

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

---

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

---

5-1984

## Volume 13, Number 2

Post Amerikan

Follow this and additional works at: [https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post\\_amerikan](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan)



Part of the [Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in Communication Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Publishing Commons](#), and the [Social Influence and Political Communication Commons](#)

---

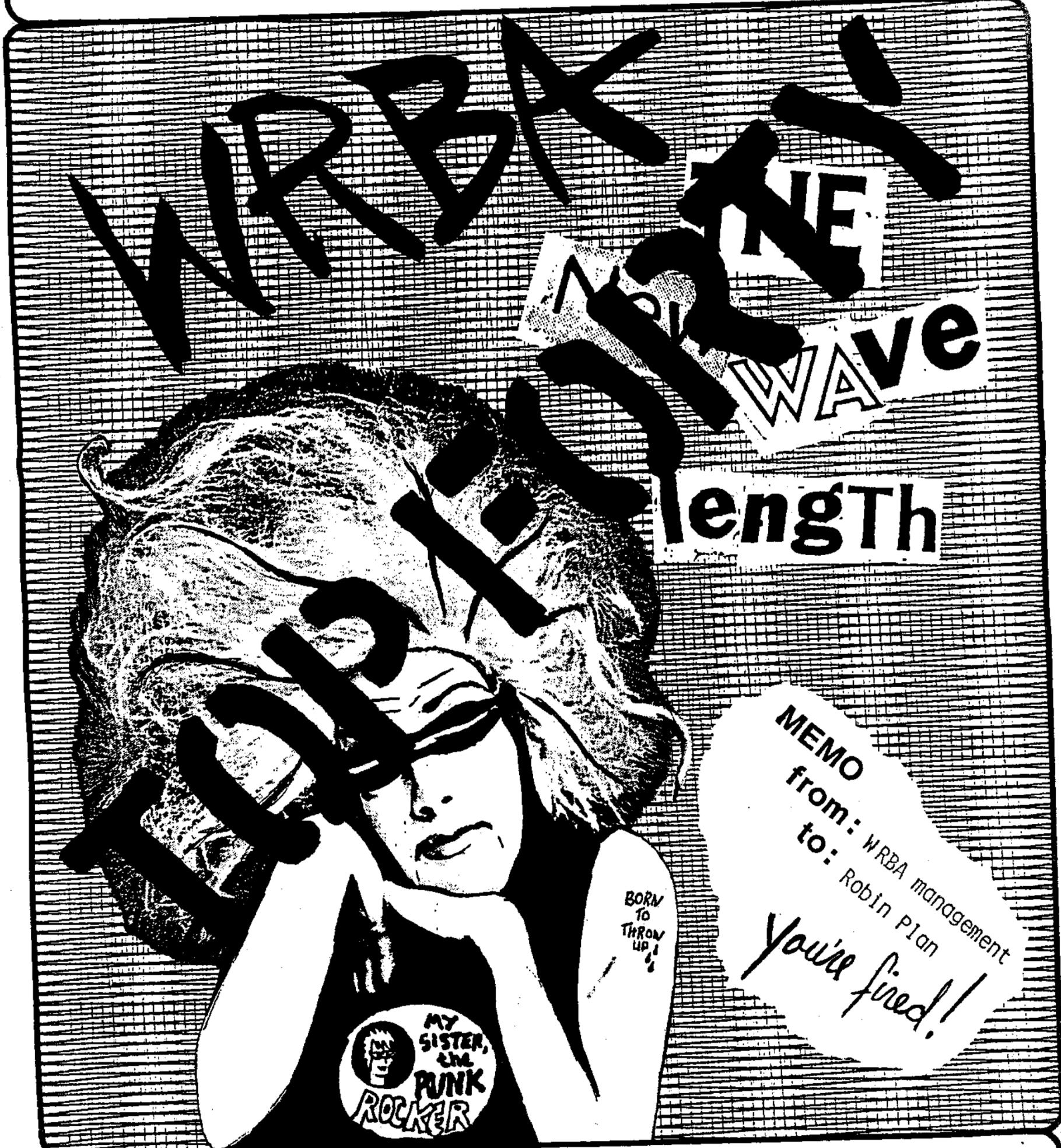
INSIDE: irreverent critiques of WRBA, State Farm, Pantagraph

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

# POST AMERICAN

May, 1984  
Vol. 13 No. 2



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 168  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
POST AMERICAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

# IN THIS ISSUE

PICK-ME-UPS THAT CALM US DOWN AND KEEP US DOWN  
Coffee, caffeine, chocolate may cause PMS...and maybe not.....3

PANTAGRAPH EXPLOITS GAY-RELATED STORY  
Local murder inspires homophobic journalism.....4-5

INSIDE THE KREMLIN: THE ONE WHO QUIT STATE FARM  
Searing saga of secretarial sabotage.....6-7

YOU SAID YOU WANTED REVOLUTION  
Whatever happened to the dreams of the 60s?.....8

'REASONS' FOR DEATH PENALTY ARE INACCURATE  
Capital punishment does not deter crime, etc.....9

RADIO STATION RAMRODS ROBIN PLAN  
WRBA dumps "New Wavelength" deejay.....12-13

BLOOMINGTON WATER POLLUTED AGAIN  
Health officials ignore dangers of high nitrate levels.....14

CITY COUNCIL NIXES HUMAN RIGHTS COVERAGE  
Bloomington council refuses to extend civil rights protection.....15

EX-ISRAEL SUPPORTER FEELS BETRAYED  
U.S. media shortchange Palestinian rights.....16

SHUT DOWN THE ARSENAL!  
Protest groups plan to close Rock Island Arsenal.....22

AH, SPRING  
Verbal harassment feels a lot like rape.....24

Cable Comix.....7  
News Briefs.....10-11  
My Sister, the Punk Rocker...16  
Miscellaneous Outrages.....17

Amerikan Almanak.....18  
Community News.....19-20-21  
Letters.....21

## 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 Pañk 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)



# POST AMERIKAN



Vol. 13, No. 2 May 1984 Page 2

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 will get back to you as soon as we can.

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 letters 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 May 24.

## 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

## Moving?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post Amerikan will not be forwarded (it's like junk mail--no kidding!). Fill out this handy form and return it to us, P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanx

This issue is in your hands thanks to: Diana, Mark, Imogene, Russell, Dave, Susie, Bobby, Melissa, Kathy, Ralph, Bumper, Dan, X, Rich, Bill, Nadene, Lynne, Deborah, J. T., Holly, and Sue (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

Special thanx to Tom F. for the cute postcard and his generous donation to the Post.

# Pick-me-ups that calm us down and keep us down

A recent article in the Chicago Tribune investigated two opposing schools of thought on the treatment of Pre-Menstrual Syndrome (PMS).

One doctor, coincidentally a woman, said that the condition which causes symptoms ranging from depression, irritability, cravings for sugar, water retention, or attacks of anxiety, can be fairly easily treated with the hormone progesterone.

Representing the opposing method of treatment was another doctor, coincidentally a man, who scoffed at the idea of ingesting hormones. This doctor (who also happened to be a Californian) said that PMS could be treated by changes in diet and lifestyle.

"It is so simple, most people don't believe it," said Dr. Guy Abraham.

"PMS victims do not lead healthy lives."

Progesterone is a sedative, not a cure, he maintains. If women would just give up their coffee and chocolate, he laments, their troubles would be over.

## Social factors

Perhaps he has failed to consider the myriad of social factors that go into why women drink coffee and tea and eat chocolate.

First of all, women are socialized to eat more than men. Men forget to eat. Women have a hard time not eating. As children, women are socialized to be nurturers and providers of food. Our culture is stuffed with stereotypes in which women are associated with food.



Secondly, food, especially sweets, is a reward in our culture for good behavior. Thus, women, who generally have smaller egos than men and less self-confidence, tend to reward themselves frequently and often. Consequently, their over-indulgence leads to weight gain and the most dreaded of all American institutions, The Diet. One of the elements of being on a diet, of course, is the guilt that comes with failure to stay on it and the inevitable loss of self-esteem that comes with failure to lose weight.

And why are women so obsessed with losing weight? For men. Because of constant messages from the media (which are still largely controlled by men) that they must be svelte and borderline anorexics to be attractive sexual partners. Never mind that the men evaluating women are often no prizes themselves.

Historically, the pressure is on women, not only from men, but from other women and from themselves. A woman can never be too thin or too rich. A contradiction develops in standards for women: how they are

expected to behave is in direct opposition with how they are expected to appear.

## Keep them in line

Which brings us to the idea of food as a convenient substitute for something else, such as love and affection. This goes along with the more sinister idea of food as a device for keeping people in line. It is more culturally acceptable for women and girls to be given chocolate and caffeine in certain contexts. Think of the image of the perfect little girl, dressed up and playing tea party, imitating her mother and her mother's friends at their coffee klatch. Girls, since they are so much better behaved than boys (or simply tolerate more boredom in an effort to cooperate) are often enticed into sitting with the grownup women to have their mid-afternoon sugar fix, giving them opportunity to observe the ritual firsthand.

When the little girl becomes a young woman, admirers bring her boxes of chocolates, often as a substitute for themselves or to apologize for their bad behavior. The woman receives a box of chocolates, which she really shouldn't eat because she is on a diet in order to look good for this guy, or be able to attract one of his friends, if necessary. But who can resist an unsolicited box of chocolates? Individual bite-sized units, each one saying "hey--you're okay." Sometimes being forced to deny oneself traditional awards can create more stress. So the lonely young woman lies on the couch in a negligee, talking on the phone and eating chocolates. At least, that's how they do it in the movies.

Think of how animals such as horses are trained. They are rewarded with sugar cubes for "behaving." Two women meeting in a coffee shop--the young woman on the couch--what images could be less threatening? Remember, women are supposed to be "domesticated."

For many women struggling to maintain their sanity amid the pressures of family and work, coffee and chocolate remain the only rewards they have, and they must administer them themselves. Often frustrated by efforts to achieve real success in the public world that is still a man's world, they turn to the solace of a sure thing. Coffee and chocolate are within the reach, in various forms, of all economic classes, whereas other stress-management techniques, such as quitting one's job, may be a luxury many can't afford.

## What's left?

So women can't give up coffee and chocolate. What would they have left?

Only when admitted to the power structure of the public world and allowed to find personal challenge in their work will they find fulfillment.



Women need to develop self-images that incorporate power. They must be able to view themselves as effective human beings. But they must struggle against the world to do so. There must be a change in the exterior conditions that bind them, or women will explode the bonds themselves. So when the doctor wonders why some women can't give up "their" coffee and chocolate, he doesn't know what he is asking. It's not that easy to give up centuries of oppression.

Of course, many of the social characteristics attributed to women here apply to men and children also. Men and children also suffer obesity and various infectious diseases. Poor nutrition contributes to the health problems of everyone. And women do suffer from peculiar afflictions that the medical establishment finds baffling (but will rarely admit to it). Which in turn keeps women financially and psychologically bound to keeping the medical establishment in business, along with its charlatans.

If coffee and chocolate cause PMS, then every woman who consumes them should suffer from PMS. This is obviously not the case. Coffee and chocolate are used by women as forms of stress-management. PMS is a stress. The proper question to ask is: why do some women suffer from pre-menstrual syndrome--and not others?

--Imogene Blackstone



## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

If you want to talk to one of us

Call PATH 827-4005

and ask for the

Rape Crisis Center

# Pantagraph exploits

The Pantagraph's recent coverage of the killing of a local gay man, Cedric Cooke, was about as lurid and sensational as it could be. Only the National Enquirer would have jazzed it up any more.

The Pantagraph's front-page spread for April 13 included a six-column headline, a smaller headline, 3 photos, and a graphic showing how to get to the murder site. The story itself was much smaller--primarily because it contained so few facts--and had been blown up to its modest size by stuffing it with irrelevant details about Cooke's house and free-wheeling speculation about an alleged "sex ring" that the victim was supposedly connected with.

The "gay sex ring" that was trumpeted in the banner headline had nothing to do with the murder--but the alleged "ring" was really what the Pantagraph focused on. The material about the killing was contained in 3 short paragraphs; the remaining 6 paragraphs centered on the supposed "sex ring."

The next day (April 14) the Pantagraph printed a story that admitted that the probe into the "sex ring" was not the motive for Cooke's murder. This apparent retraction

gave the newspaper another chance to write about the "pending investigation" which is still pending.

### Unnamed sources

In order to report on a "grand jury probe" in which the grand jury has yet to meet, the Pantagraph overcame its usual reticence about using anonymous sources. The April 13 story relied heavily on quotations from a "spokesman" from the state's attorney's office "who wished to remain anonymous." Apparently, the state's attorney's office was not comfortable with going public about the investigation, but the Pantagraph was so eager to splash this juicy story across their front page that they did something they usually don't do--rely on unnamed sources. If the investigation had concerned a less sensational topic, would the Pantagraph have waited for the grand jury to meet? Probably.

The entire matter of a so-called "sex ring" smacks of police hype, and the Pantagraph's decision to release details about the pending investigation only added to the hype.

These "sex ring" allegations,

especially the ones involving gay people, rarely live up to the sensational treatment that the police and the straight press give them.

The supposed "ring" that operated in Boston a few years ago turned out to be no ring at all--many of the charges were dropped; all the men who were charged got off; most of the "young boys" involved were really young men who participated voluntarily and even initiated some of the contacts.

The Pantagraph followed the typical tactics of covering a "gay sex ring" story. The reports insisted on using the word "boys" and repeating that they were "as young as 14." (The youngest age possible is always specified.)

### Forced sex

The Pantagraph stories also made it sound like the "young boys" were unwilling victims who were forced into participating: "teenage boys as young as 14 were taken to Cooke's residence"; "Slain Lexington man subject of probes into use of teen boys" (emphasis added);

None of these allegations has been

## Sex reporting protects straight image

The Bloomington Pantagraph--and the straight press in general--has two styles for reporting sex-related stories:

Type A, the lurid, explicit style that redundantly identifies people and activities according to sexual preference; it's used to nail gay people to the journalistic wall.

Type B, the evasive, implicit style that refuses to put sexual labels on violent or scandalous behavior; it's used to keep heterosexuals from being

stereotyped and generalized about in the way gay people are.

Paranoid hypersensitivity? I don't think so. Consider two recent cases:

1. The article about heterosexual killer Christopher Wilder didn't mention sex at all, although Wilder was suspected of kidnapping, raping, and killing four young women. It appeared on the front page of the Pantagraph on April 14, right across from the second story about the murder of Cedric Cooke (see adjoining

article).

If the Wilder story had been a Type A story, the headline would have read "Heterosexual Mass Murderer Slain," instead of the tepid "Kidnap Suspect Slain." The lead would have said: "Christopher Wilder, a millionaire race car driver suspected of the heterosexual rape and murder of four young women, was shot and killed yesterday," and the story would have reported that Wilder was wanted for questioning in "a nationwide string of 11 heterosexual-related abductions." It would then have continued to specify, label, and identify until the word heterosexual had been used at least 5 times.

2. The second het-related story that completely evaded the sexual preference issue was the series of articles about the notorious "lingerie store" on Bloomington's east side.

