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The Keep

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Home Rentals; S. Africa; Civic center; Nuke sit-in; MEG; more

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POST AMERIKAN

Dec. 1978

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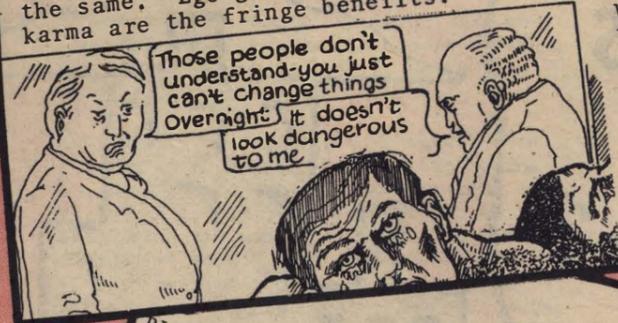


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Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-Amerikan has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up here and asking who's in charge.

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community.

We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader.

We welcome all stories and tips for stories, which you can mail to our office (the address is at the end of this rap).

If You'd like to work on the Post and/or come to meetings, call us. The number is 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885 or ask for Andrea at 829-6223 during the day.

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 us at 828-7232.

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



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The Post-Amerikan needs office supplies! If you can get hold of any, here are some of the things we need:

Long scissors (about 9 inches) and editor's shears; whiteout for typing mistakes; typing paper (either long or short sheets); strapping tape; IBM typewriter balls; any extra IBM typewriters you have laying around at home.

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Home Rentals flies by night

Bloomington's Home Rentals Agency, under attack by picketers, Post-Amerikan articles, and investigators enforcing new state regulations, abruptly shut its doors in mid-October. The agency's phones are disconnected, and most of the office furnishings are gone.

Pickers and previous Post-Amerikan stories—based on information from former employees—have charged that the Home Rentals Agency is a fraudulent con game. The agency charges prospective tenants \$40 for lists of

reforms would have drastically cut down on the amount of "con" Home Rentals could get away with.

After the new state regulations became effective, a Post-Amerikan reporter filed a complaint against Home Rentals for not having a broker's license. In early October, state investigator Chuck McClure followed up on the complaint, informing the Home Rental Agency that they were in violation of the law.

McClure told the Post-Amerikan that he would give the rental agency 15 days to come up with a license, and then go to the state's attorney and ask for prosecution.

But Home Rentals shut down before the 15 days had elapsed.

Contacted later by the Post-Amerikan, McClure explained that he had decided to ask the state's attorney for prosecution right away. McClure guessed that the state's attorney had phoned Home Rentals and warned them, and that the agency had closed rather than face prosecution.

But Assistant State's Attorney Richard Wagner, who was preparing a case and desist order against Home Rentals, said he never contacted the agency. Home Rentals closed before Wagner got to court.

Wagner suggested that Carl Slayback, investigator for the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division, may have had a hand in Home Rentals' closing so quickly. The Consumer Protection Division--at the state level--has been

Since Home Rentals is no longer around to give their customers the apartment listings they contracted for, the agency owes a \$40 refund to an unknown number of people. Assistant State's Attorney Richard Wagner said there was nothing his office could do to get people's money back. He suggested that people who were ripped off could contact Legal Aid, who might file a class action suit to recover the money.

Carl Slayback wasn't sure what his Consumer Protection Division could do either, but he assured the Post-Amerikan that he would ask about it next time he went to Springfield.

Champaign office closes too

When workers in Bloomington's Home Rental office disappeared in mid-October, the agency's Champaign office was still operating.

But not for long.

According to the Daily Illini, the University of Illinois newspaper, Champaign's Home Rentals moved out on October 20 or 21, "giving short notice and leaving no forwarding address." The Daily Illini said that Home Rentals owner Jack Walton "may have moved the agency out of Champaign after discovering that the Daily Illini was investigating the firm's practices."

The Illini published a three-part series on Home Rentals late in



apartments available for rent. Although a large proportion of these listings are available in the daily paper's classified ad section, the Home Rentals salespeople deceive their customers, claiming that the \$40 list consists almost entirely of "exclusive" listings.

In addition, evidence from former employees indicated that the Home Rentals Agency courted landlords by providing a screening service, steering certain classes of tenants away from apartments where they would not be wanted by a prejudiced landlord.

Intensive picketing and leafletting forced Bloomington's Home Rentals Agency to close down for eight days in September. They reopened Sept. 26. On Sept. 27, a set of stringent new state regulations went into effect.

Last issue's Post-Amerikan said that if the new state regulations were enforced, Home Rentals Agency would have to shut down.

The new regulations required the agency's owner to have a real estate broker's license and required sales employees to have real estate broker's licenses. In addition, the new regulations listed specific practices that agencies like Home Rentals Agency had to adhere to. The required



interested in agencies like Home Rentals. In the Chicago area, some angry customers have gotten their money back, thanks to the Consumer Protection Division's action. And the new state regulations were prompted by over 1500 complaints to the attorney general's office about agencies like Home Rentals.

Contacted by the Post-Amerikan, Slayback said he thought the state's attorney's office had shut Home Rentals down.

October, reporting some of the same deceptive practices the agency had been charged with in Bloomington.

When the Post-Amerikan first wrote about Home Rentals, ex-manager Steve Mane said that Jack Walton, Marlene Walton, and their son Brett Walton operated Home Rentals agencies in Bloomington, Champaign and Belleville.

After the Bloomington and Champaign offices had closed, the Post-Amerikan was able to reach Brett Walton at the Belleville office, which was still open.

Brett pretended to know nothing of agencies called "Home Rentals" in Bloomington and Champaign. He said there may be similar names, but there was no connection. He claimed he'd never heard of Charley Vandagriff, the latest manager of Bloomington's Home Rentals. He did admit being related to Jack Walton, but said he had no idea why the elder Walton closed down his businesses.

So where did the owner of Home Rentals run to with all his customers' money?

"He might be in Nevada," Brett Walton told the Post-Amerikan. •

Did you pay Home Rentals any money?

If you paid any money to Bloomington's Home Rentals Agency during the four months they operated in Bloomington, you have a legal claim for a full refund.

Home Rentals contracts obligated the agency to provide apartment listings for a full year.

Since the agency has skipped town, they aren't handing out any listings, and have violated all their contracts.

Even if you found an apartment months ago, and don't need any apartment

listings, the agency is still obligated to provide them.

You are entitled to get your money back. And you are entitled to have the state bureaucrats do the work of getting it back for you.

If you paid any money to home rentals, complain to Carl Slayback, investigator for the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. His office is in the Association of Commerce building, or you can call 829-6344. •

No

Biko's spirit lives

Exile fights for free South Africa

If he returned home, he would be hanged. His crime--calling for economic sanctions against his homeland, South Africa.

Donald Woods, an escaped South African journalist, spoke at Illinois State University Nov. 2.

He spoke of his career, his life as a privileged white in the regime world famous for "apartheid" (separation of the races). And he spoke of the young Black man who changed his life--Steve Biko.

Biko was killed last year, dying in the back of a South African police van. For days afterwards, the country was shaken by riots and Black



Donald Woods, exiled South African journalist

uprisings--the country's majority was angered by their young leader's death. As Woods described it, "Youngsters of 12 or 13 or 14 were ready in Soweto (the large Black ghetto) to fight armored cars."

Biko was a personal friend of Woods', and it was this friendship which resulted in his leaving white South Africa.

Woods described Biko as "the greatest human being I have ever known. At age 26 he assumed the greatest magnitude as a politician, though forbidden to write a word, forbidden to be quoted, forbidden to speak to more than one person; dead or alive, Steve Biko's going to win over... He had to beat the system, the environment. A remarkable political achievement, he developed a nationwide following without being able to make a public statement."

After Biko's death, Woods, who had publicly condemned apartheid for 16 years in his newspaper columns, was convicted and sentenced to house arrest. Secretly he completed a biography of Biko, which was smuggled to London for publication.

It was during this period that Woods' youngest daughter, 5 years old, received a "gift" from a police agent in the mail. It was a t-shirt, coated with acid, which burnt her eyes and skin.

With his book completed, Woods' time in South Africa was limited.

Though under house arrest, he managed to evade the local police last New Year's Eve, and hitchhiked to the nearest African border, Lesotho. Meanwhile, his wife and children, pretending to take a trip to the beach, left the next day and met him there.

Arriving in London, he became an international figure and was met at the airport by hundreds of journalists. He attributes this publicity to the

fact that "usually it is a Black who runs out not a white, usually reporters not an editor, and rare for a family of 7."

Pointing to the future, Woods claimed that the moral obligation of the United States was "removal of the umbrella of diplomatic approval. Pull back the ambassador and cut off trade. Do what you did to Idi Amin's Uganda."

U.S. multi-national corporations presently have over \$100 billion invested in South Africa. Woods warned that unless the U.S. lives up to its stated principles, increasingly Blacks will move to a Marxist perspective, and the U.S. will be cut off from South Africa's gold, chrome, uranium, oil and diamond resources. A negotiated settlement now would stave off a Black/white civil war, a war he sees coming within 4-5 years, and a war which will have international consequences. He warned that such a war would cause splintering, hatred and division between whites and Blacks in this country.

Commenting on the present U.S. Government, Woods said that "it's confusing to me. The Carter Administration's commitment to human rights is a major advance, compared to Nixon and Ford, but it has yet to be implemented." He added that "Andrew Young is too conservative for Black South Africans. The U.N. veto cost him support."

He suggested that Americans continue to pressure the U.S. government, through urging elected representatives and the president to establish economic sanctions against South Africa. He also admonished Americans to live up to the ideals that this country was founded on, adding that Americans shouldn't "regard other George Washingtons as Marxist puppets."

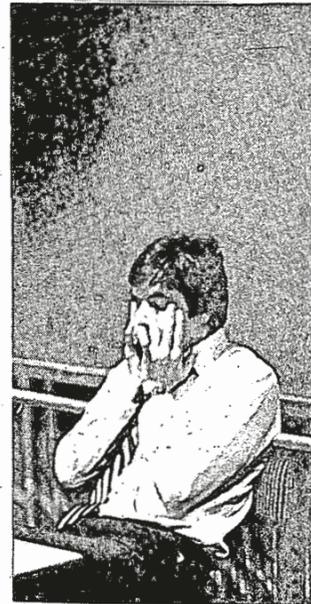
The future he painted looked grim, with time fast running out. The privileged white minority is not ready to give up its power, and only international pressure can prevent a bloody civil war in "a society which is eventually going to be bi-racial anyway."

--MgM

"I am here today to discuss with you the complexity of the problems. I'm equally concerned..."

So began Gert Grobler, a representative of the South African consulate, replying at Illinois State University on Nov. 3 to the previous evening's presentation by Donald Woods, an escaped South African journalist who faces the death penalty for encouraging economic sanctions against South Africa.

To welcome Grobler to campus was a large and angry contingent of students and supporters, dominated by students from Black Africa.



"Oh, No! Not another community united in solidarity against racism and apartheid!" thinks Mr. Gert Grobler of the South African consulate as he prepares to face his angry ISU audience.

Grobler attempted to convey "his side" of the South African problem, and to reply with the official stance of his government. Rarely, however, did he complete a statement without being met by the taunts and jeers of the angry audience, many of whom had heard Woods the

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Apartheid!

previous evening. "He's been telling pure lies," said one angry African student. "The only reason he came here is because Don Woods came and exposed the situation in South Africa."

Grobler proudly told his story, the story of an Afrikaner, those early Dutch settlers who came to South Africa, and until today, along with the more recent British colonialists, dominate the country's economic and political activities, to the exclusion of the Black majority.

"I'm an Afrikaner," began Mr. Grobler, "my family sailed to South Africa at the same time as

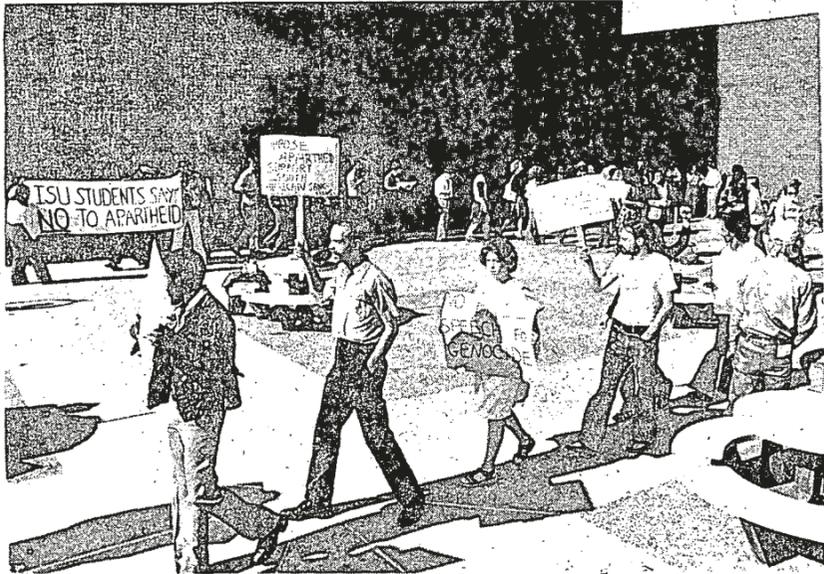
"This is not disputed by any African leader," continued Grobler to more jeers. "The Afrikanes fought the first war of liberation on the African continent. We are the only white people who flourished outside Europe without killing the native population."

