

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

6-1984

Volume 13, Number 3

Post Amerikan

Follow this and additional works at: 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](#)

Uptown Rulers, Sanders, Death squads, etc.

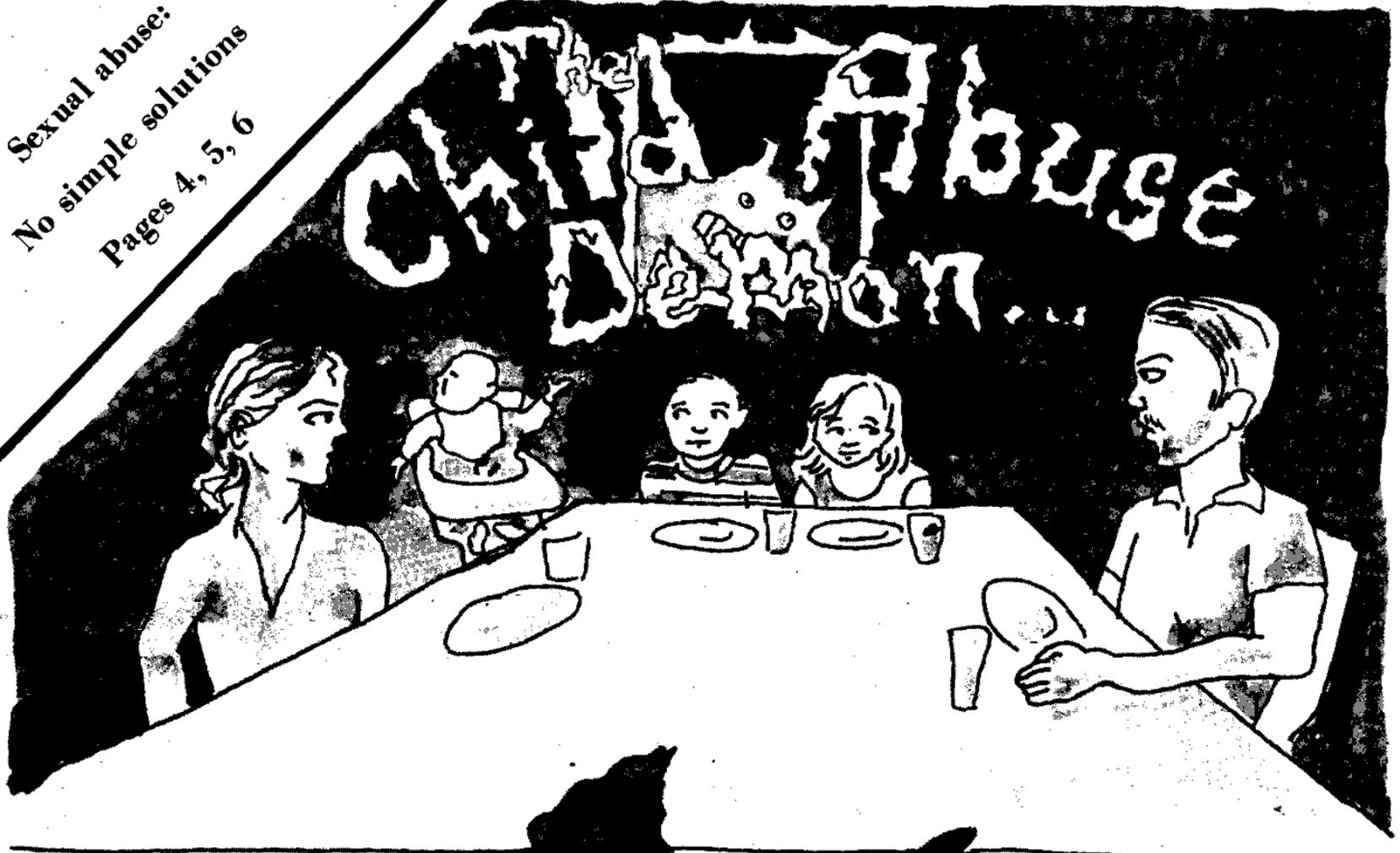
Bloomington-Normal

25¢

POST AMERIKAN

June-July, 1984
Vol. 13, No. 3

Sexual abuse:
No simple solutions
Pages 4, 5, 6



And the media...



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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 WHITTLING AWAY AT THE DOLLMAKER
Differing views on Jane Fonda's tv movie
- 4-5-6 HYSTERIA, MYTHS WON'T STOP SEXUAL ABUSE
The new campaign against sexual abuse worries Ferdydurke
THE FORGOTTEN VICTIMS
Deborah worries about families of the sexually abused
- 7 SO YOU THINK YOU OBEY THE LAW?
Some old laws you may be breaking
- 9 WHAT GOES UP COMES DOWN
Are UFOs really just garbage?
- 10-11 UPTOWN RULERS RELEASE NEW RECORD
Red Newton's exclusive interview with the hot local group
- 12-13 COVERT U.S. AID BEHIND EL SALVADOR DEATH SQUADS
Progressive reporter says the death squads are American born and bred
- 14 CALL 1-800-BAD STUF; REPORT ANYTHING
A new telephone game for mischievous Post readers
- 15 NORMAL OFFICIALS' CRONYISM COSTS TAXPAYERS
City lawyers waste money trying to get back at ACLU
- 16-17 SANDERS SHATTERS WOMAN'S WINDSHIELD WITH NIGHTSTICK
Bloomington's rabid cop strikes a blow for justice
- 23 HBO LOOKS AT GAY AMERICA
Gay people do live beyond age 30
- 24 TRAPPED IN THE SOCIAL DIS-SERVICE SYSTEM
Being pregnant and poor is not an unbeatable combination

Cable comix.....3	Letters.....19
Hmmm.....9	Classy fried ads.....19
Water Dept. story.....14	Community News....20-21
My Sister, the Punk Rocker..18	Amerikan Almanack....22

Post sellers

BLOOMINGTON
 Amtrack station, 1200 W. Front
 The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main
 Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
 Bus Depot, 523 N. East
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 D. J.'s Variety, 297 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
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
 Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main
 Pantagraph (front of building),
 301 W. Washington
 The Park Store, Wood & Allin
 People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrissey
 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
 Withers Public Library (in front)

NORMAL
 Alamo II, 319 North St. (in front)
 Blue Dahlia Bookstore, 124 E. Beaufort
 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, 111 1/2 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, #3 June-July 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 July 19.

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 handicapped 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 with your new address 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: Mark, Diana, Imogene, Dave, Russell, Kathy, Melissa, Bumper, Ralph, J.T., Dan, X, Bill, Becky, Nadene, Drue, Deborah, Holly, Susan, Sue, Tom, Laurie H., Laurie D., Have, and Bobby (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

Special thanx to Laurie S. for the delicious food, and to Bob S. and Hugh L. for their generous donations to the Post.

Whittling away at The Dollmaker

Big changes, not small ones

It's a cliché to say, "I liked the book better than the movie." But what else can I say? Harriet Arnow's *The Dollmaker* is one of the most powerful novels I've ever read. Jane Fonda's *The Dollmaker* is a scenic and sweet movie. Arnow's novel delivers an overwhelming critique of the paralysis female socialization can work on even the strongest and most courageous of women. Fonda's film glorifies the self-sacrifice demanded of women in an industrialized culture all but designed to destroy families.

Had I never read the novel, I probably would have been impressed by some of the risks the filmmakers took. And in any case, the rural segment is beautiful and the characters well-played and touching. But having read the book, I resent Gertie's talent for whittling and its product being changed from a powerful metaphor for

her strength and self-identity to a naive art, worthy of respect, discovered and exploited by the "necessarily" cruel city. And I resent the tragedy of Gertie's loss of her two children (to the societal rule that a woman must cleave to and obey her man) being changed to an image of the natural order of life—a crisis to be survived, to help strengthen the family.

A film of *The Dollmaker* should make us re-evaluate the destructive impact of capitalism and oppressive traditional values, not encourage an increased burden, already too heavy, upon women who struggle to provide for their young.

--Suelle



TV betrays novel's spirit

I always knew Jane Fonda couldn't act, but I thought she had personal integrity. The recent network television's airing of Harriet Arnow's *The Dollmaker* convinced me otherwise.

Arnow's beautiful, haunting, and tragic tale of the oppression of women by men and the oppression of everyone by the industrial war machine was subjected to Hollywood's usual trivial treatment. The conflict between Gertie and her husband was portrayed in the most simplistic, mindless terms possible. Her husband is an oppressive weakling; Gertie is a strong, creative woman who manages to pull the family together and make it turn out alright in the end, all the while remaining faithful to Mr. Mouse. Just as she triumphs over her weak husband, she triumphs over Detroit, and the family goes back to Kentucky, happy as a bunch of larks.

Unfortunately, Arnow's novel has quite a different flavor. Gertie is not triumphant; when she chops up her unfinished statue for wood to use to make dolls to feed the family, it is a tragedy. The statue screams, and it is the end of Gertie as a person and an artist. The family is trapped in Detroit with their dreams of finally owning their own land gone forever. They are condemned to be ignorant hillbillies, living only half lives in a city that is cold, hostile, and bleak. The awful sacrifices, including the death of Gertie's beautiful and imaginative daughter Cassie, is all for naught.

In such a short space I cannot do justice to the depth and complexity of Arnow's book, nor could I expect a three-hour television program to do that either. Nevertheless, I expected that after waiting six years to do this part that Jane Fonda would at least have insisted that it remain faithful to the spirit of the novel.

--Drue

Better than Barbarella

I read a lot of books, but they aren't usually the kind that get a lot of attention in literary circles. Horror books, mystery stories, and historical novels are not the sort that count as "literature." So when ABC announced that they were putting on Harriet Arnow's *The Dollmaker*, I was not overly impressed, having heard of neither Harriet Arnow nor her book. All I knew was that it was a Jane Fonda movie, and I generally like Jane Fonda movies.

So I watched *The Dollmaker*.

And I found, as I usually do when I see something or read something that is "good for me," that I liked it. Fonda did her usual fine job of acting and was totally believable as a poor Kentucky sharecropper with 5 kids. The supporting cast was excellent.

The movie did have some problems. I could have done very nicely, thank you, without the slow-motion mutilation of Gertie's daughter. The scene in slo-mo was so long that it became a parody of itself and any horror and shock and futility of the act was completely destroyed. It was a scene to laugh, not cry, at.

And I hear from those who have read the book that the ending was so significantly changed for the movie that it bears no resemblance to the original text. It's probably too bad that the script writers changed the



ending, but having never read the book I was not disappointed at the ending. I liked the ending. I do not like books or movies that end with so much frustration and futility that you want to get up and slit your wrists because there isn't any point in going on anyway.

So I liked the movie. But I'm not a good judge. I've liked everything Fonda has done except *Barbarella*.

--Deborah

Calla Comics

HERE'S ONE OF THE THINGS I LIKE MOST ABOUT TEEVEE WATCHING: I WAS WATCHING AN ALFRED HITCHCOCK RERUN THE OTHER NIGHT...



...INGER STEVENS WAS BEING MENACED BY TEENAGED SURF PUNKS AND HALFWAY THRU THE FINAL FOURTH I RECOGNIZED WHO THE LEADER OF THE GANG WAS!



IT WAS CHRIS ROBINSON, WHO'D LATER ACHIEVE FAME PLAYING DR. RICK WEBBER ON GENERAL HOSPITAL! LAURA'S FATHER!!



MOMENTS LIKE THIS MAKE IT EASIER TO ACCEPT BEING 34!



Bloom

Hysteria, myths won't

Sexual abuse of children has become the hot media topic of the season. Newsweek magazine did a cover story on it, "All Things Considered" (PBS) ran a five-part series, and national network also made a multipart examination of the topic. Congress recently held hearings on the problem, during which Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fl) revealed her experience of being molested as a child.

The Pantagraph has also jumped on the bandwagon: a Sunday (May 20) feature spread on an incident in Pontiac that involved a 15-year-old male and his English teacher, and a story of reported sexual abuse of a 3-year-old at the Wee Care Day Care Center in Normal, with an accompanying article on the victim's parents' advice to other parents and a follow-up on the formation of a local support group for families who "have been touched by sexual abuse." This last story also revealed the reported abuse of four children by a 15-year-old male relative who routinely baby-sat for the family.

All of this public attention is being hailed as a good thing. Newsweek called the media blitz "the first sign that attention is finally being paid to a guilty secret that generations have dreaded to face."

Topic difficult

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for facing dreaded secrets and talking

about sexual issues openly and honestly. But after listening to the programs and reading the articles, especially the ones in the Pantagraph, I'm worried that something else may also be going on.

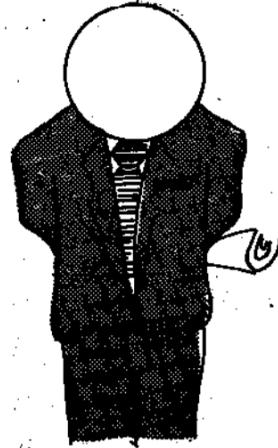
This topic is very difficult to write about. It's an emotional mine field in which I am going to end up questioning victims and defending perpetrators. But the candor that everyone is applauding leads me to raise some deeply felt concerns about the "growing outcry over child molesting" (to use Newsweek's phrase). My out-cast, sexually stigmatized ears pick out notes of hysteria and faint sounds of the witchhunt amid the cries for caution, action, reform.

To put it as succinctly as I can, I don't think the problem of sexual abuse of children--or sexual abuse of anybody--is going to be solved without some fundamental changes in our society's view of sexuality. We live in a sex-negative culture, and all the prevention, prosecution, and therapy in the world aren't going to overcome the guilt and fear produced by our society's negative assumptions about sex.

