

# **WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

## **July, August, September 2011**

**Key:** The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts at 6:33 and 8:33 AM (during *MORNING EDITION*) AND 4:30 PM (during *ALL THINGS CONSIDERED*.)

Date   Length                      Summary

### ARTS & CULTURE

- 07/01 6:00 A book about Woodrow Wilson's contradictory Presidency by Illinois State University Professor of History Ross Kennedy is igniting debate among historians, and has garnered an award from the Peace History Society.
- 07/07 6:00 The Gov. Fifer Courtroom at The McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington is the setting for a murder trial that happened over 150 years ago. WGLT's Laura Kennedy spoke with one of the authors of the play that depicts Abraham Lincoln's last murder case, who speculates that the outcome of the trial could have had a big impact on Lincoln's political fortunes.
- 07/14 6:00 A new exhibit at the Illinois State University Galleries focuses on the hype and color of the circus, and shows it can be hard to tell where history ends and art begins.
- 07/15 6:30 This year's "Lincoln in Bloomington Festival," focuses on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's beginning, and there'll be live music, tours, and displays around the McLean County Museum of History on the downtown square.
- 08/19 3:30 It's hard to miss. For over forty years, a giant yellow slide has stood just inside the main gate at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. But it has been an up and down relationship for the slide's owners. It's changed hands a few times through the decades and most recently this year.
- 09/01 6:00 The Susan G. Koman Race for the Cure is set to debut in Bloomington-Normal on Sept. 10th. WGLT's Laura Kennedy talks with Race Director Rich Beal and Janet Hawkins of the Ft. Jesse Imaging Center about how this event can increase cancer screenings.
- 09/02 7:30 The opening show in the new season at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts spotlights two distinctively American forms of popular music - country and bluegrass. Weaving them together is superstar Ricky Skaggs, a man who's equally adept at both genres.
- 09/13 5:30 In Bloomington-Normal, Hazle Buck Ewing is remembered chiefly for her home, a Norman style mansion on East Emerson street which is now Illinois State University's Ewing Cultural Center and the home of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. But, Ewing's life offers a lot more than that.
- 09/14 6:00 The Not In Our Town Movement has been going on for sixteen years in Bloomington-Normal and is gearing up for another push with a different angle. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the latest chapter in the struggle against discrimination...
- 09/16 6:00 The sesquicentennial of the Civil War is sparking reconsideration of the conflict. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more in this interview with a noted scholar of race relations....
- 09/30 6:00 From lunch room to luncheonette to coffee shops and tea rooms to full service restaurants ...McLean County eating has progressed, although some might not call it progress. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the author of a new book about central Illinois food-ways.

### BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

- 07/09 6:00 The cost of college has tripled nationwide since 1980 in inflation adjusted dollars. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the President of Illinois State University about the economics and demographics of higher ed and how to avoid pricing students out of the market.,,,
- 07/11 3:00 Home sales in Bloomington-Normal during June showed modest growth over May's figures. According to the twin cities Realtors Association, there were 246 closings last month. That compares to 208 in May, and only ten off last year's total for June, which included a substantial federal government tax credit not currently available. Association president Dale Elder says he's encouraged.
- 07/21 6:00 Passenger aviation service in the U-S is undergoing more change because of high fuel prices and diminishing government subsidies for routes to underserved areas. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker

talks with the Director of the Central Illinois Regional Airport about the industry and his facility...

08/10 6:00 Young people tend not to vote in great numbers. They're not generally engaged in politics. But, one young man from Normal has not only been working in politics since the age of ten, he's just been elected to his first national position.

08/12 2:30 Governor Pat Quinn cut the ribbon at the main gate of the Illinois State Fair in Springfield this morning. He opened the fair by saying it is an investment in the Illinois economy.

08/16 4:00 Black and white squares for smart phones are popping up in magazines, business cards, and now on real estate signs.

08/23 5:30 More good news for the Peoria Metro area is contained in the latest Statistical Composite of the Peoria Economy, also known as the Scope Report.