Again, the crowd roared disapproval.

He continued, speaking of "racial justice," condemning apartheid, calling for more time. He tried to compare South Africa with the American South of 30 years ago.

Soweto, the large black ghetto. It means laboring in diamond mines and factories, then nightly being shuttled home to isolated slums. It means that any attempt to escape is met with possible death, police harassment and prison islands. It means pass books, I.D. cards and constant surveillance.

South Africa to them is not a small problem on the continent's bottom. It means a large industrial giant, supported and bolstered by the Western powers. It means a country which



A large contingent of ISU students and community residents wait to make it perfectly clear to Mr. Gert Grobler of the South African consulate that apartheid is not welcome here.

your pilgrim fathers. The whites in South Africa have an historic and moral..."

"Moral? What do you mean by moral?" The crowd raged, and it was at least three minutes before Grobler could speak again.

"We have as much right to be in South Africa as the white people in this country."

"Yeah. None," and a roar of laughter went up from the audience.

But there is nothing he can say that the angry audience will accept. And there are other things which he doesn't mention.

Things that the audience knows all too well of, things which the Black Africans present see not as a distant threat, but as a real and a daily problem in their homelands.

To them, South Africa is more than a misunderstood country. It is the home of

probably has the capability of nuclear attack. It means the last entrenched stronghold of the colonial regimes ousted from the rest of Africa 15-20 years ago.

Humanity at Stake

As Desmond, an African student said, "The people, Black and white, Chinese and Indian, are rejecting the South African government. People came here today to protest the inhumanities protected by this regime. Humanity is at stake."

But Grobler, though sweating, continued, as if a practiced hand at being shouted down. When asked about economic sanctions, the Western weapon which would be the fatal blow to South Africa, he replied: "I don't foresee economic sanctions, because the United States, Germany and Great Britain have tremendous investments in South Africa. If the Americans decide to pull out, they can afford to, but Great Britain and West Germany cannot. And then the Japanese will move in."

This thinking was exactly what Donald Woods had warned about the previous evening. He accused the average white South African of indulging in "wishful thinking. They believe they have so much gold, diamonds, uranium, that the West will bail them out of any problems they get into. They do not realize that the West dare not bail out South Africa, for then it will kiss good-bye to the entire African continent with its immense resources."

Grobler came to ISU, speaking of complexities, of taking time to understand the embattled white regime. But to his audience there is no complexity in oppression, the problem is perfectly clear. And as Donald Woods warned, unless changes come soon, South Africa will be plunged into bloody civil war.

The possibility was perfectly clear in ISU's Founder's Suite.

--MgM



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MEG informer worked for Canton crisis line

While working as a MEG informer in the Spring of 1978, Diane Harper also worked for Canton's Hotline, a volunteer-staffed crisis line similar to Bloomington-Normal's PATH. She may still be working for Hotline. Harper was named as MEG's Confidential Source #157 in last month's Post-Amerikan.

As a Hotline volunteer, Diane Harper handled calls from people having all sorts of problems--potential suicides, rape victims, unwanted pregnancies, legal problems, marital conflict, and more.

She also handled calls from people who had drug problems. "She was definitely in a position to find out about people's drug use," a former volunteer told the Post-Amerikan.

As a Hotline volunteer, Diane Harper was supposed to keep information confidential. But as a MEG informer, Diane Harper was supposed to keep her ears open and pass on information to MEG about who was doing and selling drugs.

According to the former Hotline volunteer, Diane Harper admitted being a MEG informer, and even confided the name of one person she was supposed to set up. That person was busted by MEG a few months later.

Believing that a MEG informer should not work on Hotline, the former volunteer and another volunteer talked

to Hotline's Director, Barb Mason. When Mason defended letting a MEG informer staff Hotline, the two volunteers quit in protest. That was in the spring of 1978. Harper had already worked for Hotline three months. In June, 1978, the busts Harper had been working on came down, and her targets were arrested.



Pictured is Diane Harper, a MEG informer who also worked for the Canton crisis line.

We don't know if Harper is continuing to work as a MEG informer, nor do we know if she still works for Canton's Hotline.

When asked if Diane Harper presently worked for Hotline, Director Barb Mason told the Post-Amerikan that the information was confidential. Mason also told the Post that she didn't see any problem with allowing a police agent to also work as a Hotline volunteer. Mason also said she had never heard of Diane Harper.

Fortunately, a self-confessed MEG informer would not be working at PATH, Bloomington-Normal's 24-hour crisis phone line. When asked about how PATH would view hiring a MEG informer, PATH Director Gay Evans said "We do everything we can to screen out volunteers who could create situations which might harm our clients."

It is possible that Diane Harper never violated the confidentiality expected of crisis line volunteers, and that MEG may not have gained any information from their informer's Hotline work. But it is also possible that unsuspecting people, in the midst of their personal crises, spilled out their guts to what they thought was a concerned, confidential counselor--when they were really talking into the ears of MEG's secret police intelligence network.

--Mark Silverstein

It's not legalization, but...

NORML works for pot decriminalization

On October 23, Bill Craven from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) spoke to a small crowd at ISU's Union Auditorium. NORML is the most active group in Illinois that is currently trying to change the marijuana laws.

NORML is proposing that marijuana be decriminalized, with provision for a \$100 maximum fine. There are many differences between decriminalization and legalization.

NORML feels that the most important issue is that possession of marijuana is now a criminal offense. "We plan to fight for the sale of marijuana, but not at the expense of decriminalization," Craven said. NORML feels that decriminalization is the

best we can do in this state for a number of years. NORML also officially discourages the use of all recreational drugs.

If marijuana is merely decriminalized, it will still be illegal to grow or sell it. The United States imports approximately \$7 billion dollars worth of marijuana from Colombia alone. In the last five years an ounce of reefer has gone from \$15 to \$35 and up, and the quality is not as good. The extra money is not going to the farmers in Colombia. It is going to the foreign underground crime syndicate.

There are many small farmers in this country who are struggling to make ends meet. By opening up a new cash crop for cultivation, legalization of marijuana would help these small farmers.

With legalization, individuals could grow their own pot, too.

NORML says Illinois can get marijuana decriminalized by 1979 if we work in our local legislative districts--then we can work towards getting the right to grow our own.

But I think this will be really hard if we settle for decriminalization instead of legalization. In 1976, California decriminalized marijuana. This year a bill proposing the right to grow three marijuana plants was vetoed immediately.

The people supporting decriminalization also have different tactics than the people working for legalization. NORML sees itself as a middle-of-the-road type organization. They are really sold on the legislative process. The people for legalization are doing some legislative work also, but not actively in Illinois.

Legalization advocates seem more interested in public demonstrations than private lobbying. This year smoke-ins were staged throughout the country, many of them on the lawns of state capital buildings.

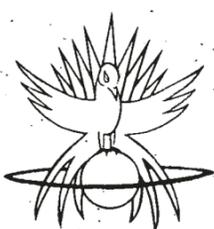
NORML feels these smoke-ins cause more harm than good to the marijuana issue. "NORML is not interested in decriminalization just because it will make life easier for those who like to get high," said NORML's Bill Craven. In contrast, pro-legalization people see that people like to get high, and see nothing wrong with it, since marijuana is safer than currently-legal drugs like tobacco and alcohol.

Craven had some interesting views on narcotics agents and people who snitch on their friends. I asked him about a benefit concert for NORML which featured Gregg Allman (who turned in a number of people to "save his own skin"). Craven said that Allman is sorry now and wants to help out the people he turned in. Craven also said, "It is important for reasons of privacy to remove the presence of threatened, threatening narcs. But the use of narcotics agents has its place, although the Left might not believe it. Narcs are important in curbing truly dangerous drugs."

Whether you support decriminalization or legalization is up to you. Please support one of them. The marijuana laws must be changed. One group that is working towards legalization is called CAMP (Coalition for the Abolition of Marijuana Prohibition). Their address is PO Box 53265, Atlanta, Georgia 30355.

--Susan O'Neal

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Lie detector tests support charges against MEG

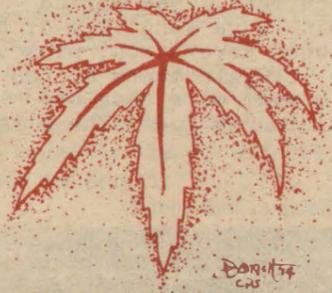
In October Mike Richardson, publisher of the Galesburg Free Voice, passed two lie detector tests about his charges that MEG Director Jerry LaGrow threatened to prosecute him on phony drug delivery charges unless Richardson quit printing photos of MEG agents.

On October 6, Richardson passed a polygraph test in which he denied making any of the five drug sales MEG claims Richardson made in early 1978.

On October 22, Richardson passed another polygraph test, this time bearing out Richardson's version of the telephone call he received from Jerry LaGrow on May 30, 1978. In that phone call, Richardson said, LaGrow announced that MEG had five drug sales on Richardson, but offered to "sit on" the charges if Richardson stopped printing photos of MEG agents in the Galesburg Free Voice.

The polygraph tests are part of the second investigation of LaGrow's attempted extortion and MEG's fabricated drug sale charges against Richardson. The first investigation, which ended with a whitewash early in August, was conducted by members of the MEG Board of Directors, who were responding to Richardson's written complaint of LaGrow's misconduct. Although the 3-person committee appointed by the MEG board was authorized to spend money on polygraph tests, they didn't bother. Instead, the committee took oral statements from LaGrow and Richardson, observed that both agreed that some sort of phone conversation occurred, and concluded that the two parties merely had different interpretations of what was said. (LaGrow claimed he was calling in order to get Richardson to

turn MEG informer.) The three-person committee conveniently forgot to investigate the heaviest of Richardson's charges--that either LaGrow lied about having police reports of alleged drug sales by Richardson, or else MEG had fabricated reports of Richardson's drug sales.



Dissatisfied with the MEG board's whitewash, Richardson wrote another letter of complaint, this time to the Department of Law Enforcement, the agency which supervises and funds MEG units. Last issue, the Post reported that the DLE had promised a new investigation.

At his first polygraph test Oct. 6, Richardson finally found out some of the details of the drug deliveries he supposedly made. All of the deliveries were allegedly made to MEG informer James Nelson, not to an actual MEG agent. Also, all five alleged sales were "turkey" sales. ("Turkey" sales are those in which people sell something they say is a controlled substance--like cocaine--when it's really something else--like sugar. These sales are still felonies.)

Richardson claimed that he never delivered any substance to informer James Nelson, and the polygraph supported Richardson

Is it possible that informer Nelson deliberately deceived MEG, producing powders and claiming that they were controlled substances he was buying from Richardson?

Richardson said that informer James Nelson was also supposed to take a polygraph test Oct. 6, but didn't show up.

Although the MEG informer may have decided to frame Richardson on his own, the evidence so far is not conclusive. MEG higher-ups, like field agents or even Director LaGrow himself, could easily have been in on the attempted frame-up, carefully setting the operation up so that they could blame the informer if things didn't work out right.

Jerry LaGrow should be forced to take a polygraph test himself, but we don't know whether that will happen.

Even if LaGrow successfully claims that he was duped by the informer, and that he didn't know that Richardson was being framed, the investigation is still turning up evidence of misconduct.

The MEG Director still has no business offering to "sit on" drug charges, whether real or phony, in return for self-censorship of the press.

Nor does LaGrow have any business using unaccompanied informers to make drug buys which become the basis for prosecution. Throughout MEG's history, the most frequent and most outrageous miscarriages of justice have come from the actions of MEG informers whose values, motives and lifestyles are far sleazier than most of the full-time agents. ●

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MEMPHIS TRAY LPB '78

Free people at the J

On Sunday, October 8, Bloomington's Lay-Z-J Saloon was transformed from an ordinary (but my favorite) bar/dance hall/hippie hangout to a party/festival/circus of free people and high spirits.

The occasion was a benefit concert for four members of our community who were busted at a peaceful demonstration (smoke-in) in Springfield last month (see last Post-Amerikan). They needed \$200.00 to pay back the wonderful folks who bailed them out of jail.

Well, I'd say they paid the community back in a whopping big way. Not only did they make enough cash to repay their bail, but with the help of New Age Music, an alternative local booking agency, they gave their friends an unforgettable party, too.

The J was magically altered before the benefit began by some Yippie elves from Chicago who strung up festive streamers from the rafters and hung colorful banners behind the stage. One banner read, "Free the Heads, Jail the feds." The other was a New Nation Flag, a pot leaf across a red star on a black field. (Some of our heads were magically altered by these elves, too, which contributed highly to the general euphoria of the evening.)

I've never seen the J like it was that night. We were hippies, yippies, freaks, and crazies, stomping our feet and jumping up and down to the very dancable music provided by Dallas McGee. We were clowns in satin shorts, bright-colored tights, and grease paint. We wore funny hats and funny glasses; we wore bogus badges claiming we were anything from Springfield cops to Captain Nuclear. With masks and bells and tie-dye, we were a wild, crazy crowd!

There was onstage anarchy between the band's sets. The "H.E.Y. Y.O.U." Improv. Theatre Troupe did a guerrilla

theatre scene re-enacting the Springfield Bust, which ended with all the bustees singing:

"Reefer in the cell, Reefer in the cell
We're stoned incarcerated.
There's reefer in the cell."

