

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Volume 22, Number 4

Post Amerikan

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POST AMERIKAN



Bloomington/Normal

Volume 22

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Number 4

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Post Amerikan declares war on Pantagraph!



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About us

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 new 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 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 *Post Amerikan*.

What's your new address?

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.

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Post sellers

Bloomington

- The Back Porch, 402 N. Main (inside)
- Bakery Bank, 901 N. Main
- Bloomington Public Library (front)
- Bus Depot, 533 N. East
- Circus Video (Emerson and Main)
- Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)
- Front and Center Building
- Law and Justice Center, W. Front
- Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)
- The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)
- Red Fox, 918 W. Market
- Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
- Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)
- U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
- U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
- Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Normal

- Amtrak Station
- Arte'Copia, 204 A. North Street (inside)
- Avanti's, 407 S. Main
- Babbitt's Books, 104 N. Street (inside)
- Franzetti's, 207 Broadway
- Hovey Hall ISU (front)
- Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)
- Subconscious, S. Main
- Subway, 115 E. Beaufort

This issue of *Post Amerikan* is brought to you by . . .

Linda, Monika, Sherrin (the 3 coordinating goddesses), Eric (for the last issue, too), Kathy, Ralph, Leon, Doug, Kelli, Dave, Mike, your hard-earned 50¢, and our old and new advertisers. Thank you!

Good numbers

- ACLU 454-7223
- AIDS Hotlines:
 - National 1-800-AID-AIDS
 - Illinois 1-800-243-2437
 - Local (309) 827-AIDS
- Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
- Bloomington Housing Authority 829-3360
- Childbirth and Parenting Information Exchange (CAPIE) 827-6672
- Clare House (Catholic workers) 452-0310
- Community for Social Action 452-4035
- Connection House 829-5711
- Countering Domestic Violence 827-4005
- Dept. of Children/Family Services 828-0022
- Draft Counselling 452-5046
- Gay & Lesbian Resource Phoneline 438-2429
- HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped) 828-8301
- Ill. Dept. of Public Aid 827-4621
- Ill. Lawyer Referral 1-800-252-8916
- Kaleidoscope 828-7346
- McLean Co. Center for Human Services 827-5351
- McLean Co. Health Dept. 454-1161
- Mid Central Community Action 829-0691
- Mobile Meals 828-8301
- Narcotics Anonymous 827-3898
- 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

Due Date:

The next deadline for submitting *Post Amerikan* material will be:

DECEMBER 6



Community News



Obligated by Nature Photographs by Paul Rosin



The University Galleries is pleased to announce **Obligated by Nature**, an exhibition of photographs by artist Paul Rosin, which opened October 5th and will continue through November 7, 1993. The exhibition features work spanning a decade of this Chicago artist's oeuvre from 1983 - 1993.

Rosin's photographs are vivid depictions of people, places, and things in a psychologically, often sexually charged state, viewed through an ambiguous lens of wary curiosity and empathetic involvement. His oeuvre can be expressed as an exploration of four recurring themes: portraits of bohemians in the sex-drugs-and-rock'n'roll genre; mythological allusions that incorporate personal and collective memories; sharp commentaries that challenge cultural prohibitions; and an idiosyncratic obsession with notions of fatigue.

Rosin's approach to photography is highly expressive. Since 1980, he has worked in a 20 x 16 uniformly vertical format, framing his silver gelatin prints identically in heavy black frames. Frequently shooting his subjects through a distorting lens or skewing focus, he manipulates the negative surface by scarring, scratching, typing words, or altering the emulsion with chemicals. Finally, many of the black-and-white prints are toned, subtly hand-colored, or painted with oil or enamel, making each one a unique object.

Rosin's photography has won three Fellowship Awards from the Illinois Arts Council in 1991, 1990 and 1989. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with recent solo exhibitions at Edward Thorp Gallery, New York, and CompassRose Gallery, Chicago. Recent group exhibitions include *Fever* at Exit Art, New York; *Toward the Future: Contemporary Art in Context*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; *The New Romantic Landscape*, The Whitney Museum of American Art at Fairfield County; and *Erotic America*, Galerie Antione Candau, Paris.

Gallery hours are Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon - 4 p.m. All events at University Galleries are free of charge and open to the public. Please contact exhibition curator Lisa K. Erf at (309) 438-5487 for further information.

Peep Land

Paintings by Jane Dickson



Jane Dickson: Peep Land, 1984, oilstick on paper, 30 x 17 inches

In the early 80s, Dickson began to paint neon-bathed visions of passion, conflict, and search for gratification inspired by views out of her Times Square studio windows. Her subjects include carnivals, demolition derbies, street revelers, and strip clubs - all reflecting her fascination with voyeurism and the eternal urban night. This exhibition is the first museum survey of the artist's ten years of work exploring the ominous underside of contemporary culture.

A color catalogue with an interview by curator Barry Blinderman and essays by Glenn O'Brien, Jennifer Kabat and Yasmine Harwood will accompany the exhibition. Educational programming includes a public lecture by the artist and screening of Charlie Ahearn's videos *Jane in Peep Land* and *Doin' Time in Times Square* which deal with the connection between Dickson's paintings and her working environment.

Jane Dickson's work will be exhibited in the Center for Visual Arts (CVA) on the campus of Illinois State University from January 18 through February 20, 1994. Opening lecture will be held on Tuesday, January 25 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, with the reception immediately following.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday 9:30 am - 9 pm, Wednesday through Friday 9:30 - 4:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday 12 - 4.

BILL FLICK



Classy Fried Ads ARE BACK!!

Okay, *Post Amerikan* readers. You asked for it . . . The *Post* is going to bring back . . . The CLASSY FRIED ADS! That's right! It will include: Merchandise for Sale, Services for Sale, Events Notices, Roommates Wanted, and general Want Ads. We will even start a Personals section; we'll call it "Love (*Post*) *Amerikan Style*". . . We'll publish anything creative you need to communicate to the public. Right now, the prices are \$5 for up to 20 words (per issue), and \$1 for each additional 5 words. So, let us know how much you appreciate this new service and call us with your Classy Fried Ads!

Here's our first one!

•Mercury 1979 Zephyr. Runs good. \$300.00/obo. Phone 828-4473.

In the future, the Classy Fried Ads can be found inside the back cover of the *Post*.

Letters:



Dear Mr. / Ms. *Post Amerikan* Collective Person:

Okay, my life would now appear complete. I have now been ripped in the *Post Amerikan* newspaper, one of my favorite reading materials in Bloomington-Normal.

Frankly, if I'd known simply not answering a letter from you guys (apparently I misplaced it, one of my better qualities) was all it took to be called names in your fun-to-read publication, I would have not answered your letter years ago. Honest.

Keep up the good work.

(If, by the way, writing this letter would in any way impede you from ripping me again, please ignore it and act as if I rudely did not answer you again.)

As always, I remain...

Bill Flick
aka Mr. Big Doo-Doo Head

Collective note: No problem, Bill.



7 things you can do to help improve the rainforest situation

We thought you might want to know some concrete steps you could take to help stop the destruction of our Earth's rainforests:

1) Write a letter to the Brazilian President urging him to recognize the rights of indigenous people of Brazil. Ask for the complete demarcation of all traditional Indian territory, including the final demarcation of the 19,000 square miles of the Kayapo's territory. In addition, encourage the President to promote nation-wide support for indigenous cultures and their traditional ways of living in relationship to the environment.

President Fernando Collor de Mello
Palacio de Planalto
Brasilia, D.F. 70150-Brasil
Fax: (5561) 223-5819

2) Tell the World Bank to stop using your taxes to fund rainforest-killing development projects, such as hydro-electric dams. Corrosion and silt often render dams useless after ten years; thus, they are costly boondoggles which have very little long term economic benefit. They drown thousands of acres of rainforests, displace indigenous tribes, and saddle developing countries with a permanent mountain of debt. These debt-ridden countries are then forced to mortgage their economic futures to U.S. and Japanese banks. Send a letter to the President of the World Bank urging him to stop financing rainforest dams and to fund small-scale projects that benefit rainforests and their inhabitants.

Lewis T. Preston
President
World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433

3) Boycott Mitsubishi (and this includes Diamond Star Motors right here in Bloomington). Mitsubishi Corp. is one of the largest destroyers of forests in the world, with operations in Malaysia, Borneo, Philippines, Indonesia, Chile, Canada and Brazil. Its Brazilian operations reach clear across the

Amazon basin to the borders of Columbia and Peru. Although we cannot boycott Mitsubishi Corp. directly, we can boycott its fellow members of the Mitsubishi group. These include Mitsubishi Motors, Mitsubishi Electric (which makes televisions, stereos, VCRs and fax machines), Kirin Beer, Nikon camera equipment, Bank of California and Mitsubishi Bank. Let Mitsubishi know that you are boycotting their products by writing to:

Mr. Minoru Makihara
President and Director
Mitsubishi Corporation
6-3 Marunouchi 2-Chrome
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 100-86, Japan



4) Help support grassroots groups working in rainforest countries. Organize a local "rock for the Rainforest" benefit concert, rummage sale, or an art auction to raise money for environmental or indigenous rights organizations leading the fight to save rainforests. Ask businesses in your community to donate greatly needed fax and copy machines, tape recorders, old cameras, computers and diskettes, clothes, or other useful items. Host someone from the rainforest to make a presentation to your community. Contact RAN (Rainforest Action Network) for a list of organizations that need your support.

5) Help put out the raging Amazon fires. The World Bank-financed Cuiaba-Porto Velho highway opened up fragile Amazon rainforests to ranchers and timber barons who have used slash and burn methods to clear-cut these rainforests. NASA satellites spotted 10,000 fires in 1988 in the Brazilian province of Rondonia, which has lost 20% of its rainforest, and is considered one of the richest ecosystems in the world. The burning of the rainforests accounts for a significant portion of the global output of carbon dioxide. Global warming, also known as

the "Greenhouse Effect," is caused by carbon dioxide build-up in our atmosphere. Thus, the burning of rainforests and global warming are inextricably linked. Send a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations asking for a special session of the UN on tropical rainforest protection.

