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The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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Owen Nursery Sanders Underground Veg

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

POST AMERICAN

November 1986

Vol.15 No.6

The Legislator's Pipe Dream



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POST AMERIKAN

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About us

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 nine issues a year. Staff members take turns as "coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, photography, graphics, pasteup, 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 next deadline for submitting Post material is Nov. 20, 1986.

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON

- Amtrack Station, 1200 W. Front
- The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
- Bloomington Public Library (in front)
- Bus Depot, 533 N. East
- Common Ground, 516 N. Main
- Front and Center Building
- Hit Shed, 103 E. Mulberry
- Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.
- 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 & Morrisey
- 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
- Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
- Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
- Washington and Clinton streets

NORMAL

- Blue Dahlia Bookstore, 124 E. Beaufort
- ISU University Union, 2nd floor
- Hovey Hall, ISU
- Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
- Mother Murphy's, 111 North St.
- North & Broadway, southeast corner
- White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway (in front)

Good numbers

- | | |
|--|---|
| Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049 | Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195 |
| American Civil Liberties Union.454-7223 | Occupational Development Center.....828-7324 |
| Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360 | Operation Recycle.....829-0691 |
| Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035 | Parents Anonymous.....827-4005 |
| Community for Social Action....452-4867 | PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help.....827-4005 |
| Connection House.....829-5711 | Or.....800-322-5015 |
| Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005 | Phone Friends.....827-4008 |
| Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022 | Planned Parenthood....medical..827-4014 |
| Draft Counseling.....452-5046 | bus/couns/educ..827-4368 |
| HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped).....828-8301 | Post Amerikan.....828-7232 |
| Ill. Dept of Public Aid.....827-4621 | Prairie State Legal Service....827-5021 |
| Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916 | Prairie Alliance.....828-8249 |
| Kaleidoscope.....828-7346 | Project Oz.....827-0377 |
| McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161 | Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005 |
| Mid Central Community Action...829-0691 | Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428 |
| Mobile Meals.....828-8301 | TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301 |
| McLean County Center for Human Services.....827-5351 | Unemployment comp/job service..827-6237 |
| National Health Care Services--abortion assistance, Peoria..1-800-322-1622 | United Farmworkers support....452-5046 |
| | UPIC.....827-4026 |

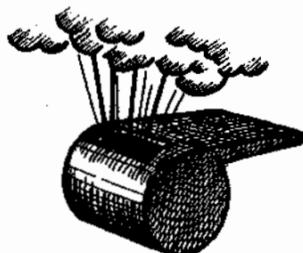
Moving?

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: _____

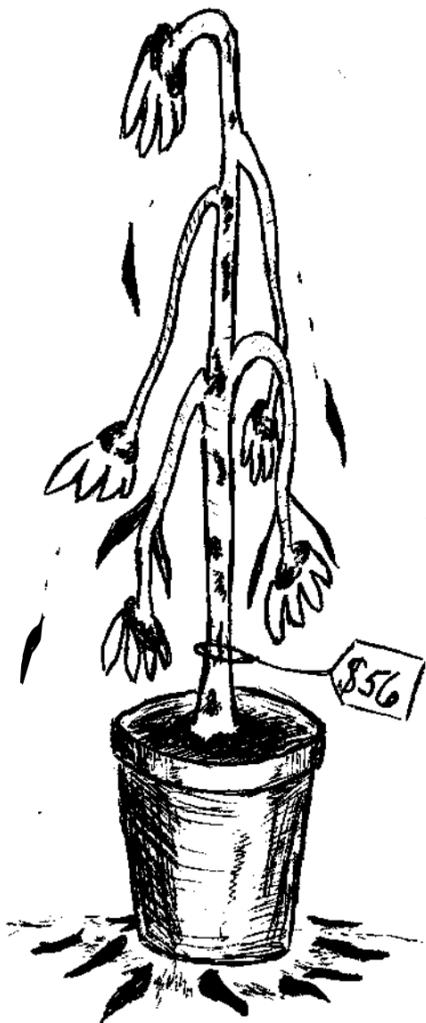
Thanks

This issue is in your hands thanks to: Sue, Chris, Margaret, Deborah, Melissa, Mark, Dave (Coordinator), J.T., Bumper, Peg, Peg (for last time), Laurie S., Laurie D., Ralph, Laurie H. Susie, Fred, Kay, Cathy, Val.



"Business Can Be Ugly" Award

Ex-Owen employee tells all



As you might remember, last month we ran an article about the way Bloomington Beauty School seems to inadvertently screw over their students. Well, this month's winner of the "Business Can Be Ugly" award doesn't just seem to screw over their customers, and it sure isn't inadvertent.

Anyone who's lived in B/N for very long at all can probably predict which company I'm talking about. Especially if I say that the traditional gripe with these folks is not the way they abuse their customers, but the way they abuse their employees.

That's right! It's Owen Nursery. And they're at it again. Or perhaps I should say "still." But we're not going to talk about employee abuses at Owen today. Those abuses are so well known that they are a permanent part of B/N culture. We wouldn't know how to act if Owen followed federal regulations concerning employee safety, or paid a decent wage, or treated their employees like people and not disposable parts.

So we're not going to tell you what you already know. You'd just get bored and turn the page and we don't want that. No, today we're going to talk about how Owen treats their customers.

Nationwide

The company advertises on a national basis. And I mean national--every state in the continental US. And they do phenomenal business. While I don't have figures, I do know that during the beginning of their peak season, they have five people on the phone, primarily taking orders, another person whose sole job it is to sort the trays and trays of orders that

come in via the US mails, and a whole slew (from four to ten) of "home girls" who read the orders, make corrections and type the computer data sheets. I have no idea how many wage slaves shipping has, but the racks that hold the time cards are three feet high and about fifteen feet long.

Now, since Owen Nursery's miserliness is legend in this town, you can be sure that not one of those people is superfluous. Owen is quick to lay off the very second business slows down.

Advertising

Owen used to be that ad on the back page of the newspaper's Sunday magazine, selling cheap nursery stock with extravagant guarantees about its quality and delivery time. (Some other sleazy company has that slot now.) Instead, Owen sends out sweepstakes entries two to four times a year, even though it's all the same sweepstakes. They also mail very nice four color catalogs to past customers and anyone who might be a potential customer.

So imagine you're a typical Owen customer. You get the Owen catalog (or the House of Wesley, or Farmer Seed, or Burgess Seed, or several others) and see some beautiful plants. The company does put out some beautiful catalogs, filled with photos or paintings of large lush plants at peak condition, including new hybrids and exotic breeds that can't be found anywhere else.

Ten weeks

So you order, because Owen says they have things you can't get anywhere else, and the prices are so good, and the pictures are so beautiful, and the guarantee sounds so fair.

What you don't know is that it takes from eight to ten weeks to get an order from Owen, if the items are all in stock, and if they don't send out a note saying you forgot to pay packing and handling, and if they don't mistype the order, and if the stars are in favorable positions. If you're lucky, in other words, you get your order in eight to ten weeks. Even though they cash the check two or three days after they receive it. Or charge your credit card within two or three days of receiving the order.

That's if you're lucky. If something's out of stock, the whole order might be held up for as long as a year or more. Or they might make a substitution with no attempt to correspond with you. Meanwhile they have your money.

OK, but there's a guarantee, right? Ri-i-i-ight. First, you have to send back the shipping label. Pretty hard to do if you never got the order. Or if it got lost in the mail. And the folks on the phone have strict instructions to be as polite and unhelpful as possible. No customer is allowed to talk to anyone but the peons on the phone. The poor phone answerer can't do anything but take a message (and a heck of a lot of abuse) and tell the caller that they'll pass on the message and some nebulous supervisor will take care of it.

Complaints

But you've called four times (at your expense, and at the peak rates--no toll free number here!) and you're pretty upset. You've got from twenty five to two hundred dollars (the vast majority of orders fall in there somewhere) sunk in this deal, not to mention the phone calls and the interest you're losing on your money, and the empty places in your yard and

garden. So you let that phone girl have it but good and she finally suggests that you write a letter, since the whole complaint department operates primarily by mail anyway.

So. You write a letter. Three to eight weeks later (again, if you're lucky) you get a letter from someone (we'll call her Miss XYZ) saying that she's sure your order has been sent and she wishes you'd be patient. Now you're really mad. You call back and ask to talk to Miss XYZ, and the phone girl either sighs or giggles and says you can't. After another fruitless conversation, you hang up in fury.

What you don't know (though you may suspect) is that there is no Miss XYZ. All of Owen's official letters, except the ones sent by the lawyer, are signed by nonexistent personnel. That's why the person at the other end of the phone giggled. She would have loved to give you to Miss XYZ if only she could.

Better Business Bureau

So you finally call the Better Business Bureau, and a consumer action group. They both send letters to Owen and they get letters from Miss XYZ, too. Only now you actually stand a chance of getting your order. Owen Nursery responds relatively quickly to legal pressure. I guess the owner remembers when his daddy did time for mail fraud.

But it's still not certain that you won't have to go all the way to your lawyer or the attorney general in your state to get results. The office at Owen has one whole file drawer full of pending legal difficulties with about one to five sheets of paper to each case. Owen's lawyer has a standing appointment to come in once a week. And very few of these legal difficulties concern people who are genuinely trying to rip off Owen. Most of them are either suing for refund or being sued by Owen for refusing to pay for dead or unreceived stock.

Dead stock

And that's the other problem. So much of Owen's stock is dead. Owen ships bare root stock, and it's dry, frail looking stuff. The experts at Owen say that it's supposed to look like that. But several people who worked down in shipping have said that the stuff isn't just dry and frail. Some of it, and towards the end of a season, a lot of it, is just plain rotten. You know, fungus growing on it, a sodden mass of pulp. But the folks in shipping have no choice. You ship out what's there, even if you're still new enough and optimistic enough to care about what your customers get.

So even if you got your order on time, anywhere from a fourth to all of it may be dead, or so close to death that a sympathetic plant lover would put the suffering creatures out of their misery.

Then what do you do? After all, there's the guarantee . . .

(Go back to the paragraph that starts "OK, but there's a guarantee, right?" and read the following paragraphs again.)

You Lose

So either way you lose. And maybe you can afford to absorb a loss of \$25 to \$200. Most likely, though, if you could, you would be ordering from a more reputable, more expensive dealer. So chances are most Owen customers feel that loss pretty strongly.

Meanwhile, the Owen family lives in style, right on Country Club Place.

--Brunhilde

Here are some tips for coping this

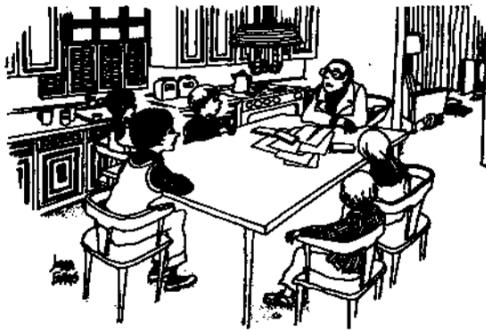
Introduction

With winter approaching, and cold weather already upon us, our thoughts naturally turn to the horrors of heating bills. For many people, heating bills are not only formidable, they're downright impossible.

If you anticipate having trouble with your heating bills, the place to start your investigation is with the utilities themselves, and before you've been disconnected, if possible. Believe it or not, the utilities actually have some programs to help ease the heating crunch.

If the utility programs don't do the job, then you can look into private and government assistance. But first, check with your utilities.

To that end, we have some information here for you about payment plans, deposits, and disconnection.



"I've called the family together to announce that, because of inflation, I'm going to have to let two of you go."

The 12% program

The 12% Program is a special payment plan that allows a household to keep its primary heating utility service and its secondary utility service connected by paying 12% of the household income for those services.

Any household which qualifies for the Illinois House Energy Assistance Program (IHEAP) and is a customer of a regulated gas or electric utility, or both, is eligible to apply. The program will continue until January 1, 1986.

If your service is not on, it must be turned on before you are eligible for the program. To be hooked up for your utility again, you and the utility must follow the rules set by the Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC).

During each winter month, only 12% of your household income (8% to the regulated utility that provides your

NI Gas payment options

If you heat with gas, NIGas has these payment choices open to you:

DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN FOR HARDSHIP CASES: with this program, you can defer payment of a large unpaid balance by paying 1/4 of the unpaid balance. The rest is divided into 3 equal monthly installments. This plan only applies to service which has not been disconnected, and you must continue to pay future months' bills in addition to these payments. Applicants will receive a letter of confirmation within 4 working days. This agreement can be renegotiated if the customer's financial situation changes significantly. If the customer defaults on this plan, it may be reinstated by paying the original agreement amount plus the current bill.