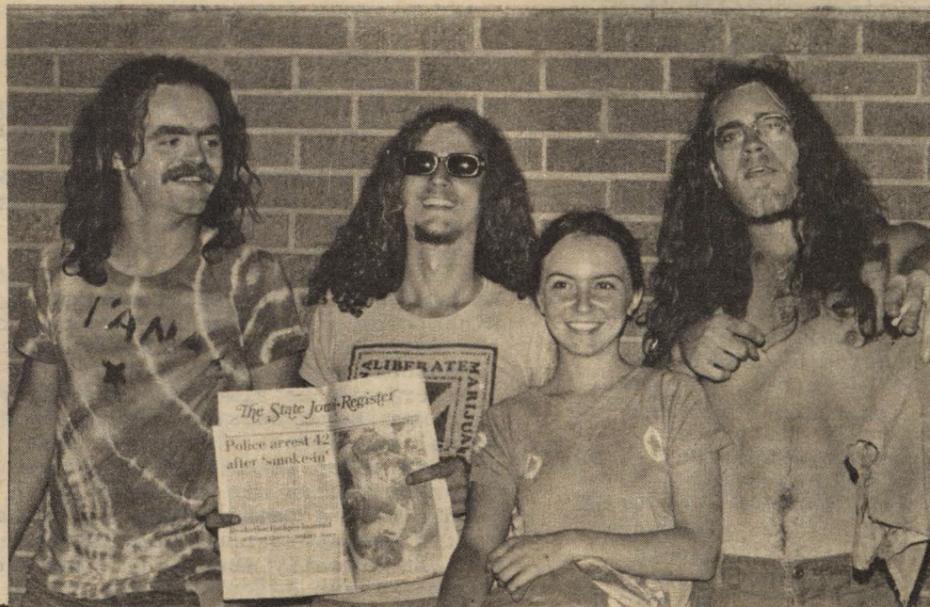
Cochise the masked marvel, one of the bust's victims, expressed heartfelt thanks to all the folks there, who were donating their cover charges to the bail repayment. New Mexico Yipster Cabin Lance sang some of his own tunes about Revolution, plus a few all-purpose struggle tunes by Bob Dylan, which made more than one radical exclaim "My god! The Sixties are back!"

Susan, a tiny woman with a huge commitment, talked about stopping nuclear power and led us in a spirited "No Nukes" chant. A yippie candidate for sheriff of Sangamon county took the mike and told us we had to concentrate on getting the "pigs off our asses."

Anyone who wanted to say anything bad enough just got up on stage and said it. It was totally unpredictable and very exciting.

The benefit concert turned out to be a joyous celebration, and left most everyone feeling warmth and community solidarity. More than one Chicago Yippie told us in amazement, "You guys sure know how to have a good time here in Bloomington-Normal. We could never

cont. →



Above (hopefully) is the photo that didn't get printed last issue with the story "Unwashed hippies stage early morning bail-in." The four Bloomington folks we bailed out of the Springfield jail display glee, jubilation, mirth, and extreme spaciness.

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

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

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Free people continued

do this in the city."

There are more community benefits in the making. One was held for NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) on Monday, Oct. 23, and there will be one for Prairie Alliance on Sunday, Nov. 12. For more information on upcoming events, call Dennis de Bourbon at New Age Music (828-7724). Come on out for an incomparably good time at the Lay-Z-J, and experience what joyful struggle is all about. See you there!

And on behalf of all my busted comrade comrades, who I love a lot, thank you, Bloomington-Normal lefties, for making such a great party. This is a fine community. ●

--Isis Equinox
DLF

Sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll

Post-Amerikan page 9

On October 1st, Madison, Wisconsin, hosted a smoke-in on the capitol lawn. Even though I had heard Madison was a hip community, I was a bit paranoid after attending the Springfield smoke-in, where the cops attacked and took forty of us to jail. As it turned out, there was no reason to fear. The state of Wisconsin let us have one hell of a party on their property, and, as far as I know, there were no arrests.

I arrived at the capitol at 10:30 am and the PA system was already set up. What organization!! Since I was early, I went out and got my coffee and religion and came back at noon. Live rock and-roll could be heard from blocks around and it was free! All bad! There were many people there-- good vibes. The music was great. Free joints were thrown at the crowd like candy at a parade. No sex, who cares? ●

--Garbanzo



Leftovers on the front burner

There is a coalition forming among the Bloomington-Normal alternative community, which is fondly called Leftovers. They are the same people who brought you the Smoke-in Benefit Party, the NORML Benefit Concert, and the Divinyl Madness Anniversary Boogie. They are also the same folks who are putting together the Prairie Alliance/Karen Silkwood Memorial Benefit, to be held on Nov. 12.

Leftovers is basically an open forum for people with common goals and ideals. The bi-monthly meetings provide a chance for these people to brainstorm, pool resources, and exchange information. As Dennis deBourbon, one of the chief instigators of Leftovers, pointed out, there's a lot of reinforcement to be gained from hearing a large group of people say they agree with your vision. He believes it helps you gain the strength to apply yourself.

Leftovers is an organization (of sorts) dedicated to building community solidarity and a strong spirit. One of their main projects is monthly benefit concerts and open community party scenes. Some of the other positive results of these Leftovers meetings have been the formation (of sorts) of a guerilla theatre troupe and the organization of a community calendar. The troupe performed at the Smoke-in Benefit, and will hopefully put on a little entertainment for the Prairie Alliance benefit as well. The community calendar is an attempt to keep track of what's going on all across the progressive community. Hopefully, it will aid people in planning events so that they don't conflict with other happenings. It's also real neat to have a handy reference to what's going on.

Right now, there's only one copy of the calendar, though. It's in the capable hands of Dennis deBourbon, and you can add to it or find out about it by calling him at New Age Music (828-7724). Perhaps, if there's energy for it in the future, Leftovers can print and distribute copies of this monthly calendar. In fact with community solidarity there's not much we can't do.

If this sounds new, exciting, and-ahem-revolutionary to you, you can join the fun by coming to the next Leftovers meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 7pm in the New Age Music office. Call deBourbon for more details, and remember- A community united in solidarity cannot be infiltrated. ●

EAT THE RICH!

Amanda Ziller

Community News

SMALL CHANGES AT SMALL CHANGES

For those of you who haven't been in Small Changes Bookstore recently, there's been lots of (small) changes happenin' lately.

With some help from our friends and lots of pounding and kicking we tore down the wall to the back room. The extra space gives us a more comfortable sitting area where folks can rest, read, or catch up on the latest news.

Also, there's a new sign on the window painted by Laura, a new magazine rack soon to be stocked with a bunch of new magazines (along with those we already carry) and a new event--a clothing exchange where you can trade some of your tired old clothes for some new and different ones--all for free! And, last but not least, we have a new woman in our collective, Julie.

Holly Near's latest album, Imagine My Surprise, is just being released and should be at Small Changes around November 15. Currently in stock are such notables as Chris Williamson's new release, Live Dream and Terese Edell's great album, From Women's Faces.

November 10 Small Changes will have

a two-year anniversary celebration. Everybody's welcome to come and visit any time from 10-5:30. We'll even have some munchies! ●

S.C.C.



Men's Potlucks

For anti-sexist men in the community there are now monthly potlucks. The next one is going to be at Rod's house, upstairs at 610 W. Market, on Sunday Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. These are informal gatherings for men to get together to eat and talk. For more info you can call Bob at 452-5852, Michael at 828-8988, or Jack or Chris at 828-6935. ●

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The following are excerpts taken from an advertisement promoting a Financial Management Associates, Inc., new book: Why Sons of Bitches Succeed and Nice Guys Fail in Small Business:

1. It's true! in today's instant gratification society, where everyone demands all the good things of life right now from someone else's pocket, the only way a small business man can survive is with this motto: "Yea though I walk through the valley of death, I shall fear no evil, for I am the meanest son of a bitch in the valley."

2. Our new book, "Why Son's of Bitches Succeed and Nice Guys Fail in a Small Business" proves it. It has been put together by confidential interviews with small business men who turned floundering small businesses into great successes by becoming dedicated SOB's.

3. In Chapter Two we will show you how to screw your employees first (before they screw you) - how to keep them smiling on low pay - how to maneuver them into low-pay jobs they are afraid to walk away from - how to hire and fire so you always make money.

4. In Chapter Three we will tell you how to get your banker by the balls so you can control the vaults. The way to turn a hard-nosed, cold-eyed, tight-fisted bastard into a pussycat who will fill your pockets with the bank's money whenever you want it.

5. In Chapter Four you will learn how to be a first-class son of a bitch while dealing with second and third class SOB's, the bureaucrats and their little Hitlers. You will discover how to win every ass-kicking contest you get into with them every step of the way.

6. In Chapter Eight you will learn how to squeeze your competitors dry. How to play the game the way the Rockefellers, IBMs, General Motors and other big boys play it - to win! With the SOB techniques in this chapter you can bury the competition and laugh all the way to the bank.

7. In Chapter Ten you will learn how to give them the finger, chapter by chapter, if a business fails. How to get out of trouble using bankruptcy laws to cover your tracks and save your ass and your assets.

8. Every small business man needs this book. Even the nice guys, to protect themselves against the SOB's.

Five years ago in the Post

Volume 2, Number 7 put us back in the swing of things, with the rich robbing the poor, the cops bruising the people, and a landlord ripping off a tenant.

The first story tells how Kroger and K-Mart forced the Purity Baking Company discount bread store to raise their milk prices twenty cents. Kroger and K-Mart sold milk for \$1.19 too. Threatened with losing some big orders, Purity

raised the price. Unfortunately, the outlet was in a neighborhood where many poor and elderly people would really miss the cheap milk prices.

A Bloomington woman got bruised when she tried to refuse to let police enter her home without a search warrant. The police shoved her out of the way roughly, throwing her against a banister, and came in to search anyway. Later, the police chief defended the warrantless search, saying that



if the officer has good reason to believe that a warrant is out for someone and that that someone is in a certain house, they can enter and look for the fugitive without a warrant. But, the Post asked, how is the resident supposed to know whether she's legally standing up for her rights or illegally interfering with an arrest?

A Post reporter interviewed a tenant of Al Greiman, who owned the apartments at 807 and 809 N. Fell in Normal. She was suing Greiman. She'd been shown a model apartment that in no way corresponded with the apartment Greiman put her in, although he assured her that her apartment would be the same as the model. She also found out that she was paying \$10 a month more rent than her roommate, for exactly the same thing, and she'd signed a bogus lease saying that the tenant couldn't take the landlord to court, no matter what.

Volume 2, Number 8, which came out early in December, featured an article headlined "Youths' Evening Stroll Ends in Horror" (I bet you thought we had sensational headlines now). The youths of the title were two teenagers who, coming upon a loose parking meter in downtown Bloomington one night, naturally wiggled it to see how loose it was. Two squad cars converged on them; the police threw them against a store window and frisked them; they found a roach in the pocket of one of the youth, and took both of them to jail. The Post article explains that the search was illegal, since even under the Stop and Frisk Law, the police are only supposed to pat their victims down for weapons. If they don't feel anything that could be a weapon, they aren't even supposed to look inside the victim's pockets. Did the cops think the kids were going to whack them over the head with a roach?

--Phoëbe Caulfield

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Man hits club with ear while 'resisting arrest'

The yawning gap between police reports of an incident and people's reports of the same occurrence came to our attention again last month.

Dan Glaser came by to show Post folks the injuries he received at the hands of sheriff's police on October 1. He had a bruised ankle and nine stitches in his left ear.

The Pantagraph, repeating the information on the police reports, said that "Glaser swung at Sgt. David Kistner while the officer was attempting to make the arrest."

According to Glaser, though, the sheriff's police came to a friend's house to arrest him, grabbed him and threw him against the cop car, twisting his little finger and kicking his ankle, and commanded, "Spread 'em!"

Glaser had just had a cast removed from his foot, which was broken and still not completely healed. When Kistner kicked his ankle, Glaser jerked with the pain, and was hit on the left ear with a billy club.



Glaser says that the police violence was unnecessary from the first: he was in front of his neighbor's house working on his wife's car, not doing anything threatening, when they came to get him.

The Pantagraph story also reports that at the county jail, "the county medic advised he (Glaser) be checked out at St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center for a mark on one of his ears, police said."

Glaser, on the other hand, says that the deputy at the county jail threw a washrag at him in his cell and said, "Here, clean it up." Glaser refused, saying that he wanted the injury to show when he appeared before a judge.

That's when they decided to send him to the hospital, for a "mark" that turned out to be a gash requiring nine stitches.

Glaser's involuntary reaction to pain when the sheriff's cop kicked him was the deed that earned him a "resisting arrest" charge.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Equal opportunity a MYTH for the handicapped

Does an equal opportunity employer (EOE) actually exist in Bloomington-Normal? Not when it comes to hiring the handicapped. Almost any disabled person will gladly work a regular job, but no one in this community wants to give them a chance. Not even the government, it seems.

Ken Carny was born legally blind, but with 25% of his vision left, can function as well as most of us. He can read, write, fix his car, and do almost anything you and I can; but even though he graduated from U-High with a B average no one seems to be able to give him a job. A handicapped person just doesn't seem to have a chance to support themselves in Bloomington-Normal.

In Sept. 1977, Ken finally got his first real job and loved it. He worked for Corporate Cleaners at State Farm making \$2.65 an hour, not much to support two people on! But Ken said that the low pay didn't make any difference to him. Instead of getting a handout, like he'd always been forced to do, he was working and functioning along with everyone else.