No definitions

Let me try to get a little more specific about my complaints and concerns:

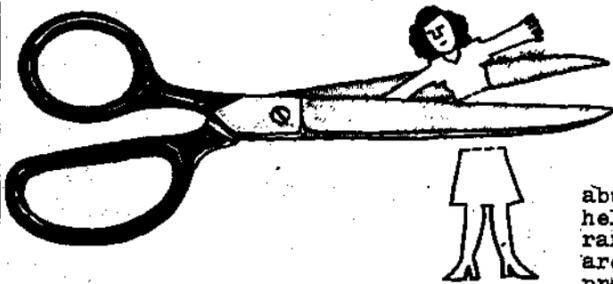
1. Nowhere in the articles and programs I've read and heard have I no-



ted any definitions of the key terms: child, abuse, molestation. In one case, a 15 year-old male is accused of sexually "molesting" four children, ages 15 months to 7 years. In the material I've seen and heard, all of the victims are "children," all of the incidents are "abuse," all of the older people are "offenders" or "molesters."

Quite clearly, these imprecise generalizations don't concern many of the people who are concerned about sexual abuse. But I think we need to know precisely who we're talking about when we say "children" and exactly what we're talking about when we use the loaded words "abuse" and "molest."

No one conclusion about abusive



The conservative statistics on the sexual abuse of children are that one in four girls and one in six boys in the U.S. will experience some sort of sexual abuse before they reach high school. This means that of the 3,731,000 children born in 1970, 746,200 of them will have become the victims of sexual abuse or sexual assault before they graduate from junior high this spring.

Sexual abuse of children is a serious problem. Thanks to increased awareness and attention, the problem of sexual abuse has begun to be talked about. While it is still difficult to convict a person of sexual abuse on a child's testimony in court, hospital personnel, police officers, state's attorneys, judges, social service workers, and counselors are becoming more sensitive and patient with child victims and more understanding and aware of the problem.

Some rape crisis centers and incest/

abuse centers are even beginning to help the abuser. These programs are rare and very new, but a few people are beginning to address this problem, too.

But by and large the people whom everyone forgets are the families--both the families of the sexually abused child and the families of the abuser.

In the family

One of the facts about sexual abuse is that it is often (75% of the time) done by a family member, usually a father or a father-figure. One of the long-held myths is that the mother always knows and either doesn't want to get involved or doesn't care.

It is probably true that the non-abusive parent, in cases in which DCFS or law enforcement are involved, more often than not at least suspects that sexual abuse is taking place. But most anti-rape groups and people who work with victims outside of law enforcement agencies know that most of the time the non-abusive parent has no idea what is happening.

Parents of sexually

The forgotten

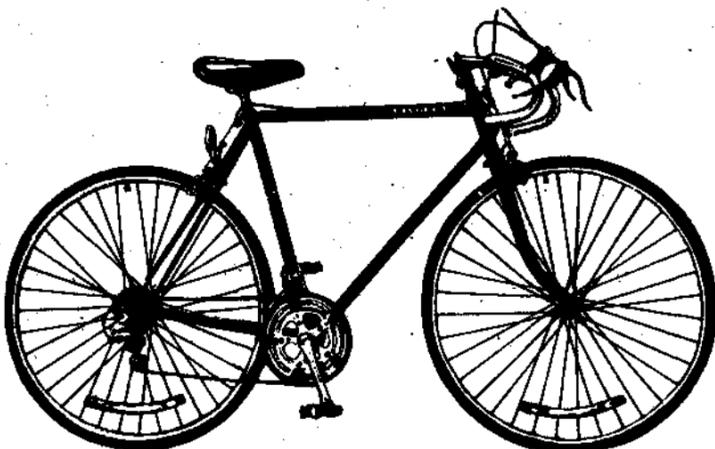
Another 20% of sexually abused children are abused by a trusted adult or older child known to the victim. Only about 5% of children are abused by strangers.

Many children are "scarred for life" by sexual abuse. Most children need not be. Children do not view sexual abuse with the same taboos and horrors that adults do. Many children are harmed more by the actions and reactions of their parents and other family members than by the abuse itself.

Hard to imagine

Parents do not set out to further hurt their children, and most parents would not if they knew what to do. But for most parents, the sexual abuse of their children is one of the worst things they can imagine.

Most parents never consider the possibility that sexual abuse can happen to their children, so few are prepared when their child comes to them and reports an incident of sexual abuse. The first reaction to a child's disclosure is usually one



A Winning Combination
WILSON'S BIKE SHOP
and
PEUGEOT

STARTING AT
\$179

WILSON'S CYCLE
919 W. Market, Bloomington
"14 years experience"

SUMMER HOURS:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

stop sexual abuse

situations is possible: every incident needs to be examined on its own merits. That reality may drive the police and state's attorneys, social workers, and parents up the wall; but

I believe it's an essential principle to follow if these authorities truly want to solve the sex abuse problem. If people are just interested in conducting a witchhunt, then lump all the cases together and hang the perpetrators "by the balls for about 20,000 years," as one angry mother so vividly put it.

Creating problems?

2. I'm worried that problems are being created by those who so zealously seek to solve the problem. Some of the attitudes and ideas expressed by the so-called experts



American Teacher/cpf

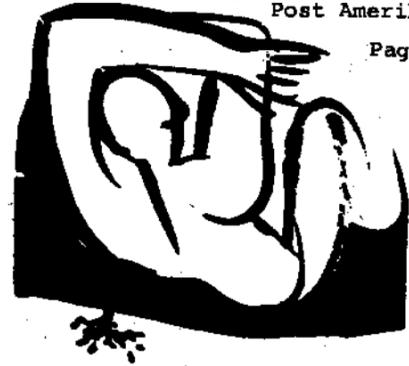
suggest to me that they are discovering guilt and trauma where they may not actually exist. These sexual incidents are always damaging they say. Children "don't enjoy sex with an adult for long, if at all." And: "they become involved with grown-ups through trickery, emotional pressure or physical coercion."

Quite frankly, I suspect that it serves the interests of parents and authorities to find harm in incidents which they (the adults) are disturbed by. I think that such sweeping claims about what kids feel and why they act as they do are quite possibly the exaggerated reactions of guilty adults.

Overlooking a source

3. I also think that some of the people who are talking and writing about the "hidden epidemic" of sexual abuse are overlooking a leading source of harm--reactions of family, friends, and society in general.

The 15-year-old from Pontiac and his mother admitted that the young man's main concern was what other people would say. Perhaps there is no way to separate the sexual encounter from its consequences, given the state of sexual attitudes in this country. But I can't help thinking that a healthier social context would produce less disastrous results.



I also think that we have to face the real possibility that at least some of the "abuse" is harmful because our society has decided to call it "abuse." I am particularly disturbed by this kind of self-fulfilling definition in sexual matters, because I know the way it works with gay people. One writer on homosexuality has termed the process "the social creation of evil": gay people are sick/sinful/maladjusted/dangerous/pathetic/unhappy/whatever because influential social institutions (the church, the courts, the military, the medical establishment) have told us so. There is, quite simply, nothing more to it. But it works, and it's very destructive. "For there is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so," says Hamlet. I think he's on to something.

Inherently wrong

4. This leads me to my next concern: part of the fervor of the recent cam-

Continued on next page

abused children

victims

of disbelief, it couldn't happen to their child, therefore it didn't happen. Parents will often deny to themselves and to their child that the abuse has occurred. They may accuse the child of lying, making up stories, or repeating something they saw on TV.

This is especially possible if the abuser is not a stranger to the child. They feel that not only is it improbable for their child to have been a victim, but it is also impossible for the abuser to be daddy or Mr. Jones or Aunt Linda or Terry the baby sitter.

Parental disbelief confuses an already confused child. The child may bring it up again to the parent or another trusted adult, and when the sexual abuse is finally acknowledged and confirmed, the disbelieving parents' guilt is increased. Not only did they allow this to happen, but they could have stopped it sooner.

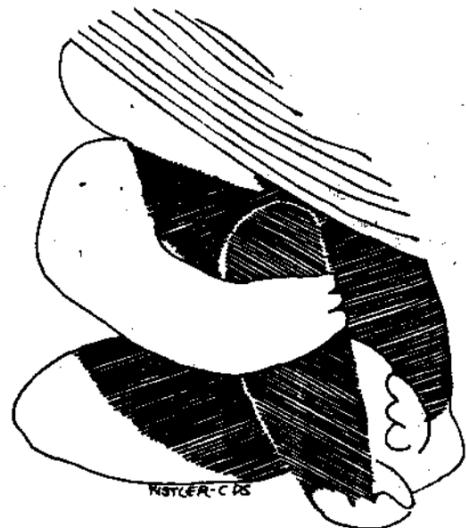
Trust not destroyed

The parents probably feel much worse about their disbelief than the child does. Children are quite used to not being believed. Whether children are

telling the truth as it exists or the truth as they perceive it, adults rarely believe them. They are not accused of lying most of the time; they are just mistaken. Original disbelief on the part of the parents does not necessarily destroy all the trust and credibility the parents have tried to build with the child. But most parents will feel extremely guilty for not believing their child.

Parents also feel guilty that the abuse took place at all. Many parents feel it is their fault their child was sexually abused, regardless of the particular circumstances. They feel they shouldn't have left the child (with the baby sitter, the grandparents, the neighbor kid), they shouldn't have let the child go (out to play, out for the soccer team, to school), they shouldn't have gone to work, let Uncle Jim move in, married their spouse.

While it is normal for parents to feel guilty, it is not terribly healthy or productive for them or for the child to dwell on the guilt they feel. If they express their guilt to the child too often, the child will begin to feel responsible. Maybe not for the abuse itself, but for making the parents feel so bad. They will regret telling the parents something that caused them so much pain, and they may



begin to stifle the expression of their own feelings in order to spare their parents. Some children may even attempt to counsel their parents.

Parents of sexually abused children also feel a lot of fear. They fear that the abuser will not be stopped and that the abuse will continue despite their efforts to stop it. They fear that everyone they meet and everyone they know is a child abuser. If the abuser was not one of them, they may even begin to suspect each other.

Parents also fear that the sexual abuse will damage their children for life. They fear that their children will relive the abuse every day of their lives, that they will never be able to have a happy, healthy sexual relationship, that they will never be able to trust another person, that they will grow up to be child abusers themselves.

Guilt and fear

Parental guilt and fear can continue to make the child's life pretty miserable. Children may not be allowed to be out of a parent's sight, and children who were free to ride bikes, play outside, or color in their rooms may no longer have those freedoms. The children may no longer be allowed to stay with a baby sitter or at the day care center, regardless of where the abuse occurred.

Some parents will force the child to

Cont. on next page

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



The forgotten victims, Cont. from page 5

receive therapy for months or years after the abuse has stopped, whether or not the child shows signs of needing therapy. Other parents will want the child to talk about the sexual abuse long after they have tired of talking about it, while still others will forbid their children from discussing the abuse even if they need to talk about it.

The combination of parental guilt and fear often makes the children feel further victimized. Even though the parents tell the children that the sexual abuse was not their fault, they often feel that they are the only ones being punished.

Anger too

Parents of children who have been sexually abused also feel a great deal of anger. They may be angry at everyone who has become involved: the hospital personnel, the police, the counselor, the abuser, the abuser's family, god, society, and themselves.

They may also feel angry at their children for causing them the pain and anguish they are going through. The parents quickly turn this anger into guilt, for most of them are disgusted at their feelings of anger toward the children. This anger serves to reinforce in them the idea that they are bad parents and bad people.

Parental anger, even if it is not directed at the child, often frightens and confuses the child. If the parents scream about how much they hate Uncle Jack for what he did, and the children did it too, they begin to fear that the parents will hate them as well.

Since a child's reactions to sexual abuse are based largely on the parents' reactions, parents need to be very careful around their children. They need to be aware of what they say, how they say it, and how what they say is affecting the child.

They need to be aware of what they are doing with the child, and to constantly assess if their actions are causing the child more stress, rather than less. They also need to be sure that their actions are not being interpreted by the child as punishment.

Parents also need to do something that parents almost never do in this society: they need to learn to take direction from their children. If the child wants to talk about the circus rather than the abuse, they should talk about circuses. If the child needs to talk about the abuse when the parents have company, one parent should take the child and talk about the abuse.

If the parents and other family members of sexually abused children can focus on the child's feelings and needs when the child is present and can focus on their own feelings and needs with themselves and with other adults, the probability is that both the parents and the child will survive the sexual abuse just fine.

--Deborah Wiatt

Hysteria, myths won't stop sexual abuse, Cont. from page 5

campaign against sexual abuse may be fueled by the view that sexual behavior is inherently wrong (bad, evil, dirty). Let's face it: our culture still stigmatizes masturbation, homosexuality, birth control, unwed mothers, and venereal disease. I'm convinced that these "problems" wouldn't still be problems if we could strip away the superstitions and misconceptions and deal sensibly with these matters.

Newsweek says, "Some of (the experts) argue that in our stressful, permissive society, child molesting has increased along with other forms of sexual activity." That's the kind of attitude I'm worried about.

Incurable monsters

5. Finally, then, I come to my last worry: the tremendous concern for the victims overshadows a vicious dismissal of the "offenders" as incurable monsters.

These are the comments of a victim and his mother: "I'd like to kill him....I'd like to see him rot in jail." "He just looked like a slimy old man. He just looked like

nothing."

The parents of the 3-year-old are reported by the Pantagraph as saying that people who have been suspected of sexual or physical abuse of children, even though charges have not been lodged, should not be able to find work caring for other children.

The mothers who have formed the local support group originally wanted to lobby against a new sex offender bill because it would lighten penalties for some sex offenses.

These are the comments of the "experts": "Many abusers will never change. There's no such thing as a cure for pedophilia." "We don't think there's a cure, but you can learn to control it." "It's just a tragic accident, much like a car crash."

So: you can't cure it; you can only prevent and punish. Teach the kids to say "no" to "bad touches" (when do we teach them to say "yes"?). Don't ask why the molesters do what they do. You may get some answers you don't want to deal with.

