

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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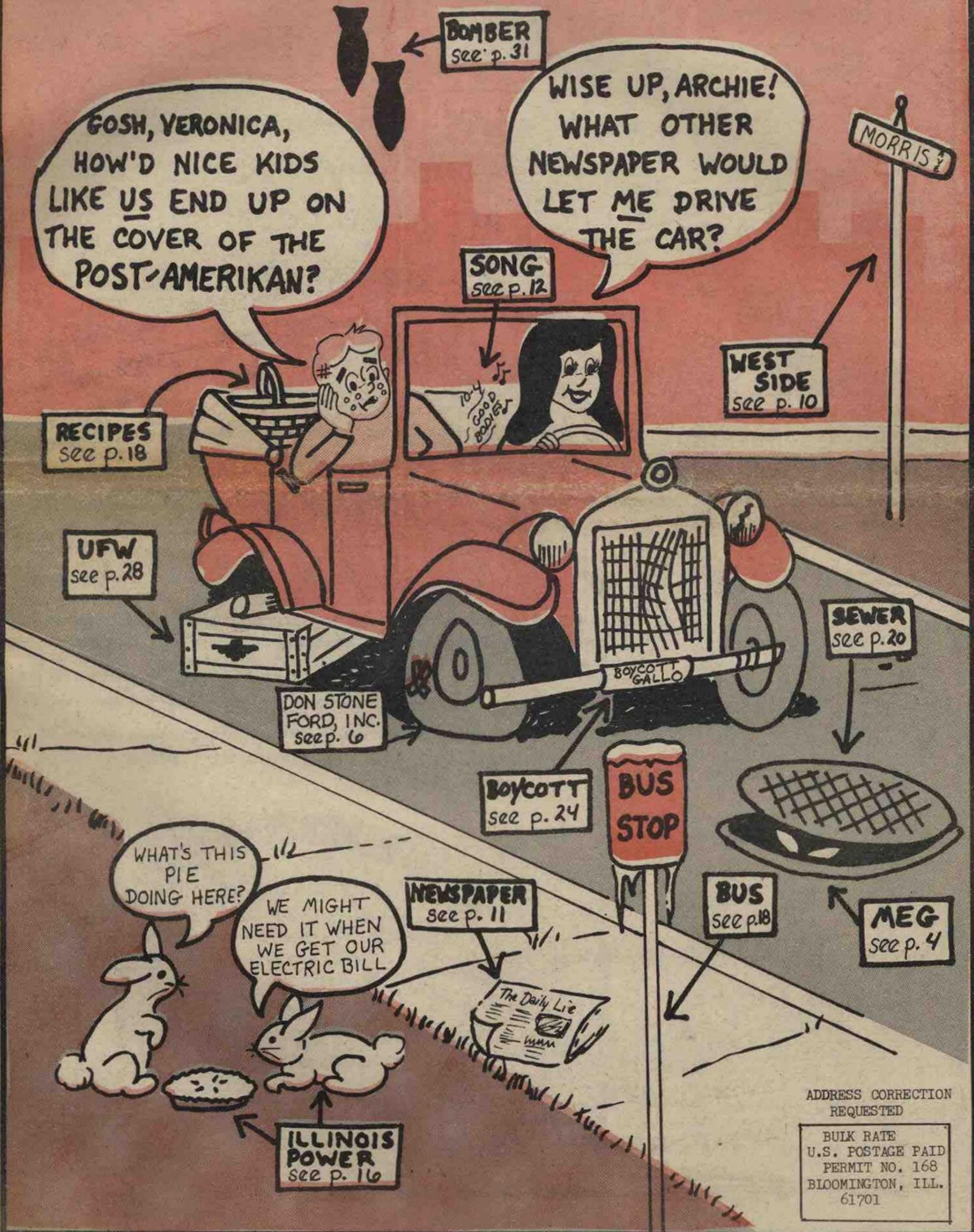
PIE; MEG; GUNK; FOOD; FORD; BUS; MORE

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
FEB.-MARCH 1977

25c

POST AMERIKAN

VOL. 5 No. 10



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

live, 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, Feb. 18 6:30
 Friday, Feb. 25 6:30
 Friday, March 4 6:30
 Friday, March 11 6:30
 Deadline & Meeting--
 Wed., March 16 6:30
 Layout--
 Sat. & Sun., March 19 & 20

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
 Biasi'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 Morrissey Drive
 Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.
 Econ-O-Wash, 708 W. Market
 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
 Welcome Inn (in front)
 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)
 In Front of Schroader Hall
 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 people to write stories. If you can write, you should call or come to a meeting and tell us what kind of story you'd like to do. If you don't have any clear ideas about that, other people can suggest things.

People who are free one weekend a month to help do layout are also very welcome. You don't need experience. If you can type, that's extra good.

Call 828-7232 for more information. If we're not here, leave your name and phone number on the answering machine and we'll get in touch.

What? The Post-Amerikan needs money? James, get my checkbook!



Seriously, folks, we've been struggling along putting out this paper for five years now, trying to make income from ads and paper sales stretch to cover rent, supplies, and printing (which has gone up four or five times in two years), and what have you done to help except throwing us a lousy quarter once a month (when you remember)?

We are depending on our readers, those who feel an alternative newspaper is good for the community. If you can send at least \$25.00, you get a lifetime subscription to the Post. Also, every Christmas you can send a free year's sub to a friend (or enemy). Send donations to: Post-Amerikan
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 Bloomington, Ill. 61701

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NEW CRIMINAL COMPLAINT SYSTEM



Usually I think the state exists to protect the interests of the wealthy and the powerful.

On my cynical days I think the state exists to serve the state.

State's Attorney Ron Dozier is one of the people who pushes me to believe the second idea.

Dozier's new brain-child is a program which requires victims of crimes to wait three to ten days to sign a complaint--if they're lucky.

I suppose I should say right at the beginning that this new screening program is supposed to apply only to misdemeanors, although what with plea-bargaining and laws being so confusing in the first place I don't know how anybody is supposed to tell what's what. For instance, when does a "minor family fight" become wife abuse--or assault with a deadly weapon?

Until Dozier's new system, a crime victim could walk into the police station, anytime, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and sign a complaint. Not any more.

mandatory "conferences"

Instead, for certain types of misdemeanors, you have to meet with Assistant State's Attorney Richard Wagner for a "conference" first.

These "conferences" are held for only two and a half hours a week. If you can't make it on Wednesday between 1:30 and 4:00 in the afternoon, tough.

Of course this is hard to believe. It's extremely discriminatory toward working people. If you're in management, it might be easy to take an extended Wednesday lunch break. But if you're a worker at a factory or restaurant or such, it's likely that you're not even supposed to leave the building during your breaks--if you're lucky enough to get formal breaks.

And if you're the parent at home taking care of pre-schoolers, it may very easily be impossible for you to arrange to make it to this "conference" on Wednesday afternoon.

Also discriminatory and discouraging is the written summary of the incident that you're supposed to bring with you. A college-educated high-handed State's Attorney might think that's the easiest thing in the world, but it's not easy at all for a lot of people.

Also, either you must be able to identify the suspect or you must bring a witness (who can identify the suspect) with you to the Wednesday "conference".

So your witness has to be able to get out of work on Wednesday, too.

If you're the victim of a crime on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday, then you have to skip a Wednesday before you can have a "conference."

Bloomington police love Dozier's new system--it gets them out of a lot of work. Previously, police were obligated to make written summaries of crime victims' complaints. Police were obligated to do all the complaint-signing paperwork, without passing judgment on the victim's story. Now all police have to do is tell a victim to show up on Wednesday afternoon.

Of course, this whole thing shows a huge amount of contempt on State's Attorney Ron Dozier's part for the people he's supposed to be working for. Dozier has actually come right out and said that Assistant State's Attorney Wagner will determine if a complaint should be signed by weighing the evidence and "the victim's sincerity to have the case prosecuted in court." (Pantagraph, January 15, 1977)

Poor Ron Dozier has to deal with all these uncountable hordes of people who decide to drop a complaint after filing one.



Who's he trying to kid? If somebody steals from me, I don't really want him or her put in jail--I want my money back!

If somebody rapes me or threatens me or beats me up, I don't really want them jailed--I want that violent person and our violent society changed! Prisons don't do that.

Victims of crimes go to the law because they think that's all they have, and often they're right. If State's Atty. Dozier was really in his business for us, he'd be glad when we could drop charges against each other because we'd worked it out a better way.

But charges aren't always dropped just because the parties worked things out a better way. Beaten wives often drop charges they file against their husbands, because their husbands threaten them. Instead of protecting these women from their husbands' threats and abuses, the new system attempts to stop the wives from filing complaints in the first place.

Dozier wants to save court time and the expense of beginning court proceedings that are eventually dropped. I don't really think it's out of the bureaucracy's concern for the bureaucracy.

I know I would rather be able to sign a complaint against somebody if I needed to and drop it if I could than worry about tax money going to make that possible, especially considering all the other scummy things my tax money goes to, like genocide and exploitation in foreign countries.

The Pantagraph reported on January 21st that one of the people at the first Wednesday afternoon conference was, "A woman with a 'friend' who, with more serious relationships in mind, ignored her discouraging words, kicked down her apartment door and made unfriendly advances."

"cooling-off period"

Behind the Pantagraph's bad grammar and sick patronizing cutesy-poo style, this quote sounds like a description of attempted rape, or assault. If Dozier and his buddies think that I'm going to observe a 3-10 day so-called "cooling off period" before I report an attempted rape, or whatever the hell they would try to get away with calling it, and whether or not I can get it together to write it down clearly on paper, they've got another #@?!*& Think coming.

This new program shifts the work of the bureaucracy to the victim of a crime, and it stinks. There is a two-step obstruction of justice involved. First off, people who can't make it to the "conference" are eliminated without a trace. Next, most of the people who do make it to the conference are eliminated for different reasons, some OK and some not OK.

I say that in this new system, Dozier is the criminal.

MAN-DING-GO'S

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MEG board hosts



ABOVE: Masked figure imitates MEG agents by lighting up what appears to be a joint. In his hand is a baggie containing suspicious-looking capsules. Man in background used fake nose and beard and trenchcoat to mock another image of MEG agents.

Dressed as MEG agents, 14 Bloomington-Normal residents converged on a meeting of the undercover drug unit's board of directors in Peoria Feb. 11.

The guests wore suitcoats, ties, ski masks and motorcycle helmets in imitation of the costume MEG agent Ford Conley has worn to court to protect his "cover."

The masked people said their costumes drew attention to the ridiculous superspy mentality which obsesses MEG agents. The action was directed against a pending bill which would continue MEG's funding.

In further imitation of MEG agent Conley, the uninvited guests smoked hand-rolled cigarettes which looked and smelled like marijuana, and exchanged plastic bags of vitamin pills for Monopoly money.

In line with their history of making their meetings pretty hard for the public to attend, the MEG board met in a room barely large enough for their own table and chairs. Only a few of the attending public could fit. Many of the TV and newspaper reporters were also squeezed out. There was some room in the back, but one MEG board member refused to move his chair to let people by.



BELOW: Here's a photo of superspy MEG agent Ford Conley, cleverly concealing his facial features as he leaves the McLean County Courthouse in late 1975. Fourteen people imitated Conley's costume as they staged guerrilla theater at a MEG Board of Directors meeting.

Growing like
a weed....

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drama festival

Despite the cheery presence of the masked intruders, the MEG people seemed sour and grumpy, probably due to their constant pangs of conscience about their jobs. For example, MEG executive director Jerry LaGrow, who was snooping around outside the building when the guests arrived, completely ignored friendly calls of greeting; from the masked, helmeted crowd.

In fact, LaGrow was in such a bad mood that he even flung his hand over a camera lens wielded by Mike Richardson, editor of the Galesburg Free Voice. With a nasty scowl, narc LaGrow shoved Richardson several feet back.

Harold Bosshardt, who is Bloomington's police chief, is also chairman of the MEG Board of Directors. Flushed and shaky, he called the meeting to order, and began running through the agenda. Some of the board members wanted to get the meeting over with. Quick. Items of business were postponed until the next meeting, probably because the assembled sheriffs and police chiefs did not care to discuss certain things with the room packed full of hooded anti-MEGers.

As the MEG imitators began making their own dope deals and passing bags of green plant-like material, one board member disgustedly suggested that maybe there was something "these people" wanted to say. He moved that the board give them an opportunity. The motion carried, and one of the masked people read a prepared statement, which is boxed on this page.

An IBI investigation in late 1975 confirmed that Conley delivered amphetamines, set up both his girlfriend and roommate, and gave away pills he hinted were drugs. An Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC) executive committee report strongly recommended that MEG fire Conley for his violation of ILEC guidelines. (ILEC was the body which channeled federal money to MEG.)

MEG fired Conley, but Conley is still a cop. He is currently a deputy working for the Peoria County Sheriff, who is a member of the MEG board of directors.

MEG will lose its federal funding in June, 1977. Their hopes for continuing to track down dangerously slippery teen-age pot dealers rest on a bill pending in the Illinois legislature. That bill, if passed, will provide state funding to replace the expiring federal money. \$1 million would be spent to keep 7 Illinois MEGs operating.



MEG executive director Jerry LaGrow flashes hateful glare in response to offer of a foot-long joint. As MEG's head narc, LaGrow oversees spy operations of the unit's ten agents, while also doing some undercover operations himself. LaGrow is so enthralled with his role as covert secret spy that he once went on TV channel 19 for an interview with only the back of his head photographed.

BELOW: Masked protesters gather after confronting the MEG board of directors.

Here's why...

Here is the statement the masked MEG imitators read to the MEG board:

Our dress and actions today are meant to illustrate the kinds of activity the Illinois legislature will be funding if it approves the pending MEG funding bill.

In order to protect his "cover," MEG agent Ford Conley carried the MEG superspy mentality to this extreme: he dressed in suit, ski mask, and motorcycle helmet while entering and leaving the McLean County Courthouse.

To gain people's confidence in drug matters, Agent Conley handed out red capsules, which he hinted were Seconal. (They were really filled with baking soda.) Another of Conley's "investigative techniques" (as he called them) was smoking marijuana with people he was setting up, who included his roommate and his girlfriend.

At the heart of MEG's James Bond-type shenanigans is this fantasy: that agents have only their secret identities to protect them from the hordes of revenge-bent gun-toting hardened heroin pushers they have already busted.

But the MEG reality is different. MEG agents spend most of their time chasing kids in their teens or early twenties. A third of their arrests are for marijuana. Many are for drugs frequently prescribed by doctors, like amphetamines, tranquilizers, and barbiturates. Only a few MEG arrests involve heroin.

Our actions today are meant to draw attention to the logical culmination of the MEG mentality, as represented by Agent Ford Conley. We have attached photos of him, plus a study of his character which appeared in the Bloomington-Normal Post-Amerikan.

Before it funds MEG, the legislature should ask...is MEG the serious law enforcement effort it pretends to be? Or is MEG playing childish superspy games at taxpayers' expense?



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1/2 PRICE** EXPIRES 3/31/77

Wheelin' And Dealin At Don Stone Ford

In mid-January this year, I started off on the wrong foot and shopped for a new used car at Don Stone Ford, Inc.

The salesperson I talked with was Rich Hill. I told him the style, price range, and engine size I was looking for. He presented a 1973 Chevy Vega.

I started out asking general questions: engine size, previous owner and phone number, actual mileage, tire condition and price. At first, we didn't agree, but through talking we reached a tentative agreement.

My main concern was the four tires on the car; all four were in very poor condition. One of the rims was pushing into the tire. The other three were balding on the inside.

I told Rich to put better rubber on the car, and then we would see how it test-drove and I would make up my mind.

He replied, "No! The car goes as it sits."

He pointed out a bunch of old tires stacked up behind the building and said if I wanted to dig through, I could have my choice. He also reminded me that for an extra fee, they would install these tires. He informed me that I had named the price range, and this is what he had to offer, and that Don Stone, Inc., couldn't afford to put any more money into this car.

'We Stole This Car!'

Hill then told me what a deal I would be getting. He said, "We stole this car on a trade in for the sale of a new car, and you should be happy that you can get such a deal."

After he confessed their slick tactics to me, I was even more hesitant to deal with Don Stone Ford, Inc. Rich then became angry and became very sarcastic about the sale. He yelled that I asked for a good dependable used car, and that's what he had to offer.

"There aren't any other good used cars at such a price, and you could save a lot of money by buying this car," Rich stated again. "After all, I stole this at such a low price, for your savings." Being angry, he said that he wasn't going to take any more sh--, and if I wanted the car, I should just buy it.

Bribe

He told me John Beverage warned him about me and he was getting tired of me making demands. (In reference to John Beverage, this was a bad experience that I had a few years ago at Don Stone Ford, Inc. This is when a salesperson attempted to bribe me with a case of beer to buy a \$2,000 car I couldn't really afford. At the time, I was 18 years old.)

I then asked Rich if I could drive the car. He yelled for me to go and get the car, which was parked in the far back lot, and bring it up front. (This was when the weather was subzero.) I told him, "No. You go and get the car."

He did, but not willingly. Besides, they had to jump it to get it started right there on the lot.

Upon arriving around front, his personality changed and he began to lay the sales pitch on me again.

After test driving the car, I thought I would stop out of curiosity at the bank to see how this automobile could be financed. They told me that Don Stone Ford, Inc. had already called and that they gave the car lot the necessary information to finance the automobile, and told me to return to the car lot, where they would take care of everything. (I sure would like to find out what information is going out about my financial records on the request of a car lot.)

People's Bank said that Don Stone Ford Inc.'s salesperson was in the running for salesperson of the month and that he would get a point if they were to write a contract at the lot instead of me doing it at the bank.

I thought that was nice and all, but I asked to talk to the installment and loan manager. My main concern was that the percent of the loan that I would be charged for interest. Steve told me the bank charged 12% to their customers for an automobile loan for this type--but, to my surprise, that if a contract is written at Don Stone Ford Inc., that the finance charge is up to their discretion.



