

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

3-1984

Volume 12, Number 10

Post Amerikan

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Water Dept; Harbor Hall; sports; city tax

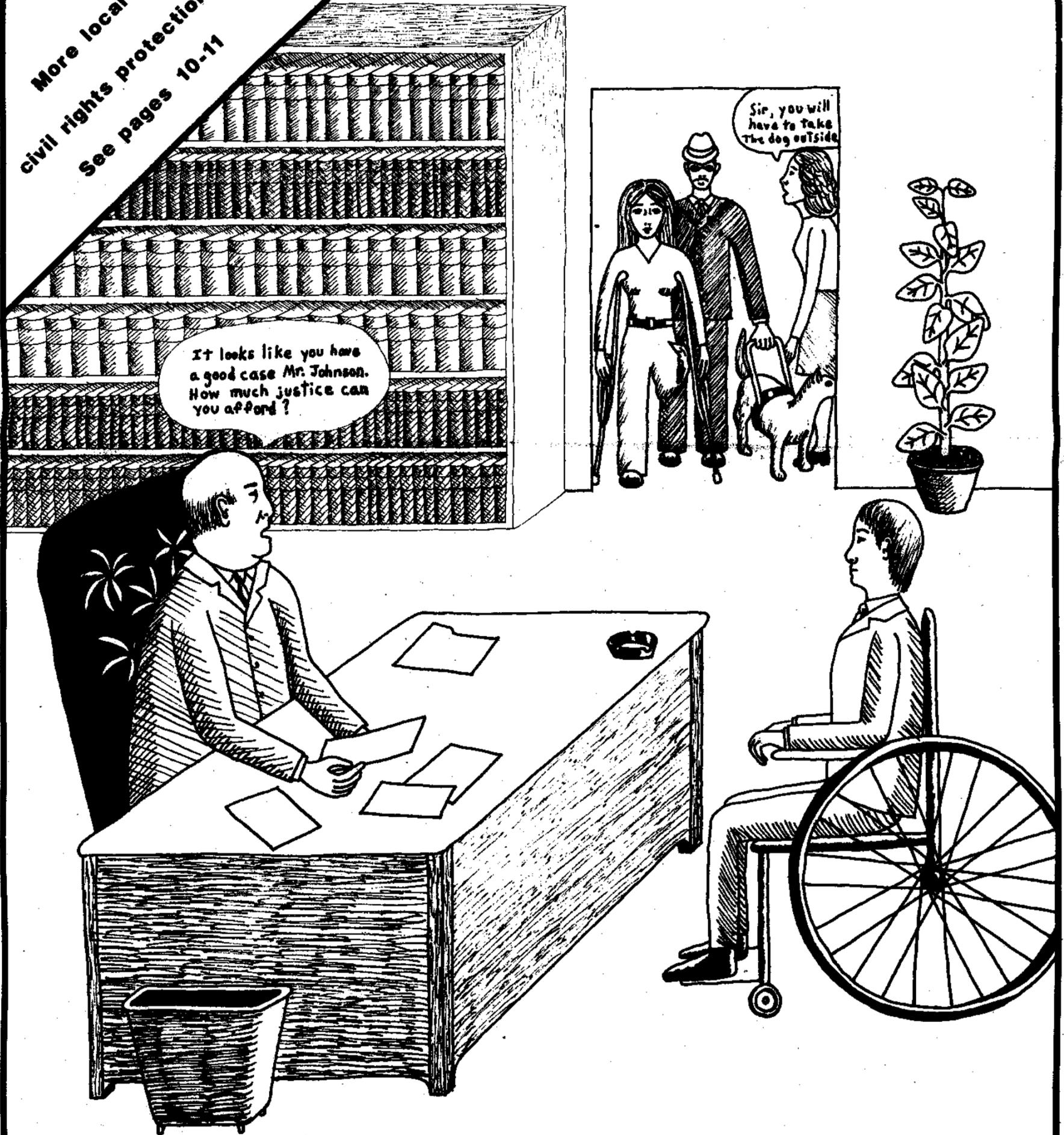
Bloomington-Normal

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POST AMERICAN

Vol. 12 No. 10
March, 1984

More local
civil rights protection?
See pages 10-11



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Post sellers

BLOOMINGTON

Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front
The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Front and Center Building
Law and Justice Center, W. Front
Lee Street (100 N.)
Main and Miller streets
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
Mel-O-Cream doughnuts, 901 N. Main
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main
Pantagraph (in front of building),
301 W. Washington
The Park Store, Wood & Allin
Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
(at exit)
U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
Washington and Clinton streets

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
ISU University Union, 2nd floor
ISU University Union, parking lot
entrance
ISU Milner Library (entrance)
Mickey's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.
North & Broadway, southeast corner
Record Service, Watterson Place
Redbird IGA, 310 S. Main
Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway
(in front)

OUTTA TOWN

Urbana, Horizon Bookstore, 517 S.
Goodwin
Blackburn College Bookstore
Carlinville, Illinois

POST A·M·E·R·I·K·A·N

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL'S ALTERNATIVE

SINCE 1972

Volume 12, Number 10

Member, Alternative Press Syndicate

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings.

We put out ten issues a year. Staff members take turns as "Coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, photography, graphics, paste-up, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis. You are invited to volunteer your talents.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine.

We like to print your letters. Try to limit yourself to the equivalent of two double-spaced typewritten pages. If you write a short, abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. Long, abusive letters, however, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles. Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe that it is very important to keep a paper like this around. If you think so too, then support us through contributions and by letting our advertisers know you saw their ads in the Post Amerikan.

The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is March 22.

good numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049
American Civil Liberties Union.454-1787
CETA.....827-4026
Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035
Community for Social Action....452-4867
Connection House.....829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005
Department of Children and
Family Services.....828-0022
Draft Counseling.....452-5046
Gay/Lesbian Information Line...829-2719
HELP (transportation for handi-
capped and senior citizens).828-8301
Illinois Dept. of Public Aid...827-4621
Illinois Lawyer Referral...800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope.....828-7346
Metropolitan Community Church..829-2719
Mid Central Economic Opportunity
Corporation.....829-0691
McLean County Health Dept.....454-1161
Mobile Meals.....828-8301
McLean County Center for
Human Services.....827-5351
National Health Care Services
(abortion ass't in Peoria)..691-9073
National Runaway Switchboard...
.....800-621-4000
in Illinois.....800-972-6004
Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195
Occupational Development
Center.....828-7324
Operation Recycle.....829-0691
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone
Help).....827-4005
or.....800-322-5015
Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
Planned Parenthood.....827-8025
Post Amerikan.....828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services...827-5021
Prairie Alliance.....828-8249
Project Oz.....827-0377
Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428
TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301
Unemployment compensation/Job
Service.....827-6237
United Farmworkers Support....452-5046

Thanx

This issue is in your hands thanks to: Susie, Russell, Tom, Mark, Melissa, Deborah, Diana, Dan, Bobby, Kathy, Drew, Sue S., Sue L., Ralph, Bumper, X, Rich, Have, Mark, Becky, and Dave (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

Special thanks to Dan Hunan and his stupendous kitchen help for the elegant food, fascinating fashions, and ethnic atmosphere. And to Susie S. for her generous donation.

Moving?

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Sues MCEOC



Harber Hall oinks again

During the time that Bloomington developer and right-wing know-nothing Harber Hall was State Senator, "Harber Hall Oinks Again" was one of the Post Amerikan's recurring headlines. It seemed to get almost as much use as the headings for the "letters" and "community news" sections.

Even old retired boars still squeal, and Harber has oinked yet once more, apparently just to let us all know he's he's still there.

Hall filed suit Feb. 15, alleging that the Mid-Central Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC) was using federal funds for partisan politics.

MCEOC receives federal money to administer several programs aimed at helping poor people. The agency helps pay for heating bills, weatherizes homes, helps with housing, and conducts educational workshops geared to teaching how to survive on a restricted budget.

MCEOC does not engage in partisan politics. Its federal grants forbid the agency from supporting particular candidates or particular political parties. Since MCEOC does not engage in partisan politics, Harber Hall had to look really hard to come up with any evidence to support his harassment suit's contention that MCEOC is using federal money to engage in partisan politics.

Hall found an article in the Observer, the bi-monthly newsletter published by MCEOC.

Hall claims that the Observer's coverage of a local voter regis-

tration drive was evidence of MCEOC's engaging in partisan politics.

Hall was referring to Project Vote (covered in last month's Post Amerikan), a coalition of volunteers who were organizing a door-to-door registration campaign.

"During the campaign," the Observer's article said, "volunteers will be going door to door asking for unregistered voters. The Democratic precinct committeeperson will follow, and that individual is authorized to register voters."

Hall's suit apparently believes that the use of "Democratic" turned an otherwise neutral article into a misuse of federal funds.

As Carol Reitan, executive director of MCEOC pointed out to the Pantagraph, there's no such thing as registering as a Democrat or a Republican. You just register. (Reitan, by the way, narrowly missed defeating Hall in a bitterly-contested Senate race in 1976. Does filing this obviously petty lawsuit give Hall an extra vengeful pleasure?)

Mike Matejka, who helped organize Project Vote, sent letters to all precinct committeepersons, both Democrats and Republicans. He asked all of them if they would be willing to go to people's homes to get them registered to vote.

None of the Republicans were interested, according to Matejka. It seems that Harber Hall himself turned down the opportunity to help poor people get registered. As a Republican precinct committeeperson, Hall received one of Project Vote's letters.



Perhaps Hall wouldn't have been satisfied with the Observer's article even if the word "Democratic" had been omitted. Savvy Republicans (Hall probably isn't one of these) might realize that after all the Republican attacks on poor people, simply registering poor people to vote actually is a partisan political act because there is a 90% chance that they'll vote against the Republicans.

Hall's suit demands that the court enjoin MCEOC from using federal funds to promote voter registration by Democratic precinct committeepersons. In addition, the suit asks that MCEOC "withdraw" all copies of the Observer's January issue.

It's not clear how Hall intends for MCEOC to "withdraw" something that has already been mailed to several thousand people. But Hall wasn't even waiting for the court to make its decision. According to reports reaching the Post Amerikan, Hall has already been down to at least one social service agency personally trying to remove a stack of Observers placed there for distribution.

--Mark Silverstein

Water Dept. home invasions to be stopped

Last month, the Post Amerikan revealed that Bloomington water meter readers sometimes enter the homes of city residents without their consent or knowledge.

Since that time, Bloomington Corporation Counsel David Stanczak has defended the water department's policy. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has vowed to take action against the city. And Bloomington City Manager Bill Vail has told the Post Amerikan that he will get the policy, and (if necessary) the ordinance, changed.

Current water department policy, according to Supervisor of Accounting Judy Whikehart, is this:

A meter reader will knock first. If there is no answer, the meter reader will try the door. If the door is unlocked, the meter reader is authorized to enter the premises and take a reading.

Illegal

"It is blatantly illegal for a city agent to enter someone's home without some form of consent or judicial authorization," George Taseff, ACLU Chairperson, told the Post Amerikan. "An unlocked door is not consent to enter," he added.

Since publication of the article last month, Taseff said, two people have contacted the ACLU, saying this unwanted intrusion by the water department had happened to them, too.

"If that is the official policy of the city, then there are numerous constitutional problems involved," Taseff said. "The ACLU certainly intends to follow this up with some action."

Can anyone read?

Last month, Judy Whikehart of the water department claimed that the entry policy is authorized by the ordinance governing operation of the water department. Specifically, she pointed to Section K, which reads "All water meters shall be so located that they will be easily accessible to the Meter Reader." To find Section K, Whikehart had to dig through the portion of the ordinance detailing specifications for mains, taps, cocks and their locations and spacing.

Tom Eimermann, who teaches law, and attorney George Taseff both said that Section K does not authorize meter readers to enter unlocked homes. The ordinance just doesn't say what Whikehart wants it to say. And if it did say that, Taseff added, the ordinance would be unconstitutional.

I thought the problem would be corrected this month, when I contacted Bloomington Corporation Counsel David Stanczak. (Maybe an accountant could not read an ordinance, I thought, but surely the city's lawyer could.)

Wrong.

Stanczak backed up Whikehart's misreading of the ordinance. According to the Bloomington Corporation Counsel, the ordinance telling plumbers not to install water meters inside of staircases somehow authorizes meter readers to enter unlocked homes. Stanczak defended the water department's practice, and said the ordinance was constitutional.

OK, I thought. The city will have a fight soon, when the ACLU starts taking action.

But maybe not. Only three days after Stanczak defended the water department's policy, City Manager Bill Vail approached me just before a city council meeting.

"I saw your letter about the meter readers," Vail said. "There's no reason for us to be going into people's homes like that. That's from the horse and buggy days."

"I'm going to do something about this," Vail declared. "If that's in the ordinance, we'll get that changed."

Has an article in the Post Amerikan actually helped bring about meaningful social change in our lifetime? Stay tuned for next issue's follow-up.

--Mark Silverstein

Live and let die

In medieval England they used to paint white crosses on houses struck by the plague. In modern South Africa, black people knew that a white number painted on their house can also be a sentence of death.