PREFERRED PAYMENT DATE: If you are receiving financial assistance from a government source and are continually forced to pay your gas bill after the due date, it is possible to have the due date extended up to 10 days to coincide with the day you receive your check. The customer must be receiving benefits from one of the following governmental aid sources:

- Aid to Families with Dependant Children
- Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled
- Illinois Department of Public Aid
- General Assistance (Township)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security
- Veterans Administration benefits
- Unemployment compensation

CONVENIENT PAYMENT PLAN: This is not really an option at this time of year, but it's a good thing to keep in mind for next year. Under this option, you arrange to pay a recommended amount (or the actual total due, whichever is higher), year round, so that you are basically paying in advance to avoid unmanageable payments in the peak heating season. NIGas recommends starting this program at the end of the heating season, in March-May. They also pay 5.25% on any credit balance.

Termination

If the utility decides to terminate service, it must follow certain procedures:

1. The utility must send the customer a written notice. The company must deliver a red "Final Notice" at least five days before services is scheduled to be disconnected. If the utility mails the notice, it must be mailed at least eight days before the service is disconnected.

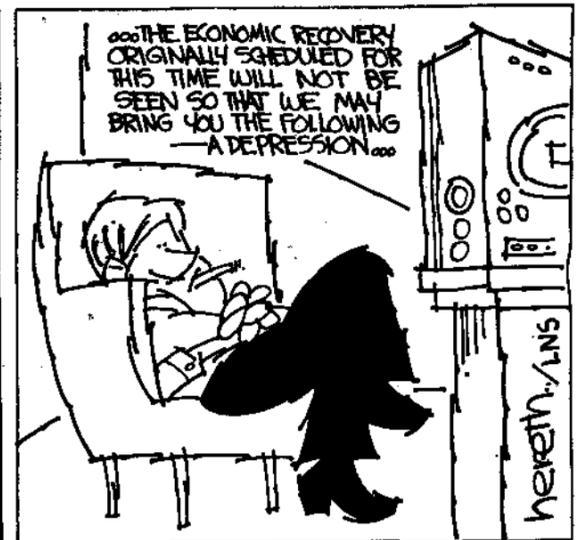
2. Gas and electricity may not be shut off after 2:00 pm on a week day unless the utility is prepared to reconnect service the same day at the normal reconnection charge. Utility companies must allow one free reconnection of service disconnected at the meter per year.

3. If gas or electric service is the only source of space heating, it may not be disconnected on any day when the National Weather Service forecasts the temperature for the next 24 hours to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below, or on a day before a holiday or weekend when the weather is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below any time before the next business day.

4. Termination of service may be postponed for a period of 30 days when the termination of utility service would aggravate a serious existing illness of any person permanently residing at the house. However, the illness must be certified in writing by a registered physician or the local Board of Health, and within 30 days the customer must enter into an agreement with the utility to pay the outstanding balance and keep current bills paid.

The doctor or Board of Health may call the utility to inform them of the illness. Written certification must be sent to the company within five days. This certification must contain the following:

- Name of the sick person
- Statement that the sick person is a resident of the house
- The name, business address and telephone number of the doctor or Board of Health
- The kind of illness
- The period of time during which termination of utility service will aggravate the illness



Between December 1 and March 31, additional restrictions apply. The utility must notify the customer or an adult living on the premises that:

1. The account is past due and is subject to termination. This notification must be made by telephone, personal visit or first class mail.
2. The customer can avoid termination by entering into a deferred payment agreement for the payment of past bills. The customer has the option to enter a legalized payment plan for the payment of future bills.
3. The customer should apply for available assistance from governmental or private agencies in the payment bills for utility service. The utility must provide a list of these agencies to the customer.

Third party notification is available--a third party, designated by the customer receives duplicate copies of disconnection notices. This option is helpful for the disabled, senior citizens, illiterates and other disadvantaged customers.

--Taken from Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Utility Consumer, Illinois Commerce Commission, November, 1982.

(On master metered buildings, signs must be posted for the tenants informing them of the impending disconnection and their statutory right to withhold rent in order to pay heating bills.)

with your utility companies winter...

primary heating service, and 4% to the regulated utility that provides your secondary service) is required to pay your utility bills.

During each summer month, you must pay the required percentage of your household income, or the bill for the actual amount of energy used, whichever is higher. Your utility bill will tell you the amount you must pay each month, as well as the date payments are due.

If you disagree in any way with your billing, you should contact your utility at the number shown on the face of your bill. If the person you speak to cannot help you, ask to speak to a supervisor. If the supervisor cannot help you, call the Consumer Affairs Division of the ICC in either Springfield or Chicago.

If you owe money for past utility services, you are required to make deferred payment arrangements for the amount owed.

If your service is shut off while you are on the program because you did not make payments on time, you may be re-

enrolled if you are reconnected within 90 days of the date you were cut off. You are allowed to go back on the program after being cut off only one time in a twelve month period.

If you are dropped from the 12% program, you will be notified by your utility. You may get back on the program by paying the utility the amount past due under your arrangement. You can go back on the program only two times in a twelve month period.

Copies of the rules for this program are available for inspection in the Chief Clerk's Office of the ICC in both Springfield and Chicago, as well as the local offices of all regulated gas and electric utilities.

You can sign up for the 12% program at your local IHEAP agency, MidCentral Community Action. For information, call 1-800-252-8643.

--From a flyer by the Illinois Commerce Commission, May 1986



Security deposits

Security deposits are one sixth of the customers estimated annual consumption. The utilities require them when the customer has failed to pay a final bill from a previous address, paid the bill late four times in one year during the first two years of service, or had service disconnected for non-payment.

Deposits earn 5.25% "earned credit" (interest) and are returned after one year of prompt payment or are applied to the final bill.

Bhopal:

A cloud with no silver lining

Nearly two years after the fact, the world's deadliest industrial disaster is still in progress, claiming more lives each day, albeit stealthily. Tens of thousands of Bhopal citizens continue to suffer the lethal consequences of the cloud of Methyl Iso-Cyanate (MIC) that leaked from the Union Carbide's pesticide plant in December 1984.

Some 2,500 to 4,500 people succumbed immediately to the poisonous gas. Many thousands more have subsequently perished, as shown by a recent study of Hindu cremation grounds and Muslim cemeteries.

An average of about 8,000 Hindus are cremated in Bhopal annually. But this year's figure is almost 15,000, the rise being the direct consequence of the gas leak.

Children have suffered most. Last year 249 were cremated; this year 1,017. A similar rise has been noticed in Muslim burials as well. This means that the Bhopal figure exceeds the average annual total of 10,000 deaths by toxic chemicals in the entire Third World.

The gas leak lasted two hours in the middle of the night and spread over 16 square miles affecting some 200,000 sleeping people.

A penetrating study of this catastrophe and its international implications is offered by American researcher Larry Everest in Behind the Poison Cloud: Union Carbide's Bhopal Massacre.

Everest travelled to Bhopal two months after the accident. He recorded the personal horror of the victims, and investigated the circumstances that led up to the tragic accident. He produced a damning well-documented indictment of Union Carbide and the Indian government.

Five multinational corporations

produce half of the world's pesticides. Though the Third World consumes only 15 percent of the total output, it accounts for 75 percent of pesticide-related deaths. This is primarily because the pesticides used in Third World countries are highly toxic.

Nearly 70 percent of the pesticides used in India are banned or restricted in the industrial world.

Following the Bhopal calamity a U.S. State Department official told a Congressional sub-committee: "We do not generally apply U.S. environmental and industrial safety laws to activities of multinational enterprises in other countries."

The Bhopal disaster occurred as Indira Gandhi was opening India to Western capital, a policy that has been accelerated by her son, Rajiv, since he became prime minister just over a year ago.

No wonder, following the Bhopal gas leak the Indian ambassador to America was publicly declaring that the two administrations were attempting to "contain the damage" and that they were in "close contact with each other trying to maintain an even atmosphere even though there was an enormous sense of public dismay and even outrage."

Yet popular outrage seemed to have failed to move either the state government of Madhya Pradesh or the federal government of India. Most of the doctors and state officials appear to have colluded with Union Carbide in rejecting the conclusion, reached by those who conducted the autopsies of the dead, that the victims had died of poisoning by hydrogen cyanide, the gas used in Nazi concentration camps.

Had the formation of hydrogen cyanide gas been conceded straight away, a simple and effective antidote would have saved many lives and much

suffering. But it was not, either by the Union Carbide hierarchy or government officials or public hospital doctors.

On the whole the behavior of the state and federal administrations towards the victims has been cavalier.

The judicial commission of inquiry appointed by the state government to report by March 1985 has met only a few times so far. State functionaries have been as evasive in answering its inquiries as have Union Carbide officials.

In contrast scientists in India's defense laboratories have been uncharacteristically active in assessing the potential of hydrogen cyanide as a chemical weapon. They are also busily working on an antidote for military use.

Covert cooperation between the U.S. and India goes on, while they publicly dispute whether responsibility for the disaster lies with the parent company based in the U.S. or the Indian subsidiary.

Current press reports suggest that once the issue of the responsibility is decided, the two sides will strike an out-of-court deal on the size of the compensation.

As Larry Everest writes in Behind the Poison Cloud, "More than the money Union Carbide is hoping to save, or the speed with which the Indian government hopes to obtain a settlement, resolving the dispute outside the court room is a means of avoiding the damaging political fallout and incriminating exposure of both parties that a prolonged court case could entail."

He concludes that "Both parties feel it is best that the full story of the Bhopal massacre remains buried in corporate and official vaults."

--Reprinted from In These Times, Sept. 24-30, 1986

Holly Near, folksinger, returns to Rockford

Holly Near, well known singer and songwriter, will return to Rockford for two performances at Charlotte's Web on Friday, November 21. An impressive performer with 12 albums to her credit, Near is also an actress, college lecturer, poet, and international ambassador for peace who was recently named a MS. Magazine "Woman of the Year."

The concerts are sponsored by "CATS" which stands for "A Cultural Association of a Town in the Sinissippi Valley." This is the third event in three years sponsored by CATS. CATS is an association of local social action groups which this year include: Sinissippi Alliance for the Environment, Rockford Peace & Justice Action Committee, the Rockford Chapter of

NOW (National Organization for Women), the Rock Valley Friends (Quakers) Meeting, the Rockford League of Women Voters, the Social Responsibilities Committee of the Unitarian Church, and Womanspace.

Performances will be at Charlotte's Web, 728 First Ave., Rockford IL, on November 21 (Friday), first show at 7pm, second at 9:30pm. Tickets are \$10, (\$12 day of show). Seating is limited.

Tickets may be purchased in advance from: CATS, 219 E. State St., Rockford IL 61104.

For more information, please call (815) 964-7111. This event will be interpreted in sign language for the hearing impaired.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Operation Recycle winter schedule

The Operation Recycle buyback will begin winter hours at the beginning of November. Winter schedule will be Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9am-noon.

The non-profit community recycling center buys aluminum cans, bimetal cans, container glass and newspapers at the buyback in the OR warehouse, 1100 W. Market, Bloomington.

Operation Recycle has received municipal funding for 1987 from both Bloomington and Normal enabling it to continue as a full time center. Volumes recycled have risen from 200 tons a year for the all volunteer group to over 1000 tons a year as a full time recycling center.

Dates of recycle drives for the first half of 1987 and the remainder of 1986 are: November 22, 1986, January 10, February 28, April 11, and May 23. All recycle drives are held at the Sears, Eastland parking lot and the ISU lot on the southwest corner of College and Main.

Operation Recycle needs volunteer help at our recycling drives, our buybacks and to help in recycling education projects. Individuals are asked to donate from 3-6 hours a month at a time convenient for them. To volunteer, please contact Myra Gordon through Community Action, 829-0691. Volunteering to help at a recycling drive can be an excellent service project for a church group, scout troop or other community organization.

In the Solid waste Bill passed this summer by the Illinois State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Thompson, the following hierarchy was established for solid waste disposal:

1. Volume reduction at the source
2. recycling
3. Incineration with energy recovery
4. Incineration without energy recovery
5. Landfilling

Landfilling, the alternative currently in greatest use in McLean County, is the last choice.

Did you know? Operation Recycle has paid out over \$7,500 to date in 1986 at our buyback. Total volume of materials recycled at the end of September was 1,563,876 lbs. Goal for 1986 is 2,200,000 lbs.