This means that Don Stone acts as a finance company and borrows the money at 11% or 12% from the bank and charges the customer, from 12 1/2% to 16% for the use of the money. (This is a deal?)

Most contracts are written at 13% to 14% at Don Stone Ford Inc.

The People's (?) Bank installment loan manager later commended me for knowing how these contracts worked and how smart I was to come directly to the local bank. Needless to say, I was quite shocked upon leaving the "friendly confines of my local bank".

One can imagine how many contracts are written for the sales of new and used cars in this community. It's obvious that a lot of money is handled, and there is a definite structured relationship between the local car dealers and community banks. It almost seems to be a continuous winding circle that an unexpecting consumer can be caught up in the middle of and become confused by--at the consumer's own expense, and to Don Stone Ford Inc.'s benefit.

--Be aware--

AEL

Repairs

--In April of 1971, I purchased a new pinto from the Ford dealer in Washington, Illinois.

--In early 1972, while the car was still under warranty, I attempted to have several minor problems corrected by the only Ford dealer here in town, Don Stone Ford Inc.

--When I took the car in, I was told that Don Stone would not service the car because it was not purchased from them. They told me (at Don Stone) to take the car back to the original dealer for warranty service.

--I explained that it was too difficult for me to do that (due to job, etc.) and that according to Ford warranty if an owner is unable to return to original dealer, then any authorized Ford dealer should make repairs.

--After about 3 visits to Don Stone, I talked with some "top brass" and they agreed to perform the necessary work.

--Unfortunately, the trained Don Stone mechanics could not locate any problem, or didn't want to. The problem I was having was that the car would vibrate violently at speeds exceeding 50 m. p. h.

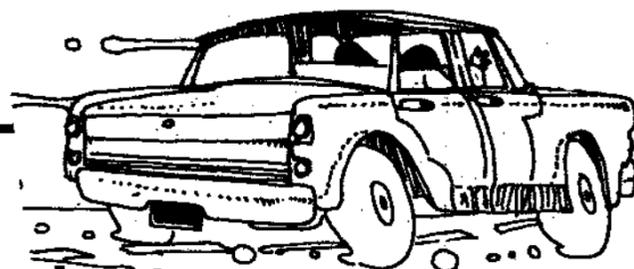
Repaired?

--Don Stone did, however, destroy my manifold pipe while making an adjustment of something. After causing me considerable hardship with no transportation, Don Stone Ford refused to replace the manifold pipe they destroyed, claiming the car was no longer under warranty.

--After the pipe was fixed, I refused to pay the bill, feeling that Don Stone Ford was responsible for creating the problem in the first place.

--For a year thereafter, I was called to pay the bill (which was about \$14). The Service Manager told me if I did not pay, he would have the dollars taken out of his pay check. I told him that was a crock.

--I never returned to Don Stone Ford for service. I have gone to Thornton Mercury for service and have been satisfied.

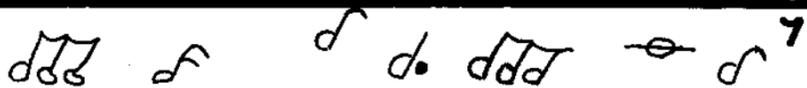


DON STONE FORD SUED

A Bloomington woman filed suit against Don Stone Ford, Inc. It seems that she bought a car there which, the salesperson claimed, came equipped with radial tires and air conditioning. She found out later that her car really had neither!

The suit is still pending.

Another Chorus



In The Don Stone Ford Blues

Thirteen Times For Repairs

Dear People;

In your Jan.-Feb. 1977 issue you had inserts asking people to write or call if they have had a bad experience with Don Stone Ford. I am hopeful that you can help me with my problem.

On September 21, 1976, I purchased a 1977 Pinto from Don Stone Ford. Since the day I bought the car I have had to take it out to Don Stone Ford for repairs almost once a week. I got so upset with my car that I called the office in the State of Washington. The man that I talked to told me that he would send a factory representative down to look at the car and talk to me. My car needed repairs twice in two weeks while I was waiting for the factory representative.

The second time during this period that the car needed attention, it was because the paint was chipping, cracking, and literally falling off. I called out to Don Stone Ford and told the man about this. I also told him that I didn't want them to touch the car until the factory representative could see just how bad the car was really falling apart. Well this is when I found out that the factory representative had been there the previous time I had taken my car in and they hadn't told me! The man out at Don Stone Ford had told the representative that everything was fine and so he left.

The man that I was talking to also told me that I had better let him paint my car then because if I didn't they would make me pay for a brand new paint job. He told me that after my warranty was up that no matter how bad my car was I would have to pay for a brand new paint job.

I couldn't believe it, 2 1/2 months after I buy a brand new 1977 car it has got to be stripped, sanded and totally repainted. Well I didn't know what to do so I had them repaint my car.

They had my car for a week. No matter what I said or how hard I tried they wouldn't give me a loaner car, knowing that I had no other means of transportation. I was told that I would have to go down to their rental agency and pay to rent a car. Steve Peterson, the head salesman, told me that their insurance didn't cover overnight usage of cars. This really made me mad because twice before he had given me a car for over-night.

Since Sept. 21, 1976, when I bought my car I had to take it in for repairs thirteen times and only twice did Steve Peterson give me a car to use.

The first time Steve loaned me a car I told him that I would return the next day to pick up my car. I gave him my home and work phone numbers so that if my car was finished before I left for work at 3:30 they could call me and I would come in and pick my car up. No one called so I left at 3:30 for work.

The next morning I took the car back to Don Stone Ford and was treated very rudely by Steve Peterson. I walked in the door and he said, "Where in the Hell have you been? I have been trying to reach you all damn night!" I was shocked and didn't know what to say so I grabbed my car keys and left in my own car.

The second car that Peterson loaned me you would not believe. The first part of December it was below zero and my heater went out. I called Don Stone Ford and they told me to bring my car out, I did, and Peterson gave me the second loaner car. I told him that I was going to keep this car until my own car was fixed. You wouldn't believe this loaner car that he gave to me. I took the car to work and when I got off at 11:00 PM the car wouldn't start. I had to call and get my step-mother out of bed to give me a ride home. The next day I called Peterson and told him about the car not starting and he got mad at me because the stupid thing didn't start. He sent someone after the car and he told me to go to Don Stone and he would give me another car. Later that morning I went out to pick up another car and he gave me the same damn car that wouldn't start before. I didn't want to take this car but Peterson told me to take it or do without.

I took it but I told Peterson that if the car wouldn't start I was going to call a taxi and send him the bill. I took the car to work and at 11:00 PM I couldn't get the car started. Luckily there was a man I knew still there. He went out and tried to start the car. At first he couldn't get the car started so again I called my step-mother and she came to pick me up. Meanwhile, Bud got the car started but my step-mother followed me home to make sure I got there.

After I picked up my own car from Don Stone Ford I found out that the heater still wouldn't work properly. I just didn't know what to do.

Here is a list of some of the things that have been wrong with my car.

- 1)The molding around the windshield came off;
- 2)The carpeting under the dash came up;
- 3)The striker on the driver's door came loose and I couldn't shut the door;
- 4)The car couldn't be drive over 45 m. p. h. or it would shake;
- 5)The windows are loose and they rattle.
- 6)The heater wouldn't circulate through the car and still won't;
- 7)The paint was chipping and cracking and peeling off and the car had to be stripped, sanded and totally repainted;
- 8)Wires from who knows where were hanging down from under the dash;

These are just a few of the things that have been wrong with my car but it will give you an idea of the trouble that I've had.

The heater in my car still doesn't work and I was told that I would have to pay to get it fixed.

I know that to someone else this might sound like a big joke but believe me I didn't laugh once!

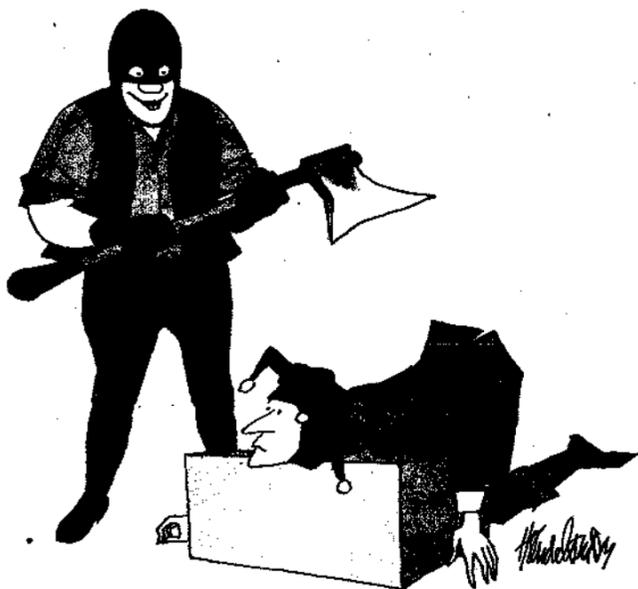
I think that the reason why Steve Peterson and all of the rest of the men at Don Stone Ford gave me so much trouble and to this day never did fix my car is one very simple reason. The reason is because I am a 20 year-old female. I would hate to think that they treated all of their younger customers this way.

Many people know of the trouble that I've had with Don Stone Ford and they have said they wouldn't buy a car from Don Stone if it was the only car dealership within 100 miles of here.

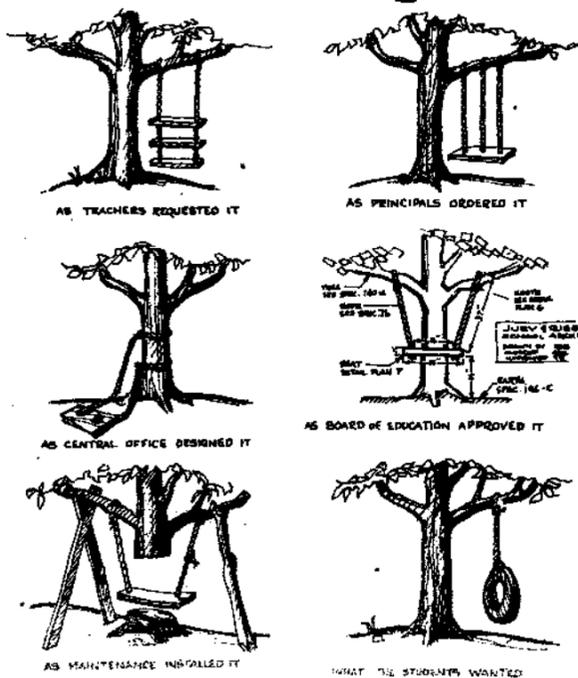
I can't get anyone to help me and I'll just be stuck with a lemon until I can afford to get rid of this car and get a decent one. A car that won't fall apart.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. You asked for someone who had the Don Stone Ford blues and believe me I am one.

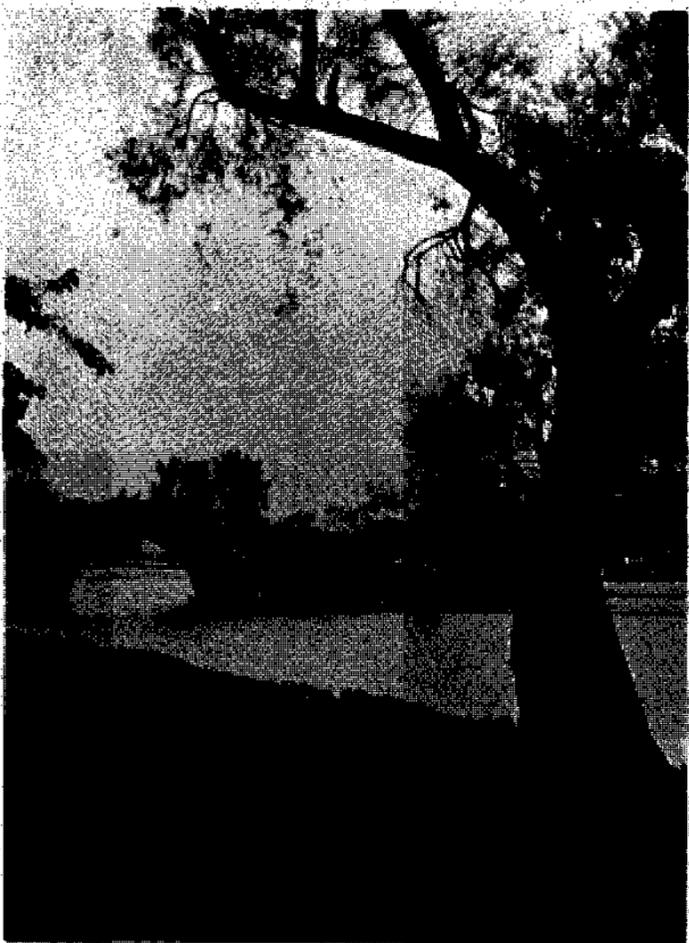
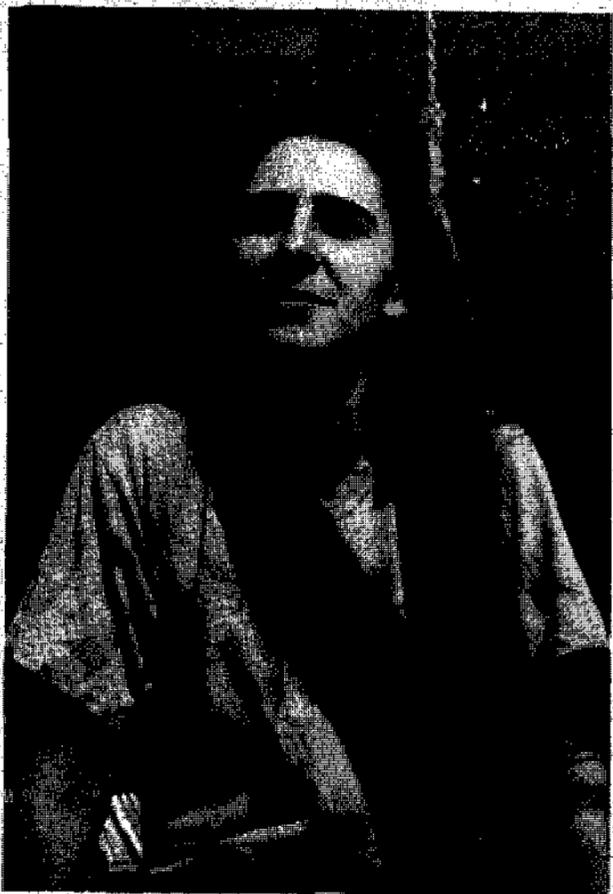
Thank you very much,
Sandy Emery



"You didn't just make silly jokes, no, sir! You really gave us something to think about."







~ Photos by Dave Nelson

MORRIS AVE.: Tomorrow's Westside Towanda Ave.?

10

What will the Westside look like in five years? Will Morris Avenue be widened, connecting with College Avenue in Normal? Will new business pour in along the renovated thoroughfare?

The Westside Improvement Association (WIA), a division of the Association of Commerce and Industry, is attempting to spark Westside Development and business improvement, with the widening of Morris Avenue and the retention of the Amtrak station being two of its main concerns.

The WIA has just completed two surveys, one of train users and McLean County residents as a whole, the other of the Westside alone.



The first survey found that people were almost evenly split in the station controversy, with 41% calling for a new station, 37% for remodeling the present structure and 22% undecided. But, significant to the WIA, 77% of those surveyed were in favor of widening Morris Avenue.

In their own survey, 67% of Westsiders wanted to retain the station on Washington Avenue; 69% favored widening Morris Avenue, and, when asked about the most needed improvement, 26% of Westsiders favored street repairs and fix-up.

When asked what was most needed on the Westside in terms of business, 29% called for a shopping center, 10% wanted more restaurants and 8% found a drug store their main concern. 43% of the respondents favored a sit-down restaurant over a fast-food joint (13%).

The WIA, in the words of Vice-President Bud Kelley, "was very happy with the report." The question still remains, though, what will the "improved" Westside look like? The Westside though presently lacking commercial facilities, is still a unique part of Bloomington, unique because people still live in the neighborhoods. Unlike the developed Eastside, with its heavy traffic, shopping malls and suburban sprawl, Westsiders still find time to sit on their porches, talk to neighbors and don't have to get in a car everytime they need to go someplace. Much of the Eastside development, though, is automotive-centered, with little room for pedestrians.

I bring this up, hoping that the WIA does not equate success solely with heavy traffic. The opportunity awaits them to develop Westside business that is accessible and attractive to pedestrians, one without the long traffic jams, overgrown parking lots and empty neon of the Eastside.

Improved parking facilities are needed, especially on West Washington with the amount of traffic the train generates. But also needed is a marketplace that is people oriented, built to an accessible human scale.

Blocked-off streets with pedestrian malls, live plants, etc., could make the area quite attractive. Also, the Westside business districts have so far developed without chain stores and large business intruding, leaving room for smaller, more diverse enterprises.

Throughout this, a thought runs through my mind that within 30-40 years, perhaps even less, the private gasoline-powered auto will be a thing of the past, too expensive, too energy consumptive and too ecologically-damaging to still be in use. As this unfolds, Eastside malls and shopping sprawl will be doomed, as they are centered upon the automobile. But an intelligent Westside development, which has been built on a human pedestrian scale, would be in an excellent position. Clusters of small shops, instead of one big area separated from people by parking lots, would be the optimal development.

The WIA should also find energy, perhaps along with Urban Renewal, to improve Westside homes. Or even use its business position to pressure landlords to maintain properties.

Westsiders have to express themselves to these folks, and make their intentions clear about how they want their neighborhood developed, especially before Urban Renewal comes in and clears your home for a parking lot.

Whatever happens, let's not have Morris Avenue be the Towanda Avenue of the Westside. We don't need a McDonald's and lots of neon.

MGM

HOUSING AUTHORITY

of the
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ILLINOIS

ANNOUNCES

A NEW CONCEPT OF PARTIAL RENT PAYMENTS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES, THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED OR HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

Need help with your rent?