09/08 2:30 Bloomington Mayor Steve Stockton says about 30 jobs will be lost when the Rock Tenn container plant closes at the end of October. And even though the layoff is smaller than some other companies lost in the twin cities in recent years such as Electrolux and G-E, Stockton says each firm is important....

09/14 6:00 The Not In Our Town Movement has been going on for sixteen years in Bloomington-Normal and is gearing up for another push with a different angle. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the latest chapter in the struggle against discrimination...

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## CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

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09/16 6:00 The sesquicentennial of the Civil War is sparking reconsideration of the conflict. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more in this interview with a noted scholar of race relations....

09/19 6:00 A teacher from University High School in Normal is taking two weeks off into the middle of a school year for a Mediterranean cruise...well not exactly. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more about an expedition involving the research ship, the Nautilus....

09/26 5:00 Evelyn Young, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal's leaving for a job with the Memphis chapter of the organization. Young says she grew up in the Omaha Boys and Girls Club, and credits that, along with confidence instilled by her mother, with providing her with the considerable drive she's exhibited at the Boys and Girls Club here.

09/27 6:00 In his annual State of the University address, ISU President Al Bowman announced plans to spend 20-million dollars renovating Hancock Stadium. WGLT's Willis Kern talks with Bowman about the proposal and what the future holds for the home of the football Redbirds.

09/28 5:30 Many experts are saying the economy will stay in the doldrums for a long time, even if it does not slide into a double dip recession. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports central Illinois is not exempt from that diagnosis...

## ENVIRONMENT

07/04 5:30 Typically a discussion of the scientific projects that happen at the Batavia-based Fermi Lab

includes talk neutrons and quarks. But the particle physics facility recently took part in a unique project that's visible to the naked eye.

07/05 3:00 The Mayor of Normal hopes the EPA will hold off on implementing a new standard for ozone. Under all three possible standards, Bloomington Normal would become what's called a non-attainment zone. Mayor Chris Koos says there are several reasons the twin cities are on the bubble for particulate matter and chemicals that produce ozone....

07/08 2:00 The Environmental Protection Agency has announced new limits on air pollution from coal-fired power plants. The rule aims to lower emissions from power plants in 27 states including Missouri and Illinois. The goal is to reduce soot and smog and improve air quality downwind. Ameren spokesperson Susan Gallagher says the company is still figuring out what the new regulation means for its eleven coal-fired power plants in Missouri and Illinois. But she says some Ameren plants have already installed air pollution controls...

07/20 3:00 An environmental watchdog group says nearly a quarter of Illinois chemical emissions reported to the EPA stems from coal fired power plants. And Dan Lashoff, the climate Center Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council says that's cause to support tougher EPA rules on emissions. Lashoff says Illinois's electric sector ranks 17th among the top 20 states...

08/04 3:00 A local conservation group says Bloomington-Normal businesses can save money and reduce their impact on the environment with little financial investment. The Ecology Action Center in Normal, along with local business owners, will present a panel discussion on saving energy to save money tomorrow/late today. Danny Kenny, an intern for the Ecology Action Center and State Farm Insurance says businesses can be wary of investing in energy savings in a recession. But, he says they shouldn't...

08/24 3:00 A national expert on play who will appear in Normal later this week says kids today don't play enough. Stuart Brown of the National Institute for Play says often the play history that one has colors how you see yourself in the world...

09/06 2:30 A central Illinois lawyer, doctor, and GOP State Senate Candidate is promising to file suit against the federal government over a plan to put P-C-Bs in a DeWitt County Landfill. Tom Pliura of LeRoy says Peoria Disposal, doing business as Clinton disposal is trying to do an end run around federal requirements....

09/19 6:00 A teacher from University High School in Normal is taking two weeks off into the middle of a school year for a Mediterranean cruise...well not exactly.

WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more about an expedition involving the research ship, the Nautilus....

09/20 3:00 The Town of Normal has tweaked its ordinance allowing so called neighborhood electric vehicles on some streets. City Manager Mark Peterson says the low speed vehicles can only go on certain roads with relatively low speed limits. He says they are similar to enclosed golf carts....