Instead of ducking its head in the sand about the sexual preference of the lingerie store's clientele, the Pantagraph could have sold a lot more papers with a Type A headline, "Sex Parlor Caters to Heterosexual Voyeurs," running across the front page. The story could then have made an explicit identification of the straight male customers who pay for the opportunity to ogle, touch, and masturbate in front of scantily-clad females, and repeated that identification at least three times for slow readers who can't figure out that men who pay to jack off in front of women are probably heterosexuals.

That's the advantage of Type A sensationalism: no doubts or confusion, and redundancy (like "homosexual sex ring") is an admirable trait.

I don't know why the Pantagraph doesn't use Type A reporting all the time. Surely it sells more papers, and heterosexual sex-crimes happen every day. There'd be no need to wait around to exploit some gay-related story that relies on unnamed sources, anonymous spokesmen, and grand juries that haven't met yet.

--Ferdydurke

JUST A FEW OF THE BARGAINS AT

# MOTHER MURPHY'S

UPSTAIRS 111 1/2 NORTH ST. NORMAL, ILL.

## ROCK N' ROLL EMPORIUM

WE SELL \$ BUY \$ TRADE USED LP'S

PIPES IMPORT TOBACCO CIGARETTES CIGARS LIGHTERS

T-SHIRTS - POSTERS  
 BUTTONS - MIRRORS  
 TAPESTRIES  
 BANDANAS - TIES  
 LEATHER AND SPIKES  
 JEWELRY.

KITES BLOWN GLASS + PEWTER  
 CARDS FIGURINES  
 ROOM DECORATIONS AND MORE

# gay-related story

proved--the grand jury hasn't heard any of the evidence yet. We may never know how many "boys" were actually involved. We may never find out if they really "were taken" to Cooke's house or went on their own, or what being "taken" really means (were they merely given a ride or were they bound and gagged?). And what does "use of teen boys" suggest? The articles' language assumes a lot about the activities and the people that may be totally false.

The Pantagraph's description of the "ring" plugs into a lot of old fears and lies about rapacious homosexual men who prey on innocent young boys. Stories about heterosexual child molesters--who are far more numerous--are seldom reported in such suggestive terms. (See adjoining story for more on biased reporting of gay-related articles in the straight press.)

Some other details about the Pantagraph's story also reveal the unusual and exploitative nature of the coverage:

1. The mug shot photo of the suspect is an unprecedented contribution from the police to the Pantagraph. Somebody really wanted to play this story up: mug shots are not normally given to the press (or else the Post Amerikan would have obtained the police copies of snitch photos instead of getting our own).

2. Much was made of Cooke's house, including a 3-column photo. Was it necessary to say that Cooke had a swimming pool and hot tub, and to place that information in the same

## The Daily Pantagraph

36 pages, 4 sections

Bloomington-Normal, Ill., Friday, April 13, 1984

Twin Cities Final 25

# Victim linked to gay sex ring

Slain Lexington man subject of probe into use of teen boys

By SCOTT RICHARDSON  
Pantagraph staff

Copyright 1984, Evergreen Communications Inc.

LEXINGTON — A 28-year-old man has been charged in yesterday's slaying of a rural Lexington man who had been the prime target of a police probe into an alleged homosexual sex ring involving teen-age boys in McLean County.

The Pantagraph has learned.

Ben Leon Bell, who McLean County Sheriff Steve Brisson said was a "relatively new resident" of the county and who is formerly of Knoxville, Tenn., was charged with one count of murder in the death of Cedric Cooke, 53, R.R. 2 Lexington.

Sources said Bell had been staying at the house for about a month. Cooke was stabbed in the neck, source said, apparently while he slept in a bedroom of his expensive A-frame house. He suffered some superficial cuts and one that severed his carotid artery, the main vessel for blood to the brain, according to coroner William Anderson.

Bell was returned to McLean County Jail yesterday afternoon in lieu of \$50,000 bond to await a May 10 court appearance.

Sources told The Pantagraph that Cooke was the primary target of a McLean County grand jury probe

into an alleged sex ring that operated from his house and involved area boys as young as 16. Sources said the boys were taken to Cooke's house — complete with an indoor swimming pool and hot tub — where they took part in homosexual activities with area men.

The grand jury probe would have culminated a three-month investigation by the Illinois Division of Criminal Investigation and members of Task Force 6, a cooperative effort of DCI and police from Bloomington, Normal and the Sheriff's Department, sources said.

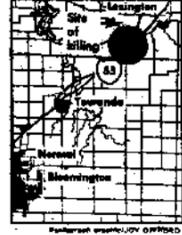
The information was confirmed by a state's attorney's office spokesman, who said the grand jury has been scheduled to begin hearing evidence in the case yesterday.

The spokesman, who wished to remain anonymous, said Cooke had signed a statement confessing to taking indecent liberties with minors. Several other area men have been implicated and were to be included in the grand jury action, sources said.

At a news conference yesterday morning, Brisson said he would not comment on a motive in the slaying. Investigators were working yesterday to determine if any connections exist between the grand jury probe and Cooke's death, sources said.

Bell was arrested at the scene shortly after police received a phone call about 1:30 a.m. yesterday reporting "a possible homicide" at Cooke's residence, sources said.

Mr. Cooke was taken to Kibler-Smith Funeral Home. His obituary is on D3.



Cedric Cooke was killed in his rural Lexington house, above. Right, the entrance to Cooke's property.



Instead of putting its 14-inch story on page 2 or 3, where it belonged, the Pantagraph chose to add 2 huge photographs, a 6-column headline, an unprecedented police mug shot, and a useless graphic and--presto!--they turned a modest article into a front-page paper-seller that played on the public's fears and misconceptions about gay people.

sentence that said the "boys were taken" to his house "where they took part in homosexual activities with area men"?

3. The April 13 story was copyrighted. The Pantagraph is ob-

viously proud of this latest excursion into yellow journalism. They also knew they were going to sell a lot of papers with the story. Could that have motivated their sensationalism?

--Ferdydurke/Mark Silverstein

## Secret police probe citizens' sex lives

The Illinois Division of Criminal Investigation's (DCI) special Major Crimes Task Force spent three months investigating what the Pantagraph called a "gay sex ring," according to an April 13 story.

The Major Crimes Task Force has, until now, confined its work to the David Hendricks ax murder case and undercover narcotics investigations. Spying on citizens' sex lives is a new activity for the covert unit.

Reading the implications of the Pantagraph's lurid prose, one would think that sexual activities between consenting males is a major crime, or ought to be.

It's not. But if one of those males is not yet eighteen years old, the law can intervene. The "sex ring" investigation reportedly turned up evidence that some underage men had been taking part in sexual activities.

My fear is that the operatives in the secret police unit, carried away by their own prejudices, may have broadened their investigation. If the DCI Task Force agents shared any of the values implicit in the Pantagraph's sensational coverage, they may have come to regard all gay men as worthy of investigation.

What methods did the undercover police

use to investigate this alleged "sex ring?"

During the Hendricks investigation, investigating officers asked the library for its records of who had checked out a certain book. Have DCI agents asked the library for a list of patrons who have checked out books about homosexuality?

What sorts of files were kept? How many names are in the files? Are people included in the files just for being gay?

Would the Major Crimes Task Force investigate, with equal vigor, reports that 17-year-old-women were voluntarily having sex with men over 18? While these questions may seem to verge on paranoia, they point out the range of what is possible. And we may never know the truth.

With a secret police force conducting an undercover investigation, reporting to a State's Attorney who releases only anonymous statements about a pending grand jury hearing (which would be closed to the public) which may not be held because the primary suspect is dead, the public may never learn whether or not the DCI probe went beyond the scope of legitimate criminal investigation.

--Mark Silverstein

# CLUB PEORIAN DISCO

733 SW ADAMS,  
PEORIA ILL  
676-9030



**FINEST GAY ENTERTAINMENT  
IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

OPEN NIGHTLY 'TIL 4 A.M.  
PRESENT THIS AD AT THE BAR  
FOR A DRINK. LIMIT ONE PER  
CUSTOMER PER NIGHT

# Inside the Kremlin: the one

Remember Beulah, the workfare legal secretary? What ever happened to her, you wonder? Beulah got parole, and a paycheck. She became the envy of her friends. Yes, Beulah turned in her foodstamps, and turned into a Reasonite overnight. Did our President appoint her Attorney General since she had legal experience? No. The capitol was not good enough for Beulah. She wanted to go where the real power is. The Kremlin. Secretive, with the power to cancel us at any time, with the ultimate weapon at its disposal, the computer, this marble monument is loved and feared in our community.

"Welcome to State Farm," said the secretary in Personnel. Beulah

thought never in her wildest dreams would she hear that greeting. From the valley of workfare to the mountaintop of home, auto, life, and fire. Yes, it was like a dream.

Or a nightmare. In this corporate Ripley's Believe It or Not the names have been changed, but the story is true. If you don't believe there is a Twilight Zone in Twinkletown, you will after you read this.

\* \* \*

Beulah had filled out an employment application on a whim at the Old Kremlin in the older part of the city. The Fire and Casualty Building, as it is now called, was the original State Farm Building. Atop the solid marble and brick building, there is an air raid siren which warns against enemy planes. Beulah thought she saw a tiny figure in a World War II uniform at the top floor surveying the skies with binoculars. They take no chances at the Old Kremlin. You can't be too careful when you are protecting the New Kremlin, corporate headquarters on the East Side.

In Personnel her application was received as joyfully as one finding a dead fish in her purse. So, back to reality.

Beulah began a new workfare assignment at a social service agency which needed 10,000 bulky files Xeroxed. She was shocked to learn the Kremlin wanted to interview her. There was a part time opening. Beulah knew there were never any openings at the Kremlin. She figured the WAC with the binoculars had fallen out of the window in her enthusiasm to see if a Britt airplane was going to attack.

Her interview went well, though she thought it odd that the typing and blood pressure test were taken at the same time. They seemed as eager to hire Beulah because she knew they wanted a human robot with low blood pressure.

Luckily, her references checked out just fine. Her third grade teacher had been dead for twenty years; thus was unable to confirm Beulah's true character.

It didn't matter. The Personnel interviewer, a pleasant young man named Don, liked Beulah. Don's manner was so folksy and warm that Beulah wanted to confess she washed her clothes in Tide, not Brand X. Don wanted to hire Beulah because she had broken new records for typing fast. Mainly, Don Personnel



**THE gallery**  
111 S. BEAUFORT, NORMAL  
432-9192

APRIL

Wed. 25 THE

UPTOWN RULERS

Thur. 26 CHANGES JAZZ BAND

Fri. 27 CHANGES 5-7:30  
THE INVISIBLE PARROTS

Sat 28 THE INVISIBLE PARROTS

Sun. 29 THE GDANSK BAND

Mon. 30 MIKE HOGAN

MAY

Tue. 1 JOHN BRIGGS ORIGINALS

Wed. 2 THE JONES BOYS

Thur. 3 THE SPOONS

Fri. 4 CHANGES 5-7:30  
BOB AND JEFF SHOW

Sat. 5 BOB AND JEFF SHOW

Sun. 6 BUG WATER, LARRY ESTES  
and JEFF LOVELL

Mon. 7 RICH MARGHERIO

Tue. 8 BOB BOGAERT

Wed. 9 SILVER (Rich & Mitch)

Thur. 10 THE GDANSK BAND

Fri. 11 CHANGES 5-7:30 SCAMP

Sat. 12 SCAMP

Mon. 14 MIKE HOGAN

Tue. 15 RICH MARGHERIO

Fri. 18 FOOLISH PLEASURE

Sun. 20 OLD TIME GALERY NITE

NEW TALENT WELCOME!

## Computer student on workfare

### Let them eat silicon chips

Remember Beulah? Meet another workfarer, Randy (not his real name). He ran out of money for his computer studies at ISU, and discovered the best education is in the street, not the classroom. Randy learned what our President means by job training for the unemployed: "Every Amerikan is entitled to a broom, and training in how to use it." Thus did yet another workfarer bite the dust. Literally.

Randy had done well in his computer studies, and had received above-average grades, but he had not yet received his degree. This meant that State Farm would not even let him dust off the disks in data processing. Randy had what experts say the unemployed need to get jobs, computer training. But this presented the workfare program with a problem. Non-profit agencies wanted a female for the clerical jobs, just like in the For-Profit world.

Thus did Randy become the most over-qualified janitor on the workfare roster. Instead of data processing Randy learned dust processing.

Alas, he flunked the course. Randy was fired from his janitorial job at the YWCA for not working hard enough. It is not easy to be fired from unemployment, but workfare does work in mysterious ways.

Randy had even offered to program the computer at the YWCA which was sending out work at great expense. A computer programmer at workfare prices would seem to be a good deal. Not so. "You're a janitor not a programmer."

But workfare gave him another chance

to work up the manual labor ladder. At the Bloomington Housing Authority he polished his paint scraping skills, and learned how to get a hernia shoveling snow, moving trash, and cleaning old apartments. This made him feel like a real man. The boys even invited him for a beer after work, but Randy did not have the two bits, nor the strength to buy it.

Randy found out that free labor has a high price--one's mental and physical health. He became ill and missed some days of "work." There are no sick days on workfare. If Randy had suffered a serious back injury on workfare, who would be responsible for the worker's compensation? The Office of General Assistance? The Bloomington Housing Authority? Or we, the taxpayers?

Randy was terminated from the workfare program, meaning the Office of General Assistance would not help pay his rent for 90 days, insuring eviction from his apartment. Since budget cuts have hit legal aid for the poor, this is a double injustice. It is clear that workfare is a cancer spreading rapidly. It must be stopped. Now. Workfarers must be given real job training, not punishment for being unemployed.

Should workfarers sweep up the crumbs from their own breadlines, while across town, State Farm Insurance cleans up?

--Joan M. Glize

# who quit State Farm

wanted to get out of the office and on the golf course. Thus did Beulah's career at the Kremlin begin. Sort of.

They did not want to take any chances on this semi-permanent, part time, temporary job, even if it was just for two weeks.

"We don't want another Mona," said Beulah's new boss, another pleasant young man (pleasant young women are allowed at the Kremlin, but they usually don't hire people). Marvin was his name. Thin, pale, heavy glasses, drowning in a polyester suit, this was a man who wanted to take no chances. A look of dread came over his face. Was he looking at the new Mona?

"Are you married, divorced, single, dating, with or without children; are you on the pill, off the pill, or just use will power?" Any combination seemed to distress Marvin. He could do computer programs and figure actuarial tables, but the complexities of female reproduction, and family, seemed beyond him.

Then there was Mona. No one had seen or heard from her in a week. Pictures of two small children were still on the desk. There were whispers about family problems and an unemployed husband. No one at the Kremlin wanted Mona back because she had been absent so much, nor did they seem interested in her whereabouts. Would a woman with two small children and an out-of-work husband quit the best paying company in town? Mona's name was mud at the Kremlin.

There was also a difference of opinion about whether or not her job was open. Don Personnel had said Mona's job had been filled; that Beulah was to fill in for the two weeks before the new secretary started. But Marvin had not interviewed anyone. Was the new Mona a phantom? Was it Mona who fell out of the window with the binoculars?

Beulah didn't care about Mona either. She needed a job. And why not start at the top?

