

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

6-1977

Volume 6, Number 3

Post Amerikan

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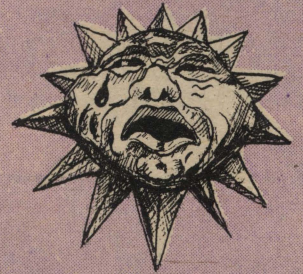
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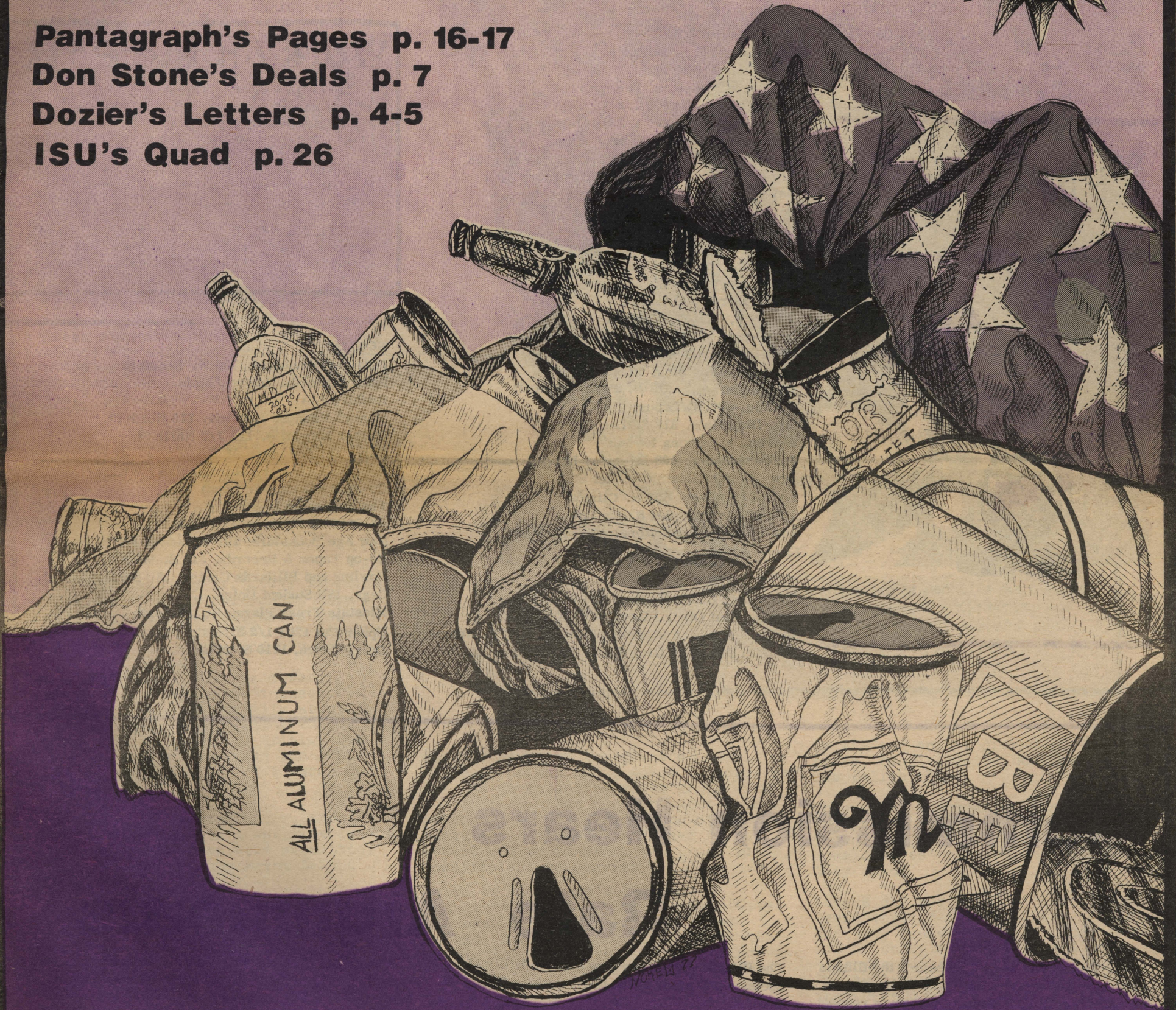
POST AMERIKAN

Vol. VI No. 3
June 1977

This issue is full of...
GARBAGE!



Pantagraph's Pages p. 16-17
Don Stone's Deals p. 7
Dozier's Letters p. 4-5
ISU's Quad p. 26



Anyone can be a member of the POST staff except maybe Sheriff King. All you have to do is come to the meetings and do one of the many different and exciting tasks necessary for the smooth operation of a paper like this. You start work at nothing per hour, and stay there. Everyone else gets paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-Amerikan has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up here and asking who's in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informa-

ABOUT US

tive, and not available in other local media. We will not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material or inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories or tips for stories. Bring stuff to a meeting (the schedule is printed below) or mail it to our office.

These meetings are held at the Post-Amerikan office, and if you'd like to come, call us. The number is: 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885.

MEETINGS

Fri. May 27, work meeting, 6:30
 Fri. June 3, potluck, 6:30
 Fri. June 10, 6:30
 Fri. June 17, 6:30
 Weds. June 22, deadline, 6:30
 Fri. June 24, work meeting, eightish
 Sat. & Sun. June 25-26, layout, from noon on both days

You can make bread hawking the Post--15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be mailed to: The Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701 (Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed! Otherwise it's liable to wind up in our letters column.)

Post Sellers



BLOOMINGTON

Book Hive, 103 W. Front
 Cake Box, 511 S. Denver
 The Joint, 415 N. Main
 Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front
 The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main
 The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main
 South West Corner--Front & Main
 Downtown Postal Substation, Center & Monroe
 Bl. Post Office, Empire & Fairway (at exit)
 DeVary's Market, 1402 W. Market.
 Harris' Market, 802 N. Morris
 Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington
 Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main
 Discount Den, 207 N. Main
 U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market
 U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee
 Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
 Bus Depot, 523 N. East
 Park Store, 909 S. Allin
 Pantagraph Building, in front of it
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park (in front)
 Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
 Man-Ding-Go's, 312 S. Lee
 K-Mart, at parking lot exit
 The Blue Room, 803 Morrisey Drive
 Dairy Delight, Main & Miller Sts.
 The Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
 Apache Junction, 204 S. McClun
 Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
 Lazy-J Saloon

OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under the Sun, 188 W. Main
 Peoria: That Other Place, 901 NE Adams
 Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op, 407 E. Adams
 Pontiac: Semmens Drug Store, 123 Madison St.

Work on the Post

We're looking for folks to write stories. If you can write, call the Post and tell us what kind of story you'd like to do. If you aren't sure, other people can suggest things.

People who can help do layout one weekend a month are also real welcome. You don't need experience. If you can type, great!

Call 828-7232 for more info. If no one answers, leave your name and number on our answering machine, and we'll get in touch.

NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
 Pat's Billiards, 1203 S. Main
 Redbird IGA
 Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North St.
 Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.
 Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
 Hendren's Grocery Store, 301 W. Willow
 Co-op Bookstore (in front)
 The Galery (in front)
 SE corner, University & College
 New Age Bookstore, 101 Broadway Mall
 Co-op Tapes & Records, 311 S. Main
 Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union
 Cage, ISU Student Union
 Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
 Upper Cut 1203 1/2 S. Main
 Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main

Commission Hears Rate Arguments

Closing arguments were held before the Illinois Commerce Commission on Monday, May 16, in Springfield on Illinois Power Company's request for a 14.9% increase in electrical rates. All intervenors in the case were able to make a presentation.

Lawyers speaking against the rate hike represented industry, Illinois Power Project, the cities of Champaign and Urbana, Land of Lincoln legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (a low-income residential group), and a citizen speaking for McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike.

The only person speaking for the rate hike was Mr. Hart, the IPC lawyer. Most of the arguments stressed facts and figures, and it became clear that two major goals of IPC were to get financing for construction works in progress into the rate base and to increase dividends for the company's stockholders.

The Illinois Commerce Commission will make its decision public about the third week in June. So watch for it.

As at the Bloomington hearing in January, McLean County Citizens Against the Rate Hike urged the Commissioners to take people into account when making their decision. The statement presented to the ICC follows:

"Power is a necessity for survival. We have no choices. In the course of these hearings, many facts and figures have been presented both for and against the rate hike; and they argue a certain kind of case. But there is another kind of case that facts and figures don't address--one even more important. It is that the consumers of power are people--people, especially young families and the elderly whose very survival is threatened by increasing rates."

"A more fair and equitable rate structure is needed. The large users should pay proportionately more than the small users per kilowatt hour. This will encourage conservation by the large users as well. Conservation of energy, as President Carter points out, is crucially important if future generations are even to survive."

"And speaking of survival, over and over, people in our community expressed fear of the unknown risks of nuclear generated power. They do not wish to pay for construction of nuclear plants. Conservation would remove the excuse for building nuclear plants."

"While the last bit of food money is taken from low and fixed income people to pay increased electrical rates and increased dividends for shareholders, the people's needs are not being met. We urge Illinois Commerce Commission to take humanitarian needs into account when reaching their decision."

Local Home Birth Seminar a Success

About 20 people gathered at the Wesley Foundation April 16 for a homebirth seminar. Attended largely by women, the conference welcomed many women who had given birth at home. The seminar was divided into morning and afternoon sessions with a break for a vegetarian lunch at noon.

Irene Richter opened the seminar following the introduction with a talk on the legal aspects of giving birth at home. Few laws actually dealing with home birth are presently on the books, she said. It is not illegal for a woman to give birth at home assisted by her husband. Since it is the obligation of the government to protect the lives of its citizens, Richter said, child abuse laws would apply in cases where the baby was in trouble or died from neglect.

The homebirth attendant could also be held responsible for her/his actions during a homebirth unless a disclaimer of responsibility was signed by the baby's parents. In most cases, though, nobody would be prosecuted unless s/he neglected the mother and/or the child when in distress.

Mary Scott gave the next presentation for the seminar: preparation for home childbirth. She stressed that women who plan to have babies at home should have a practice "walk-through" birth with those who will attend so every one will be acquainted with the procedure.

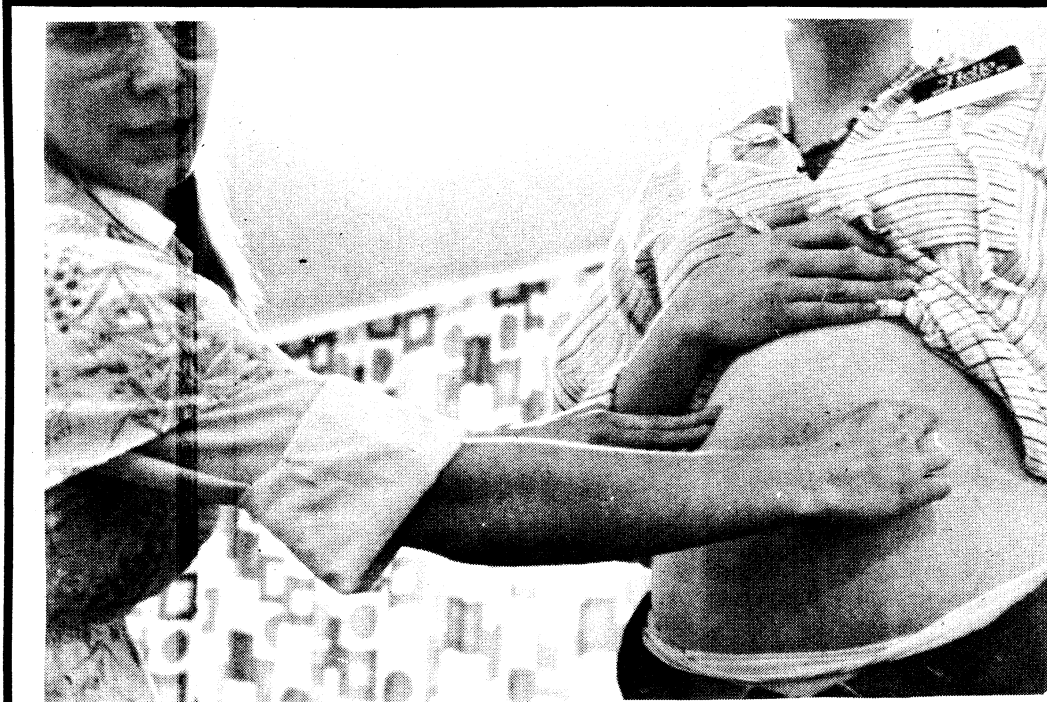
Another woman remarked that having all materials together in one place known to all the attendants is necessary so the mother-in-labor won't have to be giving directions during hard contractions. A complete list of supplies for home birth can be found in a local book, "How to Have a Baby at Home without a Doctor or Midwife," available at the Small Changes Bookstore.

Following the talk on home birth preparation, Nancy Jung from Aurora showed a home movie depicting the

birth of her son, Matthew. In this birth, she related, her bag of waters had broken early, and it was a couple days before she actually gave birth. (A prolonged wait for the baby's delivery after the bag of

something which is impossible in a hospital because mother and child are separated so soon after the birth.

Jim Thomas, the next speaker, dealt



Checking for vertex or normal birth position.

waters has broken increased the dangers of infection.)

Jung told the seminar participants that she knew herself well enough to know that she wanted to be alone to have her babies with a minimum of interference. As the movie depicted, during transition's hard labor, she was lying on her back, but as her cervix became fully dilated, she chose an up-right squatting position for the birth.

She had very little preparation for this birth, sterilizing only the scissors for cutting the cord but not the thread or shoe-string used for tying the cord. The movie shows how Jung bonded with her new son--


with the role of the main birth attendant. In many cases, he said, the main attendant will be the man who is the child's father and the woman's husband. Thomas told the group that his concept of the main attendant grew out of the idea of mutual aid-- where support and encouragement is given to a person having a difficult time. Being the main attendant encompasses several tasks: emotional/physical support, timing contractions, and accompanying the mother if she wants to go to the bathroom or another room.

Thomas did say that the concept of mutual aid should be applied as well to the main attendant, too, because there are times when s/he cannot fulfill the needs of the laboring woman, so another attendant should be able to take over at such a time. After lunch, Kathy Green discussed with seminar participants the contents of several books she had read pertaining to homebirth. She reviewed Immaculate Deception by Suzanne Arms, a book which explodes many of the myths surrounding the contemporary American hospital birth experience. Spiritual Midwifery by Ina May and the Farm Midwives is a large freely illustrated book containing numerous birth experiences, practical tips, and a glossary of terms. Among other books discussed were Birth Without Violence by Frederick LeBoyer, Birth by Milinaire, and the Emergency Childbirth Manual by White.

The final topic of discussion and serious thought at the seminar involved childbirth complications. Irene Richter made the presentation and led this lengthy discussion which outlined almost all of the major problems which can arise during any birth. She suggested that there are really two main things to be concerned with at a home (or any) birth: that the baby gets sufficient oxygen (through the umbilicus or through breathing after delivery), and that the mother doesn't bleed more than two cups worth of blood after the delivery of the baby. No bleeding at all should accompany labor. In either case, she stressed, don't hesitate to call a doctor and go to the hospital if you are frightened and cannot obtain advise.

--Jeremy Timmens

Post-Note: A locally-written book about home birth, How to Have a Baby at Home without a Doctor or Midwife is available at the Small Changes Bookstore in downtown Bloomington, 409 A Main St.


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Character assassinations flow

State's Attorney Ron Dozier's poison pen went to work in April and produced an epic of malicious lying gossip.

Unlike the usual malicious lying gossip that goes on among lawyers, state's attorneys and judges out on the golf course or in CII East or wherever, this gem got sent out to the Director of the Illinois Dept. of Corrections, Gov. Thompson, Peoria County State's Attorney, state legislators, The Daily Pantagraph, WJBC Radio Station, and the Parole and Pardon Board. The Pantagraph especially though it was yummy, and served up Dozier's vicious slurs practically from soup to nuts.

This juicy letter consisted of Dozier's vendetta against a local woman, Carol Beehn, who Dozier had just socked with a one-to-three in the pen last December. Dozier got overexcited when some crony clued him in that Beehn moved from the pen to the work release center in Chicago in February. Darn it, he wanted her behind bars! And here she was at some summer-camp-type place sleeping till noon with no job.

That's the conception Dozier clearly had of what a work release center is. He claimed that Beehn "has remained free" since she got transferred to the work release center. He whined that both he and Judge Townley (who sentenced Beehn) felt like all their hard work trying to get her locked up was all for nothing, if the Department of Corrections was just going to let her out again as soon as they turned their backs.

Designing letterhead

Dozier must have been mentally designing his State's Attorney letterhead when the Department of Corrections was explained to him in school, because his letter shows that he has as much

grasp on its operations as he'd have on a greased pig. A judge doesn't sentence someone to the penitentiary; the person is put in the hands of the Department of Corrections, and this department decides exactly what kind of misery is appropriate for the person, supposedly making the decision based on all kinds of hot-shot criminologists and corrections experts and studies about what degree of misery is likely to keep a person in line and what degree of misery is likely to turn a person into a vegetable or a "sociopath."

The state legislature passed a law saying that if a person has served half the time necessary to come up for parole (called "doing half their time to the board"), then s/he is eligible for transfer to a work release center. Beehn was eligible in February, applied, and got into the Chicago Wind Work Release Center completely on the up-and-up. Dozier revealed in an interview with the Post that he didn't even know that was how the whole thing worked when he wrote his letter.

Hot under collar

In his letter, he also got hot under the white collar about how Beehn didn't have a job when she went to the center. Jeannie Fairman, Assistant Supervisor of the Wind Center, told the Post that it would be very rare for a person to have a job lined up before she arrived at the center: it's customary for residents to look for jobs once they have moved in.

Dozier also says in the first paragraph of his letter that Beehn "to the best of my knowledge still is not employed." This goes to show just how good the best of his knowledge is, because when Dozier sent the letter, Beehn had been employed for five weeks already and had received two raises. She's obviously better at her job than Dozier is at his. All he had to do was call the work release center to find that out, but he just didn't bother to check.

With reckless disregard for the truth, Dozier says again on page two that "she has not yet found employment."

Dozier also could've found out whether people at a work release center are "free" if he wanted to, because the Post did. Ms. Fairman told us that people are still institutionalized in the center; they must return to the center right after work, and there's 24-hour guard coverage, 7 days a week. Inmates can slowly work up to privileges like weekend passes, but newer residents are fully supervised.

Besides demonstrating clear unwillingness to educate himself about the laws and procedures of the state, Dozier shows in his letter that he doesn't even buy the principles of the legal system he's supposed to be a mouthpiece for. Knowing that he intended to send his letter to the news media, he trots out old charges against Beehn that she wasn't even convicted of.

He speaks of a 1974 burglary charge which the State dropped "when her father provided her with an alibi for the night of the offense." Dozier's wording is obviously intended to suggest that Mr. Beehn was lying.

Dozier also brings up a controlled substance charge which was dropped because the lab found that Beehn's pills didn't contain controlled substances (but note that Dozier is still using the charge, not a conviction, against her, three years later.)

Illegal search

And finally, he bemoans the loss of a cannabis possession charge against Beehn, just because the search was illegal.

Meanwhile, this same guy struts up and down in front of a courtroom pretending that he believes justice will be handed out there--but if it isn't, he'll take things into his own hands just to make

Growing like
a weed....

THAT OTHER PLACE

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sure everyone suffers as much as he thinks they should.

More allegations that could never be allowed in court follow (this is a long letter, folks, Dozier's used to captive audiences). He repeatedly brings up Beehn's association with "criminal elements." He mentions her co-defendant Donald Curtis, who he establishes as a member of the "criminal and drug subculture" due to a prior conviction for forgery. Remember that Marion Bunn was convicted of embezzling while serving as McLean County Circuit Clerk. Bunn's associates will be interested to know that Dozier may at any moment accuse them of associating with the criminal subculture.