In Driefontein, a farming village about 200 miles from Johannesburg, the people joked about the numbers on their houses. The officials, they say, told them that numbering would help the Post Office deliver their letters. They laugh when they say this because they know that the officials know that they know what the real purpose is.

The people of Driefontein know that the numbers mean that they must go. The social engineers in Pretoria have designated their community a "black spot"--and apartheid decrees that all "black spots" must be eliminated from the face of "white" South Africa.

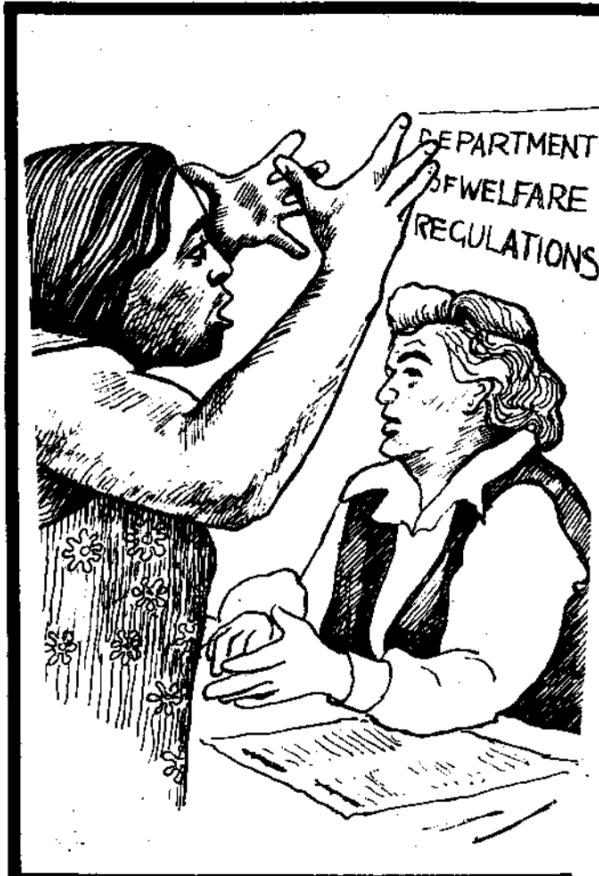
Unless the people of Driefontein can hold out against removal, they will join half a million blacks already swept off their farms and deposited by government trucks in the "homelands," along with at least three times that number of black people otherwise displaced from the 86% of South Africa appropriated for white ownership.

On the gravestones

Last November, numbers also suddenly appeared on the gravestones in Driefontein. Apparently the government intends to move the village cemetery along with the 5,000 living inhabitants.

If the government has its way, the community will be split up--Zulus to Babanago adjoining the Kwazulu "homeland" and Swazis to Lothair near the Kangwane "homeland." No one knows where the graveyard will go.

The South African government has promised that it will provide "rations free of charge for three days" during the removal, while tents or pre-fabricated houses will be provided temporarily in the new areas, free of charge. But the people of Driefontein don't want to leave their settled, peaceful community, which has its own



school, bus service, stores, churches, and water supply, and go to the overcrowded dumping grounds that are known as "homelands."

Crowded and unhealthy

Kangwane is already so packed with displaced people that cholera broke out in 1980 in some places (because the government failed to supply proper water and sewage facilities). No more than 16% of Kangwane's residents are economically active (i.e., have a job) as opposed to 44% of blacks who live in "white areas."

The tin huts and tents temporarily loaned by Pretoria offer little protection, so that children and old people often die of respiratory infections. Severe malnutrition often follows the resettlement, because people have been forced to dispose of their livestock, which at least insured a small supply of fresh milk.

The vast apartheid apparatus responsible for engineering the resettlement of blacks into the "homelands" is called the Department of Cooperation and Development. When its most recent minister took over the job, he declared that his philosophy would be one of "live and let live." Obviously he didn't have the people of Driefontein in mind.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: New Statesman, 18 Feb. 1983.

Welfare justice

In the small town of Dawson, just outside of Springfield, off Highway 72, an event took place that was unique and says much for the people who reside in this small town. It shows that even in these times of hardships, people will come to the aid of an individual in need.

The people in Dawson banded together to raise money for a wheelchair--a wheelchair for a woman in her early twenties, paralyzed from the neck down, as a result of an unfortunate accident. She is being helped by different agencies, one of which is the Welfare Office. Welfare's contribution is \$25 a month. Just think, \$25! Seems unreal--even a completely healthy person could not live more than three days on that amount of money.

What would \$25 buy for a woman who is a paraplegic? I am not even going to try and guess. If someone gave her a donation of \$1, \$3, or \$5, Welfare would deduct it from the \$25 a month she receives each month for her needs. This is all true, but I cannot use her name or Welfare might take away her \$25 they give her, causing unnecessary suffering on her part.

Now the main fact of this story is the people in Dawson, Illinois, who cared enough to help. The townspeople and local businesses decided they would help raise money to buy a wheelchair for this woman. A walk-a-thon was held, people went from door to door looking for donations. The townspeople and businesses also held a banquet, supplied the food and refreshments, even a place to have it. Their sole purpose, to raise enough money to bring a glimmer of hope and to show this woman, people do care.

Everything was paid for out of the townspeople's own pockets. No one asked to be reimbursed. Happily they donated the minimal cost, to raise a greater amount than any one person could afford. Money was raised, not quite enough, but a start. The money was put into an account for the woman and the townspeople continued to raise money, hoping to reach a goal of the amount needed to purchase a special wheelchair.

Welfare became aware of the past events and decided to confiscate the money, to be paid to Welfare for their helping this woman, now and in the past.

The thing that makes this so unusual is that the townspeople who involved themselves on their own time and at their own expense are tax payers whose dollars help support Welfare. Knowing all this, these same people were willing to give more, and gladly so. But what they got was a surprise: helping someone in need could not be done without hurting the individual. NOW WHERE IS THE JUSTICE??

When I went to Springfield to the Welfare Office to inquire as to why outside help would not be acceptable in this case, it was like walking into a stone wall blindfolded. Caseworkers were unavailable, supervisors were out for the day, and no one at the office had any information to give in this case. So being left to draw my own conclusions, I concluded that Welfare justice is something out of the middle ages, determined at the whims of the office involved, with little or no regard for the individual.

The people of Dawson were smart enough to go about it differently after Welfare failed to confiscate the money. The money for the wheelchair is protected and for all practical purposes does not exist. GREAT GOING, DAWSON!

The moral of this story: Welfare justice is unreasonable and totally without compassion for the people whom it is supposed to be caring for, the people in need.

--Arthur Morrison

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Miscellaneous outrages you may have missed

Pantagraph sets it wrong

The Pantagraph's miniscule "Setting It Right" column has always been used to correct factual errors which the Pantagraph has inadvertently published. Sometimes we read that an address was misprinted, the wrong person was named as doing something, maybe even a statement accidentally misquoted.

A breakthrough in "Setting It Right" occurred Feb. 4. That's when the Pantagraph's column apologized, not for any error of fact, but for its selection of correct facts.

The Pantagraph apologized for an article which it said "gave a misleading impression of a Normal official's opinion of the student party problems."

The earlier article reported on a meeting of an advisory committee formed to discuss Normal residents' complaints about student parties. One resident said a home worth \$90,000 in a "good" area would sell for only \$50,000 in a student district. After the meeting, the Pantagraph said, Normal Assistant City Manager Tom DeGiulio said he'd be willing to trade his home in El Paso (which he's been unsuccessful at selling) for a house in a student neighborhood close to his job.

The Pantagraph's "Setting It Right" column apologized for printing a statement that "understated [DeGiulio's] opinion of the seriousness of student parties disrupting neighborhoods and lowering property values."

The Pantagraph's apology did not say DeGiulio had been misquoted. DeGiulio apparently really said what the Pantagraph said he said. But the Pantagraph apologized for printing what DeGiulio said, because printing that statement "understated" DeGiulio's real opinion.

Until now, the Pantagraph's "Setting It Right" column has corrected only errors of fact. Now, after a phone call from a public official, the Pantagraph has apologized for what particular factual details were included in a story.

Almost any account of an event involves selection of certain details. Almost any such selection will give impressions some people would quarrel with. If the Pantagraph wants to begin correcting errors of selection as well as errors of fact, it might be a progressive (though cumbersome) development. But let's hope the Pantagraph is as open to the criticisms of ordinary people as it seems to be to the complaints of an angry city official.

Public is

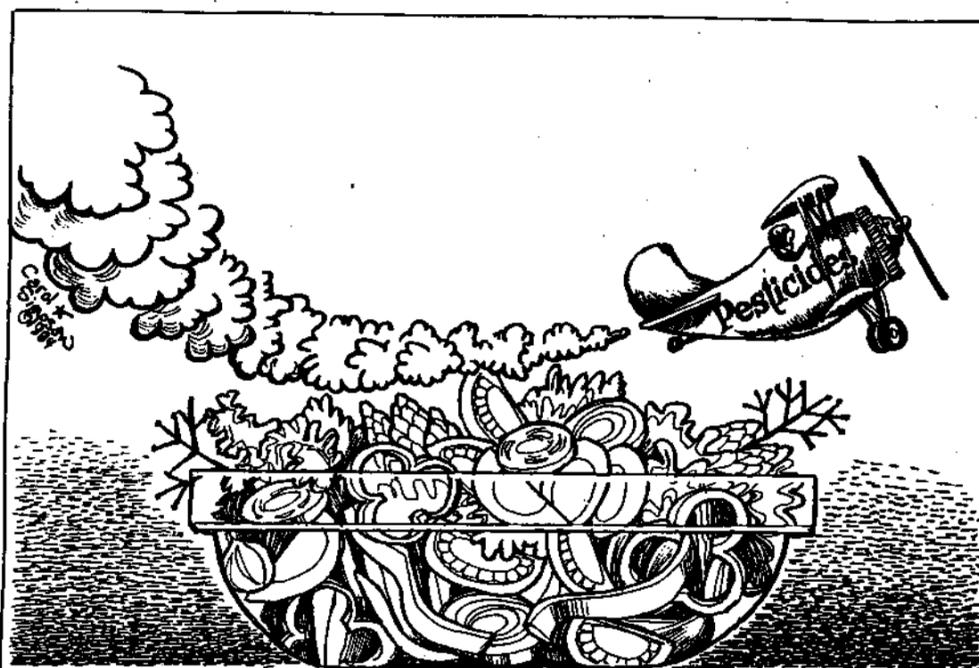
'special interest'

Bloomington Mayor Richard Buchanan included Illinois' Freedom of Information Act in a list of new laws which he claimed serve only special interest groups, according to a Pantagraph story

During a luncheon with Lt. Gov. George Ryan, Buchanan included the Freedom of Information Act when he complained of new laws that he said were "anti-municipality, anti-citizen and anti-taxpayer."

The Freedom of Information Act spells out what government records shall be available to the public.

--M.S.



Wealthy get another government handout

Plans for an additional runway at the Bloomington-Normal airport received preliminary approval from the McLean County Regional Planning Commission in early February.

Airport manager Charles Waugh told the group that increased airport traffic made the runway necessary. But Waugh did not have any traffic statistics with him, according to a Pantagraph article.

Waugh also neglected to bring any cost estimates with him, but you can bet the pricetag will be high. The airport authority needs to buy 200 acres of land and pay for the re-location of part of Oakland Avenue.

Ninety percent of the cost will be paid by the federal government and 5% by the State of Illinois. Five percent will be paid by the Airport Authority.

In other words, almost all the funding will come from taxpayers, rather than from the actual users of the airport. But don't start getting upset about government money subsidizing rich people's transportation. We're only supposed to get upset when government money goes to subsidize the transportation of people who otherwise couldn't afford it--like the bus system.

--M.S.

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New city utility tax proposed

The City of Bloomington is proposing to tax your utilities--gas, phone, electricity, cable tv--to pay for a \$5 million flood control project over the next 5 years.

For the past few years, flood control and flood damage have been growing problem in the community as heavy rains and flooding streams have taken their toll on people's basements and homes.

Why the problem? Some might blame Bloomington's eastward creep: more and more farm land, which used to absorb and retain water, is paved, asphalted, and built over. The water that used to soak into that soil has to go somewhere and it does--wherever it can.

If you just remodeled your home and carpeted your basement, and are all set to lounge around in your new rec room and play "Space Invaders," 4 inches of water can be a real bummer. Or if you are a westsider and have old sewer connections that flow into the water drainage system, you can have sewage floating back up through your storm sewers--real icky problems and messy.

So the Bloomington City Management has devised a \$5 million flood control scheme, with only one problem--where's the money to come from.

The good ole days of federal assistance for such activity are long gone, thanks to the rancher in the White House. So the bucks for this \$5 million feat of pipe and plumbing has to come out of someone's pocket.

Two schemes have been devised--a property tax increase, which would sock a \$60,000 home owner for about \$40 a year, or a utility tax which would hit everyone in town, renter, or owner, who pays for their own utilities. If you are paying \$1500 a year in utilities, this would come to about \$15 a year. There is a third alternative, and that is to do nothing.

The criticism that is coming from many residents, particularly west-siders, is two-fold. One: who caused the problem in the first place? Should the whole city have to pay because of over-development on the eastside, and unplanned, haphazard growth?

