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Abortion; liberation; insulation; self-celebration

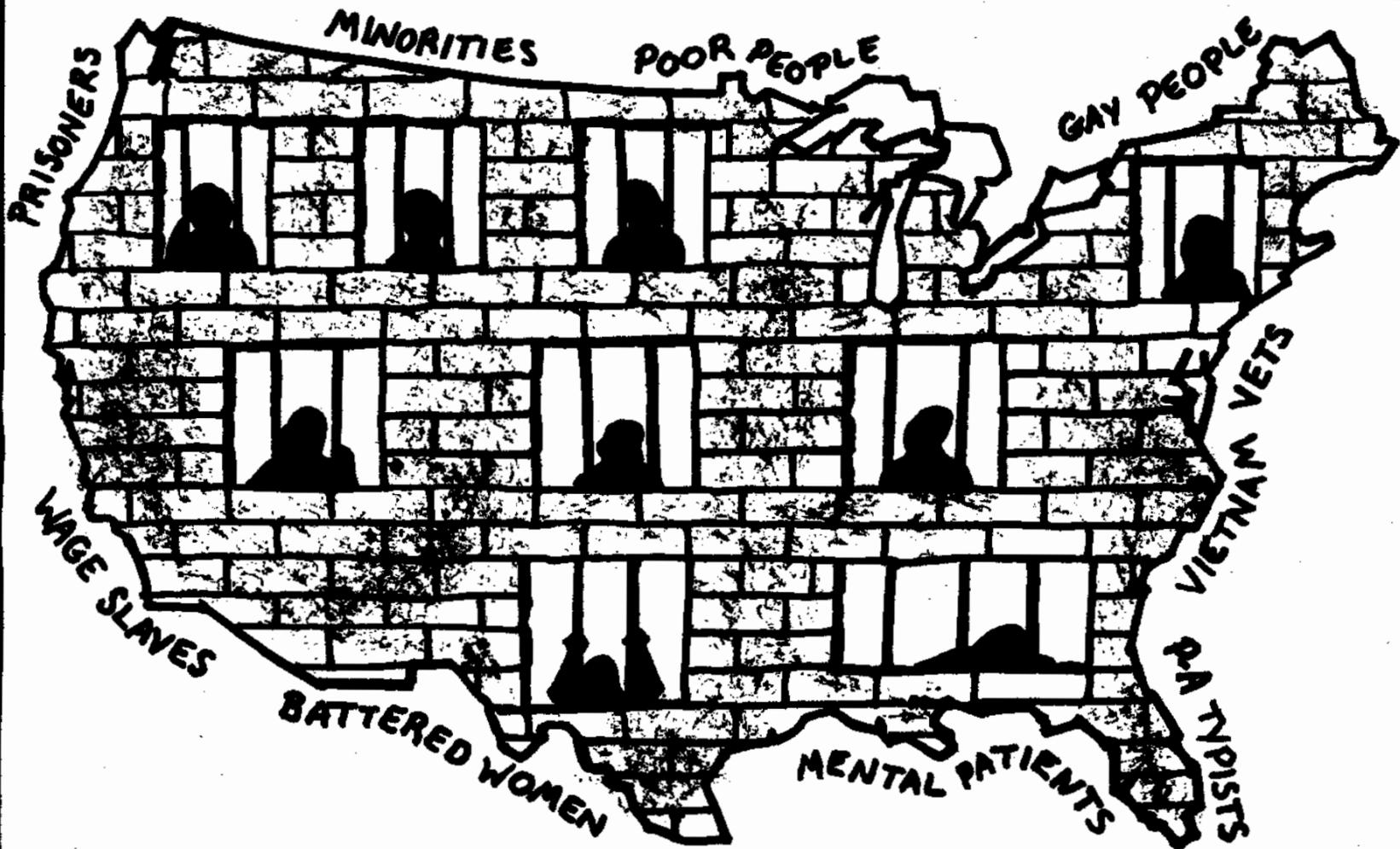
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

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ABOUT US

The Post-Amerikan is a worker-controlled collective that puts out this paper. If you'd like to help, give us a call and leave your name with our wonderful answering machine. Then we'll call you back and give you the rap about the Post. You start work at nothing per hour and stay there. Everyone is paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up and asking who's in charge. Ain't nobody 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 deadline for the next issue is Feb. 26.

If you'd like to work on the Post and/or come to meetings, call us at 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885.

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 PO 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 on our letters page.

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BLOOMINGTON

Eastgate IGA, at parking lot exit
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
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Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington
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NE corner, Front & Prairie
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Discount Den, 207 N. Main
Blm. Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
SE corner, Washington & Clinton
The Last Page, 416 N. Main
The Park Store, Wood & Allin
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
Doug's Motorcycle, 809 S. Morris
K-Mart, at parking lot exit
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
Lay-Z-J Saloon, 1401 W. Market
Pantagraph Building (in front)
NE corner, Main & Washington
Salt & Pepper Lounge, 1105 W. Washington
Downtown Post Office, Center & Monroe
Victory Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
Last Page, 416 N. Main

NORMAL

Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.
Eisner's, E. College (near sign)
Drastic Plastic Records, 115 North St.
Bowling & Billiards Center, ISU
Cage, ISU University Union
Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
Old Main Book Store, 207 S. Main
White Hen Pantry, (in front)
Alamo II, (in front)
SE corner, North & Broadway
Galery III, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Record Service, Watterson Place

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Yes, that's our phone number--and now we have an answering machine! So you can call and leave us a message anytime. Be sure to leave your phone number if you want us to call you back.

good



numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous--828-5049
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Clare House (Catholic Workers)--828-4035
Community for Social Action--452-4867
Connection House--829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence (PATH)--827-4005
Dept. of Children and Family Services--829-5326
Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (Social Security Administration)--829-9436
Dept. of Mental Health--828-4311
Draft Counseling--452-5046 or 828-4035
Gay Action/Awareness Union of McLean County--452-5852
Gay People's Alliance (ISU)--828-8744
HELP (Transportation for handicapped and senior citizens)--828-8301
Ill. Lawyer Referral Service--800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope--828-7346
McLean County Health Dept. --829-3363
McLean County Mental Health Center--827-5351
Mobile Meals (meals for shut-ins)--828-8301
National Health Care Services (abortion assistance in Peoria)--691-9073

National Runaway Switchboard--800-621-4000
--in Illinois--800-972-6004 (all 800 #s toll free)
Occupational Development Center--828-7324
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help)--827-4005
Parents Anonymous--827-4005 (PATH)
Planned Parenthood--827-8025
Post-Amerikan--828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services--827-5021
Project Oz--827-0377
Public Aid, McLean County--827-4621
Rape Crisis Line--827-4005 (PATH)
SAW (Student Association for Women, ISU)--438-7619
Small Changes Bookstore--829-6223
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center--827-5428
Tele Care--828-8301
Unemployment Compensation/Job Service--827-6237
United Farmworkers Support Group--452-5046
Women's Switchboard--800-927-5404

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WOMEN WORKING for Social Change. Read Moving the Mountain, the herstory of 3 women organizers, 166 pages. Send \$5.75 (postage included) to RECON, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia PA 19134.

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ROOMMATES WANTED to share 4 bedroom country home, very well insulated, 10 miles west of ISU campus, \$100 per month plus utilities. Call 379-4261 (keep trying) or write Route 1, Box 38A, Stanford IL 61774. Prefer someone interested in gardening.

In America you can say anything you want--as long as it doesn't have any effect.

--Paul Goodman

Post subs going up --renew now

After five years of holding the line, the Post-Amerikan will raise its subscription rate to \$4 starting next issue. Until then you have the chance to subscribe or renew your subscription at the old rate of \$3 for 12 issues.

We think the Post is a bargain at either price, but we wish we could continue charging the lower one. With inflation totalling more than 50% since our last increase and with utility companies yearly asking for 25% rate hikes, we think our new price is reasonable, but we're still sorry to do it to you.

The reason we've had to increase sub prices is that we figured out we're losing money on them, and we can't go on doing that. It's not that we're squandering money. We have to pay for printing and mailing, for labels and for sending out renewal notices. (We have no labor costs since we're all volunteers.) Those things all cost more now.

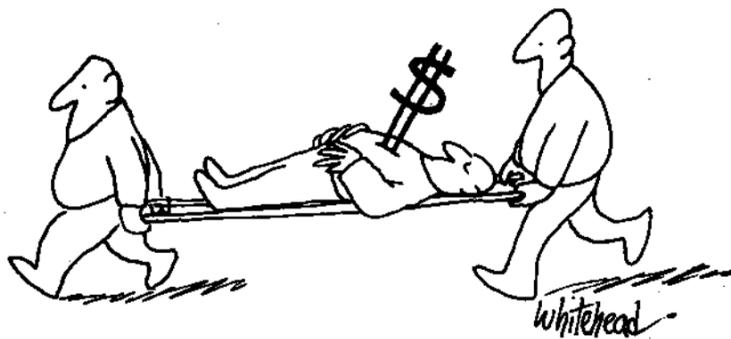
We will continue to consider lower rates for people who can't pay the full amount, particularly prisoners from our area.

The Post is also raising its ad rates, effective the issue after next (except for people who are on contracts). The new rates are \$100 for a full page, \$50 for a half, \$25 for a quarter. You get a 10% discount if you agree to take out ads in six issues in a row, and 20% off for a 12-issue agreement.

If anybody reading this wants to advertise, call us at 828-7232. Or if you should know someone who might advertise, let us know about that, too. It wouldn't hurt for you to put in a word for us with any businesspeople you know either.

Above all, let our advertisers know that you read the Post. It helps.

Profiteers sell-ebrate Lennon's death



Post-American Page 3

Just hours after John Lennon's body hit the pavement last month, hundreds of capitalists were gleefully brainstorming about how to make some jack out of John.

They knew that all those fans, with one trembling hand on the tone arm and the other on a damp hankie, were in a perfect position to get their pockets picked.

Soon the stores broke out with a rash of commemorative crudities designed to separate the mourners from their mazuma. Among the maudlin merchandise are John Lennon memorial coins, dollar bills, costume jewelry, T-shirts, medallions, bumper stickers, posters, buttons, hand-painted portraits, decals, framed pictures, and jerseys.

Illinois State University's Union

lobby shop sells ill-executed sketches of the dead star at huckster prices. Bantam Books rushed to press with a quickie "Extra," Strawberry Fields Forever: John Lennon Remembered; the 208-page book was distributed 18 days after his murder (lots of pix).

Don't buy--organize!

Disgusted by the garish glut of goods, Laura Lyn Senft of Rochester, NY, has founded an organization called Dignity After Death (DAD). She is collecting a list of retailers and manufacturers who push these items, and she encourages organized boycotts.

DAD sends out petitions, too; signers pledge that "I will turn my back on the John Lennon-memorial-object-sold-for-profit scam. . . . I WILL NOT BUY any such objects under any circum-

stances." The petitions will be sent to companies responsible for capitalizing on Lennon's death.

To contribute information to DAD, to get a petition, or to learn how to operate DAD in your area, write:

DAD
668 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607

Most importantly, don't let the money-grubbers profit by your tender feelings. Putting John Lennon's face on your toaster cover is an unseemly expression of grief at any price.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Bosses cause inflation, not unions



Inflation. . . wage/price spiral. . . unions.

Everywhere I hear the same thing-- "Inflation? It's the unions getting too damn much." I hear it from my father, I hear it on TV, I even hear it in the living rooms of vegetarians.

The argument that unions are largely responsible for inflation relies heavily on a simple equation: the unions demand higher wages to stay ahead of inflation, so businesses are forced to pass the higher wage costs on the consumer in the form of higher prices.

Of course, every time prices go up the unions want more, and pretty soon we have the wage/price spiral, which rates right up there with government welfare spending as a prime cause of inflation.

Much loved theory

Economists love pointing to the wage/price spiral, which ought to make you suspicious right there since your average economist wouldn't see anything wrong with corporate profit-seeking even if his new car smashed into a concrete overpass because somebody decided to save 43¢ on a few hundred thousand steering assemblies. So let's take a look at this much-loved theory.

First off, you'll notice that even Newsweek, the supposed liberal news-weekly, will 9 out of 10 times report that the unions are demanding higher wages. Nobody likes somebody who's so demanding.

Next, you'll notice that the sample union worker is always a steelworker or an autoworker, who happen to be just about the highest paid factory workers in the world. And all their fringe benefits, like company-paid insurance, are taken out of the hourly wage Newsweek lists. In many other cases, fringe benefits don't

even appear on the paycheck, and thus people like you and me forget to count them as wages. State of Illinois workers, for example, have many dollars' worth of fringe benefits that don't get quoted as salary. And auto and steelworkers happen to be working in industries which are suffering hard times--no matter that it's mainly mismanagement that did those industries in and not high wages.

Poor, poor business

Then you'll notice that the businesses are forced to pass the higher costs on to the consumer. No one likes to be forced to do anything, so everyone feels sorry for the businesses.

The newsweeklies never mention how the great corporations are forced to pass on the huge yearly increases that corporate bosses unflinchingly give themselves. And then there's the stockholders.

Used to be, back in the days of free enterprise, stockholders sometimes lost money, you know, in the rough and tumble of it all. Now, of course, there is no question of reducing profits to pay for the wage increases.

In 1979, the median (average) return for holding stock from Fortune's list of the 500 largest US corporations was 21.3%. Yes, that's a profit of 21.3% of the value of the stock in one year. (That's for the 500 largest corporations, not the 500 most profitable.) Profits for the 500 were up 27% from 1978, when they were up only 17% from 1977.

Did your salary go up 27% in 1979? No, and I doubt that a union autoworker's did either.