So Beulah sat down at Mona's desk on Monday morning and started to learn the IBM Memory Typewriter. By the time it was over Beulah decided that this machine should star in a Stephen King novel. The typewriter behaved so bizarrely that Beulah was afraid it would fly



out the window--madly typing.

The "Christine" typewriter had seen too many memos, had stored and retrieved one too many times. Its keys would refuse to work or suddenly begin printing out some sentence that Mona had stored long ago. According to the other secretaries, the machine had been bonkers for some time. The IBM repairman had written it off as some kind of lemon. One woman said, "It's because Mona typed on it; she probably put a spell on it." Beulah laughed. No one else did. Marvin noticed that the typewriter was not working properly, but he thought everything should be on the computer anyway.

Marvin told Beulah to forget the crazy typewriter. He would put her on the tube. He sounded solemn--like a talent agent for the Tonight Show. Beulah had always wanted to be on television. Alas, Beulah discovered that logging onto the enormous computer system at the Kremlin was harder than getting on Johnny Carson.

At least Johnny does not pull the plug in the middle of a song. After working all afternoon in the darkened cloakroom filled with computer terminals, Beulah saw an example of Mona's Revenge. Beulah got logged off "by the system" and was told it happened all the time. A split second systems failure that forgets all your work--so efficient.

But Beulah could not forget Mona. Her ghost seemed to be everywhere, even when Marvin and the others

gathered up her calender, pictures of her children, and her other belongings, put them in a box and took them to Personnel in a funeral procession.

Christine the IBM Memory Typewriter, seemed to jam up suddenly when Mona's belongings were removed. Beulah pushed the buttons, but nothing happened. Marvin pushed the buttons. Still nothing happened.

Beulah thought she turned off the machine to leave for lunch, but as she was putting on her coat, the typewriter started printing out madly: "K-I-L-L T-H-E K-R-E-M-L-I-N"

When Beulah got outside on the sidewalk, she looked up at the side of the Fire and Casualty Building. The woman with the binoculars was gone.

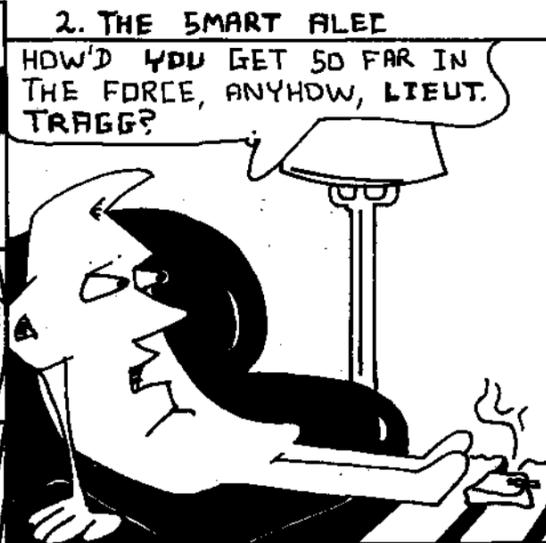
Suddenly the air raid siren wailed. But no one on the busy street looked up at the deafening noise. Except Beulah.

She waved and said, "So long, Mona."

They are still talking at the Kremlin about that New Mona who left for lunch and never came back.

--Joan M. Glize

## Calla COMIX



BS084

# You said you wanted revolution

I don't think that the American cultural revolution of the '60s and '70s is dead. I think it has fallen into tremendous disorganization because nobody knew how to live within the definition of "community" or "cooperation." We talked cooperation, but we competed. Ideas, theories, and slogans were more important to us than people; and our coops, communes, and consciousness-raising groups eventually lost most of their disillusioned members.

While the communal movement is still functioning in America, there are today hundreds, and probably thousands, of isolated "ex-hippies" living in our society, working in factories and offices, many of them in nuclear family units, living against their beliefs, trying to make it on their own. I am one of those individuals.

I am a radical. I believe in a utopian society. I believe in setting goals of perfection and striving for those goals. I believe in life, change, commitment, and the power of the individual. Revolution has always been a beautiful word to me. It means radical change.

I want to live in that society that is radically changed, a society that is better than the one we have today. I believe that this life is my opportunity and my obligation to leave the world a better place than I found it-- a changed place.

I am also a single mother, working for minimum wage and going to school, seeking to support my children and fulfill my dreams. In a world that offered me little to believe in, I found sanity and order in my role as a parent, and it was hard for me to understand the movement's reluctance to include, understand, and appreciate children. However, I understand that we all came to the movement with our pain, and pain can sever many relationships.

The women's movement and the revolutionary movement could learn a lot from children and from the parent-child lifestyle. Of course, I am referring to the PC relationship at its best. As a child advocate, I want to point out that when that relationship is not productive or something to be proud of, it is not the child's fault and not the child's responsibility to make it better. It is the parent's doing and their responsibility.

## Natural authority

As a parent, I have learned the meaning and value of authority and power. If you know something that someone else doesn't know but needs to know, then you are in a position of natural authority; you are a teacher. There is such a thing as unnatural or unneeded authority; that which seeks to punish and control. This highly ego-gratifying type of authority is what we are resisting in government and in the profit-oriented economic system. But natural authority has a place and a purpose in our lives. Personally, I believe that education is the means to personal power, and cooperation is the means to group power.

In a cooperative group, we must tolerate our differences by focusing on our common goals. We should feed our egos with the pride of accomplishment and the excitement of having power over our own individual choices, rather than running in the race to be faster, bigger, and better than the next guy. This is the philosophy of the free school. And it works.

Free schools, without rules, teach self-discipline. They produce self-motivated individuals who can function in a group. People skilled in self-discipline know how to mind their own



Drawing by Karen Stohola CPF

business. They respect others inherently, without rules to make them do so.

I have seen this principle at work in the children's free school class that I teach. I see the children gradually shifting their dependence on outside authority to dependence on themselves. I am watching them learn to cooperate because they want to, because they are experiencing that cooperation that works. They have a strict sense of being equal, and it's obvious that they enjoy it very much.

## Anarchy that works

To watch my little free school class progress thrills me, because it confirms what I have always believed. I believe that cooperation is life and elitism is suicide. I believe that there is harmony between change, freedom, and anarchy; and structure, order, and discipline.

Productive anarchy has a naturally ordered structure that comes out of the cooperation of self-disciplined individuals. Self-discipline is the heartbeat of the successful, working anarchy. It produces order. Without order there is no anarchy. There is only chaos.

A highly developed and extensive educational system is the foundation of an anarchist society. That educational system will support an anarchist structure by feeding the individuals in that society with the means to power and self-discipline. I believe that this type of anarchy is the natural development of a progressive civilization, and that it will happen in our world, in due time, of its own accord.

## Starting today

What can we do today? Today we can form food coops, publishing houses, and free schools. Our children are growing up and we need to teach them what they need to know about surviving in our world, in practical terms. We need to teach them the truth, as we see it, about history, government, society, and the future. And we must teach them that they are free, that they have personal power, that they are equal, and that they never have to give up their dreams.

We also need free-school books, children's books. We must write them, and publish them. We need health care centers and auto mechanic training schools. We need midwives and electricians. We need to learn to build houses.

I don't believe it's over. I believe it's just starting. It is time for the movement to grow up. Then we can make it work.

We can communicate and cooperate wherever we are. We can build something better. In the town I live in, there was no support group for writers, so we started one. My children needed more than the public school, so I started a Saturday afternoon free school class.

Maybe I am an exceptionally motivated individual. Maybe I'm just a lonely, isolated ex-hippie. Whatever I am, I intend to live the life I believe in. We knew ten and twenty years ago that we could not find the life we wanted. We had to make that life. That's still true.

Irene Richter

# BE A STAR

in your own Post-Amerikan T-shirt!

Turn heads as you walk down the street!

### CLIP-N-SEND

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.

Circle Size S M L XL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip-n-send to Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.



# 'Reasons' for death penalty are inaccurate

## Twice as expensive



3. "Why should the taxpayers support a convicted murderer for life when we can execute the person?"

Leaving aside the question of whether we ought to be killing a human being because we don't want the expense of paying for that person's food in prison, what people who make this argument don't realize is that it is almost certainly more expensive in the long run to execute someone than it is to keep the person in prison for life.



would put into a hat the names of the roughly 300 people who've been convicted of murder in the South Carolina courts over the last 6 years, drew out the names of just 28, and executed them.

**Post note:** The author of this article, David Bruck, is an attorney who practices in Columbia, South Carolina. He has specialized in the defense of death penalty cases.

The death penalty is one of those subjects that just about everyone has an opinion on. During the three years I have been defending people on trial for their lives or already on death row, these are the opinions that I've heard expressed most often:

### No such evidence

1. "If we used the death penalty more often, people would think twice before committing murder, and so lives would be saved."

The trouble with that argument is that people who commit murder almost never think even once. Most murders are committed on the spur of the moment: in fights between spouses, family members or friends; in panic during a botched robbery; in a drugged or drunken rage. Upping the punishment would not prevent these murders, and we're fooling ourselves if we think otherwise.

Yes, there are a very few murders that are carefully planned out in advance. But the people who commit these murders only do so because they don't think they'll get caught. What deters these few criminals is not the death penalty, but the prospect of getting caught.

One reason we can be sure that the death penalty really does not save innocent lives is by looking at the historical record. Throughout this century, states which used the death penalty actually had higher murder rates than states which did not use it.

If the advocates of capital punishment are right when they say it actually deters crime, there ought to be some evidence that crimes are less common in states or cities where the death penalty was actually used. But no such evidence has ever been produced.

2. "Well, even if it's not an effective deterrent to others at least the death penalty makes sure that the murderer himself won't ever kill anyone else."

This is a true enough statement, but it's not a reason to have the death penalty, since we can also protect society by putting a murderer in prison for life. In any event, this argument overlooks the fact that even now, there are many more convicted murderers in prison than are on death row. If we executed everyone one on death row tomorrow, we wouldn't have brought about any substantial change in the number of convicted killers in our prisons.



A recent study in New York state concluded that just the trial and the first appeal in a death penalty case would end up costing the taxpayers more than twice as much as imprisoning the defendant for life in the state prison system. This is so because every death penalty case has an elaborate set of legal procedures attached to try to ensure that we don't execute someone in error.

While some may argue that protections should be cut back, we need to remember that every reduction in the legal procedure surrounding capital cases will bring closer the day when we execute an innocent person, only to discover our error when it's too late to do anything about it.

### Like a lottery

4. "Even if it doesn't deter crime or save money, we should have the death penalty because murderers don't deserve to live."

The idea of saying that some people "deserve" to live while others don't is one that I have a lot of trouble accepting. I think that people who feel this way ought to ask themselves whether they'd feel the same way about capital punishment if South Carolina passed a law that said we

Well, we didn't actually use a lottery to decide which 28 persons should be on death row in South Carolina, but when you look at who's there and who's not, it sometimes seems as if a lottery would have been almost as fair.

For example, state and local police records reveal that in South Carolina some 286 people were arrested and charged with murder of a single victim while committing robbery between 1977 and the end of 1981. That's a crime that you can get the death penalty for, but by the time all the trials were over, only 7 of those 286 had actually been sent to death row. Of those 7, 5 were blacks who had murdered white store-owners; 4 of those were tried and condemned to death by all-white juries.

Some might suggest that the answer to this situation is to execute everyone who commits a certain crime. The trouble with such a solution (apart from the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court has already declared it unconstitutional) is that the more people we execute, the more mistakes we're going to make. As long as we're careful to make as few errors as possible, we're also going to let most of the ones who "deserve" the death penalty slip through the net, too.

The ones who are left to die will be executed not because of what they did, but because they are the wrong color, or because they killed someone who was powerful or popular, or because they couldn't afford a competent lawyer, or because they just weren't lucky.

Canada, England, and France have already abolished the death penalty. The countries that use it the most nowadays are the ones that have the least respect for human life, like South Africa and Iran. It's time that we put the death penalty behind us and get on with the search for real solutions to crime.

--David Bruck; abridged and reprinted from the Greenville News, 18 Sept. 1983.

Welcome in Spring

105 Broadway • Normal

**GUITAR WORLD**

We teach you to play, then sell you the right guitar.

# Home brew revisited

Eight years ago I wrote a story for the Post-Amerikan on how to make beer. I'd like to write it again to relate what I have learned by experience.

Some of you may have had a bad experience tasting someone's first batch of beer. I believe, though, that with practice, you can consistently make a healthy, inexpensive, tasty brew.

The hardest part of making home brew is acquiring the tools and ingredients. One source is Wolfson's Natural Food Store in Champaign, Illinois (two blocks west of the U of I quad). You will find everything you need at the best prices there. A reliable mail order source of supplies is E.C. Kraus, PO Box 7850, Independence, Missouri, 64053. Ask for their catalog. I have always received supplies from them within a week after I ordered them.

### INGREDIENTS

- 48 bottle caps
- 48 clean 12 oz. bottles
- 4 cups sugar (2½ lbs)
- 5 gallons luke-warm water
- 1 can hop-flavored malt extract
- 1 packet beer yeast

### TOOLS

- bottle capper
- siphon hose
- 5 gallon jug
- water trap (fermentation lock)
- bottle brush
- 2 funnels (one large, one small)

To save yourself a lot of work, clean your beer bottles within a day or two after using them. Rinse them out three times with cold water. Visually inspect them for cigarette butts or sediments. If you get some old bottles with fuzzy mold and dead bugs in them, you'll have to put some water in them to loosen up the crud.

You may have to let them soak a while. After the crud is out, sterilize them by scrubbing with your bottle brush and a solution of baking soda and water (one teaspoon soda and one cup of water per bottle).

I only sterilize my bottles the first time I get them. Afterwards I just clean them with cold water soon after I use them. I always sterilize my 5 gallon jug before each batch is brewed, though. No sense ruining 2 cases of beer skipping this simple step. Just put 2-4 tablespoons of baking soda and a quart of cold water in the jug, shake it, and let it sit a few minutes. Then rinse it out with cold water.

Now you're ready to brew. Take a large kitchen pot (you might as well sterilize the pot and your stirring spoon), heat up a quart of water, then scoop the malt extract into the hot water and add the sugar. Stir it until the sugar and malt are dissolved.

Put 4 gallons of luke-warm (70-90 degrees F.) into the jug. If it's too cold or too hot, the yeast will die. Then pour your malt and sugar solution through a large funnel into the jug. Add more water until the level comes up to the shoulder of the jug. Then add the yeast and seal the jug with a water trap.

The water trap is important because it lets the expanding gases out while protecting your brew from contamination by airborne bacteria and fruit flies. (Otherwise you will have something other than beer brewing in your jug.)

Keep an eye on the rate of gas bubbling out of the fermentation lock while your batch brews for a few days. Store your jug in a warm place so that the yeast won't get chilled. When the bubble rate slows down around six to three times per minute, it will be ready to bottle.

Set the jug a few feet above the beer bottles to prepare for siphoning. Put about a teaspoon of sugar in each bottle with a small funnel. I usually set the bottles in the bottom of a bathtub, and the jug on a chair next to the tub. This makes clean-up easy. Beer is usually spilled from the siphon

hose and over-filled bottles. When you get to the bottom of the jug, be careful not to siphon the sediment on the bottom into your bottles.

