



The Charge!

Vol. 1999; No 12

Voice of the Peoria Jaycees

December 1999

Successful Coup Attempt Takes Control Of Local Volunteer Organization

Peoria, IL (Charge News Wire) – The final chapter has been closed in what has been deemed “the political coup of '99,” during the elections at the Peoria Jaycees November membership meeting. **Rick Owens** won the presidential election in a phenomenal landslide proportion as the high office went uncontested. Owens announced in October that he would run for office and had also recruited other chapter members to run for executive offices to complete his administration. This act in certain circles of the Peoria-based volunteer organization called the measure a “coup attempt.”

Before casting votes, Owens made his final campaign speech, stating that with 5 years as a Jaycee member and working closely with the Executive Board for almost the same amount of time, it was his turn to lead the chapter. Owens then noted that he successfully recruited key members to run for key positions. While he claimed the members he chose had the unique qualities to handle their chosen office, Owens did encourage others to run. Owens also gave a sneak peek at what type of president he would be, promising a renewed effort to recruit quality members by using a “recruitment task force.” He also claimed a couple of his goals for the next year would be to have fun and a lot of “hard drinking!” The elections then continued, with the only contested office being for secretary, between **Jennifer Stanley** and **Heather Zech**.

The 2000 Peoria Jaycees executive board as elected are: Rick Owens, President, **Randy Stevens**, Chapter Management Vice President, **Anne McSorley**, Community Development Vice President, **'Dubby' Janosov**, Membership Vice President, **Jonathan Sinclair**, Individual Development Vice President, **Dan 'Wilky' Wilkinson**, State Director, **Jennifer Stanley**, Secretary, **Jeff Ulrich**, Treasurer and **Keith Kramer**, **Scott Lautzenheiser**, **Frank Perino**, **Toby Quin**, **Jennifer Routzon**, **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt**, Local Directors.

Heather Zech, who will go on to become the Chairperson of the Executive Board, stated how exciting it was to have so many newer members on the board. Owens also agreed, hoping that the enthusiasm of the new members will carry over to some of the more “seasoned” members. The new board will be installed into office at the Jaycees Christmas Party and Installation and Year-End Awards Banquet on December 17, 1999.

Jaycees Banned From Peoria Restaurant

Submitted by *The Charge!* cub-reporter Randy Stevens

Felony charges against a Peoria Jaycee member were quickly dropped early yesterday in a bizarre battery case. What started off as an innocent Monday night football party for 6 Peoria Jaycee members at a new Peoria restaurant took a tragic turn of events. On Monday, November 29th at Damon's and after several bottles of tequila, **Theresa 'Squeeky' Diefendorf** smashed an onion loaf over the head of an unenthusiastic server. Renowned attorney **Steven J. West** argued the case at Diefendorf's arraignment. West pleaded, “An onion cannot be a weapon, it's a vegetable. This is a mockery of a sham!” Felony charges were averted and West succeeded in getting the charges against the “Damon's Six” dismissed. “This is truly a victory for vegetables everywhere,” a jubilant West proclaimed on the Peoria County courthouse steps.

Owens Under Investigation For Campaign Finance Irregularities

Submitted by *The Charge!* cub-reporter Randy Stevens

Peoria, IL (Charge News Wire) - Chairman of the Jaycee Election Commission (JEC), **Brian Milbrandt**, announced in Peoria today that his office was investigating president-elect **Rick 'Clark Kent' Owens** for fund-raising abuses. Milbrandt appointed himself as special prosecutor by stating that he was the only person qualified to undertake such a formidable task. It has been alleged that while treasurer, Owens and his staff strong-armed local charities into donating to his campaign fund in exchange for Jaycee support and favors. Owens flatly denies the charges, stating that Milbrandt is at the center of a “whispering campaign,” intent on ruining his credibility as a leader. Many in Peoria strongly disagree with the investigation spearheaded by Milbrandt. Former presidential candidate **Sandy Pearce** withdrew from the race due to the “overwhelming financial war chest” that Owens had amassed. Many credit Owens' fundraising acumen the program that his brother, **'Governor' Dennis Owens** put into place a couple of years ago. **Dubby Janosov**, a long-time Owens supporter, stated, “Milbrandt is jealous. The Owens boys just flat know how to organize a campaign.”