Political theory

These explanations for inflation--the wage/price spiral, government spending--serve a political purpose. The spiral theory, though true to some extent, has the special benefit of creating resentment against unions, especially among non-union workers. This resentment helps obscure the fact that owners and managers of the great corporations

are taking advantage of inflation to grab more than their share, as usual.

Both of these inflation explanations target specific groups of people to be the ones to pay for ending inflation: union workers and welfare recipients. If you think I'm wrong, look at what the Reagan crew plans: anti-labor legislation, cuts in welfare payments, tax cuts for business.

There is one thing that is pretty certain about inflation: all Americans, as a group, want more than they can have. If there isn't enough to satisfy everybody, then those who can pay more get what there is. Of course, what a woman on welfare needs is a little different from what a corporate boss wants, and the boss has more money. And the people in suburbia seem to have more highly developed appetites than the people in the slums.



It's only natural that the corporate bosses and the suburbanites would favor explanations of inflation that help them get their shares first. The poor and the unions be damned.

So the next time you feel like complaining about how the unions cause inflation, remember the farmworkers and the textile workers making \$4 an hour, and remember who you're helping by complaining.

--D. LeSeure

We may lose

Women's potluck

Since the first potluck of the year was such a success, there will be another. This one will be held at 838 W. Oakland, Bloomington. It will be Sunday, Feb. 15, and will start at 3 pm. (The one at noon, although fun, got started about 1:30. Hopefully people will be able to get up and moving by 3.) If you can, come on over.

Also, if you are allergic to cats and planning on coming, 838 W. Oakland is inhabited by four of the little beasties. Call the Post-Amerikan office (828-7232) and tell the answering machine, and the folks who live there will be sure to lock the kitties upstairs and vacuum the living room rug and furniture before you get there.

Remember: Sunday, Feb. 15, 3:00. Be there..

Rape Crisis training

The Rape Crisis Center will be holding a workshop/training session on rape and sexual assault on February 21 and 22.

The workshop will be from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday (the 21st) and from 1 pm to 6 pm on Sunday (the 22nd), at the Campus Religious Center, 210 W. Mulberry, Normal. It is free of charge.

The Rape Crisis Center is an all-volunteer organization, which exists to aid the victims of all types of sexual assaults, and their families and friends. It needs people (women and men) to counsel victims, sit on the board, and do speaking engagements.

If you are interested in helping out, call PATH at 827-4005 and ask for the RCC. One of their volunteers will be able to tell you more about it..

Women's music at U of I

The National Women's Music Festival is going on at the University of Illinois. The remaining events are:

Feb. 16--Ginni Clemmons and Theo Ann Brown will combine talents for an evening of Good Ol' Folk Music at Mabels, 202 E. Green. 9:30 pm. Admission \$5. Ginni, the featured performer, has been a favorite in folk circles for 20 years.

Feb. 16--Ginni Clemmons will lead a banjo workshop in the Illini Union, room 273, from 11 am to 1 pm. Admission \$10. A banjo is recommended but not required.

Feb. 16--Ginni Clemmons will do a benefit children's concert for WEFT, Prairie Air Radio. (For info, call WEFT at 217-359-9338).

For additional info, call Marj at 328-4252 or Dee at 328-5684..

Legal abortion is under attack by Catholic fanatics, bible-thumpers, and right-wing politicians-on-the-make. Abortion may be completely outlawed in the US, even before the National Right to Life Committee's 1990 target date.

The means for outlawing abortion is a constitutional amendment, the misnamed Human Life Amendment (HLA), which comes in a variety of forms, all dangerous.

There are two ways of passing a constitutional amendment. One starts with 3/4 of the states passing resolutions calling for a constitutional convention. (Nineteen states have done so.) The convention would draft an amendment which must then be ratified by 38 states.

The other method starts with two-thirds of the members of Congress voting for an amendment, which then must be ratified by 38 of the states.

Both routes

The coalition of anti-choice groups is pursuing both routes, using the constitutional convention route as a means of pressuring Congress into action. In the wake of the 1980 elections and the supposed conservative "landslide," the chances of Congress passing an amendment are all too good, especially if Ronald Reagan pushes hard for it. Stopping ratification by the states would then be very difficult, given the generally conservative nature of the state legislatures and the anti-choice movement's superior organization.

The HLA, in the form that has been repeatedly introduced by US Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and US Rep. Robert Dornan (D-CA), would guarantee the "right to life" from "the moment of fertilization."



Hogtown Press/cpf

The HLA would not merely make abortion illegal, as it was before the Supreme Court's 1973 decision. By declaring the fertilized egg a person, it would make abortion murder and subordinate women's bodies, health, work, their whole lives to fetal survival.

Slaves to the fetus

Let me repeat that: in practice any amendment could make women slaves to the fetus and thereby to the government.

Rhonda Copelon explained in *Ms*: HLA supporters justify their "disregard for women by a religious mystification of the fetus as a sacred, innocent, ensouled human being. Abor-

Monthly pregnancy tests

If the Human Life Amendment passes, requiring the government to protect the "life" of the fertilized egg from the moment of conception, the government might have to determine the existence of all fertilized eggs.

Some experts believe this means the government would have to require monthly pregnancy tests for all women and that all pregnancies would have to be registered.

tion is, therefore, tantamount to murder, and women who have abortions are heinous sinners. To declare the fertilized egg a person under the Constitution would force these religious beliefs upon all Americans."

The results would be devastating.

"Fetal protection" Copelon wrote, "could become an invulnerable excuse for excluding women of childbearing age from heavy work or toxic environments, and for regulating the physical activities, travel, and other normal routines of pregnant women."

Destruction of rights

Given the views of its right-wing supporters on other issues, the HLA could easily be a pretext for the

Compulsory

This year the priest-ridden, anti-woman gathering of those who would destroy our right to reproductive freedom had a counterpoint: local representatives of five national organizations and two local pastors united to declare their determination to defend a woman's right to control her own body.

The issue is abortion, a right that groups like the misnamed Right-to-Life Committee and the Catholic Church would outlaw by amending the US constitution.

The issue is also freedom for women--freedom to choose what to do with your life, freedom from the fear that a random failure of birth control will suddenly destroy all your other freedoms, freedom from a desperate trip to an illegal abortionist, freedom from death.

"If a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion were to be enacted, it would not eliminate abortion or even reduce it," said Dixie Axley of Planned Parenthood at the

pro-choice news conference. "It would only turn back the nation to the pre-1973 days when millions of American women underwent illegal abortions, often under unsafe conditions."

Benefits

Axley said that legal abortions have brought major health and social benefits, including:

--the virtual elimination of "back alley" abortions, which caused illness, injury, disability, death for thousands;

--a drop in infant and maternal deaths because teenagers, older women, and women with serious medical problems are no longer forced to continue unwanted pregnancies;

--a lowering of birthrates among teenagers, who are particularly unprepared to cope with parenthood;

the right to abortion

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destruction of the rights of privacy and free association through searches, surveillance, and informants. Anyone could be suspected of endangering a fertilized egg.

In the Helms-Dornan form, the HLA could even be extended to justify the government's requiring anyone to provide a needed organ or other bodily material to save the life of another person.

Some forms of the HLA allow exceptions for abortions for women who have been raped or who would die as a result of being forced to bear a child. Although such exceptions might compromise the principle of "fetal supremacy," their practical effect would be small. Two years ago, when Congress allowed Medicaid abortion funding only in cases of rape, 61 abortions were paid for during the whole year.

"The meaninglessness of these exceptions," Copelon explained, "is heightened by the absurd prospect that before an abortion could be performed, the imminence of death or the fact of rape or incest would probably have to be proved in court, with the fetus represented by a guardian and a lawyer." Otherwise, no doctor faced with the prospect of being charged with murder would perform the abortion.

Although some of the most fanatical anti-choice groups are absolutely opposed to any exceptions (as is the Catholic Church), the newer con-

verts to the anti-abortion cause--the Moral Majority-New Right power-mongers--are willing to "compromise."

Convention a threat

Such a strategy, coupled with the threat of a constitutional convention, would make passage of an HLA by Congress much more likely. The convention is a threat because it could not be limited to one issue and might result in the New Right scuttling the entire Bill of Rights, for instance.

As Gloria Steinem pointed out recently, the New Right has a particular interest in reasserting traditional control of men over women. If the patriarchal family (man over woman over child) breaks down, as it has been breaking down, then the patriarchal state and corporation are also in danger.

If women are allowed to control their own reproductive decisions, then they've taken a large step toward eliminating male control: A woman with a child is much more likely to stick with a beastly man than a woman alone.

Stepping on women

Naturally, the New Right's goals presume a willingness to step on women or anyone else who gets in the way. The prospect of women's suffering means nothing. And some men will suffer the burden of unwanted children, too, and the death of friends and lovers.

The New Right does not care that it is casting women back to the desperate



situation that existed before 1973 when one million women a year underwent illegal and dangerous abortions. Even before legality, one in four adult American women had had an abortion.

The New Right does not care that 70% of all Americans (and 60% of American Catholics) believe that abortion should be a decision left up to a woman and her doctor.

If we want to keep this crucial right, we shall have to fight for it.

--D. LeSeure, with thanx to Ms., Mother Jones, Esquire, and the National Organization for Women.

No birth control

Passage of a Human Life Amendment (HLA) will threaten two of the most popular means of birth control, as well as outlaw abortion.

By guaranteeing "life" to a fertilized egg, the HLA would bar use of the IUD and the popular and presumably less dangerous low-estrogen birth control pill. Both forms of birth control prevent the fertilized egg from developing.

Using or dispensing these forms of birth control could well be construed as murder under the HLA.

pregnancy is not a choice

--an improvement in the safety of abortion procedures so that they are now 6 times safer than carrying a pregnancy to term.

Axley said that an amendment which protected the fetus from the moment of conception would probably also outlaw the IUD since IUDs may not prevent conception but only prevent implantation of the fertilized ovum in the uterus wall.

The pill, too

Kay Wilson of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) added that the popular and presumably less dangerous low-estrogen birth control pills may work the same way and could also be outlawed. Many anti-abortion leaders, like the arch-conservative US Sen. Jesse Helms, take this view.

NARAL maintains that "no woman should have compulsory pregnancy as her only choice," Wilson said, regardless of the woman's economic status.

Even without a constitutional amendment, the religious anti-abortion movement has succeeded in effectively denying many poor women their right to choose abortion by cutting off government-funded abortions.

Inexcusable tactics

Dorothy Berkson of the National Organization for Women said that the New Right has exploited the anti-abortion movement and obtained its successes by using inexcusable tactics.

"The New Right has been quite clever in using language like 'life,' 'murder,' 'baby,' 'killer,' and 'moral' to make it appear that they represent compassion and morality," she said. "Yet where is their compassion for poor women who can no longer obtain safe abortions?"

"These same groups oppose funds for food programs for poor children; they want to reduce welfare payments and make cuts in other social programs. These are not the politics of com-

passion and morality; these are the politics of repression, of the denial of individual liberty."

Further dangers

Berkson also warned of the danger of a constitutional convention to ban abortion (a step sponsored in the Illinois House by Bloomington State Rep. Gerald Bradley). A convention could "do anything it wanted to the Constitution," she said, "including repealing the Bill of Rights."

Others defending the right of women to choose were Scott Eatherly for the American Civil Liberties Union, Tom Todd for the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, Rev. Stephen Dixon (First Presbyterian Church, Normal), and Rev. Carl Esenwein (Unitarian Church, Bloomington).

All agreed with Berkson's conclusion: "We must be as active and vigilant in protecting our liberty as the New Right has been in trying to deny it."

--D.L.

Pro-women music

I recently talked with Cathy Ahart about her radio show on WESN (see adjoining story). She answered some questions I thought Post readers would be interested in, and here they are.

Q. What is your rationale for an all-women's music show?

Cathy pointed out that "feminist music gets no other exposure except for a few guerilla radio stations that are run by women." With the high price of recording and the star system, she says, even new female artists on commercial labels don't get very much air time. Air time is reserved for established stars, for the most part. Cathy tries to introduce at least one new artist on a commercial label once a month, along with her regular fare of artists who record on small feminist-oriented labels.

Q. How do you choose what to play?

First of all, Cathy gets more requests than any other show on WESN. Regular listeners know her repertoire and call in for their favorites.

She concentrates on feminist music, which she defines as music that deals with the lives of women from a viewpoint that you don't usually hear in the mainstream. Many of the albums she plays are written, recorded, produced, distributed, and retailed through an all-woman network.

But she also plays mainstream artists who are "pro-woman, depicting women as stronger than what works against them." Dolly Parton is one example; Kate Bush, a British commercial artist, is another.

She says that country music and blues have a long tradition of strong women artists (in contrast to rock 'n roll), and that many of these artists are getting more feminist viewpoints into their songs.

When I asked Cathy what women's music she might refuse to play, at first she couldn't think of anything. Then I asked about Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot." "Absolutely not!" she said. "I wouldn't play anything that supports violence, none of that 'Kick me again, I love you' stuff either." She also mentioned "Fire" as on her off-the-air list, since its message is that the woman says "no" to having sex, but really wants it.

Q. What are some generalizations you can make about the differences between "men's" music and the women's music you play?

Musically, there are more harmonies in women's music--less of the dissonance and droning you find in other music.

Lyrically, there's a lot of difference in subject matter between commercial AM music and feminist music; political issues pervade feminist music: nuclear power, lesbian and gay men's rights, Third World issues, American Indians, and so forth. These subjects rarely make it to the AM stations. "The AM stations want will-sell, non-controversial stuff," Cathy said. "They want music that will not necessarily uplift people, but keep them happy where they are."

Overtly controversial subject matter is often censored right at the recording studio. Singer Chris Williamson, for example, recorded her first album with a commercial studio. "Of the 12 songs she prepared for the album, the studio insisted she change five, the ones that were clearly lesbian." The album came out with no definitely lesbian songs on it; Williamson now records with a feminist label.