Dozier also brings up Beehn's boyfriend Pete Glaser as one of the dangerous criminals she was involved with up until her last arrest. Dozier overlooks the fact that during this time span, Glaser had not ever accumulated any conviction on any criminal charges: Glaser had a clean record. Dozier refers also to a possession charge against Glaser which ended in a hung jury, and acts as though a hung jury is the same as a conviction, which any fool can plainly see isn't true.

Dozier also refers to an offer from Gene Umstatt to employ Beehn as a photographer. Dozier cutely says, "You might be interested to know that Gene Umstatt himself has a recent McLean County conviction for delivering cannabis to an undercover agent." He doesn't mention, though, that the undercover agent has a recent conviction for child molesting.

As evidence of Beehn's low character, Dozier even stoops to citing her job record for the five years between 1971 and 1976. She had nine jobs: she quit six of them, was fired from two, and was laid off from the last. Dozier acts like this is some kind of scandal. Is he too out of touch to remember that this period was while Beehn was between 17 and 22, and short-lived jobs are very common during those ages? Does he think that someone should commit herself to, say, selling dead weeds at Owen Nursery for five years just to prove herself? Or does he think that respectable people breeze right out of high school and into college, picking dollars off of mister happy money tree in the back yard?

When we asked Ms. Fairman how Carol Beehn is really doing at the work release center, she replied, "She's been working consistently. I know she has an excellent work report from her job and she hasn't had any rule infractions, she hasn't been in any kind of trouble, she minds her business, she does what she came here to do, and really, so far, she's really done beautifully."

Too bad we can't say as much for our \$40,000-a-year State's Attorney.

--Phoebe Caulfield



As his office decor clearly shows, Ron Dozier is proud to occupy McLean County's most powerful public office. By holding the upper hand in plea bargaining, Dozier really controls who gets probation, who goes to jail, and for how long. Lately, it seems, Dozier is trying to control what happens to people even while they are doing their time.

State Corrections Director Shuts Dozier Down

Ron Dozier failed miserably in his attempt to "blow the whistle" (his words) on the work release program, judging from the reply the Acting Director of the Corrections Department sent back to him.

Remember, even though Dozier's three-page attack on Carol Beehn and the work release program was really a press release, it pretended to be a request for information from the Department of Corrections.

That's why Dozier got a letter back.

And, since we are printing this story about a month later than we should have, now we can include the reply with the story on the original "inquiry."

Charles J. Rowe is Acting Director of the Department of Corrections, and I would guess he was probably startled by Ron Dozier's ignorance about parole, the work release program, and the Department of Corrections itself.

I was startled by Dozier's ignorance when I discussed the Beehn letter with him on the phone, and told him so.

But Dozier replied that that's why he wrote the letter, to find out information. A few minutes earlier, though, he had told me he had written the letter "to put pressure on the Department of Corrections."

Well, Charles J. Rowe responded with the information Dozier pretended to request.

Rowe said Carol Beehn's placement on work release was completely justified, both by the legal eligibility requirements and by Carol Beehn's record both in prison and out, including the entire criminal history Dozier thought so overwhelming.

Not in the least flustered by Dozier's clumsy "whistle-blowing," Rowe simply stated that prisoners on work release are not required to have a job already lined up.

Rowe concluded with a review of Carol Beehn's record in the work-release center, and characterized it as "excellent."

--Mark Silverstein

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Don Stone Fraud Country 1976

Question: What was the worst trade ever made?

Answer (choose one):

1. Cubs trade Lou Brock for Ernie Brolio.
2. Indians sell Manhattan for a bunch of beads.
3. Mary Jo Kane trades for a Don Stone Ford Pinto.

This is the tale of the sale of the century. An unwitting consumer armed only with the need for a ride, I went in search of a used car, keeping within certain moral limits of course. I wanted a small car, good gas mileage, and a somewhat dependable engine, for 1200-1500 dollars.

I make my intentions known to a Don Stone Ford salesperson. He informs me that they have "a nice little green 1972 Pinto in good working condition."

Unaware of car functionings, I take the '72 Pinto to a local friend/mechanic who promptly informs me that the year of the car is 1971.

An oversight perhaps. Hmm.

I get back to D.S.F., express concern about the confusion of year. Apologies abound. I stand firm and get \$150 off original asking price.

Deal is made, contract signed with small print intact.

My longstanding attitude toward cars has been hope for the best, expect the worst, but the following chain of events pushed me to the limit.

Item #1. One week after I bought the 1971 Pinto from D.S.F., it fails to start in State Farm parking lot. I had recently made payments to another insurance company, but how far can the arm of corporate power reach? State

Farm--an unfriendly neighbor?

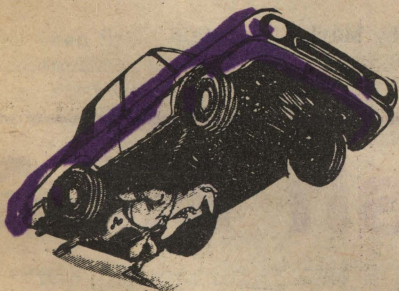
Wrong again. Don Stone Ford has a better idea. Starter doesn't work.

I call the salesperson and explain the situation.

D.S.F. reply: "Sorry, maam, but your warranty only covers internal parts on a 50/50 basis."

Translation: D.S.F. will only fix critical engine problems, and the customer pays half.

Result: Repair bill of \$70.



Item #2. Three weeks after I bought this 1971 Pinto from D.S.F., it is consuming vast amounts of oil.

I take the car back to a local mechanic, whose verdict is that the car is burning oil, "needs new rings, short engine overhaul."

Translation: I need a new rebuilt engine.

Wait . . . don't panic . . . just two weeks ago the D.S.F. man said, "We cover repairs on internal engine." I make another call the D.S.F., take the Pinto in to the lot, and wait for my new engine.



Item #3. Chief mechanic from D.S.F. calls to inform me that I do indeed need a new engine but their going price, including labor, is around \$900. Three weeks and one starter after buying the Pinto, I must get a new engine and pay for half, which will be \$450.

I ask the mechanic if the price, even if I accept the absurdity of having to buy half a new engine, doesn't seem a bit high.

"No, Maam, that's what we figured."

I call a local friend who owns a garage and ask him to quote me the book price on a rebuilt engine for a 1971 Pinto.

Answer: \$400, including labor.

I call two other local car companies.

Company #1: \$350-420.
Company #2: \$375-450.

But how can this be, that their highest estimate is still only about half of D.S.F. estimate?

One possible answer: D.S.F. jacks up the price so that the customer who is "paying half" is actually paying full price.

I approach a local mechanic with this idea. He replies, "That's very possible, but don't quote me or I'll never get another part from Don Stone Ford."

A resourceful person, I next contact a local lawyer who suggest I get a written estimate from D.S.F. and then compare it to other local estimates.

Mission accomplished. Then I show D.S.F. estimate to a friend, who also happens to be a prominent local citizen.

I show the D.S.F. estimate to D.S.F. general manager, Bob "I've-done-a-lot-for-the-women-of-this-community" Dennison. In my presence, he calls to another local dealer to get an estimate and discovers that my suggestion of \$400 is accurate.

Embarrassment abounds. Exit general manager, enter Don Stone (Ford) in person. He apologizes for the "misunderstanding" caused by his mechanic quoting the wrong engine price from the book.

Stone fails to mention that their estimate on labor was also double other local estimates.

I point this out.

More apologies and now Stone "can see why I might be upset."

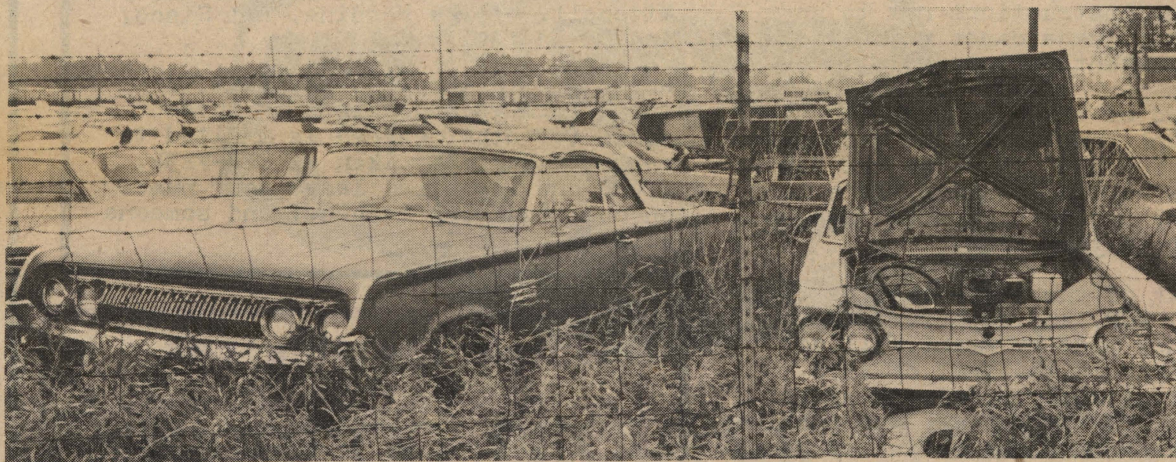
New Deal

Wheels turn and suggestions of "new deals" are set in motion. I leave with prominent friend.

The next day I return to D.S.F. lot. They will find me another car in the same price range of the initial buy.

D.S.F. man tells me that they'll find me "one I would sell to my mother." (Should I warn her?)

They are aware that it is inconvenient for me to be without a car and so appear with a loaner: a 1976 Granada to ease the pain.



Three months ago, maybe these cars in the junkyard were some of Don Stone Ford's "better better deals."

Showroom Showdown

Prominent local citizen/friend accompanies me to D.S.F. with written estimate in hand and it is like Moses parting the Red Sea. Doors open, people smile, and they want to "clear up this unfortunate incident."

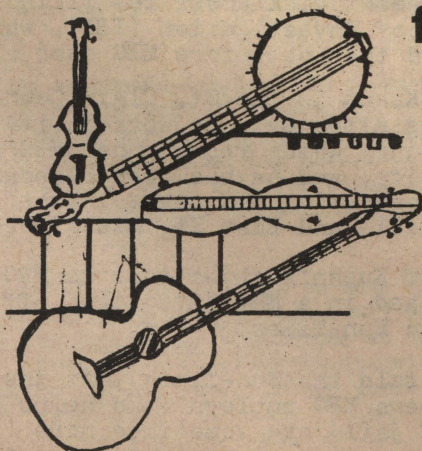
I drive away feeling like I've won a major victory (with a "little" help from my prominent friend), but then I realize I'm only getting what I should have gotten from the beginning.

Epilogue: Six months later I settle for a 1972 Toyota, a better car than a Pinto. Maybe just this once instead of making money, Don Stone Ford broke even.



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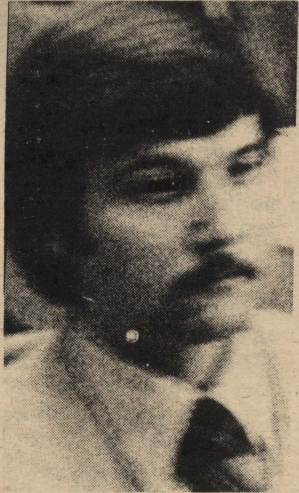
105 Broadway
Phone: 452-6412

Name these narcs

Here are three men who signed up to testify in favor of the MEG funding bills, when they were heard before a House Committee last April. Seven men holding positions of responsibility (usually Director) in the 7 Illinois MEG units signed the witness list, and we ran photos of five of them. We asked our readers to match the faces to the names, as we didn't know which narc was which. A reader in Carbondale identified Richard Pariser as the man who came to her law class and said he ran the MEG in that area. The other two narcs here, whose photos we overlooked and didn't print in April, also need identification. So send in those names, readers.



Richard Pariser



?????



?????

MEG arrests ten more locals

Ten local residents were indicted in late April on a total of 23 charges of selling illegal substances to MEG agents.

For the first time in MEG's three-year history in Bloomington, marijuana arrests do not make up a significant portion of the cases. MEG has been operating under long-standing instructions not to go after marijuana cases which they have constantly violated.

Only two of the 23 charges involve pot. Only one defendant was nailed solely for pot. None of the cases involve heroin, despite MEG's long-standing orders to concentrate on traffic in that drug.

The bulk of the cases involve buys of MDA, PCP, and amphetamines allegedly made by Agent William Trowbridge in the fall of 1976. Trowbridge's photo, six to eight months old at the time, was published in several consecutive issues of the Post-Amerikan last fall. His photo was labeled with question marks instead of a name for a few issues, since it took several months to confirm the narc's identity.

Three of the buys were eleven to twelve months old when the grand jury indicted the defendants. One man was arrested for a sale of only a few grams of pot that he allegedly sold more than a year ago.

Arrested were: Ike Anderson, Russell Damon, LaVelle "Bumper" Harris, Margaret Harris, Dan Lawrence, Dale Mitchell, George Nordine, Art Sisco, and David Taylor.

Any one with information about the informers and agents in these cases (or other cases) is invited to call the Post-Amerikan at 828-7232. If no one is there, leave your number on our answering machine, and someone will get back to you.

Watch for this car

MEG agent Dean Bacon was seen in Bloomington May 9 driving a light baby blue late model car with a white vinyl top in back. It was either a Cougar or something similar. The plate number, which agents often change, was 356 182.

Governor may veto MEG funding bills

Governor Thompson may veto a pair of bills that would continue funding for 7 Illinois MEG units, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Reporting on May 15 that the two bills, which passed the House 104 to 29, need only Senate approval in the legislature, the Chicago paper said sources in Governor Thompson's administration "hint of veto."

Meeting May 20, MEG board members made tentative plans for their drug unit's disbanding, but not without venting some rage at the Governor.

One director's angry rhetorical question was quoted in the Peoria Journal-Star: "Is this the big crimefighter we heard so much about?" he asked, referring to Thompson's much-promoted image as law enforcement's man in government.

But Thompson has his own plans for reorganizing the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, and MEG units may not fit into them.

Without fresh money from the legislature, the MEG units will probably die. The original three-year federal grants, channeled through the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), expire July 31. In fact, a freeze on ILEC spending (because the agency overspent in other areas) has prevented MEG from receiving money due it under the existing grant. According to the May 20 Journal-Star, MEG Treasurer David Watkins says there is only enough money to meet one more payroll.

Board members agreed to a six-month phasing-out period, to process evidence already collected during the first half of the year. They also authorized the return of MEG's leased undercover vehicles, and said agents should be notified that the unit may not exist soon, so they could look for other jobs.

Eventually, board members will have to fight over which of them get to inherit MEG's fancy surveillance and communications equipment for their own police departments. There are compact, easily concealed portable radios, car radios with disguised antennas, a videotape camera, a 1000 mm lens, and a complete darkroom outfit.

And, for destroying the embarrassing documents, MEG already owns three paper shredders.

MEG articles by Mark Silverstein

Grand jury's advice: abolish MEG

After six months of hearing felony cases from the East St. Louis/Bellefonte area, the St. Clair County grand jury recommended disbanding the Southwestern Illinois MEG unit, in a report released in early May.

There are seven MEG units in Illinois. Each is a sort of law enforcement coalition of smaller police jurisdictions, like counties and cities. The MEG operating in Bloomington represents 10 units of government stretched across six Central Illinois counties.

MEG units are supposed to arrest heroin dealers, according to instructions from the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), whose grants first established the drug squads.

And the East St. Louis area, with its burnt-out slums and hard-core poverty, probably ranks with Peoria and Chicago in severity of heroin traffic.

But MEG did not bring in a single heroin sale case during the entire six month term of the last St. Clair County grand jury, according to the report. Two thirds of the cases MEG

made were marijuana, a flagrant violation of ILEC's orders that marijuana law enforcement ought to be left to local police. The Southeastern Illinois MEG did manage to find a few heroin possession cases, but the St. Clair County grand jury was not impressed. Their report points out that four of the six heroin possessions involved the same people.

The grand jury recommended dissolving MEG, and placing the narcotics enforcement back under the Illinois Bureau of Investigation (IBI), which handled the job before MEG came along.

Clyde Kuehn is the St. Clair County State's Attorney. He worked with the grand jury which recommended MEG's abolition, and he has been responsible for prosecuting MEG cases in the Belleville and East St. Louis area.

Some of Kuehn's objections to MEG were published in a May 15 edition of the Chicago Sun-Times.

Kuehn told the Sun-Times that the informers MEG employs (and helps keep out of jail) are sometimes more dangerous to society than the targets of MEG investigations. As an example,

Kuehn mentioned a MEG informer who had been convicted of several crimes, but who was allowed to delay a 2-6 year sentence while working for MEG. Kuehn told the Sun-Times that this informer committed five new felonies during the time his MEG work kept him out of jail.

Kuehn also told the Sun-Times of a MEG bust in neighboring Perry County, where MEG press comments made a big deal of their bust of a 20-year-old woman as a "dangerous pill pusher." The prosecutor eventually dropped the case, because further investigation revealed that a MEG agent and informer had "browbeaten" the young woman into using a phony prescription to get a mere \$12 worth of pills.

Similar cases have been reported in the Bloomington-Normal area, and they most likely reflect the state-wide pattern which the Sun-Times called "a zany record of Keystone Kops-style bungling and dubious achievement."

Now that these incidents are being reported more frequently in the mainstream press, the MEG units will hopefully get more of the careful scrutiny they have long deserved.

MEG informer now working for Sheriff

Russell Robbins, named in last issue's Post-Amerikan as a MEG informer, began work as a narcotics agent for the McLean County Sheriff's Department May 1, according to his own account.

Robbins called me April 24, shortly after reading his name in the Post. He told me that he would begin work for McLean County May first, and he called to offer an unusual deal.

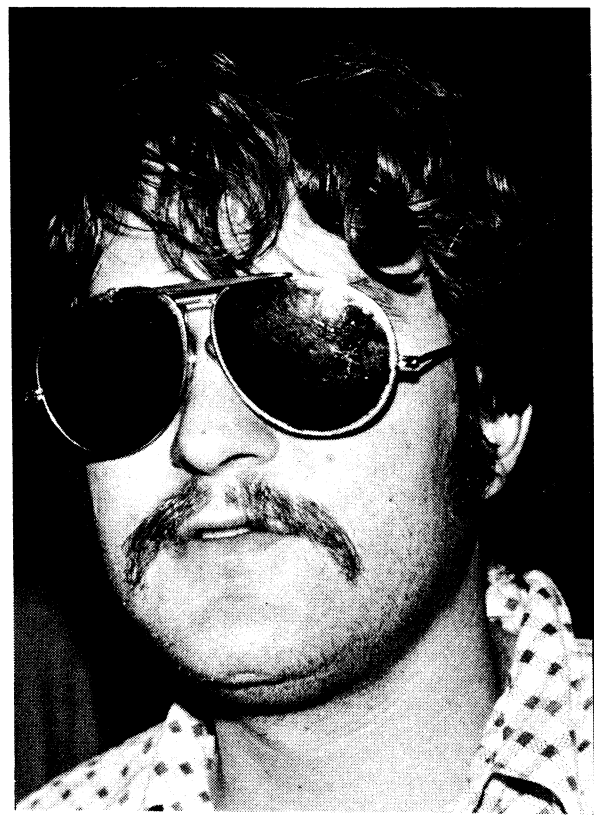
Characterizing himself as "a sportin' man," Robbins offered the Post-Amerikan a wager: Beginning May 1, the Post would have 30 days to get Robbins' photograph. If we failed, we would agree to give the Muscular Dystrophy Fund \$100. If we succeeded, Robbins

also claims he doesn't go after marijuana. However, if someone makes it onto Robbins list, he or she might be set up for marijuana, "if that's the only way to get 'im."