HOLLY NEAR



"Holly Near is almost more of a phenomenon than just a singer. Unlike Ronstadt or Baez or Collins, she tails out of the major pop limelight, yet commands a rather large and loyal audience, selling hundreds of thousands of records without the usual media apparatus (and expense). About her technical skills there is no question her voice is equal to anyone in the commercial realm." —Shel Kagon, The Fortnightly College Radio Report

"She is a superior singer and writer, constructing her songs with a flair that could educate future Broadway arrangers." —Christopher Powers, City Notes

"If you've been looking for a perfect example of radio and major label indifference to a special talent, stop here." —Sweet Potatoe

"Very few pop performers—and virtually no contemporary women—can work a crowd like Holly Near, though some spunky menfolk like Springsteen, Jagger or Ray Davies come close. Still, for sheer charisma in a concert setting, nobody can touch her." —Anne Hurley, Son Jose Mercury News

"Singer, songwriter, actress, political activist... so many labels—yet she defies definition. Even she doesn't know how to categorize herself. 'A committed human being' would probably do. A seeker, Near's music reflects where she has been: each song is a signpost along the road of her awakening." —Ann Kolson, Philadelphio Inquirer

"Holly Near is becoming one of the most influential progressive artists in the country." —Jane Fonda

PHOTOGRAPH BY IRENE YOUNG

Library holds Halloween programs

No School? The Bloomington Public Library Children's Room staff, Phyllis Wallace, Jane Swaney, and Jan Lucas, have scheduled Halloween stories and activities for children of all ages for the upcoming school holidays.

On Thursday, October 23, the Children's Room staff is putting on a HALLOWEEN MASK MAKING program from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the story Room. The children will be able to observe and participate in

the mask making.

On Friday, October 24 at 2:00, children are invited to a Halloween program in the Story Room presented by Denise Anton from Corn Belt Library System. The program will include a puppet show entitled THE WITCH'S HAT, halloween stories, picture books, and other various activities.

For more information about children's programs, contact the Children's Room at 828-6091.

Library Story Hour

Pre-School Story Hour Registration begins Sunday, October 26 and continues through Saturday, November 1 in the Children's Room of Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive, Bloomington, or by phone at 828-6091.

The Story Hours will feature stories, songs, games, and finger plays with the Children's Librarian, Phyllis Wallace, and Jan Lucas and Jane Swaney of the Children's Room staff and occasional guest story tellers.

The Story Hours will be held on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., beginning November 4 through December 17. Children of 3-5 years old are welcome.

For more information about Story Hours or children's programs, contact the Children's Room at 828-6091.

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Reader expands on plight of poultry

Dear Post:

Many thanks for the article on trapping in your September-October edition. I bought your paper for the first time on a recent Saturday, coincidentally after I had just attended an animal rights meeting. We need your newspaper in Springfield, and we need more information about animal and human rights.

Also excellent was the article on the Hopi and Navajo relocation. Yours is one of the few newspapers worth chopping down trees for.

One article which I felt was incomplete was the commentary on chicken and independence by "Madame Bovary." I agreed with the basic premise of the article, but the speculations on the origins of the chicken were somewhat naive. Today's chicken "farms" are really factories, and often contain thousands of "fryers" and broilers." Poultry production is usually referred to quantitatively by pounds, instead of numbers of living things. During the recent heat wave--drought in the south, hundreds of thousands of chickens broiled to death before their time.

A factory chicken does not live a pleasant life. Chickens usually share a tiny cage, and their beaks are often clipped to prevent fighting. Occasionally, the bird's flesh will grow around the wire because of the animal's immobility. The cages are usually stacked up so the birds defecate on one another.

As for the "scientifically developed feed," the birds are fed anything edible, laced with hormones, antibiotics, and pesticides. These birds, by slaughter, are often sick, and many have developed cancers. Also, over 30% of poultry carcasses contain the ubiquitous salmonella bacteria.

Needless to say, I am a vegetarian. I do not really miss meat, and I enjoy the health and good conscience that eating no meat provides. However, in agreement with the premise of the article, I am far too dependent on the modern, specialized "Techno-crazy." Giving up meat is one step in a long journey. I am glad I took it.

Here's hoping for your continued success,

Sincerely,
Jeremy Wallace

COMMUNITY NEWS & LETTERS

Sex ed books & tapes donated to libraries

October is National Family Sexuality Education Month. In order to celebrate the month and to underscore the importance of parents talking to their kids about sex, Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois will donate copies of the book, How to Talk with Your Child about Sexuality to the Bloomington Public Library, the Normal Public Library, and the Corn Belt Library System. The Corn Belt System, which serves both the Normal and Bloomington libraries as well as the smaller libraries in the area, will also receive both VHS and Beta formats of the videotape Strong Kids, Safe Kids, which focuses on talking to children about sexual abuse.

Dixie Axley, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois, and Susan Sulaski, Director of Education and Training, will present the books and the videotapes to representatives from the three libraries on October 22 at 8:00 a.m. at the offices of Planned Parenthood, 318 W. Washington, Bloomington. At the same time, Bloomington Mayor Jesse Smart will sign a proclamation declaring October the city's Family Sexuality Education Month.

Talking to children about sex and sexuality is important every month. It is Planned Parenthood's hope that the availability of both the book and the videotapes at local libraries will help area parents to open communication about this sometimes difficult subject. Planned Parenthood hopes that all concerned parents will take this opportunity to talk to their kids. It can make a difference.



Community Players auditions

Community Players will be holding auditions for "Holiday Fables: The Night Before Christmas, an Evening of Music and Dance." Don't hold back! Now's the time to try out for that show!

AUDITIONS: 210 Robinhood Lane
Bloomington

November 1 - Saturday
1:00 to 3:00

November 2 - Sunday
1:00 to 3:00

PERFORMANCE DATES:

December 11, 7:30
December 12, 7:30
December 13,
10:00 - Sold Out
1:00 - Sold Out
4:00 - Sold Out
7:30
December 14, 7:30

Holiday type music will be available for auditions. Be prepared to sing a song of your choice and follow a few simple dance steps. This has always been a fun show, getting everybody in the spirit of the Holiday Season!

For additional information contact:
Ron Frazier -- 662-5113 or
Elaine Schramm -- 829-4040.

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"Everybody knew that he had the type of a smile that had a smirk in it."

Ex-cop talks about patrolman Tom Sanders

"There was a common understanding and knowledge within the Police Department wherein, especially among the uh, the patrolmen, that Officer Sanders, you know, was aggressive, would end up with more resisting arrest calls, and would either get in a fight somehow, or have to use a nightstick all the time, or just you know, just, under stressful situations a lot of times, where a person would resist, he just couldn't talk his way out of it, and end up in a fight situation."

These are the words of John E. Stoops, who worked as a Bloomington patrolman from 1978-1982. Stoops worked with Officer Tom Sanders. In preparing the case of Vasquez vs. Sanders (more later), an investigator working for Vasquez's lawyer interviewed Stoops about Tom Sanders's behavior on the job. Bloomington's legal department received the interview transcript during pre-trial discovery three years ago. After a request under the Freedom of Information Act, the Post-Amerikan recently obtained a copy. It reinforces all the ugly things we've been writing about Tom Sanders . . . and refutes none.

Boom-Boom

Stoops had heard of Sanders before meeting him; the dog that Sanders shot (see P-A Vol.15 #4) in an off-duty fit of temper in 1978 belonged to a coworker of Stoops' father. Stoops reveals in the interview that fellow officers used to call Sanders "Boom-Boom Sanders" once in a while, uh, Shotgun Sanders." He was known for his attachment to his shotgun, and always took it on his shift with him, though officers weren't required to.

Unfortunately, dogs weren't all he shot. As you probably remember, in August 1980 Sanders impulsively shot an innocent man, Charles Vasquez, in the Regal 8 parking lot, simply because Sanders couldn't stay calm and find out about the situation first. Vasquez is permanently disabled.

Sanders was the first officer on the scene at the Regal 8. Stoops was the second. They were dispatched after an anonymous call reported that someone had grabbed a woman's keys and her kid, and that "they had guns." It could have been an armed kidnapping.

In a corridor of the motel, Stoops and Sanders encountered a young woman with child and car keys in hand. As they began to question her, a man came around the corner eating a sandwich. When he saw the cops, he dropped the sandwich and took off in the other direction. This is what Stoops says:

"I had no knowledge of what he had done up to that point. My first concern was to try and figure out what this girl was, you know, is she the one that wanted us? What were we there for? You know, to point out to us, you know, have her point to an individual and say, here, he did this to me, or, he's got that, but it happened so fast, none of that information was even taken into account."

Brain damage

Sanders took off running and saw the man dive into the back seat of a car that was pulling out. Sanders immediately fired off two blasts from his shotgun. He nailed the driver, Charles Vasquez, who now has permanent brain damage. Pellets from Sanders's shotgun blasts also hit a building across the street and a van passing by on Washington St.

The interviewer asked Stoops whether he had wanted to wait and evaluate the situation before taking any action. Stoops replied: "Well, that was my attitude, unless someone was shooting at you, but that wasn't the point, I mean, that wasn't the situation, nobody was shooting at us, and no one



showed any weapons. No one was grabbing anybody. Nobody was handcuffed. Nobody was being stuffed in the trunk of a car, or something." (There were never any weapons found, either in the Regal 8 rooms or the car Vasquez drove.)

[Vasquez never committed any criminal act. The man Sanders chased was never prosecuted. State's Attorney Ron Dozier characterized the "kidnapping" as a lover's quarrel. By the time police arrived, the woman had both her keys and her baby back. That would have been the end of it, if Tom Sanders hadn't handled the call.]

"Everybody knew that he had the type of a smile that had a smirk in it anyway." What kind of smile is that? Well, Stoops narrated two other incidents in which Sanders caused much more trouble than he prevented. He told how Sanders, by mean and sneering behavior, provoked an arrested man's family into actually invading the desk area at the police station and jumping Sanders.

Attitude

"They were at the front desk trying to get some information from Sanders, as to what was transpiring. What was going to happen with the prisoner? What was he being charged with? And I could tell from sitting behind Officer Sanders at the report-writing desk that he just wasn't doing, you know, a good job of controlling these people. He'd lean back in his chair a little, and uh, he'd make remarks that just didn't seem proper at the time. It just seemed like his whole attitude towards the people was not a good way of addressing the situation."

The family finally "came through the doorway, came around the desk area, through a doorway, and attacked Officer Sanders, and for about five minutes, uh, you know, five or six of us officers were wrestling and grappling with people, and everybody was swinging fists, and we were handcuffing people, and we ended up throwing two more people in jail. It just seemed ridiculous."

[Both people provoked into attacking Sanders in that July 1980 incident were charged with felonies--aggravated battery--in addition to criminal trespass and resisting a peace officer. After hearing the full story of what happened, a sympathetic jury acquitted both people of all but the minor resisting charge.]

Free-for-all

In another incident, Sanders provoked a free-for-all at the Red Lion Inn by actually chasing trouble (See P-A Vol. 15 #4). Stoops heard a call about a disturbance at the Bloomington bar, "and I said to myself, I better get goin', he'll (Sanders) be the first one there, and you know, I just said in my mind, I better get down there and help him out. So as soon as I get down there, within like maybe thirty seconds after he had arrived, I see a squad car, red lights goin', car doors open, nobody's around. I couldn't find him. I hear all this commotion. I looked up to about the second deck of the parking garage, and it looks like he's getting ready to be thrown over the side of this building. He's fighting with these individuals up there, so I go runnin' up there after him, and by the time I got there another squad car showed up, two-man car, and everybody's fightin' everybody. It was just another free-for-all." Sanders had gone chasing after some people from the bar, and as Stoops said, "As far as I was concerned, he went runnin' after trouble."

That's right in character, of course. The interviewer asked Stoops "what, in your opinion, is unusual about Sanders over any other policeman that you've worked with at Bloomington Police Department?"

An aggressive individual

Stoops' reply: "It is my opinion that he is an aggressive individual, while he is in a police uniform, and he takes out his personal frustrations that are dealt out by other policemen towards him, in an aggressive manner towards individuals that he knows he can handle, and possibly, you know, when he's going to have to arrest somebody, or there's a situation where a possible arrest is involved, he may assert himself more than is necessary so that he would be justified in making some type of arrest, and possibly getting into an aggressive action type, uh, even free-for-all, a fight, uh, have him use his nightstick or something along those lines. It's just in my opinion, he's an aggressive individual when he's in a police uniform."

These incidents occurred in 1979 and 1980, yet Sanders is still on the force. Picture him reading this article, and be glad you didn't write it.

--Phoebe Caulfield and Mark Silverstein



Draft prosecutions taper off

As the pace of draft prosecutions slowed over the last two years, the level of public attention to the issue also declined. The collective work of the anti-draft movement played a real role in forcing the government to back off. Prosecutions were not inherently a defeat for the administration. Courageous defendants and committed organizers turned what was originally Selective Service's biggest threat into an important means of education about the draft. But the victory has not yet been entirely won, nor is the issue dead.

