



The Charge!

Volume 1997/98

Voice of the Peoria Jaycees'

November 1997

Hostage Crisis Comes To An End

Peoria, IL (Charge News Wire) - After 40 days of captivity, the Hostage Crisis at the Peoria Jaycees Haunted House has come to a close. In what proved to be his greatest challenge while in office, '**Governor**' **Dennis Owens** successfully negotiated the release of all the hostages. Shortly after the last of the hostages returned home, the 'Governor' held a press conference in which he stated "I am pleased to report to the chapter that all the hostages have been freed and have safely returned home." The Governor also added, "However, I'm afraid to report that the terrorists have made a swift and clean getaway. All hopes of apprehending them are lost." Since all the terrorists have eluded capture and could not be brought to justice, the Peoria Jaycees run the risk of a similar occurrence at next year's Haunted House.

Several Jaycee members were taken hostage on Friday, September 26th when foreign terrorists took control of the Haunted House barn at Expo Gardens. While the terrorists' demands included the completion the Haunted House and to initiate scare tactics upon the city of Peoria, 'Governor' Owens was left with no other choice other than give in to the terrorists' demands. The hostages have not seen their homes or families for 40 days.

On the lighter side however, the Haunted House has seen another successful year. For the first time in recent history, an abundance of volunteers show up to work; almost to the point of turning volunteers away. Volunteers ranged from fraternities and sororities at **Bradley University** to **Caterpillar** and **QST** employees to the usual high school key clubs and "cronies." Other Haunted House operations ran smoothly as well.

This year, the Jaycees did not admit children 4 and under. However, a Kid's Day was sponsored one Sunday afternoon. Despite cold and rainy weather, over 40 children showed up with their parents to brave the Haunted House. Kid's Day featured the Haunted House with the lights on and monsters passing out candy. Another promotional event that was held was the Alcohol Awareness night. With help from the **Peoria Police Department**, the **American Red Cross** and **Brewer's Distributing**, two wrecked cars were placed outside the Haunted House to demonstrate the possible results of driving under the influence. Also on hand were "Fatal Vision Goggles," which when worn, simulate the effects of having a blood alcohol content of .10 to .15. Participants would don the goggles and try to perform a field sobriety test. Other video and literature were available that night. (continued on page 9)

Peoria Jaycees Score Bloomington Booty

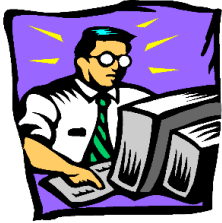
On the night of Wednesday, October 8th, 7 Peoria Jaycee members departed from the Haunted House to make a visitation to the Bloomington Jaycees membership meeting. The purpose of their visit was twofold; one to retrieve the "Big One" gavel that Bloomington members stole a month before, and two, to check out their Haunted House. Attending the visitation were **Beth Barr**, **John 'Caesar' Cima**, '**the Governor**,' **Rick Owens**, '**Frauline**' **Kathy Pulfer** and '**Friar**' **Schmidt**.

At the end of the membership meeting, 'Governor' Owens demanded that the "Big One" be returned. Bloomington Jaycees president **Fawn Meyer** resisted the slick governor's requests. Ms. Meyer teased "How do you know we have it?" She then inquired, "What are you going to do to get it back?" The 'Governor,' with a tired and worn out tone in his voice said, "It's bad enough I have to deal with a hostage situation back home, now there's a ransom for our gavel?" Feeling sorry for the stressed Jaycee president, Ms. Meyer immediately surrendered the "Big One" gavel.

Before departing the membership meeting, the 'Governor' made off with an award that was presented to the Bloomington chapter from their community. The award is currently stored in 'Caesar' car. Unfortunately, Bloomington Jaycee members may be unaware that it is missing. Be sure to attend the November membership meeting to see if they come back for their misplaced award.

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens



You Get Out Of It What You Put Into It!

As you recall last month, I was letting you all in on a day in the life of a dangerous writer and Haunted House co-chair. Since that time, many of you expressed your concern and understanding of the situation I was in, i.e., the filthy shower. Just the other day, I finally had free time where I could put on a radiation suit/body condom to clean that filthy shower. It's a lot better coming out of a shower feeling cleaner than when you stepped in. Life is good!

While I was assembling this month's newsletter, I noticed some comments about apathy in the chapter. It is true that not as many members reported to help at the Haunted House this year as normally do. But, I'm afraid that this is a reality that will never go away. In every organization, club, business, etc., there will always be the doers and the non-doers. The Jaycees is a volunteer organization and all our projects and events are all accomplished through volunteer efforts. It's members volunteer whenever they can or want. If people really want to get involved, they will make time for it. A few members in our chapter have volunteered to pay \$40.00 to join, but have never shown up to anything. Some have never even shown up to any of the social or fun events. Don't ask me, I can't figure it out.

However, there is a strong core of dedicated members who strive to perfection for the Peoria Jaycees. Without these members, projects such as the Haunted House and the International Beer Fest would not be as successful. These same members are also developing stronger leadership and organizational skills that can be applied in their professional careers and can strengthen their resumes. Friendships are also created throughout their Jaycee experience. It must be true what they say, "You get out of it what you put into it."