Robbins' information on who is selling to kids comes from, naturally, hearsay.

Robbins said he didn't know what he would be getting out of the deal with McLean County. At one point he admitted he was thinking of becoming a regular cop, but said he would not be officially deputized for the narcotics operation.

Robbins maintained that talking with someone and warning them they were



ABOVE: MEG informer Russell Robbins says he is now making undercover drug buys for the McLean County Sheriff's Department.

"You got pictures of those other dudes, but you won't get one of me--they were just punks."

--Russell Robbins, narc

would agree to stop being a narc.

"You got pictures of those other dudes," Robbins declared, referring to the Post's photos of MEG agents, "But you won't get one of me. They were just punks."

Robbins bragged that he could still be successful as a narc even if the Post did print his picture. "It don't make any difference whether they know me or not; they'll never recognize me," Robbins said of the people he planned to set up.

Robbins said he began working for MEG early in 1976, setting up people in rural McLean County. Court records confirm this. Robbins also hinted that he was responsible for busts in Ford County.

When McLean County withdrew from the MEG unit in June, 1976, the Sheriff's Department was left with no special detail assigned to narcotics law enforcement. This is the gap Robbins says he has made a deal to fill.

Working under the Sheriff's Department, Robbins claims he will be making actual drug buys himself, thus requiring his appearance later in court.

(In contrast, Robbins merely arranged deals when he worked for MEG, letting agents make the actual buys. Robbins was assured that he would not have to appear in court, and he didn't. He was also assured that "nobody'll ever guess" that he was the informant. This latter assurance must have been presented to Robbins in the spirit of conscious fraud, as the Post-Amerikan routinely discovers the identities of informers directly from court records. This broken assurance accounts for some of Robbins' anger at being exposed as a MEG informant in the Post-Amerikan.)

Asked why he became an informer in the first place, Robbins said "I had my own personal reasons."

Those "personal reasons" may have included keeping out of jail. A friend of Robbins recalled that Robbins had said he was "in a jam" around the time he began narcing.

Later in our conversation, Robbins said the Saybrook cop, who was new on the job, asked Robbins to be a narc. (Robbins lives in rural Saybrook, and his phone is (309) 475-6882.)

Robbins says he agreed to set people up because he doesn't like people "pushing dope" on youngsters. According to Robbins' story, he sets up only people who are selling to those too young to be making a responsible choice. He

headed for trouble (as an alternative to throwing them in jail) doesn't work. As an example, Robbins referred to his supervising agent while working for MEG, Robert J. Edwards.

"Edwards is a good dude in my book, and he gave a guy a break once," Robbins said. But the "break" didn't do any good, "cause he's back at it again," Robbins said.

On further discussion, however, it turned out that neither Agent Edwards nor Robbins had ever talked to this person to warn him about further involvement with drugs.

The "break" Edwards gave the young man did not come in the form of letting him off with a warning. Instead, Edwards merely forgot about a dope buy he had made. The kid who got this "break" did not know anything about it for at least six months--not until indictments came down on his associates. Even then, this person may not have put enough things together to realize that he had been involved with an undercover agent without getting busted.

Robbins agreed that a lot of cops smoke pot themselves, and that it isn't right that MEG throws people in jail for it. Robbins did not admit in words that MEG Agent Edwards smoked pot, but by mutual laughing, he practically admitted it. MEG defendants have reported that Edwards smoked marijuana with them while setting them up.

Robbins himself did not deny doing illegal drugs. He was evasive, as

though he didn't want to say on the phone that he had experience with them.

But Robbins says he is 25 years old, and believes it is his choice to take drugs or not. He maintains that he is only going after people who sell to "influenceable young people." "But if they are out of high school and living on their own, that's OK," Robbins said.

Robbins himself is addicted to a poisonous drug, nicotine, and he chain-smokes cigarettes. He also ingests this drug in front of his kids, in spite of their "influenceable" age. But Robbins, like most of his colleagues who make war only on illegal drugs (whether dangerous or not), did not see the connection.

Concerned about what I would print of our conversation, Robbins said that some people would "come down on my head if they thought I was squealing around." Robbins said he would deny telling me the things I am writing here.

I didn't accept Robbins' wager, but we did make a modified agreement. I agreed to meet with him, giving him one hour to convince me he was doing the right thing. If I remained unconvinced, Robbins would let me take his picture, since he was already confident he could change his appearance.

We met May 16th. Robbins said he'd "made another one" that evening, apparently bragging about a drug buy. He wouldn't elaborate.

MEG's LaGrow: working under 'that constant pressure'

A peculiar memo found in a court file for a McLean County MEG case reveals some of the day-to-day pressures that MEG agents and their Director, Jerry LaGrow, work under.

Dated 9/24/76, the memo is addressed to McLean County State's Attorney Ron Dozier. It appears in case 76 of 351, and seems to be an answer to some inquiry originally made by Dozier. Perhaps Dozier was asking why LaGrow waited so long to file charges in a particular case. (LaGrow's undercover mentality sometimes makes him wait a full year after the crime before blowing an agent's cover by arresting the defendant.)

Here is the memo, reproduced with all its semi-literacy intact:

1. The agents were still working in Bloomington in an undercover capacity
2. The policy of the McLean County State's

Attorney's office filing Felony Informations as apposed to indictments therefore requiring the undercover Agents to appear at preliminary hearings.

3. The constant pressure applied by an underground newspaper taking pictures of Agents every time they appear in court and then publishing pictures in their newspaper causing extreme dangers to the Agent even when they worked in other counties.
4. The Agents had infiltrated a group and some of the people involved were unwitting informants.

Shortly after this memo was written, Dozier changed the policy LaGrow complained about in point #2. MEG cases are now initiated with direct grand jury indictments, thus relieving agents of the necessity of exposing themselves to reporters' cameras at preliminary hearings.

Reckless driver, brutal cops

A reckless driver, a high-speed chase, and a vicious display of police brutality all interrupted a quiet Sunday afternoon's leisure for the residents of the ten hundred block of West Monroe Street May 15.

The block is lined with small older homes which date from the times when new streets were paved with brick. The narrow street's surface has never been paved with anything else.

Around half the families are buying their houses; half are renting. But over a quarter of the homes have no phones.

Some of the residents are retired. Several work in local factories. A Mexican family, and at least one black family, live on the mostly-white block.

Sunday, May 15th, was a beautiful day, a good day for a picnic. I was at one, enjoying spring.

Residents of the ten hundred block of West Monroe were enjoying spring, too. One family was cooking supper in their small front yard. Another family had brought chairs into their driveway, and were having a few beers. An older woman was painting screen windows, getting ready to enclose her porch. Other folks just sat on their front steps, chatting with friends and neighbors, watching the kids. There were lots of kids.

Neighbors gather

By around 6:30, almost every resident on the block (and some from other blocks) had gathered at the corner,

where Monroe Street deadends at Morris Avenue.

There they watched Bloomington police beat on a seventeen-year-old youth, drag him from his car, smash his face into the cement curb, pull his hair, and hurl him into a squad car.



Coming home from the picnic, I drove by Morris and Monroe. Only one squad car remained, its flashing lights warning drivers to slow down. A cop was directing traffic away from a stranded car--the car (I later learned) the seventeen-year-old had been dragged from.

The crowd was just breaking up as I drove by. It didn't look like a traffic accident, so I asked. The cop told me it was "a chase." That's all he would say.

I drove around the block, and saw a couple dozen people talking in twos and threes all down the ten hundred block of West Monroe.

One young man's gestures caught my eye.

He was talking to a friend, gesturing

like a TV cop pointing a pistol, steadying his shooting arm over his opposite forearm. Then he raised his arm, made a fist and brought it down hard. He did it again, in a pantomime of a beating.

I parked the car.

The young man had been imitating police gestures, he told me: first holding a pistol on the suspect, then beating him.

I walked down the street, hearing bits of people's conversations:

"It ain't right. It ain't right. I don't care what he did."

"Ninety miles an hour...almost hit a little girl."

"Drunker 'n a skunk. Empty half pint in the back."

"Four of 'em on 'im. He wasn't even fightin'."

"They shouldn't do him like that."

I went home to get a tape recorder.

When I got back, the block had calmed down. The stranded car was gone. So were the cops. The neighbors were back in their individual yards or houses, the excitement which had propelled them onto the street having lost its force.

Witnesses interviewed

I started knocking on doors, to piece together the story. Within an hour, I'd talked with residents of eight houses--over a dozen people in all. Afterwards, I checked the police report at city hall.

As usual in such eyewitness accounts, there are contradictions. Honest people witness the same event and report it differently. The contradictions here are minor.

Seventeen-year-old Thomas Back was finally caught at the corner of Monroe and Morris after a high-speed chase which began in Miller Park. Officer Mark Bagnell, a veteran of police brutality charges (see Post-American Vol. V #4, plus most of last fall's issues), ordered Back to pull over in the park. He fled instead. By the time the pursuit ended, the cops had a long list of traffic charges. After searching Back's car, they added liquor-related charges.

Monroe Street residents heard the chase for several minutes before it sped down their block. Back's car, along with several squads, had been winding around the neighborhood. In the final block, several residents estimated Back's speed at 90. One car pulled up onto the sidewalk to avoid being hit. One

Want to Help Us Out?

The Post-American is looking for people (and you might be one) who have electric typewriters they'd be willing to loan us during our layout weekends, which only come once a month. The best kinds are ones that can take a carbon ribbon, like the new cartridge type portables. (We buy the ribbons.) If you have one, and are willing to loan it, call us up at 828-7232. We'll take good care of your machine.

Also, we want to develop a list of people who have vehicles they might be willing to loan when we pick up the paper from the printer. What we really need is a van or covered pickup truck, but we can usually squeeze all the papers into a large model gas guzzler. If you can help out, give us a call.

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disrupt peaceful Sunday

woman said a little girl almost got hit in the 900 block.

When Back's car stopped at Monroe and Morris, a Parks and Recreation vehicle driven by park policeman Wayne Robbins pulled directly in front, impeding Back's passage. A cop car pulled in back. Another cop car pulled up.

Residents' stories conflict on exactly how many cops appeared. Police reports show the park policeman, plus Officer Bagnell's car and Officer Dan Fritchley's squad. But police refused to let me see all the reports. Some residents were sure there were four cops.

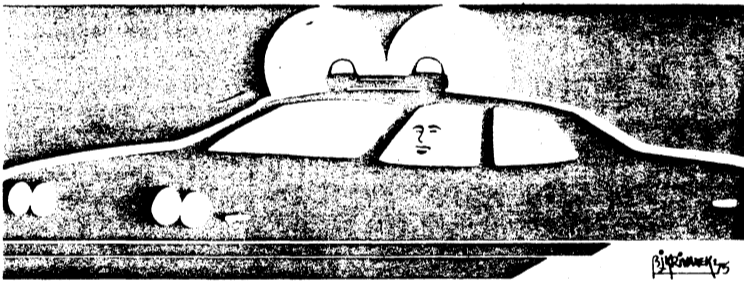
Residents of at least three houses saw cops enter Thomas Back's car from both doors and begin hitting him with fists. "You just saw cops' hands flying," one woman said.

Her next door neighbor, who was interviewed separately, agreed. "They swung open both doors and all you could see was fists. The cops were crawling all over each other trying to hit him."

Every resident but one agreed that Back put up no resistance at all. Several people said Back put his hands up in the air very shortly after his car stopped, as though to show he was giving up.

Three residents said they saw a cop holding a pistol on Back, which may be why people saw his hands in the air. One woman said the officer from car 12 held the gun, but another thought it was the park policeman.

Police dragged young Back out of the passenger side of his car. With his feet still in his car, they held him face down on the pavement.



One elderly woman, arriving too late to see the cops hitting Back in his car, told me, "I saw them mash his face into the street. That's not right, no matter what he did, they don't have to do that to him."

Most accounts of the handcuffing agree that the cops violently pulled the young man's hair, kned his back, and, after cuffing his hands behind his back, threw him face-down into the back of the squad car.

One woman's vivid account:

"They beat him out of the car, they dragged him onto the ground, they shoved his face into the concrete, and rubbed it. Two of the cops pulled his head back by the hair and another cop put his foot on the back of the boy's neck and pushed his windpipe into the curb. The boy could not breathe. Three cops picked him up and threw him--I mean threw him--into the squad car. His head hit the other door. They threw him face down on the floor and they held him there."

Though several of the people I interviewed arrived at the corner too late to observe the beating or the details of the handcuffing, almost every resident recalled seeing the prisoner thrown into the squad car.

A very soft-spoken woman told me she got to the scene after the prisoner was handcuffed. "I think it's pretty dirty when they just throw them in the police car, really," she reflected. But she also condemned the young man's reckless driving: "When I got home, I just thought, what if it'd been one of my kids who'd been tryin' to cross the street?"

"We'd a got killed," one of her children answered.

A neighbor woman walked over at this point. I had already interviewed her. She'd been the only one who said the cops did not treat the prisoner roughly. She reiterated a resentment of drunk drivers barreling down West Monroe Street.

Hit and run drivers plague the narrow street's residents. She pointed out the houses of neighbors whose cars had been hit in the past, with no compensation. She repeated the near miss of the young girl on the 900 block. Speaking of the reckless drivers, the woman said, "Let the cops get 'em and let 'em beat 'em up is what I say."

People seemed to understand her anger, but the block's sentiments that day were overwhelmingly critical of the police brutality they witnessed.

In the end, Thomas Back was charged with illegal transportation of alcohol (he'd had a cooler with ice and at least a half pint of liquor), two counts of fleeing police, reckless driving, disorderly conduct, illegal possession of alcohol, and resisting arrest. Back had not consumed enough alcohol to warrant a drunk-driving charge.

Several neighborhood residents stated emphatically that Back did not resist arrest at all. Yet these eyewitnesses predicted that police would file a resisting charge anyway.

It's the custom, after a police beating.

--Mark Silverstein

"Cops were crawling all over each other trying to hit him."

--W. Monroe St. resident

Small Changes benefit concert

Big news from Small Changes Bookstore!!! Kristin Lems, a feminist musician from Urbana, will be here for a benefit concert on Friday June 10. Kristin plays guitar and electric piapo and accompanying her on bass is Tim Veer.

June 10 is the opening day of the International Women's Year Conference, held at ISU, and also the first day that Kristin's second 45 record is out, Ballad of the ERA and Farmer. She performed both these songs in April on Women's Night at the Lay-Z-J Saloon. The songs were very neat and so were Kristin and Tim.

As of now, we don't have a place for the concert but it will be located on or near the ISU campus for sure. Call Small Changes at 829-6223 for information on time, place and admission charge. We are excited and really looking forward to hearing Kristin and Tim again. We know you'll enjoy them, too.

For those of you who haven't been to Small Changes yet, we're an alternative bookstore located at 409A N. Main St. in Bloomington. Come in and see us.

P.S. Many thanks to the folks who invited us to participate in MayDay. It was a great success.

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The government gave \$335,000;

The tenants got \$90,000;

In 1974 the private owners of Lancaster Heights apartments in Normal got tax breaks and government subsidies that totaled \$337,272.

The official reason for those tax breaks and subsidies was to help low-income people get decent housing.

And it is true that collectively, the 198 families who lived in Lancaster Heights that year paid roughly \$90,000 less in rent than they would have otherwise.

But what happened to the other \$250,000?

It went into the pockets of those rich--very rich--owners.

Yup. Three dollars out of every four that was supposed to go to help low-income people actually went to people who are in the highest federal income tax brackets.

Worse still, this ripoff is not unusual.

Lancaster Heights, on East College Avenue, is what is called a publicly-assisted or subsidized apartment complex. It was built and operates under Section 236 of the 1968 federal housing law. (See story on next page: "What is subsidized housing?")

A similar complex (called Lincoln Square) was built about the same time as Lancaster, and a third one (Phoenix Towers) for the elderly is being built in Bloomington now. The building of at least one more complex is almost certain, and three others have been in various stages of planning in the last two years.

One Goal: Profit

These projects are all built by private developers with one goal in mind--profit.

Obviously, for these projects to be so popular they must be very profitable, and indeed they are. (See adjoining story: "'Controlled' profit was 33 percent in 1974")

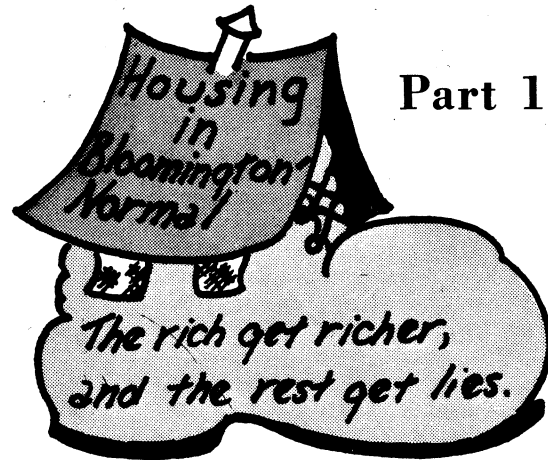
In this article, however, I want to look at the ways in which the operation of Lancaster Heights differs from pure free enterprise. Private ownership is the element that supposedly makes Section 236 projects preferable to regular publicly-owned housing. (Like Wood Hill Towers, for instance.)

First, real free enterprise--in housing, at least--works like this: a person uses his/her money or credit to build a house or an apartment which he/she then sells or rents for as much as possible.

At Lancaster Heights, the owners aren't allowed to gouge all the tenants as thoroughly as the ordinary landlord would. Instead, the government requires the owners to use a rent schedule that takes into account income and the number of people in a family.

But there are limits. For instance, in 1974 no one paid less than \$118 per month for a one-bedroom apartment. This lowest possible rent is called a basic rent.

There was also a top rent, which was probably



Part 1 In A Series

make it look like they were suffering horribly.)

So, the owners could have gotten \$433,000 for their apartments, but they really got only \$343,003 (which is less than \$343,776 because not all the apartments were full all the time).

That means the tenants paid about \$90,000 less than the government thought they would have paid under pure free enterprise. And IHDA got \$3467. Which means the owners were out roughly \$93,500.

But the owners were also on the receiving end, because there were some other chances in the free enterprise system.

First, the government subsidized the interest rate for the loan that the owners took out to build Lancaster Heights. This is a mortgage loan, just like a regular homeowner has.

If the owners of Lancaster Heights had had to pay 7% interest on that loan (which was reasonable back in 1972), their annual mortgage payments would have been \$346,820. Since the owners paid back \$23,536 on the loan in 1974, the rest of the

about \$150 in 1974. (It's definitely \$190 now.) Apparently, very few tenants paid the top or maximum rent in 1974.

If all the tenants had paid the basic (lowest) rent in 1974, the owners could have collected \$343,776. Even if everyone had paid the maximum rent, the owners would have been able to keep only \$343,776. Everything over the basic rent had to be handed over to the state rent controller, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA).

In fact, the owners paid \$3467 to IHDA in 1974.

The Sources

Material for these stories on Lancaster Heights came from a variety of sources.

One of particular interest is a book called "Packaging Subsidized Housing Deals" which was put out for greedy lawyers who wanted to get in on the action. One of its co-author/editors is Lewis R. Kaster, an official in the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But most of the specific financial information on Lancaster Heights was derived from files at the McLean County Assessor's office. The owners handed over the information in their successful battle to get lower property taxes.

Needless to say, the owners probably weren't interested in making their profit picture too rosy just then.

--D. LeSeure

Subsidized apartment complexes like Lancaster Heights are widely believed to have limited or controlled profits.

Last November, for instance, The Daily Pantagraph reported that "developers of

low income and elderly housing units are prohibited from taking a profit of more than 8 percent of the income"--which implies that if the owners collected \$100,000 in rents one year, they couldn't have more than \$8000 profit.

Staff members of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission, the Bloomington Housing Authority and Bloomington's Urban Renewal Department have all said that profits are limited for such projects.