Boutros-Boutros Ghalli
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

6) Don't eat rainforest beef, typically found in fast-food hamburgers or processed beef products. Each year, the U.S. imports over 110 million pounds of fresh and frozen beef from Central American countries. Two-thirds of these countries' rainforests have been cleared to raise cattle. The U.S. food industry then imports this cheap, stringy meat, putting U.S. farmers out of business. Because the beef is not labeled with its country of origin upon entering the U.S., there is no way to trace it to its source. Write to the Secretary of Agriculture and let him know that you want the U.S. to ban beef imports from rainforest countries.

Mike Espy
Secretary of Agriculture
14th St. & Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

7) Educate yourself and others further about the rainforest situation. Learn more about rainforests through books, magazines, videos, films, cassettes, etc. Talk to others, spread the word. Give a slide show or a rainforest presentation. Write an article for the local paper (like the Post!). Set up an outreach table in your community. Get others involved. Join (or start) a Rainforest Action Group.



News from the War Zone

AIW Local 837 Challenges Legality of Lockout

On October 14th AIW Local 837 Bargaining Chairman Jim Shinall and UPIU/AIW Region 9 Staff Representative William Coleman presented testimony before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that challenges the legality of the A.E. Staley Company lockout. If Staley is found guilty they could be forced to end the lockout, as well as pay the 760 union members lost wages.

The charges, formally filed on October 4th, state that the lockout is illegal because it was, in part, a retaliation for activities protected under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (see sidebar.) AIW Local 837 President David Watts said that "When Staley locked us out of the plant the company claimed it was because of workers' activities inside the plant, our work-to-rule campaign. We believe these activities were legal and protected under U.S. labor law, making the lockout required by the company, but nothing above or beyond these activities.

NLRB Cites Staley for Unlawful Surveillance

A previous NLRB ruling found workers' activities from May 20th to June 26th to be legally protected under Section 7 of The National Labor Relations Act. This same ruling cited Staley for unlawful electronic surveillance of members of Local 837. On July 22nd AIW Local 837 filed charges which stated that "the Company has been observed

electronically monitoring union rallies and picket lines by way of videotaping."

NLRB required Staley to discontinue all surveillance and to ensure that their security service, Hearst Security, do likewise. The Company was also ordered to post a notice which tells workers "if they choose to engage in lawful informational picketing, demonstrations, and rallies that: hand-held video and still cameras will not be used...[and] license plate numbers will not be recorded or otherwise noted when employees are engaged in lawful activities."

David Watts, AIW Local 837 President, believes the ruling is important because "it puts an end to Staley's attempts to intimidate and frighten our members by videotaping and surveilling them." Watts also notes that the ruling "affirmed the union's position that the members of AIW Local 837 were engaged in lawful, protected activities before the lockout."

All-Union Solidarity Rally

Local 837 is organizing a region-wide All-Union Solidarity Rally in Decatur on November 6, from noon to 4 pm. Unions and friends of organized labor are asked to gather at the AIW Local 837 Union Hall and Ballfield, 2882 Dinneen, to "teach corporate America a lesson in solidarity." For more information call 217/876-7006.

Labor Activists Demonstrate Against State Farm

From November 7th to the 13th activists across the country will be demonstrating against State Farm Insurance. People are needed to demonstrate at or leaflet State Farm offices. Persons interested can call Ron van Syoc at 217/876-7006.

SF



Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act gives employees the following rights:

- To self-organization;
- To form, join or assist labor organizations;
- To bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing
- To act together for the purpose of collectively bargaining or for other mutual aid or protection;
- To refuse to do any or all of these things.



Horoscopes

I got this set of horoscopes out of a neat Book of Days by Kelina, who by the way, also publishes a 'zine called "The Unmentionable" and contributes to "The Flying Bitch Sisters." I strongly suggest that you send her a couple of bucks and postage for her latest. Mail to: Kelina P.O. Box 7219, Santa Cruz CA 95061.

Aquarius - January 20 to February 19

You have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. You lie a great deal. On the other hand, you are inclined to be careless and impractical causing you to make the same mistakes over and over again. People think you are stupid.



Pisces - February 20 to March 20

You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed by the CIA or the FBI. You have a minor influence over associates and people resent you for flaunting your power. You lack confidence and are generally a coward. Pisces people do terrible things to small animals.

Aries - March 21 to April 19

You are a pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. You are quick tempered, impatient, and scornful of honest advice. You are not very nice and are depressive.

Taurus - April 20 to May 20

You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell. People think you are bull headed. You are a Communist.

Gemini - May 21 to June 20

You are a quick and intelligent thinker. People like you because you are bisexual. However, you are inclined to expect too much for too little.

Cancer - June 21 to July 22

You are sympathetic and understanding of other peoples problems. They think you are a sucker. You are always putting things off. That's why you'll never make anything of yourself. Most welfare recipients are Cancer people.



Leo - July 23 to August 22

You consider yourself a born leader. Others think you are pushy. Most Leo people are bullies. You are vain and dislike honest criticism, your arrogance is disgusting. Leo people are known thieves.

Virgo - August 23 to September 22

You are the logical type and hate disorder. This nit picking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional and sometimes fall asleep while making love. Virgos make good bus drivers.



Libra - September 23 to October 22

You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. If you are a man, you are more than likely gay. Chances for employment and monetary gain are excellent. Most Libra women are good prostitutes. All Libras die of venereal disease.



Scorpio - October 23 to November 21

You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You shall reach the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. Most Scorpio people are murdered.

Sagittarius - November 22 to December 21

You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on luck since you lack talent. The majority of Sagittarians are drunks or dope fiends. People laugh at you a great deal.



Capricorn - December 22 to January 19

You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You don't do much of anything and are lazy. There has never been a Capricorn of much importance. Capricorns should avoid standing still too long as they tend to take root and become trees.

towanda!

Dear Ms. Hippy

Dear Ms. Hippy:

I recently read an advice column by a Madame Hzunga in *Positive Times Magazine*. As I read her ever so wise answers, an odd feeling came over me. Deja vu. Something felt familiar. Then I realized--the tone of her answers reminded me of your also ever so wise answers. You know--that talking about yourself in third person thing, the confident, assured prose. What gives?

Do advice columnists all go to the same school (like the one moms go to)? Are you moonlighting? Or--horrors--perhaps Ms. Hippy, Madame Hzunga, Miss Manners, and Dear Abby are all one and the same? Please say it ain't so, Ms. Hippy.

Signed,
Positively Frantic

Dear Fran,

The familiar feeling you refer to is nothing other than the ring of truth emitted by all true wisdom, whether it comes from Ms. Hippy or--dare one believe it?--Madame Hzunga. If there is indeed a publication entitled *Positive Times*, it must be extraordinarily short. Perhaps this is why Ms. Hippy's parallel chose such an unnecessarily elevated title.

Ms. Hippy's style and tone are modeled after Miss Manners, as you aptly suspect. Of course, Ms. Hippy's advice is more consistently hip--witness the comparison between the two names. However, Miss Manners herself is frequently also hip. For example, she notes that the ability to talk should not be confused with the ability to converse, an observation Ms. Hippy heartily endorses.

Dear Ms. Hippy,

Do you know anything about this Armand Hammer guy? Is he actually related in some way to the baking soda cartel of the homonymically identical name? There's got to be a story behind this odd circumstance.

Signed,
Limband Mallet

Dear Mal,

Ah, Armand, Armand! It all comes sweeping back to Ms. Hippy... the summer streets of Paris, the wild Algerian scarf dancing, the biting tang of Pernod, the bulging... well, enough said. Refrigerator odors will never be quite the same.

Dear readers,

After the sweet torture of remembering Armand... again... Ms. Hippy would like to remind you that her primary mission in life is to answer questions concerning hip etiquette. Though she enjoys giving her opinions on everything else as much as anyone, her real expertise lies in behaving in the hippest possible fashion. This area includes hip hair, dress, and home decoration, as well as hip ways of dealing with knotty interpersonal problems and embarrassing situations, such as trying to be hip at the bridal shower of a friend who is not marrying at all suitably. As Ms. Hippy has pointed out before, you can get opinions on Life from the guy on the next barstool. So while you're writing your next letter to Ms. Hippy, please keep all this in mind.



"IN HIP WE TRUST"



Wake me up for the punchline

I should have known from the outset not to go. I hadn't actually planned on going. I had decided that I really needed to save my \$12.50 for spring tuition rather than see a comedienne who I knew to be, at best, a somewhat less bitchy, pre-Tom Arnold, Roseanne-wannabe.

As fate would have it, however, a new acquaintance of mine, who I was semi-attracted to, said he thought that the show might be fun. Well, I certainly wasn't about to pass up the chance for a possible one-night stand (after all he did invite me) so I said "I'd love to go with you! I was planning on going with some friends but they had a change of plans and I was so disappointed." (I am an incomparable liar when it comes to getting what I want.) With a boyish spring in my step, not to mention my trousers, I ran home, threw on my best trendy, hip-hop clothes and we were off. "He's so cute," I thought "maybe this will be fun."

A sign?

The torrential downpour from the sky warned "Turn back! It's not too late! You still have time to avoid imminent doom!" We forged on. About ten miles out of Bloomington we lost the car of students we were supposed to be following to the show. Neither of us had a clue as to where in Peoria Bradley was located.

Arriving on campus five minutes before the show (approximately an hour later), we were nearly killed twice going the wrong way down a one-way street. Oh joy! Oh rapture! I could see it now. A night made in Heaven.

The show begins

The show started with absolutely no bravado. Sandra Bernhard and her guitarist sidekick walked out to center stage. (The stage itself was actually a raised platform basketball court which Ms. Bernhard continually, to the point of pointlessness, kept making fun of throughout her act. She pretended she was a basketball player falling from the playing court, when in fact, she proved to be falling on her face time and time again with her failed attempts at humor. That all came later however.)