Are you paying more than 25% of your income for rent?

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.

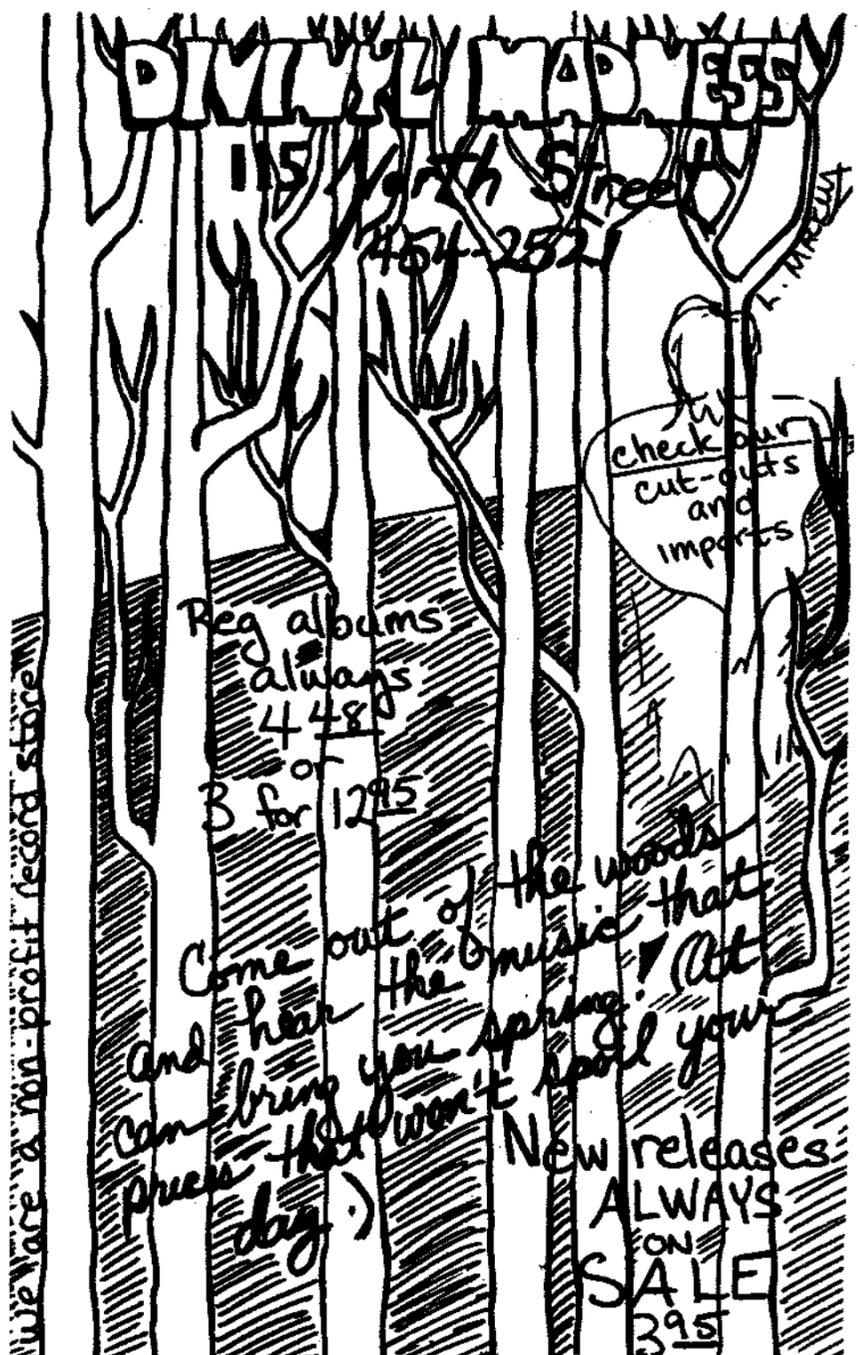
This new program, for a limited number of applicants, entitled SECTION 8--HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM, is now in effect.

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



N.O.W. VS PANTAGRAPH ON SEXIST POLICY

In 1974, members of the local National Organization for Women (NOW) first asked the Pantagraph to change its help-wanted ads policy. This policy separates the jobs listed into male and female sections. The Pantagraph didn't change, but didn't give NOW a flat refusal either.

In 1975, the Bloomington Human Relations Commission tried to convince the Pantagraph to change its help-wanted ads policy. Again, the Pantagraph didn't change.

Meanwhile, NOW members were gathering facts to support their position. In the University of Illinois library, in 1975, they found 3 Illinois newspapers, in cities roughly like Bloomington, which use job content headings. Job content headings divide help wanted ads into categories like domestic, sales, and agricultural rather than male and female.

Those newspapers which use job content headings are The Daily Dispatch in Moline, The Beacon News in Aurora, and The Morning Star in Rockford. Recently The Peoria Journal Star also switched to this method of organizing its help-wanted ads.

The Bloomington-Normal chapter of NOW also found that some cities have passed ordinances which make it illegal for any person to help employers discriminate in employment practices, like advertising.

What The Law Says

This ordinance is important in getting the spirit of the law carried out. This is so because federal and state guidelines make it illegal for employers of more than 25 people (federal) or 15 people (state) to discriminate on the basis of sex. However, these same guidelines don't specifically make help-wanted ad policies like the Pantagraph's illegal. It's illegal for the employers, but not the newspapers, to advertise jobs according to people's sex.

This is, of course, Catch-22 (I'm sure it was only an oversight.) As things stand in Bloomington, to change the Pantagraph policy through legal means, one would have to sue each and every advertiser whose ads appear in the male or female section only of the Pantagraph.

Things are different in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh is one of the cities that NOW found had passed an ordinance which makes it illegal for any person to help employers discriminate.

The Pittsburgh chapter of NOW brought civil suit against The Pittsburgh Press. NOW charged that the Pittsburgh paper was violating the local human relations ordinance by dividing their help-wanted ads into male and female.

NOW won the suit, even though The Pittsburgh Press ran a disclaimer under each column in their help-wanted section. The disclaimer said, in effect, "we don't mean any harm by this, which is why we're going to keep doing it even though we know we're not supposed to."

The Pittsburgh Press didn't go down without a fight, though. They appealed to circuit court, which also decided in favor of NOW and against the paper. Eventually the case went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972.

The Supreme Court also approved the Pittsburgh ordinance which prohibits any person from helping an employer discriminate. The Pittsburgh paper was finally forced to stop using male and female sections for help-wanted ads.

The Home Front

The Pantagraph, on the other hand, says that if the law prohibits the use of male and female headings, "the Pantagraph certainly will abide by the law." (Pantagraph 1/13/77) But otherwise, the Pantagraph finally told NOW representative Greg Colbert in December, the Pantagraph sees no reason to change their policy of placing employment ads in categories according to people's sex.

The Pantagraph claims that these headings give "the best service for both the reader and the advertiser." (Pantagraph 1/13/77) Imagine a newspaper using these headings for its employment ads: black, white, chicano, American Indian, and other. Or these headings: 15-18 yrs., 19-30 yrs., and 30-45 yrs. It's ridiculous, of course.

But it's not ridiculous that employers still use things like sex, race, and age as guidelines to hire and fire by. Tragic, but not ridiculous, because it still happens all over.

And in the face of this, what does Bloomington-Normal's only daily newspaper do? It uses its monopoly position to encourage employers to discriminate on the basis of sex.

Is there somewhere else that advertisers who don't like the Pantagraph's sexist policy can go? No. Is there somewhere else that job-hunters who don't like it can look? No.

Is There Hope?

So the only pressure that can be brought against the Pantagraph is legal. NOW has tried literally for years to convince the Pantagraph to change its policy by using reason and arguments about ethics, with no results. So in January of this year, Greg Colbert of NOW asked the Bloomington Human Relations Commission to amend its ordinance to prohibit the Pantagraph's employment ad policy.

Colbert's statement to the Human Relations Commission said, in part: "We (the Bloomington-Normal chapter of NOW) feel that:

(1) such an ordinance would not be a violation of free speech. This view was supported by the Supreme Court in the Pittsburgh Press case.

(2) The Pantagraph is currently misleading employers into thinking that sex based employment advertising is legal for them because The Pantagraph offers those categories.

(3) the current sex based policy discourages job hunters from applying for certain jobs.

(4) the system helps perpetuate within our society outmoded notions that there exist men's work and women's work.

(5) the sex based system is not nearly as efficient, in terms of the job hunter, as a content oriented system.

We feel that it is ironic that a newspaper as editorially progressive as The Daily Pantagraph should hold on to such a backward advertising policy."

Bloomington-Normal, Ill.

EMPLOYMENT

405 - Help Wanted - Female

ASSISTANT MANAGER

ABY-SITTER - 9-5, in my home. \$20 per week. Start immediately. Own transportation. Ph. 452-3345.

ABY-SITTER - Mon., Tues. and Wed. by home. 3 children. Oakdale School. Ph. 452-1491.

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted - Male

Current position, South

of person, the only

need only need apply

any benefits, pleasant

work, 8:15 to 4:15

Call or partition

452-1491

(Colbert explained to this Post reporter that by "editorially progressive," NOW was referring to Pantagraph's editorials like those supporting ERA and Carol Reitan for Senator.

He also offered a possible explanation for the contradiction between these editorials and the Pantagraph's employment ad policy. This contradiction seems able to exist, Colbert said, because Pantagraph editors in different departments, like the advertising department and the editorial department, are fairly autonomous. They are pretty free to act independently of one another.

The Human Relations Commission responded to NOW's statement by agreeing to consider the amendment. However, Colbert said, The Pantagraph article on January 13th painted the prospects for real passage of the amendment too favorably.

The Pantagraph reported that "most members seem to support the idea" and "The Commission will study several possible ordinance proposals before deciding on passing the amendment."

This almost makes it sound as though all the Commission has to decide on is how to word the amendment and we'll have it, but that just isn't quite right. The power of the Human Relations Commission is limited. (See Post-American Vol. 5 #7.)

The Pantagraph has said that if the law prohibits the use of separate male and female sections for employment ads, the Pantagraph will change. The Pantagraph probably has good reason not to worry about it too much, for the course of justice runs slow, as they say.

VITESSE

CYCLE SHOP

Introducing:

TREK

Bicycles and
Framesets

Reynolds 531

Columbus

Ishiwata

Double Butted
Frame Tubing

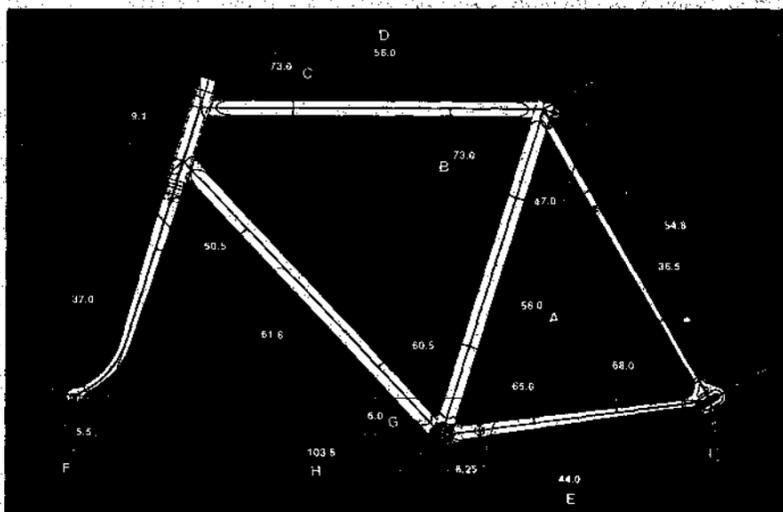
Silver Brazing

Superb Finish

BICYCLES FRAMESETS

\$169.-650.

\$75.-175.



LINDEN & COLLEGE / NORMAL / 454-1541

CB Record Condemned

It's called a novelty record, and by definition it has only short-term interest. A novelty record is generally about faddish trends.

Country music is full of them. Ray Stevens' "The Streak" was one, and C.W. McCall's "Convoy" practically started the whole CB craze. Now there's another CB novelty record out, and it's offended more than a few people.

Rod Hart's "CB Savage" is a talking trucker record, almost a parody of "Convoy," about a group of truckers who hear an "odd voice" over their CB. This voice, "lispng wall to wall," rather freaks out the truckers. It's a stereotyped "gay" voice, belonging to "CB Savage," who, using all sorts of CB-related sexual innuendo, is apparently propositioning them.

"Strange Voice"

Fortunately for the truckers, though, the "strange voice" doesn't really belong to a gay male at all. (Saved from a fate worse than death!) It's a cop who's managed to infiltrate the convoy and who's used the voice as a put-on to divert the truckers until reinforcements can arrive. The song ends with the cop, whose voice is now considerably deeper, ordering the truckers to pull over and receive their just deserts for speeding.

At the end of January, "CB Savage" was local country station WAKC's most popular song. Even Bloomington cops reportedly called in to request it. According to officials at the station, it was the first song in three months to receive much popular response. Three months is a long time for broadcasters, and you can imagine the joy around WAKC at having a certified hit on their hands.

Imagine their dismay at being told there were some people in the community who thought the song offensive and oppressive. Members of the Bloomington-Normal community, gay and straight, began calling the station to protest the stereotyped image of male gays the song presented.

Humor?

Disc jockeys on the station didn't know what to make of it. Some got defensive on the air about playing "CB Savage," praising the song to the hilt before they played it, as if somehow they needed to personally approve it. One called it "the funniest record I've ever heard."

He probably hadn't heard many comedy records.

"CB Savage," granted, has some amusing bits of innuendo in it; metaphorical sex is always funny. But its humor is offset by its rather unimaginative reliance on a stereotype. The song is dumb. And offensive without having the virtue of saying anything with its offensiveness. It deserved its negative response.

For singer-writer Rod Hart, of course, that doesn't really matter. "I've been in the business 18 years," he told a WAKC interviewer, "and I wanted to do something really different to get people's attention." Hart has a hit. "CB Savage" has sold over one-half a million records.

Never mind that really isn't "something really different." Lispng pseudo-gay voices have been around since before vaudeville. Never mind that it's not really even done well. The transition between "gay" voice and cop voice is done awkwardly and obviously, for one thing. What does matter is that the song exists. And it's a hit.

Composer's Rap

On February 2, three gay members of the community appeared on WAKC to discuss the song. Composer Hart in Arizona was also on the air by telephone to answer questions. Also aired was a taped interview with Coleen Cassidy, program director of WMAQ, Chicago's biggest country station. It made for an interesting half hour of air time.

downtown



BOOK WIVE

103 W. FRONT BLOOMINGTON

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

COIN & STAMP SUPPLIES

COMICS

GREETING CARDS

SMOKES

ADULT NOVELTIES PAPERBACKS

5 AM-6 PM MON-SAT
5 AM-12:30 PM SUN.

828-3422

For Stereotypes

The local people, using only first names, started the evening hour by reading a statement. It said:

"The reason we are against the use of a stereotype of gay men as a means of humor is that it oppresses gay people by furthering the one and only media image of gayness. And that is a lisp-ing, limp-wristed man. According to the media, lesbians don't even exist, and there is no other type of gay man presented in the media.

Many people, if they even think about gay people at all, think about some alien group of people living off on an island somewhere. But this just isn't true. Gay people are in every occupation, in every family. Things like this song help promote stereotype that make it easier for people to believe the myth that gay people are somehow strange and alien."

Hart, in his response to such criticism, emphasizes the word "fun" constantly. "I wanted this to be a fun record," he says. "The world needs laughter."

Program director Cassidy has an answer to that. She doesn't like the song or the image it portrays and finds it just as bad as a record by a white with stereotyped black lingo in it. Even hit-hungry Hart sure wouldn't think of doing that kind of record. Even if some people would find it "fun."

Hart denies he meant to offend anyone. "I know some gay people," he said the night of the interview-dialog, "and they don't talk like that."

At times Hart refers to the voice as "the gay voice." At other times he even denies the voice is meant to be taken as gay--but rather as "unusual." "I definitely did not intend," he says, "to further the stereotype." Yet when asked why he put innuendo in the record, he says, "without it, the record wouldn't be successful."

Most Hated Record

According to program director Cassidy, WMAQ has never had a novelty record get so much negative response from the start. WMAQ at the time of the interview was playing it, though "getting close to pulling it off." General trend for novelty records is to get a big positive response at first, then a strong negative one as the joke or gimmick begins to wear thin. "CB Savage," though, polarized listeners from the beginning; most hated record, particularly among the younger listeners, and at the same time most requested.

But at the core of the controversy is this single fact: the record sells. Hart thinks "if somebody put out a straight record that dealt honestly with gay people it wouldn't sell." He may be right as things now stand. Some people, Cassidy says, don't like "CB Savage" because they think it promotes homosexuality. As if the mincing lisp-ing stereotype was so attractive that millions of adolescents would be attracted to it.



13

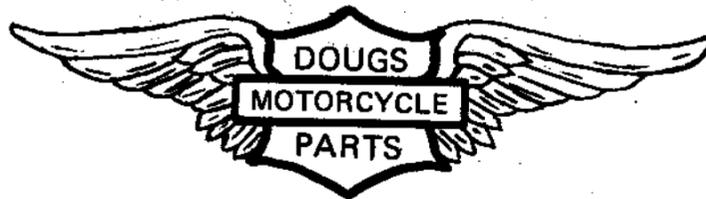
"We just want people to think about the song," one of the gay representatives says, "about what it says."

At present, that seems the best one could wish for. The record, after all, has been played and sold well. It'd be nice if some of the half-million who purchased copies felt bad about it--enough to rethink some of the assumptions about people they may hold. It'd be nicer if some of the radio station people thought twice before playing another "CB Savage."

(Postscript: two days following the radio dialog, WAKC took Rod Hart's hit off the air. Reasons cited: the song was losing its initial popularity and receiving too much negative response. Friday night of that week WMAQ's station manager, despite the "flak" of record company press relations people, had the song pulled also. That same night, Illinois State University's radio station played the song.)

