

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

11-1976

Volume 5, Number 7

Post Amerikan

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POST AMERIKAN

Vol. 5 No. 7

NOVEMBER 1976



Who Will Own the Sun?
See pages 16-17

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Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-American 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 art-

ABOUT US

icles that are timely, relevant, informative, 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-American 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, Nov. 5.....6:30 pm
 Friday, Nov. 12.....6:30 pm
 Friday, Nov. 19.....6:30 pm
 Deadline--
 Wed., Nov. 24.....6:30 pm
 Layout begins--
 Sat., Nov. 27.....6:30 pm
 Layout continues--
 Sunday, Nov. 28.... 6:30 pm

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- The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main
- Gaston's Barber Shop, 202 1/2 N. Center
- Sambo's, Washington and U.S. 66
- 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
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- Nierstheimer's Drug Store, 1302 N. Main
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- K-Mart, at parking lot exit
- The Blue Room, 803 Morrissey Drive
- Dairy Queen, Main & Miller Sts.
- corner of Main and Washington
- Econ-O-Wash, 708 W. Market
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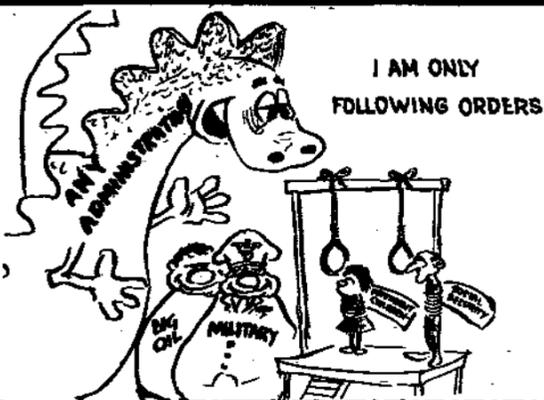
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"PEOPLE'S" BANK TO OUST NEIGHBOR BUSINESSES

PRIVATE MONEY FURTHER DETERIORATES DOWNTOWN

Citing maintenance problems with the building at the northwest corner of Center and Washington streets, "People's" Bank sent notices to nine Bloomington businesses on the last day of September, telling them they have to be out by March 1. Sometime after that date the building will be demolished making way for a ground level parking lot and a condominium-style office complex above the parking lot.

Downtown A Thing Of The Past

"People's" decision to evict these nine businesses should strike a familiar note as part of a general downward downtown trend the Post has been covering. Last spring the YWCA building on West Jefferson was demolished to make way for more parking space and a utility building for the Pantagraph. A year before that, the Pantagraph demolished Putman's Book Shop, a shop specializing in McLean County and Illinois history.

The list of displacements in the downtown Bloomington area is becoming longer all the time. When U.S. 51 was rerouted and became the north-south crossover, its major effect was to lead traffic smoothly and efficiently out of downtown Bloomington. Some businesses have closed down in the wake of inadequate parking and confusing traffic patterns downtown. Other businesses with sufficient resources simply relocate to an east-side location.

In the case of "People's" Bank's decision to annihilate another of its property holdings, one business in particular will have a tough time setting up another shop. John Monterastelli, the owner of Monte's Barber Shop in the newly-doomed building, told the Pantagraph he could relocate only if he could find space with low enough rent. "The old ones are torn down and in the new ones the rent comes higher," he observed while speaking with a

Pantagraph reporter.

Another tenant in the building, Don Hansen of Mace Printing and Office Supplies, has already been forced to move once before by "People's" Bank's "progressivism." His old shop used to be located at 114 N. Center--just where "People's" Bank wanted space to enlarge their drive-in teller system. So he moved to 204 N. Center, reasonably assured of a long-term business location. In fact, Hansen was so assured of permanency, he moved his entire printing shop into the basement of his present business location and had the first floor remodeled. In March, his business will again be uprooted.

Progress is Progress

Like ogres hiding in the background, "People's" Bank is exercising its power to lay a heavy on its tenants and neighbors in the doomed building. Chief Puppet, Assistant Vice-President, and Marketing and Public Relations Officer for "People's" Bank, Raymond Baxter, told the Pantagraph, "This makes us look like ogres, but progress is progress."

It would be ironic if PB's so-called progressive intentions proved a disaster for developer Jack Snyder, who will build the offices on the demolition site. When Snyder discovers nobody will rent the spaces because there is nothing attractive about downtown Bloomington, will he find a sympathetic ear from his neighbor across the street?

--Jeremy Timmens



ROLLING PARTY FOR CITY BIGWIGS

A birthday party on a city bus? Sounds fun; it would even be nicer if you had a city transit system at your disposal.

Robert Tate, the president of the board of directors, has the authority and uses it to his and his friends' advantage, sometimes even overlooking the safety and general use of city transit.

Fred Young, the Pantagraph sports reporter and editor, was surprised on his 84th birthday with a party on the bus. Robert Tate and friends boarded the Route 4 Eastland bus with cake and gifts in hand. Surprised regular bus patrons were invited to sing along with the rolling bus party.

Red Carpet Service

Robert Tate, beforehand, received special permission from City Transit management (his employees) to have the driver omit the regular stop uptown. Robert Tate felt it would be nice to take Fred Young to the front door of the Pantagraph. Fred Young then was awarded a life-long pass for the city transit.

The justification behind the life-long pass is that Fred Young has never been known to own or drive an automobile. He was riding for only 10¢.

It makes one wonder how many loyal bus patrons who don't have the executive status or executive friendship would be given this special privilege.

There have been bus operators who have driven for 22 years whose wives were never given a pass. It wasn't until two years ago that active bus operators' families were given the privilege to ride with no charge.

But the abuse of power continues. Robert Tate himself had a birthday in January of 1973. Robert Dooley, Tate's son-in-law, decided to charter a bus for Tate's 66th birthday. He invited the board members and families to help celebrate and have dinner on the city bus.

At the time of Tate's birthday party, the city had just bought 10 used 1952 buses. These buses had not passed the safety examination, but they had reverse gear, which the other operating buses did not have. The party bus needed reverse gear in order to back out of Tate's driveway.

The evening progressed as one would think, with one slight problem--the necessary reverse gear wasn't operating. So Tate and friends were called upon twice to push the bus in reverse.

Unsafe City Transit

Soon after, the 10 buses, who hadn't passed the safety examination, were needed for regular city transit. Robert Tate said "We will operate despite the lack of safety stickers." Safe, huh?

So for some time Tate's city transit was jeopardizing our lives with his unsafe buses.

This brings us to the time of the delivery of the 20 new long-awaited city buses. In November of 1975, Mayor Walt Bittner, Robert Tate, and city council members were the first to take a cruise on the new buses. They drove around with Walt Bittner at the wheel and city police escort to show off their new investment. It would be safe to say that city council, Robert Tate, and friends have fairly good control of OUR city transit. (see Post Oct. 1976, Vol. 5, No. 6, "City Council says: 459 bus riders can be wrong.")

If in the future, you have a special occasion such as birthday or anniversary, be sure to make your reservation. Make it a point to have your get-together on our city transit. Also, if you feel you have been a loyal bus patron, be sure to request a life-time pass; after all, we're eligible, aren't we?

--Michael



Cops Get Tough, Citizens

For those of you who read "Minor Mishap Ends in Police Brutality" in our August issue, this story will be same song, second verse.

Like Johnny and Sue Anderson, Ann Stanfield and Donald Dill were badgered, bloodied and bruised by Bloomington cops who were called to the scene of a car accident.



"Every time Rusk threw a punch, he just looked like it was Christmas."

Officer Bagnell, the Bloomington cop who beat up Johnny Anderson, was the first to arrive, on October 10th, to the scene of the accident, the corner of Washington and McLean. He called in the second unit, officers Rusk and Jenkins.

The police suspected Dill of being drunk. Without explanation, he was put up against the squad car, handcuffed, and put in the back seat of the squad with officer Rusk. Dill put up no resistance, verbal or physical.

Dill and the other driver involved in the accident, Neal Clausen, had exchanged drivers' licenses before the police arrived. The cops also suspected that Ann Stanfield, the passenger in Dill's car, had torn up Clausen's license. Officer Jenkins asked Stanfield if she had torn up the license and she answered no. He then took her out of Dill's car and began to frisk and handcuff her.

At this, Dill, who was already handcuffed, hollered, "You don't have to do that."

Officer Rusk said, "I've had enough of you, Dill," and hauled off and punched Dill in the mouth.

When Stanfield reached the squad car with Jenkins, Dill's mouth, face and shirt were bloody. She protested to Rusk, "How can you do that, especially in front of me? Do you think I'm so stupid that you can get away with this?"

Officer Jenkins answered her: "You better shut your mouth, little lady, or you're going to get some of the same."

Dill told officer Rusk, "You're pretty tough, hitting a guy with handcuffs on." Rusk's response was to bash Dill's head again and again and again against the back window of the squad car.

Jenkins and Stanfield had gotten into the front of the squad, and the four people took off for the police station. All the way from McLean and Washington to the station, Stanfield and Dill, both handcuffed, mouthed off to officers Rusk and Jenkins.

And all the way to the station, Rusk kept punching Dill and banging his head against the window.

Ann Stanfield says of that drive, "Every time I turned around, Rusk was throwing punches. And every time he punched, Rusk just looked like it was Christmas."

Stanfield and Dill were never told that they were under arrest and were not read their rights. They learned what they were charged with only after their release from jail.

When they pulled into the police station parking lot and stopped, Jenkins told Stanfield, "shut up and sit right there." He got out, went around the car, and pulled her backwards out of the car by her handcuffs. He stood with his feet planted where hers should have landed, deliberately causing her to fall and hit her head on the concrete, which resulting in a swelling.

Donald Dill protested and officer Rusk, further provoked, resumed beating Dill's head against the window, right there in the parking lot of the good old police station. Seems like the cops are never around when you need 'em.

Of course, their troubles were not over.

Dill asked to see a doctor and was refused.

Stanfield was not given her telephone call, although she asked twice.

Eventually, Dill, bloody, with a cut and swollen lip and a painful neck and head, and Stanfield were taken into the station by Rusk and Jenkins.

On the phone, Dill's lawyer was told that bond would be \$50.00 and Dill's license. When relatives arrived to get him out, the cops demanded \$175.



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Get Bloody

When the cops asked Dill to take an alcohol test, he said that he would if he could also take a second test with his lawyer present to witness the outcome of the test. On the test sheet, the cops just wrote REFUSED.

When Dill was uncuffed at the station, he told Rusk again what a tough guy he was, and Rusk, taking off his gun belt, asked, "Do you want to fight?" When Dill said sure, Rusk rushed out and returned with a bunch of other cops. There were four inside the room and several outside the door so Dill, wisely, refused to throw the first punch. The fight never happened.

Stanfield was put in a cell by herself. The woman who had been staying in it was moved to another cell with other women because Jenkins said Stanfield was "dangerous."

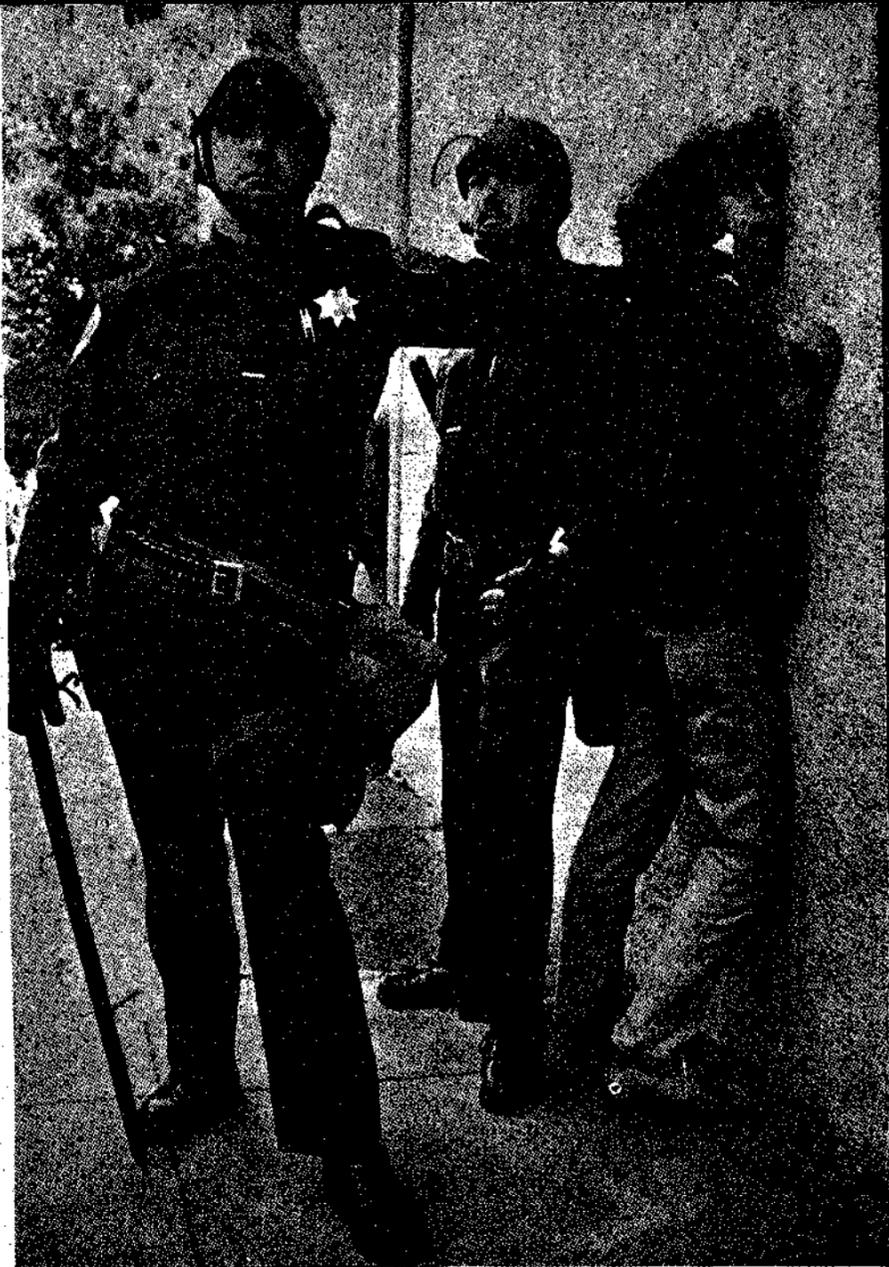
While Ann was urinating in her cell, a cop came and stood outside the cell. Watching her go to the bathroom, he asked, "Don't you know that tearing up a license is an offense?"

Cops refused to let both Dill and Stanfield fill out counter-charges or complaints about police brutality, telling them that they had to wait until after their own cases were settled.

While Dill was in jail, he was given only a hamburger and a small glass of milk to eat. Cops wouldn't turn the lights on, and he was allowed no cigarettes.

Only when Dill and Stanfield were released did they finally learn what the charges against them were. Dill is charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, and since Rusk beat him up, also disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Stanfield is charged with criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct. The written criminal complaint against Stanfield says that "he (sic) willingly, unlawfully and knowingly, ... did say 'look at the nigger isn't he tough' which act was done in such an unreasonable manner as to alarm and disturb Officer E. Rusk and to provoke a breach of the peace... against the peace and dignity of the People of the State of Illinois." This was signed by Elijah Rusk, possibly with still-bloody hands but a clear cop conscience.



Very heavy language in that statement. Even if Stanfield had said what she's charged with to officer Rusk, which she very strongly denies, it's pretty hard to believe that it would have "alarmed" him. Stanfield is five feet tall and was in handcuffs before she said a word to Rusk.

Oh well, one of the burdens of freedom is getting beat up, slandered and thrown in jail for it, I guess.

Dill and Stanfield would appreciate readers who have received this kind of treatment from Jenkins and/or Rusk writing to the Post and making it public.

Also, they would appreciate it if anybody who was driving by and saw Rusk punching Dill would get in contact with them.

Shots/cop

Dill would also like to make a public challenge to Rusk that they both take lie detector tests.

Police exist to protect the law, and the law exists to protect the private property of people who have lots of it. Even so, police do end up using their power to do other things besides protecting the haves from the have-nots, the property of the rich from the needs of the poor.

And one of the things that cops (lots of them) do with their power is abuse it by beating up people that they have it in for.

Sweet dreams.

--Alice Wonder

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School Board Tries to

The October 13 Board of Education meeting began tensely. About 75 teachers and citizens attended and sat quietly but nervously waiting for the meeting to begin. The nervousness was the kind you find when large groups of citizens gather to challenge a ruling body.

This time, members of the Bloomington Education Association (BEA) were there to try once more to persuade the District 87 Board of Education to re-open contract negotiations with the BEA (the teachers' union). What they got in response was an incredibly insulting 10-page statement from Superintendent of Schools George Stimeling and Board of Education President Norman Vincent.

But before we get into the meeting itself, some background information is called for.

What is the BEA?

Teachers formed the Bloomington Education Association in the 1960's to improve working conditions and to give teachers an organized voice in the system they work in.

The BEA is a democratic organization. There is one representative for every fifteen teachers in the system. Majority vote rules, and important issues are taken to the membership as a whole to be voted on. Membership in the union is completely voluntary. No one is forced to join the union, although the vast majority of teachers have joined.

In 1970 the Board of Education formally recognized the BEA as the bargaining agent for Bloomington teachers. No contract agreement was reached that year and teachers went out on strike for five days until the Board of Education got a court injunction forcing the teachers back to work.

Teachers are considered public employees, so legally they can't strike. Every year since 1971, the teachers and the Board have settled on a contract.

Every year until this year, that is.



Members of the District 87 Board of Education. Superintendent of Schools George Stimeling is standing at the far right. Board President Norman Vincent is seated at the left. Board member Jack Ingold was not present for the photo.

The Issues

Negotiations for the 76-77 school year started near the end of the last school year.

From the beginning, the BEA said salaries were not an issue. The members had decided to accept the 5.5% salary increase that the Board offered. (Inflation this year will be closer to 7 or 8%, so teachers were really accepting a drop in salary.)

The issues as far as the BEA was concerned were working conditions, the quality of education in Bloomington schools, and the teachers' rights as workers.

Last year, District 87 fired 75 teachers because of a money shortage. As a result, the remaining teachers found that they no longer had plan-

ning and conference periods and were having to teach up to six classes a day. The amount of work expected from them multiplied, but the amount of money in a paycheck didn't.

Ask any grade school or high school teacher what it's like to teach six classes in a row with no chance to prepare. (At one point in the meeting, a coach from B.H.S. told the Board, "I think I'm a hard worker, and I like to work hard, but I can't give my kids the kind of education they deserve when I have to teach six periods in a row.")

Students also suffer when their teachers aren't specially trained in the fields they teach. In the current negotiations, the School Board wants to get out of a clause in the contract which says they have to have teachers teach what they were taught to teach. If the school board has its way, English majors could (and do in many districts) wind up teaching geography, P.E., or some other subject they have no training in. The school board could get by more easily with its cut back teaching staff if it could shuffle them this way.