To begin with, the government was willing to back off in part because the Solomon amendments provided a quieter and safer way to accomplish the same end. The various Solomon amendments have, of course, had a tremendous impact on registration rates, and it remains extremely important for the anti-draft movement to find effective ways to address this issue publicly.

Secondly, the prosecutions were not a complete loss for the government. Although the political battle was lost, the government feels it won important ground on the legal front. The first cases gave the Department of Justice and the Selective Service System (SSS) the opportunity to develop legal and organizational groundwork for future cases.

They fought out some of the litigation issues which most concerned them and have tested a number of other arguments as well. The legal battles are by no means over, and other issues remain to be litigated, but the government has made initial gains in the Reagan-era courts.

Third, the government's approach to prosecutions--and the draft--is one

of expediency and opportunism, not of principle. If public opposition made draft prosecutions costly, it was simple to put them on a back burner. It is just as simple to heat up the issue again at a more opportune time, when public sentiment has shifted in response to militaristic posturing.

We must not be lulled into thinking that the slowing pace of prosecutions



means a move away from the draft. Since the first days of registration, prosecutions have provided the principal media and public focus for the issue of the draft. With fewer indictments, the draft is seldom a public issue. But the underlying question of the draft remains a very important one to the government. As with prosecutions, the issue of conscription can conveniently be given a back seat and revived again when conditions are more expedient.

While the prosecutions have been the most visible aspect of the move toward a draft, they are only one aspect. SSS's other activities are less visible but of equal importance in reviving the draft. The recent past has seen massive use of Solomon I and II, and now the beginning of Solomon III, to boost registration rates; significant work on revision of draft regulations, SSS's procedures manual, and conscientious objector forms; a shift to a more conservative thinking and planning at SSS, indicative of the Reagan administration's mentality; and continual testing and refinement of the classification and induction system. SSS is not just marking time; the system is growing in sophistication and readiness.

If the government convinces us that prosecutions, and perhaps the draft as well, are no longer relevant issues, then their decision to slow prosecutions is actually a victory for them. Our realization that prosecutions are but one tactic in a larger militaristic strategy will keep us from ignoring the continuing danger of that tactic or forgetting the underlying dangers of the draft and military intervention.

--Kathy Gilbert,
from The Anti-Draft,
April-June 1986

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Drug testing in the workplace

On March 3, 1986, the President's Commission on Organized Crime proposed that all employees of the federal government, as well as all employees of private companies that contract with the federal government, be regularly subjected to urine tests for drugs as a condition of employment. Although this proposal has been widely criticized, and several members of the Commission have disavowed it, it symbolizes a trend toward forcing employees to submit to urine tests or else lose their jobs. Indeed, 25 percent of major American companies have now instituted such programs, presumably to remedy impaired job performance that results from drug abuse.

The American Civil Liberties Union opposes indiscriminate urine testing because we believe it is unfair and unreasonable to force millions of American workers who are not even suspected of using drugs, and whose job performance is satisfactory, to submit to degrading and intrusive urine tests on a regular basis. It is unfair to treat the innocent and the guilty alike.

Here are some frequent questions posed by members of the public about our stand on drug testing:

● Don't employers have the right to expect their employees not to be high on drugs on the job?

Of course they do. Employers have the right to expect their employees not to be high, or stoned, or drunk, or sound asleep. Job performance is the bottom line; if you can't do the work, you get fired. But urine tests don't measure job performance. Nor do they measure current impairment or intoxication. The only thing such tests are capable of detecting are the metabolites of various substances ingested some time in the past.

● Can urine tests determine when a particular drug was used?

No. Urinalysis cannot determine when a particular drug was ingested, and the

metabolites of some drugs will show up in urine weeks after ingestion. An employee who smokes a marijuana joint on a Saturday night may test positive the following Wednesday, long after the drug has ceased to have any effect. Why is what happened Saturday the employer's business? And how does it differ from employees who have a drink over the weekend or in the evening? What has that to do with their fitness to work? While employers do have the right to regulate their employees' activities during the workday, they do not have the right to regulate their employees' off-the-job recreational activities. Millions of executives regularly have a drink or two at lunch, and it has never been deemed necessary to test them. Why test workers for their activities on weekends or on vacation?

● If you don't use drugs, you have nothing to hide. Why object to testing?

Innocent people do have something to hide: their privacy. This "right to be left alone" is, in the words of the eminent Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, "the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men." Urine tests are an unprecedented invasion of privacy. In addition to evidence of illegal drug use, the tests can disclose numerous other details about one's private life. Urinalysis can tell a company whether an employee or job applicant is being treated for a heart condition, depression, epilepsy, diabetes, or schizophrenia. It can also reveal whether an employee is pregnant.

Innocent people also have reason to be concerned because the method of urinalysis most commonly used in drug testing (the "EMIT kit") is inherently unreliable. The EMIT kit gives a false positive result at least 10 percent and possibly as much as 30 percent of the time. Experts understand the test's unreliability. At a recent conference, 120 forensic scientists were asked, "Is there anybody who would submit urine for cannabinoid [marijuana] testing if his career, reputation, freedom or livelihood depended on it?" Not a single hand went up.

The EMIT test confuses substances. For example, over-the-counter cough medicines can show up as heroin. Certain antibiotics show up as cocaine; as many as eleven different legal substances may show up as marijuana. It is universally advised by doctors and toxicologists that the EMIT kit should never be used as definitive evidence that a person has or has not taken a particular drug.

Companies that manufacture EMIT kits warn employers to follow up any positive result with additional, more sophisticated confirmatory tests. But such confirmatory tests are expensive, and in practice many employers do not use them. Millions of people across the country risk not being hired or losing their jobs and their reputations because of the EMIT kit test.

● Still, isn't indiscriminate testing the best way to catch the users?

It may be the easiest way to identify drug users, but it is also by far the most un-American. There is a long tradition in the United States that general searches of innocent people are unfair. This tradition began in colonial America, when King George's soldiers searched everyone indiscriminately in order to uncover those few who were committing offenses against the Crown. These general searches were deeply hated by the early Americans, and were a leading cause of the Revolution. After the Revolution, and fresh from the experience of the unfairness of indiscriminate searches, the Fourth Amendment was passed. It says that you cannot search everyone, innocent and guilty alike, to find the few who are guilty. You must have good reason to suspect a particular person before subjecting him or her to intrusive and degrading body searches.

But mandatory, general drug testing programs threaten to turn these traditional principles upside down. Compulsory blood and urine tests are bodily searches, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. The lower courts have already struck down mandatory testing programs in several government workplaces as violative of the Fourth

Amendment because they were not based on particularized suspicion. And although the Fourth Amendment doesn't legally limit the power of private employers, the same principles of fairness ought to apply. Tests should be limited to those workers who are reasonably suspected of using drugs (including alcohol) in a way that impairs job performance.

● Aren't there exceptions to the rule? Shouldn't workers such as airline pilots, who can endanger the lives of others if they aren't functioning properly, be subject to drug testing?

Obviously people who hold the lives of other people in their hands should be held to a higher standard of job performance. But urine testing won't do that. Urinalysis cannot measure current impairment or intoxication. It would be far more meaningful to require all airline pilots to undergo a brief neurological exam for impaired visual acuity or motor coordination before stepping into the cockpit. No one could object to that. But urine testing is simply irrelevant to the issue of impairment, and people in high risk occupations would be subjected to urinalysis on the same basis as everyone else—only to confirm a reasonable suspicion, based on observation, that a particular individual is job impaired because of drug abuse.

● What about the high economic costs to industry of drug use? Shouldn't employers be permitted to institute drug testing as a way to protect their investment?

The economic costs to industry of drug use are cited to justify mass drug testing in the workplace. Billions of dollars, we are told, are lost through low productivity and absenteeism. Some experts question these estimates as extrapolations and projections that have no convincing data base. Moreover, the economic costs of alcoholism and heavy cigarette smoking are without doubt higher, since so many more people use alcohol and smoke. But no one has yet suggested tests to discover the extent to which workers are drinking or smoking in the evenings or on weekends.

The people who most often cite the high economic costs to industry caused by drug use are the same people who are reaping huge profits from urine testing—manufacturers of the urine test, chemical laboratories and professional drug abuse consultants. Their pronouncements ought to be viewed with skepticism.

● If urine testing is out, is there anything left that can be done about the drug "epidemic"?

Urine testing doesn't prevent drug use, or cure addiction. Education and voluntary rehabilitation are the only approaches that do. A well-funded, well-coordinated public education effort, such as the anti-smoking campaign, would do more to bring drug use under control than the most massive program of testing. Such efforts work. Since 1965, the proportion of Americans who habitually smoke cigarettes has gone down from 43 percent to 32 percent. Those who have studied this decline attribute it to public education. Certainly, it cannot be attributed to forced testing or employer sanctions.

In a number of schools, drug education courses have succeeded in teaching teenagers that it is all right to say "no" to drugs. We cannot stop everyone from using drugs, but we can encourage people to be more intelligent and prudent in their attitudes and behavior toward drugs, just as we do with alcohol and cigarettes.

● Have any courts ruled that mandatory urine testing of government employees is a violation of the Constitution?

Virtually every court that has heard a constitutional challenge to testing by government agencies and employers has found that some degree of individual suspicion is necessary. These courts have prohibited programs that included "random" or "blanket" drug testing. A state court judge in New York ruled that a local board of education could not subject all teachers being considered for tenure to urinalysis because "an invasive bodily search may be constitutionally made only when based upon reasonable suspicion based on

supportable objective fact." A federal judge in Iowa ruled that random tests of prison guards were unconstitutional unless conducted on the basis of "reasonable suspicion."

● But if the Constitution doesn't apply to private employees, how can the privacy rights of private employees be protected?

Only by special federal or state laws or by union contracts. At this time virtually no protection against the mandatory drug testing programs that have now been adopted by 25 percent of the Fortune 500 companies. The ACLU believes it is grossly unfair that government workers are protected in their right to privacy while their counterparts in private industry are not. Labor unions should push to include a ban on blanket testing in collective bargaining agreements, and the rights of non-union employees can only be protected by pressing for the passage of federal, state or local legislation.

Because of the efforts of the ACLU and other concerned organizations, the City of San Francisco, for example, has enacted a model law which protects workers in private industry from indiscriminate drug testing. The new law says that no employer doing business in San Francisco "may demand, require, or request employees to submit to, to take or to undergo any blood, urine, or encephalographic test in the body as a condition of continued employment" unless three conditions are met:

1. the employer has reason to believe the employee's faculties are impaired on the job;
2. the employee's impairment presents a clear and present danger to his own safety or the safety of others;
3. the employer gives the employee the opportunity, at the employer's expense, to have the sample tested by an independent laboratory and gives the employee an opportunity to rebut or explain the results.

This law strikes the delicate balance between an employee's fundamental right to privacy, and the legitimate needs of the employer.

Cop takes Ronnie literally

Sauk City, Wis.--A Sauk-Prairie police officer had saved news articles of President Reagan's war on drugs and had quit taking a depressant only a week before he was accused of killing a drug suspect, investigators said.

A search of John Mueller's Prairie du Sac home was made last Thursday by Sauk County sheriff's deputies, two days after Mueller was charged with shooting John Graham, 48. Graham was shot in the head twice while he lay face down and handcuffed in the driveway of his home, police said.

Mueller and a Department of Natural Resources warden had stopped Graham on suspicion of possessing marijuana. The shooting occurred just two days after the Reagans appeared on national television urging Americans to declare an all-out war on drugs and pushers.

--from the Chicago Tribune, Sept. 24, 1986, p. 3.



The "War on Drugs" policy: Political rhetoric or actual concern?

The recent onslaught of the "War on Drugs" controversy has prompted me to voice a few thoughts on the subject.

This policy concerns me as several people I know have recently been arrested (See Post, Sept.-Oct. 1986, p. 4) due to the increasing efforts of our local enforcement officials, in accordance with the Chief Executive's objectives in trying to eradicate drug use in Amerika.

It appears to me that, although the prevalent use of drugs in Amerika is a serious problem to be dealt with, there are many, many more pressing issues that require the attention of the government policy makers (and our tax dollars).

The federal deficit, excessive government spending (especially on defense, covert wars, and nuclear arms), foreign policy (mainly in South Africa, Central America, and the Mid-East), crime, corruption, censorship, nuclear waste,

poverty, homelessness, illiteracy, women's rights, gay and minority rights corporate welfare, and decreasing civil liberties are but a few of the problems that come to mind. As far as I'm concerned, these issues are much more important than some people using drugs.

The Reagan administration seems to feel that, at this point, drugs and their abuse are a (if not the) #1 priority on the governmental agenda, and the root cause of all the other problems in Amerikan society today.