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens



The Last Issue

It really doesn't seem like it's been that long... a little over 4 ½ years. And in more than 4 ½ years, 55 top ten lists, some awards, a complaint or two, and countless stories and jokes about 'Commander' Steve West later, I'm now retiring my press pass and I'm in

the midst of editing what will most likely be my last issue of *The Charge!*

It's rather a bittersweet moment for me at the time. While 4 ½ years is more than enough for anyone to commit to this task and that it's time for me to move on, I have put a lot of work into this project and it has been a lot of fun. I don't want to say that this is the last issue as myself as editor (that makes it sound so final), but instead, I do not foresee myself as ever regularly editing *The Charge!* However, I'm sure I will occasionally submit something every now and then (outside of the usual president's letter).

I took over the responsibilities of newsletter editor from Jeff Pulfer with the June, 1995 issue. At that time, Bill Clinton was the president, there were only 50 states in the union and the Dodgers played for Los Angeles. Also at the time, the main computer operating system was Windows 3.1 (Windows 95 hadn't been out yet) and my computer only had a 486-processor chip... almost primitive by today's standards.

The main goal I set for myself when I started this position was to write a newsletter that would be interesting enough for when a newsletter recipient would find the current issue of *The Charge!* in their mailbox, they would drop everything they were doing just to glance through the periodical. From the kind comments I have received over these past few years, both from friends and complete strangers, I feel I have managed to achieve that goal.

Being the editor has had some major rewards with it as well. At the extreme risk of sounding modest, I have scored some state recognition for the Peoria Jaycees by winning several awards for my work with this newsletter. This was definitely the high points during my career as editor, but the ultimate award for me was from simple comments made by "fans" of *The Charge!* (continued on page 6)

Mark Your Calendars

December

Business After Hours; Thursday, December 9, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, Illinois Mutual – call Jeff Ulrich @ 693-7871

Santa Visits The Kids; Saturday, December 11, 11:00am, meet at Frank Perino's residence, 1416 E. Lake, Peoria – call Frank Perino @ 685-2972

Salvation Army Gift Wrapping; Saturday, December 11, 7:00 – 9:30pm, Northwoods Mall, next to Penny's – call Shari Owens @ 579-3484

Monday Night Football; Monday, December 13, 7:30pm, Sully's, downtown Peoria – call Dubby @ 691-6608

Membership Meeting; Thursday, December 16, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria – call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Installation Banquet, Year End Awards & Jaycees Xmas Party; Friday, December 17, cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm, RiverStation, downtown Peoria, – call Shari Owens @ 579-3484

Salvation Army Gift Wrapping; Saturday, December 18, 9:00am – 12:30pm & 7:00 – 10:30pm, Northwoods Mall, next to Penny's – call Shari Owens @ 579-3484

Monday Night Football; Monday, December 20, 7:30pm, The Galley, East Peoria – call Dubby @ 691-6608

International Beer Fest Committee Meeting; Tuesday, December 21, 6:30pm, John S. Rhodell Brewpub, Peoria Riverfront – call Jeff Ulrich @ 693-7871 or Jennifer Routzon @ 692-1791

Monday Night Football; Monday, December 27, 7:30pm, Damon's, Peoria Riverfront – call Dubby @ 691-6608

January

Monday Night Football; Monday, January 3, 7:30pm, Tom Cats Saloon, Pioneer Pkwy, Peoria – call Dubby @ 691-6608

Board Meeting; Thursday, January 6, 6:30pm, RLO – call Rick Owens @ 243-7319

Illinois Jaycees LOTS; Saturday, January 8, Bloomington, IL – call Dan Wilkinson @ 691-6574

Football Playoff Party; Saturday, January 8, 12 noon, Jeff Pulfer's house, 15 Pin Oak, Washington – call Pulfer @ 444-4565

International Beer Fest Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 11, 6:30pm, Crooked Waters, downtown Peoria – call Jeff Ulrich @ 693-7871 or Jennifer Routzon @ 692-1791

Jaycees Hockey Night; Saturday, January 15, game starts 8:00pm, \$10/ticket, Peoria Civic Center, downtown Peoria – call Dubby @ 691-6608

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

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



Board Meetings: Held the 1st Thursday of the month, 6:00pm at RLO, Inc.

Membership Meetings: Held the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00pm at the Amvets Post #64 in downtown Peoria, on the corner of Monroe & Fayette.

