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The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

10-1989

Volume 18, Number 3

Post Amerikan

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Recommended Citation

Post Amerikan, "Volume 18, Number 3" (1989). *The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)*. 173.
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Reviews · Coming Out Day! · Feminist Primer

Bloomington-Normal

Vol. 18 No. 3 Oct-Nov 1989

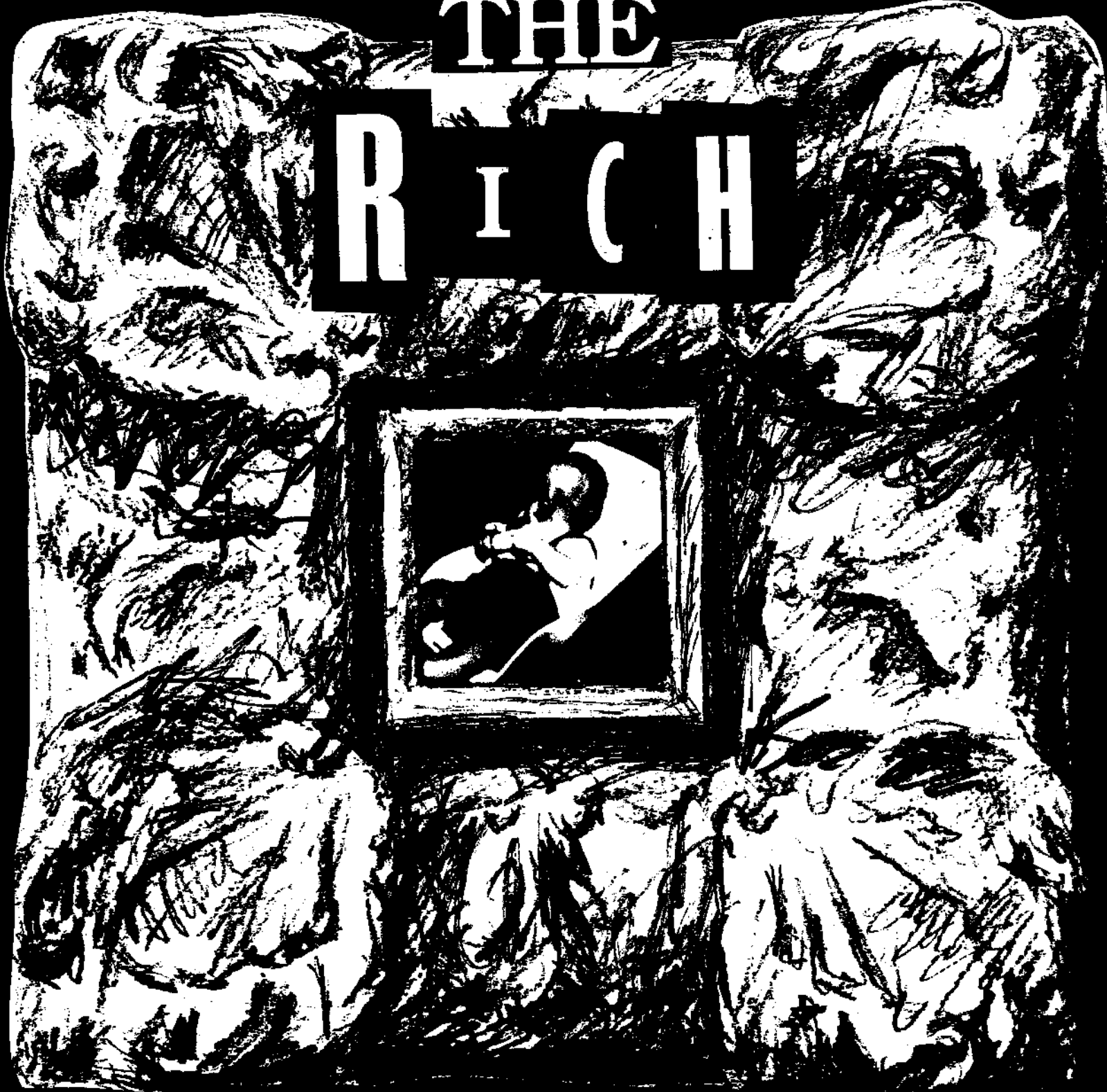
POST AMERICAN

25c

STERILIZE

THE

RICH



SAVE THE PLANET

SEE PAGE 13

BULK RATE
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PERMIT NO. 168
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
POST AMERICAN
POST OFFICE BOX 3452
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702



POST

AMERIKAN



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



Pssst, wanna start somethin'? Pass this paper on to a friend.

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

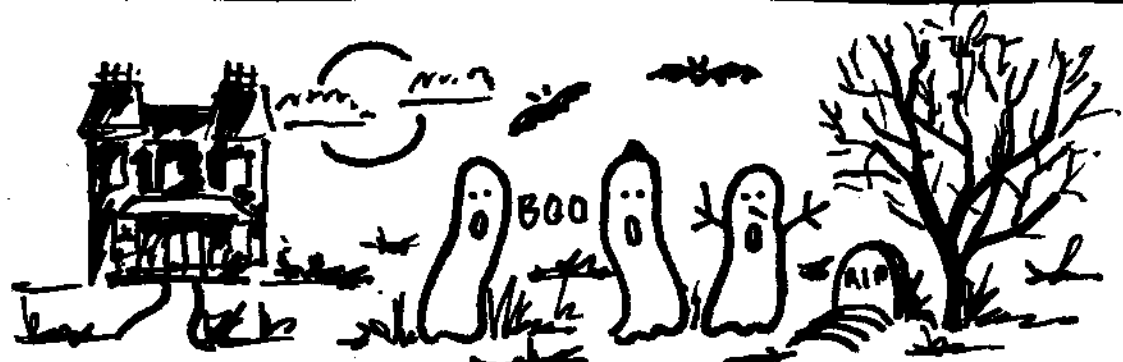
In this issue:

This paper is in your hands thanks to: Laurie (coordinator), Angela, Scott, Lori, Anna-Maria, Shadd, Pete, Peter, Sue, Susie Vince, Bumper, and probably others whom we forgot to mention.

Good numbers

- Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049
- American Civil Liberties Union.454-7223
- Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360
- Childbirth And Parenting Information Exchange (CAPIE).....452-0310
- Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035
- Community for Social Action...452-4867
- Connection House.....829-5711
- Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005
- Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022
- Draft Counseling.....452-5046
- Gay & Lesbian Resource
Phoneline (11-4 M-R).....438-2429
- HELP transportation for senior citizens, handicapped).....828-8301
- Ill. Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
- Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916
- Kaleidoscope.....828-7346
- McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161
- Mid Central Community Action...829-9691
- Mobile Meals.....828-8301
- McLean Co. Center for Human Services.....827-5351
- National Health Care Services-abortion assistance...1-800-322-1622
- Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195
- Occupational Development Center.....452-7324
- Operation Recycle.....829-0691
- Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
- PATH: Personal Assistance
Telephone Help.....827-4005
Or.....800-322-5015
- Phone Friends.....827-4008
- Planned Parenthood...medical...827-4014
bus/couns/educ...827-4368
- Post Amerikan.....828-7232
- Prairie State Legal Service...827-5021
- Prairie Alliance.....828-8249
- Project Oz.....827-0377
- Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
- Sunnyside Neighborhood Center.827-5428
- TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301
- Unemployment comp/job service.827-6237
- United Farmworkers support....452-5046
- UPIC.....827-4026

- Page 3. Information for Activists.
- 4. Big Bucks in Big Words for preachers.
- 5. Primping tricks packaged for your convenience--YUK.
- 6. Susan Sontag's latest book reviewed; PETA News.
- 7. Fashions to come out in--Get you National Coming-Out Day T-shirt.
- 8-9. Vegging out in the Arts with the Muthens--Reviews.
- 10-11. Skeet reaches the 3 month mark and celebrates with Part 2 on Smoking.
- 12. The truth about plastics and bio-degradables.
- 13. Genius at Econo-Wash comes up with world sterilization plan.
- 14. Take your next step--and shut the closet door firmly behind you.
- 15. Ms.Hippie on boot stomping and tricks for treats.
- 16. Neo-Nazis hassle Lefties in Seattle; Drug Crisis used to get more aid for US in South America.
- 17. The Myths about Rape.
- 18. Gabriel Oak serenades Bathsheba back to the North.
- 19. Closets overpopulated worldwide.
- 20. Utah Philips to sing at workers benefit; AIDS Awareness week info.



About us

Post sellers

- BLOOMINGTON**
- Amtrak Station, 1200 W. Front
 - The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
 - Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
 - Bloomington Public Library (in front)
 - Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 - Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 - Convenient Mart, Emerson and Main
 - Front and Center Building
 - Hit Shed, 606 N Main
 - Hungry House, 103 W. Jefferson
 - Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.
 - Lee St. (100 N.)
 - Main and Miller Streets
 - Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
 - Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 - Mr. Donut, 1310 N. Park
 - Pantagraph (in front),
301 W. Washington
 - The Park Store, Wood & Allin
 - People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrisey
 - Red Fox, 918 W. Market
 - Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
 - U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
(at exit)
 - U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe
 - Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
 - Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
 - Washing Well, E. Front St.

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or down played by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media.

We put out six issues a year. Staff members take turns as "coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, graphics photography, pasteup, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis. You are invited to volunteer your talents.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe it is very important to keep a newspaper like this around. If you think so too, then please support us by telling your friends about the paper, donating money to the printing of the paper, and telling our advertisers you saw their ad in the Post Amerikan.

The next deadline for submitting Post material is Friday, November 10. Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed.

Moving?



When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post Amerikan will not be forwarded (it's like junk mail--no kidding!). Fill out this handy form with your new address and return it to us, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

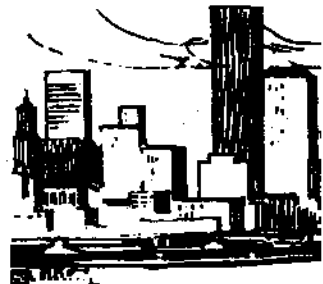
Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

- NORMAL**
- Avanti's, 407 S. Main
 - Big Rudy's, 107 E. Beaufort
 - ISU University Union, 2nd floor
 - Hovey Hall, ISU (in front)
 - Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
 - Mother Murphy's, 111 North St.
 - North & Broadway, southeast corner
 - White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway
(in front)

Black and Decker



How I spent my summer vacation



This last summer, as one of many gestures of compromise—or better, compromising gestures—toward my survival, I worked at a Black & Decker Reconditioning Plant in Columbus, Ohio. I'd taken the job, which lasted roughly a month, through Victor Temporary Services' Light Industrial Division. Light industry appealed to me mostly for economic reasons—I couldn't then afford the wardrobe considered appropriate for an office worker, even if she's only a temporary file clerk making \$4.00 an hour.

In a factory, I could wear jeans and sneakers and t-shirts. In a factory, I wouldn't be parked behind a desk all day, moving from file cabinet to copier to desk for 8 hours a day. In a factory, I would be able to reflect on whatever I wished, once I'd learned the routine. I'd be damned if anyone would get to pick my highly-trained brain (any more than was absolutely necessary) for less than minimum wage.

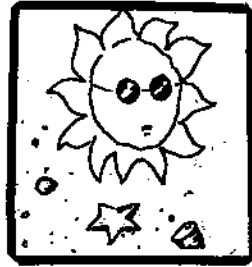
Victor, like most temporary agencies, takes a 20% cut of its wages. But Black & Decker compensated me for their tacit collusion with Victor Temporary Services in my naked exploitation by offering me an extraordinary object lesson in some basic components of late high capitalism. Commodity fetishism, conspicuous consumption, and most crucial, planned obsolescence are the real products of Black & Decker's Reconditioning Plants. Rewired toaster ovens and coffeemakers were very nearly a by-product.

About 5 years ago, Black & Decker bought out GE's small appliance line, now making toaster ovens and coffee makers in addition to power saws and leaf blowers. In buying the appliance line, they also bought the plants where these appliances are reconditioned, as well as the plants of their original manufacture. There are currently about 3 or 4 reconditioning plants scattered throughout the country, but the one in Columbus, Ohio, seems to be the largest and the most centrally located.



Shipping & Receiving, where I worked on the docks, would get shipments from as far away as Hawaii or Nevada with randomly packed loads of "defective" merchandise, though it soon became obvious to me that a good third of this merchandise was not in the least defective. I frequently pulled appliances out of larger shipment boxes which were not only in the original boxes, but had the factory seals intact.

Much of what I did was to sort the merchandise onto carts and then from the carts into warehouse bins. When the bins were full of, say, for example, steam irons (and Black & Decker manufactures at least 25 different types, ranging in price from \$12.00 to \$60.00, approximately), neatly categorized by serial numbers, we would store them elsewhere in the warehouse until the workers in the reconditioning plant were ready for them. After a steam iron is reconditioned, it's later sold again through a Black & Decker, or another, independent, factory second store at a reduced price.



But I spent much of my 10 hour working day—as many as 4 or 5 hours—tossing scrap into the compactor, which in turn was most likely taken to municipal landfills. I'd no objection to tossing a boxed and sealed 10-12 cup coffeemaker into the trash if it was full of broken glass. Even if s/he were wearing gloves, it would be unsafe for a reconditioner to open the box and to try pick out the shards. Unsafe too for the consumer—it would be too easy to miss tiny but still dangerous bits of broken glass that could easily pass through the filter into the morning coffee. Nor did I object to scrapping merchandise that was clearly beyond repair.



Too often, however, I was throwing out merchandise that was not defective at all—random items may have been occasional customer returns; someone would perhaps question the wisdom of a \$49.00 "Spacesaver Popcorn Popper" or a \$15.00 "One-Cup Coffee Maker." These items were automatically scrapped; when I asked why, I was told it was not cost effective to recondition them. By scrapping them, Black & Decker could write these items off on their taxes, so we at Receiving had to keep track of these on scrap report sheets.

I suppose I might have become more callous had I not had to spend two or three hours breaking down skid after skid of popcorn makers, or under cabinet fluorescent lights, or box after box of one-cup coffeemakers, and tossing them into the compactor on several different occasions. After one such afternoon, I calculated that I alone had scrapped \$25,000.00 worth of merchandise—more than I make in a year.

Even now, the waste of it all staggers me. Black & Decker can hardly be held responsible for a store's going out of business and returning a load of unsold merchandise. But when I stop to consider the extent of waste they could control—of resources, of labor, of the merchandise itself—which if nothing else could be donated to institutions or charities, perhaps for fundraising drives—I feel not only outrage, but shame.

