

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

4-1976

Volume 5, Number 1

Post Amerikan

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MEG DYING; GAY CONVENTION; VIDETTE; LANDLORD-WARREN CO. SHERIFF;
POST REPORTER ASSAULTED; PANTAGRAPH AGEISM; HOUSE RIP OFF; MAYDAY AND AS USUAL, MORE

APRIL 1976

Bloomington Normal

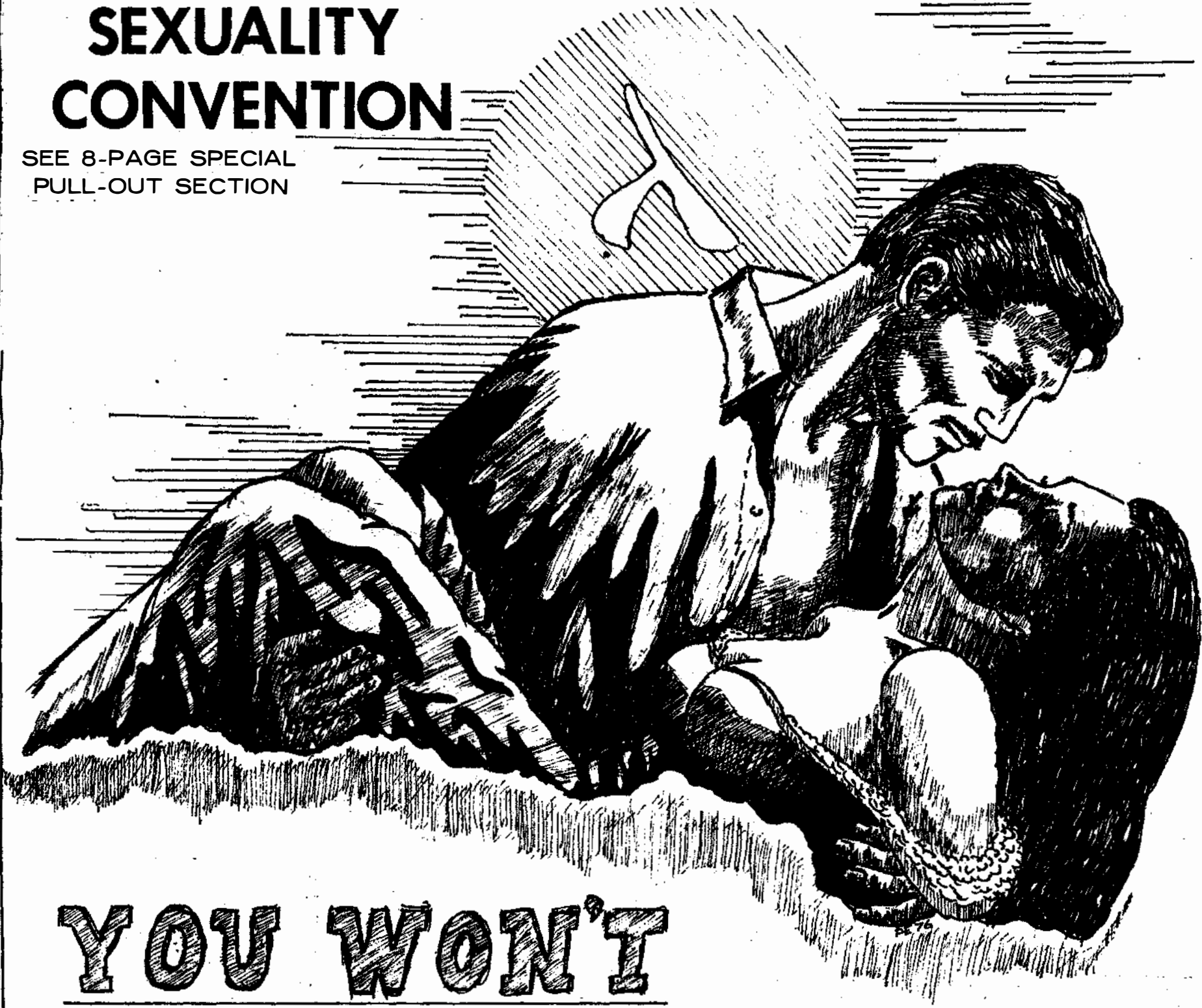
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POST AMERICAN

VOL. V.
No. 1

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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. We have one brilliant, dynamic, underpaid coordinator; the rest of us don't get paid at all, except in ego gratification and good karma.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-American 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, informative, and not available in other local media. We will not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

ABOUT US

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.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, April 2..... 6:30 pm.
Friday, April 9..... 6:30 pm.
Friday, April 16..... 6:30 pm.
Wednesday, April 21 (deadline).. 6:30 pm.

Sat., April 24 (layout begins)... 11:00 am.
Sun., April 25 (layout continued) whenever
Friday, April 30..... 6:30 pm.

These meetings are held at the Post-American office, and if you'd like to come, call us. The number is: 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885, or 829-7908.

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-American, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.

OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under the Sun, 188 W. Main
Peoria: Good Seed, 641 W. Main
Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op, 407 E. Adams
Pontiac: Semmens Drug 123 Madison St.
East Peoria: Records, Records, Records; 103 Junction

This issue of the P-A has happened thanx to P-A workers Mike, Tom, Don, Susie, Andrea, Dave B., Barb, Dave N., Jim T., Mark, Greg S., Dan L., Bill, Shebet, Jack D., Pat M., Virginia, Jim E., Cindy, Sally, Toni, David, Perry, Jack D., Terri, Martha, Susie S., Roger, Chuck, Jack P., Jeri, Greg K., Judy, Marty, Mark S., and all other friendly folks who leak, lead, write, type, paste, buy, read, and love the Post Amerikan.

NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
Welcome Inn (in front)
Redbird IGA
Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North Street
Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North Street
Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
Al's Pipe Shop, 101 Broadway Mall
Hendren's Grocery, 301 W. Willow
Co-op Bookstore (in front)
The Galery (in front)
The Lobby Shop, ISU Student Union
Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union
Cage, ISU Student Union
Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
Hottle House, 1402 S. Main
SW corner, University and College
Radio Shack, Raab Rd. (in front)
New Age Bookstore, Broadway Mall
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
Campus Records, 311 S. Main, Normal

BLOOMINGTON

The Joint, 415 N. Main
DA's Liquors, Oakland and Main
Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front
News Nook, 402 1/2 N. Main
The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main St.
Gaston's Barber Shop, 202 1/2 N. Center
Sambo's, Washington and U.S. 66
De Vary's Market, 1402 W. Market
Harris's Market, 802 N. Morris
Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington
Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main
Discount Den, 207 N. Main
SW corner, Morris and Washington
Madison St. Cafe, 317 S. Madison

U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market
U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland Ave.
Bus Depot, 523 N. East St.
Park Store, 909 S. Allin
Nierstheimer's Drug Store, 1302 N. Main
Pantagraph Building (in front)
Eddy's Market, Washington & Allin
Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust,

706 W. Beaufort 488-4912
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LANDLORD PREFERS NO RENT

Cathy says, "You could probably tell a story like this about every landlord in town, but I guess that's no reason not to tell it." So here goes another landlord story. This one concerns a landlord who'd rather lose \$190 a month than rent to people who receive public aid.

Cathy Cox rented an apartment from Rosemary Bavester from Aug. 1, 1975 to mid-February, 1976. In early January, Ms. Cox found that her roommate was not returning to Normal for second semester, and therefore she needed someone to share rent (\$190 plus electricity).

After an unsuccessful hunt for a new roommate, Ms. Cox decided to move out herself and sublet the apartment. She took out two 8-day ads in the Pantagraph and one 4-day ad in the Vidette, but the people who answered usually didn't want to pay that much.

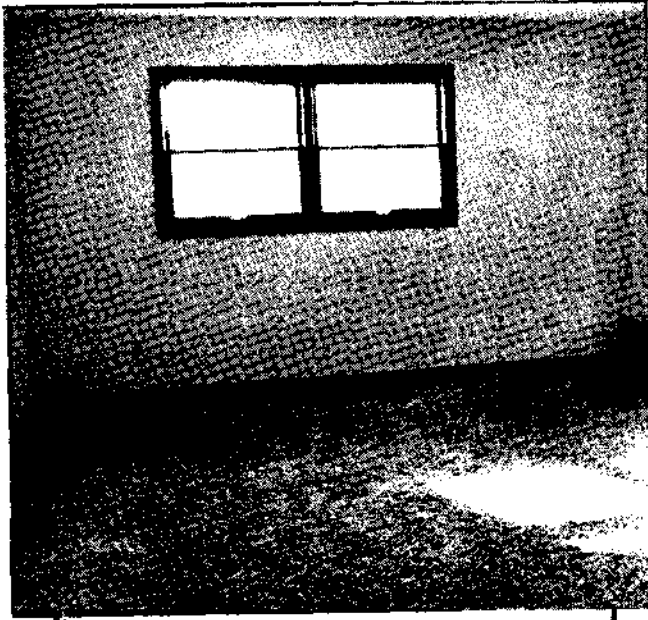
In the middle of February, Ms. Cox finally found two women and a child who were interested and wanted to sign a lease. Since Bavester had to approve the sublease, Ms. Cox called her to make an appointment for the four to meet. She described the situation to Bavester.

Bavester stalled. Ms. Cox pushed. Bavester said she was going to Hawaii in three days and wanted to wait until she got back from her vacation. Ms. Cox said that she wasn't happy about that, since: 1) If the potential renters had to wait that long, they'd have to find another place, and 2) She had advertised so long; these were the first people who showed any interest; if they didn't sign the lease, she might be doomed to another month and a half of hassle.

Finally Bavester said, "I'd rather just let it stand empty than rent to those people."

"Those people," Ms. Cox realized with shock, referred to people receiving public aid. Ms. Cox had mentioned earlier that the women were recipients, when Bavester asked their employment.

Not realizing that Ms. Cox was flabbergasted, Bavester went on to comment about "those people" not paying their rent and having men in the apartment all the time. They hung up.



The living room at 506 N. Linden, Apt. 1 stands empty waiting for new tenants. The landlord prefers this to renting to people on Public Aid.

A Post-Amerikan reporter who happened to be on hand called Bavester back within five minutes. He told her who he was and that he was a Post reporter, and told her that he had heard that she refused to rent an apartment to public aid recipients.

Bavester very sweetly replied, "Why, no, I haven't seen their credentials."

The reporter asked if she had indicated an unwillingness to rent to public aid recipients, and she flatly denied the charge, then said that she was very busy and hung up.

Ms. Cox didn't think that after her exchange with the reporter, Bavester would stick to acting on her prejudices. So next day she called one of the women who wanted the apartment and asked if the two could go see Bavester that night and try to get everything straightened out. She then called Bavester to set up the appointment.

Before Ms. Cox could finish a sentence, though, Bavester interrupted her (again very sweetly), saying, "But Cathy, I've already rented the apartment." Then she asked Ms. Cox to be out as soon as possible since the new renters supposedly wanted to move in

as soon as she was out, and hung up.

Ms. Cox moved out in a week or so. Within two weeks, Post-Amerikan reporters saw the "For Rent" sign up at the apartment at 506 N. Linden. In mid-March, a Post reporter investigated and saw that the apartment is cleaned and newly painted, but uninhabited.

Looking back, Ms. Cox relates Bavester's attitude toward people on public aid to other prejudices she revealed. For instance, Cox's roommate who decided not to return for second semester is black, and when Bavester found out that Cox was without a roommate, she made comments like, "Oh, those people, you can't trust those people, I found that out."--and yet blacks live in at least two of the eight Linden St. apartments that Bavester rents out.

Bavester displayed similar illogical judgments when Ms. Cox first signed her own lease. Bavester was very upset, thinking that Ms. Cox would always be having "pot parties"; it turned out that Bavester's basis for this speculation was that Ms. Cox's father has been politically active in our community.

Basically, the rap is that some people own houses and apartments, and other people rent them. A person who is on public aid has probably never had a chance in her life to own a house, and has to rent. The last thing she needs is some jerk deciding that she's not good enough or moral enough to fork over \$190 a month for a stinking plastic ripoff apartment, and then to cough up an extra bundle to Illinois Power Company so she can turn on the light to see how crummy the place really is and how that shag carpeting melts if a spot of grease pops onto it and how the walls dissolve if you get water on them, and they might as well not be there anyway as far as hearing your neighbors' goings-on is concerned. And you can bet that the people who own those apartments and decide who's good enough to live in them don't live in them themselves, because they know how sleazy the places are, and they can afford better, since they're raking in all that rent.

--Phoebe Caulfield

BLOOMINGTON NORMAL:

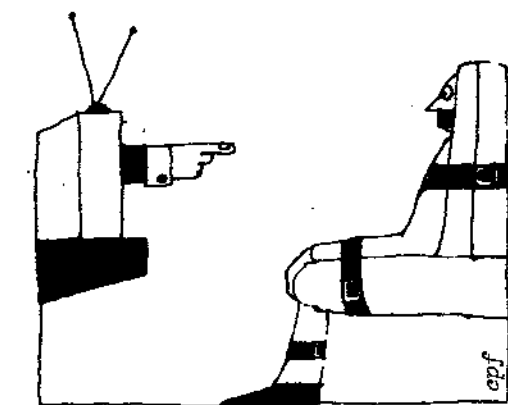
(The following is the text of a statement made by Jack Porter on WJBC's Forum series.)

Communication Desert

One of the most interesting parts of the Tobe Easton Declaration of Independence trial was the testimony of Dr. Paul Winn, associate professor of marketing at ISU. Winn described Bloomington-Normal as a communications desert, a semi-information starved community. He particularly emphasized the lack of a local TV station and the common ownership of The Pantagraph and WJBC by Evergreen Communications.

Winn's point is that anytime Evergreen Communications wants to screen out of our awareness an item of news or an opinion on a controversial issue, it has the power to do so. There isn't any other daily paper for the community and WJBC has by far the biggest audience listening to local radio, so we have close to a media monopoly here.

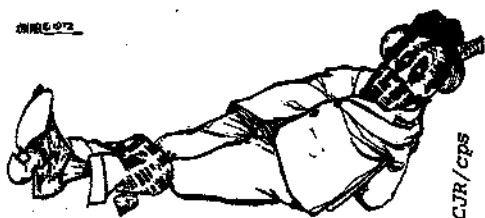
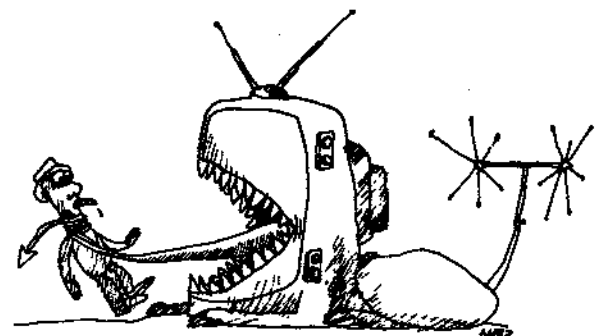
I have no evidence to support a conspiracy theory. I'm not implying that Tim Ives and Davis Merwin or Don Munson and Harold Liston get together to decide what we're going to be told and not told by the local media. But I do fear that we get too little from local media to be as aware and effective citizens as we could be. The United States Supreme Court has said that nothing is more important in a free society than "the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources." It's the diversity and antagonism that are missing; the competition in exposing issues and willingness of the media to challenge each other.



Pantagraph editors self-consciously try to follow community opinion rather than lead. It's not unusual for The Pantagraph to refuse to run controversial stories written after extensive investigation by its reporters--not because the facts haven't been verified, not because the stories aren't newsworthy, but because of whom they might offend in the local community. The Pantagraph and WJBC both tend to represent what one of my friends calls "extremists of the middle," a blandness more in keeping with running profitable businesses than serving the needs of informed citizenship.

WJBC has tried to overcome blandness through the Forum and listener comments on Problems and Solutions. The only instructions I've ever received about content are to be "hard-hitting" and speak about "subjects (I) feel are or should be of vital concern to McLean County people." It's great for me personally to have a chance to express myself without censorship to a lot of people, but I'm still scared that so many of you depend so much on one paper and one radio station, owned by the same company, for your understanding of what's going on around here.

To be a free people, to govern ourselves, we must have access to a broader range of information and opinion. We need to irrigate this desert, and we'd be surprised how much more life we can produce here.



4 COUPLE TO LOSE EVERYTHING?

Inept Legal Advice to

Cancel West Side Day Care Center?

In April, 1974, Abby Brown and Herb Johnson began pooling their resources and researching their chances and the specifications for preparing to open a sorely needed day care center on Bloomington's West Side. Reviewing all possibilities for operating a private day care center, Brown and Johnson, after six months, decided their scheme would work.

During that six months of research, the two had hunted for buildings to house the day care center. They found one at 707 West Market, which they felt would serve the purposes very well after being remodeled. The realtor for the property, Dave Alcorn, sold Brown and Johnson the house for what Johnson claimed was \$6,000 more than the house was worth. Both persons agreed that the house should have been sold for \$20,000; the difference seems to have something to do with black people dealing with white land and property agents. Besides, according to their calculations, the day care center would be out of debt within a year anyway.



\$26,000 property ???

Legal "Advice"

The overcharge for the property may have been an omen of impending misfortune. Brown and Johnson retained Loren Thomson, a prominent local attorney, to check for liens (money claims) against the property. When the two thought Thomson had followed through with a check for liens, he okayed a follow-through on their plans. Contractors were hired to redesign portions of the house to Brown's and Johnson's tastes and to make the house comply with state and local codes for day care centers. Planning to open in September, 1974, Brown and Johnson concentrated their efforts in refinishing floors and woodwork and painting. Disillusionments were soon to follow. Their dealings with an associate attorney for a conditional use permit began their series of disillusionments. They had requested that the man act as an advisor. Instead, he commandeered what was essentially their project. They were responsible for doing all of the research and fact-finding. The lawyer was responsible for presenting their case before the City Council. Brown and Johnson were quite disappointed in the way the lawyer presented their case. Nevertheless, the use permit was granted.

The City Council, after granting the conditional use permit, determined that the enrollment capacity for the day care center must be a maximum of 36--considerably fewer than Brown and Johnson had desired. While checking local and state codes for capacities, the two found that the state codes were more lenient than local codes. To bring the local codes into line with the state codes to increase the enrollment in the day care programs, they again sought legal advice, this time from the controversial Robert Lenz. Lenz indicated that he could handle the entire matter for a mere \$375. His asking price, plus his statement that he didn't "know there were any middle-class blacks in town," convinced Brown and Johnson that they didn't need Lenz.

Instead, Bloomington city employees encouraged the two to file their own petition for a zoning variance. According to Johnson, they accomplished their goal, but only after frequent calls to then-City Manager Dick Blodgett to put the item on the agenda. Later, Blodgett sent a messenger to the Market Street address telling them that their petition had been scheduled, but that their appearance was unnecessary. The petition was okayed, but to this date, neither Brown nor Johnson have been able to obtain minutes of the Zoning Board meeting which okayed their request. Work on the house continued. In late May, 1974, Brown and Johnson received a call from a woman who claimed they owed her \$4500 and asked when they could begin making payments. Apparently, the people who sold Brown and Johnson the house had previously signed over a note to this woman for \$4500, making that claim on the property an unforeseen lien. In disbelief, the two called Loren Thomson, and Thomson said he'd check on it. Some time passed without any confirmation from Thomson, and Brown and Johnson called Dave Alcorn, who verified the existence of the lien and wondered why they were ignorant of the lien. When they called Thomson, he was still checking to see if the lien existed. Ironically, the licensing director for the Department of Children and Family Services, who was enthusiastic about Brown's and Johnson's project, told them that it was quite likely that the day care center would be licensed as soon as the work was completed and inspections of the facility completed. The west side nearly had another "full care" day care center.

Brown and Johnson called the bank to establish the date of the lien. They not only discovered the date, but also discovered the incredible fact that besides the lien for \$4500, the bank held a first mortgage on the house. And if that weren't enough, the original homeowners had taken out a loan for \$18,000 which also became a lien on the property. Brown and Johnson referred to that situation as a "most inharmonious symphony to be laid on people who specifically indicated the contract should be checked for those (kinds of) things." When Brown and Johnson went back to Thomson for further advice, he told them to withhold payments on the contract. According to Johnson, Thomson didn't even suggest establishing a trust or an escrow account for the contract payments. Johnson also told the Post-American that no

apology or explanation for the gross error has been offered them by Thomson.

Complicating matters even more, according to Brown and Johnson, was the ill-feelings and distrust between all the clients and attorneys involved who had previous claims on the property. The bank, according to the two, did everything possible to unsort all of the claims and counter-claims, but the unscrambling process hasn't gotten very far. Brown and Johnson seemed to be innocent bystanders caught up in an ill wind. Personal problems couldn't be held in check, either. In August of 1974, Ms. Brown discovered she had Hodgkins Disease, a potentially fatal disease affecting lymph glands. All work on the day care center project nearly ceased. After months of operations, treatment, and therapy, the disease was arrested.