To most employees at Corporate Cleaners, this was a parttime job, but to Ken this job was all that he and his wife had to live on. This \$2.65 an hour put food on the table, clothes on their backs, and most of all gave them a sense of pride and selfworth. Someone had finally given him a chance.

People in Ken's work area complimented him on his work there. He got along well with everyone and on several occasions worked overtime when they needed him. He liked working there and made sure he always did a good job, but on June 1, 1978 he was fired. Sue Mortinson, his immediated supervisor, informed him that they had to let him go because he'd cut his finger on a staple the night before. Ken feels that she used this minor accident to fire him, because he was handicapped.

The reason Ken was given then, quite commonly given to handicapped people, was that their insurance rates would rise. Does a tetanus shot cost that much? Even though he'd always done good work there, Sue said that if he could see a little better he wouldn't have cut his finger. Ken said, "I don't think it was right for them to take

my job away from me for something that happens everyday! I think it was a sneaky way of getting rid of me, because I was handicapped." The usual procedure at C.C. when an employee is in trouble is to appeal it to a higher supervisor. When Ken tried to appeal this, he was turned down cold. He was told not to be bitter and that it was all because of insurance rates.

Ken says, "I was let down when I tried to get help." Both he and his wife contacted the Chamber of Commerce, Dept. of Labor, Unemployment Office, wrote Congressmen, and DVR. He's only heard from one of these people since this incident in June. The unemployment office keeps losing his forms and continually accuses him of not reporting his status to them. He and his wife talked to someone at Eureka about an open position and he was told to go to the Unemployment Office and get an interview card. At the Unemployment Office, Ken was told they couldn't give him one, and then proceeded to give a card for the same position to

the person behind him in line. When his wife complained, they just laughed and didn't seem to offer any explanation or help.

Ken is getting more and more discouraged and ready to give up on the system altogether. He just wants to work, and this community seems to be saying that he can't! Ken feels like he's just existing from day to day. Everywhere he's put in applications, even Mennonite Hospital, has told him that they can't hire him because it would raise their insurance rates. Ken says that EOE is just an adjective that makes the people at the top feel good. EOE is just words unless someone in this community will put it into action. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, handicapped persons who are qualified for a job must not be discriminated against! Ken's rights are being violated; won't someone give him a chance to maintain a normal life style? Where are the Equal Opportunity Employers? Do they really exist?

--Vivan Green

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Albe Arteman

CIVIC CENTER: "A"

City officials want to build an \$8 million government-owned motel in Bloomington.

The plan, for what's been called a civic center but is really a convention center, includes one large meeting room, six smaller meeting rooms, a restaurant, an "entertainment lounge" (a classy bar), and a pub in addition to 220 motel rooms.

Consultants also recommended an indoor courtyard with a swimming pool, saunas, a whirlpool, barber and beauty shops, a gift shop, a game room and a putting green.

As City Manager William Vail candidly says, the city wants to build "a typical roadside motel with about three times the normal meeting room capacity."

The idea, which is about a year old, is to create a profitable business that would, in about 10 years or so, be able to support money-losing facilities like a large ice-skating rink.

The scheme's mind-boggling, but so far it's fairly simple. Unfortunately, now I've got to explain how it's supposed to work--where the money would come from if the center were to be built. Then I can say something about the controversies surrounding the center: where it's going to be built (on the east side) and what its effects on our community might be.

This scheme has its roots in a state law called the Metropolitan Civic Center Support Act, and that's why this motel is being called a civic center. The state law offers state money, from the horse-racing tax, to cities that want to build civic centers.

Another law, called the Bloomington Civic Center Authority Act, gives the city until Nov. 15 to set up an Authority which would own the civic center. It's this law which specifically allows the construction of a government-owned motel.

Now, the Bloomington Civic Center Authority would get the state money, in this case \$6 million which would not have to be paid back.*

* What the state does is this: it issues revenue bonds which it sells to big financial institutions like banks. Then each year the legislature appropriates money from the horse-racing tax to pay off the bonds. If the legislature failed to appropriate the money, the banks that bought the bonds would be out of luck, but that's not likely to happen. In any case, the bonds only have to be repaid out of the horse-racing tax. Naturally, the state will pay the bankers more than the \$6 million it borrowed from them.

There's a catch here: the fund that pays out the state money is all gone. Unless the state legislature puts more horse-racing tax money in the fund, there will be no civic center-motel in Bloomington for at least 8 or 9 years.



OF COURSE I'M PROUD TO BUILD THIS CIVIC CENTER FOR MY COUNTRY...



OF COURSE I'M HAPPY TO HAVE A JOB, TO EARN A REGULAR SALARY...

NEVERTHELESS...



I'M NO EXPERT, BUT IF ALL THE MONEY WE ARE BURNING HERE TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO BE USED BY ONLY 0.2% OF MY COUNTRYMEN WAS PUT INTO SOMETHING THAT WOULD BENEFIT 99.8% INTO SOMETHING REALLY PRODUCTIVE...

... THEN MAYBE WE COULD AFFORD A CENTER LATER, USEFUL TO EVERYBODY...

There's another catch, too: the state will pay for only three-fourths of the cost of the project. So the Authority must come up with another \$2 million before the motel can be built.

City Manager Vail says there won't be any problem coming up with this \$2 million; there are a lot of ways to do it.

The plan, however, is to ask for bids from private developers. Some corporation, probably a motel chain like Sheraton or Hilton or Marriott, would loan the \$2 million to the Authority.

In addition, the motel chain would lease--which means manage--the government-owned convention center and motel for the Authority.

Also according to the present plan, the lease fees that Sheraton or Hilton would pay the Authority for the privilege of running its motel would be reduced for the first 10

years to pay off the \$2 million loan. After that the lease fees would increase a bunch, and the Authority would be rolling in money, money that could be used to build other things like the ice skating rink.

In any case, the Authority would be the sole owner of the motel.

The alert reader will notice that there's no mention of any taxes. That's because the plan doesn't call for any.

The state would hand over the \$6 million free of charge. The private developer would loan the other \$2 million, which it would get back from the profits of the motel. If the motel lost money, it would be tough tomatoes for the developer because the taxpayers of Bloomington wouldn't be obligated to pay anything.

Now, it is true that the Authority could issue a certain kind of bond (a general obligation bond) that is repaid from taxes, but it could not issue these bonds without a referendum. The voters of Bloomington could refuse to be taxed by voting against the bond issue.

It's also true that the motel would almost certainly make money. The city's consultants, who also do work for a whole horde of national motel chains, project a gross profit of \$660,000 in the motel's first year. By the third year, the gross profit would be over \$1 million per year.**

These profits are based on building the motel on land that is owned by Jack Snyder and is located south of Zayre's on the Belt-line.

And so we come to the controversy--over where the "civic center" should be built.

The city originally had two sites in mind, both proposed by local real estate barons. One was the Snyder site, the other was Prairie Traveler motel site just off Vernon across the Belt-line from the General Electric plant. That site is owned by Vernon Prenzler and Hundman Realty.

City officials later added a site near the parking garage in downtown Bloomington at the urging of Bloomington Unlimited, the lobbying arm of downtown business interests.

Actually, Vail admits that the city never had in mind anything other than an east-side site--simply because city officials wanted the motel-convention center to make a profit.

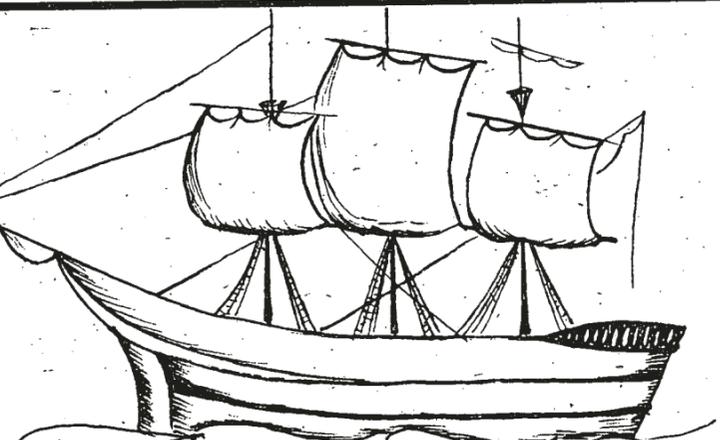
According to people who've made money off motels for a long time, the best place to build them is near major highways, near the airport, near a bunch of restaurants, near major shopping centers--in other words on Jack Snyder's land.

There's kind of a catch-22 here because part of the public argument in favor of building a civic center in Bloomington is that it would spark further development--new restaurants, retail businesses and so on.

The key to the city's thinking is that that, sure, a convention center downtown or on the west side probably

** Gross profit (as used in the consultant's study) is the amount of money that the center takes in (from renting rooms and selling meals and drinks) minus the amount it pays out (to employees and for supplies like food, sheets, etc.). Since most of the profit would come from renting motel rooms and since there are comparatively few motel rooms in Bloomington-Normal, the consultants are probably safe in predicting a big profit for the proposed government-owned motel.

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typical roadside motel"

would generate retail growth around it. But in the meantime, the motel-convention center would lose money--which means that some new tax would have to be imposed to subsidize the motel until it started making enough to support itself.

Of course, that wasn't what the city officials had in mind: they want a profit-making civic center.

On the other hand, the taxpayers don't want a new tax either; given a chance, the citizens of Bloomington would probably vote against any civic center tax.

On the third hand, some people have argued that the state civic center law was intended to help revitalize declining downtowns. Sadly, that isn't true.

Although some cities, like Peoria, are using their civic centers for the purpose of bolstering their downtowns, the law says nothing about that goal and the legislature never discussed it in those terms. In fact, the civic center law was an attempt

to get around the fact that the people of Illinois' cities were refusing to approve taxes to build civic centers.

So a sneaky law is being used to build a government-owned motel. Pretty sneaky, huh?

"It's probably not a totally good idea," told the Post. "But on the other hand, if the state or federal government is going to offer the money anyway, why shouldn't Bloomington or Normal or McLean County get it?"

"Whether you agree with the philosophy or not, if you don't play the game you're going to wind up at the bottom of the list."

I don't know. Can you feel sorry for the people who bet on horses and so pay the horse-racing tax?

Why shouldn't the city get in on the gravy? After all, the Civic Center Authority is going to hire somebody else to advertise the motel, to make the workers work hard.

And there are all those new jobs. So what if 50 or 60 more people have to drive across town to earn the minimum wage at a government-owned motel? I mean Sheraton's going to build its own motel anyway--somebody's going to do it and grab the profits. Why not a government agency?

Think of the construction. New restaurants on top of old restaurants. We'll probably have to widen the Belt-line to ten lanes. There's nothing better than growth, is there?

Myself, I favor worker control: let the workers run the motel. But who's going to loan \$2 million for a scheme like that?

Maybe after the \$2 million's paid back....

Or maybe the next civic center project will be of more benefit to the people of this community than the dollar bill. Maybe the profits will build a real community center. And maybe it won't be on the east side. •

--D. LeSeure

The Bloomington Civic Center or *The march of the white elephants*

Recently, while attending a local community meeting, the Civic Centre was mentioned, and immediately a low murmur rose from the floor.

"Civic Centre? What do we need that for?"

"It's just a real estate rip-off!"

"It'll be another white elephant."

Obviously, this boon to Bloomington from the State of Illinois was not breaking any popularity poll records. Throughout town, in donut shops, bars and bus stop discussions, I continued to hear the same thing--"What do we need that for?"

For most cynical tax-payers, the answer was obvious. The Civic Centre was not necessary, at the most it would be used by State Farm or GenTel for business meetings. Any benefit from the project would accrue to those concerned citizens pushing it, many of whom happen to be holding the prime real estate at the site.

And 8 million dollars is 8 million dollars, anyway you cut it.

Once the fortunes are made, the town will have a convention center. But what if it can't be filled?

Presently, developers and private interests are hot for the project, assuring tax-payers it will cost them nothing. But that doesn't speak of the hidden costs--the road wear, the new access roads, the increased police and fire protection the project will require--as if the east side "mall conglomerate" isn't tangled enough already.

ISU Competition

Bloomington-Normal already has one large "civic centre," the Illinois State University Union, which is already hard put to attract enough conventions.

A university official privately contended that the Civic Centre would be "devastating to the Union. We'd be competing for the same thing--medium-sized conventions. And unless we attract more soon, we'll have to raise student fees or get more money from the state."

He also added that ISU is exploring options with various motel chains to open a facility near the university. Competition then would be even

sharper. Can Bloomington-Normal support two "civic centres"?

Most people can accept the Civic Centre, if it's built downtown. But Civic Centre committee meetings ignore this possibility, saying that there's nothing in the law about reviving downtowns.

Downtown obviously has its drawbacks. Number 1, the prime property for a civic centre, the block of South Roosevelt and South Madison opposite the Law & Justice Center, belongs to Urban Renewal, not to those anxious for a real estate killing.

Downtown also has other problems: like businesses running eastward, too few "fancy" restaurants and not enough motel space. Yet empty parking garages, plenty of business space and downtown's accessibility cry for development.

Like It or Not

It looks like the Civic Centre will be built, whether the average citizens desire it or not. There'll be more traffic on the east side, perhaps more jobs, and a larger and larger community.

But no one is asking, "Do we want to be the fastest growing community in Illinois?" Will these new developments enrich the community, or will they destroy the friendly, small-town culture, dependent upon cheap gas and high mobility for economic survival?