I would also like to point out that this past month, *The Charge!* saw no apathy as almost all board members submitted their news and some even e-mailed me continuations of stories previously written. So see, it's getting better all the time!

The Charge! An Official Publication of the Peoria Jaycees

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Disclaimer: Portions of this newsletter are merely for entertainment and should not be taken seriously.

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Mark Your Calendars

November

Business After Hours; Thursday, November 13, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, sponsored by Coldwell Banker - call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Illinois Jaycees General Assembly; Friday, November 14 - Sunday, November 16 - call John 'Caesar' Cima @ 693-0631

Membership Meeting; Thursday, November 20, 7:00pm, Amvets Post #64, downtown Peoria, Join the Secret Santa gift exchange at this meeting - call 'Governor' Owens @ 693-8771

Haunted House Appreciation Party; Friday, November 21, 7:00pm - ??, Rick Owens' residence, To show appreciation for those who helped at the Haunted House, prospective members invited as well - call Rick Owens @ 243-7319

Cooking with 'Hostess' Becky Lemont; Sunday, November 23, 1 - 4:00pm, Becky Lemont's Home - call Becky @ 676-2780

Distinguished Service Awards Banquet Committee Meeting; Monday, November 24th, 6 - 7:00pm, Tom Cats Saloon, Pioneer Pkwy, Peoria - call Emily Duncan @ 692-4512

December

International Beer Fest Committee Meeting; Monday, December 1, 7:00pm, Crooked Waters Brew Pub - call Mike Rhodes @ 681-9747 or Dennis Owens @ 693-8771

Board Meeting; Thursday, December 4, 7:00pm, RLO World Headquarters - call 'Governor' Owens @ 693-8771

Newsletter Articles Due; Thursday, December 4 - call Rick Owens @ 243-7319

Business After Hours; Thursday, December 11, held at Ravina on the Lakes, co-sponsored with WTAZ Radio - call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Jaycees Christmas Party; Friday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00pm at Millennium, 8:00 - ?? at Joann Ziegler's residence, find out who your Secret Santa is, {tentative} - call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Membership Meeting; Thursday, December 18, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria - call the 'Governor' @ 693-8771

January

Casino Bus Trip; Saturday, January 3, Bus leaves KMart parking lot at 7:30am, brunch & buffet, 2 cruises, only \$18 - call 'Dubby' @ 691-6608

Miss Heart of Illinois Scholarship Pageant; Saturday, January 24 - call Amiee Fuller @ 693-8377 or Heather Zech @ 274-4035



Mail Call

E-Mail Received:

Greeting fellow Jaycees from Sunny San Diego! As reported in a previous issue of *The Charge!*, my devotion or lust for **Amiee Nuzzo** of WMBD-TV fame was so great that I followed her to San Diego and her new job at KFMB-TV.

California is very nice. Unfortunately, everyone here is worried about El Nino. It's because of El Nino that I was able to find a job as an emergency planner preparing for El Nino. Once established, I quickly begun organizing the San Diego Chapter of the Amiee Nuzzo Fan Club (ANFC). There were over a hundred people at the first meeting and more people are joining every week! They love her here too!

Organizing this chapter went fast because I had the materials from the Peoria Chapter. However, this chapter is a little different in that one of the goals they set was to make sure Amiee does not leave San Diego. Considering the appeal of Southern California, that may not be as difficult as it seems. Of course, this conflicts with my goal to get Amiee on a national network, but that is a small detail I will have to work out later.

Goodbye for now!
Bob Klannukarn

E-Mail Received:

An e-mail was received on November 8th from **'Wac' McIntyre**. 'Wac' is currently undergoing a tour of duty in Macedonia with the US Army Reserves. The message would normally be reprinted word for word, but had to be edited for content. Basically, Wac says that he is in Hell. He states "I never, never will say yes again when they ask me to do another one of these missions."

'Wac', or Capt. McIntyre as he is known to his military cohorts, claims that the food is extremely terrible in Macedonia. "The beef here tastes like road kill!" 'Wac' claims.

'Wac' says Hi to everyone and will be home on leave in early January. You can e-mail 'Wac' at avncdr@tfas.1ad.army.mil or write to him at Cpt. Chris McIntyre, TF1-61N, Operation Able Sentry, Whitehawk FLT DET CDT, APO AE 09790.

E-Mail Received:

Dear Peoria Jaycees,

Greetings from the Cornhusker State! Just wanted to let you know that I loved your web site! What fun! It looks like your chapter has been busy with a lot of great projects. We are always looking for new and exciting ideas. If you would like to trade any ideas, let us know. Keep up the good work!