As if teachers didn't spend enough time babysitting--now the Board wants to make them professional day care workers, not teachers.

The teachers wanted: the right to be notified of any complaints about their teaching, teacher evaluations so they know where they stand with the administration, and the right to have a union representative at any disciplinary hearing to protect them from arbitrary administrators.

See the adjoining box for a list of the teachers' other requests.

From the beginning, the Board of Education didn't seem to want to deal seriously with the teachers' requests. Maybe their attitude was showing when their chief negotiator, Ronald Blake, took a three-week vacation in the middle of negotiations.

In the Board's final offer, they refused to talk about the teachers' requests.

The BEA voted not to accept the contract offer.

The only solution seemed to be a strike. Whether it was illegal or not, it was the only way to make the Board listen.

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Smash Teachers' Union

7

A strike vote was taken.

It lost.

So now we reach the present situation. The teachers went to work without a contract, but they still want one. (At one recent Board meeting, the BEA gave the Board a petition signed by 274 of the 315 teachers in District 87 requesting that the Board re-open negotiations. The Board ignored it.)

Meanwhile, at the meeting, Vincent and Stimeling sat back and listened to the union's pleas and made patronizing remarks, all the time knowing they will not negotiate.

The Key

Now we come to the key question. Why won't the Board negotiate reasonable demands, most of which won't cost the District a cent?

Because they realize that the time is ripe for union busting. They can smell it like wolves on the prowl, and they sense that now is the time to attack.

Why is the union vulnerable? In many ways, it always has been.

First of all, since teachers are "public employees," they don't have the rights that many other workers have. By law, the Board does not have to recognize their union or bargain with it. The teachers are dependent on the moods of the Board.

Secondly, since strikes by teachers are illegal, they have no force to back up their demands. If the Board doesn't like the union's offer, they can ignore it and set salaries, rules, and procedures that the teachers must accept, like it or not, or possibly lose their jobs by striking.

And third is the public image created by the Board that a strike or any job action taken by teachers "hurts our children," thus undermining community support for the teachers. Personally, I don't know of any child who would be hurt by missing five or even thirty days in our public school system. And I can think of several ways that arbitrary Board policies can hurt our children's education.

But now, back to the meeting.

Early in the meeting, Jan Cox from the Parents and Workers Committee to Save the Teachers' Union gave the

Board a statement of support for the teachers' union signed by 400 local working people. The statement read, "We, the undersigned parents and workers, declare our solidarity with the Bloomington Education Association (the teachers' union) in its dispute with the Bloomington Board of Education. We demand that the Board of Education accept the contract proposal put forward by the BEA." Jan said that in the neighborhoods they canvassed, over 90% of the people they asked signed the statement. She also said



cpf

that many people thought the union should have asked for more and should have gone out on strike when they didn't get it.

Jan said the canvassing shows that the teachers shouldn't be afraid of losing community support in their fight; most workers support them.

Apparently the teachers were hungry for this kind of support because Jan ended up giving away all of her copies of her statement to the Board to teachers in the audience and could have given away several more.

As for the Board, President Vincent asked Jan a couple of baiting questions and then moved on to the next items of business, having decided to ignore 400 citizens.

The Move Is Made

Next the Board considered several old Board policies to decide whether they should be revised or dropped.

Dull business, you say?

No siree, because this is where the Board's next tactic became clear.

Not satisfied with simply refusing to come to terms with the union, it was now obvious that the Board wanted to get rid of the union completely.

Of the 24 items that Ronald Blake, Supervisor of Employee Relations, suggested be dropped from the Board Policy Manual (the book they use to run the school district) 23 of them related directly to relations and agreement with the BEA. Blake also recommended that 21 of the 66 items that would go in the Manual be revised to drop any mention of the BEA.

In other words, they wanted the union out of the picture.

"Personal Views"

Now again, why were Vincent, Stimeling and the other Board members lurking around to pounce on the union?

The answer is that now it was politically expedient. They were pretty sure they could smash the union and get away with it.

It was at this point in the meeting that Superintendent George Stimeling offered the Board a statement of his "personal views" concerning the Board's dealings with the union. I put quotes around "personal views" because 75% of Stimeling's statement was a copy of an incredible paper written by Board President Norman Vincent in January 1975 "for board consumption" (definitely not for the public to see, until now). About all Stimeling does in his statement is agree with Vincent and add assorted insults.

Continued on Next Page

Additional Teacher Requests

--Recognition by the board that teachers have a right to protect themselves in case of unavoidable physical assault involving students.

--Board provision of legal counsel of a teacher's choice in cases of attack on a teacher while that teacher is performing his/her prescribed duties.

--Two personal leave days to be used for any purpose.

--Expansion of one-year leaves of absence so teachers can fill two-year terms as officers of teacher organizations.

--17 instead of 12 teacher-association leave days.

--Language dealing with "seniority bumps" on reduction of personnel. The Board wants to exclude probationary teachers and those working under federal grants from seniority bumping restrictions.

--Proposed pay options suggested by the BEA. These would give the teachers more flexibility in their finances.

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School Board Tries to Smash Teachers' Union (cont.)

Vincent's paper supposedly outlines the circumstances of the Board's decision to recognize the BEA, the history of negotiations, and his reasons for feeling that the Board should no longer deal with the BEA.

Really, it tells why the Board felt it had to give in and recognize the union, and why Vincent now feels they can get away with breaking the union.

Vincent's research concluded that the reasons the Board decided to bargain with the teachers in the first place included:

- 1) That it would be local people dealing with local problems and therefore desirable.
- 2) "Everybody else was doing it..."
- 3) "Pressures were beginning to be applied to the State Legislature to pass laws concerning bargaining in the public domain. In the late 1960's it appeared... that negotiations would be inevitable."
- 4) "The Illinois Education Association appeared to be pressuring local education groups, as well as the State Legislature, toward teacher negotiations."
- 5) "There was a teacher shortage in the late 1960's... By having a negotiated contract, District 87 would have a positive point to talk about in attracting new teachers. The existence of a negotiated contract would be evidence of the Board's genuine concern for teachers in the District."

(The underlinings are mine)

A Happy Family

Why are these reasons no longer valid, according to Vincent?

First of all, Vincent and Stimeling's main theme was that the negotiating process had created a climate of conflict and mistrust. "In fact, where a conflict situation does not exist it becomes necessary for the union to seek out conflict as a basis for justifying its existence." This sounds a little bit too much like the "We're-all-one-big-happy-family" propaganda used by many companies to keep workers in line.

Secondly, I guess everybody isn't doing it anymore.

Next, Vincent says the State Legislature still hasn't come up with a law requiring school districts to bargain with unions and probably won't in the near future. So the Board is in the clear as far as laws go.

With the teacher shortage a thing of the past, Vincent has this to say, "Now that the teacher shortage has disappeared, the need for a negotiated contract as an attraction for new teachers also disappeared."

Not having to worry about attracting new teachers, it seems the Board no longer needs to show a "genuine concern for teachers in the district," either.

As for the local people/local issues point, Vincent accused the BEA of being controlled by the Illinois Education Association. During the public discussion, one local union representative answered this beautifully.

"Yes, we use the IEA's consulting service," she said. "Why shouldn't we? We pay for it. But that doesn't mean we're run by the IEA." When Vincent expressed his doubts about this, the union member replied, "You've made an accusation and I've said it isn't true. What kind of proof do you want? Where's the trust you talk so much about?"

Not satisfied with accusing the BEA of being dupes for the IEA, Vincent then went on in his paper to charge that the union leadership didn't

really represent the feelings of the teachers. "Perhaps we are dealing with only the more vocal and active local teachers, while the viewpoints of other less outspoken teachers are being ignored or, at best, poorly represented."

Murmurs of protest rose from the audience at this slimy tactic.

When asked why he originally wrote the paper, Vincent said that he had had some personal, philosophical questions about the whole situation and that he just wanted to satisfy his curiosity and clarify his own feelings on the matter.

Come on, Norman, you can do better than that.

The End?

Well now, after sitting patiently listening to insult after insult, the teachers and citizens finally got a chance to speak. (If I had been a teacher, I would have walked out after the third paragraph of this ridiculous statement.) The teachers tried to appeal to the Board's reason. They tried to appeal to the Board's fairness. They tried just about everything, but nobody was listening. People finally went home and left the Board to finish its business alone.

After two hours of discussion, it was apparent to me that the matter was past appeals to fairness and reason. The only way to convince the Board to re-open negotiations was the force of the organized workers saying, "No contract, no work!" Whether the teachers are ready to take that risk is unsure. It would be a tough struggle for sure, but the stakes are high.

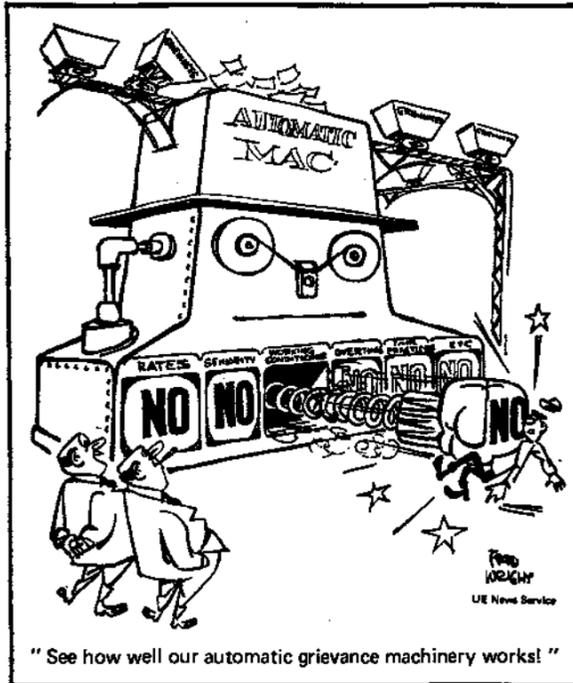
Do teachers have a right to an organized voice in the system they work in or don't they? Do they have a right to fight cut-backs in the quality of our children's education or don't they? These are the questions that are being decided.

I hope they fight.

-- Dave Nelson

Post Note:

At the October 20 Board of Education meeting the Board made it official. They voted 7-0 not to re-open negotiations. After the vote 100 teachers walked out of the meeting saying, "They could have done this 5 weeks ago. Why did we go through all this?" A good question, indeed. But it goes to show that when the Board decides to play a particular game, that's the game that gets played. And the situation will change only when workers organize and decide to change it. That's the way this game is played. I just hope the teachers don't give up forever. We'll all be the losers if that happens.

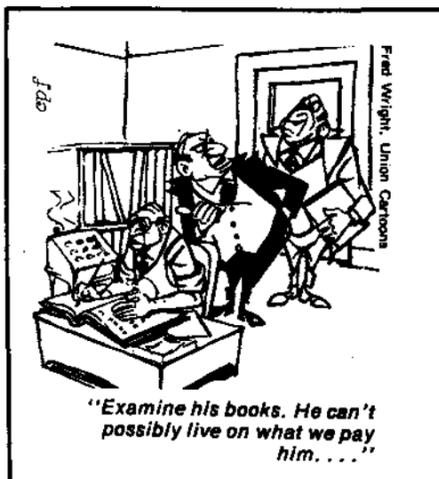


Vincent concludes his attack in a flurry of phrases such as, "evaluate the negotiation process," "better goal identification," and "the question of the Board...abdicating its citizen-endowed responsibilities." But his meaning is clear. It's time to break the union.

In the rest of his statement, Stimeling doesn't do much but add to the list of insults. Here are some of the juicier quotes: "Broad organization charges of administrative attempts to destroy the teacher organization, unbearable working conditions, attacks on the integrity of Board members and administrators have not been dignified with answers or by counter attacks." (Apparently the BEA at one time offered to pay the rest of Stimeling's yearly salary if he would quit as Superintendent. A few more quotes like this one and I can see why they tried.) "We tried the process and it did not work." "I am convinced that the issues are more imagined than real. I am equally convinced that the conflicts cannot be resolved through a process that demands give and take."

It seems obvious that Vincent's paper was written as a preview of the public position the Board could take when it felt the time was right to dump the union.

I must give Vincent credit, though. His paper is one of the most insulting, self-serving, and contradictory pieces of bureaucratse I have ever read.



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WILD COUNTRY BUSINESS OUTFITTERS

Scott Weller apts. "No luxury places"

Fifteen months ago, in a desperate last minute attempt to find someplace to live, we moved into an apartment, one of the hundreds belonging to Scott Weller. If the name doesn't sound familiar, this man owns apartments, houses, and probably a whole subdivision. Chances are if you've ever rented from him you've never seen him. His secretary does all the dirty work for him.

\$175 a month seemed like a lot to pay for a small two bedroom apartment, but we also knew it's hard to find a two bedroom apartment for less. Besides, we figured a big-time landlord would keep up any maintenance with no problem. Since that day, all we had were problems, but we weren't the only ones. Having lived here as long as we have, we've seen many people come and go in these apartments, and none were too thrilled about Scott Weller.

\$175.00 Rent Deposit

First of all, and most exasperating, is the inconsistency of this man and his employees. When we moved in, we had to hand over \$175 rent deposit in full as Scott Weller informed us, we couldn't pay it in parts, and the disgusting part was that four months later, Scott Weller decided that was too high, so he started charging \$125 rent deposit to any new renters. Of course the people who paid \$175 never got \$50 back.

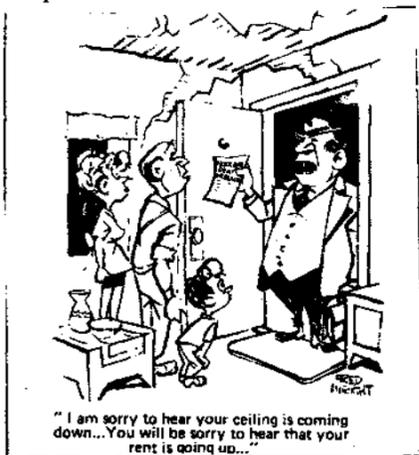
Now it seems a little unfair to me that some of us paid \$50 more deposit than other people in the very same apartments.

To begin with, these apartments aren't new. The turnover here is so great that these apartments are torn to hell and falling apart. So \$175 deposit is ridiculous. When we moved in, paying the deposit in parts was "out of the question," but a few months later some friends of ours, looking for an apartment were told by the Scott Weller bunch that they could pay the deposit in parts.

Hm-m-m. So consistent!

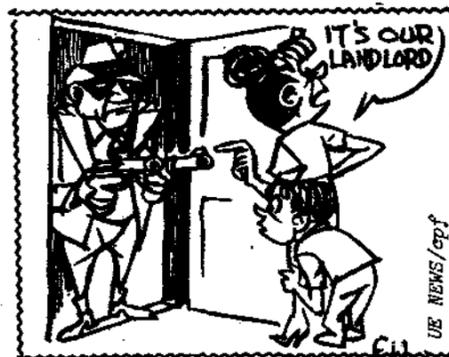
The number two most disgusting problem is Scott Weller's lack of maintenance. Countless storm doors fall apart and I know several people who have rented from Weller for a year and their doors haven't been fixed for at least that long. So prompt!

Another problem is heating. These apartments are made so cheaply that even if the heat is turned to 90 degrees, it'll still be ice cold in some of these apartments. The insulation here is so poor that two different renters I talked to had to shut off their bedrooms half the time. For \$175 a month no one should have to freeze. If that wasn't bad enough, the plumbing is just as bad. About every four months the sewage backs up in people's bathtubs, which is a big hassle. Not only does the smell make you sick, but not being able to take a shower for days is no joy either. One woman out here actually had to leave her apartment because the water had backed up and it took Weller four days to get it fixed. (Actually, it took him four days before he sent a plumber out.) I'll bet Weller doesn't have to vacate his house every four months, and for sure it wouldn't take him four days to do anything about a bathtub full of crap.



Union Cartoons/cpf

Another example of Weller's inconsistency is that of the man who wanted an extension phone in his bedroom. The telephone man went out and discovered that when the apartment was built, a wire was cut somewhere in the walls, therefore an extension phone couldn't be put in unless Scott Weller would allow them to drill two small holes and run a few wires across the ceiling.



The telephone man called Scott Weller and of course he denied this simple request. This is what the telephone man told the resident who couldn't have the phone:

"I don't know why Scott Weller denied this, these apartments aren't no luxury places. Throughout the years I've seen Weller make a lot of enemies mostly in situations such as this. I mean, what's two more little holes? I bet Scott Weller has a phone in his bedroom, huh? I've only seen him let us go ahead with that a couple of times in these apartments, and that was only because the people

were his relatives or friends. I guess that's why he's got lots of money and people like us don't. But he wouldn't win a popularity contest, that's for sure."

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Landlord
exposed

Landlord gets mattresses from city dump; tenants get scabies

Several ISU women are refusing to pay rent to a local landlord following a series of atrocities in the house they leased for the 1976-77 school year.

Two of the women, Rosanne Faraci and Ginny Becker, contracted a parasite known as scabies from mattresses furnished by landlord and former mayoral candidate, Gayln Biddle (912 S. Linden St., 452-3986).

The mattresses were taken from the city dump. They had been thrown away by ISU in order to comply with health standards. Old ISU mattresses cannot be sold or given away.

Faraci told me that one of the mattresses was stamped ISNU, an abbreviation ISU stopped using in 1963.

The atrocities that follow are only a sample of the dozens of stories that Faraci, Becker, and another woman, Diane Buffo, told me.

The women, all seniors, signed a lease with Biddle for a house at 604 W. Hovey Ave., Normal, last April. They paid him a \$200 security deposit.

The lease obligates Biddle to take care of all major repairs to the property. They found Biddle uncooperative and very reluctant to keep his end of the bargain.

Becker arrived at the house a few days before they were to move in and found that the summer residents had left the place "completely wrecked." She notified the others of the situation and contacted Biddle to see if he would clean the place before they moved in. He refused. He considered their complaints "a hassle he didn't want to bother with", say the women.

When the women arrived several days later, the house which they now call "the pit house" was uncleaned, unhealthy and still occupied by two of the summer residents.

Buffo described the house: "There were bugs and spiders throughout the house, food on the walls, a window was busted out and several had no locks on them, the toilet did not work and was unsanitary, and the basement was full of trash and had acquired a stench."

Buffo said that her mother was ready to take her back home when she saw the filthy place her daughter would be paying to live in.

Biddle was unresponsive to their requests because he was busy building his new residence and plans to tear down the house after 1977 anyway, building apartments there instead.

Faraci said "Biddle told us to 'buy a shotgun' if we were worried about the broken window or proper locks on the windows. He also told us 'it never rains from the east,' so we wouldn't need the window."

Shortly after moving into the house Faraci and Becker began to notice bumps that they thought were mosquito bites. Eventually Becker had up to 80 of these bumps covering her entire body. These turned out to be scabies.

Faraci developed scabies and also an unidentified skin disease. Both women went to ISU's Rachel Cooper Health Center and to private dermatologists.

Rachel Cooper employees said that they would have to have the house fumigated before they could move back in.

