

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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1-1977

## Volume 5, Number 9

Post Amerikan

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Bloomington-Normal

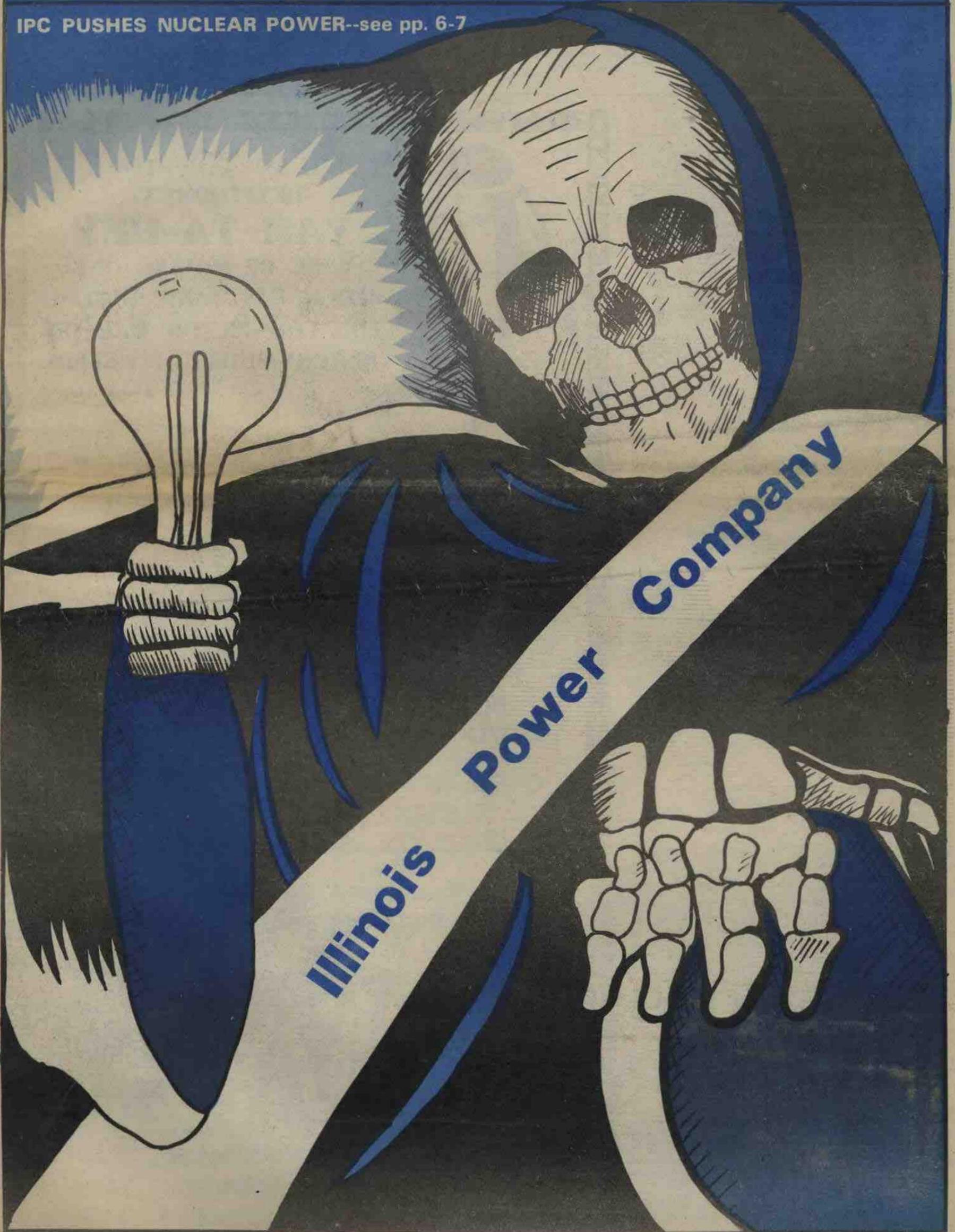
25¢

# POST AMERIKAN

Jan.-Feb. 1977

Vol. 5 No. 9

IPC PUSHES NUCLEAR POWER--see pp. 6-7



2.

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

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

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

# ABOUT US

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

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

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

## MEETINGS

Friday, Jan. 14 . . . . . 6:30  
Friday, Jan. 21 . . . . . 6:30  
Friday, Jan. 28 . . . . . 6:30  
Deadline & Meeting--  
Wed., Feb. 2 . . . . . 6:30  
Layout--  
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 5 & 6

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

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

## Post Sellers

### BLOOMINGTON

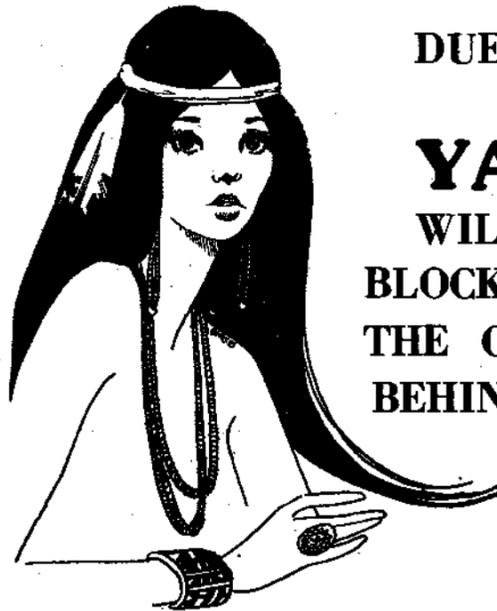
Book Hive, 103 W. Front  
Cake Box, 511 S. Denver  
The Joint, 415 N. Main  
Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front  
News Nook, 402 1/2 N. Main  
The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main  
Gaston's Barber Shop, 202 1/2 N. Center  
Downtown Postal Substation, Center & Monroe  
Bl. Post Office, Empire & Fairway (at exit)  
DeVary's Market, 1402 W. Market.  
Harris' Market, 802 N. Morris  
Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington  
Blasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main  
Discount Den, 207 N. Main  
U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market  
U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee  
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland  
Bus Depot, 523 N. East  
Park Store, 909 S. Allin  
Pantagraph Building, in front of it  
Eddy's Market, Washington & Allin  
Bl-Rite, 203 E. Locust  
Man-Ding-Go's, 312 S. Lee  
K-Mart, at parking lot exit  
The Blue Room, 803 Morrisey Drive  
Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.  
Econ-O-Wash, 708 W. Market  
The Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
Apache Junction, 204 S. McClun  
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main

### OUTTA TOWN

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

### NORMAL

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



DUE TO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT, **YAH-TA-HEY** WILL BE MOVING ONE BLOCK EAST AND AROUND THE CORNER, ON MAIN ST. BEHIND SHIELD JEWELERS.

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY YAH-TA-HEY WILL BE OFFERING 40% OFF ON DIFFERENT ITEMS EACH WEEK. CHOOSE FROM A STILL WIDE SELECTION OF BEAUTIFULLY HAND-CRAFTED INDIAN SILVER AND TURQUOISE JEWELRY... HUNDREDS OF RINGS AND BRACELETS FOR MEN AND WOMEN, CHOKERS, WATCH BANDS, EARRINGS, BELT BUCKLES AND MORE.

COME IN AND HELP US WITH OUR MOVE--

TAKE YOUR FAVORITE SELECTION HOME WITH YOU AT A PRICE LOWER THAN YOU EXPECT TO PAY!

OPEN: 11 AM-6 PM  
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY  
CLOSED ON SUNDAY & MONDAY

We will be closed during the month of February and open at our new location on Main St. after March 1, 1977.



# YAH-TA-HEY

828-1142

Center and Washington  
Downtown Bloomington

## Work on the Post

We're looking for people to write stories. If you can write, you should call or come to a meeting and tell us what kind of story you'd like to do. If you don't have any clear ideas about that, other people can suggest things.

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

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

# NEW JAIL— HOUSE OF EYES AND EARS

3.

"I fell into the State,  
and hunched in its belly..." R. Jarrell

A county police car zooms blaring under the second story overhang and an armored hatch opens its metal mouth to swallow the car, then snaps shut. And there you are, in the belly of the State. The camera turns its one glazed eye on you as you're led from the car directly to a glaring white holdover cell, as the door clangs shut and locks, as the metal hatch coughs the police car back out and you inhale your last breath of unprocessed air. Up in the control room, they're watching.

Up in a blank silent elevator to another holdover cell. Then down a white hallway with eyes on both sides, to your cellblock. No cameras here, but ears, yes. They have microphones in the cells; they can tune in on you. They can hear everything you say.

During the day, you can sit in the common room of your cellblock. Can't pace too much; it's small. Just the six of you, a good number, for them, easy to keep an eye on, not enough for a riot. Enough for a long card game.

Everything is connected by long halls. Every long hall is broken by barred doors: Checkpoints. With eyes.

Your visitor sits on the other side of a floor-to-ceiling partition. You talk on telephones, and stare at each other through the glass. And you're careful what you say. You can find out about the weather.

When it's time for your hearing, it's just up a locked flight of stairs to another locked holdover cell. The locked hall outside your cell leads only to the courtroom, where judge, lawyers, jury, observers have gathered from the outside, although you couldn't hear or see them gathering. As you're led in, they wonder at the dazed and alien look on your face.

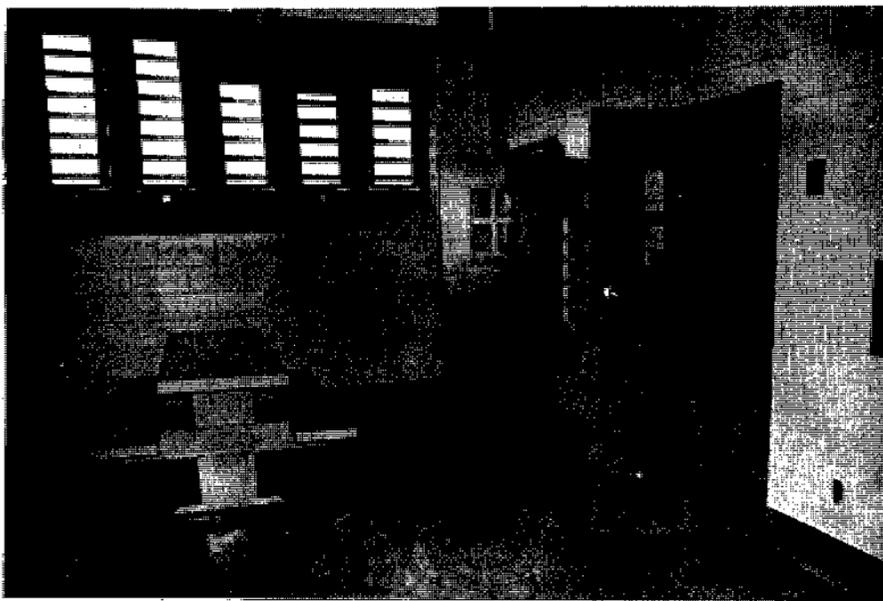
—P. C.



ABOVE: Courts and related offices moved into the new McLean County Law and "Justice" Center early in January. Sheriff King is scheduled to move County Jail operations in February. Dozens of downtown buildings were wrecked to make room for the building, which the County Board ordered constructed despite a county-wide referendum which voted 5-1 against it. Overcrowding which has bothered courts and county offices will be relieved. With modern acoustics, defendants and spectators will now hopefully be able to hear what goes on in public court proceedings.



LEFT: Unlike the present jail, all new cells have toilets, sinks, and lights. Architect Gene Asbury says the notorious punishment chambers presently used by Sheriff King, the black box and the stand-up cell, won't be found in the new jail. There are two "isolation" (punishment) cells, plus a padded cell, but the Post-American was not allowed to see them "for security reasons."



ABOVE: a minimum security cellblock. Each cell block contains six cells which adjoin a day area like the one pictured above. Prisoners are locked in individual cells at night. The new jail's day rooms offer much less cubic feet of space per prisoner than the old. By having many cell blocks, however, the jail meets state standards for ability to separate different types of prisoners: men from women, juvenile from adult, convicted from those waiting for trial, minimum from maximum security, plus work release, and others.



ABOVE: The new visiting room. Prisoners sit on one side of the thick glass; visitors on the other. Conversation is conducted through telephones.

# New Public Housing Rules Hurt Poor



Beginning April 1, a person could earn, say, \$15,000, or \$20,000, even \$250,000, and still be allowed to live in public housing.

## April Fool?

No, the Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) isn't fooling around. It's quite serious about adopting its predatory new "Statement of Leasing and Occupancy Policies."

Two important changes in the proposed new rules will hurt poor people: removal of the upper income limit for people residing in BHA units, and increasing the minimum security deposit from \$25 to \$50 and applying the increase even to people who have been living in BHA units for years.

Both of these changes--which were apparently dictated by the Republican controlled federal government--are designed to improve the "financial stability" of public housing authorities.

In other words, as Dorothy Stewart-Madison, BHA's assistant executive director said at a not-so-public public hearing, the idea is "to get housing authorities out of the red."

Now, when businesses talk about getting out of the red, they're talking about making profits. But what do profits have to do with public housing?

## Getting In

Well, let's examine the changes in more detail before answering that question.

Public housing has always been for low-income people. You have to be poor to get in. There's a lot more poor people than there are public housing units, so there's always been a long waiting list.

Once a family gets into public housing, they pay rent according to their income. The less you make, the less rent you pay. The more you make, the more rent you pay. At a certain point the rent stops going up. The maximum rents range from \$130 for an efficiency unit to \$196 for a three-bedroom apartment.

After living in public housing, if you start making more than the maximum allowed income, you have to move out. The theory is that you now have enough to rent a place on the private housing market. And there are a lot of poorer people waiting to move into public housing.

Under the new proposed rules, these upper income limits will be abolished. Once you are living in public housing, you can stay in, even if you strike it rich. People on the waiting list will just have to wait. Your rent will increase as your income goes up, but not beyond the maximums mentioned above.

According to BHA, five to eight families a year have had to move out because they began making too much money.

That made five to eight vacancies a year for poorer people, who had been on the waiting list a good long time, to move in.

Without the upper income limits, families could make \$15,000, \$20,000--anything--and keep right on occupying space in what is supposed to be low-income housing. The vacancy rates will go down, and that already-too-long waiting list will get longer.

In sending notices of the public meetings about the proposed new rules, the BHA didn't bother to inform the people who will be most screwed over by the changes: the 300 families on the waiting list.

And why are the rules being changed?

Lawrence Irvin, BHA executive director, offered the only reasonable purpose for abolishing the upper income limits. Irvin said that some families have had to leave public housing because sons and daughters begin working, thus increasing the families' income. Within a few months of leaving BHA housing, the children would marry and leave home. That lowered the income of the family, who would then re-apply to get into public housing. Under the new rules, this family would never have left public housing.

But Irvin's example is an isolated case. The BHA's real concerns were voiced by Dorothy Stewart-Madison. She complained that the BHA had been losing some of its "best tenants, the upwardly mobile ones" because they began to make too much money.

## Money's the Key

What that really means to the BHA is simple: profit.

Those upwardly mobile "best tenants" are paying the maximum allowable rents, while the new admission that would take their places would almost certainly not pay as much.

Worse still, the people on the waiting list have very little hope of finding any other suitable housing.

For one thing, the federal government has stopped funding new construction of public housing. Instead, it pays subsidies for tenants' rents in privately constructed developments like Lancaster Heights and Lincoln Square in Normal.

Even though low-income housing is provided under this kind of plan, it is clearly a ripoff: the tenants only get housing and have no stake in their homes and no say over how the development is run, yet their taxes and everybody else's taxes go into the pockets of the developers who decide even the very basic questions of whether any new units will be built.

Worse still, local officials may refuse to approve any new low-income housing at all in the future, according to a November 4 Pantagraph article. The explanation: members of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission were peeved that developers of Lincoln Square and Lancaster Heights recently won a court decision

cutting their property tax assessment in half.

The other housing alternative for poor people is the government's new rent-subsidy program for tenants in existing housing (rather than large new developments). However, as it is explained in another article this issue, poor people shouldn't get their hopes up too high about this program.

## Money First

Yet--despite all the evidence that the proposed rule changes would affect people on the BHA's waiting list--those were precisely the people who weren't notified of the public hearings concerning the changes. (The hearings were held Jan. 5-7 at three housing projects.)

One reason for this neglect is obvious: the BHA doesn't want any interference with its attempt to achieve "financial security."

But continuing to collect (relatively) large rents from its "best tenants" is just one way the proposed rule changes give the BHA more money.

Other ways may include: reduction in losses during the time one family moves out and another moves in (small to be sure), reduction in sums spent to make sure its apartments are ready for new tenants, and (probably) reduction in repair and maintenance costs because a new tenant is more likely to make sure everything is in working order than an established tenant.

The second major change--increasing the minimum security deposit from \$25 to \$50--has the same effect: Providing the BHA with more money.

## Still More Money

Supposedly, the increase will be made to cover increases in losses of unpaid rent and cleaning up after residents move--but there will be less moving now.

Increasing the security deposit for existing tenants is unheard of, but that's not stopping the BHA. It's like a tax of \$25 on each household presently leasing.

Worse still, the fact that it's an increase in the minimum security deposit means that's it's a tax on the very people who have the lowest incomes and are therefore least able to pay it.

True, the increased deposit can be paid off over the nine months following April 1, but \$25 is still a lot of money to somebody on welfare or social security. A whole lot of money.

But what can you expect?

It's clear the housing authority is more interested in its own "financial stability" than it is in the people it's supposed to be serving.

The BHA might as well be Hundman Homes--and if it keeps trying to put through rule changes like these it will make it some day.

# Rent Assistance Program Aims Too Low

The Federal Government doesn't want to build any more low-income housing, and so Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is encouraging other kinds of programs to solve the housing problem.

One such program is getting started in Bloomington: the Housing Assistance Payments Program. The Bloomington Housing Authority is running the program locally, with money from HUD. The money will go to poor, elderly, and handicapped people to pay part of their rent if the rent exceeds 25 per cent of the family's income.

It sounds good. One thing I like is that this program doesn't involve tearing down nice old houses and putting up plastic-and-cardboard monsters. Poor, elderly, and handicapped people stay more integrated into the community instead of being isolated in one place. The program also gives the illusion that the people will be able to choose what apartment they want to live in, which would be nice too.

Unfortunately, it is just an illusion. The HUD economist, who supposedly studied our city and determined the maximum amount the different kinds of apartments could cost, came up with unreasonably low ceilings. The rent help will only apply if the renters can find an apartment with these maximum costs (rent plus utilities):

Bedrooms	Non-Elevator	Elevator
Efficiency	\$130	\$143
One	\$150	\$165
Two	\$177	\$194
Three	\$196	\$215
Four	\$214	\$235

This means that if the utilities on a two bedroom unit average \$35 per month, the unit must rent for only \$142. If you've looked for an apartment lately, you know that it's hard to find a one-bedroom apartment for \$142 a month. Gas heat is going up about 30% this winter, and if the electric company gets its 15% rate hike this year, utilities will take a bigger chunk.

The Bloomington Housing Authority is not exactly pleased with the HUD maximums, either. Ms. McKittrick, program coordinator, said that they had called HUD and griped about how low the amounts were. The HUD people told Bloomington that they had to try it this way, document the failures and successes, and try to get the amounts raised when HUD updated them, maybe as soon as March. McKittrick admitted that she didn't know of any four-bedroom units in Bloomington renting for \$214 a month.