Not only did Black & Decker commit a crime by paying me (and other temporary and/or starting workers) such poor wages, but they paid me those poor wages to commit a sin. However reluctantly I may have done so, I facilitated a truly sinful waste of the planet's resources. Ironically, I participated for my own short-term survival, but at what long-term cost to all of us I'm ashamed to hazard.

--Caroline Webber

***"Capacity Assurance Plans," which will detail to the EPA how states will manage hazardous waste, are due in to the EPA on Oct. 17. So far, the plan is to site new disposal facilities rather than reduce waste. GREENPEACE ACTION has organized a National Phone-in For Prevention day so that you can tell the EPA that you want alternative plans. On Oct. 17, call William Reilly, EPA Administrator in Washington, DC (202) 382-4700; the EPA Administrator in our region, Region 5 (312) 353-2000; and President Bush at the White House (202) 456-1414.

***Gillette isn't the only company that tests its products on animals. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) keeps tabs on which companies do cruelty-free testing, which don't, and which use animal ingredients. Make a contribution (tax-deductible), and get a cruelty-free shopping list: P.O. Box 42516, Washington, D.C. 20015.

Action Information

***Don't go shopping without the pocket-sized "Shopping for a Better World," which links brand-name products to companies' positions on social issues and helps you decide who/what to BOYCOTT. Available for \$4.95 from Council for Economic Priorities, 30 Irving Pl., New York, NY 10003. You can also subscribe to the (irregular) quarterly, "National Boycott Newsletter; write to 6506 28th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115. According to its editor, Todd Putnam, at least 120 national boycotts are currently in action.

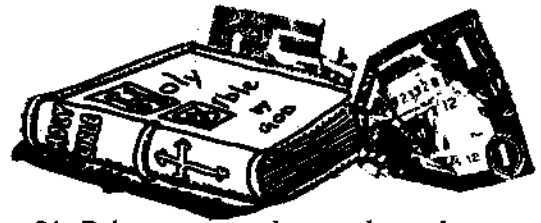
***Let everyone know your position on AIDS AND FAIRNESS ISSUES. Join your voice with others' in the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Speak Out program. For a small amount of money, supportive mail in your name will be sent to Capitol Hill (it's 8.95 for 3 messages). Write to Steve Endean, Field Division Director, Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1012 14th Street, N.W., Suite 607, Washington, D.C. 20005, or call (202) 628-4160. If supplies aren't exhausted, you might get—besides a sense of having done something—a nice American flag button with a pink triangle replacing one of the stars.

***This summer, GREENPEACE, Friends of the Earth, and Earth Island Institute joined the Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA) in calling for an end to military aid and the beginning of environmental aid for war-torn El Salvador. The roots of the country's environmental problems are detailed in EPOCA's 12-page report called "El Salvador: Ecology of Conflict." To join EPOCA send \$25 (or low-income contribution) and receive the report plus project information. EPOCA, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 788-3666.

***Write to the manufacturer of RU 486, the pill that apparently induces safe abortions in the early stages of pregnancy. RU 486 is currently available in France, but Hoechst isn't introducing the pill elsewhere (in America or so-called Third World countries, where the need is great), believing that the political and social climate is too hostile for such a move. Address support letters to Hoechst Ag, Main D-6230, Frankfurt, West Germany.

**INSTITUTIONS OF RESTRAINT:
DON'T LET THEM STOP YOU!**

Beyond Jerry Falwell



Here you are, probably reading this in a college town. Perhaps you are a college student or professor. You probably look upon yourself as enlightened. But I strongly suspect your knowledge is not complete. For I, myself, only recently discovered what political scientists of the future may well call the Hargis Hypothesis.

HH (as we'll call it) goes like this: A preacher who uses long and totally off-the-wall titles for his sermons or books needs to have the rest of his ministry looked into.

For background, let me explain the strange case of Billy James Hargis. Back in 1948, the Tulsa, Oklahoma, preacher started the Christian Crusade. Then in the 1950s, it became the Anti-Communist Christian Crusade. He was the biggest name in right-wing religious circles in the 1960s. Ultimately, Time magazine shot him down with a stunning report that he'd had sexual relations with members of his choir, male and female.

After the scandal broke, I remember looking Hargis up in Who's Who in America, just for laughs. There I learned he had published a book opposing sex education in the schools. The amazing title was Is the Little Red School House the Proper Place to Teach Raw Sex?

That bizarre knowledge remained lodged in the back of my brain for several years as I failed to realize its possible significance . . . until this past year, when I happened to come across catalogs by two Fundamentalist publishing companies, Calvary Publications of Forth Worth, Texas, and Sword of the Lord of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

While flipping through the Calvary catalog, I stumbled upon books and tapes by the late J. Frank Norris, a legendary Baptist preacher.

On page 7 of the catalog I found a sermon booklet with the following title: "The World-Wide Sweep of Russian Bolshevism and Its Relation to the Second Coming of Christ."

Then I recalled Hargis. And then I started checking into Norris' past. In Joe Edward Barnhart's 1986 book, The Southern Baptist Holy War, I found what I was looking for. In 1926, Norris shot and killed an unarmed man

at his church claiming the man had come to attack him. In 1956, one of Norris' colleagues wrote an article linking the NAACP to the Communists.

Real nice guy.

After seeing a link between a long, goofy title and questionable ministries by Hargis and Norris, I formed my hypothesis. But I needed a laboratory example that could be studied in depth (most of Hargis' and Norris' materials are hard to find or out of print).

So I checked through the Sword of the Lord catalog.

And blundered onto Dr. Hugh Pyle of Florida, now a Baptist evangelist. On page 48 of the Sword of the Lord catalog was listed his booklet, "How to Quit Smoking Without Pills, Pain or Panic." The booklet was supposed to help Christians quit tobacco use.

Then on page 50 came the real grabber by Dr. Pyle: "Beware of Herpes, the New Scarlet Monster!"

Convinced I had my lab animal, I ordered Pyle's book What Every Preacher Should Know in an effort to find what might make him tick. When the book arrived, I had doubts about Pyle right away. The cover of the thick paperback was bright yellow, called itself "The Pastor's Success Handbook" and also claimed the book contained "Simple Steps to Better Crowds, Bigger Offerings . . ."

So I started reading to see if the ghosts of Hargis and Norris lurked within and to see if my HH hypothesis could work.

The horrible examples of his teachings soon swarmed over me.

--Page 30. He tells why the minister should visit shut-ins who attended his church when in good health. "Well-cared-for shut-ins sometimes leave substantial amounts to the work of the Lord and his church in their wills. No church can afford to shun or ignore the sick and the shut-ins."

--Page 34. Pyle urges preachers to downplay counseling for members who need help. "I personally believe many pastors have ruined their preaching and soul-winning ministries by too much counseling."

Counseling can be time-consuming. But what did Pyle do with his time? I'll give you a hint. On pages 37 through 39 he lists books preachers should have in their libraries. Incredibly, 11 of the books were written by Pyle!

--Page 43. In discussing preachers with golden voices, Pyle gives an endorsement with, "Not many people have a built-in sound system like Dr. Ian Paisley."

Paisley is the Fundamentalist Protestant preacher who has fanned the flames of religious hatred in Northern Ireland. Back in the mid-1960s, he marched on Belfast City Hall to protest the lowering of the flag when the Pope died. The Associated Press reported that in 1983, Paisley attacked a Presbyterian minister from the pulpit after the man had dared to walk to a local Catholic church to extend Xmas greetings! In a 1986 letter, Michigan Fundamentalist TV preacher Jack Van Impe wrote of Ian Paisley, "He is the minister who brought such great divisiveness among Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland."

--Page 49. Pyle seems to kiss off the sick and efforts to have someone pray for them Sunday morning. Note the tone of arrogance. "Some people who never come to the prayer meetings on Wednesday night will expect you to go to great lengths to secure the heartfelt intercession of the entire flock for Patricia Pain-a-lot's pancreas or Gus Groan's gout flareup . . . A good idea is to train your people to realize that the prayer time for the sick and afflicted is Wednesday night."

Of course, as any preacher will tell you, Wednesday night has the fewest attendees to pray for or visit the sick.

--Page 174. Pyle urges discrimination against mothers of babies. "When a young mother comes in with a baby or a tiny tot . . . it is best to seat them in the back of the auditorium" Pyle advises church ushers. If the lady is near-sighted or has a hearing problem, that's tough. Finding her an aisle seat seems reasonable, but stuffing her in the rear of the church smacks of sending someone to sit in the back of the bus.

--Pages 208-209 encourage lying to the government. This is part of a question-and-answer section with Pyle giving the answers.

"Q: Aren't churches having a lot of trouble trying to operate day-care facilities? I thought the state was giving them trouble.

"A: That is true in some places. You may have to call it "Three Year Prep School" or something like that. We made money by having a four-year prep kindergarten . . . If the word "child-care facility" or "day-nursery" is frowned upon, then call it something else. And rig it up as part of your school or church, as the situation suggests.

"Q: Why can you make more money from the day-care and kindergarten (compared to regular school grades)?

"A: Because you don't have to have college-bred teachers necessarily, and you don't have to have expensive textbooks and other equipment you need further up your school. And with drop-in kiddies, you can charge by the hour."

The Hargis Hypothesis appears to be in operation!

--Steve LaPrade

Who Loves You Like Your Mama Do?

Advertisement for Rock N Roll Emporium featuring the text "MOTHER MURPHYS" in large, stylized letters. The ad lists various merchandise including posters, t-shirts, videos, records, and jewelry. It also includes the address "11 1/2 NORTH ST. NORMAL, IL. 61761" and a phone number "61761".

Alamo

AND A BAG OF TRICKS

There was talk going around ISU that the Alamo 11 was giving away free product samples. Everywhere college students could be seen clutching attractive, mysterious plastic bags. After about a day and a half my curiosity got the better of me. I just had to know what was in those shiny, chic bags. Oh, all right—and I love getting free stuff as well. Of course I consider myself "above" the average consumer who might fall prey to this type of marketing technique. I would never buy a product simply because I had received a free sample of it. So, off I went to pick up my Campus Trial Pack: Hers. I fulfilled the required ritual of signing my name and address on a form—undoubtedly so that someone can send me coupons and other such annoying advertisements.

A quick inventory of the bag led to initial disappointment. Nothing too exciting here:

Dry Idea Anti-perspirant and Deodorant (Gillette)

Silkience Shampoo and Conditioner (Gillette)

Sea Breeze Facial Cleansing Gel (Clairol)

Listerine Antiseptic / Dentyne Gum / Certs (Warner-Lambert)

Chapstick Petroleum Jelly Plus (A.H. Robbins)

BIC Parfum Nuit (Just what I want: perfume made by the same company that makes ballpoint pens. Hey! But it's from France!)

Not exactly products that are high on my shopping list. *



The initial disappointment led to anger after I had placed all the products together on my table and finally observed them as a group. I began to sense a certain theme emerging. I realized that everything in the bag—except maybe the lip-gloss—serves the purpose of cleansing, sanitizing, deodorizing. These products are a perfect example of American society's obsession with cleanliness and its disgust for the female body. The media is continually telling women that they are inadequate, even abhorrent as they exist naturally. We are given messages that our bodies smell bad, that we are not thin enough, that our hair is not the right color, that our body



Amazons

dry!" No shit! Ouch! And let's not forget "Seasonal Shaving Tips: Remember to maintain your shaving habits throughout the winter months, even though less skin may be showing. Less frequent shaving in the winter has been known to lead to body odor." Now excuse me, but have I had BO all these years and have my friends out there not been telling me? What about men, do they have BO every winter? What this is is an example of our culture's sexual stereotyping. Women are not supposed to sweat. When men sweat, however, it "is proof of heroic exertion" (Brownmiller 149).

Avoid the shadow

The pamphlet is also so kind as to address the issue of when a woman should begin to shave: "The age at which you begin to shave has nothing to do with how much hair you will have on your legs or underarms. Most women begin to feel uncomfortable with body hair in their early teen years, when it becomes more noticeable, especially under the arms and on the legs. When embarrassment becomes associated with body hair, it's time to begin shaving." AGGHH! This sounds as if a woman becoming embarrassed about her body hair is just a natural part of her healthy development. When in reality it is the patriarchy defining what is the acceptable way for a woman to look—the patriarchy's definition of what is feminine.



After many years of removing her body hair only to have it reassert itself, Susan Brownmiller concluded: "Why did I need to lock myself in an esthetic convention that denied my physical reality? There was nothing wrong or unnatural about the hair that grew back in the places where I tried to will it away. It had a perfect biological right to be there. It had a perfect female right to be there" (142). The people that published this pamphlet, Personal Touch, want to know if we have any questions or comments about what we have just read. I don't know about questions, but I've certainly got some comments. How about you? 1-800-SHAVERS.

—ISIS

* You guessed it—Clairol, Gillette, and Warner-Lambert are on PETA's cruelty-free products list under the heading of "The following companies do tests on animals." Gillette in particular is on PETA's hit list. In 1985, a Gillette employee documented cruel and unnecessary testing being done at the Rockwell, Maryland, plant. Since then, Gillette has moved its testing operation to an undisclosed independent laboratory, where it pays outside contractors to blind and poison animals with its products.



hair is unnatural, disgusting, and therefore must be removed.

Smell no evil

Well, this one little bag certainly contains enough products to ensure that a woman never again emits any sort of body odor.

If the shampoo and cleansing gel are insufficient we have the deodorant for added protection. And if all else fails there is always the perfume to mask any remaining natural scent. For those of you who might want to make the claim that perfume is an unproblematic luxury, unrelated to women's oppression, Susan Brownmiller in her book *Femininity* remarks: "Yet I can never quite convince myself that perfume is just a harmless pleasure. I've heard too many nasty jokes, I suppose, like the one about the blind man who tips his hat and says "Good Morning, ladies," when he passes a fish market" (152). The attitude expressed in this joke reveals society's need to mask the female scent as well as its discomfort with female sexuality. I am surprised that a feminine hygiene spray was not included in the pack.

You may have noticed that feminine hygiene spray was not the only product missing from this pack. Nowhere among the products was there any shaving paraphernalia. Not to worry! They covered the issue of unsightly body hair in a pamphlet entitled "A Personal Guide to Shaving . . . Written Especially For Women." Now, I quit shaving my legs and armpit hair about ten years ago—after reading an inspiring article in the *Post*. But apparently when I was shaving I was doing it all wrong. I had no idea that there was such a fine art to the procedure.