After you put the bottle caps on, set the bottles back in the tub and hose them down.

Now you have to wait a week for the yeast to settle to the bottom of each bottle. When you serve the brew it has to be decanted carefully into a drinking glass without disturbing the yeast (sediment) on the bottom of the bottle.

If you do stir up the yeast, your drink will be cloudy and bitter. That doesn't bother some people, though, especially after they've already had a few.

I've found my beer to cost 17¢ per bottle. The alcohol content is the same as commercial beer, but the feeling is different without all the chemicals that commercial breweries use.

I also feel better not contributing to the three large corporations who control 90% of the beer market.

--Greg Stoewer

## Leftie More of

Junk Mail. The true sign of a junk culture is that the airwaves, store shelves and TV screens aren't enough for it. Junk culture, in its pervasiveness, has to invade my mailbox, too.

In between the True Value Hardware catalogues, Farm & Fleet flyers and Dairy Queen coupons, there is a special genre of junk mail that not every Amerikan, but perhaps your typical Post Amerikan reader, might be inflicted with--I call it "Leftie Junk Mail."

No folks, this junk mail has nothing to do with new detergents or sugar cereal. This junk mail offers you the opportunity, via long-distance and checkbook, to participate in the great issues of our times.

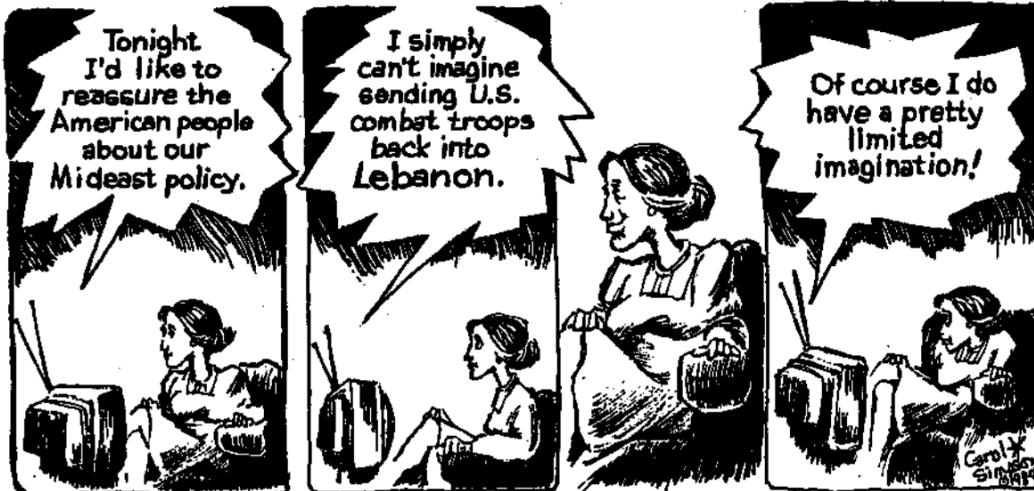
Worried about nuclear war? Concerned about Central America? Enraged about deteriorating race relations? Just sit back, whip out the old checkbook, and drop \$25 (preferably \$50) in the mail, and you too can be part of the solution.

In January, uninspired by winter's depths, I started a new collection--leftie junk mail. Nuclear War leads the collection with over 20 organizations begging for my dollars to end this menace.

But this is also an election year, so the Democratic Party wasn't far behind, with letters from the whole spectrum: John Glenn to Alan Cranston (no Jesse Jackson), plus Ted Kennedy and the party's congressional wing. They are a little more subtle, and ask for my opinion (as if my opinion fits into one of four little boxes) before they ask for my money.

Along the way I've been asked to buy land for wild-life, support abortion rights with Kate Hepburn, and fight the Nazis and the Klan with Maria Von Trapp. The one that continually irks me is the Progressive magazine, which offers me a subscription at least twice a month, even though I already have one.

I hope I'm not some hopeless loon, isolated in Central Illinois, unaware of how effective my contribution could be. I know that many organizations and publications are walking a



STOVES • REFRIGERATORS • COUCHES • DINETTE SETS

Buy - Sell - Trade New and Used

**CUNNINGHAM'S  
MILLION ITEMS**

801 W. Market  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Ph. 829-5382

TELEVISIONS • ANTIQUES

MACHINERY • RECLINERS • TOOLS • BEDROOM SETS

TYPEWRITERS • STEREOS

# Dollars, roof raised at Post benefit

There's always something special about a Post-American benefit, and I know what it is.

It's our readers and supporters.

No matter what the weather or what night of the week (what could be a more inconvenient night for a fundraiser than a Sunday?) the folks always turn out in force. And they come in high spirits, ready for a good time. I don't think the Gallery has seen so much rockin'n'rollin' on a Sunday night for a long time.

Talk about rock'n'roll! Do you believe those bands!?! No slow build-up for this show. DiaTribe opened things up. No, that's not the way to say it. They jumped in feet first and sent a tidal wave of music into the crowd that left us feeling like we had just been washed up on the beach after they were through.

What energy!

That 'dizzy' Dean, the lead singer, jumps around like a frog in a hot skillet, while Tim and Ed electrocute you with their lead and rhythm work. Add James' magic fingers on bass and

Scott's timing and rhythms on the drums and you've got almost pure focused energy.

You think things went downhill from there? No way! Not with the Gdansk Band coming on strong. Put together Jeff's vocals and stage presence, Francois' vocals and guitar work, the multi-talented Laurie H. on bass, and the one and only 'Cousin' Stan on drums and you've got power rock'n'roll that comes at you like one of those 10-ton diesel engines in the freight yards. You just got to get up and move.

The treat of the night, though, was the long-awaited reappearance of Toxic Shock. The Shock took a several month break while they worked with their new bass player, Cindy. It was Cindy's first public appearance but you'd never have known it. She played like a veteran. Plus, Laurie D's leads were divine, Lynne's vocals and rhythm guitar were delicious, and L.H. was so hot on the drums I thought her sticks would be cinders after a few songs. I tell you everybody was on their feet for the Shock, even the old fuds like me.

Well, it was quite an evening. Many thanks need to be given to the people who made this Post benefit another special occasion.

First of all thank you, thank you, thank you to the three bands who donated their time and energy on such short notice. It couldn't have happened without you in more ways than one.

Next, many thanks to Spike, the proprietor of the newly reopened Gallery for the use of the facilities and for



putting up with the inevitable confusion that seems to go with these benefits.

And thanks to all who helped with time, money, and muscle including: X (doorperson of the year), the roadies, Laurie S., Have, Craig, Bumper, Michael, Robin, L.H., Laurie D., and many others.

But most of all, thanks to you, our readers and supporters. You donated over \$275 and some much needed psychic energy to keep us going.

--Dave

## junk mail: the same

tight-rope of fiscal responsibility. I know that tight-rope well, so I can relate to their dilemma. But, somehow, what I thought made being a leftist different was the concern for local community and the concern for developing grass-roots people--not fund-raising sources--but as empowered people with control over their own lives.

Leftie junk mail just doesn't cut it. It's more of the same old "let the experts do it" while we sit back twiddling our thumbs.

Another question I ask myself, as 3-4 different pleas come in daily, is how many other folks are actually getting these letters? Is it simply--that fabled "small circle of friends"--continually drawing on the same sources? Could I name with reasonable accuracy, everyone else in McLean County who will be getting the same letters?

Finally, what leftie junk mail represents is the transformation of leftist politics into another commodity of consumer culture. The existing two parties have done this already. As political pleas are mixed in with the detergent coupons, politics--including leftist politics--becomes another saleable commodity, another item bought and sold, whether on the supermarket shelves or the junk mail barrage. Just as I can choose my shampoo, I can now delude myself into choosing "my issue"--picking Central America over race relations, and fooling myself into not seeing the connections between them.

Perhaps another way to express the same thing is the analogy a frequent Post contributor uses: "Some people like to play with electric trains. I like to play with politics. It's all just a game, nothing really serious."

I know my friend's commitment runs deeper than that. But leftie junk mail adds to the illusion that politics is leisure, that I can choose my issue, spend my dollars, and feel I've done my part. At the same time, the left becomes a desperate, anonymous organization, without the leaven of real concerns and viewpoints from everyday people--and this is what needs to be heard, organized and translated into political power.

Otherwise, I'd rather play with my electric trains.

-MgM

NOW 4 PERMANENT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS  
Available 24 Hrs. a Day  
\*ISU Parking Lot - NW Corner  
College and Main  
  
\*K-Mart Parking Lot  
  
\*1100 W. Market  
  
\*501 E. Stewart, Bl.

WE BUY NEWSPAPERS, ALUMINUM CANS  
AND GLASS EVERY SATURDAY 9AM-NOON

NEWSPRINT - 1/2¢ lb.  
ALUMINUM CANS - 26¢ lb.  
GLASS - 1¢ lb.



OPERATION ♻️ RECYCLE  
1100 W. Market  
Bloomington, IL  
829-0691

## Diesel Dick's

We specialize  
in diesel car  
repair



COMPLETE  
AUTOMOTIVE  
&  
TRUCK SERVICE  
  
FOREIGN &  
DOMESTIC  
  
GAS and DIESEL

508 N. MADISON ST.

9:00 - 5:30

828-1714

on the  
MUSIC SCENE

# Radio station ran

Just when you think a story is over, it turns out everything you've written is just the prologue. The content conflict between AM disc jockey Robin Plan and the myopic management at Normal radio station WRBA took a sudden drastic turn last month when management quickly canned the popular new wave jock.

The move shouldn't have been a surprise: despite listener support (most concretely represented by a 2000-plus listener survey in favor of Plan's "New Wavelength" program), station management had been consistently antagonistic towards Plan's music format. The story of Plan's early struggles to keep her weekday afternoon new wave show has been detailed in both Post Amerikan and Pantagraph articles. But for those who came in late, a recap is necessary.

## Some history

Originally a latenight deejay, Robin Plan took over WRBA's afternoon as "the fox that rocks," a straight top forty jock. "I was originally reluctant to take days," Plan says today, "because I have a sleeping disorder that keeps me up at night. And I was worried about being able to make it in on time. But Bob said not to worry, Tiger, that he'd turn an eye away from occasional lateness."

"Bob" is Robert Bivans, former owner/president/manager of WRBA and current top dog at the station in the absence of present owner Russ Withers, who took over the station in March. The hierarchy at WRBA is rather vague at the best of times: office worker Diana Canham has been described in various Pantagraph news stories, for example, with a variety of official-sounding titles. Bivans himself, in a recent Pantagraph news story detailing his recent illegal impersonation of a police officer, was described as the present owner of RBA despite earlier announcements in the paper about Withers' recent takeover.

One gets the image of office personnel scrambling to assert themselves in the midst of chaos created by an absentee landlord, but then RBA has traditionally been plagued by unclear and frequently unstated policies and authority. This explains, in part, one reason why so strong a personality as Robin Plan began having problems there. "There's no real supervision at the station," Plan says, "no program director. None of the deejays are under any kind of written contract. I kept asking Bob for some kind of contract, and he kept putting me off with a 'Don't worry, Tiger.'"

## Strong personality

To meet Robin Plan is to come face to face with a forceful personality, the kind of person capable of yanking you into a conversation you weren't even prepared to be part of and keeping you in it--in short, the kind of person capable of running roughshod over weak-willed management. Yet according to Robin, she continually attempted to make



ABOVE: Robin Plan doing one of her last WRBA shows. (Photo from Peoria Journal Star.)

accommodations with station management and continually kept getting blown off. "I kept asking Bob for a meeting to discuss what I was doing," Robin says, "to go over potentially offensive records, for instance. But if we even got a meeting time nailed down, he'd be out when it was time to have it."

After a generally unnoticeable stint as the station's top forty jock, Plan began inserting more eccentric fare into the format: nothing too bizarre at first. Examples would be "uncommercial" fare like the Stray Cats and Talking Heads, bands that hadn't yet "broken big" but soon would.

In the beginning, much of the music Plan played came from records borrowed from friends or purchased with Plan's own money. Bivans wasn't interested in putting any money into the shift. Yet it's characteristic of the station's rather shotloose approach to management that Plan was allowed to transform her show so fast without getting shot down at the start. Only after the deejay had begun committing herself to the format did Bivans begin balking.

## National publicity

At this point, with stories about Plan's "New Wavelength" appearing in trade magazine Billboard, as well as new music magazines like Trouser Press, Bivans began to talk about dropping new wave music from the station. By Spring of '83 deejay Plan was playing all manner of new music: from the trendy synthesizer groups to hardcore punk bands to reggae to English folkies like Richard Thompson.

To anyone listening, it was obvious that Plan's "New Wavelength" had become a catch-all for any music that didn't generally fit the constraints of Top Forty AM or Album Oriented FM (with its bias towards hard rock and heavy metal). In a college town where so many listeners like to imagine themselves more sophisticated than the average AM radio fan, there was an obvious audience for this music. But it wasn't obvious to WRBA's management.

Plan's answer to this management resistance was to take her case to the public. Twice. That Spring saw a series of Post Amerikan and Pantagraph stories about Robin's difficulties keeping her show on the air. With the controversy being publicly aired and an unprecedented amount of supportive mail coming into the station, management quieted down.

But by the fall of '83, Bivans began talking about dropping the show once more.

The way the subject was broached reflects the station's less-than-upfront style of employee management. Robin learned of Bivans' intentions after returning from a two-week vacation. During her absence, Bivans had taken control of the afternoon slot without telling Robin or the listeners what was going to happen. The deejay's temporary replacement, Loren, was a new wave fan who had gone into the job expecting to be able to play much of the same music Robin had been playing. As Loren arrived for his first day of work, he was met by Bivans standing at the door with a stack of Top Forty and heavy metal records and instructions to play them. Regular listeners were outraged and phoned in their displeasure. But the only one who got to hear the complaints was the poor temporary, Loren.

## Another fight

Once again, Robin Plan had to fight to keep the "New Wavelength" on the air. A combination petition and survey was

1218 S. Main Street Normal, Ill. 61781 Phone: 308-454-3333

2/25/84

ROBIN:

After numerous conversations and memos to you regarding obscene and filthy music on the air....it's obvious our advice has gone unheeded. You just continue to dig yourself deeper in a rut.

The reason we started pulling the records is because you haven't. All the rest of the staff is fed up to the hilt with your attitude and filthy music.

Why don't you do us a favor and look for other employment.. because I know Russ Withers won't put up with it.

BOB

Although the above all-purpose memo is dated Feb. 25, Robin Plan did not receive it until she was fired March 26. According to Plan, memo writer Bivans held some of her albums hostage in his office following the January Magazine incident (see story) and refused to give them back until her termination.



# hrods Robin Plan

circulated throughout the town and campuses. Two thousand signatures of support were brought into the station, a phenomenal number considering the paltry pre-new wave ratings that WRBA used to receive. "I've never been shown my Arbitron ratings," Plan says, "but I've been told by sources at other radio stations that the station didn't even get a visible percentage until I established the 'New Wavelength.'" With survey support that was concrete, Bivans once again backed down, and the show appeared to be established for good this time. Of course it wasn't.