Even if a renter can find or already lives in an apartment that qualifies in cost, the landlord still must be convinced to participate in the program. And with a lot of landlords, especially ones who are renting cheapie apartments, that's not going to be an easy job. Why? Because the apartment has to be inspected and approved by Urban Renewal people at first, and then every year after that. This means that the plumbing, the electric wiring, furnace and hot water heater, the windows and doors, and all kinds of things have to meet HUD standards. No rotten front steps or whole kitchens run off extension cords or anything like that. Have you ever lived in a cheapie apartment that has good sound wiring and plumbing and safe front steps?

A possible solution to this problem, which of course you couldn't expect BHA or Urban Renewal to admit, is that the Urban Renewal inspectors will kind of not notice a lot of things when they come around. A lax inspection is the only thing that could pass most of the older buildings in town, and a lot of the new ones, too.

Another reason the landlord might not agree to rent to people who are planning to receive assistance from the program is that it adds some paperwork for him/her. The landlord has to send a form to BHA each month, and the assistance money will be sent directly to him/her. The landlord also has to collect the balance of the rent from the tenant, as usual. Some landlords might refuse just because of the extra hassle, especially since a landlord with an apartment this cheap to offer usually has a choice of ten or twelve renters any time.

Some landlords, in spite of the problems, have shown interest in the program. McKittrick said that three or four have called her. They are people who already have tenants they like who are having trouble keeping up on rent, and the landlords see this program as a way to relieve the tenant, still get the rent, and keep a good renter. McKittrick thinks that these landlords are those who just own one or two houses and don't make a business of renting, so apartment hunters shouldn't expect to run into these kindhearted folks very often.

The Illinois House also is interested, because they have so many elderly fixed-income renters there. And McKittrick did point out that the program will probably end up serving older people best. She expects that fifty percent of the 100 units to be subsidized will be efficiency and one bedroom apartments for elderly people. This is badly needed in Bloomington, too-- There's a waiting list of 300 old people to get into Wood Hill Towers. If they apply, some of these people will now get help from the new program.

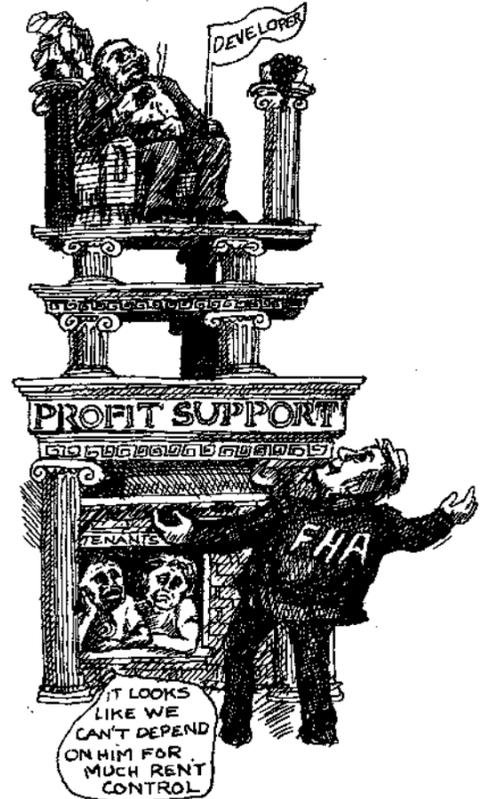
The assistance is only available to individuals living alone or to families, and the definition of family is pretty strict. You have to be related by blood, marriage, or adoption to be a family in HUD's eyes. This means that unrelated single-sex or mixed-sex couples, or communal living groups, are not qualified--even if they've been living together for years and are more stable than most marriages. I think HUD's restrictions in this area are narrow-minded, short-sighted, and stupid. If you are a mixed-sex unrelated couple, you can say you're married on your application and BHA won't get too nosy about it.

If you're thinking of applying for the program, the little leaflet put out by BHA tells you that you may have to "sell" the program to the landlord, since his/her participation is voluntary. We asked Ms. McKittrick what points the renter could emphasize in "selling" the program. She mentioned:

- 1) Reassure the landlord that s/he'll set the time and be present at the Urban Renewal inspections.
- 2) Tell the landlord that the program assures at least partial payment of the rent every month.
- 3) Remind the landlord that if you move out, BHA will cover 80% of the rent up to 60 days or whenever your lease runs out, whichever comes first.

Before you go spouting this stuff off to your landlord, remember that the first point will only be reassuring if the landlord doesn't think there are any gross violations of the code anyway, that the second might kind of make it sound like you aren't intending on getting your part of the rent in for sure, and that the third will probably be irrelevant around here, where landlords can usually be moving new tenants in the back door while you're still moving out the front, and be upping the rent five dollars while they're at it.

There's clearly a need for this kind of program in our city--90 people showed up at BHA to apply for the program just within the first week. I think, though, that the program has built-in



drawbacks that will keep it from being very effective for a broad range of people who need help. The first, of course, is the low maximum housing costs. Second, the program should be offered to stable unrelated living groups too. Next, I think that landlords shouldn't be allowed to turn down possible renters just because they will be receiving aid. A city ordinance should force the landlord to rent to people on assistance programs--that's the only way these people will really have choices about where to live.

--Phoebe Caulfield

## CORRECTIONS



We don't want to make this type of article a regular feature. But we couldn't resist this time, because we found out that we made four mistakes last issue. So we'll tell you now what the real rap is.

1. New Age Music does not run or own the Lazy J Saloon. It's owned by Dave Brown and Gary Kagel. New Age Music cooperative does the booking for the saloon.
2. MEG Agent Donna Hangen did not parade around a future MEG defendant's apartment in the nude, as we reported last issue. She paraded around the apartment in her panties. As part of her undercover work, she pretended to dive under the covers with IBI agent Jerry Dean. It was part of an act to convince potential defendants that the two had taken cocaine and then gone to bed.
3. Sheriff King's propaganda scare pamphlets which purport to explain the law to young people were not passed out at a junior high school, as we reported last issue. We obtained the pamphlets from a junior high student, who got them from a Careers Day fair at a local high school, where the pamphlets were available to all.
4. Bloomington was not scheduled to reconsider its membership in MEG at the end of December, as we reported last issue. For the full explanation, see the article about this elsewhere in this issue.

# 6. NUCLEAR POWER

As our use of energy grows in the U.S., and we are more dependent on other nations for fossil fuels, many people are pushing nuclear power as the answer to our energy problems. Gas and electric companies, the government, and large corporations like Westinghouse and General Electric (which build nuclear reactors for profit) are promoting nuclear power as a cheap, safe, efficient, long-term source of electrical energy.

For them, it's an investment of billions of dollars. So they've got to convince us that we're getting a real bargain--since we'll be paying for it. To convince us, they puff up the "advantages," don't mention the disadvantages, and downplay or misrepresent the dangers.

Let's look at the price we'll be paying--the real and potential costs in money, health, and the quality of the environment--to see what kind of bargain we're getting.

## MONEY COST

People in favor of nuclear power say that it will be a cheaper, "more economical" source of electrical energy than that produced by fossil fuels, and will make us independent of greedy foreign oil suppliers.

More economical? Construction of nuclear power plants is far more expensive than construction of regular fossil fuel plants. In fact, it's so much more expensive that power companies try to build the construction costs right into the electrical rates that consumers pay for their regular electricity.

All over the nation, power companies are requesting rate-hikes so they can pay for "Construction Works in Progress" (CWIP) out of a bigger rate-base. (Frequently they try to get CWIP built into the rate-base to build regular plants. This might establish a precedent that will make it easier for them to obtain later rate-hikes for CWIP when they move into the nuclear field.)

## Glossary

### SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

You may be unfamiliar with some of the words in this article. Here are some definitions, which hopefully will make things clearer.

**RATE BASE:** represents the total amount of money a utility has invested in equipment, buildings, etc.. Regulatory bodies allow utilities to get a certain percentage profit of their rate base. So the higher a utility's rate base, the more profits they get.

**FOSSIL FUELS:** Oil and coal. These fuels are the decomposed, fossilized remains of life forms from millions of years ago. Since it takes millions of years to produce them, and only a short time to burn them up, the world can't depend on them to provide energy indefinitely into the future.

**REACTOR:** a special assembly for producing a limited and controlled release of nuclear (atomic) energy. At nuclear power plants, the nuclear energy's heat is used to boil water, the steam from which is used to drive huge generators.

**REACTOR CORE:** This is where it all happens. Enriched uranium pellets are loaded into the core and interact to create heat. The core is the heart of the reactor.

**HALF-LIFE:** a measure of how long a substance stays radioactive.

**KILOWATT-HOUR:** a measure of how much electricity is used. The IPC charges a few pennies for one kilowatt hour, which represents the electricity consumed by a 1000-watt appliance being used for one hour.

**FISSIONABLE:** capable of nuclear fission, the splitting that occurs when the nucleus of an atom under bombardment absorbs a neutron. Nuclear fission releases tremendous amounts of energy when heavy elements, especially plutonium and uranium, are involved.

Nuclear plants are so expensive to build that for a long time they don't pay for themselves in energy produced (unless rates are raised even more). So if companies can include costs for "Construction Works in Progress" into the rate-base, the users of electricity will be paying now for energy to be produced later--in effect, paying more for that energy far in advance. And that's just the beginning. For if the financing for construction of nuclear plants comes out of the rate-base, companies will tend to pay less attention to keeping construction costs down, and construction money will be wasted more easily.

What about fuel supply? The uranium ore needed for nuclear reactors is a limited natural resource, and for much of it we will be dependent upon foreign sources. As more reactors are built, uranium prices will go up because of increasing demand and decreasing supply--and therefore nuclear power will become even more expensive than it is now. In 1975, the number of power stations using enriched uranium had increased to the point that supply of the metal became a serious problem and the U.S. raised its price for it by 26%. Electric companies will pass those prices on to the consumer.

Once a nuclear plant is built, the costs for maintenance and security are very high. The equipment is expensive; plants are often shut down for maintenance, inspection, and repair; replacement parts and installation come high. Further costs not found in regular power plants are salaries of Radiological Accident Prevention (RAP) teams, nuclear technicians, and armed security guards. Add in the costs of cleanup and decontamination after radioactive accidents. Also add the costs of transporting and "disposing" of radioactive waste products. These are very dangerous (for example Plutonium 239 has a radioactive half-life of 24,100 years), and must be continually watched and accounted for until and while they are securely stored. (Where?)

And finally there's the cost of propaganda campaigns to combat people's fears and organized opposition to nuclear power plants. What it boils down to is this: each kilowatt-hour of energy produced by nuclear plants is VERY expensive compared to that produced by regular plants--and the people who use the energy will wind up footing the bill.

## HEALTH COST

Proponents of nuclear power say that in well-run plants, where radiation emissions are kept within "safe" levels, there is no danger to human health. And they say that modern technology is so advanced and workers so well trained that accidents are highly unlikely.

This is phoney balony. What are "safe" levels of radiation for people to be exposed to? The limits and guidelines put out by scientists, the industry, the old Atomic Energy Commission, and the new Nuclear Regulatory Commission are guesswork. No one really knows what the long-term effects of even low levels of radiation will have on individual people. And in terms of effects on human body cells, what is a "low level"? (It's interesting to note how many scientists who've worked with radioactive materials have died of cancer: Madame Curie, Pierre Joliot-Curie, Fermi, Seagondollar, Oppenheimer, to name a few.)

It's only been 30 years since the atomic age was ushered in for keeps in 1945. Last year there were 175 nuclear reactors in operation around the globe (most of them in this country, but also in Japan, Britain, East and West Germany, India, Canada, China, Russia, France, and The Netherlands), and many, many more are being planned. What "levels" of people-made radiation are we generating on this green earth? We were terribly concerned about the latest Chinese bomb that sent a radioactive cloud around the world, were frantically measuring potential fallout and--here in Illinois--were hoping that it wouldn't rain until the cloud was past. Are we concerned about the radioactive contamination of Japanese oysters, or about the radiation spill at the Dresden station near Morris, Illinois, last year that puffed a cloud of radioactive particles into the air? Officials at the Dresden plant assured the neighbors that the accident posed no "danger" to human health.

How do they know? Just how much radiation is "safe" for people to get in the air they breathe, the water they drink, the fruits and vegetables, milk, meat, and seafood they consume? How much is "safe" for the workers in nuclear plants--even well-regulated ones? Or for the people living in the vicinity of the plants?



Provides radiation anticontamination in case of nuclear war, disaster, or industrial accident.

This graphic and the rap below it are from a Nucleo Clean ad for "radiation hazard emergency personal anticontamination kit."

And what if a plant is not well-regulated? What if important parts made by General Electric are badly designed, flawed, shoddy, poorly installed, or simply fail under stress? (You can be sure if it's Westinghouse.) What if ordinary explosions or fires occur which hurt the normal running of the plant and cause radiation spills? Well, many accidents have happened--far more than the public is allowed to know about. Japan has had a series of nasty accidents; some of ours have been in Idaho, Hanford (Washington), Oak Ridge (Tennessee), and Dresden (Illinois).



Fortunately, some of the accidents are so bad they can't be hushed up. There have been several cases of near disaster when reactor cores have approached meltdown, when cooling systems have failed, when protective insulating shields have been faulty, and when collected waste approached critical mass and atomic reaction (explosion). And it's not only in the plants that accidents can occur. Radioactive materials are transported long distances by truck, train, and plane.

# IS NO BARGAIN

7

Fear of accidents is so great in the industry, and in government installations, that specially trained RAP (Radiological Accident Prevention) teams are stationed around the country on 24-hour call to rush to a reactor site or other emergency scene to stop a crisis or "decontaminate" after a radioactive spill has occurred.

We've known for a long time that radiation has severe negative effects on plant and animal health—cancer, sterilization, genetic mutation. The possibility of these effects seems a high price to pay for nuclear-produced energy.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COST

People in favor of nuclear power say that it will not seriously affect the natural environment. They say that if there are harmful effects, they are able to be contained and made "tolerable." And that careful environmental impact studies are made before construction is approved. And that governmental regulatory agencies will carefully watch whatever effects are occurring and blow the whistle if necessary. And finally—the clincher—that our need for energy (and independence in our energy supply) forces us to accept some damage to the environment as a trade-off—a necessary price for us to pay.

More phoney balony. It's true that because of public pressure, environmental impact studies are being made before construction is approved. But these studies are mostly guesswork. No one knows what the long-term effect of a nuclear power station will be on its environment. Particularly when its effect is added to the combined effect of several hundred reactors dotted around the globe.

And governmental regulatory agencies can't be trusted to do the job they should be doing. Too many of the people sitting on them have connections or personal interest in what they're supposed to be regulating. Too much regulation is bad for their own interests, or their friends' interests, or for the "economy." More trade-offs.

As a matter of fact, nuclear power plants potentially have very serious effects on the natural environment. In addition to the radiation pollution already mentioned, there is also thermal pollution—a rise in the temperature of water used in the production of electricity from nuclear reactors. Many kinds of organisms that live in water surrounding nuclear plants can't handle permanent rises in temperature—they die, or change their habits, or move elsewhere. We and they, as forms of life, are dependent on each other.



Changing the environment of lakes, rivers, and ocean shorelines to a significant degree could possibly set up harmful biological changes that would trigger an organic chain reaction. Drastic changes in a different life form, or species, can affect people. The health of plants and animals is just as important as our own if we are to survive as a species.

Besides thermal pollution, there is another long-term danger to the environment posed by nuclear power plants: the "disposal" (storage) of radioactive waste products. Some of the wastes stored now (in larger and larger quantities) will still be around and just as dangerous a hundred or 1000 years from now. How will we figure out completely safe means of storing it, and protecting it from spillage through earthquake or rotting or rusting of containers? These wastes must also be kept from accidental loss in transport and deliberate theft of hi-jacking. Big increases in the number of nuclear power plants are a general threat to the environment. They make possible a massive production of fissionable materials around the globe. They introduce an element of unpredictability, and remove the assurances of strict controls, creating the possibility of disaster through ignorance, incompetence, carelessness, stupidity, and malice. An example of the unchecked large increases in the number of nuclear plants: last year West Germany contracted to sell four power plants, and four plants for producing enriched uranium, to Brazil. It was a profitable deal, for West Germany gets Brazilian uranium in exchange. Well, why not expect that Canada will sell reactors to Indonesia? Russia to Peru? China to Uganda? Britain to Jamaica? Indonesia to Egypt? India to Uruguay.



Widespread use of nuclear power plants will saddle us with heavy environmental costs. Is it worth it for the power? Or, considering the risks involved for the health and well-being of the planet, is it too expensive a trade-off?

## CAN IPC SAFEGUARD NUCLEAR PLANT?

# Tinsel Scrap Shorts Out East Side Power

Though famous for finding all soft spots in regulatory bodies, overseeing commissions, and tax laws, Illinois Power Company officials overlooked a glaring weakness in their own East side substation.

A scrap of tinsel blowing from a Christmas tree found the soft spot Illinois Power had overlooked, and shorted out a major power station December 26.

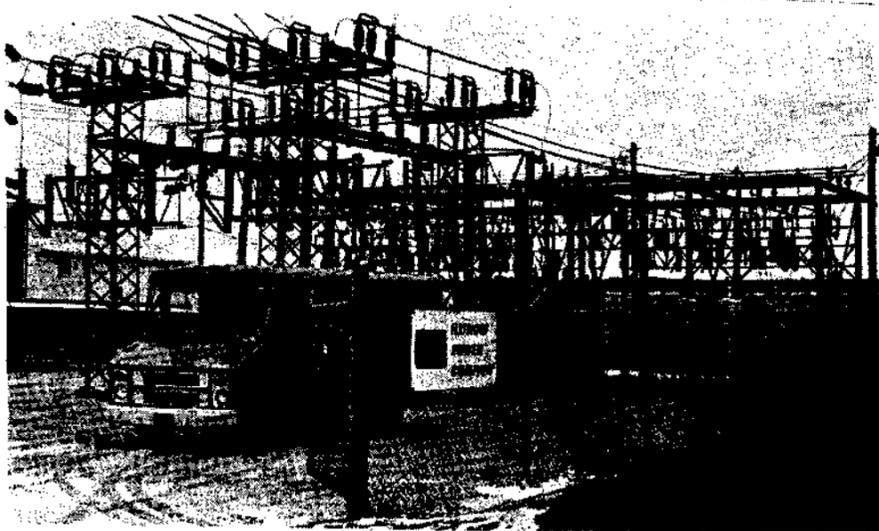
It was like an anarchist's Christmas present one day late. Eastland Shopping Center, K-Mart, Colonial Plaza Shopping Center, the major monuments of commodity culture, all shut down!

The shopping centers' closing dumped a huge number of cars onto the already overcrowded intersection of US 66 and Route 9, which was forced to function without working traffic lights.

Luckily, there were no traffic accidents.

Illinois Power Company's shoddy precautions could have resulted in this same short circuit two days earlier just as easily. What if Eastland Shopping Center and neighboring stores had been forced to close in the middle of the Christmas Eve business day? Thousands and thousands of irritable drivers pouring onto the road, eager to do nothing but get to another store that's open so they can BUY! Illinois Power Company is building a very dangerous nuclear power plant only 20 miles from Bloomington. If there is any radiation leak, thousands of people will be exposed to the dangerous gamma rays, resulting in cancer and other diseases. A substantial number of scientists doubt that the nuclear industry's best thought-out plans for safeguarding against a radiation leak will cover all possibilities.

Any idiot could've foreseen that scraps of trash would be blowing around out by K-Mart. If Illinois Power Company couldn't prevent a huge electrical failure from a predictable bit of tin foil blowing in the wind, how can the people near the nuclear plant trust the power company's claims of perfect safeguarding against anything that might cause a radiation leak?



One small piece of tinsel put this power substation out of action. Are IPC's safeguards for its nuclear plant just as loose?

8.

# Anti-rate hikers organize locally

Do you want your electric bill increasing by more than \$50 per year, or, do you want to indirectly finance the construction of a nuclear power plant, or, do you want to support the promotion of energy consumption?