Yet the after-tax return on initial equity (the profits on money invested after taxes were subtracted) was at least 33% for Lancaster Heights in 1974.

How were the local authorities misled?

One reason is the division of responsibility. Local government bodies are usually asked only whether they want low-income housing and whether the site chosen by a private developer is objectionable.

All financing arrangements are supervised and approved by the state and federal governments, usually in Chicago offices.

(In fact, the process of getting a sub-

sidized housing project approved is so complex and disorganized that often the only groups who know what's going on are the giant development corporations that specialize in the field--and they understand the process only because they hire former Housing and Urban Development officials to do their applications. The owners of Lancaster Heights have a former HUD employe named Sherwin Troy; he's now a corporate vice-president.)

But the main reasons for misconceptions about profits are confusing terminology and deliberately complex financial organization.

For example, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, which insures (or guarantees payment of) Lancaster Heights' mortgage, limits cash distributions to 6% of initial equity per year. That means that if an owner put \$100,000 into a subsidized apartment complex, that owner could take out only \$6000 in cash per year.

But cash distributions are only a small part of the profits of such complexes. There are, in fact, two other parts which are often much larger.

The first is the amount that is paid off on

**'Controlled'
profit was
33 percent
in 1974**

GUESS WHO POCKETED THE REST?

payment--\$223,284--would have been for interest.

Actually, the owners paid only \$58,659 in interest, but that doesn't mean the banks who made the loan didn't get the other \$164,625. It does mean that the federal government paid the banks \$164,625 to help out the owners of Lancaster Heights.

The second way the free enterprise system was changed to help the owners is called depreciation. The theory behind this change is that a building or a machine gradually wears out (or depreciates) and that its value therefore decreases.

Also theoretically, the owner pays for this decline in value and is then allowed to count it as an "expense"--pretending it's just the same as paying someone to fix the roof. In addition, owners of new buildings are allowed to claim that their buildings wear out especially fast--which means that they get to pretend they have larger "expenses" right after the building is built than later on.

(Obviously, this whole process is questionable because buildings which are taken care of often increase, not decrease, in value. Also, owners of subsidized housing get special tax breaks when they sell their buildings--even compared to ordinary real estate tycoons.)

In 1974, the owners of Lancaster Heights claimed \$239,746 in depreciation. This turned a profit of \$62,293 into a loss of \$177,453.

'Losses' Help

It's this loss of \$177,453 (which is on paper only) that persuades rich people to put their money into subsidized housing. The reason is that rich people can then use this "loss" to "shelter" other earned income.

What this means is that rich people can subtract this paper loss of \$177,453 from their incomes. This means that they don't have to pay taxes on \$177,453 that they would have had to pay taxes on. Since people who invest in subsidized housing always have so much money that they must pay 50 to 60% of their income (after other deductions) in taxes, this means that they save \$88,727 to \$106,472 by having \$177,453 of their income labelled as a depreciation loss instead of taxable income.

That \$106,000 which the government doesn't collect is exactly like collecting it and then giving it back to a bunch of rich people simply because they own some apartment buildings--which they own because they are rich.

And that doesn't count the the \$62,293 profit they really had--and would have to pay taxes on without these special breaks: Taxes that would have added up to between \$31,146 and \$37,375.

So, together they add up to a cash handout of about \$142,047 in unpaid taxes (for a 60% tax-bracket).



The government paid \$337,272 in subsidies to the owners of Lancaster Heights apartments in 1974. The idea was to provide good housing for low-income people, but three fourths of the money wound up fattening the bank accounts of the complex's private (and rich) owners instead.

The third change in the free enterprise system to help the owners was harder for them to get. They had to appeal their property taxes.

They argued that since Lancaster Heights was subsidized, it wasn't worth as much as ordinary apartments. The reasoning was that since the rents are controlled, the owners can't make as much money. And since the owners can't make the usual amount of money, no buyer would pay the usual amount when they sold the complex.

Since property taxes are based on the value of the property, this reasoning meant that the taxes should be lower because the property value was lower.

In reality, however, the owners were arguing that a status which is designed to give them more profit (see "What Is Subsidized Housing?") should also give them lower property taxes.

The McLean County Board of Review didn't buy the logic, but the state board did. It took several months, but the owners of Lancaster Heights got back about \$30,600 of their property taxes. (Lincoln Square's owners got back \$24,000.)

So, interest subsidies gave the owners of Lancaster Heights \$164,625. The value of the depreciation in unpaid taxes was \$142,047. The property tax break was \$30,600.

That adds up to \$337,272 on the positive (for the owners) side.

On the negative side is the \$90,000 in lost rents due to rent control and the \$3467 paid to IHDA for everything over the basic rent.

That means that government--federal, state and county--paid nearly \$334,000 (\$337,272 minus \$3467) to buy \$90,000 worth of lower rents.

That also means that the owners of Lancaster Heights made about \$240,000 more than they would have if the free enterprise system had allowed them to gouge to their heart's content.

But I must be fair. Those owners would have gotten the \$142,047 from depreciation whether Lancaster Heights was for low-income people or not.

So, it really cost an extra \$191,758 for the low-income people. But that means that all taxpayers are always subsidizing the owners of apartment buildings.

Funny, isn't it.

Especially since the owners wind up with the buildings all paid for, while the taxpayers continue to carry the burdens of the owners' tax breaks and rent subsidies.

the principal (the actual amount borrowed) on the mortgage loan. In 1974, the owners of Lancaster Heights paid off \$23,536 of the principal of their mortgage.

Since the owners increased the part of Lancaster Heights which they actually own by \$23,536--(the banks who made the loan own the rest)--that amount is a profit which the owners can collect whenever they sell the buildings.

The second part of the owners' profit is the tax savings they gained from the official paper loss of \$177,453 that Lancaster Heights reported in 1974. All of this was due to depreciation. (See above: "The government gave \$335,000")

If the owners were in a federal income tax bracket which required them to pay half of their taxable income to the government, this "loss" means they saved \$88,727 in taxes. And it is almost certain that the owners were at least that rich--and avoided that much in taxes--because participation in subsidized housing deals is not recommended for people with lower incomes. (It's for people with a taxable, not actual, income of about \$60-\$70,000 in 1976.)

That \$88,727 in avoided taxes and the \$23,536

paid on the mortgage principal add up to a 33.5% rate of return on the owners' initial investment of \$335,000. If a maximum cash distribution (\$20,077 to all owners together) was made, the rate of return (profit) was 39.5%

Yet even this fantastic profit was only the tip of the iceberg. Unfortunately, the maze of ownership has to be explored to discover some idea of the real profits.

Lancaster Heights is owned by Lancaster-Oxford Associates, which is an Illinois limited partnership. Its limited partners are Martin D. Blanc, Robert Blanc, Yale Blanc, Sidney Robinson and R. Buliner. The general partner is Oxford Development Corp.

The limited partners share 98% of all profits and losses--mostly losses since that's what they want. They all undoubtedly have large outside incomes that they want to "shelter" from taxes, or avoid paying taxes on.

The general partner gets the other 2% but controls all business decisions. It also faces all liability if the partnership goes broke or gets sued. But since it is a corporation, no individual involved is personally liable.

Thus the partnership has the liability advantages of a corporation and the tax advantages of individuals--for if Oxford-Lancaster Associates were a corporation, it could not "shelter" the outside income of its owners, only its own income.

Oxford Development Corp., the general partner, was also the original developer of Lancaster Heights, and as such the government allowed it a 10% profit on all development costs except land. That probably amounted to about \$325,000. (It also was allowed to use its projected profit as part of its original investment--meaning that it had to put up very little real cash to get the loan and to build the apartments.)

All of the common capital stock of Oxford Development is owned by L & L Building Corp., and all of L & L's stock is owned by the next level, Oxford Corp. Each of these levels provides an opportunity to build in another layer of profit and to protect the real owners--who are people--if anything goes wrong.

Oxford Corp itself is entirely owned by three men. Leo Lippman owns 100% of the preferred stock, while Leo and Jay J.

...continued on next page

Zickler each own 50% of the common stock.

By 1976, Oxford had developed over \$200,000 worth of real estate. (A \$20,000,000 profit, at rates allowed by the government.) It had developed, built, and managed six shopping centers, 15 office buildings, and 20,000 housing units in 11 states.

From its headquarters in Indianapolis, it was directing annual construction worth \$30,000,000, including 2000-2500 housing units.

But this is not the end.

Its architects are Wolfner Associates, an affiliate of Oxford Development Corp. Being an affiliate probably means that Wolfner does all the work designing the buildings and collects the architects' fees. In 1974, for instance, Lancaster-Oxford Associates paid its affiliates \$140,000.

(Corporation owners commonly use affiliates to confuse federal tax inspectors. Each affiliate pulls in a separate profit--in addition to the profits of the main corporation. With money flowing in a confused pattern through several companies, it's easy to hide excessive profits, kickbacks, illegal payments like bribes--and avoid the limits on profit the law imposes on subsidized housing.)

And there are more affiliates.

Oxford Corp.'s managers are Oxford Management Corp. And its finance arm apparently is Indiana Mortgage and Investment Co., which has the same address as Oxford Development Corp. Oxford Management probably collects a fee each year for managing Lancaster Heights, and Indiana Mortgage could still be collecting interest off the apartments' mortgage in the year 2012.

Obviously, Oxford is a giant profit-making

WANTED--Rich people willing to make big profits in public housing game. Contact Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D. C.

HUD never actually ran that ad during the Nixon-Ford years, but it would have if it had been honest.

Both Bloomington Housing Authority Executive Director Larry Irvin and Bloomington Department of Urban Renewal Director Don Tjaden agree that the real goal of Nixon's HUD secretary was to disband HUD--or at least the public housing programs.

Indeed, the Nixon gang wanted to end public housing programs, but they didn't want HUD necessarily to stop spending money. They just wanted to make sure the money ended up in the right hands--the same hands that were passing money to them.

Section 236 of the 1968 housing act was the method chosen by Nixon's gang to achieve their goal. The

machine run by three men. Lancaster Heights is but one of its little cogs--but a profitable one.

And every year, Lancaster Heights probably funnels more federal money into the pockets of those three men than is actually gained in lower rents by the 198 families who live there.

And that doesn't count all the men in between the bottom and the top--the Blancs, Robinson, Buliner.

No wonder it costs \$340,000 to buy \$90,000 worth of lower rents.

reasons will soon become clear.

Traditional public housing, like Sunnyside Court in Bloomington, was built by private, profit-making builders, but it was and is (theoretically, at least) publicly owned and managed through government agencies like Irvin's BHA and the federal government's HUD.

By the 1960s, traditional public housing was coming under fire because of the failure of several big-city projects, notably one in St. Louis. What had happened was that the government--trying to please conservatives, mainly Republicans--had tried to keep costs down by building high rises, which required smaller amounts of expensive city land.

The cramming of thousands of people into high rises was a disaster that traditional public housing never recovered from. And as a result of a few giant buildings getting trashed, Section 236 was born. Its several cousins--from Eisenhower's Sec. 202 and Kennedy's Sec. 221(d) (3) to Nixon-Ford's Sec. 8 of 1974--all have similar ideas. And similar flaws.

One basic idea is to have the government pay part of the interest on the mortgage. Under Sec. 236, this is usually the difference between interest at 1% and whatever the going interest rate is: 6, 7, or 8%. As the Lancaster Heights example shows, this amounts to a big chunk of money.

A second basic idea is to have the government pay part of a low-income tenant's rent. Under 236, this is theoretically the amount by which the monthly rent exceeds one-fourth of the tenant's monthly income. (In practice, it is often less,



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JUNE AD FOR POST AMERICAN
Michael
I'm not real sure what you meant by a motif based on a "kwala" bear (isn't it ku?) with antlers - yes, a rare critter, like Divinyl Madness... but? I hope these will do, honey -
Laura

housing?

under 236; some Sec 8 programs are a different story.)

The other basic idea is that there should be private ownership of the apartment complexes. The theory is that private owners will make sure that the buildings aren't destroyed.

This seems to be true, but the other side of the coin is that private owners will do their best to avoid "problem" tenants. In practice, this means that they often won't take large families, or that they build subsidized apartment complexes that are only for the elderly--who tend not to do as much damage as children do.

The goal of subsidized housing, of course, is

supposedly to provide decent housing for people who couldn't otherwise pay for it.

Nixon, of course, pushed 236 as a return to private ownership and free enterprise--as a way to make money--so it's not surprising that there are several problems.

The first problem is that the lack of low-cost housing is a direct result of the lack of profit in supplying it. Programs like 236 try to overcome this in various ways: interest and rent subsidies, tax breaks of all kinds, and government guarantees of the mortgage loans.

The problem here is that in order to make low-income housing attractive enough so that rich people want to build it, it is necessary to make it more profitable than ordinary housing. (The hassle of dealing with the government would discourage rich people from building subsidized

housing if they only make the same money as ordinary housing.

So, as with Lancaster Heights, the government winds up spending far more money on the rich than on the people it wants to help. (In Nixon's case, of course, he was helping the people he wanted to help.)

A second major problem is that the subsidized housing program leaves all the initiative to private developers. That is, rich people not only decide when and usually where to build low-income housing, but also whether to build it at all.

One prime example of this surrender of what should be public decisions to private organizations (usually corporations) is the recent proliferation of plans to build subsidized housing for the elderly in Bloomington-Normal.

The first two projects built in Bloomington-Normal were for families (Lancaster Heights and Lincoln Square). The emphasis back then was on family housing.

The next two projects will be for the elderly. And of the three other plans that have been floating around, two are also for the elderly.

As noted before, elderly people are less trouble. Consequently, the private developers have bent the program to best suit their needs, which are the needs of profit. They can get the same profit rate from elderly housing, so they build it instead of the more troublesome (from a management standpoint) family housing.

Now, there is an argument that by housing the elderly first, the houses that they vacate will then trickle down to the families. That's the same as saying that business prosperity will trickle down to the poor: we'll believe it when we see it.

(For the twin cities, there is a more valid argument argument that there are more elderly who are on the waiting list for public housing than there are families. If the government standards for how much a family should pay for its housing are used (one-quarter of their income), however, a different view emerges. For instance, in 1970, 2413 family households with incomes of less than \$5000 per year were paying between \$50 and \$150 per month in rent. By government standards, at least half, and probably far more, were paying too much for their housing. Compare that total of at least 1200 families to the BHA waiting list of 550.)

The other major problem with subsidized housing is that in making the programs attractive to the rich (that is, profitable) the apartments thus built become too costly to help those people who most need the help.

For instance, here are the rents for the two subsidized projects in Normal:

	Lancaster Heights	
	basic rent	maximum rent
1 bdrm	\$150	\$190
2 bdrm	187	234
3 bdrm	208	266
Lincoln Square		
1 bdrm	\$154	\$219
2 bdrm	162	231 (Flat)
2 bdrm	175	249 (Townhouse)
3 bdrm	196	279

Remember, the basic rent is the lowest (or fully subsidized) rent. By the government's own standards, a family of five would have to be making \$832 per month to afford an apartment at Lancaster Heights. (That's based on one-quarter income for rent and a maximum of two persons per bedroom.)

That's not low income for a lot of people.

But 236 projects (and Sec. 8 projects) were the only new public housing constructed since 1972.

That may explain why the BHA's waiting list of apparently eligible families has grown to 550. Yet this is a community which is comparatively rich.

So, think what the chances of getting help are in the cities.

And think of where 3 of every four dollars for subsidized housing is going.

And then remember that Nixon did his job well.

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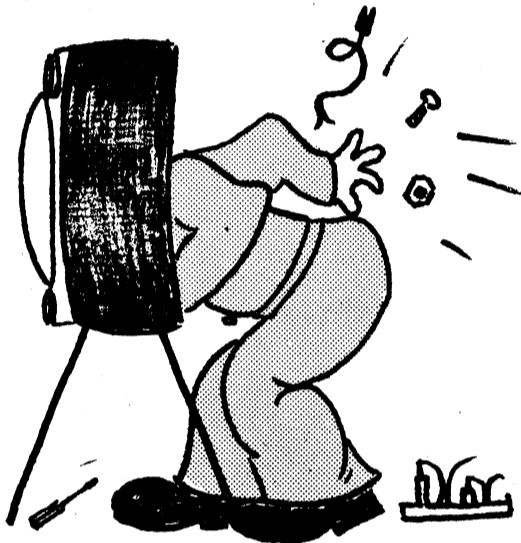
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Fewer than 24 hours have passed since the next president of Illinois State University was officially named by the Board of Regents, and already I expect the worst.

Damn pessimist, that's me.

But two things make me very uneasy about Dr. Lloyd Watkins, the West Texas State University president who will succeed Gene Budig at ISU.

First, there's the man himself. (Incredible cheek; I only talked with him once.)

Second, there's the way he was chosen. (And what, in God's name, could I know about that?)

Alas.

I'd rather stop now than go on to add solid innuendo to a single reader's own natural suspicion of any given institutional big-wig.

But there's my devotion to truth, justice and the American way. (Down in Texas, they'd add football to that holy trinity, but I don't like to take mayhem so lightly.)

So, I simply must continue. Simply must say a few things about the man who's been promoted around Normal as a kind of super lobbyist for money-poor universities.

A lobbyist, of course, is a slick talker who turns a golden tongue into simple gold.

Like David K. Berlo (the ISU president of spend-a-million-on-my-house fame), Dr. Lloyd got his academic training in speech.

After a few years of advancing his career by way of teaching, he became a vice president and a professor of speech at Idaho State.

Then he earned his real spurs in lobbying as President of the Iowa Association of Private Colleges and Universities. (That was a big job because there were three private schools with enrollments of over 1500 students in Iowa in 1968. All three could have been members, for all I know.)

In 1973 he turned up at West Texas State as president.

By the beginning of May of this year his golden tongue had been polished to a dazzling--blinding some would say--glitter.

We've got a woman dean, he told one ISU faculty member who had inquired of his attempts to help women in academia.

Sure 'nuff?

Yup, West Texas has a woman dean--of the school of nursing.

How quaint.

Dr. Lloyd's position on affirmative action was also neatly captured by the Pantagraph: Affirmative action programs like ISU's, he said, "ought to promote people for what they can do."

(And everybody knows that women can't be administrators, except maybe of nursing schools.)

But some of ISU's coaching and athletic propaganda staff got an even clearer view of Dr. Lloyd's position on the status of women.

Joked he to them: "My better half is sitting down (over there). She keeps me on the straight and narrow."

Great going, Dr. Lloyd. Two thousand years of oppression through chivalry couldn't have been more succinctly summed up by six dozen scholars. Or three football players, for that matter.

It was right after that sobering joke that I had my one chat with ISU's next president. (Honest, that's what Dr. Lloyd was doing May 4 and May 5--chatting with the ISU community.)

I asked him whether it was fair that ISU's present president had ordered a reduction of 200 tuition waivers, all to come out of academic programs. Not one athletic tuition waiver will be touched, although athletics hands out 205 of the present 580 waivers.

Dr. Lloyd hemmed and hawed, backed and filled, and slithered off on fine-sounding tangents (the Pantagraph reporter was standing nearby) for 10 or 15 minutes.

Obnoxiously, I tried to pin him down. I failed. He left.

Then he returned and told me that he had always promoted the idea of athletic scholarships based on need, not athletic skill.

Dr. Lloyd:

Well, that's nice, but that doesn't answer my question about whether sports or studies will have top priority in these days of constant financial trade-offs.

And what's stranger still is that he could have given me an answer which would have, in my eyes, put him in a much better light.

For at West Texas, he had discovered that more than \$1 million intended for faculty salaries had been funneled into the school's football program.

When he found out about it, Dr. Lloyd started lobbying the West Texas regents to get the diversions ended; a newspaper raised a stink, and the practice was indeed stopped.