And two: with the uncertainty of utility bills in the next few years, with natural gas de-control a possibility which could send prices up incredibly, who is to say that a utility tax might not become an incredible burden, raising \$10-\$30 every year because of continued rate hikes by large utilities? If that happens, what about low-income and fixed income people who will already be hard-pressed by rising energy bills and who will have a city tax put on top of that? Although property tax increases are no more popular, at least property valuations don't go up 10% every year like utilities seem to be doing.

And finally, perhaps the most difficult question of all: what happens if the City of Bloomington spends \$5 million on flood control, and the Town of Normal and McLean County do nothing? Water does not respect city

boundaries, so Bloomington could be faced with continued flooding problems. Or what if Normal or the county have another development boom, or expand the present one, and the paved areas are increased, pouring more gallons westward and southward toward Bloomington?

But oblivious to these possibilities, the city management is convinced that the utility tax is a fair solution, ostensibly because more of the burden would fall on large users, like businesses. Imagine someone scraping by, renting a drafty old house, energy inefficient and wasteful, and suddenly there is an extra \$30-\$40 a year tacked on the utility bill. For a lot of folks faced with Illinois Power's hunger for new rates, as well as telephone de-control and the spectre of natural gas de-control, a utility tax could turn into a real monster.

Obviously, the \$60,000-\$100,000 home folks aren't going to like a property tax increase. Nonetheless, the \$25-\$40 a year that a utility tax can take out of a low-income person's pocket is no less a hardship.

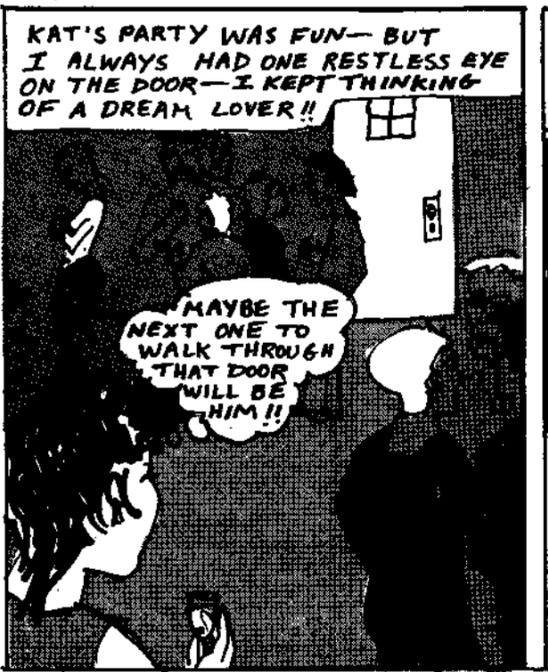
The promise with this legislation is that the tax will automatically end at either 5 years or \$5 million, whichever comes first. But somehow, it seems that once the government develops a tax source, letting go is no easy process. And as utilities continue their upward spiral, a \$1 utility tax now could turn into quite a monster a few years down the road.

--Mike Matejka

OH, MY CRAZY SISTER AND HER CRAZY, IMPOSSIBLE SCHEMES! HOW WE CRIED FOR JOY WHEN ANGINA SPITZ FELL FOR KAT'S BAIT--HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER!! BUT AS SHE LEFT THE COURTROOM AS A FREE WOMAN AND ANGINA LEFT IN HANDCUFFS, I ASKED MYSELF... WAS THIS REALLY THE END OF ANGINA SPITZ? AND WERE THE STREETS SAFE ONCE AGAIN FOR...

FIRST THINGS FIRST... WHEN KAT AND FRANKIE WERE RELEASED FROM JAIL, A CELEBRATION WAS IN ORDER! SO I BRACED MYSELF FOR THE WEIRDEST PARTY OF MY LIFE! AND I DIDN'T HAVE A THING TO WEAR!.. I FORCED BACK THE TEARS AS I TORE THE SLEEVES OFF MY GLORIA VANDERBILT SWEATSHIRT...

AS I PUT ON MY MAKE-UP, I THOUGHT OF HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO HAVE AN ESCORT TO THIS PARTY... WAS I DESTINED TO BE ALONE--FOREVER? BUT, AS I PUT ON MY LIPSTICK, I VOWED TO KEEP A SMILE ON THOSE LIPS! NO BOY WAS EVER GOING TO LOOK AT FACE WITH A FROWN!



Rape myths revived

Somehow, with the coming of a new decade, came the revival of certain attitudes. Some are to be expected with the neo-conservative presence in Amerikan politics. Some I can cope with, slowly biding my time until the liberals get their act together.

One I cannot live with: the resurgence of all the myths about rape.

During the 1970s the anti-rape movement in this country took on the basics about rape. I have been a part of the anti-rape movement since March, 1974. I have seen the myths busted, and I see them rearing their ugly little heads again. And I don't like it.

The big myth that seems to be getting a lot of play these days is that rape is a sexual crime, not a violent crime. (To remind you of the difference, pre-marital sex is a sexual crime; assault is a violent crime.) And rape is a violent crime. This myth is one of the first that we of the anti-rape movement busted.

For a while there (with only well-publicized, outrageous exceptions), it seemed almost everyone finally knew and understood at least that about rape. I noticed the changing attitudes among the police and hospital personnel, as well as among the high school students and women's groups I spoke to. If they knew nothing else, they knew rape was a crime of violence.

Would that they could know that again.

But thanks to a certain judge in North Carolina and another one in Texas, the issue has once again been clouded in the minds of all save the people who work daily with the problem of rape and the victims of rape.

No room for debate

These two judges have opened the door for debate in an area in which there is no room for debate. The judge in North Carolina offered three convicted rapists castration as an alternative to their 30-year prison sentences. The judge in Texas offered a convicted rapist the choice between prison or 10 years of probation with regular injections of Depo-Provera.

Castration, for those of you who have never been around steers or geldings, is the surgical removal of the testicles. Contrary to popular opinion, castration does not always inhibit erection, but it is probably a very effective sterilization process.

Depo-Provera, called "chemical castration" by some, is a female birth control drug which, when injected into the male, inhibits the production of



Her-self/apf

testosterone and reduces the male's sex drive. Depo-Provera usually inhibits erection.

The offers of surgical castration or chemical castration to convicted rapists move rape back into the sexual arena. The theory of both is that if men cannot get an erection or be sexually stimulated, they will not rape.

I will grant you that if a man cannot achieve an erection he will have a hard time raping a woman with his penis. But in this county alone, women have been raped with knives, bottles, broomsticks, fists, fingers--basically anything long and hard that a man could think of to shove up a vagina. And none of those women felt any less raped because she wasn't raped with a penis.

It does nothing

Inhibiting a rapist's ability to get an erection or become sexually stimulated does nothing to stop the problem. It also does nothing to eradicate the root of the problem, the need to dominate and humiliate someone. Neither form of castration is going to decrease the rapist's anger, frustration, hostility, or hatred. It may, in fact, increase them.

It does not speak to a culture in which the violation of women is tolerated if not applauded.

It says, rape is sex and if they can't have sex, they can't rape.

The woman in North Carolina was battered and beaten over several hours as well as gang raped. Yet the judge seems to think that castration is a

good option. Has battery suddenly become a sexually motivated crime? Perhaps the judge should have offered to have the men's hands cut off as well so they could no longer beat anyone.

For those of you who are in doubt, let me tell you again: rape is a violent crime. Rape is a crime of violence. Rape, a crime, has its roots in violence. Rape is a violent crime in which sex is used as a weapon.

Maybe if we all keep spreading the word, the travesties of injustice and misunderstanding and stupidity will not cross the borders into Illinois.

We can only hope.

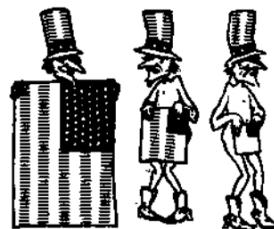
--Deborah Wiatt

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Organizing clerical workers

It's 9 to 5 at ISU

ISU's clerical staff has been agitating for union representation since 1978; they established the Employee Bargaining Association (EBA) in 1981, and a majority of ISU's clericals signed signed authorization cards that indicated they wanted a union election--but the Board of Regents (nine despots who control all ISU, NIU, and Sangamon State University policy) vetoed the EBA's request for a democratic, campus-wide election.

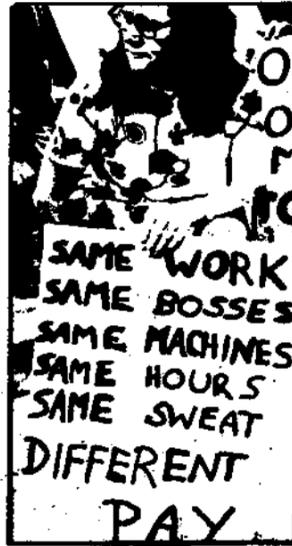
So they picketed the Administration building; they marched from the library into the Quad, shouting slogans. Even the Pantagraph noticed.

And now, with the Illinois Collective Bargaining Act in effect as of January, the BOR can't stop the EBA from having their election.

But ISU's clericals are suddenly silent.

On February 1, this reporter attended a reception given for Karen Nussbaum, author of 9 to 5: The Working Woman's Guide to Office Survival, founder of 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women, supporter of District 925--one of the unions (an affiliate of the AFL-CIO) that is jockeying for the ISU clericals' support.

There were about 30 people there, half of whom were given gifts by Nussbaum for being good building reps for District 925. The other half whispered or visited the buffet while Nussbaum related horror stories and advocated District 925. (Nussbaum's book, by the way, presents some excellent and useful material; buy it or borrow it, but be warned that it reads like a pop-psychology paperback, and towards the end you get suggestions like: "The first step in starting a union is to call in an organizer. [For example, call District 925, SEIU, at 202-452-8750].") The subsequent question and answer period was short, filled with pauses,



more gossipy whispers, and a very few questions. To say the least, the meeting lacked enthusiasm.

Homa Touhidi and Jaqui Birkey, International organizers for District 925, maintain that the February 1 meeting "was a good turnout." They also say that they have signed cards supporting District 925 from "almost 50%" of ISU's eligible staff. When I asked when the next District 925 public meeting was scheduled, they replied that they were planning a February-March newsletter. Touhidi and Birkey also plan to maintain contact with ISU's clericals by visiting their workplaces and requesting they complete a four page questionnaire, on the spot, to gain a better understanding of the staff's concerns.

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But an ISU civil servant can be fired for conducting union business on the state's time.

Although District 925 has been working with ISU clericals since 1978, their representatives come and go. Birkey arrived at the end of January; Touhidi, in October. (They expressed interest and surprise when I said that many ISU civil service employees were dissatisfied with their insurance benefits.) According to clerical sources in Milner Library, dissatisfaction with District 925 dates from October--the main complaint being the reps' tactics: bugging people at work, calling people at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning with the blunt query, "Why haven't you signed your card?", general rudeness, no personal concern.

Also, according to the same sources, there were as many as ten building reps in Milner alone, until October. Since then, they have become inactive, although they still support unionization.

The clericals' support for unionization is readily apparent. The recent silence and lack of visibility could be attributed to sulkiness: how can you support a union when you can't communicate with its representatives?

The other union vying for the clericals' support, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), already represents ISU's non-clericals, the maintenance and kitchen workers. The problem some clericals have with supporting this union is one of integrity: when the EBA was looking for representation, AFSCME was not willing, but District 925 was.

The situation appears to be at an impasse. But AFSCME is gearing up--planning a "television blitz." The District 925 reps have not divulged a similar plan. Perhaps they should--any plan is better than none.

--J. Accuse

Union struggles

SUGAR CREEK: The Movie

Norma Rae may drown. But no one will win an Academy Award for it. You see, Hollywood is not interested in who drowns at Sugar Creek. But the Food and Commercial workers of Local 543 know it is the long haul that makes real heroes.

It wasn't a Norma Rae who shut down the factory this time. It was the boss. This is the new way collective bargaining works in the "pro-business" era.

If this was a movie there would be no Meryl Streep to play in a drama where there is no dream. Just waiting. And corporations have the financial muscle to do that more than the workers who stood in the cold to get free cheese. The lead roles in this increasingly dreary drama are the low-key corporate attorneys who used labor laws to club labor. Finally, the members of Local 543 won their appeal and were granted almost \$200,000 in back unemployment benefits.

But the victory scene may never play out. The Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company may re-open; so eventually, the lockout will end, and the lock-in will begin. The case of characters will change. New faces who are more "cooperative." They believe losing a limb for the economic recovery is a patriotic duty. Workers will be locked in to a life of minimum wages and maximum health hazards.

Locked in to a life of "you take what they give you," and are grateful when want you to work in forty-degree temperatures. Locked in to a

company that offers no re-training for workers replaced by machines. Locked into a white-collar insurance town where the new factory is squeaky clean and the marquee is brightly lit: "Nonunion Workers Always Smile!"

Who will win the Academy Award for worst employer in Bloomington-Normal? Will John Richardson manage to beat out Owens Nursery, who has copped the anti-employee "Oscar" so many times? True, Owens has enough ex-employees to fill the Scottish Rite Temple, where it's rumored the ceremony will take place. But what the Sugar Creek workers lack in votes,

they make up with in dedication. They want their company to win the award before it goes out of business, and they are forced to get jobs stripping trees instead of bacon.