--Denny Colt

Winter Specials



1105 W. WASHINGTON ST.
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61701
PHONE (309) 829-8941

We do it as a profession,
not a pastime

Snow Removal

fast service
829-8668

- ★ COMFORTABLE
- ★ EXCELLENT QUALITY
- ★ NICE LOOKING
- ★ GOOD PRICE
- ★ CHOICE OF BLACK OR BROWN

REG. \$99.95
NOW \$84.95

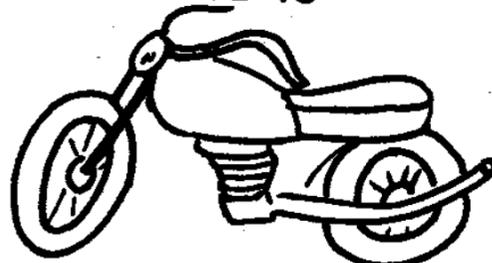


FOR WINTER OVERHAULS

ALSO AVAILABLE

- GASKET SETS
- RINGS
- PISTONS
- VALVES
- CAMS
- TUNE-UP KITS
- MUCH MORE

FOR MOST MODELS OF BIKES:
TRI, HONDA, BSA, NORTON,
HARLEY, KAWASAKI,
AND OTHERS



CHAIN BELTS
SIZES TO 38
\$24.95
OVER 38"
SLIGHTLY
HIGHER

HONDA F SUPER SPORT

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| KAWASAKI | — 400 F Super Sport |
| — KZ 400 Kawasaki | — 550 F Super Sport |
| — Z-1 900 Kawasaki | — 1000 CC Honda |

HONDA

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| YAMAHA | — 350 Honda |
| — 500 Yamaha 1974-75 | — 360 Honda |
| — 650 Yamaha 1974-75 | — 450 Honda |
| | — 500 Honda |
| | — 550 Honda |
| | — 350 F Honda |
| | — 750 Honda |

Bank Takes Food

The Bank of Illinois in Normal thinks a rumor is as good a reason as any to rip off innocent citizens.

Some time in the first half of January, the bank got wind of rumors that Barney Schultz, a middle-aged capitalist on the make, was about to file for bankruptcy.

So, when the bookkeeper at Bethel's Print Shop deposited money to pay that company's employees, the bank froze the money and refused to honor payroll checks to 25 employees.

Some of the employees had three weeks worth of checks and most had two checks for work they had already done, but none of them is likely to see their money until spring and maybe much later.

According to the bank, Schultz owed money—presumably on some loans he had taken out in his hog-wild attempt to become a big-time capitalist and landlord—to the bank.

Taking advantage of a law which allows banks to seize money in checking accounts to cover back payments on loans, the bank make a grab for the money that was intended for the workers.

Schultz's attorney, Robert Lenz, said in court that the bank acted on rumors. The court-appointed trustee, Attorney Robert Sullivan, says the order of events is under investigation.

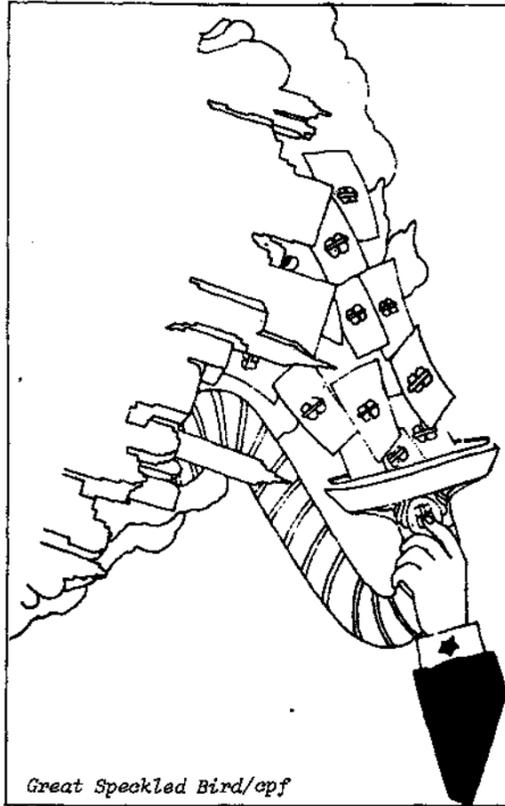
Sullivan, a cagey lawyer who starts four sentences for every one he finishes, won't say whether the bank might have done anything illegal, but he seems to leave that possibility open.

Del Arnold, a bank vice president, wouldn't say anything beyond "no comment" to the Post because "the Pantagraph blew it all out of proportion."

So, it's not clear to us whether the bank knew that the money was intended for workers when it froze the account, but its own records would reveal the truth.

In any case, there would have been no problem if the Bethel's account had been declared a payroll account instead of a general business account. Banks are not allowed to freeze payroll accounts.

But Schultz had overlooked that detail in his mad desire to go big-time. Another detail Schultz overlooked was the installation of a second exit in an upstairs apartment where a young woman and her baby were killed in a fire last spring.



Great Speckled Bird/epf

(The law didn't require two exits because the apartment had been existence before the law was established, but the city fire inspector told the Post the deaths would not have occurred if the apartment had had the two exits that the fire code requires for new apartments.)

What the bank was trying to do when it froze the Bethel account was to improve its position relative to other creditors in the bankruptcy that it saw coming.

Since the amount of Schultz's debts exceeds the value of his holdings by more than \$600,000, it is obvious that not all his creditors will get back all the money Schultz owes them.

That's common in bankruptcy cases, and that's why the bank took food from the mouths of workers.

By freezing the payroll deposit, the bank could reduce the amount Schultz owed it—maybe by \$10,000 or more. That would be to the bank's advantage since it will only get a portion of its money back when the bankruptcy proceedings are over.

In other words, \$10,000 now is much better than \$4,000 later. The other \$6,000 would have been divided up among all of Schultz's creditors. So, the bank was trying to rip off other banks, contractors, etc.—not just workers.

Good old capitalism.

The bank's action is not surprising, of course, especially considering that Jack Guess, owner of the Harjak empire, is the bank's principal owner. Guess who's been ripping people off for years?

At this point, it's not clear whether the bank will get away with its trick. The court may make it throw the payroll money back into the kitty to be divided among all the creditors.

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

If you listen to the city fathers, the Pantagraph, the civic boosters and the phony speechmakers, you would think we lived in a 1930's Hollywood set. But let's look behind the scenes. Each month since April, 1972, the Post-Amerikan has been denting that serene facade, printing the embarrassing truths the city fathers would rather overlook. Take another look at Bloomington-Normal. Subscribe to the Post-Amerikan.

For the next 12 monthly issues, send \$2.50 to Post-Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, Illinois 61701.

POST AMERIKAN

Enclosed is \$2.50 for the next 12 issues. (Free to prisoners from McLean County.)

name _____

address _____

city _____

state _____

zip _____

From Workers' Mouths

But it is clear that the workers didn't get paid.

In fact, they may not get paid until all Schultz's properties are sold off--which could be months or years.

The workers do have a priority claim on any money that can be raised by the sales, however. But their priority is limited to \$600 each because the law that covers them was written in 1930 when workers worked for 50¢ an hour.

Nor will the workers get first shot at the money. All taxes, court costs, and the fees to the trustee will be paid first. If there isn't enough left over to pay the workers, they will get only part of their pay.

If any of the workers were owed more than \$600 they have to file claims with other creditors--like the Bank of Illinois--and certainly won't get back the whole amount.

There's one other aspect to this tale of greed.

Schultz owned a number of apartments--enough to have about 200 renters. All the security deposits of those renters have been frozen by the banks that hold.

Some of the renters have retaliated by withholding their rent checks, although the trustee for the estate (Sullivan) claims that all renters are now paying.

According to Sullivan, the renters have no priority claim on Schultz's assets, which means they could lose their deposits. But Sullivan also claims that in practice the court will give them credit for their deposits and make the new owners of the apartments honor that credit. We'll see.

None of this would have happened, of course, if Schultz hadn't been so greedy and tried, in his attorney's words, "to get too big, too fast."

That's typical capitalism. So is the fact that nothing is likely to happen to Schultz, who, in the judge's words, can "go merrily on his way to a new way of life."

Schultz is reportedly already on his way in Peoria.

In contrast, the employees of Bethel's are nearly all out of work. One or two have gotten jobs, but one employee went to all the print shops in town--18 of them--and couldn't get a job.

Fortunately, most of the employees are eligible for unemployment compensation. But that isn't going to be as much money as they were earning before. And at least one employee had only gotten one check by Feb. 8.

Considering the speed of the unemployment bureau that's probably not unusual. So, some of those 25 workers may have gotten only one check--or maybe none--for all of this year.

All they can do is wait. Wait for their back pay and wait for their unemployment.

All because one man and one bank were very greedy. And greed isn't illegal.



Eastland Trespass Reported Worldwide

A Normal woman has gained international fame because she was convicted of criminal trespass for passing out copies of the Declaration of Independence at Eastland Mall.

Ms. Tobe Easton, 54, was arrested July 4, 1975, at the insistence of Eastland manager Marion Tate. Despite the ironies involved in arresting someone for passing out the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July (and in front of Eastland's "Freedom Shrine" exhibit), a McLean County jury convicted Ms. Easton of trespass in February, 1976.

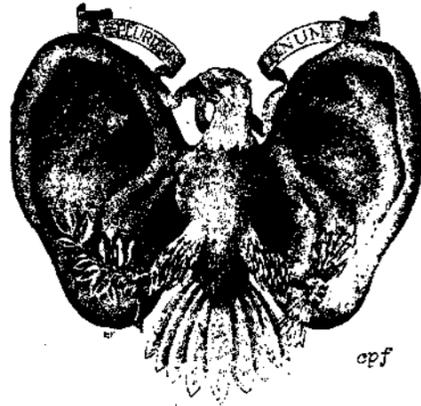
The international fame came when New Times, a publication of the Soviet Union, carried a short ar-

ticle pointing out these ironies. New Times is translated into eight languages, and distributed around the world.

Owners of Eastland Mall are known for getting uptight when citizens try out their freedoms of press and speech on the Mall's private property.

As our nation was preparing its Bicentennial Celebration, Eastland owner Marion Tate ordered Ms. Easton arrested for passing out the Declaration of Independence. He immediately made national news..

Now he has made it internationally. And Soviet propagandists were no doubt delighted to have such a blatant example of U.S. suppression of free speech.



CUTT'DRZ

103 BROADWAY MALL
NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

Hairstyling - Professional, Knowledgeable, Affordable.

WOMEN & MEN MAY CALL 452-0522 FOR APPOINTMENTS

Open 8 am - 8 pm

8 am - 2 pm

Quality hair care products from L'Oréal & Jhirmack

I.P.C. Pied at Rate Hike Hearing

High spirits and enthusiasm prevailed despite the rather grim facts about the effects of Illinois Power's requested rate hike which were presented at a January 19 Illinois Commerce Commission hearing. One piece of testimony that kept everybody awake came from Tim Barwald dressed in tux and tall tails in imitation of a rich Power Company representative.

His speech parodied the slick self-promotional style of the "concerned corporation," and at the end of the speech Barwald got a vivid sample of consumer response to such patronizing propaganda: a pie in the face!

The Illinois Power Company mouthpiece, in an unusual flash of insight, protested that the testimony was "obviously done in a spirit of derision." Claiming the speech was "merely an attempt to make a mockery of this hearing," the indignant mouthpiece demanded that it be removed from the record. However, since his own speech was an even bigger joke and it was still on record, everyone agreed that Tim's should stay too.

Here's the speech Barwald read:

Ladies and gentlemen, I represent the Illinois Power Company, and I'm distressed. I look around, and I see on many faces a sullen look, a look of resistance--even enmity. This makes me unhappy, because I see that many of you do not realize what I know so deeply--The Power Company is your friend.

You may ask, how do I know this with such certainty? Well, let's consider another question first: Just what is a friend? We all know the answer--a friend is someone who wants the best for you, who relieves you in times of stress and confusion, who reassures you when you have doubts. And there's more than that to a friend: a friend also gives you those little "extras" that make all the difference. And friendship isn't a one-way street. No, you want your friends to trust you and depend on you, in turn.

If we look at Illinois Power in terms of our definition, we see why I can say so sincerely, "The Power Company is your friend."



Here is Mr. Barwald, Imitation Power Company representative, decked out in his Wall Street finest. He is on his way to the Illinois Commerce Commission hearing where he will deliver a moving speech on behalf of the Power Company.

that really count. Every person is confronted every day and every year with hundreds of difficult decisions he must make--and decision-making causes strain and tension. And we know that our customers aren't apathetic--every four years they have the awesome responsibility of choosing the best man for President of our great country. I often feel, and I'm sure you do too, "Who needs another decision to make?"

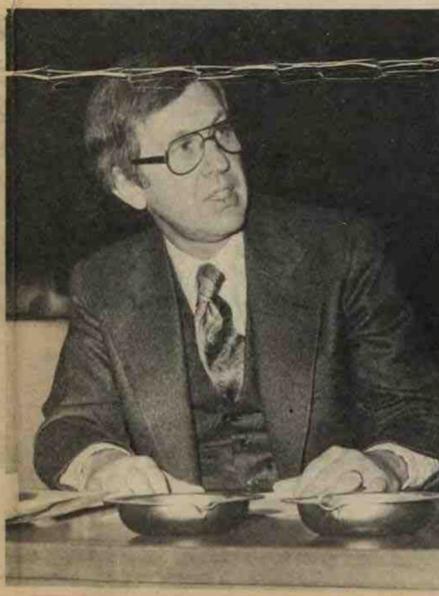
And this is where Illinois Power Company, and our friends the Commerce Commission, come in. We relieve you of the burden of deciding what power company you want to buy your electricity from. There is no confusion, no stress, no "keeping-up-with-the-Joneses." You and all your neighbors use electricity from the same company. What a feeling of community this creates!

But we also keep you from having to sweat and stew over even more complicated and bothersome decisions. For instance, when we're thinking about rate sales, the question comes up, "What's more important to a community, its business and industry or its everyday citizens?" Now, that's a hard one isn't it? Aren't you glad that we aren't asking you to worry about it? We aren't: we've forged bravely ahead and made the decision for you. That's why business and industry pay only half the rates you, the average residents, do--to keep your community healthy and strong.

Another example comes to mind--involving even graver and more difficult questions. These are the questions, "How safe are nuclear power plants? Do we want one built near our city?" If we threw these questions in your lap, you'd have to spend tiresome hours going over all the research on nuclear power, and spend sleepless nights worrying over all the unfortunate mishaps at nuclear power plants all over the country. But we don't want that--we at IPC know that our customers are busy, involved citizens, and can't afford to lose any sleep. So we've plowed through all that

boring research for you, and decided for you that the risk is worth taking--we're working on a nuclear power plant near Clinton right now.

When you consider how IPC is making these important decisions for you, it's only natural for you to sometimes wonder if maybe you should be having more say in matters--to doubt whether IPC is doing all it can in your interest. And like a true friend, we reassure you in



Meanwhile, a real true-to-life representative of the Power Company read a not-so-moving speech pleading for more money for impoverished Illinois Power Company stockholders. The only one not to crack a smile at the pie-throwing incident, he sputtered, "Mr. Chairman, this is a cheap attempt to make a mockery of this hearing!" After the Chairman stopped laughing, he ruled that Mr. Barwald's statement should be left in the record.

these times of doubt. We use part of our money to put display ads in the newspaper reminding you how wonderful IPC really is. If you're worried about ecology and conservation, your mind can be soothed by our ads telling how hard we're working to encourage energy management. Your club can even get a free speaker from IPC to reassure all of you about the intelligence and concern of our company. And remember, this money we spend on ads and speakers could go for profits or lower rates--but instead, we're spending it for your peace of mind. We think it's worth it.

And finally, we at IPC try to provide you with those "little extras." We know that in 1974, even at peak demand, our customers only used 63% of our existing generating capacity. That means that we could've produced 37% more electricity, but no one needed it. Doesn't that make you feel secure? Well, we like it too, but we aren't stopping there! No, we want to build even more plants, like the one at Clinton, so that we can generate much more electricity than anyone will ever need--especially if the trend toward energy conservation continues. And built right in to the basis of the 15% rate hike we're hoping for is the chance for you to pay for the construction of these extra plants.

And here we come to the very heart of friendship. As your friend, Illinois Power Company depends on you. We know that we can trust you to pay the bill we send, no matter how high it is, because, like friends, you can't do without us. When you write out that check every month, you can feel proud that you're supporting one of the most profitable utility companies in the entire United States. We're asking for just about \$50 a year from each of you to continue the most valuable and long-lasting friendship you'll probably ever know.

Remember--we're only asking for higher rates from you because you rate high with us.



Here is Mr. Barwald, Imitation Power Company representative, after delivering his moving speech. One spectator was so moved he delivered a cream pie directly into Mr. Barwald's face. Unruffled, Mr. Barwald commented, "Burma Shave is my favorite flavor."

ANOTHER HAIRY RATE HIKE HEARING

It was a week for theater at public hearings on utility rate hike requests.

Just a day before an IPC official got a pie in the face at a Bloomington hearing (see adjoining story), a man in an ape suit attended a public hearing in Chicago.

The hearing, held to air opinion on giant Commonwealth Edison's bid for a several-step 14% electricity rate increase, heard several Chicago-area consumer and community groups object to the company's profit-grabbing plan.

The ape-suited man held a sign labeling himself: "King Kom, able to crush the rate payer at a single blow."

Taking his rightful place as a company representative, the hairy beast seated himself next to Commonwealth Edison's attorney, and began beating on his chest, screaming for more money for the corporate coffers.

This person is right. Industries and businesses, which now pay only about half as high rates as residents do, will not have a 14.7% hike.

Continued on Page 18



Consumers Attack Illinois Power's Rate Hike Request

Imagine a society in which many people must cut down their monthly food budgets in order to feed the bank accounts of an already rich private corporation.

You live in it.