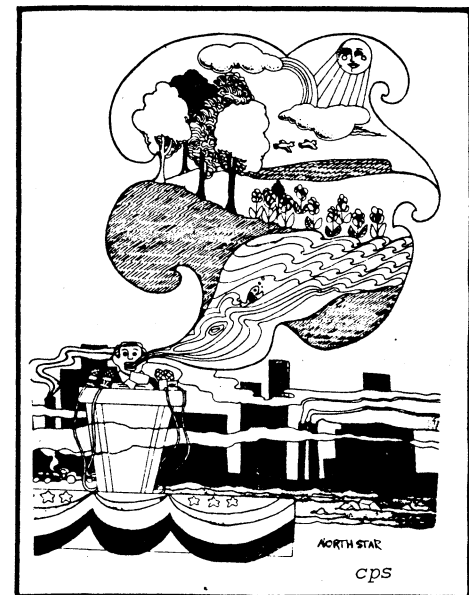
Which must have been tantamount to treason in Texas.

But Dr. Lloyd was silent on the whole affair.

Could it have been because I had the unfortunate luck to ask such a delicate question while there were a bunch of ISU coaches still standing around?

Heaven forbid.

Dr. Lloyd just wants to put things in their best light, in the proper perspective to his selfless desire to be ISU's president.



That's why he repeated for anyone who would stand still that ISU's "is one of the most attractive presidencies that have been open in many a moon." He even quoted the American Association of Executives or some such group to support his claim.

That's called effective lobbying in some circles. Buttering up in others. And, in still others, it's--

Well, you know. The Post doesn't use dirty three-letter words.

Anyway, it's got to be better to have a lobbyist than a corporation executive who's known for cutting costs (and increasing faculty work loads), like the luxury-loving Mr. Berlo.

I mean, a lobbyist could bring a lot of money into ISU instead of cutting it out of the budget (to impress state legislators and build himself a big house) like Berlo.

Sure, that's what the search committee thought when they rammed Dr. Lloyd through a whole month ahead of schedule.

Oops.

That's mighty blunt.

What I meant to say was that by providing only one candidate for the ISU community to consider, the search committee avoided a lot of unnecessary politicking.

I mean, there might have been a division of opinion if members of the ISU community could have written letters in support of more than one candidate.

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Snake Oil for ISU

But the search committee skillfully sidestepped such pitfalls by keeping the names of the 10 finalists secret. And then the names of the last four finalists were unknown.

(Well, not quite. Some of us guessed that Dr. Lloyd was a finalist. But we never knew there were four at the end. The last anyone really heard was about the 10.)

It just happened that the feedback was "all very positive...we didn't hear anything negative about him," according to committee vice-chairperson Charles Porter.



Besides, the committee didn't make up its mind all by itself. The Regents had the final say.

That explains why lavishly printed brochures proclaiming Dr. Lloyd as the new president were distributed to ISU faculty in Normal early in the afternoon of the same day that Dr. Lloyd was first recommended to (and then approved by) the Board of Regents in DeKalb.

It's little wonder, as the Pantagraph reported, that Dr. Lloyd was "impressed with the system of internal governance at ISU, a system which involves input from all parts of the university community."

I mean, Dr. Lloyd understands the symbolic importance of words. That's why he answered a politically-minded ISU professor who inquired whether he could take the heat over tenure denials with this gem:

"Anyone who can't endure high temperatures ought to maintain distance from areas of the house where culinary arts are practiced."

Ha. Ha. Clever paraphrase.

But somehow I liked Harry Truman's style better when he coined the original:

"If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."
--D. LeSeure

Eureka Layoffs Hold Lesson For Workers -- Slow Down!

On May 3rd and 10th, Eureka Company laid off workers for the second time this year. With the warehouses full, nearly 300 workers were no longer needed. Once again the company claims that things are slow and orders have fallen off.

Speed-up and overproduction are the real reasons for the layoffs. The majority of the lines at Eureka regularly overproduce -- even doubling their production quotas. Some lines run one or two people short, but continue to produce the same amount that they did with a fully-staffed line. Then, when the missing workers are brought back, the line is speeded up.

Too many workers give in to this speed-up overworking themselves and encouraging everyone around them to overproduce. If the workers produce a year's supply of vacum cleaners in nine months, the company simply gets a year's profits, PLUS the three months wages it saves by laying workers off.

Layoffs do not have to be accepted as unchangeable facts. When the company announces them, workers must fight them by refusing to speed up or to turn out the same production with fewer workers. Giving in to speed-ups only boosts company profits while laid-off fellow workers are left to get along on inadequate unemployment benefits.



Why should workers kill themselves on the job just so Eureka can lay them off? Eureka workers must learn to slow down and fight layoffs in order to save their jobs.

Written by a laid-off Eureka worker for the: Fight the Crisis Committee
P.O. Box 3392
Bloomington IL 61701



Rewriting history

Nothing lasts forever, not even official recognition of a university president's tenure of office. This plaque honors university officials who presided over the construction of the ISU Union. But it omits the 3-year administration of ISU President David Berlo, who resigned in disgrace after being caught misdirecting ISU money toward the construction and furnishing of his own house. Plaque designers apparently wanted to obliterate Berlo's memory, much like Khrushchev deleting Stalin's name from the history books. But they just do that in Russia, or so we are told in our university classes.

And it helped, too, to keep controversy to a minimum by bringing Dr. Lloyd in at the end of the semester and pushing him through the regents during the break between spring and summer sessions.

Of course, the ISU community did have a real voice in the proceedings. They got to say "Hi, ya'll!" over tea with the candidate. That's what ISU's shared governance is all about.

I mean, committees and faculty, students and civil service workers can always offer their advice before making the final decisions that are always totally within their power (except for the veto of a higher administrator or the board of regents).

That's why Dr. Lloyd came to campus. So his subjects could get a good look at their prospective king.

And the search committee hadn't really made up its mind to nominate Dr. Lloyd to the regents.

That's why he was able to tell his regents just four days after he was on the ISU campus that he was sure to get the ISU job even though he hadn't yet been formally offered it. (Only the Regents can make that offer.)

Sure, the search committee would have changed its mind if the ISU community had objected to Dr. Lloyd. Surely, all those Ph.D.'s weren't merely trying to impress him as much as he was trying to impress them.

No.

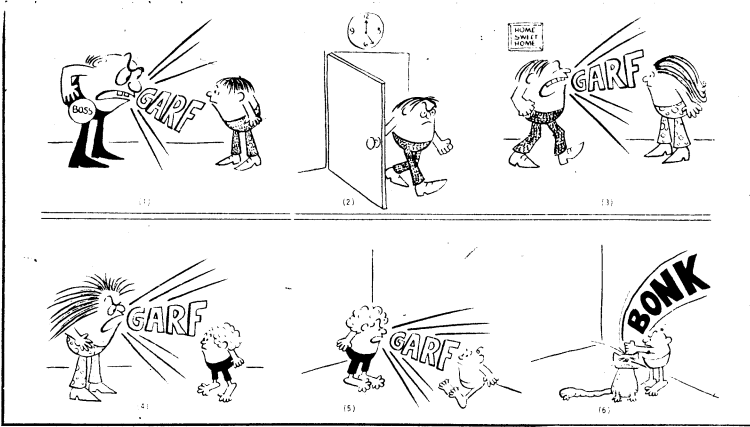
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PINK COSTS MORE

(ZNS/FFA)--Gillette has some good news for men and some bad news for women.

First the good news: Gillette has been selling its new throw-away Razor, called "Good News," for a mere 25 cents.

Now the bad news: Gillette sells the same razor to women for sixty cents. The difference? A pink handle.

ALTERNATIVE NEWS

AT&T ON WELFARE

(ZNS/Borrowed Times)--Who is the biggest welfare recipient in America?

According to two financial analysts, the answer is the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which banked a cool \$2.4 billion in federal tax credits last year.

Victor Schnee and Walter Gorkiewicz, in their new book entitled *The Future of AT&T*, report that Bell earned a record one-year pre-tax income of more than \$6 billion last year, yet paid only 9.4 percent of this to Uncle Sam.

The statutory tax rate on corporations is supposed to be 48 percent; but AT&T used a variety of tax loopholes to avoid \$2.4 billion in Federal taxes. Schnee and Gorkiewicz argue that the loophole system amounts to a massive welfare payment to the phone company.

Robert Flint, AT&T's controller, is quoted as admitting that AT&T's tax-avoidance benefits are "like interest-free loans from the Government."

VEGETARIANS GATHER

(CBS)--The rapidly growing vegetarian movement will hold its third annual national congress this summer at Humboldt State University in California.

The congress is sponsored by the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS), a non-profit, non-sectarian umbrella organization for more than 60 local vegetarian societies.

The congress will meet July 25 to 31 and will consist of classes, workshops, and lectures on the scientific, ecological, economic, and moral aspects of vegetarianism.

Costs for the congress, including registration, food and lodging, are \$165. Registration forms and information are available from NAVS, 501 Old Harding Highway, Malaga, N.J., 08328.

BISHOP ZAPS TOWN

(ZNS/FFA)--25,000 people, the entire population of the southern Colombian town of Vascual, have been excommunicated after they refused to hand over the proceeds of a church building fund to the local bishop there.

Townpeople reportedly had collected about \$1600, but had decided to spend the money on local welfare improvements rather than a new church.

As a result, bishop Alfonso Arteaga excommunicated the entire population of the town, saying that the residents had an irreverent attitude toward the church's patron saint, Sebastian.

The townspeople are appealing the action to Pope Paul.

SMITH REGIME REJECTS CONTROVERSY

(DB)--Not long ago the Smith regime of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) accepted a plan calling for majority rule within two years. Now it has rejected that plan and has also issued nine "non-negotiable" guidelines for a future government.

Those guidelines include continuation of the white-dominated civil service and judicial systems, as well as the "private enterprise system." Such obviously unacceptable actions add fuel to the view that apartheid can only be ended by armed struggle.

C.I.A. HUMOR NIXED

(Progressive/FFA)--The State Department's Passport Office turned down a request from former CIA Director George Bush, who wanted to be issued Passport Number 0000007.



ROLES EXCHANGED

(ZNS/Barb)--A supermarket robber who left a clerk bound and gagged and the store safe empty also left a message--of sorts--for his victims.

Police who found clerk Larry Colley tied up in the North Richard Market in Grants Pass, Oregon, also found a note written with powdered soap on the floor:

"Lower your prices. How does it feel to be robbed?"

EGG ORDER WORDY

(CPS)--A speaker at a London conference on food pointed out recently that the Lord's Prayer contains 56 words, the Ten Commandments 297 words, the American Declaration of Independence 300 words.

But the European Common Market directive on the export of duck eggs takes 26,911 words to get the message across.

WHITEWASHES DIFFERENT?

(FFA)--A CIA mouthpiece got some of his own medicine at Michigan State University when he tried to explain away past abuses.

He was doused with whitewash, specifically a mixture of flour and water, by Lawrence Tharp, editor of the Michigan Free Press, who is presently charged with assault, while all the CIA assassins go free.

BANDIT CHOOSES SOUND

(ZNS/Bugle American)--A disc jockey in Australia was held up at his station and forced to play 90 minutes of Alice Cooper records on the air.

Gary Watling of Toowoomba, Australia, says he answered a knock at the door of the station, only to be confronted by a masked gunman armed with a pistol.

According to the disc jockey, the masked intruder sat down and ordered him to play 90 minutes, non-stop, of his favorite records--by Alice Cooper and Status Quo. The gunman then strolled out of the studio without further incident.

USDA BACKS DOWN

(FACTP)--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has withdrawn its controversial regulations, issued May 7, 1976, which would have ended or reduced the food stamp benefits of millions of needy families throughout the United States.

The regulations would also have changed many of the most significant aspects of the Food Stamp Program, including the definition of income, the method of calculating income, the deduction formula, the method of determining purchase price, and the income eligibility standards.

In June 1976, a federal court ruled that the regulations were issued by USDA without proper authority.

SERVICE BRIEFS

XJDKCWPVQL?

(CPS)--Tufts University student, Jack Mahagov, a Russian exchange student studying engineering, has produced a "killer bong." The water pipe is six feet, 10 inches tall. Three and a half inches wide, it holds a gallon of water.

When asked about the "toke-ability" of the pipe, Mahagov replied, "Xjeodlglphhplrtly dk-dk!"

BARE FEET BETTER

(CPS)--Baring your feet to the elements may be healthier than wearing shoes.

Paul W. Brand, MD, recently told the American College of Surgeons that although shoes may sometimes protect the feet from accidental injury, poorly designed or fitted models can cause fatigue, fractures, and soft tissue inflammation.

"Children just learning to walk should go barefoot, it helps them develop better muscle control.

"There is a sense of aliveness and joy walking barefoot that I never get in shoes," Dr. Brand concluded.

NO BREAKFAST FOR MANY

(FACTP)--Statistics compiled by the Illinois Office of Education reveal that, as of late 1976, there were only 671 Illinois schools participating in the school breakfast program. There are approximately 5,308 Illinois schools, public and private, without breakfast programs.

The reality behind these figures shows a big difference in school breakfast in Chicago and the rest of the state. Most of the 671 schools which provide school breakfast programs are in Chicago. A court order had required the Chicago Board of Education to extend the school breakfast program to all needy children in the geographical area covered by the board.

DO FOOD STAMPS STRETCH?

(Food Action and Community Training Project)--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has again failed to increase food stamp coupon allotment levels, saying that even though food prices have increased over the last six months, they have not increased enough to justify increasing the allotments.

The Food Stamp Act requires that food stamp coupon allotments--the maximum amount of food stamps that any household of a particular size can purchase--must be adjusted semiannually to cover changes in food prices.

Yet allotments for various household sizes have not changed during the last year, and won't change until at least July 1, 1977.

This latest failure to obey the spirit of the law has been an especially hard blow for food stamp people since food prices have been increasing by more than one percent per month.

REPORT HEATING BILLS

Illinois households which have paid high utility bills this winter should report the cost of their utility bills to their IDPA office. U.S. Department of Agriculture and IDPA regulations may enable households to have a lower food stamp purchase price due to the increased heating bills.

The Illinois Food Stamp Manual (Section 2375.7) states that shelter costs include, among other items, the amount paid for utilities, such as heating. The same section also states that previous payments may be used as a guide in determining a reasonable monthly estimate of shelter costs.

CARTER & DRACULA?

(Dollars & Sense)--Madam Tussaud's Waxworks in London asked its visitors last year: "Who is the figure in the waxworks you hate the most?" Adolph Hitler rated first, then came Uganda's President Idi Amin. In a tie for third place were Count Dracula and President Carter.

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letters

Gay Prisoner Seeks Support

Dear friends,

I am sending this article pursuant to the phony situations that still exist in U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Since my arrival here at Lexington F.C.I., i have been under severe pressure from the officials in that i had five writs in Seattle against McNeal Island prison officials. (They placed me here to attempt to get me out of jurisdiction, but i still may get hearings very soon.)

I uncovered some assaults on two female inmates here by male guards and all my mail has been held by officials--my mail to my attorney and courts and even friends. Plus i was physically assaulted by two guards March 8, 1977. When i asked about mail, Associate Warden Neagly ordered this. I was forced to endure injuries with no medical treatment, and i called several people who have sent telegrams in protest. Then i was charged with sending letters to news media, which under protest they have decided not to pursue.

The threats by officials not to pursue the legal action on the ban on gay publications hasn't worked, and i am a plaintiff in a class action suit, with the National Gay Task Force of New York.

The attempt to deny human rights and ignore rights of gay prisoners in federal prisons is a clear picture of what we need in our own "back yard" (human rights) yet the capitalists keep insisting that we should tell other countries how to run human rights.

Must we forget the 500 people who are on death row!

For six years i have been fighting the gay rights issue in federal prisons plus helping all other groups, and my hope is for all people outside and inside to form a base support and protest the gay publication ban. If we let this pass, then we allow our right to read or even think gay be thrown out of this country! Or have we turned to fascism already! What will be next?

Norman A. Carlson, Director, has also tried to ban Black and Indian papers but was stopped due to the blue case in Atlanta U.S. Prison.

We need all support possible in protest of the ban on gay publications and harrassment of our gay brothers in federal system. Send letters of protest to: Warden W.H. Rauch, Lexington F.C.I., Kentucky, 40511 Box 2000. Also Norman A. Carlson, Director of U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Dept. of justice, Washington D.C.

Send all funds for legal expense of gay prisoners to Sister Evelyn Ancilla, Convent of Transfiguration, 495 Albion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45246.

All donations are tax exempt for a gay cause and protection of human rights.

In struggle,
John Gibbs 86976-132
P.O. Box 2000, F.C.I.,
Lexington, K. Y. 40511

Join the Welfare Rights Fight

People,

It was enjoyable to see an article on food stamps in the Post. This is an area where there is a great deal of confusion on the part of local people, and public aid workers use that confusion to the maximum.

Here is some information I would like to pass on.

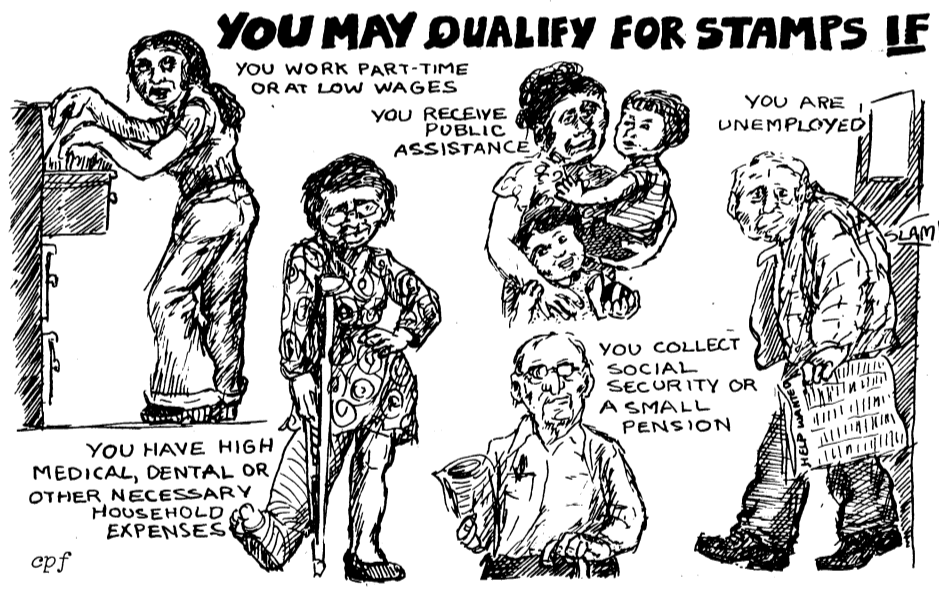
1. Any person on welfare of any type may be entitled to food stamps, so don't take any bull from your case worker.
2. All public aid rules and regulations are a matter of public record and as such you may see them. All you have to do is go to the Public Aid office and request to see the book (there are 2 or 3 volumes) on the program you are interested in, such as A.F.D.C. or G.A. (Aid of Families of Dependent Children and General Assistance).
3. When requesting appeals, there is a form to fill out, which you can get at the local office. It is best to make 2 or 3 copies, with one going to the local office, one to the Commissioner of Appeals at the Dept. of Public Aid in Springfield, Illinois, and one copy for yourself.

4. Do not take anything a case worker says at face value. Always ask to see it in writing, signed by the caseworker. If you feel the caseworker is abusive, ask to speak to that person's supervisor.

Welfare in general is a highly emotional issue and if recipients don't band together to work on their own behalf, no one will.

There is a national welfare rights organization with chapters in Illinois. If people in McLean County are interested in forming a local group, they can get advice on this from either Ruby Mabry, President of Illinois Welfare Rights, 6927S Throop, Chicago, Ill., 60636, or the Illinois Welfare Rights Office, 121 North 2nd Street, Springfield, Ill., 62701. Illinois Welfare Rights would be happy to meet with people about organizing in McLean County.

