather have them do so than to enforce this policy."

Support came from Illinois Wesleyan students, who offered to join the pickets, and the College class of Wesley Methodist Church on School Street wrote a letter of support to the Pantagraph. The Vidette editorially upheld the right to picket.

The University's administration and Student Council tried to intervene, inviting the restaurant managers to discuss



Pickets finally pressured a Normal restaurant to serve blacks.

the problem. But the managers, Joe Gaffigan and Jack Brady, refused, claiming there was "no moral issue or prejudice" involved. Ellis Wade, an owner of both the building and the "Co-op" Bookstore, said there was "no hardship imposed on colored students," because they could eat at the school cafeteria. All cited the unwritten law of not serving blacks.

A good number of students were turned away, and as the second week of picketing began, the restaurant closed. It did not reopen until Monday October 12.

By then the managers had perceived their position's unpopularity and agreed to a meeting which was attended by the administration, picketers, and the Student Council. An agreement was reached on Monday, October 22.

The students were victorious: the restaurant agreed to open its door to all people, regardless of color, beginning the next semester.

The battle for civil rights had publicly begun in Bloomington-Normal; it would continue for 30 years, peaking in the mid-60's when the nation awoke to the fight against racial discrimination, a battle still fought today.

--MgM

look again...  
5 Years Ago

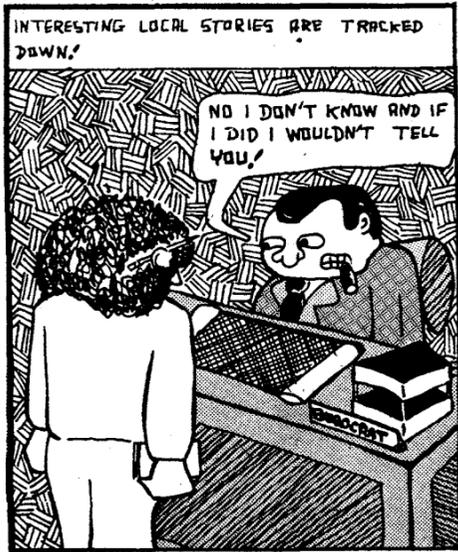
Post proudly presents past

# How we got started

"No one really knew anything about putting together a paper, but we had high energy."  
--Chuck Willer, on the Post-Amerikan's first issue.

It had rounded, swelling lettering for a masthead, a drawn marijuana leaf for a symbol, fifteen cents for a price and this motto: "Man (sic) is Descended from Guerrillas." Neither masthead, leaf, motto, nor price were to remain after five issues. The paper and its name, though, were to stick around awhile.

The first issue of the Post-Amerikan came out on April 3, 1972, the day it came back from its printers (a print co-op in Champaign that partially inspired the Post's birth, just by example). The production of the ISU-linked peopled (faculty member Rex Rexford wrote most of the first issue's articles), the premiere issue of the P-A sold out on campus in only two days.



"That was perhaps the height of freak identity on campus," Chuck Willer, an early Post worker recalls, "probably three years behind the rest of the country. We sold almost a thousand copies of the paper just by hawking to students on the quad."

Much of the Post's early material came out of this sense of freak identity. In the opening issue's eight pages, the following pieces appeared: "Rock vs. Computer" (a criticism of computerized rock station WBNQ-FM), "May-Day is J-Day" (a call for massive public dope smoke-ins), a record review. There was also a report on the protest spurred by Secretary of Defense Mel Laird's dinner appearance at the Scottish Rites Temple. Title of the last article was "Laird Eats It." A two-page centerspread poster rounded the issue out.

"Will B-N support its own 'underground' publication?" the issue's opening editorial asked. "The Post-Amerikan is not certain of that question, but we have enough confidence that the answer is 'yes' to begin a community newspaper which will be published on a biweekly basis, even during the summer."

The early P-A was far from a community paper, however. Its strong university ties kept it school-oriented--all of its staff were either faculty, student, or married to faculty or student. But it had hopes.

It would take some time to come close to realizing those hopes, though. In the meantime, issue two came out, with a faculty member's three-page diatribe against the educational system (and ISU's Professional Sequence, in particular), a reprint article condemning sociology, another two-page poster, the first installment of a bizarre serial titled "Captain Commie Ciller," and a cartoon condemnation of right-winger Violet Hamilton's campaign

against stag films on campus. That cartoon was the first to appear in the P-A by Bill Sherman, whose scratchy, half-formed work was to dominate the paper's graphics for much of its early years.

Several anti-war reprint articles appeared in that second issue, and they signalled the thrust of the paper's next two issues. Members of the Concerned Student's Union, a loose knit bunch of ISU radicals, planned a series of Spring anti-war activities (right at the start of Nixon's big bombing push in Viet Nam). Much of the P-A's material in issues three and four related to those anti-war actions and the controversies surrounding them.

Issue three, also, contained the P-A's first article on the women's movement. Most were half-reprint and reflective of the paper's dominant freak approach: a review of the Chicago Women's Liberation Rock Band an article on the new Women's Center titled "Women's Center Trucks Along," and "Women Protect Yourselves."

But many freaks and radicals at the time, including those involved with the P-A, had an ambivalent (to put in nicely) attitude towards the women's movement, and these articles almost didn't make it into the paper. It would be almost a year, in fact, before the paper and its staff actively embraced feminist articles. Before that would come a series of staff controversies.

Other controversies, though, were of primary



concern during these first issues. Rexford, dissatisfied with the Concerned Student's Union and apparently suspicious of their (non-violent) campus protest, was to write a condemnation of anti-war protests on campus. After writing it, and submitting it for the fourth issue, he resigned from the paper.

That left the paper without its foremost backer and writer. Willer and Sherman, the latter fresh from a tenure as editor of the ISU student paper, stepped in and pulled together the fourth issue. Many of issue four's articles were written with speed and speculation. One article, entitled "Kops," was little more than a series of nasty comments about the city calendar's blurb describing the BPD. (It was, though, one of the first attempts to branch away from campus topics). Another was an accusatory piece about ISU president David Berlo's role in pacifying anti-war agitators full of tenuous connection and guesswork.

It was also the last biweekly issue.

Issue five was advertised as the first monthly

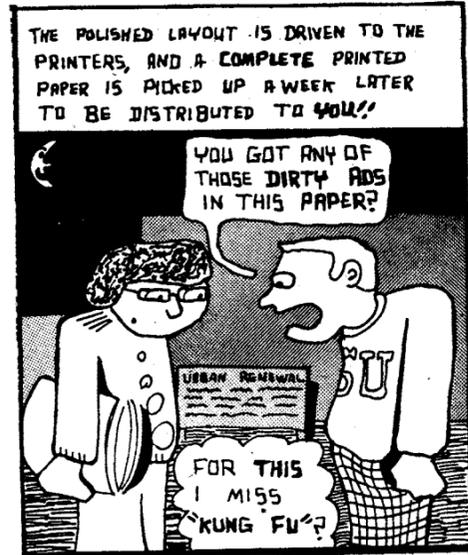
issue and the first free issue. The paper stayed somewhat monthly, but it was only free that once. Its cover was a parody of an ISU Vidette collage cover--certainly something of a mistake for a paper that kept insisting it wanted to branch out into the community--and its contents were similar to issue four's: anti-war reprints, music and movie reviews, and theoretical pieces. The first (and only) installment of the "Bloomington Journalism Review," a critical look at the local press, also appeared, and it reflected the P-A's strong essay-type stuff rather than news stories.

But it was with the July issue, number six, that the Post-Amerikan finally took steps towards its long-professed goal of being a community newspaper. Until then, the paper had been loosely structured around its one or two "editors", its articles haphazardly sought out among friends and acquaintances; but now steps were being taken to build a cooperative staff. Everyone interested in doing anything on the paper was invited to a big staff-recruiting meeting.

While much of this staff was still university-linked and basically friends with each other, a change was heralded in the paper with this editorial written "from an ex-editor's desk": "This issue is the first one comprised by new and outside people, a larger group than before. Hopefully, it is better rounded. We hope to keep it so."

"Some changes. The masthead is different. So is the price. (The group, as a whole, decided that the paper, realizing a value system that equates inexperience with inferiority, would be assured of an attentive audience that wouldn't just pick up a copy, never read it, and just throw it away.)"

The P-A cost a dime then. Its monthly issues started being put together more consciously, its staff holding meetings and arguing over content and theory. Its cover story, celebrating the new look, left campus and concerned itself with the forming of a new community food co-op.



It would take some time for the paper to shed its university image, however. For one thing, the paper was still over-burdened with more theory than news. (Issue seven contained, though, perhaps the first real Post-style story: a report of an adult bookstore raid in Bloomington written by paper newcomer Mark Silverstein.) The staff was new and unused to putting together a real monthly community paper.

But the Post was on its way.

--D. Colt

look ahead...

# THE FUTURE



Imagination  
is seizing  
power

Advocating the overthrow of government is a crime. overthrowing it is something else altogether. It is sometimes called revolution.

But don't kid yourself: government is not where it's at: it's only a good place to start.

1. Send the corporate executives on permanent vacations.
2. Take over the factories.
3. Make it impossible for them

to build again.

That means: destroy the concept of money as we know it, get rid of interest, savings, inheritance (Pound's money, as dated coupons that come in the mail to everyone, and are void in 30 days is still a good idea).

Or, let's start with no money at all and invent it if we need it.

Or, mimeograph it and everyone print as much as you want and see what happens.

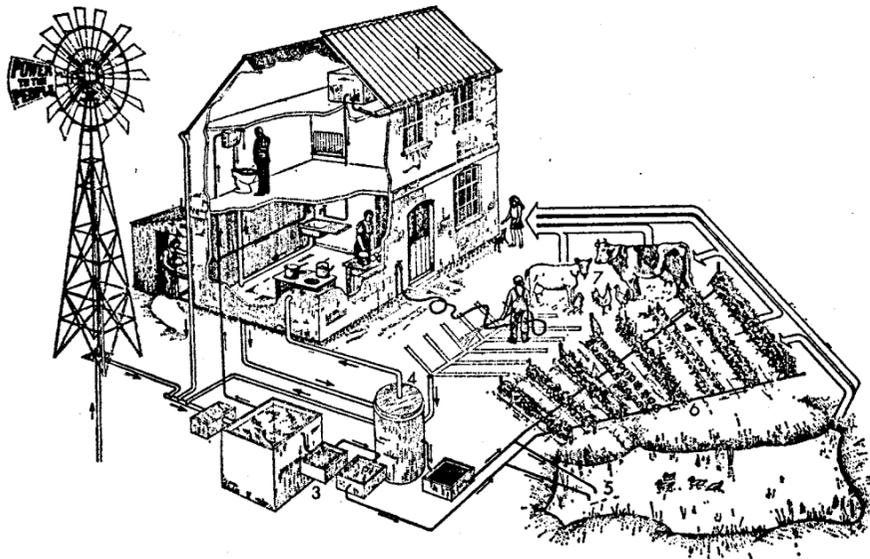
Declare a moratorium on debt. the continental congress did "on all debt's public to private."

And no one "owns" the land. It can be held

for use. No one works for another except for Love, and what you make above your needs give to the tribe: a common wealth.

None of us knows the answers, think about these things. The day will come when we have to know the answers.

Diane DiPrima



I would like to thank the Post Amerikan folks for the chance to present this vision of the future. I am sure that everyone one the Post has their own ideas about what they would like to see in the future. No one has the "one right answer." This visionary glimpse is intended to stimulate discussion rather than be a blueprint.

If anyone has any questions or whatever about this vision of the future, you can write to:  
chuck eastwind  
SRAF P.O. Box 3541  
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How society relates to nature is called social ecology. We're going to hear a lot more in the future about social ecology because ours is all wrong.

Our society doesn't relate in a healthy way to nature. Instead of living with nature, we live against it. We have gigantic cities that are anti-people because they provide for no sense of community. At the same time, big business farming is emptying the farmlands of people and running the land.

What we have to begin to set up is a new social ecology that puts industry and agriculture and city people and rural land back together again, this time according to human and ecological needs. The new communities should be small in scale--like say one or two thousand people at the most.

These communities should be involved in a new kind of agriculture, one based on organic farming methods. Each community should have some industry, not to be self-sufficient but in order to contribute to a regional organization of industry.

People in these new communities would be much more informed and healthy. I call these new kind of communities eco-communities.

But to get from here to there a revolution within society is certainly necessary. Whether this revolution will be violent or relatively non-violent remains to be seen. Below is a point-by-point description of some changes necessary before we will even be in harmony with each other. Then we can begin to work on being in harmony with nature.



## THE ECONOMY

now..

What we have now is capitalism--that is, the private possession by a few of the machines and organizations of production--all controlled by governmental power or the workings of the money system. The economy always requires more production and more consumption. Products are made because they will sell, not because anyone said they want to make them or use them, and factories stay open or shut down according to how much money they produce for the owners, not according to people's need for jobs or products. All the machinery and industrial plants are clumped together in a few places. You need money to live.

the future..

What, how, and how much stuff to produce is decided democratically by people, who act as owners, managers, workers, and consumers. They plan production according to what they need instead of what they can sell. You don't need money for the basic necessities of life.

## WORK

now..