Imagine a community of people who have the will and energy to strongly resist the development of that kind of society.

Luckily, you live in that, too.

People in our community asked the Illinois Commerce Commission to have a hearing here on January 17. The Commerce Commission is a group who watches over the doings of private companies that have permission to be monopolies in different areas of Illinois--like power companies, gas companies, and telephone companies. The Illinois Commerce Commission is supposed to keep these monopolies under control, since they aren't controlled by the pressures of competition like other businesses supposedly are.

Part of the ICC's job is to regulate the prices these companies charge for their services. So when the Illinois Power Company, which provides electricity for our area, decided that it needed about 15% more money from every residential household, the Commerce Commission

had to start figuring out whether the power company really needs that money or whether they're just being greedy. The Illinois Power Company can't raise its rates without the Commerce Commission's OK.

The hearing Jan. 17 was an attempt to convince the Commerce Commission not to give that OK. Lots of people came to give their support to those who spoke against the rate

hike. And almost everyone, including the Commerce Commission people, had a good time. There was one notable exception: a sharply-dressed mouthpiece for the Illinois Power Company who opened the testimony by slipping in a promo rap about how the power company just couldn't wait to get its fingers on our money--and use it for our own good, of course.

He was quite tiresome, and the crowd generously withheld catcalls, but one of the Commerce Commission people protested against all of us having to sit there and listen to IPC propaganda at a hearing meant for consumer input. But no one could get up much steam about taking his testimony off the record, probably because no one would seriously listen to the drivell very closely anyway.

The first consumer representatives to speak focussed on the nature of the conflict between IPC and its customers--the public vs. the private interest.

Public Interest First

"This commission, after all, must rule on what is in the public interest first and the private interest second," said Ralph Smith. He pointed out the effects of a 15% rate hike on poor people, retired people, and others on fixed incomes. Smith had discussed the problem with a retired couple whose electric bill will go up \$48-60 a year if the rate hike is approved. They said that since their small retirement benefits will not go up like everything else is, the only way they could meet the increase is to cut food costs.

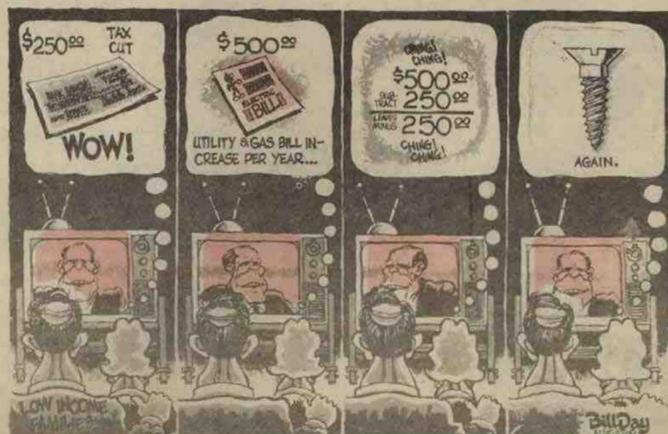
Another speaker, Mary Davis, a representative of the Wood Hill Ten-

ants' organization, demonstrated this problem very effectively. She brought a poster showing an elderly woman's present budget. The budget was already tight--it was clear to us even before Davis said anything that not even one dollar more could be squeezed out of her tiny income unless she just ate less. And she figured that the rate hike would cost her \$1.75 a month.

Smith summed up the dilemma by saying, "Obviously, power and food are necessities of life. No one should have to decide which it shall be."

Poor Feel Bite

The fact that poor and elderly people will really feel the pinch of a rate hike was supported by Francis Irvin. He knocked door to door on W. Mill St. and W. Jackson St. asking people to sign a petition objecting to the increase in electric rates. Irvin has carried many petitions on many issues door to door; this time, he met with absolutely no refusals to sign. He quoted nine residents' comments: they all reflected worry about making ends meet. One person said, "I hope the Commission doesn't approve the increase. They shouldn't approve it. Because it will be the working man and the poor people who will have to pay."



Consumers Attack Ill. Power -- Cont.

And the increased profits from the hike will go to investors who are already rich and could easily absorb slight losses, another speaker, Mark Silverstein, pointed out. He looked up the top ten stockholders in Illinois Power Company and found that they are all large banks, trust companies, and insurance companies. They are also all based out of state. These investors feel that they should be guaranteed high rates of return just because they had so much money to buy stock with in the first place. Silverstein asked whether we really want an economic system which requires more and more money from those who can't afford to pay and puts it in the pockets of those who could much more easily afford to lose. (We aren't even sure that the investors would really lose anything without a rate hike; they might just not get as high profits as they would like. At any rate, they won't be cutting their food budgets.)

Ill. Power Project

Ron Knecht from Champaign pointed out another inequality between consumer and company interests. Knecht is an organizer of Illinois Power Project, a statewide citizen's group that works for fair utility prices and rate systems. The Power Project has begged, scrimped, and borrowed in its efforts to get out documented information about the rate hike so that consumers could intelligently argue against Illinois Power Company's propaganda. Many people volunteered time to work on the project. On the other hand, the Power Company has at its disposal a huge advertising budget and paid staff with which to push its side of the question. (I'm sure that sharply-dressed mouthpiece I mentioned earlier was no volunteer worker.)



And Ralph Smith said in his speech that consumers aren't exactly pleased to know that part of their electric bill payments goes to pay for advertisements, lobbyists, and yes, even lawyers to argue IPC's case for a hike before the Illinois Commerce Commission. In short, we are paying the costs of IPC's pursuit of higher rates.

Smith also mentioned that although the power company claims it supports "energy management," many of its ads are actually anti-conservation because they encourage people to use more electric appliances and lights. Then the company turns around and claims that the solution to high demand for electricity is not to cut back, but to build more fuel-gobbling power plants--with our money.

And the solution, they claim, to the scarcity of fossil fuels is to build nuclear power plants--with our money. But I wonder what their solution will be when a nuclear mishap poisons all the crops, animals, and people with radioactive activity. A big electric shower will dig us all under?

The Commerce Commission hearing really showed that we aren't ready to go down yet. --Phoebe Caulfield

LAST-CHOICE TRANSFER CENTER SOON TO COME

Cold Comfort For Bus Riders

In August of 1976, Bloomington-Normal City Transit asked bus riders to fill out a questionnaire stating their preference for a new permanent central bus transfer stop. 459 riders voted. 248 bus patrons chose Main Street (where the transfer site is now) as their first preference.

The Bloomington City Council chose Front St. for the permanent site (See *Post-American*, Vol. 5, No. 6, October 1976, "City Council Says: 459 Bus Riders Can Be Wrong"). 29 bus riders voted for Front St. That's only six percent of the voters. What's more, 376 of the 459 riders listed the Front St. site as their last choice.

Pete Weber, manager of Bloomington and Normal City Transit, says that construction will begin within six weeks for the new Transfer Center on Front St.

HEATLESS

Two bus shelters are planned for each transfer site (Eastland, Normal, Front St.). These shelters are three sided with clear-view slides and a partition on the front for a full wind break. Sounds good? Well almost--sorry, though, they will have no heat!

These shelters are conveniently located far from any downtown merchant which is to their liking. Downtown merchants were complaining of the "RIFF-RAFF" (poor people) who cluttered their stores and sidewalks and made use of their precious heat to stay warm while waiting for city transit-- but didn't buy anything.

So now, instead of standing inside of the doors of a warm store, bus riders must wait in freezing-cold shelters. Who does that make happy?

However, Bloomington City Council claims to have made a decision in our best interest.

One should be careful of any other surveys that the City of Bloomington might request us to fill out. Who knows what decision might be reached?



Perhaps when called upon in the near future, survey-ees can be one step ahead and use reverse psychology, and cast their votes against what they really want. Who knows, we might get what the public wants. -- AEL

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Good Eatin RECIPES

19

Wheat-Lentil Pilaf

Preheat oven to 350
3/4 cup lentils
1 teaspoon salt or kelp
3 tablespoons oil
1 medium size onion, chopped
1/4 lb. mushrooms, sliced (optional)
3/4 cup bulgar wheat
1 teaspoon thyme
plain yogurt
chopped green onions or chives

1. Bring water or stock to a boil, add lentils and salt. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.
2. Heat the oil in a large skillet. Sauté onion, mushrooms and bulgar until the onion is soft--about 5 minutes. Stir in thyme.
3. Pour the lentil mixture with water over the wheat mixture.
4. Mix thoroughly and place in a buttered casserole dish.
5. Cover and bake at 350 for 20 minutes.

Serve with yogurt and green onions or chives. Makes 3 servings.

This is a good recipe when you are tired and in a hurry. Tastes delicious. A good substitute for mushrooms, to change the taste, is green olives.



Swiss Chard-Almond Loaf

Preheat oven to 350
1/2 lb. Swiss chard (kale, spinach, or beet; tops can also be used)
1 medium-sized onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 cup oil
2 cups ground almonds (walnuts can also be used)
1 cup dry whole grain bread crumbs
1/2 cup wheat germ
1 egg, beaten
2 table spoons chopped parsley
1 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon cumins
1/2 cup catsup
1 tablespoon tamari soy sauce

1. Wash, chop and steam greens for 5 minutes, using only the amount of water which clings to them after being washed.
2. Sauté onion and garlic in oil.
3. Grind almonds in blender. (If you don't have a blender just put the almonds in a sack and pound it with a hammer).
4. Combine almonds, crumbs, wheatgerm, egg, greens, sauteed onions and garlic. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well.
5. Pack into well-oiled 9x5x3-inch loaf pan. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes. Serve either hot or cold.

Yield: 1 loaf

Almond Crunch Cereal

Preheat oven to 225
3 cups uncooked, old-fashioned, rolled oats
1 1/2 cups dry coconut shreds, unsweetened
1/2 cup wheat germ or soy grits, if preferred
1 cup sunflower seeds
1/4 cup sesame seeds
1/2 cup raw honey
1/4 cup oil
1/2 cup cold water
1 cup slivered, blanched almonds
1/2 cup raisins (optional)

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine rolled oats, coconut, raw wheat germ or soy grits, sunflower seeds, and sesame seeds. Toss ingredients together thoroughly.
2. Combine honey and oil. Add to dry ingredients, stirring until well-mixed. Add the cold water, a little at a time, mixing until crumbly.
3. Pour mixture into a large, heavy, shallow baking pan which has been lightly-brushed with oil. Spread mixture evenly to edges of pan.
4. Place pan on middle rack of a preheated oven and bake for 1 1/2 hours, stirring every 15 minutes. Add one cup slivered almonds and continue to bake for 1/2 hour more, or until mixture is thoroughly dry and light brown in color. Cereal should feel crisp to the touch.
5. Turn off oven and allow cereal to cool in oven. If raisins are to be added to cereal, do so at this point.
6. Remove cereal from oven--cool and put in a tightly covered container. Store in a cool, dry place.

Yield: 8 cups



Cranberry Drink

2 1/2 cups apple cider
3/4 cup raw cranberries, washed
1 banana, peeled
1/2 cup sunflower seeds
1/2 cup red stawberries, fresh or frozen (unsweetened)

1. In an electric blender, combine ingredients in order listed. Blend until smooth. Yield: 4--6 servings.

Spinach and Rice Casserole

Preheat oven to 350 F.
2 cups cooked brown rice
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
4 eggs, beaten
4 tablespoons parsley, chopped
1 teaspoon salt
2 lbs. fresh spinach, washed, drained and chopped.
1 tablespoon oil
4 tablespoons wheat germ

1. Combine the cooked rice and cheese.
2. Add eggs, parsley and salt.
3. Stir in the raw spinach and pour into an oiled casserole.
4. Top with wheat germ which has been mixed with the oil.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 35 minutes. Yield: 6-8 servings.

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How To Encourage (Or How To Make Sure New

Sewers are dull. They hardly ever do anything exciting.

But sewers are necessary. They carry away the nasty gunk that seems to appear wherever people live or work.

In modern times, new sewage systems have even become essential. Without them, the original sewers (which are still sometimes called rivers) would become clogged and gunk swamps would multiply like humans.

In the bad old days, of course, businessmen hated sewers, and it didn't have anything to do with their dislike of filth. It costs money to turn ordinary gunk into improved gunk that fish can breathe.

Fortunately, the businessmen of McLean County have discovered that gunk that kills fishes will eventually get them too. And once men of wealth admitted that sometimes gunk must be improved, it was easy to prove to them that growth of commerce and industry meant more people producing more gunk.

So it came to pass that on Jan. 24 the Bloomington City Council approved the construction of a \$1.14 million sewer system for the southwest side of the city, the area surrounding the Interstate 55 and 74 interchange.

Naturally, the McLean County Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI), an ill-concealed front for businessmen, supported the project. The ACI expects sewers to lure more industry to town.

NO BOWS

That's where the ACI got its argument. Part of the GE Valley area was supposed to be reserved for industrial development. Instead, the lumberyard-developer-contractor monopolies built residential subdivisions which brought in profits on three levels (land sales, building materials, and construction costs) instead of simply one (land sales to industries).

Still, it is true that the new sewer doesn't require new taxes or new borrowing. The city floated \$1.4 million worth of bonds in 1975 for the construction of all four systems.

The idea was to build the sewers in stages. The money spent on the first stage would gradually be recovered by charging the eventual users for their share of the actual construction costs. Then that money could be used on the next stage and so on. In the end, the city will be (theoretically) left with \$1.4 million and four new sewer systems.

The City Council, of course, didn't bow to business pressure. It had already agreed to a vast sewer expansion in 1974, and the new sewer was just one of four projects in that expansion.

Two of those projects--the GE valley sewer and the Ireland Grove sewer--have already been completed on the city's east side. In fact, the GE Valley sewer is or soon will be in full use because subdivisions have oozed over the land like, well, like gunk.

What really happened is that the people of Bloomington collectively borrowed \$1.4 million and the city is using it to bankroll sewer construction. That could be a commendable collective effort.

PEOPLE

The problem is that the first three sewers alone can accommodate the addition of 26,750 more people than the city had in 1974. That's a 50 per cent increase in population, but the McLean County Regional Planning Commission expects the city to grow by only 11,000 by 1995.

The Commission's executive director, Herman Dirks, thinks the city is building too much sewer capacity. Or as City Manager William Vail (a supporter of the new sewer) puts it: "Some people say that realistically we won't live long enough to see all the money returned" by developers.

Vail also says that the general guideline for spending money on projects like this is that the money be recovered in 20 years. Obviously, Dirks doesn't think it will be.

There may be other arguments in favor of the sewer, however.

First, the city might be able to beat inflation (or rising costs of resources) by buying now. That's a hard one to argue against.



Second, with the opening up of a new area for private development, new subdivisions containing "moderately" priced family homes may be built. In fact, one developer is already interested in a 100-acre tract and may build modular (pre-fabricated) housing that would cost \$20-\$25,000 per house. (That's compared to \$40,000 and up on the east side.)

SWARMING

The third reason is really a growth theory: build sewers and the developers will follow. That's the heart of the ACI-business argument. They say industry would swarm into Bloomington if only the industrialists knew they could dump their gunk into good city sewers.

Now, industry is attractive to city financial planners because it produces more revenues than the city has to pay out in services--theoretically, at least. The reasons behind that theory include: the fact that commercial businesses collect sales taxes, part of which are returned to cities; the fact that a lot of expensive machinery and buildings in a small area yields more property taxes than do houses; and the fact that factories seldom send their young machines to school.

Unfortunately, the growth theory has some holes. Industry didn't flock into the GE Valley while it was still zoned for industrial use. Nor does industry love areas with high income levels and low unemployment levels because those things mean industrialists have to pay reasonable salaries. Nor do large corporations (like General Electric) move into new areas without first negotiating special deals for tax breaks and the like.

Furthermore, even the city manager expects the new sewer area to be at least 50% residential, a fact that limits the amount the city can expect to gain from any industrial migration.

And, since the area is expected to be mainly residential, the new sewer system has been designed for that kind of use--which means any industry which wants to get rid of an unusual amount of gunk can't use the sewers until they are redesigned.

CHOICES

Although the city started down this road of sewer imperialism in 1974, it wasn't required to build the southwest sewer. It could have left the \$1.14 million in its sewer accounts. Or it might have paid off some of the bonds. Or it might have used the money for something else.

But any of those courses would have upset the business community, and some council members might not have been re-elected.

Besides, the existing businesses in the new sewer area (Beich's, Laesch Dairy, and Howard Johnson's, among others) thought the city had promised them sewers. The men who own those businesses are fairly influential. (Jack Snyder, the owner of Howard Johnson's, has city officials scampering to change major traffic and street plans, just to get a road to his potential shopping center property east of U.S. 66.)

In fact, the main reason the city is building this new sewer this year instead of next year or the year after is that the businessmen want it now.

Reasons for that attitude aren't hard to find.

The private sewage treatment plants of all three businesses mentioned above are, according to the city engineer, inefficient and overloaded. And the state Environmental Protection Agency is trying to close down just such private plants.

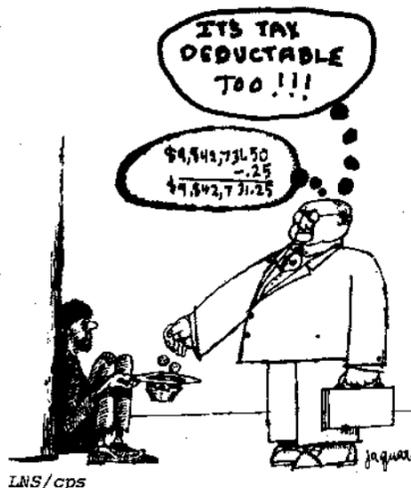
Growth Through Sewers Disposed Of) Is Properly Wealth

So eager are the businesses in the area to get their gunk into city sewers that they've pledged more than \$300,000 in tap-on fees (the fees that allow the city to recover the cost of the sewers) within three years.

PROFITS

Of course, there may be profit motives involved here. Beich's, for instance, owns 117 acres in the new sewer area. Now and then businesspeople go out there and look over the land, and they ask when they're going to get sewers. Now Beich can tell them: two years--because Beich's is going to pay \$50,000 the first year for a sewer to its own plant and \$50,000 more each of the next two years for sewer capacity to cover nearly 70 more acres which Beich's wants to sell or lease.

It may be of interest that Beich's bought the land in the early sixties and that land around the Twin Cities is now selling for \$10-20,000 per acre.



(It's also interesting that Beich's tap-on fee is \$1500 per acre only because the city included another 150 acres in with Beich's 117 in figuring the fee. It's reasonable, of course, to design sewers to serve the whole natural drainage area, but Beich's fee would have been over \$3000 per acre had the 150 acres not been part of the same drainage area. At one city council member remarked that the extra 150 acres may never be developed--which means the city will never recover \$225,000.)

Obviously, the new sewer system makes all the land it serves more attractive to developers. Attractive land is more costly land, and the people who benefit will be the landowners--like Judge Wayne Townley Jr. and State Rep. Harbor Hall--and any developers who already have options on the land.

INJUSTICE

But there are other injustices in this system that paves the way for profitable private development with public funds.

First, the availability of sewers provides incentives to expand into the new area. (The profits are ready to be reaped.) That means the ultimate loss of some farmland, but more importantly it means pressure to abandon older, deteriorating areas--especially if the monied population isn't growing fast enough to fill the new area naturally.

So, if the council wanted to give the west side an equal chance at expansion--equal, that is, to the burgeoning east side--it may have created conditions which instead will only encourage further private neglect.

Second, the policy of growth perpetuates the status quo. Certainly, some of the wealth of a flourishing local economy will trickle down to the lower classes, but the substantial advantages will go to the upper and middle classes. Some examples:

--Even a "moderately" priced new house is expensive. The payments on a house costing \$20-\$25,000 will be over \$200 and very likely as high as \$250 per month--plus utilities. In any case, a lot of modular housing on the west side would very likely keep the city's geographical class structure the way it is.

--Only established merchants and relatively rich people have the capital and the credit to profit from a booming economy. It takes money to start or expand a business.

--Exceedingly few landowners, developers, or construction moguls can be considered to be poor. There will be no redistribution of wealth hereabouts, no sirree.

QUESTIONABLE

Finally, the whole idea of using the relatively limited borrowing capacity of the city to promote growth that benefits the richest segments of the population most is something that is terribly suspect.

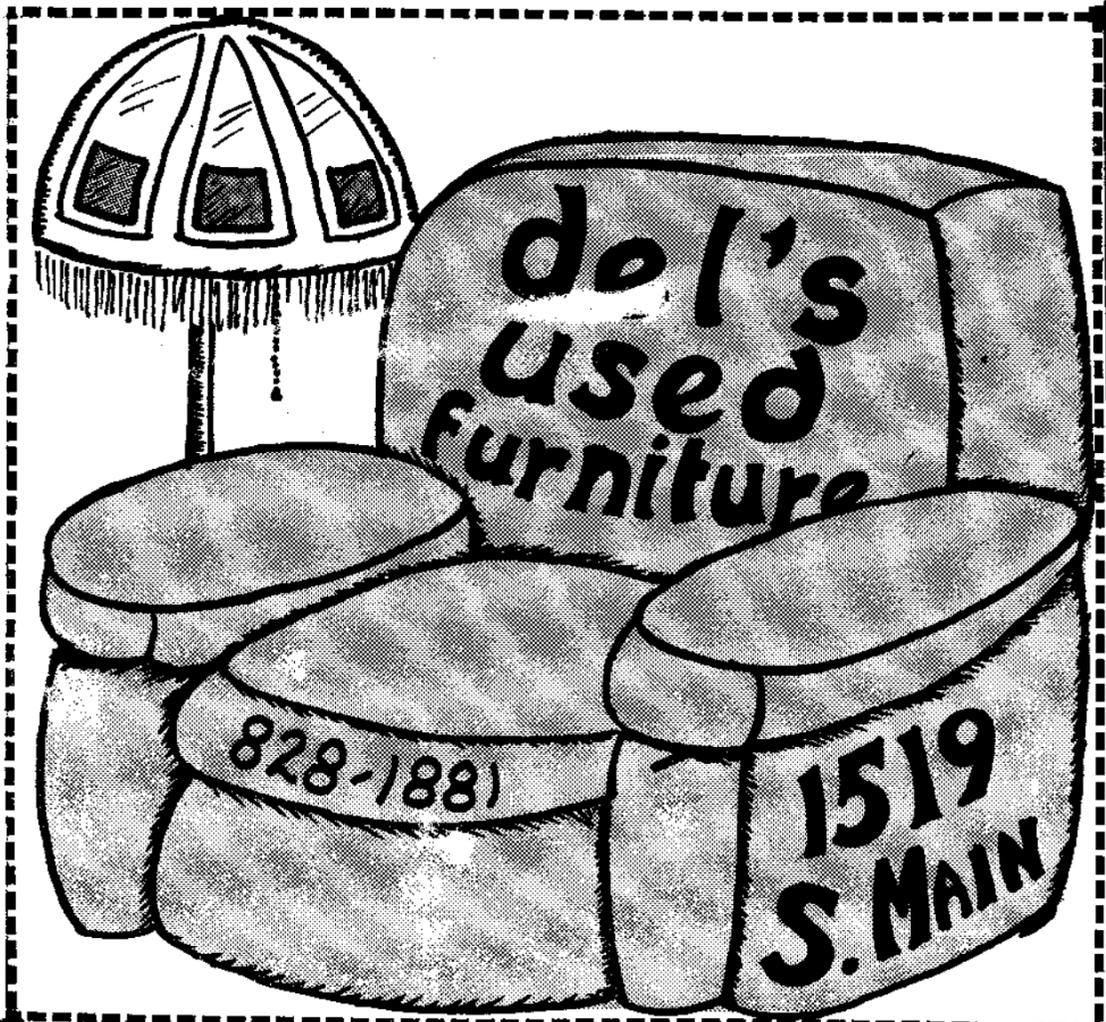
If the city hadn't borrowed \$1.4 million to build sewers, it could have borrowed to build its own low-income housing--instead of cooperating with federal programs that encourage profit-making private developers to do the much-needed building and to take their profits off the top.

Or the city could have financed more parks. Or recreation centers.

Instead, the city promotes growth. Growth which may well bring greater prosperity, but a prosperity that will trickle down to the people who most need it only after a good portion--say 95 percent, if national averages can be applied--of that prosperity and new wealth has gone into the pockets and bank accounts and investment portfolios of the rich and the middle class.

But political "lives" have been protected, and that, apparently, is more important than helping people in need.

It's just the same old gunk. Not exciting. Not surprising. Just sad.



Local Activists Gather

"We have come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
"I Have A Dream" Aug. 28, 1963
Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C.

On a cold, snowy white Saturday, a small group gathered at Sunnyside Community Center to honor the birthday of slain activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Politicians, activists, clergy and just folks joined in. They spoke words of honor and promise that flowed with warnings that the battle was far from won, Republican politicians rubbing shoulders with street-marchers.

Officially entitled the "Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Brunch", the event was organized by the Bloomington Human Relations Commission (HRC) to honor King and bring together community elements that don't always agree (like street marchers and Republican council members).

The first annual "Martin Luther King Jr. Awards" were presented to Merlin Kennedy, local NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) chairperson, Caribel Washington, a member of the HRC and the McLean County Historical Society and Robert Tate, director of the Transit System and a real estate speculator.

Although individuals like Merlin Kennedy and Caribel Washington are rarely recognized, giving awards seemed incongruous with Dr. King's spirit. In praising Robert Tate, no mention was made of any significant aid to human rights.

"I don't want a long funeral.
...Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize, that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred awards, that's not important. ...I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody."

"The Drum Major Instinct"
Feb. 4, 1968
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Instead, he was honored for "building Eastland shopping center" and "keeping State Farm Headquarters in town." Noble deeds, perhaps (at least if you own Eastside property), but what has this to do with justice?

The five activists, Francis Irvin, Robert Sutherland, Merlin Kennedy, Jack Porter and the guest speaker, Samuel Parks, had a different story. All five left a determined image that the struggle was far from complete.

Irvin remembered a Bloomington childhood and felt "proud living in the North, not the South," until Bloomington segregation became apparent.



Black people were relegated to the backs of theatres and denied access to the "better" restaurants and hotels. Not allowed at Miller Park Beach, blacks had to use the inadequate east side of the Miller Park lake until two young girls died there.

The famed black poet Langston Hughes visited Bloomington in the 1930's and was denied access to the Illinois Hotel. Black residents could expect only low-paying, no-status jobs, like janitor and cleaning woman. Blacks were never found clerking in downstairs stores, nor at State Farm doing more than pushing brooms.

Bob Sutherland, one of the "Twin Cities Six" arrested during an anti-police brutality march on the County Jail in October 1974, spoke about the campus mood.

Sutherland explored the popular image that student activism is dead and a 50's mood reigns. Feeling this false, he cited significant "structural changes" in students' attitudes, attitudes obscured by economic recession. Students, concerned about current problems, feel despair, sensing that "the clocks are running out."

Students now are concerned about getting a good job, he said, but what happens when all these new business and accounting majors find a glutted job market? Sutherland predicted a "new activism", centering around economic issues, which would be more intelligent than the 60's movement.

Merlin Kennedy, an award recipient, delivered a short and powerful statement. Although great strides have been made, he warned that "the progress we've made hasn't been that great."

Jobs were Kennedy's main concern, noting that the black community has "gotten a few jobs in the factories, ...but they're underemployed. They're hired in a position and they die at that position."

"As in so many past experiences,
our hopes have been blasted, and
the shadow of deep disappointment settled upon us. We have no alternative except to prepare for direct action, whereby we would present our very bodies as a means of laying our case before the conscience of the local and national community."
"Letter from Birmingham Jail"
April 16, 1963
Birmingham, Alabama

Beginning "I feel more comfortable in the streets," Rev. Jack Porter of the Community for Social Action spoke of "No justice without struggle."

Porter sensed continuing struggle, saying "it isn't enough to be morally right, we can't rely on anyone else to achieve justice for us." He cited the local housing cases local gay rights struggle as instances of inequality, necessitating mobilization to defend.

Erotic Movies

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THE BLUE ROOM

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YOU MUST BE 19 OR OLDER

Ladies Welcome

at Martin Luther King Memorial

Although the day honored Dr. King, Porter explained there "could be no Martin Luther King without a Rosa Parks." Rosa Parks, the black woman who refused to move from her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1954, catapulted Dr. King into international fame through the Montgomery bus boycott. Porter was conscious of the need for all to fight, and not rely upon leaders to fight for us. In the future, he expected people to demand more say in decision-making.

Guest speaker Samuel Parks, an administrative aid to Democrat Cecil Pardee, traced the struggle for human rights through American history. Strongly attacking the "proto-facism" of Nixon, who "appealed to the appetites of white, chauvinistic America," he felt that the dreams of equality were not lost during Nixon's years, and through a united black-white effort they could be completed.

"Where were those voices when the lips of Governor Barnett dripped with words of interposition and nullification? Where were they when Governor Wallace gave a clarion call for defiance and hatred? Where were their voices of support when bruised and weary Negro men and women decided to rise from the dark dungeons of complacency to the bright hills of creative protest?"
"Letter from Birmingham Jail", 1963

"I felt strange" commented an activist after their talks on struggle, while city council members squirmed and Mayor Walter Bittner smiled wanly. What side were these men on when Dr. King marched through the streets? Or in the City Council motion of Nov. 4, 1974, praising the Bloomington Police Department for "unusual restraint" during the County jail protests, replete with beatings and the arrest of one of the "activist" speakers?



ABOVE: Some of the speakers at the King memorial brunch. If they look bored, it's because they are.

"You warmly commended the Birmingham police force for keeping 'order' and 'preventing violence.' I doubt you would have so warmly commended the police force if you had seen its dogs sinking their teeth into unarmed, non-violent Negroes. I doubt that you would so quickly commend the policemen if you were to observe their ugly and inhumane treatment of Negroes here in the city jail,"
"Letter from Birmingham Jail", 1963



But, strange gatherings are common in election years, and Mayor Bittner can proudly declare "I am mayor of all the People" and applaud the activists. But what stand will they take at the next eviction? Or when urban renewal clears out another block of homes? Will they march proudly alongside in a street demonstration?

Also sadly lacking was a large Black turnout. Perhaps the weather could be blamed, or the fact that it was organized from City Hall. The HRC should be commended, it was willing to distribute free tickets to the poor. The inclusion of a more festive atmosphere, with local choirs or drama, could help spark the event. The "Essence" Dance Group of Sunnyside did a beautiful interpretive dance of three songs.

At the least, it was inspiring to hear from the activists and realize their commitment to continuing struggle, as Jack Porter said, "Every victory is followed by another challenge." And the Establishment's presence was a recognition of social change, no matter how they might try hindering it.

MgM

"Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content, will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. ...The whirlwinds of revolt will continue until the bright day of justice emerges."

"I Have A Dream" Aug. 1963

Avoiding Ripoffs At The Drugstore

The main thing for any consumer to remember is that the more expensive product is not necessarily the better one. Advertising often tries to convince us that a more expensive name brand product is better, when in reality it is about the same as a much less expensive alternative.

Also, advertising tries to create a "need" for a product, when in reality the product may be relatively useless. Several examples of this can be found in drugstores. In aspirin, for example, an inexpensive brand of aspirin is just as effective against headaches as the more expensive kind--all generally contain 5 grains of aspirin per tablet.

In deodorants and anti-perspirants, any spray which only has a deodorant is useless in stopping perspiration, and its covering-up effect will probably only last a few hours. An anti-perspirant (non-deodorant) in non-aerosol form is probably the best buy.

Mouthwashes are also a ripoff generally and to be avoided. The reason is that bad breath is largely caused by food in the mouth, which can be remedied by regular toothbrushing. All that mouthwashes do is cover up bad breath for about a half an hour--since mouthwashes don't kill all the germs in the mouth, they quickly re-multiply despite its use. By being critical in these and other areas, consumers can avoid at least some of the ripoffs they confront daily.

DB

WINCE TV SERVICE

103 N. ROOSEVELT ST.

MOST PORTABLES REPAIRED IN 24 HOURS

WORK ON MOST SETS

**\$12.50 MIN.
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**SERVICE
CALLS
\$15.00**

NO STEREOs - NO TAPE PLAYERS

WE TELL YOU THE COST BEFORE REPAIR

PHONE 829-3221

Community News

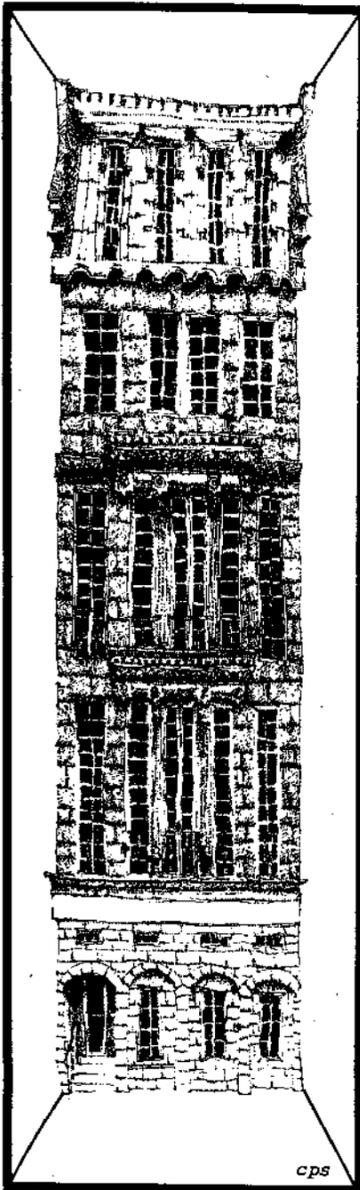
Women's Center

The next two meetings of the Women's Center of McLean County will be on Feb. 22 and March 8 both on Tuesday, at 7:30 PM. The meetings are in the Ping-Pong room, downstairs in the Wesley Foundation. (the First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School; use the back door.)

Everybody's bringing their favorite song, and we're all gonna start off the meeting by having a good time. After that, general business will be covered, and then small groups will form to define and discuss what we each mean by crisis center and cultural center.

Child care will be provided. Call 828-3662 or 828-3550 if you'll need to use the service, if you'll need a ride to the meeting or if you want to offer a ride.

People are welcome to bring cookies, crackers or other munchies.



COMMUNITY FOR SOCIAL ACTION

There is, in the Bloomington-Normal area, an organization fighting for "truth, justice, and the American way." Its members and supporters are dedicated to "leaping over tall buildings in a single bound" in order to assure that "institutions become more responsive to human needs or are replaced by ones which are." That organization is the Community for Social Action. This column seeks to give you a regular update on our activities.

January 18, 1977 was a frosty night outside Bloomington City Hall, but a hot night for Illinois Power inside where six CSA members joined about ten other spokespersons before a hearing officer from the Illinois Commerce Commission and an audience of 75 McLean County residents to protest a proposed electric utility rate hike.

Entered into the record were statements about the impact of higher bills on the poor and about the unfairness of a rate structure that rewards the high user and that asks customers to absorb a monopoly's advertising costs and to advance the company money to build another plant. A strong warning was also sounded about this rate hike's relationship to the company's construction of a potentially dangerous nuclear power generator near Clinton.



As a summary statement indicated, it is high time for both the Commission and the companies it regulates to devise new utility structures which protect the poor and take into account the long range social impact of company actions. As a member of the McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike coalition, CSA will continue to monitor the ICC hearings until its decision is announced in three or four months.

CSA continues its vigilance in the Bloomington-Normal area in behalf of the farm workers. The very latest word is that the boycott of head lettuce, table grapes and Gallo wines is still on nationally. The United Farm Workers have won more than 50% of the contracts for head lettuce, so please check for the Black Eagle label of the union on all boxes of head lettuce before you buy. The total boycott of all table grapes and Gallo wines continues in full force. CSA continues to urge everyone in this community to respect the boycott.