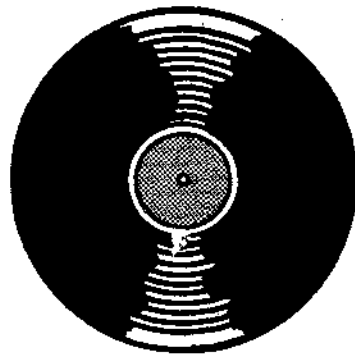
In the spring of 1975, Brown and Johnson contacted another attorney to see if anything could be salvaged from the tragic mess. The couple felt that a new attorney was necessary because of a possible foreclosure on the mortgage by the bank. At present, Brown and Johnson are deeply in debt, still awaiting the advice of their present attorney. They told the Post-American that this type of situation would not have come about if they had adequate legal assistance from the beginning. They hope to regain the property if a malpractice suit for bad advice against Loren Thomson proves fruitful.

This reporter was given a full guided tour of the proposed day care center. The entire house has been beautifully redecorated. Downstairs, if the project can be resumed, will be the area for infants and toddlers. Upstairs will house the older children. The building has been remodeled for more than adequate fire protection, and an expensive fire escape reaches the entire height of the building. Many of Johnson's own paintings add to the decor and beauty of the proposed center. It is sad to speculate that what could have come about for west side people who need day care was sabotaged by careless legal counsel.

----Jeremy Timmens

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I.B.I. ENTRAPMENT

5

Entrapment by the I.B.I. is growing in the State of Illinois, in drug cases. Over half of the offenders that the Illinois Bureau of Investigation pick up on drug offenses were entrapped.

Whenever an I.B.I. agent picks up a drug user for selling drugs, or using them, the user is given one of two choices. (1) He can either turn into an informer to help the I.B.I. trap others who are drug pushers or users, or (2), he can say nothing and go to jail.

An informer can set up drug busts for an I.B.I. agent and get out of going to jail, and make a little money on the side. An informer then will offer to buy or sell drugs to another drug offender with marked money, and a few I.B.I. agents are in the bushes ready to make the bust. But always the informer is let loose.

But also, once an informer, you are never let off the hook until the agents are fully satisfied. This unusual entrapment should be banned and outlawed in the state of Illinois. When the state first brought out the law of entrapment, people such as the I.B.I., F.B.I., and M.E.G. have stripped the law down so much to their desire, that they have been able to get away with putting drug offenders in prison by entrapment. Many people who are in prison just pray and hope that some kind of justice is dealt with to the law of entrapment.

But in the meantime, the prisoners of entrapment just sit back and curse the day the I.B.I. was invented. Some people also wonder how the I.B.I. agents get the money to pay all of the informers.

Is it through the tax payers money, or through the drugs that the money buys? Are the informers getting a share of the drugs from the drug bust? There is a lot of misunderstanding about the I.B.I. along with other agencies that buy off drug informers. Nowadays, you can't even use drugs with your best friend, for fear that s/he may even be an informer. Anybody can use drugs with his/her old buddy, but s/he can also serve time in prison because of his/her old buddy.

So those of you who dislike the I.B.I.

and their entrapment, about the only thing you can do is write protesting letters to the governor about doing something to enforce the entrapment laws, and hope that soon, justice will appear in the state of Illinois. Below is an interview of a prisoner in the Menard prison on entrapment charges. His name is Terry Roughton and he is currently serving a 1-3 year sentence.

- Q. What is your charge?
A. Delivery of a controlled substance.
- Q. How much, and what kind of drugs did you have?
A. 685 grams of amphetamines (speed).
- Q. How much time did you receive?
A. 10-25 if pleading innocent, but 1-3 if I plead guilty.
- Q. Who busted you?
A. The I.B.I. (Illinois Bureau of Investigation).
- Q. Where were you busted?
A. Champaign, Illinois
- Q. How were you busted?
A. I was busted by an I.B.I. informer who set me up with the drugs to be sold. After I received the drugs, he delivered two I.B.I. agents to my home for the buy.
- Q. What is an I.B.I. informer?
A. A man or woman who has been busted for drugs and offers to tell on other drug users and dope dealers. This deal with the I.B.I., it keeps them from going to jail.
- Q. What do the I.B.I. agents do when they pick up a dope dealer?
A. I myself, was given an offer that if I would supply information of dope deals that led to a bust, I would not go to jail and also be paid for my information.
- Q. But does an informer get set free on just telling on one occasion?
A. No! In my case they wanted at least three big busts of real important drug pushers.
- Q. Were you offered any money, and how much?
A. It depended on the size of the bust but no less than twenty five dollars.
- Q. What was highest they offered you?
A. Fifty dollars to bust a well known bar for gambling and possible dope.
- Q. What was your reply to all of the I.B.I.'s offers?
A. Kiss my ---! I wasn't about to inform or take a chance on getting blown away.



This is IBI undercover agent Tom Bowman. He doesn't have anything directly to do with this article, but we thought it could use a photo. This was taken in June, 1975.

- Q. So in other words, you were entrapped by the I.B.I.?
A. Definitely so!
- Q. Do you know of anyone else that has been interrogated by the I.B.I. as you have?
A. 80% of the guys doing time for the same charge by the I.B.I. who have been entrapped were interrogated in the same manner.
- Q. Were you ever asked to give names of drug pushers?
A. Yes, but gave none.
- Q. Did the I.B.I. ever offer you protection if you would give names of drug pushers?
A. Yes.
- Q. In what manner were you offered this protection?
A. (1) By giving me an alias name as Butch Cassidy.
(2) By me never being present at the bust.
- Q. Do you think that it was lawful and legal for the court and I.B.I. to prosecute you and give you time?
A. No! I will always believe that I am doing time for the person who informed on me. He is an IBI informer and dope addict who set me up so he could walk free. I felt the time I am doing was his, for he was busted for the same reason as myself.

I solemnly swear that all the information in this article is true and did in fact happen.

Witnessed and signed by:
Terry Roughton
Mark D. Edwards

People who wish to write to the governor of Illinois protesting against entrapment by the I.B.I. may write at this address:

Daniel Walker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois
62706

POST NOTE: Roughton did name the person who informed on him. However, we took the name out because so far the Post-American has not named an informer unless we have either documentary proof or the testimony of an agent in court.



opf

Post reporter attacked



Galesburg cop gets upper hand in political rap with Richardson. Photo: Galesburg Register-Mail

Post-American correspondent Mike Richardson was attacked while protesting George Wallace at a pre-primary airport rally in Galesburg. Richardson and a half dozen others were carrying signs criticizing the Alabama bigot. The protestors had just arrived at the airport when they were attacked. Richardson said Wallace's 18th district campaign manager and about "a dozen political goons" came out of the terminal and jumped the unsuspecting protestors.

All in all, three Wallacites were arrested. Two were charged with disorderly conduct and since have pled guilty to a \$25 fine. Richardson was falsely arrested on a trumped-up charge and rushed from the airport in handcuffs before Wallace even arrived at the rally. Richardson was detained downtown until the rally ended and was then released. The police told him it was a case of "mistaken identity."

Needless to say, our correspondent feels he was wronged and promised to provide Post readers with a full account next month. He is currently starting up his own newspaper, the Free Voice, and is unable to prepare a story. He did promise to keep Post readers fully informed if he pursues a court battle with Wallacites and police.



ABOVE: IBI undercover agent Dennis Higgins arrives at court March 19. Sketch of Higgins, drawn in court, appears at lower left of this page.

State fails to bar public from trial

So when Asst. State's Attorney moved that the public be barred from the courtroom, it was a surprise. Photographers are always excluded from courtrooms, but the Post artist has always been allowed in, as news artists are at all trials. Even more surprising was Murphy's claim of a supposed legal precedent, the federal case of Lloyd v. Benson.

The judge got an idea: he decided to move the secret hearing on whether to make the preliminary hearing secret to a more secluded courtroom--one with a solid wood door.

Everyone moved, and the hearing on whether to make the hearing secret continued.

In an unprecedented move, Asst. State's Attorney Brad Murphy tried to bar the public (mainly Post-Amerikan reporters) from an ordinarily public preliminary hearing March 19.

Why hadn't Murphy used the precedent before? Under close questioning, Murphy admitted that he hadn't known about the case until that very morning. IBI Agent Higgins had brought a copy of the case with him. The motion to bar the public was IBI's (Illinois Bureau of Investigation) idea. After Murphy's motion, the judge agreed to hold a secret hearing on whether to make the preliminary hearing secret. The public left the courtroom. We watched from outside, through the glass door.

Evidence was presented to show that undercover agents have lost their cover by testifying in public in McLean County. That put their lives in danger, Murphy claimed. MEG Agent Robert Edwards had his picture and phone number in the Post-Amerikan Murphy claimed, and Edwards had received a death threat.

Murphy claimed to be trying to protect the life and identity of undercover agent Dennis Higgins, who was testifying at the hearing.

Not long into the secret hearing on whether to make the hearing secret, the Asst. prosecutor noticed that members of the public were watching through the glass door. Murphy asked that the secret hearing on whether to make the hearing secret be held in a more secret location: inside the judge's chambers.

However, cross-examination determined, the death threat had come before the Post had published anything about Edwards.

Though MEG and other secret police agencies have been trying to stop Post reporters, photographers and sketch artists from exposing undercover agents, this is the first time the State's Attorney's office has agreed to go along. Previously the prosecutor's office has refused MEG requests to file disorderly conduct charges against Post photographers outside the courthouse and at the MEG office. That troublesome First Amendment freedom of the press keeps getting in the way of secret police efforts to stop enthusiastic photographers and artists.

That was pretty heavy. Chambers are a pretty sacrosanct spot. You don't just go having any kind of hearing there. The judge retired to chambers to consider whether to hold the secret hearing on whether to make the hearing secret in the secret location of the judge's chambers.

Prosecutor Murphy left the courtroom once--to fetch Jim Ecklund, the artist who has sketched naves for the Post-Amerikan. Murphy made Ecklund take the witness stand and testify that he intended to draw Agent Higgins that day.

Ecklund admitted it.

After all the "evidence", Judge Joseph Kelly retired to his chambers again to decide what to do. After a while he returned, and ruled that the public had to be admitted.

The hearing continued, and the accompanying sketch of Agent Higgins was drawn there.



LEFT: IBI Agent Dennis Higgins, drawn while he testified in a joint IBI/MEG case March 19.



BELOW: Assistant State's Attorney Brad Murphy demonstrates sophisticated mode of communication he learned in law school. At left, MEG agent Ford Jonathan Conley covers his face in shocked disbelief at the crudity of public officials.

Narc assaults reporter

MEG agent Dean Bacon attempted to assault a Post-Amerikan photographer early in March. The incident occurred in the basement of the McLean County Courthouse.

Bacon, a Pekin policeman assigned to MEG as an undercover narcotics agent, was waiting to testify in a MEG case.

When a Post-Amerikan photographer pointed a camera at Bacon, the undercover agent snapped into a fighting posture and lunged several feet at the photographer. Only a quick backward jump saved the reporter and his camera from being struck by the aggressive MEG agent.

Bacon did not try to attack again. Instead he began screaming at the reporter.

"You already have a drawing of me that's

better than a picture. Why don't you just leave me alone," the excited agent almost shrieked.

Bacon's voice came in short spurts. He was breathing in hard. His face was flushed.

Droplets of sweat oozed out of Bacon's face.

As Bacon continued screaming at the surprised Post reporter, courthouse loiterers began watching curiously. Bacon began to realize he had lost control of himself. He soon retreated into a nearby office to regain his composure.

Courthouse watchers were puzzled by the scene. Such unstable characters are not usually present at the hall of justice. They understood, though, when they found out that the man was a MEG agent.



MEG Agent Dean Bacon

Grand jury to investigate MEG employees



A McLean County grand jury will hear evidence against at least two MEG employees in April, evidence

A McLean County grand jury will hear evidence against at least two MEG employees in April, according to reliable information gleaned from several sources.

Perjury, filing false reports, using drugs, and delivering a substance purported to be a controlled substance are some of MEG agent Ford Jonathan Conley's tricks which may be investigated.

The second target of investigation is a MEG "special employee" (informer) who was allegedly selling drugs while working for MEG. Several people have reportedly passed lie detector tests claiming that they bought drugs from this MEG informer.

People familiar with the case expect that the grand jury will choose to indict the informer. The indictment of Agent Conley is not quite as certain, according to the Post's information.

State's Attorney Paul Welch refused to confirm or deny the report of the pending grand jury indictment. "I'll just say 'no comment,'" Welch told a Post reporter, "and you should think about that. As you know, I don't usually give 'no comment' responses."

Covering his face as he leaves the courthouse, MEG Agent Ford Jonathan Conley will be investigated for using drugs, perjury, filing false reports, and delivery of purported drugs. Always eager, Conley has busted a roommate and a girlfriend. (Another view of Conley is on the opposite page.)

(NOTE: After this story was written, a March 27 Pantagraph story contained Welch's admission that a grand jury would investigate MEG agents.)

We are concealing the identity of this informer so that he or she will stay in town until arrested.

This is the 2nd time a MEG "special employee" will be indicted in McLean County.

Shelby Stiger, the MEG "special employee" charged in ACLU's \$1 million entrapment suit, was indicted for delivery of heroin in June 1975. Stiger had delivered the drugs to Sammy Neal, who was subsequently framed by Stiger. When Neal passed lie detector tests, his charges were dismissed, and

MEG informer Stiger was indicted.

The charge was quickly dropped in plea bargaining, however. The State admitted it had a weak case, since it was Neal's word against Stiger's.

The State knew that from the beginning: the indictment was a token gesture, to show that they "did something" when they found out that a MEG employee was entrapping, framing, and selling drugs.

In the same way, this upcoming indictment of another MEG informer may be another token gesture on the part of the State's Attorney's office.

GOING...GOING...GONE

The Galesburg City Council decided to drop MEG last month. MEG (Multi-County Enforcement Group) has been drawing fire statewide for a host of reasons: false arrests, entrapments, bungled raids, ineffectiveness, and waste of tax dollars.

The city fathers added a new twist to the reasons for dropping out: MEG's defective insurance policy. City Manager Tom Herring spotted a loophole in MEG's coverage that would have left the city liable for the mistakes of agents, exemplified by the recent raid in Monmouth when they attacked a wrong house during predawn hours, terrorizing the innocent, sleeping family inside.

Alderman Curtis Erickson, Second Ward, said MEG "caused a lot of embarrassment in this area." More specifically, the Peoria-McLean chapter of the ACLU has charged MEG of "illegal

and unethical behavior" as well as "poor and unprofessional police work."

Galesburg Police Chief Jim Frakes said his recommendation to withdraw from the unit was based on financial considerations. Not only does the Chief have to watch his budget, but MEG is going to be getting greedier with member governmental units as state and federal funding is soon to be ending.

Peoria unilaterally decreased its contribution to the anti-drug secret unit by \$5000 this winter. MEG's ever-growing financial difficulties had already led to the closing of the two satellite offices, one in Galesburg and one in Bloomington.

The Illinois Constitution mandates disclosure of receipts and records of public funds save for specific exclusions under the law. Despite this, MEG Treasurer Dave Watkins refuses to reveal the records of the secret police unit. Allegations prevail that the real reason for failure to comply with the state constitution is not to protect the real identity of secret agents, but to cover up wasteful spending.

The Galesburg MEG office is closed, but city dwellers still do not know where it was or how much it really cost. --Mike Richardson, Galesburg Correspondent

VISIT JERRY "SUPERSPY" LAGROW: 666 S. 4th ST., MORTON, ILL.

Members of the public wishing to meet MEG head Jerry "Superspy" LaGrow will have a tough time finding him at work. Post reporters attempting to interview LaGrow at his secret Peoria office (600 Abingdon St., Room 204) were told that no such person worked there. (A Lie.)

Post reporters trying to meet LaGrow at the monthly MEG board meetings have been similarly frustrated. Whenever reporters or other interested members of the public attend the meetings, LaGrow stays away. For 4 months LaGrow missed every MEG meeting, until board members held a secret meeting in March that was not on their regular meeting schedule. (It's illegal for such a public body to hold secret meetings.)

LaGrow is not so likely to skip visits to his secret residence at 666 S. 4th St. in Morton, Illinois.

Located in a long row of apartments, LaGrow's is the only one with no name on the mailbox. You can't miss it.

LaGrow's car is usually parked in back of his apartment. In mid-March he was driving a red Ford with license 145 683.

Post photographers (and not very good ones) caught this photo of LaGrow walking to his car a few months ago. At that time he parked in the street.



Here's MEG head Jerry LaGrow. This isn't bad photography; the printer messed this picture up.

Is MEG on the way out?

A full-page Pantagraph story on March 27 raised the possibility that there soon may be "NO MORE MEG TO KICK AROUND."

While McLean County and Bloomington may withdraw from the multi-county drug unit by December 1, other counties and cities plan on staying.

Federal funds channeled through the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission expire December 1. If MEG is to continue, counties, cities, and the state must come up with more money.

Pekin Police Chief Don Smith, quoted in the March 20 Peoria Journal Star, said he would "beg, borrow or steal" to keep MEG in operation. Other local government units apparently plan on raising enough money to keep MEG going, though in a smaller geographical area.

Earlier in March, the city of Galesburg voted to withdraw from MEG effective May 31. (See adjoining story.)

At first McLean County Sheriff John King had said he wanted to quit MEG December 1. In the March 27 Pantagraph he said he wants to get out in June.

If McLean County withdraws, Bloomington will have to get out by December 1, since units of government in MEG have to adjoin each other.

The MEG board is investigating having new counties join the group.

It looks now as though MEG may continue past 1976. But probably not in McLean County.

SHERIFF WATKINS:



David Watkins:
Warren County
Sheriff, MEG
Treasurer.

and served eagerly as Warren County's Chief law enforcement officer. He was already active in MEG organizational plans when he ran for reelection in 1974. Watkins bragged to voters in paid political advertisements of his role as MEG Treasurer.

The Sheriff's duties as MEG Treasurer have put him at odds with the Post-Amerikan. He has described the Post as irresponsible for publicity given MEG's secret agents. His claims of irresponsibility have provided him with a convenient excuse not to talk to Post reporters.

The Post has been attempting to research the financial records of the Peoria-based MEG unit to uncover wasteful spending. U of I criminologist John Webster has criticized MEG units with squandering tax dollars on fictitious cover operations, expensive rented cars, and plush office space located away from government buildings.

"Poor Sheriff King"

MEG Treasurer Watkins once told a Post reporter he was glad the Post was a Bloomington newspaper. "You guys write about that poor Sheriff King in every issue. I'm glad you are not in Monmouth; I would get tired reading about myself all the time."

Since then, Watkins has blamed the Post for Galesburg's dropping out of the drug unit. "Galesburg might not have quit if we could have had this dialog three months ago. The Post-Amerikan has been tying us up."

What Watkins was talking about was a special March MEG board meeting that was off the regular schedule so that Jerry "Lawsuit" Lagrow, the MEG director could attend without fear of being photographed.

Lawsuit Lagrow suggested that MEG fold its tent for upcoming lack of funds. Board members were aghast at their director's words. Watkins, master of the budget, promised to try a salvage job on the sinking police group.

Watkins also complained about public criticism of the secret drug unit ever since the \$1 million entrapment lawsuit against MEG by the ACLU.

Constitutional mandate

Article 8, Section 1 (c) of the Illinois Constitution states:

"Reports and records of the obligation, receipt and use of public funds of the state, units of local government, and school districts are public records available for inspection by the public according to law."

We contacted Sheriff Watkins in his capacity as MEG Treasurer and asked to examine the actual cash receipts for MEG's various business transactions. The Constitution is quite explicit on the matter at hand and Watkins was obligated to comply with our request. "I don't care what it says in the Constitution. Oops, I shouldn't have said that. Well its too late. Well, I do care what it says in the Constitution, I just am not going to give you MEG receipts."

Watkins explained the issue was a matter of conscience and it would take a judge to make him turn the public information. I don't care, the States Attorney has to defend me."

"Gung-ho"

Sheriff Watkins seemed too self-ri-



Last month the Post detailed a bungled pre-dawn MEG raid in Monmouth, Illinois. We told of the raiding party led by the Warren County Sheriff, Dave Watkins, as it attacked the wrong house, terrorizing the innocent sleeping family inside.

We repeated charges of sloppy police work made by Monmouth Police Chief Kenneth Wallace. Since Sheriff Watkins is the Peoria MEG Treasurer, any allegations of wrongdoing or ineptness fall squarely on his shoulders.

Wounded war hero

Dave Watkins was elected Sheriff in 1970 following an emotion-laden speech on Memorial day where, as a freshly wounded war hero-come-home, he denounced flag burners. Watkins completed his patriotic pitch to the strains of the national anthem while Monmouth Republicans handed him their nomination for Sheriff.

