

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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C.I.A.'s Colby; Ford Picket; Peace Meal; Illinois Power Lies

Bloomington-Normal

25c

POST AMERIKAN

May 1977
Vol. VI No. 2

INSIDE:
Food Stamps
How to get them and stay sane
See pages 10-14



FOOD COUPON

DO NOT FOLD
E009004288

DO NOT SPINDE



**MILITARY
SCAVENGERS:
The Real Welfare Thieves**

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 168
BLOOMINGTON, ILL.
61701

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 April 22.....6:30
Potluck,
Friday April 29.....6:30
Friday May 6.....6:30
Friday May 13.....6:30
Deadline & meeting
Wednesday May 18..6:30
Work meeting, May 20...8:00
Layout,
Sat. & Sun., May 21 & 22
Friday, May 27.....6:30
Potluck,
Friday, June 3.....6:30

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

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

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON

Book Hive, 103 W. Front
Cake Box, 511 S. Denver
The Joint, 415 N. Main
Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front
The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main
The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main
South West Corner--Front & Main
Downtown Postal Substation, Center & Monroe
Bl. Post Office, Empire & Fairway (at exit)
DeVary's Market, 1402 W. Market.
Harris' Market, 802 N. Morris
Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington
Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main
Discount Den, 207 N. Main
U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market
U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Park Store, 909 S. Allin
Pantagraph Building, in front of it
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park (in front)
Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
Man-Ding-Go's, 312 S. Lee
K-Mart, at parking lot exit
The Blue Room, 803 Morrisey Drive
Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.
Of Mind and Body, 606 N. Main
The Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
Apache Junction, 204 S. McClun
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
Lazy J Saloon

OUTTA TOWN

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

NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
Pat's Billiards, 1203 S. Main
Redbird IGA
Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North St.
Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.
Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
Hendren's Grocery Store, 301 W. Willow
Co-op Bookstore (in front)
The Gallery (in front)
SE corner, University & College
New Age Bookstore, 101 Broadway Mall
Co-op Tapes & Records, 311 S. Main
Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union
Cage, ISU Student Union
Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
Upper Cut 1203 1/2 S. Main
Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main

Work on the Post

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

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

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

RALPH ABERNATHY AT IWU

Carry My People to Canaan

The Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, minister of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, presented his "sermon" to an audience of approximately 400 people in Illinois Wesleyan University's Presser Hall, April 13th at 11:00 A.M.

The event was a typical Methodist service until the slow-speaking Southern Baptist minister began his message, a sermon called "A Nation in Crisis." Abernathy began in the traditional way by thanking the students, faculty, administration, chapel committee, etc. It was after this that he got to the heart of his message. Reverend Abernathy said, "I am with friends, I am with young people. Young people who are concerned and dedicated."

Reverend Abernathy came here after a trip to Washington D.C., where he attended a conference for the Southern Baptist Church kept his commitment with Illinois Wesleyan University instead of seeing President Carter. About Carter, Abernathy said, "We should keep pressure on the president and keep him in line."

Abernathy then said, "All men are created equal... not some men but all men.... These beginning words of the Declaration of Independence make it crystal clear that black men, white men, red men, yellow men, old men, and young men are endowed by their Creator, not the Constitution, to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These words are not a total reality as yet."

(I don't believe Dr. Abernathy was being sexist by his use of "men" at this point, but that he was just continuing to use the wording of the Declaration. Later on in his speech he used "him or her" when appropriate.)

Abernathy is calling on people to strive for equality. The main thrust of his message attacked economic injustice and racism. He stated that blacks and poor people voted for Jimmy Carter because Carter campaigned across the country pledging that he would put America back to work.

"You study for grades, you sacrifice, and finally you graduate one way or another. You go

out and look for a job and there are none," Abernathy said. "People with a B.A., M.A., or Ph.D. don't have a J.O.B. degree. Our first responsibility is to put America back to work."

Abernathy began his attack on racism by saying that "Racism is a disease. Racism is a cancerous disease that has spread across America. Racism must die if America is to survive."

He then went back to the economic picture. "It is totally unfair and unjust that Americans are controlled by ten companies or ten people. It is unjust that you cannot afford to be sick. Yet America can spend hundreds of billions of dollars sending men to the moon, Mars, and outer space, but cannot spend money to help an individual get back on his or her feet.... It is unfair that some people can go to Mayo Clinic or to John Hopkins for their yearly checkup, while the average American cannot afford to go to a regular hospital."

Abernathy talked about a national health plan that would benefit all Americans so that people could go to the doctor without fear of losing all the money they have. The bill would be paid by the government.

At another speaking engagement a student told Abernathy that this kind of health care is disgusting and borders on socialism or communism. Dr. Abernathy replied, "I don't care if it is communism, capitalism, socialism, or some other ism. All I know is that I like it."

Dr. Abernathy said he has been jailed 48 times but never for "beatin' my wife, stealin' or robbin'." He has been beaten, bombed, and bushwacked. He has had his house and car sold to the highest bidder. But his response to all this is, "If a man has not discovered something he is willing to die for, then that man is not worthy to live."

Before Martin Luther King died, he told Dr. Abernathy, "Carry my people to Canaan-- set my people free." That is what Dr. Abernathy is willing to risk his life for.

In closing Abernathy said, "Today if you will strive for the truth and not be afraid, then the evil forces will flee for their lives. We will find everything necessary to save a whole America.... You know, America has not been America to me, but I make my vow to you that I'll stay on the case until it is America to me. Right on and power to the people!"

I just hope his words didn't fall on deaf ears.

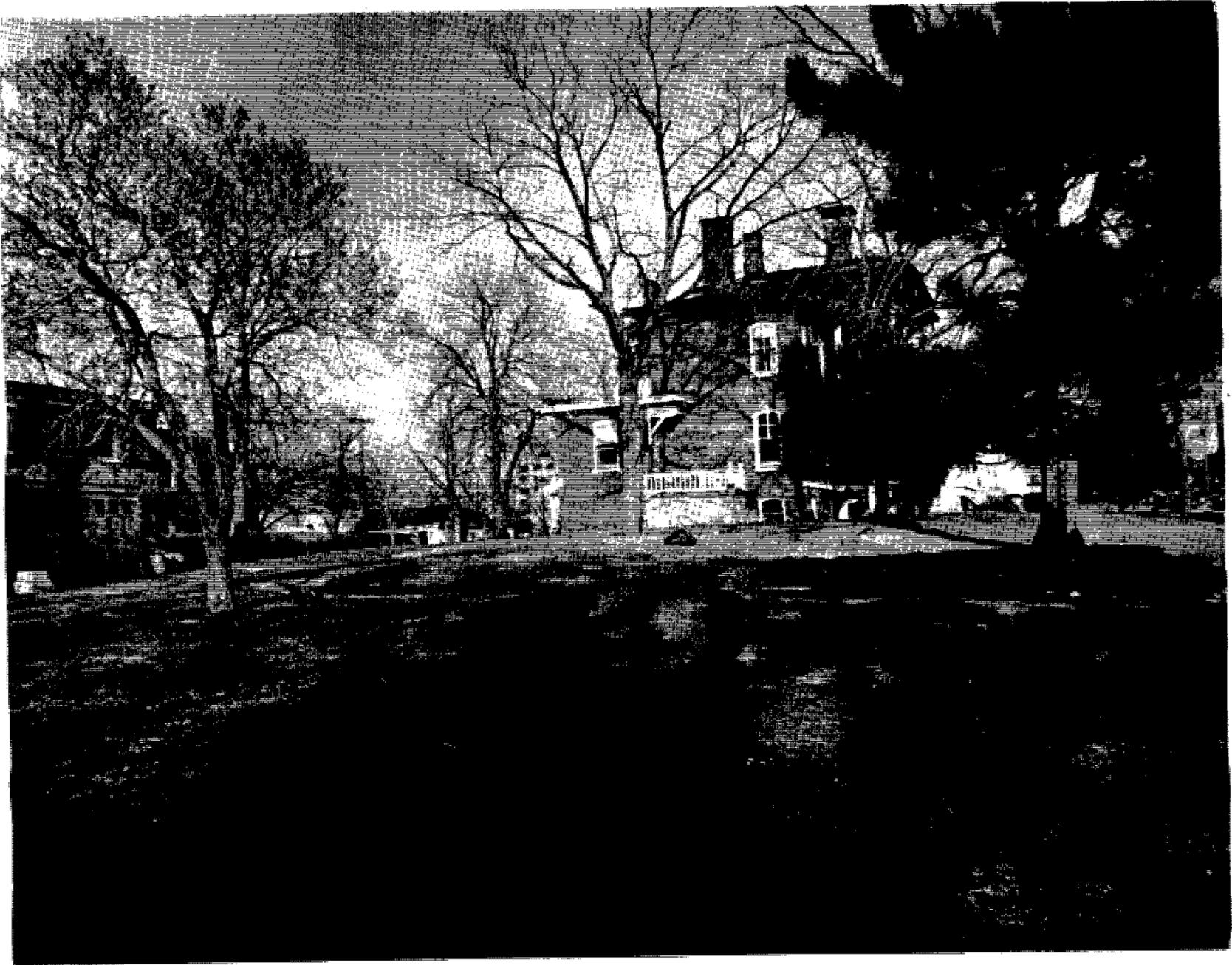
--Rookie



Small Changes Bookstore is having trouble finding a place to hold a another benefit concert. If anybody knows of a place where some musicians and several hundred people could get together, please call us at 829-6223 thanks.

I am looking for a good used car, and am tired of getting ripped off by places like Don Stone Ford. If you can help me out please leave a message for Tom at the Post-Amerikan, call 828-7232.

How About A Park?



Fire struck this 100-year-old-mansion-turned-apartment house at Lee and Monroe streets in mid-February. The roof is gone, and several of the floors have fallen through.

Owners think the building is too damaged to restore. They think they'll have to tear the building down.

That's when the City of Bloomington could come in and buy the land for a park.

The old mansion's grounds take up a full half block running along Monroe Street between Oak and Lee. The grounds are gently sloped and well shaded with trees.

The land could provide some much needed green space for the congested near-west side. The surrounding area is packed with closely-built old houses divided into apartments.

Extremely small yards must be shared among the occupants of several apartments in each building. Some of the houses have almost no yard at all.

The park would also be convenient for downtowners and a daycare center at a nearby church.

With its already old and bushy trees, this block would make a beautiful touch of greenery. We've got too many parking lots already. How about it, folks?

So How About It?

Forty protest Don

About 40 local people who would ordinarily avoid the Don Stone Ford lot like the kiss of death turned out on the afternoon of March 26 to protest the company's Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest.

Armed with signs and copies of a leaflet explaining the reasons for the action against Don Stone Ford, the group gathered on the grassy edge of the lot next to the highway.

Motorists stopped at the intersection of Morrissey Avenue and the Beltline Road had various responses to the signs, some of which militantly declared, "Your fantasies can't rule us" and "Free Farrah Fawcett." Also present were "Don Stone Ford has a sexist idea" and "Fawcett contest turns me off."

One motorist quickly rolled up the car windows and made protective advances toward the child in the car, guarding against unknown dangers from the picketers, who were talking together in small groups and enjoying one of our first beautiful spring Saturdays.

Many other drivers, however, honked and waved in support, and many accepted the leaflet explaining our disgust.

Expected and unexpected guests

Police officers showed up to check things out and caution us to stay off the highway, which isn't unusual. We were surprised, however, when a fire truck showed up twice. I had visions of being hosed off the lot and

The Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest is also offensive to men, as exemplified by the sign carried by this protester.



Would you buy a used stereotype from these men?

Have you always wanted to expose the dirty underwear hidden under Don Stone Ford's clean, well-dressed suit? Are you tired of WBNQ's attempts to slide your intelligence with their demeaning promises? Take heart! This time, friends, we've caught both of them with their pants down.

At the week beginning March 20th, Don Stone Ford sponsored and WBNQ promoted a Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest. Of the entries, ten nominees were chosen by a panel of judges including Paul Dunn, Cameron James, and Ray High of WBNQ, Barb Kauffman of B.P.'s and Carol Hirsch of The Reflection. Don Stone Ford advertising encouraged people to come to the car lot during the weekend of their big 4-day car sale and vote on the Fawcett look-alikes. The winner's prizes were use of a Mustang (the car Fawcett drives on Charlie's Angels) for a month and a

token cash prize.

The man whose genius came up with the contest, which was a promotion gimmick for Don Stone's 4-day car sale, is WBNQ's Ray High. Bob Dennison, Don Stone's General Manager, is the

contest would arouse conflict. In his own words, "Maybe I just didn't think... I shouldn't have done it." But when asked to end the contest in mid-

"I've done a lot for the women of this community."

—Bob Dennison, Don Stone Ford General Manager

other person primarily responsible for the contest.

In an interview during the week of the contest, Dennison stated that he didn't anticipate that the

week, he flatly refused, claiming he might be sued by contestants.

Dennison also stressed the fact that he was the only dealer in town with a "woman salesman" (yes, that's how he said it) and complained that other dealers harassed him about it. "I've done a lot for the women in this community," he said.

Ray High, assistant sales manager for WBNQ, granted an interview after much coaxing. He arrived with a large microphone, tape recorder and one witness. Actually, the interview was so filled with terms and legalities, nothing much was gained by either party.

High's aggressiveness and insecurity were such that the issues raised by the contest became secondary to his feeling of being personally attacked.

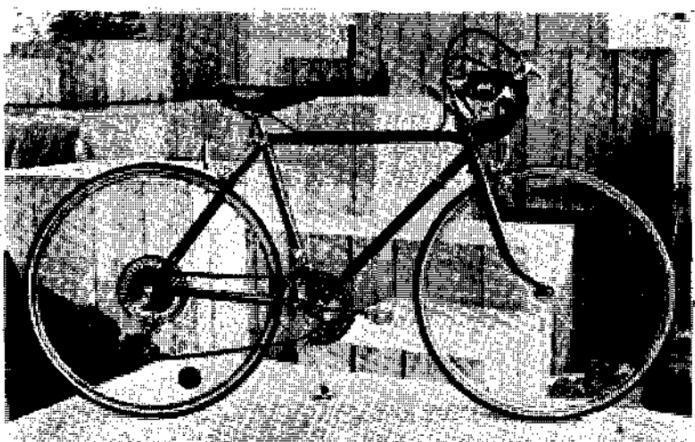
High preferred that he not be alone speak for WBNQ. In fact, he asked Paul Dunn and Cameron James, both judges from WBNQ for the contest, to speak to me. High managed to speak with program director Paul Munson, who, like Dennison, stated "I did a woman's favor."

Contests like Don Stone Ford's Fawcett contest are, of course, oriented to sales, profits, and welfare—real people's interests—are not taken into consideration. Both Dennison and Don Stone and Munson from WBNQ admitted that they did not think about the contest's consequences.

Our children certainly won't read about the Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest in their history books, and the community of Bloomington-Normal may forget about the protest ten years from now. But maybe, just maybe, Don Stone Ford and WBNQ will think before planning their next advertising campaign. And perhaps, just perhaps, other merchants will also re-evaluate their advertising promotions.

VITESSE CYCLE SHOP

**Sekai-
Bloomington-Normal's
Best-Selling
Imported Bicycle**



**Sekai 500
Standard
\$124.95**

**Sekai 1000
Sprint
\$149.95**

LINDEN & COLLEGE / NORMAL / 454-1541

Stone Ford's sexist fantasies

planted in the countryside somewhere.

As it turned out, though, two false alarms of fires at Don Stone had been reported to the Fire Department. A Don Stone salesperson blamed the false alarms on the picketers, saying "They're just trying to create a disturbance."

Sounds more like a gimmick to attract more attention to the Don Stone sale to me.