She started the show with a slow, pensive, acoustic version of the Rolling Stones "Sympathy for the Devil" which was actually fairly impressive. The woman can sing, at least as well as any of the pseudo-riot girls she has been recently compared with (i.e.: Juliana Hatfield, Tonya Donnelly, et al.). I thought, "Ok, I get the connection. She is making fun of the fact that she has been compared so many times to Mick Jagger. The big-lip thing, right?" Wrong. She was serious. Way too serious. Serious to the point of being dour. The mood was set. "Pleased to meet you," she sang. "We'll see," I thought.

The song ended leaving the crowd visibly impressed but somewhat confused. Was this meant to be Sandy's (as she continually referred to herself) version of "Unplugged" when, in fact, she never been plugged in to begin with?

Sandy's next segment was a question and answer session taken from written submissions of, apparently, ten members of the People Like Us organization. Nearly every question was gay-related. I thought, "O.K. Now she won't have a choice but to be direct." Wrong. She was completely ambiguous as to her sexual orientation. She answered questions such as "What's it like to be out and be a celebrity?" with "Oh, I don't go out much anymore. Bars bore me." What?!? Next, she answered a question about what young gays and lesbians can do to combat homophobia, "I'm just sick of the whole subject. People should just learn to deal with everyone equally. Talking about gay rights

has become so boring. People just need to overcome their insecurities about sex." Fairly direct, I guess. People applauded. I was appalled.

We have a heckler (?)

About this time, a couple got up and headed for the door. I thought, "Great! They can't deal with this homophobic crap either and are doing something about it. Refusing to show support. Walking out!" Sandy saw them and said, "Hey! You two aren't walking out on me, are you?" "Yes," said the woman, "I used to like you but now all you're talking about is gay stuff." (So much for my theory.) "I didn't ask the questions!" retorted Sandy. "Then it's your audience that's making me leave," belched young Miss Homophobe.

Sandy was obviously shaken. "Oh my god," one could see her thinking, "I am driving off my mainstream followers by being associated with these queers!" "You get your ass back in here and sit down," she demanded. "I'm not going to have you running away because you're freaked out. Just sit down and relax."

Moving right along

The next segment began with comedy by way of magazine ads. Sandy went through various perfume ads, sampling each and saying, "I have no need to buy perfume anymore. I just buy a fashion magazine and I'm set. So many scents from which to choose." Mildly amusing, I guess, but not the gut-buster one might expect from a seasoned veteran like our lady of the hour.

I could feel myself tuning out by the time she got to her "witty" dissection of an interview with "Sly" Stallone in Vanity Fair (fifteen minutes into the show, I think). The interview was, of course, very sexist and I suppose she was trying to make a point, but, I mean, please, it was Rambo and Vanity Fair! Was she expecting, perhaps, an interview with Gloria Steinham? I may have been expecting too much, but a sophomoric assessment of a trash fashion rag seemed just a bit too much like amateur night to me folks!



ILLUSTRATION BY TIM CARROLL

Gay-bashing, too

I was also dismayed to see how willingly Sandy was to do some public fag-bashing, considering she is a lesbian and was brought to Bradley by that school's gay and lesbian organization People Like Us. She seemed to take great pleasure in lambasting playwright Tony Kreshner (author of the Tony award-winning "Angels In America") for having asked her to headline a benefit for Irish lesbians and gays. She also mocked the modern musical (long the stereotyped livelihood of many a gay man) as being less than deserving of any artistic merit.

Homophobia is rewarded

Missy and her friend did as they were told and were awarded front-row seats and souvenir trash from Jumer's Hotel for their sudden sense of empathy and newfound tolerance of those beneath them. Hail to thee sweet Sandy for saving we wretched homosexuals from a fate worse than death - unacceptance by a breeder!

Get out your miniature violin

Sandy then exclaimed, "You guys have no idea how hard it is being a celebrity. It's just insane!" Give me a break! As if in one fell swoop she was apologizing for putting on a show so obviously beyond hope of salvation and patting herself on the back for being a public defender of gay people. She even went so far as to say "At least I'm out here talking to you guys about this stuff." What stuff? Homophobia? What positive things did she honestly believe she was conveying to these still maturing, highly impressionable young gay adults? That it's okay to sleep with whomever you choose as long as you don't talk about it in public? You can be proud as long as you're not loud about it? Honey, please!

I'd rather have Pat Robertson as a role model over Ms. Bernhard any day! At least he's headstrong and honest about his feelings toward gays. He hates 'em and he's going to let everybody know about it! That's the kind of power I'm looking for in a role model - only, of course, to the opposite extreme. Sandy can go back in the closet for all I care. Right now she is more of a hindrance to the gay cause than a spokesperson for it. My opinion is if you're a gay person in a position of power, either stand on the front lines and fight or get out of the way and keep your mouth shut.

Does the torture ever end?

Sandy ended the show with a song by (??) (formerly Prince). It seemed fitting considering he too is incredibly ambiguous in his work. The song was called "Sometimes it Snows in April" and she dedicated it to little Missy Homophobe in row one. It seemed she had formed a bond with her during the show. How sentimental. I felt like puking.

What a way to spend a perfectly good Saturday evening. In the course of an hour and a half, I'd been offended, distraught, confused, disillusioned and misled. What else could go wrong? On the car ride home, my prospective one-night stand told me he couldn't wait to get home and snuggle -- with his boyfriend from Chicago!

... and the saga continues.

Maitland Praet



Who says dreams come true: Life in a racist society

We celebrate a lot of things in the United States. Columbus Day just passed and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is coming in January. These two "holidays" stir up both anger and sadness in me. Columbus was lost, America did not need to be "discovered." When he stumbled on these shores, a little more than 300 years after the Vikings came and left, America already had 20 million residents. King's dream is also a long way from being realized. In many ways people of color are worse off today than they were during the civil rights era.

America was founded and built on the genocide of one race of people and the enslavement of another. Little has changed. Only a remnant of the original 20 million native inhabitants remains and most of the descendants of the kidnapped Africans remain enslaved on both societal and economic levels. America has been called a "vast melting pot." This is true, in a melting pot the people on the bottom get burned and the scum rises to the top.

Hurdles we all must overcome

To a large degree, we perpetuate our standard of living by the same approach that was used in founding and building up the U.S. Racism continues to be both entrenched and systemic in our white society. So what do we do? White hand ringing and rhetoric can do little if anything to change a society where racism is so firmly entrenched. White guilt (and continued responsibility) and black anger are considerable hurdles to overcome. All groups involved must become antiracist in thought, word, and deed or the machine will just roll along with only cosmetic changes.

Racism has been around a long, long time

Racism is not a new issue, it is a fundamental part of the dark side of human nature. The Bible addresses the issue frequently. In the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, there are strong guidelines for the hospitable and generous treatment of "strangers" and "sojourners" in the land. Old Testament (OT) law concerning land reform, equalization of property, and periodic debt forgiveness were all designed to tear down societal and economic classes. Had Marx or Hegel studied OT economic policy, land reform, and social egalitarian structure, I think they would have wept, declared, "This is it!" and stopped writing. Hebrew lenders were not even allowed to charge interest!

The New Testament is filled with antiracist teaching and example. Yet, anglo-religion is one of the principle pillars of racist society. Eleven o'clock Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour of the week. I am convinced that the only way to be antiracist and impact society down to its racist roots is to overtly give up white power. "I'm not a racist!" you say. Just a minute, anyone who benefits from an oppressive social order steeped in systemic racism is responsible to the degree they have benefited. Giving up white power and benefits is to move from being nonracist to being antiracist, a critical move.

Racism ≠ Prejudice

Racism is prejudice *plus* power or oppression for a social purpose. All people have some level of prejudice. As an individual's power increases, this prejudice becomes institutional racism. It becomes an institution of domination for economic benefit. Oppression of people of color has profound economic benefits for whites. The economic benefit of oppression is the principle engine that enforces racism. To truly be "antiracist" we must find ways to give up white power or pay reparations for damages which continue.

We must stop asking what "they" want. "They" want us to deal with our racism. I believe one of the primary functions of the church should be societal transformation through spiritual regeneration. In this sense the church must lead the way instead of tag along or resist as it so often has.

FIGHT RACISM

Dilution of Racism?

By 2056 most American will trace their heritage to Africa, Latin America, or Asia. During your lifetime, whites will become a minority group within North American society. Are you ready for this fundamental identity shift which is already underway? We can either name diversity as strength or we can increase fragmentation and competition for a shrinking "resource pie."

Some may find this stance and assessment too negative. There have been some minor advances for people of color. Some have been able to crack the middle regions of our society but the vast majority of those are capped there. In reality the systemic and entrenched oppression of racism has changed little in the last 25-30 years. For the most part the quality of life has gotten worse. In the decade from 1970 to 1980, the median income gap between whites and people of color worsened. In the 12 Reagan/Bush years that gap exploded and has become a foot on the neck of all people of color.

We must remove the barriers

This society continues to operate on one of three levels: 1) the system, 2) those who service the system, and 3) those who have nothing and must rely on the crumbs from the overloaded table of the system for survival. The "system" remains almost exclusively white while the majority of those who service the system and wait for crumbs are people of color. To be antiracist we must remove the barriers between the levels while working at eliminating the levels themselves.

Racism is a perverse spiritual problem which cuts to the core of the Gospel. Racism denies the reconciling purpose of the cross and denies the true purpose of the church. The "christian" concept of repentance means a change of mind or attitude, or to move in a different direction. This change includes setting things right. Economic, social, and political oppression of people based on color, gender, and age still serves a purpose in this society and, for a great part, the church. Society and the church oppose "antiracists." Whatever your motivation, be it spiritual or a matter of conscience, we must be activists in the tearing down of the structures and barriers which continue to prop up a racist society.