## Fired

After five more months of letting Robin "Progressive Pop" Plan broadcast over the air, WRBA abruptly fired her. Robin walked into work March 26 and was told she was terminated, effective immediately. (In a bit of coincidental timing that has yet to be explained, the firing took place the same day the station's sale to Russ Withers became effective.)

Listeners who tuned into the station Monday March 26 were upset to hear the theme from "Chariots of Fire" and a decidedly different voice introducing the music, former RBA jock Denny Rogers.

Plan was given a pile of memos, most of which she hadn't seen before, as explanation for her termination. That was it for WRBA's "New Wavelength."

To hear WRBA's management today, the personnel shift had less to do with the music and everything to do with Robin herself. Yet it's worth noting that new wave has gotten pretty scarce around old 1440. Most of the memos that were handed to Robin after the fact concern the music she'd been playing, in particular its lyrical content. They're worth going over, especially in light of Bivans' reluctance "to meet with me and discuss potentially offensive records."

## Offensive lyrics

Pick any hour of mainstream rock and pop radio, and you're bound to come up against potentially offensive lyrics. Elton John's "The Bitch Is Back." "Who Are You?" (with its clearly articulated "Who the fuck are you?"). Glen Frye's "Party Town." Ted Nugent's "Thunderthighs."

Say what you will about rock's lyrical content (and there's much you can say that's justifiably critical), the fact is that modern rock writers have turned as explicit as the FCC will allow. Yet while RBA management was allowing late-night deejays to broadcast a song like the Pretenders' "Precious" ("I just had to fuck off!"), they were writing



never-delivered memos to Robin Plan which misquoted Soft Cell's "Sex Dwarf" as "sex tool" and got outraged at the use of the word "tool." Or clocking Plan's playing of a song by the Violent Femmes that implied but never used the word "cunt."

## So why the surprise?

Regular "New Wavelength" listeners were by and large surprised by the sudden shift in format, March 26, and had good reason to be. Unless they were listening to WRBA any other hour during the day, they were probably unaware of the station's impending sale. Traditionally, news of any station's sale has listeners expecting something new, but "New Wavelength" fans weren't even given warning of the sale because station manager Bob Bivans refused to allow any announcement of the impending sale to air during Robin Plan's shift.

According to FCC rules, change of ownership needs to be announced over the air

for thirty days prior to the actual change--so members of the community may voice any opposition they might have--but members of the RBA audience who have already proven to be the most vociferous weren't given the word. Instead, the announcement was primarily presented in the early morning and during the station's oldies show. Bivans himself kept the announcement cassette locked in his office the rest of the time.

While such selective broadcasting probably isn't in violation of FCC rules, it certainly represents a breach of faith with local listeners.

--BSherman

To be fair, Robin did flub once on the air. In January, thanks to a tracking error, Plan played a Magazine song by mistake that contained the startling refrain: "I want to drug you and fuck you." A local listener heard the song in his car and was suitably irate, especially since his kids had been riding with him at the time. He phoned and complained, and Robin phoned the listener back to apologize.

"After that incident," Robin says, "I worked even harder to avoid that kind of problem. I edited songs ahead of time and, again, I kept asking Bob to meet with me and go over any songs that might create problems, but he'd never do it. That memo about the Magazine song is the only one I received before being asked to leave. All the other ones... (there are five) I don't know when they were written."

Though they all have different dates on them, it's difficult to tell when the memos were exactly written. As far as deejay Plan is concerned, they all could have been written the day she was fired, since she hadn't seen them any earlier.

## More memos

The rest of WRBA's memos (primarily written by Diana Canham) concern Robin Plan's professional behavior. There's a memo about tardiness (which, remember, Bivans had earlier said wouldn't be an issue). There's a memo about obscene language that an intern(!) had used during office hours (as if Plan were somehow responsible for the language that a college intern used during her shift). There's a memo with the hearsay accusation that Robin had been selling promo records to Mother Murphy's, an unfounded accusation made doubly ridiculous by the fact that Robin gave promo albums away as consolation prizes in the station's "Rock n Roll Roulette" contest and that any of the daily winners wouldn't have brought their spoils into the used record store. There's a memo accusing the deejay of leaving the station building while on the air and leaving the board in the hands of an "unlicensed" intern. According to Robin, the intern in question was licensed and trained and her absence became an issue only after the fact. "All the deejays leave the station," Robin says, "and while it probably shouldn't be done, no one said anything about it until now."

The point of the above memos--and the station's insistence that its decision to terminate Robin comes from her "unprofessional" behavior--is this: If Robin was terminated because the station wanted to drop the new wave format, Robin is entitled to unemployment compensation. But if Robin was fired because she "deserved" it, WRBA doesn't have to pay out any benefits.

## Unemployment

When applying for unemployment, in fact, deejay Plan has been turned down due to Bivans and Canham's insistence that the dismissal was prompted by her behavior. (In describing Plan's "bad attitude" to the unemployment people, RBA management also brought up Robin's failure to comply to a "dress code"--as if such a code made sense in radio!)

Plan is appealing the decision, but she's not all that optimistic. "Under Bivans, RBA has a history of short-changing its employees," Robin says. "Raises are promised and never given. One of the station's Traffic Directors quit her job at a bank on Bivans' promise of a better salary and never got a raise. 'It's this damned economy,' Bob says that every time you ask for anything extra. When Paul Dunn (former RBA morning man) left, he brought in a court order just to get all the station owed him in ad commissions and vacation pay."

In the meantime, Robin Plan is sending out resumes and sample tapes to stations across the country, looking for some who are sympathetic to the music and are professionally operated. You want to wish her luck but at the same time can't help feeling that local listeners are getting shortchanged by it all. For a short time, WRBA had one of the rare new music forums on the AM band, a dynamic personality behind it and an audience that cared for it. Thanks to some truly shortsighted management, that forum is gone.

--Bill Sherman

### Adult health hazard ignored

# Bloomington water polluted again

Bloomington's water supply is polluted again with illegal levels of nitrates. The announcement will be appearing once more on our water bills this spring.

Whenever nitrate levels exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's limit of 10 parts per million, the law requires the water department to notify the public.

Such notices have become routine each spring and early summer, as runoff from fertilized farmland drains into Lake Bloomington.

Another annual routine is the yearly pooh-pooing of the health problem posed by nitrates. Each year, McLean County Health Department director Ben Boyd assures the public that excessive nitrates pose no threats to adults.

Boyd does admit that high nitrate levels can deprive young infants of oxygen, causing what is known as the "blue baby" syndrome.

Media reports carrying Boyd's no-



Levels of foreign substances exceeding EPA permissible limits have been found in Bloomington's water supply.

threat-to-adults assurances ignore a letter-to-the-editor printed in the Pantagraph two years ago.

Written by Bloomington resident Linn Sennott, the letter reported that one of their family members experienced digestive and nervous problems that were traceable to Bloomington's polluted water.

According to Sennott, the problems got worse in the spring, and they cleared up completely during the periods when the family was living away from Bloomington-Normal.

When Sennott's family first suspected Bloomington's water, they arranged for a Peoria company to test it. They discovered a nitrate level of 33 parts per million (over three times the EPA's allowable limit).

Sennott reported that after buying an osmosis process filter, the nervous

and digestive problems disappeared.

If Health Department director Ben Boyd doesn't know about Sennott's letter-to-the-editor, he should.

And if Boyd does know about it, why is he deliberately minimizing and covering up the dangers of excessive nitrate levels when he talks with the media?

To stop the annual pollution of Lake Bloomington, we have to move away from chemical-based farming. Such a massive change, especially a change adversely affecting powerful agribusiness interests, can only occur after there is widespread public disenchantment with what we've been told are the wondrous benefits of modern agricultural practices.

Ben Boyd's cover-up doesn't help.

--Mark Silverstein

## ACLU, Mayor discuss water department home invasions

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) chairperson George Taseff met with Bloomington Mayor Richard Buchanan April 18. One item on the agenda was the water department's policy authorizing meter readers to enter homes without the residents' knowledge or consent.

ACLU believes the policy is unconstitutional. Mayor Buchanan, according to Taseff's report, apparently believes the issue is frivolous.

The department's policy, first made public by the Post Amerikan in January (and repetitiously dragged out in every issue since) is this: a meter reader will first knock; if there is no answer, the meter reader will try the door. If the door is unlocked, the meter reader is authorized to enter.

George Taseff says the ACLU has received several complaints from residents who have been unhappy when they discovered that city employees entered their homes without consent. He wants the city to change its policy.

"But Mayor Buchanan would not confirm that the water department even has a policy of entering people's homes," Taseff told the Post Amerikan.

"Buchanan was upset about the way the ACLU was bringing the matter to his



Entering uninvited, making their way through darkened cellars, Bloomington's water meter readers never know what awaits them.

attention. He said there was 'a filtering process' going on, and he referred to (these are his exact words), 'the dubious validity of the complaints.'"

Translation: Buchanan apparently believes that all the fuss is really coming just from the Post Amerikan and its readers. Buchanan is mayor of all the people, and the Post Amerikan is just a dismissable radical fringe. He's quite right, even though more people read the Post Amerikan than ever voted for Richard Buchanan for mayor.

Taseff says that some of the people complaining to ACLU about the water department's home invasions have nothing to do with the Post Amerikan, and have never read it. "But they don't like strangers entering their homes without permission."

Mayor Buchanan said he didn't understand why any Bloomington residents with a complaint called the ACLU, instead of calling the mayor. Buchanan said if someone called him about the water meter readers, he would look into it.

"But he didn't say what he would do after he looked into it," Taseff said.

Taseff said he is going to call the people who complained to ACLU. He will tell them that the mayor wants them to complain directly to the mayor. "I don't know what will happen after that," Taseff said.

Taseff's other agenda item with the mayor was a discussion of Bloomington's sign ordinance. ACLU says that Bloomington's ordinance is as unconstitutional as Normal's, which was recently ruled unconstitutional in an ACLU-initiated legal action. Taseff felt that he and Buchanan's sign ordinance talk was fruitful.

As for the water department's home invasions, Taseff said, "I don't think the mayor even perceives that there is a constitutional issue here. I was disappointed that he dismissed our concern about this. It is not frivolous."

--Mark Silverstein

# MOSEY'S

527 N. MAIN  
BLOOMINGTON  
829-7760

## APRIL

Wed. 25 Southern Rock from D.C.  
**ROADDUCKS**

Thur. 26 from Houston, Texas  
hot rockabilly **TEDDY BOYS**  
for Jason & Scorchers fans

Fri. 27 slick wave R&B  
**OOZE MAGAZINE**

Sat. 28 all female rock  
**MADAME X**  
with guests **MECHANICS**  
**MAY**

Wed. 2 \$1 cover until 8:00 p.  
\$1.50 pitchers until 9:00 p.  
**INVISIBLE PARROTS**

Thur. 3 to be announced

Fri. 4 (tentative)  
**ELVIS BROTHERS**  
with **DROOGS**

Sat. 5 reggae-calypto  
**MR. MYERS**

Wed. 9 \$1 cover, pitchers, drinks  
7:00 - 9:00 p.  
**KOOL RAY**

Thur. 10 Little Kings 2 for \$1  
**DOUBLETAKE**

Fri. 11 surf-rock weirdos  
**CAPTAIN RAT**

Sat. 12 King of the boogie!  
**JOHN LEE HOOKER AND THE**  
**COAST TO COAST BLUES BAND**  
\$6 advance \$8 at door

Wed. 16 wave from Rockford  
**L7**

Thur. 17 to be announced

Fri. 18 rock, R&B, jazz  
**NIGHT WATCH**

Sat. 19 "Romanticide" on EMI-America  
**COMBO AUDIO**

Wed. 23 to be announced

Thur. 24 Carbondale punks  
**HIP CHEMISTS**

Fri.-Sat. 25 & 26 reggae weekend  
with **MR. MYERS**

## JUNE

Fri. 1 **KOOL RAY**  
**VANESSA DAVIS**

\*Note

These dates are subject to change.  
Call Mosey's for confirmation.

# City council nixes human rights coverage

The Bloomington City Council ignored the advice of the Human Relations Commission (HRC), the City Manager, the Mayor, and all the citizens who spoke at the March 26 council meeting. The Council rejected a proposal to expand the the protections of the city's human rights ordinance.

The council voted 5 to 1 against changes in the ordinance that would have made it illegal to discriminate in housing and employment on the basis of marital status, sexual preference, and unfavorable military discharge. The vote also rejected changes that would have made it illegal to refuse to rent to people with children under 14 and people who have mental or physical handicaps (including those who have guide dogs).

Council person Steve Simms was the only member who voted in favor of the proposed changes.

The council repeatedly refused to discuss their reasons for not following the recommendations of the HRC and the City Manager. At two work sessions prior to the March 26 meeting and at the council meeting itself council members stonewalled any attempts to draw out their thoughts on the issues involved. Only council member Donn Pierce expressed his objection: there is insufficient reason for expanding the levels of protection.

The HRC thinks there is a need. So does the City Manager, William Vail. So does Scott Eatherly of the American Civil Liberties Union. And Francis Irvin of the John M. Scott Health Care Commission. And Mark Silverstein of the Post Amerikan. And attorney Jack Porter. Mayor Buchanan agrees. They all said so at the March 26 meeting.

But the city council sat in arrogant silence and refused to offer legal protection to single people, gay people, veterans with an unfavorable military discharge, handicapped people, and people who have children under 14.

Although the council members who opposed the changes refused to go on record at a public meeting, they did reveal some of their objections in an interview with a Pantagraph reporter prior to the March 26 meeting. Their primary objection was the inclusion of gay people in the protected groups.

Three members of the council admitted their homophobia: Jesse Parker, Jesse Smart, and George Kroutil.

In addition, Parker and Walter Bittner made mysterious claims that the present ordinance works: "I think the ordinance is working beautifully the way it is," said Parker. Neither man ever explained what he meant by this claim.

The council did not want to consider approving any groups for coverage, even though their objections centered on only one or two. Apparently it was just easier to vote no than to figure out which groups they might accept and which they would not. So the single people, the handicapped, the renters with children under 14 went down the drain along with the homosexuals and the veterans who don't have the right kind of military discharge.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tim Walker, the Executive Director of the Bloomington HRC, told the Post Amerikan that the Commission met on April 11 and considered the council's rejection of their proposal. Although the HRC did not take any specific action, according to Walker, they did consider making some changes in the proposed ordinance and presenting a new package to the city council at a later date, perhaps in the fall.

Walker admitted that the Commission is aware that they can probably get some changes passed if they delete the controversial groups from proposed coverage. It's a possibility, said Walker, that the HRC will delete some controversial sections. He doubts that the whole proposal will be re-submitted in its present form.

Walker also pointed out that people who are not presently covered by the Human Relations Ordinance should still bring their complaints to the HRC. For one thing, these complaints will help the HRC to document the need for expanding coverages. Furthermore, Walker said, there are some things the HRC can do informally. "We don't have official authority to deal with these complaints, but we can do things to mediate between landlords and tenants, for example," he added.

--Ferdydurke



## The My Sister, the Punk Rocker T-shirt

Buy it  
Wear it  
Spit on it

Let it call you names

I need a My Sister the Punk Rocker T-shirt.  
Here's my \$6.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Size S M L XL  
Here's my generous donation of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Proceeds go to the Post.