Watkins went on to victory in November

8

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City Council further cramps Human Relations Commission

In a move which further weakens the effectiveness of the Bloomington Human Relations Commission, the Bloomington City Council denied a request by HRC Coordinator Ray Hodges to retain one member of his staff after June 30.

The staff member is Marty Meketarian, an investigator for the HRC, who was hired to work for the city through CETA (the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act.) Meketarian's duties thus far have been to receive complaints from persons alleging discrimination, to research and investigate the complaints, and to present them before the HRC board. The procedures are conducted confidentially to protect the person with the complaint, and the identity of the discrimination offender, whether a person or company, is kept from the public.

Through its words and actions, the Bloomington City Council seem bent on reducing whatever effectiveness the HRC has. The lone dissenter was Jesse Parker, the only city council member hailing from Bloomington's west side. The Pantagraph quoted Parker as saying "the city is...just giving lip service to the function (of Human Relations Coordinator) because he (Hodges) can't get out in the field and do the work...while maintaining his office responsibilities."

Councilperson Buchanan was upset because the Human Relations Commission has three CETA employees in its office. Claiming that such a situation violates CETA's concepts, Buchanan went on to remark that Hodges's job is just in the beginning stage. "To add a body now is just a luxury we can't afford," the Pantagraph quoted him. Because other city departments have been instructed not to broaden their functions, Buchanan reasoned that the HRC should stay where it is. Realistically, though, if the HRC's functions aren't broadened, its hands will be tied when it comes to doing anything constructive. Hodges will have to work twice as hard, if possible, cutting down on the caseload the HRC can handle, and it will be easier for the more powerful offenders to get off. The public will never know who the offenders are.

Parker argued that other parts of the city budget could be cut in places like the parks and recreation budget to allow for rehiring of an equal opportunity specialist. Even Mayor Bittner was riding the fence for a little while, saying he reluctantly agreed that the investigator position should be cut from the HRC. Then he fell off the fence. Buchanan again missed the point in responding to Parker's suggestion of budget cuts elsewhere, suggesting that any department could begin new programs.

The HRC isn't even getting a chance to begin to work.

--Tom Pain

Pride, Integrity, and Guts

gtheous in his refusal to cooperate with the Post, so we did a little research into his jail operation where we could dig at some facts.

In October and November of 1974, his Democratic opponent, Steve Shunick, raised several serious unanswered questions about wasted and misused funds in Watkins' spiralling budget. Shunick also asked about allegations of illegal weapon use by the Sheriff's department. Other unanswered questions concerned the private use of county cars by families of the deputies and misuse of cars by off-duty officers.

Watkins survived that time with characteristic boldness and shortness of reply. In running his department with a firm hand, he takes an active role in law enforcement duties and actually seems to relish his job as MEG Treasurer.

One area lawman volunteered this reflection, "Dave Watkins is a good cop, but in all fairness, he is a little gung ho. He runs his office like he must have run his unit in Viet Nam."

One person who helps out at the jail is the good Sheriff's wife, Aurelia. While she has her own beauty shop business, Aurelia Watkins picks up a tidy \$1000 a year for pocket money for being "on call" with no other duties, according to a Feb. 27, 1975 Department of Corrections Jail Inspection report.

Northside Cafe

During the Post inquiry into Warren County jail operations, one aspect of jailed life seemed to stand out: The food. Our attention was first directed toward the "meals" served from complaints by prisoners themselves. One MEG defendant, out on bond, told us he almost "starved to death" while in the county lockup.

Mom Lee, a longtime critic of Dave Watkins (Mom is currently a MEG defendant herself being charged with selling a controlled substance to ill-famed Ford Conley, see last month's Post for details) was locked up for three days in the Sheriff's custody. Here are her

own words:

"I had two rolls and black coffee for breakfast."

"My supper, it was two sandwiches and a carton of milk."

"I had 2 rolls and a glass of black coffee for breakfast."

One Sunday afternoon the Post called up one of the jail inmates just after the main noon meal had been served. Here is the description of the Sunday dinner just as a prisoner looked at it right in front of him.

"Let's see, I've got a tablespoon of peas. A heaping tablespoon of salad. An ice cream scoopfull of beans and hotdogs. Oh yeah, and coffee. But no one has even touched it. Been there 30 minutes and not one guy tried it. It's muddy in the bottom of your cup when you drink that stuff."

One former jail resident said rolls in the morning sounded good to him; all he ever got was two donuts for breakfast.

The Warren County Treasurer's office tells us that Bill Maney's cafe is paid \$1.00 for breakfast, \$1.80 for lunch, and \$1.25 for supper for each inmate.

Sheriff Watkins refused to give us any jail population statistics ("I'm too busy") to confirm or deny the treasurer figures. Watkins was equally uncooperative in providing the Post with jail menus.

"Kickbacks or rip-offs"

On July 30, 1974 the ad hoc committee of the Warren County Grand Jury inspected the jail of Sheriff Watkins. The committee commented in their report how courteously they were treated by the Sheriff. Just the same, they felt, "it might be worth while to consider that cooking and serving of food from the jail itself rather than purchasing food outside."

Prior to Sheriff Watkins's term in office, meals were prepared in the jail kitchen. Since Watkins has been Sheriff, Bill Maney has supplied the food.

Richard Diekhoff, a Dept. of Corrections compliance specialist, felt compelled to recommend that "records of



meals served should be kept." In Diekhoff's jail inspection report of Feb. 27, 1975 he said, "Table and benches should be provided to eat upon in either cell or cellblock."

Diekhoff also recommended expanding the visiting hours, (they haven't been) and putting into effect a merit system of hiring jailers.

There has been much community criticism of the Maney meals by those who have knowledge of conditions. One courthouse insider who declines to be identified said that, "either Dave is getting kickbacks or Maney is ripping off the county." Most persons contacted about this matter had no comment, although a few Watkins fans strongly denied allegations of kickbacks.

Anonymous letter

The Post received an anonymous letter sent out from the Warren County jail. While the grammar is not always good, and we deleted a few cuss words, we feel the letter was really intended for the public to see.

"The food is bad enough. Not enough to fill you up. The coffee sticks at the bottom of a cup. That's Maney's fault and the county should get rid of him and get better food. Watkins, you are getting ripped off! You dummy. See what MEG is doing to you. Showing you got dirty places and rotten food. I'd try to get it right if you think MEG is gonna last. Even forgot to say about the sanitation. 1 towel per week. 1 sheet per week. 1 always-dirty blanket. You like drying with yesterday's dirt. We don't. Get rid of Watkins and MEG." "What a Drag"

--Mike Richardson,
Galesburg Correspondent

Men's Liberation & Gay Struggle

I think that it is important for the men's movement and the gay movement to work together for a lot of reasons and here are some of them:

--Sexism directed toward women is becoming a pretty open topic. Sexism directed toward men is just beginning to be explored. But sexism directed toward gay people by both non-gays and gays really needs to be brought out into the open and talked about.

--Men in this culture see few role models and get little support for having intimate sexual and non-sexual relationships with other men.

--Not all men have the desire or inclination to have a sexual relationship with another man, but so many relationships between men are severely limited because of a fear of being affectionate or intimate with each other. "If I hug him, it means I'm gay." No, it doesn't mean you're gay, although being gay isn't such a bad way to be.

--Men need to get together to offer mutual support to each other in dealing with masculinity hassles, no matter what their sexual or affectional preferences.

--Non-gay and gay men need to realize that being a man is not playing a role, but that being a man is something that happens at puberty. Being a man is not something you must work toward.

Jack



Pantagraph Keeps Ageist Ads

Last month, the Post-American highlighted the problem of age discrimination in renting in the Twin Cities. Specifically, young couples or singles with children have found it difficult to rent apartments or houses. State's Attorney Paul Welch agreed that the present Illinois law prohibiting rental discrimination against couples or singles with children should be expanded to forbid newspaper advertising which excludes children from living in certain dwellings.

The Pantagraph's willingness to change its policies in the classified advertising department remained questionable, though. This reporter spoke with Karen Craig of the Pantagraph classified advertising department to discover what its specific policies were with respect to the law.

She said the Pantagraph "can accept such an ad" (stipulating "no children"). Following a short consultation with a superior in the lucrative classifieds

department, Craig affirmed that "we aren't the law and we cannot police the law."

While I was questioning Ms. Craign, another Pantagraph classifieds employee, Ms. Ford, took the line and attempted to finish answering my questions. Ford acknowledged that the Pantagraph won't accept classified advertising which discriminates against racial, ethnic or religious minorities, but she insisted that "we are not planning on changing our policies" when it comes to discriminating against children. In one way, the Pantagraph would not aid certain forms of discrimination, but in others, it blatantly contributes to the form of age discrimination that the Illinois legislature tried to counter by passing the law designed to aid people with children.

Asserting that "we don't feel it's discrimination," Ms. Ford went on to explain that (she thinks) "nine times out of ten people will call the landlord in-

olved if the apartment is appealing enough." Ms. Ford did not know whether the Pantagraph's form of discrimination in print really served its purpose in keeping people with children from attempting to rent the apartment.

This reporter asked Ms. Ford if the Pantagraph would consider changing its classified ads policy if ordered to by the court. She did not comment on the possibility.

--Tom Pain

MIDDLE

Fatal White Cross

Word has just been received from Bill Phillips of the State Commission of Delinquency Prevention and Quincy pharmacist, Ken Lohr, licensed to analyze street drugs, that the drug white cross has been responsible for deaths in California and Oregon. What is more important is that this drug may be moving east toward Illinois.

White cross is a common street drug found in this area; it is a very small white press tablet, and it has a plus sign or cross imprinted on one side. It is sold as a stimulant, but usually contains caffeine equal to 4-6 cups of coffee. Three years ago a dangerous drug, PMA, was found in white cross, and an all-out effort was made to announce this fact.

Now we have found that any white cross coming to this area in the near future may contain a large amount of strychnine and brucine, an alkaloid of strychnine. Ken Lohr reports that it is so potent, that after the drug is ingested, there is very little chance for recovery.

Since the white cross containing strychnine looks almost exactly the same as caffeine white cross, we are asking all those obtaining this drug NOT TO TAKE ANY, not even 1/2 or 1/4 of a tablet, until analysis of the contents is made. Guess work regarding this drug could be fatal.

IF YOU DO DOPE, KNOW WHAT YOU TAKE.

NAZIS MARCH AGAIN

(Dateline: Bloomington) Once again on March 6, a parade of dumpy Southern Nazis marched down Main to Mennonite Hospital to dump a wreath at George Lincoln Rockwell's birthplace.

Who cares?

--D.C.

COLBY ON MOSES

(LNS)--"Intelligence is a very old activity. Moses sent two spies from each tribe to spy out the land of Canaan. Joshua sent two spies into Jericho, where they spent the night in a harlot's house and then went down out of the town on a rope over the wall."

--Former C.I.A. Director William Colby

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2 - Fri.	-- RON LINDENBAUM	JOHN BRIGGS	
3 - Sat.	-- BUGWATER	DAVE MINION	
4 - Sun.	-- FLATLAND FLYERS	MOYER/COHEN	
5 - Mon.	-- JIM SCHROEDER	BOB POULSEN	
6 - Tues.	-- DWAYNE HOOVER	CHUCK RASMA	
7 - Wed.	-- "EAT THE STEW"	CLEM & BUSBY	
8 - Thurs.	-- VASILOU/SCHWARZ	KEITH STREID	

Another Post Office Worker Speaks

Dear Post-Amerikan:

I would like to commend you on your outstanding newspaper. I like the way that you "tell it like it is." I would also like to comment on a couple of articles which appeared in your March issue. These articles were in reference to Bloomington Post Office.

I also am a postal employee and I have to totally agree with the views as stated in those two articles. Those sort of things really do happen, almost daily, and they are continuing to get worse.

Just several days ago, the letter carriers were told that if they stayed home sick, even for one day, that they would have to get a signed certificate from their doctor stating what kind of an illness they had. They then would turn this certificate in to their supervisor when they returned to work. Failure to do this would result in this letter carrier being charged AWOL for the day he was ill. This would result in this person forfeiting his pay for the period he was off. Postmaster Buhrke implemented this policy even though it is a clear violation of the National Agreement between the Carrier's Union and the postal service, as well as a violation of the Postal Manual. Once again, this rule does not apply to postal supervisors and managers.

You also made reference to the food stamp program.

It was stated that it was uncertain whether there would be the sale of food stamps at the substation in the parking garage.

On this matter, the postal service stated that there would not be a vault in the postal substation. This is where they are really blowing smoke at the public.

Where do you suppose they are going to store the thousands of dollars' worth of stamps, and all of the blank money orders and all of their other valuables? Of course, in a vault. Do they actually think they can fool everyone forever? Most of these postal managers have no respect towards the public. All they care about is their \$25,000-\$30,000 salary.

As the director of mail processing was once heard to say after receiving a complaint from a postal patron, "F--- the public, where else can they mail a letter?" Some fine attitude, isn't it?

Once again, thanks, and congratulations on your fine paper. Yours is the only way that we, the average postal workers, can express our views to the public.

I also believe that after your March issue was printed, there will be many postal workers buying the Post-Amerikan regularly.

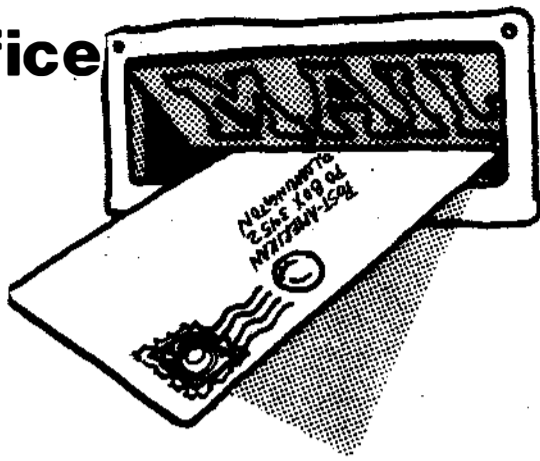
Like the writer in the March issue, I had better withhold my name for fear of being persecuted.

Enjoyable Habit

Dear Post People -

Your paper is an enjoyable monthly habit! Thought I'd write you some of my own words that I think are relevant to the kind of people your paper tries to expose openly ... the ones who hurt others - who make it harder to live in uneasy society anyway - the ones that so many people believe in so strongly ... if they only knew.

Can you relate to this?



Racism at Post Office

Dear Post-Amerikan:

I don't know what the U.S. Postal Service is coming to these days, but some things that go on day to day are enough to turn one's stomach.

During the week of March 19 I was in the Post Office attempting to send off some mail. I stepped into a line behind a black man who had been seriously injured, either on the job or in an auto accident. He was hunched over, and the affliction forced him to walk in a pigeon-toed manner. Clearly it was a real effort for him to walk anywhere, and I admired him for being strong enough to wait his turn in the long line for service.

I'm not ordinarily a snoop, but I noticed that the man purchased a Postal money order at the service window, thanked the clerk, and took his little girl by the hand to leave. I purchased my stationery and went to the east wing of the new Post Office to address the letters.

In that east wing the Post Office provides a photocopying machine for people to use. On that particular day the machine had broken, and three workers plus one supervisor-type were discussing what might be wrong with it. The men didn't seem to be doing any constructive work, but the management honcho enjoyed the discussion that began about food stamp recipients.

"Did ya see that one colored guy who came in here with that fake limp?" one worker asked. "He wanted to put on a good show while he was getting his food stamps."

"Yeah, I bet he'll sell 'em to put another payment on that nice car of his," the management honcho offered. "I saw him straighten right up when he sat down in his car."

I saw the man straining while he drove to see the on-coming traffic so he could negotiate his left turn.

The management honcho's fat neck made his little tie bob up and down as he continued his assault on food stamp recipients. Soon, after realizing that his small mind wouldn't help fix the photocopying machine, the honcho walked back to his office to enjoy another coffee break.

It is appalling to hear that the U.S. Postal Service is in such bad shape these days. The rate increases, the poor service--everybody wonders what the causes are. I saw one of them--a privileged jerk who doesn't do any work and draws a big salary. And you know that the big salary is the reason there are too few postal workers to handle the enormous task that is theirs.

I'm one taxpayer who has had it with this form of government welfare--big money to civil servants who just occupy space and push others around.
(unsigned)



"I'm experimenting with a new production method."

We've seen you as you go your way,
Your eyes turned from the ground,
Never looking more than at yourself
To see what's going down.

To see things happen, just like this,
A shame you can't see too,
'Cause we never want to see in ourselves
What we have seen in you.

I think that's pretty self-explanatory and hopefully to the point. Thanks for the reading.

Maintain,

Judy Tolbert
Minier, Illinois

Church Ignores Poverty

Dear Post-Amerikan,

Regarding the items I have circled in a Sunday circular from Trinity Lutheran Church: Why should we as Americans give our goods, such as washers, dryers and mixers and pay for things that hundreds of our own people don't have, for people who murdered our sons, brothers, boyfriends, and friends? I, as a taxpayer, cannot ignore the fact that people of our own "Great Country" are starving, and the so-called good people of not only Trinity Lutheran but hundreds of other churches are worried about washers for Vietnamese families.

We are being used through our own stupidity. Can anyone tell me when churches and other organizations have banded together to support the poor of Bloomington? When was the last time a family from Bloomington or Normal was given a free home, education, hospital and dental care, and optical services, without begging on their knees at the Welfare Office? Would Viet Nam do it for us? I'm not ashamed to say I'm disgusted.

Mary S. Wendell
Former Student of
Trinity Lutheran School &
Church



POST NOTE TO MS. WENDELL:

(While we at the Post-Amerikan sympathize with your disgust with those who ignore the poverty in our own community, we feel uncomfortable with the other side of the coin also -- lack of concern for the poor of other countries. However, the Vietnamese who have emigrated to the U.S. are not those who were poor and oppressed in their homeland, but people allied with the privileged classes. Also, while the Vietnamese you classify as "murderers" were killing our loved ones, our loved ones were not only killing them, but destroying their country. The whole thing is a complicated issue, but we believe that it is important to be constantly aware of how we are all manipulated by those in power to see other classes and countries in ways that are convenient for the powerful, not for us. Oppression is never simple!)

When you look, you'll maybe smile,
(Your conscience so to please)
At the ageless of the time at hand,
Products of the seventies.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BOYCOTT INTERNATIONAL FAIR

national Fair by way of the ISU Quad had to first look at a considerable array of poster displays describing life and conditions in Iran.

Pickets surrounded ISU's International House March 27, asking the public to boycott the International Fair which was going on inside.

At issue was the right of international students to represent the totality of their culture--even if it meant exposing brutal dictatorships and hard-core exploitation of their people--to the touristy types who patronize International Fair.

The fair's primary purpose--other than

the propaganda line of helping Americans understand other cultures--is to raise money by selling trinkets produced in foreign countries.

When Iranian students wanted to explain to the Americans just how some of those ethnic products are made, and under what conditions, that was "politics," and taboo at the fair.

Iranian students were forced to take their display material outside, which they did. Anyone entering the Inter-

It was a little too controversial for authorities at International House, who wish that "international understanding" could omit all consideration of imperialism, Third World poverty, multinational corporations, and the deadly political repression in U.S.-backed "free world" dictatorships.

A leaflet explaining protestors' position was handed out. It was signed by Iranian Students Association, Eritrean Students Association, and African Students.

Peoria Cop to Aid Shah of Iran's Iron Rule

(Peoria) Richard D. Couron has left the Peoria Police Department for a prestigious, top level job with the Iranian national police. Couron, a computer operations research analyst, will be working for Ultra Systems, of Newport Beach, Ca., which has a contract to provide the national military police with computer technology.

Couron, known as father of CAD-OLIS (Computer Assisted Dispatching and On-line Information Service) will be taking knowledge of some of the most sophisticated police computers yet devised to the repressive dictatorship.

Couron, who will be working in Teheran, will probably be used to build huge data banks on political prisoners and opponents of Shah Riza Mohammed Pahlevi's autocratic rule. "I am really looking forward to the new job," Couron told the Peoria Journal-Star, "they made me an offer I couldn't turn down..

Area residents unfamiliar with Richard Couron's technical police evaluation work will perhaps remember him for his recent advocacy of police dogs when the Peoria Police Department was scheduled to abolish their K-9 corps. Couron worked to upgrade the unit with the use of Schutzhunds, a German breed. He refers to his efforts in behalf of the dogs as the high point of his career.

At the present time the dreaded Savak, the Iranian secret police, is "fairly devoid of computer technology," Couron wants to change that and predicts, "great and significant changes."

As one Peorian put it recently, "Dick Couron should have spent more time studying political science instead of all that computer science."

12 Backyard Salad

Free food is something that people in this time of high food prices could use. The kind of free food I am talking about isn't in the grocery, and can't even be purchased with food stamps. It may grow in your own back yard. Such food, growing wild, is plentiful in the Bloomington-Normal area.