There is a "correct way to shave." Apparently first thing in the morning is a bad time for shaving. Your body fluids puff up your skin while you sleep. Waiting about twenty minutes will give a much smoother result. Or how's this for advice: "If you shave your legs, especially in the bikini area prepare the skin well with water, and shave cream. Never shave this area

their shaved skin and rats being force-fed Extra Body Perm. You can help to put an end to this absurd, needless, cruelty to animals. What You Can Do:

Buy from companies that do not test their sunscreen on animals, such as Nèxxus and Reviva.

Write to Cosmair, Guy Peyrelongue, President, 575 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017 or call Cosmair toll-free at 800-223-1593 and L'Oreal at 800-631-7358.

If you would like to distribute leaflets, get petitions signed, or sponsor a showing of the "Inside Biosearch" video (documents violations at an animal testing laboratory in Philadelphia contact Sherrin at 309-828-4473 or write to PETA at P.O. Box 42516, Washington D.C. 20015 301-770-7444.

PETA news

As a result of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animal's (PETA) international boycott, both Avon and Revlon announced a permanent ban on the use of animals to test their products. You can thank Avon by calling (212) 546-6015 or writing to the company at 9 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019. Revlon can be thanked by calling (212) 527-4000 or writing 625 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022.

Although animal activists have been making great progress in the campaign against cruelty, there is still much work to be done. PETA launched its national campaign against Cosmair over the July 4th weekend. Cosmair, which makes L'Oreal and Lancome, tested a sunscreen on tiny mice, wrapped from head to toe in tin foil, taped to a piece of wallboard and then literally fried alive. This is only one of the atrocities committed by Cosmair. Others include: rabbits having products smeared on



Uppers 'n' Downers

UPPERS . . . to the people who did to the blatantly sexist Coors billboard what so many of us thought of doing. What a kick I got driving past, not only one, but two corrected advertisements--THIS INSULTS WOMEN sprayed in black paint across the scantily clad torso of a female model (yes, this automatically makes me think of beer too !!?) was a welcome sight, thus proving that in a sometimes seemingly conservative community, there are voices to be heard. And . . .

UPPERS . . . to The Vidette at ISU for printing the photograph of this event on the front page of a middle-of-the-road newspaper.

DOWNERS . . . to The Gallery of downtown Normal for charging 50 cents for a glass of water. In the wake of a water shortage, it makes sense for restaurant owners to conserve water when they can. But it's obvious that this is not Kup Cheng's intention. First of all, Normal is not suffering from a "known water shortage." Also, even if they were, money is not the issue. Water is the issue. What seems to be happening is that many people are choosing not to drink alcohol when they go out to dance, socialize, or listen to live music. As The Gallery is, at this time, the only bar in Normal that is featuring live music, Cheng has quite a scam going here with something as simple as a glass of water.

DOWNERS . . . to WESN. On the air for less than a week and would you believe it--they are up to their trick of airwave gay bashing again. Come on, guys. You are supposed to be "The Far Left" and "progressive." Get it together. Quick.

DOWNERS . . . to Scott Cooley, Editor-in-Chief of The Vidette (ISU) for exercising an unrestrained amount of editorial license in general, but more specifically for his racist comments in criticizing minority support programs. Is Mr. Cooley just plain ignorant or does he understand the implications of what he's saying? The very fact that such support programs are deemed necessary by our predominantly racist community (only reiterated by his comments) is surely indicative of the prejudices which minority students face in their fight for the right to an education. Although if the fight places them in classrooms alongside the likes of Scott Cooley, it calls into question the entire admissions premise of the University powers that be. Perhaps another support group is needed for all of us to help recover from the shock of dealing with nits such as The Vidette's Editor-in-Chief.

DOWNERS . . . to Scott Cooley, again, for his 9-27 editorial, "Ban the PSU*, Other Student Activists." Cooley's couch-potato (his words) politics and zig-zag logic lead him to condemn collective action when it isn't *his* action (those who were offended by Coor's billboard, says Cooley, were merely a few selfish individuals) and to valorize individualism when it serves to let him and his ilk off the hook (he labels the Coor's Company a private individual whose actions couldn't possibly have offended "a whole class of people"--feminists, I guess that is). This radical self-protection translates to global irresponsibility in Cooley's denouncement of the Burger King boycott. Cooley's reprehensible political tactics and his stated position of detached amusement (he finds student action "humorous," "funny," is "slightly amused") are an outrage. The Vidette needs a different Editor-in-Chief.

*Progressive Student Union



Vegged out

Well, I really did intend to get my act together and sample a further Bloomington/Normal gourmet extravaganza, but what with a busy school schedule and a nearly empty pocket, of the un-pita kind, not to mention the difficulty in actually finding a vegetarian eating venue, I fell short of my intentions. So thinking you'd be disappointed, I thought I would share with you my own super yummy dish of "Aubergine Parmesan" [Egg Plant].

Take an aubergine [egg thingy] and slice it thickly. Dip the slices in flour, egg, then breadcrumbs. Fry in oil, preferably olive -- bourgeois, I know. In the meantime, make a tomato sauce with plenty of basil. Mix mozzarella and parmesan cheese....hang on...hang on, wait a minute, this is sounding too complicated--do I really make this dish? and why do I want to be in the bloody kitchen anyway when I could be doing more interesting things like playing with my powertools or watching good movies like "sex, lies and video tape."

I think I'll just get back to my Day Job and scour the Yellow Pages for next time...

--R.T.Choke

McLean County Health Department

AIDS PROGRAM

The McLean County Health Department provides a wide range of educational and supportive services related to HIV, the virus responsible for the development of AIDS

Available services include:

- ✓ Information
- ✓ Referral/advocacy
- ✓ Anonymous and confidential HIV antibody counseling/testing
- ✓ Consultation
- ✓ Case management and home nursing services for individuals with HIV infection
- ✓ Assistance with policy development
- ✓ Group educational programs

For more information or services, contact:



Health Department
905 N. Main Street
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 882-5435



LAMBDA SUES SKINHEADS FOR GAY-BASHING

An unprecedented \$20 million suit has been filed against members of a Skinhead gang alleged to have brutally beaten Rodney Johnson of Washington, DC, solely because he is gay.

The suit, thought to be the first in the country against members of the Skinheads, alleges violation of Johnson's federal civil rights as well as assault and battery.

The suit also marks the first time a victim of anti-gay violence has sued members of an organized hate group for civil damages.

The gang members are charged with viciously assaulting Johnson in a parking lot adjacent to an area known to be frequented by gay men. The suit alleges that several Skinheads savagely and repeatedly struck Johnson in the head and upper body with baseball bats while screaming, "Die, faggot, die." The defendants did not stop the attack until they believed they had killed Mr. Johnson.

son. As a result of the attack, Johnson suffered a concussion, a fractured skull, fractured and broken bones, pulmonary contusions, and pulmonary collapse, as well as severe emotional trauma.

"It is hard for someone not present at the attack to comprehend the incredible hatred that these gang members felt--and still feel--towards me just because I am gay," stated Johnson. "I am completely disgusted by this kind of groups violence. As a society, we cannot allow hate-motivated violence by these gangs to continue."

Usually identified by their shaved heads and militaristic accessories, and fed by the supremacy rhetoric of neo-Nazi groups, Skinheads are believed to be responsible for a sharply rising number of killings, beatings, and other attacks against minorities across the United States. According to a National Gay and Lesbian Task Force report on anti-gay violence in 1988, "Skinhead attacks were by far the most numerous and brutal of all [anti-gay] hate group incidents documented. Even though some Skinhead factions purport not to be racist, the vitriolic hate the groups thrive on is aimed at several minority groups. By far, though, the most clear and common link between all these factions is their fervent hatred of lesbians and gay men."

In a novel move, the suit also names the parents of two Skinhead gang members as defendants, alleging that, despite knowledge of the violent activities of the Skinheads, they encouraged or failed to discourage their children's association with the hate group.

Johnson commented, "It is only the dramatic cases, like mine, where a person is beaten within an inch of his or her life, that most people even respond with, 'Oh, that's terrible.' These people are against killing gays for being gay, but not against firing gays because they're gay. What they don't want to acknowledge is that one thing is significantly connected to the other."

The lawsuit is supported by a consortium consortium of groups who are each working to combat violence against lesbians and gay men.

Lambda searches for new staff attorney

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has announced that it is conducting a national search for a staff attorney. Staff attorneys at Lambda are responsible for litigating Lambda's national docket of test cases involving sexual orientation and AIDS-related issues, assisting attorneys throughout the country who represent lesbians, gay men and people with AIDS, developing long-term legislative and advocacy strategies, working with other lesbian/gay, civil rights, and legal organizations, and providing information and assistance to the hundreds of lesbians and gay men who call and write to Lambda each month.

Attorneys interested in working to advance the legal rights of lesbians and gay men around the country should have a minimum of two years' litigation experience and a demonstrated commitment to lesbian and gay rights. Lambda strongly encourages applications from women and people of color. A letter of application, resume, and writing sample should be sent by October 10, 1989, to Paula L. Ettelbrick, Legal Director, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

Looking for one good man or woman

Joseph Steffan and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are looking for a retired high-ranking Naval officer to submit an affidavit testifying to the feasibility and effective service of lesbians and gay men in the armed forces. Navy regulations, like all the armed service, state that homosexuality is incompatible with military service, and were used to discharge Steffan from the Naval Academy six weeks before he was to graduate with honors.

In response to Steffan's discharge, Lambda filed a suit against the Navy, charging it with unconstitutional discrimination. Lambda recently won the first round of its challenge when Judge Oliver Gasch of the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C., denied the government's motion to dismiss the case. The court has set a schedule for deciding the constitutionality of the Navy's regulations. Currently Lambda staff attorney, Sandra Lowe, and cooperating attorneys Marc Wolinsky of New York, and Cal Steinmetz of D.C. are preparing briefs and affidavits which must be submitted by this fall.

If you think that you or anyone you know would be in a position to provide testimony, please contact Lowe at (212)-995-8585.

Lambda included in national listing

Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the oldest national gay organization in the country, announced today that it was among the 27 charitable organizations approved belatedly for inclusion in the 1989 Combined Federal Campaign National Listing, the federal government's charitable program, after having been initially denied participation. Lambda is apparently the only gay organization included in the 1989 National Listing, and one of two gay organizations ever to be listed.

"The original denial was contrived--we were told we had to submit additional information, and then on the appeal of the rejection we were told we were barred from furnishing anything else," said Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's Executive Director. "The evidence suggests that the real motive for the rejection was distaste for Lambda and its mission."



"We are very glad to have the original inequity remedied, and ecstatic at inclusion in the campaign," he added. "Organizations applying to the campaign should be judged by the nature of their operations, and not the content of their advocacy."

Stoddard noticed that legal defense funds analogous to Lambda, such as Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, the Environmental Defense Fund, NOW Legal Defense Fund, are already included in the Campaign.

Lambda's initial application to the federal office of Personnel Management, which administers the Combined Federal Campaign, was rejected on March 17th. The appeal from that rejection was denied on May 11th. In June, however, Constance B. Newman, the new Director of the Office of Personnel Management, notified Lambda that she would personally review all denied applications "because of the importance (she) attached" to the program.

Lambda was founded in 1973 to promote the civil rights of lesbians and gay men through litigation and education.

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Everyone is welcome to the weekly meetings at 8 PM on Wednesdays in room 112, Fairchild Hall, ISU.

- Oct. 4 -- General meeting
- Oct. 11-- Gay/straight rap
- Oct. 18-- Biannual Coffeehouse and poetry reading
- Oct. 25-- Guest speaker on religion and homosexuality: Rev. Hal Hasse from the Metropolitan Community Church in Peoria
- Nov. 1 -- Guest speaker to discuss alcoholism and chemical dependency within the gay and lesbian community
- Nov. 8 -- The Dating Game
- Nov. 15-- Discussion: Coming out to family and friends
- Nov. 22-- THANKSGIVING BREAK: no GPA meeting
- Nov. 29-- Movie: TO BE ANNOUNCED
- Dec. 6 -- Christmas party and gift exchange
- Dec. 13-- FINALS (GOOD LUCK) No GPA meeting.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Wednesdays -- 8 PM GPA meetings
- Thursdays -- 8 PM Happy Hour

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Wed., Oct. 4 -- McLean County AIDS Task Force Benefit Concert and play performance titled "Safe Sex" 8 PM at The Gallery in Normal. \$4 donation
- Fri.-Sun. Oct. 6-8 -- Trip to Washington, D.C., to see last complete showing of the NAMES project quilt
- Wed., Oct. 11 -- National Coming Out Day
- Sat., Oct. 21 -- Nancy Hill Concert in Hayden Auditorium at Metcalf 8 PM. Tickets: \$4 students in advance; \$5 general in advance; \$6 at door
- Sat., Oct. 21 -- Halloween Party 10PM
- Fri., Nov. 17 -- Party 8 PM

Gotta dig those dirty birds

I have to admit that the first time I went to see The Mudhens at The Gallery in downtown Normal was really out of sheer boredom. A friend who lived in Champaign called me after seeing them at Mabels and said, "You have to go see them. They are so hot." My alternative was to stay home and read some John Donne for a course in literature by dead, white, straight men. Did I really have a choice?

Downtown Normal was--well--normal for a Saturday night. I walked by the lines of students corraling their way into Rocky's. One comes out, one goes in. "Like, get at the end of the line." Fire codes, you know.

Where were the lines going into The Gallery? Live music. A band. Real people playing. How come I didn't have to wait for someone to come out before I could go in? I still ask myself this question. Often.

I try to catch The Mudhens' show every time they come to town, and my reaction is always the same as it was that first night I saw them: fucking meow!!! It's easy to attribute this reaction to the art of rhythm and blues itself; one could argue that we can all relate in one way or another. But I don't buy it. There exists a certain emotional and excitable involvement when The Mudhens play which is impossible to ignore.

The band's presence on stage is undeniable. You first of all have to imagine the stage set-up at The Gallery. Five musicians and all of their equipment on a stage the size of, let's say, a parking spot. Not everyone in the band is going to be seen, especially since it seems like the stage is in another room from where everyone is sitting.