--Ferdydurke

Who do I turn to?



Since most people do not sit around thinking about sexual abuse of children, they do not know where to turn for help if their child or a child close to them is the victim of sexual abuse. The following list of agencies, while by no means complete, should give parents and other adults at least a place to start.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)--The official agency of the state of Illinois that is mandated to deal with child abuse. DCFS can only intervene when the abuser is a family member.

Planned Parenthood--Offers workshops for children and parents on OK/Not OK Touches, teaching children how to determine which touches are ok with the child and which are not, and how to say no to adults who touch them in a way that is not ok with them.

Rape Crisis Center--24 hour hotline and outreach. Peer counselors can talk with children, parents, and abusers. Both men and women counselors are available.

Center for Human Services--Professional psychologists and therapists can work with child victims on a sliding fee scale.

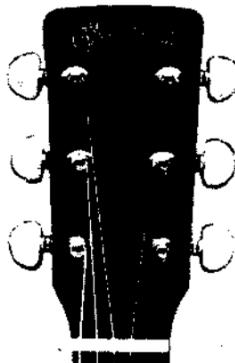
Family Counseling--Professional counselors and therapists who can talk to child victims, families, or parents on a sliding fee scale.

Countering Domestic and Sexual Violence --A service of the YWCA. CDSV offers peer counseling and support to victims of sexual abuse and incest. It also operates a safe house for women and their children.

Consult the Good Numbers column on page 2 of the Post Amerikan for the telephone numbers of these agencies.



Play the BEST!
Play a MARTIN!



WE
MOVED!

to
121 E. Beaufort,
Normal
452-1699

Martin Guitars at great prices
in downstate Illinois

Including a full line
of Sigma Guitars
The medium-priced line
imported by Martin

*** continued from previous page ***

under one or more of these ordinances. For example, the President of Illinois Wesleyan must be routinely violating Section 63, for the college "knowingly ...bring...any pauper in the City not belonging hereto, or shall aid or abet the same, or shall supply with means of assist any such pauper or person likely to become a pauper to come into or remain in the City ...shall be subject to a fine" each time it sends out a financial aid form.

All jokes aside ("You're so ugly you should be arrested"), there are serious potential problems with many of the ordinances in the misdemeanor chapter. Sections 65 and 66 prohibit disorderly ("boisterous") houses: Section 24 outlaws indecent writing and Section 25 outlaws indecent articles. Sleeping in public places is prohibited by Section 28. Section 4 prohibits "burglars' tools" or things that can be used as such, and says that, insofar as the intended use of the tool goes, you are guilty unless you can prove your innocence.

The Code is particularly critical of sexual license. Section 27 prohibits the bringing into the City, selling, keeping, showing or advertising any immoral publications, pictures, instruments or articles.

Section 72 is particularly sweeping.

"No person shall sell or offer to sell, give away, or offer to give away, distribute, or have in his possession...any pamphlet, advertisement...or notice of any kind purporting the treatment of... describing or explaining genital organs, giving...the nature and remedies of disease peculiar to females,...impotency, sterility or barrenness, gonorrhoea, gleet, stricture, syphilis... or the cause or remedies for abortion or miscarriage or articles or means of preventing conception or to give information from whom or to whom such information or medicine may be obtained." Enforcement

Narcs buying; narcs selling; in-betweens busted

Pompano Beach, Florida, undercover narcotics officer Doug Cable had a kilogram of uncut cocaine for sale, but no buyers for it, until a couple of local people told him about some guys in Fort Lauderdale who were swimming in cash and desperate for dope.

Since Cable's block of pure was going for just \$22,000--\$10K per pound--these local guys talked the Fort Lauderdale buyers into bidding \$52,000 for it, and then set up a meet between Cable and the buyers in a Pompano hideaway.

Luckily, the two Fort Lauderdale narcs posing as the buyers in this drugs transaction thought to check out the local "police intelligence" pool before strapping on their guns and going to meet with these murderous desperadoes. Thus they learned, right on the eve of the transaction, that the main desperado there would be Doug Cable, a police officer.

So they sensibly decided to call off the scam.

But the Florida state prosecutor handling this setup ordered them to go ahead with the deal, so as to establish a case against the two go-betweens for conspiracy to stand around while police officers traded police money for police cocaine.

So everyone met at the Pompano Beach hideout after all, and dope and money and guns and badges were flourished and the go-betweens went up on charges.

"When the government permits itself to become enmeshed in criminal activity," droned circuit judge Stanton Kaplan of Broward County, "from beginning to end, the same underlying objections which render entrapment objectionable to American criminal justice are operative." Kaplan pitched the whole case out once and forever.

"The government was simply buying cocaine from itself through them, and then charging them with the crime," the judge said.

--from High Times, June '84

of this ordinance would restrict not only Planned Parenthood, but also all of the hospitals and MDs and most of the churches.

Election signs

The Code has two other chapters that I find onerous. One prohibits all non-election political signs. Perhaps the City Council will rewrite that one when Normal's similar prohibition is struck down as the result of ACLU's suit.

Chapter 14 is entitled "Defamatory Publications." It prohibits the publication, composing, printing, uttering, distributing, posting or



"Everybody said I should go into show business but my heart is in police work."

causing to be exposed to public view of any:

"instrument containing any statements, opinions, signs, pictures of the like or any other matter derogatory to the character of any person or impeaching his honesty, integrity, virtue, or reputation or exposing him to public hatred, contempt, ridicule or financial injury"

Also, "The truth of any matter contained on any such instrument shall not constitute a defense in a prosecution . . . even though published with good motives and justifiable ends, and the truth of the matter shall not be competent evidence in such prosecution." Finally, no complaint is necessary, and the Chapter limits the evidence required to obtain a conviction.

I realize that most of these will seem to be unenforceable, like the laws that come up in believe-it-or-not articles ("In Flim-Flam, VA, dogs may only shake hands with the left paw"). Some probably are. But some of these are enforced, and the rest lay waiting for any Nazi or Communist (or other type who believes that the people exist for the state, instead of the state existing for the people) to come around and make a lot of trouble for a lot of good people. I hope that the City Council will see fit to revise the Code and get rid of the elephantman ordinances.

--Tom Hess

MOTHER MURPHY'S
 111 1/2 NORTH ST.
 NORMAL, ILL.
 UPSTAIRS

USED RECORDS
 WE BUY 'EM - WE SELL 'EM - WE TRADE 'EM

TOBACCO IMPORT CIGS. PIPES CASES LIGHTERS

ROCK AND HARLEY POSTERS
 N' ROLL PARAPHERNALIA T-SHIRTS

CAPS SPIKED LEATHER BUTTONS
 BANDANAS WALL HANGINGS SHADES

MUCH MORE AND ALWAYS IN-SHOP SPECIALS

What goes up comes down

Whatever happened to the little green people who came in peace and wanted to meet our leader?

Though stories range from flying saucers to airplanes to "space debris," most accounts agree that something was unusual in the skies over the central and eastern United States Sunday night, May 20.

Official word from the North American Aerospace Defense Command, according to the May 23 Pantagraph, is that the same object was sighted by everyone, and that the object was a piece of garbage from a Soviet space station. The defense command called the object an "undetermined piece of debris," the story said.

In a May 22 story in the Pantagraph, the defense command admitted nothing, but said it tracks all human-made objects in space and it was "extremely doubtful" that something could slip by the command's attention.

Sounds like the defense command did some fast thinking between May 22 and May 23.

When in doubt, it's always possible--and maybe even desirable--to blame the Soviets. Unfortunately, we'll probably never know what the defense command knows--or doesn't know, since we have to rely on them for the facts.

Conceivably, what people saw Sunday night was a satellite or space station part burning as it entered the earth's atmosphere. There's probably all kinds of junk up there.

But how do we know that it's not one of our own secret spy satellites that we're not supposed to know about? And why don't we have a confirmation, or denial, or refused comment from the Soviet Union? Are we in central Illinois too ready to accept whatever the government wants us to believe?

Whether it's Ours or Theirs, the thought that humanity is being pelted with its own garbage is a little nauseating. Especially when compared to the once-popular notion that we would be visited (and perhaps rescued) by superior beings from another planet who had survived their own Cold War.

--Imogene Blackstone

THE VIEW FROM THE PORTHOLE



Hmmm. . .

Lest we forget--slow breaking news from Portland, Oregon: Though the temperature dropped only to the low 40s, it was a severe winter for Portland. More than 100 people of Burnside's skid row community, many of them elderly, died--from alcoholism and its associated diseases, from exposure, from suicide.

One hundred fifty members of the community gathered for a memorial service at the Downtown Chapel. The names of the deceased were read one by one. One lady said softly from the pews, "They were very fine people; we will miss them."

Source: Willamette Week, Apr. 2-8, 1984.

A research team of the National Cancer Institute, headed by Deborah M. Winn, PhD, just reported on a study of the diets of 227 women with cancer of the pharynx, tongue, gums or mouth, and of the diets of 405 women who had none of these cancers. The report concluded that the greater the consumption of fruits and vegetables, the lower the risk of cancer in these sites. It concluded a similar result about breads and cereals, especially the fiber-containing whole grains.

For example, women who ate at least 21 servings of fruit and vegetables a week ran only half the risk of those who had less than 11 servings a week.

Source: Tufts University Diet and Nutrition Letter, May, 1984.

According to recent studies, one in ten gay people in the United States has been assaulted or wounded with a weapon.

Source: May '84 correspondence from the Fund for Human Dignity, Inc.

The unscrupulous marketing of infant milk formula has not been stopped. It is true that after six years of work, mainly under the leadership of INFACT, the Swiss corporation Nestle has pledged to abide by the WHO/UNICEF Code in its infant formula trade.

This was an important step. Nestle was indiscriminately inducing Third World mothers to put their newborn babies on milk formula. The Code opposes this practice because, once on formula the baby can, and usually does, die from either of a pair of options. The options are these: Because the ordinary Third World family lacks refrigeration and facilities for sterilizing containers, it cannot maintain a safe diet for the infant using formula. But while the infant is on formula, the mother's natural milk dries up. The child then succumbs either to infection from unclean

milk or to dehydration from no milk, or both.

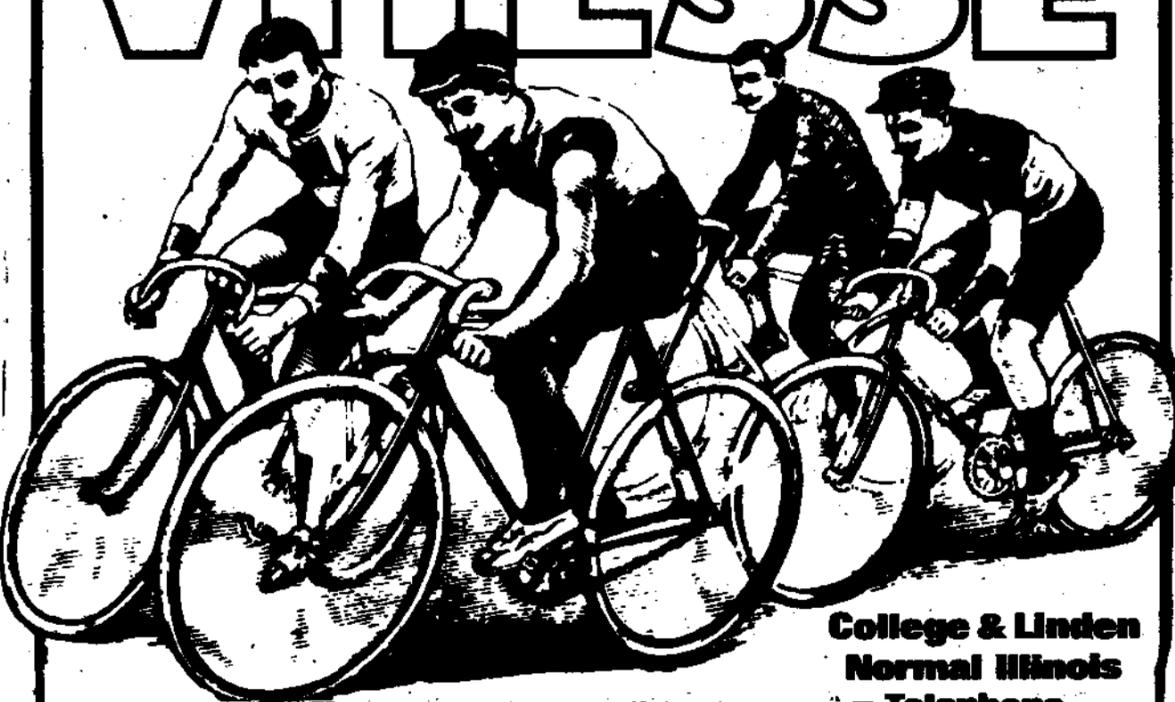
Nestle has signed a pledge, and if they follow through, infants' lives will be saved. But this month INFACT is telling us that three American companies are still marketing formula in violation of the WHO/UNICEF Code: Bristol Myers, Abbott Laboratories, and American Home Products.

In case you do not recognize American Home Products, its products include Chef Boy-ar-dee, Anacin and Dristan, Preparation H (marketed by the subsidiary Whitehall), Sani-Flush and Wool-ite (marketed by the subsidiary Boyle-Midway).

Source: INFACT (Infant Formula Action Coalition), 310 East 38th St., Minneapolis, MN 55409.

--Russell Dunwilling

VITESSE



- Quality Bicycles in All Price Ranges
- Free Service Policy with New Bicycles
- Parts, Accessories & Service for All Types
- 30 Day Warranty on Repairs

College & Linden
Normal Illinois
Telephone
454-1541

College & Linden • Normal Illinois

RALEIGH • SEKAI • MOTOBECANE • FUJI • TREK

Exclusive Interview

on the
MUSIC SCENE

Uptown Rulers

For starters, let me apologize for the several issues of the Post that have gone Red-less. I've been busy. Despite all of the downers around (Robin Plan getting axed, Duran Duran, et cetera), there was still a kicking music scene. Spike's re-opening of the Gallery, the quality of Mosey's recent acts, the Violent Femmes at Wesleyan (?), and a few local bands that just don't quit--these are all reasons to be cheerful, McLean Countyites! So don't despair, step lively!