It is also my unfortunate duty to report that both the cop and the frustrated firefighters were--gasp--bribed by Don Stone Ford. They all accepted free Farrah Fawcett posters.

This is a violation of the rule that says cops can't accept gratuities--gifts from people for just performing their jobs. Now, you may think that after all, a poster isn't much. But when it's Farrah Fawcett--that's something else again.

Inside the lion's den

After we handed out leaflets to people passing in cars and people entering the lot for a while, we moved inside, still carrying our signs. When we entered, WJBC/WBNQ was just about to begin broadcasting a live show from inside the Don Stone business showroom.

Our presence provoked very obvious nervousness from one of the two WJBC announcers, Paul Dunn. He handled it well, though. During the show, he kept mentioning the large crowd at Don Stone but failed to mention that most of the crowd was protesters, angered by the Fawcett contest.

The announcers' nervousness was well-founded. A few minutes into the broadcast, the picketers began to chant "Boycott Don Stone" loudly enough to be picked up on the radio.

Ray High, WJBC's assistant sales manager, exclaimed at this point the picketers were really helping out Don Stone. He was a little incoherent on this point in his eagerness to have us believe we weren't getting to him, but it seems that FCC rules forbid WJBC from saying an advertiser's name more than a certain number of times in a certain time span. So the picketers got the Don Stone Ford name mentioned more than it could have been ordinarily.

High was also heard mumbling to himself, "This is great. This is great. We'll call the Pantagraph, we'll put it on the radio, we'll use these demonstrators to help us get more publicity."

And they accuse us of having one-track minds.

Meanwhile, a few people were straggling over to the Farrah Fawcett "voting booth" to gawk at the contestants' pictures or vote or both.

One couple came all the way from Farmer City to vote for their granddaughter in the look-alike contest, but couldn't tell for sure which picture was hers.

Let's make a deal

The radio announcers and Don Stone Ford folks weren't very happy with the complicated, awkward broadcasting arrangement they'd worked out after the "Boycott Don Stone" chant. The announcers had separated. One had gone into a fairly soundproof room, and Paul Dunn remained on the showroom floor, surrounded by protesters and unable to say much.

So the WJBC crew offered to give the group four minutes of air time in exchange for a promise of no further interruptions. The group accepted the offer and a spokesperson read our leaflet to explain to radio listen-



At left, WJBC/WBNQ announcer Paul Dunn holds mike while protest organizer Debbie Chalk (at right) reads statement on the air. In return for agreeing to stop interrupting WJBC/WBNQ's attempts to broadcast from the car lot, protesters accepted four minutes air time to state their position. Announcer Dunn wore a wig and called himself "Fairy" Fawcett, but later apologized for offending gay people.

For more on Don Stone Ford, turn the page.



ABOVE: Here are some of the protesters congregating inside Don Stone's showroom.

ers why we took the action we did. (See story next page.)

Also read on the air was a criticism of WJBC announcer Paul Dunn. Dunn had worn a long curly blond wig during the broadcast and had jokingly announced his candidacy for the contest. He told the audience that his name, for voting purposes, was "Fairy" Fawcett.

Our criticism stated that this kind of "humor" is an insult to gay community members and to the gay lifestyle generally.

It is also interesting--and frightening--that Ray High scurried off to the Don Stone Ford office to clear the leaflet's content with the boss when we decided to read it during our four minutes of air time. In other words, broadcast content was being approved by the advertisers, not by the station officials.

After reading our leaflet we left, feeling both somewhat successful and somewhat sobered by our confrontation with some of the men who make sexism tick.

(Post-note: Don Stone Ford, Inc., took out an apology ad in this issue's Post and in the Pantagraph.)

DON STONE FORD'S Sales Promotion And Advertising Policy!

We sincerely Do Not intend to Offend Anyone or To Exploit any Individual or Group.

Our Sales Promotions are merely for Fun and Entertainment for Us and The People Of This Community.

We Also extend an invitation to EVERYONE to Participate in ANY of Our Sales Promotions, and Apologize if anyone is Offended by them!

Robert E. Dennison
General Manager

DON STONE FORD

(A paid advertisement)

Why we picketed Don Stone Ford...

POST NOTE: Titled "Don Stone Ford's Contest is a Lemon," this is the leaflet handed out by people protesting the car dealer's Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest March 26. More info on the protest can be found on the two pages immediately previous to this one.

Don Stone Ford is sponsoring a Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest this week. Farrah Fawcett is one of the three women who star in the TV show Charlie's Angels.

From the entries, ten nominations were chosen by a panel of judges. This weekend, people are supposed to come out to the Don Stone Ford lot and vote on which woman's picture looks most like Fawcett. (Don Stone Ford just happens to be having a big sale.) The winner of the contest gets a Mustang--the kind of car Fawcett drives on Charlie's Angels--from the Don Stone Ford lot to drive around for a month.

Why do we find this offensive?

This contest, like a lot of advertising, exploits women. And that doesn't do any of us much good, except, of course, the advertisers who make money from it.

Advertising gimmicks like the Don Stone Ford Farrah Fawcett look-alike contest push at all of us, both men and women, a certain way women are supposed to look: young, sexy, skinny, healthy, hip, and usually white.

And women are promised rewards for looking that way.

There are still thousands of beauty contests every year. And the main rewards for the winners of these contests are the products of advertisers, who are still trying to make us believe that women should be judged by their bodies and their faces.

Almost none of the people who watch Charlie's Angels know whether Fawcett is intelligent, or has a sense of humor, compassion, or assertiveness. We just know what she looks like. If we're men, we're supposed to be attracted to her. If we're women, we're supposed to try to look like her. (And in the process, we're supposed to spend a lot of money.)

Up to a point, that is. But when a woman gets older, she's supposed to settle down and "become a woman" by having and raising children. To a lot of people, nobody is funnier or more embarrassing than a woman trying to obviously look younger than she is. The Farrah Fawcett contest both reflects and perpet-

uates society's ageism.

There are certain narrow expectations of how a man is supposed to be, too. But men are treated less like sex objects than women, and more like success objects. Often women are used in advertising as sex objects to sell expensive cars to men, who are supposed to buy them so they can look more successful. Men are frequently judged by how much they own, how fast their cars can go, how much their house cost, etc.

Advertising that uses the "ideal woman" to sell products is also offensive because it promotes competition among women. Women grow up thinking that we have to compete with each other, using our bodies and faces to get the attention of men--to "trap" a boyfriend, get a job, even to feel self-respect. This competition for male-defined rewards helps keep women from getting together to change the many things in our lives that desperately need to be changed.

All this is very destructive. So why do advertisers keep using women as sex objects?

They do it to sell products. They don't care what effects it has on people's lives.

They do it to make money.

For these reasons, we take this action today.



To emphasize TV's influence in convincing people that they are supposed to imitate (or be attracted to) a particular physical appearance, this demonstrator showed up as a TV set. Continuing his portrayal of the tube, he also urged people to "Buy, buy!" and "Kill, kill!"

Twin City Six appeals resolved

Two members of the Twin City Six (those arrested in the Nov. '74 march against Sheriff King) who appealed their cases now have the results. Pete Black's conviction was reversed; Bobby Reyes' conviction was sustained.

Three of the six originally arrested were found not guilty. A fourth was convicted, but did not appeal.

The arrests came after police violently broke up what had been a peaceful demonstration. Without giving an audible order to disperse, police in full riot gear began shoving and clubbing the crowd.

The appellate court results came in just as the Post was going to press. We expect to have a fuller account next issue.

Lay-Z-J Saloon

1401 W. Market
Bloomington

Everyday Specials

Monday 8-10 Vodka Drinks 50c
Tuesday 8-10 Black Russians 75c
Wednesday 8-10 Ladies Nite 25c Drafts
40c Bar Drinks
Thursday 8-10 Hi-Balls 50c
HAPPY HOURS MON.-FRI. 4-6 SAT. 2-4
25c Drafts 50c Bar Drinks

No Cover on Mondays & Tuesdays!
50c on Wed. & Thurs. (except during concerts)

New Age Music Coming Events

Vaudeville night April 26
Mighty Joe Young April 27
Kristen Lems, Pat & Yolanda,
Marita Brake April 28
Luther Allison May 11-12
The Gordons May 19
Buckacre May 27
Chris Hillman Band June 22

Teen time limits attacked

Hangout Hangups

"It's a free country!"

Some of the neighborhood boys used to stand on the sidewalk and yell that. It was supposed to justify how they'd just gleefully barrelled through our hopscotch game on their bicycles.

And even then, as we moved our hopscotch game to Mrs. Baker's back sidewalk (a safer, yet smaller and less desirable spot), that justification didn't quite ring true.

"Now this isn't discriminatory," the manager of Mr. Quick's on Clinton Street kept insisting. "There's no law against it." He was speaking of his Teen Time Limit--a rule that restricts teenagers to 15 minutes inside his fast-food joint.

His insistence sounds much like that "free country" justification of the neighborhood bullies.

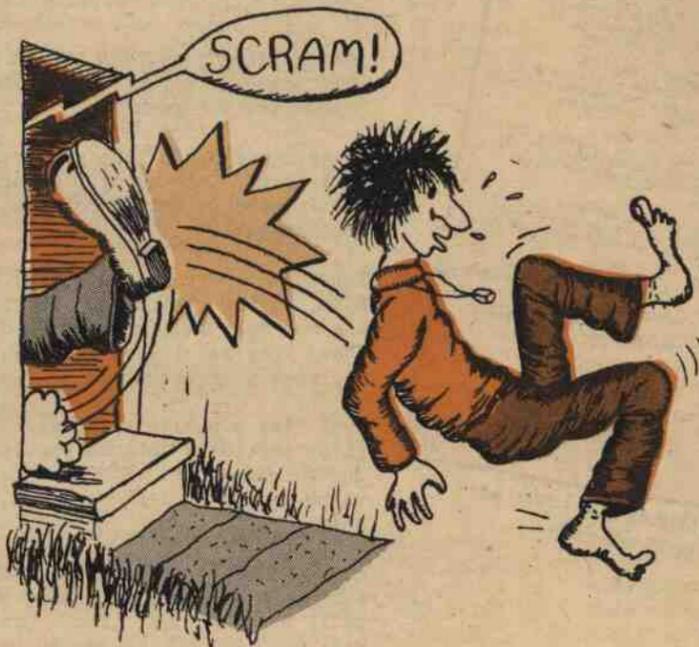
He justifies the time limit by claiming that Bloomington Junior High kids come in after school, make messes, are loud and don't buy anything. "They're just bad for business," he said.

Would our community accept time limit signs in businesses based on such broad generalizations about any other group of people? Would you spend money at a place displaying a sign saying, "Black Time Limit--15 minutes"?

Adults who accept this categorical discrimination against young people have conveniently forgotten their own experience as teenagers. They probably remember with fondness their own hangouts, but they don't relate those memories to the needs of people who are teenagers now. They forget that among their peers as teenagers, there were noisy and quiet ones, messy and neat ones, affluent and penniless ones. All kinds wanted to hang out--not to make trouble, but to be together.

We asked Mr. Quick's manager if he couldn't just evict the real troublemakers and leave the rest of the kids alone. He said it would be costly and wouldn't look good to have an employee running around checking on people.

But think of bars, where adults go and can get just as obnoxious, loud and messy as kids can at their hangouts. Customers and bar owners accept the presence of bouncers to kick out the dangerously rowdy ones.



We interviewed a former counter worker at a local donut shop which also discriminates against teenagers, although it doesn't have a time limit sign. This shop refuses to give teenagers a glass of water, even if they have donuts too, while adults can always get water on request.

The counter worker said that adult men who came in and sat around over one or two cups of coffee all afternoon were more likely to harass her or bother others than the teenagers who came in after school were. And the teenagers did spend more money per person.

It's ridiculous for a place like Mr. Quick's to assume that if young people weren't hanging out there, adults would come flocking in

to buy food. Young people are the business of fast-food joints.

Mr. Quick's isn't the only place that discriminates against teenagers. Velvet Freeze in Normal also has a teen time limit, and kids

also report undue harassment at MacDonald's on Towanda Ave., at Don's World of Beef at Eastland, and Circle Lanes. ISU's Bowling and Billiards Center tries to discourage high school students from using its facilities.

Police are suspicious of groups of young people hanging out on the streets, like by the courthouse in Bloomington. And few parents want 10 or 12 teenagers descending on their homes after school, even if the kids wanted to congregate there.

The right to assemble doesn't mean anything if the people who have power over assembly places restrict that right according to faulty generalizations and popular prejudice.

And they do have that power: as Mr. Quick's manager said, "I could have made the time limit five minutes if I'd wanted."

No matter how old or young you are, preserving the rights of and fighting prejudice against the less powerful groups in your community is your concern, too.

If you see evidence of discrimination of any kind at a local business, complain to the manager and spend your money elsewhere.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Grass is grimmer at local high school

MARIJUANA: proven to be non-addictive; thorough research fails to prove short or long-term physical damage; does not result in hangovers; decriminalized in eight states, with more to follow; illegal for everyone, although its use is widespread among people of all ages and classes.

ALCOHOL: proven to be addictive; proven to cause damage to the circulatory system, brain, nervous system, kidneys, liver; highly correlated with crime; illegal only for those under 19.

You've all seen or heard these comparisons before. You've heard about growing problems with teenage alcoholism. You've read reports or many alcohol-related deaths and injuries of teenagers in this community.

And yet, your local high school still treats teenage drinking as a prank, and marijuana smoking as a serious crime.

Two sixteen-year-olds were allegedly caught in March sharing a joint in the smoking ring at Bloomington High School. (The smoking ring is a special place for students to puff on cancer-producing cigarettes, by the way).

The dean of women took the students to her office and called the police. The cops ar-

rested them, took them downtown for fingerprinting and mug shots, and locked them up.

The school board convened a special executive session and expelled the students from school for the rest of the year. The board and BHS officials clearly wanted to use this case as a threatening example to other students.

The juvenile court made the teenagers wards of the court and put them on probation for a year. They are also required to go to Lighthouse drug rehabilitation program (which is really designed for alcohol and hard drug abuse therapy).

The students and their parents have endured much pain and expense over that joint. They also have come face to face with the grim irony that the kids would've been better off had they been drinking liquor.

It's widespread knowledge among students and their parents, as well as the high school teachers and administrators, that several times over the past few years kids were caught drinking at school and were much more mildly reprimanded. The police were not called; in fact, some parents and students feel that the school officials purposely avoided publicity about the incidents and the

identities of the offenders--hushed it up.

Kids found intoxicated in school have been merely sent home for the day--in stark contrast to the expulsion of the marijuana smokers.

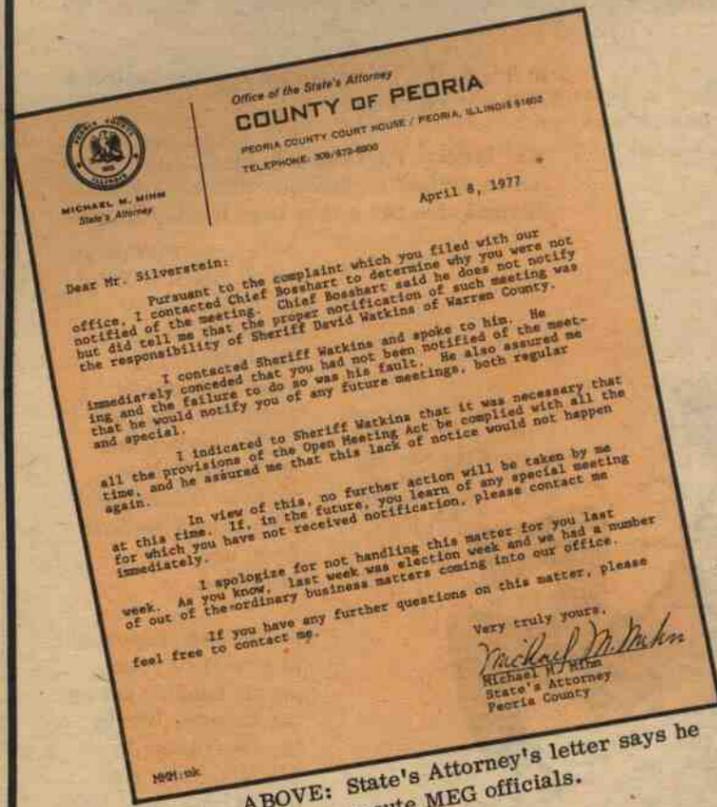
I'd never suggest that the drinkers should've been locked up and expelled from school, too, but the harsher punishment shouldn't have been inflicted on people using a drug less prone to abuse than cigarettes, aspirin, or alcohol.