## HEALTH & MEDICINE

07/04 2:30 A leading Illinois health care advocate says the state could face staggering joblessness if U-S House-approved cuts to Medicaid become enacted. The plan which cleared Congress would phase in Medicaid cuts over ten years. Jim Duffett with the Campaign for Better Health Care says, after two years, the state's unemployment rate would go up an additional 2-percent, and an added 5- percent the next year.

07/19 2:00 It usually only happens in the dead of winter, but Bloomington Salvation Army Captain Paul James says he's seeing unusual summer time interest in their shelter this week:

07/21 2:00 High temperatures at the Keystone Steel plant in Bartonville may have resulted in the death of a worker. 40yr-old John DeCanter of Manito died around 10 O'clock yesterday morning. He'd gone to the plant's showers after telling co-workers he didn't feel well. DeCanter was wrapping up a 12 hour shift at the mill.

08/01 2:30 As part of national health care expansion efforts... insurers will be required to provide birth control options to women without requiring a co-pay.

08/16 3:00 Thousands of state workers and retirees in central Illinois may be able to stop worrying about who provides their health insurance coverage. The Commission On Government Forecasting and Accountability has approved a nine month extension to temporary contracts with Health Alliance Medical plans and other insurance providers once slated for elimination as carriers. State Representative Dan Brady of Bloomington says the decision also buys time to deal with the overall health insurance procurement process...

08/23 3:00 A national expert on play who will appear in Normal later this week says kids today don't play enough. Stuart Brown of the National Institute for Play says often the play history that one has colors

how you see yourself in the world...

09/01 2:30 After a decade of low cost and free medical care, McLean County prosecutors say a patient at the Community Health Clinic in Normal was defrauding the not for profit agency. Barbara Smith faces theft charges for receiving about 21-thousand-dollars worth of medical services and medicine at hugely discounted rates since 2001.

09/01 6:00 The Susan G. Koman Race for the Cure is set to debut in Bloomington-Normal on Sept. 10th. WGLT's Laura Kennedy talks with Race Director Rich Beal and Janet Hawkins of the Ft. Jesse Imaging Center about how this event can increase cancer screenings.

09/19 3:00 Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University has officially opened its new nursing simulation lab. The Dean of the Nursing School Janet Krejci (KRETCH-ee) says the state of the art recreation of hospital rooms and examining areas will be able to expose students to everything from simulated birth to bowel sounds. And Krejci says video capture will be used to point out some of the subtle things in nursing care to students....

09/30 2:00 The State Department of Public Health has closed only a few pools in the GLT listening area for not complying with a law requiring safe drain covers to prevent people from being sucked into water pumps. In most cases, hotel managers, apartment complex owners and schools satisfied the requirement some time ago. Unit Five Schools, for instance have been in compliance for two years.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

07/01 3:00 As of today, Illinois' ban on capital punishment will take effect.

But as I-P-R's Amanda Vinicky reports, advocates on both sides of the death penalty debate say their work is not done:

07/07 6:00 The Gov. Fifer Courtroom at The Mclean County Museum of History in Bloomington is the setting for a murder trial that happened over 150 years ago. WGLT's Laura Kennedy spoke with one of the authors of the play that depicts Abraham Lincoln's last murder case, who speculates that the outcome of the trial could have had a big impact on Lincoln's political fortunes.

07/21 6:00 Illinois Republicans are trying to heed off legislative map they fear could keep the GOP out of power for the next ten years. Republicans say it's a matter of protecting a fundamental and sacred right in a democracy, the right to vote.

08/01 3:00 A man from Normal has received a lifetime prison sentence for drug dealing. Police arrested 38-year old Anthony Ousley in March of last year at his Fetzer Drive apartment.

08/17 3:00 An Illinois judge is hearing arguments whether catholic charities in the Peoria Diocese should be able to exclude gays and lesbians from foster care and adoption placements. John Knight, the Director of the L-G-B-T Project for the ACLU of Illinois says Catholic Charities should not receive an exception to prevailing laws based on the church's religious beliefs...