But still, no one is foregrounded--the star of the band. Kevin DeForrest performs most of the band's vocals. It would be easy to attach "lead vocalist" to him (all 6 foot, 8 inches of him), but the title would be misrepresentative. Next to him usually stands Kent "Doc" LeCouris on harp and comic relief (DeForrest described him once as "the funniest man in the world"). LeCouris also takes some of the vocals.

Standing amidst the large equipment and the duct work and support beams of the bar are Bruce "Bruiser" Rummenie on guitar, Andre "Uncle Andre" Massadi on bass, and Ricky "The Fever" Cummings on percussion. Although they themselves are difficult to see, their music is right up front with LeCouris and DeForrest. Any Marxist would be impressed with the true sense of collective.

And then there is "Waxing the Cat," The Mudhens' album from 1988. The album is good. I hate rating scales, but if I would rate "Waxing" on what I accomplished while listening to it, I would have to give it a big pot of sauce and two veggie lasagnes.

But "Waxing the Cat" is not really representative of what The Mudhens are today on stage. And for good reason, too. DeForrest and Rummenie are the only two musicians from the album who remain in the group. LeCouris, Massadi, and Cummings are all new since the album.

You will hear many of the songs from the album, though, when they play at The Gallery. Rummenie wrote seven of the album's ten songs. DeForrest said, "We cover some of the great blues, and we try to stay away from the familiar. But we really try to get as much original stuff out as possible."

Thinking back again on the first time I saw The Mudhens, I remember DeForrest saying to the crowd, "If you like what you hear tonight, tell



your friends. Tell Kup [Cheng--owner of The Gallery]. We need live music. Tell them 'live music is good.'"

Live music is good.

--Skeet Floyd

The Mudhens--Schedule

- Oct 6: Mabels, Champaign
- Oct 25: Mabels, Champaign
- Oct 28: Alley Cat, Champaign
- Nov 4: THE GALLERY, NORMAL
- Dec. 8-9: On Broadway, Springfield

Interested in knowing the latest Mudhens dates and other scoops? Get on their mailing list. Write:

The Mudhens
809 S. Lynn
Urbana, IL 61801

Women's music alive in B-N



Nancy Hill concert

Coming soon to an auditorium near you...singer, songwriter, and story teller Nancy Hill. Years ago, some of you may have seen her at Bloomington's own Ground Round. These days, she frequents such places as National Women's Music Festival, Mountain Moving Coffeehouse and next Hayden Auditorium.

Yes, folks, Women's Music in B/N! On Saturday, October 21 at 8 PM, Nancy Hill will play at Hayden Auditorium. The concert is being produced by New Moon Productions (who brought you Deidre McCulla and Ann Reed this past year.)

Tickets are reasonable at \$4 in advance for students, \$5 for General Public, and \$6 at the door. For more details call 452-8897. Tickets are available at New Moon c/o Nancy at 812 W. Hovey, Normal, IL. 61761. Student tickets can be purchased from GPA members who are helping with the promotion.

Book review--

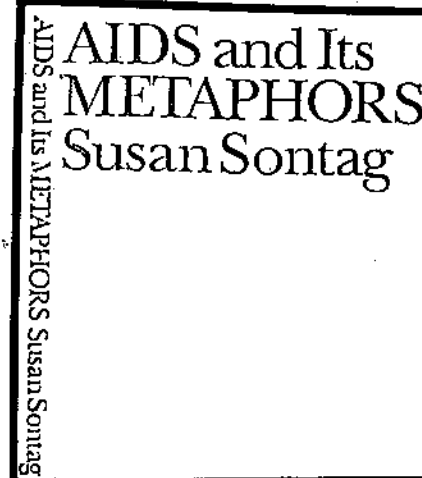
AIDS and its Metaphors

Sontag's latest

AIDS and Its Metaphors, Susan Sontag. (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988.)

Not exactly what I'd call light holiday reading, but definitely not heavy either. And definitely exciting. I took Sontag's book with me this summer as I ventured west and although at times I strayed into my Anne Tyler, there is a challenge offered by AIDS and its Metaphors which always drew me back. It's a book which starkly points out the bias and often unconscious prejudices which so easily trip off the tongue when referring to the disease AIDS. Sontag explores the descriptive language we use when talking about AIDS, the idea of metaphor as a political tool, and the negative repercussions of these metaphors upon those with the disease--those we call its "Victims."

Sontag relates military-related AIDS metaphors to the dominant ideology, and the implicit benefits for a right-wing, capitalist society of speaking about disease using war metaphors: "Military metaphors contribute to the stigmatizing of certain illnesses and, by extension, of those who are ill." She calls into question the wordy medical descriptions of the virus: "The tiny invader... begins to mobilize an array of cells that, among other things, produce antibodies to deal with the threat." Equating such language with "The language of political paranoia, with its characteristic distrust of a pluralist world" makes sense when she goes on to examine the government sponsored advertising campaigns which attempt to contain AIDS.



Sontag relates this to a need to generalise the disease into a social atmosphere--thus encouraging to moralise and so pass judgements on individuals whose lifestyles threaten to subvert the capitalist, homophobic status quo. A quotation from the conservative London paper, Sunday Express shows the extent of this need, and the dangerous sensationalism it attempts to germinate: "The killer AIDS virus was artificially created by American experiments which went disastrously wrong." Sontag opens up religious bigotry: "AIDS is God's judgement on a society that does not live by His rules." And political bigotry shown in the words of South Africa's Foreign Minister, when referring to incidence of the illness among neighbouring all-black mine-workers: "The terrorists are now coming to us with a weapon more terrible than Marxism: AIDS."

Sontag ends AIDS and its Metaphors saying that "the metaphors cannot be distanced just by abstaining from them. They have to be exposed, criticized, belabored, used up." The use of military metaphors then "provides a persuasive justification for authoritarian rule... It overmobilizes, it overdescribes, and it powerfully contributes to the excommunicating and stigmatizing of the ill." I found the book acted as a necessary reminder of how very easy it is sometimes to forget that our language is contaminated with the stigmas of the ruling ideology. To discover such stigmas in AIDS and its Metaphors is hardly surprising, but what is disturbing is finding yourself unaware of the implications of such stigmas. It's on these grounds that I'd recommend Sontag's book--and it's only 95 pages long/short.

--Virginia Girly--

Helms vs. the Arts

Post American
Vol. 18 No. 3
Oct./Nov. 1989



Sen. Jesse Helms



Robert Mapplethorpe
Self Portrait (1980)

Other museums such as the Corcoran (Washington, D.C.) were too intimidated following the reaction to the Serrano work to show Mapplethorpe's well-respected works, but the ICA went ahead as planned.

As a result of their commitment to free expression, both the ICA and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (which housed the Serrano exhibition) were slapped with five-year bans from receiving NEA grants by the Senate. Furthermore, the NEA budget was cut by \$45,000, the amount of the two controversial grants. The message to artists, galleries, and NEA members is crystal clear: make art that the state likes, or be prepared for punishment.

As in a dictatorship, the official artists will live high on the hog, but the rebels will starve.

Helms and gang took their "Big Brother" plan one step further. The group proposed an amendment to the funding bill for the NEA that would prohibit the use of federal arts funds to:

"promote, disseminate or produce obscene or indecent materials, including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the exploitation of children or individuals engaged in sex acts; or material which denigrates the objects or beliefs of the adherents of a particular religion or nonreligion or material which denigrates, debases, or reviles a person on the basis of race, creed, sex, handicap, age, or national origin."

Which excludes about everything except flowers and pictures of backyard bar-be-ques at Jesse Helm's house.

Under the current process, the NEA contributes grants through a peer review process. Art experts with no political ties decide on which artists to fund in accordance with their talent and craftsmanship. Helms would prefer a system of legalized, governmental approval of all work so that state-funded artists have state-approved themes to their work and nothing contrary or remotely questionable.

Fortunately, there were enough Godless perverts (also known as liberals) in the House to defeat Helms' motion on September 13.

However, the controversy is far from over. The House and Senate must meet to finalize the bill, and Jesse and Co. won't pass up the opportunity to push their patriotism to the maximum.

It is not an easy thing to do--voting for freedom of expression, basic human rights, liberty, etc. Especially when your opponents support much more concrete things like flags, crosses, and symbols.

Helms has the symbols on his side while the defenders of free speech and expression have only the ideals that those symbols stand for, like freedom, standing up for one's beliefs, personal rights, and all that stuff.

Like Pavlovian dogs, Americans have been conditioned to associate symbols like the flag and the cross with what is "right." So, even when the real substance behind those symbols is lost, the assumption is still made that anyone who defaces the symbol is "wrong," and those that support them are "right."

Don't confuse us with facts or reasons. Just show us a symbol, and any third grader could instantly tell you whether that symbol is good or bad. Show the same child a picture of a nude man--even a Michelangelo--and they will be the first to tell you that the picture is "BAD." This is due to a simplistic form of early education involving the association with certain images. Most third graders, however, grew up and demanded to learn the meaning behind the symbols, and no longer took for granted what was "good" and "bad" because of symbol associations.

I wonder how Jesse Helms did in the third grade?

--Shadd

North Carolina senator and aspiring art critic Jesse Helms was one of the hundreds of Americans, tax-paying citizens, and parents who were repulsed when they loaded up the kids and took a visit to their local art gallery this spring. Standing out amongst the standard family favorites was a piece of "blasphemous" art titled "Piss Christ," which consisted of a picture of a plastic crucifix submerged in urine. An obvious attack on Christianity, love, and faith.

Well, okay, so maybe Jesse never actually went to the gallery, or even viewed the work by Andres Serrano in its original form or context.

Yeah, yeah, and maybe no one else even made a single complaint about the piece during its entire tour of ten galleries and museums.

And there is that chance that just maybe there was more of a message to "Piss Christ" than just nastiness. Maybe that stuff about Serrano making a statement about commercialism eating its way into organized religion does carry some weight.

But certainly, Jesse had better intentions for initiating a wave of censorship in the art world than the mere fact that he is up for re-election next year.

Or did he? Really, what better way to gain popularity in the 1980s than by taking away freedom from artists and individuals with radical views? George did it, and he's the president. He found out that a black Chicago artist displayed the flag on the ground, so he wants to make a Constitutional amendment to "protect" the flag. He comes off looking patriotic, American, and saintly, and he gets votes. Helms is no fool. He saw this and decided that he would have to find something even better to appeal to than a person's country. He would hit one where it really counts--one's religion.

With the help of the good Reverend Donald Wildmon of Mississippi, notorious for trying to protect Americans from having to watch "The Last

Temptation of Christ," Helms found his scapegoat--the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) which partially sponsored the exhibition which included Serrano's work. Helms insisted that the NEA "ought to be abolished and all funds returned to the taxpayers," because of its lack of judgement in sponsoring such un-Christian artwork.

Although Helms never followed through on his threat, what he did do proved to be practically as destructive to the NEA. Helms and his supporters spread a wave of censorship and fear through the art industry.

The Institute for Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania sponsored an exhibition featuring photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, which included some sadomasochistic and homoerotic works.



Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

If you want to talk to one of us

Call PATH 827-4005

and ask for the

Rape Crisis Center

Post Amerikan report on

There exists a bit of irony in writing this article. One of my favorite places to smoke was at my desk while I was composing at the computer. I would write a few lines, read them over, hoping to find the cue to help me produce the next few lines. This was the perfect opportunity to light a cigarette. Or was it the perfect opportunity to start writing again when I was finished with the cigarette?

I owe my not smoking thus far to the fact that most of my social group doesn't smoke (I try to avoid "I quit smoking," although I slip every once in a while. No one wants any of that self-congratulatory pat-on-the-back crap. I'm more comfortable with thinking "I've stopped."). Indeed, not being surrounded by smokers helps one not to think about smoking. But here I sit, writing about not wanting to smoke while I remind myself about smoking and wanting to smoke because I am writing. Hmmm.

"I like to inhale smoke."

And for good reason, too. Nicotine is the culprit, you know. It's the drug that makes us do strange things—like inhaling smoke.

Inhaling smoke is not a nice thing the first few times. In fact, it hurts, it tastes awful, and you really have to work hard not to cough. I remember inhaling my first drag when I was fourteen, hanging out in the cemetery behind my house. I coughed, gasped for air, and gagged to the point of almost vomiting.

But I liked it.

Nicotine can have a wondrous effect on the brain and the central nervous system. It can work as a sedative. It can work as a stimulant. It will help to regulate moods and to control anger and anxiety. Any smoker knows that it reduces the effects of stress. It aids in digestion, and can help you to lose a few pounds without formal dieting.

And it's incredibly addictive.

The Surgeon General's 1988 report, "The Health Consequences of Smoking: Nicotine Addiction," stated, "The pharmacologic and behavioral processes that determine tobacco addiction are similar to those that determine addiction to drugs such as heroin and cocaine."

Nicotine is an alkaloid that is a chemical substance containing nitrogen as its organic base. In fact, nicotine is often used in insecticides. In large doses (considering the size of most insects), nicotine will disrupt the neurotransmitters

which link brain cells together (this also happens to us, but we don't die from it). In tobacco smoke, there are over 4,000 pollutants, including: carbon monoxide, nitrites, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, urethane, formaldehyde. I hate to say it, but—yuk.

Regardless of the crud that is present in the smokes we love, it's the nicotine that manipulates us, that makes it seem impossible to ever live without the sticks.

"Excuse me. How much does it cost to quit smoking?"

There's another ironic twist to this whole idea of giving up cigarettes. The money involved is incredible. First of all, you get hooked on a drug and you must continue to buy it. Then the government taxes this drug because they know that it's a steady form of revenue—they know you're hooked. The tobacco companies continue to claim that smoking isn't as dangerous as the government health agencies claim. Tobacco states have a significant political vote. And if you decide that you want out of this whole mess, it might cost you a lot of money.

The "Quit Smoking" gimmick market is hot. It ranges from the support group to the techn-age. It's interesting to look at what some of these methods have to offer.

Nicotine chewing gum. This chewing gum is just loaded with nicotine. Smokers who are physiologically addicted to smoking use the gum to relieve the withdrawal symptoms caused from quitting cold turkey. Smokers chew about ten pieces of gum per day, and they chew the gum for several minutes as the nicotine absorbs through the lining of the mouth. The use of nicotine gum should be tapered off between three to six months.

There are definitely problems with nicotine gum. Have you ever heard the phrase, "Kissing someone who smokes is like kissing an ashtray?" Well, chewing nicotine gum is like licking an ashtray and then french kissing someone who has just licked an ashtray. It's really awful. And the buzz is tremendous. If you chew it too fast, you will find it hard to stand up, or sit down, depending on what effect the nicotine takes. Also, although you are steering away from the "habits" of smoking, you are really not breaking away from the drug itself. And you must get a doctor's prescription.

The gum costs about \$20 for 90 pieces. This gives you about a ten day supply. Tapering off



April
"April is the
cruellest month."
Getting a grip.

should end between three to six weeks, which is a minimum of \$90 for three months. And don't forget what your physician charges for an office visit and maybe a complete check-up.

Hypnosis. Hypnosis by far ranks highest on the "hipness" scale of any of the modern methods to help smokers kick the habit. That is, of course, if you believe in hypnosis. All hypnotists work at different levels and have different techniques. But most agree that hypnosis is really the technique for people who (here comes that cliché) really want to quit, and for people who are really energetic about quitting.

Hypnosis basically strengthens the already existing willpower to succeed. The hypnotist places a post-hypnotic suggestion in the subconscious of the smoker. Further workshopping teaches smokers self-hypnosis for when patterns change in their smoking habits.

Hypnosis can cost anywhere from \$20-\$100 an hour, and can range from a one-hour session to a continual workshop format until the smoker is confident enough to stand on his or her own. And many hypnotists who conduct a one-session hypnosis don't have followup results and success rates on their patients.

Life Sign. "The breakthrough computer that helps you quit. Paces you through a personalized withdrawal schedule." Yes, smoking has reached the techno-computer age. Life Signs is a behavior-modification computer system that designs a personalized program that helps you to quit smoking without the cold-turkey stress. It is about the size of a credit card, and you carry it around with you wherever you go.



His for . . .

His for Hardass

"Well, when Ernest finally came home, Ruth had packed up all his stuff in a wooden barrel on the front porch, and when she saw him coming up the sidewalk she took and rolled that barrel down the steps at him. Knocked him for a loop. All the neighbors were watching and laughing, too. Now there's a hardass woman."

Ruth is one of the many legendary hardass women in my family who provide lively anecdotal material to the clan. A hardass woman has a certain blunt, direct way of taking care of herself that most of us have not. And while most of us wouldn't choose to be hardass, we can certainly admire it in others.

A hardass woman of my acquaintance popped over to her boyfriend's for a surprise visit one summer afternoon and found audible evidence that he was not, as he'd claimed,

defrosting his fridge. He was active in quite a different area, in fact, with a female companion. Did my friend Marsha skulk off home and burst into tears? Yes, but first she stole his favorite blue jeans and emptied his wallet.

Another female relation greeted her drunken husband sweetly, helped him undress and get into bed, wrapped him up tightly in the bedsheet, and beat the hell out of him with his cane. By the time he could get up, he'd dried out.

Being hardass doesn't always involve getting revenge on men. Other rejections of female roles count, too. My pal Ellen, while living in a trailer park in Springfield, invited a couple of us over for a day. Before we sat down to an elegant ladies' lunch, she locked the children out. Our meal was hardly hampered by the sight of them pressing their grubby noses against the sliding glass doors. That's hardass.

Feminist Pri

I is for . . .

I is for I/Eye . . . that is, the male I/Eye, the center of any text, whether a printed/spoken one or a social text. I/Eye controls the space of language/society from its centered, privileged position of the all-knowing, claiming for its perspective, which isn't a perspective at all, a neutral universality: a universality of reality and experience that omits more than half the speaking/acting population from discursive empowerment (not just women but anyone who doesn't buy into the linguistically/experientially inscribed binaries of I-Other/Eye-Eyed, masculine-feminine).

I/Eye says "I see" or "I act," and anysubject not I/Eye cannot see or act, but is the seen/the-acted-upon—is Other/You. I/Eye divides us into 2 camps (it is a discourse of battle), where we stand

smoking-- part 2

ung Association's

a From Smoking"

alendar



June "I'd swim
a mile..."
Ending it all.

Here's how Life Signs works. In the first stage, the computer records your smoking behavior. You turn on the computer the first morning, and every time you light up, you press a button on the computer. When you go to bed, you turn the computer off. During this week, your smoking patterns are recorded--how many cigarettes do you smoke, when do you start smoking, when do you quit smoking, when do you smoke the most.

Day eight of the program begins your "weening" process. Based on your smoking patterns during the week, you are given anywhere from a few to thirty days to quit. Also, you are given a time period between each cigarette you may have. When it's time to smoke, Life Signs flashes and a beeper goes off. But the catch is that you MUST smoke at this time, whether you want to or not.

As your calculated cessation schedule continues, the time between cigarettes will increase as the number of cigarettes you can smoke will decrease. And when your schedule is up, you should be weened and ready to give up smoking completely. The computer even plays a little tune for you.

The program tries to be holistic. A book accompanies the little computer that suggests writing about smoking, exercise programs, stress management, and changing eating and drinking habits (here's an interesting aside: greasy and heavy foods are hard to digest. And nicotine helps stimulate the digestive system. This is why the urge to smoke is much stronger after eating a cheeseburger than it is after eating a salad.).

Of course, Life Signs is not without its problems. First of all, Life Signs continues to allow (forces)

you to smoke. And if you have come to the decision that you want to quit smoking, you probably want to try to go without the cigarettes immediately.

Also, a friend of mine who tried the program complained that when she got loaded, it was easy to leave it somewhere or forget to turn it off at night. And since smoking and getting loaded have significant connections, this problem is worth considering.

And, of course, there is money involved. The initial package costs about \$65 (don't forget that you are still smoking. Your cigarette budget has not decreased at this point.). In case you have some type of stress attack in the middle of the program, you can turn it off and start it again when you are ready. But you get only two chances to complete the program successfully. If you turn it off a second time, you have to send it back to the company for reprogramming--for \$39.95, plus shipping and handling.

Wellness programs. I really have to struggle with this one. And it's one of the most recognized and accepted means of gaining control over cigarette addiction today. I think it's the name that bothers me so much--"wellness." The state of being well. It just sounds so nice for what is going to put someone through a living hell.

"Wellness" means different things to different disciplines, but basically all agree that wellness programs are based on a proactive approach to life and health that encompasses six different aspects: social, occupational, spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional. Wellness programs again try to be holistic--an implied sense of being well and being whole.

There are a number of deep intellectual concepts and theories on the nature of wellness. But let's focus on the practical.

Wellness programs are usually found in two places: the work place or at counseling/medical/community centers. Of course, only big corporations or institutions offer wellness programs to all their workers, and often only people in upper-level positions at these places have wellness programs available. You can bet that the cashier at Freedom gas station doesn't have access to a company wellness program. At least not readily.

The Health Education Department at ISU, for example, is offering a smoking cessation program for students. Its focus will be to help students to: "1) understand their smoking habit,

2) develop an individual plan for quitting, 3) develop maintenance skills to stay smoke-free, and 4) channel their motivation into a healthier lifestyle." The program consists of six one-hour long sessions and is offered at no cost to ISU students. Similar programs are offered for staff and faculty throughout the year.

But all is not lost for those who don't have access to such programs at work or school. For example, the BroMenn Wellness Center offers "Becoming Smoke Free," a four-day program that educates and offers support to people who want to quit smoking.

But maybe all is not found. You have to wonder why wellness programs feel the need to use euphemisms when describing their programs in brochures and catalogues. If nicotine is an "acceptable drug to abuse," what are they hiding? For instance, "Becoming Smoke Free" is written in small letters under a larger heading, "Habit Change." This seems a bit nicer, I guess, than "Rehabilitation for Abusers of Nicotine." And, in addition, this four-day program costs \$64.

And of course we can't forget "Freedom from Smoking in 20 Days" and "Lifetime of Freedom From Smoking," the two self-help quit-smoking programs sponsored by the American Lung Association. Each program is described in a big, brightly colored, glossy catalogue with lots of pictures of lots of happy people having lots of fun now that they don't smoke lots of cigarettes. One thing is for sure. You really won't have time to smoke if you fill out all of the self-analysis questionnaires and daily tally sheets and put the stickers on the Freedom from Smoking Calendar and play the Freedom from Smoking Board Game. PLEASE. Of course, these books are free for the asking.

"Why so concerned with the money, Skeet?"

A person who smokes one pack of cigarettes a day will spend between \$550 and \$700 dollars a year on his or her habit. So in comparison, the money spent on quit-smoking gimmicks and programs doesn't seem like much. But remember that smokers don't spend all of the money in one shot. For those who scrape up \$1.50 to feed their addiction for one day, \$65 for a wellness program or a smoking computer is a lot of money. And let's not forget--no one guarantees that you will be able to quit smoking.

A few words come quickly to mind, the first of course being "capitalism." Soon to follow are always classism, elitism, racism, sexism. Addiction. Cessation. Occultation. Manipulation.

And we search for wellness.

--Skeet Floyd

mer: Lesson #4

on 2 sides--opposite, opposing--of language/experience. I/Eye is the not-You, the not-seeing. In one short question (asked by a student resident of Watterson Towers, in a several-foot message to campus and town taped on his [whether the sex is male or not, the gendered position is certainly masculine] window), the I/Eye can define its position: "What are you looking at, where?"

It's simple: Any male (if we accept the offered gendered positions) who looks at this message from the street is "automatically" the asker; any female is the asked-of. And any male has the right to control the space of the Gaze (we look away when they pass us on the street and stare); any female who dares to look is categorized as an offender of the system, as whore--or bitch or slut or whatever word is currently in use.

This I/Eye is thus constructed as the empowered one, and You is the disempowered: the victim, whose only recourse is self-protection, hiding, pulling down the blinds, locking the doors, and admitting its lack of power. You is never, in the I/Eye world, a source of direct power or direct action.

I is for...

J is for Jock

The term "Jock" claims international status. A strange derivative of the human species, the "jock" can be found bulging and sweating beneath the heavier weights in the gym, or beneath bodies mid-field in a rugby scrum: grunting and puffing in the classroom slouched behind a desk; and grunting, puffing, shoving and snorting belches behind a beer at public bars. Such characteristics unite jocks internationally.

Having spent my time as an undergraduate at one of Britain's most prestigious sporting holes, my capacity to spot these campus hogwarts is deeply ingrained. Campus bars/watering holes could be emptied in a flash once the stampede of assembling jocks was heard, and instantly



transformed into a circus arena for the throwing of beer, the dropping of one's pants, the revealing of one's toilet parts with pride, and the implicitly deluded expectation of somehow impressing one's audience with the size of the invisibly exposed dangly bit.

These odour-eaten lumps of crotch become noticeably more offensive when they encounter women. So deprived are they of civilised company that finding themselves amongst women, they display their usual bizarre ritualistic behavioral disorders with greater intensity: they become excitable, mumble gibberish, take to elbowing one another, and suffer more so than usual from serious hearing and comprehension disorders.

The failure of society and academic institutions to recognise the potential danger such animalistic behaviour purports is something that disturbs me, in fact it scares me in light of the sexual assault of a mildly retarded school-aged woman in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, where those being charged are repeatedly referred to as "Jocks."

Duped by plastics: big corporations looking after their interests

WHAT THEY'RE TELLING US

The plastics industry has a new buzzword—"degradable." It is part of a new sales pitch designed to appeal to the wave of ecological awareness among consumers. First Brands Corporation, for instance, has taken out full-page advertisements in newspapers across the country that read: "Team up with Glad for a safer environment." And the president of Ampacet, producer of a chemical-starch "prodegradant" for degradable plastics, says, "Our new degradable concentrates are a timely and effective answer to protect our environment."

WHAT THEY'RE NOT TELLING US

Despite the hype, calling plastic "environmentally safe" is fraudulent. First, virtually all plastic, whether degradable or not, is made from a non-renewable, polluting resource—oil. Moreover, the technologies used to refine crude petroleum into synthetic plastic resins produce huge quantities of hazardous waste.

If the pace of petroleum-based plastics production continues at its current clip, the United States will churn out 76 billion pounds per year by the end of the century, with one-third of this gargantuan heap (mostly packaging) used for less than a year and then discarded. According to Environmental Action's report, "Wrapped in Plastics," "The segment of the chemical industry that produces the resins commonly used for packaging plastics generated over 5 million metric tons [11 billion pounds] of hazardous waste in 1984."

The processors, who turn resins and polymers into plastic materials, produced 19 billion pounds of hazardous waste. And when the Environmental Protection Agency ranked chemicals by how much hazardous waste is generated during their production, five of the top six were integral to the plastic industry (propylene, phenol, ethylene, polystyrene, and benzene). The list of plastic resin makers, such as Union Carbide, Exxon, Chevron, and Mobile, reads like a Who's Who of toxic polluters.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE IS/ISN'T

In most ways, degradables are no different than other plastics. They too are grounded in toxics, with one variation. The normally long chains of polymer molecules are broken up by starch and chemical additives. Photodegradables use light-sensitive molecules called carbonyls. So-called biodegradables interrupt polymer chains with cornstarch, which bacteria will gladly munch. The manufacturers claim that after starch additives degrade, the polymers themselves actually start to break down—in some versions of the story, into carbon and water. But until science proves this scenario, we can assume that polymer fragments or dust is left behind.

Ideally, all goods should be designed and manufactured with the ecosystem in mind so that, if we throw them away, they degrade until their components are compatible with the environment. Ordinary unbleached paper, for example, is truly degradable. Left out in the sun and rain, or buried in moist soil, it becomes part of the soil, or food for fungi, worms and bacteria. Unrecognizable bits of "degradable" plastic do not turn into soil, plant food, or worm fodder. They have no place in the ecosystem. And no one knows what their long-term effects may be.

In addition, plastics contain additives, such as colorants, plasticizers, and stabilizers, that can be toxic. No matter how we dispose of plastic, the additives contribute to the pollution problem. When buried, they interact with other wastes and leach into groundwater. When incinerated, toxic metal additives and acid gases are released into the air and concentrated in the ash. Burning one type of plastic—polyvinyl chloride—produces extremely toxic dioxins and furans.

Degradable plastic manufacturers say that they have conducted experiments to prove their claims of environmental safety and degradability. But they have not supplied technical data to the public. The federal government has no standards for degradability, so there is no way to hold companies accountable for their claims. What's more, degradability means nothing if your

It is clear that the public's new-found animosity to things plastic poses a threat to the \$15 billion-a-year industry. According to "Wall Street Journal" reporter Amal Kumar Naj, "the chemical industry fears packagers will turn to paper, aluminum or glass if restrictions on plastic increase So the chemical industry is reluctantly pouring millions into developing biodegradable plastics." The newsletter of the Association of Plastic Manufacturers in Europe reported that "During 1988, 211 [U.S.] state legislatures considered some 132 proposals that sought to restrict the sale and use of plastics because of their perceived impact on solid waste disposal." Minneapolis has passed a law, to take effect July 1, 1990, requiring food establishments to use only "environmentally acceptable packaging." municipality sends its refuse to the local incinerator.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS, TO THEM & TO US

Says Greenpeace recycling campaigner Bryan Bence, "Consumers have a lot of power. They can send a message to the worst chemical polluters by choosing and demanding alternatives to plastics packaging. The alternatives are reusable, recyclable products made from safe materials." And in this case, less is more—the less packaging the better.

By J.C., reprinted from "Greenpeace" 14.5 (Sept./Oct. 1989: 18)



OPERATION RECYCLE

We recycle:

- Newspapers
- Corrugated cardboard
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and find out how!**

McLean County's only
not-for-profit community
recycling center

829-0691

923 E. Grove
Bloomington, IL

- Drop offs
- Buyback
- Recycle drives



STD clinic schedule change

The McLean County Health Department's Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic provides confidential testing, treatment and follow-up services for gonorrhea, syphilis and non-gonococcal urethritis. STD clinic services are now available during the following hours:

Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Appointments are not required during regularly scheduled STD clinic hours. In addition, STD clinic services are now also available by appointment on the third Tuesday of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A \$10.00 fee is charged based on the ability to pay. Residency in McLean County is not required.

The Health Department's Communicable Disease Section also provides anonymous HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) antibody testing and counseling by appointment during regular business hour for an additional fee. HIV is responsible for the development of AIDS.

For further information concerning the STD Clinic or HIV related services, contact the Health Department at (309) 888-5435.

World Sterilization: the only answer?

What are we here for?

Sure, maybe an easy question for you to answer, but not for me. In fact, just the other day I was at Econo-wash asking myself that very question while I was doing a load of underwear and contemplating the never-ending evils humanity seems to be doing to the planet. "To make the world a better place," I thought to myself as I poured in some environmentally approved Chlorox II. Just then, a seemingly unrelated scenario played itself out over by the candy machine.

A woman and her three young children were discussing the contents of said candy machine. Apparently the woman was willing to treat each of her kids to something sweet if they could pick out something they liked. The oldest child, maybe seven years old, was having the most trouble making a decision. As he continued to vacillate between candy bars, his mother lost all patience, as he was taking quite a long time. Finally, too haggard to tolerate the lad's indecisiveness, she exploded.

"What are you, some kind of fucking retard," she yelled at the boy, clearly enough to be heard by many of the Econo-wash patrons.

That's when it occurred to me. The answer to my question was clear. We are all here to have children. Freud was right, in a way. We seem to be driven to have sex in order to procreate our species. Who among us (childless, that is) has not been plagued with the perennial Thanksgiving dinner inquiry, "So when you gonna settle down and give the family some grandchildren." And that's when I became confused. We continue to spoil the earth with our waste and ever increasing numbers of offspring. Yet at a personal level, we are all under the impression that there will be future generations.

But what was my point? Well, as I continued to contemplate my relationship to the earth and its inhabitants, I thought to myself, "Hey, wouldn't it be interesting if everyone on earth discovered he or she was sterile." Everyone barren. No more children. Then I thought about it a bit more. Maybe it's not such a bad idea. Maybe someone should enforce it. Naaaa! Sounds sort of fascist. And then I read about Earth First!

Earth First

For those unfamiliar with radical environmentalism, Earth First! is an organization based on the philosophy of "biocentrism" or "deep ecology," which says that all life on earth has the right to exist and that humans have no right to dominate or destroy other life. Earth First! relies on specially targeted acts of vandalism against corporate environmental "criminals" in order to promote their cause. "Corporate extremism begat environmental extremism," says Alston Chase, a lawyer and writer involved in the cause. Chase also says that many Earth Firsters "believe that saving the environment will take nothing less than a cultural revolution." Part of this revolution involves the idea of World Sterilization.



Now I knew my idea must be a good one because I read an article about it in a magazine. But what exactly would be the advantages of World Sterilization and the slow elimination of the human species? Let's start at the top.

Sterilize the Rich

Think of how the rich would reprioritize their use of capital if they knew that they wouldn't have to put money aside for Junior's Ivy-League education.

Their own death would mean the end of their vast estates. They might actually begin to feel that there was more to life than money. They might begin to sell off their holdings and using that money to insure a better life for their fellow human beings. A true sense of world community and single purpose would surely be the only result.

But economic revolution would not be the only result. The environment would surely improve daily as the number of humans slowly declined. Demand for newly cleared tropical rain forests would surely decline as MacDonal'd's final billion customers came closer into view. And how about those world landfill problems. I recently read that about one-fourth of today's landfills are comprised of disposable diapers.

Politically the world would also become sounder as over-population problems stabilized and then declined. No more teary-eyed Sally Struthers to tell us about starving children in some country we have never heard of.

One political issue that's getting a lot of attention these days would also be radically altered. Roe v. Wade would become an un-issue. How could anyone even contemplate the unspeakable evil of destroying a fetus/human life if they could never get pregnant? Millions would have to redirect their political time and energy towards a common goal of love and acceptance of other's moral opinions.

Dream World

Maybe I'm living in a dream world. After all, how could a sweeping program of World Sterilization ever be implemented? No one could be exempt. Any sort of exceptions would be discrimination of some sort. Rich and poor, black and white, commies and contras, Christians and Muslims, and whoever else would all lose their right to make more of themselves. But of course "they" would always suspect "us" of "accidentally" leaving one or two tubes untied in our undying need to overtake the planet, the planet completely free of the enemy who was stupid enough to destroy itself.

So there you have it. My solution to the earth's problems through World Sterilization remains just an interesting intellectual discourse. I can only fantasize at the possible, unending good I feel it would do. As an artist, I can wonder about how my drive to paint would change if I knew that in one hundred years the last humans would die and that quite possibly no one would appreciate my life and work ever again. Maybe some day the world will come to its senses as the last whale washes ashore. The cure of World Sterilization will be put into action, no humans will have to sacrifice their lives, and the planet will be saved.

-Peter Doubt

Source: (on Earth First!) New York Times, July 9, 1989

• Herbs • Spices • Fruits • Vegetables • Nuts

Soaps • Coffees • Breads • Beans



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National Coming Out Day --Oct. 11

National Coming Out Day will once again be celebrated this October 11th Wednesday.

"If the AIDS epidemic has taught us anything, it has made it clear that we will only achieve equality under the law if we are out and visible. We will only be treated with respect and dignity if we expect and demand it. This cannot be done from the closet. Our ability to 'pass' and to hide has perhaps been our greatest liability. Most people don't think that they know anyone who's gay, and that's what we get for hiding," states Rob Eichberg, co-founder of National Coming Out Day.

"Polls have indicated to us that the vast majority of people who report knowing someone who is gay overwhelmingly support our rights. Conversely, the vast majority of people who don't think that they know anyone who is gay oppose us on every one of the issues important to our rights and to our survival," adds Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of the National Gay Rights Advocates and co-founder of NCOD.

National Coming Out Day is designed to encourage lesbians and gays--and their families and friends--to enlarge the circle in which they are "out" about their sexuality. The theme of NCOD is "Take Your Next Step." Aware of the fears and possible backlash that surround honestly coming out, NCOD's theme is intended to let each individual take the step in the coming out process that is most appropriate for him or her whether that step is simply being honest with oneself, telling a friend or relative, or becoming publicly visible. It also stresses that coming out is not a singular event, but an ongoing process.

The consequences of being invisible are social as well as personal. The psychological costs of carrying a terrible secret has to do with the core of a person's identity, frequently manifest themselves as drug or alcohol abuse and nervous disorders.

National Coming Out Day is designed to help build stronger, more open communities. Being invisible is unhealthy for gays and lesbians and for society as a whole. Being invisible robs younger generations (gay and straight) of their role models, their access to alternative points of view, their opportunity to grow up with dignity. The impact of such a day can be enormous.

AIDS

FACTS FOR LIFE

How to reduce your risk for HIV infection, the virus responsible for the development of AIDS

Practice safer sex

- ☛ reduce the number of sex partners
- ☛ communicate with your sex partner about safer sex
- ☛ consider abstinence as an option
- ☛ use latex condoms properly during any sexual activity preferably with a spermicide containing non-oxynol 9
- ☛ learn which sexual practices are safer than others

Avoid sharing needles

- ☛ avoid using IV drugs
- ☛ if you do use IV drugs, use you own set-up or cleanse needles between persons with household bleach and water

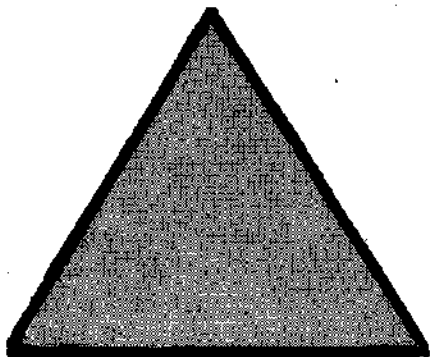
Furthermore, be alert to actions which affect your judgment or your immune system response

- avoid excess alcohol
- avoid use of non-prescription drugs
- change lifestyle to reduce stress and fatigue
- protect yourself from other infections through good handwashing and the use of condoms.

For more information or HIV related services, contact:



Health Department
905 N. Main Street
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 888-5435



SILENCE = DEATH



Community News

Independent living programs slated

LIFE-Center for Independent Living (LIFE-CIL) will be hosting a Disability Awareness Fair at the Eastland Mall on Saturday, October 14th from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, October 15th from 12 to 5 p.m. This fair will offer a wheelchair obstacle course and a variety of other activities. Information will be available on the program, services, and equipment offered by the participating agencies.

LIFE-CIL is also offering FREE orientation and training programs to persons interested in becoming Personal Care Assistants (PCAs). There will be 5 training sessions that will last approximately 2 hours. A sixth session will celebrate achievements reached, with trainees receiving certificates. Training sessions involve communication skills, employer-employee relationships, disability awareness, and other related areas. LIFE-CIL is accepting applications for PCAs from now until October 28, 1989. Applications are available at LIFE-CIL, 1544 East College Avenue, Landmark Mall in Normal.

For more information, call LIFE-CIL at 452-5433.

LIFE-CIL is a non-profit, community based organization serving people with disabilities in McLean, DeWitt, and Livingston counties.

AIDS Awareness Week slated

October 1st through October 8th has been proclaimed AIDS Awareness week in the Town of Normal, the City of Bloomington, and McLean County. The McLean County AIDS task Force (MCATF) will be sponsoring a variety of events throughout the week.

- Sept. 29-Oct. 1: MCATF literature display at Eastland Mall's Health Fair
 - Oct. 3: MCATF library open house on Tuesday, Oct. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at The Cancer Support Network at 802 E. Jefferson, Bloomington.
 - Oct. 4: MCATF benefit performance on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. at The Gallery, 111 E. Beaufort, Normal. There will be an adaptation of the Harvey Fierstein play *Safe Sex* performed by Abby Elvidge and Dan Wilson. Music by Ideological State Apparatus and Stumpwhoopt. Suggested minimum donation is \$4.00.
 - Oct. 5: MCATF general membership meeting at 6 p.m. in Bloomington Public Library's board room. Everyone is welcome.
- Certificates of recognition will be given to young people who have participated in a program designed to increase AIDS awareness. If you know of a teenager that has participated in such a program—that is not part of an established school curriculum—please contact the MCATF at 827-4005. Literature displays, workplace presentations, and media presentations about AIDS will be scheduled in the community throughout the week.

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Present this ad at the bar for a drink.
One per customer per night

Dear Ms. Hippie:

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I am suffering from the most terrible guilt, guilt that dates back to my years of co-operative house sharing. In fact, to a time in my life when I prided myself on being politically correct, right-on even.

You see, my roommate of the time had this habit that resulted in our acquiring many an expensive item for our "two up two down" household. Now I can't deny that I reaped the benefits from the nearly new washing machine. I mean who wouldn't enjoy the comfort of home washing? No more screaming kids or adolescent Saturday afternoon youths to contend with. Oh no! The washing machine was a Godsend.

Then there was the fancy stereo that found a permanent spot in our front room. Yes, I admit it, I probably used it more than my roommate as she was more often than not out "shopping." The list goes on from yoghurt maker through automatic cat feeder to that fancy rug that gave us the appearance of not only having money but taste as well.

So, Ms. Hippie, what I want to know is

1. having enjoyed the fruits of her labour how do I purge myself of this guilt which I've carried around in my suitcase? . . . and
2. what is the cheapest way to refurbish our house without stooping this low again?

Shopped out

Dear Out,

Nice typewriter you've got there—or is it a word processor?

Guilt over using items stolen by others may be classified as low-level guilt, which usually may be assuaged by a long, lazy weekend on or near water. An exception might be guilt over using items stolen by others from needy private individuals (as opposed to corporate entities like the telephone company). You don't elaborate on whom your roommate stole from. Karmic balance requires that items stolen from the needy be paid back in the form of items equally or more valuable. For example, stolen food stamps may be repaid with avocado mousse, Euphrates crackers, turtle cheesecake, and champagne.

Ms. Hippie is aghast that a Post reader wouldn't know how to furnish cheaply. Borrow a truck and cruise the curbs of the east side of town. On these curbs, you will find very serviceable furniture and appliances which need only minor repairs. Make these repairs. Then buy a couple gallons of plain white paint. Put a layer of plastic (cleaner's bags or garbage bags will do) or newspaper down on the living room floor. Take all the stuff you got off the curb and put it on the covered floor. Paint everything white (avoid moving parts and electrical connections). Do the walls while you're at it. Let dry. Pick up floor cover. Arrange items. You will have an incredibly hip pad.



Dear Ms. Hippie,

One of my roommates has just "come out" and is enjoying her newfound lifestyle. Since this revelation she has started an annoying habit of running up the stairs in her Army boots late at night. I'm not actually sure what she's doing wearing them at 3:30 in the morning, but as I support her in every way I am having a difficult time in conveying my distress—being woken from my sleep doesn't help my usually cheery morning moods. Not to put a damper on her nightly pursuits and always wanting to keep the peace, I need to know how to handle this situation.