Threatening examples and harsh punishments will never cure drug abuse (and I mean abuse of alcohol and cigarettes as well as "dope") among any group of people. Positive changes in their lives--like new freedom, respect, self-determination with its resulting responsibilities would go a long way toward eliminating the state of mind in which escape from anxiety and boredom is more important than physical health.

But those positive changes would require quite a shake-up of the high school as we know it, wouldn't they?

--Phoebe Caulfield

MEG officials escape prosecution on open meetings act violation



ABOVE: State's Attorney's letter says he won't prosecute MEG officials.

Peoria County State's Attorney Mike Mihm has decided not to prosecute MEG officials, despite their clear-cut violation of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

MEG broke the Illinois law by having a special

board meeting March 8, without notifying the Post-Amerikan. Under Illinois law, news media are entitled to receive the same notice the board members get.

Last issue, the Post reported that Harold Bosshardt, MEG board chairman and Bloomington police chief, was facing a possible thirty days in jail for his violation of the Open Meetings Act.

But criminal penalties in the law books are just words on paper, unless you can get the prosecutor to prosecute.

Prosecutors don't like prosecuting other public officials. It's messy. Especially when the prosecution is initiated by an outfit like the Post-Amerikan.

Reproduced here is the letter from Michael Mihm, saying that MEG officials admit breaking the Open Meetings Act, and that just because they say it won't happen again, Mihm declines to prosecute.

Next time a public official claims that he is doing something because the law requires it, don't believe it. State's Attorneys choose which people to take to court, and which ones to let slide.

Can you imagine Mike Mihm phoning accused marijuana dealers, informing them that MEG has built cases against them? Can you imagine Mihm deciding not to prosecute, on the grounds that the dealers have given verbal assurance that they are sorry, and that the marijuana dealing won't happen again?

--Mark Silverstein

More Informers Revealed

22-year-old Ray Neumann is MEG's Confidential Source #112, according to documents filed in McLean County case 76 of 348. Listed as living at 1420 N. Eastholme in Bloomington, Neumann set up Ray Cushing for a MEG bust. The set-up occurred in May '76, and Cushing was arrested late in the year. Court documents list Neumann's number as 828-3595. The City Directory says he works at Portable Elevator, and lives with Lu Ann Neumann and Lorraine Idstein.

David Ferguson, of Peoria, is MEG Confidential Source #91, according to documents MEG provided in Peoria County case 76 of 5106. In an unusual case, Ferguson introduced MEG agent Richard Trowbridge to a third person, who was arrested for conspiracy to commit battery. The case was dismissed, because the MEG agent was one of the conspiracy's members, thus voiding the prosecution under a recent appellate decision.

Mark Allan McFarland, of 3723 Carmel, Peoria, is MEG's Confidential Source #27. Twenty-one years old, McFarland was responsible for bust-Randy Kessinger and Vicki Nalley in the Bloomington area. He worked with MEG agent Sandra Bieber in '76.

Russell Robbins, of rural Saybrook, is MEG's Confidential Source #109, according to MEG documents filed in McLean County case 76 of 422. Working with agent Robert Edwards, Robbins set up Stanley Tipsord. His phone number is 475-6882, the MEG documents say.

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Criminal charges filed against MEG agent

Donna Hangen, a former Elmwood city policewoman who worked as a MEG agent during the spring and summer of 1976, faces two criminal charges for ignoring subpoenas.

McLean County State's Attorney Ron Dozier filed the criminal failure to appear charges after ex-agent Hangen disobeyed subpoenas commanding her appearance in MEG cases.

Because Hangen failed to appear to testify, Dozier was forced to drop a MEG case against Bobby Reyes, who had been charged with delivering a controlled substance to Hangen.

According to Pantagraph reports, Miss Hangen just does not want to testify. Dozier is quoted saying he has tried to work it out, but she still refused to obey his subpoenas.

Hangen's stubbornness will probably result in at least a dozen MEG cases dropped in the central Illinois area, the Pantagraph said.

Donna Hangen is the MEG agent who, the Post-Amerikan reported last December, paraded around a party in the nude in order to convince potential defendants that she was high on drugs. She had been working with FBI agent Jerry Deen, posing as his lover. Hangen and Deen had bought some cocaine, gone into a bedroom, and emerged with their "high on coke" act, which was intended to convince partygoers that the two agents had had sexual intercourse after doing

the coke.

In court in late March, Jerry Deen corroborated much of the earlier Post-Amerikan report, but maintained that agent Hangen wore a bra and panties after leaving the bedroom. Opposing testimony in that trial, however, maintained that Hangen was not clothed.

Before joining MEG, Donna Hangen did undercover work for the Elmwood police, making undercover buys with the help of informer William Voweill. Voweill helped Hangen buy several thousand dollars worth of mescaline from a MEG special employee. Meanwhile, that same MEG informer had bought drugs from Hangen's informer, William Voweill. In other words, two informers, working for different police departments, set each other up. Both were found guilty. (See Post-Amerikan Vol V #6.)

Hangen is not the first MEG agent to face criminal charges. In June, 1976, Agent Bill Stephens, who supervised MEG agents in the Bloomington area, was busted for child molesting. He was found guilty.

Illegal acts of other MEG agents have come to the attention of central Illinois prosecutors, but they have declined to prosecute. A McLean County grand jury investigated the activities of several MEG agents in early 1976, but declined indictments, on the advice of Paul Welch, who was State's Attorney at the time.

HERE'S JERRY!



No criminal charges have been filed against MEG's Director Jerry LaGrow (above). So far, all investigations of MEG's conduct have produced only apologies or denials from LaGrow, who also works as an undercover agent for MEG. The last we knew, LaGrow lived at 666 S. 4th St. in Morton. He had the only apartment in the complex with no name on the mailbox.

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A lot of people know what food stamps are. But for readers who don't, here is a short explanation.

The government's Food Stamp Program lets low-income people buy food more cheaply. To buy food stamps, you pay the government an amount of money based on your household size and income. Then you get food stamps that are worth more than the amount you paid. Then you spend the stamps like money at food stores.

Let's say you go to the Public Aid office at 603 N. Center in Bloomington to apply for food stamps. How do the workers there decide if you get them or not?

First, eligibility (whether or not you can get them) for food stamps is figured out according to national rules. These national standards are set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The same standards are used by every county in the country to figure out whether a person is eligible.

(Now, that's the way it's supposed to be. This whole article is about the way it's supposed to be. The next article talks about some of the differences between how it's supposed to be and how it is. But in this article I'm just going to explain how it's supposed to be and what to do if it's not.)

First, Public Aid must accept an application for food stamps from any person who wants to apply. Sheriff King can apply. The Easter Bunny can apply. A five-year-old can apply. Anybody can apply.

Now, mind you, it might not do you any good to apply. But they have to let you do it.

HOUSEHOLD

The food stamp people use the term household a lot. A household could be one person or it could be twenty. A household is all the people who live together, buy food together and eat it (at least sometimes) together.

Household has to do with money. If you share both living and food expenses with other people, you're part of a household. If you pay for your food yourself, you're a household all by yourself.

You don't have to be related to the other people by blood or marriage to be part of a household.

Two or more people living in the same house but not sharing food are each separate households.

It's important to know what the food stamp people mean by household because all of the eligibility standards go by household. If there are other people in your household, you have to meet the eligibility standards as a group.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

To get food stamps, you have to live in the same county in which you apply for the stamps. You don't always have to be a citizen of the U.S., but some classes of "aliens" (non-citizens) aren't eligible.

At least some of the information that the food stamp people hand out doesn't say that you have to have an address to get food stamps. But an outreach worker for the program has said that you do have to have an address. And the application form asks for your address.



So, it's probably a very good idea to get an address before you apply for food stamps, even if it's only a place to park your car--if you're living in one--and pick up your mail.

Also, you have to have "cooking facilities." (Older people who are eligible for home-delivered meals can get out of this requirement.) Your cooking facilities don't have to be fancy, just something to fix simple cooked meals. The food stamp people are very loose about it.

Depending on a lot of different things, you may have to be registered with the Illinois Employment Service for work if you're not working at a paying job--or are on strike--when you apply for food stamps. Here are some examples of people who don't have to register: people who are physically unable to work, AABD recipients, people under 18 or over 65, and people who take care of dependent people.

Now the complicated part of figuring out whether someone is eligible for food stamps has to do with their resources and their income. If you have too many resources or too much income, you can't get stamps. (Resources are things like cash, savings and checking accounts, property, clothing, etc. I'll explain more as we go along.)

RESOURCES

The Food Stamp Program divides resources into two groups. In one group, you can have as many as you have and still get stamps. In the other, you can only have so much or you're ineligible.

First I'll list the resources that don't count. They are called exempt resources. You can have any of these and they don't make it any harder to get food stamps:

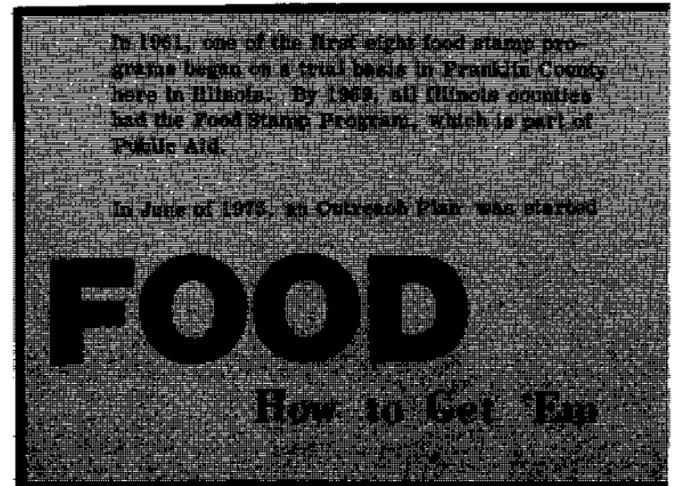
1. Homestead property. This is property that you own and you live on.
2. Clothing and personal effects.
3. Household furnishings.
4. One licensed motor vehicle (car, motorcycle, etc.) and any motor vehicles that aren't licensed. Also, you can have a second licensed motor vehicle if it's for your job.
5. Cash value of life insurance policies.

6. "Income-producing property essential to self-support or property producing income consistent with its fair market value." This is a hard one to figure out, but it has to do with renting to people. If you own property and rent it out, the property itself doesn't count at all. But you subtract insurance, interest, and taxes from the rent and then count what's left as income, which we'll get to in a little while.

7. Payments under Title II, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisition Act of 1970. This is money that you get from the government when it knocks your house down and tells you to move.

8. Native American lands.

10



9. Prorated or averaged income for self-employed persons or students. (This will be explained more when--if--we get to income. I hope you can hold out that long.)

OK. Those things are resources that don't count when figuring out if you can get food stamps.

Next, I'm going to list the things they do count. Of the things in the list that follows, your household can have up to \$1500 worth of stuff. But, if your household has two or more people in it and at least one of the people is over 60, then you can have \$3000 worth of stuff instead of \$1500. Any more and that's it. No food stamps.

These are called non-exempt resources, or assets:

1. "Readily negotiable liquid assets." Examples of these are cash, savings and checking accounts, U.S. Savings Bonds, Certificates of deposit, stocks and bonds.
2. "Money received as lump-sum benefits." For instance, income tax refunds.
3. "Non-liquid resources." This would be land, buildings, boats, planes, etc. But remember, it doesn't include the property you live on. This category also includes those extra cars you couldn't squeeze into number four in the other group of resources.

INCOME

We're finally at income, which I've been promising to explain for quite a few paragraphs.

If you're part of an "assistance household"--if you're already getting some kind of public aid--you can ask the Public Aid people for information about how much income you can have and still receive food stamps.

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If you're not already getting some kind of public aid, this is the rap on income and food stamps.

Like resources, income is divided into two groups--the income that matters when figuring out whether you can get food stamps and the income that doesn't matter.

The government demands that you report all income, whether it's exempt (the kind that doesn't count) or non-exempt (the kind that does). Some people are pretty upset about "welfare cheaters," and they're not talking about the airlines that the government pays to keep flying back and forth across the ocean with hardly any passengers. That's called a subsidy.

And they're not talking about all the money Nixon gets to sit out in California and get a tan. That's called--well, you can call it whatever you want.

Anyway, what with the "welfare cheater" hysteria, if you don't report all your income, it's possible you could get into bunches of trouble--if they catch you.

INCOME THAT DOESN'T COUNT

So here is the list of exempt income--income that they don't count. Remember, they figure out the income of the household as a whole group.

2. Self-employment income and farming operations, except the following four things:

- "A. Payments on principal for real estate or capital assets.
- "B. Payments on principal of the purchase cost of income-producing real estate.
- "C. Depreciation or dependency deductions claimed for Federal Income Tax.
- "D. Net loss in any previous period."

(If you're self-employed, when you figure out your income for food stamps, you subtract your costs from the gross and that's your income. Then this income, which is called net income, is averaged by the food stamp people over a year. If it's farm income, the averaging may be uneven to match the way the money really comes in.)

3. Payments from roomers or boarders. This is another complicated area, unfortunately. A roomer is somebody who pays you to live in the same house you live in. All the money the roomer pays your household (to live in your home) is considered income. Roomers are not counted as part of your household. And a roomer can't get food stamps either.

A boarder is somebody who pays you to feed her or him regularly but doesn't pay you to live in your home. Depending on how much the boarder pays you, either part or all of the boarder's

payment is considered income for your household. If a household has three or more boarders, the whole household is ineligible because then it's a boarding house, and boarding houses can't get food stamps. A boarder, like a roomer, is not considered part of the household and can't get food stamps at all.

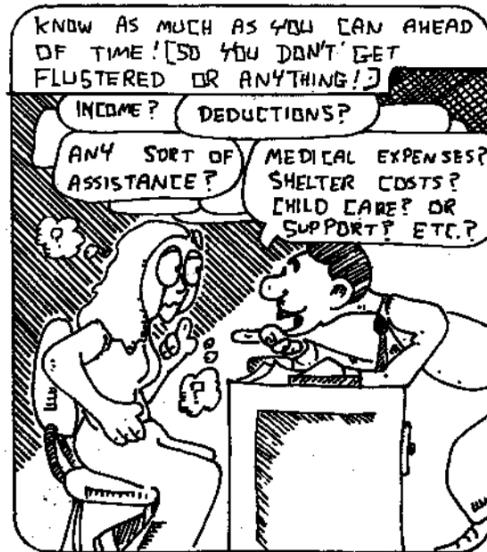
A roomer-boarder is somebody who pays you at least \$50 for both lodging and meals. Subtract \$50 from what the roomer-boarder pays you for lodging and meals and that amount is what is counted as income for your household.

If somebody is paying you less than \$50 for room and board, that person is considered a member of your household. And that changes everything: his or her income and resources are then added in with everybody else's.