Mulberries, cherries, crabapples, and mock apples are good examples. All grow on trees. Mulberries are purplish and have numerous tiny bulblike projections on a rounded surface. They are seedless and taste like

blueberries. Cherries, like mulberries, crabapples, and mock apples, are available in July and should be picked at their ripest condition--just as they start to drop in quantity. Crabapples look like small apples and are delicious. Mock apples should probably be jammed or blended (they make good sauce and flavoring, like all the fruits mentioned), since they are bitter and need a sweetener.

Young milkweeds, found during the spring of the year, have leaves which make a good potherb or vegetable. They are most tender when about a half foot high or less, do not branch at all, unlike their poisonous counterpart, Dogbane.

Dock has numerous clusters of small purplish-green flowers with seeds, and long lance-like leaves. The leaves are a good vegetable or potherb anytime, if they are cooked with at least two changes of water.

Day lilies, a plant with long thin leaves encircling a central point, have edible tubers tasting like celery and flowers that when closed make good additions to stew.

The most plentiful and nutritious wild plant is, believe it or not, the dandelion.

Despite our obvious apprehension about eating wild vegetables, let alone common "weeds," this plant actually makes a good food. Leaves, when picked in spring before the plant flowers, should be boiled in at least 2 changes of water to remove any bitterness. The roots, dug in early spring, make an excellent root vegetable. Dandelions, by the way, have 17 times as much vitamin A per pound as carrots do.

White Oak nuts (White Oak and its relatives can be easily identified--they have oval leaves divided into large, irregular, and rounded lobes) are a good food. They can be ground and leached with very hot water (poured over a porous bag) or shelled and boiled (with a number of changes of water) until the water ceases to turn brown. This removes the bitterness and poison, and dried it makes a good nutmeal or nutmeat.

As I mentioned before, we have the notion that we should go to grocery stores to get food, and picking it off the ground is a bit weird (especially if we didn't even grow it). However, both our ancestors in America and the American Indians made plentiful use of wild foods. It is only recently that we seem to have lost the knowledge of how to take advantage of our national environment (without ruining it) and the hundreds of good nutritious foods it contains.



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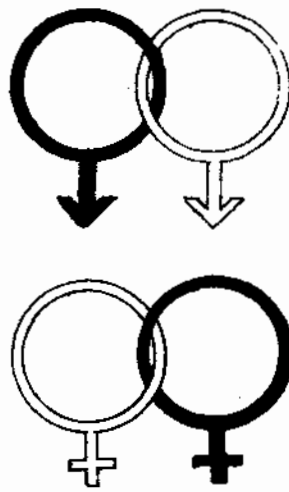
SEXUALITY CONFERENCE 13 HERE!



Gay People's Alliance of ISU is proud to sponsor a sexuality convention on April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, which will explore the physical side of gay life.

The convention's guest speaker is Rita Mae Brown, who will talk at 7:00 on Saturday night. Other definitely scheduled events include the opening session, featuring films on sexual topics, at 8:00 PM Friday, a dance at 8:30 Saturday night, a worship service at 8:00 Sunday morning, and a women's coffeehouse and a men's gathering at 2:00 Sunday afternoon.

Workshops, for which a final schedule will be available at registration in registration packets, will be on creative sexuality, masturbation, S/M,



massage, pre-orgasmic women, transvestism/transsexualism, religion and sexuality, relationship therapy, sex dysfunction, VD and sexual diseases, sex education curricula about homosexuality, fair fighting, celibacy, men's liberation, and monogamy/alternative lifestyles. Many of the workshops will be offered more than once, and many will offer both a women's and men's section.

Registration is from 3 PM to 11 PM Friday and 8 AM to noon Saturday in the Circus Room of the ISU Union. The registration fee is \$3.50 at the door.

If you have questions, call 438-3421 or 829-3808. Hope to see you there!

ABOUT RITA MAE BROWN



RAPE CRISIS WORKSHOP

Ms. Rita Mae Brown is the author of several exciting novels--Rubyfruit Jungle and In Her Day, as well as one she is currently writing. She has written two books of poems: Songs to a Handsome Woman and The Hand that Cradles the Rock. A book of political essays and a nonfiction book are also soon to be published.

Ms. Brown was an activist in the 60's. She was one of the founders of the Student Homophile League at Columbia and N.Y.U. in 1967. She was the first lesbian purged from N.O.W. in 1969. From there Rita Mae co-founded FREE, a feminist theater; became involved in the Gay Liberation Front; and helped to start Radicalesbians.

Ms. Brown was also involved in activities such as The Furies Collective, the Institute for Policy Studies, the steering committee for the National Women's Political Caucus, and the National Gay Task Force.



In response to all of her credits, Ms. Brown replies, "You ain't seen nothing yet." Ms. Rita Mae Brown will be speaking here on "The Social Impact of Sexuality in the Arts." The speech will be in Hayden Auditorium on the ISU campus at 7:00 pm on Saturday, April 3. Ms. Brown has been brought to ISU in conjunction with the Sexuality Convention sponsored by Gay People's Alliance.

Ms. Brown will also appear on Sunday, April 4, in the Founder's Suite, ISU Union, at 2:00 pm. At this time Ms. Brown will do readings from her books and poems as part of a Women's Coffeehouse.

Tickets for Ms. Brown's Saturday speech are included in the \$3.00 registration fee for the convention, or, can be purchased at the door prior to her talk for \$1.00. For registration information, contact the GPA office, 225 N. University St. #2C, Normal, Ill. phone 438-3411. Information can also be obtained by calling Jennifer Willie at 829-3808.

At the sexuality conference (hosted by Gay People's Alliance) on April 3rd & 4th, the Rape Crisis Center of McLean County will present a workshop on rape and assault including a section on homosexual assault.

In 1974 when the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) began, emphasis was placed on rape as a solely male phenomenon; the rapist was always referred to as "he". Through contact with clients and other crisis lines and through further study, we have become aware of the sexism inherent in those first presentations.

The law states that a rapist is a "male 14 years or older" so legally a rapist is male, but in actuality a rapist may be either male or female. Anyone who forces another person to have sexual contact or who denies another the right to choose his/her own sexual partner is in fact a rapist.

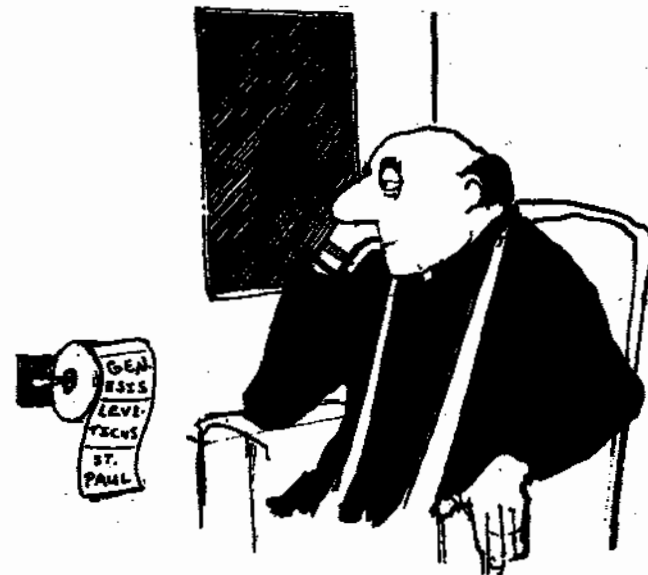
The law classes homosexual assault as deviate sexual assault if oral-genital contact takes place and as aggravated assault if an object (fingers or hands are considered objects) is employed. Legally, rape has not occurred in either instance but the RCC recognizes the reality of rape in both. Men do rape other men; women do rape women.

Rapists choose victims they consider weaker or inferior to them; rape is the mode of violence chosen. The women rapists on whom I have information appear to believe the myths that society has perpetuated for centuries; they believe themselves to be superior to their victims and choose rape as the most humiliating attack possible.

So long as our society encourages power plays between men and women and continues to treat rape and rape victims as jokes, those men and women will continue to choose "the winning side" and will in their macho way continue to vent their violence on us-- on you and on me.

--Terri Dolan

integrity journal plans black, lesbian issues



Special lesbian- and black-related issues of Integrity; Gay Episcopal Forum are being planned, and manuscripts for the special issues are being solicited by Integrity's Georgia headquarters.

Lesbian editor Ellen Barrett and Black Gay editor Ernest Clay will coordinate the publication.

"Special preference will be given to materials which articulate the personal struggles of members of these two groups, particularly in cases where the church has thwarted,

opposed, ignored, or possibly helped persons fully to respect individual gay personhood," Integrity founder Dr. Louie Crew announced.

Manuscripts may include poetry and art and usually run under 800 words. Payment is in contributor copies, and a stamped addressed return envelope should be included with submission."

Lesbian materials may be sent to Ellen Barrett, 6527 Morris St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530. Black Gay materials should be mailed to Ernest Clay, 701 Orange St., No. 6, Fort Valley, Ga. 31030.

The Closet is a Very Dark

"Out of the closets and into the streets!" That is the current voice of Gay Liberation, but what was the old situation, the hiding-behind-the-closet-door that makes gay people invisible?

What's it really like growing up gay in straight America? For most people it means a closet. What's the closet? Unfortunately it is the lack of alternative given to people who know they are homosexuals, and still feel as if they are alone. Living in a closet used to be the only way a gay person could keep his/her sexual orientation and dignity at the same time.

Luckily, with the force of Gay Liberation, this is changing, but the how's and why's of the closet syndrome still need to be investigated. To truly understand the closet one must have lived in it--with its fears, deceptions and its bent look at reality. The closet signifies family

security, job security, social acceptance. No physical discrimination can occur when one lives in a closet, because no one knows who's behind the door.

But with material comforts come mental stigmas of having to keep hidden the total personality that you are, denying that you love and are happy--because one is told homosexual love can be nothing but stifling. It's not easy to keep dimensions of one's life hidden from view when they may be the cause of joy.

What is the "Closet Syndrome?" Merely a vicious cycle, an endless carousel which some gays must ride their entire lives. To survive in the straight world, one hides his/her gay identity. The more homosexuality is hidden the less people hear about it, so it still appears abnormal. As long as homosexuality is judged abnormal, gays fearfully hide it.

A closet life isolates gay people and increases the fears and uneasiness they have about themselves and gay life. It also makes them virtually invisible to those who have or are deciding to come out, thus cutting off a line of much-needed support.

So what brings gay people out? One reason is the desire to assert their equality and the decision to defend the belief in their right to live and love as anyone else. There are some things that can't be appreciated by heterosexuals because they've never lived without them; one is the right to live as a whole person 24 hours a day. Gays need to have the ability to stop making excuses, to stop pretending you don't feel love for someone (remember, you can't, they're of the same sex.)

The closet is truly a very personal thing, and every gay person has to play an endless "mind game." Should they remain hidden and go on with their fabricated stories? After all, once you step out it's hard, if not impossible, to go back.

The furtive image society has of homosexuals definitely stems from the image of the closet. Unfortunately the closet will exist as long as heterosexual society does. To



Quicksilver Times/LNS

20 Million Miraculously Cured

In what may have been the biggest gay news event of 1973, the American Psychiatric Association's Board of Trustees voted Dec. 15 without dissent to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

The trustees also voted to urge the repeal of laws against homosexual behavior and the passage of new laws to ban discrimination against gay people.

Even though the APA has finally conceded that being gay is not being sick, they have defined a new illness to replace homosexuality as a disorder: "sexual orientation disturbance"--for gays who are "either disturbed by, in conflict with, or wish to change their sexual orientation." The definition goes on to say that homosexuality by itself "does not necessarily constitute a psychiatric disorder (but) is one form of sexual behavior and, like other forms...which are not by themselves psychiatric disorders, is not listed in this nomenclature of mental disorders." No similar catch-all category exists for heterosexuals troubled by their sexual orientation.

The APA reversal was in large measure to pressure brought to the issue by gay activists. In 1970, the APA convention was disrupted in San Francisco. Succeeding years saw exhibits, lectures, and panel discussions on the correct psychiatric stance on homosexuality.

In 1972, a committee was established to study dropping homosexuality from the APA sickness list, and a member of the committee, Dr. Robert L. Spitzer, eventually drafted the two resolutions which passed Dec. 15.

Spitzer said that homosexuality does not fit the two criteria for defining a psychiatric disorder--that it either "regularly cause emotional distress" or "regularly be associated with generalized impairment of social functioning"--and was therefore dropped from the diagnostic manual.

But a group of psychiatrists long known for their view that gays are sick has launched a campaign to conduct a poll of the APA's entire membership on reversal of the trustees' stand.

The group includes Drs. Irving Bieber and Charles Socarides, who made a special trip to Washington to plead with the trustees not to adopt the resolutions. After the vote, the group filed a petition in early January requiring the referendum question to be included in a February issue of Psychiatric News for all APA members to vote on.

Members of the National Gay Task Force had received advance indication of the APA vote and were on hand for a news conference afterward at Washington APA headquarters. The psychiatrists' actions received nationwide news coverage, though some of it was inaccurate.

Homosexuals in the past have always had the burden of proof on them to demonstrate competence, reliability, and stability because they were thought to have a mental illness. This APA decision is significant because it marks an improvement in attitude towards homosexuality. Homosexuals can no longer be denied civil rights on the basis of their mental illness. Although it is still up to the individual mental health practitioners to modify their own attitudes, Frank Kameny called the now-abandoned psychiatric view of gays as sick "one of the major bulwarks for support of the patterns of discrimination."

(Chicago Gay Crusader was a source of information for this article.)

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Place to Be

show the range of people this concerns, for every homosexual who has come out there are 200 more still hiding behind the closet door.

If you still can't understand, try this. Have a friend set up an obstacle course of sharp knives in a small room. Have them lead you in and then turn off the lights. Try reaching out--careful, there are knives all around. Funny, you only have two choices. Stay safely where you are or try to come out, having to incur numerous cuts, some small, some probably serious and deep. Is it a bit easier to comprehend the mental agony gays face?

Remember, this is barely an adequate portrayal of closet existence and the struggle with the decision to come out. When you are in a closet it is very dark.

---Jennifer Willie



Candidates View Gay Rights

The following list of where candidates stand on the gay rights issue comes to us from National Gay Task Force and the Gay Human Rights League of Queens County, New York:

BIRCH BAYH: Has agreed to co-sponsor a Senate Companion bill to House Resolution 5452 (right of gays to hold maximum security positions in government); promised to issue an executive order barring discrimination on grounds of sexual preference

LLOYD BENSTEN: Evasive response as to gay rights

JIMMY CARTER: Although he announced some months ago his opposition to all forms of discrimination, he has been backing off somewhat from this position on gays

FRED HARRIS: Supports HR 5452

HUBERT HUMPHREY: In 1972 and 1975, issued formal statement supporting gay rights

HENRY JACKSON: Opposed to gay rights, sodomy repeal; is recruiting anti-gay politicians as delegates on his slates. (Ed. note: Jackson is REALLY anti-gay; he was quoted recently as saying that gayness will bring about the end of our civilization.)

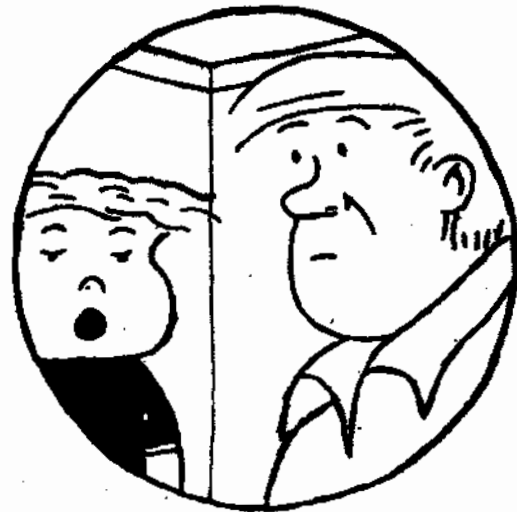
TERRY SANFORD: Supports HR 5452; fears blackmail of homosexuals on grounds of "national security."

MILTON SHAPP: Supports gay rights legislation, including elimination of tax inequities; supports repeal of laws regulating consensual adult sexual behavior; issued executive order as Pennsylvania governor protecting rights of gays; vetoed anti-gay bill in Penn.

MORRIS UDALL: Supports HR 5452; wants to hold option of thinking of some sensitive areas where gays should not be employed; supports rights of gays to serve in the armed forces.

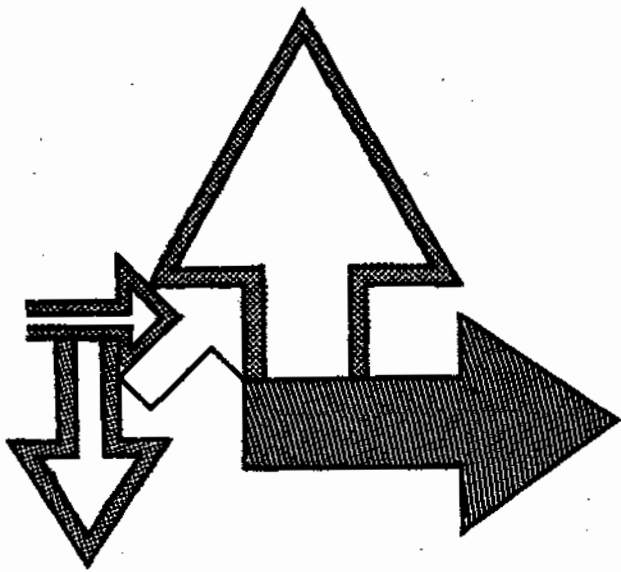
REPUB. CANDIDATES FORD AND REAGAN: No response yet. Ford referred request for his position to a member of the military, who returned the official Navy position on the matter. Betty Ford has declined to comment on support for gay rights.

Frank Church, Sargent Shriver, and George Wallace: No response yet.



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DO GAY PEOPLE

Do we need counseling? The answer to this question is a resounding No! and an equally emphatic Yes!

No! We don't need psychologists who tell us we are sick because we choose to love someone of the same sex and then attempt to cure us of the sickness they have created by their labels.

No! We don't need to see therapists who listen sympathetically to our "problem" (homosexuality itself, they think) and then proceed to help us rid ourselves of the "behavior disorder" they disapprove of.

No! We don't need to be psychoanalyzed and then expected to change our sexual orientation because the doctor has pointed out why we became homosexual.

No! We don't need homophobic behavior therapists who shock our genitals and fry our brains in order to change our sexual preferences.

No! We don't need to seek counseling from priests and ministers who tell us we are forgiven (or damned) for something we do not consider sin in the first place, nor from those who encourage us to ask God to help us abstain from sexual activity.



On the other hand, Yes! Sometimes we need counseling to help us handle crises and problems of everyday living not related to our gay lifestyle. But we need this kind of help from counselors who do not immediately assume homosexuality is the presenting problem.

Yes! Some of us need help in gathering strength to fight the effects of oppression on our lives. Especially when mutual support groups are not available or when the problem goes beyond our peer's ability to help, counseling from a non-judgmental therapist who will let us set our own goals should be available.

Yes! Sometimes the process of establishing our gay identity is so painful that we need help in getting rid of the garbage straight society has fed us about our way of living being sick and sinful. To do this, we need counselors who can see through the crap and help us emerge whole and healthy, affirming all that we are and can become.

Yes! Sometimes our gay relationships falter and fail. We may need help in mending and recreating our love relationships or in working through the hurt and rejection when our relationships end. We need therapists who will help us work on our relationships whatever the sex of the partners involved.

GAY PRISONER ASKS SUPPORT

Dear Friends,

I would deeply appreciate your help in placing an enclosed letter for my defense fund in your paper, as a cause for winning against the officials and government in stopping oppression of our Gay brothers and Sisters in prison.

My first pretrial comes up on March 24, 1976, for release and \$500,000 damages, and a case for being assaulted will be heard later and another case also, all involving the harrasment and assaults, beatings, and being placed in jeopardy from Officials.

Thank you
John Gibbs
The National Gay Prisoners Coalition
PO Box 1000, US Prison, Marion, Ill.,
62959

Appeal for Help!!!!

John Gibbs, a PCW confined at the U.S. Federal Prison Camp, Marion, Illinois, has filed some suits against the offi-

cial, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, and Government for beatings, assaults, and injuries that he suffered at the hands of the "Goon Squad." Brother John has been the victim of severe intimidations, harrasments, and assaults since he organized a chapter of the National Gay Prisoners Coalition in 1972.

The Vice Chairperson of this chapter was murdered in November 1973. Many prisoners believe that the Vice Chairperson of the chapter was set up for his murder by the prison officials.

The prisoners also believe the same fate is planned for brother John.

Since November 1973, brother John has been in isolation, which prevented him from participation in any of the various self help programs, and the opportunity to earn any good time extra, or funds to purchase necessities.

He has been in twenty county jails and six US prison camps since 1973; this is an attempt to break the spirit of brother John in his gallant struggle for the rights of his gay brothers and sisters.

The treatment of brother John is just a reflection of the treatment of all open gay prisoners in federal systems. To put an end to the injustices, brother John will need a very good attorney, to handle his suits, and there will be countless other expenses; brother John is an indigent P.O.W., so therefore he must seek the help of everyone who believes in the rights of gay brothers and sisters.