Management Tips & Hints

by Rick Owens

This is part 4 of a 4 part essay of timely tips, suggestions and ideas on how to become more productive, efficient and how to avoid problems, save time, effort and trouble. At least I found them to be pretty damn useful!!

Set Your Goals High

Set your goals high and think big! You would be surprised at what you can accomplish if you set your mind to it and stay determined. Negative thinking gets to most people. You've heard the old saying, "People don't plan to fail, they just fail to plan." Most people will first think of a very lofty goal, and then say, "Oh, I'll never make it." If you start to think like that, that's what's probably going to happen.

Negative thinking can destroy really great ideas and hinder excitement and enthusiasm. Have you ever had a dream where someone or something is chasing you and you could not run fast enough to elude capture? This comes from a deep seeded negative attitude in your sub-conscious. Next time you have a dream like this, think positive.

If the goal seems a little too much, break it down into smaller goals that will all add up to your original goal. And don't be afraid to use your imagination when setting or tying to achieve your goals.

Example: Most Peoria Jaycees members believe that if the chapter can acquire a building, that would be the end all. I, on the other hand, look past a building; I look for the chapter to become independently wealthy. The Jaycees should not only include obtaining a building in its goals, but setting financial goals which would allow the organization to become financially independent to the point where projects are run to offer training experience and to provide for community needs, not mainly to survive.

Mail Call!

November 16, 1999



Dear Friends,
Many thanks for your recent gift to Lutheran Social Services in Central Illinois.

As partners in ministry, you make it possible for LSSI to provide assistance to infants, families, single parents, prisoners, elderly and youth. Whether it be for Counseling, Adoption, Prisoner & Family Ministry, or Homemaker services you make it possible for LSSI to fulfill its mission of "Responding to the Gospel, LSSI brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities." Your gift of \$2,869.35 is already at work serving people in need.

Thanks for supporting the LSSI ministry which is at work 24 hours a day every day in your community.

In peace and hope,
John Califf
Director of Resource Development

PS: This gift is greatly appreciated and has been designated for use in the Peoria area counseling programs.

Thanks,
John

Peoria Jaycees –

Congratulations and Thank You for meeting the challenge "Stop the Squealing" in October.

President Herman Schwantz

Happy Holidays



The Peoria Jaycees would like to wish everyone Happy Holiday season.



Remember, **Santa** says "Know when to say when! If having too much to drink, it's ok to yield the reins to the sleigh."

THIS IS THE CUSTOMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

Are you looking for an opportunity that offers career advancement while working in a relaxed, comfortable environment? Do you have previous customer service experience? Do you truly enjoy helping customers?

If you answered yes to these questions, SVI has an opportunity for you in our new call center assisting hotel guests with our pay-per-view movie system.

SVI offers full-time and part-time evening employment, a competitive salary and benefits package, formal paid training, free movie rentals and a fun exciting position.

Apply in person at:

SVI Systems, Inc.
1520 W. Altorfer Dr., Peoria, IL 61615
Job Line (309)692-2095 Fax (309)692-7127

This advertisement is printed as a courtesy to one of the Peoria Jaycees long time supporters and project sponsors.

Chapter Management

by Jeff Ulrich



Well this my last article for the my term in office. This year has been interesting and full of new experiences. At the next turn of the century what are you going to be doing? Are you going to be here? Will people be living to hundred and fifty by that time? Who knows? But know this, that your life will be measured by your experiences and contributions. The more that you experience and contribute, no matter when you pass from this life, will lead to greater legacy than you can imagine. Remember get out and do something. Enjoy life. Participate in everything. Be open minded! And of course HAVE FUN.

International Beer Festival

Speaking of fun we have the International Beer Fest coming up on March 11, 2000. We are still looking for several people for the committee so talk to me or **Jennifer Rakestraw** if you are interested. This year will be a event to remember so any ideas that people have to improve the Beer Fest will be looked at. The next meeting will be Tues., Dec 21 at 6:30 P.M. at John S. Rhodell's Brewpub. If you miss that meeting, the next one will be Tues Jan 11 at 6:30 P.M. at Crooked Waters.

Dues Increase

At the next meeting we will be talking about US Jaycees dues increase so please try and attend to have your voice heard. The US Jaycees passed a resolution to increase dues \$5 for all members. We will be discussing our options.