Krista Andersen
Membership VP
Falls City Area Jaycees, Nebraska

Casino Bus Trip

Saturday, January 3rd
Only \$18



Trip Includes:

- Round Trip Bus via Peoria Charter Deluxe Coach
- Games, Drawings, Door Prizes, Videos to and from Casinos
- Brunch from 10:00 - ?
- 2 Cruises
- Buffet

Bus Departs K Mart @ 7:30am

For More Information:
call 'Dubby' @ 691-6608 or the
Jaycees Hotline @ 676-5292

Make Checks Payable to the Peoria Jaycees

Mock Stock Market Report

Jeff Ulrich has assumed the calculating and reporting of the mock stock market project. With the recent volatility of the markets in the past month, it should be interesting to see how everyone is doing. Here is the latest results as of November 7th.

<u>Jaycee</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Pct Gain/(Loss)</u>
Dennis Owens	14,889	49%
Bob Manasco	13,433	34%
Jeff Ulrich	13,306	33%
Scott Fletcher	11,600	16%
Angela Manasco	11,052	11%
Teresa Diefendorf	10,792	8%
Monica Rhodes	10,661	7%
Heather Zech	10,635	6%
Bryce Huette	10,505	5%
Kim Turner	10,204	2%
Kevin Leach	10,191	2%
Cindy Schwerer	9,933	(1%)
Dan Schmidt	9,882	(1%)
Jennifer Routzon	9,768	(2%)
JoAnn Ziegler	9,438	(6%)
Joe Burkitt	9,437	(6%)
Eric Gengler	9,378	(6%)
Mike Buckley	9,215	(8%)
Cara Freehill	9,150	(8%)
Rick Owens	8,992	(10%)
Steve West	8,899	(11%)
John Cima	8,676	(13%)

A Stay of Execution from 'Governor' Dennis Owens



IT'S OVER! The Haunted House is now over and everything is cleaned up, and in record time I might add. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Haunted House and for those of you who hid out at home for the entire Haunted House, you should be **ashamed!** The Haunted House is our biggest charity and community event of the year. If you want to be a Jaycee, you should know that this is what we are all about. I don't want to hear any excuses either! We were open every day for a month and a half and some of you were busy every night, **I don't think so!** You were never called, well you were called at least once and you don't need a personal invite to show up at the Haunted House, you're a member! This holds true to any other project too. Well since there was a lack of participation in the Haunted House a few members had to pick up the slack. I would like to personally thank the following people: **Heather Zech**, who single handily ran outside manpower, every single day of the Haunted House; **Dan Schmidt** who ran the intro room on most nights and was also a monster on several nights; **Jeff Ulrich** who wasn't there every night but helped out at the cash box several nights and also helped tear down the haunted house; **Mike** and **Laura Buckley** who ran the Godzilla on a lot of nights. Also, I would like to thank a couple of our associate members who were out there: **Steve West** and **Kathy Pulfer**. These people cannot even vote and they were out at the Haunted House more than most of the chapter. Unfortunately the chairman get no thanks from me, you know why, they knew what they were getting into, they bought their tickets, I say let them crash. Quote from the movie *Airplane*.

Well you can see that the lack of participation in the Haunted House left a sour taste in my mouth, but hey, if I wanted more people out there maybe I should have been on the phone so it's not all your fault. The good news is that its OVER and there is still time to get involved. Remember we have the HOI Pageant and the Distinguished Service Award "DSA" coming up in January and February.

Now for the Goals.

G1: Law and Order in Meetings

The no drinking is paying off. The October meeting was 6 minutes under. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Maybe my constant bitching is paying off, people now are aware that they are talking to much and they are now starting to feel guilty for wasting everybody's time. I am not saying they shouldn't talk at all but they should get to the point and then end it, not talk on and on about the same thing.

G2: Train and Involve More Members

Some of our new members got some good training and involvement in the Haunted House. Another thing we need to do and this falls under Individual Development is a "Speak Up." We are therefore going to try to do something fun at the Haunted House appreciation party. So all of you new

members or members who joined less than a year ago come to the Haunted House Appreciation party! If you didn't help out don't worry you can still come.

G3: Give more Donations

This goal is hitting home. I just talked to the chairmen of the Haunted House and they have pledged to give \$6,000 to charity. Now this is more like it! Don't worry all you penny pinchers, a big chunk is also coming back to the chapter.

G4: 100 Members

You may have noticed the goal has changed to 100 members. Since new members have dropped to zero I thought I should adjust this number. 'Friar' what the hell is going on, do I have to get out the big one and hit you on the head.

Its Better to Burn Out than Fade Away
Governor Dennis Owens - Out

...and now for the REST OF THE STORY

by Mark Rosenberg

Continued from a story featured in last month's newsletter:

Although **Mark Rosenberg** is now living a clean and sober life after receiving *The Charge!* and being counseled by **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt**, 'the Friar' took a turn for the worst. After feeling good about helping Mark, 'the Friar' decided to frequent nightclubs in which divorced, older woman and late night binge drinkers could be found in anticipation of helping other lost Jaycee members who were not receiving *The Charge!* While at a nightclub, a sinful woman asked 'Friar' Schmidt if he would help judge the 'hot legs' contest that night. Although reluctant at first, 'the Friar' could not turn down someone's request for help and agreed to judge the contest. Unfortunately, that sinful woman slipped something in his root beer to sway his vote and he began to hallucinate.