Let's lose the scapegoats

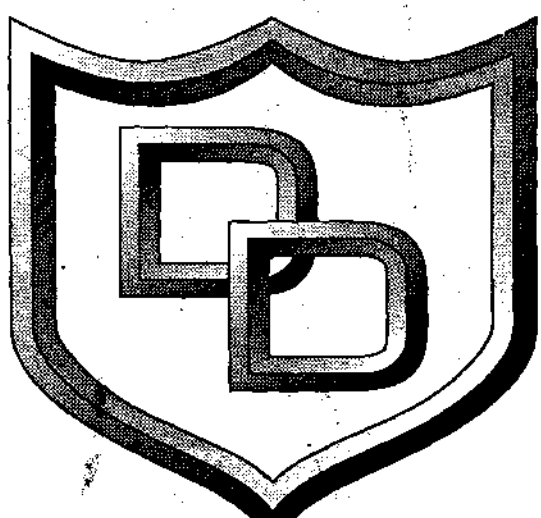
The U.S. was conceived in iniquity regardless of what may be right with our society. It remains propped up by the continued oppression of native peoples, African Americans, and other non-white peoples. Whites continue to scapegoat people of color for the problems we face when real responsibility lies smack in the laps of those who continue to lavish in white privilege.

So, what do we do? Space does not permit detailed suggestions for change. The metamorphosis of becoming antiracist must start at the individual level. The first step is to recognize and come to terms with the fact that the cancer of racism continues to spread even if it is not clothed in a hood and burning a cross. The next step for whites is to find ways to give up our power and advocate for the empowerment of others. We then would be ready to address and attack racism on a more systemic level.

Racism is so ingrained in society that most of us cannot see or hear it unless it is clothed in a Klan robe or a swastika. We must look and listen for it in every setting and every form of media to begin seeing and hearing. Once we begin seeing and hearing beyond politically correct BS, then we can choose and advocate for real change. I am convinced that if we are not antiracist we are racist. I see no fence to sit on with regard to this issue.

**Authors note: As a whole, women and children are the most oppressed group in our society. This is exaggerated if these women and children are other than white. Most if not all of the systemic ills mentioned here also apply to women and children. Racism, sexism, and ageism all fit even if not included in this article.

Shalom! Paster Leon



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Swastika Watch

Apology to Bill Flick

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to Mr. Bill Flick of Twin City-Pantagraph fame. In the last *Post Amerikan*, I hastily declared that he was a so-and-so, and a such-and-such, just because he didn't answer our letter to him. Well, wouldn't you know, he wrote to us, and was just as nice as can be; the very antithesis of all those slanderous remarks I so casually tossed off the old MackandTosh. It seems it was all a misunderstanding, caused by the mistaken misplacement of our communique, and he was just so friendly and neighborly that we were all taken aback, especially me, worried as I was about libel and slander lawsuits. So, hats off to you, Bill, and to your gracious co-workers at the *Pantagraph*, who were hopefully also not offended by that crack about the Budweiser®, and who will hopefully recognize the column as just good clean fun, and not the sort of thing that you might want to bother any attorneys with since they're all pretty busy this time of year, what with the holidays coming up. I guess I learned my lesson about shooting my keyboard off like that, and you can bet that this type of thing won't happen again for probably quite awhile.

Hoary Hose

There, now, let's get on with our regularly scheduled Swastika Sighting, sent in by a "Joe Smith" (not his real name). Mr. Smith (not his real name) believes he has found the winning swastika. He thinks that this swastika is the secret emblem which reveals the true intentions of one of Amerika's most beloved pastimes, and that once the true nature of this pastime is revealed, nobody will ever want this pastime to be a pastime any more, and will regard this pastime as nothing more than a Big Con-spir-a-see. And this (two) month's entry is... The LOGO OF THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX. Yes, folks, take a closer look at the X in "Sox." Didn't you ever wonder why they didn't just spell it the right way? Didn't you ever wonder why they put those little hooks on the edges? Well now, the world knows that the reason is that they're all nothing but a bunch of Nazis.

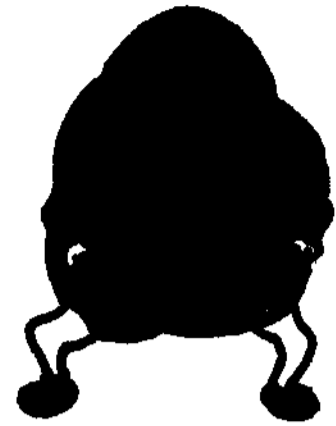
Did you ever wonder what happened to the Black Sox baseball team? They were very popular for a while back in such and such decade, and then they were scandalized out of existence because of some

allegations about cheating or "throwing" a game, or something. Well, this revelation about the surviving White Sox answers, I think, quite a few questions about what really happened on that day back in whatever year (hey, I don't have to do research-that's for the real *Post* reporters, who have their own office and a brand new company car. Hell, I'm lucky if I get left over donuts in the morning? We slander-columnists never get any respect). If you ask me, what really happened was that the White Sox were planning some sort of government takeover, and the Black Sox found out about it, there was a big shootout, and the next thing you know, the White Sox are the only team left standing when the smoke clears. And now, however many years later, they're still plotting, waiting for that fateful day when both Clinton and Gore are there at an opening game, casually about to throw the first ball out, unaware that it's not a ball at all, it's really a Ball-shaped Bomb!

After I realize these sorts of thing, it makes me wonder why I could not see.



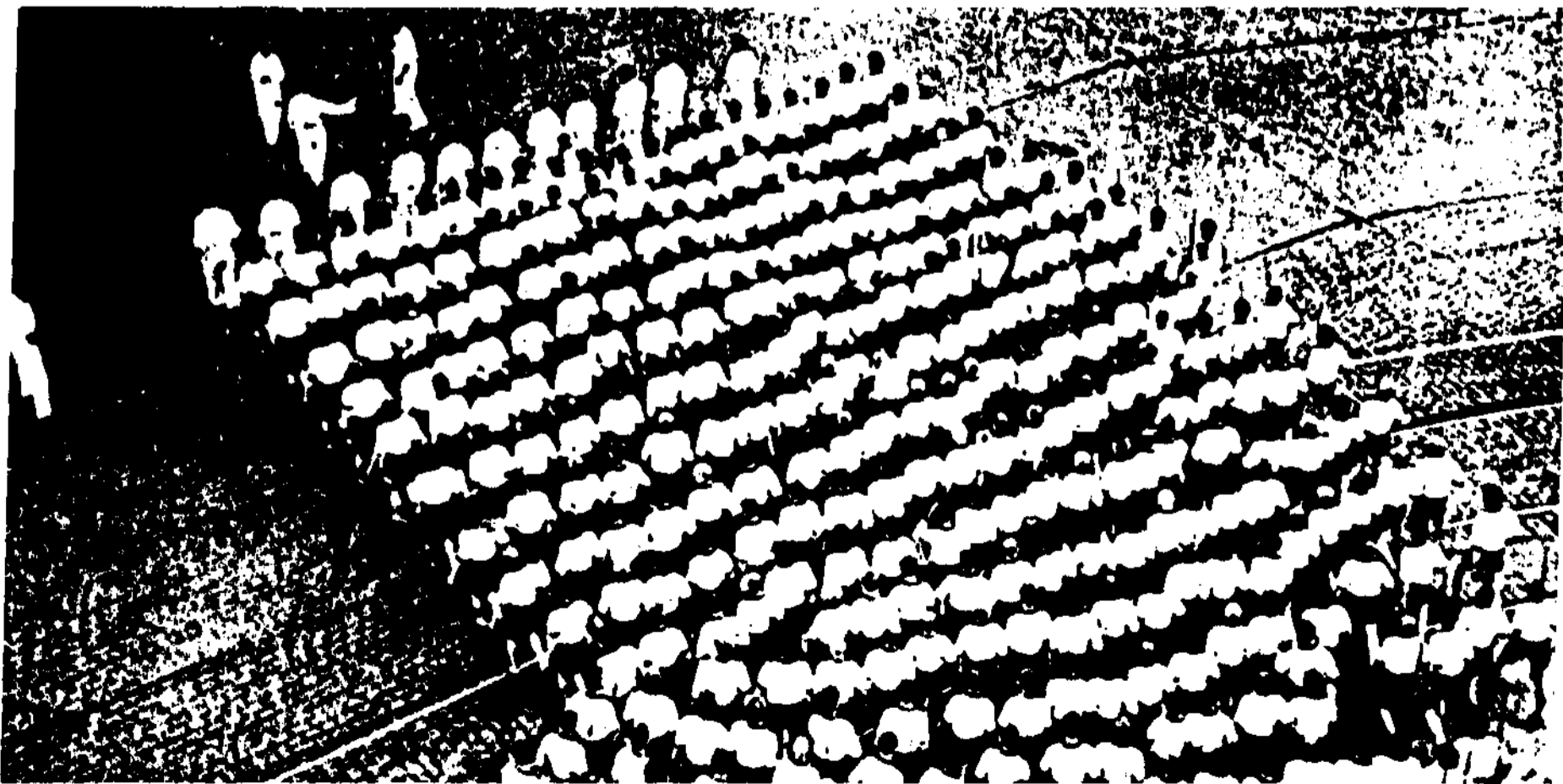
O.K. Do you think Flick has stopped reading yet? Good, now we can talk about who this evil man is, and what he intends to do to the *Post*. His "friendly letter," as I'm sure you have deduced, was actually a cryptically encoded message, warning me that I got too close to the truth, and that if I didn't back off, he was going to call his secret army of hypnotized followers to battle, and boy, do they mean business. I've heard, from "certain sources," that the recent Homecoming



Parade, which temporarily paralyzed downtown Normal, was in reality not high school bands at all, but Flick's own personal army, practicing their military maneuvers.

Well, I was not fooled for a minute by his "I can take a joke" attitude, and I know just how we can win this War of the Newspapers. It will require a Herculean effort from each and every *Post* reader, but it is absolutely necessary, if we are to survive. Here's my plan: we've got to fight the *Pantagraph* on their own terms, on their own turf. We must, quite simply, **OUTSELL THE PANTAGRAPH!** We've got to generate SALES in the millions, and fast! I figure that, by this time next year, the *Post* should be the Number One paper in the tri-state area, and then we'll see what's what. The *Post* price increase is a step in the right direction, but, as you know, the *Pantagraph* beat us to the punch with a price increase of their own. We've got to act quickly, so drum up anybody you can, and get them to buy an issue TODAY. We've got the printers on Emergency Standby, ready to print hundreds of thousands of *Post Amerikan*s. The rest is up to you-you've got to buy, buy, and buy again.

Just picture it - the *Post Amerikan*, as the ONLY PAPER IN THE COUNTY! We'll throw all those horrible *USA Today* machines into the briny waters of the mighty Sugar Creek, pie charts and all, and the *Post* will reign supreme. Mayor Smart will be begging for a favorable editorial around election time, and State Farm will be paying top dollar for a measly quarter page ad, if we decide they have stopped their insidious union-busting activities to our satisfaction. And each and every one of you, the *Post*'s faithful readers, will be rewarded, not only in a sizable commission check for every hundred subscriptions you sell, but with a story to tell your grandchildren, about the Year you Saved Bloomington-Normal from the Evil Clutches of Bill Flick and the *Pantagraph*.





Car cont.

He used the example if he were walking down the street with a small quantity of marijuana in his possession. If he were busted for it, he would receive whatever penalties that are prescribed by criminal law. However, if he had that same amount of drug and was in his car, he would receive whatever penalties are prescribed by law (in a criminal case) plus whatever penalties are prescribed under forfeiture laws (forfeiting his car). It doesn't make sense.

Mr. Wilcox pointed out that there doesn't seem to be much of a correlation between the means and the purposes of forfeiture laws. The purpose of the law is to discourage profits of drug traffic and to take the tools of the trade away from the drug kingpins. Taking the only means of transportation away from a person for \$40 worth of cocaine hardly fits the legislative intent.

We can't remain apathetic

One of the biggest problems, according to Wilcox, is that the average citizen doesn't care if people using drugs are treated unfairly. That may be just one of the problems but the apathy of the average citizen is what has led to the abuse by the police of the forfeiture laws.

The hearing closed shortly thereafter. The committee will meet again in a few weeks with an outline of their suggestions that they will pass on to our state legislators.

Cybil Wright

Boycott News

Save the Whales...Again

Against: All Norwegian companies not publicly denouncing Norway's new whaling policies.

Called by: Earth Island Institute / 300 Broadway, Suite 28 / San Francisco, CA 94133 (415) 788-3666 and Humane Society of the U.S. / 2100 L St. NW Washington, DC / (202) 452-1100

Begun: November 1992

Write to: Gro Harlem Brundthalt / Prime Minister Kingdom of Norway / c/o Kjeld Vibe Ambassador of Norway / 2720 34th St. NW Washington, DC 20008.

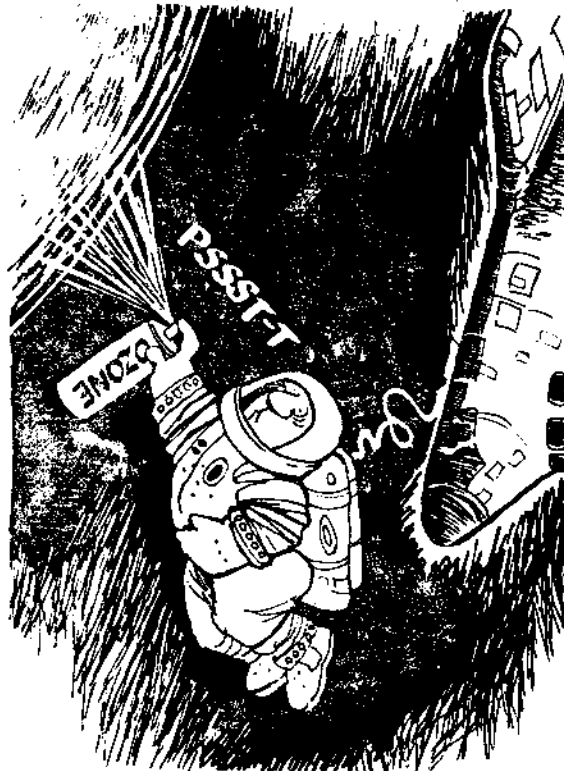
"Saves the Whales," - a vanguard slogan of the environmental movement - is once again gracing bumper stickers. Norway's Prime Minister Gro Brundthalt has announced plans to break the five-year international moratorium and resume commercial whaling of the North Atlantic Minke whale.

Claiming the North Atlantic Minke is a "sustainable stock," Brundthalt said, "we must be allowed to use our resources."

In response to Norway's decision, Earth Island Institute and The Humane Society of the U.S. are calling for a boycott of all Norwegian companies not publicly decrying their country's action. Included in the boycott are Norwegian tourism, fish, cheese, petroleum products, and the 1994 winter Olympic games in Lillehammer.

Students Target DuPont

Against: Seagram



Carol Simpson ©1987

Called by: Student's Environmental Action Coalition / Seagram's Boycott P.O. Box 181 Newark, DE 19715-0181 / (302) 453-9702

Begun: November 1992

Write to: Edgar S. Bronfman Sr. / Chairman The Seagram Company Ltd. / 1430 Peel St. Montreal, Quebec Canada H3A 1S9 and Edgar S. Woolard, CEO E.I duPont de Nemours / 1007 Market St. Wilmington, DE 19898 / (800) 441-7515

Products: Tropicana drinks, Seagram mixers and alcohol

Students' Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) has adopted a new strategy in the environmental campaign against production of CFC's. SEAC has called a boycott against Seagram, the largest shareholder of DuPont, in order to influence DuPont to speed up and increase its phase-out of ozone-depleting CFC's

In 1991 DuPont manufactured 170,000 tons of CFC's approximately 25 percent of the global market.

DuPont responds that CFC's have been continued because of "disastrous disruptions to commerce, medical care and the food supply resulting from a precipitous elimination of CFC's."

Seagram, the target of the boycott, owns 24.4 percent of all DuPont stock; in 1991 Seagram earned \$4.5 billion alone from these shares. Seagram also occupies five of the 18 seats on DuPont's board of directors.

Read All About It

Against: New York Daily News

Called by: Daily News Workers / Newspaper Guild of New York Local 3 / 133 West 44th St. / New York, NY 10036 / (212) 575-1580

Begun: January 1993

Write to: Mortimer Zuckerman / New York Daily News / 220 East 42nd St. / New York, NY 10017 / (212) 210-6320

Product: Daily News, The Atlantic, U.S. News and World Report

On January 7, 1993 Mortimer Zuckerman, owner of U.S. News & World Report and The Atlantic, took over ownership of the New York Daily News, and fired 182 workers. In retaliation, the Newspaper Guild of New York Local 3, which represents the Daily News' editorial and commercial workers, called a boycott of the newspaper.

According to the guild, Zuckerman refused to bargain in good faith with the union prior to his takeover of the paper. The contract proposed by Zuckerman - and refused by the guild - lessens job security and seniority, and would allow management sole discretion over pension money, claims boycott organizer Bruce Jett. When Zuckerman took possession of the paper no guild contract was in force.

The guild charges that Zuckerman fired a disproportionate number of African-Americans, workers with seniority, and union organizers. Zuckerman allegedly fired three quarters of the African-American reporters, including all the African-American males. In 1987 a federal court found that the paper discriminated against African-American reporters in assignments, salaries and promotions.

Don't Bank on It

Against: A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co.

Called by: Allied Industrial Workers of America, Local 837 / 2882 Dineen / Decatur, IL 62526 / (217) 876-7006

Begun: November 1992

Write to: Stephen Brown Chief Executive Tate & Lyle PLC c/o Domino Sugar Corp. 1114 Avenue of the Americas / New York, NY 10036

Products: Domino Sugar

The workers at A.E. Staley, the Illinois-based corn syrup producer, have adopted an unconventional boycott strategy to protest the company's proposed contract. The union has opted against a strike, instead calling a boycott of banks involved with Staley - Magna and First of America Banks.

In November 1992, the union called a boycott against First of America Bank. Withdrawals of funds, say boycott supporters, forced Robert Powers, chairman of Staley, to resign as a director of First of America's Decatur subsidiary in January 1993.

The union called a boycott in February 1993 of Magna Bank. Staley's general counsel, director and executive vice president, J. Patrick Mohan, also serves on the board of directors of Magna Bank of Central Illinois.

Tate & Lyle, Staley's British parent company, and Domino Sugar, owned by Tate & Lyle, are also targeted by the boycott. According to the union, Staley has given Tate & Lyle 30 percent of its \$750 million profits.

The boycott aims at Staley's proposed contract which the union rejected in early October 1992. "For months Staley failed to bargain in good faith," said boycott organizer Dave Watts. "The company has engaged in a single-minded effort to undermine seniority rights, to limit the ability of the union to pursue grievances and otherwise gut our contract."



Source: Boycott Action News



Car found guilty of possession

I attended an enlightening meeting of the McLean County Legislative Committee on October 6th. I never knew that such an entity existed. This committee is made up of members of the McLean County Board whose purpose is to review issues of concern to McLean County. Apparently, this review is primarily concerned with state law.

The task at hand

The committee held a public hearing on forfeiture laws in Illinois. The committee seeks to learn more about them and then issue suggestions to our local state representatives to be taken into consideration in Springfield. What a neat idea.

The first speaker was Ken McGowan. Ken was harshly treated by our local emissaries from the police state. Seems Ken rolled through a stop sign in Normal. During a ROUTINE SEARCH (routine search for a traffic offense???) of Ken's car, Normal's finest found 4/10 of a gram of cocaine. The street value of that big haul is about \$40.

So, Ken is arrested and eventually goes to court. He is sentenced to community service, fined, and put on Court Supervision. He did the crime - he did the time, right? Not so, the police just weren't satisfied. Ken's car was charged in a civil proceeding called forfeiture. His car was found guilty of facilitating a crime and thereby ordered to be given to the state without compensation. Shame on that car.

Let's kick him while he's down

Ken's car was specially equipped with hand controls so that he might independently transport himself because Ken is a paraplegic. None of these factors entered into court proceedings. Neither did any sort of proportionate figuring between the street value of the drug and the value of the car.

Ken spoke eloquently to the committee as he told his story. He responded to a personal attack that was made on him by State's Attorney Reynard in the *Pantagraph* (so much for privacy and decorum in the State's Attorney's Office). See, Ken was allowed to keep possession of his car pending appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. He lost his appeal and the coppers took possession of his car without notifying his attorney.

What does ACLU have to say about this?

Dr. Thomas Eimmermann spoke next, as a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union. He called the theory that property could be guilty of a crime "legal fiction." He also called forfeiture a "punitive action" which in effect makes it a second punishment for one crime. Dr. Eimmermann also pointed out the fact that in forfeiture, there is no proportionality between the amount of drug found and the value of the property seized.

One of the biggest concerns regarding forfeiture, according to Dr. Eimmermann, is the burden of proof. With criminal cases, the burden of proof is beyond a reasonable doubt. However, in civil cases, including forfeiture, the burden of proof is by a preponderance of the evidence. Also, in forfeiture cases, the property is considered guilty and the owner of the property has the burden of proof. The state has nothing to prove while the owner must prove that the property is not guilty. It is expensive and sometimes impossible to prove a negative.

There is an overall lack of due process rights afforded the owner of the property, according to Eimmermann. Since a piece of property is the defendant, so to speak, it really has no rights. The owner of the property is not given the same due process rights he or she would have if he or she were charged with a crime.

Lose your property - even if you are not charged

Crime or lack of crime is another problem with forfeiture. Since the burden of proof is different from criminal proceedings, a person can have their property taken through forfeiture without even being charged with a crime! Or they could be acquitted by a judge or jury and still have their property forfeited under the lesser burden of proof.

According to Eimmermann, forfeiture also gives the police an incentive to take property since they share in the property. The arresting agency gets a cut of whatever monies or property that is seized. It makes policing for profit a reality and can add corruption of standard policing practices.

Abolish or make 'em fair

The A.C.L.U. calls for abolishing forfeiture laws. If that cannot be done, Eimmermann suggested that they must be revised to assure due process. This could be done by extending deadlines, raising the standard of proof, making the state prove that the owner had knowledge of the illegality that the property was taking part in, and that the property should be released if the owner can prove hardship. The A.C.L.U. also recommended that the bond requirement of 10% be dropped. Finally, the A.C.L.U. suggested that the law be revised so that those whose property is being seized be given the right to an attorney to defend them and their property. Also, there should be protection and compensation for property that is damaged while it is in the possession of the state.



McLean County has a drug czar

McLean County Drug Czar Robert Freitag spoke before the committee next. Mr. Freitag was upset that Mr. Reynard had dumped this on his lap three hours before the hearing. (Mr. Reynard had received publicity in the *Pantagraph* about the hearing and said that he would be there to suggest to the committee that forfeiture laws be increased to include DUI cases and vehicular homicide.) Freitag gave a brief history of forfeiture laws.

Freitag also countered many of Dr. Eimmermann's claims about due process and rights of notice. He claimed that forfeiture is not punishment but it is a "remedial response" to those who choose to violate the law. This remedial response is based on society's need to be somehow compensated for the economic harm caused by drug use in this society. He stressed that forfeiture was not punishment.

Freitag feels that forfeiture is an effective tool. (Not surprising since one of the perks of his job is driving around in vehicles that the county seizes under forfeiture laws.) He claims that even though the intent of the law may have been to take some of the profits out of big-time drug dealers that it is effective against casual users as well. It takes away the thing that may



have enabled the drug addicts to use drugs. (What the fuck does that mean, Bob?)

They don't want your debts

Since the state or county does not want property that has a lien on it, part of his job is to determine what property is to be forfeited and what property isn't forfeited. The prosecutor has discretionary powers under the law. In other words, if you have a lien on your property, they don't want it; they will only take the fruits of your labor if they can get it free and clear.

They'll stop at nothing

Kenneth Rittenhouse was the final official speaker at the hearing. On October 13, 1992, Mr. Rittenhouse had his Lear Jet seized by federal authorities. It seems he had chartered his jet to some men who were suspected of laundering money. "There were never any indictments issued, no charges ever filed, no arrests and they took a Lear Jet," claimed Rittenhouse. The jet was simply guilty BECAUSE they seized it. It cost Mr. Rittenhouse tons of money (\$92,000) because the feds took his property. It also took five months and three days to get the property back.

Mr. Rittenhouse did not get his property back via the judicial system, he got it back by going through the minority speaker of the House in Washington, D.C. In other words, he got his jet back "politically, not judicially."

Mr. Rittenhouse believes that the intent of the forfeiture laws are good. He believes that the government is abusing the law simply because they are the government. He said, "It's almost like a police state" and that the "property owners have not power." Mr. Rittenhouse added that "suspicion should not be the basis for taking property" and that a person should have to be convicted of a crime before property can be seized.

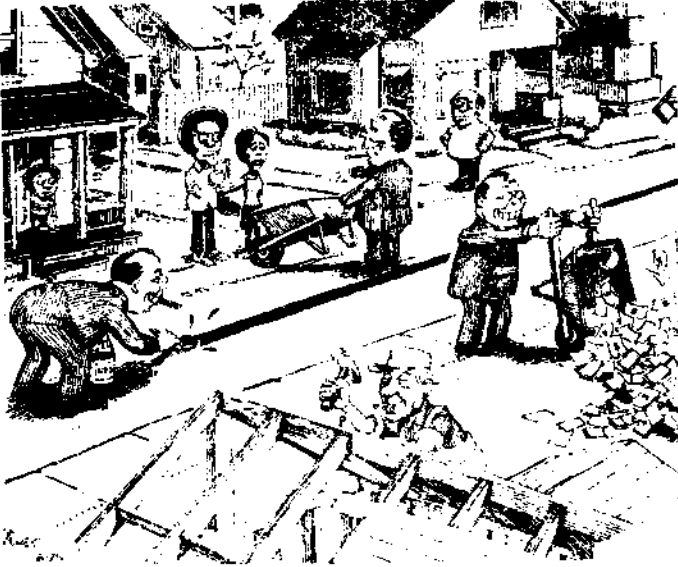
Questions from the floor

When it came time for questions from the committee, they asked a member of the McLean County Bar, Don Wilcox, for his opinion. Mr. Wilcox was in the audience and stated that he was not there as a representative of the McLean County Bar. In his opinion, he thought that there should be some proportionality between the amount of the drugs found and the value of the property seized. The current law does not take this into consideration. In other words, taking an \$8,000 vehicle for \$40 worth of cocaine simply is not right.



The View from Bloomington's West Side

Survival/cpf



My family moved to Bloomington, Illinois, when I was around six years old. We first lived down by South Hill. When I was around eight, we moved far west of the tracks to the lower west side of town: the rough side of town.

An elementary lesson in class consciousness

The rough side of town. That's what the kids on the east side of town are told in hopes of keeping them from wanting to associate with the poor kids. It must have worked. As I grew up I don't remember many west-side kids getting invited to an east-sider's home for dinner or to play after school. I also don't recall too many west-side kids being voted class president or homecoming queen. But I do know that the west side of town has history and background. It would have more to offer if the city council members would invest time and money into it.

In the early 1900's, the area west of the railroad used to be called Stevensonville. The neighborhood started its "change" as the coal mines were being shut down. Families moved into the properties instead of Stevenson employees. Around this time my husband's family bought the land our house is on. It seems most of the folks that grew up on this side of town tend to stay and raise their families in the same neighborhood.

I can't say old money keeps us here. It's more the lack of money that keeps the same families in these homes. Yet, in a way, it gives the younger generation a sense of security to know that our family also had the same families next door - for generations - that we have next door to us today.



Why not preserve the west side's history?

There are a lot of old buildings in a ten-block radius of my house. Unfortunately most of these have been, will be, or are in the process of being torn down. It's a sad fact that building the new is cheaper than repairing the old.

Recently, the Mill Street Bridge, built in 1860, was replaced in 1992 with the George Swier bridge. The city did not even try to preserve the old bridge. I know the Mill Street Bridge was not all wood; it had steel support beams. But, if we were on the east side on town and the people had wanted to keep it, the city would have found funding or donations for its restoration. The city found funding for the historic Camelback Bridge. But that's on the east side.

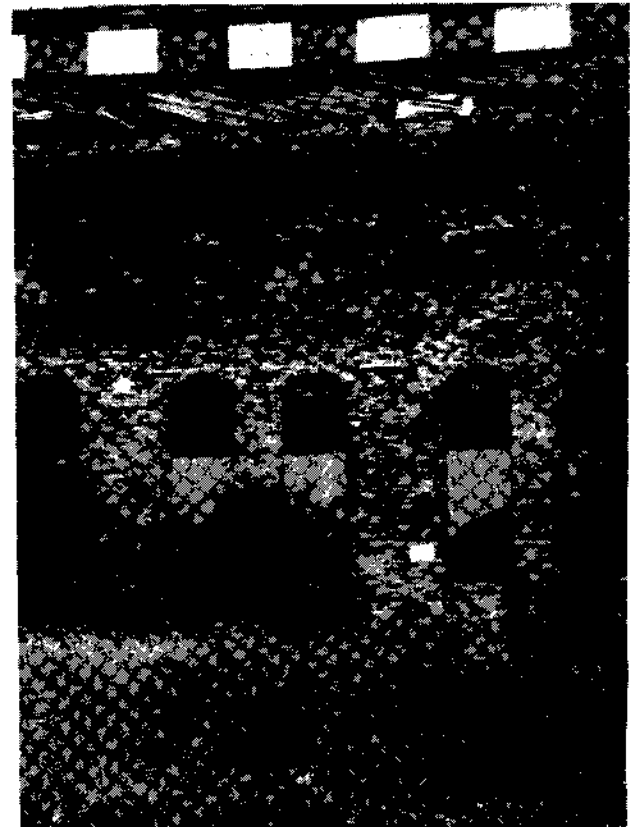
Off to the southwest of the George Swier Bridge sits an empty seven-acre pasture that the city wants to build over 27 homes on. That would make four homes per acre before the city even makes room for sidewalks and streets. I believe that this is way too many. That doesn't leave much room for anything nice like playgrounds or parks. All the new subdivisions at least have someplace that the kids can play.

Up the street from George Swier Bridge is the old railroad station, which was built in 1913. This station has historical value in its very old-fashioned decor and marble floors. The building is attached to the Front Street Bridge, which is now structurally unsound and no longer safe. Instead of remodeling the station and bringing it up to code, the city simply boarded it up. Now there is a new train station in downtown Normal. This new station has no history or antique decor, but it cost 1.5 million dollars. Was it really cheaper than fixing the old train station? So here sits another empty building on the west side of town for the kids to vandalize. Not that the city council really cares about how many buildings sit empty on the west side of town.

The next important building to be eliminated was the roundhouse near the old train station. I feel this building could have been used as a museum to educate people of all ages how trains were watered, refueled, turned around, and hoisted up for repair. Instead, the city made Amtrak assume responsibility for the removal of the buildings, rather than leaving it sitting empty for several years until vandals set the place on fire. At least this made the demolition and clean up a little less expensive for the taxpayers -- who live on both sides of town. Now, there's just an empty lot with some storage units left standing.

And while we're at it, how about some economic redevelopment on the west side too?

Partly because of the city's neglect of public property on the west side of town, both new growth and old family money have moved to the east side of town. I'm sure some people moved because of business and economic growth on the east side of town. Another reason could be that people consider these properties spacious country living. This area is now the location of the huge homes on the east side, past Towanda Avenue. At least 30 years ago this was a downtown area that was shared by the whole town. Most of the retail stores moved and the downtown was turned into office spaces.



The banks gave the city of Bloomington some buildings downtown they have yet to utilize. These buildings could have been renovated, used for an outside mall area and enhance the downtown. A mall on the west side of town would have been nice instead of two on the east side. I also think it's unfair the way the city has literally tricked its citizens into thinking they were going to try to help the west side economy by building a mini-mall. Instead, after they bought up the land, they built a truck stop. This did not help raise west-side residents' morale nor beautify the west side of town.

If the city would have built a mall in this neighborhood, perhaps the kids could've worked part-time after school and on weekends instead of hanging out on the streets. We have had land donated to the city for parks and I've seen these parks get one picnic table and that's it. If more of these community parks were to be built on the west side with lights and water fountains instead of just tables, the kids could run off some of their energy and boredom constructively, instead of vandalizing run-down city property.

The city of Bloomington needs to take a good, hard look at the west side of town and recognize that it has a greater responsibility toward us than just collecting our tax dollars and bulldozing old buildings.

-- Sandy Nordine



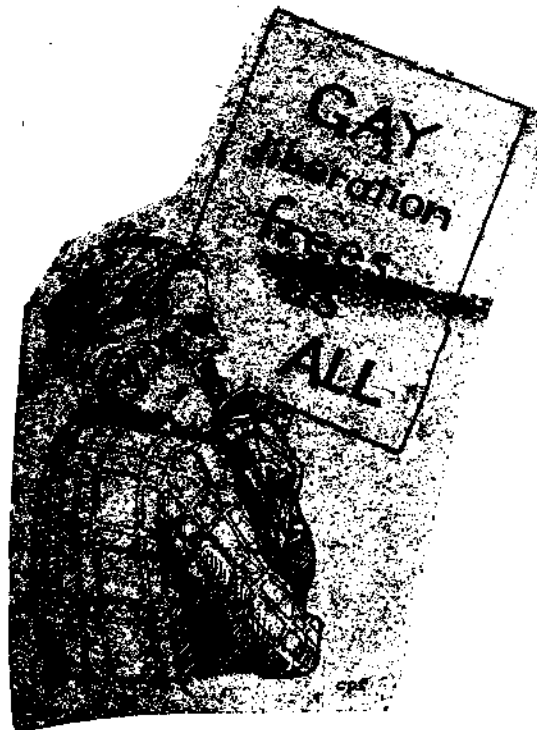
The politics of

National Coming Out Day is October 11th. By the time this article is published that day will have passed. Coming Out is a subject I hold dear to me because it is something I practice every day of my life. It is by a leap of faith that we will make a future for ourselves in this community. But for the time being the most a queer can expect of the locals in Bloomington-Normal is so much stupidity.

Just a few months before his death, David Wojnarowicz told me that the sexuality of middle aged men in this country was really fucked up. He spent the better part of his life attempting to expose hypocrisy. He called it, "X-Rays of America." I would like to believe that that is the only aberration of gender inequity, double standards, convoluted rationalizations about what is acceptable sexual behavior and what is not. But that is not the sole truth.

Embrace Knowledge

People have problems dealing with sexual subjects that have ambiguous meanings, no matter what age. What does it mean to be a man? What does it mean to be a woman? What does it mean to be heterosexual? What does it mean to be a homosexual? I think the response to all of those questions could be summarized quite easily if one wished to generalize, stereotype, prejudice and hate. I also think that those questions with answers most familiar to us will provoke the most immediate response. Nothing is more revealing to us individually than becoming close to a subject. Those curious enough to explore sexuality spend all if not most of their energy on the sex act. It would behoove them however, to give equal time to the profoundness of its effect. Spiritually and intellectually the rewards of a healthy intimacy level we need to know of ourselves. How many people can say they know the motivation of their sex? How many own their desires? How many



know their need to negotiate a space to share those desires, to share their sexuality? If two million incarcerated sex offenders, both men and women, are indicative of the unhealthy sexuality we commit in this country, then I cannot help but conclude that we need to come to terms with our sex as a nation. Without the persistence of the Gay and Lesbian community, not to leave out the feminist movement itself, our country will maintain it's antiquated sexual standards. Those taboos, stigmata, crimes against humanity, have led our society to the intricate hypocrisy already established. It takes a great distance from a subject for one to develop prejudice towards it. Embrace knowledge and you will inevitably set yourself free.

My lover and I have spent three years in B-N. At first we were a bit terrified at the prospect of being seen in public together holding hands or even kissing. We were afraid of holding hands in the car, where for the most part no one could even see our hands. But then there were truck drivers. I used to say "you have to be responsible for yourself if you are going to live queer in a country that hates your very existence." That is, if you are "out," expect to be bashed.

The opposite is my point. Society as a whole has convinced me that I deserve to be bashed. I deserve to get AIDS. I don't deserve equal rights. I don't deserve a committed relationship. And I served that society by giving it my silent approval.

Gay Radical

Every day we make examples of the standards society has imposed upon us. I am a radical. But I am made a radical not by my own design, NO, by my "Gay Community." I refuse to contribute to this lie. Therefore, I spend an inordinate amount of time thinking about why my Gay Brothers and Lesbian Sisters spend so much energy acting on beliefs they haven't even tested.

Eventually Ron and I ventured out of our self imposed closet. No one told us we had to hide. We were honestly afraid. We started by holding hands in our car. Then we might even give each other a peck in public. We were both growing, making an attempt to set an example for other queers in our community. We held a ceremony to commit ourselves to each other in a very public way. Today bathed in the glow of sunlight we stroll together in the Franklin Park holding hands. We kiss each other hello, good-bye outside of our residence in downtown Bloomington. We grocery shop together. We shop for clothes and shoes together. We eat out together. I brush his hair out of his face. He straightens my collar. We care for each other in a manner not unlike any so-called straight couple.

How'd you know?

People have scowled, mumbled under their breath, driven around the block a few times to get a second look. Some have taken offense. Some have spoken typical epithets. Some shopper at CUBS supermarket said of Ron, "That guy in the red shirt is a fag."

"What?" asked his son.

By then Junior had met my eyes as his Dad said clarifying, "that guy in the red shirt, carrying those bananas. (Pointing.) He just walked by! He's a fag!"

I looked right into his redneck eyes. I wondered how he knew. I thought he must have known Ron from work. Maybe he was a closeted member of "the family." Maybe he just thought he knew how to identify who is Gay and who is not. Hell, I didn't know if Ron was Gay when I met him. And all these thoughts must have blurred my mind because I just stood there and looked dead in his eyes. Neither one of us said a word. I shook my head then walked away to catch up with Ron. As I walked I felt I should have said something, but I

reasoned the ownership of being a bigot was embarrassment enough. Junior looked puzzled.

1972

1977

1982

1987

1993

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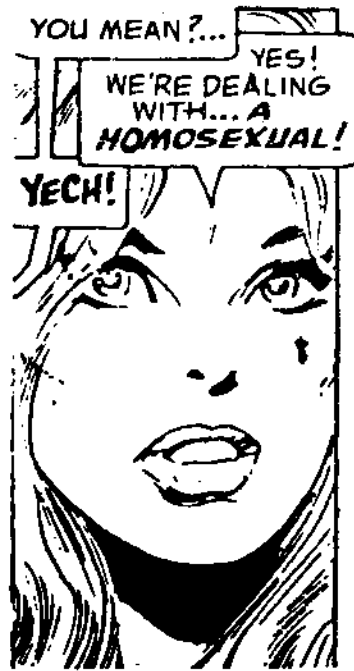
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coming out



Excuses, Excuses

I have heard just as much, if not more, homophobia from my Gay Brothers and Lesbian Sisters: "Just because your 'out' doesn't mean everyone else has to be." "I don't believe all Gays and Lesbians have to be friends just because they are homosexuals." "I try not to impose my homosexuality on my coworkers because it doesn't seem natural." "You're not in the mainstream like me." "No one in their right mind would behave as you do." "I prefer not to be labeled as a homosexual. "I am a woman who has sex with other women and it is no one else's business." "Why can't you just get on with your life?" "Why should you even care what anyone else thinks about you?"

All these comments have something in common. They reveal themselves in their language to announce just how uncomfortable they are with homosexuality: "Just because you're 'out' doesn't mean everyone else has to be." (Everyone else is presumably straight.)

"I don't believe all Gays and Lesbians have to be friends just because they are homosexuals." (I don't want to be around homosexuals.)