Even when the subject matter is the same, Cathy says that feminist musicians give it a different treatment. Feminist music, she says, "views events of the world differently than a man would think a woman would." She invites a comparison between the male-oriented "Queen of the House" with Alix Dobkin's "Living with Lesbians," a

Irene's corner airs women

"Irene's Corner" is a radio program that airs from 9 till midnight every Tuesday on WESN FM, 88.1. The d.j. is Cathy Ahart (see adjoining interview). The focus of the show is women's music (when John Lennon was killed, Cathy played Yoko Ono).

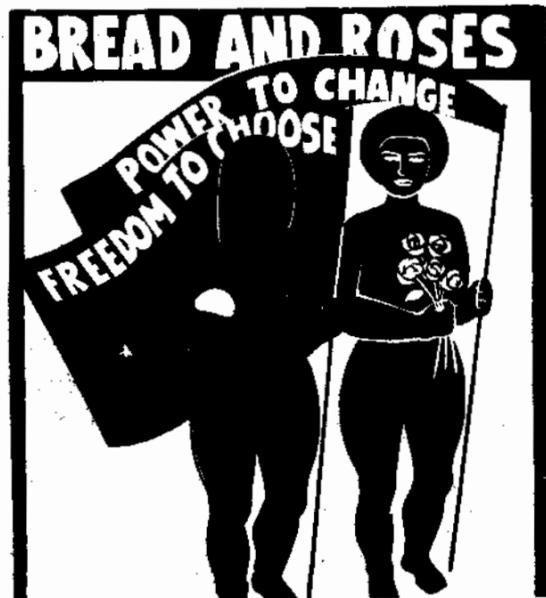
The show has been playing for over a year now, and Cathy said it's had a lot of good response and support. Within the next two years, WESN will increase its wattage to 100, and then you'll be able to hear it anywhere in the county. WESN, the Wesleyan University station, has a history of providing alternatives to the usual listening fare, instead of just imitating big stations, and "Irene's Corner" is one of its successes.

Besides women's music, "Irene's Corner" may air some talk: Cathy tries to give some news that's relevant to women around town, and she encourages impromptu call-in discussions. For example, the outbreak of rapes around Wesleyan University last spring inspired a discussion of rape and what to do about it.

Cathy also airs special programs, concentrating on women artists in a certain kind of music: classical, blues, experimental, country-western. She invites local female musicians to do live shows. She's also had a show featuring an album of famous moments in women's history.

Doing "Irene's Corner" is extremely satisfying for its d.j. She says that people at parties often turn her on to little-known women's recordings to play. She has heartening experiences, like the time an irate caller complained about a lesbian song she'd played; he said he couldn't believe there were people "like that" in this community and just didn't understand them. Cathy just happened to have at hand an

announcement for a Gay/Straight Rap sponsored by Illinois State University's Gay People's Alliance, and she encouraged the caller to go. He went, and called the show back, saying that he had learned a lot at the Gay/Straight Rap, met some nice people, and intended to go again.



Lum's used to play "Irene's Corner" instead of muzak last year, when the show was on Saturday nights. A song Cathy played on the show got a round of applause from the customers one night, a worker reported.

"Irene's Corner" is named for Cathy's grandmother, who used to play women's music for her.●

--P.C.

Post-Amerikan page 6

Are you inexperienced?

If you're unfamiliar with feminist/women's music and want to check it out, Cathy Ahart (DJ of Irene's Corner; see adjoining story) has some suggestions about where to start.

She recommends beginning with some collections, albums that include several different artists, like "Women Rising," a sampling of old-time female artists as well as new ones, "Lesbian Concentrate," and "Lift Your Hands in Struggle."

Also look for collections and individual artists who record with the labels Folkways, Olivia, Redwood, and Philo. The Philo label gives the artist full artistic control over the product, something that's very rare in this industry.

Kristin Lems, who lives in Champaign, is one of the fan faves around here. Her albums, on her own Carolisdatter label, are "Oh, Mama" and the new "In Through the Out Door."

You may notice the pleasant fact that these women's records have a lot more printed raps on them, and you can find out a lot from reading those. They almost always include the printed lyrics too, a great help for those who climb the walls if they miss a lyric.

The major distributor of feminist records here is Small Changes bookstore on Main Street in Bloomington. The women there will help you decide what to buy.

Finally, Cathy points out that "blues, country, rock 'n' roll, folk, punk, whatever. . . For every type of music there is, there are women-oriented female artists."●

--P.C.

delights deejay

song about the joy and communality of hard work; or between "It's My Party" and Meg Christian's "Goodbye Joanna," both dealing with hurt feelings.

Cathy believes that a male artist can record women-oriented music: as an example, she cited Jeff Langley's "Walls to Roses" album, a feminist recording.

Q. What do you think about women musicians selling their macho (Patti Smith) or promoting themselves as sex objects (Deborah Harry, Pat Benatar)?

"Well, they haven't made it any other way. . . Women like Pretenders' Crissy Hines and Blondie's Deborah Harry, they've been excellent artists for a long time before this. But they've had to come on strong or tough or bitchy to prove themselves."

Cathy said that a woman who wants to make it big, who doesn't want to record on small labels, who isn't satisfied with limited exposure, is up against the wall. "The biggest problem is even getting a chance to try."

She gave the example of Charlene Carter, who comes from a long-time established musical family, but who still needed to round up the backing

of a lot of powerful men in the music industry (like Todd Rundgren) before she could get her first record produced, and then she had to pay a lot of money herself for the production.

"People like Phoebe Snow, Janis Ian, Wendy Waldman. . . all excellent artists. . . never will be superstars. They won't play the game, put out."

With a constantly rising cost of records, Cathy says new female artists are becoming even less likely to get a chance at mainstream exposure.

We can be thankful that small studios still find a way to record them and that Cathy plays them for us on Tuesday nights.

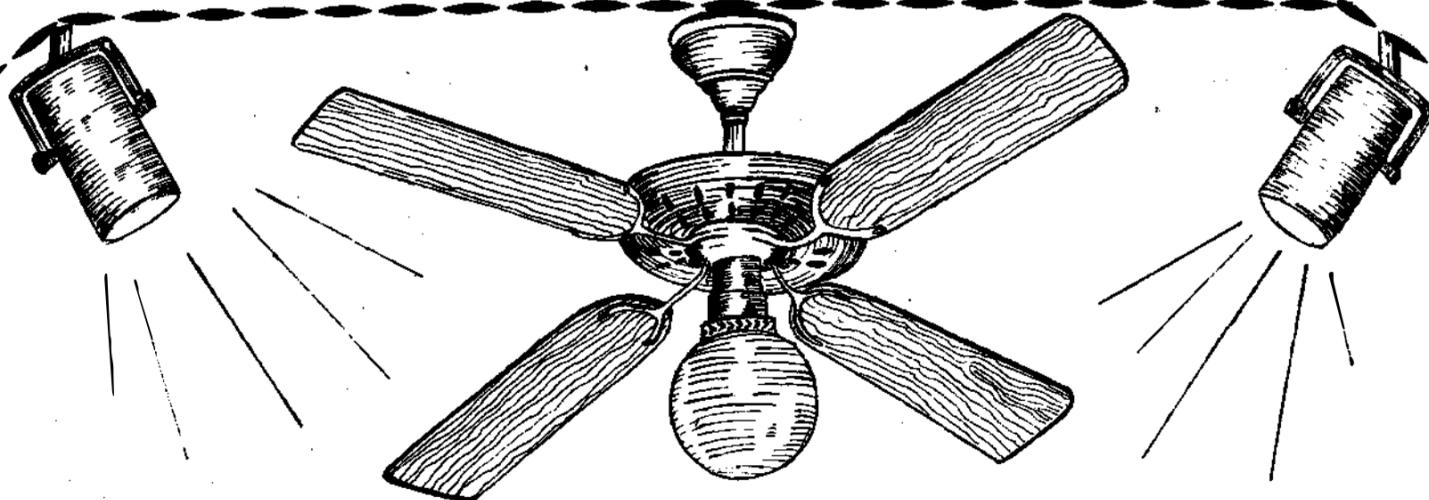
--Phoebe Caulfield



The Women's Show/apf



Post-Amerikan page 7



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Specials every night 8:00-12:30

Mon. 25¢ draft
Tues. Jack Daniels Night 85¢ a shot--no cover
Wed. Old Style beer night mugs 50¢ pitchers \$2.25 no cover
Thur. Student Night Pitcher Schlitz \$1.75 no cover
Fri. Live Music 9:30-1:30 \$1:00 cover
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Coming soon: Open on Sun. evenings--country music

Tues. Night --Jam session

Your chance to show your talents or try out for up-coming Country Opera being formed

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Rehab programs available

The City of Bloomington through its Department of Urban Development operates several rehabilitation programs that are available to both low-income homeowners and landlords.

One grant program is for the handicapped or for people at least 62 years old. The program can provide a maximum grant of \$8000 for eligible work, mainly code violations.

Work that's eligible includes wiring, plumbing or heating repairs, plus things like repair of deteriorating foundations or leaky roofs. Cosmetic improvements like aluminum siding, air conditioning, interior painting or carpeting are not eligible.

Eligibility is determined by the size of the household and the household's income, as follows:

Number of people in household	Maximum income per year
1	\$6200
2	7100
3	7950
4	8750
5	9450
6	10150
7	10850

Generally, people whose only income is social security are eligible, and these grants do not have to be repaid. The main problem with the program is that there is a long waiting list.

If you're interested in applying, contact Connie Griffin at 828-7361 or go to the city hall annex behind the main city hall building. The city will inspect your house for code violations and work that can be done, and the urban development department will determine if you're eligible. Then you go on the waiting list.

Rental rehab

A second program operated by urban development and the housing authority provides assistance for rehabilitation of rental housing.

Again, eligible work mainly includes code violations like wiring, plumbing, heating, roof repair, and repair of exterior structural faults. The cost of such work must total at least \$1000.

The landlord obtains a conventional loan and signs a 15-year agreement with the housing authority guaranteeing rent subsidies for the units rehabilitated. (The rent subsidies are attached to the apartments, not the landlords.)

Under the program, landlords are compensated for tenant damages, rent loss and vacancies, but in exchange the housing authority sets maximum limits on the rent that can be charged. These limits are:

No. of bedrooms	Max. rent excluding utilities	Max. rent including utilities
1	\$210	\$252
2	247	296
3	286	343

Rents are adjusted periodically.

The program, which is under section 8 of the federal housing law, requires that no tenants be permanently displaced, and tenants must be eligible for the section 8 rent subsidy program. Tenant eligibility is based on family size and income as follows:



Family size	Max. income
1	\$10,750
2	12,300
3	13,800
4	15,350
5	16,300
6	17,300

Income of the landlord is also considered. The idea of the program is apparently to encourage marginal landlords to keep their property up, as well as to provide acceptable housing for low-income tenants. Contact Connie Griffin at the urban renewal department for more info.

Low-income programs

Two other programs provide subsidized, low-interest loans to homeowners with limited incomes who want to improve

their houses. Eligibility rules are complicated but basically cover such things as family size and income, with some priority given to residences in particular parts of Bloomington.

In this program, at least 60% of the loan must be used for correcting code violations like wiring, plumbing, furnace and structural

defects. The program also covers energy conservation improvements like insulation. The rest of the loan may be used for general improvements but not for garages.

Under one program the householder receives a direct loan at 3% interest from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department. Under the other program, the government subsidizes a conventional loan so that the householder pays 6-8% interest. Loans are secured on the property like mortgages.

Right now it takes 3-4 weeks to get an inspection and a write-up of the work to be done and a further 6 weeks to get the loan. Interested people should contact Mike Claver of the Bloomington Urban Development Department at 828-7361. ●

--D.L.

Help for cold citizens

If you've had trouble coping with the cold weather--in your pocketbook as well as your toes--you might contact the McLean County Economic Opportunity Corp. (MCEOC) because they have three programs that might help you out if you're elderly, handicapped, or have a very low income.

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) provides a one-time payment to help cover heating costs. The size of the payment is based on the household's income, not on the size of the heating bill. The smaller your income, the more assistance you could get, but all applicants are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Last year's program aided over 800 households in McLean and Livingston counties. The great majority of the people were elderly, partly because Aid to Dependent Children has a similar program that tends to help younger people. You can apply no matter what your age, however.

The second MCEOC program provides help in a crisis--help in the form of temporary shelter, energy-related home repairs, blankets, winter clothing, space heaters, food, and other things you need when you've been wiped out by winter energy bills. Funds for this program, called the Energy Crisis Intervention program, come from the windfall profits tax on oil companies. (The Republicans, by the way, have vowed to do away with the windfall profits tax.)

The last MCEOC program could help you cope with next winter's onslaught.

The Weatherization Program pays for things like insulation, weather-stripping, window repairs, caulking, storm windows, thermostats, and storm doors.

MCEOC crews do an energy audit of eligible households and then do work costing up to \$560 according to a priority list. Weather-stripping is high on the list, storm doors are low.

These days \$560 doesn't go far, but MCEOC has helped 300 families since 1977, and they expect to do work on another 160 homes this year. The waiting list is now three months, which sounds bad, but it was once two years.

Eligibility for the Weatherization Program, like the other two programs, is based on household income and the number of people in the household. MCEOC Director James Glass says he doesn't give out income guidelines for any of the programs because he doesn't want people doctoring their income documents to show they're eligible. (Although there are many more people really eligible than there is money to go around, Glass's policy doesn't exactly promote trust and confidence between the government and the service agency on the one hand and the people being served on the other.)

So, if you're having trouble paying heating bills or you need help immediately or your house is as drafty as Ronald Reagan's head, call MCEOC at 829-1921 in Bloomington or 842-4145 in Pontiac to find out if you're eligible for help. ●

--D.L.