John Richardson is trying hard to win this award. And he deserves it. The trophy will look great in the board room.

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Normal officials trespass at student party

Normal Police Chief David Lehr and Assistant City Manager Tom DeGuilio were guilty of criminal trespass November 11, according to attorney George Taseff. Taseff is chairperson of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Lehr and DeGuilio were trespassing at the KTB House at 111 E. Cherry, where a party was in progress. Bob Leahy and Mike Olsen, both residents at 111 E. Cherry, told the Post Amerikan that they asked the unwelcome city officials to leave.

Both Lehr and DeGuilio refused to leave the party. They stayed for an hour and a half or two hours.

"We had an invitation, and we weren't disrupting the party," DeGuilio told the Post Amerikan. "We felt we had a right to be there."

DeGuilio and Lehr's "invitation" consisted of a flyer which had been posted in some public places frequented by the general student population.

Last August, Police Chief Lehr announced that he and other city officials would begin attending large "publicly advertised" student parties. The intent, he said, was to discourage underage drinking and illegal alcohol sales.

Naive belief

The Post Amerikan advised readers at the time that police could not be prevented from attending publicly advertised parties, but they could be immediately asked to leave. The article was written in the naive belief

that police would obey the law when confronted. We didn't say what party hosts should do if police refuse to leave.

Sue them, and file charges against them later, says attorney George Taseff. According to Taseff, Lehr and DeGuilio's refusal to leave 111 E. Cherry is a Class 3 misdemeanor (Criminal Trespass). Lehr and DeGuilio can also be hit with a civil suit, Taseff said.

"Once the hosts ask the police to leave," Taseff told the Post Amerikan, "their remaining is a criminal act." Replying to DeGuilio's claim that Normal officials "had a right" to remain at the party, Taseff said "That is flatly against Illinois law. They apparently have no knowledge of what the criminal code requires."

Taseff cited a recent decision of the Illinois Supreme Court. During a party, the hosts asked some undercover police officers to leave. The police did not leave. Later, the police observed some illegal activities and made an arrest. The court ruled that the arrest was illegal, since the police were no longer legally on the premises when they observed the illegal behavior.

Using this court decision, a creative party host could turn the police's unwanted attendance into a benefit. Just ask the police to leave, wait for their refusal, then light up a joint with no fear of arrest! (If you believe this will actually work, then you are as naive as the Post Amerikan

writer who thought police would leave when asked.)

Visits to continue

DeGuilio said Normal police had attended two or three dozen parties last fall before cold weather put a stop to large outdoor gatherings. City officials were never directly asked to leave any of the parties, except for the one at 111 E. Cherry, according to DeGuilio.

Normal officials can't be accused of sneaking around or spying on these student parties. The police wear their uniforms. DeGuilio wears an official-looking Town of Normal jacket while handing out his business card. But the blatant police presence is certainly intimidating.

DeGuilio denies trying to intimidate students into not partying. But listen to his description of how party hosts are informed of the police plans to attend: "No one should be surprised by our arrival. Someone from the City visits at least 24 hours in advance. We tell them that if they decide to go through with the party, we'll be there." (The residents of the Cherry St. house did not mention this 24-hour "warning" of the police arrival.)

As the weather warms up, Normal officials plan to resume their visits to student parties, DeGuilio said.

Those plans, according to attorney George Taseff, are "provocative, ridiculous, and illegal."

--Mark Silverstein

Search warrant issued

ISU student turns in roommate

ISU student Anna Marie Mastro has not yet been rewarded with the public recognition she deserves for her public-spirited contribution to law enforcement last fall.

She turned in her dormitory roommate for pot and cocaine, according to McLean County court records.

Records show that ISU Security investigator Don Knapp obtained a search warrant for 1753 Manchester Hall on Nov. 17.

Knapp based his request on a conversation he had with Anna Marie Mastro, who had just moved out of the Manchester Hall room she shared with Jennifer Reisener. According to court records, Mastro reported seeing her roommate both possess and sell cocaine.

Mastro's apparent loyalty to her roommate was matched by dormitory officials' dedication to the principles of students' privacy. Residence Hall Assistant Ellen Dwyer, who lived at 1752 Manchester, allegedly reported to Hall Manager Paul Carr that she saw

several envelopes apparently containing cocaine in Reisener's room. Carr apparently passed this story on to investigator Knapp, who cited this third-hand hearsay in his written request for a search warrant.

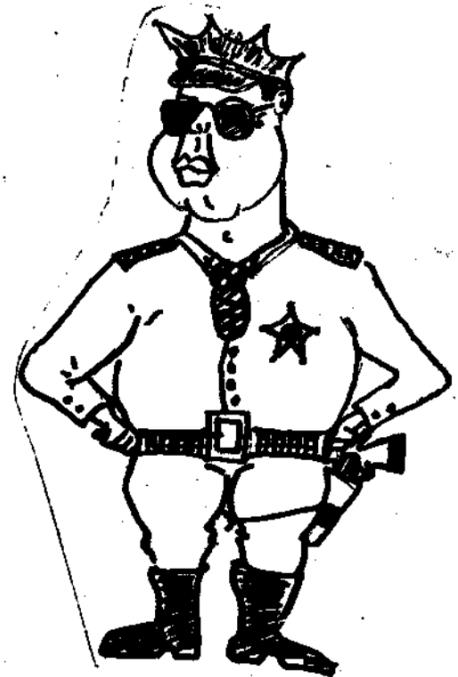
The subsequent search of Reisener's dorm room turned up what investigators listed as several packets of suspected cocaine and suspected marijuana.

But as of mid-February, two months later, no charges have yet been filed.

ISU Security investigator Don Knapp told the Post Amerikan that the case was "still under investigation."

The most likely explanation of the delay: ISU police are holding potential charges over Jenifer Reisener's head, trying to persuade her to "cooperate" by turning in her friends.

--Mark Silverstein



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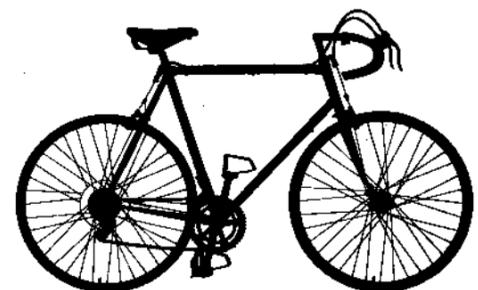
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Bloomington Human Relations

The Human Relations Commission of Bloomington has proposed to the city council that the existing human relations ordinance be amended. The proposed changes would provide additional coverage and increased relief for victims of discrimination. If approved, the amended law would ban discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and financing based on marital status, sexual preference, and unfavorable military discharge.

The new ordinance would also make it illegal to refuse to rent to prospective tenants because they have children under the age of 14 or because they have physical or mental handicap (including people who have guide dogs).

The present ordinance already bans discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, age, ancestry, and national origin.

In addition to the new coverages, the revision would increase the possible maximum fine or damages settlement from the present limit of \$1000 to \$2500. It would also provide for the possible hiring, reinstatement, or job upgrading of people found to be victims of discrimination in employment.

Hezekiah Webb, chairperson of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) presented the proposals to the city council at a work meeting on Monday, Feb. 13. Webb explained that the HRC has had 25 complaints since 1981 involving possible discrimination on the basis of marital status, sexual preference, and refusal to rent because of children and because of a guide dog. He also indicated that several cases which the HRC handled called for more relief than the present ordinance provides: in 8 cases reinstatement or hiring was needed; and in 6 cases the actual amount of losses the victim sustained greatly exceeded the amount collectible under the existing law.

We must change too

Webb said that it is "imperative that we adopt these changes" and that "times and conditions change and we must too."

The city council meeting of February 13 was originally billed as a public hearing on the proposed amendments. But the council changed the ground rules at the outset and declared the meeting a public work session--meaning that the public could sit and listen but not comment on the proposed ordinance (as they would be allowed to do in an official public hearing). A group of about 20 spectators did gather for the informal discussion of the amendments.

After listening to Webb's opening statement, Mayor Richard Buchanan said he wanted to hear what council members thought about the proposed amendments.

Council member Donn Pierce stated that he had high respect for the HRC but he opposed the changes. Pierce said he was worried that when you increase the rights of some groups you take away rights from others. He said a 250% increase in the amount of the damages was unjustified. (The proposed amendments call for a 150% increase.) Pierce thought that some provisions of the new ordinance might be redundant and that state statutes might prohibit enacting legislation in some areas, although he didn't specify which provisions and areas he felt were faulty.

Where will it end?

Council member Jesse Smart also expressed his opposition to the new ordinance. He wanted to know why specific groups had to be listed. He said left-handed people are discriminated against and so are short people; why not include them? "Once you start naming, where do you end?" asked Smart. He felt the point should be "don't discriminate, period." Smart called the proposed changes "overkill."

Speaking in favor of the amendments, council member Steve Simms responded to objections raised by Pierce and Smart. "I don't think we're going to be removing too many rights from those who already have them," said Simms. And he pointed out that history shows several movements in this country to put definition behind the phrase "justice for all." Simms said it's apparent to

him that the commission is having trouble pursuing cases and that is justification for adopting the new ordinance.

Council member Walt Bittner made the obligatory statement of support for the HRC and then asked questions about the increase in the fine. In Bittner's opinion, increasing fines won't solve discrimination. Bittner also wondered if 25 complaints in 3 years was enough to warrant change. Responding to this last query, Commissioner Webb said, "We prefer to anticipate rather than react to problems."

She, he, or it

Then Council member Jesse Parker spoke up. His strongest objection, he said, was to the amount of increase in the damage award. If a person is not satisfied with the relief provided by the HRC, "she, he or it can go to small claims court," said Parker. (The dollar limit in small claims court is also \$1000.) Parker concluded his comments by saying that he didn't like the "scare tactics" of the fines.

Tim Walker, Director of the HRC, responded to the questions about the 150% increase. He pointed out that the HRC has sought only 2 increases in 10 years, the last in 1980 which raised the award limit from \$500 to \$1000. Walker said that \$2000 in 10 years was not so dramatic, given the increases in wages and prices during that same period. (Walker might have also pointed out that the original fine of \$500 was too low to begin with, and that increasing the amount would bring the award in line with what it should have been all along.)

Mayor Buchanan spoke in favor of the amendments, primarily because he is pleased and comfortable with the overall credibility and effectiveness of the Commission. "An ordinance is only as good as its administration," said the mayor. He said the HRC was not a "pushover": "we turn down more cases than we accept, which I think is just tremendous," Buchanan said.

The mayor noted that forbidding discrimination based on sexual preference is not part of federal or

Fighting discrimination in Bloomington

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) of the city of Bloomington is responsible for dealing with complaints about discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and financing. If a citizen feels that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, sex, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, or physical or mental handicap, that person can file a complaint with the HRC.

The HRC receives complaints filed by people who feel victimized, but the Commission can also initiate a charge of discrimination. Complaints within the jurisdiction of the HRC are investigated by the staff or the director, and if there is probable cause that a violation has occurred, a closed conciliation conference is held.

Most of the complaints received by the HRC are dismissed or conciliated. If the closed conciliation does not resolve the conflict, the Commission can order a public hearing on the case. During fiscal year 1982-83, the HRC held no public hearings.

Resolution of the conflict between the person who lodged the complaint and the alleged violator can result in a fine to be paid to the city and/or damages to be paid to the complainant. At present, the total of fines and damages (and any other benefits such as back pay) can't exceed \$1000 for each offense.

Of the 22 cases handled by the HRC in 1982-83, only 4 involved monetary settlements: a public accommodations case that resulted in a \$200 settlement, a complaint about housing that was settled for \$1000, and another public accommodations case that had a \$2100 settlement (for two

violations). All three cases involved racial discrimination. A case of sex discrimination in employment was settled for \$500. There were 9 cases still under investigation or in the conciliation stage when the fiscal year ended in September of 1983.

Most of the cases for 1982-83 involved employment (16) and alleged racial discrimination (13). There were 4 cases of discrimination in housing and 2 in public accommodations. Sex discrimination was charged in 7 cases, and there was 1 charge based on religion and 1 based on age.

Of the 22 cases, 5 were dismissed, 4 were conciliated, 3 were referred to other sources (like the Illinois Department of Human Rights), 1 was

suspended, and there were 9 still being processed when the annual report was written.

The Bloomington HRC also conducts a number of community programs to promote human rights and inform groups about the laws governing discrimination. These programs include an annual Multi-Ethnic Cultural Festival, an Equal Employment Opportunity Program for employers, an annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards program, a Youth Employment Orientation program, and a program for the Bloomington-Normal board of realtors.

--Perdydurke

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ordinance changes proposed

page 11

state law; only Champaign, Urbana, and Evanston have such provisions in Illinois. "All of us are opposed to discrimination," Buchanan added, "but we have to identify protected classes; otherwise we have a dysfunctional philosophy."