Business After Hours

The November Business After Hours is at Illinois Life Mutual. The event is on Thursday, October 11 from 5-7 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce provides free food and beer to anyone that attends this event. You must show your Jaycees card or badge to get in. This event is a great opportunity to meet people from different fields and companies. It is also a good way to pursue future involvement with the Chamber of Commerce.

Installation Banquet/Xmas Party

The Peoria Jaycees Installation/Year-End Awards Banquet and Xmas party is Saturday, December 17th at the RiverStation. Cocktails are at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:00pm. This event is held to install the newly elected board members, conduct a year-end award ceremony and to celebrate the Xmas season.

If you want to attend and have not returned your RSVP, you need to do so NOW. The RiverStation needs a final count by December 14th. This year you will need to prepay for your meal. The cost is \$22.50 and includes a choice between steak, chicken or seafood. Checks need to be made payable to the Peoria Jaycees. Please return your payment with your RSVP.

If for some reason you did not get an invitation, please call **Shari Owens** at 579-3483 immediately.

Community Development

by Shari Owens

This is my final article as Community Development V.P. I had a great time being on the board this year. My next big project will be labor and delivery of this baby. **Dennis** and I will have the ongoing project of parenthood. Wish us lots of luck.

Hats off to **Anne McSorley** for accepting this position for the year 2000. I will look forward to being involved in next year's projects.

Santa Visits the Kids

The Santa Visits the Kids project is set for Saturday, December 11th and one of our newer members, **Frank Perino**, has stepped forward to chair this worthwhile event. Let's hear a round of applause as it's his first project, Yea! Using funds raised from our Haunted House, the Peoria Jaycees purchase toys for Peoria area children of need. With Jaycee elves and reindeer, Santa (**Stan Munton**) deliver these gifts to children in hospitals and homes for the underprivileged. Help is always needed. For more information, please call Frank Perino at 685-2972, or simply show up at Frank's house at 11:00am at 1416 E. Lake St. in Peoria.

Adopt-a-School

Laura and **Mike Buckley** have volunteered to chair our Adopt-a-School program for the year 2000. Calvin Coolidge Middle School is currently our designated Adopt-a-School, where for the time being, they are seeking mentors. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or if you would like more information on what the responsibility entails, please contact Mike or Laura at 693-7811.

Lunch With Love/Gift Wrapping

The Salvation Army needs volunteers to serve lunch every day, but especially on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. They need 4 people on each of those days. If you want to volunteer on your own or with a group of 4, call Marilyn at 655-7220, ext. 107.

Also, the Salvation Army needs gift wrappers for their gift wrap table at Northwoods Mall, located outside of Penny's on the lower level. They need volunteers to fill the following schedule:

Dec. 11 th	7 – 9:30pm	5 people
Dec. 18 th	9 – 12:30pm	4 people
	7 – 10:30pm	5 people

Please call me at 579-3484 if you would like to volunteer.

Canned Food Donation

The Center for Prevention of Abuse is in desperate need of food for their food pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items to the December membership meeting. I will have a collection box available at the meeting.

... And Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Confidential Report From The Z-Files

by Heather Zech



My last newsletter! What a year this has been. I would like to start off by thanking this year's board for all of their hard work. They certainly made my job less stressful. I want to wish the best of luck to **Rick** and the new board, I think they will do an outstanding job.

This last year has been very special for me; I cannot express enough how this position has enriched my life. The Jaycees is a great organization and you will definitely get out of it what you put into it. My confidence, organizational skills and ability to express myself have increased as a result of my involvement with the Jaycees. There is so much you can take with you from this organization; it is my greatest wish that all of you could maximize your potential.

*"What lies before us and what lies behind us are
tiny matters compared to what lies within us."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

It has been great working for you. Have a great holiday!
Heather

Individual Development

by Mike Buckley

Well, after a year and a half, I am concluding my term as the Jaycees Individual Development Vice President. **Jonathan Sinclair** will be filling in this position for the next year and I wish him the best. Right now, my and **Laura's** main responsibility is with little **Alexa**. But aside from that, we plan on heading up the adopt-a-school program and we'd like as much help and support as possible for this important program.

Everyone have a great holiday season and I'll see you soon.

Mock Stock

Who's gonna win? Who has the big bucks? Who lost their pants? These and other questions will be answered at the Jaycees Christmas Party at the RiverStation on December 17th.