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

Available at the NEWS NOOK (Bloomington) and DIVINYL MADNESS (Normal) or through Illinois Friends of The New Voice P.O. Box 824, Bloomington, IL 61701

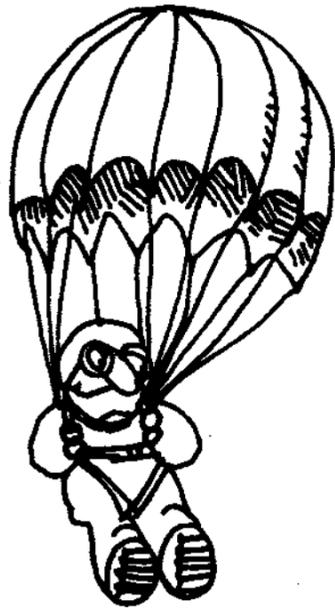
Also published by THE NEW VOICE (TNV) and available through Illinois Friends are the following pamphlets:

- IMPERIALISM TODAY:
AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS 25c**
- THREE ARTICLES ON THE BRIBE 25c**
(exposes the theory that the American working class is "bribed")
- THE ISSUE OF FREE SPEECH 25c**
(why the working class opposes free speech for racists like William Schockley)
- REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY IN THE U.S. . . 25c**
- DEFEAT THE NATIONAL QUESTION LINE IN
THE U.S. AND UNITE TO FIGHT RACISM \$1.00**
- FIGHT THE CRISIS 30c**

GOOD NUMBERS

If you would like your service or organization's number listed, call us up at the Post-Amerikan office at 828-7232.

- Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
- American Civil Liberties Union 436-6709 or 452-3634
- Community for Social Action 452-4867
- Dept. of Children and Family Serv. 829-5326
- Dept. of Health, Ed. & Welfare (Social Security Admin.) 829-9436
- Dept. of Mental Health 828-4311
- Gay Action/Awareness Union (community) 828-6935
- Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 438-3411
- Ill. Lawyer Referral Service 800-252-8916 (toll free)
- Kaleidoscope 828-7346
- Lighthouse 828-1371
- McLean County Health Dept. 829-3363
- Men's Rap Group 828-6935
- National Health Care Services (Abortion Assistance; Peoria) 691-9073
- Occupational Development Center 828-7324
- Operation Recycle (after 5:30 p.m.) 452-8530
- PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help; also # for Parents Anonymous) 452-4422
- Planned Parenthood 827-8025
- Post-Amerikan 828-7232
- Project Oz 827-0377
- Public Aid 829-7057
- Rape Crisis Line (through PATH) 452-4422
- Small Changes Alternative Bookstore 829-6223
- Sunnyside Neigh. Center 827-5428
- Unemployment Compensation/Employment Office 827-6237
- Youth Services Agency 827-6241
- Home Birth 828-7986
- National Runaway Switchboard 800-972-6004 (toll free)
- WJBC Action Line (for government and consumer problems) 827-2000 1-2:00 PM Monday through Friday



SMALL CHANGES

True to its name, Small Changes Bookstore is continuing to grow and to change. Our energy is going to people as well as to books. There will be a discussion of the Men's Movement at Small Changes on Tuesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. Jack Davis and Chris Smith have agreed to share some of their thoughts and views on the subject and they hope others will too. Everybody is welcome. Please call 829-6223 if you plan to come.

The past month has brought other changes too. After the cold freeze of early January which kept downtown Bloomington deserted, the warmer (?) weather brought lots of new faces to Small Changes. Several people left their mark with us by drawing on the paper covered walls in the backroom. Others, not so creative, merely left their boot prints on the floor. No matter how it was expressed, we thrive on the encouragement which the community has shown us.

Thanks to this support, we have been able to increase our stock. As new books arrived and took their places on the shelves, some of our old favorites seemed to be forgotten in the shuffle. Obviously we needed more display room, so we moved in another bookshelf. Although all this may seem like small changes, that's what we're all about!

Community News

CLASSIFIED ADS

I need to find a place to live real soon, preferably with one or two females, for around 90 dollars. Call Lynn Carter at 828-3662.

FOCUS '77

Check out Women's Week at ISU, March 7-11. Watch for the program announcements. For more information call Judy or Lisa at 454-1860.

Project Oz Drop-In Center

Project Oz, Inc., is a social service agency that focuses on a unique segment of our society--the youth. Many people pay lip service to kids and paint them as bright, free and oriented toward "the good life." But many kids are going through society's cracks and these are the street kids, the counter culture kids who get their identity, acceptance, and security out on the street from their peers. We, at Oz, attempt to focus on and reach these kids through several programs. In the coming issues of the Post-Amerikan, we will be discussing these programs, their concepts, goals and hopes for the future.

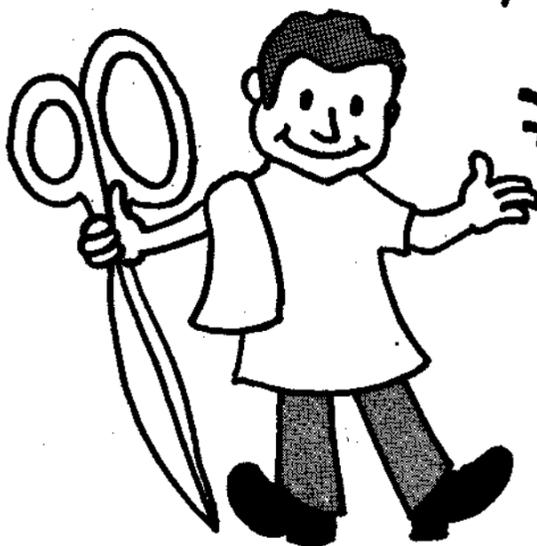
One of the programs at Oz is the Drop-In Center. The "Drop," as it is known, is an alternative to the street. We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7 to 10, and we average between 40 to 50 kids per night. Generally, the kids hear about the Drop through word of mouth and come by to check things out. When a kid comes, s/he finds an atmosphere in which s/he can relax and be at ease with him or herself and others around. The average age of the kid that we see is 15, but our range is from 12 to 18. The kids and the staff try to bring in programs that most, if not all, the people can participate in. We have a half-hour radio program on WESN on Wednesday evenings, and we have coffeehouses with live music. We also offer swimming, arts and craft sessions, hay rides, music lessons, basketball, football, and just sitting and talking and allowing the kids to express ideas, hopes, and values. Through these activities and many more, we attempt to show the kids some direction and a better sense of themselves through their own efforts.

The Drop is definitely for and by the kids. Its existence is necessary for those who have been turned off or down by the society around them.

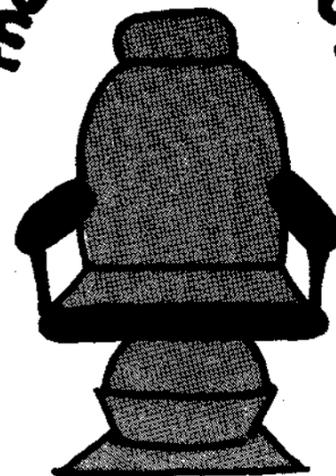


Organizing/cpf

The Gastons invite you to patronize their newly relocated barber shop



the uppercut



1203 1/2 S. Main Normal

Free Parking
9-6 Tues. - Sat.

Just walk in or make an appointment
Two barbers working

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

26

Sadder, but no Weisser*

Dear Post-American,

This fall it was our misfortune to visit Weisser Union Optical Company of Bloomington in an attempt to purchase a pair of adequate soft contact lenses for my wife. At the time she was experiencing some difficulty in wearing the hard lenses she had worn for some seven or eight years. We hoped soft lenses might both improve her vision and reduce the irritation.

The kind folks at Weisser told my wife that although she might not be able to obtain suitable soft lenses, they would be happy to try to fit her prescription for a slight fee of \$315 (this supposedly included a professional discount). This fee covered the cost of her appointments, the soft lenses, and the necessary equipment with which to perform daily sterilization.

She was promised that if she had difficulty seeing after wearing the lenses for a while, \$200 would be cordially refunded (\$115 would be kept to cover costs???)

After obtaining her lenses from Weisser my wife dutifully wore them, but found that she couldn't see at all in one eye because of the lens. It was returned and another was given her in its place some two weeks later. Again, she was promised that if, upon wearing them for a few weeks, they were not correct, the agreed upon sum (\$200 of \$315) would be returned. I must stress here that there was NEVER any mention of a time limit with respect to the return of the lenses. According to the helpful woman at Weisser (Pat) it could take a few weeks for my wife to "adjust" to the lenses.

Next we move forward to the fatal day of the 31st on which we contacted Weisser to let them know that my wife could not "adjust" to them, and that her vision was worse, not better. Pat cheerfully explained that 30 days had passed and that we were stuck with unusable contacts. After a brief argument Weisser magnanimously offered to allow an exchange for a pair of hard lenses (the reason we tried soft ones in the first place). We did this in order to salvage something out of our great loss. (What students can afford to lose \$315?)

The final appointment was set for November 20, 1976. The soft lenses and maintenance equipment were returned. My wife spent a whole five minutes in the office getting her new hard lenses. No measurements were taken; no eye exam was given. Instead the woman simply wrote down the old prescription from the original hard lenses my wife wore before visiting Weisser (Another reason we were there; in hopes of a better prescription).

In addition when my wife requested clear lenses (like her old ones), Pat at Weisser refused, offering only green or brown. Only after some argument did my wife finally get permission to order grey (which was as close to clear as she could get).

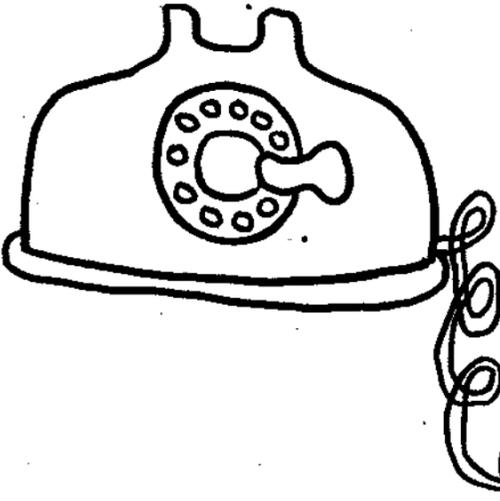
Again we are waiting for the new lenses to be made. From August 1976 to December 1976, my wife has not been able to see as a result of this. We are being charged the whole \$315 with no refund as promised. Instead we have to settle for a pair of incorrect hard lenses which probably didn't cost them much more than \$11 (verified by other people in the field).

Finally the service was at best shabby, at worst deplorable. It is our hope that any people interested in optical care beware: you could be the next victim of Weisser.

Charles Smith
Jude Smith

We've Got Your

Number, Gen Tel--



People,

I am with you in your struggle against Gen Tel. I am not one to sit back and just talk about it, though. I say we join together and do something about it.

One way I know of to combat Ma. Bell's high rates is by using credit card numbers. A credit card number is a sequence of numbers followed by a letter which allows you to charge the call to that number. It is

pretty easy to make up credit card numbers if you have the key (which is changed yearly). I understand that it is illegal to print the code in Illinois, but other states don't have such repressive laws.

I know of two papers who print the code yearly and if people are up for this action, they can write to these people and explain their situation. Maybe you could enclose a donation to cover any expenses. I'm sure that they will understand and help you out. Very conveniently, they also print a fine collection of credit card numbers belonging to many multinational american corporations. So if you're into ripping off Ma Bell and IBM at the same time, feel free.

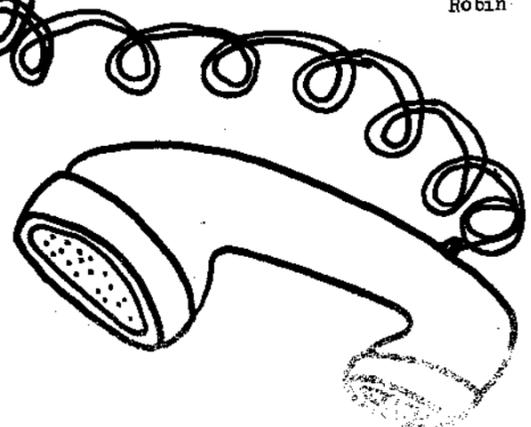
The addresses for the papers are: Yipster Times, PO Box 392, Canal Street Station, New York City, NY 10013; and Take Over, Box 706, Madison, Wis. 53701. Included with the code are some instructions on how to use the numbers and some rules to play by. Follow the rules to the letter and you'll have some good raps with some far away people.

If you don't have anyone to talk to, you can call for the time and temperature in San Francisco and London.

This letter was written with the hope that together we can form an underground network of phone phreaks with one thing in mind, a free phone system.

If other people have other suggestions, I hope they will feel free to write too.

Thanx.
Robin



DOWN IS UP!

Question: SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL NEXT FALL TO PURCHASE A DOWN JACKET?

Answer: If you have the \$\$\$ available now and delay your purchase because spring is near consider the following fact:

FACT: The great demand for down and the short supply that European down processors have will result in down prices skyrocketing as much as 60% by fall 1977. It is a fact that the price of down garments will increase at least \$10.00 by September 1977.

RECOMMENDATION: Wildcountry still has a number of down jackets that can save you money if you purchase now!



516 N. Main
Bloomington

Mon-Fri 10-8 Sat 10-6

020-3621

Fight Back!!

Dear Folks,

I'd like to reply to Mark Valentine's letter in the December issue where he questions if the Post falls short of its duties to its readers, in not organizing more radical tactics against the nazi fascism of this area.

It's my opinion that the Post is doing pretty much all it can as a newspaper. The info it gives us is invaluable; and believe me, that's all I need to get enraged at the pigs of this area. The responsibility for taking arms against this sea of pig troubles lies with the individual. It's our duty to organize revolutionarily, and personally, I think there are a lot of people out there who are ready to strike back at the pigs for what they've done to us. The Post and the ACLU are

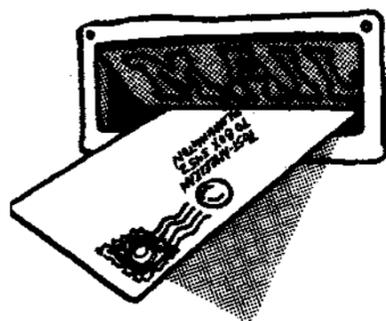
but a few of the above-ground methods to combat oppression legally; its silly of us to ask them to form a guerrilla unit too--that's up to us.

To all radicals out there with the fire of freedom in their hearts--the time is now to fight back, the second Amerikan revolution, and maybe this time we won't evolve a police state in 200 years. But please, try to use respect for life by not using deadly force. Killing is wrong in any society.

Yours in comradeship,

P.S. Please withhold my name, 'cause from here on in, I'm going underground.

P.P.S. Alot of us radicals (hell, All of us) love the Post and wish you people all the love and luck in the world.



Post Bums Out Reader

Wow, I'm having difficulty getting a grasp on just why your Jan.- Feb.1977 issue had such an impact on me.

Perhaps it is the physical distance or the fact that I have not been there for several months or even my own personal alienation from much that makes B-N tick but, still, the issue was a negative trip to me.

The new jail, public housing, Illinois Power, United States Post Office, police brutality, Ralston Purina, county judges, moralizing Pantagraph, MEG and General Telephone-- and that only covers one-half of the issue!-- in heavy, negative, pessimistic and critical tones. The impression is one of abject misery and

gross negligence, malfeasance, criminality, greed and stupidity. Is there really so little positive going on that it cannot be written about also? Are you really comfortable in this "heavy" role? Do you as a collective see any way out?

I'd like to make an observation and then a suggestion. First of all there is a sense of guilt and envy that seeps out of articles of such pessimism. Whether by design or accident a good article reveals much about the writer as well as the subject. There is a sense of unreality and immature romanticism in articles that paint in only black and white. I suspect the majority of Bloomington-Normalites are "generally" satisfied with what goes on. They are pursuing their own personal goals as you are yours. These goals are personal choices with practical consequences and, on balance, they are getting what they want.

One suggestion, as you preview the proximate future. Why not set some practical objectives to alleviate what you consider the top 5 - 10 priority areas in B-N? I'm more than a bit suspicious at the bleeding heart that cries "wolf" but will not or cannot sit down and plan practical steps to alleviate misery or injustice.

Sincerely,
George Metzger



Tax-Payers Ripped Off By County Jail

Post Note:

We had an article about Dennis Pleines, the author of this letter, in our last issue. He's the one who filed suit to make Sheriff King give him the County Jail Standards booklet. As you will find out if you read this letter, Pleines won his suit. You'll find out other things too, so why not go ahead and read it?

Dear Post-

I'm writing this letter explaining some things in here that I feel should be made public. The tax-payers in McLean County Jail are being misled and misused. People complain about taxes, but don't understand how they're being used. These are just a few ways tax-payers are being ripped off through the McLean County Jail.

First of all, there's this problem with a leaky, or I should say constantly running, shower head. It's not only a matter of wasting a natural resource, but it makes it very hard to fall asleep for some prisoners. I'm sure some people know how hard it is to fall asleep with a dripping faucet; well, this is a running shower head. Also, the water is hot water to boot.

Because of the concern of another prisoner and myself over this foolish waste, we decided to find out approximately how much water is wasted. We took a one gallon bleach jug with the top cut off and held it under the shower-head, and counted the number of seconds it took to fill a one gallon jug. It took 90 seconds to fill one jug.

Now that is 2 gallons every 3 minutes, which is 40 gallons of hot water per hour. I'm sure it costs to heat water too. It wouldn't take over 5 minutes to fix. You wouldn't need a plumber to fix it, and I'm sure it wouldn't cost but a couple of bucks.

Everytime we bring this to the guards' attention, it seems just to amuse them. I've been here since October 13, 1976, and it's been constantly running. I've talked with prisoners who've been here for 6 and 7 months, and they say it ran all that time too. At 40 gallons an hour, that's a bunch of hot water. It's definitely not a matter of the officials not knowing about it, because there's a guard who walks past it at least 3 times a day. It's just another matter of not caring.