And, as our area urbanizes, with new shopping malls in Normal and plenty of new businesses, local police grapple with a "rising crime rate"--murders, rapes, burglaries. "If you want urban life, you gotta expect urban problems," say police.

Plenty of other local possibilities await interest and action. Like a solid revival of downtown. Like development of the west side. Plenty of solid old homes beg for improvement, but new apartments keep spreading. And our rural areas continually fall into the hands of banks and absentee owners, small or family farmers having no chance, and accessibility to the land is more and more difficult. Spreading development further eastward only worsens this situation.

Yep, all ain't well on the ol' plantation. But then, soon you'll have a nice new, big ol' civic centre to complain in. If you can get there... •

--MgM

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Gay is the word--and it's good

This is going to be a rave review. Not only do I think Word Is Out is the best movie about gay people that I've ever seen, but I also put it right up there with Hearts and Minds and Harlan County USA as one of the most effective political documentaries ever made. If you didn't catch it on PBS a few weeks ago, you have to put it at the top of your "Must See" list.

What makes Word Is Out so good? Well, first of all, it's interesting. The twenty-six interviews are never tiresome because the gay men and women who tell their stories are funny, sad, dynamic, happy, angry, articulate, intelligent, warm, moving, and irresistibly appealing. There wasn't a single interview that didn't engage me or touch my emotions in some way or another. Not only that, but the interviews are effectively spliced together and interlaced with film clips of marches, gay performers, and the interviewees in a variety of casual situations. The visuals consistently enliven the talk.

Secondly, the film conveys a forceful political message without preaching a sermon. Like Hearts and Minds, Word Is Out contains such lively material and orders it in such an artful way that the doctrine doesn't limit or defeat the interest in any way.

To be sure, Word Is Out is propaganda. The filmmakers are gay, and they had no intention of presenting a "balanced" or "objective" view. All the people in the movie are positive about their gayness. They have struggled and been persecuted; many survived shock treatments, loss of jobs, and rejection of friends and family; and some, of course, went through periods of doubt and confusion. But every single one is certain that gay is good, and that being gay is right for them. Nancy puts it this way:

"For me, being a lesbian is being myself. Lesbianism has helped me realize that I am a human being, that what I think is valid, that what I am as a person is valid."

For David, falling in love with a man "meant that I was a real person. I wasn't a machine. I was using a part of me--feeling a part of me--that I'd never felt before. And the best part too: My capacity to love somebody."

These assertive testimonials make Word Is Out a rare work. Gay people have been appearing in novels and films a lot lately, but they often don't seem to get beyond their problems. The TV movie about Sgt. Matlovich centered on his conflict and painted a rather un-gay picture. Word Is Out is truly gay because it shows both the oppression and the joys of struggling against the oppression.

This documentary is also unusual in its handling of stereotypes. Many representations of gay people deal heavily in stereotypes or in easy reversals. Word Is Out doesn't avoid gay stereotypes or deny their germ of truth--it simply shows how woefully incomplete they are.



Many of the people interviewed exhibit stereotypical mannerisms. An actor named Roger, for instance, speaks in a rather high-pitched voice and gestures in what is usually termed a "swishy" manner. But the man's personality is so vital and charming, and his rap so humorous and perceptive that his "nelly" gestures and inflections seem inconsequential. As a matter of fact, his voice and hands do add to his total image, but they are such a superficial part that you're ashamed that you notice them as much as you do. Listen to Roger talk about his "weirdness" and try not to be charmed:

I feel a responsibility to the other weird people of the world to be a representative intelligent weird person so that the people who are made uncomfortable by the presence of us weird people, or who can't deal with us at all, will--not come to love us--but will know that it might be easier to relax and be a weird person, and only have an occasional brush with the powers that be . . . as opposed to living through the hell of being a weird person underneath, like we all are.

Word Is Out shatters stereotypical categories by showing people who are too complex to be categorized. The stereotypes won't hold them. A stunning example of such a person is Tede. Tede is a transvestite (he wears women's clothing), but

he's also an articulate, thoughtful human being. Why does Tede dress in drag? Here's his answer: "My wanting to wear women's clothes is representing something spiritual about me--that I'm female and male both at the same time." If you think he's kidding, consider his rap about clothes in general:

Clothes on one level are very superficial because we're all born naked and everything anyone wears at any time is drag. And drag--what you wear--is how you want people to react to you, or how you want to react to yourself maybe too. Like most men dress in very drab, rigid clothes that are very utilitarian and make them look like they are doing something important--whether it's work clothes or business clothes. Can you argue with that?

I think it was bold to include such a person as Tede. Word Is Out is not a timid production: it presents a positive view of gay life, but it doesn't gloss over controversial areas. In fact, the film forces you to accept behavior that you might otherwise question. A good example is in the presentation of George, a factory worker from San Francisco. The closing remarks of his interview are a defense of his promiscuity: "I've been told for twenty-five years that it's not a healthy thing to do what I've been doing for twenty-five years--and that is I have been having sex with people without getting emotionally involved with them. Why should I judge my life on what society expects of me? It's worked out all right for me and I'm not going to go bananas trying to satisfy everybody else."

These comments are strong in their own right, but they're even harder to object to since George has already told about his struggle to "come out" and accept his gayness. When he tells about being gay in the 50s, about putting his arms around his friends in a gay bar to sing "God Save Us Nelly Queens," he alternately cries and laughs. And his tears and his laughter, coming together in one strong emotion, tell you that this man has been there--he's learned to cope--he's paid his dues, and he can live any damn way he wants to.

Word Is Out is filled with so many touching moments and moving stories, that I'd like to tell you about them all. I'd like to tell you about Sally, the academic and ex-Christian, who's become a feminist and talks of lesbian separatism and says that "for a lesbian to love herself or another woman in a society that essentially hates women is really miraculous."

I'd like to tell you about Whitey, a woman who endured four years in a state hospital, while a teenager, and not only lived to tell about it but has managed to build her own cabin in the country, where she raises animals and lives happily with herself and her gay women neighbors.

I'd like to tell you about Harry and John, who met and fell in love when they were both around 50 years old and have lived together for 13 years and "have never known ecstasies and passions equivalent to the depth of our experience together." Or about Michael, the black athlete who doesn't like to fight. Or about Elsa, the 77-year-old poet, or about Pam and Rusty, the lesbian mothers who raise their children together, or about Pat, the former WAC who lived through the army inquisition when 500 women were given dishonorable discharges.

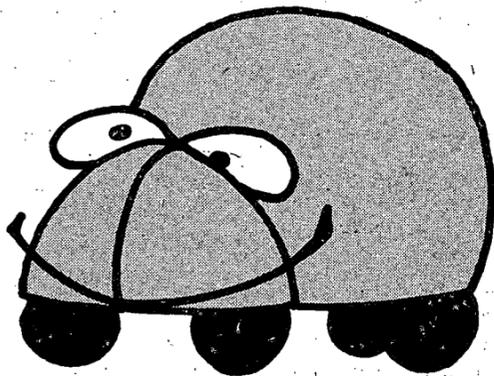
Well, I'd like to tell about them, but I won't. This review is probably too long already and can't begin to capture the spirit and life of the movie. That would be impossible. You'll just have to let the wonderful people of Word Is Out tell you for themselves. •

--Ferdydurke

Note: Word Is Out may be coming to Bloomington-Normal in the near future: there are tentative plans to bring it to ISU or elsewhere.

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Labor stereotypes

dominate FIST

It seems like Hollywood is discovering common people again. Having filled our lives with fantasies and suburban septic tanks, real everyday working people are again returning to the screen.

You can trace the subject from Henry Fonda in the "Grapes of Wrath" (1939) to Marlon Brando in "On the Waterfront" (1951), to, in recent years, films like "Bound for Glory," "Rocky" and "Alice Doesn't live Here Anymore." Rumors abound that Jane Fonda is working on a film about southern textile workers, and suddenly Hollywood has discovered reality. Almost.

In his most recent film, "F. I. S. T.," Sylvester Stallone, the star of "Rocky," again plays an ethnic, back-of-the-yards tough kid who can't talk right. Fighting against all odds and still playing clean, he struggles to the top. Except in "F. I. S. T.," Stallone's battle ground isn't a boxing ring--it's a union organizing drive. And on the way to the victory, Hollywood adds its usual tinsel.

He leaves the committee in a storm. Outside, his truckers cheer and scream at his appearance. Here is their man, the one who fights their fight, lives their life and understands their problems.

But that night, the final debt is taken, and Kovac gets shot and disappears. The film ends with a shot of a semi's bumper sticker, "Where's Johnny?"

Analogies to the Teamsters, Jimmy Hoffa and the Kefauver Senatorial Inquisition are obvious throughout the film.

In many ways, this film falls short. Unions are not built on one personality, but on a mass movement. Leaders are crucial, but not the whole story, and in this film the rank-and-file play a small, stereotyped supporting role, like manipulated pawns.

Like "Rocky," this film is another "Horatio Alger" tale, the traditional American-Hollywood drama (trauma?) of one individual against the



world, battling in this case not for profit, but for personal conviction and his class.

Issues and imagery of the American Labor Movement are raised, but rarely probed. Stereotype dominates. The Miami convention, the fat union bosses, and the militant organizer rising from the people are all here.

But unless one is sympathetic to labor or understands the strength and friendship of solidarity and ethnic ties, the film seems to fill all the stereotypes, picturing unions as Mafia territory populated by manipulated idealists.

Occasionally the solidarity of the rank-and-file glimmers through, and the true wisdom of common people. The ethnic neighborhood is well portrayed, with its tight-knit, mutually supportive people.

It's good that Hollywood is beginning to look at everyday life and everyday people. But there's not enough action and drama in the actual history of working people and their drive for basic human rights. False ploys and stereotypes are not necessary.

Emotionally this film is very satisfying, but intellectually and realistically it leaves much to be desired. ●

--MgM

The film opens in Cleveland in 1937 while the nation is mired in Depression. Hungry and desperate men crowd plant gates looking for work; the companies exploit the situation, forcing long hours at low wages.

Stallone plays a dock worker, Johnny Kovac, who leads a successful job action against an obnoxious foreman and wins. That night everyone celebrates in a neighborhood bar, but the next morning, the workers find themselves replaced and the foreman as obnoxious as ever.

On the streets, Kovac and friends drown their sorrows in beer. But Kovac has caught someone's eye. Carl Mauldin plays the struggling union president of F. I. S. T. (the Federation of Interstate Truckers). Impressed with Kovac's natural leadership, he offers him a job as an organizer.

With typical bravado, Kovac walks right into the truckstops and loading docks, trying to convince the over-the-roadsers that killing themselves for the company is not where it's at.

At first he meets catcalls and jeers, but soon his militant attitude and obvious sincerity wins the drivers, until a 100% strike is called against the industry giant, Consolidated Trucking.

Consolidated fights back with thugs, scabs, clubs and local police, murdering Carl Mauldin in the process. Kovac has to carry on alone. Not only is the company against him, but the International President of F. I. S. T., played by Peter Boyle, is trying to back-door an agreement with the company by rabble-rousing about "communist infiltration."

Kovac, desperate, turns to a boyhood friend, the neighborhood tough, and soon the strike is won with the help of firebombs and armed bullies.

Kovac continues organizing the Midwest, soon becoming a regional vice-president. But his neighborhood friends, like parasites, don't go away, tugging his every step and making secret deals.

Losing his idealistic organizing companions, Kovac is soon surrounded by yes-men from the Mafia. He soon replaces Boyle as International President, after threatening to expose his corruption.

Kovac, who started from an office in back of the parish church, now sits in a multi-million dollar glass-and-steel F. I. S. T. headquarters in Washington. His Mafia friends grab more, but to the rank-and-file trucker Kovac is still a true friend.

But Kovac has again caught someone's eye, this time a politically ambitious U.S. Senator concerned about "union corruption." He hauls the mafiosa before the Senate, and they all plead the fifth. He's ready to bring Kovac's idealistic boyhood friend and fellow organizer forward, but he's picked off before the hearing.

This leaves Kovac alone. Outside, truckers jam the capitol, shutting down the city. Kovac, always honest and feeling a victim of the senator's ambition, honestly answers questions, defending his truckers.

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Body hair not a political statement

Dear Post-Amerikan,

When I received my latest issue of the "Post," I sat down to read it and was naturally captivated by the far-out photograph on the back page. However, as I began to read Amanda Ziller's article, "Gone Today . . . Hair Tomorrow," my delight changed to shock and anger. What faulty reasoning! What off-the-wall logic! What crap!

I am a feminist, and have involved myself in feminist issues for several years. I also happen to shave my legs and armpits. Several of my friends do the same, several do not. I consider this a matter of personal choice and style, not a political statement. To equate the amount of hair one allows to grow on one's body with one's growth as a feminist is, I feel, a gross disservice to me and thousands of other women who prefer to

letters

shave. I certainly have far more relevant things to do with my women's group than compare armpits. Perhaps if Ms. Z's group has been reduced to this activity, they need to explore the possibility of expanding their horizons.

It also occurs to me that the last time I was in Bloomington, I saw several feminist friends who had cut great quantities of hair off their heads. Isn't that "unnatural" according to the reasoning in this article? I myself was a prisoner of long, troublesome hair for years, and recently committed the act of becoming "unhip" and went deep into the heart of enemy territory--a beauty parlor--and had a cut and frizz. It's the best favor I ever did for myself.