Not 'fine happy'

Buchanan also said that the rationale for the increase in the fine is "appropriate," especially since the Commission is "not fine-happy." The HRC hasn't "exploited the \$1000 award," in Buchanan's opinion.

Council member George Kroutil also expressed doubts about the amount of the fine increase. Kroutil also had questions about the role of the HRC in assisting people who might want to pursue their cases in civil court, but there wasn't sufficient time to explain to Kroutil how the HRC functioned.

The only spectator given time to speak to the council was Scott Eatherly, representing the American Civil Liberties Union. Eatherly presented a letter from the local chapter of ACLU supporting the proposed changes in the human relations ordinance. The letter said that ACLU was pleased to see that the HRC has developed the proposals "because we feel they provide important protections against discrimination and the invasion of personal privacy."

Mayor Buchanan asked to schedule another work session on this matter. "I perceive that there's suppression of questions due to press of time," said

the mayor. He also recommended that council members re-read the existing human relations ordinance before the meeting.

The city council will consider these

amendments again in a work session, from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. on Monday, March 12.

--Ferdydurke



Discrimination exists

The proposed changes in the Bloomington Human Relations Ordinance reflect an attempt to cover all citizens who need protection against discrimination (see adjoining article). The Human Relations Commission has proposed additional coverages because of a number of complaints that could not be handled due to lack of jurisdiction.

The HRC reports 12 complaints involving marital status and 4 involving sexual preference, as well as 9 more in other areas. The *Post American* knows of two more cases of discrimination that were not reported primarily because the people involved knew that they had no legal recourse. They both demonstrate the need to identify more protected classes, as the HRC wants to do with their proposed amendments.

One case involves an unmarried black man and white woman who looked for an apartment to rent together. Both are professionals (a teacher and a librarian) and appear to be the perfect renters. They knew they would be extremely good tenants. Their arrangement is economic, not romantic or sexual, but that didn't seem to make much difference to the people who refused to rent to them.

The woman told me there were at least 5 places where it was clear they did not get rented to because of their race or marital status. The landlords would sound excited on the telephone

when the couple called to make an appointment, but when they went to look at the apartments they encountered a variety of shocked facial expressions and stunned "Ohs!" One landlord actually told them he wouldn't rent to them because they weren't married. He gave them a religious rap and assured them that it had nothing to do with the fact that one was "a Negro."

The woman told me she thought she was aware of racism, but not until she looked for an apartment with a black man did she have any idea how strong racist attitudes are in this town. "I didn't expect to encounter it," she said.

She also told me that if she had more confidence that the HRC could really do something about it, she would have taken her case to them. "Test cases would help a lot," she added. "Landlords need to have that threat that they're being checked out" for possible discrimination.

The second case involves being fired because of sexual preference. A woman who was a head waitress at a local restaurant knows she was fired when her lesbianism became known to the management. She knows because a friend who was a manager at the restaurant attended a meeting at which the reasons for firing the woman were discussed.

The ex-waitress had come out to some

people at work, and word evidently got back to the management. The woman said she had worked there for a year and a half, had been promoted once, and had received 2 or 3 raises in that short time.

What's more, the management lied to her about their reason for firing her. They told her that since she had been in a car accident recently, they didn't want her to lift heavy trays because she might throw out her back and sue them. But that's a bunch of bull; she'd told them she had a bad back when they hired her, and she'd been lifting those trays for a year and a half and it didn't seem to bother either her or the management. Besides, the only injury she'd sustained in the car accident was a cut on the head.

The woman said she didn't even think of taking her case to a governmental agency. She knew that gay people didn't have any legal rights or protection against discrimination in this state. Although her sexual preference had nothing whatsoever to do with her effectiveness at work, she had been judged on the basis of group affiliation and not on individual merit. Her case clearly illustrates why gay people and other groups need to be specifically identified as protected classes. Otherwise "justice for all" is an empty slogan.

--Ferdydurke

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Gay rights on the move again in U.S.

After several years of setbacks and only sporadic gains, efforts to secure legal and political protection for gay men and lesbians in this country appear to be moving forward again and picking up some speed. Gay rights may even win support in Bloomington, Illinois (see story on page 10).

In the last few months gay people have won a series of victories. Some are significant, some are primarily symbolic, but they add up to progress. With Reagan in the White House and NCPAC on the rampage, these successes seem even more impressive.

--On Jan. 26, the committee on human development for the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution recommending "that all levels of government adopt legal protection for the rights of gay and lesbian Americans." The resolution will be considered at its annual meeting in Philadelphia in June.

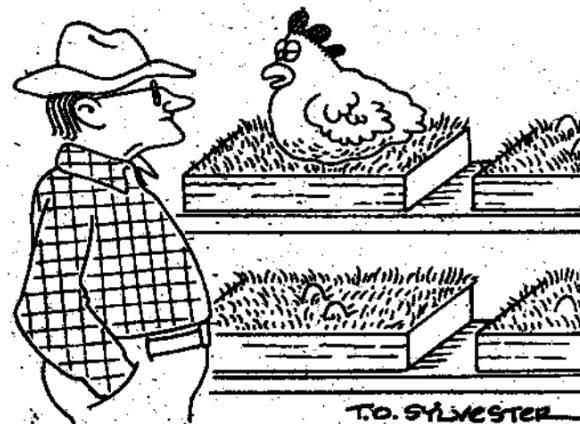
--On Dec. 30, Ohio Governor Richard Celeste signed a long-awaited executive order prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in state government employment. Celeste also established an advisory committee within the Dept. of Administrative Services to assist in implementing the executive order. Executive orders prohibiting antigay discrimination in state employment are currently in force in New York, California, and Pennsylvania.

--On Dec. 27, the Rochester, NY, city council voted 7-1 to approve a gay rights resolution barring discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment and provision of services by the city and by firms and agencies doing business with the city. Gay organizers say the victory was aided by the vicious opposition of fundamentalists and others. One observer said that opponents of the

resolution got on their knees, shouted hallelujahs, waved bibles, and called for the death penalty for homosexuals. Their behavior made it very clear that gay people need protection.

--On Dec. 20, two California cities extended civil rights protection to gay people. Sacramento's city council expanded its antidiscrimination policy to include gay people in matters of city hiring. In Oakland the city council passed an extensive municipal ordinance that bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, business activities, and city services. Both measures passed unanimously. There wasn't any opposition raised in Oakland, and only one protestor spoke against the action in Sacramento.

--On Dec. 1, the Judiciary Committee of the Michigan legislature voted to report an antidiscrimination bill out of committee to the House of Representatives for consideration. An amendment to the state's civil rights act of 1977, the bill would guarantee equal access in education, employment, housing, and public accommodations for Michigan's estimated one million lesbians and gay men. The measure faces stiff opposition in the House, but its sponsor, Rep. James Dressel, a Republican who represents a conservative district in western Michigan, is optimistic after the committee



I hope you don't expect any eggs from me. I'm a lesbian.

vote. If the bill becomes law, Michigan would be the second state in the nation to have a lesbian and gay civil rights law on the books. Wisconsin enacted such a measure in 1982.

--In early Dec. the California Workers Compensation Appeals Board awarded a man, Earl Donovan, \$25,000 in survivor benefits following the death of his lover, Thomas Finnerty. Finnerty, a former deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County, lived with Donovan for 27 years until his death by suicide in 1976. In overturning a 1978 ruling, the appeals board declared that homosexual relationships had to be given the same credence as those of unmarried heterosexuals.

--On Nov. 18, Governor Mario Cuomo of New York issued an executive order to protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination in state employment and in the provision of state services. While described as an important victory, a 10-month delay and the somewhat weakened form of the order (it doesn't affect contractors doing business with the state) left activists disappointed. But Gov. Cuomo did set up a task force to oversee the implementation of the order as it pertains to state services and jobs.

Electoral politics also became a little more responsive to gay Americans this past year. In November openly gay people were elected to council seats in two large cities and two openly gay men became the mayors of their respective communities.

--In Boston the city's District 8 elected their first openly gay city councillor on Nov. 15. David Scodras edged former White House aide Mark Roosevelt by 103 votes. Scodras noted that it was the combined efforts of tenants, women, blacks, hispanics, and members of the gay community that got him elected.

--In Minneapolis a gay man was elected to the city's council. Democrat Brian Coyle beat independent Tom Clarke on Nov. 8, winning 10 of the 6th ward's 13 precincts. Coyle attributed his victory to a coalition of gay men and lesbians, senior citizens, tenants, and "amazingly enough, some people who have never voted before-- disenfranchised street people."

--In Key West, FL, a gay art dealer was elected mayor. Richard Heyman, a former city commissioner, defeated his opponent by a margin of 436 votes. Although the opponent's campaign stressed his family ties, Heyman said he didn't think sexual preference was an issue in the race.

--In Santa Cruz, CA, an openly gay man was elected mayor by his fellow city council members. John Laird, a 33-year-old county affirmative action officer, was unanimously appointed on Nov. 15. Santa Cruz became the 4th city in the country with an openly gay mayor, joining Laguna Beach (CA), Key West (FL), and Bunceton (MO).

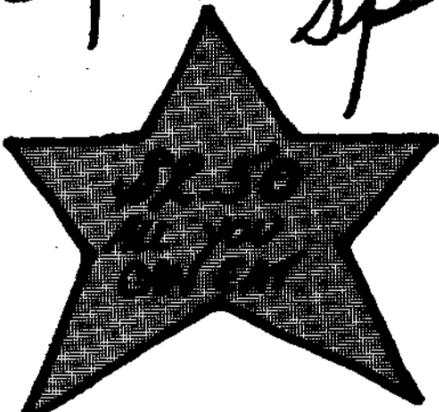
--Ferdydurke

Sources: Gay Community News, 26 Nov., 3 Dec., 10 Dec. 1983; 7 Jan., 14 Jan., 11 Feb. 1984. The Advocate, issue 386 (24 Jan. 1984) and issue 387 (7 Feb. 1984). The New York Native, Jan. 16-29, 1984, issue 81.

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"They want to know if it's been tested for EDB contamination"

Post Amerikan vol. 12, #10 page 13

Taking the sting out of Xmas

If you want to come out of the next holiday season feeling more sane than this time, you have to start now. I assure you, if you really want out of this crap you can get out.

Begin right now by announcing how utterly depressed Christmas had made you, how far you're in debt (or at least deprived); try to look pale and weak. Make a lot of statements about how you just can't face it one more single time. Everyone else feels pretty much the same way right now. Reward any sign of agreement with the jovial remark, "Now, remember next year that you said this, when I don't buy any presents!"

Little will they know you mean it.

After about two months on this program, lay off until September. Great comments on the nice fall weather with reminders like, "Yes, I enjoy it so much more now that it doesn't make me dread the Xmas season. I told you that I'm not buying presents this year, didn't I?"

Now you've slipped it in, all you need to do is reinforce it. Stick like hell to this line until people finally believe that you're doing such a radical thing. Mention that they shouldn't buy you anything; some of them will, but many of them will feel like you've given them a great gift as they cross you off their list.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Murdock union busting at Post

Tempers have been hot ever since arch-conservative publisher Rupert Murdoch acquired the Post Amerikan last month. Pickets were immediately put in place following his announcement of sweeping changes in the paper's style and tone, and a work stoppage was authorized by the writers' union, Writers Against Crazy Kapitalistic Oppression (WACKO).

Flushed with success over his recent firing of 750 strikers at the Times of London, Murdoch promptly canned the entire Post Amerikan staff. He then announced that publication would continue with the help of U.S. Army journalists from Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. The paper's name would be changed to the Military-Post.

In an effort to stop this clear abuse of workers' rights, WACKO invaded the Post's posh office and formed a human chain around Deborah's new furnace, blocking access to the thermostat. Shouts of "We're pro-freeze!" and "Murder Murdoch!" could be heard.

This guerilla action was thwarted by gorilla action when Murdoch's new staff called in a battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division to dislodge the strikers. WACKO put up no resistance,

although Deborah was heard to cry out, "Don't hurt that furnace!" as she was dragged out.

WACKO president and beauty consultant Mark Silverstein vowed to fight to the bitter end. "They haven't heard the last of us!" he warned. "We can play rough, too." He then swallowed three typewriter elements and a thermostat coil.

"Long live the revolution," he grinned.

--Scaramouche

Don't send the marines there!

From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, the United States will go anywhere, no matter how dangerous or meaningless: Saigon, Lebanon, Grenada, the White House. But they won't go into a gay bar. In uniform. When someone might see them.

Mark Siefker, the ex-Marine owner of a gay bar (the Job Site) in North Hollywood (CA), told the Los Angeles Times that the Marines in Encino (CA) had agreed to pick up some toys that bar patrons had collected for the Marines' Toys for Tots campaign. But when the Marines didn't show up at the appointed time (during a party on December 18), Siefker called them the next day. He was told that they would not be able to pick up anything from any gay bar.

(Hey, fellas, I'm never able to pick up anything in a gay bar either, but you gotta give it a try. Where's that gung-ho Marine commitment to futility we've all come to know and appreciate?)