MORE INCOME THAT COUNTS

We still have five more kinds of non-exempt income to cover, but they're easy ones:

- 4. Payments received as annuities, pensions, etc. SMIB payments subtracted from social security benefits are included in this.
- 5. Assistance payments and payments for foster children.
- 6. Payments from government programs like CETA.
- 7. Payments made by somebody who's not part of your household for things like your rent and utilities. But remember, if they pay medical



bills, it's exempt income.

8. (The last one!) Educational grants, loans or scholarships that can be used toward everyday living expenses. So, you don't have to count money you get for tuition and required lab fees. This money that you get that's used for daily life will be averaged over the time covered by the loan or whatever.

Whew! We have only one more long, dreary list about income to plow through. This list is called allowable deductions from income.

DEDUCTIONS

These are things that you can subtract from your income. And the smaller your income, the better your chance of getting food stamps. So, it's to your benefit to make sure the food stamp worker knows about any of these things:

- 1. Deductions from your job income that the law or your employer makes you take out. This includes local, state, and federal income taxes, social security taxes, and required union dues--anything that you don't have any choice about. If you can choose whether to deduct something from your wages, it doesn't count.
 - 2. Medical bills over \$10 per month. This includes health insurance, SMIB or medicare payments, prescription drugs, prescribed medical services, costs for "reasonable" medically related transportation, owning and taking care of a seeing-eye dog, etc.
- YOU CAN NOT DEDUCT FOR SPECIAL DIETS, EVEN IN THE CASE OF DIABETES.**
- If your medical expenses are over \$10 per month you can deduct the whole amount. You don't have to subtract the \$10.
 - 3. "Shelter costs in excess of 30% of net income." This means that if your household spends more than 30% of its net income on utilities, rent, or mortgage, and real estate taxes, you can deduct the amount that's over 30%. Your net income, in this case, means your household's non-exempt income. Maintenance costs for your house are not covered by this deduction.

to get the word about food stamps out to all of the state's low-income people.

But now it's 1977, and a lot of people still don't know very much about food stamps. So the First American Project is always looking for government aid brings you these articles about

STAMPS!

and Stuff Like That

- 1. The earnings of a member of the household who is under 18 and who is in school at least half-time.
- 2. Payments from Uniform Relocation Assistance (the money the government gives you for moving expenses when they knock your house down to build a parking lot).
- 3. Any gain or benefit which is not money. This means groceries, clothes, etc., that a friend just gives to your household. This does not include somebody who's not in your household paying for your rent or utilities, though. They can buy something to give you as a gift, but if they pay your bills, that's counted as non-exempt income.
- 4. Medical payments made by a non-household member for your household. This is an exception to the last rule (no. 3).
- 5. Irregular income under \$30 for every three months which you can't count on ahead of time. This could include shoveling walks, mowing lawns, babysitting, etc. But it can only add up to \$30 for the whole household.
- 6. "Non-recurring lump-sum benefits" like income tax refunds and insurance settlements. These things are counted, but they're considered resources instead of income.
- 7. Ten per cent of your gross income from your job or training. But you can't count more than \$30 per household per month, even if the 10% is more.
- 8. All loans except educational loans. (I'm saving the nasty cracks about things like this until the next article.)
- 9. Compensation received for services performed under Title VI, Older Americans Act.

INCOME THAT COUNTS

And this is the list of non-exempt income, the money they do count when figuring out if you are eligible for food stamps:

- 1. "Compensation received as an employee." This is what you earn at your job--wages, tips, etc.

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FOOD STAMPS CONTINUED

12

4. Payments for child care if you're working or going to training classes for employment, like CETA. Your babysitter doesn't have to be licensed, and there's no maximum on this deduction--you can subtract the whole amount you spend.

5. Unexpected expenses because of things like property damage or loss from fire, theft, flood, storms, etc.

6. If they're not covered by a grant, you can deduct required lab fees and tuition for school.

7. Court-ordered payment for child support, alimony, or both. You can't deduct child support or alimony payments that you make just because you want to, and you can't deduct any money you give that's more than you were forced to pay by the court.

That's it for income!!

Based on your income, here is how the food stamp worker will figure out--at least until June 30--whether you qualify for food stamps:

If you're the only person in your household and you make more than \$245 per month net income, you can't get food stamps. If you make \$245 or less, you can.

(Here's how you figure out your net income: First figure out your non-exempt income and then subtract your deductions from it.)

With two people in your household, the household's net income can't be more than \$322 and still be eligible for food stamps.

With three people in the household, the maximum net income is \$433 per month. With four people, it's \$553.

With five household members, the maximum is \$660. With six it's \$787. With seven, \$873. And with eight, it's \$993 net income per month.

For each extra household member over eight, add \$127 to \$993.

These dollar amounts can change every six months, but the basics of the program won't change very much for a while. (Congress is revising the food stamp program right now.)

If you do get food stamps, you will be able to get a certain amount of dollars' worth of stamps every month by paying a certain smaller amount of money. The actual figures depend on the number of people in your household and on their incomes.

For example, if there are six people in your household, you can buy \$236 worth of food stamps by paying \$40--if your household's net income is \$140. If your household of six has a net income of \$480, you can buy \$236 worth of stamps for \$142. The larger the income of your household, the more you have to pay for the stamps.

You can get the table that shows all the different possibilities at the Public Aid Office at 603 N. Center, Bloomington.

It's important to know that YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGURE ALL THIS OUT BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR FOOD STAMPS. The food stamp worker will help you figure it out, or do it for you. But I think it's a good idea to know ahead of time how they figure out if you qualify and what questions they'll ask.

It's easier to keep from getting screwed over that way.

PROVING YOURSELF

Now, they're certainly not just going to take your word for anything. That's not the way things are at all.

You have to be able to prove all the statements you make about your resources and income. And of course, you do this by bringing a bunch of important paper with you when you apply.

If you pay rent, take a recent rent receipt with you. This should have on it the date, your rent rate, your address, your name, and the owner's name. Also take utility receipts.

If you own your home, take a recent property payment receipt. This should show the amount you paid and the date.

To prove what you make at your job, you should take your last paycheck stub or a statement from your boss.

If you get pension benefits (like social security, veteran's, railroad, retirement, disability, survivor's, etc.), you should take your award letter, check stub, eligibility notice, or monthly statement. If you don't have any of those, the food stamp worker can contact the office of the agency you're getting benefits from, but that might delay your stamps.

If you have trust funds, the food stamp worker will contact your trustee.

If you're getting unemployment or workingfolks' compensation, take your check stub, eligibility notice, or benefit card.

If you're making alimony payments, take your award letter. If you're making child support payments, take your divorce decree or court document.



If you rent to somebody, take copies of receipts and appropriate tax documents.

If you get dividends or interest payments or both, take your bank book or stock certificates.

If you're getting CETA or WIN payments, you should get a statement from the CETA office or, for WIN payments, from the county office.

If you're self-employed, take your tax forms. (If it's good enough for the feds, it's good enough for the locals.)

If you're getting payments for foster child care, the food stamp worker will contact the right agency.

To prove how much cash you have, you will sign a statement of that amount. If you have bank accounts, take your bank books. If you have stocks or bonds, take your stock and bond certificates. If you have real estate or a prepaid burial plan, take your title, deed, or contract document.

SPECIAL OPTIONS

Well, that's it for long lists. I promise.

There are some special options in the food stamp program that you should know about before you apply. You can find out more about these options when you apply or by calling the Public Aid Office at 829-7057. The number is listed in the telephone directory's white pages under McLean County Department of Public Aid.

For instance, you can get a proxy if you want. A proxy is a person who can buy and spend your stamps for you.

Also you can have an authorized representative. This is a person that you say in writing can apply for food stamps for you, instead of someone in your household doing it. Applying for food stamps includes an interview, so this representative will be interviewed instead of you.

You also have the option to buy the food stamps more often than once a month, but you have to make arrangements with the food stamp worker. (This means you don't have to buy all the stamps at one time. You won't get any extra ones.)

There are also special options for elderly people, for migrants, and for people living in an area that's been declared a disaster area.

And it is sometimes possible to get emergency food stamps. Usually the county, by law, gets up to 30 days to decide on each application for food stamps. But if you go in and claim that it's an emergency and you need food stamps right away, the county has to decide either that same day or the next day whether it is an emergency and whether you qualify for food stamps.

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FOOD STAMPS CONTINUED



The problem with emergency food stamps is that there are no national rules for the food stamp worker to go by when she or he decides if you really have an emergency need for them. But this is at least something you can try if you're having really hard times.

HOW TO APPEAL OR COMPLAIN

If you think that you should have gotten food stamps and the food stamp worker tells you that you can't, you can appeal. This is called a "fair hearing."

YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TOLD ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING WHEN YOU FIRST APPLY FOR STAMPS. IF THEY DON'T TELL YOU, ASK.

You can either just ask for a hearing or you can put it in writing. Another person could do it for you, too. The Public Aid people MUST help you make out your request and prepare your case. If legal services are available, the public aid people should tell you about them.

If you are told you can't get food stamps and you want to have a fair hearing, tell them RIGHT AWAY. It's probably best to put it in writing.

Also, if you ever get any information from the Public Aid office that you don't understand, ask them about it IMMEDIATELY. Sometimes there are time limits on things and they don't tell you about them. It's important to read carefully everything they give you or mail to you, and if you don't understand something, ask questions.

If you want to complain about the way you've been treated or about a final decision that says you can't get food stamps, there are several things you can do. They might not do any good, but you can try.

One thing you can do is complain to the county supervisor, Gail Gillette. She's at the Public Aid office at 603 N. Center, Bloomington.

Another thing you can do is call or write to the Peoria regional office of Public Aid. The phone number there is 1-691-2200. (Try it collect, first.) Complaints made to both Gail Gillette and to the Peoria office are acted on at least sometimes.

It's always a good idea to put your complaint in writing. You could also complain to the state director of public aid in Chicago. You can get that address from the Bloomington office.

READ THIS EVEN IF YOU SKIP THE REST

CALL AHEAD if you're going to apply for food stamps. They're supposed to let you apply on the spot, but lots of people say that doesn't always happen.

KEEP THE ORIGINAL COPIES OF ALL OF YOUR RECORDS. When the food stamp worker asks for information to put on file, ask if she or he can make and keep a xeroxed copy of your

original receipt or whatever. You might need your original later, especially if it's a medical statement, something that is very popular with welfare agencies.

KEEP ALL THE MAIL AND STATEMENTS you get from the public aid office. If a problem comes up, you may need them. Write down the dates and the names of workers you talk to. Try to take a witness with you to meetings if you think they might be important.

If you have questions or problems when you apply or want to talk to somebody beforehand, you can call the McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation outreach worker. The number is 828-1412.

REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE IMPORTANT. That may sound strange, but many people have

said that Public Aid workers were rude or nasty or impatient with them. Remember that you have rights, and one of them is to have things explained to you until you understand.

It's very unfair that the welfare system is so confusing and complicated, and the responsibility often ends up on you to try to make workers explain it to you. But a lot of the time that's how it is. If you can, take somebody along to help you out.

Don't be ashamed. It's certainly not just low-income people who have problems with math or with reading or with talking to people with snotty attitudes. It's the responsibility of the Public Aid workers to make sure you understand what's going on. If they won't take the time to explain things to you, or if they are nasty, complain.

13

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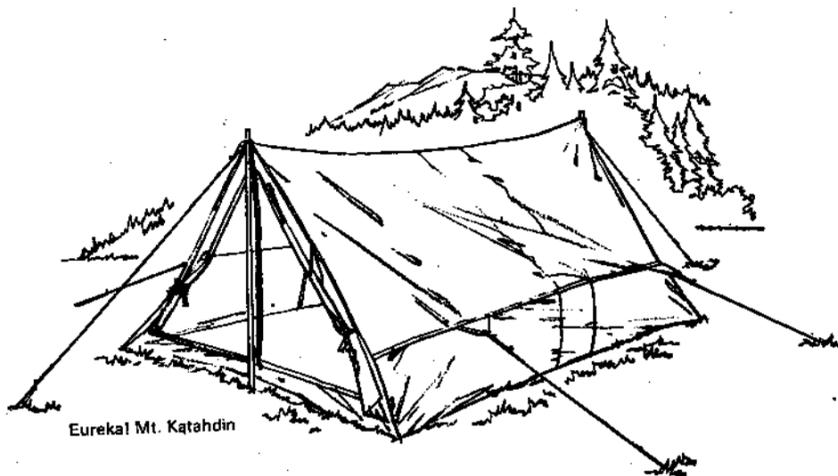
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From the Food Stamp Workshop

I got most of the information for the previous article at an all-day workshop led by Art Blair, an outreach worker with the Department of Public Aid in Springfield.

Many of the people at the workshop had very pointed questions for Blair. In answer to one question about the quality of service that food stamp applicants get locally, Blair told us about the big freeze.

The number of applicants for food stamps has grown so much that in every Illinois county it has outgrown the number of staff. But the governor, "Big Jim" Thompson, isn't so big on meeting the needs of poor people. He put a freeze on hiring (even for replacing workers who leave) right after he took office. Governors have been putting on and taking off this freeze for at least 17 years, and that doesn't do much for "social security."

When heavily questioned about why emergency food stamps were impossible to get in Bloomington for a while, Blair said in all seriousness that the government needs proof about how much rent an applicant is paying to "make sure you're not getting less (food stamp) money than you should be."

Several times Blair's answer to different "why?" questions was, "Just regulations, I guess. I don't really know."

When explaining that the public aid office must warn somebody ahead of time if their food stamps are going to be cut off, Blair said, "We can do anything we want to you as long as we give you advance notice." And then he laughed.

When asked why you can only buy food stamps from 9 am to 3 pm at the post office, Blair was quick to say that the Department of Public Aid had nothing to do with that. Working folks can blame instead a contract between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Postal Service.

Again, while talking about emergency food stamps, Blair said that, "The county has 30 days (to process an application) whether people are starving or not."

Blair also firmly stated that administration of the food stamp program is about the same from county to county, or even from state to state (although he says Illinois has the best food stamp program in the nation).

Several food stamp recipients and area social workers have said that that statement is a joke. In Decatur, for example, there is a strong welfare rights organization. A public aid worker from Decatur told a local DCFS person, "It keeps us shaped up."

When asked why educational loans are the only kind that are non-exempt, Blair said, "It's because of the people who want to keep students off--that's the only answer I can give you." And he laughed.

But Blair's most quotable quote was, "You'll never hear me saying the food stamp program is a fair program."

The workshop, though, was very valuable. Besides getting a lot of technical questions answered, it seems to have resulted in better service here in Bloomington. Nancy Barnes, the MCEOC outreach worker, thinks that things have improved lately and that may very well be because of the workshop. Frustration and discouragement were openly expressed several times by people at the workshop.

Barnes mentioned one problem that still particularly upsets her. If food stamp cards are received in the mail late Thursday or Friday afternoons and Friday and/or Monday are holidays, it can be almost a week before people on food stamps can buy their stamps at the post office, since it only sells stamps from 9 am to 3 pm. For people almost or all out of food and food stamps at the end of the month, this can be a big problem.

Thanks go to Janice Allen, the DCFS Homemakers, and Head Start for sponsoring the workshop and preparing lunch (with a special salad for two vegetarians).

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May 12, the Senior Service is planning a bazaar. The Swinging Grandmothers are scheduled to perform. For more information contact the Peace Meal program or Senior Services.



Joe and Catherine Glass, (far left and right) are the area coordinators for the Peace Meal program. Mr. Battey, (center) supervises and volunteers to organize the daily meal at the First Christian Church.