A group of local residents don't want to support any of the above and have been organizing against the proposed 15% rate hike by the Illinois Power Company which would finance the above.

This group, calling themselves the McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike, as well as all interested citizen of McLean County will be presenting arguments against the rate hike at the January 18th meeting of the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Illinois Power Company, like all Illinois utility companies, must have approval by the Illinois Commerce Commission for rate hikes. The members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor to act as a liaison group between companies

and consumers. In theory, this group is supposed to seriously consider the people's needs and wants. We will be able to find out how true this is on the 18th of January.

The McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike will be presenting a four-point argument against the rate hike. The four points are:

1.) Company spending for "construction work in progress" should not be counted in the rate base. In other words, we don't want to pay for the power company's expansion, particularly the building of nuclear power plants, by an increase in our power rates. The traditional method of financing construction is by selling bonds to the public.

2.) Company spending for advertising, propaganda, lobbying, and other self-promoting activities should not be included in the rate base. This point is aimed at stopping the use of advertising to promote energy consumption, which IPC is well-known to do.

3.) That due consideration be given to the question of rate restructuring with regard to present undue discrimination in rates to various classes of users. At the present time, your rates are twice as high as commercial or industrial rates.

4.) That Illinois Power Company develop adequate conservation programs encouraging a decreased use of electric power.

So, if you are concerned about your electric bill rising, ecology, or nuclear energy, you are urged to come and speak out at the January 18th Illinois Commerce Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at 6:30, the 18th of January in the Bloomington City Hall. Give the power to the people!

--S.L.

## Maleness and Masculinity

Image: Long. Angular. Greying. Speaking in many directions. A laugh bursting forth.

Image: Blue-eyed. Big. Soft. Carefully chosen quiet words.

Image: Blue on blue flyer--words and phrases askew. European (military?) time references. Capital letters and spaces out of sync. Hand-drawn illustrations illustrating--what?

Subject: Maleness and Masculinity.

If you should happen into Stevenson Hall at ISU one of these next few Thursday evenings at 5:30 and stop for a few hours at Room 219, perhaps these images will flow into your head as you explore/investigate the intimacies/inticacies/intrigues of maleness and masculinity.

Perhaps not.

For the two people-images are some impressions that I have of the two men who are sponsoring/facilitating/exploring the exploration of behaviors, feelings and attitudes that are traditionally masculine. And these two men, Joe Grabill and Jack Davis, do not intend to be the focal points of the discussions of maleness and masculinity that will follow.

The image you may find could be that of two resource people who, with other resource people, coordinate presentations about the various aspects of maleness and masculinity. The 50 students and any other people who wish to attend the class, offered for the first time through University Studies at ISU this semester will hopefully use these ideas as investigative tools.

The direction that Jack and Joe are looking for in this class is a loosely structured combination of individual input, small groups (5-7 people), and large group presentation/discussion. But because they have different images of themselves, of life, of the way these things should be, there is no linear direction that the two of them have chosen for the exploration that they feel confident will come.

Jack is concerned about reaching out to find definitions and new awarenesses about what it is to be a man (a post-puberty male), what it is to be male (the physiological reality), what it is to be masculine (to behave in a manner that is socially and traditionally expected of men).

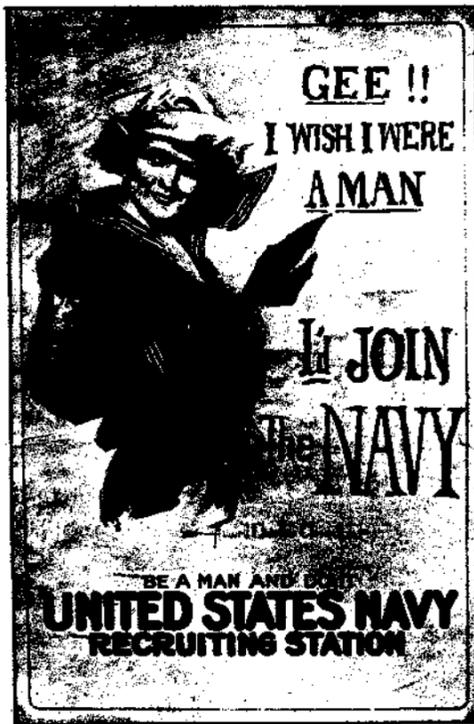
Joe is concerned with investigating the overlapping of male roles, behaviors and values with other traditionally accepted/expected roles, behaviors and attitudes, like feminine and child-like roles.

They have chosen the formal, University Studies, classroom setting for exploring these ideas because these issues and ideas are generally not dealt with within the academic situation. They feel that maleness and masculinity is a valid area of research and expression.

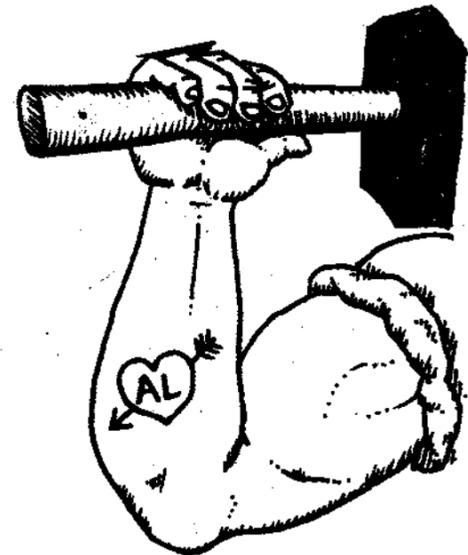
Joe has been trying to include awareness of alternatives to sex-role stereotypes in social science classes that he has been involved in. He has been doing this since working with other professors (sociology and psychology) on a teacher instructional development grant which had that emphasis.

The two of them share the hope that a non-traditional structure will provide boundaries sufficient to give students the confidence that something will happen. They hope that the something that happens will be fun as well as awareness/consciousness raising.

The space in which the class takes place is limited and people who would like to explore the things that these people will be dealing with might not be able to make connections with this particular class. Because of this, Jack and Joe are offering to make available a bibliography that touches, as will the class, the subjects of the oppression of men, rape, war, male elitism, people hood, religion crisis, male liberation, male sexuality, homosexuality,, images in art, the family, law and business. If you call Joe at 438-8120 or 1-359-8033 or Jack at 828-6935, they will make arrangements with you to get a copy of the bibliography.



Jack said that he would be exploring these ideas in group situations whether it were a classroom situation or not. He said that these issues are so important to him that he is eager to share and develop and grow with people he would normally not be associated with.



# POST OFFICE BOOK AUCTION IS COVER-UP FOR DAMAGED PARCELS

Advertised as an auction of parcels unclaimed at the Bloomington Post Office, a December 9 book sale was really a cover-up for widespread butchering of book packages at the Chicago bulk mail center, informed post office workers have told the Post-Amerikan.

10,000 books were auctioned off cheaply to a small group of lucky buyers December 9. The Post Office officials pretended that the books were all unclaimed undeliverable parcels accumulated in the normal course of affairs at the Bloomington Post Office.

In reality, the books were shipped directly from the Chicago bulk mail center, which drew national attention a year ago for excessively frequent damage to parcels, especially books.

Embarrassed by an accumulation of 2,000,000 undeliverable books (because their wrappings and addresses had been torn off), officials in Chicago decided to auction off the books in small lots all over the state.

Post office workers in Bloomington say that 10,000 books were sent to each of seven downstate post offices: Rock Island, Kankakee, Rockford, Peoria, Springfield, Champaign, and Bloomington. The remaining 1,930,000 books were to be distributed around the Chicago area.

Package damage made national news in February, 1976, when a Congressman on the House Post Office Committee made a surprise visit to the Detroit Post Office and found thousands of damaged parcels. An investigation was immediately launched. Within days, officials in Chicago confessed that they



RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE? If you order books by mail, and you've been missing a shipment, then maybe they're in Bin No. 22.

had thousands of packages without addresses or wrappings, caused by machinery tearing the packages apart.

"This is shocking," Illinois Congressman Derwinski was quoted when he learned the extent of the Postal Officials' mishandling. "If it happened in private industry, heads would roll."

But all that rolled in the Post Office were damaged packages--rolled away from the eyes of investigators.

Workers in the Bloomington Post Office reported last March that they couldn't load as many parcels as expected onto a St. Louis bound semi-trailer, because some of the space was occupied by damaged parcels that were not headed anywhere. The trailer had just come from Chicago, and Bloomington workers theorized that Chicago officials had loaded damaged parcels on outgoing trucks to hide them from investigators. Workers said the only addresses they could find on the damaged parcels were for Wisconsin, and there was no way a package should go from Chicago to Wisconsin via St. Louis.

Post Office workers say there is no way that the Bloomington branch could accumulate 10,000 unclaimed books in even twenty years of operation. "We just don't have the kind of machines that tear the packages up like Chicago does," one worker said. "In Chicago, you throw these packages in the machine, and it comes out books; the machine eats the wrappings up."

When the problem drew national attention last year, postal officials admitted that 70% of the undeliverable items were books.

Growing like  
a weed....

# THAT OTHER PLACE

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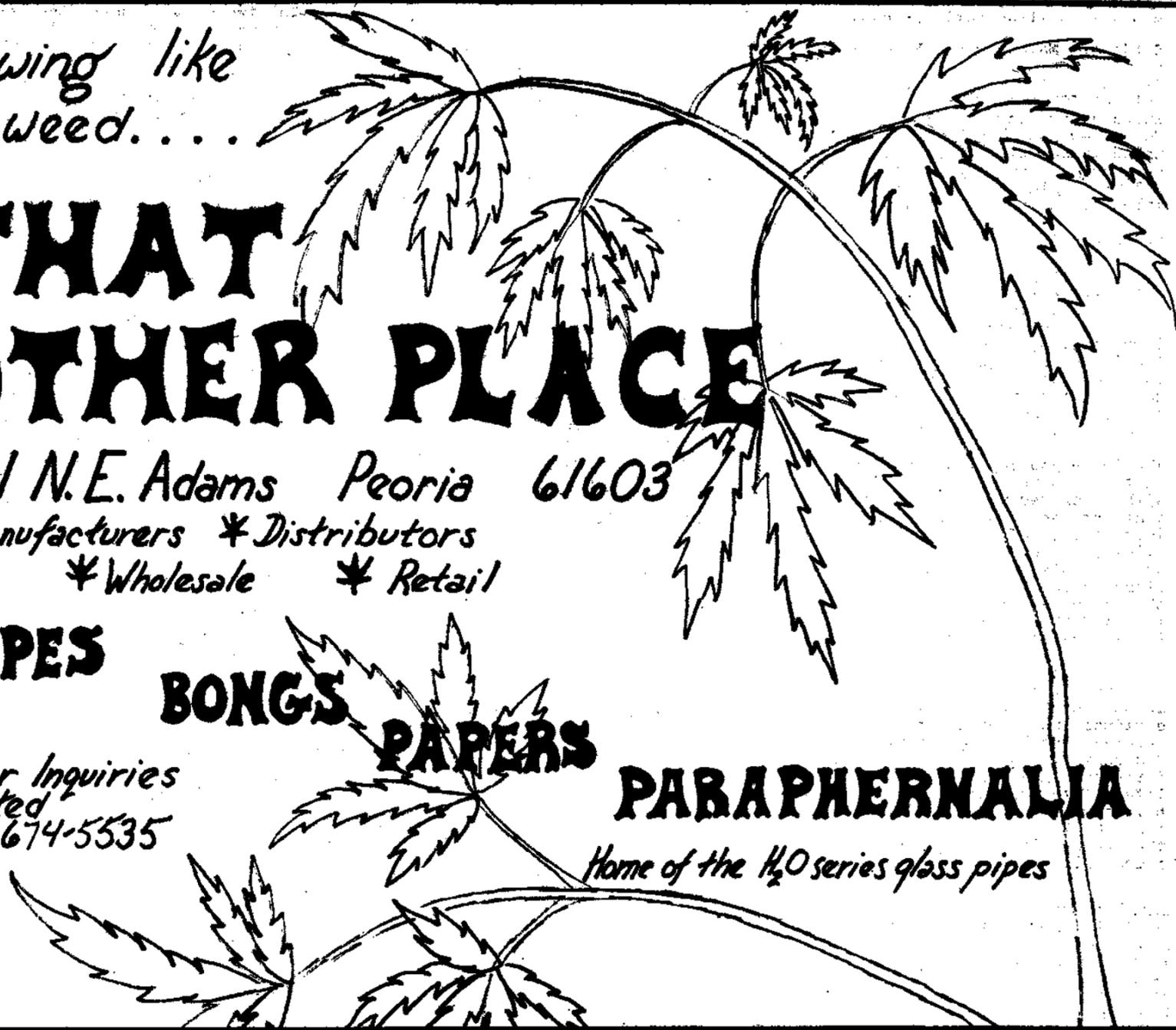
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# NOISY PURINA QUIETLY

The Ralston Purina Company isn't about to admit that it has been violating noise pollution laws, but it has quietly agreed to give the people living near its Bloomington plant a chance for some peace and quiet.

Last Oct. 27, a Purina vice president signed what's known as a voluntary compliance agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In that agreement, Purina said it would install an exhaust silencer on one of its fans and enclose three other machines by Feb. 1 of this year. The corporation also agreed to install three other exhaust silencers--"if necessary"--by Oct. 1 and to conduct studies of the "most cost-efficient" methods of controlling noise from a grain dryer and from its animal feed plant by May 1.

In addition, Purina agreed to "accomplish further sound reduction to meet (EPA) regulations."

## NOT GUILTY

But the company refused to admit that it is "violating any applicable Noise Regulations of the State of Illinois."

That last quote is included in the agreement despite the EPA's assertion that Purina's noise "exceed(s) the limits of Rules 202 and 207 of the Noise Regulations."

The "voluntary" agreement also says that "to resolve this matter (of excess noise) in an amicable manner, Ralston desires to undertake a noise abatement program and avoid an enforcement action."

But the government--like god--moves in mysterious ways.

For instance, the EPA was only on Purina's case because of a complaint filed in 1975 by the McLean County Economic Opportunity Corp. (MCEOC) after Illinois State University Professor Michael Brunt conducted a series of tests on noise levels in the Sunnyside housing development near the plant.

But MCEOC President Francis Irvin only found out about the agreement by accident more than a month after it was signed--and the Pentagraph didn't report it until Irvin passed along a copy of the agreement.

What happened was that the director of the EPA's noise pollution bureau sent out a letter concerning likely action by the state legislature.

The loyal defenders of the people had passed a law which allowed small-town grain elevators (like the ones in Stamford and McLean) to make as much noise as they liked. Gov. Dan Walker vetoed the law, but the legislators were gearing up to override his veto.

When Irvin replied to that letter, he asked whether anything was being done about Purina and that's when he found out about the agreement.

The EPA's silence about Purina's noise might have been just another instance of bureaucratic mixup.

## DIFFERENT STORY

But the whole policy of allowing a company to agree to get within the law without admitting that it was violating the law tells a different story.

Especially when you consider that Purina paid a \$7,500 fine in 1973 following a similar complaint that MCEOC made in 1970.

The picture becomes even clearer when you hear the company's version of the story.



The Ralston Purina plant, located just across the street from Sunnyside public housing project, has over the years violated EPA regulations against smell and noise pollution.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

If you need to put a classified ad in the paper, send it to us, and we'll probably put it in unless it offends us. Free.

Person needed immediately to share apartment with woman. Rent \$80 monthly, landlord pays utilities. If interested, stop by 406 W. Graham (corner of Graham and N. Lee) in Bloomington, after 6:30 pm.

## GOT ANY INFO?

Robby Friga is now the Bloomington cop assigned to work undercover for MEG. Friga replaces John "Bill" Stephens, who resigned after pleading guilty to child molesting charges.

Anyone who has any information on Friga, especially a photograph, should call the Post-American. 828-7232.

# SETTLES WITH EPA

Nile Ramsbottom, director of soy bean operations for the Bloomington plant, admits that the Pantagraph erred in its story by saying that company "officers were not aware of any noise problems."

But Ramsbottom contends that he doesn't know whether "you can say it's a problem or not."

And he also said that the EPA did no secret testing of its own before confronting the company. He says that all tests were conducted by the EPA and Purina jointly.

Yet the compliance agreement clearly states that "the Agency conducted certain sound level measurements at citizens' residences" on five separate occasions and found that the noise exceeded levels established by law. Then "dialogue was undertaken between the Agency and Ralston..."

The agreement does say, however, that "Ralston does not share the Agency's conclusions."

Although Ramsbottom admits that Purina agreed to try "some things" to reduce noise at the plant, he also says that "nobody's sure what needs to be done."

He says it's a "trial and error" process with "no guarantee" of success.

Ramsbottom says that Purina specialists are working with the EPA to solve the problem--which apparently means that he's aware that the EPA should make follow-up measurements.

The Purina official also says that his corporation wants to be a "good neighbor" to the people of Sunnyside.

If Ramsbottom's concern is anything like that of the Purina bigwig who

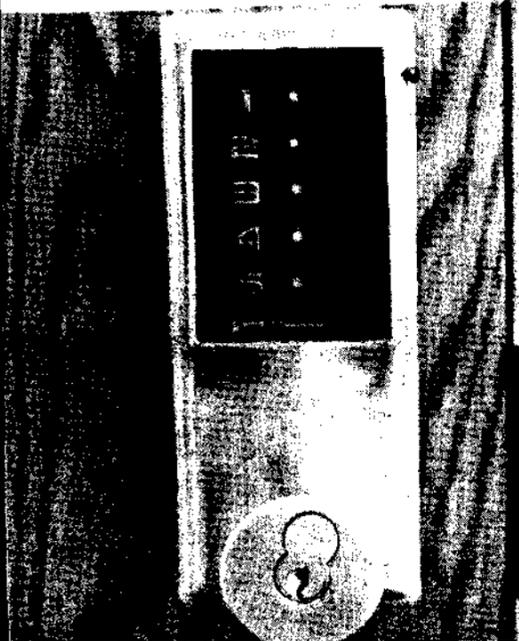
tried--according to the Wall Street Journal--to claim that grain elevator workers who breathe grain dust were actually improving their health because the dust caused them to cough and thus to "clear" their lungs, then Purina's neighborliness isn't worth much.

Of course, the EPA is supposed to monitor Purina's progress and will presumably enforce the deadlines for the various improvements. But there are a bunch of loopholes written into the agreement, especially for labor problems. And Purina could always exercise its right to go to court.

But Sunnyside residents can always hope that the EPA will do a better job watching Purina than it did in informing MCEOC of the agreement.

Maybe--with a little prodding--the EPA will do its job, and Purina will obey the law.

## PARANOID?



This super-security heavy-duty key and combination lock guards the judges' corridors in the new McLean County Law and "Justice" Center.

The locks must have been installed in response to the wave of terrorist kidnappings of judges that has almost paralyzed McLean County justice in recent years.

The judges must have spent a lot of their time worrying about "security" to insist on such extraordinary locks.

Maybe that's why the caliber of justice in McLean County has been so poor.

Now that they are safe and secure in their offices, free from whatever threat they have been busy hallucinating, maybe the judges can put their full efforts into handing out some decent justice.

Fat chance, huh?

## Don't Pave the Wilderness

All of America's wilderness areas have suffered intense development over the years, but perhaps worst hit has been the hardwood forest lands of the East. It is sad to relate how few forests do indeed remain, but it is even worse to tell how their link with the people could be destroyed. The beautiful Appalachia Trail, which follows the spine of the Appalachia Mountains from Georgia to Maine, is threatened with destruction.