Work is often repetitious, routine, and boring, with conditions determined by owners and managers. People spend most of their adult lives working, and many must also spend time commuting long distances to work. Few jobs make people feel that they are producing socially necessary things or services.

the future..

Jobs of routine and repetition, like putting pins on smile buttons or bundling plastic flowers, are eliminated because they don't produce social necessities. Other routine jobs are integrated or alternated with more creative work. People are their own bosses.

## AGRICULTURE

now..

Huge farms are devoted to single crops, which are then mostly used for cattle feed, processed beyond recognition at factories or exported. Our way of farming depends on petrochemical pesticides and herbicides, which damage soil and may poison crops. Our system is the most inefficient in the world considering how much energy we put in to the farm in proportion to how little food energy we get out of it.

the future..

Food production is based on sound ecological considerations. Multi-crop organic farming is a part of each community, with each region being as self-sufficient as possible. The land would become a part of everyone's life without the historic cost of being tied to the land.

## GOVERNMENT

now..

A massive bureaucratic complex accounts for fully 1/4 of the GNP. It's highly centralized and heavily influenced by private economic interests--locally, nationally, and internationally. Government creates all kinds of problems and then creates more government to solve them. Its legitimacy rests on the myth of representation.

the future..

Government is eliminated. Given a new society and economy, most present government functions are no longer needed. Regional and national relations between communities are handled directly by those communities. Electronic communication networks are used to arrive at consensus about regional and national issues. Law will give way to direct face to face understandings among families, neighborhoods, and communities.

## FOOD

now..

Diets dependent on meat, poultry, and fish are secured through processes of tremendous violence. Highly processed and packaged foods require a great waste of energy and resources.

the future..

Dietary protein depends on combinations of grains, beans, etc., which are more economical sources. Vegetarian diets don't require violence. Fancy packaging and processing is eliminated. Good nutrition is emphasized in the culture, and people are more aware of how their diet affects their physical and mental well-being.

## LIFESTYLE

now..

Nuclear families live in single houses or apartments. The family is concerned with collecting private possessions and consuming goods, services, and culture. Passivity and isolation characterize daily life. Adults have few friends--most of their social relations are shaped by what kind of work they do and how much money they have. Parents view children as possessions, and manipulate and dominate them--which prepares the children to be manipulative and dominating when they grow up.

the future..

Extended families of friends, much larger than the nuclear family, with varieties of internal relationships, live together in big houses or close together in neighborhoods. They share possessions and facilities. The community will be a safe and friendly environment where children can do as they please. People of all ages will help provide for, make decisions about, and enjoy the community.

## VALUES

now..

Constant expansion, "big is good," love of possession, and need for the approval of others (usually authorities) are common qualities. Order comes from outside (like from government and police). People obey certain authorities and then dominate other people when they have the power (like parents and bosses do).

the future..

Simplicity, practical cooperation, sharing, and togetherness are common values. The lifestyle makes integrated personalities, creative intelligence, and toleration of people who are different more possible.

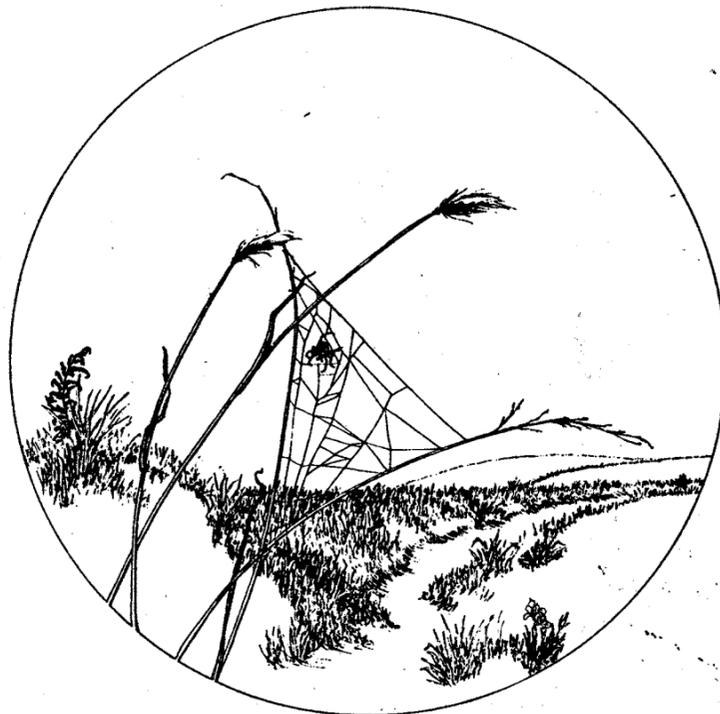
## EDUCATION

now..

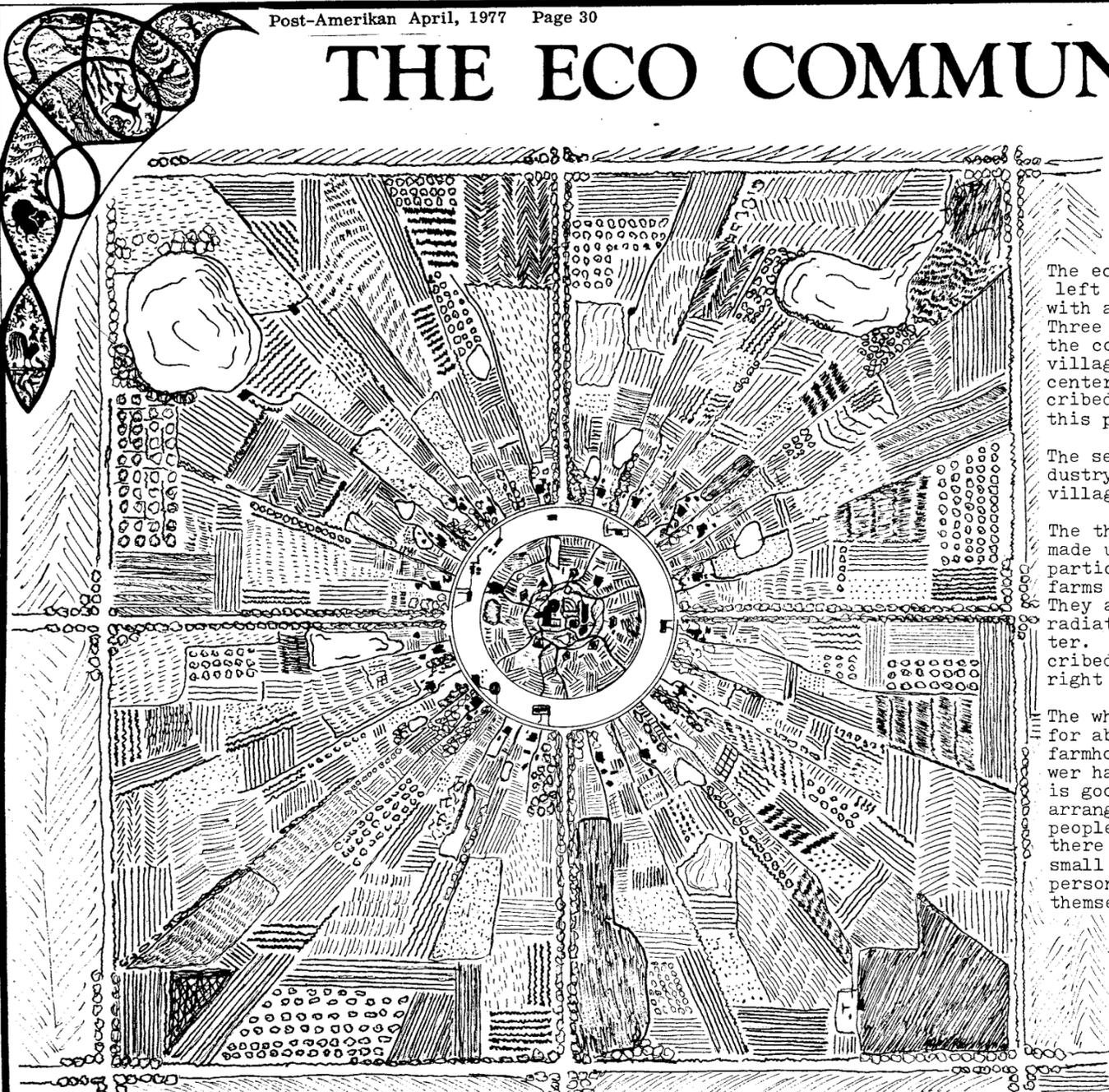
Education is defined as going to school. Schools are defined by government or religions. Within school, learning is separated into disciplines and removed from its practical basis in life. School's main function is to socialize people to fit into things as they are, especially the economic system.

the future..

Education happens within the experience of daily life, instead of in special institutions. People with gifted minds and talents contribute daily to the life of the community. Art and science are popular interests rather than specialists' interests. Travelling artists and teachers share their gifts.



# THE ECO COMMUNITY



The eco-community shown on the left is about 2,500 acres, with an area of 4 square miles. Three distinct areas make up the community. First is the village and garden area in the center. The village is described on the lower half of this page.

The second area is a light industry area surrounding the village gardens.

The third and largest area is made up of the farms. This particular community has 20 farms of about 80 acres each. They are organized so that they radiate outwards from the center. A typical farm is described in greater detail on the right on the next page.

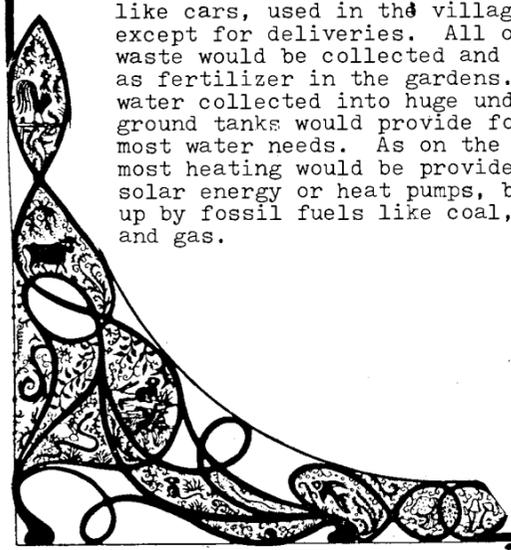
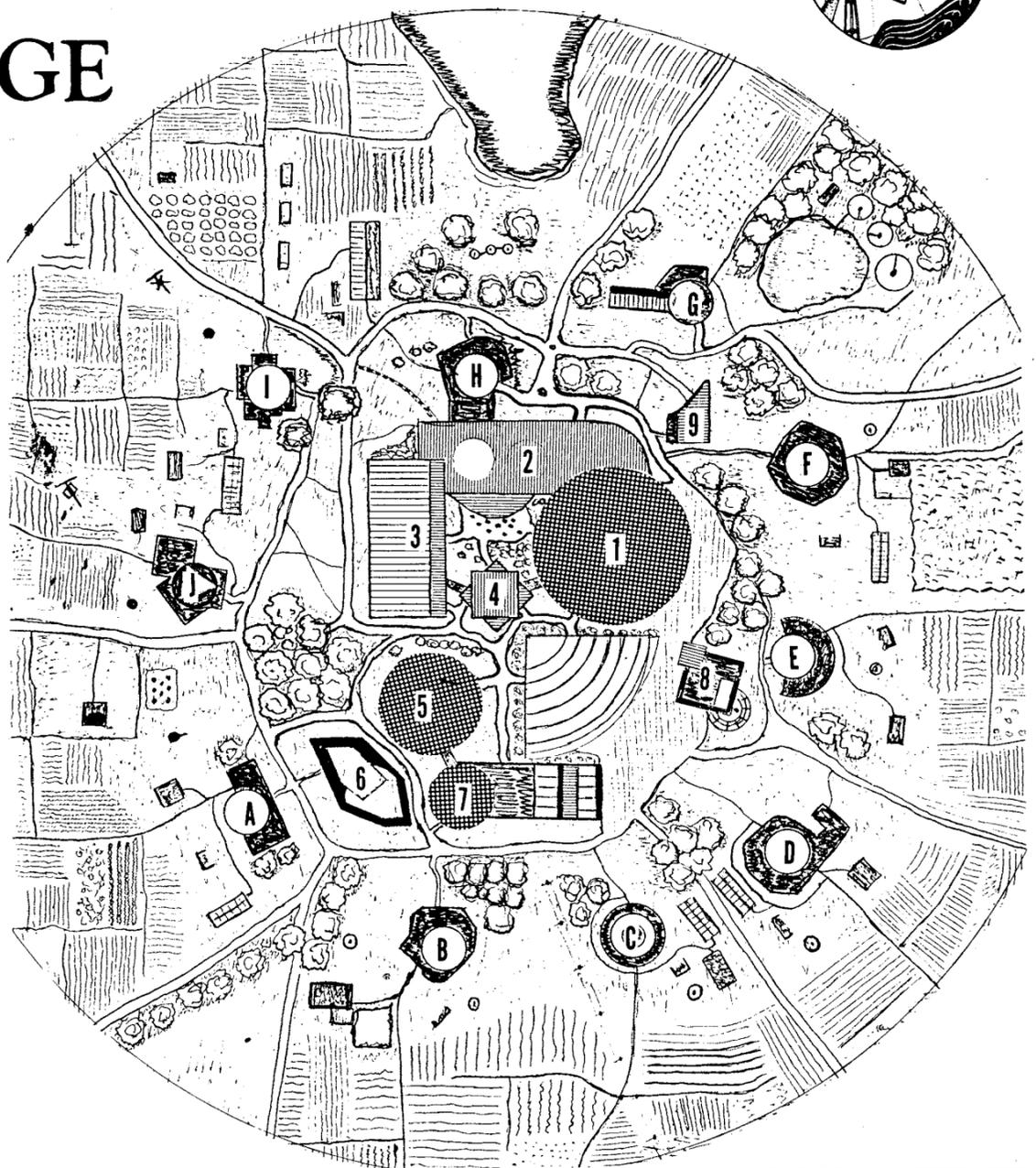
The whole community is designed for about 1,000 people. The farmhouse described on the lower half of the following page is good example of how living arrangements for many of the people would be organized. Also there would be many houses for small groups of people or for persons that choose to live by themselves.