I would like to know when Nancy Reagan became one of the president's main advisors (or is she in fact the "brains" behind the whole operation and Ron is just playing the part of the president?). Although she is bound to exert some influence on his thinking, I don't believe that she is either qualified or has the right to dictate the policy preferences of the government.

Is Ron's stance on this issue one of actual concern? Or, is it a mere political ploy to increase his popularity with the many Americans who do not use drugs, thus creating a stronger potential power base for continued conservative thought in this country?

The president has already scored a major victory with the acceptance of William Rehnquist as his new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Joseph Scalia as Rehnquist's replacement on the bench.

What will be next? Already, mandatory drug testing is fast becoming the norm in many places of employment, especially in the government and in the field of athletics. Will there be testing for alcoholism as well? Masculinity? Femininity? Virginity? Homosexuality? Lesbianism? Where will it end? Will it end???

--John M. Klasey



Send your specimen to Nancy

With drug hysteria reaching a hallucinatory fever pitch these days, legendary prankster and sometimes-a-great-novelist Ken Kesey has found a novel way to protest the rising clamor for urine testing. On the road promoting his latest book, Demon Box, Kesey began his own drug effort. "I've started a campaign to have everybody send a bottle of piss to Nancy Reagan," he says. "We're gonna sell these little padded envelopes. We can deluge the White House in piss." That oughta, um, tick them off.

--From In These Times, Oct. 8-14, 1986.

Desert Heart lacks soul

It was to be the movie we've all been waiting for. Adapted from a Jane Rule novel (The Desert of the Heart) that has been praised for its depth of perception into human nature, Desert Heart is a story about Vivian (Helen Shaver), a Columbia English professor who goes to Reno to get a divorce and meets Cay (Patricia Charbonneau), a young woman with whom she falls in love. This was to be that rarest of beasts--a 'good movie about lesbians where the girl actually gets the girl.

And the last part is true. The girl does get the girl, in one of the most beautifully filmed and explicit lesbian love scenes I've seen. And no one commits suicide. Or sees the light and marries some stud that can give her the babies all women need. Or ends up an alcoholic. Or any of the other various forms of cinematic punishment that lesbians traditionally receive in the name of realism.

Disappointment

But the movie itself was a tremendous disappointment on two levels. The biggest problem is that the depth of perception just isn't there. If you've read the novel, as I did, you might be tempted to read it in. But folks who didn't read the novel consistently told me they thought the movie was shallow.

One friend even asked me, "When are lesbian movies going to grow up?" And she has a point. Not only does Desert Heart lack depth, it also lacks **development** of the relationship between Cay and Vivian, which is central to the plot. In the novel, they have an intricate and intimate personal relationship that builds daily during the six weeks they have together. In the movie they lock eyes the first time they meet, have one desultory conversation while riding horses, and then we settle down for the long chase, interspersed with attempts to show all the complex peripheral relationships.

Once Cay finally catches the elusive Vivian, in a scene that is remarkably reminiscent of a classic date rape scenario (Vivian says leave, leave, and Cay says you don't want me to, and Vivian says oh yes I do, and Cay says oh no you don't [as Ms. magazine would say, "Click!"]) we spend the rest of

the movie in bed with them. Well, almost.

Crucial scenes

A bigger problem for me, though, was an almost total lack of power in the crucial scenes. There are a few scenes post-seduction that seem to be trying to make some points. And they are points that haven't been made in mainstream movies about lesbians before. For instance--a scene in which the women discuss their differing degrees of "outness" (blatancy in the community) and sensitivity to community reaction.

That scene should have made every lesbian (or gay man, for that matter) in the audience clutch the arm of her chair and fight off tears, because it is a problem that every homosexual relationship must deal with, without exception. And it was a scene that should have made every unknowlegable straight person in the audience say, "You know, that could be horrible. I never thought of that."



But the scene carried no weight. It was too short, we didn't know enough about the characters to understand how this argument would affect them, and we didn't believe they were anything but hot for each other, so why the big deal.



Back seat

The same problem cropped up when the two of them made it clear that neither was going to change her life to go off with the other--should have been a tear jerker. As it was, well, I wasn't surprised. They didn't know each other well enough to be in love, and the level of lust they showed for each other didn't seem strong enough to be a driving force.

So really the two major problems are pretty closely connected. The main relationship in the movie is given back seat to the peripheral relationships (none of them were developed well enough either--someone decided to either make some editing decisions or lengthen the movie), and perception into the relationship is given back seat to aesthetic footage of two classically beautiful women gazing soulfully at each other.

There were other problems. Patricia Charbonneau, while very beautiful in a slender, baby dyke sort of way, is not all that great as an actress. And the movie showed a remarkable lack of consistency with the time period (Cay was awfully far out of the closet and awfully free of any resulting emotional scars for the 1950's). But those and other minor problems would have been so easy to overlook if only there had been some depth to Cay and Vivian's affair.

As it was, the mistakes, the physical beauty of both Shaver and Charbonneau, and the hot love scenes were all we had to pay attention to.

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I do want to congratulate Dan Craft for his sensitive review. If I were writing for the Pantagraph's audience, I would have written one saying very nearly what he said. This movie is going to mean a lot to the women and men who think they're the only ones, and I think it's wonderful that a positive lesbian film directed and written by women has hit the mainstream theaters. And this film beats the hell out of Personal Best (I never did believe that anyone could live for four years with a woman who whined the way Hemingway did through that whole movie).

So I'm not saying don't see it, if you get the chance. It's not horrible--the love scene alone is worth the matinee price. And it is kinda nice to watch a lesbian love story, however shallow, where nobody gets cinematically chastised. And if you have a sense of humor as perverse as mine, you can even get a kick out of watching the straight folks cringe during the sex scenes, after all those years of cringing my way through interminable straight sex scenes.

--Chris M.

with a little help from Two views on Desert Hearts--Sexy? or Simply Slow? by Sarah Schulman and Michael Bronski Gay Community News April 19, 1986.

Witnesses for Peace

From six midwest states and ten denominations, twenty individuals joined together August 5-19 to form a Witness for Peace (WFP) delegation to Nicaragua. On a twelve-day information-gathering tour we took testimony, held interviews with Nicaraguans from a wide spectrum of society, and joined in two direct actions alongside victims of Contra violence.

To prepare the delegation for the journey, a two-day orientation was held in Chicago. Cultural practices, history of the country, and nonviolence theory and practice were among the topics presented by the experienced team of WFP trainers.

Our lodging was the home of a resident of Managua. A family next door prepared our meals. We learned of the effects of the drought first hand, as the water for neighborhoods is turned off at certain times each day, and twenty of us shared one shower. We slept in cots, hammocks and on the floor throughout the house.

The following day was tightly scheduled. Our four Long Term Volunteers, all North Americans living for six months or more in Nicaragua, took us in the WFP Toyota bus around the earthquake-devastated city.

Committee projects

In a meeting with Octavio Cortez of CEPAD, we were briefed on the history of this Protestant committee that coordinates projects of development with 46 denominations. Current work includes projects in housing, medical care, education, child welfare, and agricultural improvement. The Nicaraguan government is supportive and cooperative with CEPAD, but the funding comes from Western European and U.S. churches. The following points were the highlights of our interview.

- "Pro-Contra" churches don't exist. Certain individuals have conflicts with the Sandinista government and pressure for change.

- Between the Catholic hierarchy and the government, no exchange or cooperation occurs. At the grassroots level Catholic base communities, CEPAD and the government cooperate in projects.

- Conscientious objector status does exist for seminary students. Trouble arose just after the exemption was announced. There was a sudden increase in enrollment in upper levels of seminaries, Catholic bishops were accused of promoting students just to evade the draft.

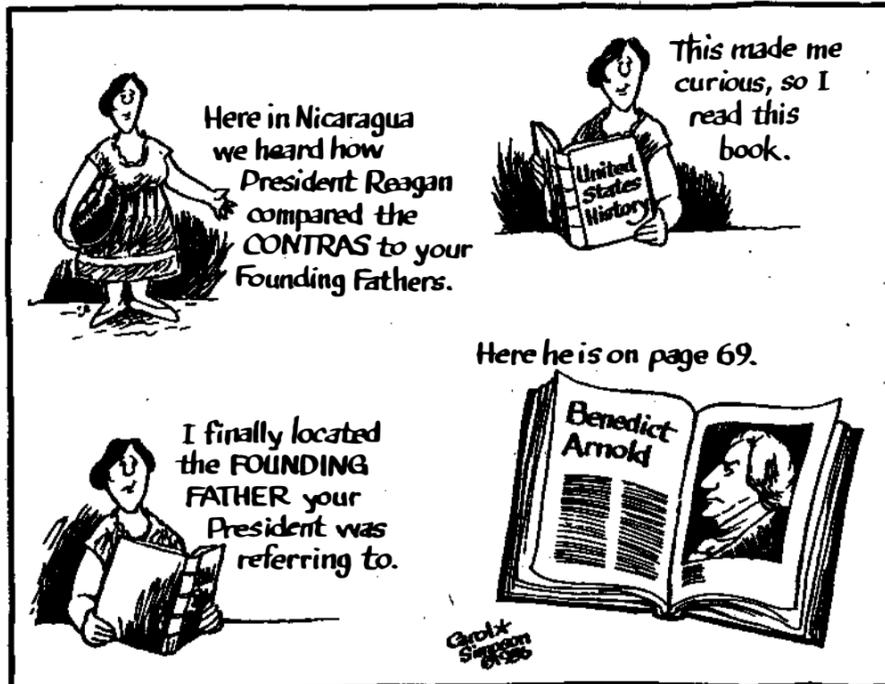
- Isolated cases of religious persecution have occurred. The government discussed them with CEPAD, responded with investigations and satisfactory resolutions.

- Cortez found it incomprehensible that the Reagan administration ignores majority opinion in the U.S., and withdrew from World Court jurisdiction.

- On the question of exportation of terrorism he replied, "The Nicaraguan example inspires other revolutions, not exports it."

Exportation of terrorism

Late that afternoon we met with Franci Araica, an analyst of North American Affairs in the Ministry of the Exterior. Immediately concerns were raised about the expulsion of Catholic clergy. She stated, "Vega and Carballo are Nicaraguans before they are priests, and must fulfill this responsibility as all other citizens do, but instead they became spokespersons for the policy of aggression promoted by the U.S. and risked Nicaraguan security." A similar logic was applied in questions about the closing of La Prensa. She also added that all restrictions included within the State of Emergency are in accord with international law guidelines found in Articles 22 and 27 of American Conventions on Human Rights. She declared that in spite of aggression, Nicaragua will never



break off diplomatic ties with the U.S. She was aware of Reagan's allegations of exportation of terrorism. She echoed what we would hear each time we raised the question throughout our stay, "Nicaragua can't send arms abroad as it is poor and fighting its own war, but it offers moral solidarity to all countries struggling for justice."

Scars of struggle

On the third day in Nicaragua, we traveled through small towns that showed scars of the struggle leading to the "Triumph" as well as scars of Contra violence. After lunch in Esteli, we traveled the rocky, dusty road to Achuapa, where we would be residing for the next few days. Our hostel housed fifty people, so we shared the space with Nicaraguans, Swiss, Italian, and Dutch travelers.

Sunday in Achuapa began with a Mass said by Padre Juan, an Italian priest. The townspeople took an active part in the ceremony, perhaps more than usual as it was being said to commemorate the deaths of fourteen local people at the hands of Contras the year before. The rest of the day was spent in meetings with the local groups AMNLAE and El Bloque.

AMNLAE is a women's organization that has many roles in the community, but the women present shared one thing-- losses of loved ones from the war. For two hours they quietly recounted how their husbands or children were found with acid burns, puncture wounds, and mutilations. Among them were Chantal, the wife of the slain Maurice Demierre, a Swiss volunteer, as well as his mother, Jacqueline. He and Chantal had been working in Nicaragua through Brothers Without Borders, a lay Catholic group, when he was killed in a Contra ambush. He was driving 30 women and children home in a truck when the mine in the road was detonated. All the women present thanked us for hearing their stories, and made clear their desire for the violence to cease.

Liberation theology

The Delegates of the Word from El Bloque introduced us to the concepts of liberation theology and Christian social service in communities. Along with their optimistic reports on health, housing, and education projects, they somberly shared that their members are often targets of Contra terror due primarily to the fact they provide social services.

Early the next morning, those delegation members feeling physically prepared embarked on the march, or as the local people called it, "La Via de las Cruces." Padre Juan had organized a nineteen mile walk through the rugged countryside, ending at the site where the massacre victims' bodies had been discovered. The 250 participants stopped at several "stations,"

homes of the massacred and places where they were believed to have been kidnapped while working in the fields. The path wound through fields of scrawny corn, gently curved hills, and around small homes nestled under mango trees. It was fascinating to note how protective the Nicaraguans were of us, assisting us over rocky streambeds, offering rides on horseback to the weary, encouraging us in the final miles. Occasionally a man with a gun would be visible on a hilltop, keeping a watchful eye for danger. We returned exhausted to Achuapa just before sunset, yet some members of our delegation began preparations for another action to a second massacre site scheduled for the following day.