The point I'm trying to make is that individual freedom, in all matters, is very important to me. One of the reasons I have always supported the Post-Amerikan is your constant defense of that freedom. To print an article which insists that we all must be alike in our differences from straight society falls far below the standards usually present in your paper.

Love you still,
Pamela Sioux-Hogans

P. S. Men get to decide if they want beards or not and nobody gives them any s--t.

KARZ KILL!

Karz: that must be pumped with gas
Gas that costs money
(which I pay at the pump which I pay to make highwayz for more karz glut which I pay to cleanup oil spillz which I pay to cure my ills caused by karz smell and karz noise)

Money I get for my time
Time I sell to someone else
(it's not my own anymore)

Someone else who tells me what to do
(that makes me angry)
anger that I dull by consumption of blahblahblah
blah blah blah blahblah

For which I also pay
I also pay
which all break down
For which I also pay.

Spacedout superhighwayz dont touch the ground from coast to coast so monotonous I fall asleeep
eeEEEE
WATCHOUT A TRUCK!
Coulda wiped ME out!
(Crunching metal squeals, rips my flesh, bloodsquirts and bubbles, guts spill, --accident fantasies)
(for which I also pay)

Driving: stomach churns eyes dart.
KARZ: permanently embedded in aching back, hunched shoulders.

Goddam pedestrians plod, hold ME up. Go gettun. Boy!
(Move that wheel an inch too far, a second too long, and they're done for--violent fantasies)

Driving: got to be somewhere ELSE FAST.
It's not happening HERE. Cant be tied down, not NOW.
Maybe later.

impatience honks.
Anger hanks back.
Let's fight with these Machines!
Insurancemanz the promoter with his 10% and more

No More baby!

Driven.

--thanks to Bear

Proper Tied

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Slotky supported

At the risk of prolonging the "Saga of Slotky" I would like to take issue with several points made against him in the September and October issues. However, before I proceed I want it known that Dr. Slotky, has served me as my gynecologist for over 3 years, and I have always found him to be concerned, friendly and competent.

AL made the point that she had to wait four days to get an appointment with Dr. Slotky.

Whenever I have had any health problems that needed his attention, I have always been able to obtain an appointment the same day I called about my problem.

AL had owed Slotky \$10.00 for a long enough time that the bill had been turned over to a collection agency. She also didn't seem to think that health care and "business" go together.

I have not found Dr. Slotky's bills to be higher than those of other gynecologists in town. Also, I have never been in a position to pay the full amount owed for an appointment or exam, and I have never experienced any problems with him or his staff because of this. They have always been willing to explain the cost of each appointment and have never harassed or questioned me about this as long as I paid something toward my bill every month. Dr. Slotky is not in business (his being health care) to fill his spare time or for the hell of it. Let's face it, he (and all other doctors I know) practices to make money. I wonder how long AL would continue to provide service to an employer who decided not to pay her her salary.

If AL has problems dealing with Dr. Slotky's eastside office, the clients who populate it, and his fees, there is an alternative method of health care available through Planned Parenthood. (Dr. Slotky happens to be a director of Planned Parenthood.)

SFN attempted to make the point that she became pregnant using a diaphragm because it was inserted improperly and/or fitted improperly. A diaphragm is not a 100% effective method of birth control even when inserted and fitted properly. I have a friend who was told by her gynecologist that a diaphragm should be used only when one has it in mind to use abortion as a back-up method.

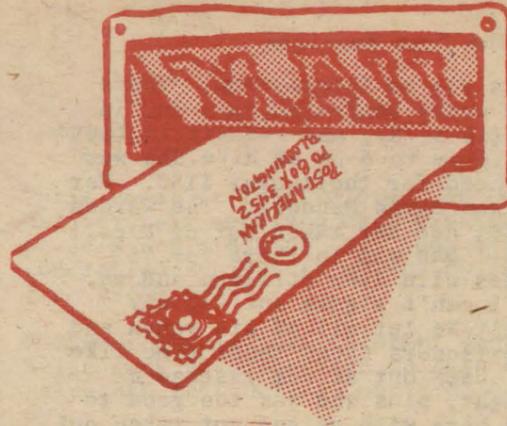
SFN stated that Slotky would not let her practice insertion of the diaphragm in the office and charged her for a check-up later.

If SFN had practiced and gotten it in correctly a time or two in the office, it would not mean that she was adept at insertion. After all, with a diaphragm, as with almost everything, "practice

makes perfect." Also, if she didn't like Dr. Slotky's method of health care, why did she continue to see him? As far as the extra charge is concerned, why didn't she inquire about it ahead of time? I have been to Dr. Slotky to have an IUD checked and a bladder infection diagnosed and was not charged either time.

I have attempted to point out that I have not had the experiences with Dr. Slotky's health care methods or attitude that these women said happened to them. I think that how well a patient and doctor get along depends on the personalities of the people involved. If one doesn't get along with a doctor, then don't go back to that doctor. However, just because the doctor involved doesn't have the same ideas about health care as the patient doesn't make the doctor incompetent or "a creep," it just means that that doctor is the wrong doctor for that person.

Donna McCormack •



We encourage you readers out there to write us letters. So go right ahead and write and we'll probably put it in the paper. If you don't want your letter published, please say so in the letter. We've also been known to turn letters into full-fledged articles. So if you have a problem, gripe, or think something is particularly neat, let us know.

No smoking rule draws sharp protest

Here's what happened the night I cut my arm. I don't remember what the date was.

About 9:00 that night, Rich K. & I were on Lock-up. Rich was taking a shower, and officer Tom Phares came in and told him that his time was up and to return to his cell. He did, and officer Phares asked if I wanted a shower. I told him no, but I had a note for him to give to Sgt. Rabbs, concerning this, I showed him the razor blade, he asked me what it was, so I held it up for him to see it better and told him it was a razor blade. He left and took the note to Sgt. Rabbs.

Around 15 minutes later, Sgt. Rabbs came back and asked me what my trouble was. I asked her if she got my note, and she said yes. Here's about what the note said:

Sgt. Rabbs:

Since I've been in this jail I've been extremely nervous and hyper, I think it's because of not being able to smoke. I am requesting that you either allow me to smoke or see about transferring me to a surrounding county jail where smoking is permitted. If neither request is granted I have a razor blade and will cut my arm up to protest your bull s**t no smoking rule. J.R.

She asked me if I actually did have a razor blade. I said yes and showed it to her. She said she couldn't let me smoke, and I couldn't be transferred to another jail, and that the no-smoking rule was made by the sheriff. I asked her to call the sheriff, and she said she couldn't bother him. She then told me to give her the razor blade. I told her no, and that I would keep it until I saw

the sheriff. She told me she couldn't let me keep it in my cell, and that if I didn't give it to her she would have to send the goons to get it. I told her I would not give it to her. She left. Approximately 10 minutes later, she came back with the goons, correctional officers--Tom Phares, Curtiss and Bill Emersoll. She asked me one more time to give it to her--I said no. She let the goons in, and they stood in front of my cell. Officer Phares got a mattress out of an empty cell and held it upright. Sgt. Rabbs opened my door, and Tom asked me if I was going to give it to them--I said no, so Tom rushed at me with the mattress, Curtiss & Bill were next to him. I slashed my forearm once, and the cut opened up 3 inches long and a half inch deep, and I cut it again inside the same cut making it about 3/4 to an inch deep, and I dropped the razor blade.

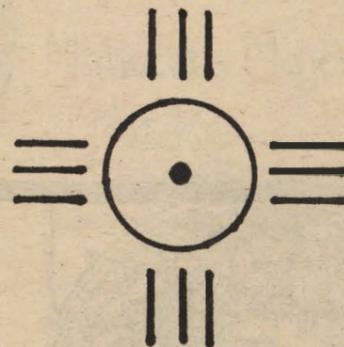
They put leg-irons & handcuffs on me and took me up front where the medic here put a bandage around my cut. The rescue squad arrived and took me to St. Joseph's hospital, where my cut required 16 stitches on the outside and I don't know how many on the inside.

About 2 days later, it was in the paper about me attempting suicide for a cigarette. I had no intentions of committing suicide. I was just trying to do something about letting us smoke in here. Also, in the same news article in the Pantagraph, it was quoted that warden Plante said we could smoke if we earned it--that was a complete lie. Right now, there's 3 trustees, and they're the only inmates who are allowed to smoke. Why should they be able to smoke and not everyone in here that chooses?

John Rogers •



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Them that's got, gets

To: The Post Amerikan

Post-Amerikan an page 18

Just a bit of information. There was a woman sentenced to 1 day in jail (10-3-78), and she was in there from 10 am to 6 pm at nite. She was sentenced for theft over \$150. Her name was Margo Mendoza. The warden Plante, had her taken out of K cell block. She was in there for 15 minutes with Jane Stillman and me. What I can't figure out is, why doesn't he let all of his women and men prisoners spend their time like her? Gets out at 6pm instead of midnight, plus she was too good to be in here with us and got taken out of the cellblock to spend her day partly in the processing cell, the hold over cell, but most of the day straightening books up in the library. I thought that was unfair to all of us here in McLean Co. Jail. What's fair for one is fair for all. That goes to show you money talks. Why does the warden make privileges for only some and ignore others? I wrote a letter asking to see him Aug 17th and have had no response yet.

Jane Stillman
Carol Beehn •

Still down

Dear Post Amerikan:

I recently moved to Bloomington which I really like as a town but it seems to me there's no trust amongst hip people. Knowing few people, my head has dried up a lot. Being poor my head has dried up even more. I have paid \$1 per toke from my neighbors (not joint, not bowl, TOKE). I have nice neighbors, don't I? Also imagine how high I've been since I've been here. I was in town 3 years ago; I look the same, hopefully I act the same. But what has happened? This town is not the same or I'm not the same. I'm inclined (of course) to think it's the town because I can go to other towns and people get the vibe and this old head is soaring again. Around here an unknown head will never die just keep his spirit alive and stored in his last bottle of MD 20-20.

Ben Down

P.S. All you people who are cynical about this letter can pull out your nice stash and say: "Country bumpkin, if you don't like it, leave." Maybe you can even get a bumper sticker that reads like that, but someday, somewhere, somebody will pop your big ego head like a balloon. Then you'll see there's people hurtin' in this world. •

Letters

Gay prisoner asks for support

Dear Friends,

Greetings from inside. I would like to thank you for all your support and concern in the past. I know it's been hard, or harder, on you supporters as on myself in prison.

I would still like to ask your continuing support in protest of the situation at hand against gay prisoners, and long time activists who are still in the gay struggle. I have 8 months for parole date, but after 7 years they are still trying to eliminate that by set-ups, forcing some dangerous issues on me.

Here at Memphis, I am presently in disciplinary lock-up without commissary, personal property or rights, privileges due to my not going to overcrowded cells. I have a single cell status and protection because of the threat to me. Several gay prisoners have been murdered the past year.

Officials have ignored my past records, and orders of the Department of Justice, and have waged a war against me and other gay brothers here. I have filed suit against the Bureau of Prisons in several areas. My attorney Mr. Jona Goldschmidt, 828(D) Main St., Robinson Center, Carbondale, Ill., (618)-457-0414, we expect to be winning damages from those suits.

I am also plaintiff in a class action suit against the Bureau of Prisons pertaining to gay publications and to M.C.C. Gay Church, as well as ACLU's mail suit. I have been attempting to help all other gay people and non-gay alike in legal awareness. On my release on parole I will be working with this issue as a para-legal.

The warden has threatened my transfer to U.S. Prison in Terre Haute, Ind., where I was assaulted in July 78 and where my life would be in danger from officials.

Please write!

Cathy Head, a local resident, is in detention, and is requesting correspondence from friends and Post-Amerikan readers.

Write her at this address:

Cathy Head
P.O./ 152
I.Y.C.--Du Page
Naperville, Ill.
60540

Yet I have only 8 months and, as a gay prisoner, I am not considered for minimum custody on work release as non-gay prisoners are.

The lock-up here should be considered deplorable, and extreme mental and physical torture should be exposed in court by the gay brothers in here and myself. As we will continue the struggle, we ask you to send your protest to Warden Hal R. Hopkins, Box 34550, Memphis F.C.I., Tenn., 38134, and Michael Quinlan, Executive Assistant, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington D.C. 20530.

You can get an update on the situation by calling attorney Jona Goldschmidt, or Sister Evelyn Ancilla, Convent of Transfiguration, 495 Albion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45246 (513-771-5291).

Any one wishing to contribute to the Gay Prisoners Defense Fund can send tax deductible to Attorney Jona Goldschmidt.

I would love learning from anyone wishing to write, remaining a gay brother in struggle with you for a world of united peoples,

John Gibbs
86976-132
Box 34550, Memphis
F.C.I., Tenn.
38134 •

Dear Eric San Juan

Dear Post:

On June 9, 1978 I sent you a letter asking, "Are microwave ovens safe?" Since then I have not received or noticed an answer in the Post. I would like one.

Thank you,
Eric San Juan
Age 12

Thanks for taking an interest in the Post. Unfortunately, we don't have any info on hand about microwave ovens. You could try looking the subject up in Consumer Reports at your library.

--the Post •



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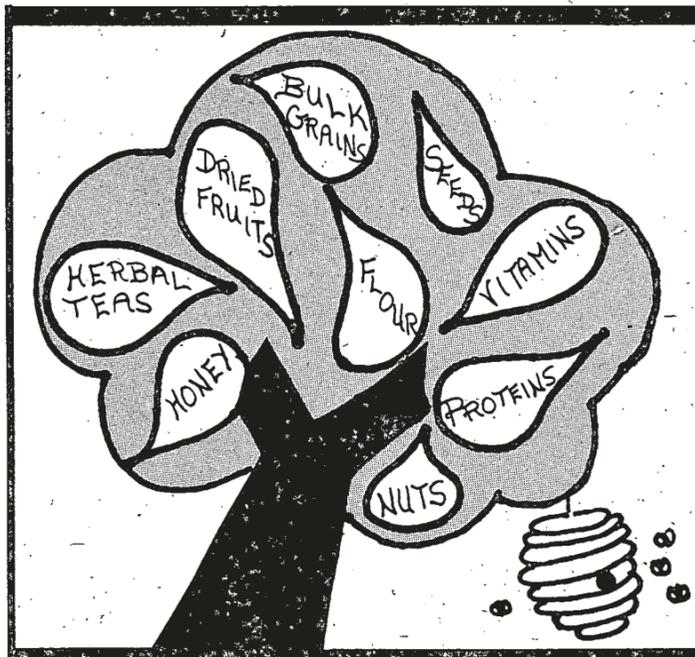
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Post-Amerikan page 19

Another serious, weighty Presidential decision

In one of the timelier acts of his administration, President Carter has granted official amnesty to Jefferson Davis, the late president of the confederacy.

Mr. Davis had been stripped of his citizenship over a century ago for his role in the unsuccessful Sunbelt rebellion against the union. Although the amnesty makes it theoretically possible for Jefferson Davis to hold office once again, Carter apparently regards him as no serious political threat.

--Berkeley Barb

Psychology serves the state

British psychologist Hans Eysenck, infamous for his racist theories, has constructed a test of political attitudes for the Indonesian regime of General Sumitro. This test, along with others, is being administered to the imprisoned revolutionaries who fought against Sukarno's right wing forces in 1965 to measure their "degree of Communist inclination."

Combined with police and intelligence records, the result is a computer-generated classification of security risk used to determine whether prisoners will be released. Local authorities will be informed of a prisoner's release since "the community must control their attitude... so (they) will not commit errors."

--adapted from Science for the People

NEWS BRIEFS

That's no zombie, that's my wife

According to studies reported by the New York Times and the Commission on Drug Abuse, approximately one out of six Americans takes some form of tranquilizer regularly. 70% of the tranquilizer users are women. There are far more prescription tranquilizer users in this country than there are illicit drug users. A recent editorial in the British medical journal Lancet predicted the "total tranquilization of the U.S. by the year 2000."

--Human Nature

Learning about racism first-hand

Jeanne Baum, a Native American woman, has been convicted of "educational neglect" for withdrawing her 12-year-old daughter from a mostly white New York school. Siba was withdrawn from school after a teacher made racist remarks on one of her papers and later to her in person. The Court is now trying to take Siba from her mother.

The Baums have lived on several reservations in the Midwest in order to avoid having Siba seized by police. They have been forced to move several times after law officers discovered their hiding places and started to harass them. This harassment has not weakened their determination to fight.

"Instead of frightening us off, it's radicalized us, made us more determined. To think-- a woman in a wheel chair-- a gray-haired grandmother and her 12-year-old daughter, could threaten them so much! The system's foundation must be very weak."

--F.P.S.

First impressions count

The U.S. Government and the Postal Service have joined together in an effort to tackle the rip-off enterprises that advertise in the backs of comic books. A spokesperson for the venture explained that, "A kid's first experience with the free enterprise system should be a positive one."

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Nuke congress at ISU

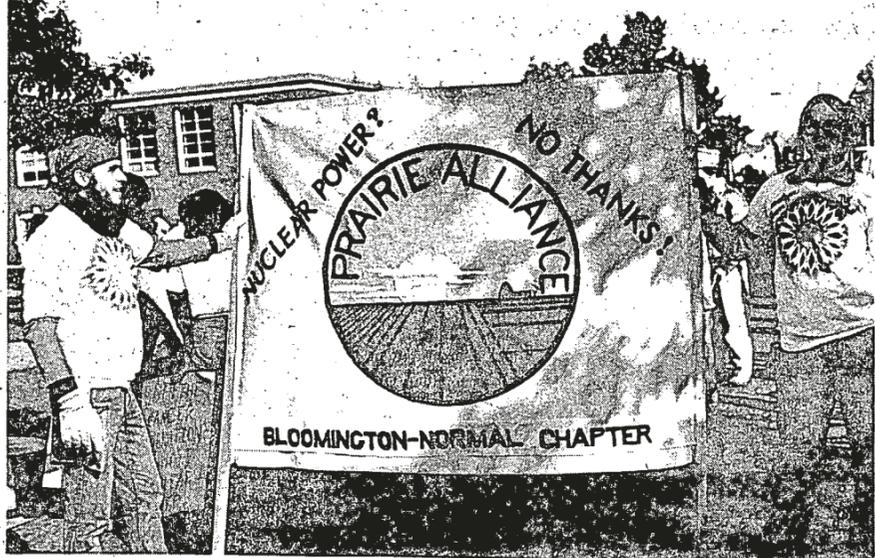
Have you ever been curious about the facts and figures concerning atomic power and its alternatives? Here is your chance.

A two-day regional gathering of anti-nuclear folks from around Illinois will take place at ISU Saturday and Sunday, November 18-19. There will be presentations, slide shows, films, discussion groups and distribution of resource materials. The purpose of the gathering is to educate the general membership of the Prairie Alliance about the pertinent facts of nuclear power in general and the Clinton power plant in particular. The facts are on our side -- we should be able to use them to our advantage. Please consider coming. It will be a good time, too, with food and fun mixed in. For information call Brian at 829-5195.

Now there is official reason to disbelieve the Rasmussen Report. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in a September 21 news release, reported on the findings of a seven-member independent assessment team that was looking into the credibility of the Rasmussen Report, which, you no doubt remember, is the report that says to watch out for falling meteorites, but you don't need to worry about atomic power plants.

to the invention and use of wrong statistical methods."

One criticism of the Rasmussen Report has always been that it ignores sabotage and natural disasters in its calculation of the probability of atomic accidents at the plant. What did the team have to say about that? "We are unconvinced of the correctness of the WASH-1400 conclusion that (fires, earthquakes and human accident initiation) contribute negligibly



Full of festivities and matching t-shirts, Prairie Alliance folks march in the ISU Homecoming Parade. As Parade Marshall Ronald McDonald said, "Better active today than deep-fried tomorrow!"

Atomic safety undermined

The entire case for atomic safety is based upon two things: the Rasmussen Report (WASH-1400) and a 20-year record of commercial nuclear plants not having obviously killed lots of people yet.

I have never trusted the record of near-misses like Brown's Ferry and Fermi no. 1 -- trusting in a record like that is like trusting that a six-shooter won't go off next time because you've pulled the trigger five times without firing.

What did the team conclude? "WASH-1400 is inscrutable," they said. "It is very difficult to follow the detailed thread of any calculation through the report." Further, they added, "The statistical analysis in WASH-1400 leaves much to be desired. It suffers from a spectrum of problems, ranging from a lack of data on which to base input distributions

to the overall risk."

The assessment team also pointed out that the Executive Summary, which is almost always the only piece of the WASH-1400 report that pro-nuclear advocates have read, "does not sufficiently emphasize the uncertainties involved in the calculation" of the probabilities of reactor accidents,

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nor does it adequately "indicate the full extent of the consequences of reactor accidents." The team concluded that the Executive Summary "has therefore lent itself to misuse in the discussion of reactor risk," and recommends that "such use should be discouraged."

So the next time someone quotes the Rasmussen Report to you as positive proof of the near-impossibility of reactor accidents, dismiss the argument with a wave of your hand and refer the ill-informed person to News Announcement 78-78 of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You might then ask the person what other document he or she might fall back on. The blank stare you will receive should tell you a lot. There is none.

Ready for Class 9 accidents?

A draft report by a joint Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency says that people living within 100 miles of an atomic plant need to be protected by advance planning for radiation emergencies. The report urges cities within 100 miles of an atomic plant to begin designing plans to handle "class 9" accidents -- that is, full core meltdowns that could kill thousands by releasing massive amounts of lethal radioactivity. The costs of these plans will be borne by the states and local municipalities, not the utilities that reap the profits from building the plants. This is one more way the true cost of nuclear power is hidden from the public.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and current NRC regulations do not require reactor designs to withstand Class 9 accidents, so utilities have not been required to include the health and environmental consequences of Class 9 accidents in their safety and accident plans.

The atomic establishment justifies the failure to consider Class 9 accidents as plausible outcomes of reactor operation by quoting the very low probabilities of such an outcome. Where did they get those probabilities? Why, the Rasmussen Report, of course. (see above).



No evacuation plans

Now that the NRC-EPA has suggested that towns like Bloomington-Normal beef up their radiological emergency response plans, it would be advisable to inquire about the availability or effectiveness of existing plans. A recent report from Citizens for a Better Environment (suite 260, 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago, 60605) did just that for the U.S. in general and Illinois in particular.

Here is their conclusion: "In this report we have examined that status of the radiological response planning to see whether effective plans exist. Our conclusion is that they do not."

The Rasmussen Report, of course, assumes that they do. In this way, the casualty figures for accidents are calculated lower than they should be.

What is the assumption made in the Rasmussen Report for a town like Bloomington-Normal, 25 miles from an atomic plant under construction?

The assumption is that effective evacuation plans will remove 43% of the people in town within one hour following an accident, regardless of time of day.

If you are interested in your future, you might right CBE for a copy of "Nuclear Power Plant Evacuation Plans" issued May 1978.

Coal kills fewer people

Nuclear power is often promoted by bad-mouthing coal plants. Granted they are dirty and miners die and coal freezes in the winter, but nuclear power kills more people.

The important difference is when they die -- now or later. When a coal mine caves in, the bodies get counted today, but when Radon-222 is emitted from uranium mill tailings, its cancer-inducing effects continue for a million years, leading to a projected death count of 90,000 persons over that time for every 1000 megawatt nuclear power plant. By contrast a coal plant of the same size is expected to kill 70 persons.

Cheers for parade entry

The ISU annual homecoming parade had a new entry this year -- the Prairie Alliance for Safe Energy Alternatives.

Complete with two multi-colored banners, a leaking barrel of simulated radioactive wastes, and an NRC official (Ralph Dring) decked out in gas mask and geiger counter, the parade entry drew rave reviews from many bystanders and only occasional boos from sporadic concentrations of physics teachers. On the whole it was a fine event and much literature concerning Prairie Alliance and positive alternatives to nuclear power was passed out to observers.

NOVEMBER

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		<p>28</p> <p>To Be Announced</p>	<p>29</p> <p>To Be Announced</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pork and the Havana Ducks Record Service Give Away Night</p>	<p>THURSDAY IS GIVE AWAY NIGHT RECORDS T-SHIRTS HATS CONCERT TICKETS</p>	

How Com Ed's Problem

The history of Commonwealth Edison's Zion nuclear power plant has been riddled with broken promises, illegalities, safety violations, health hazards and overall poor management. It is time to look closely at the facts of Zion's record and stop its operation while there is still time to protect the health and safety of the Zion community. It is you who are affected by Zion's radiation leakages, you who have to foot the bill for fines and equipment failures, you who have the right to demand the truth from Commonwealth Edison. Here are the facts:

HEALTH

All nuclear power plants are dangerous to health because they release radiation, and even low level radiation has been shown to have long term effects on cancer incidence and genetic damage. The Zion plant is not only responsible for emitting what the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) considers 'safe' radiation, but has also illegally polluted the air and water of Zion by releasing high level radiation.

1. From 1973 until 1977, the Zion plant dumped 100,000 gallons of water a day containing radioactive tritium (an isotope of hydrogen) into Lake Michigan without reporting it to the NRC as required by law. This dumping wasn't discovered until the NRC tested water samples. The plant was reprimanded and ordered to stop dumping immediately, but three days later a plant operator dumped another batch into the lake and didn't report it.

James Keppler, regional NRC director, quoted in the Chicago Sun Times, said Com Ed has either a 'discipline problem' at Zion, or a 'communications problem.' About its chain of command: 'The right hand doesn't know what the left is doing?'

Before this scandal, the Zion plant has been held up as a model of liquid waste disposal by the NRC. The NRC has retracted its position.

2. In June of 1975 the Zion plant was cited by the NRC for exceeding limits set for the release of radioactive gases. Krypton-85 is one of these gases and has been shown by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be a carcinogenic (cancer-causing) substance. This gas could be removed from Zion's discharge, but it is an expensive process and apparently Com Ed would rather pay fines and radiate the community than take safety measures.

According to Caroline Quigg, president of Pollution and Environmental Problems, the amount of Krypton-85 in the atmosphere has more than doubled in the last 13 years. Quigg said the level of krypton emissions in the last quarter of 1975 was two and one-half times the level allowed by the NRC, and in the first quarter of 1976 they were six times the level of the plant's original design objective.

3. Commonwealth Edison's own studies show that the amount of radioactive iodine concentrated in the thyroid of adults living in Zion more than doubled from 1974 to 1976, and it increased four times in infants fed milk from local cows in the same time period.

SAFETY

The Zion plant has the highest rate of equipment breakdowns of any nuclear

plant in the country. Not only do these breakdowns impair the efficiency of the plant and cost the ratepayers money, but they needlessly endanger the workers and virtually all of the people who live within 50 miles of the plant.

Failure to adequately enforce safety measures at the plant has cost Com Ed \$165,500 in fines from the NRC, but more important is the danger of radiation contamination and possible meltdown that could occur. What follows are just some of the violations:

1. In May, 1976, Com Ed was fined \$13,000 for the overexposure of a plant supervisor to radiation.

2. Com Ed was fined \$21,000 in October, 1977, for violations relating to water pressure surges caused by operator error.

3. In February of 1978 a security guard who was 'bored' shut off a valve which resulted in an upsurge of water in the pressurized tank of Zion 1. Had the upsurge gone undetected, highly radioactive water may have burst safety valves and drenched the interior of the plant.

Radioactive wastes from spent fuel rods are so dangerous that there is no place in the world to store them safely. At present, spent fuel rods are kept in a temporary storage place on site, but more waste is produced every day and even the temporary containers are getting full. If a safe dumping site is ever found (which is doubtful), and waste will have to be transported through the city and probably thousands of



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miles beyond. The danger to everyone in the path of this transported waste is tremendous. Until a dumping site is designated, the spent fuel rods continue to accumulate.

DOLLARS & CENTS

In the early '60's, power companies heralded nuclear power as the cheap and clean answer to all of our power needs. We've already seen how 'clean' nuclear power plants are. What about the costs? Again, a few facts will be helpful:

1. Early projections of the cost of uranium (nuclear fuel) were based on a government-regulated price of \$7/lb. Uranium now costs \$40/lb. and is expected to cost up to \$200/lb by the early 1980's.

2. None of the original projections of costs for power plants included the cost of decommissioning a plant. A nuclear plant is only good for

30-40 years, and then the core is too radioactive to operate. At that point, the whole plant must be

completely isolated from the environment for thousands of years. The initial cost of decommissioning is about \$100 million, and in many cases there will be an additional cost

of guarding the plant for hundreds of years. These costs will come out of your pockets and those of future generations.

3. Because of equipment failures, repair shutdowns and poor projection estimates, nuclear plants are much less efficient than planned. The cost of this inefficiency is borne by the ratepayers.

4. The nuclear industry is heavily subsidized by the Federal Government. Your tax dollars pay for this.

5. Because nuclear plants are such an expensive initial investment, power

companies have increased their rates astronomically in the last few years. Since 1972, Com Ed has increased its electricity rates 43%. The average rate increase made by power companies that rely on nuclear energy is 27% more than increases by companies that do not rely on nukes.

6. If it is so expensive, why does Com Ed still want to build more nukes? The answer is that electric rates are based on the amount of capital the company invests--expensive power plants guarantee higher profits for investors and higher costs to users.

For further info., contact:

Chiwaukee Radioactivists Alliance
2619 Cornelia no. 1
Waukegan, Ill. 60085
(312) 336-3210

or:

1423 Center St.
Racine Wisconsin 53403
(414) 637-3826

ComEd sends 24 anti-nukers to clink

Twenty-four persons were arrested for criminal trespass to land on Saturday, October 7, at Commonwealth Edison's nuclear power plant in Zion, Ill. The group was doing a planned non-violent civil disobedience act to protest the building of the dangerous nuclear power plants.



The power plant in Zion has one of the worst safety records of any plant in the United States. Its twin towers can be seen from almost any point in the city and the view from the beach is particularly scary. The plant sits right on the edge of Lake Michigan.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, approximately 230 people gathered at Illinois Beach State Park for a rally which included speeches and singing. Some of the people who planned to do civil disobedience later in the day had arrived early

and camped together the night before. They were feeling a little nervous at this point. About 2 pm everyone got into cars and drove in a caravan to Edina Park. There everyone lined up by twos to march to the nuke. The civil disobedience people led the march. There was singing, but it was decided beforehand that no chanting would be allowed because it sounded violent and aggressive. When the march reached a certain

point, it proceeded in silence. At the entrance to the parking lot, there was a table where some people were giving miso soup to the crowd. (There is a Japanese folk tale or belief that miso helps counteract the effects of radiation.)

A delegation of three went forward at this point and asked to speak to a representative of Commonwealth Edison. There were many media persons and police present. A woman came forth to represent Com Ed. The delegation asked her to begin decommissioning the plant.

She had no comment. The following statement was then read to her: "You, Commonwealth Edison, have risked the lives and futures of all of us in building these nuclear-fueled power stations which are capital intensive and highly complex, from what is only an infant technology, assuming that, in time, solutions to the problems of waste disposal, systems designs and reprocessing will be achieved. You have demonstrated that increased profit via expanded rate bases is what comes first in your sense of what is important. That you

immoral and not to be tolerated. Therefore, at this time, we will peacefully sit down to block access to the plant.

"We are doing this action to draw public attention to the problems and oversights for which we hold you responsible."

The delegation then turned and started to go back toward the crowd. The civil disobedience people met them half way to the gate and sat down to form a blockade. After about 30 minutes, it was obvious that Com Ed was using the other two gates and was going to ignore the blockade. The C. D. group had quick discussion and together decided that they were going to block the other two gates also. There were four affinity groups within the group. Two combined and stayed at the main gate and the other two went

to block the other two gates. Now Com. Ed. would have to run over the protesters, arrest them or stay in the plant. They chose to arrest them. The Zion police did the arresting, but Illinois State Police, Lake County Police and North Chicago Police were all present and more were on reserve.

Everyone went peacefully to jail, but some had to be carried. A judge was on call, so everyone had a bond hearing right away. Most people were let out on personal recognizance and were never actually behind bars. Nine people had to pay money to get out and were put in jail temporarily. The trial date is set as November 13, which is Karen Silkwood Day (see adjoining article).

Susan O'Neal.

YOU SEE THAT ITS
IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS,
DON'T YOU?



have taken this great risk, without the input of the people who will be the ones to suffer from any accidents or "mistakes," accompanied by a massive campaign with government assistance to whitewash immanent dangers, is

There will be a Karen Silkwood benefit concert at the Lay-2-J on Sunday Nov. 12, at 8:30-lpm.

A movie called "Stronger than the Sun" will be shown on Nov. 13, on channel 12, at 8:00 pm.

Post Note: This story is reprinted from our July-August 1977 issue. We felt that it was important to reprint this article because November 13th is the anniversary of Karen Silkwood's death. She died in 1974 and the facts surrounding her death have still not been fully investigated or reported. This seems to be typical of all deaths or injuries involving a nuclear power plant.

Karen Silkwood knew too much about nuclear power--and she paid for that knowledge with her life.

Silkwood was a laboratory technician at Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant near Oklahoma City from late summer, 1972, until her death in November 1974.

She joined the union (Oil, Chemical, Coal, and Atomic Workers-OCAW), and she became a member of the three-person steering committee in 1974. The plant workers at that time were very concerned about the safety hazards at work. Plutonium is so dangerous that to swallow any visible quantity of it means quick, painful death, and swallowing or breathing it may end in cancer in 15-20 years. Workers at Kerr-McGee (and as it turned out later, the Atomic Energy Commission, too) were aware of many slip-ups, accidents, and faulty equipment. The workers wanted lots of safety improvements worked into the next union contract.

In early fall, 1974, the OCAW steering committee was compiling a list of safety abuses to use in upcoming contract negotiations. Silkwood was active in this, with a special interest in it because she'd been contaminated by an accidental release of airborne plutonium that July. She flew to Washington, DC, to discuss the Kerr-McGee workers' situation with International OCAW official Steve Wodka.

She told him that besides all the accidental safety abuses, she suspected that tests on the plant's product--plutonium fuel rods--were destined for Richland, Wash., where they were going to be used in an experimental reactor in 1978. Wodka knew that if badly-made rods were placed in the reactor the resulting accident could expose thousands of people to radiation. Silkwood suspected that records were being doctored and X-ray photos of the rods were being touched up.

Wodka told her to go back to the plant and collect evidence. She agreed. Back at work, she started snooping around and compiling pages of notes in a manila folder. Wodka has a tape of a phone call in which she told him that she had hard proof--photos of weak welds on okayed full rods--and was certain to get more.

What she was up to got around in the plant. Most people at least suspected that she was building a dossier. On Nov. 5, 6, and 7, monitors at work registered Silkwood as contaminated, both on her skin and internally, and no one knew where the radioactive material was coming from. Each day she went through the rigorous decontamination process (scrubbing off the top layer of skin with a mixture of Tide and Clorox) and each day she mysteriously showed up contaminated again.

Contaminated Food

Finally Kerr-McGee people went to her apartment and found it completely radioactive. They found the source of the plutonium in packages of bologna and cheese in the refrigerator. They had to burn or bury in a nuclear dumping ground everything in her apartment. Silkwood, her roommate, and her boyfriend were flown to Los Alamos, New Mexico, for fuller radioactivity testing.

She flew back on Nov. 12, and spent the day Nov. 13 working on contract negotiations with the other steering committee members. They finished up work at a cafe in Crescent, 30 miles from Oklahoma City. Silkwood was supposed to meet Wodka and a New York Times reporter at the Oklahoma City Holiday Inn that night at 8:00 and hand over her dossier.

Foul play suspected in nuke critic's death

Karen Silkwood



Seven Days

One of the union members has signed a sworn affidavit that she left the cafe at 7:15 with a manila folder of papers one inch thick. She was very excited and said that it contained proof that quality control records were being falsified. She was hopeful that the union and the New York Times publicity would force Kerr-McGee to clean up its act.

At 8:05, a truck driver saw her car in a culvert by the highway just 7 miles from Crescent. She was in it, dead. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol claims that she fell asleep at the wheel, the car crossed the highway and went off the left side, and crashed into a concrete culvert, killing her instantly.

Kerr-McGee officials agree with the Highway Patrol, and back it up with the fact that Silkwood had been taking prescribed Qualudes for her nerves over the last week. Kerr-McGee even tries to push the theory that Silkwood, a hysterical woman, contaminated herself to embarrass the company and carried plutonium home to her apartment concealed in her asshole.)

But union officials thought it was awfully fishy that she'd fall asleep within the first 7 miles of a 30-mile drive, especially considering how excited and hopeful she was about the meeting she was headed for. So they hired a professional auto-crash investigator, A.O. Pipkin of Dallas, to look at the accident scene and the car. He says that people run off the right side of the highway when they fall asleep, not the left; in fact, highways are built slightly higher in the center so that cars will drift over to the side without crossing other lanes.

He also found two fresh dents in the rear of Silkwood's car, which under a microscope appeared to be from metal-on-metal impact. He concluded that her car had been bashed in the rear by another vehicle, throwing it skidding out of control across the highway. Three other autocrash experts who came later independently agreed with Pipkin's conclusions.

Evidence Disappeared

But the most eerie and suspicious thing about Silkwood's accident is that no manila folder of papers was ever found in the car or at the scene of the crash. Although Wodka found her uncashed paycheck on the ground at the scene, the folder of damning evidence has completely disappeared.

Since the Silkwood disaster, the AEC has come up with confirmations of 20 out of 39 safety abuses documented by the union, although the AEC still supports the Highway Patrol/Kerr-McGee version of Silkwood's death. The Kerr-McGee plutonium operation has shut down, probably due to government second thoughts about fast-breeder reactors. Between Silkwood's accident and the shut-applicants lie-detector tests asking things like whether they knew Silkwood, whether

they ever talked to newspaper reporters, whether they liked the union, etc. One of Silkwood's fellow steering committee members was fired for refusing to take the test. The other was transferred to work at a remote warehouse.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment heard evidence on the Silkwood case in Spring 1976. The main testimony against Silkwood and the union came from pro-nuke Jacques Stoujy, adherent of the hysterical woman theory, who later was exposed as a right-wing FBI informer since the early sixties. The committee began to suspect an FBI coverup when Stoujy had documents that the FBI had repeatedly denied the committee itself access to.

The Committee also heard evidence overwhelmingly confirming Silkwood's accusations about the Kerr-McGee operations and has found that the AEC, while publicly vouching for the safety of the plant, circulated internal memos voicing concern about whether Kerr-McGee management was as safe from contamination as it could be.

The Kerr-McGee plutonium plant was built on a flood plain and in the middle of a tornado alley. Once plutonium is let loose in the atmosphere, it is deadly for 25,000 years, can't be recaptured or destroyed, and is highly combustible.

In 1971, Larry Bogart, the coordinator of a 40-state coalition of anti-nuclear power groups, was run off the road on his way to give an important anti-nuke speech. He says his car has been tampered with two other times.

In light of all the evidence, maybe hysterical is the sane way to be if you know too much about nuclear power.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Thanx to these sources;

Kohn's "Malignant Giant" and B.J. Phillips' article give more details on the Silkwood death and K-M plant.

Galazen, Thomas. "U.S. Investigation of Silkwood Death is Underway." Environment Action Bulletin, 7 August 1976, pp.2-3.

Kohn, Howard. "Malignant Giant: The Nuclear Industry's Terrible Power and How It Silenced Karen Silkwood." Rolling Stone, 27 March 1975, pp. 43-46.

Kohn, Howard. "Shutdown at Oklahoma's Kerr-McGee: The End of a Plutonium Relationship." Rolling Stone, 4 Dec. 1975, p. 32.

Phillips, B.J. "The Case of Karen Silkwood." Ms., April 1975, pp. 59-66.