His hallucinations became so severe that to this day he thinks he is **Elvis** and offers his 'stud' services to divorced, older woman for free. It has been said that on a given karaoke night at a local nightclub you can find 'the Friar' impersonating Elvis and convincing woman to take him to their place to spend the night. Perhaps 'the Friar' can be saved by upcoming issues of *The Charge!* Since it is still not known where he resides, *The Charge!* is still being sent to his parents' house in anticipation he finds his way back home and his terrible hallucinations come to an end.

Business Tip

Analyze the facts before making key decisions

On June 25th, 1876, Gen. George A. Custer received information that a significant number of Indians were gathering at Little Big Horn. Without analyzing the facts, he decided to ride out with 250 men to "surround" almost 3,000 Indians... this was a serious mistake.

Community Development

by Emily Duncan & Cindy Schwerer



Santa Visits The Kids

Hi! Our next project in Community Development is Santa Visits The Kids, which will take place about a week before Christmas. Our resident Kris Kringle, better known to us as **Stanley Munton**, will dress as Santa and visit

area hospitals to deliver toys to young patients. We would like to urge Jaycee members to donate any gently used kids toys or clothes which we can give to the kids that we visit. We would also like to get together a huge donation to give from the Peoria Jaycees to **Toys for Tots**, so start checking those toy boxes and pull out the toys that seem to be left sitting alone. We are sure we can find a child to play with them!

Coloring For Kids

The Jaycee Coloring/Short Story Book now has a name thanks to **Aimee Fuller**. The name will be "*Within Reach, a Book About Hope*." We have set a goal date for the book as next Easter. At the next membership meeting on November 20th, we would like to get a committee together and get the ball rolling. I have set up some guidelines for entries for the book which I will pass out at the next meeting. I think this project is a very important one and if you are interested in the future of our community's children, then please get involved. Just a recap on what the book will include: Drawings depicting scenes that either inspire, teach or educate, short stories which either teach a lesson on morality, education or important lessons of life, and short quizzes or essays on the history of Peoria and our country. If you have any ideas that would fit into one of these categories, we would love to have your input.

DSA Banquet

The last item on the agenda is the Distinguished Service Awards Banquet. This is an annual event sponsored by the Peoria Jaycees that recognizes excellence in the young leaders of the community. The date is set for February 3rd at Mt. Hawley Country Club. We need to get a committee together and get started on the process of sending out nomination forms. If you are interested in giving an award away or help with the planning, please call Emily at 692-4512 or Cindy at 685-4906.

Have a great Thanksgiving! Love,
Emily and Cindy,
Community Development VPs

Haunted House Appreciation Party... if you dare!

When: Friday, November 21st, 7:00pm - ???

Where: The estate of Rick Owens, Dunlap, IL

Who: All Jaycee members & prospective members

Why: To offer thanks and appreciation to the volunteers of the Haunted House.

More Info: call Rick @ 243-7319 or e-mail clark_kent@flink.com

Membership Report

by Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt

Who's Up For Renewal

The following members are due this month:

Holly Brinker	Dennis Owens
Marcia Denton	Rick Owens

The following members are due in December:

Michelle Feger	Alan Pennington
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* - indicates Associate Member

Renewal fees are due on the third Thursday of the month (by the membership meeting). Remember, renewal dues are \$35 and for your convenience, you can send a check made payable to the Peoria Jaycees, PO Box 2, Peoria, IL, 61650. If you have any questions, please call me, **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt** at 674-5290.

Attention New & Prospective Members

Every event you read about in *The Charge!* is open to all the chapter and prospective members. You need not wait for a phone call to be invited. Think of this newsletter as being your invitation. It tells you what, when, where, who and how Jaycee events are going on. If you have any questions on anything you read about, feel free to call the designated member who is responsible for the event. And remember, in the Jaycees, there's no such thing as a stupid question.

And for prospective members, taking part in any of our events or social activities is a great way to learn about the chapter and to get acquainted with it's members.

Don't be shy! Come on out and join the fun because you'll never know what you're missing unless you try. If you think reading this newsletter is fun, try getting involved in the real thing. It will make you strong and popular!

Comments from the Membership VP

Welcome to the wonderful world of fantasy membership development. I'm your host Friar Rorque.

Congratulations to **Jeff Ulrich** for the Haunted House membership night. Even though attendance was mostly JC'S we have a new member from it-**Clayton Hoffman** from Dunlap. Clay was a huge help during the Haunted House, and now a new JC.

Dubby, the sporting membership god is having a JC night at the Riverman game on January 17th at 7:05pm. For more info call Dubby @ 691-6608 before December 12th.

Once again I encourage everyone to bring a friend to the next exciting membership meeting on November 20th.

Dan Out!

Individual Development... ...Served Hot and Fresh from your Hostess, Becky Lemont



Mock Stock

Congratulations to **Jeff Ulrich** who took over the Mock Stock Project. I am thrilled that a new member has taken on this project and is seeing it through to the end. This project does end at the December membership meeting with the last of the prizes. Good luck to all our participants.