If you recall, the mock stock project started in January 1999 and continued throughout the year. Participants had only \$10,000 of imaginary money and could invest it in any stock they wanted. Some have done extremely well, others have done... not so good. But I think everyone has learned some important aspects about investing and hopefully sharpened their investing savvy.

I would like to thank **Jeff Ulrich** for chairing and putting an outstanding effort in this project for the past year.

State Director Report

by 'Queen' Joann Ziegler



Hey All!

Well, this is it, my last installment to *The Charge!* as your State Director as well as the millennium. Despite the fact I didn't get everything done that I wanted to, it has still be a great year. **Dan Wilkinson** will be assuming the responsibilities of State Director for next year and he will do a fantastic job.

General Assembly

Oops! I goofed! The next GA will be in Decatur, IL, not Springfield. It will be held on February 11 – 13, 2000 and is to be hosted by the Crete Area Jaycees. If you have never attended, please join us! You'll have a great time! It's a good chance to get training, meet new people, and learn new ideas. The GA, or General Assembly is now held 3 times a year, mostly hosted by a local Jaycees chapter and is open for all Illinois Jaycees chapters members to attend.

Local Officer Training School

The Illinois Jaycees will be holding LOTS (local officer training school) on Saturday, January 8th in Bloomington, IL. While we are holding an officer training of sorts on our own, it still may be worthwhile for our new officers to attend these seminars. President **Heather Zech** and president-elect **Rick Owens** stated that they would like to get several members to go for that afternoon and then party it up afterwards. If interested or have questions, please call Heather at 274-4035 or Rick at 243-7319.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

See ya'll soon!
Joann

Membership Report

by Mary Owens

I would like to take this time to thank the Peoria Jaycees for allowing me the opportunity to be its membership vice president. While I was only in office for half of the year, I learned a great deal from the experience. I would also like to especially thank **Bob K.**, **Heather** and **Rick** for their assistance with my responsibilities during this time. I wish **Dubby**, who will be your next membership vice president, the best of luck for the year ahead. I'm sure he's going to make a wonderful membership v.p.

Merry Christmas and have a happy New Year!

(membership report continued on the next page)

Social Director's Report

by Dubby



Ohhhhh! I don't feel so good. I guess after I ate all that chicken noodle soup, fried chicken, jelly donuts, soylent green, spaghetti & meatballs, Twix bars, ice cream cones, those dozen brats soaked in beer, all those Twinkies, Ho Hos, and Ding Dongs, caramel apples, and all the eggs, bacon, burgers & cheese from that protein diet, that would make anyone sick to their stomach. Let me puke real quick and I'll give you my report.... <Barf! ... Yak!>

Jaycees Hockey Night

The Peoria Jaycees will once again hold it's popular Peoria Riverman Hockey Night on Saturday, January 15th. Game time will start at 8:00pm, however we might get a happy hour or dinner outing before the game. Please come to the December membership meeting to find out more.

I have reserved 50 tickets down by the floor at \$10 a ticket. If you are interested in going, please get your money to me by December 27th, as tickets go fast. For more info or to RSVP your ticket, call me at 691-6608.

Monday Night Football

The pro football season is winding down and here is the final schedule of the Monday Night Football outings. We had a lot of fun this season and we hope to see more of you in the next month.

December 13th Sully's
December 20th The Galley
December 27th Damon's
January 3rd Tom Cat's

For more info or directions, please call me at 691-6608.

Playoff Party

A football playoff party is being held at the residence of **Jeff Pulfer** at 15 Pin Oak, Washington, IL on Saturday, January 8th. The party will start at 12:00 noon. We will be sampling the beer that was brewed at the beer brewing dynamics that was held a few weeks ago. Please bring a side dish for others to share. For more info or directions, please call Jeff at 444-4565.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I'll see you soon.

Dubby

Membership Report (Continued)

Who's Due

December
No one is due.

January
Joe Burkitt
Kevin Leach
* Stan Munton

*- Associate member

Dangerous Writer (continued)

Just a verbal "I love what you do with the newsletter," or a written note expressing the good job I had done has a personal flavor to it which means much more than a plaque or framed award.