08/23 3:00 An organizer of a church-based community group says she's not surprised at data showing the wave of Bloomington-Normal foreclosures started in Bloomington and then spread eastward to higher value houses over time. Dawn Dannenbring of Illinois People's Action says the study done by Illinois Wesleyan University mirrors national patterns...

08/25 3:00 Bloomington Police Chief Randy McKinley says he's only half way through his three year strategic plan and is already almost done with all the objectives. The Chief says he's particularly pleased with results of his problem oriented policing initiative...

09/02 3:00 After a decade of low cost and free medical care, McLean County prosecutors say a patient at the Community Health Clinic in Normal was defrauding the not for profit agency. Barbara Smith faces theft charges for receiving about 21-thousand-dollars worth of medical services and medicine at hugely discounted rates since 2001.

09/12 4:00 Lawyers accuse State Farm Insurance of lying about and trying to cover up the amount of the company's support in a massively expensive race for State Supreme Court back in 2004. A filing alleges fraud against the State Supreme Court.

09/14 6:00 The Not In Our Town Movement has been going on for sixteen years in Bloomington-Normal and is gearing up for another push with a different angle. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the latest chapter in the struggle against discrimination...

## POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

07/04 3:00 Nearly all food eaten in central Illinois comes from outside the region. And economist Ken Meter says that's a lost opportunity for farmers. Meter recently spoke in Normal. He says if only fifteen percent of food were bought from local farmers, it would generate 639-million-dollars in new farm income...

07/05 2:30 Protestors and Chicago's police officers are already preparing for next May's G-8 and NATO summits that are coming to the city.

07/09 6:00 The cost of college has tripled nationwide since 1980 in inflation adjusted dollars. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the President of Illinois State University about the economics and demographics of higher ed and how to avoid pricing students out of the market,,,,

07/12 3:00 The Bloomington city council is pledging to give fifty-thousand dollars to continue the Teal J bus route for another year. The town of Normal is matching that amount to save the financially weakest route in both cities.

07/21 6:00 Passenger aviation service in the U-S is undergoing more change because of high fuel prices and diminishing government subsidies for routes to underserved areas. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the Director of the Central Illinois Regional Airport about the industry and his facility...

08/02 3:00 The town of Normal's going ahead with a health insurance plan for municipal employees for the next plan year. The new program has no premium hikes for workers, in fact the ONLY changes to it come from federal healthcare reform mandates, and new state civil union requirements.

08/10 6:00 Young people tend not to vote in great numbers. They're not generally engaged in politics. But, one young man from Normal has not only been working in politics since the age of ten, he's just been elected to his first national position. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

08/16 3:00 The McLean County Board is moving to address alleged misuse of credit cards by County Recorder of Deeds Lee Newcom. Newcom had claimed he could get better deals on travel by making his own reservations than by following county procedures. That is a debatable claim. The county has tightened policies on credit card use and Finance Committee Chairman Ben Owens says the issue should go away....

09/06 2:00 Illinois Governor Pat Quinn says he'll announce further budget cuts later this week. Quinn indicates that'll include layoffs. IPR's Sam Hudzik reports that would break an agreement the governor made with the major state employee union...

09/08 2:00 Bloomington Mayor Steve Stockton says about 30 jobs will be lost when the Rock Tenn container plant closes at the end of October. And even though the layoff is smaller than some other companies lost in the twin cities in recent years such as Electrolux and G-E, Stockton says each firm is important....

09/13 3:00 In their State Supreme Court filing against State Farm Insurance, attorneys in a class action lawsuit are highlighting an apparent inconsistency by State Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier...

09/21 3:00 Even after cutting 43 positions in the last four years, Administrator Bill Wasson says McLean County Government isn't done chopping...

### RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

07/08 3:00 Just over 16 hundred couples took advantage of Illinois' new civil unions law in the month since it became legal to enter into one. That's according to the gay rights advocacy group Equality Illinois.