Dairy cooperative

From Achuapa, we traveled a short distance in the bed of a pickup truck to a dairy cooperative in El Largatillo. A school dedication was taking place and we joined in the festivities with the thirty-five families working the coop. This was the second school built; the original one had been burned down by the Contras over a year ago during a raid that claimed six lives. This school was a project of Maurice Demierre, though he never lived to see its completion. With his family present, the community dedicated the school to his memory. The classrooms bear the names of the three teenagers who died defending the school in the attack.

Cooperatives are a result of agrarian reform and are in abundance in the remote rural areas of Nicaragua. Due to their distance from population centers, they are vulnerable to Contra violence. The Contras appear to want to discourage their success, but the residents of this cooperative stated they will not leave their land and are quite willing to die defending it. We joined in the brick-making, work in the orchards, and made some attempts at milking cows during the second day at the coop. Later in the afternoon, we took testimony about the raid that claimed six lives. Florentina lost her husband and one of her daughters in the attack, and nearly lost her nephew, Juan, a sixteen year old polio victim. He was unable to run with the other schoolchildren when the Contras arrived, so he crawled into a crude bomb shelter while mortar fire came down all around him and Contras peered inside looking for survivors. Miraculously he emerged from the shelter without injury after the raid.

Working with Marxists

The next few days were spent in transit working slowly back to Managua by way of Leon. In Leon we requested an interview with the bishop; we were told he was not available. We made an appointment with the Catholic rector of a seminary; he did not appear. In Managua, delegation members attended

describe Central America

the Mass of Obando y Bravo, while others attended a Baptist service. Obando y Bravo turned down our request for an interview, but the Baptist minister, Eugenio Zamorra, met with people after the service. He is a Nicaraguan, with a daughter living in the U.S. On the subject of church-government relations he said, "I am not a Marxist, I am not a Communist, I am a Christian. But I will work side by side with Marxists when their goals and my goals are the same."

On our final day in Managua, we met with leaders from COSEP, a business organization. The two men were outspoken critics of the Sandinista leadership. Though they each owned private businesses, they claimed that free enterprise does not exist in Nicaragua; it is an image portrayed by the government to keep up the appearance of a mixed economy. Their main complaints were about import/export regulations, lack of basic necessities, inadequate transportation, and skyrocketing inflation. We learned upon our return that the day after that interview, one of the men, Guillermo Quant, was arrested by the government and charged with being a CIA spy for the past three years.

The following meeting was with a Moravian minister, Norman Bent, who is part Miskito Indian from the Atlantic region of Nicaragua. He gave background information on that region, with its geographic isolation, different cultures and religions. We

questioned him about the treatment of the Miskitos; he reported much has changed since the Sandinistas made the initial errors. Since that time, they have made reparation that Bent thought would greatly repair the harm done. In his closing words to us he said, "let us work together someday. Until then, work to insure that your next president, man or woman, is courageous and humble, able to ask forgiveness of all Latin America. Truly then we can be a great continent."

Testimony of violence

The last formal meeting we had was with the U.S. Embassy in Managua. Alberto Fernandez, a diplomat of Cuban origins from Miami, met with us for over an hour. We gave him our impressions, some of the testimony of violence/terror tactics used by Contras, and asked questions about international law and U.S. foreign policy. Basically he discredited our testimony, evaded discussing U.S. policy in terms of law, and attacked the Sandinistas. In response to our observation that the Nicaraguan people are willing to give their lives in defense of their sovereignty, a low-ranking U.S. diplomat stated, "We should be able to bear any burden and pay any cost to overthrow this government."

"We certainly cannot deny to other nations that principle whereon our own government is founded, that every nation has a right to govern itself

internally under what form it pleases, and to change these forms at its own will."

Thomas Jefferson, 1792

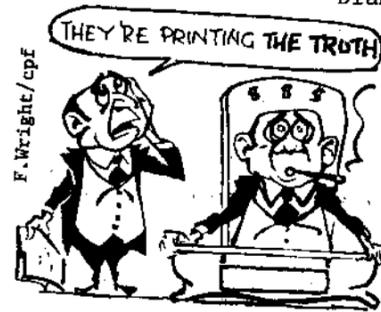
From our travels and interviews, we must conclude that it is a grave error to aid the Contras. It was clear that the Sandinista Party enjoyed widespread, popular support. The process of social reform in that country is not to be casually labeled "Communist," as the people participating in the process are Catholic, Protestant, and members of many parties, both left and right of the Sandinista one. Embracing the highest ideals integral to our own revolution of 1776, we call for:

The cessation of all aid and support of the Contras.

The termination of the economic embargo.

U.S. adherence to international law.

--Diane Speir



CIA caught with pants down in Nicaragua

The information below comes entirely from the Washington Post (WP) and the New York Times (NYT) on October 8, 1986.

Evidence of U.S. Government Involvement

1) Relatives of captured prisoner Eugene Hausenfus say he

was working for the CIA.

2) Hausenfus and the pilot, Wallace Sawger (who was killed) were carrying Salvadoran Air Force identification credentials that listed them as U.S. military advisers.

3) Hausenfus says the plane flew into Nicaragua from a Salvadoran Air Force Base.

4) Government officials admit that the company which owned the plane had been used by the CIA in the past.

5) A wallet found on the plane contained a business card of P.J. Buechler of the State Department office that administered "humanitarian" aid for the contras during the past year.

6) Contras leaders say the CIA promised them supplies and that two planeloads arrived five months ago.

Evidence of U.S. Knowledge of Law Violations

1) Administration officials say the plane was operated by a private group headed by General John Singlaub.

2) NYT: "It seems unlikely that the Salvadoran or Honduran Governments would allow private American sympathizers of the Nicaraguan rebels to warehouse and ship thousands of pounds of rifles, bullets, and other equipment to the Nicaraguan guerrillas without at least the tacit support of American officials."

3) The Administration has voiced support for this illegal effort. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams: "God bless them...If these people are involved in this effort, then they are heroes."

4) The Administration does not deny advance knowledge. Abrams admitted having "some intelligence about the plane," but said the information "is not for public consumption."

Violation of U.S. Laws

1) The Neutrality Act prohibits private groups from lending support to military attacks on governments with whom the U.S. has diplomatic relations.

2) The Arms Control Export Act prohibits the export of arms without a license.

3) The CIA has been prohibited from aiding the contras since 1984.

These violations are in addition to the violation of international law based on the World Court decision of June 27, 1986.

Please take quick action! Call Representative Madigan (309) 662-9371, Senators Paul Simon (202) 224-2152, and Alan Dixon (202) 224-2854 and demand that the \$100 million in Contra aid be halted, a full investigation be held of Contra and Administration law violations and ask for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate "Contragate" charges!!

--Pledge of Resistance

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— Tim O'Brien

Entertainment Editor, Daily Vidette

"A Peasant of El Salvador"

Play kicks off Pledge campaign

On Saturday, October 11, the B/N Pledge of Resistance/CISPES presented the play "A Peasant of El Salvador" as the kickoff event for their month-long "Stop the Lies" campaign (see adjoining article). The play, presented in the Newman Center Chapel, featured former ISU Theater grads Douglas Day and Jeff Slotter in a variety of roles representing the impact of U.S. policy on life in El Salvador.

Told simply and with moving grace, the story focuses on the life and experiences of Jesus (Day), a Salvadoran peasant in the rural village of San Pedro el Pacifico. In the beginning, Jesus' life is full of the simple joys of watching his family grow and the pride of farming the small, rocky plot of land that has been in his family for 200 years. He grows only one crop, corn, which when mixed with beans provides the staple diet of the rural peasant.

All goes well for Jesus and his family until he begins to notice a steady rise in the price of the beans he purchases at the market in San Salvador. We learn from Slotter in the narrative persona that this increase is due to a complex and costly change in the economic/political structure of the country. The 14 most powerful landowning families in El Salvador have interwed with high-ranking military personnel. This union produces a system in which a fraction of the population lives in luxury while the great majority suffers and struggles.

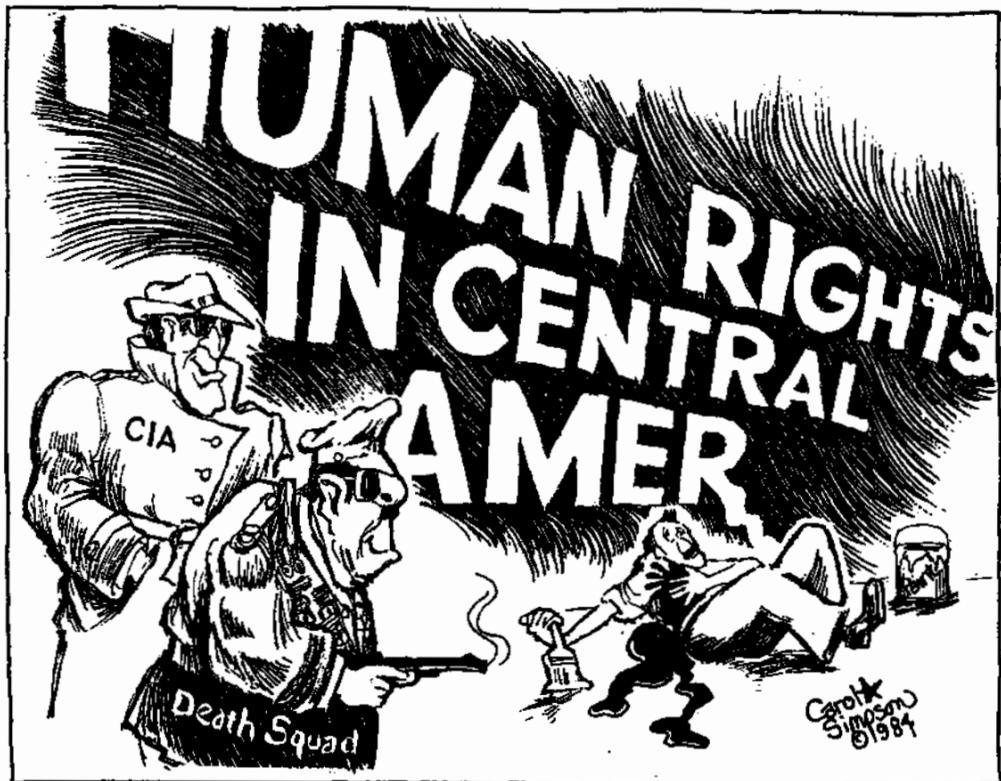
In order to keep power, the families begin to buy military supplies from America, which are paid for through the introduction of export crops such as coffee and sugar. The land available for beans begins to dwindle.

Jesus, however, knows nothing of these developments. He only knows that he must somehow bring in more money to feed his family. With optimism intact, he begins to travel into the mountains, bringing down flowers to sell in the marketplace. As the price of beans continues to skyrocket, Jesus must spend more and more time in the mountains and on the long road between San Pedro el Pacifico and San Salvador.

It is during one of these trips that the first tragedy befalls him. His youngest son Juancito dies of malnutrition. In desperation Jesus gets a job in San Salvador cutting sugar cane, where a sleazy foreman (also played by Slotter, who does most of the role-switching) tries to explain the benefits of the new economy to Jesus. But Jesus doesn't understand. He continues to work as hard as he can, spending long hours away from his village. During his absence another tragedy strikes--his wife and their unborn child die of malnutrition. At this point the threads of Jesus' simple and happy life begin to unravel; his growing bewilderment is poignantly expressed to his friends and in his prayers. He becomes slowly aware of a growing fear in the villages, as thousands of peasants are murdered trying to regain their land from the coffee growers.

Jesus' eldest daughter, Marta, leaves home to help Catholic nuns who are trying to provide medicine and education to the besieged villages. When she doesn't return, Jesus travels to San Salvador in an attempt to discover her whereabouts. He learns from a brutal and indifferent military commander that Marta was raped and murdered by Salvadoran soldiers because the nuns she worked with were "communists." His son Raoul is also jailed for his attempts to locate Marta, but somehow is mercifully freed.

When Raoul returns home, he explains to his overjoyed father that there is a great need for opposition to the soldiers, and tells Jesus that



"Well, there goes another bleeding-heart liberal!"

he and his younger sister Marie have decided to go into the hills and join the rebels.

Jesus is now left with only his son Ricardo to try to farm the land which means everything to him. His body is old and tired, but still his faith remains strong. One day while listening to a radio given to him by a friend, he hears Archbishop Romero giving a speech of encouragement to the peasants, and is deeply moved. His inspiration and love grows when Romero comes to San Pedro el Pacifico to visit. He continues to struggle and believe against hope that things will turn out well in the end.