They asked Biddle if he would take care of this for them. He initially refused to do so, but then later hired an exterminating company.

exterminator exposed, too

The company hired by Biddle sent a man to exterminate on the Friday before Labor Day weekend. The women had told Biddle they would not all be gone for the weekend until Saturday.

The women returned to the house on Friday afternoon and found an exterminator there dressed in bikini underwear only.

After this incident, the women sought the advice of the ISU Tenant Union about the whole situation. The Tenant Union threatened to file a suit on their behalf against the exterminator if any more complaints of the nature described were filed with them.

An investigation by the women and the Tenant Union revealed that Biddle got the mattresses from a dump.

The women had to buy new mattresses, Becker and Faraci both spent over \$100 each on doctor bills, and the household spent over 100 person-hours cleaning the kitchen when they moved in.



They asked Biddle to take these expenses off the rent, which is \$1700 per semester or \$3400 per year, and he has refused.

The women stopped payment on their rent and have placed their money in an escrow account pending action from Biddle.

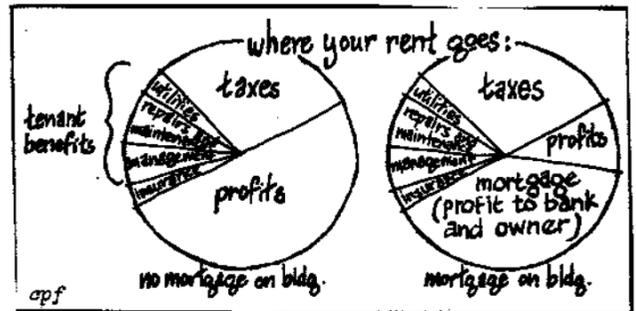
Biddle has suggested that the women break the lease. This would save him the expense of taking the women to court.

Faraci said, "We're waiting for him to sue us, and he will have to if he wants to collect a penny of the rent." Faraci said that she could not afford to sue Biddle, but that none of them were worried that Biddle could win a decision for the entire rent.

Time will tell. So far Biddle has not shown an interest in legally trying to get his rent for the house. Buffo said, "We don't think he will pass up \$3400 though."

When Biddle sues (if he does) maybe the Vidette will run a story on "Biddle's problem." They have printed nothing to expose the students' problems, although they have the information.

--Todd Tecumseh



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Human Relations - Trick or Token?

Two years ago, then Human Relations Director Aaron Vessup charged Bloomington's City Council with "phony liberalism" in its funding of the Bloomington Human Relations Commission. He couldn't have called it any better.

To this day the Human Relations office operates in fear of possible non-existence tomorrow if it makes the inexcusable mistake of stepping on the wrong feet. I witnessed this first hand in my short (yet long) 5½ month stint with the city's token department.

Under Director Ray Hodges (he knows he's token) I was responsible for intake of discrimination complaints, investigations, community programs and general efforts to make the department "look good." Why? If the department didn't look good, we always ran the risk of funding cuts by the right-wingers who make up the city council.

In fact, while I was employed by the local thugs, we had a staff of three, excluding Hodges. All three were CETA workers, which means free help for the city. Now with CETA out of Human Relations, the city itself funds only one full-time and one half-time worker. And that came only after a fight by Hodges. Initially the right-wingers (city council minus Jesse Parker) refused any paid staff other than just Hodges.

Why won't the city provide adequate funding for the Human Relations Commission?

As far as discrimination goes, the city fathers don't want hot pursuit of violators because they are the leading culprits. That could be quite embarrassing. The city of Bloomington far leads any local business in race discrimination complaints.

Just take a look at the city's departments and their heads. Hodges is the only black department head. The public service department has a long history of keeping blacks off permanent employment status. This keeps them out of the union. To this day there are no permanent full-time blacks working in the Public Service Department (but there are plenty of temporary and seasonal black workers that keep the affirmative action quota up).

One might also take a look at the city's record for hiring relatives of already employed city workers. It would be interesting to note over the years who is hired by whose brother-in-law or sister-in-law, etc. The nepotism record (hiring of relatives) of the city is far more impressive than its record of hiring minorities and women over the years.

"We Mishandled This"

And when discrimination was found against the city in a case I investigated, the city refused to call it discrimination. Instead, then Metro-Manager Dave Anderson said, "We mishandled this." The victim was awarded back-pay and an equal-paying job, but it was not discrimination. It was merely "mishandled."

If you could look into the past records (the records are not public information, naturally), you would find plenty of past race discrimination cases against the city that were dismissed on technicalities. Besides, there were no workers to investigate all the cases.

The problem I encountered was that I did too much. I asked too many questions of the wrong nature. I found too much information, the kinds of things that the funders (city council) wouldn't approve of.

The problem with Hodges was that he was concerned with keeping his job and I threatened that. He was afraid of the city council. When I approached Ray about advertising in the Post-American, he answered that the city council would never go for it.

When I raised the question of discriminatory help-wanted ads in the Pantagraph (segregated Help Wanted-Male and Help Wanted-Female), Hodges did not want me to spend my time in that area. Same with the illegal ads by landlords which refuse to rent to families with children.

Those complaints were forwarded to the office of the state's attorney. Now you can imagine how many landlords the state's attorney prosecuted.

Hodges wanted me to spend my energies primarily on complaints and community programs because those were the areas approved of by the city council. And if the city council were favorable to what we were doing, then just maybe they would fund a position or two. Those areas of investigation also provided good public relations for the department which, in turn, is a good reflection on the city dads.

When I wanted to prosecute Bill Vail (the self-made man who is now our proud City Manager) for some blatant discrimination of his own, I was told to let it slide. Wait till next time.

When I wrote a letter to the Pantagraph condemning the Bloomington Transit Board for refusing free transportation for senior citizens (for a Consumer Program the Commission was sponsoring) while providing free transportation to Normal City Councilpeople, I was reprimanded. Metro-Manager Dave Anderson told me

and a co-worker that he did not approve of city workers writing letters to the editor. (He also told me that he didn't think it looked good for me to put my feet up on the desk.)

When I suggested the Human Relations Commission pursue legislation providing protection for persons discriminated against on the basis of sex preference and marital status, Hodges told me we were lucky to get the latest (current) HRC ordinance approved.

Could you imagine how far we would get on that with the current city council? Remember last April at the Township Meeting when Dick Buchanan and S.S. Joe Schneider voted in favor of discrimination against gays?



The city, like most employers, does not want workers with minds of their own. They want yes-people who will support the same tired community programs which make the city council "look good." These programs do little to really combat the social problems of discrimination in Bloomington.

As long as the Human Relations Commission operates from a position of fear, it will continue to be virtually ineffective. As long as the department is worried about funding and funding cuts by the city council, it will continue to do just about nothing to move forward against discrimination.

Oh, the department will get its few token convictions. The city council wants that. It's the phony liberalism that will always exist as long as the same jerks control the city government. Aaron Vessup was right.

Corruption prevails.

By Marty Meketarian
Former Human Relations Staff Person

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HUNDREDS MARCH



Webster Praises March

Marchers came from all over--Downs, Oglesby, Peoria, Chicago, and Alton--to protest MEG's police state tactics and to demand the state stop funding the secret police.

But one supporter in California couldn't come, so he sent a mailgram that unfortunately arrived too late to be read to the marchers.

John A. Webster of Bakersfield wrote:

"Although I won't be present I'll be marching against MEG with all of you. The MEG concept is the police state mentality... Arrest without charges, forcing citizens into bondage to the government as informers, criminalizing our youth, spending citizen's tax money for personal comfort, and corrupting the criminal justice system are a few of the ugly faults of MEG.

"My deepest respect for all who march. We're marching for democracy--very appropriate in this bicentennial year."

Webster is the criminologist who was hired in 1974 by the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission to study the activities of the Chicago-based MEG, and to make recommendations on whether to create more MEG units.

When Webster did his job honestly and wrote a report very critical of MEG, ILEC director David Fogel simply threw away whole pages of the report, rewrote the conclusions, and presented the laundered report to the commission as Webster's own words.



Sniffing a threat to civil liberties, this canine protester marched, and the four-legged freedom fighter commented, "Gee, if only I could get my jaws into an M. E. G. agent, I'd teach him."



"While I sat in jail for picking some pot... Nixon was ordering entire Vietnamese villages blown off the map," said Mark Silverstein, march co-initiator, as he exhorted the crowd at Bloomington City Hall.



Despite cold drizzle, spirited protesters marched down Main Street, breaking up a quiet Saturday afternoon with their shouts of "Smash MEG!"

AGAINST M.E.G.!!!



The March against M. E. G. began in rain under the cold shadow of City Hall, but it ended in sunshine in a park the people had taken over--for an afternoon at least--to satisfy their urges for solidarity and happiness.

In between, more than 400 workers and students chanted slogans, marched down Main Street, listened to speakers denounce the MEG criminals, and generally expressed their desire that their taxes not be used to satisfy the appetites and fantasies of adolescent-minded men who like to pretend they're important secret agents.

A spirited person named Pete Callahan set the tone of the day with a little introductory rabble-rousing. The people were enthusiastic, determined not to let the cold and City Hall get the better of them.

One of the march's co-initiators, Mark Silverstein, followed with a speech about three criminals: the ordinary person who's railroaded into jail for possession; the National Guardsman who obeys orders and kills innocent people but never has to pay for his crime; and finally, the real big-shot criminal, like Richard Nixon, who gives the orders that send the ordinary people to jail and force the soldier to kill or desert.

"If you're lucky, you can afford to buy a lawyer," Silverstein told the 400 people who are no more than potential criminals in the eyes of MEG agents. "If you're really lucky, this lawyer might actually work hard to keep you out of jail."

That line drew a lot of applause but not as much as this one:



This young American, concerned over deterioration of the Bill of Rights, prepares to take Old Glory to the streets, defending the Constitution.

"While I sat in jail for picking some pot from a farmer's field," Silverstein said, "Nixon was ordering entire Vietnamese villages blown off the map so that he could make Southeast Asia safe for Exxon, safe for General Motors and I. T. T., safe for all the corporate interests..."

and listed ACLU's efforts to fight MEG, including legal support for a \$1 million suit charging entrapment.

If the Bloomington City Council examines the ACLU report and the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission



Tired of Gestapo-like secret police, hundreds of Illinois residents took to the Bloomington streets October 9, protesting M. E. G.'s bid for state funding.

The people are catching on to you, Harber Hall.

As a leaflet by the Utopian Feminist Collective said, "A secret police force, once set up, can easily keep an eye on any of our activities, even legal ones that happen to be nonconformist."

Sue Little underlined the point in her speech at Franklin Park:

"When they bust us for drugs, they're not just putting us in jail for breaking specific drug laws, but for something they see as a generalized challenge to their rights to hold power over our lives."

The people chanted: "Hey, Hey, M. E. G. / We get jailed while Nixon's free."

American Civil Liberties Union representative Pierre Roussey continued the verbal attack on the Multi-County Enforcement Group, which has been guilty of entrapment, breaking the law, and lying to the press, public bodies and the courts, as well as violating their own guidelines.

Roussey repeated the ACLU's opposition to MEG

ion report, Roussey said, "we feel sure the council won't continue support."

More loud applause.

Although the main purpose of the March against MEG was to focus public attention of MEG's attempt to get state money and thereby to prevent MEG from getting that money, the marchers also wanted to persuade Bloomington to drop out of MEG.

More chants, "M. E. G. / O. U. T. I"

Then, amidst shouts of "Smash MEG!", the 400 people proudly marched past the lavishly wasteful Law Enforcement Center and down Main Street. Although one marcher decided the good old days were gone when he couldn't get a whooping war-cry going, the marchers were loud, spirited and convincing. Several people joined the demonstrators around the courthouse.

At Main and Monroe streets, the people halted for a few minutes to chant "Free all Prisoners" in the direction of the county jail, which was just

(Continued on Next Page)

MEG March

(Continued from Previous Page)

two blocks from the march route at that point. Presumably, the need to keep the chant short and simple prevented the chanters from distinguishing between political prisoners and violent criminals, like rapists and wifebeaters.

Arrival at Franklin Park did bring one apt and carefully qualified appraisal:

"God, they grow Bloomington police fat, too."

It's little wonder, since the five or six undercover police assigned to accompany the marchers chose to give up the pleasure of walking for the comfort of a City of Bloomington car.

The marchers arrival at the park also brought music, performed under a giant banner proclaiming, "We want secret police out/ out of our homes/ out of our schools/ out of our jobs/ out of our business/ out of our lives!"

The first performers were Todd Tecumseh, Mike Darling, Sue Le Seure and Dennis Darling. The last three performed an original song called "Woman is a man with a lot more woe," and the feminist lyrics reportedly suprised some of the local police.

From then on, speakers and musicians (who also included Willie Berry and Mike White) took turns entertaining the marchers who settled down for a good time.

Dale Stillwell told how he lived for a year with MEG informer and agent Ford Conley--and how Conley busted him.

"I was lucky," Stillwell said. "I was busted illegally but I got off. Others weren't so lucky. We have to write (to our legislators) before they take away every right we have. They'll do it."

Sue Little pointed out that most "power pigs are alcohol freaks" who can safely use the drug laws to oppress people who challenge their power.

The paradox is clear: "While MEG bumbles after marijuana and acid users, doctors and drug companies are making billions of dollars doping up housewives." (Quote from "We Still Ain't Satisfied" pamphlet by Utopian Feminist Collective.)

Marilyn Sutherland, spokesperson for the Community for Social Action, emphasized MEG's fondness for breaking the law in its pathetic attempts to appear to enforce the law.

"MEG's record in this regard stinks," Sutherland said. "MEG's tactics are not acceptable in a free society. It should not receive funding from the state."

The final speaker, co-initiator Mike Matejka, connected MEG to the general attempt of the imperialist power pigs to enslave people throughout the world.

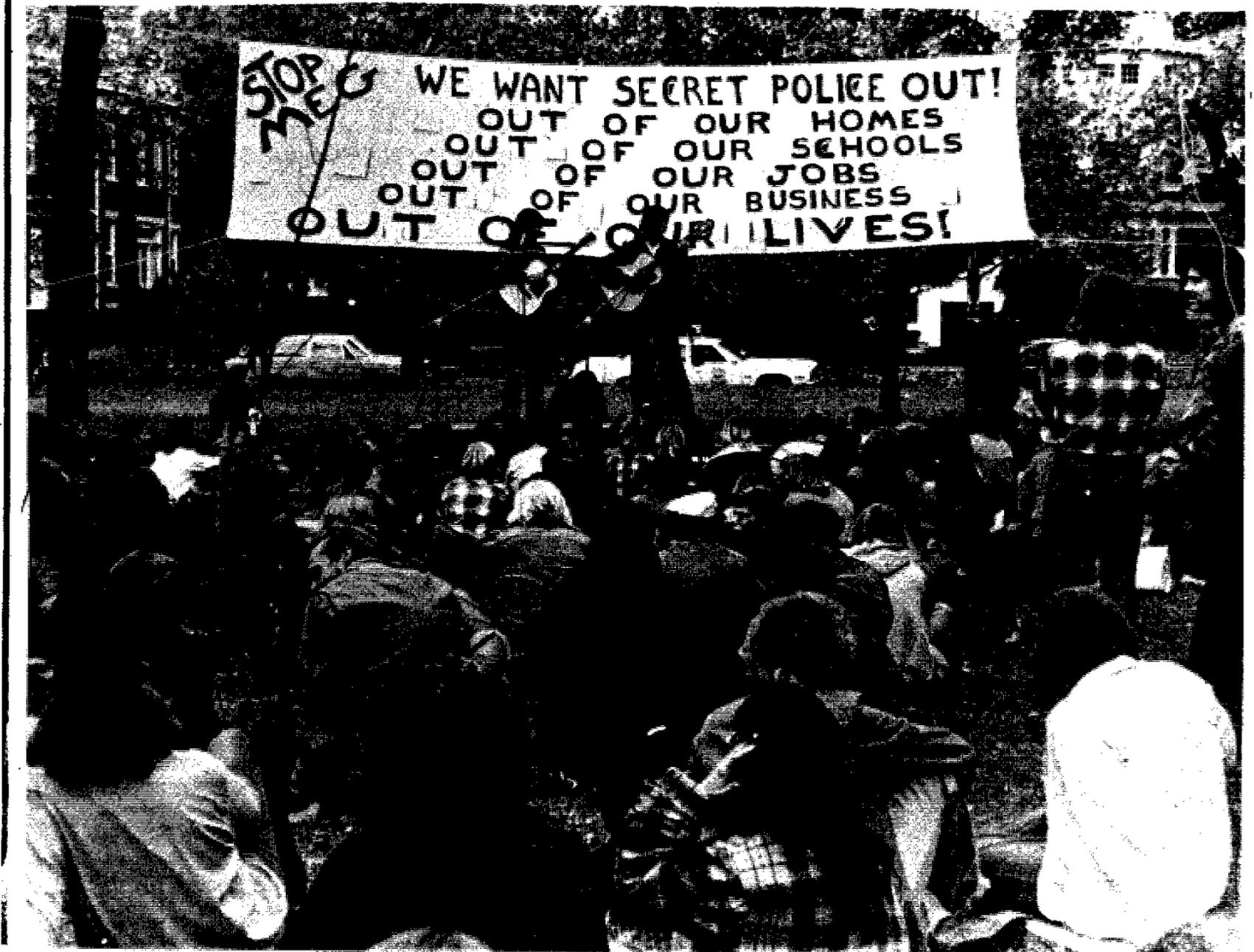
"We don't want 40-hour meaningless jobs," Matejka said. "We won't swallow the lies they tell us, and this means the power pigs can't control us. That's when the CIA and the FBI and MEG came out."

"The legislators should clean up their act before they tell us to clean up ours," he said. "Let's watch our state legislators. Let's see how many hours they spend in bars."

Matejka finished with a call to march on Springfield next spring to prevent state funding of MEG. If the call is answered, the battle against MEG, which is well begun, will be won, and MEG will die.



"Don't bust me, I only drink Martinis" highlights the hypocrisy of moralising legislators, who hassle us and try to control our good times.



Police Can't Shoot Straight

15

Surprise!

The police were remarkably peaceful and law-abiding during the March Against MEG.



Modeling the latest in chic undercover garb for crashing demonstrations, is the fashion consultant for the Bloomington Police Department. Notice the embroidered vest, sleek body-hugging overalls and low-brimmed hat, topped with the latest in buzz haircuts. When the haute couture consultant of the city's constables was asked to comment on his outfit, he replied in the latest hip slang, "Twenty-three skidoo."

In fact, the Bloomington police appeared to have broken their agreement with march organizers on only one point.

But police do have their reputations to consider.

During a meeting Oct. 6, three days before the march, Police Chief Harold Bosshardt, Asst. Chief Louis DeVault and City Corporation Counsel David Stanczak all agreed that the police were not to take photos of the marchers unless violence should break out.

That was the intent of the grand jury recommendation on police use of cameras after the police-inspired violence that marred the November 1974 march against Sheriff John King.

But police simply can't keep their word on everything.