We are asking everyone to contribute to his cause; all donations can be sent to Dr. J.C. Mickel, PO Box 314, Mt. Zion, Illinois, 62549.

Thank You Very Much,
Dr. J.C. Mickel

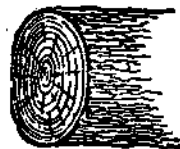
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NEED COUNSELING?

Yes! Some of us are even sick. Gay is good; gay is healthy; but this doesn't mean gay people are immune to mental illness. We have a right to high quality psychiatric treatment that helps us work toward good mental health, and that doesn't assume homosexuality is the illness itself or the cause of the illness.

We know what we need and don't need from mental health professionals. Now, how can we get what we need? First, we'd better get more of our gay sisters and brothers into helping professions. To accomplish this, we must use political pressure to remove the roadblocks that keep open gays from being certified in social work, medicine, psychiatry, and the ministry. We can get on the agendas of local, state, and national professional organizations when they hold conventions or annual meetings. If we can't get on the official agendas, we can demonstrate, "zap," and generally disrupt these meetings.

Second, we can become good consumers of mental health services. When we need professional help, we can try to find gay therapists. If we can't find them, we can ask the straight therapists we see what their position is on homosexuality. We can tell them what we hope to gain from the experience. If they can't or won't help us work on our own goals, we can look elsewhere.

Third, if we sense a lack of positive mental health services for gay people in our communities, we can poll professionals and agencies to discover just how bad the problem is and figure out some ways to correct it. If our polls tell us that a great amount of work is needed, we can: (a) Try to talk to more groups of mental health professionals. Agencies sometimes have in-service training for their staff. We can let them know gay speakers are available for their meetings and send our most "together" speakers to teach them that gay is healthy; (b) Invite professional helpers to our own workshops and programs, enabling them to learn more about gay people from us and our experts; (c) Obtain reprints of positive articles from professional journals and popular magazines and send them to agencies or individuals for their enlightenment; (d) Donate copies of good books about gay people to agency, school, public, and church libraries.



"Why don't you act like a man?"

GAY PEOPLE AND V.D.

Gay people need to know about V.D., not because they are any more susceptible or any more sexual than any one else, but because there are some specific things about V.D. that are of particular importance to gay people.

One has to do with anal gonorrhea in men. A man can have it and not know it, and can unknowingly spread gonorrhea to other people. If a man is pretty certain that he has anal gonorrhea (i.e. has been exposed), he might face some hassles getting a V.D. check, so it is important to know what to ask for. There are two types of tests for gonorrhea: smears and cultures.

If none of the suggestions above does any good, we may have to attract the attention of the media, documenting our need for better mental health services for gay people. Or we can enlist the help of our Associations for Mental Health and Human Relations Commissions, making our grievances known to the community. We can go to the boards and funding sources of agencies that are particularly blatant in their non-acceptance or mistreatment of homosexuals and inform them of the gaps between our needs and their services. If they won't listen to polite speeches, we can "zap" them and bombard them with "gay is good" propaganda.

In working toward the future, we can speak to large numbers of pre-professionals--students and interns who plan to become professional helpers--telling them who we are and what we want from helping agencies. We can get on the syllabus of upper-level psychology and sociology classes, and tell it like it is for the folks who will be providing social services in the near future. When our universities have anti-gay liberation speakers (usually psychiatrists and sexologists) we can attend in large numbers and pass out "gay is good" or "this guy is full of crap" literature.

Whatever we choose to do in our fight for the high quality, positive mental health services we need and deserve, let us do it well and do it NOW.

-- Jerusha

A smear can only be considered accurate when it is a positive test done on the discharge from a penis and the man is showing other symptoms. All other types of gonorrhea require a culture test; these are gonorrhea of the throat, anus and vagina; whether there are symptoms or not, and gonorrhea of the penis when there are no symptoms.

Usually venereal diseases are transmitted when two mucous membranes come in contact--such as urethras, penises, vaginas, anuses, (just think of the possibilities!) I think that since men are more conditioned (unfortunately) to achieve sexual satisfaction by putting something into something than women are, there is a lower incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among lesbians than there is among gay men.

But women can occasionally infect their female friends, not only with gonorrhea or syphilis, but with vaginal infections also. And it is important to know that gonorrhea rarely produces visible symptoms in the vagina. This article is not meant to concentrate on the unpleasant side of gay sex and to say that gay sex is dirty. We all know that gay sex is beautiful. But I do think that gay people and nongay people need to know about V.D. and sexually transmitted diseases. I've only talked about a few things here. To go into depth about symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment would be redundant, since it has already been discussed in this paper as well as in a few really excellent books

One is: Health and Venereal Disease Guide for Gay Men
Gay Men's Health Project
74 Group St. 2nd Floor
N.Y., N.Y. 10014

Another is: V.D. Handbook
P.O. Box 1000
Station G
Montreal 130, Quebec

Another is: Secondi, John J.
For People Who Make Love.
Toronto, New York:
Bantam Books, 1974.

Besides looking into these books, I think that Gay people in McLean County should do two other things:

1. If you are at all sexually active or are relating to someone who is, get a regular V.D. check including oral, anal, penil or vaginal cultures, and a blood test (4 tests) every 6 months.

2. Support a free V.D. clinic for McLean County.

--Jack

Spring Fever?

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18 WHERE GAYS GO (besides crazy) CORNTOWN

Gay people are, of course, everywhere. But because of social and legal pressures, most of them are harder to find than, say, bridge players. In both interests, it's hard to go it alone. There comes a stage in your gay consciousness when you need to meet others like yourself. If this stage occurs after puberty, you can no longer do this by joining Boy/Girl Scouts. You must go "Where the Gays Are," to paraphrase an old movie title.

Mainly because of the abundance of colleges in the area and its central location, there are many different places where gay people gather, with varying degrees of openness, within driving distance of Bloomington. Some have been established by tradition or word of mouth, while others were established by gays for gays. In the compendium which follows, I'm sorry if I leave any locations vague, but we still have to worry about harassment by authorities of varying degree.

Organizations

Gay People's Alliance (ISU)
225 N. University, Normal
Apt. 2 (basement) 438-3411

GPA is a funded student organization, but membership is open to the community as well. It attracts those with a high gay consciousness. Programs such as dances, speakers, and gay/straight raps help fulfill the social, political, and educational goals of the organization.

Partly because of a strong lesbian/feminism, an additional GayWomen's Rap Group was formed. There was also a gay men's group, but it died. Some gay men interested in male consciousness raising belong to the Bloomington/Normal Men's Group.

bars

"Giovanni's"--521 N. Hickory
"Balloon Saloon"--317 N. Fremont St.

Both Champaign bars are discos, although the disco freaks generally go to Giovanni's. Although men go to both bars, women mostly go to the Balloon.

"The Quench Room"--631 W. Main St.

The only gay bar left in Peoria, the Quench Room has a jukebox and occasional drag shows.

"Smokey's"--127 N. Fifth.

Springfield's major gay bar. Smokey, the owner, has expanded into a larger bar elsewhere in town, also, which features good drag shows. Drag is one of the most fascinating, controversial, and traditional elements of gay culture, although the first drag shows were features of heterosexual upper class Victorian parties. The female impersonator, or "drag queen," combines the arts of make-up, mime, and dance as he pretends to perform a record being

played in the background.

hangouts

There are no local establishments catering to gays, but at any given time, certain places are popular. Gays usually have to be discreet in these places, however. Frat City places (Red Lion, Josie's) are pretty unpopular. An interesting exception was last year when GPA decided to liberate local bars. They first visited Someplace Else. Same-sex dancing and affection in a public place caused such a stir that after only three GPA visits, the bar acquired a "reputation," and now blames GPA for the loss of its college clientele.

In the way of bars, Bloomington's Polar Lounge and DA's Lounge have been popular among gay men and women, respectively, although gay patrons in each are in a small minority and indistinguishable from the rest.

The Galery in Normal is also popular, as it is the least macho-sexist bar in town. Gays get hungry, too, and for later evening restaurants, Denny's is usually the choice, although both Sambos have their fans.



cruising

Cruising areas are places gay people go to find sex partners. They are remnants of the times when gays were totally underground and could not meet in the usual ways; certain places began to acquire "reputations." They are still useful because of the stigma still attached by society to the sex act. In cruising areas, once two people have established, by common signals, that both are gay, it is safe for them to communicate and they talk freely about their needs and desires, without having to worry about gaining approval or making an impression. Cruising is unpopular with many gays, but is important to many others.

These areas are usually set by tradition, since many of their patrons are far removed from the gay subculture and have to rely on hearsay to find them.

Women do not seem to have established specific cruising areas. Other than at bars, parties, or through mutual friends, compatible lesbians meet each other in everyday contacts, much as heterosexuals do, with the added problem of having to find out, "Is she or isn't she?" Male cruising areas are so traditional that some are the same in Bloomington/Normal as in the rest of the country. These include highway rest stops, the courthouse square, and public restrooms, such as at shopping malls. The most popular area here is a restroom on the ISU campus, which I won't name except to say that the study table outside of it has become a hangout for open gays.

Despite a relatively large number of places to meet each other (compared to, say, Carbondale or Macomb), gays in the Twin Cities still lack a place to do anything together without driving to Peoria or Champaign. Starting and operating an establishment that encourages its customers to be open with their sexuality takes big money and lots of support. Chicago money once looked into financing a gay bar in Bloomington, but because of the conservativeness of the community and the Stevenson family, decided it would be too expensive to keep their liquor license. Still, it's not much worse being gay out here on the prairie than straight.



ACLU EXPANDS, UPDATES GAY RIGHTS POLICY

During the past year the American Civil Liberties Union Board of Directors updated and expanded the Union's policy on the rights of gays. "Homosexuals," the new policy states, "are entitled to the same rights, liberties, lack of harassment, and protections as are other citizens."

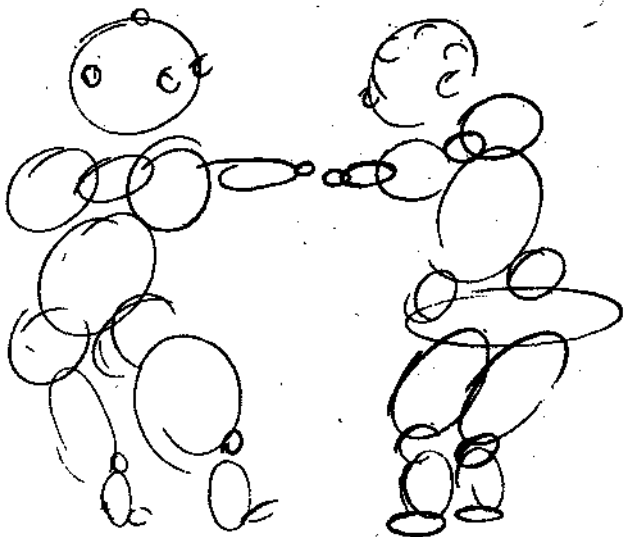
The old policy said that the state has a legitimate interest in controlling public solicitation for sexual acts. The new policy states, "The ACLU opposes criminal restraints on public solicitation for private sexual behavior between or among adults of the same sex. Such restraints provide the stimulus for government harassment of homosexuals even in the absence of any criminal charges."

sensitive jobs the state might refuse employment to a homosexual. The new policy does not allow any exceptions; the ACLU opposed discrimination in public and private housing and accommodation, government benefits, occupational licensing, and government and private employment--including teaching of children and jobs requiring security clearance--simply because the person is a homosexual.

The Union's policy also specifically opposes limitations on the custody and visitation rights of parents because of their sexual preference, and governmental and private attempts to prevent homosexuals from speaking out about homosexuality and forming political and social groups.

--from Civil Liberties, Jan. 1976

The old policy conceded that for certain



"Hatred inside me
Is a building storm
Within my soul.
And the more I hold it back
The more intense the hate becomes
Until finally, its fury unleashed
it breaks out . . .
and someone is injured --
usually me . . ."
- Jon Meinecke -

Hatred and frustration have become my constant companions during this last year. As long as I lived in a vacuum, I could ignore them. By living in my own microcosm, within my own brittle shell, I did not have to relate to the system; I could just . . . exist. However, this also meant isolation; I could not relate to individuals either, since reaching out leaves a means of reaching in.

A vacuum is not a good place for growing. To grow one must leave the vacuum and emerge into the sunlight and fresh air. I did this, but I also exposed myself to "the system." As long as I remained still - quiet and motionless - the system could ignore me, and I could ignore the system. Motion brings awareness, and we are aware of one another.

I've passed through shock, disillusionment, disappointment, annoyance, and disgust, and now here I am face-to-face with hatred and frustration.

The way I see it I have several possible paths to follow, and I really don't know which way to go yet.

More and more I come to understand how the S. L. A. and the other underground revolutionary armies come to be. I feel the fury and hatred within myself that I see in them, and I wonder what will become of us. The paths they have followed seem self-destructive for them at this time, and I cannot self-destruct yet; I have too much that I want and need to do before I shuffle off or get pushed off the edge.

Political activism, working from the edges toward the center of the system, changing and moving as I go, seems a possibility to consider, but first I have to recognize my political self. All my life I have heard the "principles" on which this country is founded, the rights and freedoms of all American citizens, and I really believed in them. I did! Naive fool that I was!

Since then I have had the truth ground into my face; I can no longer play the pretending games; I have had to see what the system is really like, and, corny though this may sound, I found that I have the strength of my convictions.

I found that I was ready to go against the system; I was ready to go to jail if necessary for what I believed. I was told by a defense attorney, a state's attorney, and the ACLU that I had no rights. Although I really believed that what I was doing was the only way I could go without denying everything that I considered worthwhile, I was in danger of imprisonment.

I discovered that Amerika is not the land of the free. I have my physical liberty; I can move about, but I am not free to do what I deem right and just if those actions conflict with the desires of those in power.

After a two-year search, I have finally located a group of feminists who share my frustration and who wish to explore alternatives. We have formed a radical feminist study/CR group and are discussing issues of concern together.

Finally, I'm not alone in my political stances. It gets cold out here on the fringes of the system, you know.

Where I go from here I don't know, but at least I'm growing again, nurtured by my allies. I'm turning my face toward the revolution to come and directing my hatred and anger outward where they belong.

- Revolution in our lifetime! - -- Tad



Midnight Special/cpf



Growing Up in a Small Town

Growing up gay in a rural community is a real experience. I've done it and I'm still doing it. All my life I've lived within 15 miles of ISU. I went to a country grade school, a small town high school and now attend ISU.

I have had gay feelings for as long as I can remember. My loves, heroes, idols have all been men. I never really had any intense feelings for women. The fact that I was gay really didn't affect me too much until I was in high school, when dating began.

Everyone was expected to date--to be with the popular, well-liked crowd, it was a must. When I dated, my reason was to have someone along whose company I could enjoy, not to develop anything close to a serious relationship. This philosophy got me in trouble several times. I felt that I was dating out of duty rather than desire. My close male friends began cutting off their activities with me when they began dating. If I wanted to remain close to them it had to be done by double-dating.

Looking back, I realize that dating played a large part in my self-denial during this time. When you deny yourself, how can you have any real self-respect? Life can be a nightmare when you are trapped in a small town. Most small towns are very tightly-knit and there's very little privacy. If you don't conform you pay the penalty.

I was naturally brought up and taught in the heterosexual way. Anything concerning homosexuality or bisexuality was shut off, crushed, put down and never once considered a possible, let alone a positive alternative. I knew how society felt about and treated homosexuals, so in order to get by I had to be very secretive and careful. Throughout high school and part of college I put up a facade completely different from how I really felt. I was always joking and clowning; never could anyone find me depressed or upset. I felt like a Martian. When you are not true to yourself, how can you be true to your friends? You can't. I always had to monitor my gestures and expressions, never being spontaneous. I felt helpless and insignificant as an individual in this authoritarian sexual system.

Finally I decided I must find more information on the gay world. There were usually two choices of gay literature: pornography or technical books written for professionals by heterosexuals. A homosexual book by a heterosexual 'Expert' is about as appropriate as a women's liberation book by Norman Mailer. By luck I got The Gay World, a more liberal, up-to date book on being gay. I realized there were gay people leading open, happy and productive lives.

I wanted to talk to somebody, surely not my minister or doctor; they were too close and in a small town my parents would soon know. Society denies itself an opportunity to learn more about gays and how they function by making them seal off their gayness in all their interactions with society.

I needed to talk to another gay person. I started calling numbers of gay organizations across the country. You can imagine my parents' reactions upon getting a bill for calls to New York and San Francisco. But I finally got understanding from these groups.

When I began college I gradually came out more and more. Coming out in college is easier than in high school, but still isn't easy. Now most of my close friends know I'm gay and I no longer have to hide the real person that I am. But I'd say that I've been lucky. Hopefully, though, you can better understand the pressures and pain put on gays, especially young gays, in this area and just about everywhere.



Unemployed? Check Out McClean County's CETA Program

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Applicants must be residents of McLean County. They must have been unemployed at least 30 days or be underemployed as defined by poverty guidelines.

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--Advertisement--

I Got Them Old Definitional Blues Again, Mama

- THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

"Lesbianism is . . . a specific elaboration of unsolved, psychic masochistic conflict . . . with the pre-Oedipal mother."
- Edmund Bergler, MD, 1956

"A lesbian is a frozen cunt."
- Eldridge Cleaver, 1965

"A lesbian is the rage of all women condensed to the point of explosion."
- Radical Lesbians, 1969

"Yes, but what do you do in bed?"
- Suburban Housewife at Women's Conference, 1969

In these days of radical chic, it looks at times as if lesbianism is fast becoming all the rage. A cursory look at the current scene suggests that the heyday of the Berglers and the hang-over hang-ups of the Cleavers are giving way to a new openness towards lesbianism. But, as gay women struggling towards liberation from the two-headed sexist monster which oppresses us equally through male supremacy and through heterosexual chauvinism, we must look hard at the new as well as the old and make the same rigorous demands of our new friends and of ourselves as we do of our old enemies.

Every minority group or class struggle includes an attempt at re-defining the group in question, because so many of our problems stem from the dehumanizing definitions imposed by our culture. The first two statements quoted above clearly and blatantly fall into this category. They impose on gay women definitions derived from the assumptions of male supremacy which characterize this culture. Whether cloaked in gargonese by Bergler or stated most explicitly by Cleaver, the message is the same: women are acceptable only in relation to men, and those who refuse to pay their dues to the male-centered system are probably not healthy, certainly not real women.

But is the third definition, though much more appealing in sound, a real improvement? It may seem a long way from frozen cunt to the personification of women's rage, but one vital thread remains: the dehumanizing insistence on defining gay women in terms other than our own. Although the rhetoric is more attractive, isn't lesbianism still being defined here essentially as a function of the male supremacist system? In this sexual-political analysis, lesbians are simply the advance guard in the battle against men, but still women who are identified in terms of their relation to men, rather than women who derive our authenticity from ourselves.



Although, in the above quoted form this politically oriented definition was articulated by gay women--and no criticism of them is intended here--it is most often heard from straight movement women. And it is most often part of a context which unwittingly reflects the very male-centered consciousness which is the purpose of the Women's movement to alter.

I would like to explore this further. The reflection of a male-centered frame of reference can best be seen by comparing the Radical Lesbian statement to Cleaver's in the following way:

A lesbian is a frozen cunt: a woman who refuses to play out the role assigned to her by men.

A lesbian is every woman's rage: a woman who reacts furiously against the role assigned her by men.

What really is the difference?

Just as it is male chauvinist to define women in terms of men, it is heterosexually chauvinist to define lesbianism as the boiling point of women enraged by a male-centered culture. The subtle assumption here is that all women would be straight were it not for male oppression, that female homosexuality exists as a reaction to and therefore, a function of, our male-heterosexually dominated culture. Another formulation of this assumption clearly indicates the secondary status it assigns to homosexual choice: if male supremacy ceased to exist, there would still be women, but there would be no lesbians.

So, finally, we come to the last quotation, the level of consciousness expressed by that suburban housewife: ". . . what do you do in bed?" That naive question represents the place where most women - even those in the Women's Movement - still are, and underlying that apparent naivete are all the old myths, fears, prejudices we have yet to dispel.

Gay women must take the lead within the Women's Movement in battling sexism in the guise of heterosexual chauvinism. We must educate that housewife, and we must be a thorn in the side of even our closest straight friends when they lapse into that heterosexual myopia, that not seeing us for ourselves, which is their cultural habit. For underneath the housewife's ignorance, and underneath the radical's political analysis alike, is a reluctance to see the complex humanness of gay women, a fear of confronting us and ourselves, and this fear obstructs the road to liberation.

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Native-American Children Stolen 21.