07/11 4:00 Illinois Governor Pat Quinn is defending the state's civil union law in a dispute with a Catholic adoption agency. State officials say they won't renew foster care or adoption contracts with Catholic Charities. The organization has received state money in the past - but Catholic Charities has said it would not comply with the new civil unions law signed by Quinn. The governor says the law granting gay couples many of the same rights as married couples - is staying put.

08/04 1:00 A police report alleges a former member of Governor Pat Quinn's security squad was drunk last March when he got into a bar fight and allegedly used a racial slur. Kenneth Snider left the state police soon after and also resigned his posts as head of the Macoupin County Democratic Party and president of the Carlinville School Board.

09/13 5:30 In Bloomington-Normal, Hazle Buck Ewing is remembered chiefly for her home, a Norman style mansion on East Emerson street which is now Illinois State University's Ewing Cultural Center and the home of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. But, Ewing's life offers a lot more than that. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the author of a new biography...

09/14 6:00 The Not In Our Town Movement has been going on for sixteen years in Bloomington-Normal and is gearing up for another push with a different angle. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the latest chapter in the struggle against discrimination...

09/15 3:00 A nationally-known gay activist visiting central Illinois says the higher profile of gay issues

today is taking a toll on many young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered teens. Dan Savage, who created the YouTube sensation "It Gets Better" says the default assumption now among many high school students is that people are gay unless they somehow prove their heterosexuality.

09/16 6:00 The sesquicentennial of the Civil War is sparking reconsideration of the conflict. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more in this interview with a noted scholar of race relations....

## SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

07/06 2:30 It will likely cost more to get married in McLean County soon. County Clerk Kathy Michael is recommending raising the fee for marriage licenses and civil union permits from 29 dollars to 75 dollars. She says every ten years there's a statewide reassessment of fees for that service....

07/13 2:30 The Salvation Army in Bloomington is sending out another plea for donations for its fan drive. Usually the drive starts later in the year, but the need for fans is increasingly important as the temperature rises. Andrea Raycraft, Development Director at the Salvation Army, says an early heat wave pushed her to start the drive in June. However, she says the drive is now being slowed by some unseasonably cool weather.

08/01 3:00 The United Way of McLean County is taking the rare step of looking for new service providers. United Way Community Impact Director Ashley Long says a series of community focus groups identified gaps in desired outcomes and strategies including in education...

08/05 3:00 The legal battle between Catholic Charities and Illinois' child welfare agency has gotten more crowded.

08/10 3:00 State Representative Dan Brady wants to re-examine how the state supports emergency services at local levels. Brady says a lot of small communities have gone to a paid person who is an intermediate level E-M-T, though not a full paramedic. That makes it advisable for Bloomington and Normal paramedics to intercept critical cases on the way to the hospital, while still placing a burden on small towns....

08/30 3:00 This year's fundraising goal for the annual fall McLean County United Way campaign is up slightly from what was raised last year. Organizers hope to raise four-point-three million dollars, which is 37-thousand more than came in a year ago. Campaign chair Aaron Quick says personal contact is important. He says volunteers will be working harder than ever this year meeting with and calling business leaders.

09/26 5:00 Evelyn Young, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal's leaving for a job with the Memphis chapter of the organization. Young says she grew up in the Omaha Boys and Girls Club, and credits that, along with confidence instilled by her mother, with providing her with the considerable drive she's exhibited at the Boys and Girls Club here.

09/27 3:00 Home Sweet Home Ministries is trying to cope with the horrific incident over the weekend in which a resident at the homeless shelter in Bloomington allegedly placed her newborn baby head down in a toilet. 37-year old Tonya McKee faces attempted murder charges from that four a-m Sunday happening. The baby has survived, but is in a Peoria hospital.

## TECHNOLOGY

07/04 5:30 Typically a discussion of the scientific projects that happen at the Batavia-based Fermi Lab includes talk neutrons and quarks. But the particle physics facility recently took part in a unique project that's visible to the naked eye. IPR's Brian O'Keefe reports.