And lively musical cheer has been coming from one outfit, the ska/reggae/rock-steadying Uptown Rulers, for over three years now. They've become steadily more original, but are still a sure thing for fun. In a world filled with mechanized cruelty and nuclear uncertainty, that's not a bad thing to be. You like your white-boy reggae to stridently swing? Then these guys are definitely the ones. Along with Beer Nuts (who don't sound nearly as good), the Rulers are probably the most widely-enjoyed exports that this place has.

If you caught their act at Mosey's on the 17th, you'll know what I mean. It was a night filled with happy, hummable melodies, pulsing tightness, and a welcome measure of on-stage spontaneity that separated them far and away from other purveyors of the Jamaican sound in these parts.

But hey--most of you hipsters probably knew that already. What you probably didn't, though, is that the Uptown Rulers are about to release a 7 inch E.P., a four-song sampler on red vinyl (and Red Scare Records) entitled "Speak Out." The songs are originals, and they make you want to dance. They also contain socially relevant words that you can think on after your sweat and panting subsides.

Old Red spoke with the group about the new record and other topics. Here are some capsules of what was said--

Red: Tell me about the EP; what songs are on it?
Chris Grigoroff (lead vocals): Well, it starts out with "Somebody Else's Fun," which is just a little song about this guy who gets in love with this girl, and it turns out this girl's got 2 or 3 different guys. Kind of a funny little ditty.

Dennis Willan (keyboards, vocals): It's kind of like--new-wave reggae-ska rumba. . .

G: Then there's "Bay of Kids," a song Mike (Goodrich, lead guitarist and vocalist) wrote--one of his best songs, I think. It's kind of a comment on the Amerikan situation. Then on side two there's first "Leaky Roof," which is mine. (A powerful anti-nuke song masked in blitheful, nursery-type melody--Red.) "Nightclub Dying" is the other song--all about bars closing down--kids having no place to go . . .

Red: About the EP as a package. . .

G: Well, it's good and it's cheap. We're gonna sell it for two, maybe three dollars. I don't know, it's just something we recorded in Cham-paign on a twelve-track studio in a matter of 6 or 7 hours. . . We liked the way it sounded and decided to have it pressed.

Red: What makes Uptown Ruler Music valid?

W: Well, for one thing, we're not trying to follow any kind of formula. And we're trying to combine elements of things that we all love, like ska, and reggae, and rocksteady, and all of that Jamaican pop music--plus there are some other elements that creep in and make it "our" music. . . We've got all these ele-

ments around inside the band. Chris has bluegrass roots, I've played country and gospel and classical--my degree was in piano at Eastern--also flat-out rock, and country-rock; Mike's played bluegrass and blues--so that all gets mixed up in there.

Red: Can you single-out your chief musical influences--artists who have left their mark on your playing?

W: Oh yeah. There's Mose Alison--I love him, listen to him all the time; Jerry Lee (Lewis)--one of my main people; Ray Charles--as a piano player; and the old boogie people--like Pete Johnson and Albert Ammands; and people like Professor Longhair--one of my all-time favorites; James Booker; a and then jazz pianists--Thelonious Monk, Bill Evans, Brubeck. . .

G: Well, I've been playing country music all my life. Bluegrass was a facet of it, you know. I played in a couple of bands where we did a lot of that. I think there's a big tie between liking country music and liking reggae. Real country music--not the stuff you hear on the radio, but real country music--involves singing what your life's about and what's wrong and what's right. And that's what reggae is. It's not love song after love song.

Red: I'm sure that a lot of Post readers, who've seen that band live, have asked themselves: "Who is that guy on stage? Is he getting-off on his playing? On making us dance and feel good?"

Joe Adducci (bass, Vocals): Well, it comes from all directions--the energy of the audience, the energy of the other musicians, and how we're all together playing. When I'm up there, though, I'm just thinking about the song in general lots of times. I listen to everything and everyone as a whole, and it's just a sort of chemistry. . . I think the main thing is just to believe in what you're doing. I want what's coming from the band to be sincere and fresh.

Red: What musical influences have you had that stand out most in your musical development?

Goodrich: The biggest musical influences, that have stood out, are almost all of the blues recordings I ever heard in my life. If it were any thing, it's be the blues.

Red: For Joe Public out there, what is the blues?

Gd: Well, Joe Public's felt the blues. Everybody's felt the blues. Some people have a reason to feel the blues--the deeper the feelings, the more heartfelt the blues. We're talking about feelings here, we're talking about emotion. And emotion, manifesting itself in music--that's what the blues is . . .

Red: And how does your blues background fit with reggae?

Gd: Well reggae is real emotional. And in some ways, not so much in what the words say, necessarily, but how they're expressed. That's the great thing about blues and jazz singers--where the feeling is so examined, it's so artistic, it's like the ballet of the voice. . .

New wave over Ohio?

RBA update

Last month's cover story ("Radio Station Ramrods Robin Plan") detailing radio station WRBA's shoddy treatment of new wave deejay Robin Plan has a happy postscript.

The flamboyant AM disc jockey, fired by station management for not fitting into the station's increasingly conservative format, won unemployment benefits on an appeal and has since found employment at an AM station outside of Cincinnati. "It's a night slot," Plan told the Post prior to her departure, "which is ideal for me." We at the Post wish Robin luck and look forward to seeing trade mag publicity for the new show.



Back in plain old Normal, the "new" RBA continues to offer its pale imitation of WBNQ and WLS. Replacement jock Denny Rogers is a professional voice, but the music is about as distinctive as a box of generic saltines. This reporter has already torn his RBA bumper sticker off the back of his Pacer. . .



OPERATION RECYCLE - 1100 W. Market St., Bloomington, IL 61701 - 829-0471
McLean County's Only Full-Service Non-profit Recycling Center

Buyback Now Open

Wednesdays 9 am-noon

Saturdays 9 am-noon

We buy newspapers (1/2c lb)

glass (1c lb)

and

aluminum cans (26c lb)



BOTTLES, CANS, JARS, PAPER



release new record

on the
MUSIC SCENE

Red: When the band first began, what were your plans at that time? And have they changed any? Did you set any clear goals, or did you just let it happen?

Grig: Well, I think we kind of let it happen, but we did have some goals to advance ourselves. I mean, we always had the goal of getting where we aren't yet--you know, the big record thing, the national thing--those goals were set from day one. . .

Red: Is there a seriousness in the statements the Rulers make in their songs?

Gr: Sometimes there is. But not all of the time. We'll just pop off a song sometimes that has these happy, dumb words. . . . There's nothing being said there except--"Have some fun. Life is fun." But there are other times when I write--and I'm sure Mike, too--when it's words. . . trying to say something, whether it be something about a relationship, or what's going wrong with the world. I think there are times when there are definite convictions.

Red: The Rulers are known, though, as an upbeat, fun kind of band.

Gr: Right. Well, I think there's a way to present a serious statement in a real upbeat song. It doesn't matter. Just because it has down words, it doesn't have to have down music, too.

Next issue, Red interviews kinetically heady diaTribe! Don't miss it!

--Red Newton



The Uptown Rulers

MTV: Porno without the punch

Contrary to popular belief, there is one difference between MTV and porno movies--that is, MTV has no redeeming qualities.

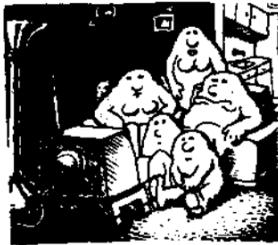
Now that you know where my prejudices lie, allow me to explain. Let's take a brief look at pornography (so to speak). I'm a woman, and I understand all the reasons why pornography can be (and often is) disgusting. Everyone knows that it sometimes glorifies rape, perpetrates violence (NOT just against women) and generally exploits people. And let's not forget that sometimes it's it's boring.

But listen--I admire the honesty of porno, and let's forget about Larry "Born Again" Flynt for the sake of the argument. When you go to a porno movie, you have a pretty good idea of what you're going to see. C---s, c---s, and everything in between (so to speak). There is no question about why someone goes to see porno. Whatever your bag may be, you do it to get off, and you already know it's dirty. It's supposed to be. It isn't respectable. It's not for the squeamish (What IS that THING?!).

Now if you go back to my description of porno and compare it with MTV, their videos share all the bad aspects of porno--rape, violence, boredom, and have some despicable characteristics that porno wouldn't touch with a ten-foot pole (so to speak). Have you ever seen a porno movie interrupted by insipid, dodo-brain commercials? And back to the honesty of the hard-working porno movie...Videos are in no way, shape or form even remotely honest about anything. They are completely self-serving, and are about as exciting as seeing some rock god preen him/herself in front of a big mirror--ME!

That is truly disgusting.

Let's add to this growing list of disadvantages the fact that they are trying to coerce the public into buying their equally vapid records. And the public has to pay for the privilege of letting the big record companies sell them a product! I mean, come on!! Radio is FREE. Hour for hour, MTV is cheaper than going to see a porno movie, but then, you get what you pay for.



Well, I have one more big gripe about video music before I have to go wipe the foam from my mouth, and it's the biggest gripe of all. Usually, the audience at a porno is monitored so only adults can get in; adults who already have formed their impressions of violence, sex, and the sexes, however twisted they may be. MTV admits anybody, any age, and bombards them with glittering images of Golden Boys and Golden Girls, with their shorts cut clear up to HERE and their blouses cut clear down to THERE! If you've ever watched MTV for more than half an hour, I'm sure you've seen mock rapes, murders, monsters, and an enough blatant exploitation of women to make even the most timid feminist cringe. And it's all respectable. And highly available. And it's supposed to be really groovy.

I think neither pornography nor music videos are inherently evil, but they suffer from the same problem. More often than not, they're in the hands of the wrong people. Of course, I would never suggest that I know who the "right" people are. But pornography does exist, as well as "good" video. I only regret that so much garbage has to come along before the good stuff floats to the top. And as everyone knows, turds float too.

--LVD

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

Covert U.S. aid behind El Salvador's death squads

by Allan Nairn
(Excerpted from *Progressive*, May '84)

Early in the 1960's, during the Kennedy Administration, agents of the U.S. Government in El Salvador set up two official security organizations that killed thousands of peasants and suspected leftists over the next 15 years.

These organizations, guided by American operatives, developed into the paramilitary apparatus that came to be known as the Salvadoran Death Squads.

Today, even as the Reagan Administration publicly condemns the Death Squads, the CIA--in violation of U.S.

law--continues to provide training, support, and intelligence to security forces directly involved in Death Squad activity.

Interviews with dozens of current and former Salvadoran officers, civilians and official American sources disclose a pattern of sustained U.S. participation in building and managing the Salvadoran security apparatus that relies on Death Squad assassinations as its principal means of enforcement.

Evidence of U.S. involvement covers a broad spectrum of activity. Over the past twenty years, officials of the State Department, the Central Intelli-

gence Agency, and the U.S. Armed Forces have:

****conceived and organized ORDEN**, the rural paramilitary and intelligence network described by Amnesty International as a movement designed to "use clandestine terror against government opponents." Out of ORDEN grew the notorious **Mano Blanco**, the White Hand, which a former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Raul H. Castro, has called "nothing less than the birth of the Death Squads."

****conceived and organized ANSESAL**, the elite presidential intelligence service that gathered files on Salvadoran dissidents and, in the words of one U.S. official, relied on Death Squads as "the operative arm of intelligence gathering";

****enlisted General Jose Alberto "Chele" Medrano**, the founder of ORDEN and ANSESAL, as a CIA agent;

****trained leaders of ORDEN** in surveillance techniques and use of automatic weapons, and carried some of these leaders on the CIA payroll;

****provided American technical and intelligence advisers** who often worked directly with ANSESAL at its headquarters in the Casa Presidencial;

****supplied ANSESAL**, the security forces, and the general staff with electronic, photographic, and personal surveillance of individuals who were later assassinated by Death Squads. According to Colonel Nicolas Carranza, director of the Salvadoran Treasury Police, such intelligence sharing by U.S. agencies continues to this day;

****kept key security officials--** including Carranza, Medrano, and others--on the CIA payroll. Though the evidence is less conclusive about Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, presidential candidate of the right-wing ARENA party, some of his close

associates describe him as a former recipient of CIA funding;

****furnished intelligence files** that D'Aubuisson used for a series of 1980 television broadcasts in which he denounced dozens of academics, trade unionists, peasant leaders, Christian Democrats, and members of the clergy as communists or guerrilla collaborators. Many of the individuals D'Aubuisson named in his television speeches were subsequently assassinated. The broadcasts launched D'Aubuisson's political career and marked the emergence of the paramilitary front which later became ARENA;

****instructed Salvadoran intelligence operatives** in the use of investigative techniques, combat weapons, explosives, and interrogation methods that included, according to a former Treasury Police agent, "instruction in methods of physical and psychological torture."

****and, in the last decade, violated the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974**, which prohibits spending U.S. funds "to provide training or advice or provide any financial support for police, prisons, or other law enforcement forces for any foreign government or any program of internal intelligence or surveillance on behalf of any foreign government."

(Post-Note: several pages of supporting evidence and interviews are omitted here. Readers are encouraged to go to the library to read the entire article.)

In the 1960s, when the United States was building a Salvadoran security system based on surveillance and assassinations, the enterprise enjoyed unified support within the U.S. government.

Over time, changing political conditions opened something of a rift between the State Department professionals and their Pentagon and CIA

colleagues. During the Carter Administration, their disagreements were often clear and pronounced. Clandestine U.S. ties with the Salvadoran security apparatus remain firm, and appear to have strengthened in the 1980s. Under Reagan, the State Department has been brought back into line. Public and Congressional pressures, however, have compelled the Administration to voice public criticism of the Death Squads even as it secretly funnels aid and intelli-

gence to the military and security forces that run them.

U.S. complicity in the dark and brutal work of El Salvador's Death Squads is not an aberration. Rather, it represents a basic, bipartisan, institutional commitment on the part of six American Administrations--a commitment to guard the Salvadoran regime against the prospect that its people might organize in ways unfriendly to that regime or to the United States.

BELOW: Death Squad victims, murdered in early 1984



U.S. officials taught torture techniques

Rene Hurtado is the pseudonym of a former member of the Salvadoran Treasury Police who now lives in a Minneapolis suburb. In an interview in late March, he said that the Treasury Police, a branch of El Salvador's security forces, would routinely kidnap, interrogate, torture, and then kill political suspects. He claims to have participated in torture sessions and provides a detailed account of the methods employed.

According to Hurtado, U.S. personnel conducted an intelligence course for Treasury officers that included training "in methods of physical and psychological torture."

The intelligence course was given for one month in 1980 at the headquarters of the Salvadoran army general staff, Hurtado says. The instructors did not observe or participate in actual torture sessions. But in the classroom, he says, they discussed such techniques as psychological torture, manual beating, and electric shock. The instructors were sometimes in military uniform, sometimes in civilian dress.

Hurtado, who gave his real name but asked that it not be used, showed documents and photographs verifying his military and Treasury Police service.

At one time, Hurtado held a sensitive position for which he was carefully screened. Following a fight with a superior officer, he was expelled from the military in 1981, he says. He resides in the United States without legal immigration status and is being sheltered by the religious sanctuary movement.

What follows is Hurtado's account of the interrogation and torture methods used by the Treasury Police:

Psychological

First, you try to torture him psychologically. If he's a Marxist or a revolutionary, it's not easy to make him talk, so you have to psychologically harm the prisoner. If the person is important--if he's, let's say, a journalist or a teacher or a labor or student leader, or if he's a person with some leadership or has something to offer--he isn't treated cruelly at the beginning. Well, of course, they may hit him at some time, but after that when he's taken to one of the interrogation rooms, you start by talking to him as a friend, you try to convince him that you understand his idealism.

You might say: "Who are the companeros in your organization and why do they

kill us? How many people have you killed?" You try to trap the person psychologically. You'll say:

"Don't be a fool. Those bastards want to fuck you over, they're using you. We could kill you right here and now, but we're not killers, we're not your enemy. If you collaborate with us, we're going to get you out of the country. We'll give you money, but you have to talk to us, because if you don't, we're going to fuck you over."

When you are trying to interrogate for the first time, you try to come across as a sensitive, decent person--not as a killer. You make friends with him. You ask him where his mom and dad live, you talk about his wife and kids. It has a tremendous impact when he knows his kids have been captured but doesn't know where they are.

But after using these methods for a few days or a week or two, you start getting tough. You will say:

"Look those bastards are giving me a lot of shit. Because they want you to talk, they're going to beat the shit out of you. And I don't want those bastards to think I'm screwing up. So if you don't talk, I'm going

to turn you over to those fuckers and they're going to beat the piss out of you."

Physical

After these sessions, the physical torture begins. First, you put the prisoner in a small, completely dark room, and you don't let him sleep. You place him, naked and handcuffed, on a bed frame. The room stinks horribly because of the urine and excrement of former prisoners, and you keep him there for a week without sleep so that his nerves will be shot when you start to torture him.

When the actual physical torture begins, there are a lot of different methods: cutting off pieces of his skin, burning him with cigarettes. They teach you how to hit a person in the stomach, but in a sophisticated way so the person suffers a lot of pain but you don't see signs on the outside. Or sometimes you just beat his hands and beat him in the stomach, either with fists or with heavy sticks. Beat him and beat him and beat him.

After that, if he still doesn't talk, you take him to a toilet filled with excrement. You put on gloves and shove his head in the toilet for thirty

seconds or so. You pull him out, then shove his head in again. You do this over and over.

Then you wash him and take him to the electric shock room. There's a special torture room in the Treasury Police; only the intelligence section can enter, no uniformed men are allowed. It's soundproof so they don't hear anything outside.

Shocks

You learn how to give electric shocks, shocks to the brain, shocks to the stomach. There are some very sophisticated methods for this kind of torture. It's a little machine; you use a cord like a telephone, like an old phone with a crank and you start turning the crank. You do it with different wires; they're small. There's a more sophisticated one that looks like a radio, like a transformer; it's about fifteen centimeters across, with connecting wires. It says General Electric on it.

It's like if you have a stereo and you don't know how to use it, you learn: This generates twenty volts, this forty volts, this will give a serious blow, this less so, this one will kill a person.

You put the wires on the prisoner's vital parts. You place the wires between the prisoner's teeth, on the penis, in the vagina. The prisoners feel it more if their feet are in water, and they're seated on iron so the blow is stronger. If you put mineral water on them and then do the shock, it's agonizing.

In general, you will kill the prisoners because there's an assumption they shouldn't live. If we pass them to the judge, they'll go free and we'll maybe have to pick them up again. If there's lots of pressure--like from Amnesty International or some foreign countries--then we might pass them on to a judge, dead. When it's over, you just throw him in the alleys with a sign saying "Mano Blanco," ESA (Secret Anticommunist Army), or Maximiliano Hernandez Brigade (Three names commonly used by Salvadoran Death Squads).

You learn how to torture, how to cut the balls off a person when he's still alive. These are the things that happen in war.

--Allan Nairn
from *Progressive*
May '84

Mayor snitches on own daughter

Police raided a teenage drinking party at 1206 E. Jefferson April 13. They rounded up five alleged underage drinkers, including the mayor's daughter, and scared away even more.

Police were responding to a call from Bloomington Mayor Richard Buchanan, who also heads the city liquor commission. The party was at Mayor Buchanan's home, though the mayor was not there to play host.

Cover-up

The Pantagraph's original news story reported only that the party occurred in the 1200 block of East Jefferson Street.

Since the partyers were juveniles, there were no names published. A reader would never have connected the party with the mayor.

A week later, a letter-to-the-editor charged the Pantagraph with deliberately covering up the party's location in order to protect the mayor.

The Pantagraph editor printed a brief response. It said that the "news

department lacked the information conveyed by the letter-writer, believed to be essentially correct, until after the original article appeared."

They had the information. Either they didn't know they had it, or they chose to downplay it. But they had it. I read the police report the Pantagraph story was based on. The party's exact address is listed. The Pantagraph normally prints the exact address in police stories. But not this time. Why? One of those arrested lived in the house. The names are all on the report (which is stamped YOUTH partly to remind the reporter not to print the actual names). Most reporters know the mayor's name. If not, they should. An alert reporter would have known it might be the mayor's house.

Discretion?

The police report helps the mayor out a little bit. Without identifying Richard Buchanan, Officer Dan Fritchley wrote only that he had "permission from the owner" to enter the house. Was Fritchley attempting to be discreet on behalf of His Honor?

Whatever the explanation for the Pantagraph's and the police's actions, we know the reasons for the mayor's: the law is, after all, the law. It is supposed to be enforced equally against everyone (except when you're not supposed to enforce it equally against everyone). And it certainly takes a liquor commissioner of strong character and conviction to turn his own family in to the police. If only everyone were more like our mayor....

But a snitch is a snitch. And no one has any call to be turning people in to the police for victimless crimes like consuming alcohol.

But what if the mayor hadn't snitched on his daughter?

Well, then he'd probably have to read some vicious diatribe in the Post Amerikan about liquor commission hypocrisy, selective enforcement, special favors and the undemocratic privileges of rank.

Holding public office is a thankless task.

--Mark Silverstein

Call 1-800-BAD-STUF; Report anything

State narcotics authorities have once again launched their "Operation Cash Crop" to locate and destroy outdoor marijuana plants and fields.

According to a Pantagraph article, William Doster, who heads the Illinois Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), said state narcs will use airplanes to search suspected pot-growing areas.

They will also count on tips from the public. Doster encouraged people to call Operation Cash Crop's toll free number. Information will remain confidential, he said.

According to Doster, investigators last year received more than a thousand calls from the public--"so many that DCI could not keep up with them," the Pantagraph reported.

So, folks, pick up that telephone and start calling. Every misleading tip could tie down an investigator. Enough of them could protect plants until harvest.

Doster claimed that the program in 1983 resulted in the seizure of 47,000 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$20 million. That comes to over \$500 per plant.

Marijuana growers interviewed by the Post Amerikan scoffed derisively at Doster's figures. They said plants grown with controlled indoor lighting under the best conditions with regular care would bring at most \$200 each.

Doster said the state only spent \$118,000 on Operation Cash Crop last year, which the head narc called "extremely cost effective."

Using his inflated figures for the pot plants' value, Doster claimed the program had a 170 to 1 return on the state's investment.

Unfortunately, opponents of pot prohibition can't come forward and publicly challenge Doster's self-serving lying statistics.

But we can get on that telephone, folks. Let's send those narcs on a nice tour of the state's most inaccessible areas. Or send them to a remote corner of the country club's golf course. Get out a map and



Do you really think a senile actor who can't tell the difference between reality and fantasy can go one on one against the ruthless, lying, power-hungry men who rule Russia?

--An unpaid political announcement by the "Bring Back Dick in '84" Committee.

figure out where you think those nasty potheads are growing their despicable weed. Remember, your tips can be anonymous, and the narcs special number is open 24 hours a day.

--Mark Silverstein

City outlaws water dep't home invasions

Bloomington Water Department meter readers are forbidden to enter occupied residences without permission, according to a new ordinance effective June 1. The city council passed the measure May 14.

The ordinance's passage brings to a happy close this dramatic series of monthly updates which has kept Post Amerikan readers yawning for five consecutive issues.

The issue became an item for city action in January, when the Post Amerikan first revealed the water department's existing policy. The policy, which city officials at first supported but later rejected, is this: water meter readers first knock on the door; if there is no answer, they try the door; if it is unlocked, the meter readers enter and read the meter.

Since meter readers sometimes entered homes without the owners' consent or knowledge, the American Civil Liberties Union called the policy an unconstitutional invasion of privacy.

Judy Whitehart of the Water department told the Post Amerikan that because of the new ordinance, meter readers will be distributing authorization cards in the next few weeks. People who want the water meter readers to enter their homes can sign the cards.

No homes will be entered unless the water department has received a card authorizing such entry, Whitehart said.

Only people who have previously given verbal permission to enter will get the cards, according to Whitehart.

--Mark Silverstein

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

In ACLU lawsuit

Normal officials cronyism costs taxpayers

Normal city government, through its private consulting law firm headed by a crony of several officials, has been shamelessly carving out a double standard for who can benefit from the public largesse.

And events surrounding the successful American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against the city's sign code also point up the extent to which some in government will use their power to carry out personal vendettas.

The latest outrage in the case was the city's attempt to deny attorneys' fees to the ACLU--an attempt which not only failed but added even more to the several thousands of dollars the taxpayers already have to pay for a suit that should never have been defended.

First a little history. When the city planning commission was considering a new sign code back in 1982, ACLU officials clearly warned that restricting the private display of political signs would result in unwanted litigation. Both the commission and the city council proceeded to ignore those concerns, even though the corporation counsel at the time, Alan Novick, agreed with many of ACLU's legal arguments.

At about the same time, the council ordered City Manager David Anderson to fire Novick. That timing was probably only coincidence, but one reason for the ouster was probably Novick's inability to tell the politicians what they wanted to hear regardless of legal consequences.

Enter Fleming

Into the picture entered private attorney Robert Fleming, who several years before worked for the city and remains a close crony of Anderson and several councilmembers. The city retained Fleming as a \$75-an-hour legal

consultant until a new corporation counsel could be found. When the sign code came up for adoption, Fleming advised the council that it could indeed limit political speech, and approval followed swiftly.

Fleming, of course, is an old timer who knew how to give the advice the council wanted. But since he was being paid by the hour, he also stood to gain from the coming lawsuit no matter the outcome. It is safe to say that a salaried attorney aware of the constitutional precedents would



have studied the merits of the code more closely.

As predicted, the ACLU took the city to court, where it won every step of the way. The ordinance was declared unconstitutional on its face in federal court, even before a hearing was held.

Undaunted by the defeat, the city and Fleming's firm then embarked on a

vigorous fight to discredit the ACLU before the court in hopes of cutting the attorneys' fees it was entitled to as winner in the case.

We'll never know

The public will probably never know how much it paid to defend a blatantly illegal law. As an investigation reported in the *Pantagraph* revealed, Fleming refused to disclose how much his own firm made in fees on the case. The city paid Fleming for that and other legal work in lump sums which did not show what was done for how much.

In spite of that slap in the public face, the firm's lawyers had the arrogance to turn around and tell the federal judge that they did not think the ACLU showed proper "justification" for the \$5,000 in fees it sought. Wayne Coffelt, a partner of Fleming, actually claimed that the ACLU's sole aim was to reap windfall profits out of the city by filing the suit in the first place.

Ah, the proverbial pot-and-kettle syndrome in all its glory. No only did Coffelt's firm refuse to justify, or even disclose, its own windfall, but on top of that the firm was earning \$75 an hour while disputing the ACLU fee request. And apparently working harder at that portion of the case than when it was getting trounced on the legal merits.

The judge didn't buy the sour grapes ploy, and awarded \$4,700 to the ACLU. So now the taxpayers can pay that amount, plus the untold legal fees the city already paid, plus another bill from Fleming's firm for its expensive time spent fighting the fee request.

And all because of a grudge which city officials and Fleming's firm held against the ACLU for picking on them.

--Murray Poppins

Normal chief blames victims for rape

A comment by Normal Police Chief David Lehr quoted in the May 4 *Pantagraph* slandered ISU women. Lehr's comment also implied that rape victims' conduct is responsible for the attacks they sustain.

Lehr was quoted while attending a rape awareness workshop. His comments confirm the need for such workshops, especially for him.

In contrast to the previous town he lived in, Lehr said, more women are not coming forward to report rape in Normal.

"We have tremendous under-reporting," the *Pantagraph* quoted Lehr. "We average five reports a year in a town that has 20,000 college students--half

of them women who walk the streets at night in an intoxicated state."

Many ISU women (one of whom wrote a letter to the *Pantagraph*) are outraged by Lehr describing them as drunks.

Also, Lehr's implication--that women who do not wish to be raped should not walk at night, especially after drinking--unfairly places blame on rape victims, not rapists.

Why doesn't Lehr say that he knows more rapes are probably occurring because there are 10,000 drunk men prowling the streets at night?

Most unreported rapes are those in which the victim is acquainted with the attacker in some way. Does Chief Lehr believe that such rapes (or any

rapes?) are more likely to occur if the potential victim is walking at night?

But no matter the circumstances, it's easy to see why rape victims might be reluctant to report their experiences to a police department headed by a man with attitudes like Lehr's.

The correction

Lehr got the *Pantagraph* to print a "correction" of his quotation a couple days later. In the "Setting It Right" column, the *Pantagraph* said "Lehr said yesterday he meant that 10,000 women attend ISU and some are inebriated when they walk from party to party, sometimes in dark sections of town."

In other words, Lehr says only some ISU women are asking for it, not all of them.

Lehr's "correction" marks the second misuse of the *Pantagraph*'s "Setting It Right" column in recent months. (See *Post Amerikan* Feb. 1984 reporting Normal Asst. City Manger Tom DeGuilio's correcting the "inaccurate impression" a quotation left in the readers' minds.) The column is normally used to correct a reporter's error of fact (wrong name, mistaken address). When the newspaper "set it right" for Chief Lehr, there was no implication that the reporter had been guilty of misquoting. Lehr had just failed to say exactly what he "meant" so the *Pantagraph* gave him another chance. This chance to "set it right" is apparently available only to public officials who have the time, energy and influence to raise hell with the editor.

--Mark Silverstein

Welcome in Spring

105 Broadway • Normal

GUITAR WORLD

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

Sanders shatters woman's

Around 9 a.m. on a sunny September morning in 1983, at a major downtown intersection, Bloomington patrolman Tom Sanders took out his nightstick. He smashed the windshield of Jeannie Luebke's car, while she was sitting behind the wheel. Then Sanders arrested her for resisting a peace officer.

Luebke was acquitted of the resisting charge at a May 14 bench trial which I attended.

Cheese line

On that September morning, the Salvation Army's giveaway of surplus government cheese had been a mess.

Two hundred people had been baking in a long line that was trying everyone's patience.

At one point, pushing from the back caused the entire line to suddenly surge forward. Some people were caught off balance. Jeannie Luebke testified she was shoved into a metal grate, causing bruises along her right side and arm.

Although Luebke denies hitting anyone deliberately, witnesses say Luebke spun around, cussed at the woman behind her, and slapped her in the face.

Everyone was upset and crying. Luebke became more upset when Salvation Army officials refused to let her have her cheese and asked her to leave. Luebke left, unaware that police had already been called.

Luebke went to the Haag drugstore, looking unsuccessfully for her sister. Then she doubled back past the Salvation Army again, heading for her car at Madison and Jefferson.

'Unruly female'

Enter Patrolman Tom Sanders.

Sanders' report says he was dispatched to the Salvation Army "where an unruly female was reported on the inside of the building in the cheese line."

Sanders estimated the crowd at several hundred people as he parked his squad at the northwest corner of Roosevelt and Jefferson. As he was radioing his arrival in to headquarters, Jeannie Luebke was crossing the street on the way to her car.

Sanders' reports says he "noticed a young [Luebke is 38--P-A] white female walk directly in front of the squad about 5 feet from it. She appeared unhappy and walked rather swiftly with a deliberate pace without looking directly at the officer." (In court, Sanders said the woman "averted my gaze.")

'Probable cause'

Sanders said he "suspected the woman might be involved but had no probable cause at that time to stop her."

Soon, though, Sanders had what he considered "probable cause." An unidentified bystander approached Sanders, pointed toward the departing woman, and said "I think that's who you're looking for. She hit a woman inside."

Sanders says he called to the woman to stop "two or three times and she continued walking." Sanders says he followed her and yelled to her "very loudly," at which point Sanders says she started running.

'Lady!'

Luebke admits noticing that Tom Sanders was arriving on the scene, but didn't think he was looking for her. She thought police had been called because of the large crowd.

Luebke also admits hearing someone yell "Lady" to her several times. She



says she didn't know it was Sanders. She was afraid that a friend of the woman she'd gotten into it with might be trying to hassle her more.

The prosecuting attorney (a woman) argued that Luebke's continued walking, was evidence of guilt. Give us a break. Does the prosecutor stop and turn around every time she hears an unknown man yell at her to stop? Or does she do what woman have learned for years to do: look straight ahead and keep going.

Just a tap

Luebke got into her car. Sanders says he "tapped" on the driver's side window. Sanders says she looked

MOSEY'S
527 N. MAIN
BLOOMINGTON
829-7760

Fine live music
 Wednesday through Saturday
 Call Mosey's for current lineup

MAY

Wed. 30 **THE FRONT**
 \$1.50 pitchers till 9
 \$1.00 cover til 8 (Rock 'n' Roll)

Thurs. 31 **NIGHT WATCH**
 \$1.50 pitchers til 9
 \$1.00 cover til 8 Hot Rockin' R&B

JUNE

Fri. 1 **KOOL RAY**

Sat. 2 **VANESSA DAVIS BAND**

Wed. 6 (Rock from Peoria)
THE INMATES
 \$1.50 Pitchers til 9
 \$1.00 cover til 8

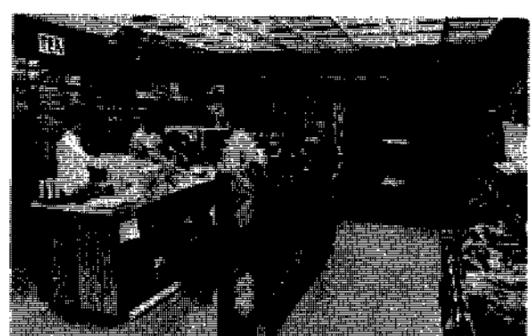
Thurs. 7 **THE GRASSROOTS**
 Midnight Confessions - Wait a
 Million Years - Temptation Eyes -
 Lets Live for Today -
 Sooner or Later, and more!
 *\$5.00 in advance

Fri. 8 **THE ELVIS BROTHERS and NOBODY'S FOOL**
 also **THE DARTS**
 *\$5.00 in advance

Thurs. 14 **THE SPOONS**

*Advance tickets on sale at
RECORD SERVICE
 &
MOSEY'S

(Coming Soon)
BATTLE
 of the
BANDS
 call Mosey's for details



Common Ground

NATURAL FOODS

516 N. Main St.
Bloomington, Ill. 61701

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

windshield with nightstick

directly at him, then turned to the right and started to pull her car out into the street. Sanders says he then jumped in front of the car to "block her escape." But, Sanders says, Luebke pulled forward while turning to the right (Sanders was on the left side of the car's front).

Sanders' report then says "The Officer then struck the driver's side of the windshield of the car causing the driver to then stop the car."

Cover-up?

A remarkable bit of understatement. In court, Sanders testified that he took out his nightstick and "tapped" the windshield, causing it to shatter. Nothing in Sanders' report says anything about the nightstick. Nor does Sanders' report reveal that he "tapped" the windshield so hard that it broke the glass. Was Sanders hoping to hide his overreaction from his superiors?

Sanders' omission also serves to make Luebke's behavior appear irrational. Sanders' next sentence reads, "The driver then rolled down the window and started yelling at the Officer." Readers of Sanders' report would be more understanding of Jeannie Luebke's alleged reaction if they were informed that the woman had just experienced the sudden smashing of her windshield by an officer's nightstick.

Once he had obtained Luebke's attention in such a dramatic fashion, Officer Sanders got her out of the car. He handcuffed her and arrested

her for resisting a peace officer.

Court

In court, Luebke said she never knew that Sanders was trying to get her to stop until he smashed her windshield. She denied looking directly at him while he was still on the side of the car. She said she first noticed Sanders when she saw a "patch of blue" through her shattered windshield.

Jeannie Luebke was found guilty of battery, for slapping the woman who was pushed into her in the cheese line. But Judge DeCardy believed Luebke's version of what happened after Officer Tom Sanders appeared on the scene. He found her not guilty of resisting a peace officer.

Volatile cop

If a less volatile cop had been dispatched to the scene, Jeannie Luebke's windshield could have survived intact. Sanders did not need to smash it to apprehend her. He didn't even need to stop her at that very moment. He had her license number. The Salvation Army people had her identification. If it turned out the fleeing woman needed to be questioned or charged, she could be found later, after everyone had calmed down.

The Luebke incident is one more example of Tom Sanders' overreacting when he perceives his authority being challenged, especially when such a challenge occurs in front of a crowd.



The Bloomington Police Department needs to institute procedures to screen out such unstable macho cops, before the stack of civil rights lawsuits (see adjoining article) piles up even higher.

--Mark Silverstein

Bloomington cop hit with fourth lawsuit



A suit charging Bloomington Patrolman Tom Sanders with violation of civil rights and use of excessive force was filed in Springfield's Federal District Court in early May.

This is Sanders' fourth suit. The City of Bloomington settled one suit for over half a million dollars last winter. Two more are pending.

The latest suit was filed by attorney David Butler on behalf of Brian Dietrich. The suit is based on an Oct. 30, 1982 incident which occurred in the police station booking room. Dietrich had been arrested by Officer Paul Heintzman for traffic charges and driving while intoxicated.

Tom Sanders was in the booking room when Dietrich was brought in.

Before it was over, Tom Sanders had a broken hand. Brian Dietrich had a battery charge and five days in the hospital.

The lawsuit charges that Officer Sanders "while knowing the plaintiff to be highly intoxicated, provoked plaintiff into a fight by making disparaging remarks about a member of plaintiff's family."

"After provoking the fight with plaintiff," the lawsuit complaint

continues, "Sanders severely beat plaintiff, using excessive force and causing plaintiff bodily harm requiring hospitalization."

Shove

The Post Amerikan interviewed Dietrich in his hospital room a few days after the incident in 1982. He admits he was drunk, real drunk. But he remembers "the cop who was leaning up against the wall. He was jacking his jaw. I didn't get quite what he said, but he was edging me. He said something about my mom."

"I said 'You saying something about my mom?' He said 'yeah' so I went over and shoved him."

"All I did was shove him," Dietrich maintained.

That's when Officer Sanders moved in to effect what he probably called "subduing" Dietrich. Sanders smacked Dietrich in the face, hard enough to break the officer's hand. Dietrich said he was so drunk there was no way he could hit back.

Dietrich went down. He didn't know how long he was out. His nose was bleeding. He had to throw up. He threw up blood. He remembers his clothes, his pants, his socks were full of blood.

Story's story

In an interview shortly after the incident, Donald Story (who was police chief at the time) related some of the findings of his "investigation." Story said Dietrich was very drunk. He said Dietrich had been baiting the officers present, making remarks about their appearances, their mothers.

Story said Dietrich challenged one of the officers to go outside and fight, to take his gun off and fight. "But I expect my men to be able to take a lot of guff," Story said. "The officers laughed it off."

All except Tom Sanders, who apparently returned the baiting.

Donald Story said there was nothing in his reports to suggest that Tom Sanders said anything to provoke Brian Dietrich. (Funny how they leave those sorts of things out.) Story said that while one cop was on the phone explaining the arrest to Dietrich's mother, Dietrich went and shoved Sanders. "So Sanders decked him," Story said.

"His attorney admits Dietrich pushed Sanders," Story said. The police chief rejected the argument that Sanders' punching Dietrich was an overreaction to a mere shove. "I'm not sure I can concur with that," Story said. "My officers should not have to take getting pushed around in the booking room. On the other hand, there are other ways to subdue someone. As I'm sure Sanders knows now [referring to his broken hand], I'm not sure that hitting someone in the head is the best way to restrain them."

"I'm not inclined to think Sanders was out of line on this one," then-Chief Story told the Post Amerikan. "I do think he used some bad judgment."

The current police chief, Lewis DeVault, told the Pantagraph that four lawsuits do not indicate that Sanders is performing poorly. He said that policemen are "easy game" for lawsuits.

--Mark Silverstein

LURED BY THE PROMISE OF A STEADY PAYCHECK, TOOTS AND KAT GET A JOB AT ACME MANUFACTURING, STUFFING "NOVELTY BOSOM PILLOWS"... IMAGINE THEIR SURPRISE WHEN THEY DISCOVER THAT THE PILLOWS ARE FILLED WITH POLYESTER EXPLOSIVES AND ARE BEING TRADED ILLEGALLY WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES!! WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE MERELY FLATULENT MRS. FISHER WAS REALLY A DEMOLITIONS EXPERT??



MY SISTER, the PUNKROCKER

L.V.O. RA-84

WE'D BETTER GET ONE OF THESE PILLOWS AS EVIDENCE!! WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS TO THE AUTHORITIES! IT'S OUR SWORN DUTY AS AMERICANS!

ARE YOU CRAZY? WHOSE SIDE DO YOU THINK THE "AUTHORITIES" ARE ON? THESE BOMBS ARE SOLD TO COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WHERE SMALL REBEL RIGHT-WING FORCES ARE BEING SECRETLY ARMED BY THE U.S! LET'S GET OUTA HERE!!



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!



YOU FOOLS!! DO YOU THINK I AM A FOOL, TOO? YOU'VE BEEN SNOOPING IN AFFAIRS WHICH DON'T CONCERN YOU... AND NOW YOU MUST **PAY!**

MRS. FISHER!! UH... WE...

UH-H-H... WE WERE, AH... JUST STEPPING OUT FOR A BREATH OF FRESH...



YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE VERY CLEVER, DIDN'T YOU? HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THAT CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT? WHAT A SHAME THAT THE COMPANY'S INSURANCE POLICY IS NOT VALID UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN WITH US FOR OVER 2 MONTHS!!



WAIT A MINUTE!! ONE STEP CLOSER AND I BLOW US ALL TO BITS WITH THESE **TITS!!**



WHEN SUDDENLY, THE FACTORY IS PLUNGED INTO TOTAL DARKNESS!!

WHAT? WHERE'S THE LIGHT GO GO I CAN'T SEE!!



AH, BUT WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE RESTORED...

B. BUT... WE'RE SO YOUNG! WE'RE REALLY NICE KIDS ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW US!! HOW CAN YOU BREAK OUR MOTHER'S HEARTS? OH, HOW THEY WILL WEEP!!

VERY GOOD, BILLY... NOW... TAKE THEM TO THE SHREDDING ROOM!!



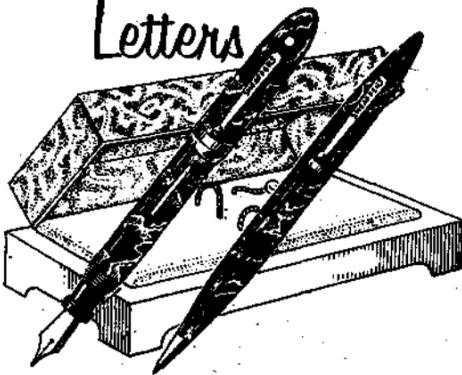
The My Sister, the Punk Rocker T-shirt

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-American
 P.O. Box 3452
 Bloomington, IL 61702

Letters



Too much gay stuff in Post

Dear Post-Amerikan,

As a writer for a local alternative monthly and a reader of your excellent paper, I have a few comments to make. In your Feb. issue there were at least 4 or 5 articles dealing with gay issues. It seems to me that Ferdurdurke, who is your main writer of gay issues and news, gets a lot of space.

I think there are enough publications in the world that devote their full attention to Gay Lifestyle and News. It seems like the Post Amerikan is turning slowly into a Gay newspaper. I hope not. There are many important issues and news to cover in a month. Europe's peace movements, anarchist news, women's news, anti-nuclear news regularly, Alternative Communities regular coverage of Central American struggles.

If Ferdurdurke wants to turn the Post Amerikan into a gay newspaper covertly, then I suggest that he start his own paper solely devoted to the things he feels strongly about. There's room for a newsworthy article each issue on Gay problems, etc., but let's not overdo it, folks.

Even though I'm a straight person, all human beings who are discriminated against need space to write about their oppression. I have nothing against articles on gay issues in the Post Amerikan, but maybe half a page devoted to this issue. This would leave more space to cover other alternative news in the world. I hope I've not offended your gay readership.

Sincerely,
A Post Amerikan Reader
Southbury, Conn.

Hostages want letters

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

John Woodruff A-57811
Box 711
Menard, IL 62259

Rayford Albright N-31626
Box 1000
Lincoln, IL 62656

Ferdurdurke replies:

When Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed California's job-rights bill for gay people two months ago, he cited the 90,000 calls and letters (mostly opposed to the bill) that his office received in two weeks time. In New Orleans, city council members said they received "hundreds of calls and letters" urging them to vote against a proposed gay rights ordinance, which they did. In Massachusetts,

when the state legislature held hearings on the lesbian and gay rights bill (up for the 10th year in a row), so many ministers and other opponents showed up to speak against the measure that the committee had to limit testimony.

The enemies of gay rights are numerous, organized, and vocal. They don't limit their opposition to a token half page a month. They understand the key role that gay oppression plays in their scheme to restrict the personal and sexual freedoms of everyone in the country.

The struggle for gay and lesbian rights should concern us all. The opposition relies heavily on fear: the fear of right-minded people to align themselves with a stigmatized group; the fear of gay men and lesbians to speak out in the face of retribution and rejection; the fear that divides gays from straights and gays from gays. James Baldwin's words to Angela Davis eloquently express the reasons why we must not allow our fears to divide us: "If we know, then we must fight for your life as though it were our own--which it is--and render impassable with our bodies the corridor to the gas chamber. For, if they take you in the morning, they will be coming for us that night."

You are mentally ill.

You should see a psychiatrist.
Not a psychologist.

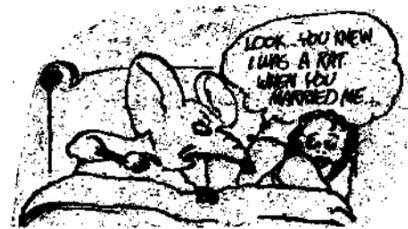
WHY?



Every form of mental therapy has about the same degree of success, but only an M.D. can prescribe drugs. And a psychiatrist is a medical doctor. He spent ten years learning exactly which drugs best suit *your* particular condition.

Remember: the right drug can make you feel good, even when you feel bad.

The Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers



CLASSY-FRIED ADS



WHO BORROWED MY AUTOGRAPHED copy of the children's book Will It Be Okay?

I want it back. Thank you.
Holly.

9th ANNIVERSARY of Vietnam's victory. Read How We Won the War by General Giap. Send \$5.00 (includes handling) to RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Nicaraugan submarine party

"Witness for Peace," a national effort of Americans who have been going to Nicaragua to hold vigils at the war-torn border, will have a fund-raiser, a "sub sandwich party" at 1406 W. Oakland, Bloomington, from 4 p.m.-8 p.m., June 16.

"Witness for Peace" began about two years ago, when a group of religious people from North Carolina visited the border area, site of recent "contra" attacks. The "contras" are the CIA-backed rebels, seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. The delegation realized that "contra" attacks ceased as long as they were in the area.

This led to the idea of Americans going to Nicaragua to hold prayer services and peace vigils at the border. So far, the "contras" have refrained from attacking any area where American citizens are present. Thus U.S. Citizens can serve as a buffer to protect small peasant villages from raids, and serve as a direct sign of solidarity with those peasant populations.

This summer, four Bloomington-Normal residents will be going to Nicaragua as part of the "Witness for Peace" program. Kari Sandhaas, a local artist and art teacher, will be going first, June 23 to July 4. Rick and Sue Heiser of Normal, who both teach at Raymond School, and Tina Sipula of Clare House in Bloomington will be going later in the summer, for a two-week visit.

The June 16 party is the first of a number of fund-raising events planned for the summer. The back-yard party will feature the "fixings" of a sub sandwich and refreshments will be available. The requested donation is at least \$5.00 per adult (children are welcome, too, at any appropriate rate). Other fund-raising events are planned for the summer.

Sending four local representatives to "witness" at the border will cost in excess of \$3000. Your help and generosity, to insure that our community has a sign for peace, and not just the war effort that our tax dollars are now supporting, will be appreciated. Feel free to contact any of the participants for more information or to make a donation. Call 829-4885 or 452-0295 for more information about the party.

MGM

OR needs volunteers

Operation recycle needs volunteers to work on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at its buyback at 1100 W. Market. Volunteers are needed to help recyclers unload their cars, to weigh materials, and to sort items for recycling. Volunteers would be asked to work a 3-hour shift once a month. For more information or to volunteer, contact Myra Gordon at the recycle office, 829-0691.

Operation Recycle expands buyback

Operation Recycle has expanded its buyback hours to include Wednesday mornings from 9 to noon. The buyback is also open every Saturday from 9-noon. The community recycling center buys newsprint, aluminum cans and container glass at the buyback and takes all other recyclables during the sessions.

Materials for sale must be properly prepared. Aluminum cans should be separated from other aluminum and from all tin cans. Newsprint must be kept separate from other kinds of paper. Magazines are not recyclable.

Only container glass is recyclable: no window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, etc., please. All metal rings and lids must be removed from the glass. Labels may be left on and colors may be mixed.

Operation recycle is currently paying out over \$200 a month to recyclers for materials. Those wishing to donate materials can do so by leaving them at one of 4 permanent drop locations--College and Main, the MCCA parking lot at 1100 W. Market or the Morris Tick parking lot at 501 E. Stewart St.

Summer programs at Comlara

The McLean County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring weekend summer programs at Comlara Park Campgrounds beginning June 1st.

The Twin City Amateur Astronomers will present a Friday night program on "Observing the Constellations." The program will begin at 9:00 p.m. in the area north of the campground station. The program will cover the current evening sky through the use of slides, star maps and light pointers. Bring along a flashlight.

The films for Saturday night will be "What Are Friends For?" and "Dog." The movies will begin at dusk in the area north of the campground station. Bring blankets and chairs to sit on.

The programs are for the public and free of charge.

For more information, call 726-1220, Comlara Park Headquarters.

ILLINOIS WRITERS, INC.

and
The PIKESTAFF PRESS

present

The Fifth WORDS FAIR

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1984 12 - 4:30 pm
FRANKLIN PARK BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

(2 BLOCKS SOUTH OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY,
2 BLOCKS EAST OF MAIN STREET)
(Rain Location: The McBarnes Building, 201 E. Grove (Bloomington)
The McLean County Historical Society--
Parking across the street in the Bloomington Federal lot)

READINGS BY FEATURED POETS

KAREN LEE OSBORNE
JOANNE RILEY
LYNETTE SEATOR
STEVE TIETZ

AND OPEN MIKE SESSIONS WHEN ANYONE CAN READ!!!

12:00 - 12:30	JOANNE RILEY and Hosts
12:30 - 1:00	KAREN LEE OSBORNE
1:00 - 2:00	Open Mike
2:00 - 2:30	LYNETTE SEATOR
2:30 - 3:00	STEVE TIETZ
3:00 - 4:00	Open Mike
4:00 - 4:30	IWT Membership Meeting
4:30	Drawing for free bonus books



COME TO LISTEN AND READ YOUR WORK
BRING YOUR BOOKS TO SELL
ENJOY AN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY GRANTS FROM ILLINOIS WRITERS, INC.,
FROM THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY,
AND THE McLEAN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Business card size ads

\$6 for individuals
(businesses slightly higher)

A Great Deal!

Call 828-7232

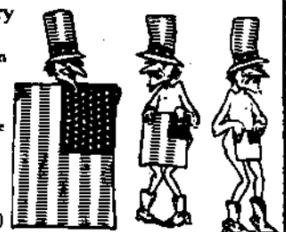
or write P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington

The Incredible 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:
Alyson Publications
PO Box 2783 Dept. B-1
Boston, Massachusetts 02208
\$7.50 postpaid
(reduced rates for multiple copies)





Local gays announce plans

A group of gay people in Bloomington-Normal have been meeting informally on Wednesday evenings for the past few weeks. Mostly members of either Gay People's Alliance and/or the Metropolitan Community Church, the group has decided to form an informal support and social gathering for the summer months.

So far the group has held a potluck, a cookout and a bowling evening. Tentative plans for more summer activities include a camping trip and an organized representation in the Gay Pride March in Chicago in late June.

If you are interested in finding out more about these events, give a call to Gay and Lesbian Information line, 829-2719.

Support group starting

An initial meeting for the Support Group for Parents and Families of Sexually Abused Children will be held July 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Public Library.

The meeting will focus on what support groups are, how support groups can help parents and other family members, common reactions to a child's disclosure of sexual abuse, and any other concerns the people in attendance have.

Members of the Rape Crisis Center of McLean County will be at the meeting and will be available to help get the support group, or groups, started.

The initiative for the support group

began when two families in central Illinois got in touch with each other and found it was very healthy and productive to talk with someone else who was going through the problems of the sexual abuse of children.

Since one of the families is from Bloomington and one is from Pontiac, this initial meeting is open to parents and family members of abused children from both McLean and Livingston counties. The group hopes to have enough interest shown to have support groups in both counties.

Child care will be provided during the meeting by Rape Crisis Center members. People who will be needing child care are asked to call in advance so that enough child care workers can be on hand.

The meeting and the child care are free of charge and open to any interested person.

People wishing more information about the meeting or to help form the support group should call 829-7272 or (815) 844-7403. People wishing more information or help dealing with sexual abuse of children should call PATH at 827-4005 or 1-800-5015 and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Bloomington-Normal will be holding a couple of special meetings in coming weeks. Inquirer classes will be given on Sunday, June 10 in the afternoon and on Wednesday, June 13 in the evening. These classes are for anyone interested in finding out about MCC and the group's philosophy. The inquirer sessions will be held at 501 W. Mulberry St. in Bloomington.

A workshop on "Homosexuality and the Bible" will be given at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, at the Unitarian Church on E. Emerson St. Regular Sunday evening meetings of MCC will continue to be held 7 p.m. in the Walker Room of the Unitarian Church.

For more information about MCC events, you should call 829-2719.

Send us your outrages!

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

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

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

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



Help keep RCC independent

The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County will sponsor a "Good Neighbor Days" at local Eisner Food and Osco Drug Stores Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday July 2, 3, and 4.

To participate in "Good Neighbor Days," simply clip out the coupon below and take it to Eisner's or Osco's when you do your Fourth of July shopping. Present the coupon to the cashier, and the Rape Crisis Center will receive a cash donation from the store for 5% of your sale.

The Rape Crisis Center hopes to use the funds generated through "Good Neighbor Days" to help offset the printing costs of new training manuals for its volunteers and a new public information and education packet.

So remember when you are shopping for goodies for your Independence Day celebrating (you can use these coupons for anything purchased at Eisner's & Osco's), you can contribute to the radicalization of the east side. Let's see if we can redeem enough coupons so that Eisner's and Osco's will need to deliver its financial contribution to the RCC in one of their fancy shopping carts.



Servicing All Major Appliances
24 Hr. Service 7 Days a Week

829-5193

Quality Reconditioned Appliances Available

We now service car & window air conditioners.



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



IDENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS

in cooperation with

RAPE CRISIS CENTER OF MCLEAN COUNTY

Monday-Wednesday, July 2-4, 1984

Valid at the Eisner Food Stores in Bloomington and Normal, Illinois, and at the Osco Drug Stores at 502 Four Seasons Rd., Bloomington and 1503 E. College Ave., Normal.

Good Neighbor Days' participants may make purchases at Eisner Food Stores and Osco Drug Stores (when next to or in combination with Eisner) on the dates and in the stores indicated above to benefit the organization. Identification certificates are not to be distributed in front of Eisner or Osco stores. A cash donation based on 5% of total sales by Good Neighbor Days' participants will be made to the organization. After you've made your purchases at an Eisner or Eisner/Osco, present this form to the checker. The sales slip for Osco purchases should be presented with this certificate at the service desk of the adjacent Eisner Food Store.

Store Number

AMOUNT OF PURCHASE
EISNER or
EISNER/OSCO

Dollars Cents

OSCO
Dollars Cents

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

Amerikan Almanak

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

Compiled by Holly and friends

Through July 5

*ISU Art Gallery show: Lithographs from The Normal Edition's workshop. On display, Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fri., June 1

*Theater: "My Three Angels" 8:30 p.m. Miller Park Pavilion. Free.

*"Observing the Constellations," Comlara Park campgrounds, 9 p.m. Twin City Amateur Astronomers program.

Sat., June 2

*"My Three Angels"--Free theater at Miller Park Pavilion. 8:30 p.m.

*Films: "What Are Friends For?" and "Dog" Comlara Park campgrounds, beginning at dusk. Bring blankets and chairs to sit on.

Sun., June 3

*The Bloomington-Normal Intercity Triathlon--running, swimming, & bicycling. Noon, Miller Park. For info call 828-7361 and 454-2444.

*Theater: "My Three Angels," 8:30 p.m., Miller Park Pavilion

Tues., June 5

*Bloomington/Normal La Leche League meeting. 9:30 a.m., 2908 Grandview Dr., Blm. Topic: "Arrival of Baby: The Family in Relation to the Breastfed Baby" For more info, call 663-4039.

Wed., June 6

*"Watercolor Film Forum"--FREE 2 1/2 hours of films of watercolor artists. 7 - 9:30 p.m., ISU's Center for Visual Arts, rm 140.

Thurs., June 7

*Theater: "My Three Angels" FREE Miller Park Pavilion

Fri., June 8

*"My Three Angels"--see above

*Art show: The Doug Salvesson exhibit, June 8-28, McLean Co. Art Center, 602 N. East Street. M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 1-4

Sat., June 9

*Theater: "My Three Angels" at Miller Park Pavilion

*Operation Recycle buyback, 9 a.m. to noon. 1100 W. Market, Bloomington

Sun., June 10

*Inquirer class for MCC, afternoon 501 W. Mulberry St., Blm.

*Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) meeting at Unitarian Church (in the Walker Room). 7 pm For more info. call 829-2719

Wed., June 13

*MCC inquirer class, evening. 501 W. Mulberry St., Blm.

*Operation Recycle buyback, 9 a.m. to noon, 1100 W. Market, Bloomington

Thurs., June 14

*A good day to read back issues of the Post Amerikan

NUTTIN' MUCH HAPPENS IN THE SUMMER, DOES IT, ROD?



Tues., June 19

1953: execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, alleged "atomic spies"

Wed., June 20

*Buyback at Operation Recycle, 1100 W. Market, Bloomington 9 a.m. to noon

Thurs., June 21

*Summer Solstice Take this opportunity to run naked through the streets.

Sat., June 23

*Recycle Drive 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Sears, Eastland parking lot and the ISU Turner Hall lot

July 6 - August 11 Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Ewing Manor Plays: "The Taming of the Shrew," "The Merchant of Venice" and "Pericles" For more ticket info. call 438-2535

VACATION TIME

The Post staff is taking its annual summer break, so we won't be putting out another paper until July 20. Read this issue slowly and several times--it has to last for 7 weeks! But we promise we'll be back in July, all refreshed and rarin' to go. In the meantime, send money. ★



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.



HBO looks at gay America

The documentary "Being Homosexual," showing this month on Home Box Office, is surprisingly intelligent and positive. It doesn't quite make up for Eddie Murphy's assault-and-battery number (see Post, v. 12, #9), but it helps.

The main strengths of "Being Homosexual," in my opinion, are the attention it gives to the hostility and prejudice that gay people encounter and the method of letting gay people speak for themselves. Of course, "Word is Out" did all this and more, but "Word is Out" never played to the kind of audience that an HBO special is bound to reach.

"Being Homosexual" does make compromises in order to protect its intended audience. Almost all of the main speakers are clean white males from small towns--just the kind of folks middle Amerika will feel comfortable with. Even the big-city gays, also white men, are successful, solid, and not flamboyant. Yes, there are guys in cowboy-muscle drag and a swishy, pushy queen with long blond hair, but that stuff is kept in the margins. At the center are people who say grace before meals and use the American Express card.

Nonetheless, there is much in this documentary to challenge stereotypes and upset conservative thinking. For one thing, "Being Homosexual" proves that gay people do live beyond age 35. Four of the 7 individuals whose lives are covered in some detail are over 40.

Furthermore, the speeches dwell on the theme of misunderstanding. "I'm sad when I think people are threatened by my gayness," says Kenn, age 37, who lives on a chicken farm and admits that he met his current lover in a public restroom. "Yes, I'm different, but not that different," says Ronnie, 27, who returns to his hometown in East Texas to be reconciled with his parents, whom he left 10 years ago. Ronnie's father says: "A lot of people think this is the worst thing in the world that could happen to a family. I'm telling you it definitely isn't." He adds: "It's probably made a better person out of me" (to have to deal with his son's homosexuality).

"Being Homosexual" also focuses on Ed, 52, who was married twice, has 3 grown children, and came out of the closet at age 48. He told his family at Thanksgiving one year, and says



his kids have been "very supportive." Ed also talks about the business contacts he lost when his gayness became known, and he speaks regretfully of his lover's parents, who won't invite Ed over for dinner.

Although these stories are told in calm, smooth tones, they include the messiness and pain of real life. Sure, the presentation has been homogenized for commercial-tv consumption, but the script is just daring and varied enough to be subversive. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Average Viewer will have to work at dismissing the many small truths about being homosexual that "Being Homosexual" presents.

The ending sequence illustrates the polished mix that makes this documentary work: Roy, 66, and William, 68--lovers for 34 years--attend the Christmas concert of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. The chorus singing their opening number--a choral fantasy based on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"--is intercut with comments and visuals from the earlier segments. The refrain "Let nothing you dismay" is interspersed with remarks about prejudice and oppression. The intense, happy faces of hundreds of gay men (some of them even black) passionately singing a traditional religious song temporarily suckered me into thinking about "Good tidings of comfort and joy."

Then the phone rang, and a friend told me about a gay man who had been beaten up in Bloomington last week.

--Ferdydurke

Call the 700 Club and give 'em hell

I've discovered a new inexpensive pastime and psychological outlet. I call up the 700 Club and tell them what nudrds I think they are.

Actually the first time I called was after a particularly tiresome discussion of the "homosexual threat" in the U.S. The distortions and half-truths were so maddeningly glib and smug that I just had to vent my anger somewhere. Why take it out on the furniture, I asked myself, when you can harangue some human who is almost twice as bright as your sofa? So I called the toll-free number, 1-800-446-0700, and blasted the first voice I heard. I didn't even wait for a response. I'm sure the unsuspecting christian (spelled b-i-g-o-t) at the end of the line was sincerely bewildered.

My next foray into phone abuse came in response to one of their many fund-raising campaigns. I calmly asked about a jillion questions about the 700 Club and its uses of my money, and then politely told them I couldn't possibly contribute to the support of such imbecilic chicanery. When the voice at the other end expressed dismay that I should hold her organization in such low esteem, I patiently explained that even the most temperate homosexual gets a bit testy upon hearing his/her sexual appetites compared to criminal behavior of the most violent sort. I don't know quite how to describe my listener's reaction but "sputter" comes first to mind.

So the next time you're needing a little pick-me-up and there isn't a anyone around to pick you up, just pick up the phone and dial the 700 Club. Tell them what you really think of them. After all, it's toll free.

--Ferdydurke

Hair's the beef?

It was summer. My mother and I were sitting on the porch swing, waiting for the relatives to arrive for the cookout. I saw my aunt coming up the steps, and I raised my arm to wave. Suddenly, my mother screamed.

"What?! What is it? What's wrong?" I asked, thinking Auntie Norma was about to step on a rattlesnake. Instead, my mother narrowed her eyes and hissed, "Why do you insist upon having that MESS underneath your arms?! I swear, I'm ashamed to admit you're my daughter. Your hairy legs are bad enough to make you look like you're half chimpanzee, but those birds' nests in your armpits are disgusting!"

If you are a nonshaving female, you must be familiar with stories like this one. People are downright hostile about hairy women. I've even had perfect strangers offer to buy me a razor. And now it's summer again. And I'm getting tired of being hassled about my body hair.

You know, that armpit hair is there for a reason. It's a natural sponge which soaks up perspiration. And I don't know about you, but without it, my armpit is like an oil slick. And leg hair--I don't know if that serves a purpose, but by golly, if a gal doesn't feel like spending the better part of an hour (not to mention risking loss of blood--and god knows we lose enough of that already) shaving it off, then she shouldn't have to do it.

On the other hand, I won't blame most women for performing this bizarre ritual which has been a part of the rites of womanhood for most of this century. To most women, not shaving is an unthinkable as not bathing. But people should realize that shaving ought to be a matter of choice--a minor matter of choice, and it's really not very important in the grand scheme of things. Come to think of it, neither is bathing, but some people want to make a big stink about nothing.

--LVD

CLUB
PEORIA
DISCO

733 SW ADAMS,
PEORIA #1L
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

Post Amerikan Vol. 13, #3

June-July 1984 Page 23

Trapped in the social dis-service system

There is injustice in the workplace, just as there is in life, but unless it touches you directly, it's easier not to think about it. The following is the true story of a friend, seemingly a victim of circumstance, and her battle to work and make a living. She asks that her real name not be used, to avoid possible employment repercussions, so I'll just call her Beth.

Self-sufficient since age 18, Beth spent 2 years at ISU until lack of funds forced her to find a "real job." She was employed by the Eureka Co. for 5½ years in a data entry office position until a management conflict over use of personal time found her at the unemployment office. She drew compensation for only a month before she was hired full time as a waitress at a local restaurant, where she worked until March without problem.

However, at her 6-month evaluation, Beth was given 1 month's probation due to a drop in job efficiency. True, she had not felt quite right for a while, but she did her job cheerfully and did not shirk her duties. Beth soon discovered the reason for her blahs--she was two months pregnant.

Unmarried, Beth knew she had to rely on her own strengths to care for herself and her unborn child. However, at her re-evaluation, now knowing of her condition, restaurant management informed her they would be extending her probation, stipulating that hours would be scheduled depending on her continued performance. At that point, Beth had received an average of 35 hours per week, at \$2.50 per hour plus tips, and

could not meet her expenses.

Harassment

As her pregnancy advanced, the harassment from management increased. She was chastised for petty and supposed infractions, but tried to maintain a good working relationship. Then a crippling blow, with the schedule reflecting management disfavor--Beth's hours were cut to 26, and then to 10 for the following week. Waitresses know that their salary is often far less than minimum wage, and that tips must make up the difference. So, here was Beth, salaried hours slashed, and with that, less hours during which she could have compensated with tips. She decided to find someone that could help.

Now, enter the social service merry-go-round. First stop, Public Aid where Beth received a month's allowance of \$16 in food stamps based on her full time hours, since pay stubs did not yet reflect her reduced hours. As for medical expenses (her employment benefits do not include insurance), she would first have to reduce her assets to a \$1500 limit.

Next stop, McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC). Here she found that her prior 3 month earnings put her \$100 over the limit. Ditto at Township Assistance. Thinking the Housing Authority could find her something more suitable than the tiny apartment which she pays too much for, she was dismayed to learn that the Authority would not even put her name on a waiting list for subsidized housing until after the baby's birth.

Private hope

So, on to the social services' private

sector. After so many refusals, Beth found a glimmer of hope in the support of non-governmental agencies. Catholic Social Services and the United Way basically referred Beth to other sources, but gave her a precious gift--sincere concern, not merely bureaucratic regrets. Salvation Army supplied bags of groceries, as well as assistance on overdue utility payments. Clare House, which helps both physically and emotionally battered women, also provided food.

The Women, Infants and Children program gave food coupons, including ones for the prenatal essentials of calcium-rich milk products. Birth Right will help with clothing and furniture for the baby. Then there was a wonderful woman from the Scott Fund who, while unable to provide financial assistance, has called several times to give emotional succour.

Meanwhile, Beth has since received her new schedule which still reflects reduced hours. Her fellow waitresses continue to get their usual hours, so one could not infer a general cutback in scheduling. Unemployment insurance can now help since Beth's pay stubs show her drastic decrease in income, but there's little encouragement for new employment until after the baby comes. As for the Human Relations Board, they explain that a pregnancy discrimination suit would probably be futile, since proving such discrimination is nearly impossible.

So Beth struggles to keep her life together, while a new life grows within her. She is willing to work, fully realizing her financial plight. I cannot help her with money, but I provide what I can: a friendly ear, a shoulder to cry on, two arms to hold her when all looks bleak. And when her child is born, I pray that it finds a world more hopeful than its mother has had to face.

--RAF

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

address

city

state

zip

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