(CPF) Recently we ran the story of Norma Jean Serena, a Native American woman, who fought "child welfare" authorities to get back and keep her children and is suing officials who forced her sterilization. Her attorney commented that the case might seem bizarre but its elements are not uncommon. More and more, the wholesale abduction of Native American children is recognized as a conscious policy and regular practice of welfare departments and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

According to the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), 25 to 35 percent of all Indian children under 18 are taken away from their families by child-welfare officials and placed in foster homes, adoptive homes or institutions. AAIA is currently drafting a bill on the matter for the Senate.

Twenty-seven percent more are separated from their families by requirements that they attend BIA boarding schools and live in federal dormitories--often not because day schools cannot be set up, but "because welfare officials believe this is a more suitable environment for them than their home environment."

"The decision to take Indian children from their natural parents is, in most cases, carried out without due process of law and with little regard for the impact on the children, their families and the community," AAIA studies have indicated. "In judging the fitness of a particular family, many social workers, ignorant of Indian cultural values and social norms, make decisions that are wholly inappropriate."

The "proof" of unfitness usually consists of pointing to poor housing, lack of plumbing, shortage of food and overcrowding of many Native American homes; and the leaving of children with persons outside the nuclear family, a traditional practice in Native American societies, where looking after children is seen much more as a community responsibility than a merely parental one. The extended family is traditionally a strong caring unit in Native American culture.



Predatory Policy

In the past few years, child-welfare officials have become especially "predatory" in the taking away of Indian children, said AAIA director William Byler, because of the growing demand of middle-class whites for Indian children to adopt.

In some cases, a family with a problem will ask for the help of a welfare agency. Dr. Joseph Westermeyer, psychiatrist at the University of Minnesota, studies eight such cases. In seven of the eight, although the families sought financial assistance for food and shelter, no financial relief, treatment or counselling was given.

Instead, in every case, the welfare department summarily took the children away from their families and placed them with white foster parents. Nevertheless four of the families later overcame the attacks upon them as well as their original problems, regaining their children by fighting the very agency they had turned to for help.

Fighting Back

In a small, but increasing, number of cases, children and parents are reunited due to long and persistent struggles of parents and the AAIA legal counsel. One such case is that of Vivian Shomin, an Ottawa living in Peshawbestown, Michigan. While looking for a new place to live, Shomin left her six children with a close friend. The welfare case worker, instead of granting the assistance, obtained an emergency court order to have the children seized and placed in a "licensed" foster home. Shomin arrived minutes after the seizure and demanded her children back. The welfare department refused, and Shomin had to fight a nine-month legal battle before they were returned.

The Indian children who are taken for the nine-month school year either to BIA boarding schools or church-related school programs in distant states suffer greatly. The BIA boarding schools are often run more like prisons than schools, with army-like barracks and policies which treat visits with parents as a "privilege" depending on good behavior. The schools also consciously attempt to give Indian children an education that roots out all traces of their Indian heritage. Speaking their tribal languages is forbidden.

Some of the schools are designated as "reform" schools and have bars on the dorm windows. During an 18-month period a few years ago, 12 suicide attempts occurred at one BIA boarding school on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana. Students frequently attempt to run away from the BIA schools.

New Foster Parent Rules

Many Plains Indian tribes have adopted resolutions forbidding the placing of Indian children with non-Indian parents unless all channels by which the child might be cared for by other members of the same community have been exhausted. They are also demanding the rewriting of foster parent qualification laws so that Native American homes can qualify. The Northern Cheyennes have taken over a former BIA "reform school" in Busby, Mont., and now run their own school. In at least one case, Native Americans have taken up arms to defend their children from abduction--at the Devil's Lake (N.D.) Sioux reservation.

(Information from The Guardian.)

Accepting the Label "GAY"

It's probably safe to assume that everyone who reads the Post has some personality trait that is frowned upon and considered unusual by society at large. Because of all the pressures on us to conform, our first impulse is not to admit these traits, even to ourselves. We may assure ourselves that this is just a temporary interest, or push it so far back into our heads we think it's gone. Some people practice this deceit for a lifetime. But other of us, heedless of scorn and persecution, must finally admit, first to ourselves, then to others, "Yes! I'm a soap opera freak!"

This unmasking of self is called, "Coming Out." Its first stage is internal--revealing yourself to yourself, which can be harder than it sounds. If your unconventional little personality trait happens to be homosexuality, then this is the hardest step of all.

WHY?

An article in the March issue of Psychology Today asks the question, "Why use labels at all?" And it's true that a person's homosexuality may be transitory, of varying degrees, and of great or little importance to the individual involved. It may be mainly emotional or mainly sexual. It may depend on who s/he meets. And this was the problem with the old label, "homosexual." It implied permanence and uniformity, even though it was coined as a label for actions and feelings, not people. Hence the new/old word, Gay.

WHAT?

Gay is an old code word used by homosexual people in the early part of the century to identify each other. It is much more descriptive in its new use, than the old labels. For one thing, calling yourself "gay" isn't calling yourself a gay--it doesn't pick one aspect of your personality and make that the thing that defines the rest. Gay is defined as having an affectional and sexual preference for members of the same sex. This leaves a person free to take "gay" as a label of identity--for political or supportive, psychological reasons. Or s/he can downplay the importance of gayness in his/her personality, without being able to disregard it.

It used to be that married men would never consider that they were a "homosexual." But with the new label, a person must examine his/herself for preferences, and must look at not only sexual, but also emotional, behavior.

Gay does not imply permanence, even when used to connote an identity. It describes the way a person is now, so that a person can without qualms call her/himself gay even if he or she has heterosexual tendencies. This goes for lesbians, too; the problem with coming out of the closet as a lesbian used to be partly the confusion with accepting the label even though you'd gone through all the usual aspects of the women's role in dating or sex; often, you were married or divorced, and had borne children.

WHO?

People in all occupations, of varying interests, and of diverse cultures, call themselves gay. It is not a clinical term, and though defined, can describe an infinite number of personalities, since it only names one part of them. It has created unity among people sharing a common oppression and support to some who thought they were all alone. Gay is positive; it's a challenge; it's a name that doesn't stereotype. It's not as frightening as "homosexual."

So when someone tells you they're gay, don't feel that you can't relate to them any more. Gay people are radicals and mothers and president's sons. But they've got something special that they think is good.



VIDETTE BUNGLES REPORTING MAYDAY PLANNING SESSION

"Last fall, a few folks started talking about how to sustain the energy of last May's anti-M.E.G. demonstration and Alternative Rites, developing a program which has become 'Mayday.' Since the early discussion, things have been expanded and changed, so that 'Mayday' is more than an alternative Rites but a definite concept which has come into its own."

--Mayday background info leaflet

Following announcements on a campus-distributed leaflet, some forty to fifty people showed up at the Newman Center to start actual planning of the Mayday spring celebration.

By now plans for a Mayday event are well underway--though one might not get that impression if one read only the Illinois State University student paper--despite administrative ambivalence towards the event. (See adjoining story.)

This reporter attended the March 22 preliminary planning meeting with some 40 to 50 others, and to these eyes things seemed to be going great guns.

To other eyes, notably Vidette editor Brian Adair, things were less hunky dory.

It's not easy reporting planning session meetings. Everything in such a meeting is in a state of flux, primarily because so much is still in the idea stage and not fully developed.

The incautious reporter runs the risk of accepting too much or rejecting more than he/she should. It's even more difficult for the reporter when the meeting splits up into separate groups in different rooms. Picture the reporter scribbling notes, flitting from group to group, unsure if the ideas recorded of one group were discarded or kept after he/she left to eavesdrop elsewhere.

Pretty heart-rending, huh?

Perhaps it explains why the March 22 Mayday planning session was so lousily covered by the university student paper.

The Vidette's story come out three days after the fact: an usually tardy bit of reporting that set some people wondering. Did the Vidette, these people pondered, need to funnel the story through the ISU administration lest the piece prove too pro-Mayday?

The article's lead sentence set the tone for the rest of the article: "Although thousands of leaflets were distributed announcing Mayday's initial organizational meeting, only a handful of semi-curious, semi-interested individuals attended that function Monday night at Newman Center."

To say the article's approach was consistently wrong-headed would be to put the more generous interpretation on it. Editor Adair, reporting reporting the event, took the airy details of a planning and brainstorming workshop and hammered them into an article that inevitably twisted things out of shape.

Ignoring the facts that an event's success is measured in its happening and not many people as a rule attend planings, Vidette coverage can be faulted in a number of other areas.

The biggest is in its emphasis upon the unplanned aspects of the planning session.

Remember, many of the people attending the Mayday meeting that evening were doing so for the first time. In such a setting it's natural that not everything be covered.

Discussing, for instance, plans for an anti-M.E.G. march (without telling us how long it took to arrive at the decision to have one), the Vidette's story included the following: "Terry Corrigan, subcommittee organizer, emphasized it would be a 'peaceful march' but added he had no idea as to where the group would march."

Whether an anti-M.E.G. march ultimately happens at the Mayday celebration or not is irrelevant at this point because remember, we're only talking about a preliminary planning session. (Though this reporter to be sure, would like to see such a march take place.) What matters is the Vidette reporter's concentration on unfinished details as if the fact of their non-existence constituted grounds for criticism.

In fact, seven groups met that evening to work on planning events, and none of these groups got every single bit of the basics necessary to their area pinned down. Nobody in a preliminary meeting would expect them to.

These groups were: Arts and theatre, ecology, anti-M.E.G., music, nutrition, support, and women's issues.

Of these, the support group seemed to have the most concrete plans, having already begun work on getting clean-up and medical help prepared for the day

of the event. (Interestingly, this group's activities were not even described in the Vidette.)

Other groups, having to deal with not just the planning of events but the content and approach to what they were planning for, necessarily lagged. The ecology, M.E.G., nutrition, and women's groups, working from the perspective of Mayday as an educational event, devoted much of their time discussing what they felt should be covered. The arts and theatre group planned to contact interested campus and off-campus organizations.

The music group never even got off the ground that night due to the absence of its coordinators and the somewhat iffy attitude I.S.U. administrators have taken toward the idea of Mayday music.

All in all, there really wasn't much concrete enough for a reporter to sink his/her chisel into, and this reporter had little intention himself of even reporting it.

Preliminary planning sessions, he felt, often don't bear that much resemblance to the finished product anyway.

But then, of course, the Vidette came along and gave this reporter something to write about.

D.C.

Any morning's April 1, 1976

Vidette

Vol. 88 Content O Illinois State University Normal-Bloomington, Ill.

365 Consecutive Times No One Notices

Vidette Re- Prints Same Issue

by Brian Ahair Editor Maximus

Although over 14,000 Videttes were distributed on the campus today, students greeted the event with a yawn and an occasional groan. A handful of semi-curious, semi-interested individuals bothered to pick the paper up.

The morning's excitement began when trucks delivered the paper around the campus. The awakening students picked the publication up, and immediately fell back to sleep.

Headlines on various topics excited the eye: "Potholes repair on School Street," "Reagan's Younger Brother

Visits Campus," "Union Bricks Red," and "President Budg admits being Euthanized." The stories were complete with blurred photos of trees waving on the quad.

Stimulation was added to many stories through careful misquotation and blatant use of quotes out of context.

Brian Ahair, editor of ISU's reigning publication, explained, "No comment. I just hope to be Pantagraph editor someday."

The Vidette, however, emphasized that it is cultivating a new image. "We hope to expand our coverage of Normal politics, especially the City

Council session. We really think this will live up our copy."

The Vidette reaffirmed its commitment to blandness, and promised to continue striving to erase all signs of life.

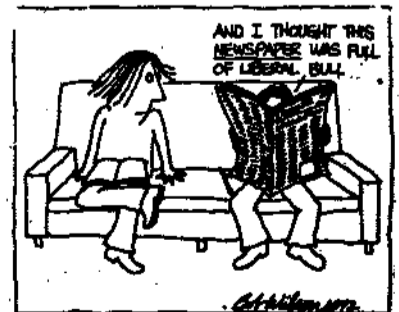
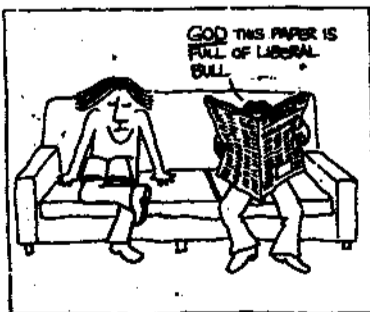
President Budg added, "Without the Vidette, we might have an active and exciting campus. The Vidette does its best to promote normalcy. I personally consult daily with the editor, making sure nothing of value ever enters the paper's pages."

Although no one has yet to read the paper, it continues to appear on campus, even though the students have never been asked if this is how they want their fee money spent.

Grammar School Secrets Revealed!

Inside: Why I HAD to Leave Nebraska-Pres. Budg

Here's a reduced version of a Vidette parody leaflet which circulated a few days after the newspaper's botched MayDay coverage.



ADMINISTRATION TAKES STAND ON MAYDAY

21

Plans for Mayday celebrating are proceeding full tilt; I.S.U. administrators may be wishing organizers of the event would go away and forget about it, but the forces behind the Spring celebration won't be ignored.

Because of this Hovey Hall has been forced to take a stand on the event.

As it appears now, they're standing on one leg.

To put it in terms used by planners in an explanatory leaflet: "The administration is very sensitive about the musical aspects of Mayday. At this point in time 'formal approval' is still lacking."

I.S.U. administrator Neil Gamsky approved the idea of Mayday (rather; he said the university had no problems

with it) while nixing plans for music as part of the event. The rest of the program: arts and crafts, theatre, forums and communications on M.E.G., women, ecology, and nutrition, all meet with carte blanche approval from Hovey Hall.

The rationale seems to be this: music is entertainment; all the rest is education.

I.S.U. Student Association President Byron Tuggle (who distinguished himself at last year's alternative "Rites of Spring" by slugging sundry souls who disagreed with him) also came out with a statement on Mayday. He said he would not favor the event "if it's going to jeopardize our Rites of Spring."

The "our" in the above quote is worth noting. "Rites of Spring" is touted as a university musical event open

only to members of the I.S.U. community; Mayday has been planned as something different: a community/university happening by and for students and people outside the university.

Last year's university "Rites of Spring" was so oppressive in tone it spurred an alternative "Rites." The vibes put out by this year's planners--as represented by Tuggle--seem strikingly familiar. Label it: chauvinistic distaste for anybody outside the hallowed halls of State U.

At present "Rites of Spring" seems to have full approval from the administration--no complaints about music here--which should at least help protect Mayday from Tuggle's evil eye.

Which pretty much explains where the powers and pseudo-powers that be on campus currently seem to be coming from in regards to Mayday.

THE LAW

-for W. Holley

Archetype of my time. Shuffling through the prisons, madhouses, hospitals--scrambling out of deserts to the mountains and the beaches, I scribbled as I passed by, leaving my signal perversion behind. On the public walls I inscribed my sublime poetry, disappointing those who set after me, seeking pornography. On the finest bond I inscribed obscenities, angering the censors who rightly expected beauty and uplifting epigrams. Delighting in the perverse, I took especial perverse delight in disappointing all my audience, frustrating every potential, finally arriving at my goal, the brink of nothingness where, perversely enough, I was finally frustrated. For to pass over, I would be forced to murder, and this I refused to do, if only because my need to murder was so strong.

Archetype of perversity. All the scenes infamous for their high level of anarchy. The momentary purge of violence, the graceful scenes hazed with the smoke of our singular selves. I was a poet driven mad by Beauty's whispering song and madder still by my own demands for the absolute innocence of all. I tried to kill Her as She whispered in my ear--Ah woman, how many times I strangled you only to remove my hands from your throat at the last moment, hoping for a sudden gift of grace.



The instinct which compelled me to seek relationships with others who were not myself I considered the most perverse of all my instincts. But I allowed myself this perversity because it allowed me to convert some of these others by bringing them within the jurisdiction of my own organisation. There I preached the ultimate organisation, total chaos. But I tired of this. I formed my own laws. I ruled against myself and declared that between myself and all other things no relationship was to exist. And I laughed upon discovering the impossibility of enforcing such a law.

I found, then, one final law. I found I must learn to overwhelm life with my passion. Until I learned this singular skill, I would not be allowed to live my life fully. And since the only Good I could know was life, always and ever more life, I sought with all my cunning and power to learn this skill. Knowing also that I must die, I realized absurdity. But now I sensed that I would never really know--and I acted as if my actions really mattered. And I loved.

by Wm. Wantling

10,000 rpm & digging it, yeah!

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Announcing The Law & Justice Study Group

24

sponsored by MC CELJ

WHAT IS MC CELJ?

The McLean County Community Education on Law and Justice Study Group is composed of local citizens who want to learn more about the criminal justice system in Illinois. This group has been formed with funding from the statewide CELJ project. CELJ is funded by a grant from the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission to Citizens Information Service, the education arm of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

WHO IS MC CELJ?

This program is open to ALL interested members of the community. It is completely free. It will work only to the extent that true citizen participation is involved. If you are interested in criminal justice on the local level -- our police, our jails, our criminal courts, our local preventive programs, etc. -- this is your opportunity to learn

more about how they operate.

WHAT WILL MC CELJ DO?

MC CELJ will undertake a study of the criminal justice system. The purpose is to increase citizens' knowledge so that we may eventually participate in supporting good programs and helping improve unsatisfactory ones. The decision as to how and where to get involved remains in the hands of class members. Or, you may decide just to take advantage of an opportunity to learn about the criminal justice system which affects us all.

WHERE WILL THE MC CELJ STUDY GROUP MEET?

MC CELJ will meet once a week for approximately 8 weeks. Meetings will be Thursdays from 7-9 p. m. at the Unitarian Church, 1613 E.

Emerson St., Bloomington. Babysitting will be provided free of charge. If you need transportation, please call 454-2236 (evenings) to arrange for a ride. First class -- April 1, 1976.

MC CELJ AGENDA

Once again, the agenda for this study group will reflect the interests and concerns of the participants. In a democracy, government must be accessible to its citizens. They must be able to obtain information, and to use that information to make government responsive to human needs. This premise is at the heart of the CELJ program to help all kinds of people get information about their criminal justice systems, and to encourage active participation in those systems.

For more information, call 454-2236.

CHICAGO UFW LAUNCHES SUN-MAID AND SUNSWEET BOYCOTT

Chicago area supporters of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) launched the UFW's new boycott of Sun-Maid raisins and Sunsweet products by picketing area food stores. The actions came in response to the UFW's announcement that Sun-Maid and Sunsweet were to be held responsible for halting farm labor elections in California.

Mark Pitt, UFW Midwest Director, announced the boycott and stated, "A group of growers, led by Sun-Maid and Sunsweet with the help of a few obstructionist legislators, have brought about the collapse of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB). In doing so they have chosen strikes and boycotts over elections and negotiations."

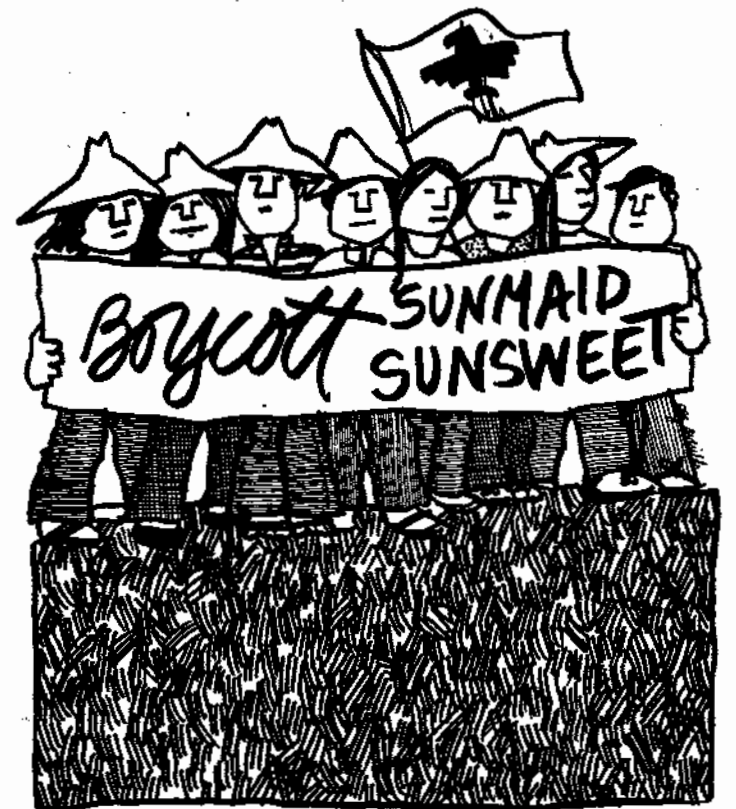
The Sun-Maid and Sunsweet boycott was announced in response to the closing of the California ALRB on February 6, 1976. The ALRB was forced to halt all elections and hearings after it exhausted the funds for administering the elections and requested emergency appropriations. Sun-Maid and Sunsweet led a grower lobbying effort which successfully blocked the emergency funding.