A plainclothes crew pretending to be TV 6 of Indianapolis shot video tape of the crowd at the city hall and at the park. The subterfuge was rather transparent since the cops' cameras were clearly labelled "property of the City of Bloomington."

At city hall, Lt. "Dubble" Sprague flatly denied that the camera crew were his men--that is, police. (It turned out that Sprague was technically not lying; the city photographers were fire department employees!)

Later, at the park, Asst. Chief DeVault ignored the fact that the city had broken its agreement with march organizers. Instead, he tried to argue that it was silly to worry about whether the police took their own photos since they could easily get film from straight news media like TV 19 of Peoria and the Daily Pantagraph.

That's fortunate for the police--since their own film was all ruined by the inept camera crew.



Huntley and Brinkley they aren't. These two imposing journalists claimed to be from TV-6 in Indianapolis, and followed the march avidly from a beat-up '68 Chevy. However, stenciled on the side of their equipment was "City of Bloomington", and it was later admitted they were City firemen. Don't worry about being photographed though; the equipment malfunctioned, and all their film footage was wasted.

Springfield Totters

Harber Hall Admits Imperfection

Imagine a crowd of workers and students applauding the words of Right-Wing Politico Harber Hall.

Impossible!

Nay, I say. It could have been; even State Senator Hall has been publicly critical of the Multi-County Enforcement Group (MEG).

Said the Right-Wing Politico: "I'm not saying MEG has worked perfectly. Certainly not."

Those words are not fantasy. The moss-covered Daily Pantagraph actually recorded them for posterity (A-3, Oct. 6).

It's like Sheriff John King saying the McLean County Jail isn't Heaven.

Had arch Republican Hall stood up October 9 and repeated his words, he would have found out how the people he pretends to represent really feel about MEG.

They don't like it.

In fact, 400 of them don't like it so much that they turned up outside the Bloomington City Hall in rainy, 48-degree weather to participate in the rally and march against MEG.

Harber Hall wasn't among the 400 hardy defenders of freedom, of course. The idea never occurred to him. Greasy politicians of his stature don't go out in the rain to talk (not to mention listen) to ordinary people who are really angry about the way the politicians are running the state.

But the people don't need Hall. They didn't need to see the self-satisfied mug of an experienced wheeler-dealer. And Harber Hall apparently realized that.

Because Right-Wing Politico Hall had already declared the March Against MEG a success-- four days before the march-- by being forced to publicly criticize MEG.

One of the purposes of the march was to flush MEG's gang of spies and lawbreakers out into the open. To focus attention on the fact that MEG is quietly meeting with the politicians in the back rooms so that the legislature will hand out the money to keep MEG boss Jerry LaGrow's blood-sucking enterprise alive and growing.

Naturally, Harber Hall wants to keep the gravy flowing to MEG's secret police and band of unsavory informers. After all, who knows how much tax money the Superspy has spent wining and dining one of his favorite politicians? Who knows what information LaGrow can pass on to the eager, drooling Harber Hall?

Even so, the best Hall could say about MEG was that maybe regional secret police

wouldn't always be embarrassing disasters that have to be covered up. (Hall's opponent in the November election, Carol Reitan, knows he's wrong and opposes continued funding of MEG.)

When even a Right-Wing Republican Politico like Harber Hall has to admit that the people can't be ignored forever, then the end of MEG can't be too far away.

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415 N. Main, Bloomington

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CILCO ADS SAY PEOPLE, CILCO ACTS SAY PROFITS!

You've all heard and read the countless power company advertisements. To insulate your home more adequately, they tell you, turn down your thermostats, cut down on unnecessary lights, etc. "Do more to use less" is the general slogan for more than one power company. Our utility companies try to seem right-on, encouraging folks to help out the nation's present energy shortage by eliminating electrical waste.

Logically, then, it would seem odd for a progressive utility to discourage a citizen from a clean, complementary energy source, which cuts down power consumption to a minimum. Unless, of course, the nifty advertisements and slogans are a propaganda cover for less public-spirited motives.

Last January, the Morgans of Pekin toured a solar home in Eureka and decided to invest in building their own solar home design, which would use approximately 70% less electricity for space and water heating. By using the sun's radiation, one can become less dependent on privately-owned, self-interested, fossil-fuel powered utilities; at least it would seem that way.

Later in January, Curt Morgan called CILCO (Central Illinois Light Company) at the Pekin office. He was told that should he and his wife invest in a solar heat system and incorporate an electric furnace as a back-up unit, they would be billed as a total electric home.

This means they would be put in the same class of CILCO's domestic billing as people whose furnace and lights and appliances are all run on electricity. For the first 400 KW-hours, the rate is \$4.04 per 100 KW hours. The consecutive hours after that cost \$2.15 per 100 KW-hours. The total electric rate is cheaper than other rates.

Assured that they would be billed total electric rate, the Morgans paid \$1000 down to Sun Systems, Inc., for a total solar design. They began construction on it a few miles south of Pekin.

Later on when construction neared completion, the Morgans intended to invest \$20,000 worth of solar panels to be laid on the specially constructed south roof, and also a solar furnace unit which would generate the radiation for space and water heating. The particular system they planned to buy is designed to take 70% of the heat load. This means that 70% fewer KW-hours of heating electricity are consumed and that the heating bill is 70% less, compared to conventional electric-run homes.

This means the Morgans would be put in the class of domestic billing, designed for customers with two furnaces: one electric and one non-electric. The rate, for the electric furnace only, is \$4.04 per 100 KW-hours for the first 400 KW-hours, then lowers to \$2.85 per 100 KW-hours. The lights, appliances etc., stay at a constant \$4.04 per 100 KW-hours per month.

Even though the Morgans will be obtaining energy from no other company, the Morgans will be paying a higher rate. The point here is sunlight is free. The Morgans would be using a system similar to using a fireplace to help heat their home. And, even on days of prolonged cloudiness when they would have to use electric furnace back-up, the house will be using no heating any different than the totally electric house next door.

However, the Morgans will have to pay a higher rate only because they have solar panels on their south roof.

A realistic figure for a totally electric home in the winter is 3200 KW-hours. The higher rate for this many KW-hours means the Morgans would be paying approximately 28% more than if they were on the total electric rate.

Had the Morgans gone ahead and bought the \$20,000 solar panels-furnace unit before they found out that CILCO upped the rates for no good reason, the Morgans would have gained much less than they planned on from their investment.

The Morgans contacted CIPS (Central Illinois Power Supply) of Havana whose power lines are 2,000 feet away from the newly-constructed house. An official said CIPS would bill them on a total electric rate if they were a CIPS customer. The Morgans contacted CILCO with this information. An official there revealed that CILCO was considering a higher rate for future solar heated homes, since the cut down on the use of electricity through solar energy wasn't "helping to pay for the power plants any". Sounds really energy crisis conscious, doesn't it?

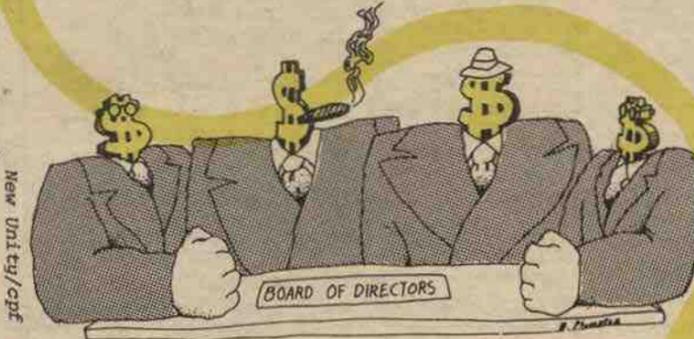
CILCO would not allow the Morgans to hook up with CIPS even though a neighbor two houses down, who is also in CILCO territory, is getting power from CIPS. CILCO advertises for folks to "do more to use less," yet makes a conscious effort to discourage a potential solar energy user. It makes it obvious where the interests of CILCO really lie: not with the people, but with how full of money they can stuff their pockets.

POST NOTE:

In late September, the Morgans got action from several of their state representatives and senators: Luft, Von Beckman, Sommer, Michel. A meeting with CILCO revealed that CILCO has changed their policy yet again, this time to give the first 50 solar homes a total electric rate if an electric furnace is incorporated as a back-up unit.

First 50 homes. What will CILCO's policy be after that number is reached? Why the big hullabaloo? Wouldn't the complementary use of sunlight and electricity be the ultimate goal of a progressive utility if its interests really were in the people's welfare, as the advertising proclaims? It shows up the "sincerity" of the slogans and advertisements as nothing much more than big business propaganda that works only in print and on T.V. commercials, and not in practice.

---J. Rossi



New Unity/cpf

The week of August 9th, Morgan obtained a 200 amp meter base from CILCO and installed it as he wired the newly-constructed hull of the house. The following week, Curt contacted a CILCO representative to check his wiring and to hook up his electricity. The Rep ok'd it and said he would send someone out to hook the house up to electricity.

The Rep called back later, however, and said CILCO could not give the Morgans a total electric rate, after all. He told Curt he must rewire the meter base and his whole house to install two meters.

Locals Say NO to Rate Hike

Residents of McLean County are participating in a state-wide coalition to challenge electrical power issues. McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike was recently formed to protest a plan by the Illinois Power Company to raise electrical utility rates by as much as fifteen percent.

Official hearings on the plan will begin October 25 before the Illinois Commerce Commission. The Commission must approve any rate changes.

The local citizens' group is working with a similar group of low to middle income persons and senior citizens in Champaign-Urbana to prevent commission approval of the increase.



LNS/cpf

But the immediate price hike is only one issue. A statewide organization, Illinois Public Action Council, is urging other reforms in the way utilities decisions are made in this state. Representatives of the Public Action Council are being denied access to Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) meetings, the last time being last Wednesday (Oct. 13) in Chicago at the State of Illinois Building. ICC, according to Common Cause, has one of the worst records of any state regulatory body in the entire nation with regard to open meetings and clear public accountability.

Another issue of concern both for local protesters and the statewide umbrella group has to do with appointments to the five-member Illinois Commerce Commission.

The Illinois Public Action Council urges that the governor appoint at least one commissioner with a consumer orientation who can speak for the small residential user and who can speak for the poor and the elderly. Further the governor should appoint a commissioner who can speak for our environment as a protector from utility pollution and from possible nuclear power hazards.

Groups protesting against utility company practices would like to see the state adopt a whole new structure for the setting of utility rates.

Instead of the present practice of the largest consumers paying the lowest rates, they would like to see the lowest rate made available to any residential consumer who would keep his or her power needs to just a few hundred kilowatt-hours. If the customer uses more than the "lifeline" minimum he would begin to pay a higher rate.

The protesters argue that this type of rate structure would reward conservation of electrical energy, easing shortages and pollution problems.

Before the close of the present political campaign for governor, the Illinois Public Action Council and the McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike urge the candidates to tell the voters where they stand on (1) open meetings of the Illinois Commerce Commission and (2) the addition of consumer and environmental advocates to the Commission.

FEDS INSIST ON NUKE 'EM

ENERGY STRATEGY

Since winter is settling around us, we hardy souls who remain to brave the Midwestern cold are hoping we can afford to keep warm this year. Even though we heard that the energy crisis was a result of an Arab embargo the past few years, the cost of heating fuels never fails to rise when the temperatures start falling. Supply and demand, they say. We should realize that the energy crisis is still with us - but the crisis is that someone owns the supply, and that their depletion of these resources for personal gain will inevitably force us to find alternative sources of energy.

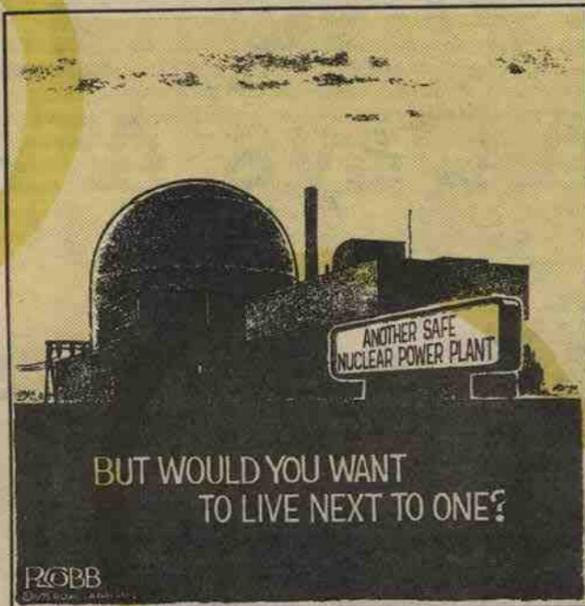
Alternative energy. It's going to have to come from somewhere. Our needs have increased at an amazing rate just in the past few decades. In the last 50 years, our use of energy in all forms has doubled every 15 years, with electrical energy use doubling 33% beyond that. Yessirree our technology has developed many uses for energy, but where do we plan to get this energy after the fossil fuels are sold out?

Some say that nuclear power is the answer-- that we in the 20th century have the opportunity to turn the mightiest weapon the world has seen into a peaceful tool, beneficial to everyone. It seems to be a high price to pay for something we don't fully understand. The drawbacks:

- Radioactive wastes. Research is still being done to discover a way to store these wastes. One possibility is to convert the waste into solid form similar to glass, but research on that is incomplete. There are not any guidelines yet for disposal of atomic waste, but the government hopes to have these set up by 1985. Isn't that encouraging?
- Radioactive leaks. Need I say more?
- Longevity of radioactive wastes. Some wastes have such a high energy level that they must be kept away from humans for as long as 250,000 years. (That's in a country where 200 years is cause to celebrate.)
- Inefficiency of conversion. Yes, even after many years of development, nuclear fission plants are less efficient in conversion to electricity than power plants using fossil fuels. And it is estimated that two-thirds of the energy from fossil fuels we burn to generate electricity is discarded as waste heat.
- Possibility of explosions. While we hear that nothing has happened in a nuclear power plant yet, and that the possibilities are remote that anything like that would happen, it is possible. Basically, a steam or vapor explosion could occur if for any reason the water failed to flow through to cool the fuel rods. If the back-up system failed to start within 30 seconds of the main system failure, there could be no turning back. The internal temperature of each fuel pellet is approximately 4000 degrees Fahrenheit. The fuel rods would begin to crumble (there are approx. 40,000 fuel rods per containment), and the steel liner of the reinforced concrete containment would begin to melt. Eventually, the weight of this molten metal would be too much strain on the supporting structure, and the entire mass would plunge into the remaining water. This is the primary steam explosion. Scientists are unsure of what reactions actually occur, but it is estimated that the blast would be equal to 19 tons of TNT exploding. I won't even bring up the part about radioactivity.

Despite all these disadvantages, the Feds are still hooked on the idea that nuclear is the power of the future. To show their support, they have allocated \$4.3 billion to research it for fiscal year 1977. Other appropriations by the Energy Research Development Administration (ERDA) include \$477 million for oil, gas, and coal development; \$430 million for environmental research (dealing with nuclear and fossil fuels); and \$263 million for space research and high-energy physics. Comparatively, ERDA allocated only \$160 million for solar energy development and \$18 million for wind energy development. The priority seems to be based, again, on the preferences of the military/industrial complex who even with their dying breath would gasp PROFITS.

These low-priority alternatives are not "new" sources, but there is plenty of opportunity for research. Unfortunately, the costs of development are very high. The government passed an act last year to provide money for solar energy research on new or existing buildings in order that it could be studied under a variety of conditions. Getting money from Congress isn't known as easy work for Mr.



Joe Citizen, so the government has made it even harder. The House Sub-Committee on Energy, who reviews the applications for such funds, is chaired by Representative Mike McCormack, who is a strong supporter of nuclear power.

Before you despair and lose hope, there really is a group intensively studying these other sources. The utility companies. The Electric

Power Research Institute (EPRI) is now three years old and funded by over 500 private utilities. Their angle is that they have access to the big money necessary to develop these alternative sources; they already support long-term projects and have established service organizations; they can place massive orders, thereby decreasing the cost some; and they want to try to use solar-assisted electricity/gas to increase the market. The plan is that the utilities would install, own, and maintain the alternative system. The homeowner/landlord would lease the equipment, paying monthly on installation, financing, maintenance, and of course, Profits.

This would have little or no impact on those with no money. The government provides subsidies to solar-energy users, but you have to have the \$6,000 to \$12,000 to shell out in the first place. Once more the poor and working-class people would go without.

Or consider the public-owned utility responsible directly to the people, avoiding the profits and monopolistic policies of the private company. It's being done. Bridgeport, Texas, refused a rate increase to their local utility company, so the utility threatened to cut off all service. The people said "Fine!" and began working on their own municipal solar energy plant.

It's refreshing to see people make a difference.

PULLING the PLUG on ELECTRICAL POWER PLAYS

From utility seminar to parliamentary session to pep rally, the October 2nd Illinois Public Action Council meeting in Peoria was as diverse an event as the thirty-five participants.

Senior citizens from Streator traded ideas with consumer advocates and labor leaders from Peoria. Neighborhood activists from Chicago rapped with their counterparts from Urbana and Bloomington-Normal. Attention focused on strategy for grass roots action against a greedy power industry and its insensitive regulatory agency, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). David Stahr, researcher for Citizens for a Better Environment, explained a long-range goal will be to get the legislature to draft a new system for setting electric utility rates.

The first group to be well-served under a rate structuring concept known as "lifeline" will be low-income persons and persons living on fixed incomes.

Until specific data is gathered, the group is defining lifeline as "a low, fixed price for the amount of electricity a family needs for basics" (about 300-500 kilowatt-hours a month).

A local Twin-City study group could help refine those estimates. Then as a consumer unit uses more power the kilowatt-hour rate would go up. It makes sense and it's just the opposite of the way things work now.

Those who have to manage their use of electricity carefully because they've got to count every penny will be rewarded with low, steady rates. Wealthier and larger users who tend to waste scarce energy will pay higher rates instead of lower as they do today.

A more immediate goal for the local region is challenging a rate increase of approximately 15% proposed by Illinois Power Company in hearings which started October 25 before the ICC in Springfield.

Larry Bertschi of the Urbana-based Illinois Power Project described some of their actions for fighting a rate increase. They are also

checking out the power company's annual report looking for clues as to why they want the hike.

In this case it appears that Illinois Power needs money from the public to build a new coal fired power generation plant at Havana, Illinois.

They also desperately need the money to begin to pay for the enormous costs of erecting the new and potentially dangerous nuclear power station at Clinton.

Bertschi urged that consumer groups, welfare rights groups, labor groups and particularly city and county governments become allies in the protest against rate hikes. His organization and the cities of Champaign and Urbana are becoming official intervenors in the commission. This will give them a chance to question power company officials and to influence ICC decisions.

During a brief break in the meeting, participants stretched their vocal chords in a number of songs composed to be sung in the state building corridor on October 13, when the ICC was holding its regular closed monthly meeting.

Marvin Lieberman, chairperson of the five-member commission, was the target of their "sun-shine songs," which urge him to "shed some light" on what goes on behind the closed doors.

The last item of business at the Peoria gathering was listing pressure tactics to get the ICC meetings opened and to make the Commission more responsible.