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**JOIN THE PEOPLE
WHO'VE JOINED THE ARMY.**

CIA Drone Colby

by BSherman

This may be the cruddiest article I've ever written for the POST (and I've got my share of real and Clark Kent credit lines in this sheet, believe me--not as many lately as I used to, but that's okay). It's about William Colby's Forum appearance at Illinois State University.

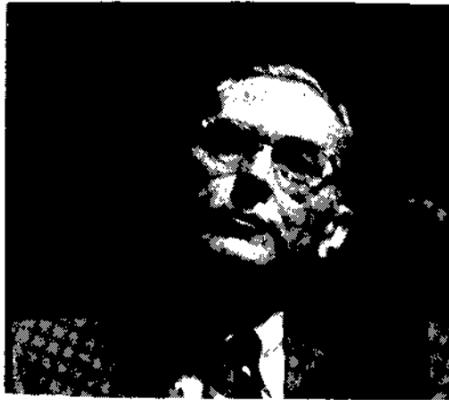
"Colby," someone in the audience asks, "which was he? Isn't he that Jesus Freak Watergater?" Naw, that's somebody else (though it could easily not be: these guys all look and speak the same). Colby's the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency. He's the main architect of the Phoenix "pacification" program (if somebody has their stuff together, there should be an adjoining article explaining Phoenix--you should read that instead of this). And he's the present-day paid apologist for Our Boys in Grey: the "intelligence" community.

Yeah, Colby, he's the one who kept appearing in front of Congress to tell them that the CIA didn't really do the stuff all those dead bodies kept saying it was doing. Rather, it was Somebody Higher Up who had the agency snuff Allende (just followin' orders) and put together all those assassination attempts on Fidel. (Funny thing about those; according to Colby, nobody knows now who gave the orders to try and off the bugger.)

I remember Colby. He was on network news telling us that everything in the CIA was under control now, that we shouldn't worry, and that we could just forget about past sins. Never told us exactly how we could be certain the agency wouldn't transgress again (or that somebody mightn't tell a fib if asked about it), but he seemed a nice enough guy.

Still does, really, if you can stand bureaucrats. (I can't.) He comes on the stage of the University Union Auditorium in his grey suit and glasses and neat hair and all. Nice eyeglasses. (They aren't hornrims of the traditional style like you might expect, but instead are rather modestly stylish: the only folks who wear hornrims, anymore, are those clowns rich enough not to have to care how they look. Or those too broke not to be able to. Colby's in neither camp.)

Others recall Colby, too: not too many perhaps, but some. In any case, he had the ground level of the union auditorium sparsely covered with folks



eager to hear his April 11 speech. He had also some thirty or so people coming to his speech planning to heckle and pass out leaflets on project Phoenix.

I was at the speech, but it was more to watch the heckling than Colby. Nothing like a little constructive heckling if it's done right, particularly when the person being heckled is a scurrilous lackey like

Colby. (No sensitively wrought journalism in this piece. Some people are just too low to be tactfully described.) I was there to write on that heckling, if it came off.

Well, to get that part of the piece away quickly, most of the heckling didn't come off. Technical problems kept the best stuff from being executed; audience hostility dampened the rest. As a result, I was forced to listen to Colby's speech, occasionally feeling embarrassed at the few unsuccessful attempts to get the man's goat.

Before Colby even appeared on stage, his antagonists tried to put his appearance and their forthcoming behavior in a context. One man, standing from the second row with a megaphone, read a short essay on Adolf Eichmann. (Remember him, don't ya?) It was a good essay, if a bit long--coughs came from the audience--but the majority didn't seem to buy it. The comparison between Eichmann, the Nazi who followed orders (killing Jews) and Colby, the former CIA man who did likewise (killing civilian Vietnamese), seemed a bit too strong for a lot of the audience. After all, Eichmann was in the

Dirty Tricks,

This is a partial listing of covert activities undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency from 1950 through 1974. It was compiled mainly from material read into the Congressional Record by Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) on 30 Sept. 1975.

Thanks to Liberation News Service for that material.

1950--Paid for raids against Communist China; two CIA agents captured in China in 1952.

1950-66--Secretly subsidized Congress for Cultural Freedom (over \$1 million), the Center for International Studies at MIT (\$300,000 in 1950 alone), National Student Association (\$3.3 million beginning in 1952).

1951-65--Wiretapped U.S. residents (admitted by William Colby).

1952-72--Paid Greek politicians and military officers including those who led 1967 coup.

1950's--Spent millions of dollars to defeat guerillas in Philippines.

1953--Directed coup that restored power to present Shah of Iran.

1954--Led successful coup in Guatemala.

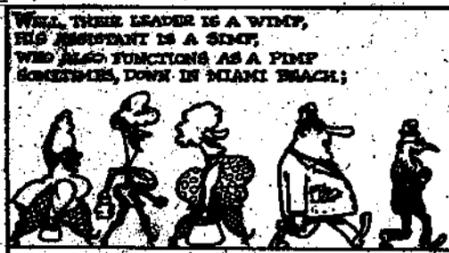
1955-59--Paid Michigan State University over \$5 million for secret police training program.

1956-60--Conducted spy flights over USSR that resulted in U-2 incident.

1958--Flew bombers in support of rebels in Indonesia.

1958--Trained guerillas in Colorado for raids into Tibet.

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Speaks at ISU



past and wore a uniform, didn't he? Colby wears a suit and looks ever-so-civilized.

After a woman protester jumped on the stage and placed a poster with "CIA" printed across a Nazi swastika on the podium where Colby was about to appear, a University Union flunky came and took the thing off. Much of the audience applauded. (Some of the response was even nastier, one member of the Forum Board calling the woman a "whore.") A group chant of "Eichmann" was even less well-received by the audience at large.

God knows why they wanted to hear Colby. His speech was a bore. For all his image of niceness, the man has a condescending drip in his voice that ebbs and flows with his stilted sentences. The effect is lulling. Even a night of bad Norman Lear sitcoms (suave right-winger Richard Crenna vs. liberal whiner Bernadette Peters) would be more entertaining, I think, as I sit in the first row and try to concentrate on this drone's words.

Colby's speech is full of tales and analogies from history. The first ten minutes, in fact, are little more than old tales from the Bible and the U.S.

Revolutionary War: Delilah's cutting of Samson's locks is the first "covert action" and so on. The rest of the hour's material is just as lame, couched in generalities and vague assurances. The CIA, Colby tells us, "has corrected these things themselves," these things being the undefined transgressions of the past. The only time the hour gets even mildly interesting is when somebody yells something nasty at Colby.



And even that, after a while, begins to grate. Colby's speech is so soothing, such a bore, that the harsh intrusions of shouted questions start to

get on my nerves. Too much reality. To be sure, not all the questions are all that well thought out. (When Colby mentions how we've been keeping track of Russia's missiles and how we know so much about them, somebody shouts, "If you know so much about 'em, why don't you get rid of 'em?" Sheesh!)

But even if they were, even if every shouted question was bang-on in the way it put the guy on the spot, it wouldn't matter.

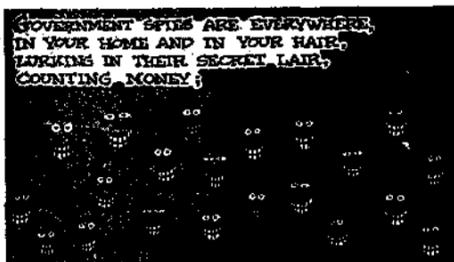
There's no way, after all, you can catch a person like Colby. It's part of his job to be uncatchable. Even if you could get beyond his generalities--as people tried to do in the question/answer session following the speech--you can't get around the fact that he's been paid to give the Company line, that he was the company line. So, even if you know about the Vietnamese civilians killed under Operation Phoenix (I hope you've read that adjoining article) and you know Colby was in charge of said operation, what do you do when the man stands before you and says bald-facedly that he issued a directive in 1969 that "there be no assassinations"? Do you call him a liar and risk scorn from the rest of the unsympathetic audience? Do you point out that one written directive does not a policy make? Do you act all flustered and apologize for ever thinking that this kindly-seeming bureaucrat could have overseen the killing of thousands? Or what?

Myself, I fantasize a Monty Python-style situation where William C. gets up to speak and before he can finish his first dull paragraph, this sixteen-ton weight drops on him. But that didn't happen, and instead we got a white-wash speech, paid for by student fees (let no free speech arguments venture here--the guy does quite well financially, thank you, for the small amount of heckling he gets at a speech), supported by a sizable number of students (some of whom went so far as to indulge in some small amount of violence on the hecklers themselves, punching several on the back of the head from the next row--the row reserved for Forum people--and so on), and ultimately proving nothing, really, for anybody.

See, I told you this was a cruddy article.

CIA Style

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1960-67-Fought rebels in Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia; Che Guevara killed. | 1967-74-Infiltrated and spied on U.S. dissident groups; compiled files on over 10,000 U.S. citizens. |
| 1961-63-Tried at least six times to kill Fidel Castro. | 1969-Finished anti-leftist campaign in Indonesia that resulted in 750,000 deaths. |
| 1961-Tried unsuccessfully to invade Cuba at Bay of Pigs. | 1970-73-Paid over \$8 million to engineer coup and death of Allende in Chile. |
| 1961-64-Paid politicians and fought civil war in Congo (Zaire). | 1971-Supplied equipment and information for use against Daniel Ellsberg. |
| 1962-Began secret war in Laos that eventually cost \$300 million per year to run. | 1971-72-Spied on Jack Anderson and other journalists. |
| 1964-Spied on Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign. | 1971-72-Trained 12 major U.S. police forces in wiretapping, intelligence-gathering, and explosives. |
| 1964-Paid up to \$20 million to defeat Allende in Chile election. | |
| 1967-Began Phoenix program in Vietnam that killed at least 40,000. | |



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Mass Murder Charged



Politics and exaggerations go together. (Some would say politics and lies.)

Richard Nixon beat George McGovern in 1972 largely because the Nixon machine managed to make people think that McGovern was some kind of radical because he suggested that everyone should have a guaranteed income.

Yet Nixon had made a proposal (the Family Assistance Program) less than a year earlier that was essentially the same thing, although rather less generous.

In 1971, Nixon publicly said that only left-wing extremists (like John Kenneth Galbraith) supported wage and price controls. Two weeks later Nixon declared Phase I of his own wage-and-price-control program.

But sometimes a statement seems like an exaggeration when it's the literal truth. In that case, the habit of political distortion makes it hard for people to believe the truth--especially when the truth is horrible.

For example: "William Colby is a mass murderer."

It's true but it's hard to believe. Hard to believe because Colby was head of the CIA and that means that the U.S. government is guilty of mass murder. And that's really hard to swallow. It's like being a German after World War II.

But it's still true.

New Times magazine (the U.S. one, not the Russian one) says:

"Phoenix was conceived, financed and directed by the Central Intelligence Agency. CIA chief William E. Colby was its architect. He oversaw the creation of mercenary terror teams, the founding of a vast and brutal secret police force, the construction

However, Colby maintains that Phoenix was aimed only at Viet Cong "leaders," a statement which is an obvious lie considering that the CIA set quotas of between 1800 and 2000 neutralizations per month.

Since Colby started the program in 1968 and since it ran well into the 1970s, the CIA must have believed there were far more than 100,000 Viet Cong "leaders." Yet the greatest est-

CIA Teach-in

Much of the information in this article was presented at a teach-in on the CIA at the ISU Union on the afternoon of April 11, the day William Colby spoke for the Forum.

The two-hour teach-in, sponsored by People Opposed to Tyranny, was a success for two reasons.

First, a good number of people attended (15 to 20) and almost all of those participated with questions or discussion. This turnout was achieved in spite of several adverse factors: it was the first day after ISU's spring vacation; all publicity thus had to be done the same day as the teach-in; and the Union scheduled the meeting in an airless room about as far away from everything else as possible.

Second, a Vidette (ISU's newspaper) reporter attended the teach-in and did an unusually good job of getting the information to all the students who couldn't attend or didn't hear about it.

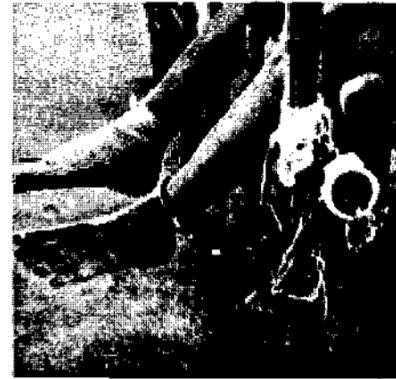
imate of Viet Cong infrastructure (VCI: civilian government workers) never exceeded 80,000. Not only the "leaders" but the entire VCI should have been neutralized by 1972.

Although he testified under oath before Congress that 20,587 people were

Beatings, electric shocks, rapes, water tortures, wooden dowels driven into the brain... The list is enormous and awful; the Nazis did no worse.

I won't go into detail. Instead, I'll just make the point that Colby's Phoenix program was the reason why South Vietnam's "infamous" political prisons were always full. The "tiger cages," for instance.

Yet Colby refuses to accept the comparison between himself and Adolf Eichmann, the former S. S. officer who was executed for his part in the

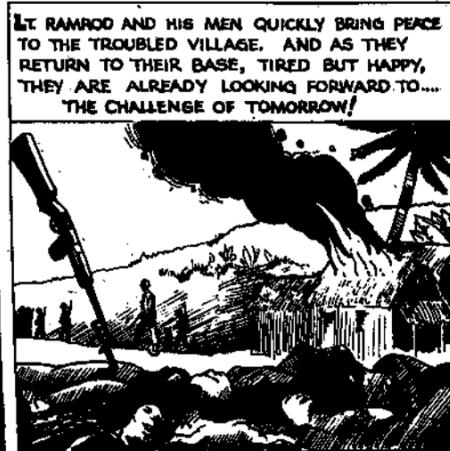


deaths of 6 million Jews, for "crimes against humanity."

Colby maintains that any "abuses" were the fault of South Vietnamese, not him or the CIA. Yet the brutal fact is that the CIA not only devised Phoenix but it pressured the Vietnamese into accepting it.

Sure, on paper everything was the responsibility of the Vietnamese, but William Colby wrote the directive that President Thieu issued when he finally approved Phoenix in 1968.

Colby also tries to shift the blame to the U.S. presidents who approved CIA actions or ordered them. But



CAMERAMAN: STEVE GILBERT. REPORTER: BILL THOMAS.

of a nationwide network of interrogation centers, and finally devised Phoenix to coordinate and provide a legal cover for the growing campaign of mass murder and political imprisonment." (Aug. 22, 1975)

Colby says that the Phoenix program was designed to bring "decency" to the irregular war in Vietnam. What he means is that he wanted everybody on the Viet Cong side to wear uniforms and fight regular battles where U.S. industrial superiority could slaughter them.

Consequently, he aimed Phoenix at civilians. The idea was to arrest, capture, or otherwise "neutralize" suspected Viet Cong sympathizers when (according to a U.S. military directive) "sufficient evidence for a trial is lacking."

That kind of action against civilians violates the U.N. Charter, the Geneva Convention, and the Nuremberg war-crimes principles. Not to mention domestic U.S. law.

killed during the 2½ years he personally ran the program (1968-71), Colby still claims that he intended for people to be captured, not killed.

Navy Captain John Wilbur, who was attached to the CIA for the Phoenix program, disagrees: "It turned out to be more often than not an elimination program. We were certainly higher on the killed than the captured."

Remember, these are people against whom there wasn't sufficient evidence for a trial. A person's name simply had to come up three times to be put on a list. And those quotas always had to be filled.

In fact, there were many instances of people's names being added after they were already dead.

The people who were "lucky" enough to be captured rather than killed outright were almost invariably tortured.

"Everybody who was there accepted torture as routine," said Colby's Saigon legal advisor, Robert F. Gould.