She is a delicate sort of person, and I have a feeling that the boots give her a sense of confidence, and I'd hate to spoil her fun. I've tried buying her a pair of soft house slippers, but the cat has found more use for them than she has. Please don't suggest ear plugs as they make me miss the alarm clock.

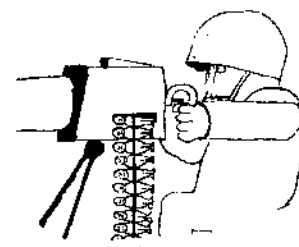
Do you think this practice is quite healthy?

Yours without toe caps

Dear Without,

Heaven forbid that such a deep personal and political statement as insensitive stomping behavior be silenced. If you are so solicitous of your delicate roommate that you won't even insist on her taking off her boots or gliding soundlessly up the stairs, I guess you'll both just have to move to a first-floor flat. See furnishing instructions, above.

Guatemala -- business as usual



"We are a people who carry imprinted on our souls the stamp of blood, horror, and death . . . I believe that for many it is difficult to comprehend that all this happens, that there are human beings who are so deprived . . . we are a people who have been dragged down by 35 years of dictatorship." Nineth de Garcia, President of the Mutual Support Group (GAM). Quoted in "Latinamerica Press" 11/3/88.

PRESIDENT'S POSITION SHIFTS RIGHT(ER) AS SITUATION IN GUATEMALA WORSENS

A national teachers' strike, increased guerrilla activity, and a rise in death-squad and military repression have followed in the aftermath of Guatemala's abortive military coup of May 9. Bowing to the threats of disgruntled military officers and the country's right-wing economic elite, President Vinicio Cerezo appears to have essentially agreed to dispense with the remaining vestiges of Guatemala's vaunted "democratic opening." Cerezo, following the pattern of last year's attempted coup, has once again failed to punish the military conspirators; instead, he has lobbied for increased U.S. military involvement while, at the same time taking a hard line against demands of the trade union and popular movements.

Despite international and domestic pressure for a negotiated end to the increasingly serious guerrilla war going on in 11 of Guatemala's 22 departments, Cerezo and the military high

command continue to refuse to negotiate with the leadership of the URNG. Since January, the URNG insurgency has sharply increased, inflicting several hundred battlefield casualties per month on the army as well as sowing near-panic among the right-wing plantation owners who have been frequent targets of attack.

If current trends continue, the URNG will present a serious military threat to the regime within a short time. As a result of this URNG offensive, covert and overt U.S. military intervention have noticeably increased over the past six months.

As over 100,000 teachers and government workers have gone on strike for higher wages, marching in the streets, taking over government buildings, and at one point even blockading the National Palace, the Cerezo administration has adamantly refused to make anything other than minor concessions--claiming that the government doesn't have enough money to meet the strikers' demands or to implement major economic reforms that were promised by Cerezo in March of 1988.

On July 4, government riot police and hundreds of striking teachers clashed in the plaza in front of the National Palace. Scores were injured and arrested as heavily armed security forces dislodged protestors who had forced their way into the Palace. In a climate of Salvadoran-like terror, with over 100 civilians being murdered or kidnapped every month, many fear that the threats and acts of repression against the popular movement are returning to the grisly levels of the early 1980s.

"DRUG CRISIS" CONSTRUCTED AS RATIONALE FOR MORE U.S. AID

Cerezo and the ruling Christian Democrats are faced with an irreconcilable contradiction. In order to retain several hundred million dollars in aid from the U.S. and its allies, the Guatemalan oligarchy must keep up the pretense of a "democratic opening" and so-called National Dialogue. Yet in order to hold on to power, Cerezo must placate the military officers and agro-export elite who are demanding a total war strategy against the URNG and a crackdown on the above-ground movement.

In this schizophrenic atmosphere of pseudo-dialogue during the day and savage death-squad activity at night, Cerezo and the Christian Democrats are nervously playing out their last remaining options before the situation explodes. As matters go from bad to worse, Guatemala's leaders are expected to ask the U.S. for increased military and economic support--to be disguised whenever possible as civic aid and drug eradication funding. Guatemalan military and economic aid funds from the U.S. are currently only one-quarter the size of El Salvador's \$600 million per year.

In a nationally syndicated story on September 1 ("Guatemala Faces Drug Rot Plaguing Latin America"), Kenneth Freed of the "Los Angeles Times" offers evidence that contradicts a basic U.S. rationale for DEA and U.S. military intervention in Guatemala: supposed marijuana and poppy growing by left-wing guerrilla forces. As Freed points out, recent large cocaine busts implicate military officials and Christian Democratic officials--not the URNG guerrilla movement.

As available research indicates, there is very little evidence to support the claim of a drug crisis in Guatemala--other than the obvious cooperation between the government and military elite in transshipping loads of cocaine for the Medellin Cartel. Nonetheless, U.S. pilots continue spraying defoliants over army-guerrilla conflict zones in the country's highlands, while U.S. military and National Guard troops carry out "civic action" road-building and medical programs. As Frank LaRue and other Guatemalan opposition leaders have pointed out, widespread DEA defoliation is designed to wipe out the food crops of dissident campesinos who provide a support base for the URNG.

PARA-MILITARY GROUPS GET BOLDER/COUNTER-RESISTANCE BECOMES ALL-OUT WAR

On August 15, right-wing para-military groups in Guatemala City attacked the offices of the well known human rights organization GAM (Mutual Support Group for Families of the Disappeared) and the International Peace Brigades (a foreign support group of international volunteers) with hand grenades and machine-gun fire. These attacks correspond to a recent escalation in death-squad terror, which has targeted trade union and indigenous leaders. Between mid-July and the first week of September, there have been at least 27 similar grenade and bomb attacks in the Guatemalan capital--all carried out by military-equipped commandos operating at times in broad daylight.

Up until recent months, military-affiliated death squads seemed content to murder lower-profile rank-and-file activists. Recent bold actions like the attack on GAM (and assassinations of several GAM members) may indicate that Cerezo has given the green light to fanatical proponents of a "total war" strategy against the URNG and the above-ground opposition.

-Jon Reed

Nazis active in Seattle

Note: This article excerpted from a Seattle newsletter tells of the activities of fascist groups there. It serves to remind us that these groups are quite alive and well. We need to think about how we will deal with them when they enter our lives.

On July 22, 1989, the Populist Party held a convention in West Seattle to try and get signatures in order to run for office. The Populist Party is a fascist organization connected to the KuKlux Klan and the American Nazi Party. In 1988, the Populist Party ran "former" American Nazi Party member and Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke for president. David Duke is now a Louisiana state senator and registered with the Republican Party.

When the Populist Party got together in West Seattle last July, they were picketed by various groups and individuals who object to fascism and racism. Since then, death threats have been made against organizers of the anti-Nazi demonstration.

Unknown persons have called the offices of the United Front Against Fascism claiming to be members of the neo-Nazi group The Order. These anonymous individuals threatened to kill people who work at the UFAF office and who organized the picketing of the Populist Party. In addition, three women who are members of the Freedom Socialist Party have received threatening phone calls at home. The Freedom Socialist Party is one of the groups with members involved in the UFAF.

Local neo-nazis are not restricting their activities to harrassing the UFAF and

threatening women in retaliation for the picketing of the Populist Party.

On August 12 a group of swastika-waving neo-nazis descended on a comic book store because they objected to a comic sold there, *The Desert Peach* by Donna Barr. According to picket signs and a sticker left on a parking meter, they felt *The Desert Peach* insulted them.

Whether they call themselves the Populist Party, The Order, Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, White Patriots, or whatever, these neo-nazis work together for the same goals.

The fact that David Duke, a man who has worn the uniform of the KKK and is now an American Nazi Party, is now a state senator gives an indication of how much help we can expect from the government.

The Greensboro massacre, numerous attacks on people by fascist skinheads, an increase in incidents such as cross burnings, the deaths of Native American activists, and the increase in attacks by bigotted people not connected to fascist organizations all point to the fact that the people must defend themselves against this type of threat.

The National Security Council's plans for martial law developed by Oliver North call for enlisting the help of civilian militia to aid the National Guard with rounding people up and policing the country. Where this has already been done in Texas and Alabama, almost all the civilian recruits belonged to far right groups such as the KKK.

-R. S. Mote

Rape: deconstructing the myths



Sexual Violence

In the United States, there is a rape committed every six minutes. One out of four women can expect to be the victims of sexual violence at some time in their life. One out of three children under the age of 18 is a victim of sexual abuse. Rape is a violently destructive crime, yet the myths which surround it, and the culture which upholds it, would almost seem to suggest that it is a socially acceptable crime.

There is the old Common Law that states that rape is "intercourse with a woman [not his wife] by force or threat of force against her will and without her consent." There are problems with this law:

- (i) it assumes that women can't commit rape
- (ii) it assumes that men and children can't be raped
- (iii) it assumes that men can't rape their wives
- (iv) it implies that even willing women must be forced.

There are no prerequisites for becoming a victim, unless it is the characteristic of perceived vulnerability. Anyone can be a victim of rape. It is available statistics which suggest that most rapists are men, and that their victims are mainly women.

The Myths Surrounding Rape

Rapists are Black youths who attack white women.

Rapists are strangers.

Rapists are psychotic sex-crazed maniacs who attack their victims on the street.

Rapists rape for sexual gratification.

Rape is a sexual crime.

All of the above statements are false. Rapists tend to attack women of the same race (i.e. whites rape whites, etc.). Proportionally, there are more white rapists. Most rapists are acquainted with their victims; they have made contact at least once. They have a plan. Rapists are not stupid or crazy. They know exactly what they are doing. They know right from wrong. They have wives and girlfriends. They have healthy sex lives. They hold down jobs, raise children, are active in their community . . . the rapist can be anyone.

The Myths that surround rape are destructive: *Nice women are not raped. Rape victims are young and attractive. Rape victims were asking for it. Women secretly want to be raped.*

It does not matter:

who she is,
what she looks like,
what she was wearing,
what she was doing,
how much she had to drink,
whether or not she knows him,
whether or not she is a virgin,
whether or not she is a lesbian,
whether or not she had previously had sex with him,
whether or not she asked him back to her home,
whether or not she kissed him,
whether or not she stuck her hands down his pants and told him that she wanted him. Once she says "No," if he persists, that is rape. Physical violence is not necessary in committing rape; many a female has slept with her boyfriend for fear of losing him.



Women's Secret Desires

The idea that women secretly desire to be raped is dangerous. It reinforces the belief that "no" means "yes." While there are women who desire aggressive sex--somasochism or whatever--this is not rape because it is what these women want. No woman wants to be hurt, beaten, or reduced to a powerless object. No woman wants to fear for her life.

While there are women who tease, and try a man's patience (perhaps cruelly), if they say "No," they are serious. A man has a right to become angry at the woman who leads him on. He has the right to yell at her. He has the right to refuse to speak to her in the future. He has the right to say horrible things and spread vicious gossip. He does not have the right to hurt her.

The idea that rape and sex are synonymous is also dangerous. Rape is a crime of violence and aggression to acquire power. Sex, or sexual desire, has nothing to do with it. This is why a woman's looks or actions are irrelevant; if one tried hard enough one could find a reason why ANY woman would deserve to be raped. There was a case in Wisconsin where a twenty-four-year-old man raped a five-year-old girl. The judge blamed the child, saying that she was "an unusually sexually permissive young lady."

"In our sexist society the sexual act is a renewal of the feeling of prestige and power for the male, of impotence and submission for the female. Rape adds the quality of terror . . ."
"Prison rapes are the most tangible symbol of the dominance hierarchy among prisoners. Those at the bottom of this dominance hierarchy are the objects of this sexual violence . . . they are called 'girls'.
"Rape is an expression of power and aggression."

Women Are Socialized to be Victims

"The roots of the physical abuse of women lie in our society's beliefs about appropriate sex roles and the institutional arrangements that result from these beliefs. Men are expected to be aggressive and physically assertive . . . women are expected to be dependent and passive."
"U.S. women are being measured against an objectified notion of female sexuality which is eternally young, never fat, but "well-developed," heterosexual, submissive to her 'man,' AND capable of satisfying him sexually."

"The stereotype of female weakness and passivity is so pervasive in our society . . . that weakness is not considered a desirable human characteristic, and so it should not be considered a desirable female characteristic, especially because it makes women vulnerable to rape."
"Even if the victim can show that the attack was completely unprovoked . . . somehow, it is felt that she is to blame for having been raped."
"Men often see sex as something to do TO women, an act that certifies the male's superordinate position."

Both stereotypes--the Dominant Male and the Submissive Female--help to form a basis for a society that encourages (even expects) violence against women. Unless one is a complete moron, this is obviously unacceptable.

Solutions For Rape?

Are there any solutions for rape? Well, we can teach our women judo or other forms of self-defense. We can tell them not to talk to strange men or walk alone at night. The only problem with these is that it assumes that rape prevention is a woman's responsibility. Therefore by implication rape occurs due to some fault of the victim.

The Rape Crisis Center of Bloomington, Illinois maintains that rape prevention is not a woman's responsibility because it is not her fault; women are rape victims regardless of their actions and therefore should not have to deal with the implications. Idealistically this is well and good and true, but realistically, it is not sound. In the words of the great James E. Carter, "Life is not fair." In other words, "You gotta clean the bird shit off your windshield regardless."

The solutions lie in:

- (i) our attitudes,
- (ii) how we raise our children.

We need to try to recognize and to abort sexism from our lives. We need to teach boys that it's good to feel, and to be sensitive; we need to teach girls that it's good to stand up for themselves. We need to learn that violence is not an acceptable form of expression. In the words of the Bloomington Rape Crisis Center, "The only way to prevent rape is not to do it."

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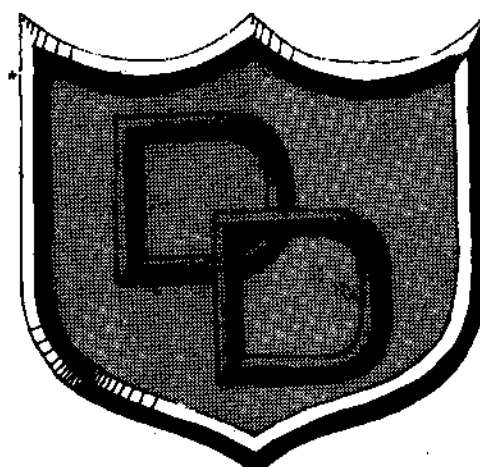
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—Magdelene

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Ivory tusks go up in flames



President Daniel arap Moi puts a torch to the tusks as conservationist Richard Leakey watches.

Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi made a grand gesture on July 18 when he put a torch to a 20-foot tower of ivory and 3,000 elephant tusks went up in flames. The 12 tons of ivory were worth over \$2 million on the commercial market.

The historic bonfire, on a grassy plain in Nairobi National Park, was the center of a ceremony witnessed by press from all over the world and broadcast live on Kenya radio and television. President Moi said the epic event was intended to let the world know that Kenya would not be used as a transit for ivory from other countries. "Let me remind everyone that great objectives often require great sacrifices," he said, encouraging, "the people of the world to join us in Kenya by eliminating the trade in elephant ivory once and for all."

One of Kenya's leading newspapers, *The Nation*, reported that a monument will be built on the site as a lasting reminder of President Moi's determination to save the elephants from extinction. It was also announced that 270 confiscated rhino horns would be burned at a later date.

(Reprint, *Wildlife News*, Vol. 24, 2. Fall, 1989.)

FOR INFORMATION CALL 1-800-344-TUSK OR WRITE AWF, 1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

Letters:

LVD takes the heat

Dear *Post Amerikan*,

"Song of the South," in the last issue, saddened and irritated me because in the last analysis it was politically naive and not much more than self-congratulation. LVD went South and was "disappointed" that "the civil rights movement and the following decades" had not "actually put a dent in [southern?] racism," and s/he ended up "homesick." It's appalling to me that the same years have not, apparently, put a significant dent in LVD's consciousness of racism as not just--or even particularly--a regional problem.

I have to ask (1) What kind of amazing blindness needs a trip to the Deep South to find white Americans using racism to establish mutual bonding? and (2) What political purpose--other than self-blinding and self-congratulation--is served by setting homesickness for Central Illinois against feelings of revulsion towards rural Mississippi? Homesick for what?, for cryin' out loud!

I don't doubt any of LVD's anecdotal evidence, since I lived my childhood and adolescence in Georgia. And, since I have also lived 20 years in McLean County, I've had a close look at the different structures of racism in the two regions--and, yes, there are plenty of differences. But LVD seems to want to say (pretty uncritically, it seems to me) that the differences in structure equal differences in value and worth: in brief, the South is worse than Central Illinois; I wanna go home.

Well, I think it depends on how you count 'em, which region is "worse." How many African-Americans live on Country Club Place, come to that? And listen to this list of repulsive remarks I heard just last week: "Yeah, I can fix that; I have a degree in Afro-engineering" (Normal: Sep 5, 1989); "Well, they grinned and did the Zhwahili shuffle and got out of it" (Normal: Sep 7, 1989); "He's Free, White, and 21" (Bloomington: Sep 8, 1989); "Don't you nigger up my car" (Normal: Sep 10, 1989). A few years ago, on a pretty tree-lined street in Normal, I saw a group of about 10 young white men laughing and throwing snowballs (and nasty racial names) at a lone black woman walking up the other side of the street.

Yeah, I know all you socially-conscious folks down at the "Post" are aware that these things go on right here in B-N, but I repeat: what purpose, besides self-blinding, is served by pointing out the problems in some exotic far-away land like the South and setting up "home" as an inviting alternative? It seems really dangerous to me, and it makes me wonder what kind of psychic need is being met when liberal midwesterners seem to be so keenly interested in what's wrong with the South (LVD's essay is just one of dozens of instances I've seen since I moved here). I'd rather see us (I'm an adoptive

midwesterner by now) ask why, when there's plenty of racism right here, we need to see racism elsewhere as somehow more interesting and usually "worse" than our own. I think I know why; we're practicing avoidance by diversion.

Last try at making the point: Suppose LVD was a man who worked at State Farm and had made a tour of construction sites, auto repair shops, and military posts and returned with the news that they were still, in spite of the feminist movement, deeply sexist. And then suppose he had said that, angered and frightened by the primitive attitudes he encountered, he was "homesick" for the offices and boardrooms at State Farm. Wouldn't you suspect that he was pointing out somebody else's problems out of some need to ignore his own? What's the difference? Seems to me I've seen a lot of that kind of self-congratulatory self-avoidance over the years. Think about it.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Oak

Poet flatters Post

Hi!

I'm mailing this poem for publication in the *Post Amerikan*. Hoping there is a chance that it will be published.

I wrote it following a visit to St. Louis over the Labor Day weekend--a trip filled with experience

I'm new to the Bloomington/Normal area--having just begun Grad school at ISU. Hope to periodically submit work to the *Post Amerikan*--finding it the only worthwhile reading material in the area--besides an occasional biography or nonfiction--*And the Band Played*--or Grotowski & his Laboratory.

If this is not suitable--please call or write and let me know what is.

Liz Sheets

Dear Liz Sheets,

Sorry, but we have an age old policy of not printing poetry in the *PA* but would encourage you to keep writing. Your writing style is interesting and we're sure would appeal to many of our audience.

Prisoner seeks support

Dear Reader:

I'm writing this form letter to you and openly to all concerned for human rights in all human sights.

I'm presently confined on Indiana's death row. On May 25, 1982, I was sentenced to suffer the death penalty by electrocution in the chair for a charge I am completely innocent of. On August 12, 1981, I was charged with killing a police officer after a bank robbery.

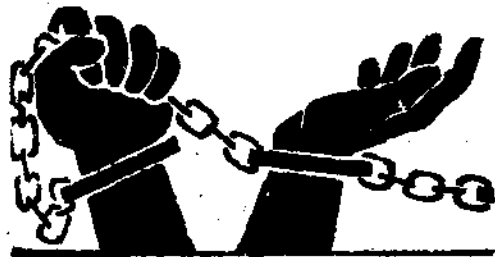
My plight is very grave; I would like to receive your kind support in my quest for freedom and justice. And that, in large part, depends on the availability of material resources. Anything that you can donate will be appreciated to the utmost.

Donations may be sent to

Equal Justice Committee
PO Box 4079
Gary, Indiana 46404

Sincerely,

Zolo Agona Azania #4969
PO Box 41
Michigan City IN 46360



Marta's out!

Dear and glorious Balrog,

Yes, miracles do occur. I am free and back home in Springfield.

Can you continue my subscription for a few more issues til I find some work and get on my feet again.

Thank,

Marta Helm

Dear Marta,

Of course you will continue to get the post--just promise to send us your memoirs before the New York publishers get hold of them.

WORLD EXCLUSIVE!

Gay news from abroad



England: A Clause for Concern

Five hundred lesbians and gay men marched through the streets of Brighton in late May to mark the first anniversary of Section 28 [formerly "Clause 28"], an anti-gay law which bans the intentional promotion of homosexuality by local government bodies nationwide. According to THE PINK PAPER, "marchers . . . sang old gay favourites such as 'Glad to be Gay' as well as more recent Tracy Chapman songs." One protester shouted, "If they thought Section 28 would make us go away they should take another look."

At a rally outside Brighton Town Hall, activist Linda Pointing, who had just returned from a nationwide anti-Section 28 tour, told the crowd that she "found incidents throughout the country where the local council has tried to use the Section to ban gay societies from college campuses or stop gay and lesbian cultural events."

An article in THE SUNDAY TIMES later provided some specific examples: "Essex county council prohibited all lesbian and gay societies in Sixth forms and colleges," the paper wrote. "Hull city council refused to allow the screening of a Jean Genet film, which depicted homosexuality, at a local arts festival. East

Sussex county council banned a Home Office-backed guide to voluntary work opportunities for young people, because it contained an advertisement for the London Lesbian and Gay Centre. Kent county council excluded Benjamin Britten's opera 'Death in Venice' from a schools' festival because it features a man's obsession with a boy, and Aberystwyth University students had their exhibition removed from the town library by the chief librarian."

The wording of Section 28 is vague by British legal standards and many local authorities complain that they're unable to determine when and if they might be breaking the law. Activists say this confusion leads to both overzealousness and laxity.

China Seeks Out Weedy Men

Gay men in Beijing meet each other in Tiananmen Square near the Red River Bank, according to the July issue of ASIAN WIND. But Japanese activist Teishiro Minami said that "if found by the police, the [men] will be arrested and forced to undergo tests to see if they are indeed gay or not. The tests," Minami wrote, "include such methods as (1) if the suspect is unable to lift a heavy stone, then he is said to be gay. (2) If he walks like a woman, then he is said to be gay."

"If they are not found to be gay, then they are released. But if they are found to be gay then they are forced to spend three days at an educational camp for the first offense, ten days for the second offense, and one month for the third offense," Minami said.

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Laugh and care with Utah Phillips

"Utah" Phillips--"The Golden Voice of the Great Southwest"--will appear in concert at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, October 15, at Carpenters Local 63 Hall, 2002 Beich Road, Bloomington (down the street from Howard Johnson's).

The performance is a benefit for the "Workers Memorial Grove"--a tree-planting at Bloomington's new White Oak Park, which will be dedicated to local workers who've lost their lives on the job. Local labor unions are attempting to raise \$2500 to buy 100 trees for the grove, and a suitable memorial will be erected by volunteer labor. Tickets for the event are \$7.50.

Utah Phillips is no stranger to central Illinois. Long a regular at ISU's "New Friends of Old Time Music," he used to show up in Bloomington-Normal about every two years, as long as New Friends was still active. He last appeared here in 1978.

Phillips is more than a typical folk singer/songwriter--he's an active labor radical, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (the "Wobblies"), a fantastic storyteller and weaver of tall tales, an anarchist, and one of about twenty "Grand Dukes" of the American Hobo Federation.

His story-telling goes from corny tales about old west prospectors to seriously humanizing the people too often misplaced and forgotten in this society--the homeless, hobos, migrant workers, and the down and out. His quick wit slashes away at authority figures and the self-important.

Phillips is also a perennial presidential candidate, running on the "Sloth and Indolence" ticket. His 1988 campaign promise

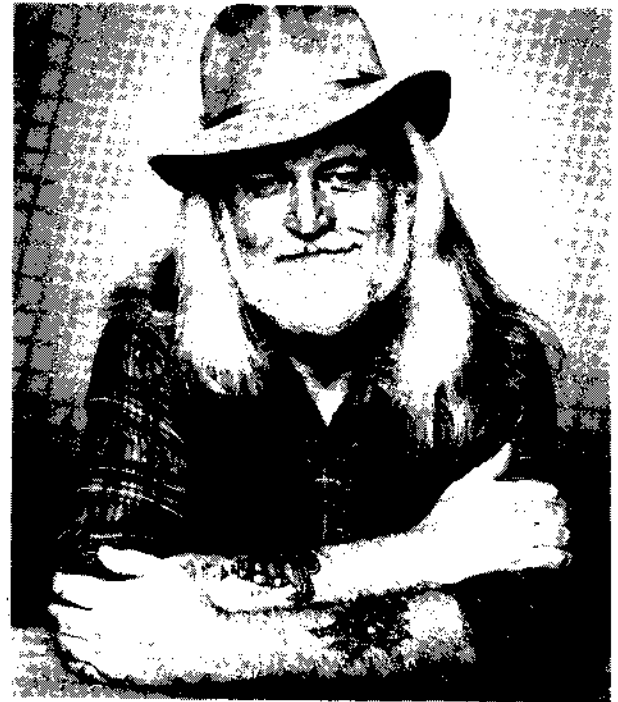
to the American people was to "Hang out in the White House, scratch my seat, shoot a lot of pool and just stay out of the way. Which is to say that if you want anything done, don't come to me to do it for you. Get together and figure out how to do it for yourselves. 'U for President,' that's our motto."

Caught up with the current drug-testing craze, Phillips recommends that all good Americans fill a mason jar and send it directly to the White House. "Drop the zipper for the Gipper" was his 1988 drug-testing platform. He has also formed a youth wing to the Sloth and Indolence party, "Youth Against Whatever's Next" or YAWN.

The Boston Globe noted that "Phillips has a genius for making people laugh and care at the same time." Phillips himself says he likes to talk and sing about "trains, coal mines, unions, factories, working people, lazy people, the old and new west, bums, politicians, and the different things that happen to you when you're in love."

In a comment to Entertainment Twin Cities (Minneapolis), Phillips said, "People are starving for some human contact. TV and the movies can't provide it; . . . We're not even playing together. We have, for the sake of 'American individualism,' abandoned the tools we need to live and share a sense of community, and stories are the vehicles for doing that."

Phillips has recorded three albums, "Good Though," "El Capitan," and "Utah Phillips Sings the Songs and Tells the Stories of the Industrial Workers of the World."



Utah Phillips has been around. He's not only ridden in boxcars and marched on picket lines; he's worked in social service agencies and served soup to the down and out. He was the one sent by the IWW to the National Archives last year to recover Joe Hill's ashes. He brings these life experiences and commitments together with a great sense of language, song, and hilarity to produce an enjoyable and thought-provoking piece of entertainment. If you like things just a little different, if you like your music and entertainment in anything but tight little Madison Avenue packages, check out Utah Phillips --you'll enjoy it.

For tickets or information, call 309-828-4368 or 309-829-4885.

--MgM

AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

October 1st through October 8th has been proclaimed AIDS Awareness week in the Town of Normal, the City of Bloomington, and McLean County. The McLean County AIDS task Force (MCATF) will be sponsoring a variety of events throughout the week.

Certificates of recognition will be given to young people who have participated in a program designed to increase AIDS awareness. If you know of a teenager that has participated in such a program--that is not part of an established school curriculum--please contact the MCATF at 827-4005. Literature displays, workplace presentations, and media presentations about AIDS will be scheduled in the community throughout the week.

Sept. 29-Oct. 1:

MCATF literature display at Eastland Mall's Health Fair

Oct. 3:

MCATF library open house on Tuesday, Oct. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at The Cancer Support Network at 802 E. Jefferson, Bloomington.

Oct. 4:

MCATF benefit performance on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. at The Gallery, 111 E. Beaufort, Normal. There will be an adaptation of the Harvey Fierstein play Safe Sex performed by Abby Elvidge and Dan Wilson. Music by Ideological State Apparatus and Stumpwhoopt. Suggested minimum donation is \$4.00.

Oct. 5:

MCATF general membership meeting at 6 p.m. in Bloomington Public Library's board room. Everyone is welcome.