Wine Tasting

Congratulations to **Dana and Rodney William Bubba Olson** (we still don't know what to call you) for running our "Wine Tasting" project. Wine flowed and fun was had by all.

Cooking Dynamics

Our next planned project is "Cooking Dynamics". This will be held on Sunday, November 23rd from 1:00-4:00 at my house, 716 N. Ashland Ave. We are going to learn some basic tips as well as cook. This project will be a "first sign-up, first attend" project. We have to limit the numbers because of the size of my kitchen. If we have more that want to attend, we can run this project again. The current agenda includes a bread, crock pot soup and dessert. Yes, we will eat this project. Call your hostess at 676-2780 if you want to sign up.

ID Rotation

What does it mean? What does it do? How can it help me? All these questions and the answers are all the same.....Individual Development is offering a chance for everyone to learn something new, have fun and get some good information in what is known as an ID Rotation. A rotation is several topics offered at the same time, participants pick the topic that interests them the most then at the end of that session, rotate to another topic.

We will be holding our ID Rotation at the end of the General Membership meeting on November 20th. There will be four 1/2 hour topics to choose from then the same four offered so you can go to another topic. This will only be one hour of your time but look what you can learn...

Real Estate by Mark Monge. Mark will let you find a dream home then tell you the reality of buying, selling and owning real estate. Mark is not only a Jaycee but is a Realtor with ReMax. He has good insights into real estate whether you are thinking of buying now or selling in the future.

Positive Bodies by Monica Rhodes. Vitamin/Mineral/Herbal Dilemma -- Can we get everything our bodies need from our food? JC member and Registered Dietitian, Monica Rhodes will explain the need for nutritional supplementation, what to look for and present the Body Wise wellness program. This will clear up that fog of information and controversy about vitamin, mineral and herbal supplements that are all around us.

Eating for \$25 a week by Becky Lemont. Yes... I know what you are thinking.... you spend that for one dinner. Well, we got the tips for you plus menus, shopping lists, and the recipes. Even one idea could save you some \$. Fry it, you might like it.

New Membership Orientation by Dan Schmidt. Did you know that as a Jaycee you get car rental discounts? Credit Cards? Hotel Discounts?.....Do you know when the Jaycees were founded? Do you know about awards and prizes you can win? No to any of these questions means that you need to attend this informative orientation to learn about what your membership in the Jaycees can offer for you.

So be at the Thursday, November 20th meeting so you can be initiated into your first ID Rotation and go home feeling that much smarter.

Upcoming ID Projects and Ideas

Individual Development runs the best when we have members set up, initiate or take over projects. This is everyone's opportunity to take an area that interests them, learn how to write a CPG and run a project. We have lots of projects still to run...including some fun ones. Golf Dynamics, Bartending Dynamics, and a Progressive dinner all need Chairpersons. Please let me know if you have interest in running one of these projects or have a great idea for a project we should try.

We also want to run some self-improvement projects like Communication Dynamics, Leadership Dynamics and Speak-up. Individual Development is committed to helping you with all aspects of a project, including writing a CPG, board approval, budgets and setting up the project. Think of your New Year's Eve resolution and sign up now to run a project in the new year. The month's of Jan-May are open and a project a month would be great fun. Let's get everyone involved.

Kitchen Tip of the Day

Your kitchen tip for the day.....A sharp well made knife will not only last longer but help you prevent accidents....Inexpensive, dull knives cause a cook to use more pressure and effort to cut foods which is how accidents happen....A good Xmas present for the Cook in your kitchen....A good sharp knife. Until next time...

Your Hostess,
Becky Lemont

Attention! All meetings are open to all Jaycee members and the public!

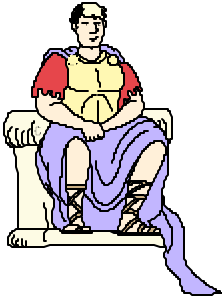


Board Meetings: Held the 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00pm at RLO, Inc.

Membership Meetings: Held the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Amvets in downtown Peoria, on the corner of Monroe & Fayette

State Director's Report

by John 'Caesar' Cima



General Assembly

The Fall Illinois GA is coming up on the weekend of November 14 -16th in Springfield, IL. The cost will be \$10 for the room and \$5.00 if you wish to attend the mixer that Friday night. If you would like to go, please call me at 693-0631 or call the **'Governor'** at 693-8771.

Bloomington Visitation

The Bloomington Jaycees will soon be on-line, we learned from a recent visitation. Their address will be <http://www.bnjaycees.com> (or it might be <http://www.b-njaycees.com>... I'm not really into this Internet thing). Anyway, surf in and check it out!

We were able to check out their Haunted House as well. Their house looks so much newer and cleaner than ours, of course I think our house goes through a little more abuse. But still, it appeared to be a top notch effort.

Other Visitations

We need to get on the ball and start making more visitations to other area chapters. A visitation is when 3 or more Peoria Jaycee members attend a membership meeting of another Jaycee chapter. The International Beer Fest is right around the corner and now is a good time to start promoting and recruiting manpower for this event, and visitations are a good way to do this. And besides, they're fun! If you are interested in making any visitation, please call 'Caesar' at 693-0631.

Haunted House Final Update

by Rick Owens



After weeks of preparation, a month and a half of set up, operation and tear down, the 1997 Haunted House is now pretty much over with. At the time of this writing, the only things left are to get the trailers and bus transported out of Expo Gardens, along with the dumpster, chemical toilet and water cooler.

In addition, we must throw the appreciation party and then prepare the final CPG. In fact, we think the tear down was done in record time and the final CPG will probably be submitted a month ahead of schedule!

Some of the new things we tried this year worked out really well. Several parents applauded the Jaycees on restricting children of a certain age from the Haunted House. Our Alcohol Awareness night was a huge success and was the top news story on WHOI TV. I had developed a computer program to handle all the financial and other details with far more ease than using spreadsheets (and it can be used for other projects other than the Haunted House). And of course the new rooms

Volunteer Opportunities at the Red Cross

You need not donate blood to volunteer for the American Red Cross!

The Red Cross - Blood Services is in need of volunteers. The Heart of America Region is responsible for the collection, processing and distribution of approximately 98,000 units of blood annually. Approximately 48 hospitals in our 48 county region are dependent upon the blood products produced by the Region. The Red Cross staff is seeking volunteers to help in the following areas:

Canteen Servers: Canteen volunteers are responsible for serving refreshments to donors following their blood donation. Canteen volunteers are needed at the American Red Cross Blood Center, located at 405 W. John Gwynn, Jr. Ave., downtown Peoria. These volunteers are also needed for the bloodmobile visits as well.

Greeters: Volunteers are needed for this position throughout Peoria and Tazewell counties. Greeters welcome donors to the bloodmobile. They also keep tallies of the donors and pass out information. On the job training will be provided.

Drivers: Red Cross drivers transport the life-saving gift of blood to area hospitals. Volunteer drivers deliver blood on routine supply runs and on an emergency basis as needed. They also transport blood from local mobile sites back to the Red Cross Blood Center for processing. This position requires a valid Illinois Driver's License, a good driving record, and the ability to lift and carry 50 pounds. On the job training will be provided.

Office Workers: If you enjoy working with a group of enjoyable ladies, this is the job for you. We use office volunteers, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm at our Peoria office. Various jobs may include light typing, shredding documents or stuffing and labeling envelopes.

If you feel that you possess any of these qualities, want to learn new skills, help others or just meet new people, please call **Lisa Hill** at 674-7171, ext. 237.

worked really well in the house.

My co-chairman **Jeff 'Mad Dog' Bilsland** and I would like to thank all our sponsors, everyone who worked at the Haunted House, and a special thank you to the **'Governor'** for his work with the new controller box and **Heather Zech** for her unrelenting efforts in manpower (we couldn't pull this project off without you).

Please remember, the appreciation party is on November 21st. Also please note: any remaining Haunted House receipts are due December 1st. After that time, you will not be reimbursed.

The Lunch Offer

The high profile trial of Owens v. Big Fast Food Companies commenced last month, with all eyes of big tobacco case litigators watching closely. Like that of victims of tobacco products, Peoria Jaycee member **Richard L. Owens, Jr.**, 32, claims his health was in jeopardy from consuming the defendant's products. Owens claims his cholesterol level had skyrocketed from eating meals at fast food chain restaurants. And like that of big tobacco firms, the defendants claim that their food is harmless and that Owens should take personal responsibility.

In their opening statements, attorneys for the defendants claimed Owens was just looking for easy money. "This is just another frivolous lawsuit with no merit whatsoever." the defense attorney said. The prominent Peoria attorney, **Steven J. West**, interjected to the defense's comments, saying "Objection, your Honor!" **Judge Robert Tito** halted the proceedings and told Attorney West that he could not object due to the fact they were in opening statements. "Oh, yea, I guess you're right." West said and quietly sat down.

Defense attorneys continued, stating that this case was as frivolous as the \$4 million settlement two years ago, from McDonald's to the woman who spilled hot coffee on herself. West then loudly yelled in the courtroom, "Did somebody say McDonald's?" and then giggled profusely. Owens and attorneys for West's legal team all bowed their heads in shame and embarrassment.

Attorney West in trying to prove the point that products from the defendant's fast food restaurants were unsafe to eat, he suggested that the court buy lunch for everyone from one of the defendant's stores. Just as West predicted, the defendants turned down the offer, refusing to eat a meal from their own company. When they turned down the offer, West then asked if he could have their lunch. "Hey, it's a free meal!" West explained to Judge Tito.

After two days of trial and testimonies, the jury left to deliberate. In only 20 minutes, the jury returned with a guilty verdict, awarding Owens with an unspecified sum. Attorney West's brilliant and provocative "lunch offer" ended up being the deciding factor in the jury's verdict.