Another matter is Liz Slusser, who claims she is the Case Worker for the jail. She claims she is here to help the prisoners if she can. When I talked to her she interrogated me like she was a detective, then promised me that she would loan me some books which were personally hers. She also told me that if I had any problems that she would help me because that was her job.

It's been 2 months since she promised me those books. I've reminded her in that time and just got excuses. I've

talked to some other prisoners that she told she would get books for, but she never did it for them either. So you know what kind of trust I could have in her to ask for anything after that bald faced lie. If she's what she says she is, a Case Worker for the McLean County Jail, then it's a shame to keep someone like that on the payroll.

There's a man here Wesley Weber Jr. who claims he's the warden. He's probably the most useless one in here besides King. Whenever I ask him a sensible question I've gotten nothing but a nonsense answer. He's forever putting off a question with the excuse he has to ask the sheriff, or that it's up to the sheriff. He's the man that I asked for some legal material my lawyer brought me. He said he had to ask King first. That was one day; the next day, he said he had to ask the States Attorney, but he was out of town.

That runaround went on for about two and a half weeks before I finally had to file a suit to get the material. I asked Weber if he would sign a paper saying that he was refusing the material to me. He said that he wasn't refusing it to me, but that he just wasn't allowing it to me. That's the kind of ridiculous answers he comes up with. It seems like the County's paying just to keep a foolish person here to waste everybody's time.

Another waste of the tax-payers' money is the food here. I can't see anyway there is over \$2.00 a day spent per prisoner for food, although I don't know exactly how much money per prisoner is allowed. I've been trying for 2 months to get a copy of the jail standards, which states how much money is allowed per prisoner. All I've got is excuses thrown in my face.

I'm not going to get into the cold, poor quality of the food. Although when we complain about the food to the guards, they say they eat it. Liz Slusser told me personally that she eats it every day. If they do eat it--are they supposed to eat food funded from the allowance for the prisoners? A trustee here told me that the jail receives 40 gallons of milk per week. Out of that 40 gallons, the prisoners only get one cup each a week, on Sundays. So if we only get one cup a week, then where the hell is the rest going?

I'm writing this information hoping it may be of some help on putting these people out in the open. Incidentally, I have won the suit for writ of mandamus filed in Judge Wayne Townley's court. Although the judge has told King to give me the copy of the Illinois Jail Standards which he is holding, he still hasn't turned them over to me yet. My attorney said that King wanted to give me a copy of his own version. Today I had to write Judge Townley to take further action, to make King release the material.

--Dennis W. Pleines



UFW Boycott Continues

The boycott of non-United Farm Workers (AFL-CIO) table grapes, head (iceburg) lettuce and Gallo Wines continues.

The boycotts, in effect since 1973, have kept the Farmworkers alive and effective, and together with their determined spirit, have brought them close to victory.

The boycotts were first initiated after the bloody summer of 1973, during which over 3,000 farmworkers were jailed in California and two shot. Previously, there had been a nationwide grape boycott from 1965-70, which resulted in the UFW's first contracts. These contracts were lost in 1973 when the growers refused to re-negotiate,

and instead signed back-door "sweetheart" contracts with the Teamsters Union, which the workers never approved.

Although constantly threatened by corporate interests, the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which insures California migrant workers the right to free secret elections to determine the union bargaining agent of their choice, is still in effect. Through it, the union has advanced from 11 contracts covering 4,500 workers in 1975 to 55 contracts with 20,000 workers today.

Presently the union is gearing up for a massive organizing drive, hoping to win contracts for 100,000 workers in the next two years. If this is successful, California migrants will win decent wages, medical care, hiring halls, health and safety protection, a pesticide ban and an end to child labor--and most importantly, their dignity.

This drive is the union's dream for the next two years. It will only become a reality with your help. The Union is \$300,000 in debt, and financial contributions are needed.



And most especially necessary is your continued support of the boycott. The boycott insures the leverage of economic necessity, forcing corporate growers to treat the workers respectfully. Through the boycott's success and the workers' determination, a jurisdictional agreement will soon be reached with the Teamsters, allowing them to gracefully bow out.

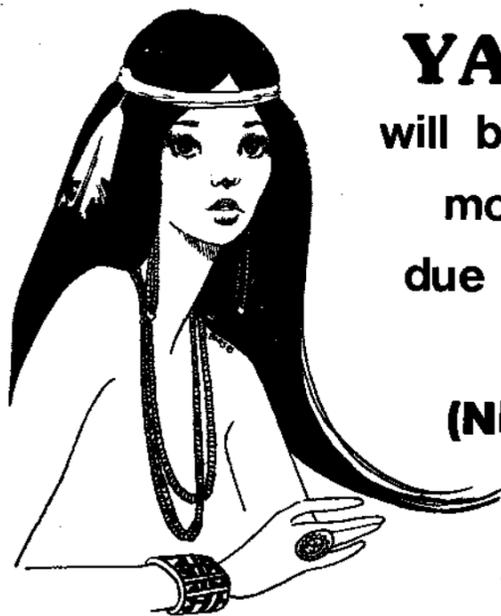
But the contracts still have to be won back. So please, only buy union picked produce. When shopping, look for the black eagle and the words or initials UFW-United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO) before you buy table grapes or iceburg lettuce. Also boycott Gallo wines (all wines bottled in Modesto, California) until the Labor Relations Board decides the Gallo case. Si Se Puede (It Can Be Done) is the Farmworker's motto. Please help us win justice in the fields. Gracias.

For info on the UFW or the boycott, or to arrange speakers or presentations, please contact the Newman Center, 452-5046.

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Gridley Officials Do 'The Hustle'

29

The Post-Amerikan has a reputation for reporting stories that no other media will touch--stories that are just as true as what President Carter said yesterday (?), but that are usually seen as too controversial or too potentially explosive for other media to handle. This is one of them.

We have received two letters and several documents from Mr. and Mrs. William Scheel of Gridley. They write that their son, a student at Gridley grade school, was hit in the face and head by a teacher there, and they have tried to get school officials, the State's Attorney, and the sheriff's police to deal with the incident, without getting any satisfaction.



cpf

Their son, Lonnie, got into a scuffle at school with another boy. A teacher came along, broke up the fight, and according to the Scheels, "grabbed my son's arm and beat him in the face with her hands, without even finding out what was going on." The Scheels also state that during a conference with the Superintendent of Schools, the principal, and themselves, the teacher "admitted that she had grabbed and struck my son in the head for saying something smart to her." The teacher told a Post reporter that "My superiors, who I'm accountable to, have not seen that it (the incident) requires any more action."

But who is accountable to the boy's parents? On Dec. 17, they went to the Sheriff's police and were allowed to sign a complaint. The police also took pictures of the son's marks, which the Scheels say included "dug-in fingernail and ring marks." They were also told that anything having to do with a teacher was up to the State's Attorney. Ronald Dozier, the State's Attorney, wrote the Scheels a letter promising a "thorough investigation" on Dec. 30. On Jan. 4, he wrote again, saying that the investigation was completed and "the situation does not merit the filing of criminal charges." The Scheels wonder how thorough the investigation really was, though, since their witness to the incident, another schoolboy, was never contacted, they say.

Lonnie Scheel was suspended from school for three days following the incident. The other boy in the fight was not suspended. However, the Scheel boy had been involved in other fights at school before. Perhaps his reputation for making trouble was what kept school officials from inquiring too seriously into his charges against the teacher.

Unable to correct their son's situation at school, Mrs. Scheel wrote a letter to the Pantagraph telling the story. Liston (the editor) wrote back saying the news department had investigated her letter and found "probable cause for the disciplinary action taken against your son." Liston rejected her letter.

The Pantagraph, the State's Attorney's office, and the school officials were confronted with a touchy situation: a child accusing a teacher of physical abuse. But they should ask themselves how much their decisions about the case were influenced by considerations other than fact-finding:

What if the Scheels were prominent and powerful community members?

What if the Scheel's witness had been an adult, not a child?

What if it had been the teacher who accused the student of striking her? Would a child witness at least be contacted?

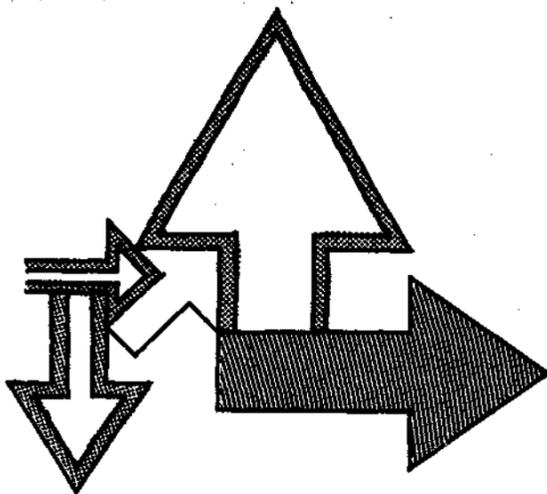
What if Lonnie Scheel had been a perfect little student up until the incident? Would charges of a teacher striking him seem more serious then?



"I must be a mushroom because people keep me in the dark and keep feeding me sh.t."

FPS/cpf

Note: The teacher, Ms. Joan Comincioli, did not wish to comment further on the incident.



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B-1 Boondoggle

Within the next few months, the Pentagon will seek Congressional approval of the \$92 billion B-1 Bomber program.

The B-1 will replace the B-52, which saw production from 1948-61 in our "triad" defense program. The "Triad" is the Pentagon word for a three part nuclear weapons system, based on ICBM's (Inter-continental Ballistic Missiles), nuclear submarines and manned bombers. Supposedly, with this system, we are "safe" from destruction, since if one system is inoperative, the other two will retain their destructive capabilities.

Meanwhile, the airwaves have been full of "Red Scares", as stern Pentagon analysts warn us that the "Russians are ahead." This is followed by a call for more weapons and a larger defense budget.

Somehow, it seems odd that the Russians are putting such heat on us. Aren't these the days of detente? Aren't Chase-Manhattan and Pepsi-Cola opening their Moscow branches? Then why do we need these new weapons systems? Two reasons: Corporate profits, and for use in "tactical" (non-nuclear) warfare.

\$100 Million Profit

The B-1 will be built exclusively by North American Rockwell, General Electric and Boeing. Both Rockwell and Boeing are in poor financial shape, but according to the Wall Street Journal (6/6/73), Rockwell stands to make \$100 million from just five test B-1's. Boeing has already been bailed out by Congress.

Strategically, if we did have a war with Russia, it would take the B-1 eight and one-half hours to reach it's Soviet Union target. ICBM's would have reached theirs within 30 minutes. In other words, we could launch eight volleys of ICBM's (with multiple warheads) before a single B-1 drops a bomb.

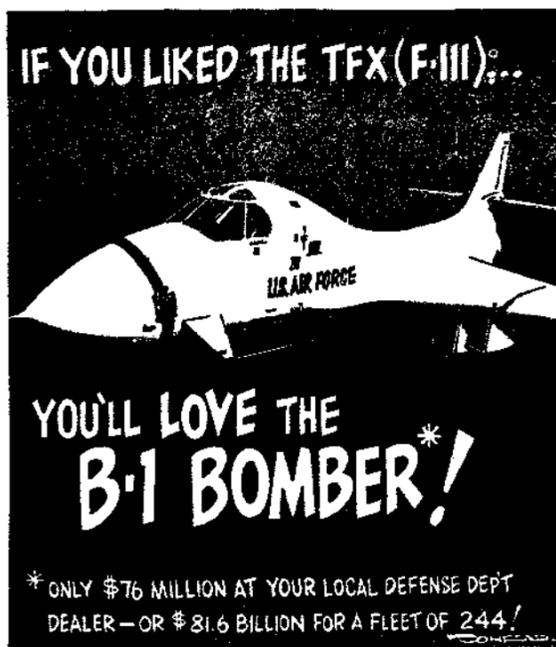
Then why the B-1? The B-52 was devastating in Vietnam. The Pentagon, fearing involvements in Vietnam-type wars, would prefer to fight without committing ground troops. Thus naval aircraft and manned bombers could be used to intimidate smaller Third world nations.

The B-52 was a sitting duck in Vietnam to the Soviet SAM missiles. It is hoped that the B-1, designed to fly at tree-top level at super-sonic speeds, could evade radar and anti-aircraft systems. However, there is one small catch. The B-1 might be able to evade radar, but even at that speed, it would be unable to evade birds. Can you imagine the damage a pigeon can do, splattering against a cockpit windshield at Mach 1 speeds? Or sucked into an engine intake?

So far, the Pentagon has paid for three different tests, shooting dead chickens at 650 miles per hour against B-1 mock-ups, without finding an adequate safety system. The Air Force has already lost five F-111's, the fighter counterpart to the B-1, to birds.



Obviously, the B-1 would have little use in a nuclear war, and might prove to be a sitting duck in a Vietnam-type war. At \$92 billion for the complete program (244 bombers), the B-1 will cost each taxpayer \$3,000 over the next 30 years. And that's without cost overruns.



The B-1 is defended by claiming it will produce jobs. However, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that if the same amount of money was spent in the civilian sector instead of the military, there would be 60 per cent more jobs. Military production employs high-salaried technicians and engineers-- imagine that money going to school teachers and construction workers.

Cleaner Environment

Let us suppose we were able to take that \$92 billion in national resources and put it to human uses. With a third of that amount, 24 billion (81.3 B-1's), we could do all of the following: reclaim all strip-mined land in the U.S., clean up the Great Lakes, pay for Washington, D.C.'s new subway, triple federal

support for mass transit systems, provide solid waste recovery plants for 269 urban areas, pay for the 1976 federal solar energy research project, pay for Project Independence energy research and increase by a factor of ten nuclear reactor safety research.

Or, to break it down further, for the cost of one bomber, \$86 million, we could purchase 2,000 busses or 2,500 railroad passenger cars, or cover the cost of operating Yosemite National Park for 21 years or keep all the environmental lobbying organizations in Washington in business until 1993 or hire 140 environmental engineers or city planners or transit system designers on a salary of \$15,000 per year for a lifetime career of 40 years each.

Defense?

In the name of "Defense" the Pentagon has escalated us on the road to destruction. A mere hundred years ago we only had gunpowder, rifles and our bare hands to kill each other. Now we can effectively level our culture within one-half hour. In the name of this kind of progress, the Pentagon currently gobbles \$110 billion of our national resources annually.

The B-1 is currently in limbo. In President Ford's final days, he approved construction of three demonstrations B-1's. Final approval rests with President Carter and Congress. Carter has voiced opposition to the B-1, but is wavering. Letters calling for peace conversion and the abolition of the B-1 should be sent to Carter, Senators and Congresspeople. For further info, please contact:

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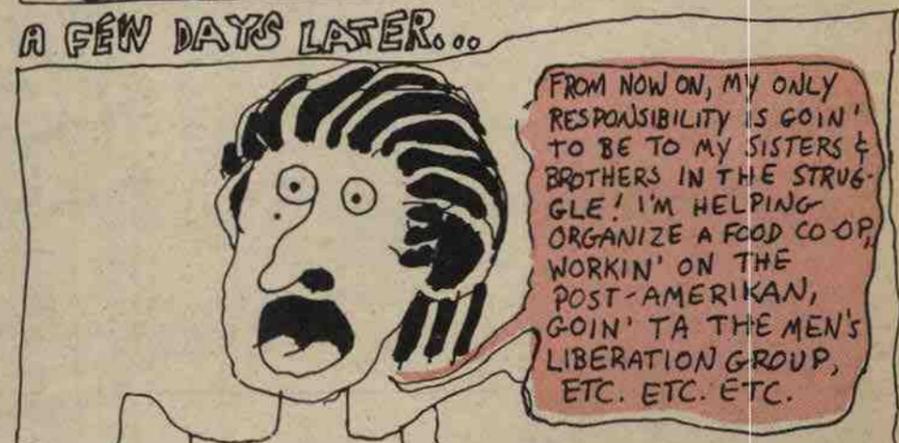
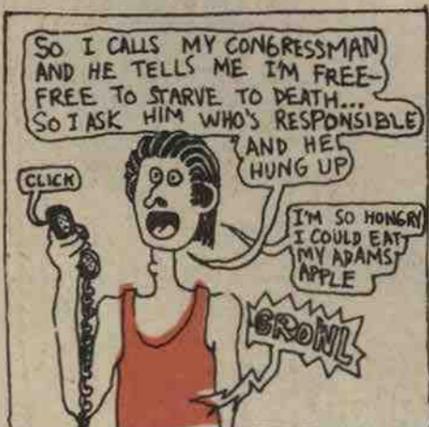
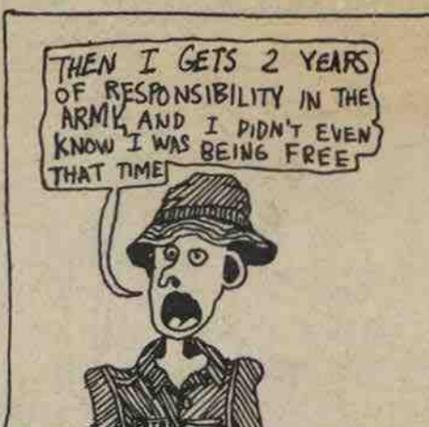
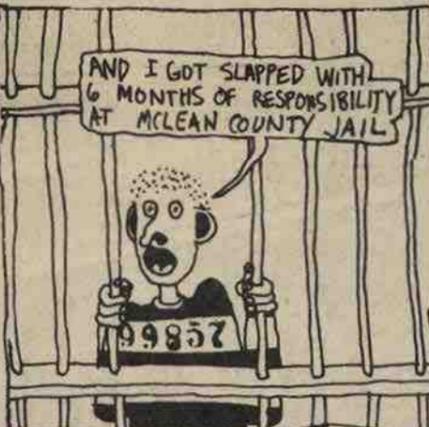
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