The trail passes through many of the last wild regions in the East; yet, it also passes rustic farm lands and historic sights. Most of the trail is on privately-owned land and is subject to rerouting at the whim of the owners or, worse, the sale of land to greedy developers. Unfortunately, most rerouting has to follow highways which is a perversion of the trail's "return to the wilderness" ideal. The Appalachia Trail Conference is the leading authority for information on the trail and is now leading the fight to save it. The organization, incorporated since 1925, is fighting the opening battle to attempt to purchase a right-of-way through the marvelous hill country of Pennsylvania. They are very close to their goal, but they need money. They need the contributions of people who want this great attempt to preserve the beauty and history of the East to succeed. Please send any amount you can to:

The Appalachian Trail Conference  
P.O. Box 236 Lancaster and Filmore Sts.  
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425



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# Cop Bagnell Still on Brutality Beat

NOW COME QUIETLY!



Bloomington cop Mark Bagnell (see Post-American vol. 5, nos. 4,6,7,) has struck yet another blow to protect the people.

The Christmas season was full of cheer, good will among "men," and shoplifting arrests. On Friday, December 3, two of those arrested were Ophelia Neal and Donna Phifer.

The two friends were stopped at Eastland mall by a Sear's security guard. He suspected that the coat Phifer's young daughter was wearing had been stolen that afternoon from the Sear's store. He led Neal and Phifer to the office, telling them that they were not under arrest.

However, a Sear's manager called the police and two cops arrived, Paul Wilson and Mark Bagnell, who told the two women that they were going to be booked for theft.

At this Neal, who had only agreed to go to the office because she believed that she would not be charged with anything, took off running.

## Cop Heroics

Our man Bagnell, always excited about a chance to imitate SWAT-type TV heroics, went into action. He grounded Neal on the parking lot with a football-type flying tackle.

Bagnell held Neal down by putting the weight of his body into a knee in her back. Wilson helped out by standing with one leg on her ankle. Both cops are big "men."

Bagnell reported that Neal fought and attempted to kick him. Neal reports that he's lying. She never had a chance to fight back.

Neal and Phifer were never informed of their rights and never officially told they were under arrest. Which is strange, since Neal was charged with resisting arrest. But in a big, dangerous city like Bloomington, you have to expect that cops will forget certain little details sometimes. Like when they know they can get away with it, because their victims are women or poor or black or powerless. Or all four.

What Neal said about being arrested and taken to jail without being formally told she was under arrest or read her rights was this: "That's just like being kidnapped."

Anyway, when Neal arrived at the police station, she began to crawl out of the car, as the pain in her ankle was very great. Because of fear of people looking out windows and wondering what was going on, and not because of any up-to-then well-hidden kindness, one of the cops then helped Neal into the station.

## No Jail "Privileges"

Both Neal and Phifer were in jail for 92 hours, all weekend. They were refused cigarettes the whole time, although other prisoners were allowed to smoke. Neal thinks that they were not allowed to smoke because she was mouthing off from time to time. However, what she and Phifer were told is, "People like you can't be trusted not to burn the station down."

Their cell had no mattresses and no blankets. The drinking water was right above where they went to the bathroom. There were no soap and no towels.

Phifer was not allowed to have her glasses in the cell, although other prisoners were allowed to wear theirs. With no soap and no glasses all weekend, she developed an eye infection.

Neal asked if she could use her toothbrush if her mother brought it to her. She was told yes, but then police refused to give it to her after her mother brought it. God only knows what a vicious alleged shoplifter could have done with a dangerous weapon like a toothbrush.

The first night Phifer and Neal were in jail, they arrived at 3:40 p.m. and weren't given any supper (which is always a healthful, nutritious hamburger). When they asked for it, they were told that supper is served at 4:00 and they'd been too late. On the next two nights they were served at 5:00.

## "There's Nothing Wrong."

Neal, who, remember, had just been tackled on a parking lot, kept asking to see a doctor. Police ignored her request, until the 7-3:00 shift started Saturday morning. She was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital twice, Saturday and Sunday, and both times was examined very hurriedly. Neal asked the doctor very specifically to look at her back, because she was still in pain from being kneed by Bagnell.

The doctor, who knew she was from the jail, didn't bother to do that. Instead, he gave Neal big red pills "for her bladder" and mentioned something to Neal about "female problems." There was nothing wrong with Neal's bladder and the pills made her feel even worse. Also her ankle hurt for two weeks where Officer Wilson had stepped on it.

But Neal was not treated the worst medically. Friday night, Neal and Phifer shared a cell with another woman who had been arrested for shoplifting gloves at the Eastland Sear's. The other woman was a cancer victim who had recently had surgery and chemotherapy. She was sick all night long, periodically having some kind of seizure.

When Phifer and Neal kept hollering that the other woman was sick and needed medicine or medical attention, somebody shouted back, "You niggers shut up back there. We know there's nothing really wrong." All three women prisoners were black.

Under the third woman's wig was a scar from surgery, and her arms were clearly marked by chemotherapy treatment. If the 11-7 shift had cared, it would have been easy to see that she really did need medical attention.

When the Saturday morning shift came on, the woman was finally taken to the hospital. She didn't return to the jail all weekend.

There is a moral to this story. Next time you go shopping remember that if you are suspected of shoplifting, you will be prosecuted, just like the signs on the door say. It's also very possible that you will be injured by cops, denied medical treatment, be the victim of racist, sexist, or ethnic slurs (whatever is appropriate), and be generally treated like less than a human being.

This happy holiday story has been brought to you courtesy of our friendly capitalists, the laws which exist to protect their interests, and the police who exist to enforce those laws.

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828-3422

# Pantagraph Pushes Morals

Back in October, 1974, a group of people living together needed a new house to live in, so they called the Daily Pantagraph to place a classified ad. They wanted the ad to read "Three women, two men need four or five bedroom house. Have pets." They were told by the Pantagraph that they would have to change the wording on the ad because the ad, as was, violated the paper's policy of "good taste."

In January, 1975, a woman called the Pantagraph to place this ad: "Need gay or liberal roommate to share large house in Bloomington." By the time the Pantagraph reworded it to fit their policy of "good taste," it was a different ad, which didn't help the woman out at all.

These two instances are described in full in a Post-Amerikan story in the February, 1975 issue. Now, almost a full year later, the Daily Pantagraph is still pushing its morals on its readers, in the name of "good taste."

In December, 1976, a woman called the Pantagraph to place an ad for a roommate. Having no preference as to male or female, she worded the ad: "Person needed to share apartment." The Pantagraph employee told the woman that the ad would have to say, "Female needed to share apartment with same."

The woman asked why this was necessary, and the employee replied, "Well, you wouldn't want any man off the street living with you, would you?" After fighting it out with the employee, the woman gave in, and the ad was written the way the Pantagraph wished it to be written, not the way the customer wanted it.

A Post-Amerikan staffer called the Pantagraph to check this all, to see if they really were forcing people to rewrite their ads to fit the paper's policy. He attempted to place an ad for a roommate either male or female.

Before he read the ad to the employee he asked if he could word the ad the way he wanted it. He was told he could. He then gave her the ad, and was told to reword it.

He was told that this is the Pantagraph's policy, that the readers don't like it, and they get too much feedback when they print these types of ads.

I have a question for the Pantagraph. How could they know that the readers don't like it, and how could they know they'll get feedback if they won't print the ad?

A large portion of Bloomington-Normal's people are living in what the Pantagraph would call a "bad taste" situation, that is, men and women are living together, or gay lovers are living together.

The Pantagraph, instead of serving all the people of Bloomington-Normal, issues its morals on the public, and serves only itself.

--Virginia Wolf

WELCOME BACK, BOOKFREAKS!

GUITARS & INSTRUCTION  
105 Broadway Normal 452-6412

*Michael Thomas presents.....*

# MANDING-GO'S

*A Store for Body and Soul*

- Starring:*
- \*L. P. Record
  - \*8. T. Tape
  - \*B. L. (black light) Poster
  - \*M. F. (male/female) Fashion
  - \*A. K. (all kinds) Jewelry
  - \*V. K. (various kinds) Pipes & Paraphernalia

*Now Playing  
7 Days a Week*

*and many other crowd pleasers*

\*\*\*\*\*

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**      **Monday thru Friday 12-9**  
**Saturday 10-9**                      **Sunday 12-6**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AN EXPERIENCE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO PASS UP**

# MEG Bill States New Mission: Get Pot Smokers

14.

Well, it's back to burying your nickel bag in the neighbor's back yard, if the MEG gets its new proposal through the Ill. legislature this year.

The old MEG started with federal money channeled through Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC). One of the few sensible ideas ILEC ever had was to make clear (at least as clear as bureaucrats ever make anything) that MEG agents were out to suppress hard drug traffic, not to go around sniffing the pipes in high school kids' lockers.

But going after hard drug dealers turned out to be pretty scary, and besides, it was hard to find out who they were! So MEG agents did end up hanging out by playgrounds a lot impressing their slimy little informers with the superspy act and finding out all kinds of stuff about who sold grass. In fact, MEG cops have made up to 40% marijuana busts, in spite of ILEC's resolution.

Now, MEG is losing federal funding and they're trying to sucker the state into putting up the dough for their fat salaries and James Bond fantasies. And this time they're not even pretending that the weed arrests are only incidental to tracking down big hard dope dealers. The MEG proposal that the Illinois legislature will soon be voting on defines MEG's purpose as enforcing both the Controlled Substances Act and the Cannabis Control Act.

Drugs falling under the Controlled Substances Act include the hallucinogenics like LSD, the drugs traditionally known as "hard drugs" like heroin and morphine, and also drugs commonly found in doctors' prescriptions, including amphetamines, barbituates, and tranquilizers.

The Cannabis Control Act of 1970 separates marijuana as a completely separate substance, with stiff, but different, penalties for sale and possession.

In February, 1974, at the ILEC meeting which first approved the downstate MEG units, a formal resolution stated MEG's purpose:

"The goal of any MEG unit shall be to suppress hard drug traffic. Enforcement of law relating to the use and petty trafficking of marijuana shall remain the responsibility of existing law enforcement agencies."

The ILEC passed this resolution with one small loophole: MEG units could enforce the marijuana laws if such enforcement was "incident to" the suppression of hard drug traffic.

In other words, MEG should go after heroin, not marijuana. However, if it was necessary to the undercover agents' "getting into" a heroin dealer, MEG could buy marijuana.

## Multicounty Mistake

One year after that instruction to the newly forming MEG units, ILEC officials had to say it again: MEG seemingly hadn't heard it the first time. A Chicago Tribune headline read "Narcotics agent told; Shift fight from pot to hard drugs." The story reported that ILEC Director David Fogel had issued new strict instructions to MEG units to stop chasing marijuana. MEG agents "must no longer focus on marijuana peddlers unless such action will lead to bigger things," Fogel was quoted in the May 15, 1975 Tribune. Fogel accused MEG units of pursuing pot cases on "a broad scale," and threatened cutback of federal funds. The Peoria-based MEG unit, headed by ace superspy Jerry LaGrow, has consistently ignored the ILEC instructions and Fogel's warning. Marijuana cases have averaged around 30% to 40% of MEG's drug arrests. And the ILEC order that MEG go after "hard drugs" has been almost totally ignored. The bulk of MEG's other-than-pot cases are non-narcotic controlled substances: barbiturates, amphetamines, tranquilizers.

In December, 1975, I talked with ILEC Director David Fogel about MEG's failure to follow ILEC orders on priorities.

Fogel said the Chicago MEG unit was down to only 16% marijuana cases. Even that percentage was unsatisfactory, Fogel said. He expected MEG to function at an average of only 2% marijuana arrests.

## 44% Marijuana Arrests

At the time of our interview, LaGrow's Peoria-based MEG had, after one year of operation, racked up 44% marijuana arrests out of all its drug busts. Fogel agreed that was inadequate performance.

A 1975 annual report shows that Jerry LaGrow's undercover spies did better that year: they were down to 28% pot busts.

Statistics for 1976 are not yet accumulated. But MEG's latest round-up in Bloomington reflects a continued persistence in going after small pot busts.

Of 15 suppressed MEG indictments in December 1976, 6 were for delivery of one or two ounces of marijuana. That is 40% pot cases.

MEG has been flagrantly violating their longstanding orders from ILEC, now they want the state legislature to fund a secret police that has never followed its superiors' guidelines.

Even if MEG's been trying to keep the arrests down lately, the new law will let them go hogwild, and we can expect a bust boom in all grassy areas.

So if MEG's bill is passed, be sure to buy a little shovel and some long underwear and get ready to dig in this winter.

## Narcs losing cover

# State's Attorney congratulates Post

McLean County's new State's Attorney, Ron Dozier, has publicly congratulated the Post-American on our efforts to photograph undercover MEG agents, according to a mid-December story in the Daily Pantagraph.

Citing the "effectiveness" of Post-American artists and photographers in exposing undercover agents with pictures and drawings, Dozier announced that he would attempt to protect MEG agents from public scrutiny by using the grand jury more often.

Grand jury sessions are closed hearings. The public, the press, even the defendants

and their attorneys, are banned. Like a preliminary hearing, a grand jury decides whether there's enough evidence that the crime happened and the defendant did it to take a case to court.

By using the grand jury to initiate cases, Dozier will get around having to hold a public, preliminary hearing for each MEG case. Agents have had to attend preliminary hearings, often having to wait, in the court hallways, along with defendants. "While waiting, they are exposed to the public," the Pantagraph quoted the new State's Attorney.

By starting cases with a grand jury indictment, agents don't have to appear in public unless the case goes all the way to trial, which seldom happens. At least with a preliminary hearing, the defendant's lawyer got to cross-examine the narc's testimony once during the legal process. And the defendant at least got a look at his/her accuser--sometimes for the first time.

Despite the interference of public officials, Post-American reporters and photographers will continue working to identify our modest, camera-shy public servants.

now open....

## The Blue Room Adult books

magazines  
films & novelties

10 individual sit-down movie rooms  
803 Morrissey Dr.  
(Route 150) Bloomington

We have those  
hard-to-find adult  
greeting cards you've  
been looking for.

8 am - 11 pm  
Mon - Sat  
12 - 8 Sun

Must be 19 yrs. or older

## MEDUSA'S BOOK WORLD

109 W. FRONT

NOW OPEN

mon-sat. 9-9 sun 12-5

Adult book & magazines  
Films - 8mm & Sup 8mm

12 individual sit-down movie  
"Doc" Johnson Novelties rooms

# Bills Filed For MEG Funding

Legislation to set up annual state subsidies to MEG undercover drug units was introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives December 9.

The bills provide for state grants to pay 50% of the MEG units' budgets. The remaining 50% will still come from the local units of government--counties and cities--which comprise the MEG units.

The state money will replace expiring grant money coming from the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), which set up the MEG units and channeled federal money to them for a limited 3-year period.

MEG has been plotting to seek state funds for more than a year.

In Spring 1976, all 7 Illinois MEG units formed a committee whose sole purpose was to find enough money to continue after ILEC funds ran out.

That committee drafted the two bills recently introduced in the Illinois House by Representative McMasters.

On a cold rainy day last October, 400 people marched through downtown Bloomington to protest MEG's attempt to get state funding.

The new bill includes the following items:

## Marijuana Police

For the first time in the history of the downstate MEG units, enforcement of the pot laws would be a stated goal. See the adjoining article.

## Open Meetings

Unhappy with the attendance of Post-American reporters and photographers at their bored meetings, MEG directors have often wished they were not bound by Illinois law's insistence on public meetings. At their November meetings, MEG bored members talked seriously about adding a provision in their state funding bill to get around the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

That provision, however, is not in the bills introduced by Representative McMasters. If the bill is passed as presently printed (with no amendments), MEG bored meetings will still be open to the press and public.

## Just Drug Squad

One provision of the proposed Inter-governmental Drug Laws Enforcement Act requires that MEG units limit their operation to enforcement of drug laws. This is something new.

MEG units presently concentrate on busting people for illegal drugs, but also spend their time gathering information on stolen goods, guns, explosives, and really just about anything. A McLean County MEG agent has bought stolen CB's, guns, and a hot TV set. MEG even has at least one prostitution arrest to its credit.

MEG's system of informers functions to gather any kind of information that an informer thinks MEG might buy, even if it is about legal activity. Pekin High School officials in 1974 ordered an informer provided by MEG to spy on the teaching practices of high school teachers.

According to an early 1975 memo, MEG has held monthly summit meetings with other secret police agencies, where information provided by informers is exchanged. The number and scope of the police agencies participating in this official gossip session about "suspects" is scary. They include the Illinois bureau of Investigation, the Treasury

Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, the Internal Revenue Service, the Peoria Police Vice Squad, the Tri-County Intelligence Unit, the Illinois State Police, and members of local area police departments.

MEG has functioned not just as drug police, but as part of a whole network of secret police intelligence gathering. The wording of the new MEG bill limits them to just drug enforcement, but it is difficult to control the undercover superspy mentality. The proposed law also contains no safeguards to make sure that MEG refrains from spying in areas other than drug enforcement.

## The MEG Board

Up to now, the MEG Bored of Directors was composed of the sheriffs and police chiefs of the participating local governments. These cops will still be on the MEG bored, but so will an elected official from each unit of government. This is something new, and is obviously a response to continual criticisms of MEG units not being accountable to anyone elected by the people.

## Guidelines for Conduct

There are none. While MEG units

have so far been governed by supposedly strict guidelines for proper use of informers and conduct, none are suggested in the new MEG bill. The bill gives the Department of Law Enforcement (which runs the IBI) responsibility to "monitor" MEG units. But there is no suggestion that they are to be watched for conformity with any particular set of standards of ethics or priorities. The main duty of the Department of Law Enforcement under the bill is to ascertain which MEG units are eligible to receive state money, and only the most general criteria are suggested. If the bill is passed without amendments, it seems that MEG units will be more free to do as they please than they ever have been.

## Duration

Forever. The MEG legislation is divided into two bills. One bill sets up MEG units, with no reference to how long they will last. The second bill appropriates money for MEG units. Since appropriations have to be continually renewed, the appropriations bill will be introduced whenever needed. The bill establishing MEG units will stay on the books until someone repeals it.

# Alan Marshall, Informer

Pictured here after attending a December court hearing on his new burglary charge is Alan Marshall, a former MEG informer.

## Bloomington still a MEG member

Last month, the Post-American said that sometime in December, the Bloomington City Council was supposed to decide whether to stay in MEG.

It turns out that Bloomington's mayor had already signed the city up for an extra 6 months several months ago.

Last June, the City Council thought about leaving MEG, but finally decided to stay a member at least until December, 1976.

That's why we thought they were supposed to reconsider in December.

The ACLU thought so, too. They sent a letter to the council, in time for their supposed December decision, listing reasons for leaving MEG.

Turns out that ILEC funds for MEG were supposed to end in December, 1976. That's why Bloomington might have been leaving in December.

ILEC extended that money until June, 1977, so that MEG had time to see if it could get money from the state legislature (see other article, this issue).

When Mayor Bittner found that ILEC funds had been extended another 6 months, he went ahead and signed the city up. He thought that was the council's intent, when they discussed it last summer.

It probably was their intent. However, reporters on the status of Bloomington's membership got so used to saying that Bloomington was committed only until December that they believed it. Those mistaken reports can be found in the Pantagraph, the ISU Vidette, and even the Post-American.

Sorry about that.

Since he is once again feeling the pressure of possibly going to jail, Marshall may once again turn informer in order to save his own skin.

To escape charges pending then, Marshall worked as a "special employee" for MEG in the summer and fall of 1974. Marshall set up Steve Dennison, and even testified against him in court. (Dennison, in turn, tried to make things easier on himself by testifying against Terry White.)

Marshall was still in custody waiting for bail when this photo was taken.

If he's still in jail, he probably won't be able to turn anyone in.

But if he gets out, folks should be wary of him. His history shows that he will turn narc when under pressure.