Since then, Owens has been able to lower his cholesterol, with the help of Peoria Jaycee member and nutrition expert **Monica Rhodes**. With the help of the Body Wise/Positive Bodies fitness and vitamin plan, Owens managed to lower his cholesterol 1,000 points. "This stuff works!" Owens was quoted as saying. Owens originally had a cholesterol level of 250.

Chapter Management

by Heather Zech



Haunted House

IT'S FINALLY OVER! I must tell you this is one of the reasons why I smoke. You try to get all those kids organized in 20 minutes to work in the Haunted House. Anyway, I'm not going to say much here because Rick will probably take care of the details.

However, I do want to mention that the Haunted House appreciation party is set for Friday, November 21st at Rick's house in Dunlap. It is a festivity for us to sit back and relax and offer some sort of gratitude to those people who helped at the Haunted House. Oh yeah, regular and prospective members are also invited.

International Beer Festival

Now that one of our biggest projects is over, a new one begins... IBF or International Beer Festival. The first committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1st at 7:00pm at Crooked Waters Brew Pub. Please contact this year's chairman, **Mike Rhodes** at 681-9747. I am sure he would love to have your help.

Xmas Party/Dinner

Ho Ho Ho! The Christmas season is upon us and planning for the Jaycees Christmas party are underway. We are looking at having dinner at Millennium in downtown Peoria on Friday, December 12th at 6:30pm to 8:00pm. We will then adjourn to the residence of **Joann Ziegler** for cocktails. There will also be a Secret Santa gift exchange, and if interested, please be at the next membership meeting for more details. But please note: This is only the tentative plan; nothing is definite yet. However, I will keep you all informed. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 274-4035.

Miss Heart of Illinois Pageant

Preparations for the Miss Heart of Illinois Scholarship Pageant are going very well! It is set for Saturday, January 24th. One of our newest members, **Amiee Fuller** is chairing this project.

The Peoria Jaycees are helping out with ticket sales and publicity. The ticket hub for the event is at Ducky's Formal Wear in the Metro Centre. We need to sell 1,200 tickets, so any help is greatly appreciated. We also need to develop posters and flyers and to get them distributed. A big thanks is in order for **Dubby** for tickets, **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt** for PR, **John 'Caesar' Cima** and **Emily Duncan**.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th at 11:30am. The location for the meeting is at Cafe Latte, underneath the Illinois Antique Mall on the Riverfront. If anyone has any questions or wants to get involved, please call Amiee at 693-8377 or at work at 698-1950. Also, look for the Miss HOI Promo airing on WHOI-TV; it features the majestic Peoria Jaycees logo!

Top Ten Signs You're In A Bad Haunted House

10. The mad scientist looks suspiciously like Late Night host Conan O'Brian.
9. The Haunted House sits downwind of the port-a-pottie.
8. Monsters appear to be happy and gay, singing the Barney theme song.
7. The mummy keeps making a pass at women by saying "How about a three way with the Vampire?"
6. There's a for sale sign out front and all the tour guides are realtors trying to sell the place.
5. As monsters would leave the closet room, they would giggle and say "I came out of the closet!"
4. As you enter the house, you notice a big sign that says 'Not Responsible for Lost Limbs.'
3. When you go to pay for your admission, the cashier spins his head completely around and throws up pea green soup on your shirt.
2. Half way through the house, your tour guide looks at his watch and says "Oops! Time for Monday Night Football... Find your own way out!"
1. Monte Hall is the monster in the Door Room!

Hostage Crisis (continued)

The tear down of the Haunted House started on Saturday, November 1st with a slow start. Since few Jaycee members showed up to help that weekend, the Youth Farm kids proved to be a real asset. Without their help, the Haunted House would probably still be in the tear down process. The tear down was finally completed on Tuesday, November 4th, which at that time, the hostages were freed.

Roughly 5,000 to 6,000 people were estimated as to entering this year's Haunted House. Proceeds from this year's event are to benefit the **Youth Farm, The Center for Prevention of Abuse** and the Peoria Jaycees. Corporate sponsors of the Haunted House were **99x** and **WHOI TV**. Of course, many other thanks are in order to the people and local businesses and groups that help make this year's Haunted House the success it was. The Haunted House appreciation party is scheduled for Friday, November 21st at 7:00pm at the residence of **Rick Owens**.

Before ending his press conference, 'Governor' Owens reminded the chapter that it's next big project is the International Beer Festival and that measures are being taken to prevent another hostage standoff.

It's A Little Known Fact... El Niño

El Niño is an oceanic and atmospheric phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, during which unusually warm ocean conditions appear along the western coast of **Ecuador** and **Peru**, causing climatic disturbances of varying severity. The term originally was used to describe the warm southward current that appears in the region every December, but it is now reserved for occurrences that are exceptionally intense and persistent. These occur every three to seven years and can affect climates around the world for more than a year. The El Niño event of 1982 and 1983 was the most severe of the 20th century. Other recent occurrences began in 1972, 1976, 1987, 1991, and 1994.