Eichmann was merely following orders also.

Neither Colby nor Eichmann ever killed anyone with their own hands. Neither had anything "personal" against their victims. Eichmann didn't even dream up the Final Solution. But Colby did dream up Phoenix.

Even Colby estimates that "several hundred thousand" people (probably innocent people) were imprisoned. Estimates of the death toll start at 40,000. And how many were even Viet Cong?

"I've seen some of the classified neutralization lists," says a former high-level Phoenix official, "and they include a shocking number of women identified as 'VC nurses' and even some children. Ten and eleven year olds."

Eichmann was executed for his "crimes against humanity."

Colby is getting richer on the lecture circuit.

Pontiac Students Walk Out!!!

On March 31, about 150 students at Pontiac Township High School, including myself, met in the commons during what is affectionately known as 7th hour, the home room period at the end of the school day. An estimated 80-100 of these students then walked out the front doors past the Principal, Roger "You're not in school to think, you're in school to learn" Tuttle, in a last-ditch attempt to abolish 7th hour, labelling it a clear waste of time.

66 of the people who walked out were given a choice of one day suspension and 1 1/2 - 3 hours detention or 3 days suspension for their part in the walk-out.

Previous attempts to abolish the extra pointless 1/2 hour of school by working within the school system were ignored after the administration "explained" why 7th hour would be kept.

The reasons given by the administration are: the clubs have no other time to meet; it gives students an extra half hour to devote to school work; and it's the only chance that counselors have to talk to students who have no other study hall.

However, it has been found that many students who join clubs do so because there is little else to do 7th hour and those club members who are really interested in club work are willing to meet either before or after school. And if you were to look in the library or the classrooms during 7th hour, you would see a vast majority of students sleeping, talking or doing most anything but school work.

On the average of at least once a year, the student council hears students asking for some action to end 7th hour. Each attempt meets with the stock reason, "The clubs have no other time to meet." Individual attempts meet with the same reply and are also dropped.



Finally a few fed-up students decided to organize and circulated petitions. They were informed that a majority (450-500) of the students had to sign the petition before the School Board would discuss the matter.

After about 350 people signed, a couple pages of the petition turned up missing from a student's folder. The student was an organizer of the effort and a well-known "trouble-maker." It was then decided that a walk-out was necessary to bring attention to the uselessness of 7th hour.

The day was chosen and signs were posted throughout the halls to get the word spread. The signs were almost immediately removed, but not before several students saw them.

The night after the walk-out, 66 phone calls were made to the parents of those students who had walked out and had their names taken down. Several of those suspended made an effort to convince their parents to ask for a School Board hearing. No one went before the board.

At this writing, several students are organizing an attempt at reaching a compromise that would make 7th hour attendance voluntary.

This would allow the clubs a time they could meet while discouraging those who aren't really interested from joining. It would give any students who would so choose a chance to do their school work. It would give counselors a chance to talk to students.

And voluntary 7th hour would allow students who have something other than school work to do a chance to leave.

(This article was written by a Pontiac High student whose name is withheld to prevent recriminations against him/her.)

"Affirmative" Action Denies Gays

In January of this year, Roger Evans of ISU's Gay People's Alliance wrote to Dorothy Carrington, ISU's Affirmative Action Officer, requesting that the Affirmative Action Office offer protection against discrimination to ISU's gay people.

In his letter, Evans mentioned that gay people have almost no legal protection, but noted instances of change. For example, 18 states have repealed laws that make homosexual practices, among others, illegal, and many communities nationwide have adopted gay rights ordinances.

Evans also noted in his letter to Carrington that the Affirmative Action Office at Temple University in Philadelphia has extended protection to gay employees.

Evans stated that GPA wasn't seeking a quota system of gay employees but merely wants protection against discrimination.

Evans closed his letter in this way: "We are willing to discuss this issue personally should you like. In writing this letter, I hope that I've informed you that presently ISU can deny a gay person their rights. I sincerely hope you will take action."

Dorothy Carrington wrote back and referred GPA to Charles Morris, Secretary of ISU.

Evans then wrote to Morris, enclosing a copy of his original letter to Carrington and again offering to meet personally with Morris and Carrington.

Here is the part of Morris' letter which responds directly to Evan's request:

"In those cases where it can be supported by data or evidentiary facts that members of certain classes of individuals are, or have been, generally discriminated against, the University has chosen, consistent with Federal and State directives and regulations, to develop and implement programs of affirmative



action to correct resultant inequities. Thus ethnic minorities, women and the handicapped are defined as protected classes for the purpose of affirmative action. In response to your letter requesting that the University adopt a written policy extending protection to gay people, we do not believe that gay people can similarly be considered a protected class.

"Replying to your specific request, it should be noted that Illinois State University now has stated policies which guarantee protection from discrimination in employment and promotion to all members of its community. That guarantee is expressed in the following paragraphs excerpted from an Affirmative Action

Policy adopted by the Academic Senate and approved by the President as University Policy:

"The University shall encourage optimal development and optimal utilization of the talents and abilities of all members of its community. Each member of the University community shall be respected as an individual and accorded equitable privileges and responsibilities with all other members."

Morris never even bothers to make up a reason why gay people should not be protected like ethnic minorities, women and the handicapped. To say that ISU now has policies which guarantee all ISU people protection from discrimination, and thus there is no need for Affirmative Action for gay people, is ridiculous. ISU's whole Affirmative Action program is a recognition that certain oppressed groups need special specific protection beyond this general policy. (Although it doesn't usually do a hell of a lot of good.)

Morris' position is especially harmful to gay people because of the invisibility of the gay community. Gay people, who risk losing jobs, friends and homes by being open, are already reluctant to fight discrimination even when specific channels are available. Few would naively assume that a general "protection of individual rights" clause actually applies to them.

Morris is adding insult to injury.

(POST-NOTE: There are now bills before the Illinois legislature which, if passed, would force state universities to institute specific affirmative action policies for gay people.)

Front Street.

It's really an interesting mix, blending Chicago sleaze and down-home Plains good neighborliness.

The "in" people shop on the east side; the downtown stores all have their established clients. But Front Street has its own special people, its own special flavor. With all the rigid "straightness" of Bloomington-Normal,

But our brave city fathers, always thinking in advance, had plans for Front St. A cutesy little "old-time" mall would be just the thing. Bring in a few antique shops, up the rents and let the folks who've lived there all their lives go elsewhere.

So last December, Bloomington Unlimited Inc., a planning group con-

Now it becomes difficult to separate BU from Urban Renewal. For on March 7, BU invited the Front St. tenants and property owners "to take another hard look at the future of Front St." at a meeting to be held on March 17 (why would anyone want to hold a sober meeting on St. Patrick's Day?)

Bloomington Unlimited bankers play

Front St. is one place you'll find "characters."

There's the town's "dirty-book store," an outspoken barber who knows all his clients by name, and a little newstand. Two "family" restaurants boast handwritten menus and friendly service. There's a day labor office and two rowdy bars to drink that day labor away at. Saturday nights occasionally find the police on Front St. You'll find a few alxies, (not as many as out at Country Club Place), but most of the people are just good and honest. They say what they mean and don't pull punches. If you're open and don't hold your nose high, you're liable to make some fascinating new friends fast.

A few years ago Front St. was a world to itself, till Urban Renewal cleared the south side of the block for the new "Law and Justice Center." Now only the north side remains.

Last month, the bureaucrats, judges and power-junkies moved into their new cardboard box Center. To their shocked dismay, they looked out their windows and discovered "Front Street." Certainly not very scenic and rather shabby 'round the edges. No way to impress visiting dignitaries and higher-ups.

trolled by the banks, convinced the City Council to transfer \$100,000 (originally designated for west side development) to a loan fund for upgrading downtown business properties. The fund had already been going a year, with only half of the money used. But Bloomington Unlimited convinced the council that the fund's money would all be used very soon and the extra would be needed.

Questioned by the Post-Amerikan, Bloomington Unlimited officer Harry Petrie refused to say just where the new loan money would be going.

Urban Renewal Director Don Tjadem told the Post-Amerikan that downtown businesses just weren't asking for that low-interest loan money. He said he didn't know why Bloomington Unlimited was so confident that additional money in the loan fund would be used.

But now we know that Bloomington Unlimited had plans for Front St.

Representing BU would be Alfred J. Holzman, Executive Director, and from the government Herman Dirks of the Regional Planning Commission and Don Tjaden of Urban Development and Renewal.

According to Holzman BU simply wanted to "talk about the possibilities of rehabilitating the block."

According to the tenants, BU told them either to clean up or get out.

The tenants said that only one property owner attended the meeting, and that a "master plan" was presented to them which included color-coordinated building fronts, matching awnings and the elimination of parking on the north side of Front St. to widen the sidewalk and plant trees.

The tenants were then told "in no uncertain terms" that they would be forced to comply, taking out the low-interest 10-year loans Urban Renewal

BOOK WIVE

103 W. FRONT BLOOMINGTON

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ADULT NOVELTIES PAPERBACKS

828-3422

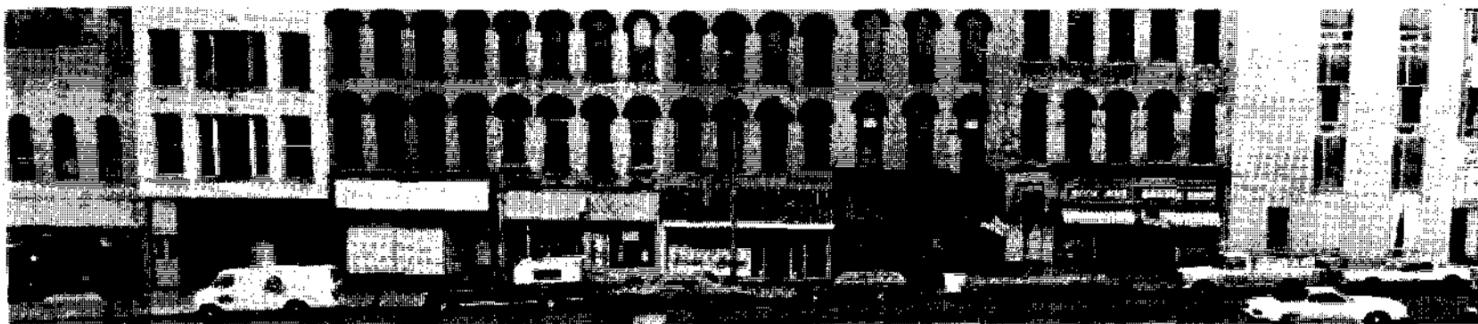
Mayday Gathering Steam

Visions of the future, visions of a new society, with people whose consciousness has been raised to a level enabling them to be free.

Mayday can be an extremely beneficial way to express awareness of ourselves and a step toward the future. The event, scheduled May 1 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., has been organized entirely by volunteers from I.S.U. and the Normal-Bloomington community. People are coming together to dance and to sing, to recite poetry, to listen and to talk.

The Gay Peoples Alliance will sponsor a film festival; there will be a martial arts demonstration, a Mexican dance group, arts, crafts, and general mirth and merriment. Some of the bands that are planning to play for our benefit are Natchez Rhythm Revue,





mafia on Front Street

offered, or else the building codes would be enforced "from basement to roof." (If building codes were ever enforced in town, every building but the newest would probably fail. Front St. has some of the oldest structures in town.)

One tenant said that he felt "bitter," and that they should just "buy it and tear it down like they did across the street, because it's unfair to expect a renter to bear the burden." Another felt improvements would do "nothing," as "those who've been loyal and faithful keep coming back, the rest just come in to get change for bus fare to go to the mall. They hope it will look better from the Law and Justice Center."

The extra Urban Renewal money enters the picture now, as the tenants were told that they could borrow loans at 6.4% interest from Urban Renewal if they needed it to comply.

Holzman of BU (who one tenant called "a smart-ass punk") feels quite differently about the meeting. He claimed that "We have no plans, no-

thing official. We called a meeting for the specific purpose of what what can be done with the block. If people took it as a threat I'm sorry about that."

When asked about the threat of inspection, he replied, "We talked about code-enforcement and seeing what could be done through code enforcement, whatever that means."

Two very different stories emerge. What Holzman saw as a chance to get the tenants' viewpoints, a large number of Front St. tenants labeled "extortion."

The tenants were so frightened that they were afraid of their names being used, fearing eviction. One refused to talk to the Post, mumbling about "complying with the plan. We'll put the awnings up." According to the others, this tenant had been one of the most outspoken at the meeting and quite vocally angry.

What can be concluded is that some small business people were intimidated and frightened by Bloomington Unlimited, even though BU denies any such purpose.

BU's board of directors is dominated by the banks, and it seems they have their own idea of how downtown should look.

Yet if Front St. is so terrible, why do its regular patrons return? How has it managed to hold its own, even when Urban Renewal cut it in half a few years ago?

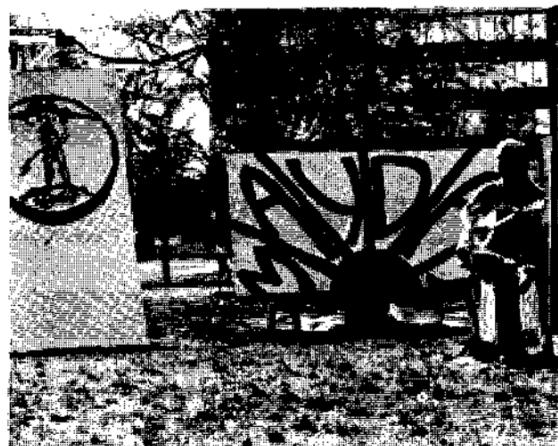
There is a spirit of community among Front St. folks. Tenants aren't out to cut each other's throats, they are just trying to make a living. Many have been there for over 40 years. The shops are small, but people entering are warmly greeted, and after a few visits you become a "regular."

Whether meant to threaten or not, these plans coming down from "above" are going to intimidate. The concern of BU seems to be sprucing up Front St. to impress visitors to the Law and Justice Center, not improving business. As their letter stated, "With the completion of the new Law Enforcement Center, ...Front Street has become highly visible and the subject of concern for committed downtowners. ...it is apparent that there is considerable work to be done to improve the street appearance, physical condition of properties, etc."

None of the tenants are opposed to development; they feel the burden is on them. One tenant, whose landlord is worth \$20 million, has only seen the owner once in 25 years. The owner has consistently refused to upgrade the property.

So how about leaving the condition of the stores up to the tenants and owners? Or pressuring the landlords, not the tenants? Obviously, something must be working on Front St., or the businesses would have closed years ago. Let's not destroy the spirit of community for the sake of cutesy-mall schemes just to impress Law Enforcement Center visitors (who probably won't shop there anyway).

By MgM



Skillet, Blackwood Magazine, Higher Ground, and the Duane Hoover Band. Anyone else who wants to jam can bring their instruments.

The exhibits are to close down by 6-7 p.m., but the music will continue until 9. Volunteers are needed to help set up, be security (I don't know what's gonna be secured, but ISU's administration needs a blanket), and to clean up the quad afterwards. Anyone interested in any of these duties can call Gail at 452-7936.

Donations are still needed, and if we get enough, we'll be able to buy a big canvas and make a Mayday painting. So bring a buck or two if you can spare it (or a penny or a dime or nothing if you don't want to) when you come on Mayday or call in and send it.

Mayday is gonna happen; a lot of people are working hard to get it accomplished. So nurse your hang-over on the quad this year. Come Together Mayday '77.

Above and to the left: Photos from last year's Mayday Celebration.

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

letters

We get lots of letters from prisoners, which we appreciate and encourage, even though we don't always have the space to print them all.