You'd be ashamed of yourself, too, if you were this man.

GEN TEL RATES NOT SO GENTLE

# Pay Phone Prices double to 20¢

Pay phone rates will increase 100%, from 10¢ to 20¢, just as soon as Gen Tel mechanics can get the coin mechanisms changed. The Illinois Commerce Commission gave its OK to this ripoff in mid-December.

The increase will strike hardest against poor people, who often can't have a home phone because the initial lump sum payment is too high. The new pay phone rates also will take more money from people who move frequently, and transient people.

Gen Tel also wanted to jack up basic residential service rates, and the Illinois Commerce Commission thought that was just fine, too. In Bloomington-Normal, one-phone homes will pay around 50¢ a month more.

Gen Tel had also asked permission to charge for Directory Assistance calls. This, too, would discriminate against poor people and more mobile people. The Directory Assistance charge was turned down, but Gen Tel may ask for it again later.

The phone company asked for increases which they figured would bring in about \$11 million a year more. They'll have to scrape by on about \$4.5 million in rate increases.

The difference is part of a game played between a regulated monopoly and its regulating commission. The phone company asks for more than it really wants. The Commerce Commission then chops down the rate request, so it can look like it is doing a good job

of keeping the public utility under control. Then both sides are happy, but we aren't. We have to pay 20¢ for phone calls.

Meanwhile, the phone company continues to advertise heavily, just to convince you to use a Gen Tel phone to make that call, instead of driving up to Chicago to patronize another phone company.

According to testimony in the rate hearings, Gen Tel expected to bring in an extra \$204,012 each year from doubling the pay phone rate.

But Gen Tel spends \$515,000 a year on advertising, according to Gen Tel ad manager Jim Evans.

So, if Gen Tel slashed \$200,000 off its unnecessary ad budget, they wouldn't have to charge us double for pay phones!

Gen Tel also spends \$78,000 a year for "charitable contributions." If Gen Tel wanted to give even more to charity next year, nothing would stop them. They would have less to spend on running the phone company, which would give them another excuse to raise the rates again.

According to their testimony, Gen Tel expected to bring in an extra \$390,000 if the Directory Assistance charge was approved. Here, too, you can see that cutting out the advertising department could be a better way to save \$390,000.

The \$515,000 advertising budget does not include Gen Tel's expenses for printing their insipid little propaganda newsletter stuffed inside their bills. Nor does the half million ad budget include the salary of Jim Evans and his secretary, whose jobs would be unnecessary if Gen Tel stopped charging us to pay for ads to convince us to use their phones. Gen Tel's advertising executive was understandably a little defensive about giving me the figures on his company's advertising spending. He thought that to be fair, I should mention that Gen Tel's advertising spending totaled .3% of gross revenues, while Advertising Age says 1% is average for business. Of course, most businesses are not legally chartered monopolies, who have their market already sewn up.



Gen Tel refuses to reveal how much of our money they spent for this giant electronic sign last year. If the company stopped spending on advertising and public relations, our phone rates could go down.

In fact, Gen Tel's advertising executive was defensive enough that he refused to disclose how much his company had spent on the giant electronic sign pictured on this page. Whatever the amount was, you can bet our phone rates could be lower without it.



And we at the phone company will decide how that's going to be done. You won't have to worry about it.

We're from the Phone Company...

and we admit it--we're in this for the money.

We're trying to maximize profits. Pretty soon, if we get our way, you won't get anything for that monthly service charge. You'll be paying extra for local calls, long distance, for directory assistance, installation, touch tone, color, even to get your number listed. Right now we charge you not to list your number--that's our kind of aggressive and imaginative marketing. Who can deny it?

Why are we embarking on this pay-for-everything policy? Because right now we are investing literally billions of your hard-earned dollars to streamline our operations so we can rid ourselves of costly employees.

By the year 2000, we plan to be almost fully automated. Machines will deduct a "phone tax" from your income electronically. We won't even need installers. You'll plug in your own phone the way you do your toaster.

Of course, a few people will keep an eye on things, but we won't have to waste money on inflated payrolls. We plan to use our vast profits simply to make this a better world.

And we at the phone company will decide how that's going to be done. You won't have to worry about it.

The Phone Company--the next best thing to America itself.



Gen Tel jacks up pay phone rates to get an expected \$200,000 increase in income. Meanwhile, their advertising budget for items like the electronic sign (upper right photo) runs at \$515,000 each year.

those "sophisticated repeater systems" cause...

## Poor Phone Service For The Poor

Everyone has had bad phone service. You dial a number and nothing happens. Sometimes you get a busy signal before you're done dialing. Sometimes your phone goes dead for no reason, and then cures itself. Sometimes you wind up talking to someone you weren't calling, who wasn't calling you either. You go all day with no one calling, only to find out later your friends tried and couldn't get through.

The worst kind of bad phone service is when it only messes up sometimes. By the time a repairperson comes, it's fixed itself. He acts like you're crazy, and leaves. When the phone goes weird again, you decide to just forget about it. That's what the phone company wants.

Residents of the central Bloomington area--a section populated by mostly poor people living in multi-family houses--are being victimized by a high incidence of poor phone service.

The reason is the Gen Tel is systematically installing new devices called carrier systems. They don't work. They won't keep your phone out of order permanently--only enough to irritate you a lot.

If you call repair service, some one will come out. But they can't fix it permanently. Gen Tel hopes you will give up calling repair service, and

just live with the phone acting weird when it wants to. Most people do. That's how Gen Tel gets away with continuing to install carrier systems.



Gen Tel calls them repeater systems but it's the same thing. It's supposed to be a big breakthrough in communications. Gen Tel even had the nerve to brag about it in the November issue of Gen Tel Lines, the stupid newsletter the company stuffs in your bill.

Two out of three of Gen Tel's repair people I've talked to admit that carrier systems don't work right. Even C. Sumpter Logan, Gen Tel's public relations person, admitted to me that the company "has a higher incidence of maintenance" on carrier systems.

So what are they?

In the past, every house with a private line had two wires, called a cable pair, assigned to the house. Party lines shared the same cable pair, and that's why they would hear each other.

Carrier systems do something electronic to allow two private lines to use the same cable pair, without either party hearing the other. Two conversations can travel on the same wire at the same time. This doubles the capacity of the phone wires on the

poles. A standard section of pole line contains 48 cable pairs, ordinarily capable of providing a private line to 48 households. With carrier systems, that 48-pair line can give a private line to 96 households.

Except it doesn't work right.

When used in customer's houses, carrier systems create all of the phone service problems mentioned in the opening paragraph. I know, I've had one in my house. So have my friends.

It took probably 10 separate visits from Gen Tel's repair service before they finally agreed to remove the carrier system, and put our house back on its own cable pair.

On two occasions, the repair person admitted that he had come out for public relations, not to fix anything. "When it's an intermittent problem," one maintenance man said, "we know it's not in your phone." Nonetheless, after my report that dialing the first three digits of a Normal phone number sometimes gave a busy signal (before the

(Continued on page 18)



## Gen Tel's Line Has Phoney Ring

One of Gen Tel's more devious tricks is having no phone number to call at the phone Mart where you have to go to buy a new phone, and then giving a supposedly reasonable "explanation" with a straight face.

It's the straight face that gets me. For Gen Tel's service, office supervisor Ellis Gove apparently kept one phone in "explanation" phone Mart's unattended number to the Pentagon last September.

Ellis Gove is the only one who can explain the "explanation" phone Mart's unattended number to the Pentagon last September.

According to the company's annual report (printed in color on glossy paper), phone Mart is "conveniently located" in Normal. It's clear on the east side, in Teleview Plaza Shopping Center. You have to have a car to get there.

Even if you want just the regular chunky black desk phone, you still have to go out to phone Mart to pick it up, and you can't call to order your chunky desk phone to be ready for you to pick up because phone Mart's phone is unattended. You have to actually go to

phone Mart to actually stand there among the beautiful fanciful creative phones with chunky dialing, and still get right to work on that you want into phone Mart's phone Mart.

Depending on who it is talking to, Gen Tel uses one of two sets of mutually contradictory figures on the value of its plant investment.

Each way they use the figures, they make money.

This became clear (as clear as this kind of stuff ever gets) during recent Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) hearings deciding on Gen Tel's rate increase.

Regulatory commissions allow utilities a certain percentage return on their investment. In the lingo, it's called a "fair return." Let's pretend it's 10 per cent. (That's pretty close to reality, and I won't have to keep worrying about typing all those numbers right.)

Gen Tel has spent \$574 million on their plant. They are supposed to get a 10% return on that investment.

But Gen Tel comes up with this theoretical system for evaluating how much the value of their plant investment has increased over the years (sort of like the value of real estate does). Of course, this handy value-figuring system was invented by AT&T, but never mind that.

According to Gen Tel, the value of their plant has theoretically climbed to \$713 million. Gen Tel wants to get a 10% return on this higher valuation.

The difference between these two rate bases is \$144 million. 10% of \$144 million is \$14 million. Gen Tel wants \$14 million more.

Meanwhile, on the other side of its forked tongue, Gen Tel is saying that the total value of its plant investment has gone down.

Guess when Gen Tel says the value of its plant investment has gone down? Right. When they make money on saying it.

Each year Gen Tel gets to charge off millions of dollars as depreciation. They call it an operating expense, even though they don't actually pay out the money. In 1975, Gen Tel charged off \$28½ million to depreciation. It's good for taxes.

The plant investment which cost Gen Tel \$574 in real money is worth only \$457 million with accumulated depreciation. This is by Gen Tel's own figures.

So, according to Gen Tel, the value of their plant is both going up and going down, at the same time, but on different balance sheets.

You can see that these Gen Tel claims are one busy with those bookkeeping acrobatics to worry about giving decent service.



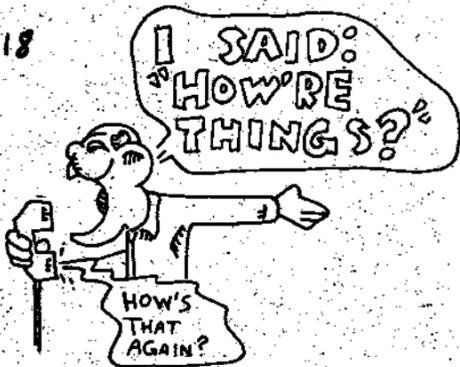
# Poor phone service for the poor

(cont. from p. 17)

full number was dialed), the repair person came out, dialed a Normal number, got through, and said "I can't find anything wrong now." This was just to keep up appearances--he knew that a carrier system doesn't put a phone permanently out of whack, just intermittently.

I know I was much more persistent than most people would have been. Even so, it took a lot of calls to repair service to get the carrier system taken out; no one in charge seemed willing to admit that carrier systems don't work right.

P. 18



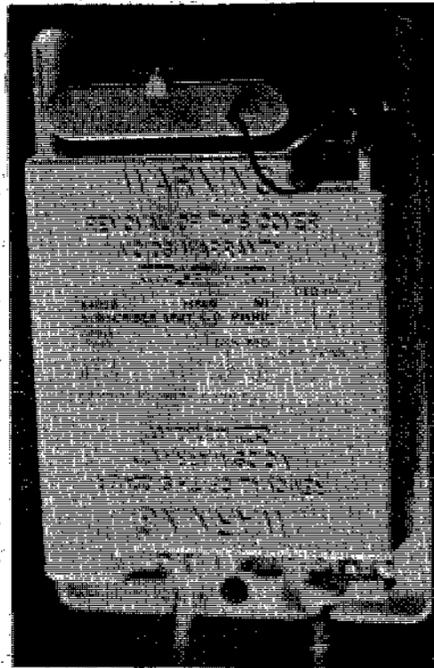
Much to my surprise, he agreed easily. Apparently believing that the calls were more important, he said he could understand refusing to accept a carrier system on a business phone. Devices like carrier systems have been used successfully for long distance calls for years.

But, as Gen Tel's Logan admitted, "For residential phones, it's a relatively new state of the art."

So they don't work right, but rich people don't have to live with it. It's not that Gen Tel has something against poor people (as long as they have enough to pay the bill). It's where they live.

The Central Bloomington area has become more and more densely populated over the years, as old houses are divided up into more and more apartments. There aren't enough individual telephone wires in that area to give everyone a private phone line. So Gen Tel uses carrier systems, doubling the capacity of the wire they've got. It's cheaper than running new wires.

Gen Tel's public relations man says that only a small percentage of phone users are on the carrier system. Maybe so. The fact remains though, when carrier systems are installed, they are most likely going to be installed in the home of a relatively poor person living in a relatively densely populated multi-family zoned neighborhood. And their phone service will be worse than it is out in Broadmoor.



Here's a photo of a carrier system. If you see one of these in your basement, it may explain your poor phone service.

So if you work at home, like I do, and don't mind making trouble, you can get your phone changed to a regular one instead of a carrier one, and at least get ripped off for a phone that works instead of for one that doesn't work.

## Gen Tel's phoney ring (cont. from p. 17)

Gen Tel claimed in the Pantagraph article that the Phone Mart's phone is unlisted because Phone Mart is too understaffed to answer a lot of phone calls. They say all the information which could be communicated over the phone can be obtained through the business office.

Of course, once the business office finds out that you are asking about ordering a phone, they will send you out to Phone Mart. After all, you can't order a phone from the business office, unless you are willing to pay \$9 more. So of course you will go to Phone Mart.

Gen Tel's claim (in the Pantagraph article last fall) that they can't afford to hire another person to answer the phone in Phone Mart 4 hours a day (when they have customers) is phoney.

At the ridiculously low wages that Gen Tel pays its "girls" (that's what Gen Tel official Ellis Corso called the women working at Phone Mart), another half-time phone answerer would cost the company less than \$4,000 a year. When you consider that the company spends about \$400,000 a year advertising Phone Mart, you know you've just heard a phoney line.

Want to hear another?

Gen Tel prepared a special glossy question-and-answer booklet to distribute to employees only, a sort of study guide for answering PR questions about the rate hike.

Here's an example:

**QUESTION:** What do we tell senior citizens living on a fixed income or low income people who suffer from increases of this nature?

**ANSWER:** Unfortunately we can offer little consolation to them. While we as a company recognize and sympathize with their problem, we cannot arbitrarily decide to increase the rates of other customers to subsidize lower rates for the elderly or low income people. Gen Tel will continue to look for alternatives to resolve this important social problem.

First of all, Gen Tel could arbitrarily set rates for one group to subsidize another, if they wanted to argue the position before the ICC. For instance, business phones, even if they're exactly like residential phones, cost twice as much. Gen Tel's PR rap is that they charge more for business phones in order to keep residential phone costs down.

If Gen Tel were really sympathetic to the problems of poor people, the company might take a few steps to make things easier for them.

For instance, why should a poor person

living in central Bloomington have to find a way all the way out to the east side Phone Mart to pick up a phone, when there's a conveniently located downtown business office of the phone company? If Gen Tel wanted to, the cheapest no-frills model phone could be available downtown--thus saving a lot of folks a trip to the Phone Mart. But then Gen Tel wouldn't get that last chance to convince someone to buy a fake antique 1920's style phone with touch tone buttons.

## DIVINYL MADNESS

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# WELL, VEGETARIANS, WE'RE SCREWED AGAIN

19.



If you are planning a feast-trip to the new Tien-Tsin Restuarant, be sure you eat flesh and/or flesh broths and have \$14.00 plus tip on you for two. It's attractive, has nice lighting with nice lanterns. The waitresses are very nice and humble and the proprietor handsome and if you like exotic drinks you're okay.

Being used to the Grand Cafe, we ordered Won-Tons and since the menu listed another treat--"an oriental fried ravioli"--we thought we were safe from meat with the Won-Tons. Nope. They were filled with pork and \$1.50 for six. Yep, 6.

Terry ordered a bean curd soup with oriental vegetables which was offered as a vegetarian soup on the menu. In the bottom of that 5 oz. of soup were pieces of chicken and that little mis-treat cost \$1.50 again.

By this time we were wondering just what might appear in that vegetable and mushroom dish he ordered. It was safe and very well cooked and not enough to fill a moderate eater, much less a good eater, not at all a "man size" serving. Really, there was probably not more than a good cup (8 oz.) of vegetables lying in that covered plate.

I ordered bean curds and black mushrooms, thinking I certainly had beat the flesh game. I got screwed again. It was cooked in chicken broth--if not cooked in it, it was served in it.

Both these dishes were \$4.75 and with them we got a good serving of rice served in a very attractive rice bowl and tea.

Now, if you are into attractive dishes and cups and rice bowls, they've got 'em. The tea server is not your usual pot, no, it's tall and metal and buffed to look like silver. I'm sure it's not, but I didn't check.

It was not a satisfying meal. The expense was for attractive and good service. The food was prepared well. There was not enough of it. We felt cheated. We felt we did not pay for food but the cost of the service and because they only offer flesh, well, it's the same old story. They think they can't offer vegetarian choices or they will lose money. My gods, couldn't they at least offer the choice? A really good and choice restaurant will, and except in this town, I've never eaten in an oriental restaurant that didn't.

So, I'd suggest you stick with The Grand Cafe. It's not good, but it's not a rip-off. It's not pretty, but

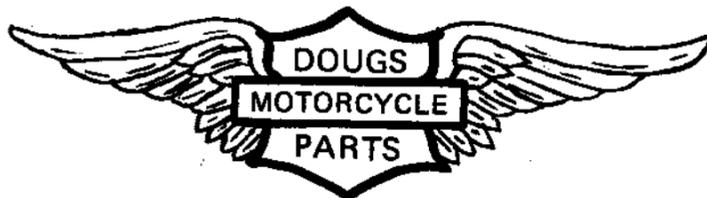
you get food instead of pretty china and fancy tea servers and they do have some meatless dishes, or will make them if you ask. Tien-Tsin is not a place we will go back to. They have a good selection of sea foods for you who like the sea flesh, and they even offer abalone.

So, if you have the money, are not hungry, eat flesh, and have a service fetish, try it. For us who don't eat flesh, who are hungry when we go out and want food for the charge instead of east-side propriety--save your money. Go someplace else. We dropped 15 bucks and were not at all happy about it.

r-wantling

**HAVE A STORY ABOUT  
DON STONE FORD  
COUNTRY?**

--- DROP US A LINE

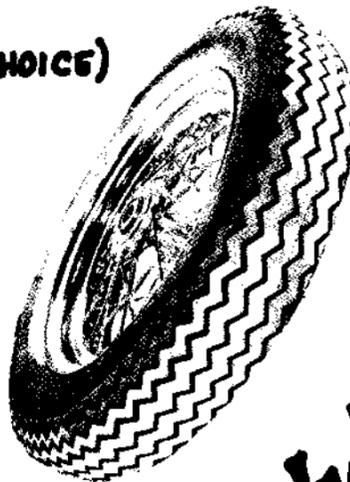


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# Sheriff King Denies

## So What's New?

"In few areas of jail administration are the jailer's objectivity and intelligence more clearly tested than in handling disciplinary matters."

So says Chapter XII, part L, of the State of Illinois Department of Corrections Illinois County Jail Standards, and the statement certainly proved true when McLean County Sheriff King's objectivity and intelligence were tested late last October and early November--and found lacking.

In fact, King flunked the test so badly that he's being charged with violating the County Jail Standards by denying inmates visitors, mail, personal property, health and hygiene facilities, and communication with their attorneys for about ten days, from October 27 to November 6.

Later in November, county jail employees refused to let an inmate's lawyer give him a copy of the Illinois County Jail Standards. The inmate, Dennis Pleines, wanted the standards so he could decide whether to sue King for the denial of privileges since Oct. 27. Pleines' attorney, Scott Anderson Jr., filed suit early in December.