The name El Niño, Spanish for "the child," refers to the infant Jesus Christ and is applied because the current usually begins during the Christmas season. Because a fluctuation in air pressure and wind patterns in the southern Pacific accompanies El Niño, the phenomenon is known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO.

The climate disturbances caused by El Niño occur when sea surface temperatures in the southeastern tropical Pacific are unusually high. Normally, the warm waters are confined to the western tropical Pacific, with temperatures more than 10 Celsius degrees (18 Fahrenheit degrees) higher than the eastern waters of coastal Peru and Ecuador. The air pressure is quite low over the warmer waters. Moist air rises in the region, causing the clouds and heavy rainfall. In the eastern Pacific, the water is cold and air pressure is high, creating the typically arid conditions along coastal South America. The trade winds blow from east to west, pushing sun-warmed surface waters westward and exposing cold water to the surface in the east. During El Niño, however, the easterly trade winds collapse or even reverse. The warm water of the western Pacific flows back eastward, and sea surface temperatures increase significantly off the western coast of South America. As this happens, the wet weather conditions normally present in the western Pacific move to the east, and the arid conditions common in the east appear in the west.

The Jaycee Creed:

We Believe:

***That Faith In God
Gives Meaning And Purpose To Human Life;
That The Brotherhood Of Man
Transcends The Sovereignty Of Nations;
That Economic Justice
Can Best Be Won By Free Men
Through Free Enterprise;
That Governments Should Be Of Laws
Rather Than Of Men;
That Earth's Great Treasure
Lies In Human Personality;
And That Service To Humanity
Is The Best Work Of Life.***

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This Issue:

- Story: Peoria Jaycees Score Bloomington Booty
- Haunted House Appreciation Party - Nov. 21st
- ID Rotation at Next Membership Meeting
- Ms. Heart of Illinois Pageant - Jan. 24th

Previously Unpublished:

Peoria Jaycees Score Bloomington Booty

On the night of Wednesday, October 8th, 7 Peoria Jaycee members departed from the Haunted House to make a visitation to the Bloomington Jaycees membership meeting. The purpose of their visit was twofold; one to retrieve the "Big One" gavel that Bloomington members stole a month before, and two, to check out their Haunted House. Attending the visitation were **Beth Barr, John 'Caesar' Cima, 'the Governor,' Rick Owens, 'Frauline' Kathy Pulfer** and **'Friar' Schmidt**.

At the end of the membership meeting, 'Governor' Owens demanded that the "Big One" be returned. Bloomington Jaycees president **Fawn Meyer** resisted the slick governor's requests. Ms. Meyer asked "How do you know we have it?" She then inquired, "What are you going to do to get it back?" The Governor had a psychopathic look to him. He claimed that if the gavel was not returned, the Peoria Jaycees would come into Bloomington and rape and pillage their chapter. He then said, "I'm gonna kill you, your family, your friends, your dog... I'm gonna burn down your #%%\$ &^! house!" Frightened by his threat, Ms. Meyer immediately surrendered the "Big One" gavel. 'Governor' Owens does not mess around when it comes to the gavel, nor does he mess around with lines from movies.

Before departing the membership meeting, the Governor made off with an award that was presented to the Bloomington chapter from their community. The award is currently stored in 'Caesar' car. Unfortunately, Bloomington Jaycee members may be unaware that it is missing. Be sure to attend the November membership meeting to see if they come back for their misplaced award.

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens

As you recall last month, I was letting you all in on a day in the life of a dangerous writer and Haunted House co-chair. Since that time, many of you expressed your concern and understanding of the situation I was in, i.e., the filthy shower. Just the other day, I finally had free time where I could put on a radiation suit/body condom to clean that filthy shower. It's a lot better coming out of a shower feeling cleaner than when you stepped in. Life is good!

Now while I was assembling this month's newsletter, I noticed some strife about certain apathy in the chapter. And it is true that not as many members reported to help at the Haunted House. As several members hide from the Haunted House and other projects, I'm afraid that this is a reality that will never go away. In every organization, club, business, etc., there will always be the doers and the non-doers. The Jaycees are a volunteer organization and all our projects and events are all accomplished through volunteers. Some of these members in our chapter have volunteered to pay \$40.00 to join, but then don't show up to anything. They don't even show up to any of the social or fun events. I don't know what their problem is, but I'm sure they have an excuse for it.

On the brighter side of the matter, there is a strong core of dedicated members who strive to perfection for the Peoria Jaycees. Without these members, projects such as the Haunted House and the International Beer Fest would not be as successful. These same members are also developing stronger leadership and organizational skills that can be applied in their professional careers and can strengthen their resumes. Friendships are also created throughout their Jaycee experience. It must be true what they say, "You get out of it what you put into it."

I would also like to point out that this past month, *The Charge!* saw no apathy as almost all board members submitted their news and some even e-mailed me continuations of stories previously written. So see, it's getting better all the time!

Top Ten Things Dan Schmidt Has Done As Membership VP

- 10.
- 9.
- 8.
- 7.
- 6.
- 5.
- 4.
- 3.
- 2.