LOOKS FORWARD TO POST

Dear People,

I am moving and don't want to miss an issue of the Post-Amerikan. I especially enjoyed the articles on Don Stone and Weisser, as both are in business in Decatur also. I look forward to the Post-Amerikan and like to discuss each article with my college-student son.

Sincerely,
Marty Graczyk
421 W. Main
Decatur IL 62522

To Julie Compton's coach:

We recieved your letter, but it was accidentally misplaced during a staff meeting. Please feel free to write again. We share your sentiments.

--The Post

CCJ WORKSHOP

Citizens for Criminal Justice, formerly Community Education for Law and Justice, will be sponsoring a one-day conference seminar on Saturday, May 7, to be held in the basement of the Law and Justice Building. Luncheon speaker will be Judge James Heiple; out-of-town participants include the Witness Information Service from Peoria and the Citizen's Probation Authority of Tazewell County. Additional information will be sent to the media in late April, or interested persons may contact Richard Templeton or Scott Eatherly (454-1787).

SANITARY STINK

Dear Post,

If we were able as a matter of choice to eliminate one of our senses, many of us on the southwest side of Bloomington would have elected to have shut off the sense of smell. Have you, the reader, been near a hog wallow hock deep to a tall hag in muck? If so, you know what we've endured this past windy week. And what we're going to have to endure til the end of summer at the earliest. This statement is based not on conjecture, but on past experience. The sanitary system gets worse every year. I called Mayor Bitterner. He stated that he gets the odor from the plant as far east as his home in the 500 block of West Washington Street from time to time.

In 1971, I wrote a letter to the Illinois office of E.P.A. in Springfield and received a reply stating that on July 21, 1971, Sanatarian James C. Frost had investigated my complaint. The gist of the letter is this:

1. You were correct in assuming that these odors came from the Bloomington-Normal sanitary district plant.
2. Corrective action has been taken by the sanitary district. The success of their past operations in eliminating these odors has been less than acceptable for all concerned. However, we have been assured that the sanitary district will do everything in its power to eliminate these odors.
3. If necessary, the sanitary district will use their vacuum sludge drier to eliminate the odors. However, this will result in a greater overall cost of treating the sewage. Therefore, this will be their last resort.

Sadly enough, the situation is worse today. At that time, the plant was overloaded from time to time so that it became necessary to discharge raw sewage into Sugar Creek. I was at Sugar Creek Thursday afternoon, April 14, and saw human fecal matter being

carried downstream in no small quantity. According to articles I've read in past issues of the Pantagraph, the new addition to the sewage disposal plant (construction just recently started--to be complete in 2 years) was delayed even while new sewers were constructed. All around the Twin Cities, new construction has been going on, adding more and more waste to an already inadequate sewage plant. It may even get worse when the time comes to change over to the new plant--one or another of the processes will have to be shut down or curtailed for a while.

We are assured that the new addition to the plant will correct the problem. Part of the correction involves the new driers. If it is hard to find money to use the present driers, whence comes the money to operate the new driers? What assurance do we have that it'll be there? All of the assurances and reassurances we have had in the past have been so much smelly hot air literally. When I talked to Mr. Rich Beczek of the Champaign E.P.A. office on April 14, he told me that odors will always be present. One of the things we should have in written assurance that the sludge driers will be used as a normal everyday part of the sanitary plant's operation henceforth, and not just when complaints force it.

Everyone using this sewer system is paying taxes to support it. Some of the people (sunnyside area) paid taxes into the sanitary district for 30 years before they even had a sewer serving their homes. We didn't even have city water until the 50's.

My parents have lived in this house for 51 years. Our next door neighbor has lived here for 41 years. We believe that we and our neighbors, whoever they may be, deserve a fair shake, which is one hell of a lot more than we've been getting. If one area of our Twin Cities "stinks," the whole community should bear the burden of corrective measures. The sewage we smell comes from all.

Most sincerely,
Ed B. McGrew

Driven to Distraction

Dear Post:

Your recent group of letters and comments about one of the local auto firms, Don Stone Ford, has prompted me to relate my year's worth of hassles with yet another of Bloomington's auto dealerships, Wiley Pontiac-Buick.

In the late summer of 1975, I purchased from the Wiley dealership a new Buick. I was given a good price for the car. Later, I realized it was the only good deal I got.

On delivery, the car had a broken side mirror, unconnected air conditioning outlets, loose trim, an improperly installed baffle in the heater-duct system, and it backfired and stalled on acceleration. It also vibrated under acceleration so badly that I could not see out of the rear view mirror as the images were so blurred.

On my first return visit at the 1000-mile point all minor repairs and corrections were made with the exception of the loose baffle and vibration problem. In the next few months the window fell out of the door, the vibration worsened, and yet another problem developed, that of a distinct clunking whenever the brakes were applied.

In my next several visits for "warranty" service, the baffle was tightened, the window reattached and the brake clunking problem resolved. The vibration problem continued and in spite of several attempts to get this repaired I was put off by the service manager with the comment that all

the engines are noisy and vibrate. By this time the stalling and backfire problem had returned.



The backfire and stalling problem was resolved by a visit to a local auto repair garage and cost me \$50. A plug wire was broken and the distributor cap cracked as well as having a badly adjusted carburetor--all problems the Buick garage could not or would not work on. The vibration continued to get worse.

I finally called the Buick regional customer service office and complained about the warranty service. Interestingly, they will not accept collect calls and it took 3 calls to get a response...which was to ask me to discuss the problem with the dealer. "Far out." Ten months of dealer run-around and 3 long distance phone calls and back to "go."

So, I tried talking with the dealer who referred me to the service manager who told me again it's just the nature of my \$4000 car to vibrate so bad I can hardly drive it. So, on to the next step in the customer service chain. I called the Detroit central office, at my expense, and was referred to the regional office which had referred me to the dealer, etc. etc.

The matter was finally resolved by a written

complaint to the Attorney General's office and a call to my attorney who threatened suit against G.M. and the local dealer. This did get results. A customer representative literally ordered the dealer to pull the transmission and straighten out the mess.

Fourteen months later, I got everything taken care of. The clincher was that most of the vibration was caused by a broken air-conditioner mount which was apparently broken from the time of delivery and was overlooked by the fine service staff of Wiley Buick for 14 months. The rest was attributable to transmission problems.

The most recent chapter of this sordid tale began this winter when I needed a part for the carburetor. It was ordered through G.M. in early February through Bergeron Cadillac (a really good place for G.M. service). It took more than 6 weeks for this part to be delivered. Interesting, as it takes less than 2 weeks to receive parts for my "made in Japan" Toyota. So, 1 1/2 years later, I finally have a car which runs as it should have on delivery.

--name withheld on writer's request, because he feared on-the-job repercussions for being in the Post.

*Typist's note- I guess that teaches us not to buy a car from a guy who calls himself Wiley.

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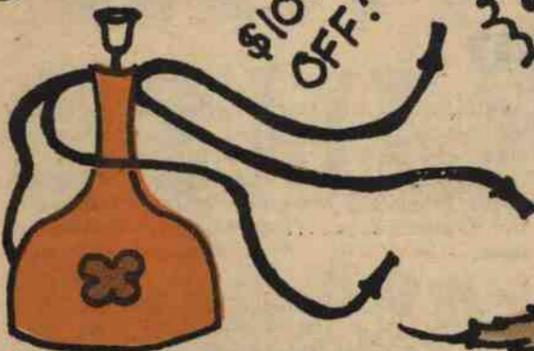
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Roomer Rejects Rigid Rules

Merrill Shepro is an ex-tenant of 502 E. Grove St., a rooming house exclusively for men. It is reported that the landlords, a couple named Baker, won't rent to women, hippies, or blacks. The following house regulations were posted in the bathroom:

Please be reasonably quiet; no entertaining.

No women visitors permitted; special arrangements must be made with landlord for suitable overnight guests (there is a charge for this).

Drinking in rooms, or coming in drunk, is not tolerated.

Be especially careful about cigarettes, please do not smoke in bed. Do not put holes in walls or woodwork.

Rent is paid one week in advance. It is to be left in room on the day it is due. If cash, receipt will be left for same.

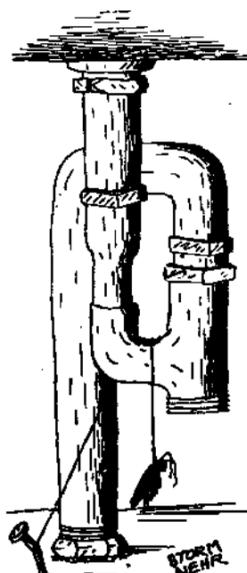
Please give at least one week's notice when leaving (or one week's rent in lieu of.)

Unrestricted use of landlord's personal telephone to each tenant is impossible. Emergency calls only can be taken. If phone is greatly needed, one can be installed in any room for modest fee.

Regarding bathroom, please leave every thing clean as you like to find it. This includes lavatory, tub, toilet, etc. Limit your time during the morning rush hour, long leisurely baths should be taken some other time.

Thank you---We hope your stay here will be most pleasant.

(signature) the Bakers



In an interview, Shepro stated that the landlady came into his room daily, read his mail, made his bed, picked up his clothes. Shepro asked her numerous times to refrain from doing this, but she refused. When I spoke with Mrs. Baker, she admitted going into Merrill's room to clean up, but said, "I don't have time to read his mail."

Shepro said that the Bakers advertised a room for rent, and when a black couple came to see it. Mrs. Baker told them there was no room, I went to see Mrs. Baker about this and she said, "There were never any Negroes here."

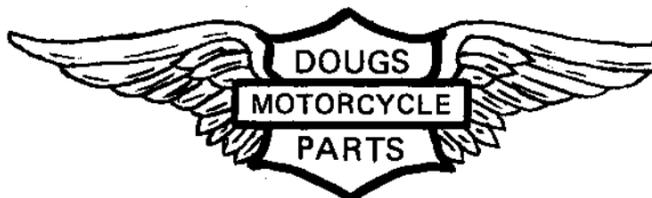
After I talked with Shepro, I went to speak to the Bakers to give them a chance to comment on Shepro's statements. I started by saying I was there to ask some questions and that I had just talked to Merrill Shepro.

They said, "Merrill was a fair roomer," and they smiled. They gave the general impression that Merrill was a pretty nice guy.

Less than 30 minutes later--after they heard his charges of lack of privacy, the below-40-degree temperature last winter, the rigidity of the house regulations, and the policy about blacks, hippies, and women--Merrill had become "a thief, a liar, and a psycho."

It's funny how views change, isn't it?

--Rookie



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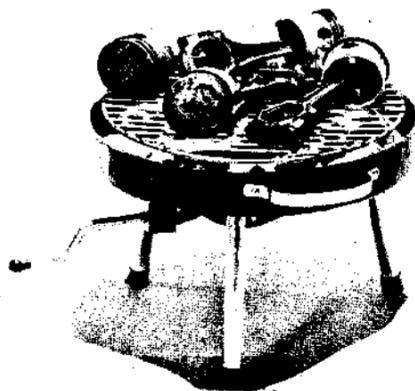
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Mary Hartman Cancelled

28

Fernwood Folks Don't Play In Peoria?

Paranoid thought of the week: does the Klan have it in for Mary Hartman?

Norman Lear's syndicated soap-opera, comedy, easily the most daring piece of social satire on recent commercial tv, got the shaft in Peoria. As of this writing April 15, should be the last time it appears on the Peoria station.

The "objectionable" show was broadcast on channel 19 at 10:30. At the same time Johnny Carson, on another station, snickers and swaps sexist innuendos with phony celebrities. Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman, which made fun of that sexism (as it did most everything else), had had difficulty getting advertisers.

People, you see, have been writing negative letters to the show's advertisers. It must have been quite an impressive show of dislike for the series, because all the advertisers started withdrawing around the same time.

Question: was the spurt of letters the work of an organized group?

What would make people in Peoria suddenly so upset about the show, anyway? MH2 has been on for more than a year-and-a-half now.

Well, the only recent change in the series has been the addition of a new



plotline, one that's pretty much dominated the show for the past two months. It's about this slimy organization called the Glorious Guardians of Good, a racist group

that hides its stripes in Fernwood and whose activities seem suspiciously similar to recent white-washing activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

The GGG on MH2 has, all in the past month, accidentally bombed the town's auto plant and then tried to blame it on the town's sole black resident, held a tv telethon ("Dimes for Disease") with more of the funds slated for the GGG than disease, and gotten the local citizenry up in arms about the binding in a textbook that tells American history from the Indian point of view.

In other words, the GGG is a fairly nice parody of ultra-right-of "civic concern." The GGG may be a bit broad in its activities, but then satire is supposed to be broad--and, besides, one suspects that many ultra-rightists are as sedate as they are only because it's bad press not to be.

But, anyway, does the Klan have it in for Mary Hartman?

--DC

Capitalizing On A Myth -- A Record Company Rip-off

Ripoff of the month: Capitol Records lives up to its name once more with its latest ripoff.

In the summer of 1976, it released an album called "Klaatu" by an unknown band of the same name. It went nowhere, as far as sales were concerned.

In the winter of 1976, Capitol tried another approach. They put out a press release that went something like this: "We've got this great album by a mystery group. We don't know who they are, except that their agent tells us they are independently wealthy, well-known musicians who just wanted to get together for this album and who want their music to stand on its merits alone." Sure!

Still no cash registers ringing though. The reason for that could be the fact

that "Klaatu" didn't offer record listeners what to expect musically from the group. The album carried no credits except the names of the songs, all written and produced by Klaatu. There were no names or pictures of the members of the group.

Until a month ago, "Klaatu" looked like it was heading for the cutout bins. It is now in the Top 50 and heading higher. The reason: a rumor just as bad as the "Paul McCartney is dead" fiasco in the late '60's.

The rumor: Klaatu is either the Beatles reunited or earlier unreleased recordings when the Beatles were still together.

The truth: There is no way that Klaatu could be any form of a Beatle reunion. The music sounds very much like the Beatles would have sounded if they had

released an album after Abbey Road. A few of the songs have recording tech-



niques the Beatles once used. The reverse-tape effect and what remotely sounds like a sitar are a couple. As for being earlier unreleased recordings, that's unrealistic also. Capitol would have capitalized on any such tunes by now.

THE NEW VOICE:

The Voice of the Working Class

published biweekly

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

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

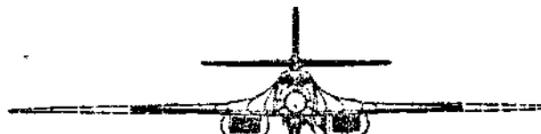
- IMPERIALISM TODAY: AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS 25c**
- THREE ARTICLES ON THE BRIBE 25c**
(exposes the theory that the American working class is "bribed")
- THE ISSUE OF FREE SPEECH 25c**
(why the working class opposes free speech for racists like William Schockley)
- REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY IN THE U.S. . .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

ABC Boosts B-1

(LNS/WIN)--ABC's "Six Million Dollar Man" tackled the B-1 bomber in one mid-February show. The plot centered on a group of U.S.-based foreign agents who were hell-bent on making a B-1 test flight look bad. And that was a serious problem, viewers were told, because "lots of people don't like the B-1."

The show's not-so-subtle messages were that if foreign agents want to stop the B-1 so bad, then it must be good, and that people opposing the B-1 were at best "commie dupes."

"The only way you get flight footage of a nonproduction Air Force plane is to have very cozy connections and some use for the footage which the Pentagon approves of," stated the Syracuse Peace Council, which has been active in opposing the B-1. "The military moguls and their corporate allies must really be running scared."



IPC Lobbies Against Elderly

Illinois Power Company has been sending out a letter to business and industrial electrical users in an attempt to scare them into helping to defeat "Lifeline" legislation now in state legislature committee. McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike wishes to comment on this letter.