Lt. Col. Sally Pritchett, a spokesperson for the national Toys for Tots program, told Gay Community News (GCN), "We want toys from every source we can get them." BUT: "Homosexuality is not permitted nor condoned by the Marine Corps" (as opposed to napalming villages and machine-gunning Arabs). AND: "It is

inappropriate for the Marines to go to any kind of place that harbors what as official representatives of the Marine Corps. And if they're in uniform, that's why they are." (Does "any kind of place that harbors that" include the barracks? or the House of Representatives?)

Pritchett said the Marines would be glad to accept the bar's toys if they were dropped off at a collection center.

California State Senator Alan Robbins, obviously concerned about all those cabbage patch kids with blank adoption papers propped up against the booze, told the Times he "couldn't believe it." He said he decided to pick up the toys and deliver them himself. Which he did, the Thursday before Christmas. Robbins said that the Marines were "appreciative." For what, he didn't specify.

Lt. Col. Pritchett also told GCN that the Marines had never committed themselves to picking up the toys as Siefker claims.

She also added: "We have to be careful where we send the Marine's blue uniform."

Tell that to Ronald Reagan, Sally.

--Ferdydurke

Source: GCN, 14 Jan. 1984.

Reagan smitten at white house

White House staffers were thrown for quite a loss February 14th when President Ronald Reagan suddenly expressed great love for the poor, the downtrodden, Democrats, Communists, CBS, atheists, and homosexuals.

The problem surfaced at a Congressional luncheon when Reagan was suddenly noticed to have a goofy grin on his face. An alarmed First Lady pointed out that it wasn't "the usual goofy grin." Secret Service agents leaped into action and ten of them wrestled an infant to the ground, disarming him of a pink longbow and ruining his diaper.

"Gee, guys," the President was heard to say, "Aren't you being a little rough on the fellow?" He then proceeded to speak for six hours on the plight of the poor and the hungry, sending Ed Meese into such deep shock

that paramedics were called. After vowing to halve the defense budget and replace George Bush with Shirley Chisolm for the '84 campaign, Reagan called for his limosine in order to, as he put it, "find and embrace my good buddy, Tip O'Neill."

Mrs. Reagan persuaded the President to "have some jellybeans and a nap first." When he did so she called in a team of specialists from Walter Reed Hospital to examine him. They removed a three-inch candy arrow from his chest in a non-surgical procedure. An hour later Reagan was gleefully ordering salvos from the New Jersey again, blissfully unaware of his close call.

Ed Meese is resting comfortably. A frustrated Shirley Chisolm could not be reached for comment.

--Scaramouche

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No finger sandwiches in this evening with Your Mom

"The your mom extravaganza." I spend my life trying to forget "my mom"--then these people come along and try and draw attention to her. My mom's extravaganza consists of eight snooty ladies at a bridge party eating broccoli casseroles and tiny chunks of fresh pineapple off of the good china.

I hope they aren't going to herd us into the ISU Circus Room Feb. 29 to make us play cards and eat finger sandwiches. I hear they have something different in mind. They mentioned something about extreme freedom--of style and structure. That sounds suspiciously unlike my mom. In fact, everything about this thing--wild music, parody, burlesque, juggling, wild music, art, and wild music--sounds like the kind of "extravaganza" that my mom made me promise to stay away from!

What are the social implications of such an event? This unstructured, freeform aggregation of noise, is this the youth of today's way of revolting against the ultra-structured social machine? Juggling integrated with music--is this symbolic of the youth of today's reluctance to grab one solid thing and hold on to it--and instead, capriciously grab for a glittering object only to quickly cast it aside for another? Live sculpture--is this their way of expressing the temporal nature of today's world? Here today and gone tomorrow? Oh the remorse so many mothers would experience if they were to see their precious ones engaging in such confusing behavior.

I ask you--what better possible recommendation could this "extravaganza" be given? If my mom wouldn't like it, that's reason enough for me to go.

--LVD

Multi media extravaganza slated

The Centerstage Committee of the ISU Student Center Board is proud to present the "Your Mom Extravaganza," an evening of improvised and not-so-improvised music. The three hour presentation will contain eleven different musical events, including members of both diaTribe and the now-defunct Shmaz.

Spotlighted will be the premier performance of Normal's newest combo, "Your Mom," as well as such diversities as the Jeff & Bob Show (from Champaign), That Hope, Uncle Anarchy, the Fotman and the Hin, and Pink Bob's stereo. Ace Shmaz juggler Eric Ponk will attend, and art, films, and magic will be presented as well.

The "Your Mom Extravaganza" will be held on leap day, February 29, 1984, in the Circus Room of the ISU Bone Student Center. It will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. Admission will be only 50¢.

The **YOUR MOM** extravaganza

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL WORK MARKED BY EXTREME FREEDOM OF STYLE AND STRUCTURE (INCLUDES ELEMENTS OF BURLESQUE AND PARODY)

leap day **FEB. 29**

festivities begin PROMPTLY at **7 p.m.**
you go home at **10 p.m.**

IN THE **CIRCUS ROOM**
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featuring... **ONLY 50¢**

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Talk about transistorized trauma

Today, as I sat down to spin some tunes on the Sony, my ole friend "Black Cat" appeared on the scene once again. Not in corporeal form, mind you. Through some cosmic phenomenon of the airwaves, CB lingo invades our amplifier and converts Bach to "good buddy." Oh, the fugue still filters valiantly through, punctuated by "10-4" and ear-wrenching hi-frequency squeals.

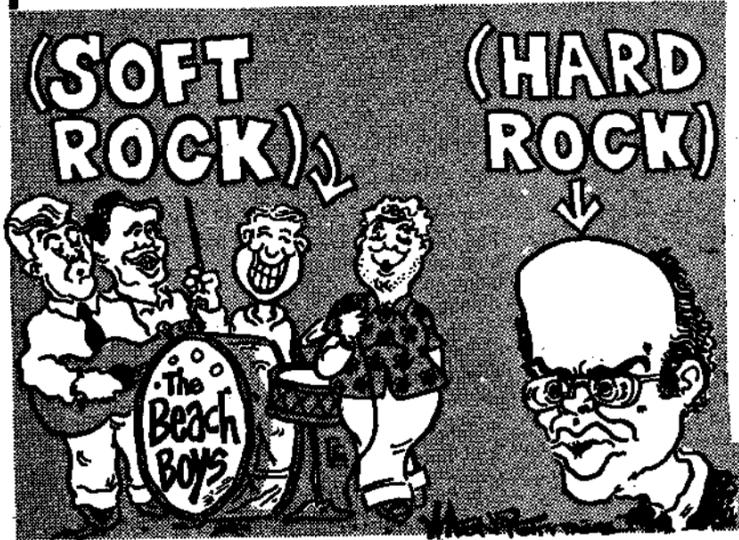
Annoyed, I switched off the amp and was gratified to hear Black Cat fade into radio silence. Thus I turned to my trusty AM-FM stereo tape player and inserted Adam Ant, only to be once more assaulted by "on the flip-flop" and "I be gone" (I only wish). Further experimentation has proven the only safe media to be magazines, radio (Hi, Robin!), and MTV.

Friends of radio-bent have informed me that this misfortune is due either to Black Cat pushing too many amps, or because he's broadcasting from our attic. Over the past few months, we've had our listening pleasure interrupted during Roxy Music, Talking Heads (desecration), and the Ramones (utter blasphemy!)

While I defy anyone to infringe on Black Cat's right to talk to the truckers, there are times when I wish he'd dash off a quick note instead. His fluency in the CB jargon borders on parody, and we never hear any reply. I suspect B.C. merely enjoys his own chatter, leading me to conclude that he is masturlabial.

Mr. Black Cat, I enjoy my music pure, and I resent your intrusions, especially as I've been told that you are probably operating outside legal limits. Although I feel we live in a world of super-regulation, I support FCC standards which protect innocent others from transmissional torture. Lower your amps, good buddy; then we won't "catch you on the flipflop."

RAF



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Never Cry Wolf: Instructive fables

In the summer of 1979, 200 scientists convened in Portland for the first international symposium on wolf research. Virtually every wolf specialist in the world attended, from those famous in the wolf world such as Dave Mech to undergraduate researchers and fellow travellers such as yours truly.

Scientific symposia are usually dull gatherings, with papers read for hours on end and politicking in the corridors--which of course is the real reason for such an event. The usual reports were read with the usual polite critiques, with a few digressions, such as the brewing philosophical war between the ethologists and the behaviorists.

But something happened at this gathering of academics and egos that was as touching as it was unusual, and it pertains directly to Carroll Ball Ballard's film version of *Never Cry Wolf*, Farley Mowat's fanciful tale of his experiences with wolves in the Northwest Territories. On the fourth day of the symposium, a young biologist from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game stood up and read his paper at the dais. The title of his paper, while conventionally dry, was a bit ambiguous: "Nunamiut Eskimos, Wildlife Biologists and Wolves."

His name was Bob Stephenson, and as he read his paper two things took place: the conference hall became perfectly still and quiet; and this peculiar look formed on everyone's face. It was the same look one has when trying to pick out an elusive

flute passage in something by Respighi; a look that says, "Something's there that I'd almost forgotten--there it is!"

For Dr. Stephenson was reminding us of things that were so precious and yet so obvious and fundamental that most of us had forgotten. He talked about the Eskimos of Alaska and how they brought him, metaphorically, out of the lab and into the landscape; into the matrix of tundra and human and wolf. He spoke softly but in startled terms of the lessons taught to him by Eskimo and wolf, and how he learned--or relearned--to listen.

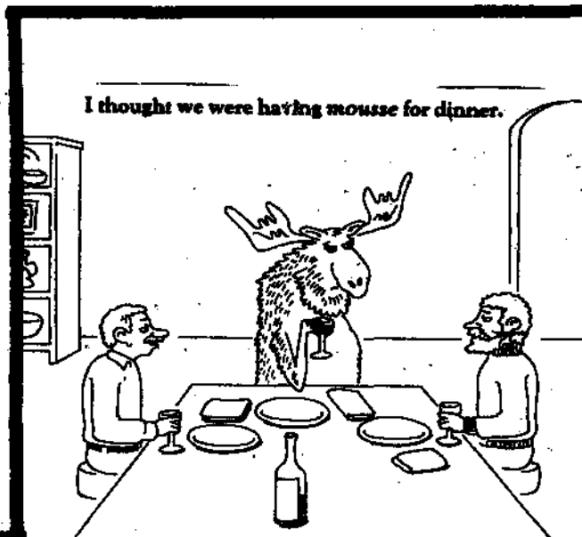
The simple and precious lessons of human and wolf are precisely what this film offers us. I came to it with considerable skepticism, having studied wolves in college and also having Mowat's book, in which the author blended the Eskimo culture with his personal experiences as a biologist. What emerged was a well-told contemporary myth, which is undoubtedly one of the higher forms of authorship.

What worried me was that the film would present Mowat's tale as factual. The advertising reminds us that it is "a true story." A true story of what? It is true that Mowat wrote the book. It is true that there are wolves in Canada. It is also true that Mowat, first and foremost, is a novelist. Neither the book, nor to a lesser degree the movie, can be taken as an accurate account of wolf ecology.

Ballard and his writers have taken the best of Mowat's story and with a little of their fictive embellishment have given us a film which teaches us some of the same lessons that were taught over many months to Bob Stephenson and to Mowat as well.

Those who take this film as literal fact miss the essence and purpose of myth, whether ancient or modern: to enrich through fable. *Never Cry Wolf* is myth, of course--but infinitely more constructive and instructive than the wolf fables we have inherited from our past.

--Wolfperson Jack



T.O. SYLVESTER

Silkwood: not great, but moving

This is about "Silkwood," the movie. It is by no means a "great" film--but for me it told a story that is both moving and powerful. When I first read about the Karen Silkwood case in MS magazine in 1974, I was angry. And I was frightened.

The movie recreates some of those feelings for me: the scenes in which Karen and her co-worker get "cooked" (contaminated with radioactivity) seem especially terrible. When the union doctors hold a meeting for the workers, describing the effects of radiation sure, I was amazed: these folks had no clue what it was they were working with.

I must admit I wearied at long scenes on hot summer porches and the movie's attempts to make Karen "human," eg.

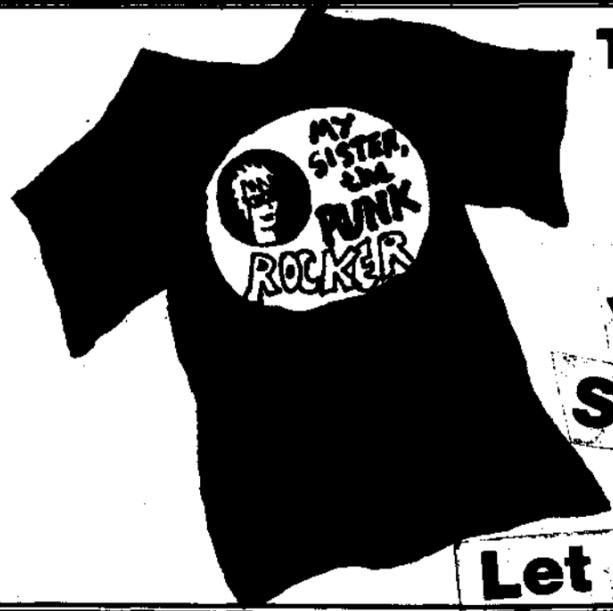
neurotic, drug-ridden, and unable to maintain lasting relationship with her friends, lovers and children. But her energy shines through, neurotic or not, and creates empathy (sisterhood?). Perhaps I am only responding to Meryl Streep's boundless energy.