Cesar Chavez, UFW President, called upon consumers and food stores to cooperate with the boycott in order to obtain the necessary funds and enable the elections to continue. Referring to Sun-Maid and Sunsweet he stated, "We're going to pin them to the wall." The UFW appears to be doing just that. At the end of the first two weeks of the new boycott over 80 stores nationwide, 70 of them in Chicago, were cooperating with the boycott of Sun-Maid and Sunsweet products.

The products being boycotted are: Sun-Maid raisins, Sunsweet prunes and dried fruit products and Diamond Walnuts. The UFW's boycott of grapes, head lettuce and Gallo Wines is also still in effect.

At the closing of the ALRB, the UFW had won 205 elections representing 31,051 workers; Teamsters taking 109 races representing 12,800 workers; no union coming away with 22 wins nonrepresenting 3,028. Another 44 elections representing 12,574 workers are still undecided. This includes many of the major growers, among them Gallo Winery.

For more info, contact Steve Pittman or Kathy Devine.



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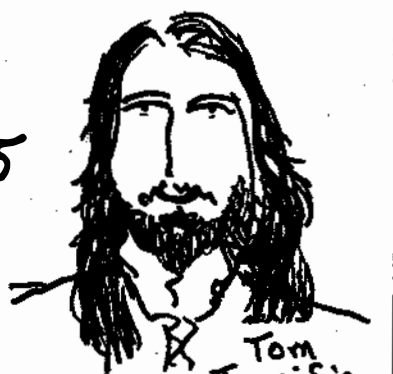
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Tom Terrific

COMIX REVIEW



An Army of Principles

by Leonard Rifas
(with an assist by others)

This is no lightweight under-ground. An Army of Principles is no less than an attempt at describing in comix form events and principles that lead up to the American revolution. As such, this is a very dense, prosey comic, filled with lots of lengthy (though fascinating) quotes from both famous and pseudonymous revolutionaries.

Leonard Rifas, artist, writer and researcher of An Army of Principles places this statement at the book's beginning: "An Army of Principles is intended as historical fact and not as satire, legend, or propaganda for my own opinions. . . I claim full responsibility for any factual errors and for parts that are harder to understand or less visually appealing."

This is one sincere comic. One can see it being used in classrooms, in fact, more than one can see reading it in leisure. Too much of the book is strictly historical to be entertaining in the way the book could have been had Rifas been satirical or propagandistic.

I like books like this, though, primarily for the neat quotes they give you. Here's one I'm dying to use in my next letter to The Pantagraph:

"It is acknowledged to be an unalterable law in nature, that a man should have the free use and sole disposal of the fruit of his honest industry, subject to no controul."
Sam Adams

They don't make quotes that good no more.

As a cartoonist, Rifas has an appealing style with that sort of stylized distortion of perspective I associate with early American political prints and cartoons. Much of the time the art nicely complements the prose; sometimes Rifas gets wordy, though. (At least once he unnecessarily repeats information.)

Still, this is one piece of Bicentennial lit that I, for one, don't mind. I only hope it gets disseminated in the area. Some of the info, like Abigail and John Adams' argument on women's place after the revolution and the discussion of Whig and Democrat struggles after the revolution, is extremely valuable and nice to have so readily at hand.

America's first revolutionaries weren't always blindly worshipped nor even necessarily seen at the time as clear leaders of the colonial majority. (England thought American revolutionaries a noisy dictatorial minority, British General James Robertson once stating, "I never had an idea of subduing the Americans; I mean to assist the good Americans subdue the bad.")

Personally, I appreciate anything that helps to successfully humanize this country's history. An Army of Principles' honest historical sense helps to do away with the bad taste of corporate and political exploitation of our past. For that I'm grateful.

SEND A MESSAGE TO WALL STREET




Classy Fried Ads

WANTED: My own room in a house or apartment with several women. Can afford around \$50.00 rent. Call Lynn at 828-6828 if you are looking for the same kind of situation.

* The Post wishes Cindy a rapid *
* recovery and hopes that by the *
* next issue she will be able to *
* turn the pages by herself. *

Beginning beekeeper looking for someone to talk to about beekeeping. I've got lots of questions the books don't seem to answer. Call 829-3576 and ask for Ann.

LAST CHANCE! Yes, this is the last chance I have to sneak in a classified ad for issue two of Ludicrous Situations, Ltd., the midwest's beloved unknown humor tabloid, because issue three is just around the corner! (You can get a copy of two (and one) right now, tho, by sending 75¢ to LSLtd, P.O. Box 872 Bloomington Illinois 61701.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG, AND WITH IT COMES NEW FASHIONS FOR MEN, AS WELL AS FOR WOMEN

AT YAH-TA-HEY YOU WILL FIND THE LATEST IN SPRING JEWELRY FASHIONS FOR THE MOST CARE-FREE INDIVIDUAL TO THE MOST CONSERVATIVE. SELECT YOUR FAVORITE FROM A WIDE ARRAY OF BEAUTIFULLY HAND-CRAFTED INDIAN SILVER AND TURQUOISE JEWELRY.

CHOOSE FROM THE TRADITIONAL DESIGNS OF CAST SILVER AND TURQUOISE OF THE NAVAJO; TO THE EXCELLENT NEEDLEPOINT AND INTRICATE CHANNEL INLAY OF THE ZUNI TRIBE; TO THE MORE CONTEMPORARY DESIGNS CREATED BY HOPI SILVERSMITHS...

CHUCK SNELLING HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ANOTHER BUYING TRIP IN NEW MEXICO, AND WITH HIM HE'S BROUGHT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SELECTION OF INDIAN SILVER AND TURQUOISE JEWELRY YOU CAN IMAGINE AND AT PRICES YOU WILL BELIEVE!

HUNDREDS OF LADIES' RINGS RANGING FROM \$8 - \$40
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CHOKERS OF SHELL AND TURQUOISE ANYWHERE FROM \$24 - \$70
(FEATURING X-TRA LONG CHOKERS ESPECIALLY FOR MEN!)

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If you're looking for that "just right" piece of jewelry to set off your new spring clothes, come to YAH-TA-HEY, the leaders in fashionable jewelry.


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AUTHENTIC INDIAN JEWELRY

CENTER & WASHINGTON
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HOURS: 11 am - 6 pm

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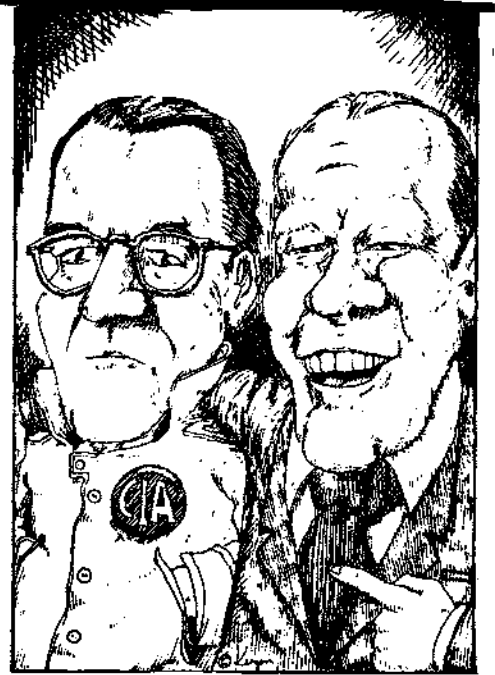
(LNS)--The editor and staff of Portland State University's student newspaper have refused to run paid recruitment ads from the CIA since the school year began in September. The CIA has complained to the president of the Oregon university and since then the administration has tried to fire the Vanguard's editor and business manager.

PRAYER STRIKE

New York (LNS)--Workers at an Erie Pennsylvania hospital construction site successfully protested unsafe working conditions by taking 15 minute "prayer breaks" every hour. This action was used to circumvent strike limitations on hospital construction sites.

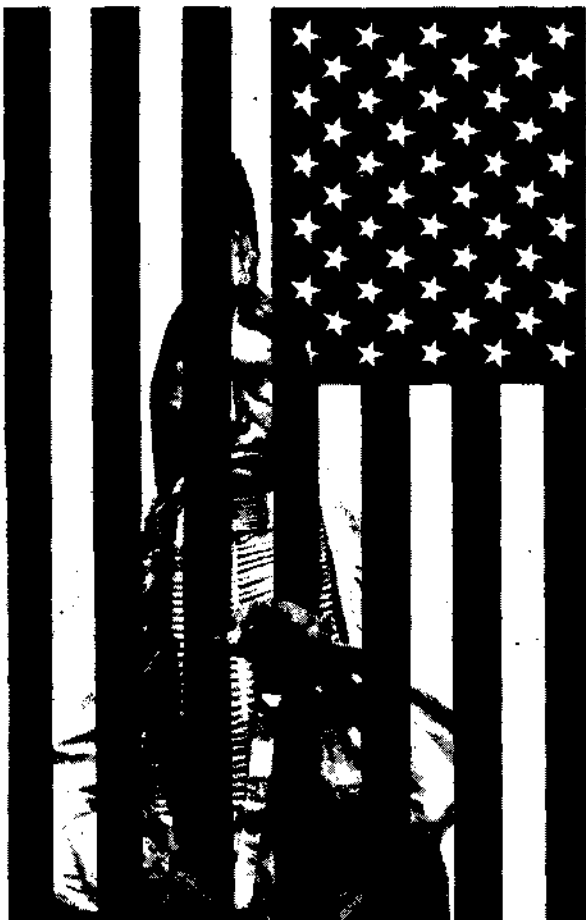
A number of injuries had occurred on the job, so workers paused for 15 minutes every hour "to thank the good lord that they had got through the hour without a serious accident," and to ask that the next hour would be safe.

The contractors agreed to a settlement the next day.



Director Colby here tells me, "Sure the CIA's sneaky, but compared to the rest of the world we don't use that much intelligence."

ALTERNATIVE NEWS



POLICE MURDER MENOMINEES

New York (LNS)--Two Menominee Indians were killed by an officer of the sheriff's department on the night of February 3rd. Although the Shawano County District Attorney refuses to release the autopsies, a medical student who was in the hospital's emergency room when the two men were brought in charges that the two were shot in the back.

The two had been involved in the takeover of the Alexian Brothers' Novitiate, begun last January 1st. Five Menominees have been charged with felonies in connection with the takeover, and one of the murdered men was included in the group.

NASHVILLE CANS ANTHEM

(LNS)--After a six-month trial run, movie theater managers in Nashville, Tennessee have stopped playing the national anthem before movie showings. Playing the anthem sparked fights between those who stood up for it and those who didn't. One of the managers noted that nearly everyone stood up in affluent areas of the city, while almost no one stood up elsewhere. "I guess the more affluent sections of town feel better about the country," he observed.

SCIENTISTS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY

(LNS)--In a recent survey of its membership, the Federation of American Scientists revealed that nearly two-thirds of its members favor a complete halt in construction or phasing out of all nuclear power plants in the United States.

Zappa Zaps Army

(THE RAG)--When a reporter for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command interviewed Frank Zappa for the Command's news syndicate, the story was held by a superior who demanded that Zappa--who had been rather hard on the Army--answer one more question: Just who does he think will defend the country without the Army? Zappa's reply: "From what? The biggest threat to America today is its own federal government...Will the Army protect anybody from the FBI? The IRS? The CIA? The Republican party? The Democratic party?... The biggest dangers we face today don't even need to sneak past our billion-dollar defense system...they issue the contracts for them." The interview was not run.

POLLUTION CONTROL CREATES JOBS

(LNS)--Attacking the industry-created myth that pollution controls lead to loss of jobs, a Bureau of Labor Statistics study said that pollution control measures have created 1.1 million jobs since 1971.

Ingredients Mislead

New York (LNS)--A can of Mug Old-Fashioned Root Beer states that it is "made from the purest, finest ingredients, according to an old-fashioned recipe handed down for generations."

On the other side of the can, a different story emerges. Included in the list of ingredients, as required by law, are natural and artificial flavors, vegetatable gum and food starch--modified and preserved with sodium benzoate and erthorbic acid.

J. Edgar Falsifies Fonda

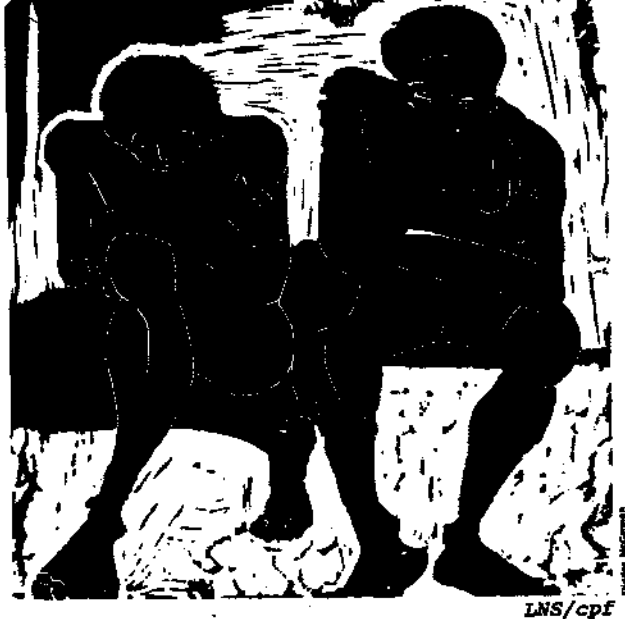
(LNS)--A recently released FBI document indicates former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover authorized local Bureau agents to send inflammatory, false information concerning Jane Fonda to Variety magazine. The information was sent to Variety columnist Army Archerd in an attempt to discredit Fonda and "detract from her status with the general public," according to Hoover's memorandum.

U.N. OKAYS BLOCKADE

New York (LNS)--The United Nations Security Council voted 15-0 March 17 to send economic aid to Mozambique to help that country maintain its recent blockade against the white minority regime in neighboring Rhodesia. The United Nations has maintained economic sanctions against the minority regime since 1968, three years after Rhodesia unilaterally declared independence from Britain.

PANTHER SUIT EXPOSES COINTELPRO

Through the extensive questioning of three Chicago FBI agents and the introduction into evidence of some 40 internal FBI documents, plaintiffs in the multimillion dollar Black Panther civil suit have established the existence of an FBI counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO) directed against the Black Panther party. With this first phase of the trial completed, the plaintiffs--the families of Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and survivors of the December 4, 1969 raid in which the two were killed--will go on to show how the goals of the COINTELPRO led directly to the murder of the Panther leaders. One of COINTELPRO's main objectives was "to prevent the rise of a black messiah who could electrify the black masses" and "to cripple and destroy" the Black Panther Party.



LNS/cpf

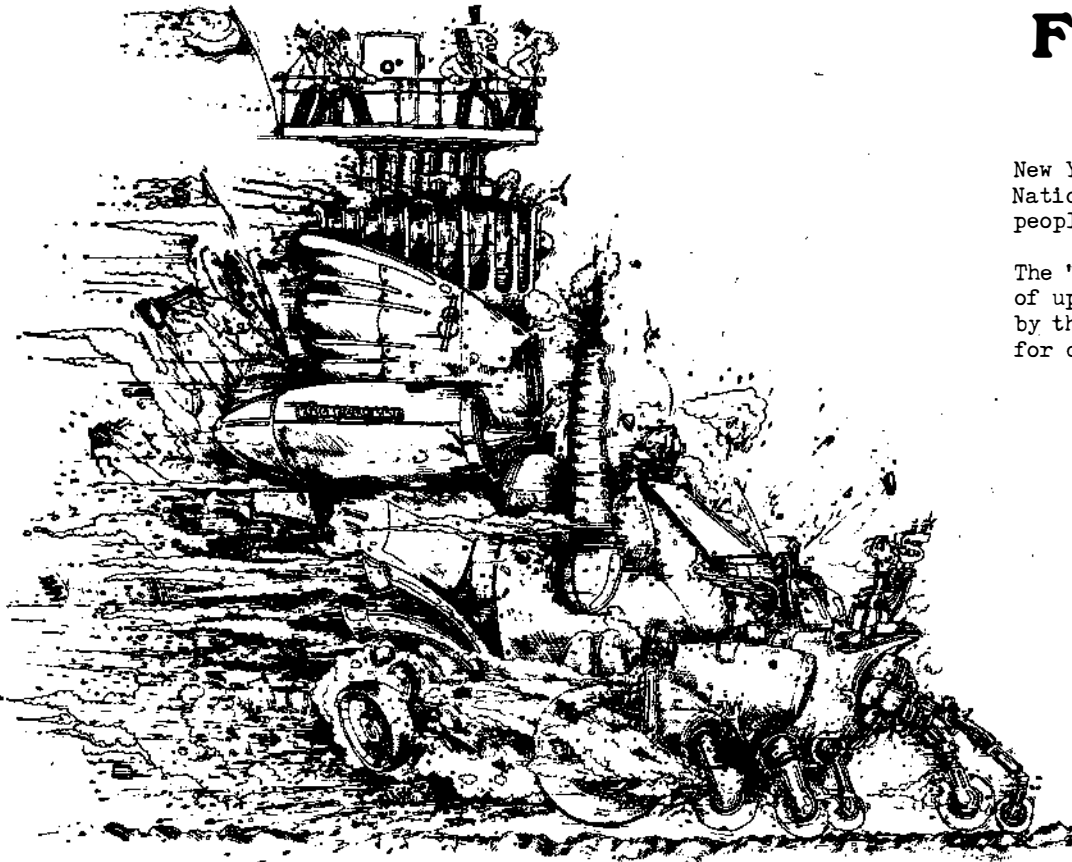
SERVICE BRIEFS

EXXON DIGS the GRAND CANYON

New York (LNS)--If you've been thinking about going to see the Grand Canyon, you'd better plan on going soon. According to Not Man Apart, the publication of Friends of the Earth, the Exxon Oil Corporation has been granted several government permits to explore for uranium in the western reaches of the canyon.

The leases, granted by the Secretary of the Interior, are located in a portion of the Grand Canyon Recreation Area. Lands inside the section designated as National Park are closed to mining. Environmentalists have been trying for years to get the remote site included in the National Park.

Exxon's exploration of the area will, of course, remove it from future consideration.



THE BICENTENNIAL PUSHER

(LNS)--Drug dealers are now joining other businesses in the Bicentennial push. According to anti-drug Dr. Robert W. Baird, bags are now being imprinted with a golden eagle encircled by 13 stars on a white background.

MARINES DESERT

(LNS)--Marine General Louis Wilson recently testified before a Senate committee that in 1975, one out of every ten Marines deserted; and almost four out of every ten Marines were given some form of non-judicial punishment.

EGGHEADED RACISM

New York (LNS)--"Which of the following communities multiplies most rapidly?:

- A. Rodents
- B. Rabbits
- C. Negroes
- D. Benthos
- E. Plankton"

This was a question in Professor Louis Williams' biology exam last spring at the University of Alabama. Despite sharp protests from the black student community, the university administration shrugged off the incident, stating that "it was a biological question...and was not intended to imply prejudice."

The president of the university, David Matthews, was recently appointed to President Ford's cabinet as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Matthews is now in charge of implementing college desegregation as ordered by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

ACLU STILL LOOKING FOR MAYDAY ARREST VICTIMS

New York (LNS)--The American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capitol area is still looking for more than 500 people arrested illegally in the Mayday insurrection of 1971.

The "Mayweek 500" are among 1318 persons entitled to damages of up to \$10,000 awarded by a jury last January. Those affected by the case are urged to act quickly as a court imposed deadline for claiming the money expires this spring.

RHETORICAL QUESTION BEGS \$26,000 ANSWER

(LNS)--The state of North Carolina, commonly recognized to have a court and prison system second worst only to Alabama, recently awarded a \$26,650 grant to North Carolina State University to find out what it is that makes prisoners want to escape.

GAS SHORTAGE EVAPORATES

New York (D&S/LNS)--Sure enough, once the Federal Power Commission allowed natural gas producers to temporarily raise prices, the predicted eight-state natural gas shortage failed to materialize.

Energy companies with wells in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma had been holding gas off the regulated interstate market in order to sell it on the unregulated markets in the producing states.

When the FDC agreed to allow unregulated "emergency" interstate sales the companies came up with billions of cubic feet of gas which they sold for \$2.62 per thousand cubic feet instead of the regulated \$1.00 price.

UPPITY KIDS

We've got a serious problem in this country. Between 1/2 million and 2 million (conservative estimate) kids are on amphetamines and powerful-amphetamine-like drugs. Why? To suppress their "hyperactive behavior" or "hyperkinesis."

What exactly is "hyperkinesis"? That's hard to say, because the "authorities" can't even agree on a definition or term to describe the "condition." The symptoms can range from an "increase of purposeless physical activity and a significantly impaired span of focussed attention" (office of HEW), to a description like "fidgets, can't sit still, is often into things that don't concern him (sic), daydreams, is slow to getting ready for school, or going to bed, doesn't follow directions, looks for thrills or danger, shows off, gets wound up or over-excited on trips or treats, wets bed, has poor coordination, not good at sports, speech was slow in developing, not clear, has or had difficulty in learning to read."