Mail to:  
Post-Amerikan  
P.O. Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL 61702

# Ex-Israel supporter feels betrayed

As an American in solidarity with the Palestinians in their search for justice and their national rights, I have been feeling increasing anger and a sense of betrayal towards the liberal establishment and the media in the United States. Having studied the Palestinian-Israeli conflict for over two years and having been to Occupied Palestine for a first-hand observation of Israeli injustice, I am deeply angered by my own past support of Israel, angered at being duped by the deliberate misrepresentation of the facts surrounding this conflict by the media.

I remember supporting Israel in its attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, blindly following the mass media's line that the Arab countries were still in a state of war with Israel and this was supposed to justify the attack. I blame the media for my blind support of Israel because of their deliberate failure to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex causes of the greater Arab-Israeli conflict and because of their intense desire to confuse the issues involved by always blaming "those Arabs." Today, I can laugh at my past ignorance, yet I grieve when I think of the majority of Americans still blindly following the media's biased pro-Zionist reports and commentaries.

I was appalled at my total lack of knowledge of this issue when it was exposed by my first encounter with a Palestinian spokesman. It was very fortunate that I attended a lecture by the distinguished Ibrahim Abu-Lughod at my university, ISU. The introduction to Palestinian rights that he provided so clearly crystallized in my

mind the thought that I had been lied to for so long about the reality of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The anger I continue to feel began as I realized there was a deliberate suppression of facts concerning Palestine, one in which the media wholeheartedly participated.

This led me in a quest to know the truth about the situation in Palestine. As I learned more and more about the Zionist invasion of Palestine, the conditions of the occupation, including torture and collective punishment, I began to actively work to make this information known to others. This is when I discovered that when it comes to justice for Palestinians, the liberal left in the United States forgets all of its concerns over justice, peace, and the legitimate rights of people everywhere.

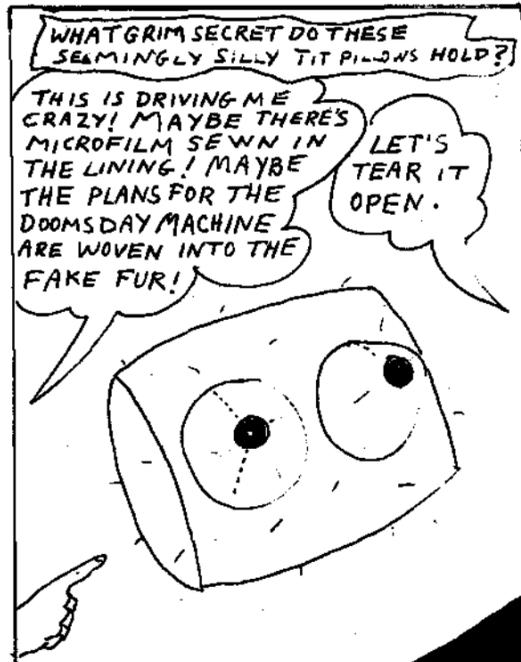
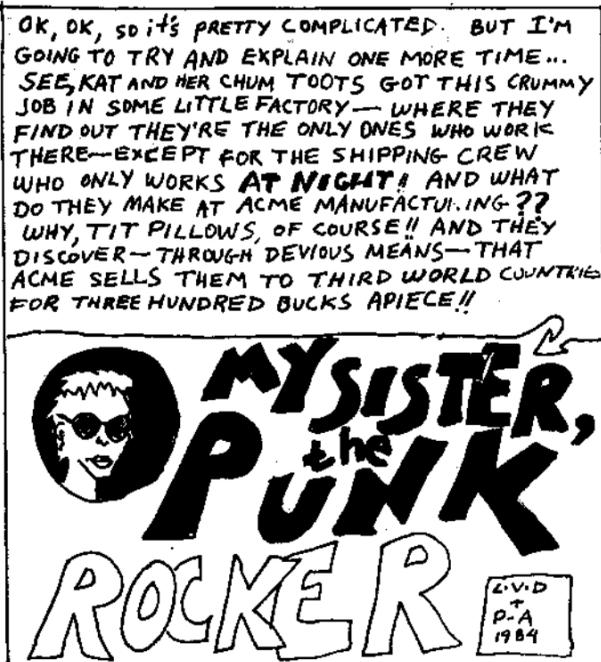
Imagine my sense of betrayal when I discovered that many people can condemn the death squads in El Salvador, yet praise the "retaliatory" bombings of civilians in Palestinian refugee camps by Israel. To me, this makes so little sense that I confess to becoming irrational at times when confronted by this type of insidious inconsistency. And it bothers these "liberals" not at all to discover Israel trains and arms the dictatorships in Central America. Such duplicity is intolerable. The failure of those concerned with justice to apply the same standard of justice to the Palestinian issue betrays all of us working to end oppression wherever it occurs.

But I suppose the greatest sense of betrayal I feel comes from being labeled anti-Semitic because I support the

Palestinians and the PLO. The deliberate confusion equating anti-Zionism, which is against a racist political ideology, with racist anti-Semitism is ludicrous. Yet this equation is fostered by the Zionists, many of whom call themselves liberals, and it effectively limits many well-intentioned liberals and progressives from supporting the Palestinians in their struggle for self-determination. We cannot let them get away with this labeling, designed to stifle all opposition to Israel. We must fight this and risk being labeled the derogatory, and wholly inaccurate, anti-Semitic as we work to make known in the United States what Zionism really is and how it has continually oppressed the Palestinians throughout its history in the twentieth century.

I know my anger and sense of betrayal is shared by many others. These feelings alone cannot help the Palestinians. Yet they can compel us to work and to intensify our efforts to present the full reality of the Palestinian tragedy to all Americans. From the Palestinians' own efforts, Palestine will be free, but we all have an obligation to support them in their struggle. Since Israel could not exist without United States' aid, we do have an active role to play here by increasing our efforts in the United States to end this aid and to work for justice for the Palestinians, alongside of everyone else.

--Ruth McPeck



# Miscellaneous outrages you may have missed

## Adoption categories reveal racist world view

Catholic Social Services helps pregnant women who wish to give their babies away. The agency also helps couples who wish to adopt children.

But Catholic Social Services classifies its adoption cases in a way which reveals the agency's white-centered racist view of the world.

A Feb. 26 Pantagraph article about the agency said that Catholic Social Services had placed 143 infants in the last two years. "Of that total, 116 were healthy white infants and 27 were

special needs children, including black, racially mixed and physically and mentally handicapped."

Catholic social Service Agency's classification system implies that "normal" babies (the desirable ones) are white and healthy. By lumping all black babies (even healthy ones) into the same "special needs" category as mentally and physically handicapped, Catholic Social Services Agency is saying that there is something wrong, abnormal, or unhealthy about being born black.

--Mark Silverstein

## Farm to get its own exit

The City of Bloomington plans to spend half a million dollars so State Farm Corporate Headquarters can have its own intersection with Veteran's Parkway.

Plans call for extending Jackson Street to the thoroughfare in 1985 or 1986.

If cars from State Farm are choking the area, why not instead take steps to reduce the number of cars? State Farm could easily develop incentive programs which would reward employees

who stop contributing to traffic congestion.

By constructing an additional intersection, the city makes it easier for State Farm employees to drive to and from work. Therefore, more employees will choose to drive their own cars, rather than organize car pools or take buses.

The additional cars in the area will eventually create the need for even more "improvements" to speed traffic flow. --M.S.

## Favoritism scandal rocks county clerk's office

The Daily Pantagraph is making extra money on its lucrative legal notices columns because the County Clerk's office unthinkingly gives out misinformation.

Here's an example: when two

Bloomington residents set up a partnership to sell their clever Tabbygrabber cat toy (see last issue), they filed the appropriate papers at the county clerk's office. An employee at the clerk's office instructed the two partners that they also had to run a legal notice in the Pantagraph for three consecutive weeks.

Actually, the law allows such legal notices to be published in any paper of general circulation anywhere in the county. As a county clerk's office employee confirmed when I questioned her about it, "you can even put it in the Carlock Chronicle if you want to. I just tell 'em to put it in the

Pantagraph because that's where 99% of 'em are published."

Maybe that's why the Pantagraph gets 99% of the business--because people think they are required to use the Pantagraph.

The Pantagraph charged \$30.24 for the legal notice's three weeks run. The Carlock Chronicle would have charged only \$10.80.

If the county clerk's office continues to enrich the Pantagraph by misinforming people, the office workers should at least get a kickback from the Pantagraph. Who knows? Maybe they already are.

--M.S.

## Pantagraph uses trashy pix

Accompanying the Pantagraph's lead article Saturday April 14 "Kidnap suspect kills self" with four head shots of slain women was tasteless and unnecessary.

Maybe I'm being overly sensitive, but I think the Pantagraph used the pictures because the women were all young and attractive, implying a sexual motive in the killings. This is a favorite technique of the trashier tabloids.

I resent the portrayal of a particular section of humanity--young women--as easy targets, and the use of the pictures to titillate the fantasies of the readers.

If this outrage seems misplaced, consider the last time a newspaper ran a series of pictures of aging male executives slain by a young woman.

Furthermore, the Pantagraph probably figures its readers can relate to the murders of a series of young white women in the eastern U.S. Why doesn't the paper run attractive pictures of the slain in war-torn countries such as El Salvador (countries like Afghanistan are ignored whenever possible) where the victims are not white and are killed with U.S. money?

--Imogene

## Caisley imposes death sentence

With the courtroom and its environs packed with 150 bloodthirsty correctional officers and other prison workers, Judge William Caisley sentenced Pontiac prisoner Anthony Hall to the electric chair April 18. Hall had been convicted of murdering a prison food service worker.

As one correctional officer told the Post Amerikan, the mass turn-out of prison employees was "meant to put some pressure on the judge." According to Sheriff Brienen, the impetus for the large turn-out came from the office of corrections director Michael Lane, who showed up in person.

Caisley probably didn't need any help making his decision. But Caisley's eagerness to impose the sentence himself may result in years of appeals litigation.

Since Anthony Hall (allegedly) threw a chair at Judge Caisley during the trial proceedings, appeals courts may decide that the judge should have removed himself from sentencing.

Judges aren't supposed to let even the appearance of revenge taint the otherwise untarnished facade of justice in McLean County. --M.S.

## Questions in Hendricks case

Pantagraph reporter Bob Holliday's story Saturday April 14 on a suppression of evidence hearing in the Hendricks murders left some open questions.

At the hearing, Bloomington police detective Charles Crowe testified that Hendricks did not respond to being accused of the murders like "an innocent person" would have.

An innocent person likely would have attempted to knock the accuser across the room, Crowe says, according to Holliday.

Readers should keep in mind that Crowe was suspended after violating department policy by shooting a man in a shopping mall for no apparent reason.

Given Crowe's record of violence, can we accept his idea of what "an innocent person" would do?

Later in the article, we learn that

Hendricks' lawyers say he was interrogated at a neighbor's house from 11:30 the night the bodies were found until 12:50 the next morning without being informed of his rights.

Prosecutors, however, contend police were "interviewing" Hendricks, not "interrogating" him.

At that point, what's the difference? The question is still open as to when Hendricks' rights were read to him.

The prosecution, according to the article, implies there is something shaky about Hendricks' refusal to take a lie detector test before checking with his lawyer.

The prosecution will have to take a more sophisticated approach if it expects to win the case on its merits. Obvious pandering to the public won't help; neither will appeals to the public for sympathy to deny the accused his rights.

--Imogene

# Amerikan Almanak

Send items to Amerikan Almanak, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington.

Compiled by Holly and friends

Post Amerikan Vol. 13, No. 2  
May 1984 Page 18

Mon., April 23

\*Film: "Street Angel," a revolutionary film from China. ISU's Center for Visual Arts, rm. 145. 7:30 p.m. Free.

\*Film: "King of Prussia"--depicts the arrest and trial of the "Ploughshare 8" (1980 war protest incident). ISU's Bone Student Center, West Lounge. 7 p.m. Free.

\*Theatre: "The Lower Depths" ISU's Allen Theatre, 8 p.m. For ticket info, call 438-2535.

Tues., April 24

\*Film: "Barefoot in the Park" ISU's Bone Center Ballroom, 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00

\*Theatre: "The Lower Depths" See April 23 listing.

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

Wed., April 25

\*Theatre: "The Lower Depths" See April 23 listing.

\*Film: "Sixth Continent" 12:05 p.m. Bloomington Library Community Room. Free

Thurs., April 26

\*Theatre: "The Lower Depths" Allen Theatre, ISU 8 p.m.

\*Public hearings on area equal housing opportunities. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bloomington City Hall.

Fri., April 27

\*Music: Geoff Poister, New Friends of Old Time Music. ISU's Prairie Room. 8 p.m. \$1.00

Sat., April 28

\*10-Kilometer Run sponsored by Operation Recycle. See Community News for details.

\*Twin City Kite Day. 1 p.m., Stevenson Park. Awards for the highest-flying kite, oldest and youngest flyer, and most uniquely constructed kite.

Sun., April 29

\*\*DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Spring Ahead!)

\*Art & Music for the Rape Crisis Center. 2:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School St. Normal. \$4.00 donation. Springtown Road Band, Tater Patch String Band, Cloggers, etc. Bring a Lunch!

\*Open House: Western Avenue Community Center, 606 N. Western Ave. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mon., April 30

1977: 1414 protestors arrested at Seabrook (N.H.) nuke.

Tues., May 1

1830: Mother Jones, labor organizer, born.

Wed., May 2

\*Film: "Miss Goodall and the Chimps" 12:05 Bloomington Library. Free

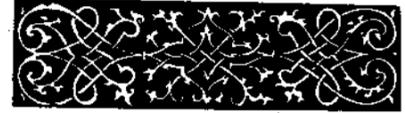
Thurs., May 3

1970: Four students shot and killed at Kent State while protesting U.S. war in Vietnam.

Sat., May 5

\*ISU Commencement--good day to do something far away from Normal

DO WE SET THE  
CLOCK BACK OR  
AHEAD, SHAWN?



Wed., May 16

\*Film: "Antarctica: Unowned Land" 12:05 p.m. Bloomington library

Thurs., May 17

Buy a Post Amerikan t-shirt: \$6.00

Fri., May 18

1865: Black slaves win emancipation.

Sat., May 19

Birthdays: 1890, Ho Chi Minh; 1925, Malcolm X

Sun., May 20

\*MCC meeting in the Walker Room, Unitarian Church, 1613 E. Emerson, 7 p.m. Call 829-2719 for info.

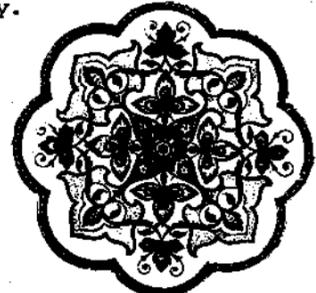
Wed., May 23

\*Film: "Galapagos Island: Enchanted Island" 12:05 p.m. Bloomington Public Library. Free.

1930: Birthday of Harvey Milk, gay rights activist slain in San Francisco.

Thurs., May 24

\*\*Deadline for next Post Amerikan: send in items for The Amerikan Almanak, as well as articles, letters, ads, money.