Cities should sell insulation

Bloomington and Normal should go into the business of insulating houses (and businesses). The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is doing it, and other successful programs operate in New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, and California.

True, there are existing programs operated in the Twin Cities by the McLean County Economic Opportunity Commission and the Bloomington Department of Urban Renewal, but these programs apply only to a limited number of homes and apartments. Even so, funding is inadequate, and there are waiting lists for some of the programs (see adjoining stories).

A large-scale program by the two cities could mesh with existing programs and provide a real benefit in the form of energy savings for the cities' citizens. With heating oil prices already out of sight and the prospect of large increases in natural gas prices looming if the Reagan administration carries out its threat to decontrol gas prices, the time to act is now.

House doctor

Princeton's Center for Energy and Environmental Studies developed a "house doctor" program that audited homes in Twin Rivers, NJ, for heat loss. In one house, considered well-insulated, the house doctors cut space heating needs by two-thirds, using only \$10 of basic materials like glass fiber insulation, adhesive tape, and polyethylene film.

They did even better at other homes, although the cost was often higher. Princeton physicist Robert Williams estimates that a complete retrofit (doing work to save energy in existing buildings) would average \$1500-\$2000 and reduce home heating bills by 50-75%. The TVA audited 213,000 homes since 1977 and made loans averaging \$1000 to 88,000 homeowners.

There is no reason why some variation of these programs cannot work in Bloomington-Normal. The cities could, for instance, use their power to issue industrial revenue bonds to finance a retrofitting program that would create jobs over several years.

(Under home rule, the cities probably have the power to issue such bonds, barring restrictive action by Congress. Normal would have to amend its industrial revenue bond ordinance, however. Under state law for such bonds, an insulation program would almost certainly pass the necessary test of being a legitimate "public purpose.")

More jobs

If, as seems likely in light of high interest rates, the building slump carries over into next summer, an energy conservation program would be at least as useful for creating employment in the construction trades as Bloomington's scheme to subsidize housing mortgages for the upper middle class with revenue bonds (see Post, April 1980).

Ideally, the two cities should manage and operate the program themselves, perhaps under public works or urban development, but subcontracting the

actual work, as the TVA does, would be preferable to not doing it at all.

Naturally, the program could be designed to cover general rehabilitation work, which prolongs the life of existing buildings and is therefore a form of energy conservation, as well as resource conservation.



Easy payment plan

In the matter of repayment, both cities already have a regular billing process for water and sewer charges which could be used to include repayment of insulation loans. The loans would, of course, be secured as mortgages on the improved property, and they could be repaid monthly. A \$1000 loan for 10 years at 10% would run about \$13.50 a month, excluding administration costs.

The cities could, for instance, charge only interest--about \$8.50 a month on \$1000 at 10%--and collect the principal when the house is sold. Or the cities could decide that conservation is worthwhile enough to subsidize with their own municipal bonds or even with tax monies.

Interest rates could vary according

to household income so that low-income people wouldn't have to wait for help from existing, inadequate programs.

Paying \$13-14 a month to cut heating and air conditioning costs by \$200 may not seem like a great deal: \$14 a month is \$168 a year. But remember that the payment is going to stay the same while utility bills will keep going up. Some predict a rise in natural gas rates of 200-300% in the next couple of years. Besides, there are more attractive financing methods.

No new taxes

Tax increases might not be necessary at all for such an insulation program since administration costs could be added into repayment schedules. (Industrial revenue bonds do not require tax increases.) It's also possible that federal programs might provide funding for administration, and, in any case, the use of administrative structures for existing insulation and rehabilitation programs should keep costs for operating the program to a minimum. Some arrangement might also be worked out with utility companies that already do energy conservation surveys, on the grounds that conservation requires less investment than building new power plants.

Conservation certainly is superior to the risks of increased use of coal and nuclear power--risks which include acid rain, strip-mining, lung disease, and radioactive waste, as well as sharply increased utility bills.

So isn't it time the elected officials of Bloomington-Normal explored something more truly beneficial to the citizenry than tax subsidies for convention centers and shopping malls? •

--D. LeSeure

THREE LUCHS BROTHERS MAKE AN AUTHDRS' APPEARANCE AT DRASTIC PLASTIC RECDRDS.



Polygraph clears Tuggle - - Sadler

After reading last issue's Post-Amerikan, Normal police detective Dan Sadler phoned to tell us that Byron Tuggle, former student body president of Illinois State University, had been cleared as a murder suspect.

Tuggle had been the Normal detective's prime suspect in the December 1975 clubbing murder of ISU student Carol Rofstad.

In late spring 1977, with the murder investigation focusing intensely on Tuggle, mental patient David Wittmer "confessed" to the Rofstad killing. Wittmer later recanted his confession, claiming he'd only repeated radio new reports in the

hopes he'd be transferred to Illinois' maximum security Chester State Hospital.

Knowing that Wittmer would be declared incompetent to stand trial, State's Attorney Ron Dozier bypassed the grand jury and filed murder charges on his own--an attempt to close the Rofstad murder case without having to produce a shred of evidence.

But Detective Sadler didn't believe Wittmer's confession and continued to investigate the Rofstad murder, still considering Tuggle the main suspect.

Sadler said Tuggle refused several invitations to talk with Normal police.

Last issue, the Post reported that Dozier had finally dropped the murder charge against Wittmer, who is still incompetent to stand trial and will probably be institutionalized for years. The Post story mentioned the Normal police department's investigation of Tuggle.

According to Detective Sadler, Tuggle arranged with State's Attorney Dozier to take a polygraph "sometime in the last year." Tuggle was cleared.

Sadler still doesn't believe Wittmer's confession and still considers the Rofstad case open.

--Mark Silverstein

Nuke plant workers asked to blow whistle

Normal Corporation Counsel Alan Novick has been placing an unusual advertisement in the Daily Pantagraph.

He is asking "anyone with personal knowledge of the construction at Illinois Power's Clinton facility" to contact him at Normal City Hall.

The ad was placed in connection with the power company's request for a 23% rate hike. The City of Normal is an official intervenor protesting the rate hike proposal.

About half the proposed increase would pay for construction costs of the nuclear power plant, costs which have been inflated, critics charge, due to IPC's mismanagement.

Novick told the Post-Amerikan he placed the ad to check out reports of "all sorts of fraud, waste and mismanagement" in building the nuke plant.

Novick said he'd talked to a couple

Clinton plant workers already, and indeed learned of "all sorts of fraud, waste and mismanagement."

Unfortunately, Novick's informers were not prepared to testify publicly because they feared reprisals on the job.

Novick hopes to present some of the information from his unorthodox research techniques at a public hearing on the rate hike Feb. 17.

--M.S.

Birthday candles fix nuke leak

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) says that workers at the Surry Nuclear Power Plant in Virginia used red and blue birthday cake candles to seal a leaky valve inside the plant.

In addition, an 11-month NRC investigation of the Surry plant found that radioactive water was dumped into James Bay when radiation monitoring equipment wasn't working, and that at least one security guard was caught sleeping on the job.

Despite these infractions and a handful of other security violations, the NRC concluded that the violations at Surry were "minor" and are not important enough to require disciplinary action against the power company.

The NRC launched its investigation after two plant workers were convicted of sabotaging the plant by dumping acid on nuclear control rods.

The employees said they carried out their sabotage to dramatize what they claimed were serious safety violations at the Surry plant.

NRC investigators concluded that most of the allegations made by the two workers can not be substantiated. The NRC conceded, however, that the operator of the plant broke the rules when employees used birthday candle wax to disguise the fact that a valve was leaking during a safety test.

--Zodiac News Service

Hi-De-Ho

523 N. Main

Bloomington

Weekday Specials
Monday

Pool Tournament
—Prizes—

Tuesday

Bucket Beer Nite
bucket & beer 2.25
refills 1.25
8pm - midnite

Wednesday

Shot nite 75¢ shots
8-10pm

HAPPY HOUR

Mon-Sat 4-6pm
15 oz. drafts 50-55¢
pitchers 2.00-2.25
bar drinks 75¢



Protest IPC rate hike, peacefully

The Illinois Commerce Commission will hold a public hearing Feb. 17 to gather citizen's opinions on the Illinois Power Company's proposed 23% rate hike. Come to Bloomington City Hall at 7 p.m. Suit-and-tie apologists for the power company are expected to be present, but Bloomington residents are requested to leave all weapons at home. This will prevent our gut-level response to the PR flaks' BS from leading to an incident we might all later regret.

Bailing out Falwell - - Episode 13

The red letters on the envelope say: "NOTICE ACT TODAY TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE."

VOLUNTARY DRAFT REGISTRATION NUMBER IS: 776123257."

And: "POSTMASTER: PLEASE EXPEDITE! The Faith Partner Application enclosed should be delivered as quickly as possible to the addressee. Thank you for your help."

This could only be the Rev. Jerry Falwell and one more of his life-and-death appeals for money.

(The Postmaster didn't help much, though. The letter was dated Jan. 8, 1981, but I received it Jan. 30. Probably more of Satan's work. Good



grief, the Old Time Gospel could have folded by now!)

Inside, the notice at the top of the first page proclaims: "YOUR OFFICIAL

Under attack

Down further, Jerry explains: "I am calling upon many Christian friends to help me defend the faith against adversaries. That's why I have issued an official voluntary draft registration number to you today."

You see, "Like the Apostle Paul, we have many enemies. We are under attack!"

And: "This is a mortal conflict--not a conflict fought with guns and bullets--but with the Word of God." Because: "Thus far, the liberals' weapons have been slander, letter writing campaigns, and downright deceit."

(No wonder Jerry's so hot--those nasty old liberals stealing his tactics.)

Well, then, the pot calls the kettle lavender: Jerry tells the parable of the gay people in Charlotte, NC, who had the unmitigated gall to object when Rev. Charles Sustar "spoke out against the sin of homosexuality in

his weekly broadcast." Imagine! Those despicable homos, wanting to defend their lives and jobs. They even wrote letters to the station.

But --- but

And, lo and behold, it came to pass that the station abided by the law and gave the gay fiends equal time to reply. "But the gays not only preempted the religious program, but they were given Rev. Sustar's time at no charge!"

But is there no respect for religion? But is there no respect for money either? But how awful! But how terrible!

Thus, Jerry must speak again the litany of the money of god (or the god of money, whichever it is). Page



3. in your book of responsive readings, if you don't already know it by heart:

"I tell you, friend, it's time to defend the Gospel ministry."

"But I can't do this alone."

"There are many pressures being brought to bear--designed to force us off the air."

"So it's time--time we stand up and fight. . . ."

"This is our Christian duty!"

"It costs us millions of dollars a year. . . ."

"And we cannot continue to pay these bills without. . . ."

The Lord's rewards

"In return for your support. . . a beautiful special giant-print edition of the King James. . . a monthly letter sharing my feelings on controversial issues too hot for me to. . . two (2) bronze Jesus First. . . a beautiful 24 karat gold-plated pin just for. . . our special guide to daily Bible reading which. . . a copy of my favorite Sermon of the Month. . . beautiful 1981 Faith Partner's Pocket Secretary Appointment. . . ."

And, of course: "Make your tax-deductible gift payable to the Old-Time Gospel Hour."

Send your check, send your pledge, send your money. Return your form, return your certificate.

Fight, fight, fight. Give, give, give.

Amen. Ah, money..

--Ferdurdurke

Thompson, top Republicans pressure judge for leniency

Governor Jim Thompson and several senior Illinois Republican office-holders intervened in the 1977 Florida trial of a 30-year-old Chicago man convicted of trafficking 700 pounds of marijuana.

The man, Mark Husted, is the son of prominent Kane County Republican contributors Richard and Isobel Husted.

Thompson, Sen. Charles Percy, and US Rep. Robert McClory sent letters to the Florida Probation and Parole Commission urging that Mark Husted be released on probation.

Judge Charles T. Carlton handed down a 3-5, and said, "I have been on the bench almost 8 years and have never

had so much pressure absolutely put on me about the sentence in a case."

Gov. Thompson's letter, saying that "Mark is uniquely suited for probation," is particularly ironic. Thompson's famed Class X law set a mandatory prison sentence for drug offenses similar to Husted's.

Thompson's judgment in evaluating a probation candidate ain't too hot either. Husted was later indicted in what federal narcotics officials called the second largest cocaine ring ever busted in the US..

--info from Overthrow

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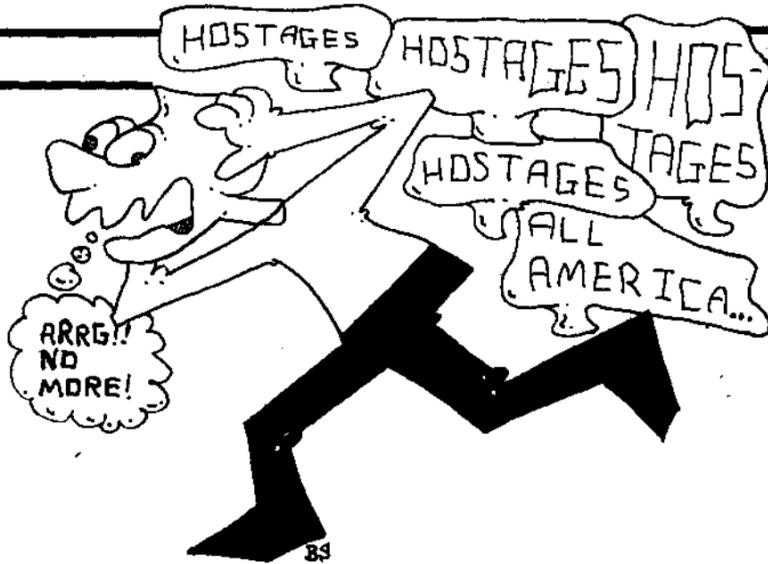
CTIVE!