Individuals and citizens' groups need to write Chairperson Lieberman calling for open meetings, and the next governor needs to be urged to appoint a commissioner who represents the consumer/environmental position and who supports open meetings.

The Illinois Public Action Council has helped point the way to better power decisions. It's up to local groups to start some high voltage action of their own.

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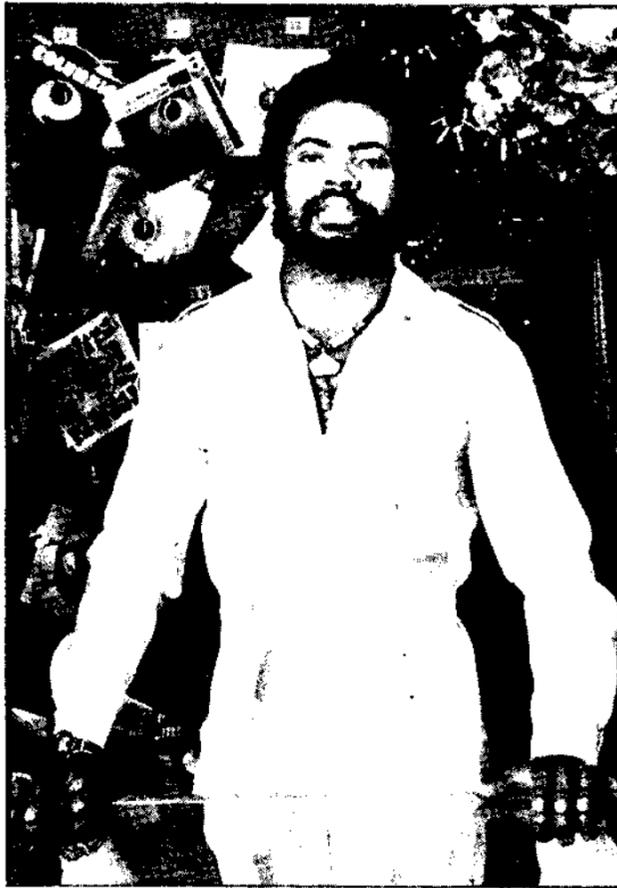
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In "Ye Old Ice House"

SIRLOIN STOCKADE ATTEMPTS TO HEAD OFF WORKER STAMPEDE

'Head Em Up, Move Em Out'

Outside the Sirloin Stockade restaurant in Galesburg stands a handful of shivering young people with union picket signs. They are striking, asking for more than the \$2.20 an hour with no benefits that Sirloin Stockade offers now. Watching them are off-duty police. Sirloin Stockade is paying them \$8.00 an hour each.

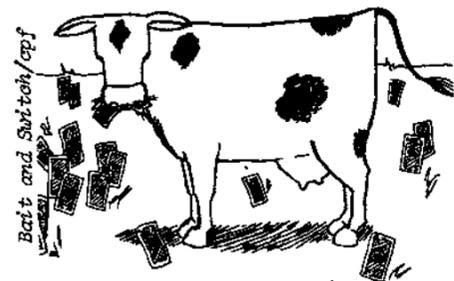
This situation may seem absurd, but it's common when a company decides to dig in its heels and stop unionization. The company has the money to spare for purposes of breaking strikes; they know that however much they spend, it'll be easily made up over the years by their savings on low wages given to non-unionized workers.

Sirloin Stockade workers, on the other hand, don't have money to spare. The Stockade in Galesburg pays \$2.20 starting wage, and the top pay there is \$2.35. One woman began working there when the place opened. She was assured that if she stayed a year, she'd be making \$3.00 an hour. She's been there a year and a half now, and makes \$2.35.

About 20 people work at the restaurant, which is run by Lucky Stores holding company, which also owns Eagle Food Stores. 150 Sirloin Stockades serve up steak at discount prices across the country. Galesburg is the first place to unionize.

A majority of the workers are high school students, and in the spring one of them approached the Teamsters about organizing a union. The Teamsters referred them to the Hotel, Motel, Cafeteria and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 327. Roy Berg, the Director of Organizing for the local, gave the Post the information for this article.

Sirloin Stockade workers voted to have a union in May. On August 20, they went out on strike. They're still there.



The workers want a contract that clearly sets forth pay standards, grievance procedures, holidays and benefits. They're willing to compromise on these points, but they want a contract. Management doesn't. The company realizes that once one Sirloin Stockade gets a contract, all Sirloin Stockades will want contracts, and that will cost the company money.

So breaking this union is especially important to the company, and they will go to great lengths to do it. Berg said, "If they can prove to their employees throughout the country that unionizing is a bad way to go, and use this as an example, they feel they're going to come out ahead."

The Union has other special problems, too. Since the jobs at Sirloin Stockade are unskilled, it's easy for management to hire and train scab labor, and keep the restaurant running normally. And while the restaurant is running, the Galesburg community is such that some people will drive across town just to cross a picket line to eat. Some customers even try to knock down picketers as they drive into the parking lot.

The workers' age hurts too. Since school started, they can only picket between 5 and 7:30 in the evening. They've had some help from Galesburg Trade and Labor Assembly

pickets, but it's still hard to go to school all day and then walk a picket line in the evening. And they're getting just \$20-25 a week strike subsidy, and it's getting colder. Berg feels that management, after glancing at worker demands, is "going to say, 'Fine, go out there and freeze.'"

The company managers know that time is on their side. They benefit from stalling negotiations. Their first offer, on August 18, was a nickel raise to \$2.25 now, and a raise to \$2.30 in January (when the minimum wage goes up to \$2.30 anyway). They offered no benefits. Of course, the union rejected this offer.

And besides the pressure of needing money, high school age workers on strike must also deal with parental pressure to give up and go get another job.



The company also wants a non-binding grievance and arbitration procedure. What they propose asks the employee with a grievance to go through a two-month process of filing grievances and negotiating a solution. The long delay works for the company, since much of the burden of proving the grievance valid rests with the worker, who may not have the time, money or support to go through the process.

"Non-binding" means that even after an arbitrator has come up with a solution to the grievance, no one has to pay any attention to it if they don't feel like it. If the workers don't like it, they go out on strike. If management doesn't like it, they can just not abide by the decision--in effect, daring the workers to go out on strike. Berg says that non-binding arbitration is "pretty much a disaster" for the workers, since they are placed in a position where they have to decide to strike to assert their rights in even a petty grievance situation. If they decide to strike, they've got another long hard picket to walk. If they decide not to strike, they're kind of giving management an OK to go ahead and ignore arbitration in other cases.

Management also wants a Management Rights Clause in the contract, which basically gives them the power and ability to do about anything, especially in important areas like discipline and discharge of workers. This clearly weakens the workers' power.

Management's concern, Berg said, is not to give the Union any power even in the contract: "If they have to give in to a contract, they want to make it so poor and so full of holes that it can be used as an example to stop any organizing drive anywhere else." The company would like to show other workers that even having a contract wouldn't do them any good.

At a meeting at the beginning of October, the Union representatives and workers sat in one room and management representatives in another while a Federal mediator ran back and

forth trying to come up with a compromise contract. The workers want a two-year contract; they agreed to make do with a one-year contract if that meant finally settling the strike. The company people acted as though they would accept the compromise, saying that it had to be okayed by the Board of Directors. Then a few days later, the company lawyer called the mediator, who told Berg that company said no, the contract was rejected. Back to the picket lines.

One picketer has been arrested for disorderly conduct. Four strikers were yelling at a scab worker as he drove in the parking lot to work. The scab offered to fight with one of the male strikers. They started to fight; the police came, and arrested only the striker. The Galesburg Register-Mail wrote up the incident as though it was all the striker's fault, as though he viciously attacked a hardworking responsible Sirloin Stockader. This kind of reporting, containing no criticism of a person who would take a strike-breaking job, influences the community's opinion against the strikers.

Berg pointed out that the food industry in general is a "sad situation". He said that restaurant workers were not even protected by minimum wage laws until 1967. Restaurant management also gets off easy due to the special student provisions in the 1974 Minimum Wage Law, since so many food workers are students. The provision sets minimum wage for a student at only 85% of regular minimum wage. The company is also allowed, under a special provision, to count the retail price of any meal they give the workers as part of their wages, although of course the meal doesn't cost the restaurant retail price to provide. Waitresses are hurt by a special tip provision, which allows the management to only pay them half of the hourly minimum wage and claim that they make up the rest in tips. Even if a waitress doesn't make up the other half in tips, she still has to pay income tax on the amount of the whole minimum wage. And the tips, of course, are paid by the customers, not the company. In many types of restaurants, tipping is unusual, anyway.



"and then the accused conspirators were observed signalling to each other, like this..."

On the brighter side, Berg told us that the Burger King in Galesburg is in the process of unionizing. Two Burger Kings in Peoria are already union. Since Berg informed the Galesburg Burger King management that the workers were forming a union, the workers have enjoyed two pay raises in quick succession.

If the workers at the Sirloin Stockade can get enough support and encouragement to stick it out and win an acceptable contract this year, next year they will be able to do even better. All the workers at Sirloin Stockades across the country will benefit from their example, and the owners of Sirloin Stockades, Ponderosas and Bonanzas nationwide will be up late sweating over how much fair wages and benefits will cut into their pile of profit. They might even have to start eating at their own restaurants.

-Phoebe Caulfield
with Dave Nelson

Narc gets 30 days for child molesting

John "Bill" Stephens' career as Bloomington cop and MEG undercover narcotics agent ended in late September when he pled guilty to child molesting in McLean County Court.



ABOVE: Former MEG agent and convicted child molester Bill Stephens. If you see him in a bar, report this probation violation to the authorities: 829-6341.

The day after his guilty plea, Stephens resigned from the Bloomington Police Department, saving the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners the trouble of firing him. Stephens had been suspended without pay ever since his two-count indictment in June, 1976.

After his plea, Stephens also stopped driving the District 87 school bus route he had been operating for grade school and high school kids.

At the time of his arrest, Stephens had been a MEG undercover narc for more than two years. He had been a Bloomington cop for 10 years.

Stephens agreed to plead guilty to the second count of his indictment: contributing to the sexual delinquency of a child. In return, the prosecutor agreed to drop count I: taking indecent liberties with a child. Stephens will have to do 30 days in jail as a condition of one year probation. He must also pay a \$500 fine.

Stephens' crime occurred in late May, with the five-year-old daughter of some friends Stephens was visiting.

Stephens' liberties with the five-year-old could leave her with emotional scars for many years to come. For this, Stephens gets off with 30 days. Meanwhile, the victims of Stephens' MEG activities languish in penitentiaries for petty drug offenses.

If Stephens' probation conditions are the usual ones, then he is prohibited from being in bars, and is required to be home by 11 pm. Folks who see Stephens out in one of his frequent bar visits may wish to assist in his rehabilitation by phoning the probation office, 829-6341.

Lavonya Carter: MEG informer



Lavonya Carter, pictured here when he was in the service, is the MEG "special employee" responsible for setting up several people busted by MEG in recent months. Carter worked with MEG agent Mark Lehman, who is now a detective with the McLean County Sheriff's Department.

Among the people Carter set up are Beatrice and Emmanuel Samson. The Samsons have been friends with Carter for ten years.

NARC IDENTIFIED: BILL TROWBRIDGE



We've run this narc's picture for several months, but haven't been able to conclusively identify him until now. He is Bill Trowbridge, a MEG agent from Peoria. Before working for MEG, Trowbridge worked as a security guard for the Sheridan Plaza Bergner's in Peoria.

In the last month, Trowbridge has been responsible for MEG arrests in Monmouth. He may be working elsewhere, too. Since this photo was taken in May, he may have changed his appearance.



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Fish Fry Raises \$4,000 to Support M.E.G. Defendant

On October 17, an all-you-can-eat-and-drink fish fry raised \$4,000 to pay legal expenses for 20-year-old James Boucher, who is currently doing 15-25 years on a Peoria-county MEG-initiated drug delivery charge.

Held at Frietsch Park in Bartonville, the fish fry was organized by 20-25 friends of James and his family, including brothers Robin and Richard Boucher. James was a member of locals of the UAW and laborers union whose members also helped organize the fund raising event. At least 800 people donated \$5 each, and enjoyed an afternoon of fish, baked beans, and beer.

The money is going toward James' legal expenses. He already owes \$6,000 for two trials (the jury wouldn't convict on the first one) and a planned appeal will cost at least another \$4,000.

James Boucher was arrested last February in connection with the sale of a pound of LSD to undercover agents, who included recently convicted child molester John "Bill" Stephens (see adjoining story). Four men were charged with delivering the drugs to the narcs, and one of these four men identified James Boucher as their supplier.

Brothers Robin and Richard Boucher say their brother was railroaded. James' 15-year minimum sentence compares with minimums of two years, one year, and complete immunity given to James' codefendants, the brothers point out.

James maintained his innocence throughout his two trials. MEG's prime evidence was a marked \$20 bill found on James when he was arrested. The marked bill was part of the money agents gave to the four men who sold the pound of LSD. James says he got the marked bill when he collected rent earlier in the day from one of the men arrested--the suspect lived in the rear apartment of James' building; James' parents own the house, and left James responsible for collecting rent.



Hundreds of Peoria and Bartonville residents enjoyed an afternoon of food, drink and friends at fish fry held to raise funds for the defense of MEG defendant James Boucher.

After Boucher's second trial, which produced a conviction, one of the prosecution witnesses admitted that he had lied on the witness stand. This witness voluntarily came to James, saying his conscience bothered him. Boucher, with witnesses present, made a recording of the witness's recanting. With tape cassette in hand, Boucher moved for a new trial. The judge listened to the tape, but denied the motion.

During testimony, MEG Director LaGrow stated that James Boucher had been a \$300 a day heroin addict for seven years. (At the time, LaGrow thought that Boucher was 26.) Boucher pointed out that he is only 20, and would have had to have started on heroin at 13 if LaGrow was right. A jailer who examined Boucher's body after his arrest signed a deposition saying that Boucher had no needle marks on him.

Boucher strenuously denied being an addict.

Robin and Rick Boucher say there are a number of issues which will be raised in the appeal of their brother's conviction. One issue, according to Boucher, is that the prosecution was required, under the law of discovery, to reveal to the defense that prime witness John "Bill" Stephens was under indictment for child molesting at the time he was testifying. Failure to reveal this deprived the defense of a chance to challenge Stephens' credibility.

The Boucher family and friends plan to continue their efforts to support James. They will continue soliciting contributions around the state, through a network of friends on state-wide campuses, and through state-wide union appeals. They also plan to have another fish fry in the spring.

Growing like
a weed....

THAT OTHER PLACE

901 N.E. Adams Peoria 61603
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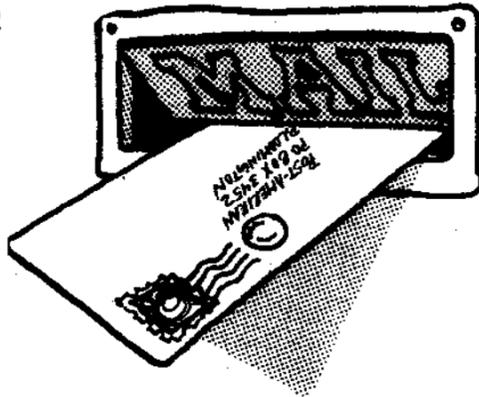
PIPES

BONGS

PAPERS

PARAPHERNALIA

SUPPORT GAYS IN PRISON



Dear Friends,

I am requesting your support and protest of the type of treatment being wrought on me as a gay prisoner activist and on other inmates.

After being transferred from Marion, U.S. Prison, Illinois, after victory in U.S. District Court against prison officials at Marion, I arrived here at McNeal Island (The Rock), to be placed in solitary lock-up and charged with the charges of writing news media in pursuit of better treatment of gays and organizing gay prisoners. I beat both charges in prison court and was still kept in lock-up, denied legal and personal property and 24-hour lock-up behind solid steel doors and no ventilation in cell and one hour of exercise a week.

I have put up with attempted assaults by officers and severe harassment. In the past six weeks, I have been denied any type of medical treatment or to see a doctor even though I have been seriously ill and requested treatment. People from outside have written in, yet nothing has been done.

A solid proof of conspiracy by officials to cause my death is under investigation. This conspiracy is caused from my having victories in court against officials and because I have been fighting for gay prisoners' rights the past four years in the Federal system and at present have six legal actions in court at Seattle, Washington.

I am seeking my release, money, and good days. And also release of medical and prison records on assault by officials and denial of equal rights such as medical treatment.

I have had three writs granted so far and a hearing will be held in the near future at U.S. District Court in Seattle. And I have just filed two restraining orders and a motion is being worked on for recognition of M.C.C. Gay Church Services in Federal prisons. My health, life and welfare remain in jeopardy and danger, and I have reason to fear for my life from treatment by officials.

Just a month ago here, 2000 gay, political and religious books were destroyed by officials in attempts to keep inmates from education and study of their own choice or beliefs. A Fascist type move!

A food strike in protest of general conditions was staged September 29, and all inmates were locked down and after a week, 40 Third World inmates were shipped out to other prisons at midnight and 90 others were locked up in solitary where conditions, including food, are worse.

The warden, C.R. Putman, is under pressures from publicity on the strike, and on sales of \$35,000 of heroin a week by inmates and officials and seven guns found in prison here.

The warden has ignored all rights of inmates in interest of his drug business. Inmates are still restless and officers in which the heat will be on are shifting the pressure on to prisoners. Yet the warden and U.S. Bureau of Prisons are negligent and responsible for all that has been exposed.

I am requesting that you all send letters of protest of human rights violations in denial of medical treatment, equal rights, and severe harassment due to my being gay and organizer of National Gay Prisoners Coalition and in protest of treatment of all other gays in Federal prisons. Send letters to: C.R. Putman, P.O. Box 1000; U.S. Prison, McNeal Island, Washington 98388

Thank You, In Gay Unity,

John Gibbs-86976-132

ANIMAL CONTROL GOES TOO FAR

Post,

A few weeks ago, while I was cleaning my house, I saw something very peculiar out my living room window. Some guy from Normal P.D., in an Animal Control truck, was blocking my driveway. I went to the side window to see what was going on, and out in the back of my trailer was a very beautiful Irish Setter. I've seen the dog before around my place and he is very friendly. Well, to get on with my story. That guy in the truck opened his window and started yelling for the dog to come to him. The dog took off into someone's yard, by then I was standing outside, and I chased him into the culvert behind the trailer. About five minutes later the guy was in front of the trailer again yelling for the dog. After about an hour of chasing the dog around our trailer court, I saw the dog head north in the court with the truck hot on his heels. I stood in the front yard curious as to what becomes of the search and all of a sudden I heard a shot. The truck comes right past the front of my trailer, shuts his light off on the top and drives on. I happened to look into the truck as it passed and there in the back was that dog. Now you can't tell me the dog was only shot with a tranquilizer because during the hour and a half chase, the guy stopped down at the end of our road, and took out his rifle. He fired it into the corn field a few times and it was misfiring. After about three shots it fired right. I've seen a few other incidents like this and 9 out of 10 dogs have died. The excuse I've heard for the dogs getting shot was "they got violent and tried to attack me." Well everyone knows that when you chase a dog naturally the poor thing is going to growl mostly just to scare the person chasing them. I thought the A.S.P.C.A. was supposed to protect animals. But if some nut in a truck can chase a poor defenseless dog for an hour and a half, running the dog until he is ready to drop dead from exhaustion then shooting it, then the A.S.P.C.A. sure isn't doing its job.

