

# Pie in the Sky



The phrase “pie in the sky” was long attributed to IWW organizer Joe Hill and referred to any prospect of future happiness that was unlikely ever to be realized. But recently, the expression turned up in a review of the Arlequin Automat in Arlington that predates Hill’s use by a dozen years. On page 12 of the *Arlington Times-Ruffian*, Restaurant critic Ulysses E. Dinklaker lauded the eatery on its “huge selection of pies and vermin tarts,” but complained that the serving mechanism malfunctioned and “launched the dessert over my shoulder, through the far wall, and up into the air, where within seconds it had become a veritable pie in the sky.” The Department of War soon seized all of the dessert serving mechanisms, claiming they were needed for state-of-the-art military applications ... which is, er, another story.