Graves' story "was corroborated by an employee who worked in the prison hospital." Guards forcing women prisoners to have sex at Dwight Correctional Center came to public attention in 1979

The constant show of arms, sometimes with warning shots, was presented by some hostages as a form of torture. At Pontiac penitentiary, prisoners in the dining hall eat with armed guards watching them from an elevated cage, rifles prominently displayed for all to see. Prisoners walking across the grounds at Pontiac are unnerved when tower guards take their target practice with live ammunition, shooting into areas not that far from prisoners.

Early news reports said Iranians made hostages play "grim games of Russian roulette." The most I can find out about this is a Newsweek report of a scene on the day the embassy was first seized. A woman hostage was asked to open her boss's safe. When she refused, an Iranian allegedly loaded one bullet into a gun and pointed it at her, and began pulling the trigger on the empty chambers, one by one. She didn't open the safe, and he backed down, the story goes. This allegation is the worst of all I've read, and has the least parallel to the American treatment of prisoners.

In considering the hostages' allegations, readers should both weigh their credibility and put the charges into perspective. Even Newsweek and the Pantagraph have admitted that hostages' tales may be exaggerated (but they are printing them anyway, without corroboration). Some hostages are clearly lying. One of them, Clair Barnes, bragged to the Chicago Tribune that he and a co-worker destroyed every scrap of classified material in the embassy before the Iranians could get to it. "They didn't even get a carbon copy," the hostage claimed. But wire service stories have quoted from "classified documents seized and made public by



Iranian militants who occupied the US Embassy."

Not all the hostages are claiming they were victims of brutality, either. The much-celebrated hostage from Homer, Illinois, Paul Lewis, said, "If we didn't let them intimidate us, they left us pretty much alone."

The hostages' stories should also be put into perspective. As I've said, the hostages' treatment, with some exceptions, is very similar to treatment of prisoners in the United States.

Further perspective is gained when the hostages' treatment is compared to the torture of the Shah's political opponents by the CIA-trained and US-backed SAVAK, the Shah's secret police. In a show which the US State Dept. asked CBS not to broadcast, 60 Minutes last spring documented the widespread torture of political prisoners in Iran under the Shah. The program also said that CIA agents even trained SAVAK in torture techniques. According to Amnesty International, techniques of the US-backed torturers included electric shocks to the genitals, beating the soles of the feet, whipping with cables, burning

with cigarettes, candles, and lighters, extended sleep deprivation, hanging by the arms, burning on a heated metal grill, tying of genitals with fine cable, and sexual abuse of various kinds. Thousands of political prisoners were tortured, hundreds dying in the process.

If Jimmy Carter is calling the treatment of the hostages the "acts of animals" and "acts of savagery against innocents," what does he call the actions of the Shah that he and other US presidents so strongly supported?

The Shah and his pack of torturers achieved power only through a CIA-engineered coup. Without extensive US support, the Shah never would have held power for 25 years.

Even Newsweek admits that there were CIA agents among the hostages. Revolutionary Iranian militants, whose families and comrades had been tortured and killed by SAVAK, must have felt very passionate about the CIA operatives they were holding captive.

Considering Iran's recent history, you might even say the Iranians exercised restraint.●

--Mark Silverstein

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay programs in Feb.

The Gay People's Alliance (GPA) of Illinois State University will be presenting a full schedule of weekly meetings during February. These programs take place at 8 pm on Wednesday evenings in room 112 (lounge) of Fairchild Hall.

GPA meetings are open to all students and community members interested in gay-related topics.

Feb. 4: "In Paths Untrodden," a program of readings from works of gay authors, including Walt Whitman, Rita Mae Brown, W.H. Auden, and Mort Crowley.

Feb. 11: "When Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," a valentine's party; arrangements have not been finalized, but people can gather at Fairchild 112 for further directions.

Feb. 18: "Gayness and Feminism: A

Historical Perspective," a provocative look at the connections between witchcraft and the gay counterculture.

Feb. 25: A Gay-Straight Rap, an open discussion of social, political, and personal topics related to gayness and gay people; non-gays are especially encouraged to bring their questions and concerns.

For further information about GPA and any of these programs, you can call Ivan Gronsky at 828-8744 or 828-9085.

Connection House

Connection House is a short-term youth crisis/runaway shelter located at 212 N. Roosevelt, Bloomington. The services offered by Connection House include shelter, food, counseling, and perhaps most importantly, time and space for troubled young people to sort out their feelings and begin thinking clearly again. The services are available to young people ages 13 to 17.

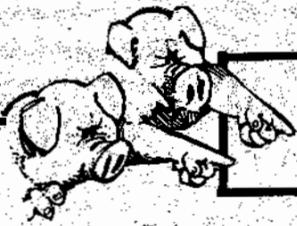
Connection House aids youths in identifying the problems they are facing and in taking responsibility for the decisions they make regarding these problems. We help young people sort through the decisions they make regarding these problems. Connection House cooperates with other local agencies and can make referrals for long or short-term counseling, advocacy, and alternative living situations.

All information shared at Connection House is confidential.

For more info, call Sarah Gordon Irvin at 829-5711.

Free dental care

The McLean County Health Department dental clinic is open to children whose family financial application has been approved. (Contact the department for info.) Services included are examinations, cleanings, fillings, extractions, and other routine dental treatment. Clinics are Wednesdays at 905 N. Main, Normal, from 8 am to 4 pm. The clinic provided free dental care to nearly 500 children last year.



Miscellaneous outrages

Push comes to shove

If the 17-year-old NCHS student had pushed another student instead, she would have been charged only with a misdemeanor, if she was charged with anything at all. But she pushed a teacher.

Illinois law recognizes the true role of high school teachers by including them with police and prison guards in a special statute which makes it aggravated battery--a felony--to do what would be simple battery if done to anyone else.

When you push a teacher, you push the entire structure of society's authority. And it pushes back.

To punish the young woman's rebellion, Judge James Knecht approved a plea agreement in mid-January for 14 days in jail plus a year's probation. The year's probation will be spent in two "rehabilitation and education programs" for teenagers, including a 9-month program at an outfit called the Walter Hoving home in New York state. Sounds like a live-in program, like some sort of privately funded reform school.

The same judge handed out a similar 14-day sentence to the drunken hit-and-run driver who killed a bicyclist on South Main St. last year.

Takes one to sentence one

When Judge Wayne Townley handed out a minimum sentence for battery and three counts of deviant sexual assault in December, he explained the reason for his leniency. According to a Pantagraph report of the sentencing, Judge Townley noted that the defendant, Joseph Cannon, had had a relationship with the victim before the assaults.

Court records say Cannon struck the victim several times and threatened her with a knife to force her into several acts of oral and anal intercourse with Cannon and another man.

Defense attorney Charles Reynard described the assaults as a "lovers' quarrel," according to the Pantagraph.

Last summer, the Post-American called for Townley to disqualify himself from all cases involving sexual assault or illegal restraint. The Post revealed that the Illinois Judicial Inquiry

Bloomington cops shoot another

For the second time in six months, an unarmed man has been gunned down by Bloomington police. This time, anyway, the victim is going to be charged with something. (Last summer, patrolman Sanders put an innocent man in the hospital for two months by shooting him in the back of the neck.)

Patrolman David Ogg, on January 18, shot fleeing burglary suspect David

Dunn in the back. Just as in the previous police shooting, an investigation by the Department of Law Enforcement cleared the officer of any wrongdoing.

Under Illinois law it is permissible (but not mandatory) for a policeman to shoot at a suspect fleeing after committing forcible felonies, which include burglary.

But if police can send two patrol cars to pull off a pincer movement against two youngsters doing basically nothing in Miller Park (see last issue); why couldn't a couple of patrol cars have headed off the fleeing suspect's routes of escape and attempted a non-violent capture?

sexist eds

A Daily Pantagraph editorial January 15 said diagonal parking "makes it easier for women drivers and men with stiff necks to enter and depart a parking space."

Prosecutors want files on innocent

Under Illinois law, people found not guilty of crimes can have their records expunged, which forces law enforcement agencies to throw away all records of the false accusation. Local prosecutors don't like this law at all.

"Just because someone's found not guilty doesn't mean there wasn't a good arrest," assistant State's

Attorney John Campbell told the Pantagraph.

State's Attorney Ron Dozier says records of persons found innocent are still helpful if law enforcement comes across the people again. Such a record is good for determining what kind of person we've got on our hands," Dozier told the Pantagraph.

Board was investigating Townley for making unwanted sexual advances to a young woman training to be a court reporter. In giving the woman a tour of the Law and Justice Center last year, Townley allegedly hustled her into the judge's private elevator. Townley allegedly used his key to turn the power off, stopping the elevator between floors. The judge reportedly began making sexual advances, and didn't start the elevator up again until the woman firmly refused.

Although Townley's elevator action wasn't attempted rape, it showed the judge's rape mentality. As long as Townley is being investigated for attempting to gain sexual contact through coercive and intimidating tactics, his lenient sentences of rapists will be suspect, and no rape victim will feel comfortable testifying in Townley's courtroom.

ISU's first ROTC grad receives Army commission



Willie Lee Redd, above, stares vacantly after receiving his commission as a lieutenant in the US Army. The first student to complete Illinois State University's newly revived ROTC courses, Redd appears ready to obey without question any command of his superiors. Seventy-five per cent of all Army officers are graduates of ROTC programs, which have doubled in enrollment nationally in recent years.

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compiled by
Mark Silverstein

More cops to protect new mall

To defend the super growth policy they have pursued in recent years, Normal officials are usually ready to argue that developments like College Hills Mall benefit the town because they generate increased revenue in the form of more sales and property taxes.

But such growth costs the city, too, not only for the obvious expenses of constructing more roads, sewers, traffic lights, but also in the need for expanded city services the developments generate. An example came to light in a Pantagraph report of Normal's proposed budget, which would add five policemen to the town's payroll. The report quoted Mayor Godfrey justifying the request "because of added protection needed for College Hills Mall, a Hilton motel being built at the north edge of Normal, and other growth in the city."

No work, no strike at Marion

The administration at Marion's federal prison has announced an "end" to the latest prisoner-organized work strike, according to Prout Weekly, an alternative paper from Carbondale. The administration whupped the prisoners, Prout says, by transferring the Marion prison industries to other institutions. With no work to do, there can't be a work strike, the officials apparently reasoned.

For the last year, Marion has been paralyzed with work stoppages. Almost all the prison's population has participated in collective resistance. But Prout says most of the prisoners' major demands have not been addressed, and the notorious Marion control unit with its sensory deprivation cells continues to function.

Mayor threatens media

Mayor Richard Buchanan threatened that the city's budget planning sessions will "not be as open" in future years, according to a late January Pantagraph report of a city council meeting.

Troubled by phone calls from constituents who thought proposed budget cuts were already enacted, Buchanan lashed out at "sloppy reporting" and said the media has to "get its act together."

Although the mayor admitted that readers and listeners may have misheard or misread accurate reports, Buchanan blamed the media more than their audiences.

From following the Pantagraph, I knew that the budget cuts were only in the proposal stage. And I trust our local radio reporters to be able to discern the difference between a proposed budget cut and an actual one. But I don't trust our mayor to keep his mouth shut when he should.

Another anti-paraphernalia bill

Bloomington Senator John Maitland is trying again to stop the drug problem by outlawing paraphernalia.

Last year, his bill outlawing both sale and possession of any drug paraphernalia passed the Illinois Senate, but was watered down in the House. Maitland refused to accept the House version, which would have applied the new law only to minors.

Now Maitland has revised his bill. No longer trying to outlaw possession of paraphernalia, Maitland targets only retail sale of drug-related equipment. It's an attempt to shut down head

shops or record stores that sell head items.

But as in all such paraphernalia ordinances (which are being introduced all over the country), the definition of the objects to be outlawed is so vague that all sorts of ordinary items used by ordinary people could be included. For instance, the language of Maitland's bill still makes it as illegal for Eisner's to sell Baggies as it does for a head shop to sell bongos. But no prosecutor is going to enforce the law against a supermarket, nor are any banks going to be shut down for dispensing all those dollar bills which make such good coke snorters.

City peddles tickets

Two private businesses have developed a cozy (and profitable) relationship with the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. Keith Rich, Asst. Director of the Rec Dept., said his people have been selling tickets to two amusement parks: Six Flags in St. Louis and Great America in Chicago. Rich said they sell tickets to raise funds for the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association, but more than 90% of the \$8 to \$9 ticket price goes into the coffers of the amusement park owners. Parks and Rec gets only about 10%.

When asked if he'd like to make a 30% commission selling copies of the Post-American at Parks and Rec, Mr. Rich seemed hesitant. How does a city agency decide which private business products to peddle?

Modine poisons workers

Modine Manufacturing Company fired two of its employees who refused to work with powdered lead under dangerous conditions. Then the company gave lead poisoning to five of its employees who did work around lead. A 14-month old child got lead poison from greeting her grandfather at the end of his working days at Modine.

But thanks to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Modine held out its wrist for a gentle slap and promised not to do it again. In addition to the crippling \$600 fine, Modine agreed in mid-December to maintain the safety precautions that it should have been maintaining all along.

Thanks to negotiations with Machinists Lodge 1000, Modine rehired the two fired workers.

Pontiac improved?

As a member of the Illinois Prisons and Jails Project, I visit Pontiac penitentiary regularly and talk to prisoners. The general feeling is that nothing much has changed in the 2½ years since the 1978 riot when three guards were killed.

The prisoners will be surprised to learn that they are dead wrong about the conditions they are living in, at least according to Capt. Charles McCarthy of the Illinois State Police.

McCarthy, who led state police oper-

ations during Pontiac's last riot, was quoted in the Pantagraph instructing 60 national guardsmen on proper riot control.

"The prison was bad at one time," McCarthy said, "but since the riot it has improved 200 to 300 per cent."

On the subject of when to lead his troops into the prison, the Pantagraph quoted McCarthy: "I'm not going in there until I can kick some butts."

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Not all like Falwell

Dear Post,

After reading so much lately about Jerry Falwell, I feel I have to write about my concern for the reputation of Fundamental Christians.

Please do not think that Mr. Falwell and his followers are typical of Fundamental Christians. They have made the term equivalent with bigoted, narrow-minded, prejudiced, power-seeking individuals. Believe me, we are not all like that.

We who believe in Jesus Christ are admonished to be "the salt of the earth," "a light in the darkness," "exceedingly joyful," "a helper to all humanity," and a living, loving example of Christ's teachings.

When I look at Falwell, I do not see these things and if I cannot see them, I know the rest of the world can't either. In my humble opinion, he is not a good Christian and he is not even a very good human being.

So, please, when you meet people who say they are "fundamentalists," do not automatically class them with Jerry Falwell. Some of us are really pretty nice.

Dorothy Wiatt

Laws for aliens

Dear Post readers,

Has it ever occurred to anyone that government exists only on paper? By this I mean that, although everyone has all the laws memorized, or at least has read them several times, if you ever really have to prove something in court, in the police station, or even in your local tavern, it all boils down to finding it printed somewhere on a piece of paper.

Of course, there is nothing essentially wrong with using paper as a recording medium. Paper is durable if it doesn't get wet or too hot; it is easy to file and stack; and it doesn't get lost too easily if you're careful. Still, this doesn't eliminate the fact that it can be intentionally tampered with. Isn't it possible that laws affecting millions of people could be altered or stolen without anyone being the wiser?

Not so, says Dr. Langley Evans, assistant research director at Bellview Laboratories. Evans has assisted in developing a remarkable new coded lightwave capable of containing every law ever written in a space the size of the diameter of a pin head. Affectionately known as WORLDNARC (Wholly Orbiting Refracted Lightray Distributing National and Regional Control), it will circle the earth at 140,000 miles per second ready for instant transmission to any government in need of legal reference, and it can be used to aid alien intelligences in establishing their own governments in the not-too-distant future.

The topic of next month's sermon: Has anyone noticed how hard it's getting to cross a street nowadays?

James C. Tippet



Jailed woman threatens suit

Dear Post Amerikan:

Well, here I sit in McLean Co. Jail--home of the Law and Just-US Center--in my cold cell, marked "M" for "men." This in itself is messing my mind up because I'm female. Along with me are three other females.

Now since Jan. 17, 1979, my ass belongs to McLean County till some time in 1982. This date is vague because my probation officer, Kay Tryon, has used it as a threat for me to keep my act clean. I'm a 35-year-old mother of four children and a grandmother, too.

I was placed on probation on June 20, 1979, by Judge Luther Dearborn. I cannot drink, go in bars, smoke grass or associate with anyone who does any of the above. Now this has really cut into the number of people I can go around with, since 99% of my friends do any or all the above.

I'm really pissed off in more ways than one. I was a waitress at Bob Johnson's Restaurant from Oct. 1979 till Oct. 14, 1980, when Mr. Robert Knapp fired me--ask him why.

Then, on Oct. 24, 1980, I was again arrested by Bloomington City cops. I was told what happened in court, on a bright and shiny Monday morning, by a Judge. I was told my bond was \$35.00, so I said O.K. Now I was released on

11-17-80, only to be returned again (?) but, people, this time I was thrown up against a cop car with my wrists in handcuffs so damn tight the circulation was cut off.

The feeling returned sometime in the middle of Dec.

I go to court at 10:30 tomorrow, Dec. 19, 1980. Kay Tryon told me Dec. 1, 1980, "You know, if the State's Attorney wants to, he can revoke your probation and send you to Dwight. Helen, I sure would hate (smile from her) to see that happen."

"Kay," I said, "you know I don't give a shit! Let him--because some day I will slam a lawsuit against McLean Co. that's gonna blow Steve Brienen's and Bosshart's minds!"

I remain, on Dec. 18, 1980, still under arrest but believe me, I intend to do exactly what I say!

Thank you very much just for readin' this if nothin' else.

Ms. Helen Marie Deerwester
104 W. Front St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

P. S. My cellmates would love to have your paper sent to them; me too, please.

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More letters... Letters... Letters...

Get the real killer: harassment

Dear Post-Amerikan,

I work, you work, everyone does at some time. Can you stand it?

What is going to happen to Mr. David Camden Pasley, who is to be charged with both murder and attempted murder? The last I read he was in the McLean County Jail.

I read the story, we all read the story about what had been going on since 1979 at our city post office. I agree--he should not have shot those guys. As the Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill."

But I am putting myself in Pasley's place. He had worked for the postal service for 7 years. He needed his job, just like everyone else. He is a disabled Vietnam veteran who had lived through a war only to come back to the good old USA to be harassed daily on his job. And by federal post office employees no less. If you will note, harassment is against the law, too.

According to the paper, Pasley came to the Pantagraph and told them a postal service employee had threatened his life and threatened to ransack his home. He had also witnessed co-workers tampering with his mail.

A female co-worker, who was familiar with the tension which apparently existed between Pasley and other employees, said Pasley had been harassed on his job for 2 years. He no doubt felt that no one cared for him or even liked him as a man or as a person. Anyone would. It would be difficult for him not to act strangely or make wild accusations about his co-workers if they were harassing him daily. A person can take only so

much. But like I say, he needed his job just like other people do, so he kept taking and taking and taking. He did what he could by reporting the harassments to the union, the media, and to the authorities.

He went to Postal Workers Union Local 228 and told them of the harassment.

In October 1980, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Bloomington received a letter from Pasley stating that he was being harassed by fellow employees and informing the FBI of the theft of his mail.

In October 1980, Pasley reported to General Telephone that he thought his phone was being tapped illegally. He asked GenTel to check. Officials of the phone company would not comment on the results of their check.

Someone at the post office must have wanted him fired very badly to have harassed him so much.

His girlfriend was concerned about his work situation. His mother reported that his co-workers were really harassing him. A family friend said Pasley talked a lot about how the people at work treated him. She referred to it as a fixation problem.

Another friend described Pasley as a quiet, gentle man, easy going, non-aggressive--he was. But then in January 1981, he went to work and all hell broke loose.

If a person is doing his job, no employee or anyone else has the right to harass them. If a person is being harassed, it should be reported to the union, the supervisor, and the manager. The person that is doing the harassing should be given a warning,

then should be laid off for three days the next time. If it continues, there should be a complete investigation and possible termination of the person doing the harassing.

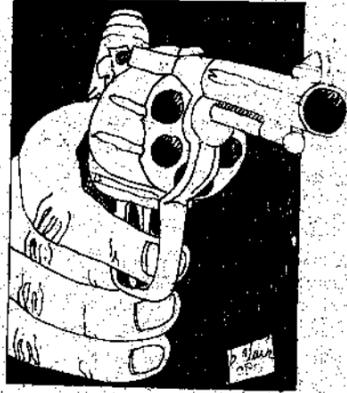
Pasley was trying to get help through channels, but no one would listen. He helped his country when it needed him, only to come back and have his own people treat him and talk to him with no respect. A mental fitness test was requested for Pasley by his co-workers. They were trying to say he was crazy. He was not crazy when he fought your war in Vietnam, and he is not crazy now.

But I do wonder what is going to happen to him. If I were the judge, I would put on trial those who made his life hell for years on the job. I would go out to the post office and get the real killer--harassment.

May God bless him, his family, and his friends.

A concerned citizen

POST-NOTE: Publishing this letter doesn't mean that the Post in any way supports shooting people.



Mom bombs navy

A 50-year-old woman detonated a small, handmade bomb in the vestibule of a Navy recruiting office in Plymouth, Michigan. She was angry at the Navy for mailing her son recruiting literature. No one was injured in the blast.

According to Plymouth police, Eileen Anita Roths walked into the Navy recruiting station at 9 am on a Monday morning last December, carrying a jar packed with black gunpowder, .32 caliber bullets, and a fuse.

When she encountered a recruiting officer in the doorway, she told him, "This is a present from my son--you better get out of here," and lit the fuse on the jar. The bomb went off, belching flame and smoke before it burned itself out. The blast cracked two windows and loosened tile.

Roths then drove to her hometown of Hillary, where she was arrested. She told the arresting officer: "I can't understand why your police department is arresting me when I'm a fine, upstanding citizen." •

--Detroit Free Press

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Record Service comment on Divinyl demise

Dear Post:

Concerning the drastic madness article: can anyone say they are seriously surprised that a store run as badly as Divinyl Madness went out of business? The only surprise we could see was that it took so long.

They started out as a poor imitation of Record Service and got poorer and poorer. Those of us who rode the range between Normal and Champaign often thought someone shoulda knocked the wits out of the nits who were mismanaging Divinyl and calling themselves a not-for-profit business. Anyone can run a business at zero profit--that takes no talent.

Our friend at Record Service tells us in their first eight years of business they only generated a real profit (over 2 or 3 thousand dollars) once and they gave away most of that to political and non-profit groups. All other money went back into building up the store. What Record Service has been able to do is: a) create a business without a boss; b) create a comfortable cooperative atmosphere (there are still five of the original 14 partners--all those who left did so out of their own choice to pursue other activities); c) pay living wages to all full-time employees and at least minimum wage to all part-time employees.

This friend is 30 years old and he's worked at Record Service for 11 years. For four years he worked for \$25 a week (it's now up to \$155). He loves the store and what he's doing. He loves being his own boss. He said he slightly resents articles like the one in the Post-Amerikan because of inaccuracy and incompleteness--but harbors no hard feelings.

Divinyl Madness destroyed themselves. We think we can pick 3 turning points (reasons for their eventual demise).

Power Struggle--In 1978 2 long-time Divinyl managers forced a third manager out of the business. They wanted to run it their own way. Basically Divinyl became the two managers--and other people worked for them at no pay. The ousted manager now manages Record Service in Normal and is an important reason for its success. Internal power struggles ruin many businesses.

A Second Store--Record Service opened a second store (in Normal) because a) they felt it was necessary to insure their survival (high volume and a large store to keep a large chain store from moving in and taking over), b) they were told many times by customers who traveled from Normal to Champaign (including us) that Normal needed a real record store, c) they were stable and experienced enough to give it a stab.

Record Service's expansion into Normal would not have put Divinyl out of business. If Divinyl was sincere about their hype "a not-for-profit cooperative interested in promoting new music, imports and bootlegs" then the two businesses could have co-existed comfortably.

But instead Divinyl Madness stretched themselves too thin and opened a second store themselves--in Champaign. It takes a good cash flow and some generated income to open a new store and keep it open. But out of revenge motivation they plunged way over their heads into a town and a business (it seems) they knew very little about. Rumors had them doing up to \$1000 a day in business--and they never paid off their \$18,000 loan? Where did all the money go?

Divinyl expanded themselves right out of business.

Karma--a special, almost mythical quality that Divinyl Madness destroyed (however much or little they had) in two ways.

First, when two of Divinyl's people broke into Record Service in Champaign and stole several hundred dollars worth of import albums as well as destroying some advertising authorizations and files (not your ordinary thieves)--word spread quickly through the underground. When you rip off your brother (even when he is your competition) it's a sure sign of impending doom.

Second, having their stores financed by Sound Unlimited (Mafiosa connections?) could only lead to trouble. What do you expect when you sell your soul to the devil? Actually the folks at Divinyl were lucky all that was taken were the records and fixtures and that their bookkeeper just got slapped around a little. They were messing with the wrong people. Where did all the money go?

Meanwhile Record Service continues to supply central Illinois with records at a lower price than Divinyl did. In eleven years Record Service has learned to grow, remain independent, gain respect throughout the music industry and most important--they've survived. Stable maybe, but fat never--still lean and hungry.

If revolutionaries and radicals can't even learn to survive, then how can they hope to accomplish their simplest goals?

Our hats are tipped to the fine folks at the Record Service.

--the Dalton Gang



No. 3 in Mid-America

My Fellow Post Amerikans,

You know, a funny thing happened to me on my second trip to midding Amerika--I read a copy of yer blab sheet. Now, please don't take me for a typical typical uptite eastern intellectual commie college student when I say I don't particularly like the midding west. It's just that I don't feel comfortable around Kerr-McGee gas stations (who did kill Karen Silkwood?).

When I left Washington U in St. Loo 2 years ago, I swore the only things good about this (major) area of the country were my friend in Bloomington and my brother in Pittsburg. Well, a third thing has surfaced, and it is yes indeed your paper.

Living close to Boston can get one fed up to here with the radical chic Real Paper, the angry young man Daily Worker, and of course the music equals money Rolling Stone. Yer paper provides me with a great service--lots of commentary that isn't too tunnel-visioned, a taste of why I don't love Small Town MidAmerika, and a taste of the good parts of S.T.M.A.

In other words, please enroll me into a full subscription! (Any letters are more than welcome too, of course.)

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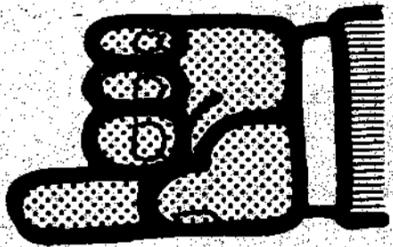
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The Author responds



In researching the Divinyl story I had quite a task separating back facts from gossip—a chore any reporter has in a story as complex as this—and as far as I know I only fell down once. In describing the "betrayal" that Divinyl personnel felt when one of their former members went over to Record Service, I did not make clear (or indeed even know) that there was a gap of four months between the two positions and that the above mentioned Record Service employee had resigned officially from the Normal Divinyl when he left. The betrayal, it seems, was solely in the minds of Divinyl's managers. That doesn't alter the fact that it was no less a force in influencing Divinyl's expansion: later generations of volunteers, in fact, would hear the act described in such a fashion and accept this revisionist interpretation. Revenge, as the Dalton Gang points out, isn't the best motivation for expansion, but as the initial story makes clear, it did pique Divinyl's move.

It wasn't the only reason for store growth, but the fact remains that both entities maintained a rivalry since Record Service's appearance in Normal, a rivalry reflected in the sometimes bitter allegations individual store members have flung at each other in the past. Champaign Record Service accused their competitor of stealing import albums; Normal Divinyl levels similar charges at their competitor after they're robbed, and so on. To the best of my knowledge, none of these allegations have been proven either way (file under: The Sort of Thing Everybody Knows) but then again nobody said the "word spread through the underground"

had to be true. At least the Dalton Gang indicates the nature of their guesswork gossip by placing that question mark after "mafiosa."

As for the main thrust of the above letter, it's clear that its authors are in disagreement with me on a major point. My main premise in the Divinyl story was simple enough: a working coop is a good thing. That premise seems viable enough to me, though perhaps—in these days when the newest Whole Earth Catalog includes the Wall Street Journal among its list of tools—it's not quite in tune with some members of the counter-culture. Still, several attempts at starting or maintaining cooperatives have been reported in the Post. The Divinyl story was the first to look at the dissolution of one, but it does not mean the coop approach isn't valid: I would hope that future coops might take from Divinyl's lessons, in fact. For that reason I tried to avoid personality issues (hence no names) and concentrate on the basics. Both Record Service and Divinyl had distinct philosophic differences, and it can partially be seen in the way each perceived the other's successes and failures.

Even affluence is relative. And while the hip capitalism repped by the current Record Service may look slight to its members, it's substantially more opulent than Normal Divinyl has ever been. I think I'm underpaid at work, too, but I know I'm not starving—which is more than I can say for some in this country. I have to wonder about the Dalton Gang's statement that Record Service is still "hungry," however. Capitalism tries to foster business insatiability, a point backed by the price advantage multiple stores receive over individual small businesses. Does this mean Record Service plans on going somewhere else?

And who said a record store—coop or otherwise—of all things was revolutionary?

--Bill Sherman

Laid off and up a creek

Post-Amerikan,

I've been reading your paper for quite a while now, and I've run across a problem I hope you can help us with. My husband was laid off work at the end of October—how we've made it this long I'll never know.

He makes \$138 per week on unemployment. This sounds like a sufficient amount to live on, except in our case. We've just recently (before the layoff) purchased a house with payments of \$280 per month. That alone takes over 2 checks to pay. That leaves about \$270 a month for food, utilities, house and car upkeep, etc. That's no big problem except for the fact that I'm pregnant.

Now while my husband was working, I was covered under his insurance. But since he's been laid off, the policy is no longer effective. We assumed since I was pregnant and covered before the layoff, it would continue throughout the layoff—but thanks to the ERA and some great law they had passed, it is treated as any "illness." / PostNote: Not the ERA; it's not law. /

Now, the problem. First, we tried to get food stamps and found we made "too much money." No big deal. Then we filled out all those forms for a medical card. Again we were told we made "too much money." They told us if we were to get ill and run up over \$500 in medical bills, we might be eligible. (That's besides O.B. and hospital bills.)

When we get sick, we can't afford to go to the doctor, let alone run up \$500 in medical bills we may have to pay for if we're not eligible.

What do people do? We have no luxuries, just food and shelter (clothes? that's a luxury). Is there any agency or government office that can help us, or are we just screwed? Is it legal for his company (Portec) to do this (as far as the insurance)? If you can give us any help or recommend anything, PLEASE DO!

Keep up the good work!

Kelly Mount
211 W. Webster
Clinton IL 61727



Post tells truth

Dear Post,

I am a former Bloomington-Normal resident and I enjoy reading your paper because it presents issues and events as they really are. Keep up the good work!

Susan Kemnetz

Post courageous

Dear Post,

I am recently moved from Hollywood, Calif., to the Bloomington-Normal area. After coming from such an open atmosphere I do find it a bit stifling here; however, your paper is one reprieve from that. I congratulate you on your interesting topics and the courage to step out in such a conservative community.

Carol Bennett



Got the Munchies?

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Holocaust cover-up: Thousands

The crimes of the Nazis during their 12-year rule were so terrible and so enormous that they are difficult to grasp. From the start, the Nazis systematically humiliated, tortured, and literally worked to death thousands of prisoners as official policy of the state--and this was mere preparation for the liquidation of 8 million human beings in the gas chambers of Auschwitz, Treblinka, and the other death camps.

It is estimated that in all the camps of Nazi Germany and its occupied territories, 18 million to 26 million persons--prisoners of war, political prisoners, and nationals of occupied and invaded countries--were put to death through hunger, cold, pestilence, torture, medical experimentation, and other means of extermination such as gas chambers.

After the war, the word genocide was coined to express the mass annihilation of entire groups which the Nazis attempted. The Jewish people were first on the Third Reich's list of victims: nearly 6 million Jews perished under Nazi rule, 90 per cent of the Jewish population in the occupied territories.

Because the genocide of the Jews is an almost incomprehensible truth, it is difficult for many people to further realize that the Nazi policy of mass extermination applied to other groups. The Jewish people, despite the ravages of Hitler, were able to document and publicize the crimes committed against them. Other groups of Hitler's victims have had a far more difficult time in keeping the memory of their sufferings alive.

Gypsies massacred

How many people today know that the gypsies of Europe were systematically rounded up by the Nazis and sent to their deaths in proportions similar to the Jews? At least 400,000 gypsies died in Nazi concentration camps. Relative to their smaller numbers, the gypsies suffered a "holocaust" just as surely as the Jews did.

Approximately one gypsy was murdered for every 15 Jews, but the number of books, films, plays, articles, photographs, monuments, and so on commemorating the suffering of the gypsy people--or even mentioning their victimization--comes nowhere near a 7% figure when compared to the innumerable works that recall the Jewish holocaust. The popular 1978 tv series Holocaust, for example, made no mention of the mass destruction of the gypsies (or of any group other than Jews).

If we stand in constant danger of forgetting, or letting slip to the back of our minds, the horrors that the Nazis perpetrated against the



NEPA NEWS/CPA

Jews, how much more do we forget the holocaust of the gypsies?

Deliberate suppression

When it comes to the hundreds of thousands of homosexuals who were exterminated in the same cold-blooded way, simple forgetfulness is not the issue; the treatment of gay people by the Nazis has been deliberately suppressed. Neither Germany nor the countries who liberated Europe from the Nazis wanted it known that homosexuals were also victims of mass murder.

It is estimated that between a quarter and half a million gay people died in the concentration camps. But the exact figure is not known because the anti-homosexual legislation that

the Third Reich had inherited and intensified remained in force for some 25 years after the war.

A survivor who had worn the pink triangle--the symbol for gay prisoners in the camps, analogous to the yellow star for Jews and the brown triangle for gypsies--could not reveal why he had been incarcerated; homosexuality was still against the law and he could be returned to prison for up to five years.* In 1945 homosexuality was equally illegal in the United States, Britain, and Soviet Russia.

The legal successor government to the Third Reich, the Federal Republic of West Germany, granted financial compensation to the victims of Nazi crimes. This was a small token of recognition for the unspeakable suffering that many had endured. But it was not extended to gay people. Homosexuals who had been imprisoned were "criminal" prisoners, not

*I use the masculine pronoun to refer to gay individuals who were in Nazi concentration camps because the great majority of homosexuals killed and imprisoned by the Third Reich were male; in a strange tribute to sexism, the Nazis did not take women seriously enough to bother hunting them down.

Book review

Heinz Heger, The Men with the Pink Triangle (Boston: Alyson Publications), 117 pp.

In March of 1939, a young student in Vienna receives a summons from the Gestapo to appear for questioning. An hour later, he says goodbye to his mother, who embraces him warmly and says, "Be careful, child, be careful."

Little do either of them suspect that they will not meet again for six years, the son a human wreck, the mother a broken woman.

The young man, who is first taken to a prison and then to a Nazi concentration camp, comes from a well-to-do, respectable, well-connected family. He is not a Jew or a communist. His father is a highly placed civil servant.

But the young man is gay. And for

Six years

that "crime," he is sentenced to the living hell of a Nazi work camp, where prisoners are worked and tortured to death, where the life expectancy can be no longer than a few months in order to make room for new arrivals.

In The Men with the Pink Triangle, the anonymous Austrian who somehow survived six years of Nazi torture tells his saga in a direct, unpretentious manner. The details are so incredibly grim and ghastly that they need no further drama or heightening than this simple, almost innocent narrative gives them. The voice of a survivor is enough.

Here is his description of the clay-pit of the Klinker brick-works, a factory of human destruction reserved exclusively for homosexual prisoners:

"It happened very often that the prisoners shoving a full cart uphill

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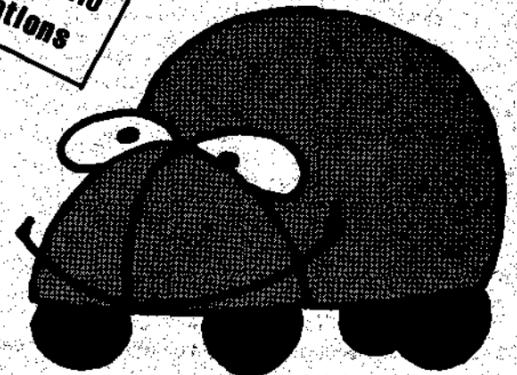
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of gay victims ignored

political victims--they were still "criminals" under German law. Thus, they were not entitled to restitution.

Agreeing with monsters

The pious Allies, who sat in judgment at Nuremberg and condemned the Nazis for their crimes, accepted this judgment of gay people, in effect agreeing with the very monsters they put on trial, condoning the Nazis' imprisonment and extermination of homosexuals.

Not one of the many monuments erected to honor the holocaust victims mentioned homosexuals.

Given these attitudes and oppressive laws, it's hardly surprising that the gay survivors of Nazi persecution kept a low profile after the war. They would have to proclaim themselves as "convicted criminals." With no open gay movement to support them, individual efforts by gay victims of the holocaust were all but impossible.

For more than two decades after the war, only a handful of homosexual-voices were heard, always anonymously, to testify to the horrors they and their fellow-sufferers endured.

Only with the birth of the gay liberation movement in the late 1960s has the Nazi persecution of homosexuals been publicized on a wide scale. In 1967 a long article by Wolfgang Harthäuser, entitled "The



Mass Murder of Homosexuals under the Third Reich," appeared as part of the campaign to decriminalize homosexual

behavior among adults in West Germany, a feat that was finally accomplished in 1969.

Pink triangles speak

In 1972 the experiences of an anonymous gay victim of the Nazis, an Austrian, were related by the German writer Heinz Heger in the book The Men with the Pink Triangle (see adjoining review). This work has recently been reprinted and translated into English.

Just last year Martin Sherman's Bent, a powerful play about the Nazi persecutions of homosexuals, opened in New York, after a successful run in London the year before. There are reports that Bent will be made into a motion picture starring Richard Gere, who played the leading role on Broadway. Later this year, Frank Rector's The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals will be published by Stein and Day. It contains interviews with gay survivors of the Nazi camps.

And West German television is currently putting together a program on the subject, and has publicly advertised for gay concentration camp survivors to take part.

No memorial in Amerika

But in Amerika, land of the free and home of the ignorant, President Carter and the US Holocaust Memorial Council have refused to recognize gay people as victims of the holocaust. They have also excluded

continued on next page

in hell

simply ran out of strength, and the cart slipped violently back down on them. If it could not be braked in time with wooden sticks, then it ran right back with full force into the cart below. Many prisoners were already so numbed and indifferent that they didn't even bother to jump out of the way when a full cart came roaring towards them. The human bodies would fly through the air, and limbs be crushed to pulp, while the remaining prisoners only received more blows with the stick."

In his comments on the brick-works of the Sachsenhausen camp, in Western Germany, the Austrian reveals why his story hasn't been told until just recently (the book was first printed in Germany in 1972):

"Thousands upon thousands of homosexuals must have lost their tormented lives there, victims of a deliberate operation of destruction by the Hitler regime. And yet till this day no one has come forward to describe this and honour its victims. It seems that 'good taste' nowadays prevents people from speaking of the destruction of concentration-camp victims, particularly when they were homosexuals."

The Men with the Pink Triangle is an almost unbelievable record of human survival--personal survival against all odds, in the face of such brutality that any sort of collective solidarity was next to impossible. The fact that the Austrian who tells this story survived--and did so for six years--means he survived at the expense of many fellow prisoners. It is to his credit that he does not conceal this reality.

When he is given a chance to escape the task of carrying dirt to the SS firing range, where he would be a human target for the Nazis' shooting practice, he takes it--even though it means having sex with one of the Capos (chief prisoners) who wears a

green triangle (symbol of a criminal):

"Quickly thinking it over, I agreed, for my will to live was now stronger than my commitment to human decency. No matter who might condemn me for it, the sight of the dead and wounded at the firing-range had had too great an effect on me. I was afraid, terribly afraid. Why shouldn't I seize this opportunity to save my life, even if it was degrading?"

The Austrian's tale is so compelling that it would be hard for any reader with the least bit of sensitivity to argue with this reasoning.

In fact, as the narrative progresses, the reader is drawn into the relative values of this world of never-ending brutality; here tenderness means "less brutal," happiness means "less pain," and love means "possession." As we follow the agonizing struggle of the gay Austrian to survive, we begin to adopt the priorities of the prisoners, to cherish any morsel of human compassion that surfaces in the story, to understand that most of the people in the camps were hopelessly caught in a conflict of duty versus conscience, of risk versus survival. We are often forced to confront the consequences of each alternative, and to see that the results are equally unacceptable--and inevitable.

If the Austrian's first-hand account gives us a sense of "how it could happen" in the camps, then it also leads us to consider "how it could happen" in the society that produced the camps. And when we see that, I think we're forced to abandon the notion that "it can't happen here."

For what would happen in an Amerika at war, with the dollar worth nothing, and each of us left to our own resources to survive? And are these conditions so far from reality in 1981?.

--Ferdydurke

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Homosexuality

In 1929, a committee of the German Reichstag (or parliament) recommended the abolition of paragraph 175 of the penal code, the paragraph which then made male homosexuality a criminal offense in Germany since 1871. (As in Britain, lesbianism was never illegal in Germany, the male-dominant society finding other ways, like marriage and religion, to suppress female independence.)

This proposed action was the result of a 30-year campaign by Magnus Hirschfeld and his Scientific-Humanitarian Committee. The repeal was supported by socialists, communists, and liberals; it was strongly opposed by the parties of the right, especially the Nazis.

The reformed penal code never came into existence. The Nazis seized control of the German government in 1933, and two years later the anti-gay paragraph was markedly strengthened.

Serious misunderstanding

There is a serious misconception that in some sense or other the Nazis condoned or even encouraged male homosexuality. This idea was probably first put forth by the opponents of Nazism in the 30s, when they wanted to discredit the Nazi party in any way they could.

In truth, the Nazis consistently viewed homosexuality as part of the "degeneracy" they were set on stamping out. As early as 1928 the National Socialist (Nazi) Party issued its official position on homosexuals: "It is not necessary that you and I live, but it is necessary that the German people live. And it can live if it can fight, for life means fighting. And it can fight only if it maintains its masculinity.... Free love and deviance are undisciplined... Anyone who even thinks of homosexual love is our enemy."

Now, of course, where there are large all-male, paramilitary organizations--like the Hitler Youth, the SA (storm troopers), the elite SS--there's probably going to be homosexual



activity of one sort or another. It's almost an inevitable characteristic of such groups. Before the Nazis seized power in 1933, they found it difficult to suppress this "degeneracy" in their own ranks. They probably even looked the other way a lot (as they often do in the US armed forces today) because they needed the manpower more than the political purity.

But it was a fundamental of the Nazi doctrine that men are men and women are girls, and homosexuality was contrary to the "Nordic ideal" of masculinity. As I see it, the primary truth in the Nazi acceptance of same-sex activities within its own ranks is this: when male homosexuality disguises itself as a cult of manliness and virility, it is less obnoxious to the fascist mind than is the softening of the gender division that gayness usually involves when allowed to express itself freely.

The purge of 1934

Ernst Rohm, head of the SA and one of Hitler's top advisers, was homosexual. For many years prior to 1934,

the sexual preference of Rohm and his associates in the SA was well known to Hitler. It was also carefully covered up, while Nazi publicists regularly railed against homosexual "degeneracy." But when Rohm and his faction insisted on holding to the early anti-capitalist slogans that Hitler had rejected, a political split occurred.

In June of 1934, Hitler ordered a purge of all homosexuals from the Army. Rohm was shot, and 200 SA leaders were rounded up in Berlin and massacred. Exactly one year later, on the first anniversary of Rohm's alleged "putsch," paragraph 175 was revised, making ten possible homosexual acts punishable by 6 months imprisonment. These included kissing, embracing, and even homoerotic fantasies.

Convictions under the new law rose rapidly. From 1931 to 1933 only 2000 people had been convicted under paragraph 175. But the years 1937 to 1939 saw that total increased over 10 times--to 24,000.

A further decree of 1934 provided for the sterilization of "degenerates"--which included homosexuals, epileptics, drug addicts, and those born blind or malformed--and by 1935, more than 50,000 people had been so "treated." In practice, homosexuals were actually castrated rather than sterilized.

Extermination begins

By 1936, the legal penalty for homosexuality was already considered too lenient by the Nazis. In that year Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazi security services (the Gestapo), made this comment: "In our judgment of homosexuality--a symptom of degeneracy which could destroy our race--we must return to the guiding Nordic

Holocaust coverup

continued from preceding page

socialists, feminists, and other political opponents of Nazi fascism.

This shows how little our society has come to understand what actually took place in Nazi Germany. The political struggle in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s has a lot to tell us about the workings of fascist minds and the inability of progressive and liberal thinkers to hold back the oppression of military and paramilitary forces. But we must look at it wholly and honestly.

Hitler's politics of extermination sought to silence all who might oppose his fascistic dreams. In the millions slaughtered by the Nazis, it is impossible to distinguish between those who actually were Jews, homosexuals, communists, or gypsies, and those who were labeled as such in order to get rid of potential threats.

To remember the suffering of some and ignore or deny the suffering of others seems dangerously close to acceptance of the Nazi philosophy that, indeed, some people are expendable. It reminds us that Hitler may have been defeated, but fascism and the militant right are still alive.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: David Fernbach, "Introduction" to *The Men with the Pink Triangle* (1980); Richard Grunberger, *Social History of Nazi Germany* (1971); W.J. Krueckl and Jan Johnston, "The New Right as an Old Trick," *Gay Community News* (May 3, 1980).



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in the third reich



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gay prisoners was to be worked to death or to die of brutality in the process.

Level 3

The conditions at the Sachsenhausen brick works, where many homosexuals were sent, were in no way accidental. The SS decreed that conditions there should be "level 3," which meant the average life expectancy for prisoners could be no more than a few months. Himmler himself stipulated that certain categories of prisoners, including gays, were to be worked to death in this way. Very few gays sent to Sachsenhausen and the other work camps lived to tell their stories.

Paradoxically, while the murder of the Jews increased in a frenzy through the war years, the liquidation of homosexuals (at least the "Aryan" ones) began to slacken. As the war progressed, the shortage of skilled industrial workers meant recruitment of many gays to the new concentration-camp arms factories, where they had to be kept alive. And when the "thousand-year Reich" faced imminent defeat, it sought to win to its side the homosexuals it had been set on exterminating, promising them "freedom" if they volunteered to fight.

On the other hand, the death penalty for homosexuality was imposed in Nazi Germany in 1942. This capital sentence was applied primarily in the armed forces (where almost all able-bodied men were)--offenders there were usually shot without trial or investigation.

Extermination politics

The treatment of gay people by Nazis deserves our attention for several reasons. Although we may not want to confront such a grim reality, the meaning of extermination politics must not be ignored.

At a time when many voices in America are openly opposing gay rights and gay visibility, we need to face the truth about homophobia (the fear of gayness) and the real reasons that some people want to suppress the free expression of homosexual feelings.

The Nazis' campaign to eliminate homosexuals, especially when seen as part of their overall scheme for social organization--their "final solution," as they called it--presents a chilling historical precedent for the Moral Majority's recent drive to re-create America in its own image.

It would be easy to see the Nazi pol-

icy of extermination as the work of evil monsters who needed no reason to carry out their vicious acts. But that view fails to acknowledge that a lot of Germans supported their basic social philosophy: get rid of Jews, get rid of communists, get rid of queers. The Nazis' program for economic stability and national unity wasn't new; they exploited common hatreds and attacked age-old scapegoats. Jews and gays had been murdered before, so had gypsies and communists. (And they are being murdered today--in Iran, in Argentina and Brazil, in New York and Greensboro, North Carolina.)

Counter revolution

Nazism was an example--possibly the greatest of its kind--of a counter-revolution. The Nazis were desperately attempting to turn the clock back, to restore certain social relations and arrangements that had ceased to work in the 20th century and were being replaced by other ways of living and relating.

With this analysis, it's easier to understand why the Nazis chose to eliminate certain "racial" groups



(Jews and gypsies), certain ideological groups (socialists and communists) and certain sexual groups (homosexuals). After all, race, conscience, and sexual preference seem three very different categories.

But Nazi fascism had to attack the Jews and gypsies, because they were each international in their own way and denied the arbitrary claims of "nationalism." It had to attack the socialists and communists, who threatened to abolish class distinctions. It had to attack gay people, who call into question the division between the sexes and threaten male supremacy.

In America today we're seeing a revival of the same kind of turn-back-the-clock thinking that inspired the extermination politics of German Nazism. Not surprisingly, many of the same or similar groups of "undesirables" are being singled out for suppression and blame. Many of the same hatreds are being tapped by the born-again, back-to-Christ, basic-value candidates who mix military goals with "old-time virtues" and come up with simple-minded formulas for saving the American dollar.

There aren't any death camps in America--unless you count ghettos, factories, and prisons. But the feelings and attitudes that allowed the Nazi take-over of Germany, and later spawned the concentration camps, are very much alive in the doctrine and programs of a whole range of "conservative" organizations--from the Klan and the American Nazis to the PTL Club and the Old-Time Gospel Hour. Listen to what these groups are saying about gay people--and remember what the Nazis did to homosexuals. See if you don't hear the same disgusting sound of extermination politics and scapegoating.

--Ferdurke

Sources: Hans Bleuel, *Sex and Society in Nazi Germany*; Martin Sherman, "Background Information" to Bent (1980); David Fernbach, "Introduction" to *The Men with the Pink Triangle* (1980); Frank Rector, "Interview" from *The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals*, in *The Advocate*, Jan. 8, 1981.

principle of 'extermination of degenerates.' From then on, Department II of the Gestapo, the political department, had a special sub-section to deal with homosexuality and abortion.

Thus, conviction for homosexual behavior meant transfer to "protective custody"--internment in concentration camps--after serving the sentence "legally" imposed in a regular prison. The early concentration camps were detention centers, but by 1940 they had been turned into extermination camps.

While some distinction can be made between work camps and extermination camps, the difference is meaningless in the final analysis. Being worked to death has the same result as being gassed. All the Nazi camps became death camps.

It is true that at no time were homosexuals ever sent en masse to the gas chambers, as the Jews were (although many gay people were among the thousands of non-Jews who died at Auschwitz). Instead, the general fate of

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Benefit of the future

The Future: Sunday, Feb. 15, 1981
the setting: The Gallery, 111 E.
Beaufort, Normal Illinois.

There seems to be a small gathering in the front of the Gallery III. The talk is soft yet there seems to be excitement in the air. Something is happening! Everyone is waiting patiently for the event. Seems the crowd is holding a small blue ticket with black lettering and trim that reads: Feb. 15, 1981 Sunday-- Post-American Benefit. 7:30 pm-1:00 am, Gallery III, 111 E. Beaufort Normal, Live music! Dancing! \$2.00 Donation.

Well sounds good to me; I think I'll check this out; after all, the Post-American is an alternative newspaper that prints some right-on material. Seems to me they have been in service for years printing articles on community issues, non-sexist, non-racist ideas. Updates on the draft, explorations of organized religions and pro-gay material. Sure I'll have to check this out; I'm sure they can use the support.

Well, here I am, inside. I hope I can find a table; sure seems to be a crowd. Also seems like this could be fun; after all the ticket said music and dancing. Good here's a table, now I just need a beer and to locate my friends. Now I'm set. Oh. A spokesperson is taking the stage.

The stage: Good evening and welcome to the Post-American benefit. I'm real happy you could make it. This is our third benefit, and hopefully will be as successful as in the past. In publishing an alternative newspaper

like the Post-American, the cost is very high. So, we once again have asked our readers for support. We do appreciate the support that has been shown through the readership and feedback we receive. Yet, we also need to ask for additional support, and that support can be the most difficult and uncomfortable request to make, that being financial. So we thought, how about a benefit? Our readers can lend support and also have a good time doing it. So, I can't think of a better way of enjoying yourself, than live music and dancing. And music we do have! How's this for a lineup? The first sets are acoustic guitars. Dan Linneman, who by the way, is the organic farmer we featured (see Vol. 9 No. 6 Oct-Nov. 1980, Phoenix Farms back to basics), has been practicing real hard and will perform some old-time blues with enjoyable slide guitar work. It's nice to hear Dan play. We are also pleased to present Francois. Francois has played the previous two Post benefits. Francois' music, mostly originals, has a very good political awareness and has the sound of some true feelings. He certainly can be very inspirational.

Rounding up the acoustic acts, will be Michael Simpson (me). Michael will feature an arpeggios style that he has transposed into an instrumental selection, as well as variety of vocals from his favorite songs.

Now, rumor has it, there could be a couple added features that might drop in. Let's hope so.

To round up the music, we will feature the band--the Crumbsnatchers. The Crumbsnatchers, a newly formed local

group, features some rhythm and blues, rock'n' roll, and country. For being together just a short time, they have a professional sound that can motivate their audience to get into the swing and out on the dance floor. I'm sure they'll provide a good time.

The Crumbsnatchers are Larry Brooks on base guitar and vocals; Mike Hogan on lead guitar; Russel Eirhart, by the way from Alberta, Canada, on piano, and guitar, and vocals; Scott Campbell (from Merna sometimes) on drums and vocals.

By the way, I'll let you in on a secret: the name Crumbsnatchers comes from snatching up the crumbs of those tasty cupcakes.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to our musicians. Each and every one has donated their time and skills to make this all possible. We do appreciate their efforts.

So, that's the lineup. We also want to thank you for coming out and showing your support to keep alternative news in our community. Keep up the good spirit. Have fun.

The present: We now have tickets available for the P-A Benefit. Tickets can be bought from members of the P-A staff. Also Small Changes Bookstore 409A N. Main and The Gallery in Normal. On the evening of the benefit, tickets will be sold at the door. So come on out--we have plenty of seating available.

See you Sunday Feb. 15, 7:30, at the Gallery III.

--Michael

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