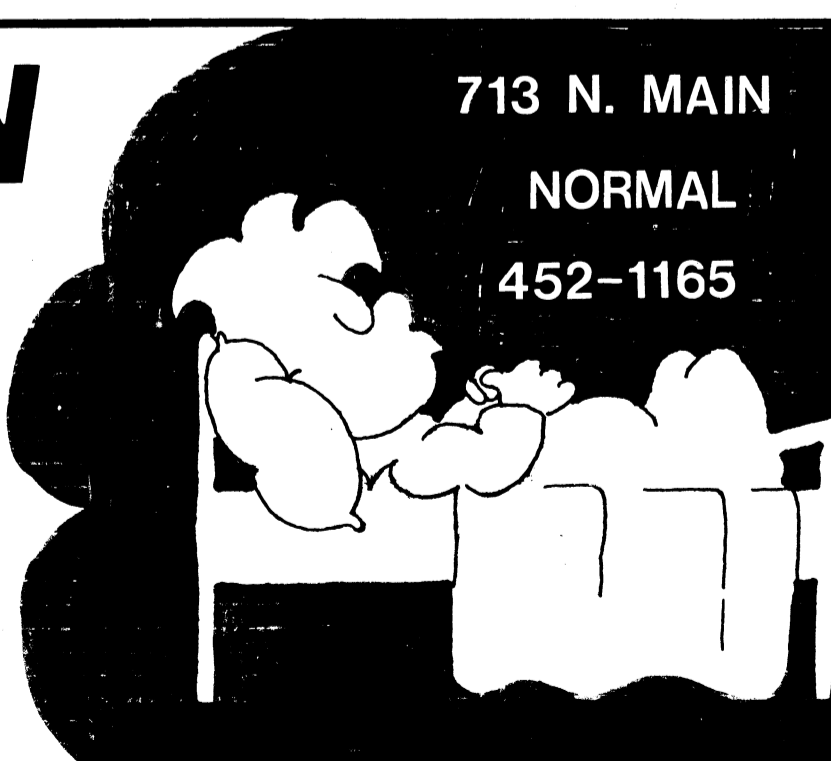
Thanks.
John Petry
Chicago Welfare Rights
343 S. Dearborn #914
Chicago, Ill. 60604



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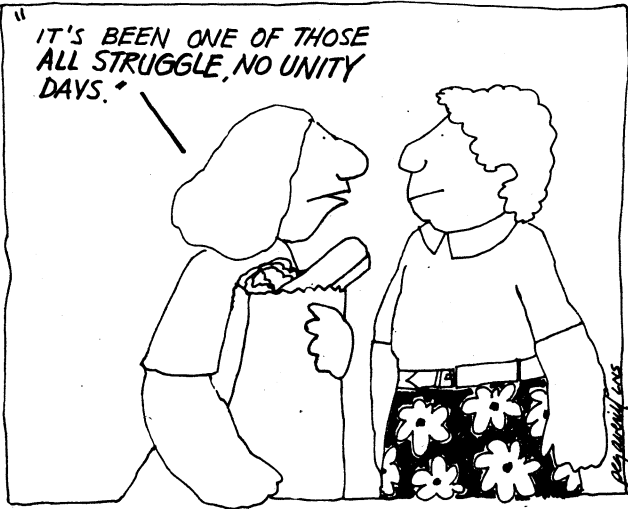
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letters

If you feel moved to write us a letter, go right ahead, and we'll probably put it in. If you don't want it published, please say so in the letter.



Post Scored on Reporting Sexism in Sports

Post Note: The following letter is from the basketball coach of Julie Compton, the 13-year-old student at Mackinaw Elementary School who was prevented from participating in a tournament with her male team mates because of her sex. The last we heard her legal action against the discrimination had not been settled.

Dear Post,

I read your article about sex discrimination on the basketball court. The article is quite accurate. However, one thing it failed to do was to mention the tremendous pressure that was placed on the whole Compton family by the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA).

Not only did the Comptons have to contend with hostility within the community, they were burdened with the prospect of large legal fees as the result of legal action initiated by the I. E. S. A.

I often wondered how much gratification I. E. S. A. officials derived from having a 13 year old girl, whose only offense was that she happened to be a very talented athlete, subjected to legal harassment for over four weeks. Perhaps they are making an attempt to show Julie how democracy functions in a bigoted society or maybe they wanted to prevent her from encountering future hardships by showing her now what her role in society is to be.

Am I bitter? Yes! I have seen a talented individual and her family hindered, obstructed, and harassed at every turn by an organization whose sole purpose is to provide an avenue to help develop those talents.

I have watched a talented group of young men watch their tournament dream's go up in smoke because one of their teammates was not allowed to participate.

I have heard a member of the I. E. S. A. board of directors ask when he was informed of Julie, "Is she black?"

And worst of all, I have seen our courts used to deny a citizen her basic right to develop her god given talents.

As I reflect upon the past three years, I am thankful for one thing. I have had the rare opportunity to work with a truly gifted individual and I only regret that I won't have her back next year.

Thank you,
Mel Stanford

P.S.--Julie doesn't smile as much as she used to do. Nor is she quite as outgoing. But she will survive. Just ask the I. E. S. A.

After 10 years in public school's I shouldn't be surprised. I've seen this before. It is to be expected. If you are not "normal" and you rock the boat then you pay the price. It's a hell of a price for a 13-year-old kid to pay.

Behind the Walls

Dear Post,

I just read your May issue, and was very pleased with it. I am doing 5 to 15 years here in the Illinois Penetentary System. I was told by another con that you people will send your paper to convicts for free. If this is so, I'd like to start receiving it. If not, I'll try to raise the money for it.

I do see where you need writers and was thinking maybe about a monthly article about prisoners, prisoners rights, and the way a lot of rights are being violated.

Perhaps you could ask your readers in the free world to help prisoners out, by writing the Office of the Governor, and Director of the Department of Corrections, Charles J. Rowe, 201 Armory Bldg., Springfield, Illinois, 62706, and asking them the following questions:

Why is it that at Menard, prisoners are allowed 10 units of visitors on a list when every other institution in the state has no limit?

Why are Menard prisoners allowed to see only 3 visitors at a time when the other places allow four?

Also, if a Menard inmate wants a TV or radio he must buy it through the commissary here. This means that it is ordered from one particular store in Murphysboro, Ill. Someone here in the administration must be receiving a kickback. In other institutions a prisoner's friends or relatives may purchase a radio or TV from any store, perhaps one where it is on sale, and have the store ship it to the inmate. But not here at Menard.

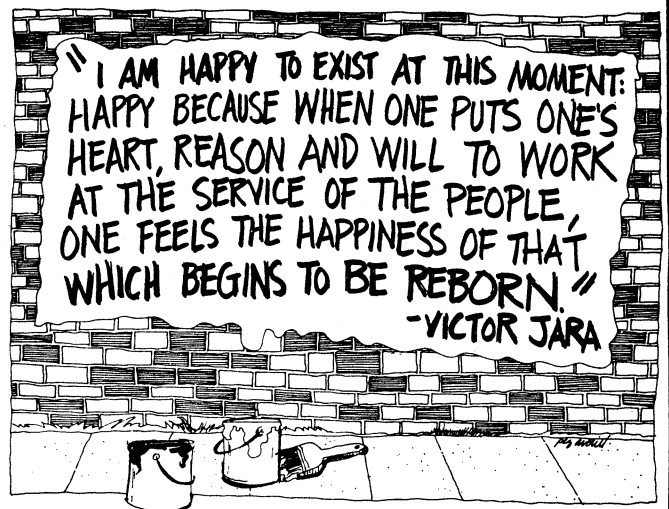
In chapter 38 of Illinois Law, under Institutions and Facilities, it says, "The State shall furnish a radio or television system to every convicted person." However, this institution does not.

Also, in all other institutions, an inmate can either buy in the commissary, or have sent from home, blue jeans, denim jackets, socks, and underwear. This can sometimes save the taxpayers money. But here at Menard, even that is not allowed.

If enough people will get on the ball and flood the offices of these people with questions about why all these rules are made just for this one joint, just maybe something will be done to change them. This would make life a little more bearable for the people who are on the inside trying to at least keep their sanity.

If you publish my letter, don't include my name, as the administration here may not look too lightly on it.

Thank you.



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Conflict of interest in new council member's vote

Newly elected Bloomington Council member Donn Pierce voted May 9 on a matter in which he has a direct and substantial conflict of interest.

Pierce is General Telephone Company's representative on the City Council, which voted May 9 to enforce an ordinance requiring smoke and fire detectors in all new construction. General Telephone Company has been running a heavy ad campaign pushing its smoke detectors, but Gen Tel's devices will not satisfy the city ordinance. Loyal to his employer, Pierce voted against the ordinance, which passed 4-1 anyway.

Pierce is Gen Tel's Director of Governmental Affairs, a surprisingly up-front title for the corporation's primary participant in local government. Before running for the City Council, Pierce spent several years on the School Board.

In his role, as Gen Tel employee, Pierce monitors government bodies, being alert to public policy which may affect the phone company.

In his role as public official, Pierce makes public policy, some of which directly affects the phone company.

When faced with a question involving direct conflict of interest, especially involving money, public officials trying to be "ethical" usually refrain from voting. Sometimes they even refrain from participating in the discussion at all. But Pierce got his vote in for his company.

The ordinance requires certain types of smoke and fire detectors in all new construction, and says that fire inspectors must check out the buildings before they can be occupied.

I asked Bloomington Fire Inspector Bob Wills whether the General Telephone company smoke detectors would fulfill the requirements of the ordinance.

They won't.

First of all, you have to have phone lines running to your house to use Gen Tel's detectors. When fire inspectors are checking out the house, there won't be any phone lines yet.

The city requires detectors to be a permanent part of the house construction, wired directly into the fusebox. But Gen Tel's detectors use power from the phone lines, and their permanence completely depends on the occupant's continued payments of the monthly bills.

Under this ordinance, Gen Tel will lose a lot of potential smoke detector business. Folks who may have wanted Gen Tel's device (which calls up the fire company) may decide not to bother, since their newly built home will already have smoke and fire detectors on each floor.

If smoke detector installation remained optional, as Donn Pierce wanted, Gen Tel would make more money.

The Pantagraph quoted Pierce saying that most people believe "mandatory installation is an imposition on the private lives of most people."

But really, Pierce believes mandatory detectors are an imposition on the corporate finances of General Telephone Company.

-Mark Silverstein

On the bus:

Snotty cop blocks stop

The new bus transfer zone on Front Street is supposed to be a restricted bus loading zone for city buses only--except for one exception, as expressed by a Bloomington Police Lieutenant.

Thursday afternoon, May 19, upon delivering State's Attorney Ron Dozier to the law and justice center, an unmarked squad car sat blocking the entrance of the bus lane. A city bus attempting to enter the lane honked its horn to request the clearing of the lane. When the bus--which was sitting with its back end protruding into the intersection--honked a second warning, the police car edged a few feet farther into the bus lane.

By then there was a backup of city buses attempting to enter the unloading zone. A man dressed in a suit then climbed out of the squad car and flashed a shiny Bloomington Police Lieutenant's badge. The man approached the bus driver's side window and said, "That's Ron Dozier the State's Attorney we let off there." "Yes, but you're blocking traffic and this is a bus zone!" the bus operator replied.

"That car is a squad car and I will park it anywhere I damn please!"

"It's not a marked squad car!"

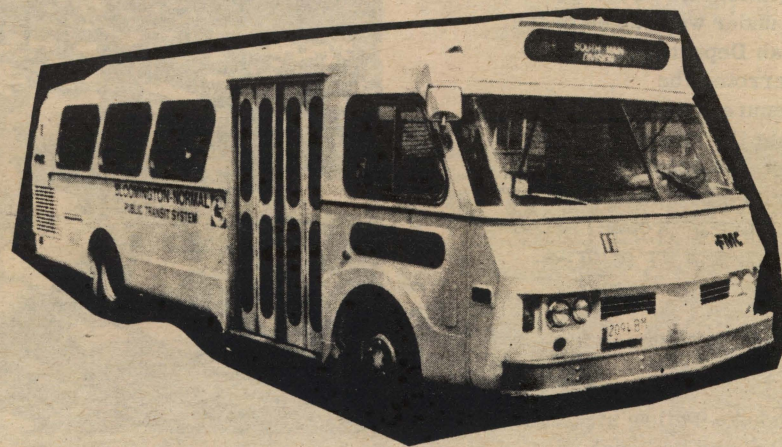
"Any car I am in is a squad car and I will park it any damn place I please. Also I could follow you for the next two blocks and find something to arrest you for."

"I am sure you could, but that's not the point. Everybody has to obey the law."

Seeing what had developed from a simple request of safety for city buses, the operator decided his job and driving privileges would be in danger if he continued to press the issue. So he dropped the subject and went angrily to lunch. Many problems have developed from the new bus transfer site. (See adjoining article.) Hopefully, the city council which chose this transfer site will accept the responsibility to inform those who believe they are exempt that the bus lanes are for buses only.

As the bus operator realized, being a public official should not be the basis for being able to ignore laws.

--ael



Operation requires violation

The move to the new Front St. bus transfer site--successfully pushed by downtown businesses last fall--is causing bus drivers and riders problems again.

The move became effective April 18. All buses now stop along the south side of Front Street, roughly between Center and East Streets.

Bus drivers must break traffic laws as they leave the transfer site: They have to cross two lanes of traffic within just 200 feet and make a left turn on to Main St.

Police are following an unwritten policy of ignoring these particular violations. But bus drivers are very aware that they could be sued if their illegal driving--even without a ticket--causes an accident.

A poll of riders taken by the Transit System last summer showed only 6% preferred the proposed Front Street location. Most preferred the existing site (on Main Street) or a third alternative along the courthouse Square.

Downtown merchants despised bus riders hanging out in front of (and sometimes--especially in winter--inside of) their stores. They described bus riders as "riff raff." Riders can't wait for buses in stores now: none are close enough to the Front St. stops.

When the City Council voted to move the transfer site to Front Street, only the Post-American pointed the finger at the downtown powers who pushed the decision behind the scenes. The Transit Board never mentioned it publicly; neither did the City Council, which came up with some incredibly flimsy and hollow reasons for

the Front St. site. The Pantagraph merely repeated those hollow, flimsy excuses, never reporting the merchants' influence in the city's decision.

In recent months, though, Transit Board members have publicly named the merchants as hindering the bus system's operations. And the Pantagraph, even in its "objective" news stories, now carries the Downtown Council's lobbying among the reasons for the City Council's decision to move the transfer site.

Proposed solutions to the left turn problem are exotic. Engineers are toying with letting bus drivers electronically control the traffic lights. Another would turn one of Front Street's eastbound lanes into a westbound, leaving the bus drivers with only one lane of traffic to cross before the left turn. The Pantagraph's editorial proposal incorporates the same idea; using the curb lane for the already planned shelter that bus riders will be able to wait in. Again, buses would only have to cross one lane of traffic, since one would be eliminated. No officials have yet proposed moving the transfer site back where it belongs--where the bus riders wished it to be.

The Pantagraph also proposed (and admitted that it was a novel proposal) that bus riders' convenience be taken into consideration. Excellent. Why not also propose that the planned bus shelter be heated, too? Maybe the larger downtown merchants could foot the bill, since it was their intolerable snobbery about so-called "riff raff" that literally kicked bus riders out into the cold.

--M.S.

Garbage Causes Ruckus Over Rites

After ISU's Rites of Spring free rock concert April 30, the quadrangle lay ankle deep in garbage--most of it contributed (at a cost, of course) by our nation's canning and bottling industries. Pop tops, beer cans, and broken non-returnable bottles threatened bare feet and bicycle tires and mocked the publicized Rites theme, "Safety and Ecology."

This garbage inspired one of the most mindless controversies to appear in ISU's Vidette newspaper since the hot debate a few years ago over whether you could buy good men's fashions in downtown Normal. Letters, editorials, and features over the first week and a half of May clumsily grappled with who was to blame for the garbage on the quad. The Vidette published letters that far exceeded its stated 200 word limit, as writers about the controversy fumbled incoherently on and on, attempting to transmit on paper those murky shapes in their minds that they assumed to be ideas.

Meanwhile, the anniversary of the 1970 murders at Kent State came and went, and University Secretary Charles Morris got away with saying in the Vidette that lowering the quad flag would lower the significance of the event; Vidette editor Brian Adair's unforgivable ageism went uncriticized when in his final comments, he said that some ISU faculty were "too old" to do anything but bore students; the Illinois legislature defeated an ecology bill that would've banned the sale of cans and nonreturnable bottles, and the Vidette never noted the relationship of the bill to the garbage discussion under way; three of the best teachers in the English Department were fired, while the Vidette parroted the administration's line on tenure; and thousands of ISU students submitted to the educationally unsound, personally oppressive, and professionally degrading ritual of finals week and grading, without a murmur of protest. In more ways than one, garbage was top priority that week.

Here's just a brief list of who got blamed for the garbage on the quad:

1) The students who attended. Fellow students called them "irresponsible" and "a bunch of animals," displaying a lack of solidarity that no doubt brought joy to the hearts of administrators, Regents, and Harber Hall types.

2) The organizers of the event. They were criticized for not providing enough dumpsters and garbage bags, which they didn't. People in the middle of the crowd didn't have any choice but to drop their junk on the ground. But the organizers also caught flak for handing out too many Rites of Spring buttons (which everyone supposedly must have in order to enter the quad area during Rites, but the silly system has never worked), and for not controlling more firmly the security crew (who's supposed to somehow turn away buttonless folks) and the clean up crew (who knew a hopeless task when they saw it, and went home). Former Rites of Spring organizers berated current Rites of Spring organizers for not doing things the way they did them. Current organizers blasted back at the students and at...

3) **OUTSIDERS.** In a strange burst of xenophobia, both organizers and attenders suspected that a malicious band of non-ISU-students really created all that garbage, and directed the discussion to how the outsiders (high school kids, non-students, and students from other colleges) could be kept out. One brilliant idea was to have the Rites on a weekday, so workers and students of other schools can't come share the fun. (This is a charming application of the latest in high ideals learned in our university.)

All this blame is really off the point. First, all that energy could've gone into working on more important issues of the week. Second, the people who contributed to the controversy eagerly blamed individuals for their actions without taking into account the situations those individuals were in, especially situations that they have absolutely no individual control over.



photo by Armando Villa

\$33,000 worth of security and superstars, ending in a pile of trash--not really the joyful celebration of new life that Rites of Spring is supposedly all about.

Like living in a state where the most convenient way to buy beer is in throwaway cans and bottles. Rites of Spring in Oregon would not end in a heap of rubble, because they've kicked the garbage distributors out of their state with a returnable-only law. We could kick them out too.