The "Lifeline" bill--now being watered down--originally called for a lower fixed charge for a basic amount of electricity per month for most residential customers and an increased rate for heavy users such as business and industry.

The IPC letter--sent only to business and industrial users--is filled with loaded and misleading language and raises some interesting questions.

Why is Illinois Power Company trying so hard to kill "Lifeline"? Wouldn't they still make their money if the bill passed?

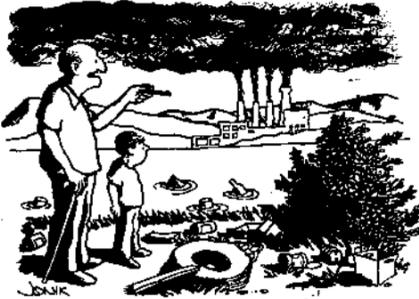
Well, maybe not. Maybe business and industry would have to find ways to conserve energy. Is IPC afraid of conservation?

Maybe some large industries would even find it cheaper to generate their own electricity--and not buy it from the monopolistic power companies at all.

In the long run, it might well be that "Lifeline" would encourage conservation and work for the benefit of small users and big users alike--everybody, in fact, except maybe the power companies.

Besides, if IPC loses too much revenue, they couldn't afford to build a (dangerous) Clinton nuclear power plant. And if there's too much conservation, they couldn't even claim "need" for a nuclear plant.

The letter also is evidence of the enormous amount of money IPC is willing to spend fighting for its rate hike and against "Lifeline." Money we've provided through our electric bills.



Folks say that on nights like this, when the air is still and the humidity high, the ghost of Henrick Hudson can be seen throwing up behind that bush.

Reproduced below is Illinois Power's letter to its commercial-rate customers, trying to get them to lobby against Lifeline.

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY

500 SOUTH 27TH STREET, DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62525
March 30, 1977

Dear Customer:

The so-called "lifeline" electric rate legislation, designed to force electricity sales to certain classes of customers at below cost, and make up the difference by overcharging other customers, such as you, remains alive in the Illinois General Assembly. Only concerted action by all of us will prevent its passage.

House Bill 83, embracing this pricing concept, has been changed several times in the last few weeks attempting to meet various objections raised, but it is still viable, and its purpose remains the same -- to change electric rate schedules by penalizing the industrial and commercial users.

The legislation is now in a working subcommittee. Chairman Caldwell of that subcommittee and chairman of the house public utilities committee has asserted that a bill, "some bill" will be voted out for house floor action.

My letter seeks only to bring this matter to your immediate attention for any action you may deem relevant. If we can help you further with extended discussion of your particular situation, please call your local Illinois Power Company Service Area Manager.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Wells
Charles W. Wells
Executive Vice President

Attn.

Selling the bill

(No Limits)--Having failed on its own, the government is now considering paying an advertising agency \$300,000 to convince Americans that they need the \$2 bill. Does anyone need the government?

Finger not obscene

(ZNS/FFA)--Raising the middle finger in a gesture of contempt has been ruled offensive but "not obscene" by a three-judge panel in Hartford, Conn. The case involved a high school student who flashed the finger at a state trooper and had been fined \$25. The panel ruled that for the finger to be obscene, it must be significantly erotic or arouse sexual interest. The gesture evidently dates back to ancient Greece, according to Judge Parsky.

Wrong artifacts

(Take Over)--A number of leading citizens of Hebron, Conn., are outraged and are demanding that Hebron's Bicentennial time capsule--buried last month--be dug up immediately.

The uproar over the time capsule, that was supposed to remain buried until the year 2076, resulted from the recent discovery that it contains two marijuana cigarettes.

Residents of the town had been asked to donate items for the capsule "reflecting a cross-section of today's society and culture." Apparently, the items weren't screened carefully, because among the 148 objects listed as being sealed inside are the two joints.

Hebron's Bicentennial Commission has adopted a wait-and-see position.

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Women's Self-Help Organizers Busted

31

During March 6, 7, and 8, Women Acting Together to Combat Harrassment (WATCH) held its first national conference in Tallahassee. Representatives of the women's health and self-help movements from all over the country met to work out plans to counteract harassment met by various health projects.

On the first night of the conference WATCH members and about thirty Tallahassee community people viewed the film, "The Chicago Maternity Center Story." The film documented the attempts by a Chicago community to save a 78 year old home birth program from hospital plans to phase it out. Lolly Hirsch from the Monthly Extract and Carol Downer, founder of the Self-Help Movement, also spoke to the group about dangerous practices used by obstetricians in hospitals. At the conclusion of the program, the WATCH participants decided to conduct a surprise inspection of the maternity ward at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, using World Health Organization positions on childbirth as criteria to judge what they found.



Arriving by bus at the hospital, the WATCH participants walked through the front entrance, through the lobby, and to elevators and stairs to the fourth floor labor, post-partum and babies' wards. Accompanied by a reporter and videotape camera-person, the group met with no objections from hospital personnel.

Their inspection was brief, since many of the objectionable hospital practices, like separation of mother and child, were readily apparent. Some women entered the nursery and were told immediately to leave.

While leaving, the women noticed many containers of PhisoHex used to bathe babies, even though some recent research shows a link between infant brain damage and the use of PhisoHex.

Nurses on their shifts told WATCH participants that Fetal Heart Monitors are used routinely in the hospital births. The heart monitors are the internal type, which are clipped to the yet-unborn child's skull by a clip/screw which punctures the skin to relay vital signs to the attending physician(s). Such monitoring usually increases the number of Caesarian sections that mothers undergo in hospitals, and the numbers of Caesarian sections used at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital have doubled in the last five years.

BUSTS, CENSORSHIP

The inspection then ended, and WATCH participants left the hospital through the front entrance to resume their conference.

Early the next day, Monday, participants in the WATCH conference learned that the film of the hospital inspection was to be confiscated by the State's Attorney's office. The film, then at the Florida State University's television station, was confiscated by the station manager, Ed Herp, before turning it over to the State's Attorney.

A group of WATCH participants went to WFSU-TV to request a viewing of the film, asking that it not be censored from the public.

While they were at the studio, Florida State University police arrested Carol Downer, Janice Cohen, and Linda Curtis on trespass charges stemming from the unauthorized hospital inspection. The three were released within an hour from the Leon County jail after posting \$1000 bond each. The three women and another woman from San Diego met that afternoon with M.T. Mustian, executive director of the hospital, to explain why and how the inspection was made and what the findings were. A fourth woman was busted the next day.

A press conference was held later in the afternoon to set the record straight with the Tallahassee media about what had happened. The Tallahassee Democrat and the Flambeau both created in the public's mind a scene which did not occur. Characterizing the inspection as an "invasion" and creating the impression that the women barged into the hospital through the emergency room door, the Tallahassee media had done everything they could to discredit the Feminist Women's Health Centers, WATCH, and leaders in the Women's Self-Help movement.

A few days later, two women who were arrested were interviewed by WFSU-TV. The ten-minute interview dealt with a discussion of childbirth and self-help issues and with reasons for the inspection of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. The interview was never broadcast, and WATCH participants felt that pressure from the hospital had prevented the information from getting to the public.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

In their newsletter issued after the arrests, the WATCH participants reviewed their motivations for conducting the hospital inspection. They wanted to expose to the Tallahassee community aspects of childbirth which had been condemned by the World Health Organization and other international medical and obstetrical authorities. WATCH participants criticized certain aspects of their action which did not take into account feelings of the fathers and other family members who were present on the hospital wards they inspected. But they felt they did nothing which placed the lives of mothers or children in jeopardy by conducting the inspection. They wanted to inform members of the Tallahassee community of the non-people orientation of hospital birth and to restore the right to experience safe childbirth at a home or family-centered setting.

WATCH is concerned that the arrests of conference participants trivialized their work and goals and will not be recognized as a tool of harassment. They did not want attention directed at them--they wanted public attention directed at the routine of childbirth designed for the sake of expediency and hospital profits. If you want to help the Tallahassee movement in any way, contact the Feminist Women's Health Center, 1017 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee, Fla. 32303.

In a similar vein, there is a home-birth movement beginning in the Twin-Cities. Fearing of the type of harassment experienced by women in Tallahassee and elsewhere, the local movement doesn't intend to be an above-ground attempt to turn the tables on hospital/obstetrical childbirth practices. The Tallahassee experience would serve as a useful reminder that powers-that-be don't like their set-ups exposed and threatened.

--Jeremy Timmens

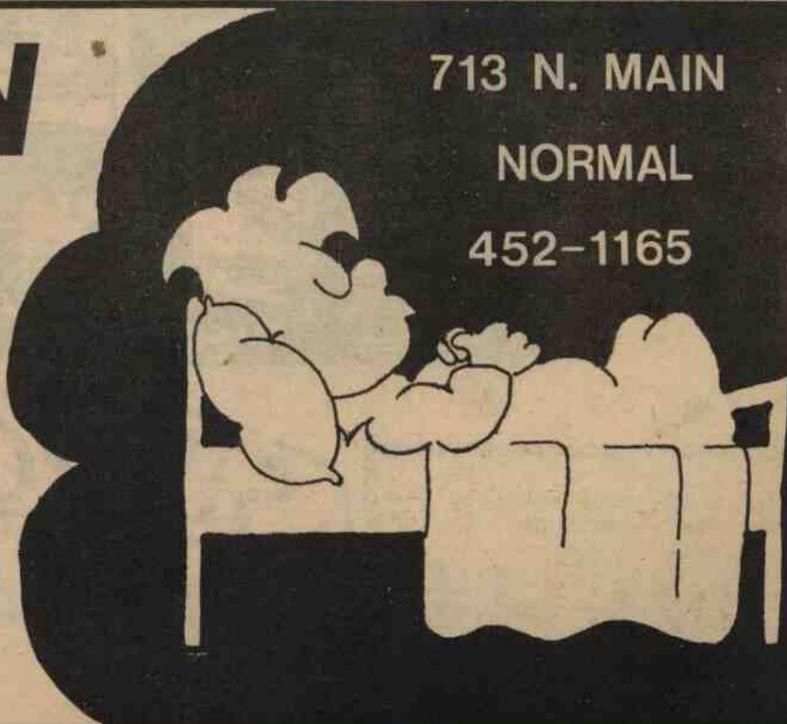


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NETWORK: or Life in 24 Inches



"Amerika the beautiful"--this wondrous tragic-comedy we stumble through--belching bearcans gobble the landscape and "the highest standard of living in the world." I sometimes think we are just characters in Kurt Vonnegut's imagination.

Within this wasteland, television stands out. The single eye brings us Dad (Walter Cronkite), Mom (Loretta Young), the girl next door (Mary T. Moore) and ourselves (Mary Hartman). The Show of Shows is the evening news, where all the pathos, comedy and tragedy of the day is brought to us in 30 minutes by cardboard stand-up men.

On the little screen, all of life becomes a shadow. People cease to be and are transformed into ghosts. It's the ultimate twilight zone. An individual, that sum total of experiences, loves and secret desires becomes a fleeting image, encapsulated, commented upon and dissected in only 20 seconds.

Life is transformed, and all is a giant Spectacle where real and unreal blend and blur through a giant kaleidoscope.

And us? We are just voyeurs, denizens of the sawdust, peepers under the circus tent. Permanently trapped in the circus, we are titillated by a constant side-show, but always hungry for the "big show," always aware of the falseness, alienation and unreality. The show is brought to you by Exxon and Union Carbide, barfed back by you every boring working day in factory and office, your draining sweat and fatigue enriching their treasury.

So go see "Network" and try to understand this giant Spectacle we live every day. The whole cancerous mess is dissected and laid before us.

In "Network," as in daily life, nothing is sacred, everything becomes part of the Spectacle.

"Network" portrays UBS-TV, the underdog. When everybody's Walter Cronkite, Howard Beale, UBS anchorman, is fired, he retaliates by threatening to commit suicide on the air. The executives go crazy. The audience eats it up.

So Howard isn't fired; soon he is castigating America every night. Soon he believes a "vision" and becomes a modern prophet.

But Howard is a different kind of prophet. He doesn't cry from the wilderness. Howard Beale is on television. Howard has an instant, mesmerized audience.

But Howard also has an accountant, an executive staff and a programming director. He must fit their schemes.

So poor old Howard becomes a part of the Spectacle he condemns. He is simply there to entice the viewers to stay tuned so they won't miss the next Alka-Selzer commercial.

Howard, though pleading for people to "Turn off your TV," is now part of the "Network." And UBS-TV is owned by the multi-national conglomerate "Communications Corporation of America (CCA)."

Mister Jensen, CCA's chairman, convinces Howard that he is backward and paints a new vision for Howard. A vision of a changing world, dominated by multi-national corporations. Jensen tells Beale, "There is no America, there is only IBM and ITT. The world is business."

Howard voices the multi-national reality, no longer screaming the frustrations of middle-America. How he tells his audiences, "What is finished is the individual." We are all becoming "transistorized, deodorized human beings, totally capable of replacement. Is dehumanization such a bad word? The whole world is becoming humanoid."

Not very popular statements for fickle, seething people, and so the fall of Howard's ratings corresponds to his loss of spontaneous anger and his transformation into a corporate mouthpiece.

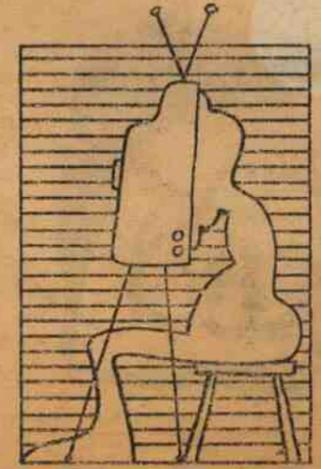
So Howard, in a bold season's kick-off, is assassinated, victim of falling ratings and the TV-controlled pseudo-revolutionary "Ecumenical Liberation Army." UBS uses the murder to kick off its new season's "Mao-tse Tung Hour."

One awful reality remains pervasive--the Spectacle. And behind it, the multi-national corporate profit-seekers.

Looks pretty hopeless. But Paddy Chayefsky (producer of "Network") is trying to tell us something. Trying to make us realize how the Spectacle grips and manipulates our lives--not just through television, but in our jobs and social relationships. Though trapped and manipulated, there remains our option of saying "no" (turning off the TV) and struggling to live real "lives" again.

You might find "Network" depressing, but I left it elated. It didn't show me how to defeat the Spectacle. But it did expose the Spectacle in all its horror, gave insight to its pervasiveness. And half the battle is to know the enemy. Then we can say yes or no. The initiative is ours.

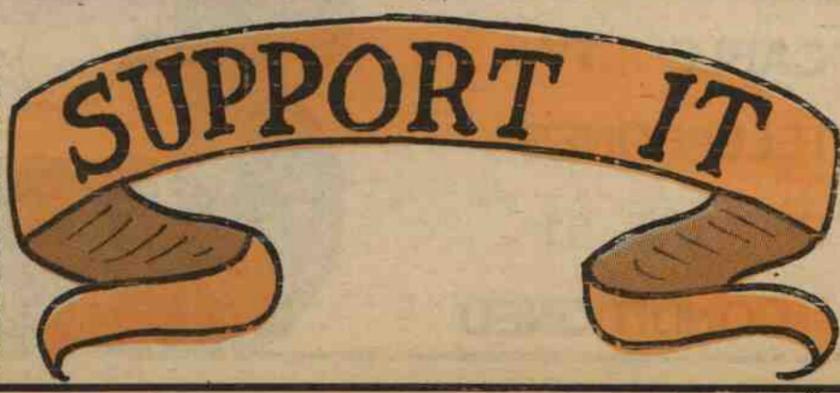
--MgM



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