CONCERNED CITIZEN

MEG'S DEATH- TRAFFICKING



What disturbs me is the line about "blowing up a busload of niggers". According to your paper's past accounts of Ford Conley's behavior, he does have a very real obsession with guns and explosives. While blithely death-trafficking with these three obvious sickos, whom he didn't even know, mightn't it have occurred to Mr. Spence that the guy might be serious? I wonder, in fact, just how much play-acting did go into Conley's role of sadistic killer. This is a thoroughly dangerous feller! It is a sad commentary on the decline of the counterculture that the agents' strategy paid off.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Patrick McCarthy
Hobbiton, Il.

Dear Post,

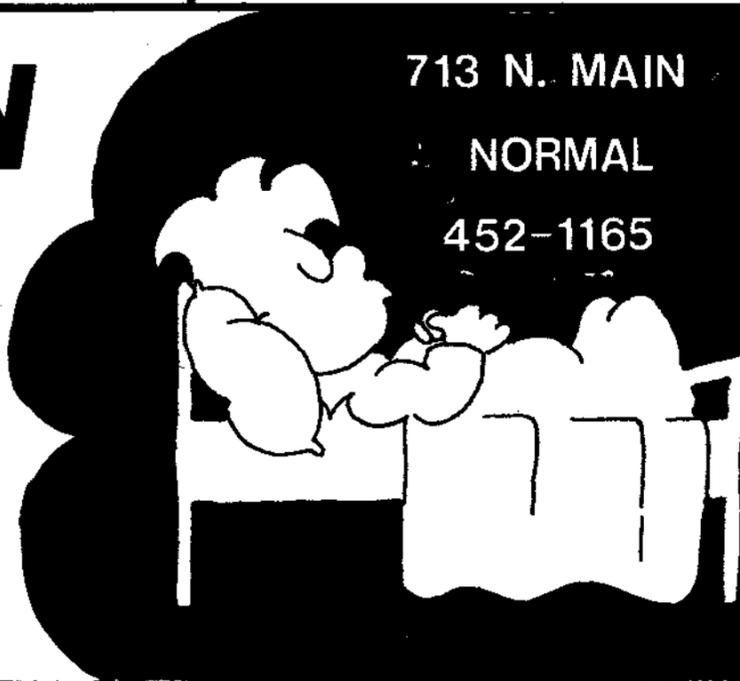
Congratulations on another fine issue. It's good to see that you're not letting up on MEG, now that people think it's had its day. However, I am concerned about your implied acceptance of Clifford Spence's gun-dealing (How Narcs Encouraged Gun Theft). While it does seem to be a clear case of entrapment, and it may be true that Spence had never before dealt in guns, the fact remains that the MEG agents used very weird psychology in winning Spence's trust.



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BIKE RUN-IN CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Dear Post:

I recognize your paper as giving the other side of otherwise faulty stories. I would like to give you a more accurate description of the encounter between Officer Bagnell and Mrs. Mary Cavanaugh which you described on page three of your October Issue. This article left no compassion for the Officer that put up with a lot more than he put out.

As I understand, the bicycle was given to the fourteen-year-old girl in exchange for \$25 in babysitting services. To me this is a rather (ridiculous) price for the bicycle that I paid over \$150 for. I also am familiar with the prices of some bike accessories. I believe that \$5 is a more appropriate price for four rubber brake shoes and a roll of handle bar tape.

After confronting the young girl's mother, I showed her a police bicycle registration from the Aurora Police Dept. This didn't do any good. I went to phone the police to authorize my claim. I purposely waited on the other side of the street for the squad because I no longer wanted to encounter Mrs. Cavanaugh for fear she would become more ethnic with her remarks.

When Officer Bagnell arrived, we crossed the street. At this point, Mary Ann Cavanaugh came out of Biasi's Drug Store and said "What the ___ is going on here!" This was before Bagnell could even have had a chance to antagonize his so called victims. After two or three minutes of attempting to cope with this lady, Bagnell stated that we would be able to settle this when a Normal officer arrived with a report of the stolen bike that I filed in March. At this time

Bagnell and I crossed the street and waited in the squad car. It took about twenty minutes for Officer Jordan to arrive. During this time, Mary Ann Cavanaugh crossed the street twice to voice her opinions to officer Bagnell. Once it was necessary for Bagnell to inform her that her daughter was in the possession of stolen property and that it was a legal matter that would be solved as soon as the Normal PD arrived with the report, if she would wait.

I believe that the total time that Bagnell confronted Mrs. Cavanaugh was about ten minutes. Mrs. Cavanaugh finally settled down when Officer Jordan arrived and backed up Bagnell.

All of Bagnell's conversation was with Mrs. Cavanaugh and myself. He never spoke directly to the young girl or used any profanities. Mrs. C. was the one that used them in front of her daughter.

I appreciate what Officers Bagnell and Jordan went through for me. I was there from beginning to end, I am a witness to the whole encounter. I hope Mrs. Cavanaugh reads this article and realizes that attempt to secure a complaint would be futile.

--John Voirin
(owner of the bike)

POST-NOTE:

We sincerely appreciate Voirin's interest in the reliability of our Post stories. However, we feel that he makes some statements in his letter which are factually incorrect. Others are, understandably, not objective, but must be seen in the light of his position in the affair.

For example, the Post article clearly stated that Robin paid for the bicycle with money she earned babysitting, rather than getting the bicycle in exchange for babysitting services. This is important only in that it may indicate that Voirin didn't read the article as carefully as he perhaps could have, especially since he chose to reply to it.

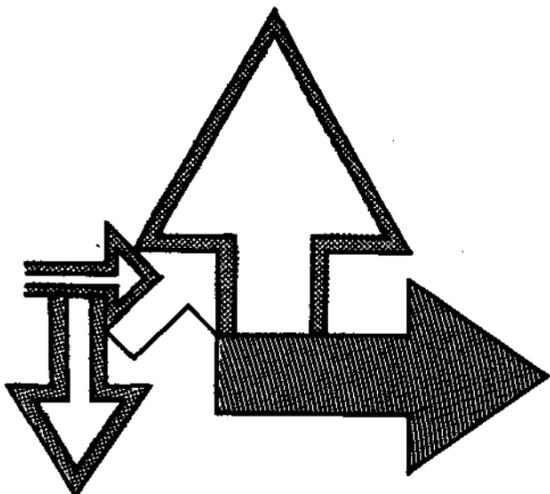
Also, Bagnell did speak directly to Robin. Both Robin and her mother remember specific remarks Bagnell addressed to Robin. They mentioned these specific remarks twice. The first time was during the initial Post interview. The second time was during the follow-up interview we did after we received Voirin's letter.

Voirin did not address himself to any of Bagnell's specific behavior that the Cavanaugh's and the Post consider irresponsible, except to say that Ms. Cavanaugh herself was acting aggressively, which she admits. Neither the Post nor Ms. Cavanaugh know what Voirin meant by "ethnic" remarks; none of the people involved were of a specially recognizable ethnic group. The Post feels that the important difference lies in the fact that Bagnell, unlike Ms. Cavanaugh, was abusing a position of Power.

We would also like to emphasize that another witness to the scene, who didn't have a bicycle at stake, also feels that Bagnell was acting very objectionably.

We feel that it would be impossible to evaluate Voirin's comments without bearing in mind that it is only natural that he would be sympathetic to Bagnell, since Bagnell was "on his side" in trying to get the bike back from the Cavanaugh's. This may explain why, according to Robin and her mother, Voirin was able to laugh while Robin was in tears about the loss of a bicycle she had bought in good faith.

In one thing, however, Voirin is absolutely correct. Ms. Cavanaugh's attempts to secure a complaint against Bagnell have been futile, but not because Bagnell has been found not guilty. Rather, Chief of Police Bosshardt is "too busy" to make an appointment with her.



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Gittings Blasts Hetero-sexism



On September 29th at Illinois State University, Gay People's Alliance sponsored Barbara Gittings, a gay task force member from the American Library Association, who spoke about "Homosexuality in literature for Children and young Adults".

I must confess that I went fully prepared to despise Barbara Gittings as the conservative, boring stereotypical middle-aged lesbian that my friend from Philadelphia told me she was. I also freely admit that I was wrong, very wrong.

In my usual prompt manner, I slid through the door to Hayden Auditorium at 8:00 PM on the dot, expecting to bluff my way into a front seat by claiming "press" privileges.

This was not necessary, however, as Ms. Gittings started late and played to a small but attentive audience. "Quality rather than quantity!" I always say-- well almost always.

I found Barbara Gittings to be an entertaining and highly knowledgeable speaker who remembers much of the gay liberation history from her own experience. (The gay liberation movement is 25 years old now, and shows every sign of being needed for a good while longer.)

As Ms. Gittings said, gay people don't want sympathy; we don't want tolerance. We want the right to live our own lives as human beings.



She advocates not only liberation for gay adults, but gay liberation for children too the children of today and tomorrow. They have the right to grow up feeling positive and good about being gay, and their literature is definitely not contributing to that end.

At the 1975 American Library Association convention the gay task force presented "Must gay be grim for Jane and Jim," a study of available young adult literature representing homosexual characters. All four novels (that's right, folks, only four!) available were prejudiced and gave unfavorable pictures of male homosexuals. Lesbians were not mentioned, not even unfavorably.

I'll Get There--It Better Be Worth the Trip, Sticks And Stones, The Man Without A Face, and Trying Hard To Hear You all indicated either 1) you'll grow out of it, 2) it's a phase, 3) one incident doesn't make you one, 4) you're just friends, or 5) one of you will die so the other can go back to a "normal" life. Car crashes where in homosexuals were killed or disfigured appeared in almost every novel.

The gay guidelines presented by the task force at the convention included: 1. more secondary gay characters, not as problems or as negative characters, but as supportive characters in the action; 2. depictions of gays falling in love, living together as couples, leading "normal" lives; and 3. gay couples in illustrations.

This year nonfiction books for young adults and children were covered for the American Library Association convention. Most were on sex education.

They invariably portrayed homosexuals as unhappy and implied "There but for the grace of God go you or I." They also indicated to their readers that "even if you have one or a few experiences, you'll probably grow up straight as a ruler."

The gay task force says, "Heterosexual chauvinism has got to go."

The textbooks available do not discuss gay literature or gay aspects of writers' lives. Coverage of homosexuality is brief, and often false, if mentioned. Even in one of the better sex education books, Masculinity/Femininity, homosexuality is misrepresented. In the two pages devoted to the topic we are exposed to "Homosexual adults sometimes abuse teenagers," illustrated with a man in a raincoat hiding behind a tree by the school. (Yeah, and heterosexual adults sometimes abuse teenagers, too. Most child molesters and sex criminals are heterosexual males!) A few mildly redeeming remarks are made about gays who are not child molesters but the majority were negative, negative, negative.

When the task force reviewed teachers' guides on sex education, they met the same obstacles, especially the idea that child molesters are sometimes homosexuals so therefore all homosexuals must be child molesters.

Even the encyclopedias that young adults use are negative.

One of the first places a young person with homosexual feelings often looks for information on the subject is the easily accessible encyclopedia.

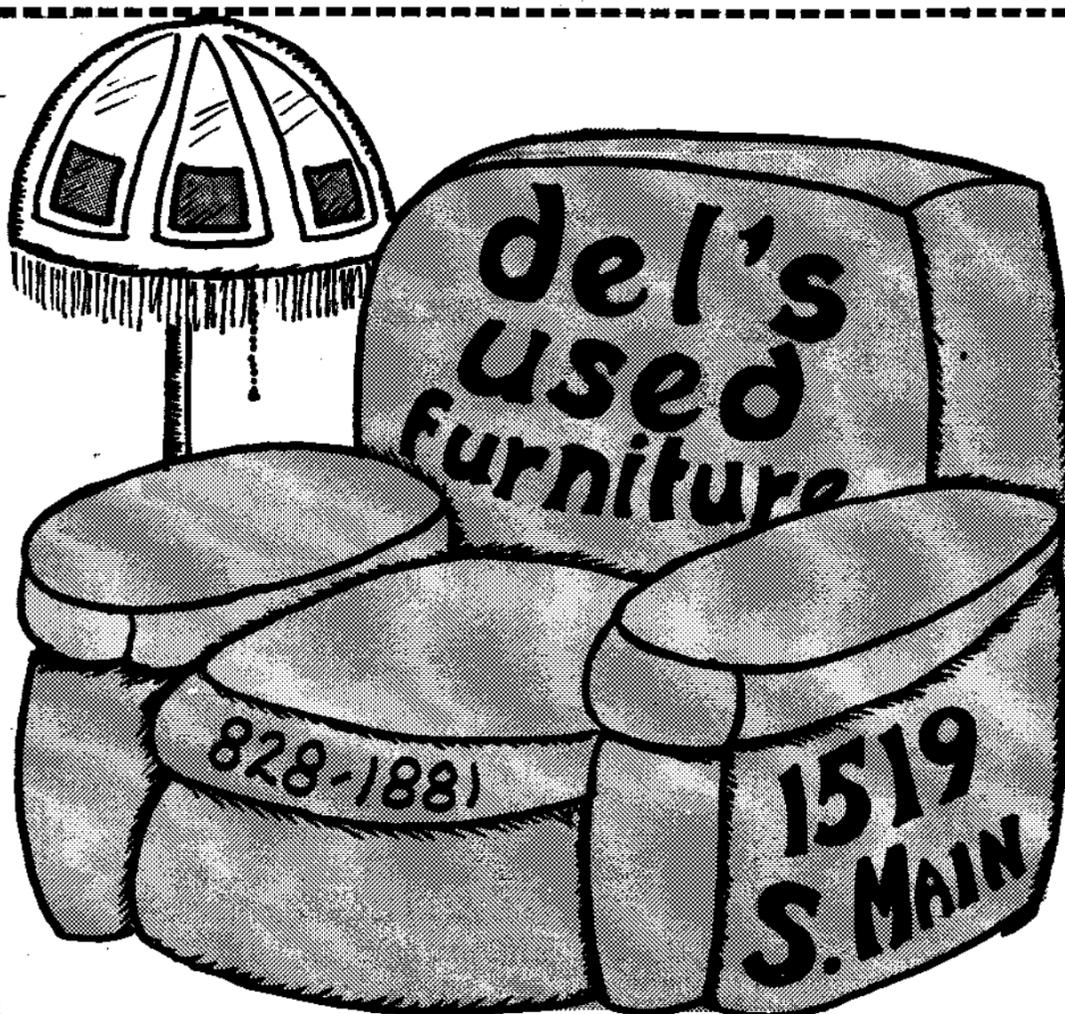
Ms. Gittings reported that Britannica says that male homosexuals dress flamboyantly and identify with the female role while female homosexuals dislike maleness and penises. They also say "bisexual lesbians" appear normal but need masculine woman; that is, penis-less men.

She reported World Book as being faintly tolerant in tone, as though the writers were informing normal people about some strange distant minority instead of 10% of the population.

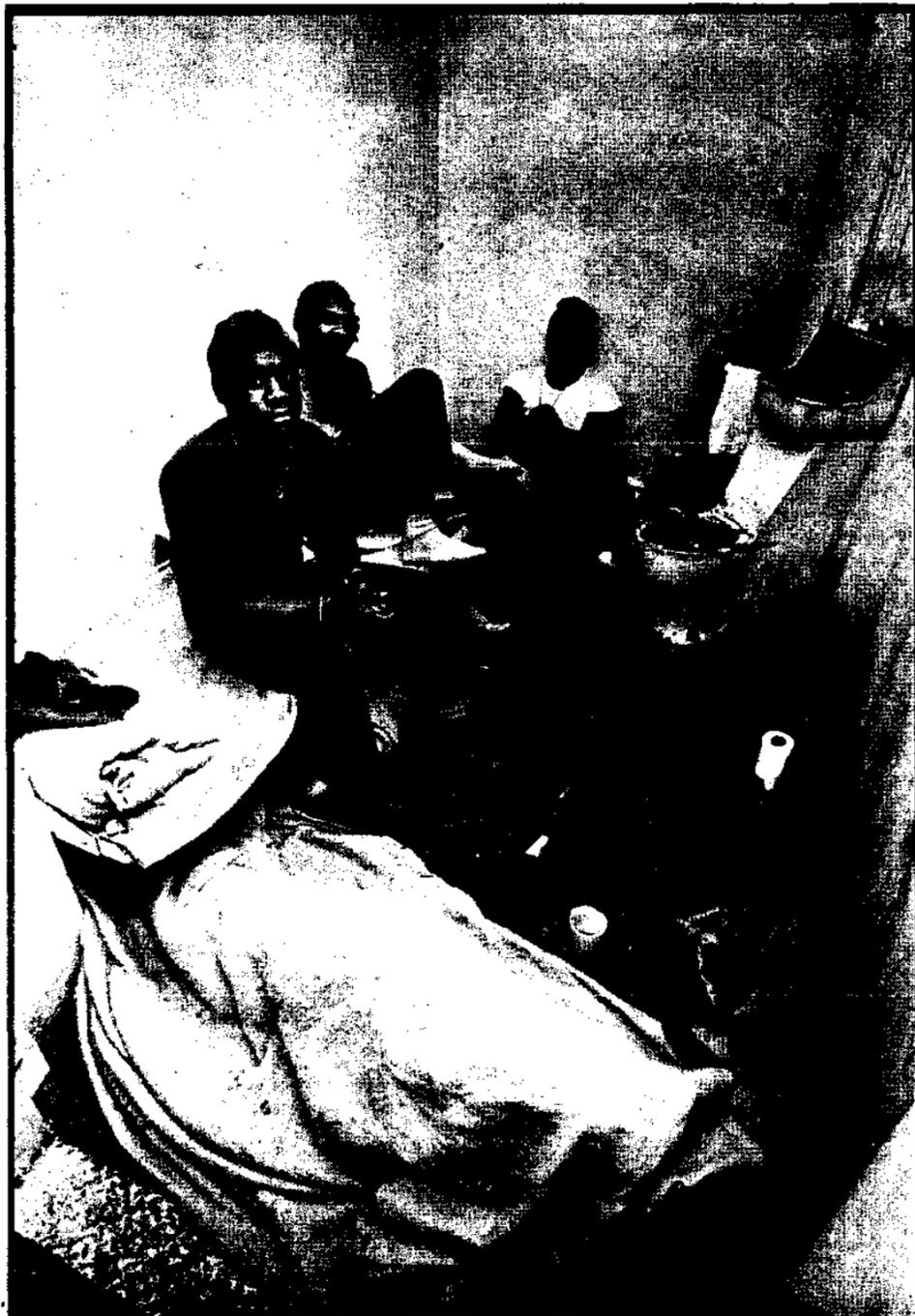
All in all, the task force has found need for favorable change in all areas; fiction, non-fiction trade books, text books, teachers guides, and encyclopedias.

The grand finale of the evening was a reading of the gay primer Fun With Our Gay Friends. Two members of the audience read aloud to us about Spot and Puff and Dick and Jane our old grade school acquaintances, who introduced to us their friends, a lesbian couple and a male homosexual couple who were presented in a very positive and natural manner---for a change.

Not all members of the audience enjoyed the presentation as much as I, but the majority seemed favorably impressed. In fact, all but about four or five older women (who entered together, but sat far apart) showed genuine pleasure. Maybe they were "Citizens for Decency"---or maybe they were old-time lesbians creeping forth from the closet at last.



16 YR. OLD BLACK SENTENCED TO DIE ON BOGUS CHARGE



Teenager Johnny Ross (left front) awaits the appeal of his sentence in this punishment cell with three adult convicts. The cell has one bed and no light.

POST-NOTE: The following appeal is from a letter we received from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

* * * * *

Last year a New Orleans judge sentenced 16-year-old Johnny Ross to die in the electric chair.

Johnny, who is black, had met with his lawyer only once, briefly, before the trial. The trial lasted one day. The jury took 90 minutes to find him guilty of raping a white woman.

The women's movement is struggling to make our society recognize and deal with the crime of rape. Concern for Johnny Ross is not at odds with this struggle. Rather, it is a dimension of it--because the historical treatment of interracial rape, particularly in the South, has been an expression of both sexism and racism.

In July, 1974, two black men abducted a 25-year-old white woman. They drove her to a deserted warehouse district of New Orleans, where she was raped at gunpoint by both men. Later, they drove her back to the area where they'd first kidnapped her.

A witness to the woman's abduction had notified the police, who were now waiting at the scene. A gunfight ensued and the two men escaped. One of the men was described by newspaper accounts as 19 or 20, 5' 7" tall and weighing 145 pounds. The other man was described as being 20 or 21, 5' 9" tall, and 160 pounds.

Johnny stands 5' 4" tall, weighs about 130 pounds, and was 15 years old at the time.

A little over a week after the crime, the police descended on Johnny's home in the New Orleans ghetto, where he was living with his mother. He went quietly with the police, who at first started to drag off his younger brother.

At a lengthy police line-up, the woman, who is a federal law enforcement officer, had a chance to observe Johnny under bright lights. She stated that no one in the line-up had committed the crime.

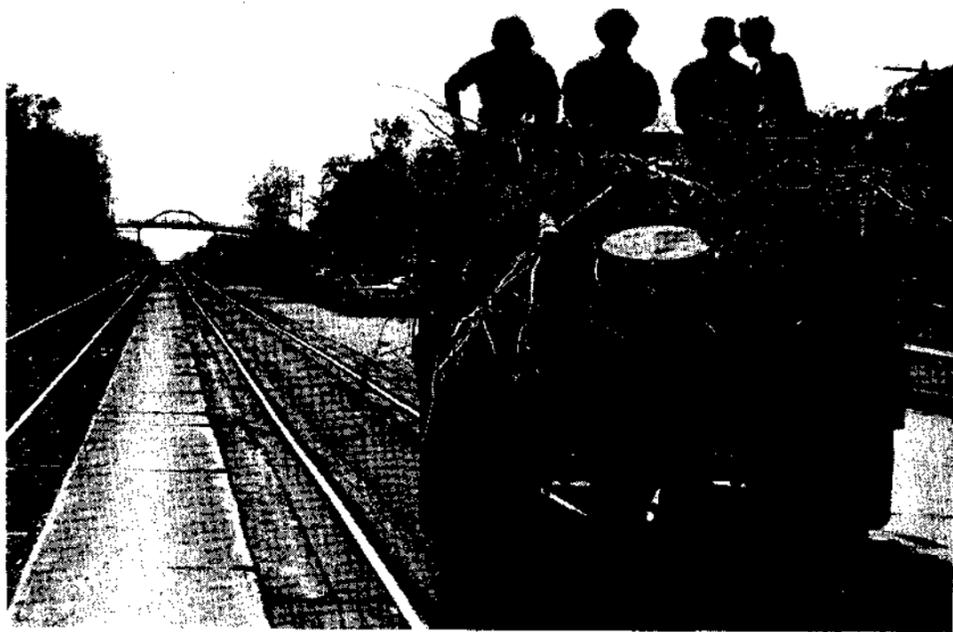
Later, the police handed Johnny a confession which they had typed up and demanded that he sign. Johnny, who neither read nor understood the confession, refused to sign, and finally gave in only after the police beat him severely.

The trial itself was filled with conflicts in testimony. A police officer's description of the culprits and his version of the shoot-out are widely different from the woman's.

In spite of this and other conflicts, the jury took little time to find him guilty and condemn him to death.

Any contribution to help win justice for Johnny Ross can be mailed to Julian Bond, the Southern Poverty Law Center, 1001 S. Hull St., Montgomery, Alabama, 36101.

Railroad Owners Get City Subsidy



This city crew cleaned up railroad property in preparation for President Ford's visit to Bloomington.

Maintaining the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad is normally the responsibility of the line, just as you would expect would be the case with private property.

And if you look at the weed-strewn right-of-way, or if you'd ride the line on Amtrak or see the almost daily wrecks, you'd notice they don't do a very good job of it.

So this private property, in the days preceding President Ford's whistle-stop visit to Bloomington October 16, got a free clean-up job, courtesy Bloomington city officials and city tax dollars.

The photo here shows one city crew hauling away foliage trimmed from overgrown railroad property.

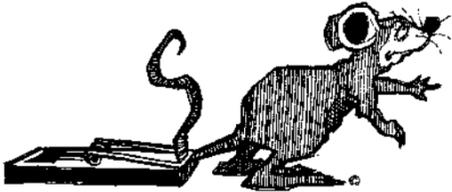
The ICG doesn't give free rides, but watch this "private property" in the future. The railroad is owned by Illinois Central Gulf Industries, which also owns Midas muffler and Pepsi-Cola operations through much of the Midwest. But the railroad end of the operation is losing money, and the ICG is considering applying for a federal subsidy like Lockheed and the Penn Central, not to mention cutting service further. The ICG could be taking another big free ride on us again.

"LIBERAL" DOCTOR STILL ANTI-GAY

October 14, Dr. Ian Wickram, a practicing clinician, spoke on "Therapy of the Homosexual" by invitation of the Gay People's Alliance. As a gay woman seeking her degree in psychology, I attended the lecture. I left feeling angry. And scared.

As a therapist and lecturer, Dr. Wickram is able to influence many people's view of homosexuality. This is alarming, for he misrepresents himself as a "liberal."

He described the psychoanalytical and behavioral therapies, which are aimed at "converting" the homosexual to heterosexuality, as though these practices only occurred in the past. Not only are they still in general use today, but Dr. Wickram himself occasionally uses them.



He also emphasized that most research and literature is based on homosexuals who were in therapy or in prison, and that this is a small atypical subgroup of homosexuals. Yet he did not clarify which of his opinions were based on experience with his clients and which were not. Similarly, although he mentioned that he works mainly with males, he made several comments about gay people which included Lesbians. I question whether he is in the position to make such generalizations.

Dr. Wickram's statements lead one to believe that progress has been made in the treatment of homosexuals. I feel this sham is dangerous for other clinicians and for heterosexuals, but especially for gay people. Because Dr. Wickram is not a blatant homophobe, he will see many clients who are gay, and present them to his "liberal" therapy. But are his attitudes liberated enough so as not to be harmful?

Dr. Wickram's influence concerns me for another reason. He made this statement: "I feel uncomfortable with gay or straight people whose sexual orientation is toward children... I feel that we (psychiatrists and psychologists) need to develop techniques to change their orientation... maybe from minor to major." This is exactly the kind of statement which has been traditionally applied to homosexuality. While Dr. Wickram would (presumably) no longer use this in reference to homosexuals (and so appears "liberal"), he has not confronted the basic power issue which this statement implies. Dr. Wickram still reserves for himself and other clinicians the power to condemn this behavior of others, merely because he is uncomfortable with them. In so doing, he is endorsing the use of psychology as a policing device of the morals of the society.

Dr. Wickram stressed that he wants to give his clients the opportunity to make a rational choice and so does not "propagandize" homosexuality. If his client appears to be sure of his (sometimes her) sexual orientation, he introduces them to a "stable" gay person in the community. Their function is to discuss with the client the realities of gay life, such as parental rejection, job discrimination, social isolation and prejudice.

I was not clear if this information was presented with the awareness that most of the oppression is due to homophobia, but the speaker made it clear that the gay person is expected to adjust, not the straight person.

Obviously, Dr. Wickram makes sure that his clients are exposed to the hardships of being gay. I wonder if he also presents them with the limitations of heterosexuality, that in order to give people the opportunity to make a rational decision, Dr. Wickram needs to emphasize the limitations of heterosexuality and the advantages of homosexuality.

Dr. Wickram stated that he does not believe that in this society homosexuality can be a choice. After probing by a member of the audience, he added that nobody in this society has a choice regarding their sexual orientation. While I agree that most people do not question the role that sexuality plays in their lives, I think there are some who do, mainly women and men who consciously reject their restrictive sex roles. These people may become gay, bisexual or celibate, and some remain straight. So while gayness is not necessarily a reflection of increased awareness, it is more likely to be a result of thoughtful decision-making than is heterosexuality.

Dr. Wickram consistently revealed biases in his attitudes toward gay people. He is more cautious with fantasies or feelings

Dr. Wickram revealed consistent biases in his attitudes towards gay people. He is more cautious with fantasies or feelings expressed toward a same-sex person, and inquires about the duration and intensity of them. He stressed also that it is important to make sure that the person is not confusing a need for love and affection with a need for sex. When asked whether he stresses the same factors with heterosexuals, Dr. Wickram avoided a straight answer, giving clinical examples and quoting statistics.

In his talk, Dr. Wickram never directly discussed his views of homosexuality. Yet, it is the personal attitudes of mental health "professionals" which mainly determine the role that psychiatry and psychology will play toward homosexuality.

Dr. Wickram seems to share a philosophy held by many therapists, which is this: Homosexuality is still an undesirable deviance which should be avoided before it becomes an entrenched part of a person. But once a person shows signs of being a "primary" homosexual, there is no point in condemning them and making their lives miserable, "since research shows that there is little likelihood of altering their behavior anyway." (A "primary" homosexual is defined by Dr. Wickram as a person who has never had a satisfactory sexual experience with someone of the opposite sex.)

That any therapist should promote this attitude appalls me. I feel that the only healthy alternative is for mental health professionals to be involved in an active movement to get all individuals to recognize their bisexuality and to recognize the oppression of heterosexuality, not just for gays of both sexes, but for straight women and straight men also.

WHETHER OR NOT ONE CAN
LIVE WITH ONE'S PASSIONS...
WHETHER OR NOT ONE CAN
ACCEPT THEIR LAW,
WHICH IS TO BURN THE HEART
THEY SIMULTANEOUSLY EXILE...
THAT IS THE WHOLE QUESTION.
ALBERT CAMUS

Dr. Wickram stated that gay people want, but are often frustrated in attaining, all that is "good" in the middle class package (i.e. car, house, white picket fence). He does not recognize that for some (most? all?) gay people, gayness is not merely a different sexual orientation. It is often a deliberate rejection of prescribed sex roles which serve to keep the powerful powerful (rich straight white men), and the oppressed oppressed (everybody else).

--Riverfinger

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ALTERNATIVE NEWS

28

16,000 VOTES FOR NOBODY

(ZNS)--It happened in Nevada last Tuesday: the Republicans cast more votes for an entry marked "none of these" than they did for the other candidates on the ballot. In the Republican congressional race for the seat, covering the whole state, Walden Earhart received 9800 votes; Dart Anthony received 8000 votes; while "none of these" piled up 16,000 votes. Even though "none of these" was the winner on Tuesday, Earhart, the runner-up, was still declared the winner.

WHO'S MINDING THE STORE?

(ZNS)--Thieves in Blue Ash, Ohio, made off with eight large bales of grass valued at \$200,000 in a daring break-in earlier this week. The robbery occurred at the Blue Ash police station, and the bales were valued at \$25,000 each, because they consisted of high quality marijuana.

Police Chief Ron Spurgill said the baled weed was being held as evidence against eight defendants who were awaiting trial. About the break-in? "It was very embarrassing," said the Chief.



RADIO TELESCOPES DRAW ATTENTION

(ZNS)--Several members of Congress are concerned about the possibility that hostile critters on other planets may learn that humans live on the earth, and that they will come here to destroy us.

Astronomer Frank Drake says several government officials have been urging scientists to turn off the radio telescopes that send messages to outer space. Drake is a member of a small team of scientists who hope to use the telescopes to communicate with intelligent beings in the universe. However, a handful of members of the House want the signals shut down before it's too late. Drake says they fear other creatures will learn where we live and will aim exotic weapons in this direction to destroy us.



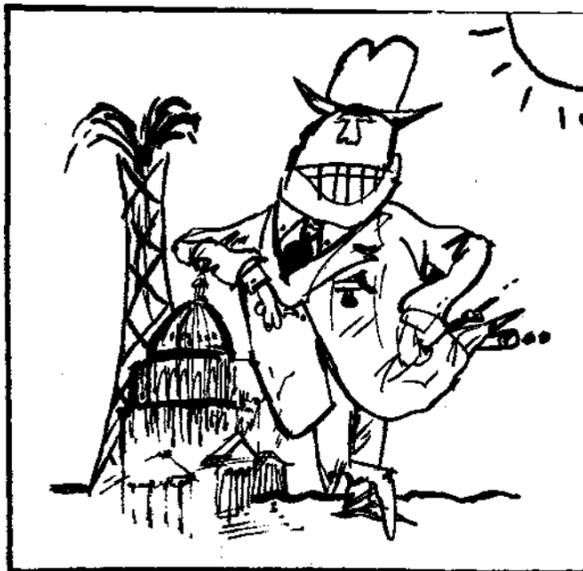
TWICE NUKED -- NEARLY

(ZNS)--An attorney in the Pentagon Papers case says he has seen top-secret military documents which reveal that, "in the past 20 years, the world has twice come within 60 seconds of total nuclear annihilation." This charge is being made by Daniel Sheehan, a nationally known defense attorney who represented Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers case and in the Ellsberg break-in case. Sheehan, in an address at a conference of the Church of Scientology in Los Angeles, stated he came across Pentagon memos dealing with nuclear alerts while researching the Ellsberg case. In one instance in 1958, he said, an airline with engine trouble crossed the DEW (distant early warning) line between the United States and Canada. Sheehan said that radar wrongly identified the craft as a missile, and that a "full mobilization status" was declared. The top-secret papers indicated that the U.S. was within 56 seconds of launching a full-scale nuclear attack against the Soviet Union. Sheehan added that other documents revealed that at one point during the Cuban missile crisis, the National Security Council unanimously approved a "full first strike attack" on the USSR. Sheehan says that the attack was blocked by then-president John Kennedy.

ETHICS COMMITTEE UNETHICAL

(ZNS)--The Senate Ethics Committee has voted behind closed doors to end its investigation of Senator Hugh Scott and other senators who reportedly received secret payments in cash from Gulf Oil. The vote to end the investigation was five to one; and three of the five votes ending the probe were cast by senators on the Ethics Committee who reportedly had, themselves, accepted money from Gulf.

Committee chairperson Senator Howard Cannon along with Senators Herman Talmadge and Milton Young, voted to end the investigation; all three are alleged to have received secret payments from Gulf during the past five years. Only Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts opposed halting the Ethics Committee's probe into the pay-off. Gulf Oil, in its own internal report on Congressional pay-offs, admitted that so much money has been handed out on Capitol Hill in recent years that it had become physically impossible for one Gulf lobbyist to distribute the cash, and as a result, needed three special assistants to pass the envelopes.



"OBSCENITY" OPPRESSION PERKING

(ZNS)--Coffee County, Tennessee, is where the latest battle over the issue of obscenity is brewing. Coffee County's school board has voted unanimously to remove the 40-year old historical novel, Drums along the Mohawk, from the assigned reading list for school children. Coffee school officials say the board's action was an endorsement of a motion by a Baptist minister, who labeled the book obscene because it contains "hell" and "damn."

BIONIC KITTY

(ZNS)--Caution: your favorite pet could be an undercover agent for the CIA.

Former CIA Executive Assistant Victor Marchetti tells of a time the agency once wired a cat for sound in an attempt to use it for eavesdropping purposes. The cat was designed to be placed in an area where potential enemy agents might be discussing covert plots. Marchetti said problems arose when the cat would wander from the target area looking for food. As a result, new wires were added to the feline--one to detect hunger, and another to override the feeling. Then another problem developed, as the bugged tabby, being a male, would lust for other cats and wander. Two more wires were added, to detect sexual excitement and to override it.

Marchetti reported that the electronic feline, ready for its first assignment, was turned loose on the street where it was followed by a CIA support truck loaded with electronic monitoring gear. Before any conversations were picked up, Marchetti said, "the poor thing got run over by a taxicab."

MONSTERS IN THE MAKING

(Earth News)--The National Institute of Health expects to begin a series of tests this winter to determine the amount of risk posed by genetic experiments seeking to create new forms of life. The question has stirred so much controversy in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that the City Council this past summer imposed a three-month moratorium on such experiments at both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. According to Cambridge Mayor Alfred Velucci, "We want to be damned sure the people... won't be affected by anything that could crawl out of the laboratory... They may even come up with a disease that can't be cured--even a monster." Although most scientists strongly disagree with the mayor's fears, the government run NIH wants to evaluate whether there is any significant risk--particularly any infectious effect--involved when scientists attempt to create new organisms.

U.S. ON UNFAIR SYSTEM LIST

(ZNS)--A new study has found that, of all the industrialized nations of the world, the United States maintains one of the most unfair systems of distributing income. The survey, conducted by British economist Malcolm Sawyer, ranks 12 of the wealthiest nations on the basis of the disparity between the income of the rich and the income of the poor.

The study concludes that the United States, along with France and Spain, maintains economic systems in which the gaps between the rich and poor are the greatest. In America, the poorest 20% of the households receive 4.5% of the income. On the other hand, the richest 10% of U.S. households account for 26.6% of the income.



'FOOD FOR PEACE'

POLICE PARANOIA ENDANGERS LIVES

(WKLDOC)--The American Indian Movement (AIM) and Crusade for Justice (CfJ) have filed a \$2.5 million law suit naming officials of the Connecticut State Police and the Immigration and Naturalization Service as defendants.

The suit is based on a June 16 communication sent by Telex wire by the Connecticut State Police red squad stating that AIM and CfJ planned to launch a program to kill a police officer every day until July 4. Police officials later admitted that this report was based on rumor. Meanwhile, police in Colorado and Detroit instituted contingency plans for stopping Indian and Chicano militants. Another unidentified police force told the local press that AIM and CfJ were actually killing cops.

In addition to the monetary damages, the suit calls for an injunction against sending out unsubstantiated information on official channels and a formal apology and correction to be sent by wire to all police departments that received the original message.

A.I.M. ACTIVIST SEEKS ASYLUM

Leonard Peltier, the last of the defendants to be tried for the murder of two FBI agents June 26, 1975, is waging a determined campaign to prevent extradition from Canada to the U.S.

Peltier, a Turtle Mountain Chippewa, member of the American Indian Movement, is seeking political asylum in Canada. Peltier contends that the charges against him stem only from the war between native people in South Dakota and the United State government. Canada has determined that he can be extradited only if the crimes are not political in nature.

Charges against Jimmy Eagle, another defendant, were dropped. Dino Butler and Robert Robideau were acquitted earlier this year.

The major witness against Peltier is Myrtle Poor Bear, who has perjured herself in the trial in which Russell Means, AIM activist, was acquitted of murder. Poor Bear, the only witness against Peltier, admitted in the Means trial that she was paid by the FBI to testify against Means.

PRISON GUARD TRAINING INCLUDES RACISM

(ZNS)--A secret training manual prepared by the Canadian Northwest Territories government describes Indians as "lazy," "uncreative," "unthrifty," and "adolescent." The manual goes on to explain that these "undesirable qualities" arise from the Indians' "Mongol origins."

The manual was published as a training guide to be followed by guards at the Yellowknife Correctional Institute in Canada. The book alleges that Indians, "like the Japanese, are good at copying what others have done, but that both groups lack creative artistic genius." It also states that most Indians are concerned only with drinking, dreaming and the simple pleasures of sex.



AFL-CIA?

(ZNS)--A soon to be released book alleges that there are extensive ties between the CIA and the organized labor movement. The book, titled The Brothers Reuther, was written by Victor Reuther, a 40-year veteran of the labor movement and brother of the United Auto Workers Union's former president Walter Reuther. It documents the extensive history of the CIA and labor in what Reuther calls "a solidarity of subversion."

Reuther, during the early 1950's, worked for the AFL-CIO as director of the CIO's European office. Reuther says that at that time he worked in close quarters with the AFL European representative, Irving Brown. The author alleges that during that time he found that Brown and the AFL were receiving "incredibly large funds from some government source in an effort to get European trade unions in his pocket and to dictate the foreign policy of both European and African countries." CIA funding "was the heaviest in Italy, France, North Africa and Greece, at that time."

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Confessions of a Tomato Addict

Please...Help Me!

Habits, those insidious little things, creep up on us and catch us unaware. One day I was a simple salad savorer, the next I was hooked.

I'm a tomato addict.

Yes, yes, I know what their acid can do, but I can't help myself any more. First, it was merely tomato garnishes on my tossed salads; then I progressed to tomatoes stuffed with cottage cheese; now I find myself washing down my fresh tomatoes with a glass of tomato juice, glass after glass of that fabulous red juice.

Luscious round red orbs of delectable delight- my palate tingles with anticipation (or could it be canker sores?) Juices gushing, cooling my feverish throat, soothing my jagged nerves after a long day at the office with no globes of goodness at hand. The first swallow of virgin flesh-- no additives, no condiments--pure fruit rolling across my tongue until even my desire is sated, if only for a short while. A short while -- my God, the growing season is almost over.

What will become of me this winter? One day I'll probably be found naked in the bathroom smearing tomato paste on my body and mumbling fiercely about the legalization of tomatoes, or maybe I'll find myself on a freight headed south for the border in search of more hospitable tomato fields; or, worse yet, I may be forced to support my habit by "dealing." I may become a dreaded tomato pusher.

I need more than an Alka-Seltzer to neutralize my acid; I need support, the support of my peers, all those other acid-crazed tomato freaks.

Tomatoes Anonymous, where are you?

--Terri Dolan



Here's our hip, cool Post-Amerikan T-shirt! The model's eyes are hidden because he was reluctant to be identified with the Post-Amerikan.

the

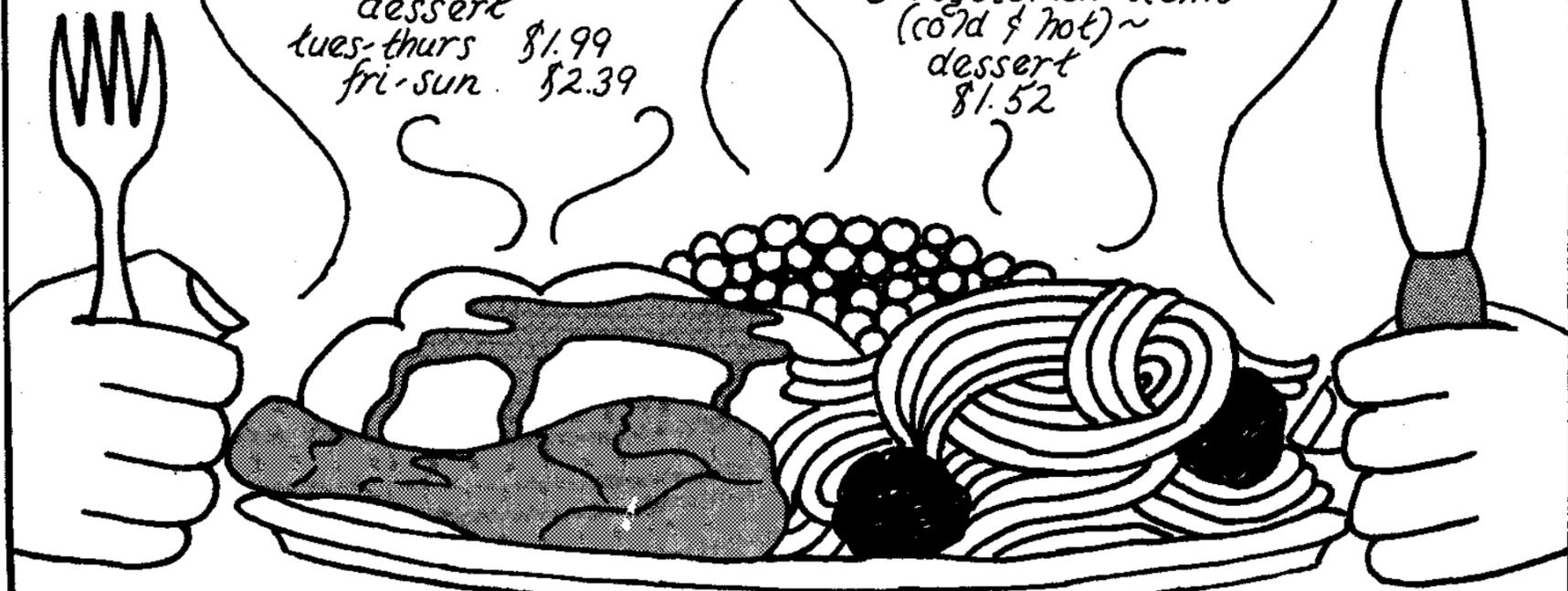
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3000 Complete 4000 Mile Continental Walk

The Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice, a cross-country march for peace which passed through Bloomington in August, reached Washington October 16.

The Walk began January 31 in San Francisco, making connections in 42 states and every major metropolitan area.

Disarmament was the Walk's demand. Presently, the U.S. military budget is \$110 billion, and growing larger yearly. The Walk drew the connection between our high military spending and the resultant loss of resources for human needs such as decent housing, daycare and adequate diet. Also, military attitudes pervade our society through competition, insensitivity and machismo.

Thirteen Bloomington-Normal residents participated in the Walk. Here's a short account of our experience.

Friday, October 15; 4:30 p.m. At the Newman Center we pile into three cars, 13 of us, ready for a long cross-country drive. High on enthusiasm, we wave good-bye, wish each other luck and re-check our maps.

That night we drive hard, cross Ohio, through the Pennsylvania Turnpike. We enter Maryland with the sunrise, and all is rich and golden, harvest colors dotting the hillsides.

Saturday, October 16. About 8:30 a.m. we arrive in Washington, at Chevy Chase Circle, the city limits. Here we join the California-Washington D.C. route of the Walk, and are re-united with our friends who came through Bloomington this summer. The cross-country walkers are happy to see us, and we are one of the largest groups there. We greet the Buddhist Sanga monks from Japan, who passed through this summer also, and present them with petitions for disarmament which we collected here. They are overjoyed.

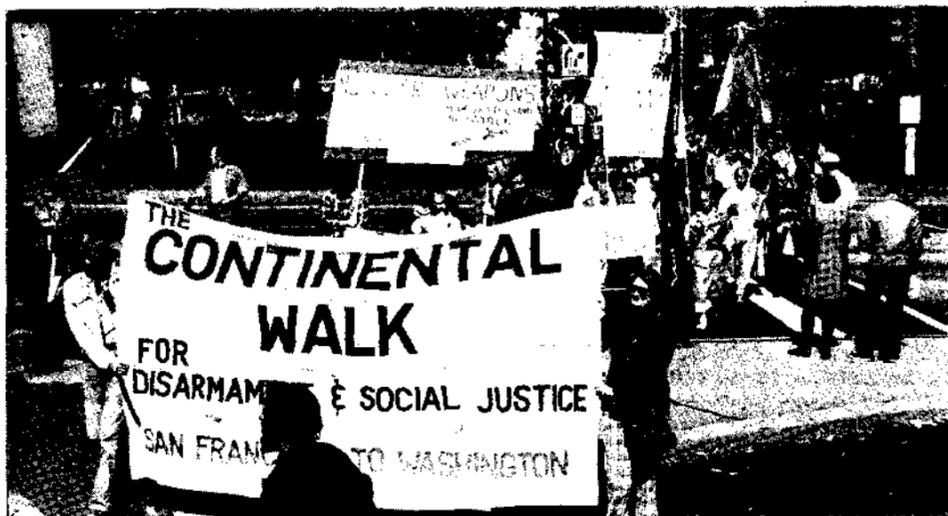
We unfurl our banner, which reads "Normal Ill. Chooses Life" and is decorated with a rainbow. The Walk begins its final eight miles to downtown Washington with about 300 participants.

Enroute we pass big houses, apartments and embassies. The day is clear, bright and blue, and the monks keep a steady pace with their drums and chants. Pedestrians and drivers we pass are leafletted and the Walk explained. We begin singing, fitting our music to the monks' beat.

At Dupont Circle, we enter the concrete and steel of downtown Washington. Here we rest. The Bread and Puppet Theatre of Minneapolis joins us with an exological message, some people wearing giant buffalo costumes, another dressed as the Mississippi River, another like a giant bird and many carrying beautiful banners. A few Saturday afternoon loungers, sipping "Wild Irish Rose," rap with us, and just aren't quite sure whether we are Gay Liberation or Moonies. We reply maybe the first, but definitely not the other, and talk a little about the military.

Turning down 17th St., we pass the White House, and round Constitution Avenue beneath the Washington Monument, stopping at the edge of the Lincoln Memorial.

"Normal Chooses Life," reads banner carried by Twin-City residents.



The Continental Walk leaves Washington's Dupont Circle.

Across Arlington Bridge comes the New Orleans-Washington branch of the Walk, made up mainly of Southern Blacks, who have been arrested and gassed six times, had seen organizers' cars burnt and received veiled telephone threats. Singing "We Shall Overcome" they join us, and circle round to the front of the memorial, joined now by the Boston-Washington branch of the Walk. The journey is complete, the three branches meet beneath Father Abraham's eyes, singing and celebrating, 3,000 strong.

With our present defense budget, we spend 328 million dollars per day, or 13.6 million every hour.

One can imagine the unmet human needs, the inflation and the tax problems that this wasteful military spending causes.

The head of the monks is there, an aged and grey man in his 90's, who can barely walk and has to be helped. Yet his eyes leap and sparkle with the celebration, and he waves to everyone. Together we proceed to the Washington Monument, where David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Dick Gregory and Daniel Ellsberg conclude the day's events with their speeches.

Sunday, Oct. 17. The morning "Washington Post" gives us front page coverage, but says "Veterans of Vietnam protests march together for the last time." Like this is some nostalgic reunion for the class of '68. But we all know that we came, not conclude something, but for a new beginning.

That afternoon, there is an ecumenical religious service. We gather, and speak about the Earth, realize our bond with it,

and how our present order destroys it. We sing together, led by folksingers, Black choirs and a beautiful Vietnamese woman. The monks lead us in the chant again. We join hands, knowing the future is ours to build.

The Bloomington-Normal folks have to hit the road again. So we leave the Walkers and the church, and re-unite at the Lincoln Memorial. We pause there, make our final plans. Washington is cold and wet, the marble mausoleums shine with a dull-grey glow. But in the rain we leave singing, darting between the tourists.

That night, we drive hard again. Monday morning, we are still driving.

Monday, the walkers march on the Pentagon carrying coffins. Some are arrested. From there, they cross the river again, and march on the offices of Health, Education and Welfare, march on the White House. Why are all our resources used for bombs and destruction? What about unmet human needs? That evening, Dick Gregory is arrested outside the South African embassy, protesting apartheid. He declares a new fast, calling for freedom for South African Blacks.

Monday morning, while the walkers marched again, we drove. Then we went to classes, we went to work. Sometimes we nodded off, exhausted from the journey. But there is a part of us that won't sleep no more, and because of that, we were happy and exhilarated.

Officially, the thousands-of-miles journey is over. But all regarded the Continental Walk as a new beginning, a re-dedication of our lives to Peace and Justice for all.

--McM

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PLAYS DUMB....

PANTAGRAPH COVERS UP CABLE CONNECTION

Once again, the Daily Pantagraph has editorialized on public affairs, without bothering to tell the public that the editorial's point just happens to serve the Pantagraph's financial interests.

Specifically, a September 20 Pantagraph editorial told the City Council to keep hands off cable TV. The Pantagraph neglected to mention that Evergreen Communications (the Pantagraph's parent company) owns 10% of Telecable of Bloomington-Normal.

Evergreen Communications owns WJBC and WBNQ radio and the Pantagraph, as well as interests in radio and cable TV in Rockford.

In Bloomington-Normal, Evergreen Communications exercises monopoly power over public communications. The corporation has the power to control the content and tone of information reaching the public. It has the power to decide how much attention one subject or issue will get, and how the subject will be treated.

According to an October 9 article, WJBC had the largest share of available audience of any radio station in the entire United States during an April and May survey conducted by a national radio rating service. At any given time in McLean County, the survey said, 39% of people listening to radio were listening to WJBC.

A similar study of print media would surely show the Pantagraph's index of monopoly power to be much higher. There is no competing daily newspaper.

When the Pantagraph writes editorials on cable TV, it pretends to be a detached, disinterested party. Fortunately, the Pantagraph's usual faulty reasoning prevents the editorials from being very convincing. The Pantagraph is apparently afraid that revealing its own financial interest in the editorials would make them even less convincing than usual.

A year and a half ago, the Pantagraph editorially supported Telecable's request for a 30% rate increase.

The reason Telecable had to ask for a rate increase is that the cable TV company is a monopoly given a franchise by the city councils of Bloomington and Normal. The franchise agreement requires City Council approval for rate increases.

This set-up, the Pantagraph editorialized, does not mean that Telecable should be considered like other utilities which as chartered monopolies, must ask public bodies for rate increases. The strict standards usually applied to other utilities shouldn't apply to Telecable, the Pantagraph said, because cable TV is a luxury, not a necessity.

Probably telephone company executives used the same argument years ago. It didn't work.

The Pantagraph pretends that it is only asking people to choose between an antenna-produced picture and a cable TV-produced picture. But for many people living in apartments and poorer neighborhoods, not having cable TV means not having TV at all.

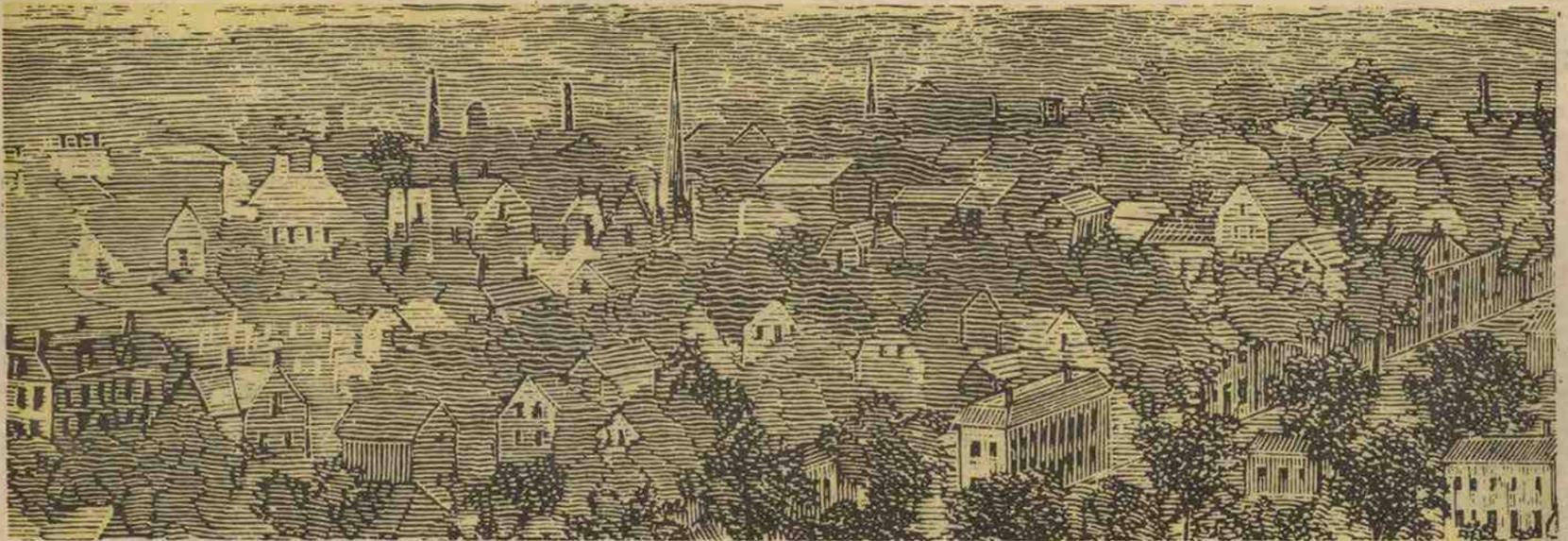
Out in the suburbs (where the people Pantagraph editorial writers identify with live), houses still have huge tower antennas, which can receive TV stations in Peoria and Champaign, and often even Decatur and Springfield. For these people, cable TV may be a luxury, because they still can watch TV without cable.

But more and more people live in places which don't have any alternative to cable TV. Landlords don't care about keeping antennas in shape anymore (as if they ever did.) If a storm knocks it down, it stays down.

Newer apartment buildings don't even have antennas: if the residents want TV, they have to buy cable.

A corporation holding such monopoly power over communications owes the community some responsible editorial writing. How about if the Pantagraph agreed to identify its own financial interest, if any, in each editorial it writes?

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.

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