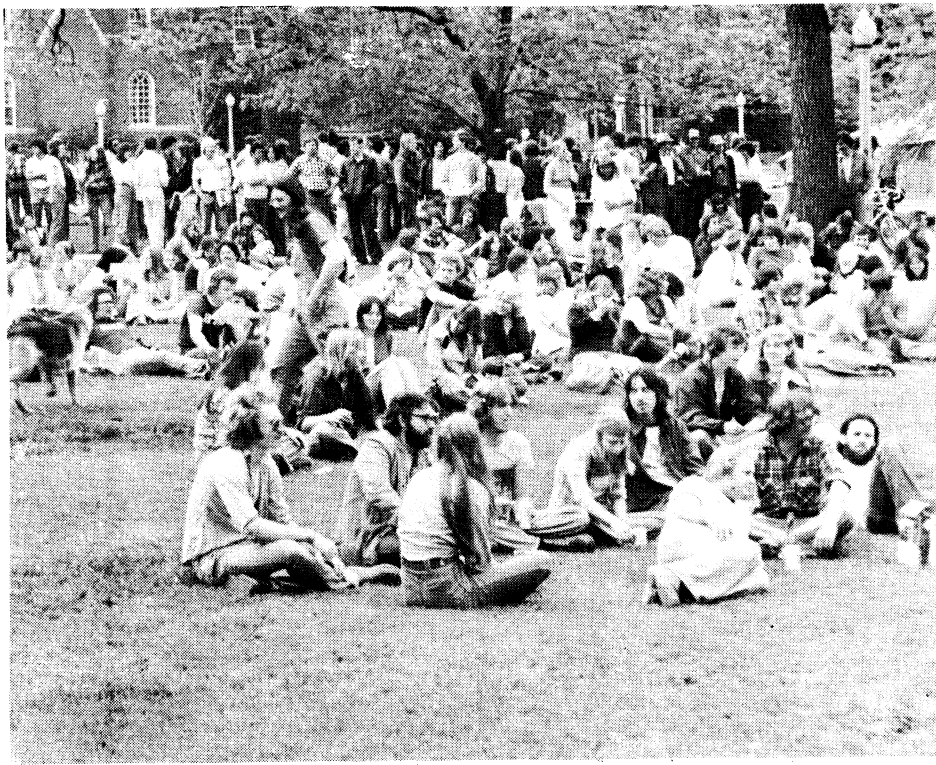
The people who went to Rites of Spring also couldn't help it, at that point, that the ISU administration will only half-way admit that people drink beer at Rites of Spring. If the Rites of Spring promo could be upfront about beer, organizers could encourage a mass effort to buy kegs and scatter them every ten feet or so all over the quad: the litter from this system would be paper cups, which are easier to clean up and less dangerous lying on the ground.

In all the panic over garbage, students have forgotten their power to challenge the status quo instead of screaming at each other. This power was demonstrated in Spring 1975: Rites was organized something like an armed camp out at the stadium, and so students staged an alternative celebration on the quad, People's Park. Thousands of people chose the quad action, with its free atmosphere and unpaid local musicians jamming, over the highly-paid superstars playing at the stadium.

\$33,000 worth of security and superstars, ending in a pile of trash--not really the joyful celebration of new life that Rites of Spring is supposedly all about. Instead, it's the can and bottle pushers and big recording companies who celebrate, while everyone else flounders in guilt and blame.

--Phoebe Caulfield





ISU Mayday 77

Mayday means a lot of different things to different groups and individuals. Some people know May First as a special day only because it's "Law Day" in the U.S.

But what May Day meant to thousands of U.S. workers in 1886 was the beginning of a militant strike for the eight-hour workday. During that strike, police killed six striking workers in Chicago and four labor leaders were arrested on trumped-up charges and eventually condemned to death.

In celebration of and dedication to that struggle, May 1st was set aside as a special workers' day by first the American Federation of Labor and then an international congress of labor and socialist organizations.

In recent years, local students and community people have organized under Mayday banners for other reasons. Last year's Mayday celebration at ISU was partly a response to repressive administration policies about Rites of Spring, the university's "official" spring festival.

Chuck Willer, an organizer of last year's Mayday, said that the highlighting of local music was another important reason for the celebration. One of the themes of the '76 Mayday was an emphasis on recognizing the talent of local musicians and a dislike of the thousands-of-dollars superstar nonsense, according to Willer.

He also said that one of the purposes of Mayday was to get control over our own lives again, struggling against "dominant traditions" like the billion-dollar rock industry and ISU's repressive administration.

This year's Mayday organizers billed Mayday as "a celebration of spring with an emphasis on awareness of ourselves and others." The event's organizers hoped that Mayday could be a step toward the future, a place where visions of a new society could, for a time, be realized. To achieve this goal, the organizers got commitments from many local people--musicians, artists and craftspeople, political groups, stores--to volunteer their time and energy to help make Mayday happen.

Several things worked against Mayday. Rites of Spring, held the day before Mayday, left ISU's quad on May 1st looking and smelling like the garbage can of the gods. Some of the elements of ISU's administration refused to co-operate with Mayday's organizers at different stages of the planning.

The natural elements weren't as favorable as they could have been, either. Rain and the threat of rain off and on all day probably kept many people from coming, including some of the groups who had planned to have displays. The rain also shut Mayday down much earlier than was planned.

The "success" of an effort designed to celebrate and heighten consciousness can't be measured only by the number of participants. Also important is the effect that Mayday had on those who did participate.

Gail Tilkin, one of this year's Mayday organizers, had these comments about Mayday: "I was proud of Mayday, especially after experiencing Rites of Spring, which seemed more like a people's demolition derby. Mayday began this year with no money and seven people willing to put their energies into making it happen. Through Ed Koehl, who coordinated our financing and dealt with the bureaucratic hassles, we made more than enough money to cover our costs and last year's debts.

"All in all, I guess it was worth all the hassles."

Chuck Willer, quoted earlier as one of last year's Mayday organizers, said, "This year's Mayday was real nice. I wish it was more overtly political. I wish more community people had gotten involved. I wish it had been better weather. I was especially glad that the emphasis on local musicians was continued."

For me, and I think for many others, Mayday was an enjoyable experience. I am always encouraged by the bringing together of people who have something valuable to express to each other and something in common to celebrate.

(Besides, my sister was here for the weekend, and that made it even neater.)

I hope that the problems involved with putting Mayday together this year don't keep us next year from again finding something worthwhile to celebrate together and a dynamic way to do it.
--Andrea Bauer

Thanks for information used in this article go to The New Voice.

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HOT WAX

Travelling With Ambrosia

Ambrosia--n. 1. Class. Myth food of the ancient Greek and Roman gods. 2. Something especially pleasing to taste or smell. (This is a questionable way to start out a record review, but when I first picked up this album, I was curious about the definition of the group's name. Anyway...)

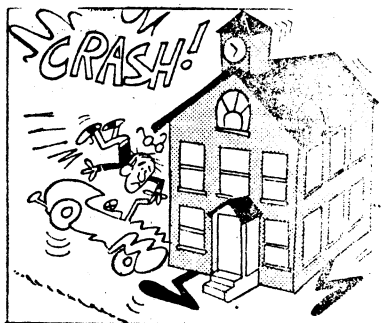
The album cover assembles into a shape like the Great Pyramid. What's inside is a classic combining of music and lyrics into a concept.

Allen is thus constantly paranoid, worrying "Will I get any tonight?...Is she seeing someone else?" He's like a child, stuffing himself with cookies, afraid the jar will run out.

Annie Hall is caught in another trap. Allen has opened new worlds to her, and she feels indebted to him, feels guilty if she doesn't "give him some." Yet she feels chained by his constant, badgering insecurity.

Ultimately, they are both reduced to game playing. Life becomes a round of arguments and love-making ploys.

They are both trapped within our sick definition of love. We have been so trained in scarcity, we are so afraid of the cookie jar running out, that we try to bank-account our affection, letting it out only when we're confident of a "safe-return." But love, trapped and cornered, can only wither and die. The sharing and vulnerability that gives love meaning is denied.



Luckily, Allen and Annie Hall are not completely lost, giving the film a closing poignant honesty. They eventually discover an appreciative friendship, rich and lasting, more rewarding than sexual obsession. Through honesty and sharing, they are able to be themselves, no longer worrying about saying the "right thing," or hung up about "getting some."

Ultimately, we are all neurotics, searching for a fulfilled world, yet afraid to risk building it ourselves. Our relationships though, even when they fail, are our greatest successes. For at least then we are becoming ourselves, creatures of love.

As Woody concludes, "...It's like that old joke. A man goes to his psychiatrist and says, 'Doc, my brother thinks he's a chicken. What should I do?' The psychiatrist replies, 'Why haven't you turned him in?' The man responds, 'Because I still need the eggs.' I guess that's how I feel about relationships now.

So we still need our eggs--even though we have to put up with the obsessive clucking.

This might seem heavy for a Woody Allen film, but don't worry, you'll laugh your head off. For Woody Allen has successfully done the impossible: produced a serious comedy. Don't miss it.

--MgM



Annie Hall

starring Woody Allen and Diane Keaton

Relationships. That tangled web of our best hopes and most human foibles. We put so much effort into them, yet so often hold back, afraid to risk truly loving.

Our relationships have a central vortex--SEX. It nurtures them, allows them to blossom, is their highest expression. Yet, too often, our sexuality is the expression of a sick neurosis, a nagging demand which only foils the relationship, as we worry so much about "getting some" that we are too tense to really be ourselves.

Woody Allen, in his latest film, "Annie Hall," autobiographically examines us--a sick neurotic American race--afraid to love yet hungry for it all the same.

Allen plays a middle-aged comedian, caught between love and death. He hungers for death--hungers for solitude, for pain's absence, the cold clamminess of the tomb. Death is ultimate security.

But poor Allen, like all of us, is caught on a central dilemma. Choosing death is self-denial, and we love ourselves too deeply to do that. Being creatures of love, the only option besides suicide (death) is the risk of loving.

And love is never easy. Love is insecure, unexpected. Love requires taking terrible risks. All those difficult years of building a secure shell around the self must crumble if one is to honestly love. In loving, one becomes vulnerable to another human being. One risks being laughed at.

In the movie, Allen definitely tries, but is too sex-obsessed to successfully love. Until Annie Hall, a woman who would be expected to disgust him, comes along. She's midwestern, under-educated, frivolous and not at all self-assured. She's also very beautiful.

The courtship begins. Allen uses an old film technique, subtitles, to highlight their mutual insecurities. As Allen and Annie Hall talk, subtitles tell what they are really thinking. At other points, their psychiatric visits are juxtaposed, and Woody makes occasional ventures into childhood, talking back to parents and teachers 20 years later.



Their relationship, like many in our world, is trapped. Trapped because we do not love freely and have put a price on our affections. Sex, which is an attempt to define love withing time and space, is sold like another supermarket commodity, bartered for security and favors.

Somewhere I've never travelled
That's where it all began
And as my dreams unravel
I long to go that way again.

The album begins with "And...", a prelude to "Somewhere I've never travelled," and a concept starts to form--the dream begins. A voice speaks: "Of man's progress/I don't give a hoot/ And man's estrangements of nature's arrangements/ has given cause for my heartbreak/ to boot." (Revoke his poetic license.)

So city smog and dog eat dog
For some may hold sublime
Well as for me
If I had my way
I'd have lived
Some other time.

The "Cowboy Star" dreams of stardust floor saloons. Riding away only to get shot. The song does have a nice "How the West was Won" type interlude.

The rest of side one deals with different dreams. Dreams of separated lovers and dreams of understanding between people. If all these dreams put you to sleep the last tune on side one will wake you up. It's a rocker and Dave Pack's guitar solo is comparable to Frank Zappa. You'll have to turn the record over to see if there is more of this.



Side two brings the audience back to reality. "The Brunt" is an excellent essay on that horrible job commonly known as the nine to five. The music seems to be heavily influenced by Frank Zappa (yeah, him again) around his Roxy and Elsewhere period. The Cal Arts African Ensemble interjects a little African percussion. Then you hear rush hour traffic noises. You are in the middle of the worst jungle. (Can you smell the smog?)

"Dance with me George(Chopin's Plea)" revolves around two people. One is George Sand, the pen name of the French novelist Amandine Aurore Licie Dupin, the Baroness Dudevant. She defied convention by doing things like smoking cigars and wearing men's clothes. (Right on!) She is noted for the novel Indiana, dealing with the suffering of women. The other person is Fredic Chopin, an excellent pianist and composer of the 1800's.

Together they travelled to the Mediterranean island of Marjorca in the winter of 1838-39. Their relationship ended in an argument. Enough history. The music keeps on rollicking for seven minutes and then ends with an orchestra build-up reminiscent of Chopin.

The next song, "Can't let a Woman," shows a possible scene of George Sand's walkout on Chopin. The man does all the talking: "What do you think you're doing/Well I told you not to leave any more/ Where do you think you're going/Come on, get your fingers off that door."

"We need you too," the last song on the album, asks us to climb the "walls against your being" so we can see beyond. The album ends with a soft voice singing: "Somewhere I've never travelled," and the trip ends.

A few more words.

One thing I don't like about this group is that I feel they are forcing themselves on me. The album design is what does it. On the front, the members of the group are dressed in their space clothes to be bought for a trip. The lyrics on the album cover are in futuristic printing. References to people who helped them on their travels. It looks too planned.

Dynsdale

by David G. Henson, D.L. Bolender, James Carter-Larue, G.J. Koos, Randall A. Josephson, Charles M. Collinson, and Terence M. Fitzgerald. Published by the Worn-out press.

The title of the thing startled me. Why the emphasis on men? Why all men? So I turned to the preface, looking for an explanation. No explanation. So then I thought, Well, it's better than the way poetry anthologies traditionally are: they usually promise something like Illinois Poets, and then the reader pages through to find that it's really Illinois Men Poets. At least Men at Words is conscious that it represents the work of just one gender.

I went on to the poems, in search of something that unifies the collection other than the gender of its writers. I'm used to women-only collections, especially ones that are conceived as women-speaking-to-women from the special experiences of their sex. I also approve of men-only consciousness-raising groups. I decided to keep an open mind: not to label the exclusion of women "sexist" without considering reasons for it.

Understandably, almost all of the personas of the poems here are male. David A. Henson contributed the only poem that impresses me as being from the female point of view; his excellent "Ripening in the Trees" deals with children's fascination with sexuality and ends with an adult (male) harshly repressing their sexual play.

James Carter-Larue, in "prometheans," carries on the subject of childhood and nostalgia for its almost-mystic rituals. Randall Josephson takes the same subject and suggests that the loss of the rituals leaves one "all alone/locked up all alone," in the closing of his poem, "The Roots of Teddy Fear."

This isolation and alienation of the supposedly "mature" adult is picked up in many of the Men At Words poems, most notably in G.J. Koos' works, which often read like Stephen Crane's bitter fragmented proverbs: "The man who knew why he did everything was found dead./ An apparent victim of suicide. His friends said he had been despondent," writes Koos in his "Sigh-Koo's."

The adult male roles as worker and lover are cleverly mocked in D.L. Bolender's poems. In "Working-Day Blues: Variation No. 1," an unself-conscious persona views a woman in a donut shop purely as a sex object, and then, ironically, he's outraged when he realizes that she objectifies him as "just another worker getting coffee and a roll to go to goddamn job contributing to the National Product of Gross." In "Somewhere In This Cave There Is a Painting," Bolender exposes the modern male facade of hipness, coolness, awareness, carefully rehearsed just so some rural-town young woman "will hopefully say, 'You're really sensitive.'" And he asks the man (maybe himself), "who do you think you're kidding/With that pretense of caring/...With absurdity trying to pass as awareness?"

Henson takes the theme of everyday brutality even further in his "An Indistinguishable Number of Other Screams." A man and woman calmly sit at dinner, while in parentheses Henson describes the rising cries and screams of the people and animals who've been exploited to bring the various foods and drinks to their table. The screams, sobs, and moans reach their peak as "man and woman/ simultaneously stab/ their forks into steak."

The brutality of the state and its institutions is most clearly portrayed in Charles Collinson's "Dies Irae...for Gary Gilmore." Collinson brilliantly considers the execution in a succession of parodied styles: the TV, the blues song, the news media, the church, and the NRA, all unified by echoes of the opening line, "Again the state has called for death."

No doubt about it, these are good poems; Terence Fitzgerald's print job on his Worn-Out Press is admirable; Martin Wycoff's cover design is fetching. The collection projects fairly consistent progressive attitudes, as you can tell from the recurrent themes I've discussed here.

I found, though, in talking with Bolender, that the consistence is kind of accidental. He told me that Fitzgerald approached the contributors and asked them each to submit five poems, marking one that he could leave out if he didn't have enough space. So each writer did self-editing; the writers didn't collectively discuss the goals and visions of the collection.

I was disappointed to hear that; it meant that I could probably get seven different explanations of the emphasis on men. Bolender says that he feels his poems do speak more directly to men's experience than to women's, and he intends to do more in the area of men's roles and limitations in his future work. He's not particularly attached to the all-male anthology concept, though. Greg Koos, another contributor, says that he strives to write poetry that both sexes can relate to, and he thinks that Fitzgerald simply chose the title because all the people he wanted to include happened to be male. Koos says that there was no "male collective identity" behind the anthology.

And this is basically what I find unsatisfactory about the work, because the title does imply some male collective identity, but the book never explains it. There are good reasons for separatist activities for either sex; I'd like to see these reasons communicated whenever a pursuit is limited to male or female involvement. Otherwise, the exclusivity might be "absurdity trying to pass as awareness."

--Phoebe Caulfield

You can buy Men at Words for \$1 at Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main, Bloomington. The money goes for the printing costs.

Local Head Shop Shut Down

Have you been to the new local head shop yet? Well, it's too late now. Of Mind and Body Inc. opened March 14th, 1977, and their notice to close came exactly one week later, on March 21st. I don't know how to break this to you gently, but money and big business got pushy again.

The building Of Mind and Body briefly occupied at 606 N. Main is owned by James Wollrab, local attorney and all-round good guy. Mr. Wollrab evicted the Of Mind and Body (OMAB) people even though he had signed a one-year lease with them.

Wollrab claimed that OMAB "fraudulently enticed" him into signing the lease. He believed that OMAB was going to be a health food store. He won't rent to a head shop because he doesn't want people to think he condones the smoking of . . .(gasp) marijuana.

The OMAB people say that they were planning for part of their store to be health food, but found they would have to put new plumbing in Wollrab's building, and so decided to drop the idea.

The lease between Wollrab and OMAB, as I understand it, included nothing about what OMAB could sell. A lawyer OMAB talked to said he believed that they could win a legal fight to stay there for a year.

One of the reasons the OMAB people did not stay and fight Wollrab was the suspicion that if they stayed against Wollrab's wishes, the whole year would be one big tenant-landlord hassle. So they packed up and moved west.

So Bloomington-Normal has lost a new shop because of "big" pressure by one of the "big" people. They won and we lost. We can't let this go on.

--DSB

In Review

Remember Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King Jr., the great non-violent civil rights leader, is associated in our minds with Birmingham, Selma and Memphis. He is a character associated with and from a Southern context.

So it's hard to imagine that right here in Bloomington-Normal, Dr. King's name is remembered. Recently, a local artist cut a record commemorating Dr. King.

Dave Morgan of Normal was long fascinated by Dr. King. Affected by King's death in 1968, Morgan wrote a song about the civil rights leader's life and dream.

Many of us have been moved as he's performed it over the years--at Black History Week and most recently for Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. at ISU.

Excited by the response, Dave decided to record his song. Backed by the Newman Choir and a flutist from the Black Arts Jazz Ensemble, the song was engineered, produced, and released a few weeks ago.

The ballad traces Dr. King's life and dream, mixed with his speeches and the song "We Shall Overcome." Backed by a strong choir, Dave delivers a moving panorama of that long struggle for freedom.

Talking about Dr. King and civil rights, Dave said that he "strongly identifies with his message." He felt that much has been forgotten, that "we don't see it today, what they went through."

The song is also important, as "we're still doing it (struggling) today." Dave also believes that Dr. King's non-violent message has been forgotten. "I want to impress that there is going to be equality of rights eventually, and it can come non-violently if we open our hearts."

Dave is offering the record to church and other groups for fund-raising, allowing them to keep the profits, just meeting his production costs. The record is on sale for one dollar at the Newman Center, 501 S. Main, Normal, 452-5046.

By MgM



BLOOMINGTON GOLF RANGE

● 2 18-HOLE MINIATURE GOLF COURSES

● BASEBALL BATTING PRACTICE

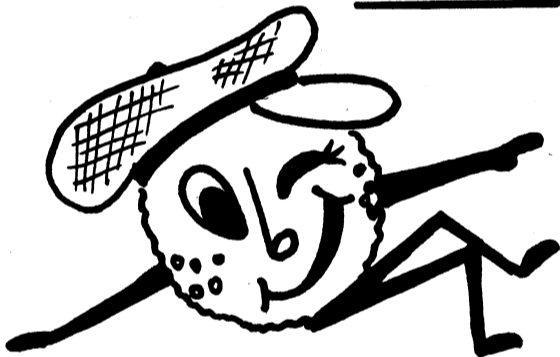
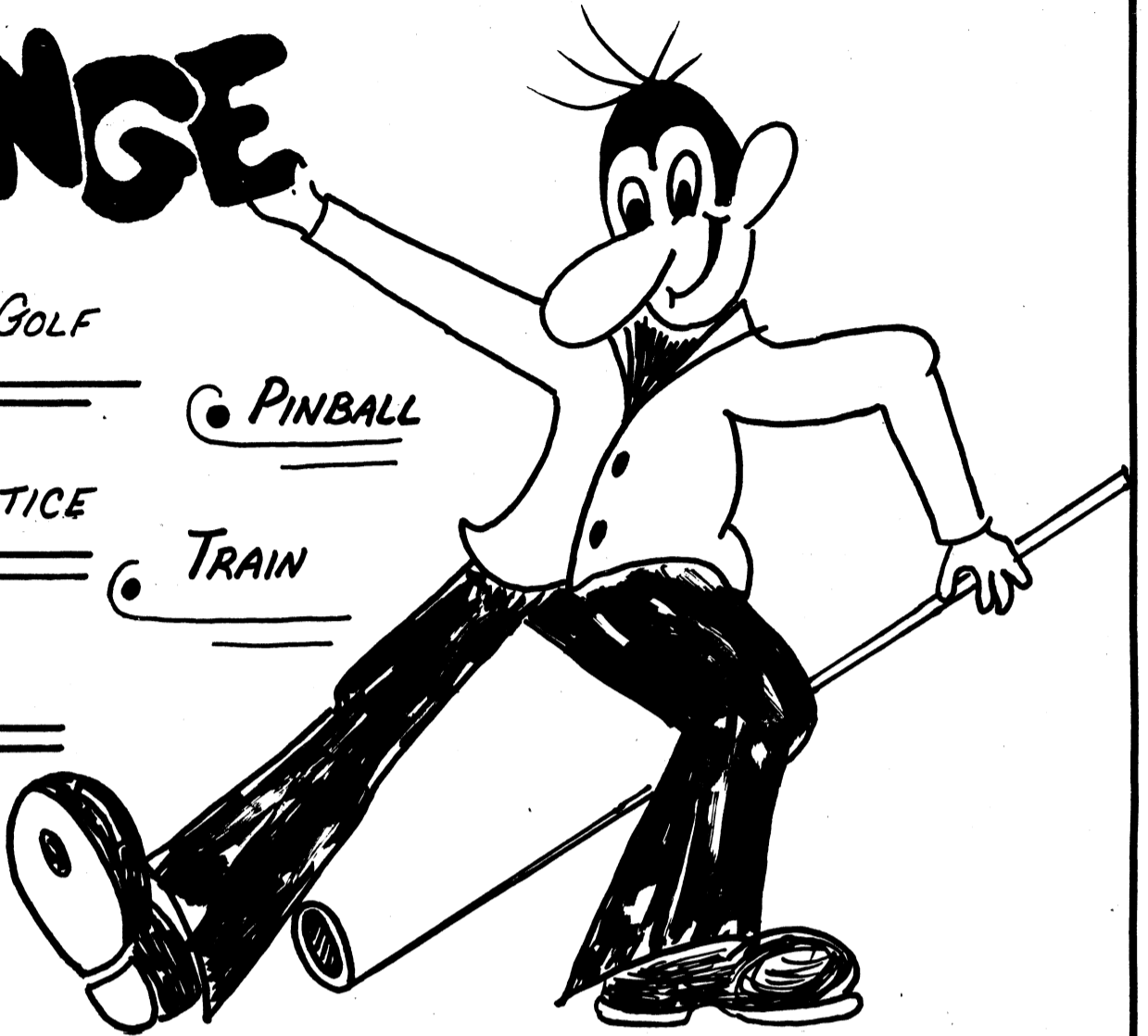
● BUMPER CAR RIDE

● GAME ROOM

● GIANT SWING

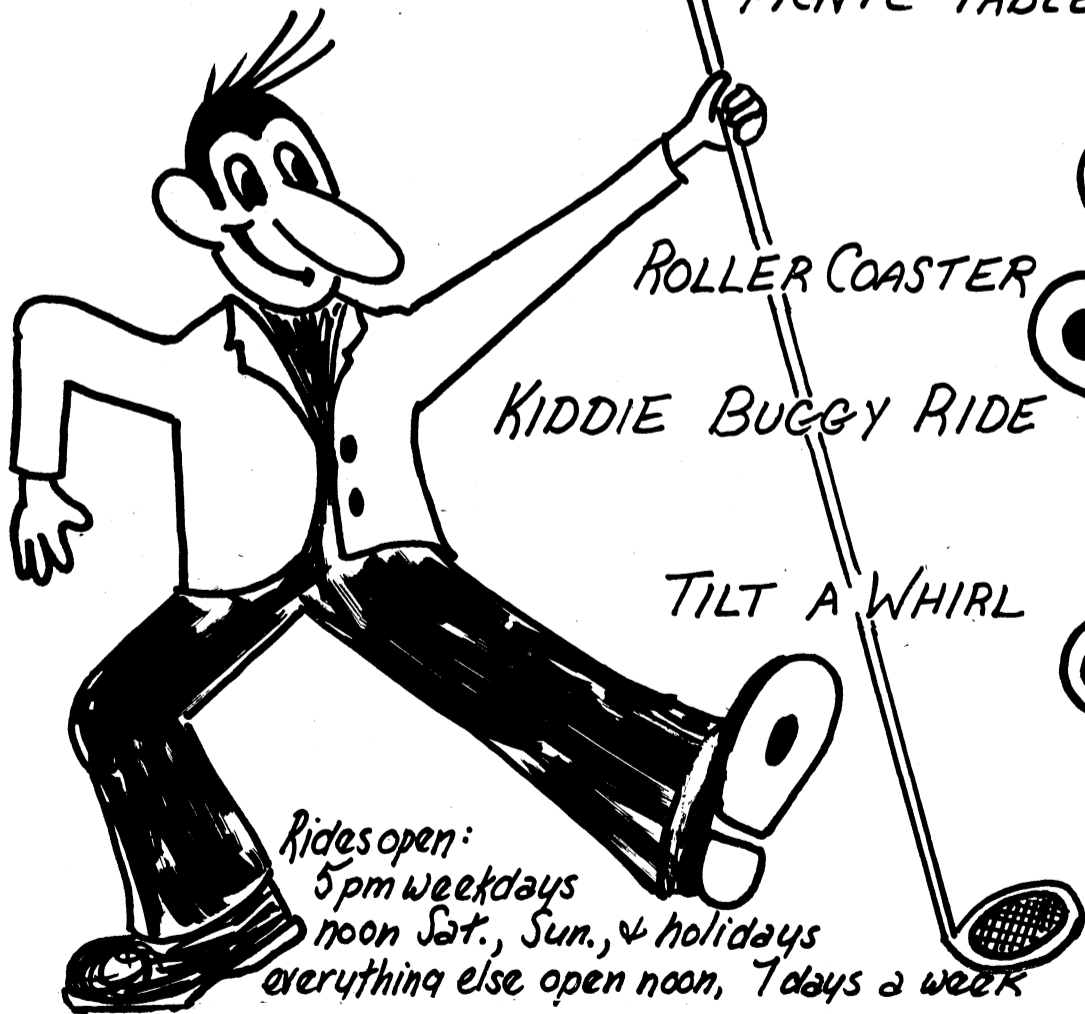
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Pass the bucks for the Twin City Six

The Post-Amerikan is asking for money to pay the \$100 fine imposed on Bobby Reyes, the only member of the Twin City Six whose conviction was upheld by the Illinois Appellate Court.

Along with five others, Reyes was arrested after police violence during a march against Sheriff King on November 3, 1974. All six were arrested for obstructing a peace officer, supposedly by refusing to disperse when police ordered.

Three hundred people marched peacefully that day, with no incident until a rock broke a window in the county jail. Protest activities continued peacefully for about 20 minutes, until an unexpected police charge sent members of the crowd sprawling. Armed with full riot gear, police clubbed and pushed demonstrators through 12 blocks of downtown Bloomington. Some demonstrators, angry at what they saw as unjustified police violence, threw rocks. Police determination to clear the streets increased.

By day's end, police had arrested Bobby Reyes, Pete Black, Jim Thomas, Dave Nelson, Brent DeLand, and Bob Sutherland. Nelson, a Post-Amerikan photographer, was grabbed by officer Charles Crowe and hurled through Kresge's plate glass window, shattering it. Police tried to smash Nelson's camera with billy clubs, but failed.

Within weeks of their arrest, the six members of the "Twin City Six" issued a press statement charging that police violence was responsible for turning a peaceful demonstration into what the Pantagraph had called a "rock-throwing melee."

One of the six had viewed all the videotape taken by Peoria TV stations. One film clip clearly showed the cops' first charge, ending after they knocked a young woman down by hitting her in the face with a club. The film clip mysteriously disappeared before the ACLU lawyers could subpoena it for trial.

Trial began on July 21, 1975; it lasted four days. The six defendants became five during jury selection, as the state admittedly couldn't even remember what Jim Thomas had supposedly done.

Seven prosecution witnesses were answered by 15 defense witnesses. More were waiting to testify about police clubbings, attempting to put police conduct itself on trial. But Judge Joseph Kelly ordered the ACLU-provided defense attorney to wrap up his case.

After deliberating ten hours, the jury returned at 2 AM with a split decision: Sutherland and Nelson were acquitted; Reyes, Pete Black, and Brent DeLand were guilty.

Judge Kelly sentenced the three convicted protesters to \$100 fine, a weekend in jail, and 3 months probation. The ACLU immediately vowed to appeal, despite the huge expense of preparing a transcript of a four-day trial.

Brent DeLand, planning on moving out of town, didn't wait for an appeal. He did his weekend in jail, and community contributions paid his fine.

After a year and a half, the appellate court resolved the two remaining cases. Pete Black's conviction was reversed unanimously.

From the appellate court decision:

"Officer Little testified that defendant Black refused to leave the area by hanging onto a pole or guy line from which he had to be forcibly removed. Defendant Black testified that a group of officers approached him and ordered him off the street. He did



The man on the ground wearing patched pants and getting clubbed is Bobby Reyes, whose conviction stemming from this 1974 march against Sheriff King was just upheld by an appeals court. Since anyone could have been arrested after police "lost it" that day, let's not let one person suffer the consequences alone. We can't do Reyes' time for him, but we can all chip in and pay his fine.

so, and moved to the grass or curb. Although he was again asked to move, he did not do so and began to argue with the officer. But mere argument with a policeman is not a violation of the statute. Black was no longer in the street and we consider the proof to be insufficient to convict him."

Based on the court's reasoning, observers familiar with the Twin City Six case are convinced that Brent DeLand, had he bothered to appeal his conviction, would have won. DeLand was arrested for standing on the sidewalk and simply asking an officer for identification.

Bobby Reyes was convicted on the basis of police testimony that the young man madly charged the police line, shouting the usual obscenities and possessing apparently what one would suppose was a murderous glint in his eyes.

Reyes allegedly launched this attack while other demonstrators were leaving the area, supposedly responding to police instructions.

Reyes said he was helping a woman he knew get up after she had been knocked down by police clubs. He said he was then knocked down and arrested too.

The photo of Reyes' arrest, reproduced here, shows that he wasn't in much shape to charge a police line. Reyes

is the one on the ground in the patched pants, receiving the business end of a few police clubs.

This photo accompanied the trial transcript to the appellate court, but two of the three judges still voted to uphold Reyes' conviction. Here's what they said:

"Reyes did not testify that he had heard the order to disperse. However, the jury could infer knowledge from the act of charging the police line at a time when other people were leaving. The testimony is sufficient to show that defendant knowingly obstructed the performance of an authorized act of a police officer by his running toward the police line as that officer attempted to clear the street."

In other words, don't run up to help a friend, even if she was the first person knocked down in a completely unexpected police charge.

Anyone who joined the demonstration against Sheriff King in November, 1974, could have wound up owing that \$100 fine now. There is no reason why Bobby Reyes should get stuck paying it alone. If you have an extra dollar, or an extra five dollars, you can send it to the Post-Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington. Attach a note saying it's for Bobby's fine, and we'll see he gets the money.

County Women Lose Right to Vote



Women who get married in McLean County are, in effect, deprived of their right to vote:

Symbolically, the county clerk's removal of newly married women from the voting rolls is rather appropriate, considering all the ways that the institution of marriage is used to oppress women.

Justice is something else, of course.

So is the law, apparently--because this discrimination against women is defended as mere enforcement of the law.

Truth is something else, too.

What happens is this: The county clerk records marriages. The county clerk also keeps records of who is eligible to vote.

Illinois law (chapter 48, sec. 4-16) gives the clerk the power to use marriage records as a reason to erase the registration of a voter on the grounds that getting married means that s/he has moved or she has changed her name.

This means that the clerk can un-register a person who got married. And that means although the clerk has to notify the person of the action, that the person won't be able to vote.

(People who have read the law will know that there are special cases in which an unregistered person can still vote, but most people haven't read the law.)

Now, McLean County Clerk Jeanette Barrett claims that she is required, by law, to cancel a woman's registration--and thus her right to vote--when she marries.

The law clearly states that the clerk may do so, not that she must do so.

On the other hand, the law says that "any registered voter who changes his or her name by marriage or otherwise shall be required to register anew (again) and authorize the cancellation of the previous registration."

But that's quite different from the clerk's belief--because it leaves the action up to the person involved. In this case, a woman who did not change her name when she married would still be registered to vote and would not have to do anything.

Only women who changed their names (or moved) would have to register again. And women are not required to change their names (or move).

Furthermore, if the clerk were right in saying that the law forced her to cancel all women's voter registrations when they married, then she would also have to cancel all men's.

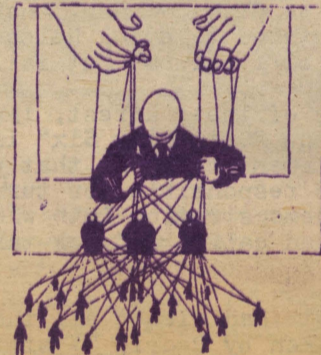
As the law clearly states, both moving and name changing affect voter registration. Women do sometimes change their names when they marry. That's one reason for cancelling their voter registration.

Moving is another reason, and some women do move when they marry. But so do men.

So, the county clerk could cancel the registrations of men who marry (on the grounds that he had moved--even if he hadn't).

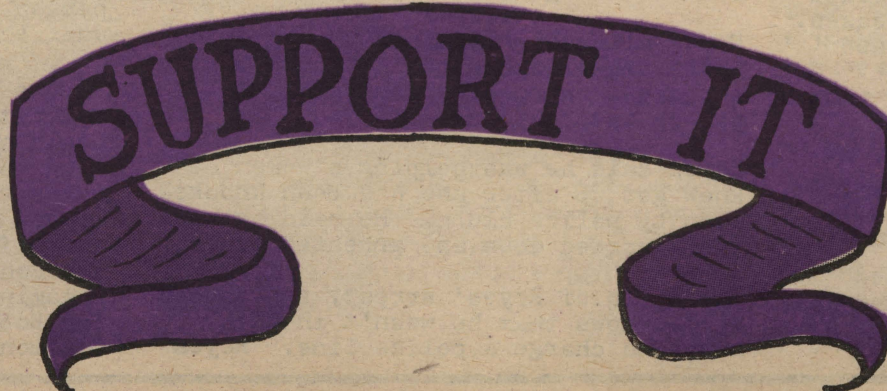
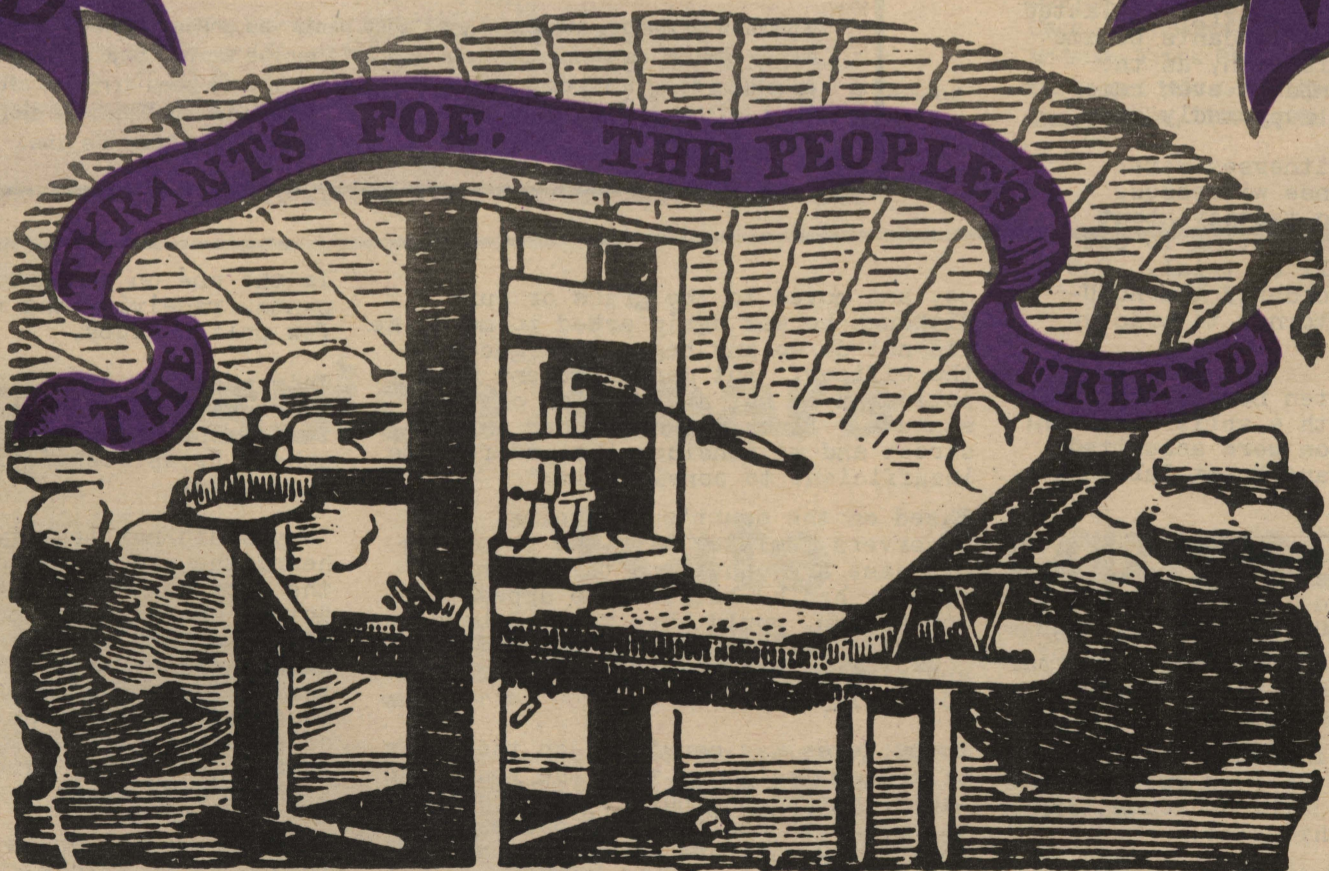
Just as the county clerk can and does cancel women's voter registrations (on the grounds that they changed their names--even if they didn't).

From a middle-class viewpoint moving after marriage and name-changing at marriage are just about equally likely. So why cancel only the voting rights of women?



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