Of course it wasn't a complete smooth ride. There were times when board members failed to submit their news articles to me. That usually meant I would humiliate them in some fashion, thus earning the "most dangerous writer" title. And on a couple of occasions by doing this, I ended up creating more trouble than I cared to deal with, often ending up making some type of retraction. Therefore, I turned out to be "screwed blue and tattooed" (I wonder if Rock 106 still believes **Dan Schmidt** wrote that piece?).

What's next for me after I'm done being editor of *The Charge!*? The biggest thing after I finish this position is of course the presidency of the Peoria Jaycees. But for the avid or closet fan of this newsletter, there is some good news for you. **John "Bucky" Gill**, the newly elected president of the Illinois Jaycees has offered me the position of editor of the Illinois Jaycees quarterly newsletter, *Illinois Jaycees Pride*. I would like to officially announce to the Peoria and Illinois Jaycees that I have accepted this great challenge. Also, I have been toying with the idea of putting together a type of "anthology" book, which would consist of all the newsletters I've written during my tenure as editor. It would also feature some photos as well as never before published material (which could probably fill two whole regular newsletters).

I would like to offer the best of luck to whoever decides to take over this publication. I will also be glad to help and offer any advice if requested. I would like to especially thank the Peoria Jaycees, all members past and present, who helped put this thing together and for their strong support. I would also like to thank all those who have been made fun of over these past years for their great sense of humor. Most of all, I'd like to thank all those who read *The Charge!* for without whom... well, you know.

As president of the Peoria Jaycees, I look forward to what is shaping up to be a really positive year and ask that everyone help me out a bit (I can't handle this whole thing alone).

Hope everyone has a great holiday season and a happy new millennium.

Secret Santa

We drew names for the Secret Santa gift exchange at the November membership meeting. We will be exchanging these gifts at the Christmas party on December 17th. If you participated in Secret Santa and cannot attend the Christmas Party, please make arrangements for your gift to attend.

Welcome New Member

Please welcome our newest member to the Peoria Jaycees. He is **Toby Quin** and if you were at the Haunted House this year, I'm sure you know who he is. He is also **Shari Owens'** cousin. So let's give him a warm welcome to the Peoria Jaycees!

Top Ten Advantages To Being The Newsletter Editor

10. You're not bothered with receiving a cheap gold watch at retirement.
9. All the Dubby jokes you could ever want.
8. Diplomatic immunity from writing bad humor.
7. You are not graded for spelling and/or grammar errors.
6. Available legal council from Steve West (Ooops, this one was recently cancelled).
5. Can watch *Jerry Springer* and read the *Weekly World News* and say you are checking up on the competition.
4. No interns, but chance to flirt with the printer girls at AlphaGraphics.
3. Opportunity to write your very own manifesto.
2. Could count as extra credit for getting your GED.
1. It's payback time for the previous newsletter editor!

Prominent Attorney Forced Into Early Retirement

Prominent Peoria attorney **Steven J. West** was forced to take early retirement as a result of an unprecedented and irregular court order. Peoria county **Judge Stanley Moóton** handed down the order shortly after West introduced yet another ambiguous case. "Mr. West, I'm getting tired of you flooding our court system with all these frivolous lawsuits initiated by your wacky Jaycee friends," Judge Moóton was quoted as saying, "I have seen your face too many times here in these chambers. Therefore, I am handing down my decision for you to never, ever again enter mine or anyone else's courtroom again." With that, the judge slammed down his gavel, closing the legal session.

West began to plead that the case he was presenting was a class action lawsuit, initiated by several plaintiffs. The plaintiffs were no doubt Jaycee friends of West's, all suing **Rick Owens**, the highly noted editor of the Peoria Jaycees publication, *The Charge!* Owens was accused of committing gross libel over the years and various members of the volunteer organization wanted him stopped. Owens argued that a little known disclaimer in the periodical protected him from such irrelevant lawsuits. Apparently, Judge Moóton agreed with Owens. Jaycee members who initiated the class action lawsuit were **Jeff 'Mad Dog' Bilsland, John 'Caesar' Cima, 'Dubby Janosov, 'Governor' Dennis Owens, Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt, Jeff Ulrich** and many, many others. Judge Moóton would not allow West to explain his case and claimed his order was final. The next day, West made the announcement that he would take early retirement effective immediately.