The movie makes an uncomfortable statement--namely, "You can't trust anyone." Karen learns not to trust the union, who could not care less about the working conditions at the plant but who wants her to risk her job, and possibly her life, to get evidence about illegal tampering with fuel rod quality (and she certainly can't trust the union rep who beds her and then becomes a voice on a telephone answering machine).

Her friends think she is crazy and will get them fired. She can't trust the doctors: some say "there are no safe levels of exposure to plutonium," others say "you have nothing to worry about, but why don't you bring in a daily urine sample."

And of course she can't trust the company, who plants radioactive plutonium in her house when she starts agitating. No wonder Karen is portrayed as increasingly crazy and paranoid, no wonder she gets strung out on ludes, no wonder she dies.....

--Praxis



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Mon. Feb. 20

*Film, "Story of Floating Weeds" (silent with English subtitles) 7:30 p.m. ISU's Center for Visual Arts, room 140.

*ISU's CVA Gallery has a fun art exhibit, "West Coast Realism." Will be up only until Feb. 26.

Tues. Feb. 21

*Meeting, Committee for Solidarity with El Salvador. 7:30 p.m. room 310 Stevenson Hall, ISU.

*Film, "Duck Soup" ISU's Union Film Board. 6 & 8:15 p.m. \$1.

Wed. Feb. 22

*Meeting Local/Global 8 p.m. Fell Room at the Unitarian Church Speaker: Dr. Wm McNeill, prof. of history at Univ. of Chicago

* Theatre: "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf" ISU's Braden Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free.

*Speaker: Judy Goldsmith, President of NOW. ISU's Capen Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*Gay Peoples' Alliance meeting. "Legal Rights of Gay People." Fairchild Hall, room 112, ISU 8 p.m.

*S.C.F. Peace Group meeting. 7 p.m. Campus Religious Center

Thurs. Feb. 23

*Film: "Body Heat" ISU's Capen Auditorium 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.50

*Theatre: "Hedda Gabler" ISU's Westhoff Theatre. For tickets phone 438-2535. 8 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 24

*Theatre: "Hedda Gabler" Westhoff Theatre, ISU. Call 438-2535 for ticket information. 8 p.m.

* Film: "American Gigolo" ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.50.

Sat. Feb. 25

*Film: "American Gigolo" 7 & 10 p.m. ISU's Capen Cinema.

*Theatre: "Hedda Gabler" ISU's Westhoff Theatre, 8 p.m. Call 438-2535 for ticket info.

*Operation Recycle drive at Sears parking lot, Eastland Shopping Center and Turner Hall parking lot, ISU. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Rape Crisis Center training session. 401 Stevenson Hall, ISU. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 26

*Rape Crisis Center training session. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 401 Stevenson Hall, ISU.

* Film: "American Gigolo" ISU's Capen Cinema. 2 & 7 p.m. \$1.50

*Theatre: "Hedda Gabler" 8 p.m. Westhoff Theatre, ISU. 438-2535 for ticket info.

*Music: Maynard Ferguson. IWU Main Lounge. Tickets \$6, available at Record Service.

Post Amerikan vol. 12, #10

LET'S SKIP "DUKES OF HAZZARD" TONITE, FRED.



Mon. Feb. 27

*Film: "Burden of Dreams" 7:30 pm ISU's CVA, room 140.

*McLean County Arts Center accepting work to be juried for their annual Amateur Art Show: painting, graphics, photography, sculpture, skilled crafts. Entry folders and info., 829-0811.

Tues. Feb. 28

*Film: "Bonnie and Clyde" ISU's Union film board. 6 & 8:15 p.m. Bone Student Center. \$1.00.

*Theatre: "Hedda Gabler" Westhoff Theatre, ISU. 8 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 29

*Gay People's Alliance meeting: "Gay-Straight Rap" 112 Fairchild Hall, ISU. 8 p.m.

*S.C.F. Peace Group meeting. 7 p.m. Campus Religious Center.

*Bound for Glory Singers perform "Free at Last," a musical salute to Black History month, Tri-Towers Basement, ISU. 7 p.m.

Thurs. March 1

*Film: "Psycho" ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.50.

*Theatre: "Hedda Gabler" 8 p.m. ISU's Westhoff Theatre.

Tues. March 6

*Committee for Solidarity with El Salvador meeting. 7:30 p.m. 310 Stevenson Hall, ISU.

Wed. March 7

*S.C.F. Peace Group meeting. 7 p.m. Campus Religious Center.

*Theatre: "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" IWU's McPherson Theatre. 8 p.m. 556-3232 for ticket info.

Thurs. March 8

*Theatre: "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" IWU's McPherson Theatre. 556-3232 for info.

Fri. March 9

*Theatre: "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" IWU (see above).

Sat. March 10

*Theatre: "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" IWU (see above).

Mon. March 12

*Speaker: Michael Manly, former Prime Minister of Jamaica. ISU's Bone Student Center. Free.

Wed. March 14

*Gay People's Alliance meeting. 8 p.m. 401 Stevenson Hall, ISU. "Gay Parenting"

*S.C.F. Peace Group meeting.

7 p.m. Campus Religious Center.

Fri. March 16

*Film: "Psycho II" ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.50.

*Theatre: "They're Playing Our Song" Community Players. Call 663-2121 for information.

Sat. March 17

*Film: "Psycho II" ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.50.

*Theatre: "They're Playing Our Song" Community Players.

Sun. March 18

*McLean County Arts Center Amateur Art Show begins; continues through April 24.

*Theatre: "They're Playing Our Song" Community Players.

*Film: "Psycho II" Capen Cinema (ISU). 2 & 7 p.m. \$1.50.

Mon. March 19

*Speaker: Jim Hall, "Promise Them Anything"--collection of campaign commercials. ISU's Prairie Room. 8 p.m. \$1.00

*Film: "El Salvador--Another Vietnam?" Beginning of Central America Week on ISU campus. For more info. call Michelle, 828-5662

Tues. March 20

*Committee for Solidarity with El Salvador meeting. 7:30 p.m. 310 Stevenson Hall, ISU.

Wed. March 21

*Speaker: Arturo Magana, nephew of President of El Salvador. Call Michelle at 828-5662 for details.

*Gay People's Alliance meeting. 112 Fairchild Hall, ISU 8 p.m.

Thurs. March 22

* Film: "West Side Story" ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.50.

*Deadline for next Post Amerikan. Send articles, money, letters, and more money.

Fri. March 23

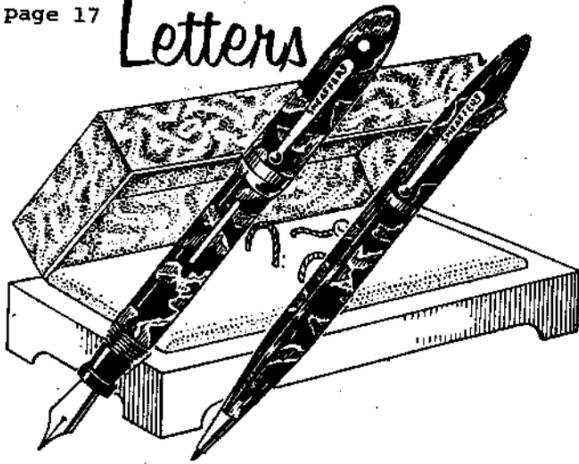
*Demonstration: Anniversary of Oscar Romeo's death. ISU's Quad, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Community Players. "They're Playing Our Song" Call 663-2121.

Mon. March 26

*Singer, author, poet, dancer, actor MAYA ANGELOU will be at ISU. Sponsored by the Black Student Center. She will be reciting poetry and speaking in the Bone Student Center Circus Room. Free.

Letters



Hostages need letters

Two more hostages of the Department of Corrections have told the Post that they'd like letters from the outside. Send correspondence to:

Michael Benson
N-34567, South 3, 11B
P. O. Box 711
Centralia, IL 62801

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Treatment worked but the patient died

Dear Post Amerikan:

I have enjoyed your paper for a long time. I think it should be a weekly instead of monthly, and I wish I could help with money but I can't because my husband is on disability and I have four children.

But anyway, in the past I was going to call you and report different things that are so wrong and I get so angry about, but I just got frustrated and said it won't be printed because it all has happened to my family and probably wouldn't anger anybody else.

But this one will be told. If I just help one person to know the truth I am satisfied. I don't want anything but to try to save someone else.

My father who was 64 years old, a construction worker at Local 362, started getting pains in his back and hip and losing his hearing in the winter. He went to one of the most respected doctors in Bloomington. The doctor told him he was having muscle spasms and gave him pain pills, muscle relaxers, all kinds of medicine. It didn't help. Dad was suffering, in so much pain.

My mother and I called the doctor every week two or three times. He would just change the medicine. It didn't work. Dad still suffered.

Finally Dad went to another doctor in town. This one didn't even bother to look at Dad; he agreed with the first doctor: muscle spasms. All this time Dad suffered, crawled on the floor and vomited. My mother rubbed Dad's back, hip and legs until her hands were blistered and she was exhausted.

Dad would have 2 or 3 bad attacks a day. Finally my mother and I made another appointment with another doctor. Well, he immediately sent Dad to the hospital for tests. Two days later we were notified that my father had cancer of the lung and

bones. So the third doctor called in the only cancer doctor in Bloomington. Well, he came in and like a shoe salesman talked mother and Dad's brothers into chemotherapy for Dad.

Well, that is when things really started to get worse. I took Dad to the office and waited for 2 hours while they put drugs into his body intravenously. He would come home weak and throwing up. But he was happy because Doc kept saying, "You are doing fine. Your blood is clear."

This went on for 4 months. I watched my dad go bald. I watched him lose all of his weight, get sores in the mouth, and get weaker and weaker. I called the doctor and he would tell me Dad is fine: "It's to be expected."

Finally Dad had to go back to the hospital. The Doc wanted more tests. Then they found a tumor in his head. Why didn't they find it before? Doc sent Dad home, but he got radiation treatments as an outpatient. I took him back and forth for 3 treatments. He was in a wheelchair and began to get pain in the eyes.

Doc again said everything is fine. But Dad went back to the hospital. Seven days later Dad dies, with the Doctor still saying fine. The day before he died we didn't want Dad to have the radiation treatment, but the doctor said he was fine and made him have it. Dad was semiconscious then.

This isn't explained right, but I have tried to explain as short as I can some of the details. There is a lot

more to it.

The point of all this is to let people know about these doctors and about chemotherapy and radiation. They give you pamphlets about these treatments, but please talk to someone who has had them or to the family of someone who has had them if you want to know the truth. The doctors say these treatments work. But I would like to know the names of people who these drugs have helped. I would also like to talk to the families of people who died of these treatments.

I think these treatments destroy people's minds, their bodies, and kill the good cells they have left. The patients are human guinea pigs for these cancer specialists.

And one more thing: I condemn St. Joseph's Hospital for their so-called support groups in the basement they have for cancer patients. I went to one when my dad was dying and they had this famous cancer doctor there pushing chemotherapy. I got up and walked out. The doctor wouldn't even look my mother and me in the face.

Well, this is just part of my story and you probably won't print it because it is too long. But I will be heard. I will sit down and do what I have done so many times before.

Thank you very much for reading this.

Janice Quinn
828-4129
907 N. Elder
Bloomington, IL



Send us your outrages!

If you've had a hassle with a landlord, a doctor, an attorney, the police, the state, or anybody else, and you would like to tell the world (or your little piece of it), just write it up and send it off to the Post Amerikan. We want to hear about it.

Don't worry if you can't spell or if you don't know proper grammar. Some of our best writers have serious problems in those areas, too. But we've got editors who take care of that sort of thing.

So if you're mad about something and your friends are sick to death of hearing you bitch, write to us. We never tire of bitching.

Send your gripes to the Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702. For 20¢ you, too, can get your 2¢ in.

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YES, I crave the fame and glory a Post-Amerikan T-shirt will bring me! I can't live without it. In fact I'll just die if I can't have a Post T-shirt! Enclosed is my check for \$6.00. Thank you. You've made my life worth living again.

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Contraceptive sponges now available

The Today contraceptive sponge is now available in local drugstores and at Planned Parenthood. Here are some facts about the sponge.

What is it?

The contraceptive sponge is a sponge made of a synthetic material called polyurethane. It looks like a small doughnut with a hollow or dimple in the center of one side, instead of a hole. On the side opposite the dimple is a nylon tape, which forms a loop. The sponge is saturated with a chemical which immobilizes sperm, called a spermicide.

How does it work?

The sponge works in three ways:
1) It places a barrier in front of the cervix (the opening to the uterus). It gets in the way when the sperm try to swim through the cervix to get to the fallopian tubes where they could unite with an egg to cause pregnancy.
2) It releases the spermicide, which stuns the sperm and stops their movement.
3) It absorbs the sperm and traps them inside the sponge.

How effective is it?