### King's hysterical response

The denial of rights and privileges was King's hysterical response to a fire in the county jail during the nights of October 28.

Donald Curtis, a county jail inmate waiting for trial at the time of the fire and the subsequent disciplinary action, wrote to the Post-American about what happened.

The main part of the jail has two separate areas, North and South. Each side has 3 floors with 6 cells to a floor. The two sides are visually separated and prisoners can't move from one side to another at all.

On October 27, the inmates were locked in their cells for the night at about 10 pm, as usual.

### Fire! Fire!

At about 1:30 am, the inmates woke up to cries of "fire, fire!" All the prisoners were evacuated to the front part of the jail. A prisoner on the south side of the jail had set his mattress on fire.

After the smoke cleared, all the inmates were strip searched for any matches they were carrying. Upon returning to their cells, they also found that guards had ransacked all the cells and confiscated matches there, too.

The next morning, the prisoners didn't get out of their cells for breakfast as usual. They were told they were on deadlock by order of the Sheriff. (There are two common areas one for North and one for South. Normally, the prisoners are allowed to be out in their common area during the day--under deadlock, they are locked in their cells day and night.)

At one or two pm., Sheriff King and six or more deputies came and let the inmates out of their cells one floor at a time. They strip searched the inmates again, and then the guards shook down the cells again, taking things that the prisoners had bought at the commissary with their own money: cigarettes, radios, tooth brushes and toothpaste, combs, books, shampoo, hand cream, and also letters and pictures.

Curtis was an inmate on the North side of the jail. The Sheriff announced to the North siders that he knew that they were not personally responsible for the incidents (fire) that had taken place on the South side that morning, but that they would have to suffer anyway.

King announced a complete loss of "privileges," including TV, visits and phone calls (even to lawyers), letter writing, commissary privileges.

King said they'd have to earn these "privileges" back. He said the fire was a coverup for an escape attempt that everyone knew about, but since no one had ratted, they all would be punished.

Wesley Weber, the jail warden, also claimed that letters, calls to attorneys, and personal hygiene items were privileges and not rights.

Curtis explained how during the period of discipline, inmates only got out of their cells twice a day. Groups of six men at a time got out for ten minutes--during which all of them were supposed to use the toilet and shower. There is only one shower. There are

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# Prisoners' Rights

no toilets in the cells--the inmates must use cut off bleach bottles while they are on deadlock.

A guard also told Curtis and another inmate that even letters they had written on the 27th, before the disturbance, had not been mailed. On the first of November, when Curtis went out to go to court, he looked over the top of a file cabinet and saw all the prisoners' mail bundled with a white HOLD label on it.

No inmates tried to write their lawyers during this time because their paper had been confiscated, and because King had clearly stated that no letters to attorneys would go out. However, Curtis, Dennis Pleines, and John Collins (all North side inmates) asked to call their lawyers, and Wesley Weber refused to let them.

Comparing the actions of King and his Gang with the Illinois Dept. of Corrections County Jail Standards you'll be surprised that more inmates aren't suing (until you remember that suits cost money).

The Revised Mail Procedures, parts 0.000-0.003, clearly state that a resident (that means prisoner) must be allowed to correspond with anyone. The only exceptions are that prisoners can't write to victims of their offenses unless the victims give written permission, and the prisoners need to have jail, parole, or probation officer's permission to write to other prisoners, parolees, or probationers. King violated these rules by refusing to let prisoners write to family, friends, or lawyers.

Part 0.0014 says that jailers should open the mail, check it for contraband, and distribute it to the detainee (that means prisoner too) on the day the mail is received at the jail. Pleines' suit charges King with refusing to deliver mail addressed to him and other prisoners, thus violating this rule too.

Part 0.0023 says that "Appropriate stationary, envelopes, and writing implement shall be supplied but detainees may use such items as they themselves provide." King's guards confiscated the inmates' own writing materials and did not supply any others.

Part 0.0027 says that "outgoing mail shall be collected each day at least Monday through Friday. Every effort shall be made to ensure that outgoing mail is delivered to the U.S. Postal Service on the same day." This probably means that jailers shouldn't bundle up prisoners' letters and label them HOLD.

The Mail Procedures allow prisoners to write to certain people and agencies in complete privacy. Most of the prisoners' letters must be given to the jailers unsealed so the jailers can check for contraband and read the letter if they claim to have a good reason (like if they think there's an escape plot enclosed), but prisoners are allowed to seal letters to senators, representatives, judges, the governor, the attorney general, the director of the federal bureau of prisons, members of the Illinois assembly, officials of the Illinois Department of Corrections, officials and members of the Illinois Parole and Pardon Board, any attorney listed in the legal directory, any legal aid organization or any organization whose purpose is to provide legal services, and members of the news media (this means that prisoners can seal their letters to the Post-American). This part of the Procedures, 0.004-0.0046, indicates that letters to attorneys are things that jailers shouldn't be messing with at all, but King must not have read that part (it did have some pretty big words in it).

Finally, part 0.006 says that inmates should not be denied outgoing or incoming mail rights for disciplinary purposes. The only exception would be if one individual seriously violated the mail regulations, the Sheriff or warden could put that one inmate's mail under close scrutiny until they are sure

that "further violations will not occur." Note that this exception doesn't advise denying mail rights to everyone in the jail because of a mattress fire.

## Forbidding toothbrush not good punishment

In fact, the County Jail Standards even advise that punishments be related to the crime. Chapter XII, 1, 5, says, "It is important that discipline, when it is necessary, but suited to the infraction, and above all be fairly applied." This sentence would tell any intelligent reader that taking a North sider's toothbrush away is not a good discipline for a South sider starting a fire.

Again, Chapter XII, K, 1, says that "as a rule, restriction of correspondence or visiting privileges is not justified.

Chapter XIII, which tells the legal requirements for health, food, sanitation, and safety, may be thought-provoking for those inmates who went to the shower and toilet in sixes for ten minutes twice a day. This chapter is based on the Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 75. Section 16 says that "The warden of the jail shall furnish each prisoner daily with as much clean water as may be necessary for drink and personal cleanliness". Section 22 says that "the warden of the jail shall see that strict attention is constantly paid to the personal cleanliness of all prisoners confined in the jail"; and Section 23 says that a sheriff who fails or refuses to comply with these provisions can be fined \$100. King had better start saving up the money he makes off the jail commissary (the profits are supposed to go to a prisoner benefit fund, but the state inspector in Feb. 1975 couldn't find out where the profits at King's jail were going).

Chapter XIV of the standards says that prisoners should be furnished with toothpaste or powder and a toothbrush.

Pleines' current suit is only asking for a court order to make King allow his lawyer to give him a copy of these standards. Then he will decide whether and on exactly what grounds he will sue King for the outrageous punishment.

On January 3, Judge Townley took the suit under advisement, saying he'd look over the standards booklet himself. He did say that he was inclined to agree that Pleines should be allowed a copy of the standards. The suit says that Pleines should get the standards under Chapter 38, Section 103-4 of the Illinois Revised Statutes, which basically describes a prisoner's right to consult with an attorney.

It's really no wonder that King is being stubborn about letting the standards into the jailhouse. In 1975, a state inspector came to check the county jail according to these same standards, and King refused to let the inspector in until Channel 3's Action Line put public pressure on him.

## Found 19 violations

The inspector found 19 violations of the County Jail Standards (and there were others that were covered up by King and Weber's lies--see the Feb. 1975 Post). These violations, according to the standards booklet, were supposed to be corrected within six months.

Rumor has it that the States Attorney advised King to just let Pleines have the standards booklet and avoid a court order, but King refused to do it. If he tries to come up with any convincing reasons not to give in, you can be sure he pulled them out of his nose.

--Phoebe Caulfield

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# LETTERS

## Pontiac Man Needs Advice

Dear Post Amerikan:

I am writing this concerning my father's life. He is 50 years old, has only 1/4 lung and has had heart trouble since I can remember. I am 19 years old now.

He has given up on his life. I have been trying to encourage him that his day is coming to live yet. I always remind him that he has my mother and little sister and brother to live for. They look after him very well. Yet I put myself in his place and it is very hard for me to face the facts he has to live with about his health.

My mother has been working six years at Pontiac Furniture, Inc. She and my dad are trying to get ahead on things so someday they can take a nice vacation by themselves away from their nine sons and daughters that have grown up. He took the best care of us that a father could ever do. I am very proud of him.

It is really discouraging because they have been trying to get his Social Security through and trying to get a medical card. He is in the hospital just about every other week.

Sure, welfare is giving them food stamps and just very little. That doesn't help my mother, because just as soon as she gets her check, more than half of it goes on medicine my father has to have.

The doctors from Peoria, Champaign, Pontiac, and Bloomington tell him different things about his illness.

So my father isn't too sure what's wrong with him. There are some weeks he lies in the bed and can't get up at all.

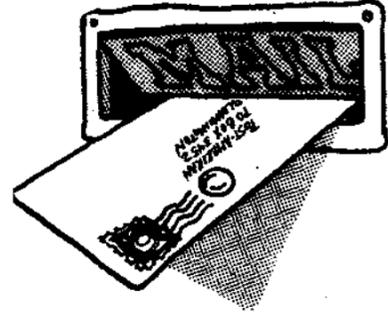
My parents are going bankrupt, just as I see it now they will be clear of hospital debts. Well, he will be right back into debt. He needs hospital care that is too expensive!

I am writing this so the public will know and try and understand what position he is in.

He has the right to Social Security. He worked for many years until he was disabled. Please try and understand this, somebody. If anyone has any advice on what he could do please write, call or notify him. He is a good man.

Sincerely, his daughter

James E. Willburn  
422 E. Madison  
Pontiac, Ill. 61764  
Phone- 842-3010



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

## Prisoner Praises Post

Dear Post:

I just read your publication for the first time today. It is very worthwhile material in my opinion. I noticed that copies are free to all prisoners from McLean County and am requesting that you place me on your mailing list. You attempt to tell of things many people know little or nothing of, but that they must learn about sooner or later- hopefully sooner.

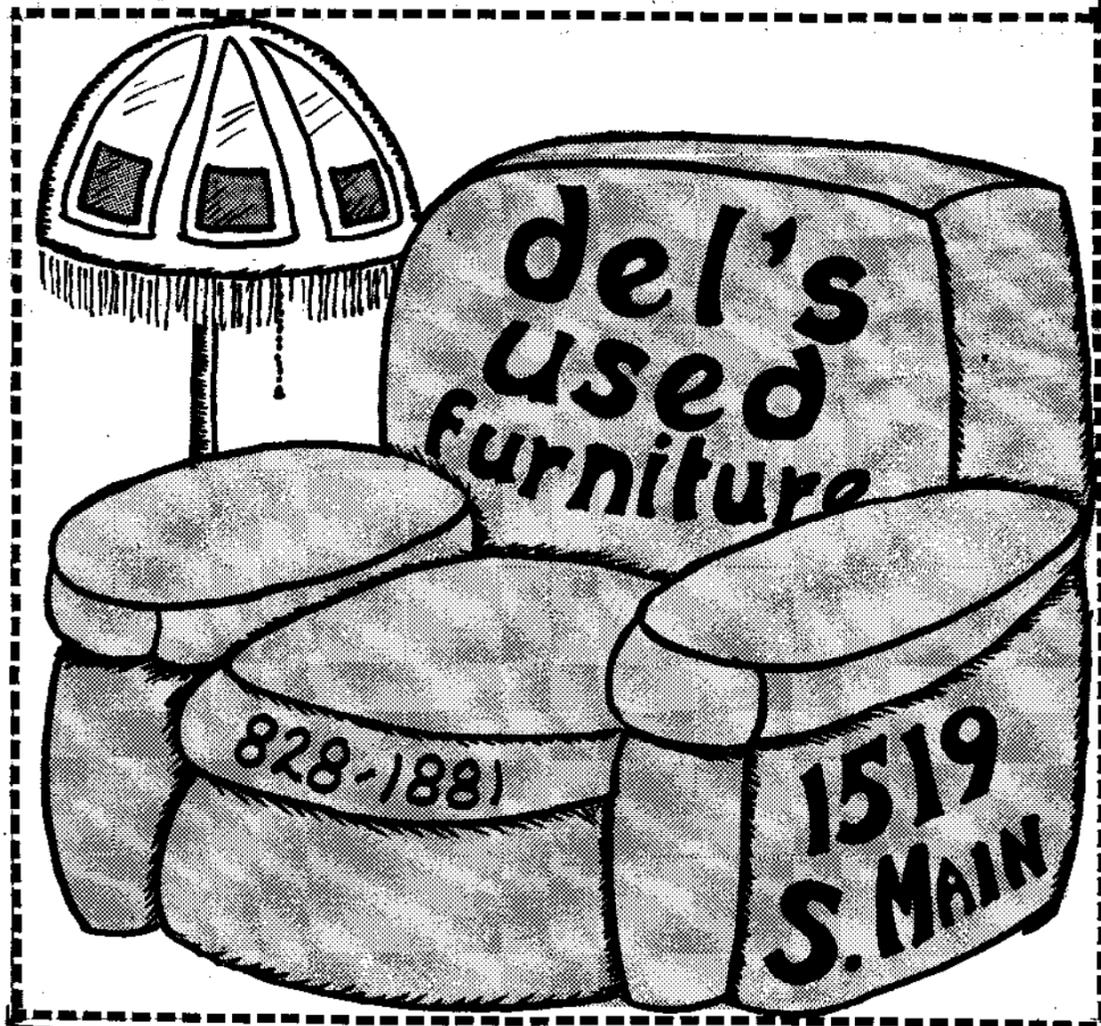
Sincerely yours,  
David Carlson  
C-01177  
P.O. Box 711  
Menard, Illinois 62259

## Give Land Back

Dear Post:

I am writing in regards to your article on the fight of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscott Indians trying to regain their ancestors' land. As a recent resident of Maine I feel that the 12 billion acres should be given back to the tribes where it will be preserved for future generations rather than exploited by the tourist industry. I hope other "white men" feel the same way I do. This is the first issue of your newspaper I've seen and I think it's outstanding! Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
William Smith



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# Happenthing in Travel On

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"Whatever else fiction does, it should not tell lies." This quote is from Happenthing in Travel On, a novel by Carole Spearin McCauley. Happenthing is a women's adventure story. Parts of Happenthing were programmed by a computer. Happenthing is about life and death. Happenthing is about the individual vs. society. Happenthing does not tell lies. Happenthing is hilarious, painful, compassionate, and angry. Happenthing is a very good book.

Happenthing In Travel On begins with Ivy, one of seven women passengers on a small airplane, narrating. Ivy's husband has just died, and she's flying to New York for a job interview. While she talks to the stranger next to her, the plane suddenly climbs and then dives. It crashes and the pilot is killed.

Along with this very basic plot beginning, the reader is told these other facts. The plane has crashed in a remote area. It is winter in the northeastern U.S. One of the women is pregnant, several are injured. There is a long-abandoned house down the mountain from the plane. Few of the women know each other. And so on.

McCauley, the author, uses this plot not only to build a very fine survival story, but also to explore Heavy Things. Among these Heavy Things are life, death, the American dream, dropping out, women's culture, how to survive in the wilderness, and how to survive living with other people.

If you are a woman, you will probably be able to identify strongly, at least in part, with one or several of McCauley's characters. All the women are real human beings. McCauley gives every character her full humanity, not sacrificing this to use any of them as mere symbols.



McCauley achieves this in part by switching the narrative voice. We get to know all the women through the thoughts and writings of four different narrators and a computer.

Even more amazingly, not only do McCauley's characters achieve realness, but nature retains its realness. Death, birth, suffering and survival, central themes in the novel, are not mythicized.

Andrea Dworkin says this about that: "She (the author) looks at these things with an underlying ethic, a sense of justice, that makes clear by contrast the poverty and self-indulgence of male romance. She sees the way women at our most whole do see; with compassion, without sentimentality; the discreteness of things; the rhythms of daily life, the work of maintaining and nourishing life. McCauley sees how lives are the same and how lives are different; how lives are separate and how lives intertwine into a complicated fabric, not pretty in all its parts. This is an adventure story rooted in woman's consciousness. I liked it very much."

Amen, sister.

--Alice Wonder

PS. Happenthing In Travel On is fiction. It does not tell lies.

PPS. Happenthing In Travel On is available at Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main St., Bloomington.

## Sexism and the Normal Library

Living as I do in a society structured to serve particularly male evils--power and the exercise of power--I cannot say I am surprised by new instances of sexism.

Yet I cherished the hope that the source of change--learning--was somehow less tarnished--by now, at least--than everything else.

Ah, unreasonable hope! Were not the suffragists buried? And also Abigail Adams, the woman who pleaded with conservative John not to forget women in the new nation, the glorious U.S. of A.?

Yes, the Normal Library discriminates.

If you, dear reader, were to enter that tomb of learning and ask for permission to possess the scrap of wood pulp that could give you access to the prejudices of the past, you would be asked to "please print" your first name, your husband's name and your last name.

By some strange twist of fate, I don't happen to have a husband.

Still, I wondered why that particular form of oppression was important enough to the library to have been immortalized in print.

"Helps us track them down" was the answer.

Oh? Then the library doesn't trust women to give the right information? (And why would I not lie about my husband's name? Would god strike me dead right then and there?)

"Not everyone returns their books, you know."

Oh.

The library, concerned as it is with the spread of truth and beauty, wants to get its possessions back. And it thinks that evil book-stealing women can be tracked down in the phone book by their husbands' names.

That's a bit strange since the library also wants a driver's license number and demands proof of identity before it will grudgingly share its possessions.

And the state keeps track of those who drive.

And people move. So, once-a-year phone books aren't that much help. But directory assistance keeps track of husbands.

Still, don't husbands and their possessions (wives!), sometimes part with great anger, wishing never to know the other's whereabouts forevermore?

Libraries apparently don't reason very well--not surprisingly since they're merely buildings. Or institutions?

Ah. Institutions are run by men. And so is the Normal Library. Five of its seven directors are men.

One of the directors, Kay Stults, is aware of the library's unreasonable demand. She has received about eight complaints about it in the last year.

She says the library can't refuse a card to a woman who won't give her husband's name.

What a relief.

But there has been at least one instance of a woman becoming so enraged with the request that she stormed out without filling out the proper form. Without obtaining permission to use the library's store of past prejudices.

And nothing has been done.

Why?

Well, the list of directors posted in the Library lists one "Dr." (a male professor), four men who apparently need no qualifications before their names, and two "Mrs.'s."

Why?

"This seems to make a great deal of difference to men," Stults said.

Really.

When men decide to complain about some of the books their children bring home, they always want to know the qualifications of the women they're complaining to.

"Am I talking to an old maid with no children?"

"In the past year," Stults said, "the complaints that do come from men have all been consistent." They want to know whether Stults is a wife and mother.

But they don't ask a man if he's a father.

Apparently, a man's judgment is not determined by his rate of procreation.

Oh, dear reader, how depressing.

Will learning never be unchained?

Well, Perhaps one chain will fall. The library board can direct the library to change its application form.

And Stults is willing to make a motion to that effect--if there's no valid reason for requiring husband's names.

She can't think of one.

I can't think of one.

Will the five men on the library board think of one?

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# Federal Resistance Movement

Despite protests and demonstrations of support in major cities in the United States and Canada, Canadian Minister of Justice Ron Basford ruled that American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Leonard Peltier was extraditable to the U.S. to stand trial for charges against him.

Peltier, a Turtle Mountain Chippewa of Chippewa and Oglala Sioux descent, is the last defendant to be charged with the deaths of two FBI agents in a shootout with native American people on Pine Ridge reservation on June 25, 1975.

Peltier has a long history of service to his people, and fears that his life is in danger in the hands of FBI agents, some of whom are known to have "sworn to kill Peltier" in vengeance for the two agents' deaths.

Peltier's appeal to stop the extradition was based on the hope that Justice Minister Basford would see the political nature of the crime Peltier is charged with and would grant him political asylum. Under sections 21 and 22 of the Extradition Treaty between Canada and the U.S., a prisoner must be granted political asylum if the charges are political.

Peltier's case is a clear example of the FBI's political misuse of authority to stop the legitimate activities of Indian people working to improve the conditions they face in their struggle for identity and existence.

As more information becomes public every day about federal agents' harassment of minority groups and private citizens engaged in legitimate political activity, we must wonder why Basford failed to recognize the political situation that Peltier faces as a prisoner of the FBI in the United States. Canada, however, like the U.S., has its own record of abusing the rights of native people within its borders.

## Fair Trial?

Peltier was extradited within 24 hours of Basford's ruling and was arraigned Dec. 19 in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is charged with two counts of murder. No trial date has been set.

In a recent interview printed in the *Guardian*, Peltier said, "There's no guarantee that I will receive a fair trial. My co-defendants got a change of venue (to Cedar Rapids, Iowa) only after many threats on their lives, beatings, a lot of money spent on jury surveys and, of course, a lot of hard work from the attorneys."



Peltier continued, "Now we've been getting some press statements made by the FBI that I am their last--I call it scapegoat--and they are going to go all out to get a conviction. Knowing them, that means threatening witnesses and fixing evidence."

The petition filed with Justice Minister Basford by Peltier's attorneys showed that the FBI suppressed vital evidence from both defense attorneys and the Canadian government in the extradition proceedings. Defense attorneys described the suppression of evidence "an insult" to the integrity of the Canadian people's system of justice, if not "just plain illegal" activity.

Myrtle Poor Bear, a former mental patient and a known paid FBI informer, signed three affidavits to be presented as evidence against Peltier. The FBI presented two of these in the extradition hearings, but suppressed the third one because it did not place Poor Bear as a witness to the shootings as she claimed in the other two.

Defense attorneys for Peltier pointed out that Poor Bear was not used as a government witness against Darrelle Butler and Robert Robideau in the trial in which they were acquitted of identical charges last summer.

## Contradiction

Poor Bear's claim to be an "eyewitness" would have been important testimony for the government's case, but her credibility is so damaged that she was not used there. She probably will not be used in the trial against Peltier, although the extradition is based on her sworn statements.

Poor Bear was also used as a witness in a trial of Russell Means for murder. Means, an AIM activist and Oglala Sioux, was acquitted after Poor Bear admitted on the witness stand that she had been paid by the FBI to testify against Means.

A leader of AIM, Means has been acquitted of 21 of the 22 charges filed against him since the occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973. Seven of these trials were for alleged murders. During this time, Means was the target of three attempts on his life, two shootings and one beating by a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police officer. All bear the markings of FBI provocations and harassment.

Peltier's personal history and the political currents of the Pine Ridge area emphasize dramatically the real issues involved in the government's case against him--a case which is just a small part of an intensive effort to ignore the real problems of an area and replace the issues with "law and order."

Peltier, 32, recognized early in his life the desperate situation his people faced on the Turtle Mountain reservation, one of those selected for termination of federal services.

Peltier once went ahead of government inspectors investigating poverty to warn his neighbors to hide any food they had. As he went from house to house, he found that there was no need for warning--they had no food anyway.

## Self-Determination

In Washington state Peltier was a partner in an auto repair shop that tried to provide low-cost repairs for native people. He has also been active in alcohol rehabilitation programs and once helped to operate a half-way house for native people adjusting to the cities after coming from reservation life.

Large numbers of American Indians have moved between the ghettos of cities and the high unemployment which plagues most reservations since government relocation and termination policy attempts in the 1950's.

Indian soldiers fought bravely in WWII, but returned to this country to find that they had won a hollow victory in the struggle for all peoples' freedom.

Indians were not drafted in WWI, although many fought in it, because citizenship was not offered to our people until 1924. Still today, Indians do not have to take citizenship of the United States unless they wish to do so.

Termination of government assistance, which the government called "self-determination," helped to destroy operations like the prosperous tribal-owned timber operation of the Menominees of Wisconsin. Relocation of Indians into the cities was another attempt which the government claimed would get Indian people the benefits that our warriors had fought with other Americans to protect for all people. It is better described as a way to get Indians off of their land so that it could be further ripped off by government bureaucrats and politicians.

Relocation has in some ways created the split in Indian country politics between "urban" and reservation Indians by physically separating the two groups. This division is superficial at best.

## Feared for Life

A more accurate portrayal of current divisions of thought in Indian country is between traditions and assimilationist groups. This sketchy division is magnified by lack of communication and a long history of inconsistent federal Indian policies.

Peltier's work for the people continued as he helped to found the Milwaukee AIM chapter. He was one of the participants in the 1972 Trail of Broken Treaties caravan which gave the government a list of 20 demands that were needed to clarify the Indian position and work to solve the problems that face this group of peoples.

Soon after the Trail of Broken Treaties, people occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs office. Peltier was charged in Wisconsin with attempted murder. Peltier was out on bail on this charge before he went underground because he feared for his life.

Peltier had been on Pine Ridge reservation working to give support to traditional Oglala Lakotas in their struggle for federal recognition of their constitutionally protected treaty rights and recognition of sovereignty.

The United States signed the Treaty of 1868 with the Lakota people after being unable to defeat them. Judicial decisions have upheld treaty rights, and much of the current struggle involves this issue.

In 1934, the government passed the Indian Reorganization Act which illegally tried to take away the traditional forms of government and replace them with the various tribal councils that are operating today. The Lakotas rejected this type of government in favor of the government of their ancestors.

## Sold Out

The tribal chairman and tribal councils have complete control in decisions on how tribal money is spent, who gets government jobs, etc. They are the representative for the tribe in matters of land use, mineral and water rights decisions, and most importantly, protection of sovereignty of Indian nations.

Often this type of council, not recognized by the traditionals, has been used to give a few Indians a chance to sell their people down the river, so to speak.



Akwesasne Notes/cpf

This was the case on Pine Ridge. Richard Wilson, who was tribal chairman in 1972, was using his position as tribal chairman for gain of a few people. His position was further supported by a terrorist "good squad" which was composed of and supported by mixed-blood assimilationist Indians and white ranchers and vigilante groups.

A majority of the people of the reservation had petitioned for the removal of Wilson from office. His leadership was not moving to solve the economic problems, nor was it doing anything about the rapes, beatings and murders, which were frequent.

Traditional Oglalas asked people of the American Indian Movement to help them.

In 1972, in Gordon, Nebraska, a border town on Pine Ridge, five whites captured Raymond Yellow Thunder, 51, Oglala, severely beat him and then stripped him of his clothes below the waist and pushed him into an American Legion hall while a dance was in progress, to the amusement of the aging whites, who had fought in the Second World War and Korea allegedly to protect human dignity. He died from the beatings.

## Goon Squad

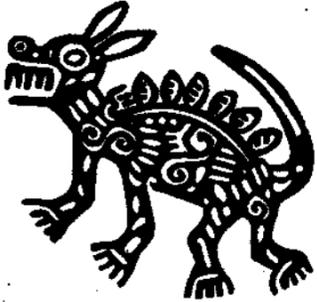
It took 2,000 Indians to get some action from Nebraska authorities who hushed the case up, refused to allow the family to see the body, and greatly reduced the charges the white people should have faced for the murder.

# to American Indian Continues

A double system of justice, one for whites and one for Indians, led to the attack on these Indian people by police officers during the hearings on this case in Guster, S.D. AIM members protected themselves and the small courthouse went up in flames during the riot.

During this period, Pine Ridge was flooded with federal officers to support the tribal "goon squad" and suppress the AIM people. It became evident to the AIM people that justice was not going to come from the federal police either.

AIM people felt that they were either going to be arrested or that they would have to make a stand. They chose to stand at Wounded Knee, and for 71 days defended the Independent Oglala Nation from the government's .50-caliber machine guns, armed personnel carriers (APC), and a huge illegal federal army.



At Wounded Knee the people stood up and they won as the world watched. The agreement signed by the Independent Oglala Nation and government negotiators was that the government would start looking into ways to correct the inequities on Pine Ridge.

The government's solution has been to increase the number of law enforcement personnel on the reservation. Peltier and other AIM members working with traditional Oglalas, including their chiefs and medicine people, have been the target of a "reign of terror."

## Disruption

Since Wounded Knee, 270 people have died in the violence of the civil war. The U.S. "Justice" Department has tried 400 cases stemming from the occupation, and has a dismal record of less than a dozen convictions.

The aim of the "Justice" Department is clear: to disrupt the members of AIM and the traditional Oglalas from working on the real issues that affect the people, and to tie up their time and money in court expenses and bail.

Recently Carter Camp, a Ponca AIM member from Oklahoma, who had been convicted for interfering with postal inspectors during the Wounded Knee occupation, had his conviction reversed in an appeal. Camp was just recently released from Terre Haute federal prison, where he did time on charges of failing to appear for sentencing in the other trial.

Recently, despite Constitutional protection against being tried for the same crime twice (double jeopardy), Camp was re-indicted on the same charges.

This re-indictment is a harassment move, since it will probably never get through court again, but it does force Camp to go back to South Dakota and make bail again.

Peltier's charges in Wisconsin are similar. There appears to be no chance of final conviction on them, but his freedom is subject to revocation of bail and return to jail at the slightest whim of authorities.

Peltier probably won't be convicted of the FBI killings, but he has plenty of reason to fear for his life now that he is back in FBI custody.

## Military Action?

The FBI agents were shot June 25, 1975 in a shoot-out with native people camped on the ranch of Harry Jumping Bull. The agents' bodies were found some distance from the camp. Each agent had three bullets in him, two of which probably were fired after they were already dead.

Several days before the FBI agents shot up the native encampment, a large number of government agents with military type equipment (M-16 rifles, bullet-proof vests, army fatigues, etc) moved onto the reservation. Relatives of goon squad members started moving out of certain areas to "safer" parts of the reservation.

The 2 FBI agents possibly may have killed each other in their own cross-fire when they attacked the camp. The fear of people in the Pine Ridge area was a mixture of fear of goon squad attacks and the lack of police investigation into the terrorist activities of attackers. Guns are kept for protection.

The agents, who did not have warrants for the arrest of anyone (although the FBI later claimed they did) probably did not expect any resistance from the native people because incidents of men in civilian clothing in unmarked cars driving around and shooting high-powered rifles are such a commonplace occurrence on Pine Ridge. The SWAT thug reinforcements waiting nearby were probably hungry for this type of confrontation with the activists also.

The FBI sent hundreds of extra men to this area, and the rights of reservation residents were suspended as the FBI took over.

The FBI has lost face in many instances in the last few years, particularly with its spying on Dr. Martin Luther King, implication in the police murders of Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, inability to quickly solve the Patricia Hearst kidnapping, and subjection to government hearings into the extent of FBI spying and disruption of the lives of private citizens.

## No Evidence

For the two FBI agents' deaths, the only defendants the FBI could produce were three people that they already had in custody and one that was already underground. The Butler-Robideau trial showed that the government had no solid evidence about who was responsible for the deaths.

Following the two agents' shootings, the AIM people went underground in fear of FBI reprisals.

In September, 1975, Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, a Nova Scotia Micmac, was arrested in Oregon on firearms charges by federal agents.

In November she described her interrogation by the FBI for three days during which she was held incommunicado. She said that the FBI said they would "kill her if she would not tell them who killed the agents."

Aquash was later arrested again, and the charges in Oregon were dropped when the government could not produce the dynamite she was charged with having. The last record of Ms. Aquash being alive is on Nov. 25, 1975, when she was in the custody of a U.S. Marshall "being sent back to South Dakota."

Aquash was found in a ditch on February 24, 1976, near the tiny village of Wanblee on the Pine Ridge reservation. Her family was notified of this fact by authorities nearly ten days later, after the body had been buried in an unmarked grave.

A BIA coroner had determined her death "due to exposure." Her family got permission to exhume the body to conduct another autopsy.

## Shot to Death

They found that her death was not from exposure, but from a .38 caliber bullet in the back of her head. They found that her hands had been cut off and the FBI had the ridiculous excuse of needing them for identification. The body was also in an advanced stage of decomposition that could not have happened during this part of the winter.

The Canadian government has requested an account of the FBI's responsibility in the handling of the death of this Canadian citizen, but has not got one. Native people who knew and loved this woman were appalled at the events surrounding her death and the FBI cover-up of her murder.

It is a matter that affects the lives of all citizens when the police have this kind of corruption and control in the lives of citizens.

Also last February, Peltier was arrested on Indian land in Canada. He has spent the last year in solitary confinement in Okalla prison, even though he has never been convicted of any crime. His defense attorneys have been harassed by Canadian police, who received reports from the FBI about the attorneys.

(cont. on next page)

# The Mother Lode

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## \* Federal Resistance cont.

Peltier was a friend of Anna Mae Aquash and his activities in support of native people are the true crimes that he is being tried for by the U.S. government.



Dino Butler told the jury in the trial in Cedar Rapids, "We would not be here today if we could cooperate with the FBI and help solve the deaths of the two FBI agents on June 26. We have refused to cooperate because we strongly feel that the FBI will only shoot and kill anybody they think was involved in the Oglala shootout. We are deeply concerned that there be no more bloodshed."

### FBI's Last Shot

Butler and Robideau were found innocent of the killings of the 2 FBI agents because of "lack of evidence." The jury said that if the government had been able to establish that the two were involved in the shootout, the verdict would have been "innocent self-defense." Charges against Jimmy Eagle were then dismissed.

Peltier is the last defendant, the last chance for the FBI to obtain a conviction for its two dead agents. This is the situation that Basford sent Peltier into when he failed to grant him political asylum.

Vernon Bellecourt recently described the government of Indian people "like the geese in flight. Certain leaders emerge to the front to point the direction of the flock. As they get tired they drop back and new leaders emerge to point the way of the flock, but they keep going as a group."

Leonard Peltier has emerged as that kind of leader in the Indian movement for liberation and as a leader in the struggle to preserve human dignity.

Peltier recently said, "You know we have very little land left, compared to what we had before the coming of the white race. It used to be useless land--that's why they left it to us--but now with technology advancing and demand going up, we have quantities of oil, coal, grazing lands, forests, natural gas, and others."

Peltier said, "We believe this is one of the reasons why the government has put such an oppression on us--to steal what little we have left, to give us a few thousand dollars apiece and then rip out the billions of dollars that are in the land."

A legal defense team is being set up for Peltier by the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee. Contributions are badly needed and can be sent to: WKLD/OC, PO Box 4287, Omaha, Nebraska, 68104.

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A special thanks to the people of Akwesasne Notes for the generous use of their files for the information used in this article, and to the Guardian for their excellent coverage of the cases of Peltier and many other Indian and oppressed peoples.

--Todd Tecumseh



## SMALL CHANGES

After the financial and emotional success of the benefit concert, Small Changes Bookstore was able in December to begin moving into our storefront at 409A N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington.

There was still a lot of preparatory work to be done. Thanks go to Kay Clifton, who helped us move in (two donated couches) and move out (a bunch of garbage from the basement).

The major things we moved were the bookshelves. After pushing and shoving them into place, we stood back to admire our work and then realized that we had put them in upside down!

We finally opened for business on December 13th, two Mondays before Christmas. Appropriately, the very first book we sold was our namesake, a novel by Marge Piercy called *Small Changes*.

An opening day, we had 77 (yep, count 'em, 77) new books covering women's issues, vegetarianism, alternative culture, gay liberation, etc. These were supplemented by a wide range of used books.

Non-sexist children's literature proved to be our first week's fastest seller, and we quickly had to reorder every book on the shelf.

It's been a good, fun first month. Many thanks to Mark Silverstein and Mike Simpson for their energy, Ken Bartell for help moving in, and Virginia Wolf for big donations of used books. And thanks to everyone who has helped us make this dream come true.

Community News



Members of ESSENCE--A dance company made up of residents of Sunnyside dance to the tunes at a dance concert December 10th

# WITESSE

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## Women's Center

At the last women's center meeting, we didn't set a definite time and place for our next meeting. There will be a meeting sometime during the week starting January 16th, and another meeting sometime during the week that begins on January 30th. We'll be having meetings twice a month for at least six months. Any women interested in finding out the time and place of the next meeting can call 828-6935 and ask for Andrea or Sue.

## National Runaway Switchboard

The National Runaway Switchboard is a toll-free referral and information service for runaway youth across the nation. All a young person needs to do is call the switchboard-at any time of the day or night- and a trained volunteer will assist the individual in his or her problem situation.

800-621-4000 toll free, hassle free  
IN Illinois-800-972-6004

# GOOD NUMBERS

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

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

## Community News

# OPERATION RECYCLE

Operation Recycle's next pick-up will be on Feb. 19 from 9:00-3:00. There are two places you can bring materials to be recycled: the southwest corner of the ISU parking lot on the corner of Main and College, and the Sear's parking lot at Eastland.

Operation Recycle will take tin cans (please remove the labels), glass containers (please remove any metal rings attached, but labels can stay on glass), and aluminum cans (please sort separately from the tin cans.)

If you don't know the difference between aluminum and tin cans, here are some ways to figure it out. Aluminum cans don't have seams, magnets will pick up tin but not aluminum, and the only aluminum cans in the area are certain kinds of beer cans.

Operation Recycle also takes newspapers again (but not magazines). Preferably, the newspapers should be in grocery sacks, but it's OK if they're tied in bundles. Operation Recycle is eager for paper, since they recently began accepting it again and haven't been getting very much.

Operation Recycle needs volunteers! If you would like to spend either a little or a lot of time helping to recycle in some way, you can call Myra Gordon. Before 5:30, call 662-5384. After 5:30, call 452-8530.



# PROFILE in PATH

Six years ago PATH, Personal Assistance Telephone Help, was founded by Illinois State University, Ecumenical Campus Ministry, and McLean County community to fill the need for a 24-hour telephone crisis, information and referral service. Since that time PATH has received 80,000 phone calls.

Loneliness, drugs, depression, sex, suicide, finances, housing, dating. These are common types of problems that trained PATH volunteers receive. The volunteer is a concerned listener who helps the caller define the problem, generate solutions, and come to a decision if possible. The volunteer will not criticize or advise the caller but will listen to the caller's story with an open mind.

PATH answers phones for several agencies, 24 hours a day, and others after office hours and on weekends. These include Department of Children and Family Service, Parents Anonymous, Mobile Meals, Rape Crisis Center. In addition, other agencies are available 24 hours a day, such as Planned Parenthood, Lighthouse, Family Services, Mental Health Center, etc.

### Helpful For General Information

The types of phone calls PATH receives vary as do the realm of human experiences. Fifty percent of the callers ask for general information. People need to know where a certain street is located, the telephone number of the Mental Health Center, or where they can go for daycare services.

A caller's problem cannot always be solved in a phone call--some situations call for special help from community agencies. PATH volunteers have information on hand to help people find the right agency. The volunteers can even assist callers make appointments with helping agencies, or can connect them with an outreach worker who may arrange a visit.

PATH's interest in the caller does not always stop at the end of a phone call. A PATH staff member calls the agency to see if the client has received appropriate services. If possible, PATH contacts the client to see if he/she is satisfied with the service received.

The caller's wish for anonymity is always respected. The only time that a name is requested is when a direct referral to an agency is made for follow-up reasons. However, the giving of a name is strictly optional.

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PERSONAL ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE HELP

In order for PATH to exist, the important ingredients are necessary. These both involve support from the McLean County community. The responsibility for funding PATH is split primarily between United Way and Illinois State University.

However, PATH could not exist without the 70 volunteers who answer the phones. Volunteers represent the total community; students, housewives, office workers, etc. They all have one thing in common, a commitment to help others find solutions to their problems.

The training of a volunteer is a rigorous one involving 9 hours a week for 6 weeks. This includes lectures in such areas as drugs, sex, and suicide. In addition, small group sessions are held to assist trainees in learning communication skills, as well as readings and phonerom training.

A new training program will be starting soon with a group interview on January 18. If you are interested in becoming a PATH volunteer call 452-4422 for an application.

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# "Feminine Hygiene"

29.

## --A Dangerous Myth

by Emrika Padus  
reprinted from Prevention magazine, January 1977

The ad agencies are brainwashing us about our feminine hygiene habits. Just leaf through any magazine. One page offers a free sample of a new micro-mini pad and another, a complimentary whiff of the latest feminine deodorant spray. Switch on the TV. If you're not confronted with a sensuous brunette singing the praises of an herbal douche, you may tune into "what she knows that I don't know" about deodorant tampons.

Everywhere you look you see the same sweet smiling faces making the same sweet-smelling claims. They have us believing that a daily douche is as fundamental as a morning shower; that a squirt of deodorant between the legs is worth two under the arms; that a sure-fire way to find happiness in love is by having your private parts smelling like a lemon tree or herbal bouquet. Where is this media mania leading us? Perhaps straight to the doctor's office.

According to Gideon G. Panter, M.D., a prominent New York City gynecologist and a faculty member at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, "Doctors are seeing more irritations of the vaginal area now than they have ever seen before due to the increased use of commercial hygiene products.

"Very often, these products contain chemical agents capable of causing allergic reactions and irritation to the skin," Dr. Panter told Prevention. "Even such seemingly harmless products as colored and perfumed toilet paper, scented powder and soaps, bubble baths, and certain detergents used to launder underwear may be the cause of mild burning or irritation in the vaginal area."

A two-month study at the U.S. Army Hospital, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, confirms these claims. Of 348 women, those who had used bubble bath, feminine deodorant sprays and douches had a higher incidence of vulvovaginitis (inflammation of the vulva and vagina) than nonusers.

An unexpected finding was the large number of women--93.3 percent of those with a history of vulvovaginitis--who continued to use these feminine cleansing agents despite warnings by their physicians.

It isn't so much the brand or kind of product that's used but the sheer number applied. Women who use only one product have only one-third the chance of developing an irritation as women who use all three.

### SPRAYS ARE MOST TROUBLESOME

Nevertheless, the feminine hygiene deodorant sprays seemed to cause the most irritation and were unique in their ability to cause inflammation. "It's true," says Dr. Panter. "Vaginal sprays can cause problems and should carry labels warning women of their dangers. Reports have come in from hundreds of women with complaints of infections, itching, burning, irritation, vaginal discharge, rashes, and other problems from the sprays. In fact, the FDA recently proposed that a warning label be put on all vaginal sprays which reads, 'Caution--for external use only (and that means, don't have intercourse or insert a tampon after you've used the spray). Spray at least eight inches from skin. Use sparingly and not more than once daily to avoid irritation. Do not use this product with a sanitary napkin. Do not apply to broken, irritated or itching skin.'

"Personally," Dr. Panter commented, "I've had to hospitalize too many patients with severe reactions to these sprays to ever advocate them.... And despite what the television commercials may say, there is no evidence that vaginal sprays will combat vaginal odor any better than plain soap and water."

Don't press your luck by introducing similarly scented products--such as deodorant tampons and douches--directly into the vagina either. "Every

time you add something to the vagina, you increase your susceptibility to infection. The molecules of that substance can invade the vagina's tender mucous membrane."

### THE DAYS OF DOUCHING ARE GONE

Unfortunately, we have been programmed by generations of vigorous douchers. Our mothers douched, our grandmothers douched, and so it seems, did everyone else. Even the Codex Ebers, which dates around 1500 BC, recommends douches of wine, garlic, fresh dates, cows' bile, and asses' milk. Although those ingredients may have been more natural and significantly less caustic than the agents in our present prepackaged douche preparations, douching was no more helpful than it is today.

"The days of douching are gone," Dr. Panter exclaims. And most gynecologists agree that douching is of no value in promoting feminine hygiene and, in fact, may be the cause of unnecessary distress.

What most people fail to realize is that the vagina cleanses itself naturally. Glands located in the cervix secrete a mucous substance that bathes the vaginal walls and washes away trapped debris and germs.

"Merely wiping the lips of the vagina is then sufficient to cleanse the cavity," Dr. Panter explains. "Douching only washes away the natural mucus and upsets the vaginal ecology." This tends to leave the vagina more susceptible to infection.

### RISK OF PELVIC INFLAMMATION

In addition, douching with one of the new perfumed or flavored douches can cause allergic reactions. And, too frequent use of an undiluted or strong douche solution can induce severe irritation and even tissue damage.

How does douching affect the well-being of the uterus? Drs. Neumann and DeCherney speculate in the New England Journal of Medicine (Sept. 30, 1976) that the gushing water propels germs and bacteria from the vagina into the uterus and even beyond. They also suggest that an anti-bacteria plug in the cervix which normally prevents the upward movement of infection may be eroded by frequent douching.

And never douche when you have your period. During menstruation, the cervix dilates to permit the downward flow of blood and tissue from the uterine lining. However, at this time the risk of an upward flow of a douche solution into the uterus also becomes higher.

In addition to carrying infected material from the vagina into the uterus, physicians caution that douching may also propel uterine tissue back up into the uterine cavity. This could create a condition known as endometriosis, in which tissue from the uterine lining takes root in other places, often producing pain or infertility.

Douching with a bulb syringe or one of the new compact disposable douches can be even more dangerous. "Water propelled into the uterus is one thing," Dr. Cicalese told Prevention, "but air injected into the uterus and beyond could prove fatal." Again, this is particularly dangerous during menstruation and pregnancy when the cervix is dilated. In fact, there have been several maternal deaths reported due to air embolism (the sudden blocking of an artery or vein by air), where the cause was vaginal douching with a bulb syringe.

So, how do you stay fresh and free of infection without taking any unnecessary risks? Try some plain old common sense and a little soap and water.



A local store displays a wide selection of those "sweet-smelling" feminine hygiene products.

Washing between the legs with a mild and preferably unscented soap will clean away odor-causing bacteria and debris flushed from the vagina by the vaginal secretions.

If you notice that your vaginal discharge is slightly different than usual or that you've been feeling a little itchy lately, you may have a mild infection. For times like these, Dr. Panter recommends a half cup of table salt dissolved in a bathtub of water. This solution is a good approximation of saline (normal body fluid) and is similar to your tears, which are constantly bathing and cleaning your eyes.

What about inserting yogurt into the vagina to combat mild infections, particularly the yeast infections? The Lactobacillus acidophilus (favorable bacteria culture) helps to restore a bacterial balance in the vagina.

However, since many commercial yogurts do not contain this strain of bacteria, it is advisable to buy acidophilus in your health food store or drug store. Add about two tablespoons of acidophilus powder from the capsules or crushed tablets to one-half cup plain yogurt. Then with a tampon or gel applicator, insert about two teaspoons of this mixture into the vagina.

As a final suggestion, powder your vaginal area with cornstarch rather than perfumed powders. The cornstarch will absorb any excess moisture and keep you feeling fresh and clean all day long with little chance of irritation.

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# Why Eight Inmates Sued Stateville Prison

POST-NOTE: A short AP story in the Pantagraph December 8 reported that 8 prisoners in Stateville penitentiary had sued the prison in federal court, charging that they were locked up with twice as many people as the prison was built to hold. Among other claims, the suit said that the overcrowding forced prisoners to endure less than adequate hygiene, and the lack of prison jobs forced them to spend almost all day in cramped, unsanitary cells.

A Post reporter wrote to one of the prisoners, Ronald Burbank, asking him to detail his reasons for suing Stateville. Here is his reply:

\*\*\*\*\*

Stateville prison is a conglomerate of one rectangular and four circular cellhouses which, according to its present design, can house a maximum of 1,267 inmates. As of the date of this writing Stateville is approaching the overwhelming capacity of 3000, and has turned into a "standing room only" prison. Men are systematically packed three to a  $5\frac{1}{2}$  x 9 foot cell and when one considers cell furnishings and personal property living conditions are pretty "tight," to say the least. The responsibility for this horrible situation lies somewhere, so we decided to sue the Governor of the State of Illinois and the Stateville Prison Administration to contest our conditions of confinement.

The lawsuit includes far more than just the cell space, or lack of it, however. In any overcrowding situation--and particularly at Stateville--there are many, many other resulting problems. The prison population has been on a constant increase, and the Department of Corrections has done little to remedy the situation, both in terms of reducing the increase-rate and in terms of meeting the Federal standards of living conditions for the expanding population.

In a press release to the Chicago Daily News on January 1, 1976, Richard B. Gramley, transfer co-ordinator for Adult Institutions, is quoted as saying that the population was nearing maximum capacity "and it has been causing some problems." In that article Mr. Gramley said the population was 2,126, with a maximum capacity of 2,250. That same statistic was quoted by Daniel DeVos, Chief of the Department's Program Services, in a second press release for the Chicago Sun-Times for January 27, 1976. In a Department of Corrections memo from Mr. Gramley to Phillip Shayne, Coordinator of Program Services, dated June 4, 1976, Mr. Gramley then states the present capacity of Stateville at 2,600, with a maximum capacity of 2,900! In December, 1976, edition of the Christian Science Monitor, David R. Brierton releases a statement that the population was approaching 3000, with a maximum capacity of 3,200!

So it seems to be a matter of sweeping the problem under the rug and saying whatever is most convenient to satisfy the media. The fact is, according to the Department of Corrections' own Administrative Regulations, that each inmate is to be provided a minimum of 50 square feet of cell space. According to the American Correctional Association and the National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice, each inmate should be allotted 70 square feet. In the prison's present condition, each inmate is allotted less than 25.5 square feet.

Unskilled inmates have been ordered to bolt and weld together a third metal bunk to the top of the existing double bunks for many of the cells. In many cells, however, there is no third bunk, so a mattress has to be placed on the floor of the already limited space, often under a leaky toilet or sink. Men sometimes even have to sleep on the bare floor.

Inmate-inmate and inmate-officer violence and sexual attacks occur because of too few prison guards. Inmates go without showers for weeks and even months. Necessary personal hygiene articles, such as soap, toilet paper, towels, toothpaste, etc., are not systematically provided. At times newspaper has to be used as toilet paper. The men who are without money to purchase hygiene supplies from the commissary are just out of luck. Plumbing is often broken, with sinks and toilets either overflowing or totally non-functioning.

There is absolutely no laundry service for washing outer or undergarments. Upon admittance to the institution most of the men are issued only one pair of pants, one thin shirt and a pair of socks--and occasionally a light jacket. No underwear is issued and at times neither are any outer garments, which means that the new resident must wear the clothes originally given to him at the receiving depot before his arrival at Stateville.

Many mattresses are in deplorable condition, as are the bed springs on the bunks. Mattresses and blankets are never washed, carrying strong odors and attracting vermin. Roaches and spiders are paramount, getting into foodstuffs, clothing, books and paper and depositing eggs everywhere. Inmates are issued one sheet, which is soiled and not properly washed because the washing machines are overloaded and clothes are washed without any bleaching agent or effective detergent. Exercise is reduced to less than four hours per week, split between yard and recreation time. Most of the prison population is confined to cells better than 22 hours per day, let out only for feeding and occasional recreation.

Stateville routine centers around feeding, counting, arbitrary and foolish prison discipline (men have been placed in segregation for such petty things as having a bar of state soap in their possession while out of their cells, or placing their elbows on the

gallery guard rails), and providing extremely poor medical services. Prison management is so poor that prison guards are allowed to over-react in any simple situation with a power-mad enthusiasm. They are allowed to impose discipline as a defense mechanism against their inability to deal with the diverse personalities of the inmates.

Because of the inadequacy of personnel, medical and financial records are extremely poorly kept. Inmates are suffering constant "losses" of money from their individual accounts because of careless bookkeeping, often being overcharged for commissary items. Money is often deducted from an individual inmate's accounts for electronic equipment or other items, totally unknown to the inmate. There have been instances where sums of money, even in the hundreds of dollars, have just "disappeared" from individual's accounts.

Furthermore, in the few available paid jobs (at best, \$20.00 per month), the salaries are often not paid for months, or even all. Segregation and investigation packed with a maximum capacity of over 500 men, with another 700 or better on "labor-pool", a dormant assignment, while another 400 to 500 are placed in "safekeeping," another dormant assignment.

These conditions bring up the question of how an inmate occupies his time at Stateville, in terms of re-adjustment, self-betterment, education, or rehabilitation. The fact is that there are absolutely no programs or facilities on any level, no drug abuse programs, no al-anon programs, no system to determine security status for minimum security placement. The overall result is that upon release many of the inmates are in a worse state than they were when they were arrested, in terms of finances, roots in the community, education or marketable skills. Living costs are constantly rising. There is high unemployment and reluctance to hire ex-prisoners. Ex-offenders with no education and no skills are trapped in a vicious crime-cycle--a criminal subculture perpetuating the rising crime rate. Behind bars, it's obvious that poverty causes crime. The responsibility for keeping ex-offenders out of jail lies somewhere. In my opinion, it is the Department of Corrections' responsibility to the taxpayer. So in the interest of the taxpayer we are suing the Department of Corrections, for as long as these prison conditions persist the taxpayer not only suffers the burden of financing this fraud on their own person by the Department of Corrections, under the guise of "protecting" Society, but also suffers the burden of contending with the increasing crime rate perpetrated and perpetuated by them.

Ronald Burbank  
reg no C-01496  
Stateville Correctional Center  
P O Box 112  
Joliet, Illinois 60434



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BECAUSE BLOOMINGTON UNLIMITED ASKED...

# West Side Money Taken for Downtown Development

Because a businessmen's group insisted, \$100,000 in Urban Renewal money assigned for fixing up west side neighborhoods will now be spent to benefit private owners of downtown buildings.

Officers of Bloomington Unlimited (BU), a banker-dominated non-profit organization that pushes downtown development, talked the Bloomington City Council into re-assigning the \$100,000 already set aside for fixing up west side houses and sidewalks.

After five local banks match the Urban Renewal money, the funds will enter the Commercial Rehabilitation Loan Fund, which offers low-interest loans to owners of downtown buildings who want to make improvements. BU pushed for the extra money as part of a drive to get Front St. fixed up.

Created in spring 1976 with \$600,000, the revolving loan fund hasn't been used very much. Only a third has been spent, and Urban Renewal Director Don Tjaden says he needs more money in.

But Harry Petrie, BU's president, and VP of BU, said he had the \$400,000 left in the loan fund. He didn't say why he thought he didn't ask. The council was asked for the request of Bloomington Unlimited.

Here's how the loan fund works. Five banks and the city each kick in \$100,000 a year. The banks get the \$100,000 and normally charge for a \$100,000 loan according to the Pantagraph. The city's interest on its \$100,000. The banks who get approval for their projects through the Urban Renewal Department, pay only a 3% interest. The city's new interest money subsidizes the low interest rate to the borrower.

The theory is that owners who previously couldn't afford to fix up their buildings will now be able to, with this subsidized interest rate.

But then you get Chester and Loren Thomson--hardly poverty cases--taking advantage of the bargain interest rate to fix up their law offices. They borrowed \$35,000.

In fact, most of the owners of the Front St. buildings Bloomington Unlimited wants fixed up aren't poverty cases. Some of the owners are very rich; they just choose not to spend any money on their buildings.

One Front St. tenant called the owner a "slumlord" who only wanted to "milk profits" from the building.

Tjaden also told the Council he hesitated to subsidize banking interest with Community Development Fund money. The city isn't earning any interest on the money while it's mainly serving the banks, but if that same money went for a residential rehabilitation loan, the city would be required to get at least 3% interest, according to Federal regulations.

In explaining his resistance to Bloomington Unlimited's move, Tjaden told the Post-American, "We sort of robbed from the residential neighborhoods when we were doing downtown; I guess I feel they should be getting it back now."

**"We robbed from the residential neighborhoods when we were doing downtown; they should be getting it back now."**

**- Donald Tjaden, Urban Renewal Director**

Almost every owner in the 100 blocks of Front St. got a reduction in tax assessments last year. But they're not putting the money they saved that way into new projects.

Tjaden told the Post-American that a lot of the buildings are owned by trusts administered by banks who are loaning money to the owners.

Encouraging owners to make improvements has not worked. One otherwise is the primary purpose of the fund. Interest rate in the loan fund.

At Front St. last spring, the city kick in the extra money he had. In the final agreement, all the banks are also throwing in extra money, too. Tjaden says he feels better about that.

But most of the money loaned out so far has gone to projects that would have been done anyway, like maintenance, Urban Renewal's Tjaden told the City Council. The low interest rate didn't seem to be working to spark hoped-for developments.

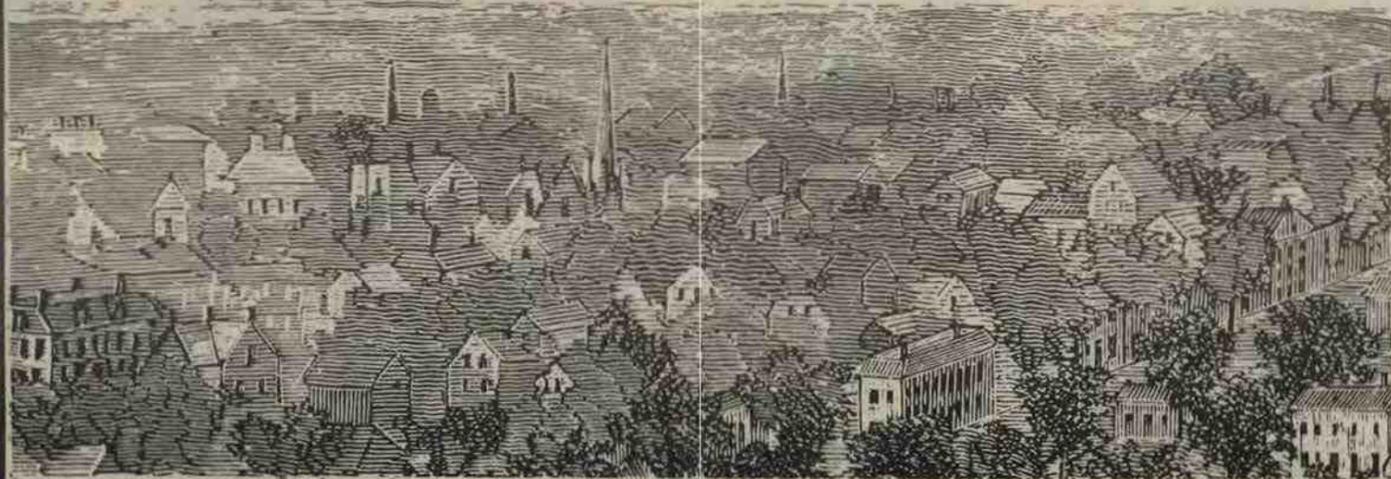
I tried to find out what rehabilitation projects were so advanced in their planning stages that BU's Petrie was sure that the loan fund would be emptied without additional money.

Tjaden didn't know. His list of possible and for-sure loans didn't nearly use up the \$600,000. Tjaden said Petrie probably knew more.

At first, Petrie wouldn't admit knowing more than Tjaden. He tried to refer me to Tjaden. Petrie did finally admit that he did know people who were thinking about applying for these subsidized loans, but he wouldn't tell me who.

And he didn't tell the Bloomington City Council, either. Yet on Petrie's word that the loan fund would be used up soon, the Council stole \$100,000 from west side projects, because Bloomington Unlimited requested it.

## 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-American 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-American.

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