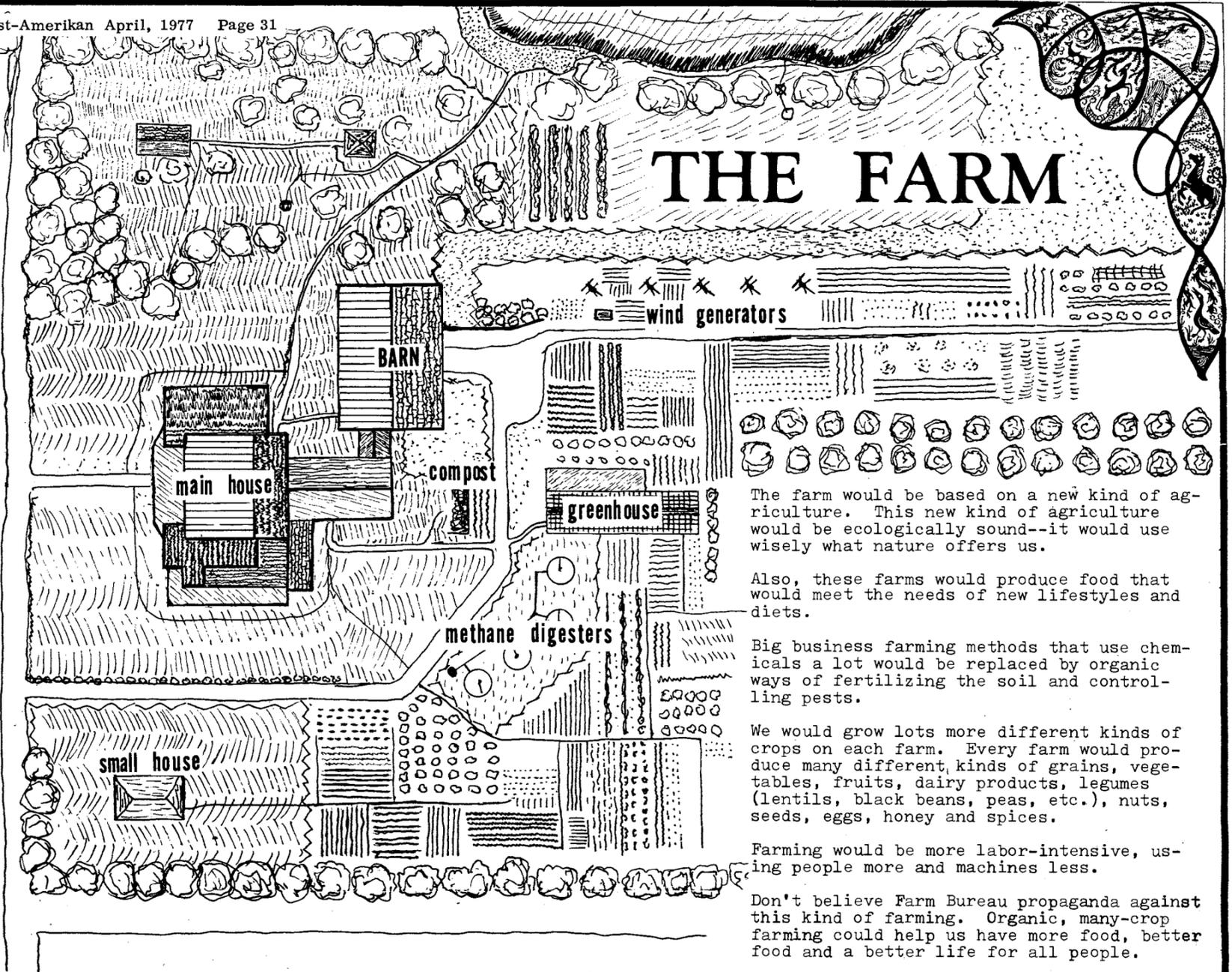


## THE VILLAGE

The village area would be the center of community's civic and social life. The central buildings (labelled 1 through 9) would house things like workshops, art studios, a medical center, kitchens and eating areas, media centers, and theatres. They could also house recording and jamming studios, day care, learning centers, labs, a community library, a community supply center (for food stuffs, hardware, clothes, etc. - all free), planning facilities, and etc. One building of special importance is the community assembly hall (#1) where all the people of the community would debate and decide community decisions. No politicians in the future please. Around the community buildings are 10 village houses (labeled A-J). These are like the farmhouse described on the following page.

There would be no motor vehicles, like cars, used in the village, except for deliveries. All organic waste would be collected and used as fertilizer in the gardens. Rain water collected into huge underground tanks would provide for most water needs. As on the farms, most heating would be provided by solar energy or heat pumps, backed up by fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.





The farm would be based on a new kind of agriculture. This new kind of agriculture would be ecologically sound--it would use wisely what nature offers us.

Also, these farms would produce food that would meet the needs of new lifestyles and diets.

Big business farming methods that use chemicals a lot would be replaced by organic ways of fertilizing the soil and controlling pests.

We would grow lots more different kinds of crops on each farm. Every farm would produce many different kinds of grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, legumes (lentils, black beans, peas, etc.), nuts, seeds, eggs, honey and spices.

Farming would be more labor-intensive, using people more and machines less.

Don't believe Farm Bureau propaganda against this kind of farming. Organic, many-crop farming could help us have more food, better food and a better life for all people.

## THE FARMHOUSE

The farmhouse pictured on the right was designed by a group of architecture students at Washington University in St. Louis. It is an excellent model for the kind of home I imagine within the eco-community.

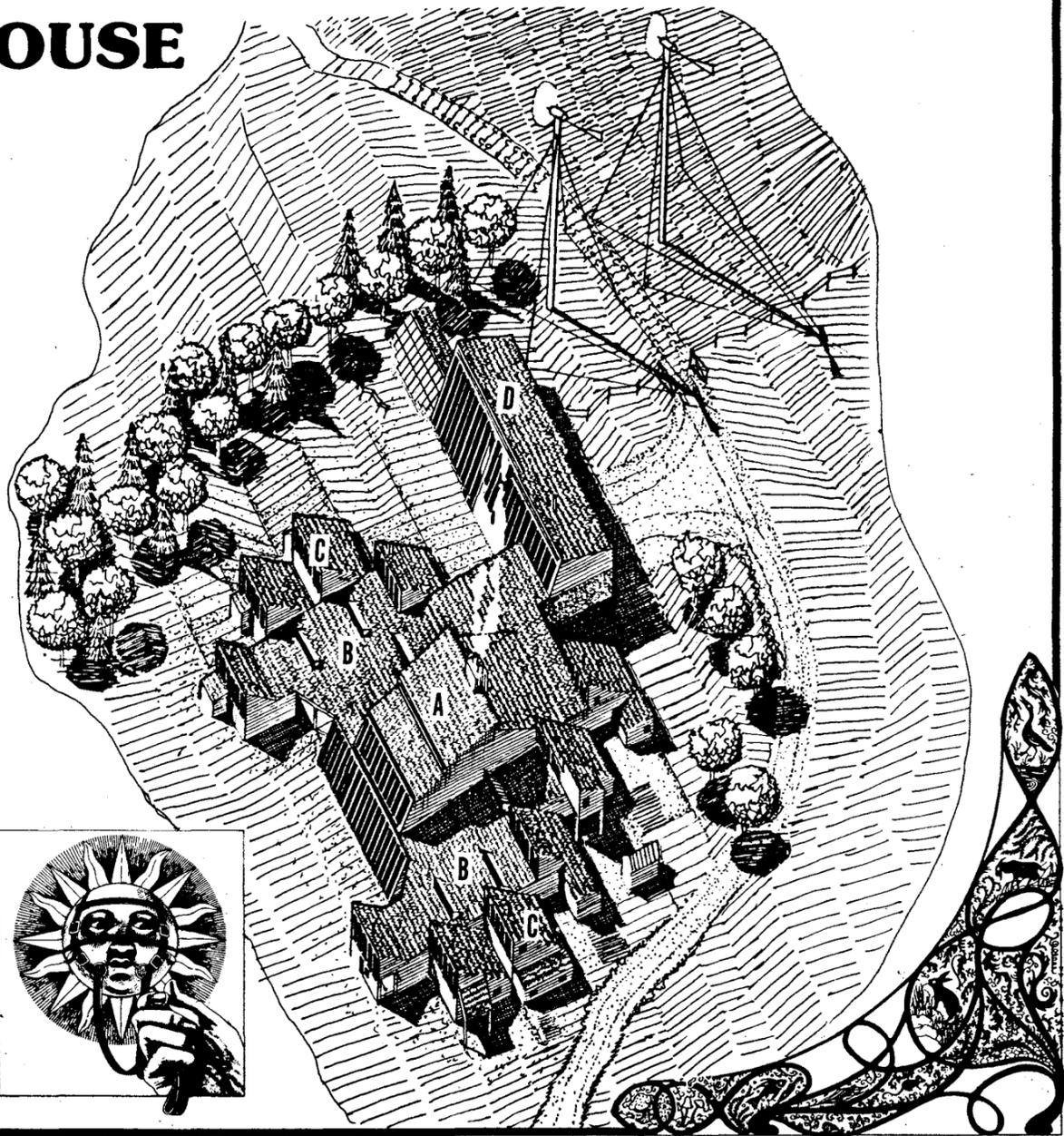
The house is designed for 40 people. (20 adults and 20 children). The main floor is divided into 3 areas (marked A-B-C).

The central area (zone A) is a communal zone which has four separate kitchens and eating areas each for ten people. The area marked zone B is a communal private area that would be used like today's living room. The outer portions of the house are the private areas (zone C), people's bedrooms.

Using this living design, people can choose to be alone when they want privacy or they can choose to be with other people in the communal areas.

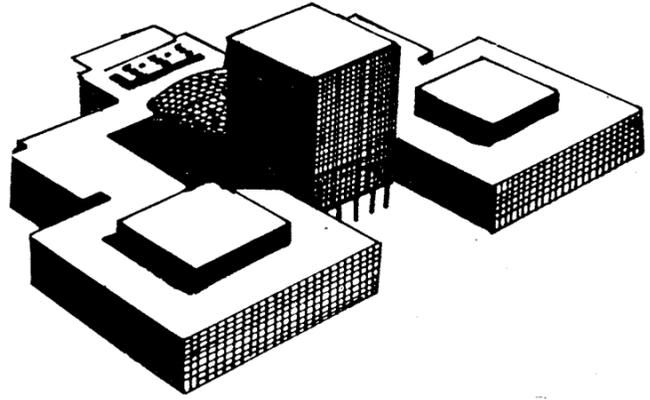
The communal area has a second floor used for day care and as a children's room. In the basement are workshops, a root cellar, a storage area, places for doing farming experiments, a water-tank for the solar heating system. The house design calls for wood-burning stoves for extra heat and cooking, but the wood supply might not be good enough to do that here in central Illinois.

The part of the house marked D houses the goats and chickens and has a tool room. A greenhouse is connected to this side of the house. In back of the house are two wind generators for electricity.



look ahead...

# THE END OF STATE FARM



Insurance companies, like banks, really don't produce anything. Both kinds of businesses exist because we live in an economy based on money. If your house burns down or your car gets smashed up, it's great to be covered against these kinds of sudden losses.

But in the economy of the future, if your house burns down, you and your friends will go get the things you need and build a new one. It's as simple as that.

So in this new kind of future, what do we do with the State Farm Building out on 66? There's a whole lot of steel, glass, and parking lot there. In the previous pages about the future I did not discuss what to do to make the cities more livable and ecologically sound.

But you can get a pretty good idea by using the State Farm building as a model.

## THE PLAN

The main idea is to create a whole community within the building. Much of the office space would be converted, turned into living areas that would be, socially, like the eco-community farmhouse.

The large number of computers could be re-programmed to help figure out problems with getting things that people need distributed. Without money, markets, or government, we would need all the computer-power we could get to help us operate the economy ourselves.

The windows would have to be changed so they could open for air. A whole new heating and cooling system would be put in, probably using solar energy.

All the parking lots would be torn up and made into gardens, orchards, and ponds for food production. Also, all

the kinds of facilities described in the eco-community village could be housed in the State Farm Buildings.

Hopefully, a relatively self-contained community of several hundred people could replace the nonsense we now call the insurance business.