Sun., May 6

\*Metropolitan Community Church 7 p.m., Unitarian Church (the Walker Room), 1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

Wed., May 9

\*Film: "Alberta Sunshine" 12:05 p.m. Bloomington Public Library. FREE.

Sat., May 12

\*Recycle Drive: Sears, Eastland parking lot and ISU Turner Hall lot. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sun., May 13

Mommy's Day

\*Metropolitan Community Church meeting at the Unitarian Church, 1613 E. Emerson (the Walker Room). 7 p.m. Call 829-2719 for info.



## Common Ground

### NATURAL FOODS

**516 N. Main St.  
Bloomington, Ill. 61701**



Come visit our newly remodeled store. We have more of everything, including an expanded produce section, to serve you better.

COMMON GROUND now offers you the opportunity to cut food and vitamin costs by 10%. You may obtain your 10% discount club card in the following two ways:

- (1) You may purchase a discount card for a yearly fee of \$10.
- (2) You may earn a free discount card by accumulating \$50 worth of COMMON GROUND sales receipts. Simply save your receipts until you have a total of \$50, at which time we will present you with a FREE 10% discount card good for one year.

Once you have your discount card, simply present it at the checkout counter for a 10% discount on every purchase.

Our wide selection of wholesome foods now includes gourmet coffee beans & fresh produce



## Operation Recycle opens 4th station

Operation Recycle has opened a permanent 24 hour drop box for the collection of recyclables in the ISU parking lot at the NW corner of College and Main. Newsprint, container glass, aluminum and tin cans will be collected in the bright red box.

Recyclers may leave materials any time at their convenience at the drop box and at others located at the K Mart Parking lot, 501 E. Stewart and 1100 W. Market.

Operation Recycle continues to buy newsprint, aluminum cans and container glass at its Saturday morning buy-back every Saturday at 1100 W. Market from 9 a.m.-noon. Current prices are 26¢ per lb. for aluminum cans, 1¢ per lb. for glass and ¼¢ per lb. for newsprint.

The recycling center reports that buyback participation has more than doubled since it began buying newsprint in early April. At its most recent buyback, Operation Recycle received over 2 tons of newsprint, 200 lbs of aluminum cans, and half a ton of container glass.

The next recycling drive will be Saturday, May 12 at the Sears Eastland parking lot and the ISU Turner Hall lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Need a summer job?

Eight hundred central Illinois youths will be put to work for nine weeks this summer across a four-county area served by the United Private Industry Council (UPIC).

UPIC's Summer Youth Program, funded through a federal grant totaling over \$1 million, will provide minimum-wage employment for economically disadvantaged youths between the ages of 14 and 21.

The United Private Industry Council, formed last year upon enactment of the Job Training Partnership Act, has awarded contracts to three organizations, which will use the money to place school-age youths in temporary summer positions at public non-profit worksites. The jobs range from 15 to 40 hours a week and will become available June 11.

Enrollees will do everything from cleaning parks and repairing school buildings to working as interns for various municipalities.

UPIC will serve another 130 youths through special tutoring classes for academic credit and an employability skills workshop.

Young people may apply for the programs at any of the UPIC offices in

## Committee on women in prison

The special problems of incarcerated women will be examined by a John Howard Association (JHA) committee.

These issues have received very little attention, in spite of the fact that female inmates' numbers have doubled since 1973. Legislative Advisory Committee on Public Aid staffer Linda Bowen characterizes women offenders: "Disproportionately black and predominantly young, they live outside the mainstream of society, are heavily dependent on public aid, and seem untouched by government programs designed to eradicate poverty. . . . There is no large, well-organized advocacy group for these women. They also defy society's image of mothers (mothers are not supposed to commit crimes) and their incarceration is often believed to be their just reward."

JHA's committee on women in prison has made the first of its exploratory visits to state and county facilities holding women: Dwight, a maximum security institution that holds all women in Illinois sentenced to prison, with 450 inmates; Jessie "Ma" Houston Center, the only state run work release center for women, capacity 45; and division III of the Cook County Jail, which holds 200 to 250 women, mostly pre-trial detainees.

Three major issues have emerged:

--Mothers and children. A large

proportion--85%--of incarcerated women are mothers, and most of these are single parents. There is considerable concern among both inmates and staff about what happens to these children during the very difficult time in which their mother is in prison.

--Vocational and Educational Training. The state spends \$568,000 a year on vocational and educational training for women. Some of the programs have been highly successful, but there remain questions about how many women are gaining skills that will make them employable. This question is crucial since the vast majority of crimes committed by women are economic rather than violent.

--Classification. Since all women convicted of felonies are sent to one institution, Dwight, they must all live in its maximum security setting, even though the majority are classified as minimum or medium security. In addition, because there are so few work release beds for women, the vast majority never see the inside of a work release center. They serve their entire term at Dwight, and then are dropped back into the community, with no period for adjustment, and no job.

Source: Update, published by the John Howard Association.

## Dedication of Western Ave. Community Center

On Sunday, April 29, 1984, an open house from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. with a brief dedication ceremony will be held for the new Western Avenue Community Center, 600 North Western Avenue, in Bloomington.

The Western Avenue Community Center was established in 1926 as a recreational community center. Since then it has been a very positive contributor to the recreational, cultural and social needs of the community.

The Western Avenue Community Center Board is extremely pleased to announce this dedication ceremony which comes after a tragic fire which completely destroyed the former building on January 24, 1982.

There will be a short ceremony with a few comments concerning the past history, the present, and the future outlook of Western Avenue Community Center. All community residents are urged to attend and take part in this dedication ceremony.

**A's USED FURNITURE**  
Buy Sell Trade 829-1912  
618-20 S. Lee St. Bloomington  
corner Lee & Oakland

**CLASSY-  
FRIED  
ADS**



**GAS AND GERM WAR**, an up-to-date account of the threat in a Higher Form of Killing, 1982, 274 pages. Send \$8.95 (include handling) to RECON Publications, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

**ORGANIZING**, a 375 page guide for grassroots leaders by Si Kahn. Send \$8.95 (include handling) to RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

**SNEAK ATTACK ON RUSSIA!** Read Reagan's plan. Send \$9.50 (includes postage) for First Strike: The Pentagon's Strategy for Nuclear War to RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Have you been a hostage?

A call to all ex-inmates and current inmates in psychiatric institutions and prisoners and ex-prisoners who are incest survivors and/or recovering alcoholics and/or drug addicts:

The therapeutic state is systematically setting us up against each other. For example, incest survivors are often incarcerated when they speak out and expose the men who are responsible. Recently a 12-year-old incest survivor was jailed because of her fear of life-long reprisals from her father and society. She decided to testify against him.

A high percentage of people who are incarcerated either in psychiatric institutions or prisons are originally placed there as a result of drug addiction and/or alcoholism. Intimidation tactics are widespread.

What are the conflicts for recovering people within the ex-inmate's movement?

Can incest survivors and recovering alcoholics/addicts work within the ex-inmate's movement?

We need feedback on these issues. Please share with us your struggles/conflicts around incest survival and/or drug addiction and/or alcoholism and incarceration in prisons and psychiatric institutions.

Please write to us and/or come to the 12th Annual International Conference for Human Rights and Against Psychiatric Oppression to confront these issues. Registration forms are available from P.O. Box 61307, Denver, Colorado, 80206. If you are unable to come to the conference, please write to us about these struggles.

--Linda Lane and  
Barbara Wish  
1232 Gaylord St. #4  
Denver CO 80206



## Community gardens at no cost

Mid Central Economic Opportunity Corporation and the Bloomington Housing Authority are sponsoring a Community Gardening Program. Garden plots, seeds, plants and equipment will be available to low-income people. The gardening site will be located at West Illinois and Olive Street, and a second site will be on the 800 block of West Oakland. For further information, phone 829-0691, or 829-3360.

## New employment programs

Five new employment and training programs will be offered this spring by the United Private Industry Council (UPIC). Designed to assist older workers, youth, and the handicapped, the pilot programs are part of UPIC's efforts to serve special segments of the unemployed population.

The Private Industry Council has granted start-up money to five area organizations in implementing the new projects, with enrollments scheduled to begin this month. The programs are part of a broad range of employment and training activities aimed at helping unemployed workers in the four-county area.

To qualify for UPIC programs, applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and may receive screenings on a walk-in basis 8am to 11am, Monday through Thursday at all UPIC offices.

The YWCA of McLean County and the Occupational Development Center (ODC) of Bloomington will provide vocational programs to help unemployed persons 55 or older re-enter the job market. The YWCA will recruit potential participants and offer supportive counseling. Enrollees will undergo assessment and evaluation by ODC, in addition to pre-employment job readiness training and assistance in job placement.

The Tri-County Urban League will expand its Try-out Employment Program in McLean County, which places non-college bound high school seniors in part-time training positions with private business. The project subsidizes the youths' first 250 hours with an employer, in addition to providing a month-long job readiness workshop for enrollees.

A training program for mild to moderately handicapped special education students will be conducted by the East Peoria Community High School Special Education Department. Participants will be trained for entry level positions during their junior and senior years. After passing competency tests (for which academic credit will be awarded), students will move into on-the-job training slots their last semester to attain full-time employment upon graduation.

The Pekin Area Vocational Center will offer vocational training and daily supportive services for special education students mainstreamed into regular P-AVC programs. Financial assistance will be provided to feeder districts who wish to enroll special education students. For further information, phone 827-4026.

**GEORGE F. TASEFF**  
Attorney at Law

*General Practice  
with emphasis on  
Criminal Law & Civil Rights*

822 E. Washington, No. 2N  
Bloomington, IL 61701      309/827-6528

**Business card size ads**

\$6 for individuals  
(businesses slightly higher)

**A Great Deal!**

Call 828-7232  
or write P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington

Drawing by Erica Weihs.

**PEACE AND FREEDOM CARDS  
FROM WIN MAGAZINE  
FOR HOLIDAY GREETINGS...  
FOR YEAR-ROUND CORRESPONDENCE**

An assortment of 12 disarmingly beautiful cards - 4 original designs by talented progressive artists. Produced in the spirit of the holidays, they are also suitable for use as note cards year-round. Matching envelopes included. No inside message! We've left that part to you!

1-3 sets of 12 cards, assorted designs and colors, for just \$4.00 each (plus \$1.00 postage and handling). 4-9 sets for \$4.00 each; 10 or more sets for \$3.00 each (postpaid). Allow 4 weeks for delivery.

To order, or for further description, write:  
WIN Magazine, Dept. C.  
326 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

**IF THE G.O.P.  
WON'T STOP  
THE WAR...**

**WE'LL STOP  
THE G.O.P!  
Dallas Republican  
Convention. Aug. 20-23,  
1984. Be There!**

Initial List of Endorsers: CARD Youth Caucus; Rainbow Gathering For World Peace; LI SHAD; Students Against Militarism; G.R.O.W. (Grass Roots Organizing Workshop); Iowa Socialist Party; American Greens Party; Nu Wave-Progressive Students Alliance; Project Peace; Alternative News Collective; CMI; Columbian Anarchist League; Ohio YIP; Sleepy Hollow Direct Action Committee; Squatters Anonymous; SP; Rock Against Reagan; Mavics; Rock Against Reagan; U.S.A.

For more details on the Dallas '84 planning conference this Nov. 18-21st. for groups and individuals interested in setting the themes and tactics of next summer's protest, write: Fresno Reagan/Bush in '84, P.O. Box 8708, Madison, Wis. 53708; or call: 615-583-5218... 615-583-9229.

gentle men for gender justice

—a nationwide journal on masculinity and feminism for men who create lives beyond masculine stereotypes, who know the joy of intimate equal relationships with women and men, who are active in ending sexism.

**JUST OUT!**  
The Winter 1983-84 issue of M.

Features:  
8th National Conference on Men & Masculinity • Other Men by John Stoltenberg • Work Clothes & Leisure Suits: The Class Basis & Bias of the Men's Movement by Harry Brod • and much, much more.

Regular subscription \$10 (4 issues)  
Sample copy of current issue: \$3  
M. 306 N. Brooks Madison, WI 53715

**off our backs**

**The Best in  
Feminist Journalism  
Our 13th year**

- ★ National and international news about women
- ★ Thoughtful commentaries, and news ahead of its time
- ★ Health, prison, and labor news

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
c/o 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Rm. 212  
Washington, D.C. 20009

\$13/year    sample copy \$1.50

\$25/yr. contributing ed.    off our backs  
\$12/yr. regular sub    1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Rm. 212  
\$30/yr. business and    Wash., D.C. 20009  
institutions

**GUIDE TO  
FILMS ON  
CENTRAL AMERICA**

Describes 40 of the best films on El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with a special section on Grenada. Available for \$2.00 plus 50¢ postage from Media Network, 208 W. 13 St., New York, NY 10011. Call (212) 620-0877 for information and to inquire about rates for bulk orders.

**The  
Incredible  
Shrinking  
American  
Dream**

A hilarious cartoon history of the good old U.S.A.  
By Estelle Carol, Rhoda Grossman and Bob Simpson

**\$6.95**

Ask for it at your local Bookstore or order from:  
Atvson Publications  
PO Box 2783 Dept. B-1  
Boston, Massachusetts 02208  
\$7.50 postpaid  
(reduced rates for multiple copies)

# Rock against Reagan

In 1984, Dallas has been chosen as the site for the upcoming G.O.P. convention. We are seeking to provide an opportunity for individuals and affinity groups around the world to engage in creative, non-violent civil disobedience in Dallas. It is time for anti-nuclear, anti-war, anti-draft issues to be addressed directly. Labor organizations, students and youth organizations, environment and ecology groups, independent truckers and farmers, women's groups, gays and lesbians, the economically disadvantaged, drug reform organizations and others will be gathering in Dallas to say NO to the threat of global holocaust and death. We gather to say YES to a world where people, animals, plants, and the earth itself is respected and valued. Our solidarity in anger is our power; in our numbers is our strength.

On the weekend of November 18-20, 1983 the National Convention Planning conference was held in Dallas, Texas, to plan for actions during the Republican National Convention in Dallas on August 20-23, 1984. Present were 45 people representing 26 states, Canada and West Germany. Groups included the

## Public hearing on fair housing

The Bloomington and Normal Human Relations Commissions (HRCs) are co-sponsoring with the Illinois Department of Human Rights (DHR) a public hearing on equal housing opportunities in this area. One of seven scheduled hearings throughout the State of Illinois to be held on fair housing issues, the public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 26, 1984, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Bloomington City Hall.

The purpose of the hearing is to find out whether equal housing opportunity is a reality and to identify discriminatory practices that may affect this area. Homeseekers, home owners, tenants, property owners, rental agents, and related agencies or organizations are encouraged to testify. The HRCs want the widest possible expression of views in order to learn whether discriminatory practices prevail in the Bloomington and Normal communities and what form those practices take. They are concerned not only with overt discrimination, but also with customs and

practices which seem even-handed, but which may foster inequality in the real estate market place.

Besides gathering general views on local housing practices, the DHR is specifically interested in discrimination in rental housing against families with children. It especially seeks local comment on whether such discrimination is widespread and the apparent reasons for it.