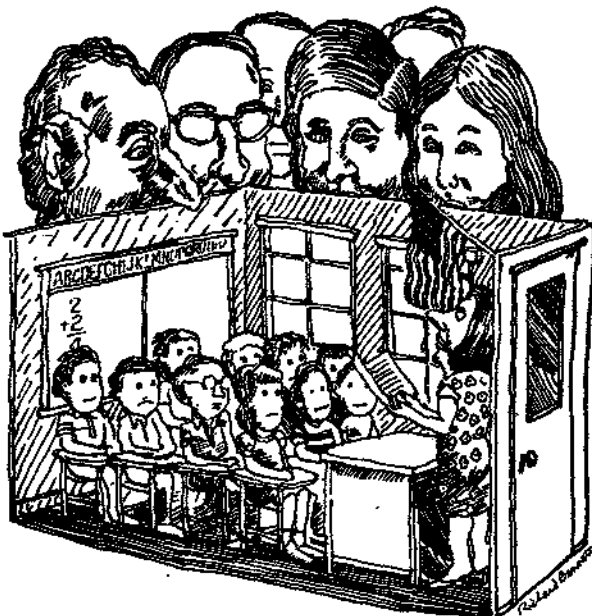
Psychiatric gobbledygoop

These symptoms are variously referred to as hyperkinesis, hyper kinetic behavior disorder, minimal brain dysfunction, functional behavior problems, overactivity, hyperactivity, hyperkinetic child syndrome, cerebral dysfunction, faulty neurological integration, minimal brain damage, dyslexia handicapped, neurologically handicapped, etc. So what we have is very vague terms for very vague symptoms--but a very specific "cure." Whatever, most children are taken off medication between the ages of 12-17 years.

What are these drugs? Paradoxically, drugs that act as stimulants on adults reduce activity in "hyperactive" children. Dexedrine (an amphetamine) and Ritalin (a methylphenidate) are the drugs used most often to control kids. Some "authorities" believe that these drugs improve the attention span of children and thus the hyperactivity is reduced. Others believe that these drugs sedate the child; hence, activity is decreased. Still other authorities feel that a hyperactive child's brain signals are too rapid, hence the "erratic behavior." The drugs slow down the signals, they believe, thus slowing down the behavior.

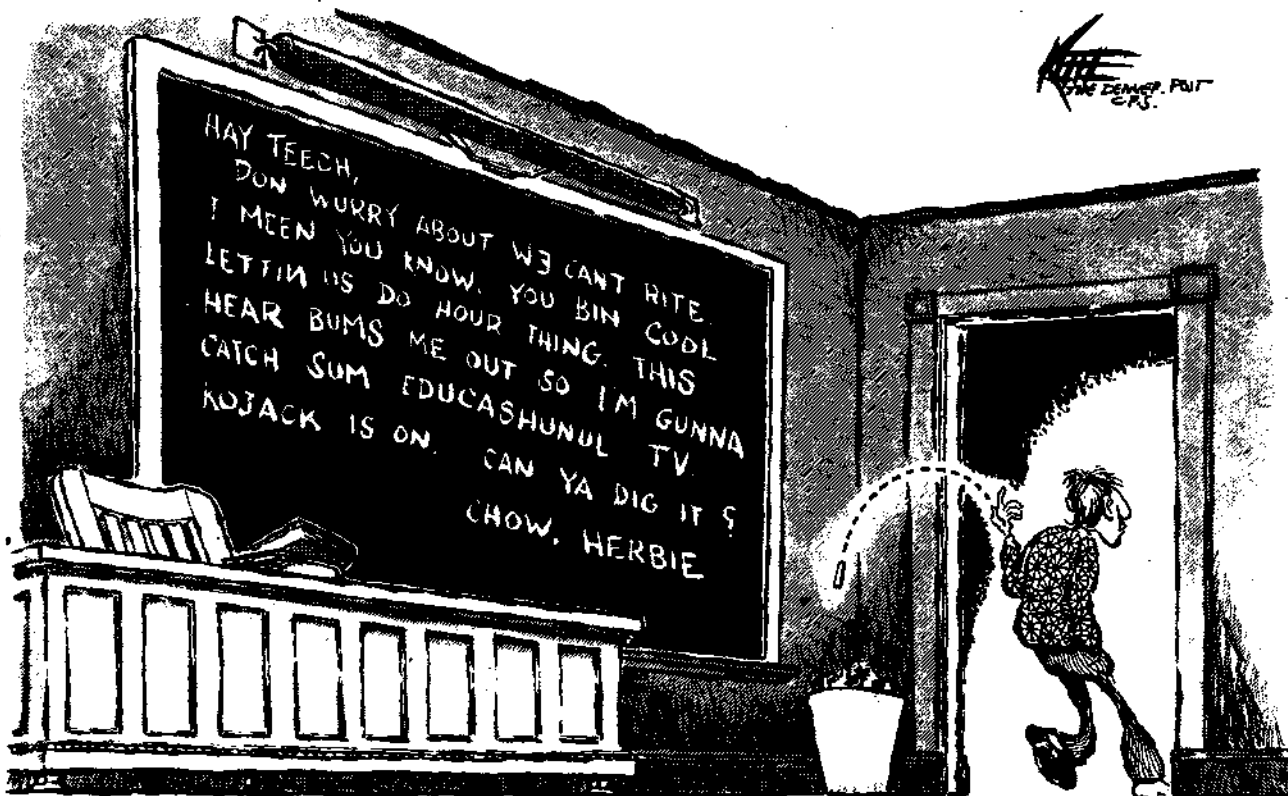
Professional ignorance

The "professionals" who espouse the use of these drugs claim that they are safe. However, the Physicians Desk Reference (1973) cautions the use of Ritalin. The side effects are nervousness, insomnia, hypersensitivity (rash, fever, nausea, dizziness, headache, palpitation, weight loss, possible toxic psychosis).



These drugs are appetite depressants. Therefore, weight loss occurs. It's possible that overall growth could be affected.

Blood pressure changes slightly due to the use of the drugs. The damage that long-term use can cause is uncertain because of the lack of controlled studies.



The authorities don't believe that a child will become physically addicted to the drugs, but certainly there is evidence of psychological addiction. An M.D. in California stopped prescribing amphetamines for children when he realized that some patients relied on them for as long as 20 years. One 26 year old patient had been on Ritalin since he was 8 years old. His entire personality was developed under the influence of the drug.

Brave new world

What would he have been like without Ritalin, which "protects" the individual from the effects of all strong emotion? Deep sorrow and strong happiness are suppressed by they drug, depriving the individual of important aspects of life.

These children are regarded by society as drug addicts. Gradual tolerance to the drug often necessitates an increase in dosage, and it is possible that a child could become physically addicted. The self-fulfilling prophecy phenomenon could easily occur. The kid might figure, when s/he is in the teens and no longer "hyperactive," that since s/he has always "needed" the drug, s/he might as well continue to use it, and become an addict.

Sit still-or else!

So who's pushing these drugs? The schools, for one. Frequently, a child is not diagnosed as hyperactive until s/he starts school. Teachers put much pressure on parents to put the kids on drugs. The physician who prescribes these drugs doesn't usually even see the child's behavior in a normal setting.

Naturally, the drug companies are in favor of increasing the use of drugs, cause it means more bucks for them.

Last, but not least, the biggest pushers of them all is good ol' Uncle Sam. It's easier to keep things under control when you've got a nation of zombies.

What causes "hyperactivity"? Unfortunately, most physicians, teachers, and parents don't look for causes. They are satisfied with eliminating the annoying symptoms. There are, however, several theories about the causes of "hyperactivity."

Some feel that these children have a brain dysfunction. How do they know? The truth is, there is not proof. In addition, symptoms usually disappear in the teens, disproving the possibility of permanent dysfunction. Dr. John Peters of the University of Arkansas Medical Center, sums up the spurious logic thus: "It is not known exactly the underlying organic condition or psychological condition behind MBD (minimal brain dysfunction)

We feel it has to do with some dysfunction of the brain and we have to go mainly by analogy between children who have known brain damage, and their behavior, and children who do not have known brain damage, but do have identical behavior, so by deduction we assume that there has to be some dysfunction in the brain."

Boob tube and bulb to blame?

John Ott of the Environmental Health and Light Research Institute in Sarasota, Florida, believes that inadequate fluorescent lighting in schools may be a cause of hyperactivity, or at least a cause of stress that alters the body so that hyperactivity results. Most fluorescent lighting lacks long ultraviolet wave-lengths and lacks protective shields at cathode ends which would prevent the escape of X-rays. Few of these lamps are grounded for radio frequencies.

Plants and animals were the subjects of Ott's early experiments. Laboratory animals become hyperactive when exposed to radio and television frequencies. Plants did poorly when placed near the cathode end of a fluorescent bulb and flowers wouldn't bloom when the long ultraviolet waves were missing. Mr. Ott has designed a fluorescent bulb that is grounded, has long ultraviolet wavelengths, and has shields over its cathode end. "Hyperactive" children have been the subjects in many Ott studies, using time-lapse photography. When faulty lighting was replaced by the Ott bulb, there was a marked decrease in physical activity of these hyperactive kids. He also discovered that some of the hyperactive students in a special school in Sarasota came from homes that had X-ray-leaking television sets. When the sets were removed or repaired, the children were no longer hyperactive.



DOWNED OUT

Junk food jumps

Dr. Ben F. Feingold believes that the artificial colors and flavors that are prevalent in so many of the processed foods that make up a majority of our diets, is the culprit. He believes that hyperactive children are genetically constituted in such a way that they have no natural tolerance for synthetic flavoring and colors, or foods with the natural salicylate radical (similar to aspirin's acetylsalicylic acid)--hence the Feingold synthetic flavor and color-free diet, which has been very effective in controlling hyperactive behavior in children. The only problem with the diet is that even the smallest infraction of the diet results in a return, within hours, of hyperactive behavior, which may last for days.

School daze

Perhaps the cause of "hyperactivity" in many cases is the result of teachers or schools whose classroom routine is not sufficiently stimulating to hold the interest of some children. Maybe, the time allotted for assignments is too long, and the children are ready to move on to other things. A child's "hyperactivity" may be the acting out of the immaturity and/or anxiety of a parent. Some adults cannot handle ordinary infant behavior, like crying, or soiling diapers. Dr. Mark A. Stewart, a psychiatrist on the faculty at Washington U., puts it this way: "The inadequacies of the parents and teachers are projected on the child, who pays the penalty of being drugged into submission."

Robots: Ideal students

Psychosurgery is a drastic measure

taken to straighten out a hyperactive child. Unfortunately, it permanently alters the individual personality, the results being similar to the old-fashioned lobotomy--the person becomes a robot of sorts.

Positive and negative reinforcement in classrooms can achieve the same results (reduction in physical activity) as drugs do, minus the aforementioned side effects. Obviously, it would not be effective in cases where hyperactivity is due to diet or faulty lighting. Positive reinforcement seems to work with some "hyperactive" children. They are rewarded for such things as sitting, making eye contact with the teacher, and engaging in academically-related activities. Eventually, the child is rewarded for academic performance only, and disruptive behavior must be repressed in order for the child to receive positive reinforcement.

Bruno Bettelhem, psychiatrist, says, "When active people, especially children, are forced into passive behavior, counter to their very nature, they will fight back as best they can. Many adults show all the behavior characteristics of the hyperkinetic child: high energy, aggressiveness, lack of inhibition, insistence on having their own way. These traits are often highly valued by society because they help make for success in life--"

After doing a good deal of research into hyperkinesis, I have come to the conclusion that in many cases, there is nothing wrong with "hyperactive" children. As T.A. Vonder Haar sums up the problem, "47.5% of the American people are on drugs. Have our sensitivities been so dulled that

we're freaked out by childlike innocence, excitement, and curiosity? Have we finally found it necessary to suppress human growth? If this is what we are doing to ourselves and to each other, the consequences for our future have yet to be imagined!"

A shocking future?

Things look bad now, but what does the future hold for our children? This will give you an idea of what advocates of mind control have in store for us. Dr. Arnold Hutschnecher, a psychiatrist and consultant to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, submitted to Nixon a plan to administer psychological tests to every American child between six and eight years of age. If the results showed a propensity toward violence or any abnormal behavior, the child would be committed to a "rehabilitation camp." Says Dr. Hutschnecher, "There are Pavlovian methods I have seen effectively used in the USSR."

John Ehrlichman referred it to the Dept. of HEW, where it died after public disclosure.

Here's what some influential "educators" are predicting. . . In the NEA Journal of January 1969, Harold Shane and June Grant predict that by 1979, school faculties would include a biochemical therapy programs. Shane and Grant feel that memory improvement chemicals will be used extensively by 1979.

--by Andromeda

AESTHETICS NEARLY WIN OVER TRAFFIC PLANING SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?

In what became an embarrassing interplay between Bloomington traffic planners, residential interests, and the Bloomington City Council, the intersection at Regency Drive and Washington Street will keep its "mast arm" traffic signals.

The intersection, which is quickly becoming one of the busiest on the east side, was going to have suspended traffic lights plus regular corner post signals. The contract for the signals was awarded last November to Wannemacher Electric, despite the fact that the City Council had already implied that it did not want the signals as long ago as last September.

Former Bloomington Mayor Robert McGraw, whose home is located at the intersection, approached the council and asked that it dispense with the plans for the signals because of their cost and ugliness. But the Council was in a bind--it couldn't dispense with plans for the signals because of the cost of cancelling the contract with Wannemacher, and they wanted to take advantage of the State's offer to pay 70% of the cost of installing the signals. Additionally, Mayor Bittner said that the council originally considered installing signals at the intersection because of requests from other neighborhood residents.

So nobody wants the traffic signals, except for motorists and the city engineer Dale Ballinger. In a practical sense, Ballinger's stand that the signals will really be needed in a few years makes sense. The aesthetic point of view, voiced mostly by Councilperson Buchanan, also has its merits. The difference between these two points of view stems from the lack of urban planning.

Washington Street eastbound is used by people wanting access to U.S. 66, State Farm employees, residents of the area, residents of subdivisions across Rt. 66, and people going to the mall, the U.S. Post Office, and St. Joseph's Hospital, not to mention the other office and medical buildings in the area. Regency Drive is

an important artery leading north- and south-bound traffic to the mall, the U.S. Post Office, and is a quick crosstown route.

It seems as if it is inevitable that the intersection of Washington and Regency will become busy. It hasn't been all that long since Washington Street was completed to intersect U.S. 66. Then the State Farm complex was built. Then other office build-

ings were constructed. The U.S. 51 route was changed to route traffic away from the downtown area--and the many dying downtown businesses make that point evident enough. The Central Business District is rapidly changing in Bloomington, and as it changes, so do the traffic patterns. Attempts to stop this kind of "progress" will either get nowhere or they will be self-defeating. East side development has already been "planned"-conditions resulting from the development must be dealt with.

-- Tom Pain



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Wage Slavery and Identity

"The labor of the farmer and mechanic is productive; the labor of officers and professional men is unproductive to the state."

Noah Webster (from An American Dictionary of the English Language, 1858)

In our society, a person's worth is determined by economic status. And by accepting that number one societal rule, we have created a nightmare of psychic guilt and justification. The terror of that singular norm has caused us to lead our lives as if they were happening to someone else. We are not in touch, with ourselves or others. It's cold out there. And until we are willing to face what we have made, we will increase bitterness and madness until we are engulfed in a maelstrom of universal deceit.

My friends, I do not speak lightly. Being fed and housed is surely important. But once we accept the inevitable societal price for these necessities, we find that not only have we enslaved ourselves, but our souls are on the market block. As Thoreau so eloquently asked, "Shall we sell our birthright for a mess of Pottage?" We have been trained to one answer, Yes. For our worth is decided by our production.

To those of you who say, "I don't think of myself that way; I don't like my job but I do like myself," I say that if asked what you do, you will respond, "I work at a factory," or "I go to school." The person who inquired is interested in you, and to prove your worth, you tell them your job. We think of ourselves in terms of what we produce.

We understand there is a very close relationship between producing and giving. Giving is the joy of producing. We say that a good or worthy person is a giving person. Giving makes us feel good. And in contrast, a selfish person is one who feels they have nothing of worth to give. It is important to our self-esteem to give or produce. But can we give freely when our production is tied absolutely to wage slavery? Or do we attach strings of guilt and baubles of self, martyrdom to our daily gifts to one another. At a drinking party, how often have you heard, "If you fly, I'll buy." Why do we put down those people who are poor?

Good providers pay the rent and feed those around them. That cooperation on the maintenance of life is where giving starts. But can the joy of giving be found in the following situation?

F---/ To make next month's rent I gotta listen to that b----- harangue me/ For 8 hours a day/ Forty hours a week/ I can't tell him to go to hell/ cause I gotta make rent/ After I told the sob off/ I lost the job/ And didn't make rent/ Felt like a piece of s---/ Nobody can cover my a--/ I'm so selfish/ I must be worthless.

That person's feeling of worth can only be redeemed by going back the job, hopefully finding something s/he likes, or by changing the personal meaning of self-worth. Doing the latter is the most difficult and maddening of the two. The majority will take the first option. Those claiming both are either liars or schizophrenic. For the contradiction of wage slavery and human freedom leaves no other option.

Let us look at what happens to a person who changes the concept of self-worth. We must assume that s/he hasn't starved or been forced into banditry and we are assuming that s/he didn't go to Vermont, Arkansas, California, etc, to live in sunshine commune with the birds. And we are assuming that s/he is rather like myself, dedicated to self destruction thru cigarettes, booze, and/or other noxious habits.

The first noticeable event is the becoming of a non-entity. And to fill that void, society uses a naming game. The end result is s/he ends up being just about anybody except self. We are named in relation to something. For we, as a society, have not learned to accept people for themselves.. We haven't even learned to accept ourselves; to one person you are Larry's brother, to another you're that alcoholic at the Galery, to another you're a cigarette bum, to another you're the troublemaker. To your relatives you're worthless. It was far easier being Leroy the cabbie. For now you have a plenitude of names and a number of derogatory qualities. It is worse for a person who is laid off, for the situation is not self-made.

These events arise from jealousy, unconscious hate, and slave mentality. Those with slave mentality are not interested in anyone's choices, for they have abandoned choice. That is why they are slaves. They have not

fought for their freedom and the choices of freedom leave them uncomfortable.

The person who has made a break for freedom finds the day and night of personality at a rate far more exhausting and revealing than would happen in the work world, or "reality." The work withdrawal can be as dangerous as any drug withdrawal for jobs can be as much of a personal escape as heroin, booze, schizophrenia, suicide, or religion. A person who stops the work/drug will quite often choose society's array of substitutes. If we are strong, we can learn. We can learn that because we are, it is good. This is our worth.

A recent Government Study (Chicago Tribune, 12/26/75) indicated that our country can expect "the following recession-related disorders:"

- A 15 to 25% increase in heart attack deaths.
- A 30 to 35% increase in alcoholism.
- A 15 to 20% increase in the infant death rate.
- A 15 to 100% increase in mental disorders.
- A 15 to 25% increase in suicides.

I have not read the report, just one news article about it. However, there is important information contained in it. We as a society do view ourselves in terms of perceivable and mechanistic output. When we lose our output, we lose part of ourselves. Why do we see ourselves in terms of money-making units and not whole persons? I will suggest the following:

Jack is a seasonal worker. He is also an intellectual. His work is physically and economically rewarding. And when he works, he works up to 12 hours a day. When Jack finishes a working day, he will read, talk, drink, and sleep. When work is available, Jack is known as a solid and hard worker. He takes pride in this, as he should, for we all benefit from Jack's back. He built our roads and he built our schools. He bought us beer and fed us when we were hungry. Jack is a good man.

But now that winter has set in, Jack is "idle"; and he pursues other interests. He now has the energy to think on what he has done. He questions it, and he looks for response.

Jack asks himself and others, "What have I created?" His energy grows and taking his work strength, made of long labor hours, he transforms himself into a physical/mental unity of questions and statements.

He tells us, "All is alive," "the stars speak if you listen," "Who was my brother who died in Angola?" Jack continues his questioning madness for weeks. Great is his strength. Now Jack is heavily drugged and in the hospital. Such is our aversion to another's vision. Jack is part of the statistic I mentioned earlier. 15 to 100% increase in mental disorders will be seen because of the present recession.

Why did Jack flip out? It may be caused by his schizophrenia, that is, the schizophrenia of being a worker, a social demand, and being himself, a personal demand. A psychologist would say, "Jack is not a well-adjusted person." But Jack will never be adjusted until his work becomes an integral part of his person. That will only happen when we have enough highways and when we have enough buildings and when the profiteers have made enough money. Jack never had a chance. For he knew that to be honest with himself, he had to be honest with us. And we blew him out the window for it. Because we don't want any reminders of what a whole person could be.

How can any of us give when our lives are split between needing money and having love to give. How can we accept the paradox of being a person and being a number on a balance sheet. And what will happen to us when we are deprived of even that?

--Philander Soule

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