One thing I can't help but imagine is turning the atrium into a super-exotic area. How about a miniature tropical rain forest with birds, monkeys, and all kinds of hallucinogenic plants? Or maybe turn the whole of the State Farm complex into a tropical forest--each floor steaming with plants and strange animals. The whole thing a giant playground--a revolutionary memorial against office work.

I am sure anyone who has even been inside State Farm's Corporate Headquarters here in Bloomington could think of some highly creative things to do with it. Remember, exaggeration is the beginning of invention.

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Families and elderly individuals with modest incomes may be eligible to apply for Housing Assistance Payments (rental subsidy) through the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON.

This new program, for a limited number of applicants, entitled SECTION 8--HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM, is now in effect.

The SECTION 8--HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM provides rent assistance for modest income families and elderly living in privately owned rental apartments, duplexes, townhouses, or houses. It permits landlords renting sound and decent housing to receive part of their rent directly from the Housing Authority and the remainder from the tenant.

For more information call the HOUSING AUTHORITY, 829-3360 --or apply at 104 E. Wood, Bloomington, Illinois.



**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**



Ideas and inspiration for this future section came from a whole bunch of sources. A few of the more important ones I want to list. If anyone wants to do some independent studying, these books and magazines are excellent reading.

- Ecology and Revolutionary Thought, by Murray Bookchin, Times Change Press, \$1.25.
- Radical Technology, ed. Godfrey Boyle and Peter Harper, Random House, \$6.50.
- Begin at Start, by Su Negrin, Times Change Press, \$3.25.
- Diet for a Small Planet, by Frances Moore Lappe, Ballantine Books, \$1.95.
- Moving Towards a New Society, by Gowan, Lakey, Moyer, and Taylor, New Society Press, \$3.50.
- Communities--a journal of cooperative living, Box 426, Louisa, Virginia, 23093, \$1.25 per issue.

--chuck eastwind

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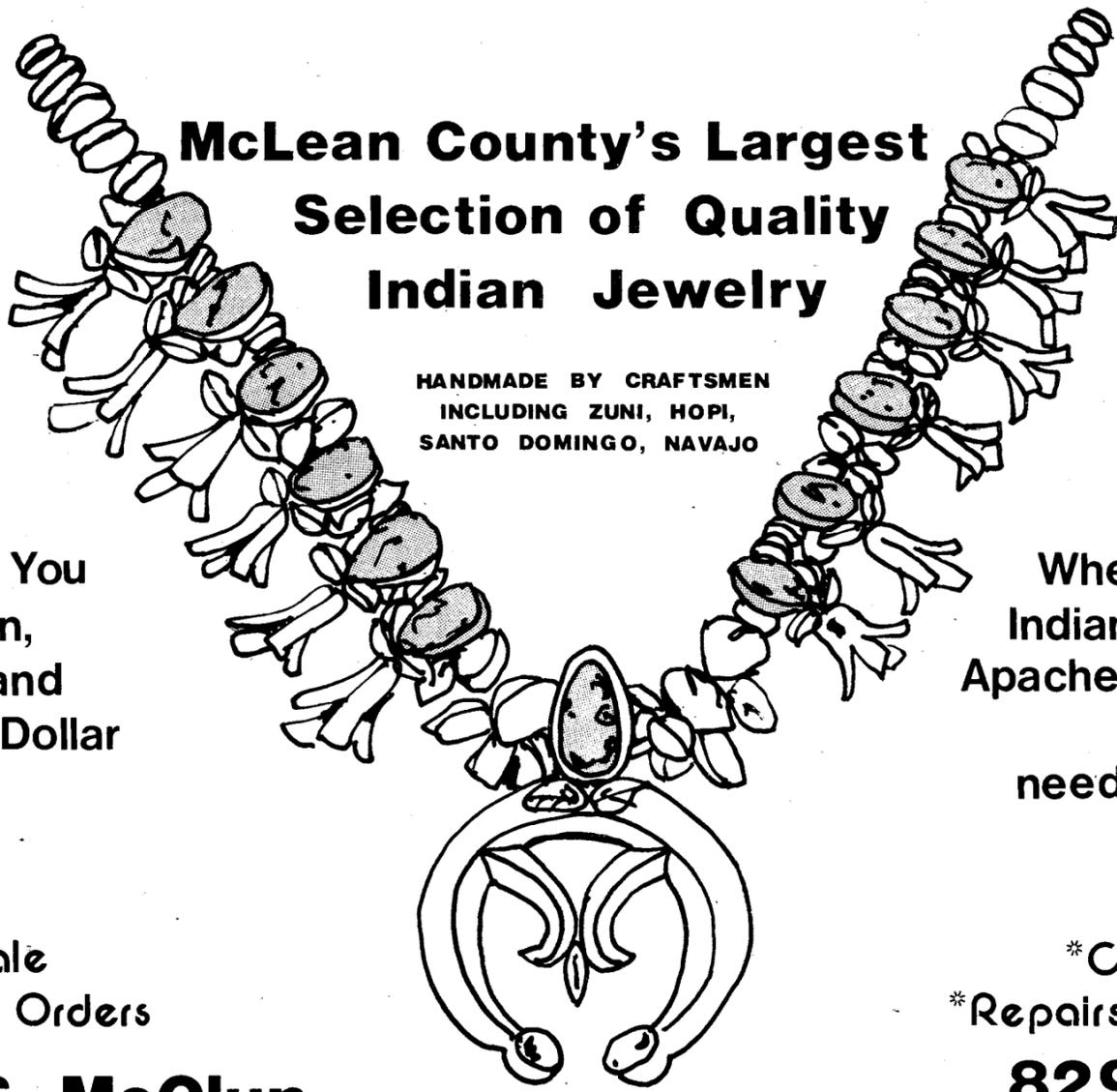
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# Watterson Residents Get Cold Shoulder From ISU

The biggest landlord in town didn't meet heating standards for its tenants during this winter's big freeze.

Certain rooms in Watterson Towers, the 27-story dormitory complex at Illinois State University, got as cold as 45 degrees during January.

Bad building design was blamed for the extreme cold on Watterson's first floor of rooms.

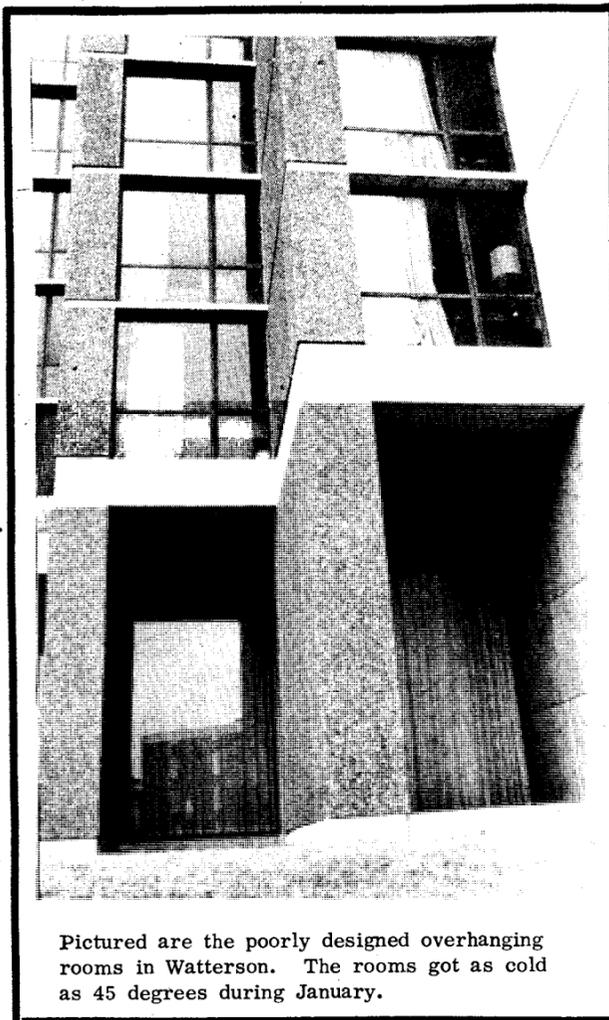
Twenty of the rooms are built jutting out from the main structure, and their floors just sit on top of air.

Robert Monninger, ISU Superintendent of utilities was quoted in a Jan. 19th Pantagraph article: "I complain when they build buildings with overhangs. They missed installing enough heat in those overhang rooms even though it was brought to their attention."

Eric Rudd of the ISU tenants' Union said that ISU's non-heating may be illegal. Common law built up by cases over the years places a legal responsibility to provide adequate heat on any landlord, with or without a contract. Illinois law implies that landlords must provide liveable conditions.

Normal has an ordinance which requires landlords to heat their buildings to a temperature in the 60's. This ordinance does not apply to ISU because ISU is a state institution.

However, it's very possible that a civil suit could succeed against ISU on the basis of state and common law.



Pictured are the poorly designed overhanging rooms in Watterson. The rooms got as cold as 45 degrees during January.

ISU Tenants' Union's Rudd has had no complaints from Watterson students, but a check at ISU's Association of Residence Halls revealed that students in other dorms are also having heating problems, some due to the same overhang design.

Isabelle Terrill, Director of ISU's Residential Life, says definitely that this is the first time there's been a serious problem with heating at Watterson. She said that rent for the suffering Watterson students, some of whom had to sleep elsewhere for several days, would stay the same.

Terrill reports that she does "not know how widespread the problem was." When I asked her if the students assigned to the problem rooms would be warned, she replied, "I would not presume that we would warn the students." She said that "of course" the rooms would be assigned to students next year.

Terrill said the problem "might not come up again for 50 years."

When I asked her if extra fans would be installed in the troublesome Watterson rooms, as has been done to help heat rooms in Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten, she said she hadn't talked to anybody about the possibility and gave me someone else's name to call.

ISU is luckier than most landlords. It can pass the buck indefinitely.



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If you feel moved to write us a letter, go right ahead, and we'll probably put it in. If you don't want it published, please say so in the letter.

# Don Stone Ford responds

25

## Proofreader's Note:

Proofreader's note: While I was reading these two letters from Don Stone Ford workers to check for grammar and spelling mistakes, I became firmly convinced that one person wrote both letters, one person typed both, and one person mailed both.

Both letters were written on Don Stone Ford stationery on the same typewriter, and it's the same handwriting on both envelopes, and

both letters arrived at the Post office on the same day, but all of that could be coincidence.

However, both letters have the phrase "needless to say" (with no comma) starting out a sentence. Both use phrases set off by dashes at the end of sentences the same way. Both letters use parentheses the same way. Check out the way "20 year old female" is used in both letters. Both letters use underlinings,

exclamation points, and words in capital letters. Both use "concerning" instead of the words about or with.

Anyway, you get the idea. We printed the letters without changing anything. We can't think of any reason why somebody would do this.

Can you?

## Post got it wrong--Don Stone worker

Dear People,

Sandy Emery recently wrote your newspaper a letter on her problems concerning a new car she bought from Don Stone Ford, and me, Steve Petersen. She made remarks on several subjects which I think you should hear both sides.

1. Sandy Emery has bought 2 new Pintos off of Don Stone Ford and me. It sure is funny that even though her 1976 Pinto was almost exactly like her 1977 Pinto she never had any complaints on it towards me or the service department.

2. The first time Sandy asked for a loaner car I said yes under the conditions that she brought it back by closing time (9:00pm) both for insurance reasons and because it is also my only means of transportation, too! Sandy never did call that day to even tell me she wasn't bringing the car back that night. Obviously because she knew she was to return it THAT night. Needless to say Sandy drove my car with my gas on my insurance that night while I looked for a ride.

3. The next time Sandy demanded a loaner car from me I had to go to the General Manager to even get a used car for her. This was due to the fact that she showed no responsibility with my new car. The Manager gave her a 1974 model car. Keep in mind Don Stone Ford and every other new car dealership usually never gives out a loaner for service problems. Don Stone Ford or I never at any time HAD to give Sandy a loaner car. Look what our generosity got us!

4. Also, an adjoining article criticized us and accused us of writing most installment loan contracts at 13 to 14%. In reality, almost all contracts are written at 11.96% APR. This is the same as the banks use. As the banks will tell you, the interest charged depends on 3 things, - age, credit rating, and the price of the vehicle. Sounds like someone accused us of wrong-doings without really knowing what they were talking about.

Finally, I admit that I do not have 100% satisfied customers, but what business can admit they do - TRUTHFULLY! I, (a 22 year old male) honestly tried to help a 20 year

old female buy a new car and get a good deal and in return I get nothing but criticism. Well thank you Post-Amerikan for printing both sides of this. And as far as I'm concerned Sandy Emery has had more than enough of my help with her service problems. She deserved even less!!!

Steve Petersen

## Post Note:

Post note: The information for the Post-Amerikan article about Don Stone Ford's loans that Petersen mentions came from the installment loan manager of the People's Bank in Bloomington.

The loan manager said that the bank writes a lot of sales contracts for Don Stone. He also implied that Don Stone charges a higher interest rate than the bank does.

"They have different contests," the loan manager said. "The salespeople get points if they write the contract." So, there's probably an incentive for Don Stone people to write their own contracts--which means that buyers pay more interest.

Petersen says that almost all contracts are written at 11.96% annual interest--"same as the banks." He also says there are exceptions according to age, credit ratings, and the price of the vehicle. It's funny the bank didn't mention any exceptions.

Well, the best policy is to be aware--and to let a bank write your loan contract.