West became a famous and popular attorney in the mid nineteen-nineties by handling some of the most high-profile Peoria Jaycee legal cases. His most noted work included the landmark Bilsland v. British Health Authorities case and even represented Owens in the Owens v. Big Fast Food Companies. He also served as special prosecutor in the 'Governor' Owens Chili-Gate scandal. West often recruited the efforts of other big name lawyers, such as **Robert Shapiro** and **Johnnie Cochran**. Other than commit time to deer hunting this season, the only other plan West claimed to have had was to become a street performer by playing guitar on the sidewalks of downtown Peoria.

It's A Little Known Fact Printing

Movable metal type was first cast in Europe and printed with a printing press on paper by the middle of the 15th century. The invention appears to have been unrelated to earlier developments in the Far East, and the techniques differed considerably in detail. Johann Gutenberg, of the German city of Mainz, is traditionally considered the inventor of Western printing. The date associated with the invention is 1450. Both Dutch and French historians of printing have attributed the invention to people in their own countries and have produced considerable supporting evidence.

In the 1950s, the first phototypesetting machines appeared. They produced photographic images of type instead of casting them in metal. These images are photographed with a graphic-arts camera to produce film negatives that are then used to make lithographic plates. Improvements in plate technology in the 1950s and '60s combined with phototypesetting to end the 500-year reign of letterpress as the premier printing process.

Computers today can generate images for printing, reducing the time and expense required to produce printing surfaces for all the major processes. Computers are now routinely used to create artwork, set type, scan and retouch photographs, and merge all of these elements together on a single piece of film or directly on the printing plate. If not for the inventions of Johann Gutenberg and others like him, the Peoria Jaycees monthly newsletter *The Charge!*, and all of today's publications would be much, much different today.

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***

Peoria Jaycees

The 1999 Peoria Jaycees Executive Board

'Queen' Joann Ziegler	Chairman
Heather Zech	President
Jeff Ulrich	Chapter Mgmt VP
Shari Owens	Community Development VP
Mary Owens	Membership VP
Mike Buckley	Individual Development VP
'Queen' Joann Ziegler	State Director
Rick Owens	Treasurer
Sandy Pearce	Secretary
Cheryl Antal	Local Director
Laura Buckley	Local Director
Cara Cima	Local Director
Eric 'Crash' Gengler	Local Director
'Dubby' Janosov	Local Director
Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt	Local Director
Jonathan Sinclair	Local Director
Dan 'Wilky' Wilkinson	Local Director



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This Issue:

- Executive Board Elected for 2000
- Story: Owens Under Investigation
- Santa Visits The Kids – Dec. 11th
- Xmas Party/Installation & Year End Awards – Dec. 17th

Unpublished Material:

Newsletter Editor Bids Farewell

It was June of 1995 in Peoria, Illinois. **Bill Clinton** was the president, there were only 50 states in the union and the Dodgers played for Los Angeles. It was during this month that a rookie member of the Peoria Jaycees took over the responsibility of publishing its monthly newsletter, *The Charge!* Four years and 7 months later, **Rick Owens** bid farewell to those responsibilities at a press conference held in an attempt to raise awareness to the need of finding a new editor.

"When I sat down to write that first newsletter, I remember thinking to myself 'What did I get myself into? What am I going to write?'" Owens announced, "Not to mention how I wanted the newsletter to be laid out. I really didn't have a plan of action." Being a member for only a few months, he did not know the chapter or all its members that well. Calmly, he thought things out and used his imagination to carry him through.

Owens was surprised to find what would come from his continued efforts on the project. "I have received many flattering comments over these past years," Owens testified, "At the time I started this position, I figured I could produce a decent newsletter, but I never imagined how widely liked it would become. It's been a great ride!" Owens closed his press conference by saying, "Old newsletter editors never die, they just fade away."

The Peoria Jaycees is currently seeking someone to continue the publication of its monthly newsletter. To find out more of what responsibilities this position entails, or if interested, please contact Rick Owens at 243-7319. *The Charge!* has a subscription base of approximately 230 individuals, companies and organizations throughout Illinois and it is available on the world wide web at www.jaycees.com.

Games That Jaycees Play

Board and card game mania, which has been evident in the Peoria Jaycees as of late, has driven some Jaycee members to unparalleled extremes. **John** and **Cara Cima** hosted a board game dynamics on November 20th. This was an event where other members could bring their favorite board or card game to play.

Of the more popular games played was Jenga, a game that requires each player to remove one stick of a stacked block without knocking down the entire structure. According to the directions, a theoretical 36 levels of sticks can be achieved before the stack can no longer stand on its own. A group playing this game managed to achieve 35 levels, thus creating an addiction to the game by certain players.

Meanwhile in the basement, John Cima and **Mike Buckley** were playing a totally different game; strip poker. The two twisted poker players were down to just their underwear when a female party guest had noticed them. Buckley was clad in a bright, fluorescent yellow, happy face boxers, while Cima had nothing but a black colored thong. Once Cima's wife, Cara, found out about the rude spectacle, she was quick to show disapproval of the game. "Oh my God! This is so embarrassing!" Mrs. Cima exclaimed as she tilted her head down and placed a hand over her eyes, "Cima, put your pants back on... we have guests here!"

Buckley and Cima giggled while they explained that since they did not have any money on them, they used clothing for currency. Shortly after that, and not being able to finish the poker session, Cima was looking for another game to play. He instantly thought of a very interesting and currently popular game. He turned to everyone in the living room and yelled, "Who wants to be a millionaire?"

Rough Drafts:

From The Desk Of The Most Dangerous Writer

by Rick Owens

The Last Issue

It really doesn't seem like it's been that long... a little over 4 ½ years. And in more than 4 ½ years, 55 top ten lists, some awards, a complaint or two, and countless stories and jokes about '**Commander**' **Steve West** later, I'm now retiring my press pass and I'm in the midst of editing what will most likely be my last issue of *The Charge!*

It's rather a bittersweet moment for me at the time. While 4 ½ years is more than enough for anyone to commit to this task and that it's time for me to move on, I have put a lot of work into this project and it has been a lot of fun. I don't want to say that this is the last issue as myself as editor (that makes it sound so final), but instead, I do not foresee myself as ever regularly editing *The Charge!* However, I'm sure I will occasionally submit something every now and then (outside of the usual president's letter).

Recently I have realized that there are very few people in the Peoria Jaycees that can recall a time when someone other than myself was editor of this fine publication. I started editing *The Charge!* with the June, 1995 issue. At the time, the main computer operating system was Windows 3.1 (Windows 95 hadn't been out yet) and my computer only had a 486 processor chip... almost primitive by today's standards.

The main goal I sat for myself when I started this position was to write a newsletter that would be interesting enough that when a newsletter recipient would find the current issue of *The Charge!* in their mailbox, they would drop everything they were doing for a few minutes just to glance through the periodical. From the kind comments I have received over these past few years, both from friends and complete strangers, I feel I have managed to achieve that goal.

Being the editor has had some major rewards with it as well. At the extreme risk of sounding modest, I have scored some state recognition for the Peoria Jaycees by winning several awards for my work with this newsletter. This was definitely high points during my career as editor, but the ultimate award for me was from simple comments made by "fans" of *The Charge!* Just a verbal "I love what you do with the newsletter," or a written note expressing the good job I have done has a personal flavor to it which means much more than a plaque or framed award.

Of course it wasn't a complete smooth ride. There were times when board members failed to submit their news articles to me. That usually meant they would be humiliated in some fashion, thus earning the "most dangerous writer" title. And on a couple of occasions by doing this, I ended up writing more than I could chew. In the end, I turned out to be "screwed blue and tattooed" (I wonder if Rock 106 still believes **Dan Schmidt** wrote that piece?).

What's next for me after I'm done being editor of *The Charge!* one may ask. The biggest thing after I finish this position is of course the presidency of the Peoria Jaycees. But for the avid or closet fan of this newsletter, there is some good news for you. **John "Bucky" Gill**, the newly elected president of the Illinois Jaycees has offered me the position of editor of the Illinois Jaycees quarterly newsletter, *Illinois Jaycees Pride*. I would like to officially announce to the Peoria and Illinois Jaycees that I have accepted this great challenge. Also, I have been toying with the idea of putting together a type of "anthology" book, which would consist of all the newsletters I've written during my tenure as editor. It would also feature some photos as well as never before published material (which could probably fill two whole normal newsletters).

I would like to offer the best of luck to whoever decides to take over this publication for me. I will also be glad to help and offer any advice if wanted. As president of the Peoria Jaycees, I look forward to what is shaping up to be a really positive year and ask that everyone help me out a bit (I can't handle this whole thing alone).

Hope everyone has a great holiday season and a happy new millennium.