It's about 80-85% effective. That means if 100 women use the sponge as their birth control method for a year, 15 to 20 of them may get pregnant. Women who use the sponge correctly every time they have intercourse are less likely to get pregnant.

How is it used?

The sponge may be inserted up to 24 hours before the couple has intercourse. They may have repeated intercourse using the same sponge without removing it and without using additional spermicide. The woman should wait at least six hours after the last time she has intercourse to take the sponge out.

Where can I get it?

You can buy sponges at drugstores or at Planned Parenthood. You don't need to be a certain age or have a doctor's prescription to use them. However, women who are sexually active should have a yearly exam and pap test, no matter what method of birth control they use.

How much does it cost?

The sponges cost 75¢ each or three sponges for \$2 at Planned Parenthood. Prices at local drugstores average three sponges for \$3.25 with no individual sponges sold.

What are possible problems?

Some people may be allergic to the material the sponge is made of or to the spermicide. If irritation occurs, discontinue use.

What about

Toxic Shock Syndrome?

Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) is a rare but very serious disease. Doctors are not yet sure exactly

how women get TSS, but many women who have gotten it were using some kind of vaginal product (like tampons, diaphragms, sponges) during their menstrual periods when they first had symptoms of TSS. Because of this the manufacturers suggest that you should NOT use the sponge during your menstrual periods. Or if you do, insert it right before intercourse, use it for only one act of intercourse, and take it out six hours later instead of leaving it in for 24 hours as you could during the rest of your menstrual cycle.

CAUTION:

If you experience a sudden fever, vomiting, diarrhea, a sudden drop in blood pressure, dizziness, or a rash that looks like sunburn while using the sponge, remove it and see a doctor IMMEDIATELY.

For questions about the sponge or any other methods of birth control call Planned Parenthood at 827-8025 or your doctor.

--Maggie

Free expressionists get it together

The Bloomington-Normal Free Expressionist Group announces its impromptu founding and urges all open-minded persons to join us.

Our first project: an evening's free artistic expression, to be held at a public place in this community.

We invite all interested individuals, including poets, film-makers, musicians, and other expressive people to call our co-ordinating team-- Viceroy, at 452-1257; or Peanuts, at 829-4130.

This could all become a valid response to 1984.



MCC meets again

The Metropolitan Community Church has begun to hold meetings again in Bloomington: 1 p.m. on Sundays at 501 W. Mulberry St. (Bloomington). New and exciting activities are being planned. Everyone is welcome.

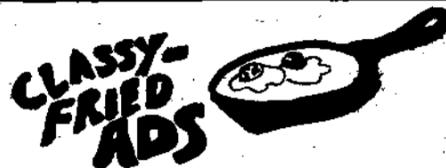
Those who want to learn more about MCC or wish to make their interests known in MCC's activities are encouraged to attend an informational forum on Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. at 501 W. Mulberry, Bloomington. For more information about MCC, call 829-2719.

Community News

Area artwork solicited

A special invitation is extended to qualified area artists to be among the exhibitors in Art in Action to be presented by American Society of Artists, a national membership organization, at Eastland Shopping Center, Bloomington, Friday through Sunday, May 4, 5, and 6. Artists will exhibit their work and all exhibitors will work/demonstrate at various times throughout the show.

Only original, creative work will be accepted for exhibition in this juried show. To be juried for the show, potential exhibitors should submit four slides or photographs of work which they wish to exhibit and one slide or photograph of their display set-up. A resume and/or show listing would also be helpful. Additional information and applications may be obtained from American Society of Artists, P.O. Box 1326, Palatine, IL 60078--exhibitor telephone (312) 991-4748.



RED HOT BOOKS about the struggle for peace and justice around the world. Send 20¢ postage to RECON publications, P. O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Rape Crisis Center training

The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County will hold a training session for new volunteers the weekend of Feb. 25 and 26. The Saturday session will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. and the Sunday session will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The training session will be held at 401 Stevenson Hall on the ISU campus. All interested women and men are invited to attend. Both days of training are required for those who wish to become volunteers.

The two-day training will include discussions of the victim, the rapist, child sexual assault, the laws, the medical procedures, same sex assault, avoidance and resistance, rape in McLean County, and the politics of rape.

For more information call PATH at 827-4005 and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.



Bound for glory singers

"The Bound for Glory Singers," an occasional group of local folks (Mari-laurice Hemlock, John Mueller, Raechelle Pope, Kari Sandhass and Mike Matejka) will perform an original production, "Free at Last," on Wednesday, Feb. 29, at 7 p.m., in the basement of the Tri-Towers dorms at ISU.

The program is a salute to Black History month, and traces Black History from slavery times, using poetry and dramatic readings, folk songs, and spirituals.

Alternative olympics proposed

I wasn't going to write about the Olympics--I really wasn't. But I figure if Art Buchwald and Andy Rooney can, and if the Revolutionary Worker can devote its cover to the Olympics, surely I can have my say, too.

I love the Olympics. Always have, probably always will. But I don't like the fact that they happen only every four years. So I have a suggestion for sports fans and competing tv networks alike--let's have the Olympics every year!

Now I realize that limiting one's self to just the more traditional Olympic events would be hard to take every year, but I believe that sports fans can be served without boring the skeet out of them. This is what I propose.

First, have the Traditional Olympics as they are, '84, '88, '92. Then the next years, '85, '89, '93, have the Slasher Olympics. These games would appeal to those of us who root for the downhill skiers to fall off the mountain, the bobsledders to vault out of their little ditch, the gymnasts to miss the horse and wind up in the stands.

For these fans I offer Slasher Olympics. Only the 20 top-rated sports in its field will be allowed. To qualify, a sport must be one of the



world-wide top 20 as far as deaths, mutilations, and general blood and gore. No protective clothing would be permitted. For instance, although ice hockey would qualify as a Slasher Olympic team sport, it would be played in sweats and skates.

The motto for the Slasher Olympics would be "Live and Lose," and its colors would be black, blue, green, and sickly yellow on a field of red. Instead of marching into the arena during the opening ceremonies, the athletes would be carried in on stretchers, in anticipation of what is to come.

Those teams with the most deaths in any event would be declared the winners. If no deaths occur, the teams with the most comatose and permanently disabled members will win. If no team records anything but mere bumps, bruises, and broken bones, the event will be considered null and void and the medals not given out at all.



Slasher Olympic judges whose scores are questioned by any team member will be hanged and their scores eliminated.

Next, I propose an Arm-Chair Olympics. These games would attract all those folks who sit at home and watch the Olympics on their color tvs. In Arm-Chair Olympics, they, the spectators, would be the teams. Anyone who has ever muttered those immortal words, "My four-year-old daughter could have caught that pass," or "Didja ever notice how Kareem don't even try?" or "Any friggin' fool can do that," is eligible to play.

The motto for the Arm-Chair Olympics would be "Live to Sit Again," and its colors would be Avacado and Harvest Gold on a field of Coppertone.

The same sports that are offered in the Traditional Olympics would be offered in the Arm-Chair Olympics. Here is Amerika's chance, finally, to see real amateur Olympians, unlike the professionals we are forced to watch now, from the USSR and the NCAA.

Anyone who played a sport in college would be ineligible for the Arm-Chair Olympics unless she or he was graduated at least 15 years ago or has gained at least 25 pounds since graduation. Any prospective Olympian who can pass the President's Physical Fitness Test would be automatically disqualified.

Arm-Chair Olympics will be judged by the friends and lovers of the team members who always lobby for "Family Classics" during the football season. Medals would be awarded to every Arm-Chair Olympian who actually completes an event. All entrants would be available for the press and their peers to ridicule and harass at the end of every event.

Finally, in the years before the Traditional Olympics, I propose the Elimination Olympics. These games,

while as bloody as the Slasher Olympics, serve a more useful purpose. Any public official is eligible to compete. In order to qualify, the official must have a petition signed by at least 5 citizens of his or her country.

Elimination Olympics would always be played in a neutral country. If no neutral country (one which has sent no participants) can be found, the site of the Elimination Olympics will be determined by the playing of Russian Roulette. The team captains (those officials who had the most signatures) will play this pre-game, and the last surviving Olympian's nation will host the Elimination Olympics. The team captain will then take his/her own life, and new team captains will be chosen.

The motto of the Elimination Olympics will be "Live, and Let's Die," and its colors will be black on black, with just a hint of a smiley face barely visible.

Elimination Olympics will be played with very few rules. Any Olympian found hiding so as not to be killed will be shot. Otherwise, the traditional games will be played. Although downhill skiing may make the Olympian a squatting duck, the bobsled offers much protection and excitement



as we watch our leaders offing other leaders at speeds up to 75 mph. Hand-guns and rifles will be used in the winter Olympics, bows and arrows, knives, and swords in the summer games.

Judges will be representatives from all those hurt by government spending cuts. Any Olympian disagreeing with a judge will be disqualified. Any Olympian disqualified will be shot.

All the Olympians left at the end of the games will be poisoned at supper on the last day. Since all the participants of Elimination Olympics will be dead, no medals will be awarded.

At the closing ceremonies the world's people will be declared the winners.

That takes us to '88, and the next Traditional Olympics. The advent of Olympics every year has many positive monetary considerations, too. With my plan, even more cities would get to cash in on the Olympic spirit and the Olympic money. New sponsors would have to be found, but that should be no problem. Blue Cross/Blue Shield should want to sponsor the Slasher Olympics, Ethan Allen would no doubt love to be the official end table of the Arm-Chair Olympics, and Smith & Wesson would kill to sponsor the Elimination Olympics.

But more importantly, the fans would be satisfied. If it is true that the fans make the game, then these new Olympic contests could satisfy every fan everywhere.

I intend to approach the International Olympic Committee in the near future with my ideas. Since I am confident they will be accepted, I will accept your gratitude in advance. Remember, you read it first in the Post-Amerikan.

--Deborah Wiatt,
The "Jim McKay"
of the P-A



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Censoring encyclopedias

Cutting and pasting for purity

The Reagan administration wants tax credits for private religious schools. They take some of the tax burden off those parents who want to send their kids to church schools--and add to the burden of the rest of us who are paying for public education.

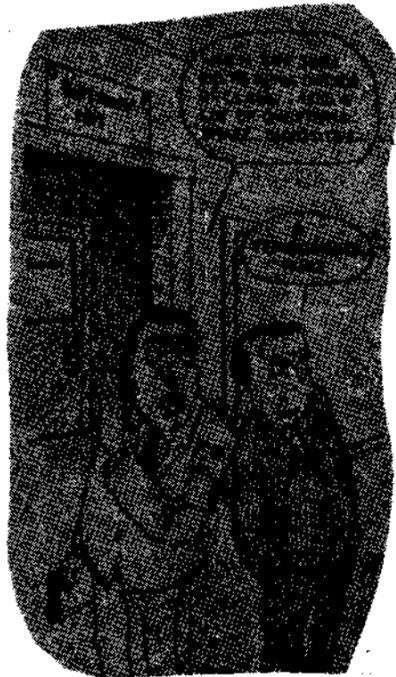
Do you have the sneaky feeling that some of that money is being wasted? You bet it is.

To give you some idea how it's being spent, let me share some parts of an article I ran across while looking for material on censorship. The article is called "Reviewing and Correcting Encyclopedias" and appeared in something called the Christian School Builder (vol 15, no. 9, April 1983, pp. 203-07).

And I quote:

"Encyclopedias are a vital part of many school libraries. They represent the philosophies of present-day humanists. This is obvious by the bold display of pictures that are used to illustrate paintings, art, and sculpture. This makes it important that the materials we place before our children are free from that which would inflame passion.

"In encyclopedias we are not battling a plot that captivates minds but are looking for erroneous information, sensual pictures, and unchaste details. One of the areas that needs correction is immodesty due to nakedness and posture. This can be corrected by drawing clothes on the figures or blotting out entire pictures with a magic marker. This needs to be done with care or the magic marker can be



erased from the glossy paper used in printing encyclopedias. You can overcome this by taking a razor blade and lightly scraping the surface until it loses its glaze. After this is done the magic marker will not erase.

"As for evolution, cutting out the sections on the subject is practical if the portions removed are not thick enough to cause damage to the spine of the book as it is opened and closed in normal use. When the sections needing correction are too thick, paste the pages together being careful not to smear portions of the book not intended for correction.

"Reproduction: Two basic categories of reproduction are human and animal. Reproduction in the animal kingdom shifts the attention away from the human level enough to make it a more neutral platform for the presentation of facts. As for human reproduction, volume description and page numbers can be easily passed from one student to another, and an atmosphere may begin taking place that will lead to a breakdown in moral reserve and purity of thought.

"The work of cutting out or pasting together pages will be done by those who have the burden for that which is right: school board members and the pastoral committee and burdened parents."

While the financial burden for those expensive encyclopedias--and the markers, razors, and paste used to mutilate them--will be shared by the rest of us.

--Ferdydurke

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I remembered to take out the garbage, leave food for the cat, turn off the air conditioner, pay the telephone bill, and water the philodendron. But all of that means nothing, without a Post Amerikan subscription. My life is empty... I desperately seek thrills and find them all sordid and meaningless...

Don't let it happen to you.

For the next 12 issues, send \$4 to Post Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702