## Says she's happy

Dear Post-Amerikan

I just wanted to make a remark concerning Sandy Emery's quote on the reason she was treated so unjust at Don Stone Ford. She said it was because she is a "20 year old single female." Well I am a 21 year old single female who came to Don Stone Ford a year ago when I was 20 to try and get a job. I wanted a job where I could make more than the usual \$100 a week, (take home - \$85). And you've got to admit that's what most big firms pay their average educated 20 year old single female. Well, Don Stone Ford gave me a chance when no one else would. Needless to say I am a happy employee here and plan to stay that way. Maybe Sandy does have some service problems here. And maybe they are as serious as she makes them out to be. I would have no way of knowing that. But I do know that the problems are NOT because she is a "20 year old single female." If anything that should be an advantage out here. I work with these guys every day, and there is one thing I am certain on. That is they certainly like to "take care" of their "20 year old single female" customers to the best of their ability!

Becky Fulks  
Assistant to the General  
Manager

## Post Note

Post note: Although we understand that good pay and pleasant bosses and co-workers may make your job better than most, we'd like to make a couple points in response to your letter.

We feel that being "taken care of" because you are a young woman is sexist in the same way that more obvious discrimination is. Women who get "taken care of" because they are women usually pay heavy for it one way or another. It's very likely that men who light a woman worker's cigarettes, flirt with her, etc., aren't going to take her very seriously in a lot of ways.

The same man who "takes care of" his female employee in a condescending manner could also be tempted to rip off a young woman customer--just because he thinks he can get away with it. Lots of men who open doors for their secretaries beat their wives.

## The Galery, Inc. disavows any association with the Post-Amerikan.

--A paid advertisement--

## The Post-Amerikan disavows any association with the Galery.

--Editorial comment--

# letters

## Prisoner raps system

Dear Post:

I'm a prisoner in the Menard State Prison. I'm doing a 1 1/2 -to-4 1/2 and a 2 1/2-to-7 1/2. This is not my first time in prison, so I know what's going on and what it's like here. I'd just like to tell the people what kinds of things go on and what I think and feel about all this.

But before I get started, I want the Post-American to know they're doing a great job on their paper and hope they keep up the good work. I think the people of Illinois should open their eyes to the fact of what goes on and why all these prisons are jammed packed.

We've got people in here that shouldn't even be here. First-time offenders that should have gotten probation and county jail time. It seems to me that anyone can go into a courtroom and say this guy did this or that and somebody gets time.

(And it happens in the so-called good town of Bloomington.) For those who get busted and can't afford a lawyer, I feel sorry for you, cause you ain't got a prayer in the world. I know, I had a public defender. I was tried and convicted before I knew what was going on.

Public Defenders don't defend you. That's why I'm in prison now, the man didn't do his job.

I've been reading the paper and heard that crime and drugs are decreasing (I laugh, ha, ha). If the people only knew.

For example, the police and MEG agents claim they're doing a good job. They say they're getting rid of all the dope dealers (Ha Ha).

Yea, they got a guy down here they busted last summer at the Ted Nugent and Aerosmith Concert. He got a 1-to-3 for an ounce and the

MEG and police are saying they're getting the dealers off the streets. Just shows what a good job they're doing. Those MEG agents make me laugh.

As for crime on the streets, you'll never get them all because some of them are Judge's sons. Even cops steal. But the Public won't admit it.

The prisons in Illinois are so unorganized the guards don't even know what's going on. Speaking of guards, some of them make King look like the Good Fairy.

The food here is ok. The problem is you don't get enough. You have to steal extra food if you want to stay healthy. But even when you steal food, you have to be careful or they throw you in the hole or restrict you from the yard.

Mail is a week late or more. We used to get mail on Saturdays but for some unknown reason we don't get it anymore. According to the law, we're supposed to get it on Saturdays, but you can't argue against the law.

As far as counseling, you might as well hang it up. These guys wouldn't help their own mothers let alone the convicts. And you could be bleeding to death and they still have you waiting in line with your pass. They are supposed to have a doctor here 24 hours a day. But he's only on 3 or 4 hours a day. There was a big thing in the paper about the medical system, but still nothing is being done.

I think the schooling here is about the only good thing. But then you're lucky if you can get in.

As far as making parole it's a 50/50 chance. They give more year sets than they do paroles.

It's just unbelievable what goes on in prisons and nothing is being done about it. The people who put you in prison don't even know what it's like. But I'd like to see them stay here a month and let them see what we go through.

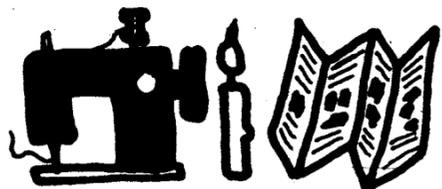
It's pure hell. Especially if you're married like me. I've got a wife and a one-year-old boy. I love them both. But the judge that put me here could care less if you had a family. Because they're not living in this Hell hole.

Just like a lot of other people, I didn't make it on the outside. Anymore, you have to fight to survive. You can't stop people from stealing, killing, dealing or whatever. It's impossible. But prison is not the answer to all crimes.

I don't have the answer and I don't think anybody else does either. Maybe some day they will. A lot of people may disagree with me about prison life, but this is my opinion and I want the people to know. This is hell not only for me but for a lot of others.

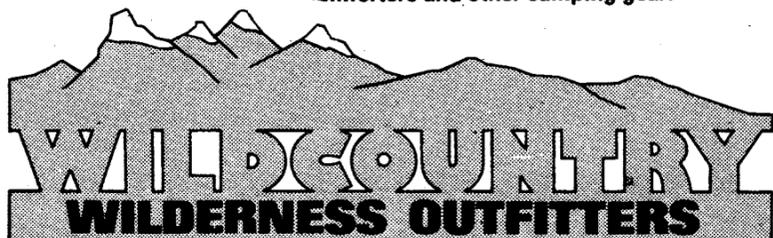
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If you feel moved to write us a letter, go right ahead, and we'll probably put it in. If you don't want it published, please say so in the letter.

# letters

## Reader says: Don't get Weisser

Dear Post-Amerikan:

I recently had an encounter with optometrist Nick J. Komons of the Weisser Union Optical Co. I'm hoping you at the Post-Amerikan will be interested.

In Nov. of 1976, I went to Weisser's for an eye examination. Both the receptionist and Mr. Komonos told me that the law now requires a glaucoma test for anyone getting an eye exam. (I later found out this isn't true.) I paid the \$15 for the exam and test, and left.

In March of 1977, I decided to get a new pair of glasses, and went back to Weisser to choose them. I did so, but when the bill totaled over \$94, I canceled and left. By the next day, I had decided to check prices at other optical companies, so I went back to Weisser to pick up my prescription. When I requested my Rx, I was told that there would be a fee of \$10 for "taking my prescription out." I asked to speak to the person in charge, namely, Nick J. Komons.

After a short wait, he ushered me into his office and explained to me that when I had my eye exam in November, I had been given a special discount rate, and that there would be an additional \$10 charge for my prescription. When I asked him if the patient didn't have a right to know their own prescription after paying for an examination, and why I wasn't told that I'd been given a "special discount rate," and that it would cost me extra to obtain my prescription, he answered that all the optometrists he knew operated in the same way. He said that he wouldn't be able to stay in business operating in any other way. I left, irate.

I told my husband about the encounter, and he, not understanding their policy, decided to talk to Komons himself. When my husband called, hours later, Komons told him that he had been calling around to other optometrists, and found out that they were up front with their customers regarding charges for prescriptions, etc. Because of this, Komons said, Weisser would change their policies also; patients would still be charged \$10 for taking their prescription out, but they would be told this early in the game. He (Komons) then offered to give us my prescription at no charge if we would "keep quiet about it." We took it, of course.

A few facts comparing Weisser and Alliance Optical Co. (Where I went later the same afternoon):

- 1) The exact same plastic frame that I picked out at Weisser for \$50, costs \$35 at Alliance.
- 2) Tinted lenses at Weisser cost \$10, \$4 at Alliance.
- 3) A safety lens (which I believe is required by law in Illinois) is free at Alliance, Weisser would have charged me \$13 extra for this same feature.

4) My single-vision prescription for near-sightedness was \$28 at Weisser, \$19 at Alliance.

Needless to say, my new glasses are coming from Alliance, not Weisser. And I feel I must ask, How ethical is this Komons?

Sincerely,  
Jacalyn Hays  
1011 S. Maple  
Bloomington  
Ph. 829-6061



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# Sexism in Sports

## Going to Courts

39.

Did you catch the elementary basketball tournaments? If you did, you might have been surprised to see Julie Compton playing with a formerly all-male basketball team. That is, if the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) had not ruled that she could not play.

Julie, one of the team's guards, is the second highest scorer on the Mackinaw Illinois Elementary School basketball team. Julie, who has been playing for three years, was suddenly told by the IESA that she had to stop because she is female.

Julie had been playing all season and her team had made it to the tournament. Before the tournament her coach got word from the IESA that he would not be able to use Julie in the tournament games.

The Coach and Julie's father talked to a lawyer, who then wrote a letter to IESA, suggesting that IESA's action against Julie might violate the U.S. constitution. IESA then filed a class action suit against Julie and all others "similarly situated" (females on formerly all-male grade school sports teams).

This filing of a class action suit by the IESA against Julie is really very strange, in terms of how class action suits are usually done. IESA is the plaintiff (person suing) in this case, and Julie and all other females are the defendants (people being sued). Usually it would be the other way around. In class action suits, the class is usually the people suing, not the person or organization being sued.

Another odd thing about this suit is that IESA is going to court to test its own rules. This is not illegal, just unusual. The rule they are testing is one which keeps females out of "male" sports.

There are two reasons why IESA might have filed this unusual class action suit against Julie and all others similarly situated. By suing Julie, IESA becomes the plaintiff. Plaintiffs in suits get to determine the jurisdiction of the case (where it is tried in court). IESA is located in McLean County, so the case will be held in Bloomington. IESA is more likely to win the suit, or at least get favorable public opinion, in Bloomington or somewhere downstate rather than Chicago.

Another reason why IESA might have filed the class action suit is this: females in Julie's situation have sued and won in Chicago, and IESA knows that it had better join the fight soon, before it has no chance of winning at all. IESA may very well be starting to get nervous.

The suits that were won by females in Chicago were brought by individuals, so IESA filed a class action suit, one that could stop all females.



Photo taken from Womens Journal

The two similar cases won by females in Chicago both came out of a Chicago Federal District Court. The first case was that of a thirteen-year old who wanted to play football in the Chicago park league. She was not allowed to, so she sued as an individual and won.

The second case was that of a high school woman competing in a "men's" tournament. She did this because the women's gymnastics tournament did not have a trampoline event. She was forbidden to compete and then sued, again as an individual. She also won.

As precedents, these cases should be helpful in winning Julie's case.

The part of Julie's case that would be funny if it weren't so tragic is how IESA hopes to win it. IESA intends to win by proving that females are more likely to get hurt. IESA is probably going to bring in "expert" witnesses to testify that females are naturally weaker and more likely to get hurt. Yes, believe it or not, they are still trying to tell us we are weaker.

Of course, the only way this reasoning would hold up logically is if IESA could prove that all women are always weaker than all men, but I guess IESA doesn't have the famous "male" powers of logic and reason.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will represent Julie and all others similarly situated. The ACLU's lawyer will be Gary Johnson. He will probably be assisted by Carol Kepperman, a Chicago lawyer who tried and won one of the similar Chicago cases.

Are any of you wondering how Julie's basketball team did in the tournament? They lost in the regional by one point to a team they had beat before--when Julie was playing-- by 25 points.

SL

"THE FIRST AMENDMENT MEANS JUST WHAT I CHOOSE IT TO MEAN — NEITHER MORE NOR LESS."



APOLOGIES TO LEWIS CARROLL

### "Power to the People"

## Lifeline in Illinois

The McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike (McCCARH) were very pleased with the hearing held in January at Bloomington City Hall by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Many good statements covering a variety of issues were put into the record for the ICC's final decision on the rate hike around June. Illinois Power Company is putting lots of money into presenting their rate hike rationale before the ICC. This is money we consumers are providing.

On February 9, Mayor Godfrey of Normal held an energy conference to plan for Normal's long-range energy needs. A panel of experts made up of a representative of Northern Illinois Gas, a Mr. Brown representing IPC and a Mr. Beer representing Cornbelt Electric Cooperative was on hand. Businesspeople, developers, officials from the City of Bloomington's public schools and ISU representatives were among the people invited-- "the big users." When questioned by a member of McCCARH about the lack of invitations to

another large group of energy consumers, the private citizens, Mayor Godfrey replied: "Citizens are represented. Someone is here from Senator Hall and Rep. Madigan's office!"

Mr. Beer stated that "nuclear power will have to fill in the gap of increased electrical use--the answer has to be nuclear." He further stated that "Cornbelt Electric Co-op is purchasing 8.24% of the Clinton nuclear plant." A member of McCCARH disputed Mr. Beer's claim that nuclear energy would be low cost. The citizen brought up the high cost of nuclear energy in terms of money, environment, and health. Mayor Godfrey broke in, saying that "discussion of nuclear power was not the purpose of the conference."

The entire conference lasted nearly an hour. What was the purpose of the conference?

McCCARH is also monitoring progress of "Lifeline" legislation--House Bill 83--in Springfield.

As introduced, the Lifeline bill called for a lower fixed charge for a certain amount of electricity per month for most residential customers--those who don't have electric heat. This amount of electricity (500 kilowatt hours) is thought to cover the basic monthly needs of a family of 4. The more electricity you would use, the more you would have to pay per kilowatt hour. So heavy users like State Farm would have to pay more, hopefully encouraging conservation.

The Lifeline bill is being heard in the Public Utilities Committee of the House. It was to be voted out of Committee March 16, 1977, but it has become obvious that industry is putting a lot of pressure on committee members. The bill was instead sent to a study committee to be watered down by April 27 for further consideration.

The Illinois Commerce Commission has stated that 80% of low-income people would benefit from the Lifeline bill as introduced. Power to the People.

# Storaska on Rape: Too Little, Too Light

As part of Women's Week at ISU, Frederick Storaska, a well-known writer and lecturer, gave a speech on rape.

Storaska, is the author of How to Say No to a Rapist and Survive, and has been lecturing about rape for almost thirteen years, since he witnessed and broke up an attempted rape. He also started the National Organization for the Prevention of Rape and Assault.

Storaska's opening statements focused on the idea that everyone should be more informed about rape. He talked about how we are socialized to expect men to be aggressive and women to be passive.

Storaska stated, "Women have been conditioned to ask for it." He also said that "until we get rid of the social-sexual stereotype, we will have rape." He also talked about some of the myths about rape.

Storaska then discussed some of the typical things that women are told to do to prevent rape, like carrying weapons. Storaska's advice was to "do whatever is right for you."

Storaska's philosophy on rape itself is that "rape should be avoided at all costs except something worse, and it isn't the worst thing that can happen to you. It should be put into the proper perspective.

He believes that "rape is a crime of hate and degradation, that the rapist is an emotionally disturbed person, and that there must be rejection for rape to happen." He also stated that "rape is a lack of people treating people as people."

This is the basis for his ideas on how women should deal with rape attempts. He says that when we deal with a rapist, we are dealing with a human being, and so defense works only some of the time. He pushes communicating your way out of rape.

Storaska mentioned several examples of women who used this method successfully. According to Storaska, this anti-rape tactic should be easy to understand, because it's used all the time in daily life. He advises women to go along with a rapist emotionally and spiritually but not sexually.

Storaska does advocate the use of two defenses: one is to reach up and put out a rapist's eyes. The other defense is used when a man grabs you from behind. You should reach back gently, find one testicle and smash it! He believes that these two defenses are better because the first part of the move is an action used normally in lovemaking.



Throughout his speech, Storaska maintained a very good rapport with the audience. His speech was filled with jokes and stories. He had the whole audience laughing.

Storaska is more of an entertainer than a serious lecturer. I think he talked about a very serious subject all too lightly. He said, "My job is not to educate you, it is to enthuse you," and that he did.

He also places all of the responsibility on women, when in fact it should be everyone's responsibility.

Storaska pushes the myth that the rapist is an emotionally disturbed person. In fact, the rapist is usually, according to society's definition, a perfectly normal man.

Also, Storaska deals only with the prevention of rape. He says nothing about what happens to woman after she is raped and how this can be dealt with.

Storaska did make some good points. However, he mixes just enough truth with just enough fallacy so that his lecture is really very dangerous.

--J.E.L.

## Farmworkers, Teamsters Settle Feud--Again

The United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO) and the nations largest union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, recently signed an agreement over who will represent farmworkers. The agreement allows Teamsters, a graceful exit from California fields where they have harrassed the UFW for the last six years.

The Teamsters have agreed to four such pacts in the past, breaking them all. But since the beginning of free, secret elections for farmworkers in California, the Teamsters have been losing regularly. So the Teamsters might stick to the agreement this time.

The UFW boycott of non-UFW table grapes, iceberg lettuce and Gallo wines continues, however. The agreement with the Teamsters does not eliminate the real cause of farmworker oppression, the growers. And until the growers sign contracts, the boycott continues.

Under UFW contracts, farmworkers are guaranteed decent wages, health and legal facilities, retirement plans, sanitary facilities, a union hiring hall, pesticide controls, and an end to child labor.

In Bloomington-Normal support for the UFW has been revived, and local supporters have scheduled the award-winning movie "Fighting for Our Lives" for a showing in late April.

The film, depicting the UFW's struggle in the summer of 1973 when two workers were killed, will raise funds to organize the Bagdasarian grape ranch in the Coachella Valley of California. Bagdasarian employs over 600 workers.

The UFW also asks supporters to send letters to Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance (CMLI, 140 Garden St., Hartford, Conn., 06115).

Connecticut Mutual owns a large interest in Coashella Growers, a citrus firm, which has refused to negotiate.

If you would like to help organize the fund-raising movie (and support the Farmworkers, who feed all of us), contact Mike or Verna at the Newman Center. Call 452-5046 or Mike at 829-3576. And please continue to boycott non-UFW lettuce, grapes and Gallo wines! Hasta la Victoria! (Until our victory!)

--MgM

## THE NEW VOICE: The Voice of the Working Class published biweekly

Available at THE BACK PORCH (Bloomington) and DIVINYL MADNESS (Normal)  
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Denied-

### "Right Of Option"

Repression is increasing in Argentina under Videla, the military dictator there, since 1974, political prisoners have been denied the "right of option," the chance to leave the country which is guaranteed to dissidents by the Argentine constitution.

Prisoners are also now being tortured not only at General Federal Headquarters, as in the past, but in the prisons themselves.

Actual political activists are not victims of police groups. The Argentine League for Human Rights reports that the military police have murdered some 130 children, apparently sons and daughters of Argentine guerrilla fighters.

Despite President Carter's pious words on the dictatorship's violations of human rights, U.S. plans to send Argentina \$48 million in military sales credit and \$700,000 for military training during 1977 have not been officially scrapped

### Appealing 'Illness'

(ZNS)--A former New Jersey school teacher who was ordered to undergo psychiatric testing because he is gay says he will appeal the order to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

English teacher John Gish was ordered to undergo psychiatric tests in 1972 after the Paramus school district learned that Gish was the president of the Gay Activist Alliance in New Jersey, and active in other gay rights organizations.

The district gave Gish the order for mental testing after it secured an opinion from a psychiatrist holding that activism in gay causes indicated "serious mental illness." The psychiatrist had never met Gish.

### Lethal Dose?

(ZNS)--If you're not fed up with TV commercials, here's your chance for more.

The trade publication Advertising Age is selling tickets to what it bills "the 100 best TV commercials of 1976." The two-hour-plus screening of ads, selected from more than 14,000 entries, will be shown in four U.S. cities--New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Each ticket to the ad extravaganza sells for \$15 at the door.

# ALTERNATIVE NEWS

## ZANU Counters Atrocity Stories

The white racist government which controls Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) may have committed or helped commit the murders and kidnappings which have been attributed to black guerillas in the Western press.

Tapson Mawere, a representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), in effect made those charges in a speech Feb. 24 at Illinois State University. ZANU is one of two major liberation movements fighting the racist regime of Ian Smith.

Smith had charged that guerillas had killed several Catholic missionaries and were kidnaping blacks for forced participation in the freedom movement. Both charges were given wide play in the Western press.

Mawere said that the murders were actually committed by the Selous Scouts, a special black unit of the white-run Rhodesian Army. The Scouts have also been used to terrorize the black population of Zimbabwe.

Acts like the murder of Catholic nuns and the massacre of 24 black factory workers are attempts by the Smith re-

gime to discredit black guerillas in both Zimbabwe and the rest of the world, Mawere said.

"The guerillas have no reason to attack the Catholic Church," Mawere said, referring to the church's increasing criticism of the Rhodesian and South African governments; "instead, it is the Smith regime that has reason to attack Catholics."

Mawere pointed out that Rhodesia recently had deported Catholic Bishop Donal Lamont for aiding guerillas.

In countering the other charges, Mawere pointed out that many of the supposedly kidnapped children had recently issued a statement that they had gone voluntarily to Botswana to join the liberation movement.

Mawere expressed amazement at the government's claim that four guerillas had forced 400 people to march 12 miles across the border in the middle of the day without detection by the Rhodesian Army patrols.

"How," Mawere asked, "could murderers and kidnapers 'escape' 12 miles across the treeless plain in that part of Zimbabwe?"

"ZANU receives no aid from either Russia or China," Mawere said. The organization of African Unity (OAU) provides all of ZANU's supplies.

The OAU's assistance helps assure the independence of the indigenous and very popular movement for majority rule in Zimbabwe--a movement that cannot be thwarted by Ian Smith and his Western apologists much longer.

from Dave Burdette



## Action To Help Wives

On Dec. 7, 1976, a coalition of four legal organizations filed a class action suit against the New York Police Department and the N.Y. Family Court for failure to protect battered wives.

The complaint charges that the N.Y. police unlawfully refuse to arrest men who beat their wives, and that Family Court employees refuse to let battered women ask for Orders of Protection.

Under N.Y. law, a man can be punished by up to 15 years imprisonment for an assault against a person he's not married to. Since the creation of the Family Court in 1962, there is no penalty for the first beating reported to the police.

And a husband can now be sentenced to only six months for any beating after the first one reported. Before the Family Court was started, the penalty for assaulting a wife was the same as for assaulting anyone else.

## WINCE TV SERVICE

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*SEE US FOR USED TV SETS*

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*PHONE 829-3221*

## Shatters Most Things

(FFA)--If you've ever wondered how Ella Fitzgerald shatters a glass using only her voice in the commercial for tape cassettes, stop wondering.

The Memorex Company, in response to allegations that the ad is fraudulent, released an affidavit backing its claim. The affidavit reveals that Ella's voice is amplified to an incredibly loud 146 decibels. 146 decibels of any kind of sound will not only shatter glass, but will destroy eardrums and damage organs within the human body.

## Hard To Take Apart Nuclear Plant

(ZNS)--A new study concludes that nuclear power will cost even more than was expected because parts of the plants will remain radioactive for more than 1½ million years.

The study, by the New York Public Interest Research Group, adds support to previous research which disputes the nuclear industry's claims that atomic plants may be safely taken apart about 100 years after operation stops.

The industry contends that the typical plant will produce energy for about 40 years, that it will be "mothballed" under 24-hour guard for the next 100 years, and then can be safely taken apart.

The New York research group, however, says certain types of dangerous radioactivity will remain inside the plants for the next 1.56 million years. This persisting radioactivity would require first flooding the plants; then divers would work under a protective layer of eight feet of water to cut the plant into pieces; after that, the pieces would then be placed in lead casks and permanently buried at federal safe storage areas.

The group says its finding indicates that disposing of the plants will add "many tens of millions of dollars to the cost of nuclear power."

Not to mention the several accidents which have already occurred while transporting and storing radioactive material.

# SERVICE BRIEFS



## Forge With Xerox

(ZNS)--The new color copying machine made by Xerox, known as the Xerox 6500, has triggered a boom in counterfeiting from coast to coast.

The machine is being used to forge everything from payroll checks and stock certificates to postage stamps and bus transfers.

The ability of the Xerox 6500 to make almost perfect full-color copies forced McDonald's to redesign its 50-cent hamburger gift certificates because so many bogus ones were being accepted.

The counterfeiting problem has become so severe that federal officials and members of the financial community have seriously asked Xerox to recall the 6500 and replace it with a machine that makes poorer reproductions. So far, Xerox has refused.

## Great Ginseng!

(ZNS)--Ginseng root, the medicine that dates back more than 3000 years into Chinese history, may be a modern wonder drug.

The bitter-tasting root that often has been laughed at by western medical researchers, is suddenly showing up in lab tests as a mysterious preventative for dozens of diseases and a powerful source of endurance. Recent tests have found that a single dose of Ginseng increased the stamina in mice by 35%, and that the daily use of the root extract doubled stamina.

The energizing property of Ginseng caused it to be carried in the backpacks of North Vietnamese soldiers during the war; and Soviet cosmonauts commonly snack on Ginseng during space flights to prevent disease.



## Women's Report: No Birth Control

In Laos, the government has banned the use of birth control in an attempt to build up the nation's population.

## Headless Roaches

41

(ZNS)--Researchers at Michigan State University say cockroaches can learn some things faster after their heads have been chopped off.

Dr. Kathryn Lovell, a biophysicist, says headless roaches can live for up to a week after the beheading because of nerve cell clusters in other parts of their bodies.



If this story seems strange, there is also a report that a Russian man has successfully trained cockroaches to open tiny newspapers and to rush at his command to a miniature table where they sit in chairs and eat from tiny dishes. Those Soviet roaches still have heads.

Roaches with their heads removed have actually learned to avoid painful electrical shocks more quickly than have normal roaches.

## "She's My Wife!"

Julio Elias was sentenced to three years in prison for beating his wife with a kitchen chair, a screwdriver, a bicycle wheel, "and anything else he could get his hands on." When arrested, he had asked, "What's wrong? She's my wife."

## Ban Isolates Gays

Norman Carlson, director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, has officially banned all gay publications from federal prisons.

## Real Experience

(Northwest Passage)--A group of about 20 University of Washington students who were discussing fascism in their class got an opportunity to confront it first hand when one of the students read the class an announcement that C.I.A. recruiters would be on campus that morning in Loew Hall.

The group decided on the spot to take a field trip, and reassembled a few minutes later at the site of the recruiting. After arriving, they burned some application materials, expressed their distaste for the recruiters' presence on campus and the C.I.A. in general, and generally disrupted the business of spy recruiting.

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## WRONG MOVE

# Bus fares going up soon

42

Bus fares will go up soon, according to an up-side-down decision approved by the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System Trustees February 21.

At a time when transit systems should be lowering fares and making it easier to ride the bus (see adjoining story), the bus bosses will jack up the rates for senior citizens by 50%, from 10¢ to 15¢. Adult fares will jump from 25¢ to 35¢, while children and students will pay 20¢, instead of 15¢.

Riders won't have to pay the higher charges until a planned route expansion begins. The expanded bus routes could be running as early as this spring.

Transit system officials admit that they expect to serve fewer riders under the increased rates. (They may actually serve more riders, since they are expanding routes. But the system will lose a percentage of potential and existing riders because of the rate increase.)

Transit system officials even have federal government statistical projections to calculate exactly how much decrease in ridership to expect from this rate increase. (They expect 7 1/2 per cent fewer adults.)

But calculations show that the bus system will still take in more money under the increased rates, even with fewer riders.

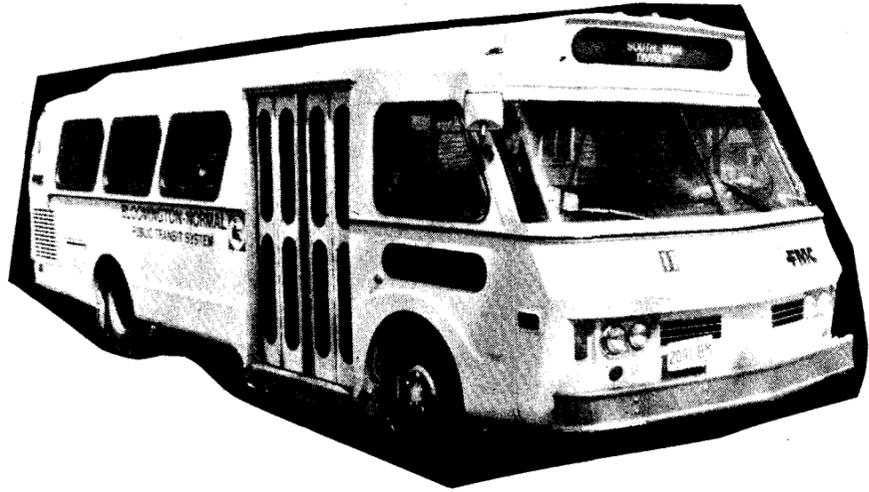
Costs of running the bus system have gone up. That's why the transit operators say they are raising rates--to get more money, even if it means serving fewer people.

The public transit system doesn't take in as much money as it spends. It never has. It was never expected to break even.

Several government agencies, including the cities of Bloomington and Normal, help fund the public transit system. They do so because the transit system was established to serve riders, not to make money.

The theory behind the subsidies (money support) is this: it is very important to have a bus system, even if the system loses money at public expense.

Public policy of the transit system and the government agencies which subsidize it should be directed



toward increasing ridership by making it easier to ride the bus. The planned route expansion is a good idea, but it is not enough (see adjoining story).

But the fare increase, along with other recent decisions of the bus bosses, will make it harder for people to ride the bus, thus decreasing ridership. Here are some examples:

Riders will still have to have exact change when boarding the bus. But today's convenient one-coin fares (10¢ for the elderly and 25¢ for adults) will be gone. All the new fares will require at least two coins, making it less likely that a rider will just happen to have the right change. They'll have to stop at a store.

Also since the downtown council (a business group) influenced the city council and the transit system to move the downtown bus transfer center, people waiting for the bus won't be waiting right next to a store where they can get the proper change.

Bowing to pressure from business' Downtown Council, the transit system trustees and the city council decided to locate the new transfer center at the site that the fewest number of bus riders chose in a recent poll.

The new transfer center site (favored by only 29 out of 459 voting bus riders) will be cleverly located in just about the only possible site downtown where bus riders couldn't wait inside a store without getting too far away from the bus stop. The Downtown

Council pushed this site, because they wanted to get the "riff-raff" (who didn't spend money, just waited for the bus) away from their stores.

Since waiting bus riders won't be able to take shelter in stores, the bus system is building a three-sided shelter at the transfer center, located on the south side of Front St. at Main St. But the shelter will be unheated, making the wait extremely uncomfortable for the fewer winter riders hardy enough to stick it out.

The transit trustees should stop knuckling under self-interested business people who push plans which make it less convenient to ride the bus.

And the transit trustees should stop knuckling under to short-sighted city council members and short-sighted Pantagraph editorials which push breaking even financially as a primary short-term goal of the bus system.

Instead, transit trustees should work to increase their subsidies, making increasing ridership their goal, even if it means losing more money.

More explanation of this proposal is in the adjoining article.

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## Now you can visit County Jail prisoners

Now that prisoners have been moved to the new county jail, visiting policies have been relaxed.

Now anyone can visit prisoners in the county jail, almost any time, for an entire half hour.

Previously, Sheriff King enforced a tyrannical policy of requiring that all visitors be blood relatives or spouses of prisoners. Visits lasted only ten minutes, and were permitted only on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

King blamed lack of adequate physical facilities for his super-restrictive visiting policies in the old jail. Many prisoners were completely cut off from contact with women they'd lived with for years, just because they weren't legally married.

That's changed now.

Visiting hours are 10 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week. A prisoner can have up to 5 visits in a 7 day period, with no more than two visits permitted in one day. And anyone can visit.

In the visiting area, visitors sit on one side of thick glass, prisoners on the other. Conversation is conducted through telephone.

-M.S.

# Make buses a real alternative to cars

Given their limited power, the transit system trustees may have had no choice except to increase bus fares (see adjoining article).

But the Bloomington, Normal, and the state and federal agencies which presently pay part of the bus system's deficits do have a choice: they could, if they understood the importance of a bus system, invest millions of dollars in buses.

The bus system should be greatly expanded, in order to give people a real choice about whether to use a car or take the bus. Right now, there is no real choice. Access to a private automobile is almost an absolute necessity in Bloomington-Normal.

And public policy should be directed to decreasing our reliance on cars.

With a long-term shortage of fuels looming, it becomes more and more absurd to continue consuming the fuel needed to power 3000 pounds of metal, just to haul around one or two 150-pound people.

Buses, trolleys, trains--any type of mass (rather than individual) transit--require far less fuel per person than automobiles.

By depending less on cars, we won't have to tear down entire blocks of perfectly good buildings just to pave the land over to make a place to store cars (a parking lot).

Instead of continuing to subsidize cars, members of the city councils should revise their thinking about buses.

The present bus system is only intended to provide a bare minimum of service, mainly for people who can't afford to buy and maintain a car.

But the city councils should expand their intentions and provide a bus system so extensive that even people who can afford cars will choose to ride buses instead.

## Millions for Buses

The cities should spend millions on buses. They should run them all over town, only 5 blocks apart. They should run every 10-15 minutes, maybe every 20 minutes late at night. And the buses should run all night long.

If they have to, the city councils should be prepared to run the buses empty for years. If they stay empty, they should expand the routes, reduce the fare, anything to make it easier to ride the bus. The idea would be to create a transportation environment which gives a potential car buyer a real alternative.

Already, city governments spend a huge proportion of their budgets subsidizing the automobile. So why not start supporting buses instead?

Almost all city expenditures in downtown Bloomington in recent years can be directly traced to a public policy which subsidized individual auto transportation instead of mass bus or trolley transportation.

## Destruction

Bloomington spent several million just on "Vail's lean-to," otherwise known as the parking garage.

Dozens of good buildings or reparable buildings died as the city bought them, then wrecked them, just to build the automobile-oriented crossovers on the downtown's four corners.

All the city-owned parking lots are paved-over land once occupied by buildings. The community lost not only the money spent to buy and wreck them, but also the use of needed building space. All the community can do with the land now is store cars on it.

These lost buildings, lost money, and wasted land all represent the city's policy of subsidizing automobiles as a form of transportation.

Many street-paving expenses can be counted as subsidizing of cars. Extensive use of mass transportation would drastically reduce the extent and frequency of road wear and tear.

A large portion of police and court expenses arise from our dependence on cars. Traffic tickets, parking tickets, traffic jams, traffic accidents--all the city-paid people-hours spent dealing with these activities would be reduced as automobile use is reduced.

## No Drunks

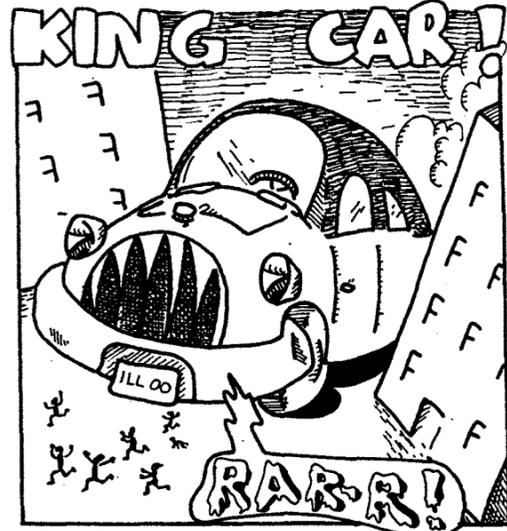
Many street-widening expenses result from increased traffic flow over time. As more and more cars travel on certain streets, the city pays huge sums to widen them. By adopting a public policy discouraging dependence on cars, these increased traffic flows in most areas would be dramatically



reduced. The Bloomington-Normal street system might not need expansion for years, except for new areas.

Drunken driving would be cut drastically if people could go to taverns and back on buses.

At shopping centers, present public policy is subsidy not only to automobiles, but also to privately owned businesses. At Eastland, K-Mart, and Zayre's. The owners of those businesses paid nothing for the road improvements.



These examples (and there are undoubtedly more) are presented to make two points:

First, there is nothing new about millions of city dollars going to subsidize a form of transportation; we've been spending millions on cars for years.

## Savings for People

Second, if the city did decide to implement a public policy of encouraging bus use and discouraging car use, money presently spent subsidizing automobiles could be saved.

And the benefit to the community would be immeasurable. Traffic jams (yes, Bloomington-Normal actually has some), tickets, fighting for a parking place, car repairs, jumper cables, getting towed, pollution, car payments--all of these could disappear for large segments of the community.

With frequent, extensive bus service, more and more people would be able to choose not to buy a car. The total savings of all the individuals who will be able to save car repair expenses and car costs--would amount to quite a bit.

We're going to have to cut way down on car use some time. Why not start planning an alternative now?

--Mark Silverstein

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# Flo Kennedy Kindles a Fire at ISU

Approximately five hundred people, the majority women and blacks, filed into Capen Auditorium March seventh to hear black feminist attorney Flo Kennedy. She began her program with a sing-along of feminist and black liberation songs. They were all well-received, with the exception of a black rights song she wrote, entitled "Niggers' Time Has Come." Perhaps the basically white middle-class audience didn't totally agree with black liberation, but I prefer to think that the song was too close to the truth for comfort. I like to believe that it evoked feelings of guilt and shame in every white person in attendance as they realized, as I did, that we are all to blame, to some degree, for "keeping blacks in their place."

Kennedy talked on revolution for blacks, for women, and for students, and she criticized all three movements with equal venom. She does not advocate the use of violence, but she says, "To announce non-violence as policy is a critical mistake." If the enemy isn't sure whether or not you will resort to violence they will be more afraid. And the more afraid they are, the easier it is to achieve victory. Don't necessarily use violence, is her warning, but don't brag about it.

## "Horizontal Hostility"

On student rights, Kennedy stated that on all campuses, big wigs pit sexism and racism against each other, so blacks and women fight each other instead of fighting their common enemy. She calls this "horizontal hostility" and defines it this way: When a person steps on your foot on the subway and you get mad at that person instead of at the transit system responsible for over-crowded trains, that's horizontal hostility.

Kennedy admonished students for allowing the university to fire the best teachers. Students should demand their rights in the running of the university, she stated, especially about who gets tenure and promotions and where money goes. It is disgraceful, she said, that women students often have an office tucked away where no one can find it and that black students often have a house way the hell away from everything else on the campus. "Make this school give you rights," she ordered.

She also lashed out at the blacks present. "If feminists are ahead," she told them, "it's because you ain't ripped off no honkies lately." She explained how those in power "niggerize" every minority group. "You don't have to be black to be niggerized," she added, "but it helps."

Then Kennedy started on the women. "It is a disgrace," she said, "that the only person to qualify for presidential matching funds in 1976 was a 'right-to-lifer'." "You see," she continued, "cupcakes (anti-feminist women) can be more of a threat to feminism than a man." She said that black women and white women could not be sisters, but that they could be sisterly. But she warned that white women would not get any black sisters into "their" movement until they could effectively deal with their white racist sisters on the issue of bussing. "And if this is a movement," she added, "it could sure use some laxative."