One day a troop of Salvadoran soldiers comes to the village to explain the government's new "land reform" policy. They cruelly con the peasants into believing that there will be a new future for them, one in which each peasant will get a fair share of the land. Jesus is ecstatic, believing that finally his dream has come. The soldiers tell the villages to elect leaders, and Jesus' joy is heightened when Ricardo is elected. But the soldiers round up the leaders in a truck, and they are never heard from again. Ricardo has joined Marta in the ranks of the "disappeared."

Jesus is alone in his despair when he hears on the radio that Archbishop Romero has been assassinated. He decides to go to San Salvador for

the funeral. When he arrives, he is overwhelmed by the thousands who have also come in mourning. A growing awareness of the reality of El Salvador fills him with emotion as he makes his way into the church. His emotion turns to horror as he realizes that the church is being surrounded by soldiers, guns ready. It is at this climactic point that Jesus finds his anger and his outrage, screaming at the soldiers, "This is a funeral! Get out!"

But the soldiers open fire, and Jesus, with many others like him, is cut down by bullets.

In his brief introduction to the play, Rev. Daniel P. Jensen describes Jesus as an Everyman in the classical sense of Greek tragedy, involved in "a struggle which neither he nor the rich and powerful really understand." In a broader sense, Jesus represents every man, woman, and child struggling for freedom and dignity in lands sickened by oppression and brutality. "A Peasant of El Salvador" was a beautiful and moving experience, and those of us lucky enough to see it are enriched for it.

--DP

(For those interested, "A Peasant of El Salvador" will be presented Nov. 2 at 2:30 pm at Bradley University in Peoria.)



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Rape Crisis Center

Stop the lies about Central America

The most important component of the U.S. war in Central America is not money or weapons--it is the lies the Administration has to tell in order to sell the war to a resistant public.

Sometimes the lies are Orwellian, such as the President's repeated charge that the Sandinistas are drug smugglers. The lie is usually illustrated by a picture of a Sandinista official carrying a box that could include anything (maybe a MiG?) and is invariably refuted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. What makes it Orwellian is that there is evidence that the Contras are drug smugglers, which is one of their lesser crimes since they do it to raise money to wage their terrorist war.

Sometimes the lies are ritualistic in their absurdity, such as the repeated assertions that the human rights situation in Guatemala is improving. Every time the Administration says things are getting better they admit they weren't so good in the past, conveniently forgetting that in the past they said they were fine.

And sometimes the lies are complex--a web of little lies--such as the lie that President Duarte is something like the Cory Aquino of El Salvador. A complex lie because it ignores history (Duarte was elected after the real political opposition was gunned down at a press conference) and the reality of power in El Salvador (the military rules while Duarte handles the public relations).

And sometimes the lies are the good old-fashioned, baldfaced kind: "We do not seek the overthrow of the Sandinista government." "We are not mining the harbors of Nicaragua." "We support the Contadora peace process."

There is no shortage of lies and evidence of lying. The Institute for Policy Studies has produced a booklet that carefully documents Administration deceptions. The reports of Americas Watch, Amnesty International, and other respected human rights organizations consistently document a different reality that the Administration serves up to us.

And yet the Administration keeps on lying. Even after they're caught they keep on lying. They have to. If they told the truth, the war would be over.

"Stop the Lies" is the name of a nationwide campaign focusing on the type of information the current administration disseminates about Central America. The Bloomington-Normal chapter of the Pledge of Resistance has joined this effort to bring to light the government's policy of disinformation, distortions, and lies regarding the countries south of our border.

Believing that people who know the truth about the war in Central America will not allow it to continue, the

group is drawing attention to the lies the American people are being told. There are four "lies" they will focus on in this campaign:

LIE #1: U.S. government actions in Central America are in accordance with international law. **REALITY:** The World Court has ruled that U.S. support for the Contras is a violation of international law. The Court has rejected claims that U.S. actions were in self defense, found that CIA attacks on and spy planes over Nicaragua are illegal, and upheld the sovereignty of every state.

LIE #2: U.S. policy in the region is a response to a Soviet threat. **REALITY:** The Soviet Union has no military bases in Central America, does not conduct regular war games there, and has never used military force in Central America. The U.S. has done all of these, intervening militarily in Central America 33 times in this century.

LIE #3: The U.S. has supported the Contadora treaty process. **REALITY:** The Reagan administration says it supports this process but has consistently blocked attempts to reach an agreement. The proposed agreement calls for:

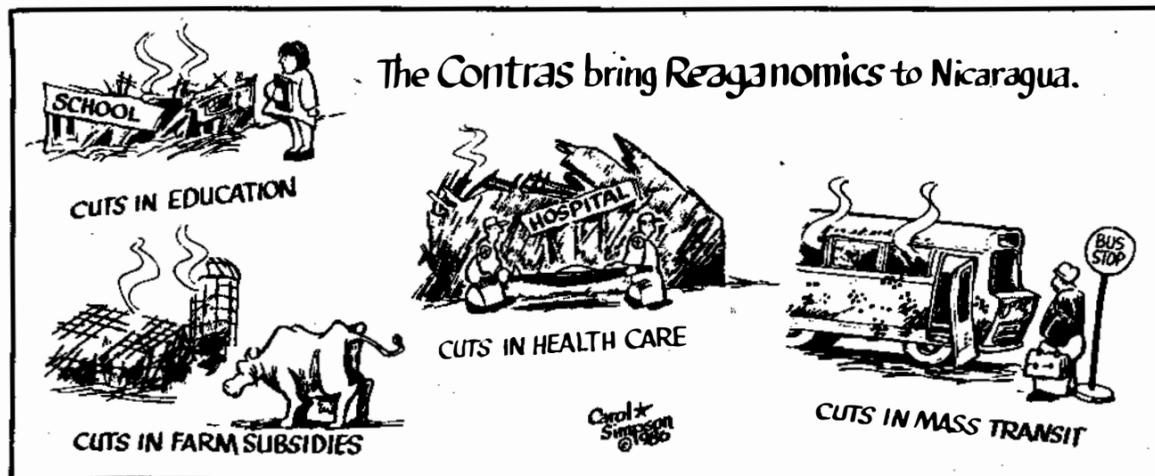
- The removal of all foreign troops and advisors from Central America.
- The elimination of weapons or military bases which present a threat

- to peace and security in the region.
- Non-intervention in the affairs of other states in the region.
- Cessation of military actions which may present a threat to peace.

LIE #4: The U.S. government is not preparing for deeper military involvement in Central America. **REALITY:** The U.S. is now at war in Central America. It has created, supplied, and trained the Contra army and the Salvadoran military. The U.S. has laid the groundwork for a wider war if this action doesn't achieve U.S. aims.

The B-N Pledge of Resistance group intends to publicize the government's campaign of disinformation through weekly leafletting. They began the local "Stop the Lies" campaign with the production of the play, *A Peasant of El Salvador*, which promoted an understanding of the struggles of the Salvadoran people under the repressive regime this government supports there. The Pledge group is also sponsoring "Material Aid for Nicaragua," through which locally donated educational and health supplies will be sent to the Nicaraguan people. A number of people in the local group plan to travel to Washington D.C. on October 25 to join with others from across the country who seek to awaken the conscience of this country and stop the lies, stop the killing in Central America.

Those who would like to be part of this effort in any way are invited to call 452-5452.



Freedom of speech skips a beat

On Wednesday, October 15, Ron Reagan's "freedom fighters" made it to Bloomington/Normal. That's right, ISU's College Republicans finally got hold of a real live "Contra from Nicaragua," and put him behind a microphone at a lecture room in Schroeder Hall. To fill out the program, they presented a Salvadoran woman who also took the Contra line. Such an event was bound to have an extraordinary effect upon the audience. It was not, however, the effect that the College Republicans

had supposed.

After the speakers completed their speeches, they began to take questions from the audience. Immediately, the questions were critical of their Reaganesque portrayal of the situation in Nicaragua, and of the Contras' modus operandi. Meanwhile, the organizers of the program became more and more agitated. Finally, a particularly well-fed Republican lamented to the dissenters: "Why don't you get your own hall?"

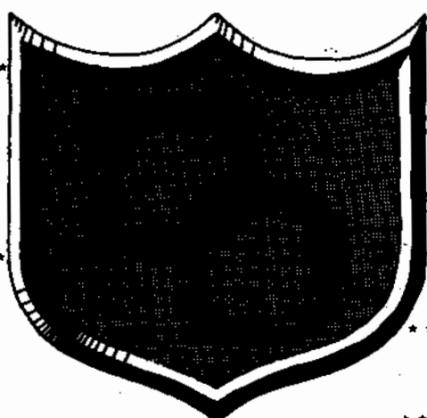
But the questions continued. So the CR's came up with a new tactic: monopolizing the proceedings with their own contrived questions. One began: "How can the leader of a murderous dictatorship, Daniel Ortega, travel to this country...." At this point, a woman in the audience responded: "Ronald Reagan is the leader of a murderous dictatorship." This was just too much. The aforementioned rotund Republican barreled up into the audience and told the woman that "this is my auditorium" and "I make the rules." Well now, sounds a little dictatorial, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, the Republicans ruined the chance for dialogue on a sensitive issue by stifling discussion of it. If this reflects their idea of the democratic process, then I can see why so many people are leary of those now campaigning for "democracy" in Nicaragua.

--MJ

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The Underground Vegetarian

How to survive eating out

My friend said I couldn't call this The Underground Gourmet, for some reason. The Underground Vegetarian is not quite right, because what I intend to do is try to find places in Bloomington Normal where you can eat healthy and well, vegetarian or not. Now, my own kitchen is highly renowned, but while working three or four jobs, I'm not likely to invite even myself to eat there very often. The joys of cooking are a weekend pleasure for me, and I'll bet for a lot of you, too.

You can do what Mark does, and sustain life through grabbing cottage cheese and yogurt out of the icebox whenever your hunger gets in the way of your productivity. If this method sounds even vaguely okay, this column isn't for you.

I'd like to talk to people who're interested in keeping employment up by plopping their butts down in a restaurant booth and ordering dinner: a good, healthy, probably vegetarian dinner. Is it impossible in this community, as some say? I intend to find out. I've enlisted two friends to help me eat dinner at some likely-sounding joint each month, and I'll share our findings with you. Please call our machine (828-7232) if you'd like to suggest places for us to go. Heh.

We first went to Rocky Rococco's at 1601 E. College. We'd heard good things about their salad bar, which is of course always a big topic among vegetarian diners-out. We'd also heard that you could get whole wheat pizza crust there every day: that sounded promising. We went to Rococco's on a Friday and again on a Tuesday a couple of weeks later.

The salad bar is more than adequate-- even above average on our first visit, when whole fresh apples were included, as well as other fresh cut-up fruit. It has much of the usual salad bar fare: lettuce with red cabbage, broccoli, chopped beets, cauliflower, mushrooms, onions, green peppers. These were all fresh enough. Our salad bar cottage cheese expert, who complains about bland, dull samples at many bars, judged Rococco's cottage cheese "tasty." The meat was unobtrusive chunks of white chicken.

Rococco's salad bar also has nice fattening (but sometimes healthful) things to put on top of your salad: sunflower seeds, trail mix, peanuts, raisins, sesame crunchies, and those heavenly little fried onion rings that almost make you think clogging your arteries is worth it.

Negatives:

There was no spinach (though Ann says she'd rather have no spinach than nasty spinach), no kidney or garbanzo beans. On our second visit, the fruit was canned, not fresh (seasonal change, we assume). The only crackers were saltines, which contain lard, putting off true veggies.

Our major complaint about the salad bar was stinginess: a single trip with a dinner salad sized bowl costs \$1.79 (\$1.49 with a meal). We don't think the place would lose much if they let you go back for more. Most people can't eat that much rabbit food anyway, and Sue pointed out that a lot of people don't like to dump their fruit on top of their salad greens (which you have to do with such tiny bowls). They like to go back and have the fruit for dessert. Unlimited



trips to the salad bar will cost you \$2.69 and get you a bigger bowl.

"Ennh"

Don't get overexcited about the pizza: we certainly didn't. The first time, we had individual slices. I will never get used to having my dinner served up in a cardboard box, even when the plants are plastic (as is most of Rococco's decor, but not obnoxiously so). The Garden of Eatin', which is the vegetarian choice on whole wheat crust, was "just okay," according to Ann, but then she admitted that "I've never had a great pizza in this town." The vegetarian whole wheat pan pizza we ordered on our second visit was . . . well, "ennh." I think that's how you spell that. We all concurred that "ennh" was the word for it, or, as Sue put it, "It's hard to dance to, but I'd buy it."