The German Green Party is organizing concurrent European demos involving perhaps ten million people. White crosses engraved with the names of people who have died fighting in El Salvador will be erected at a Dallas graveyard and also at the convention site. This action has been endorsed and will be backed by the German Evangelical Church and the German Roman Catholic Church Peace Movement.

The other action plans announced at the conference are:

1) We pledge two dump trucks to remove lead-contaminated soil which has been illegally dumped in an economically underdeveloped section of Northwest Dallas. We propose that the soil be removed to a spot where the Republicans can see and experience the

effects of their industrial-environmental policies.

2) A "Die-In" will be staged to visibly demonstrate the effect of nuclear war. We will choose a location central to the convention for this action.

3) Photographs of peace movement people from around the world who can be present only in spirit will be placed to form a carpet in front of the Convention Center. We wish to graphically illustrate the Reagan team stepping over peaceful alternatives and those who represent such.

The Rock Against Reagan Tour has completed one full sweep of the country. We will continue to tour the South, East and West Coast. The first show was March 18 in Gainesville, Florida and will end in Dallas at the Republican Convention in August.

The Women's Caucus of the conference met for the first time, and discussed making a more consolidated effort as women within the movement. We plan to demonstrate these concerns at the GOP convention, as well as to continue working on the RAR Tour, organizing for Freeze Reagan/Bush, and the feminist movement.

We are now looking for civil disobedience, direct action, and networking mobilization oriented collectives and organizations. We need more people to do individual scouting and publicity.

Contact RAR, 2647 Broadway 2W, New York, New York 10025



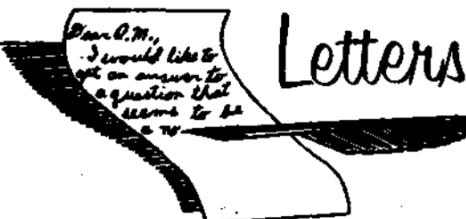
## Recycling week

Registration for Operation Recycle's 10k run on Saturday, April 28 will be accepted up to the start of the run at 9 a.m. The course is an accurately measured new course through the west side of Bloomington starting at the Operation Recycle (OR) office, 1100 W. Market.

T-shirts and awards for the top finishers in each age category will be given out. Run results will be computerized. American Cellulose Manufacturing, Inc., which buys OR's newsprint, will cosponsor the run.

Applications will be available at the OR office or various sporting goods stores. The entry fee is \$5.

Operation Recycle is also distributing posters and bookmarks to mark Recycling Week. The group, which is the only non-profit community recycling center in McLean County, will have a display at Eastland Mall on April 28 and 29, and will have displays at both the Bloomington and Normal Public Libraries.



## Hostage likes Post

Dear Post Amerikan,

I am another "Hostage" in D.O.C. I really like the way you make us inmates out to be hostages, and not convicts, because hostages is what we are!

Today is the first time I have ever read your paper, and today is the first time I've ever been able to read a paper and actually enjoy it. I especially like your article on "Citizen Informants." This is the first paper I've ever seen that has the guts to set out a snitch's name, or should I say C.I.? I wish we had more papers like the Post Amerikan in our nation so everyone would know what a real newspaper should be like.

I would also like to have my name printed in your "Hostages need letters" column. Keep up the good work and you will have a true reader forever.

Thank you for your time and paper.

--Terry Sinks (N-08190)  
Box 711  
Menard, IL 62259

## GOP convention protest

Hi!

Here is some information about an event I would like to have listed in the next Post Amerikan:

The Dallas Republican Convention Protest will be August 18-23. It will raise important issues, and your protest will be heard. For more information call 212-533-5028. Or write to P.O. Box 392, Canal Street Station, New York, New York 10012.

Thanks a lot for the help.

--Danielle

## 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:

James G. DiGiacomo  
A-71417  
Box 7711  
Centralia, IL 62801

Terry Sinks  
N-08190  
Box 711  
Menard, IL 62259

## Hmmm

Currently, a child born without an anus and with an incomplete esophagus costs \$140,000 for medical care.

A girl with spina bifida costs \$600,000 for medical care.

A kidney dialysis patient costs \$25,000 a year.

However, Kenneth Vaux, professor of medical ethics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, observed that "we could fund all the neonatal intensive care units in the country for the cost of one nuclear submarine."

--Russell Dunwilling

Source: Nursing Life, March-April 1984.



# Shut down the arsenal!!

Midwest Direct Action on June 4, 1984, at the Rock Island Arsenal

The U.S. is standing tall in 1984: American troops and U.S. weapons are bringing death and destruction to the peoples of Lebanon, Grenada and Central America, while the Pentagon is daily perfecting plans for a first strike and protracted nuclear war.

We cannot allow this global terrorism to continue. We will not defeat war by defeating Reagan. The arms race is not caused only by those in Washington or Geneva, or even by the top corporations and banks. The arms race depends on workers to build the weapons, on soldiers to use them, and on people to support the daily war preparations in their communities,

including the payment of war taxes. We must look not to politicians but to ourselves, the workers and men and women in uniform, to disarm the military before they launch World War III.

Here on an island in the center of the Midwest is the U.S. Army's largest weapons-producing arsenal -- a 1000 acre complex of factories overflowing with machine guns and howitzers, and a command center for nuclear and chemical war planning. Join us in a mass direct action on Monday, June 4, to shut down the Rock Island Arsenal.

Project Disarm  
c/o Disarm Now Action Group  
407 S. Dearborn no. 370  
Chicago IL 60605  
(312)427-2533

## Mass direct action

"Project Disarm" is the project of anti-war groups from around the Midwest. We have joined together to call for effective, non-violent direct action that prevents war production and planning at the Arsenal for as long as possible. We envision small and large groups using creative tactics to disrupt business as usual. Stationary groups might block key bridges and roads. Mobile groups might seek to effect smaller, roving blockades at points less mobbed by police, without immediately or necessarily being arrested.

The Arsenal is located on a small island (1 x 1/4 mile) in the Mississippi with access provided by three

narrow bridges. The island holds a complex of over 50 buildings. All access to the Arsenal could be disrupted.

## Support people

In addition to people who participate directly in the action, we will need a large number of people to support the blockade. Support work is vital to the success of an action, and we encourage everyone to get involved and participate in the action at the level they feel able. We will need help with organizing, distributing leaflets, legal and media work, fundraising, transportation, and people to join in legal protests in the Quad cities on the day of the action.

## Rock Island Arsenal

\*\*\*INTERVENTION: Rock Island Arsenal is the U.S. Army's largest manufacturing arsenal. It produces machine guns, artillery and howitzers. 40% of these "small arms" are sold to repressive, U.S.-backed regimes including El Salvador, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Phillipines. Currently underway is "Project Rearm"--a multi-million dollar modernization program which will "ensure the Arsenal's ability to produce military hardware in an emergency while private industry converts to military needs."

\*\*\*UNEMPLOYMENT: The Quad Cities area reflects the military economy of the U.S. in microcosm. The Arsenal is a thriving island of over 9,000 jobs in a sea of mass unemployment. The Quad cities area, with a population of 4000,000, is the world center for the agricultural and farm equipment industries, now severely depressed. Many of their laid-off workers can find jobs only at the Arsenal.

\*\*\*NUCLEAR AND CHEMICAL WARFARE: Rock Island is the headquarters of the U.S. Army's Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) which manages inventory, assembly and transport of the nuclear and chemical weapons stockpiles, prepares for emergency airlift of the weapons, and keeps the computer records on the U.S. nuclear arsenal. AMCCOM has an annual national budget of \$9 billion, twice that of the state of Illinois and 4 times that of the state of Iowa.



# Art and music for the Rape Crisis Center

The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County announces a benefit concert and the availability of a limited number of original photographs by Rhondal McKinney and a signed, hand-blown bud vase by glass artist Joel Myers.

## The concert

The concert will be Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School Street, Normal. It will feature traditional blue-grass and old-time music by the Stringtown Road Band, four Central Illinois musicians who play banjo, fiddle, hammered dulcimer, guitar, and bass. There will also be clogging by members of the Folkways Dance Ensemble, and there may be a special guest or two.

Facilities will be available for picnicking for those who wish to bring a box lunch; coffee and punch will be provided by RCC. Those who attend will be asked to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$4 (or less if they cannot afford \$4), or \$8 per family. Tickets will be sold at the door, or they may be purchased in advance at the following locations:

Roper Acoustics, Normal  
Common Ground, Bloomington

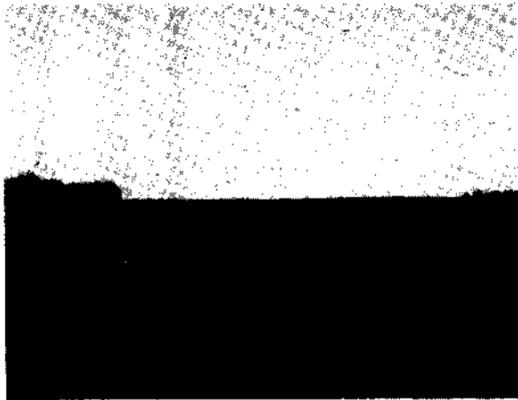
A drawing will be held at the end of the concert at which several copies of the photograph will be given away.



## The photograph

The Rape Crisis Center is making available a limited-edition large-format, signed photograph by distinguished photographer Rhondal McKinney. A resident of Normal, McKinney curated the highly acclaimed "An Open Land" exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago, and his work has been exhibited in Chicago, New York, Paris, Santa Fe, and Houston. Among institutions that have acquired his work are the Museum of Modern Art, and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.

The photograph is entitled, "Illinois Landscape, 1982," and it captures the typical beauty of early spring in Central Illinois farmland. It has classic simplicity of composition, the starkness of horizon strongly contrasting with the delicacy of



emerging plants. It is printed in a special 16" X 20" format; a copy may be seen on the ISU campus outside Room 128 in the Center for the Visual Arts. A copy of the photograph will be given to those who contribute \$150 or more to the Rape Crisis Center. Up to 40 copies will be available for early donors. Those wishing to receive a copy should send their check, along with address and phone number to:

Rape Crisis Center of McLean County  
P.O. Box 995  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702

A member of the RCC staff will contact them and arrange delivery of the photograph. In addition, several copies will be given away in a drawing at the end of the concert on April 29. Questions concerning the photograph should be addressed to either William Morgan at 452-1204, or Mark Siderits at 438-8602.

## The glass piece

The Rape Crisis Center is also making available a piece of glass art by internationally known artist Joel Myers.



A faculty member at ISU, Myers has conducted numerous lectures and workshops on glass art in this country and abroad. His work has been included in virtually every major glass exhibition since the mid 1960's and his status in the field is in part responsible for the excellent reputation which ISU's glass program enjoys.

The piece is a hand-blown, signed bud vase, 7 1/2" in height; it is from a period when Myers was creating intimate pieces in a painterly style. Slightly irridized colors have been applied by the hot glass torch process: an aqua ground with abstract shapes suggestive of plant forms. The piece is on display outside Room 128 in the Center for the Visual Arts on the ISU campus. We are asking that those interested in acquiring it submit written bids to:

Rape Crisis Center of McLean County  
P.O. Box 995  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702

You may learn the amount of the current highest bid by calling 438-8321. Bids will be accepted until May 2.

## Rape crisis center

The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County is an organization of female and male volunteers. It is registered with the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation and has been serving the community since 1974. RCC may be reached at any time through PATH: 827-4005.

Principal activities of RCC include: providing trained peer counselors who offer psychological, medical, and legal assistance, referrals, and alternatives to the victims of rape and sexual assault; providing counseling for others affected by rape and sexual assault; and providing in-service training for hospital personnel, law enforcement personnel, and other social service agency staff about the problems surrounding rape and sexual assault.

It is the philosophy of RCC that if someone feels raped, she or he has been raped. This philosophy is the result of over 10 years of experience in counseling the victims of rape and assault.

Donations for the concert and art works will be used to support the following activities: development of educational and training materials concerned with the new Illinois sexual assault statute; extension of the services of RCC to more of the many victims of rape and sexual assault in the community by means of educational activities; maintenance of a pager system for male volunteers.

All of these activities are designed to meet community needs which are not now being served. Education, for instance, plays a crucial role in undercutting the many myths which both perpetuate rape and create special psychological difficulties for the victim of rape. Education also serves to bring the special services of RCC to the attention of those victims of rape and sexual assault who now see themselves as having nowhere to turn for help.

--R.C.C.

Street hassles

# Ah, spring

It's spring again, and all the signs of of the season are here. Easter has come and gone, the trees are filled with buds, flowers bloom by sidewalks, gardens are being planted, convertibles have reappeared from storage. And everywhere--from parking lots to passing cars to local parks to your own front porches--can be heard that one sound we have all come to recognize as the true arrival of spring: "Hey, baby, wanna fuck?"

I don't know why, after all these years, I still expect that I can pick up a gallon of milk at Eisner's, go to the bathroom at Garcia's, drive down Main Street at noon, or measure my own front yard for flowers, without being whistled at, honked at, grunted at, or shouted at. But it's like a successfully repressed bad dream--every spring I am again surprised.

Spring and summer seem to be the seasons for the amateur hecklers. The pros are still out there, of course, lurking in bar entryways at closing time, hanging out in all-night gas stations, cowering in underpasses and garages, waiting for the unsuspecting (escorted or alone) female to appear.

But spring brings out the amateurs. Boys and men from prepubescent to young adult, both alone and in groups, start somewhere in the middle of April and don't give it up until sometime in September.

It seems to make no visible difference if women ignore these

amateur assholes, or shout back at them, or do anything or nothing. Any response, whether something or nothing, seems to be what they want. You are actually not a part of their heckling--merely the object of it. It doesn't matter what you look like or what you have on or where you are. The mere fact of your existence is enough.

I have noticed that the men who heckle alone seem to be rather embarrassed and sheepish about their behavior, but this is not true of men in groups (and it only takes two to make a group). These men love your response, no matter what it is, and they seem to grow stronger and more self-assured the longer they heckle and harass.

My first amateur asshole heckle of the season came the day after the New Bedford verdicts were handed down. And it occurs to me that although there is certainly a difference in degree in a group of men raping a woman while the others cheer and egg each other on, there is no difference in kind.

The same motivations--domination, humiliation, power, and violation--work together with the same peer pressures and group dynamics in public rapes and in public hecklings of women. Certainly I did not feel as dominated, as humiliated, as powerless, and as violated as did the victim in New Bedford, but I did feel all those things.

And most of these boys and men will never commit the degree of assault that happened in New Bedford, but they are committing the same kind



of assault every day, right here in Bloomington-Normal.

The New Bedford incident shocked the nation. The people in this country could not believe that men could act that way. I was saddened by what happened in New Bedford, but I was not shocked. I see men acting in that way nearly every day of my life, just on a slightly smaller scale.

So, women, have a happy spring, and when the amateur assholes attack, remember that you are not alone in your victimization. The amateur assholes attack early and often, and there is, unfortunately, nothing we can do. Except to hope that they are the few who grow out of it and not the few who grow into even more violent attackers.

--Deborah Wiatt

## GOD! I FORGOT TO RENEW MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE POST AMERIKAN



**POST AMERIKAN**

Send me a subscription, \$4  
 Send me a t-shirt, \$6 donation  
 XL L M S  
 is my donation to the Post

name \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_

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