To speed the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, Kennedy advised the audience to give up or cut down usage of all tobacco products until North Carolina passes E.R.A., not to drink Coca-Cola until Georgia ratifies, and not to shop at Sears, purchase Prudential or State Farm insurance, or chew Wrigley's gum

until Illinois votes to pass the amendment. The gay community has enlisted Kennedy's help in beginning a withdrawal of support from the Singer Company and from all Florida Citrus products because of Anita Bryant's anti-homosexual campaign. (Those companies use Bryant in their advertising.)

Florence Kennedy gave the audience one final piece of advice: "If you take sh\_t, you deserve it." And when you take sh\_t, smile, she continued. And when you get sick and tired of smiling, do something about it.

Kennedy uses what she calls "White House language," and her speech was riddled with non-deleted expletives. "If it's good enough for them (President Nixon and his advisors), it's good enough for old, black Flo," she said. She explained her frankness by saying, "Look, I ain't tryin' to make no friends; I ain't runnin' for nothin'." The important thing to remember in whatever you do, she told the audience, is to "maintain decency." Flo Kennedy certainly did that Monday night.

---Deborah Wiatt



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## Journey Rocks With Next

Starting this month, record reviews will be run every issue (if I get my act together). If you want any particular record reviewed (no disco please!), write the Post-Amerikan, Box 3452, Bloomington, Illinois 61701.

At first I was going to review Frank Zappa's Zoot Allures, but then I was so impressed with Journey's Next album I had to shelve Frank for awhile. (sorry Zap.)

Journey is made up of Neal Schon and Greg Rolfe, both of whom played with Santana, Ross Valory, who played with Genesis, and Ansley Dunbar, who played with David Bowie and also the Mothers of Invention. This combination really makes a rockin' band. Journey will be in Peoria on March 27, backing up the band Boston. Personally I think Journey will upstage Boston, even though I think Boston has qualities superior to Journey's. (Does it matter??)

Listening to this album, I found out that Ansley Dunbar is excellent lyricist. On the mellow rocker "People", he says:

"Who says they're not going to hell,  
Climbing the stairway to you know where,  
People, Oh!!  
So happy until they scare." \*

And I thought Ansley could only play drums and dance.

Each group member has written some material for this album, giving it a very versatile style.

The album opens with "Spaceman," (song for hand gliders). Lead singer Rolfe's voice is in peak condition, and Ansley Dunbar's keeps an excellent hard steady beat which he maintains on the entire album. After "People," which features some fine keyboard work by Rolfe, is "I Would Find You" by Neal Schon. Excellent keyboard and guitar work by Rolfe and Schon respectively.

"Here We Are" by Rolfe, which concludes side one, is a good rocker. It begins with some Steve Miller/"Fly Like an Eagle" keyboard work.

Side two has a completely different style than that of side one. Quiet rockers make up most of side one. Side two explodes with hard rockers like "Hustler," "Next," "Karma," and a great instrumental tune called "Nickle and Dime."

Neal Schon's guitar work is highlighted on this side, as is Ross Valory's bass guitar. The band works together to make a good hard rock sound from beginning to end.

Journey has two other albums out that would be worth picking up at your local non-profit record store. The group has no potential to make the A.M. radio playlist, which is great. The songs on Next will stay fresh for many years to come.

Dynsdale

Next month: Ambrosia: Somewhere, I've Never Traveled.

\*copyright Weed High Nightmare Music



### HOME BIRTH ASSISTANCE

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### SEMINAR

We are also planning a teaching and communications seminar on the basics of homebirth preparation on Saturday April 16 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Wesley Foundation, 211 N. School St. in Normal. The seminar will be free and open to the public.

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# "Co-op" bookstore finally changes name

After several years of criticism for masquerading as a part of the co-op movement, the "Co-op" Bookstore in Normal has finally changed its name.

Timing its move to coincide with release of the new phone book in mid-February, the Yarger family now calls its store Alamo II. The first Alamo on the site was a restaurant, before the "Co-op" Bookstore opened in the thirties, according to the owners.

Over the years, articles appearing in the Post-Amerikan have criticized the Yargers' flippant use of the term "co-op." As an especially gross example of captive-market, high-priced merchandising, the bookstore insulted the entire co-op movement. Real co-ops are motivated by goals of serving rather than profiting. Surplus money is managed, or held, collectively, not privately. And many co-ops attempt to work out new democratic or self-managing forms of work organization to replace the usual distinctions between order-givers (who think) and order-takers (who aren't supposed to think).

The "Co-op" Bookstore frequently deceived newcomers to the ISU campus, who (reasonably) were not surprised to find a co-op bookstore near a university.

Instead of discovering the real cooperative bookstore near campus, Student Stores, newcomers spent their money in the "Co-op" Bookstore, and felt good about supporting the co-op movement!

Meanwhile, the real cooperative store grappled with financial problems. Student Stores Bookstore finally declared bankruptcy in late 1975.

Student pickets hit the "Co-op" Bookstore in fall, 1975. In literature they handed out, they criticized the store for fraudulently using "co-op" in its name.

Geoff Kolassa, who was ISU Student Association's Director of Consumer Affairs at the time, participated in the picketing, handing out a price survey he had compiled.

Bookstore owners had him arrested on trumped-up charges. He easily beat the case in court.

Post-Amerikan articles have also contained documentation that one of the bookstore's owners, Orval Francis Yarger, was a long-time CIA agent.

Owners of the "Co-op" Bookstore last year asked the Town of Normal to forbid newspaper vending machines on the sidewalks. The Council refused, and people passing by the bookstore can still buy a Post-Amerikan from our vending box.

Passers-by can also still make out the words "CIA-owned" crudely spray-painted on the building's walls.

Such spray paintings, along with window-brakings, have plagued the bookstore for several years.

At times, the cracked glass and boarded-up windows gave the store the appearance of being under seige.

Maybe that's why the Yargers named the place Alamo II.



## Remember the Alamo?

In 1835, colonists from the United States decided to settle their differences with the Mexican government by declaring the independence of Texas.

The battle at the Alamo (where Davy Crockett and other brave slayers of "savages" died) was one of the few setbacks suffered by U.S. citizens who pushed (and followed) their government from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Religion, profit and racism had combined into a strange theory called Manifest Destiny in the 1830's and 1840's. Those who be-

lieved the theory thought God (who was a businessman) intended for them (and the U.S. government) to rule the whole continent.

In 1846, after Mexico refused to sell its territory between Texas and the Pacific, the U.S. went to war to fulfill its "destiny." By war's end, the U.S. had seized fully half of Mexico, including California and Texas.

Fitting that an ex-CIA agent would name his bookstore after the Alamo--an earlier century's symbol of the U.S. drive for empire.

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## May Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 1st, this year's Mayday will happen. The theme is awareness of ourselves, of our culture, and of other cultures. Mayday will go on from 11:00 am to 9:30 pm on the Illinois State University quad. But plans at this point are only tentative, as negotiations with the ISU administration are still in progress.

We plan to have two stages for a variety of music, theater and speakers. We hope to have an arts and crafts show. All artists are invited. Exhibits will include environmental issues, men's and women's concerns, nutrition and health, social issues, presentations by various ethnic and cultural groups, and just about anything pertinent to our theme.

To raise funds the band Skillet will hold a benefit concert on April 17 in the ISU Union Ballroom. Also, donation boxes will be placed in different locations around Bloomington-Normal. Funds will be used to rent two PA systems, to pay for the services of a registered nurse, for supplies, cleanup, advertising, etc.

If you can donate time, ideas, creativeness, supplies, or money, we need it all! For information on meetings and on how you can help, call Gail at 452-7936.

## Special Week At Small Changes

Future, Dates Tentative: Small Changes has big plans for the month of April. We are planning a grand opening week April 24-30, starting with another benefit concert April 24.

We'll have a 10% sale on all books during the week and a bake sale April 30 to end the week. Also be looking for Olivia & Holly Near records we will be stocking!

Past: During the recent women's Forum 77 at ISU, we had a booth at the student center displaying our books. We also had a discussion on men's liberation which brought out various opinions on the status of men's oppression in society.

Thanks a lot for your continual support. We received \$100 donations from the community fund which gave us a lot of encouragement and will help us increase our stock. More people are learning about our store and coloring on our young people's room walls.

Future, Date Definite: A discussion on Feminism is scheduled for 7:39 p.m. April 4 at Small Changes. Plan to come with questions and your ideas on what a feminist philosophy is.

Hope to talk with you soon at Small Changes, 409 A N. Main St., Bloomington.

## T'AI CHI CO-OP

The T'AI CHI Co-op meets 4:00-6:00 Fridays in ISU's Cook Hall gym. Anyone interested in comfortable exercise or a soft martial art is invited to join us, with George Linl-Hu instructing.

## Hey, Y'all check out project Oz

In the last issue of the Post-American we at Project Oz, a youth service agency, began describing programs available at Oz beginning with the Drop-In Center. The Drop is open to kids Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Drug Education and Youth outreach program is another major component of Oz. Drug Education services are provided to all age groups, although we remain flexible in order to meet individual needs.

One of these services is a Teen Concern Course which is offered to high schools in the rural communities of McLean County. Students participate voluntarily and actually assist in planning the course.

Although we do cover drugs, the participants may select any number of other topics which they want to talk about. Some of the more popular topics are marriage and divorce, communication, frustration and aggression, Juvenile Court and laws which affect youth, suicide among teenagers, and sexuality. In this manner, we don't get hung up by dwelling on drugs and very likely turn people off.

The course is run as a discussion group with role-playing, film viewing, and activities related to the topics. At the end of the course, students evaluate it and make recommendations for the future.

Another educational tool we use is the Social Seminar which is an adult multimedia drug education program. We do not use this program to look just at drug problems, but rather we emphasize youth problems. The Social Seminar is used to look at adolescents today, what their problems are, what the community's problems are, and how we can work around the various problems to create a better response to youth's needs.

We have learned that we need to explore the institutions, experiences, and culture in which drug use may take place. Only by gaining insight into the total world of young people will we be able to deal most effectively with youth and their particular problems.

Oz also provides drug training to professional and para-professional staff of youth-serving agencies in McLean County with the overall goal of upgrading knowledge and skill in the area of drug use. In addition to drug education services, the program offers individual counseling to kids aged 12 to 18 experiencing drug-related hassles.

Various types of group counseling are also available, including problem-solving groups, self-help groups, and common-interest groups.

The most unique aspect of the Drug education and Youth Outreach Program is that the staff travels to wherever the individual or group is.

We hope, through our explorations, we will be able to develop realistic and healthy alternatives for youth and their communities. These alternatives could help young people find better ways to experience feelings of self worth, fulfillment, commitment, and adventure.

If you're interested in any of our services check us out. We're located at 404 E. Washington in Bloomington, or call us at 827-0377.

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# Pantagraph Will Stop Sexist Help- Wanted Ads

Yielding to pressure from the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Bloomington Human Relations Commission (HRC), the Pantagraph has finally agreed to abandon its sexist help-wanted ads, which divide jobs into male and female categories.

The ad classifications have been an issue for years.

Employers are forbidden to discriminate on the basis of sex. However, no law prohibits the Pantagraph from running ads which offer a job to members of only one sex.

It was the prospect of such a law which finally forced the Pantagraph to "voluntarily" comply with the long-stand request of groups fighting sex discrimination.

The Human Relations Commission recommended March 9 that the city council pass an ordinance which, in effect, would prohibit the Pantagraph from continuing its sex-based classifications.

The Pantagraph "voluntarily" changed its policy five days later.

As a media monopoly, the Pantagraph's policy has the power to shape the environment in which people offer and seek jobs. Until now, the Pantagraph's policy perpetuated sex discrimination by influencing who looked for what job. Women were discouraged from applying for jobs classified under "Help Wanted--Male," even though they were legally entitled to equal opportunity. Similarly, men were discouraged from applying for jobs listed as "Help Wanted--Female."

In announcing the policy change, Pantagraph publisher Davis Merwin credited his decision to talks with Ray Hodges, director of the Human Relations Commission.

Merwin said Hodges had "made a reasonable case" for the policy change.

Merwin didn't mention that it had taken at least three years for the reasonableness of the "reasonable case" to sink in.

--M.S.

## Pantagraph Keeps 'No Children' Ads

With its new classified ads policy, the Pantagraph will finally stop reinforcing illegal sex discrimination in employment. But the paper intends to continue running "no children" rental ads, thus continuing to help landlords evade an Illinois law which prohibits discriminating against families with children.

Last fall, the Pantagraph even refused to print a letter-to-the-editor which pointed out that this anti-discrimination law exists.

Last fall, I spoke with Human Relations Commission staff person Kate Welch, and suggested that she could

push the Pantagraph to abandon its "no children" rental ads.

She said the Human Relations Commission couldn't afford to be "too aggressive." Ms. Welch did say, however, that the HRC would gladly follow up on a family's complaint, if they had been refused an apartment because they had children.

But most families don't even know that particular anti-discrimination law even exists. They wouldn't know they could file a complaint.

And the Human Relations Commission isn't doing much to inform folks about this law, either. The Commission advertises regularly in the

Pantagraph, saying that discrimination is illegal, and inviting anyone with complaints to file them. The ads list types of discrimination eligible for complaints. But the ads don't mention that being refused an apartment because you have children is a basis for a discrimination complaint.

Hopefully, the Human Relations Commission's victory in the sex-classified ads battle will reduce their fears of being "too aggressive."

--M.S.



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