07/07 2:00 A rocket scientist from Bloomington Normal drove from Houston to Florida to watch the final space shuttle launch. Jeff Fitch started with NASA in 1984 right out of Illinois State University, tracking the trajectories of launches. Fitch is wistful to reach the milestone of the last launch....

07/18 2:30 Updates to the electric grid would have helped speed up storm recovery efforts that left some households without power for days last week. At least so says Commonwealth Edison, though critics are skeptical.

08/04 2:00 A local conservation group says Bloomington-Normal businesses can save money and reduce their impact on the environment with little financial investment. The Ecology Action Center in Normal, along with local business owners, will present a panel discussion on saving energy to save money tomorrow/late today. Danny Kenny, an intern for the Ecology Action Center and State Farm Insurance says businesses can be wary of investing in energy savings in a recession. But, he says they shouldn't...

08/16 4:00 Black and white squares for smart phones are popping up in magazines, business cards, and now on real estate signs.

09/12 2:00 Perhaps you did not know that the National Science Foundation ranks Bloomington Normal among the geekiest cities in the United States. Now there are many measures of geek-hood from participation in role playing games, to how many science fiction movies you watch at one sitting. But, the foundation uses the percentage of workforce involved in science, technology, engineering, and math. And Marty Vonags of the Economic Development Council says the ten point one percent of Bloomington Normal's job force in those fields is not bad....

09/19 2:00 Mitsubishi is raising the price of its all-electric "I" vehicle by more than eleven hundred dollars. Citing unforeseen changes in market conditions, the company says the new cost after a federal tax incentive will be nearly 22-thousand-dollars. The Town of Normal has a goal of having a thousand I cars on the road. But, Mayor Chris Koos says he doesn't think the price hike will eat into that goal...

09/19 6:00 A teacher from University High School in Normal is taking two weeks off into the middle of a school year for a Mediterranean cruise...well not exactly. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more about an expedition involving the research ship, the Nautilus....

## TRANSPORTATION

07/04 3:00 At the rate federal and state support for transit districts is expected to fall, some fear the Bloomington Normal Public Transit System won't have money to operate in a year or two. That lends urgency to a community-wide debate over bus transportation in the twin cities.

07/05 3:00 The Mayor of Normal hopes the EPA will hold off on implementing a new standard for ozone. Under all three possible standards, Bloomington Normal would become what's called a non-attainment zone. Mayor Chris Koos says there are several reasons the twin cities are on the bubble for particulate matter and chemicals that produce ozone....

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08/02 3:00 Study of the potential for a commuter rail route between Peoria and Bloomington Normal continues with a recommendation for a terminal in East Peoria. Mark Peterson, the City Manager of Normal says a team looked at two locations....

08/05 3:00 The Central Illinois Regional Airport has begun planning for a faster way to handle passenger bags. It will cost eight million dollars. Currently, airlines put stickers on the bags and then passengers walk their bags to a security inspection station. Airport Spokeswoman Fran Strebing says the terminal was designed before the 9-11 attacks....

08/23 3:00 Bloomington's regional airport is getting a three-point-three million dollar federal grant for some new passenger boarding bridges. Central Illinois Regional Airport director Carl Olson says the grant allows the terminal to increase the number of gates being used by one.

09/01 3:00 Bloomington Airport officials will begin an intense study of wildlife as well as potential risks for surrounding airspace now that a 187-thousand dollar federal grant's been secured. Carl Olson, director of the Central Illinois Regional Airport, says the federal funding will allow airport officials to update the facility's master plan.

09/20 3:00 The Town of Normal has tweaked its ordinance allowing so called neighborhood electric vehicles on some streets. City Manager Mark Peterson says the low speed vehicles can only go on certain roads with relatively low speed limits. He says they are similar to enclosed golf carts....

09/28 3:00 Bloomington is applying a new material, reclamite, to its streets to try and keep them in better shape longer.

Public Works Director Jim Karch says it's more accurate to refer to the coating as a rejuvenator, rather than just a sealer: