



Burnhamish

The official newsletter of John E. Burnham

Volume 1 Number 1

August 23, 1989

Hello There!

Collectors
Edition!

Welcome to the very first issue of *Burnhamish*. This newsletter is intended to inform you of all the new and exciting things happening in John's life and in the lives of those with whom he has had the pleasure of interacting.

Of course that isn't to say that those people experienced the same pleasure, or even that every person he interacted with was very pleasant. Or that he interacted with anyone at all. Or even that everyone he interacts with is interesting enough to be included in this newsletter. But even if they really aren't, John has the final say on what is printed here anyway and he will include uninteresting people if he wants to. So there.

Man Seeks Job

Feeling a bit unemployed lately? You're not alone; scientists estimate that there is at least one other person out there looking for gainful employment. Sources have identified this person: John Edward Burnham. Found lounging in his home in Riverside, Illinois, he revealed his present state of mind. "I don't know where to turn," he said, "they told me I would be able to function effectively in society- they said I'd get a job. Now my mind feels like oatmeal, like I don't have a clue."

Prisoner Freed After Five Years

John Edward Burnham is soon to be officially free after spending five years in a state-run prison farm located in central Illinois. He was convicted in 1984 of finishing high school and was sentenced to the University of Illinois Higher Educational Prison Farm (UIHEPF) for a minimum of four years, after which he could be considered for parole. After serving four years, he was denied parole for lack of

the required 132 "hours" needed to be eligible. An hour is the UIHEPF's basic unit used for measuring hard labor. In May, John became eligible for parole and was subsequently released in a ceremony known as "Graduation."

During his prison stay, John was forced to undergo intense psychological testing, which he claims, "...has turned my mind to oatmeal. No human being should be forced to do the things I had to do."

Proponents of UIHEPF's policies claim the "students" (as prison officials refer to the prisoners) are much better prepared to work effectively in society after their release. Those critical of the farm claim most of the graduates, especially those who experienced the "engineering college" (one of the most severe programs), don't have a clue. John Burnham agrees, saying, "I don't have a clue."

This month John was expecting to receive the official document that states he had indeed graduated, but was notified that he owed the UIHEPF a total of \$34.34 for "some stuff" and would receive his papers upon payment of his bill.

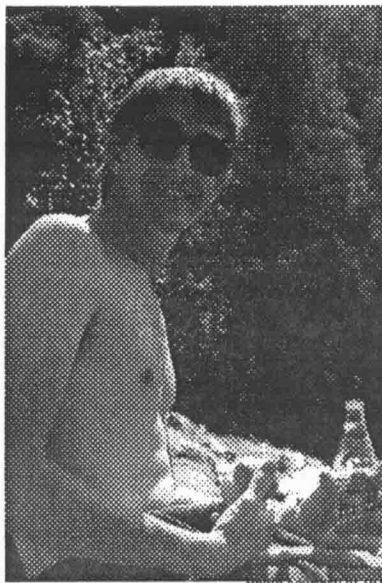


Photo courtesy of JEB

John enjoys a refreshing drink at Potato River Falls in Northwestern Wisconsin. John visited his sister, Mary, in Washburn, Wisconsin this summer.

Next Time:

The origin of our title!