You find out a lot about your friends when you test restaurants with them.

Rococco's has good cold domestic beer on tap, with pitchers being significantly cheaper per serving than glasses. The restaurant also has assorted imported beers like Beck's and Corona in the cooler.

With a medium pan pizza, salad bars (one-trip) for three, and a pitcher of Busch, our dinner cost \$19.00. We took one piece of pizza home, too. That's a reasonable price for our range, but if you have big eaters or drinkers, your tab could get uncomfortably high.

Considering the state of Blormal restaurants, we'll probably eat there again.

--Phoebe Caulfield

How, you may ask, did we come to be dodging giant cockroaches in the Florida Keys with a Rastafarian surrogate dad? How does anyone get involved in the torrid, tangential twists and turns of life? How the heck should I know? That is a question best asked of...



OUR SEARCH FOR OUR FLAKY FATHER LED US TO BOBBY BARRINGTON, THE RASTAFARIAN WHO HAD ASSUMED OUR DAFY DAD'S NAME AND CREDIT RATING... BOBBY KINDLY OFFERED TO FIND US FREE PASSAGE ON A BOAT SAILING FOR ANGUILLA, THE ISLAND WHERE OUR POP WAS LAST SEEN...



IT WAS A LONG WAY THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN TO ANGUILLA... WE SETTLED UNEASILY INTO OUR BERTHS IN THE HOLD...

I COULD KILL YOU FOR TALKING ME INTO THIS CRAZY SCHEME!! I WISH I COULD GET SOME SLEEP! THIS BED IS SO UNCOMFORTABLE!! IT'S LIKE SLEEPING ON STRAW!!



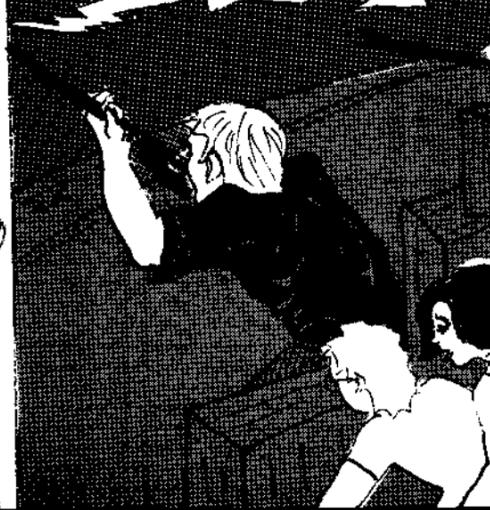
JILL, I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THESE VERY MATTRESSES ARE FILLED WITH MARIJUANA.



WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS THE REVULSION -- NO, SHOCK -- NO, THE ABSOLUTE HORROR WITH WHICH I HEARD THOSE WORDS!! ME, AN A-STUDENT, A ZETA BETA THETA! I DIDN'T EVEN SMOKE, DRINK OR USE SEX AND DRUGS! SO WHAT WAS I DOING IN A DEN OF DRUG-SMUGGLERS? MY HEAD WAS SWIMMING AS WE HEARD A COMMOTION BEGINNING UP ON DECK!!



THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS OR WE'LL OPEN FIRE!



Tom Hayden: Friend or Big Brother?

Imagine a society where anyone convicted of a minor crime, taking part in a political demonstration, for example, could be required to participate in a longterm involuntary "treatment" program where they were forced to take very powerful mind control drugs that made it impossible to think or talk clearly or read, and which eventually caused permanent side effects similar to the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Sounds like 1984? Actually, the date is 1986, and a bill to that effect made it past the California Assembly and Senate to the Governor's desk before being vetoed on October 1. The bill was Assembly Bill 3338, and it was authored by none other than the former radical activist, Tom Hayden.

In Hayden's bill, any person convicted of a misdemeanor would be required, as a condition of probation, to undergo psychiatric treatment, if in the opinion of the "county mental health director or other qualified mental health professionals" the person could "benefit" from mandatory outpatient treatment. The professional would then be required to submit reports "in no case less than every four months" to the court about how the person was progressing. If the person refused to comply with the treatment program, his or her probation could be revoked.

Mainstays

One of the mainstays of both inpatient and outpatient treatment programs in this country are the neuroleptic drugs, such as Thorazine, Prolixin, Stelazine, Mellaril, Haldol. (The last is often used on political dissidents in the Soviet Union when they are incarcerated in psychiatric institutions.) One of the common effects of neuroleptics if used over a period of time, which varies with the recipient, is a form of permanent brain damage called Tardive Dyskinesia, or T.D. This



condition is characterized by grotesque and rhythmic involuntary movements of the face and limbs, cheek-puffing, lip-smacking, chomping of the jaws, repeated tongue thrusts, difficulty speaking and swallowing, and jerking of the wrists, fingers, and feet.

T.D. is well documented in the psychiatric literature, and a particularly thorough discussion is found in a book by Peter Breggin, M.D., called Psychiatric Drugs: Hazards to the Brain (Springer Publishing, NYC).

Other acknowledged effects of neuroleptics are impaired vision, drooling, impaired speech, dizziness, extreme sensitivity to sunlight, constant writhing and jiggling, painful muscle spasms, and so on. One of the listed "side effects" is "sudden death."

Although the reasons for this reaction are also numerous, a N.Y. medical examiner made national news a few years ago when he revealed that 30% of all deaths of mental patients in Rockland County were directly attributable to the use of psychiatric drugs which caused patients to aspirate their own vomit. The examiner, Frederick Zugibe, emphasized, "These deaths are not from overdoses. The deaths are occurring at the therapeutic dosage level."

(A bill by Senator McCorquodale requiring that involuntary psychiatric patients be told the effects of these drugs—even though they still do not have the right to refuse them—was signed into law by California Governor Deukmejian last week.)

Mind control

Tom Hayden's enthusiasm for psychiatric mind control is not even matched by others in the legislature or the Department of Mental Health itself. Another bill introduced by Hayden which failed to get enough support to pass the Assembly would have provided for a change in the commitment criteria (for psychiatric incarceration) from being someone who is "unable to provide for food, clothing, or shelter as a result of a mental disorder," the way the law reads now, to someone who is "unable to provide for food, clothing, shelter, or health." (As a friend of mine cynically remarked, that's one way to drum up business for his wife's exercise program...And after all, Jane Fonda did play a psychiatrist in her last movie.)

The bill also would have abolished many of the due process protections in the current law for people facing longterm commitment, such as the right to a jury trial, the right to a formal courtroom hearing, and the right to proof "beyond a reasonable doubt." One possible reason for Hayden's desire to put more unruly people under mandatory psychiatric treatment is his apparent dislike of all the homeless people sleeping on the beach in Santa Monica, where he and his celebrity wife share a house near the beach. (It would be so much less aggravation if these people could all be put away somewhere, or at the very least kept in a state of drugged passivity.) Apparently the effects of the Reagan administration economic policies and cutbacks in funding for human needs has not entered strongly into Hayden's calculations.

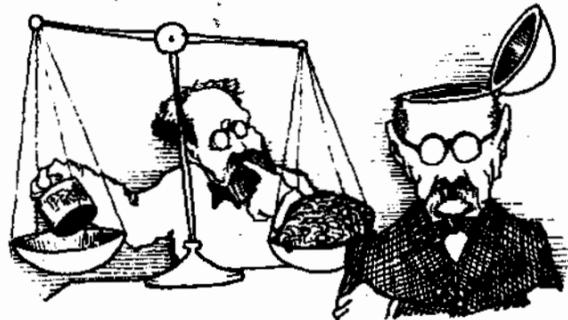
Even the Dept. of Mental Health and the Conference of Local Mental Health Directors, not always known for being in the forefront of the struggle to protect patients' rights, opposed Hayden's outpatient commitment bill. Aside from the fiscal burden of such a program, which some observers think may have been Deukmejian's reason for vetoing the bill, even for the Dept. of Mental Health the speculation that some people might "benefit from psychiatric treatment" is not sufficient grounds to institute a massive program of involuntary outpatient treatment.

Unfortunately, the 5 or 6 representatives of groups like the California

Network of Mental Health Clients, the ACLU, and the California Association of Mental Health Patients Rights Advocates, who normally keep track of and lobby against repressive social control legislation such as A.B. 3338 were almost all away on vacation during the third week of August when Hayden's bill slipped through the legislature.

Vacation

Being one of the above representatives, I was at a patients' rights training sponsored by the Dept. of Mental Health in early September where a friend and I got into a rather heated discussion with a leading "expert" on outpatient commitment, who heads a national task force on the subject. While claiming to be a neutral researcher, all of his arguments led to the inevitable conclusion that the American public had no choice but to accept this latest deprivation of our Constitutional rights, and that to even debate the issue was "stultifying." After half an hour of stultifying discussion, he said, "Look, it's like a Ford car, first you assume that it has value, then you evaluate it." As I replied to him, I guess you never heard of the Edsel...



Hayden's bill is dead, but the move to drastically revise California's commitment laws to eliminate due process provisions for inpatient commitment and institute mandatory outpatient treatment as an extension of inpatient treatment is still very much alive. Groups such as the California Psychiatric Association, the California Alliance for the Mentally Ill (composed of parents of current and former patients), and the California Conference of Local Mental Health Directors have been working on guidelines to revise California's laws in that direction.

As a result of pressure from the parents' organizations and psychiatric associations in other states, laws permitting "preventative" outpatient commitment for persons not currently considered to be dangerous to themselves or others, but who are considered "likely" to become so, have been passed in Hawaii, North Carolina, Georgia, Vermont, and Tennessee. The courts have repeatedly found that predictions of future dangerousness or disability are unconstitutional as criteria for civil commitment, so it remains to be seen how long these laws will remain in effect, and whether similar laws will be enacted elsewhere.

--Jenny Miller

Jenny Miller is on the Board of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy, the Berkeley Mental Health Advisory Board, and was formerly on the editorial staff of Madness Network News. The views expressed in this article are her own, and not those of the above groups.



The Underground Barfly



Y yucky
 YY so-so
 YYY some fun
 YYYY groovy
 YYYYY pure alpha

Mini-review

The Dugout

YY

Jess' Place

YY

West Front Street's neighborhood atmosphere

Picture two strangers swinging onto the scene, being told they're beautiful, warmly talked to, offered free drinks, given souvenir pens, welcomed back any time, and invited to a huge party next month.

Oh no! Have the Barflies gone to a meeting of The Way?

Hardly. All this happened to us at Bid's Dugout at 810 W. Front Street, Bloomington, on our last crawl. The Dugout is the one with no sign outside except Schlitz--and that's what they have on tap. A healthy glass is just 50 cents, even if you have to pay.

A couple doors down at Jess' Place, you have three choices of draft beer, but it's 60 cents a glass. We went there, too, and can give it a pretty good review as well.

Both bars have a neighborhood atmosphere--looks like most of the people are regulars, and there's a good range of ages. On our first visit, though, we didn't feel any hostile vibes--just some curious looks. One Barfly thought that we were heavily cruised in Jess's Place, but the other didn't notice, since she was juicily recounting the details of

all the car accidents she's ever had. Obviously, the cruisers never became intrusive.

Neither place, we'd say, is a pick-up joint. Of course, you might get lucky anywhere, but that's not the raison d'etre of Bid's or Jess's. In fact, Bid's decor includes a banner graced with a picture of a couple 1950s style Schwinn's and the slogan "Bimbo Bicycle Club." It also includes a beautiful old wooden backbar with mirrors intact, a high ceiling, a juke box that looks like the rear end of a '57 Cadillac, a dartboard, and a photo of bartender Dick (Bid's son) in a hot tub.

True to character, the walls are covered with memorabilia that hold personal meaning for the people who work and drink at Bid's, unlike the canned clutter mounted at Bennigan's or Ground Round. Can you imagine the waitress at Bennigan's nailing up a Polaroid of her friend's racecar? Wouldn't stay up long, we say.

The decoration at Jess's was a bit more generic, with bar signs predominant, but it was clearly not franchise material sent out from the home office (no phony London street

signs here). Jess's had more table seating than Bid's, and the friends and families gathered around were having a lively time.

Bid's has mostly bar seating, and it was sparsely filled the night we visited, which may account for all the personal attention we got from the bartender. He told us that his dad has run the place since 1957 and that (knock on wood) the number of fights here is very low.

"Just last night some guy came in here saying he wanted to take down everyone in the place. Well, I sat him down and gave him a double shot of Jack Daniels, and before he was done with it he was apologizing for even saying that. He was just mad at his wife."

Overall, we'd say that for an inexpensive cold brew in a wholesome atmosphere, head for the Front St. bars.

--Maggie & Trashy Friend



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