"I try not to impose my homosexuality on my coworkers because it doesn't seem natural." (I don't think I am normal.)

"Your not in the mainstream, like me." (The mainstream is not Gay.)

"No one in their right mind would behave as you do." (Homosexuality is an illness.)

"I prefer not to be labeled as a homosexual." (I prefer not to be a homosexual.)

"I am a woman who has sex with other women and it is no one else's business." (Homosexuals are intolerable.)

"Why can't you just get on with your life?" (Homosexuality is a choice.)

"Why should you even care what anyone else thinks about you?" (Homosexuals are not human.)

To borrow a phrase from history, I AM A MAN!

I care because I need to go to a dentist who will treat me like any other patient. When I have a cavity I need it filled. I care because the news media in this community routinely defines what is means to be a Gay or Lesbian in Bloomington-Normal, which is without question routinely ignorant. I care because I am tired of fighting to co-exist in an open and honest manner.

Lately, I have noticed how me and my liberated friends who are for all intents and purposes "out," behave like tortoises. That is, whenever we are the least bit threatened, we retreat into our shells, as if our commitment escapes when we are confronted with making a judgment about how queer we should be from one given moment to another. Sometimes I get tired of fighting. It's exhausting.

Come Out

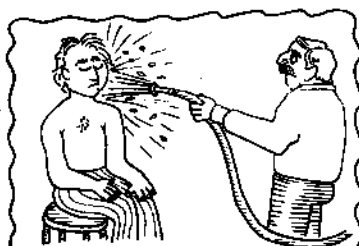
My expectations that queers will come forward and tell their straight friends that they refuse to be second class citizens has left me very disappointed. I have been told I should respect their insecurity just as much as I expect them to respect my being out. But the reality of it is that they no more respect my right to be a first class citizen of these United States than I regard their posturing as first class citizens. I can only speak from experience, I was insecure before I came out and I am insecure now that I am out, albeit for different reasons. The result of which is that in hindsight I can analyze the difference in my life. It

has been positive. Who can say that it is a positive experience lying everyday of your life to your friends and family? What kind of "security" does that build? Let us suffice it to say that I have relieved myself of the burden of the closet.

The closet is a form of homophobia, not merely a form of self hate and denial. The closet has profound effects upon everyone who is trying to make this country a healthier, more tolerant, and truly free place to live. The closet as an American institution is in the throws of revolutionary change. To be out is more than revealing a part of your persona to those people you care about. Being out is to be conspicuously gay, not unusual, but remarkable.

HOW TO SPOT A HOMOSEXUAL

by T.O. SYLVESTER



1 START WITH A CLEAN SURFACE.



2 APPLY PAINT EVENLY UNTIL SPOTS REACH DESIRED DENSITY.



3 LET DRY AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

Scary Stuff

Perhaps my silent Gay Brothers and Lesbian Sisters would prefer to see a return to more simple times when homosexuals were not only marginalized by society but also publicly tortured and murdered. One method utilized not much more than one hundred years ago was a popular form of abuse here in the Midwest. When one was found to be a known homosexual, the punishment was DEATH. A single mechanism of chains and shackles was strapped one to each limb. Each limb was then attached, with belts and harnesses, to a horse. So there was one horse for every limb. The horses were then driven in opposing directions so as to tear the aberrant homosexual to pieces. When applied, this ancient Middle-Eastern technique was known to have one drawn and quartered. Where devices of torture were unavailable, homosexuals were simply cut in half with a tree saw, as if there was more justice in the mutilation of a known homosexual than a quick hanging.

More Scary Stuff

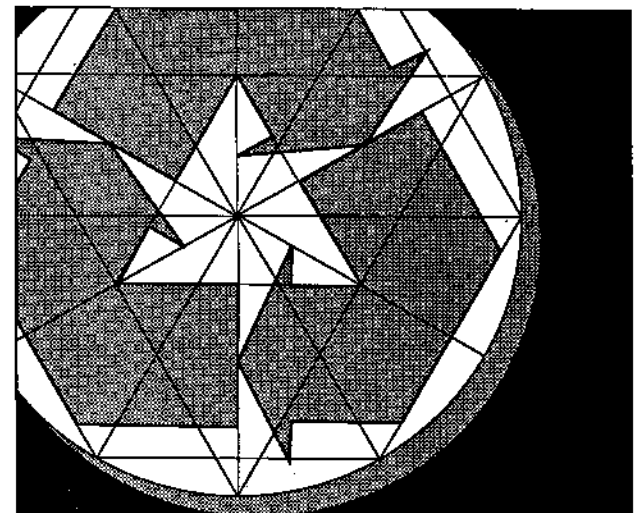
Jesse Helms said he would like to see the day return when homosexuals were whipped in public as they were run out of town. Helms said so on

the floor of the Senate the day that, Assistant Public Housing nominee, Roberta Achtenberg, was to be voted upon. In 1992, fifty-two percent of the registered voters in North Carolina put that idiot in office. If that doesn't scare the shit out of you nothing can!

What does it take!? Another Colorado!? Another Oregon!?

"Coming Out" is more than personal liberation. Coming Out is accepting the roles we as homosexuals have played in the perception of homosexuality. Coming Out is a commitment to challenging hate

Patrick McDonnell



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Attention meat eaters: Part III

The previous 40 reasons were published in the last 2 issues of the Post Amerikan.

41. Nearly half the fish tested in a 6 month investigation by Consumers Union were found to be contaminated by bacteria from human feces, suspected to be the result of poor sanitation practices in one or more points along the fish handling process.

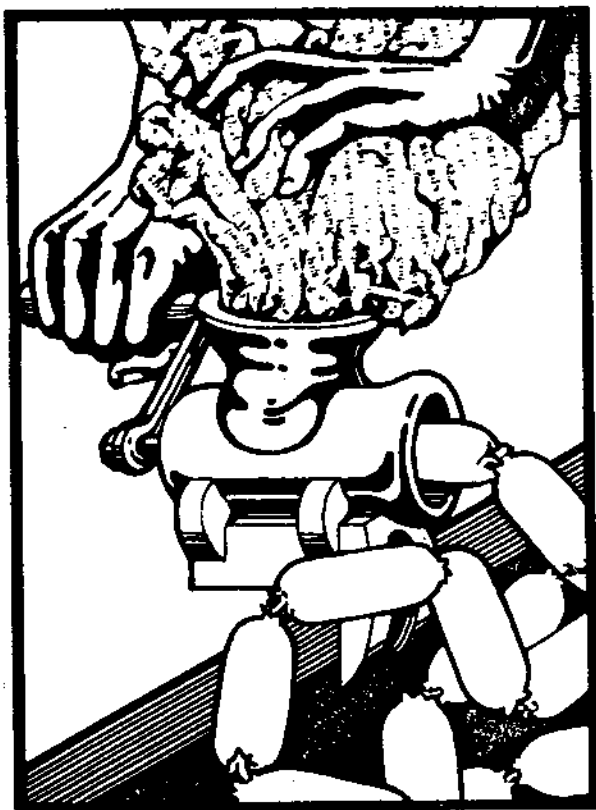
42. In the barnyard of yesteryear, a sow gave birth to 6 piglets a year. Today's sow gives birth to 20 with the industry working on 45. Now we have "embryo transfer" where sows, by hormone injection, produce large amounts of eggs which are fertilized artificially by semen from genetically desirable boars. Embryos are surgically removed and implanted into other sows. The stress on our "super-sow" from repeatedly being cut up and sewn back will kill her prematurely. Similar methods are employed in the beef industry.

43. Cow's milk is meant for calves, not humans. Even at a time of most rapid growth, an infant's natural protein needs are low. Human milk contains only 5% of its calories as protein. An infant doubles in size in 180 days. In contrast, cow's milk is 15% protein by calorie, with newborn calves doubling in size in only 47 days.

44. At most stockyards around the country sick and crippled animals brought in by ranchers will quickly and humanely be euthanized. At many, however, cruelty can be a regular occurrence. So called "downers" may lie suffering for days until they are dragged by chain to their slaughter. The tragedy is that an animal can legally be kept in agony, sick or with broken bones, simply because alive it will fetch a higher price for a rancher.

45. Fifteen million pounds of antibiotics are used in animal production every year. In 1988, animal drug sales came to \$2.5 billion.

46. Meat industry apologists claim that livestock do not compete with humans for edible food because they live on forage humans cannot eat. In fact, 70% of all the grain produced in the U.S. is fed to livestock.



47. Animal health in the farm of old came from exercise, sunlight and freedom to peck or root in the soil. Today, animals are packed indoors and barely kept alive with drugs and vitamin injections. The battle against bacteria in the factory farm shed is a constant concern. Misting the animals with insecticides has become routine. In the chicken house, the birds are fed chemicals which stay active in their droppings, controlling flies by killing their larvae.

48. The great Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies the nation's bread basket with water, is being pumped dry, primarily due to agribusiness growing grain to feed livestock. Spanning over 8 midwestern states with an area three times the size of the state of New York, this natural blessing from the last Ice Age may be gone in 30 years.

49. Meat contains approximately 14 times more pesticides than plant foods; dairy products contain 5 1/2 times more pesticides than plant foods.

50. There are 20-30 thousand animal drugs currently in use. As many as 90% have not been approved by the FDA.

51. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a group of 3,000 physicians, came out in 1991 with the "New Four Food Groups." They are: fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes. Meat, poultry, fish, nuts, seeds, and oils have been termed "optional" foods, not considered necessary for health.

52. With every one of their natural instincts restricted and unfulfilled, pigs in today's factories will take to "tail-biting." Insane, bored and frustrated, these naturally intelligent and playful creatures may be driven to gnawing neurotically on one another's pig tails and hind ends. If not prevented, a mauled pig may die from an attack and then be eaten by his attackers. Mauled pigs cannot be sold, so they become a problem to the producer. The answer? Pig tails are routinely amputated, and pigs are kept in total darkness except for feeding time.

53. The Bureau of Labor has listed poultry processing as one of the most hazardous occupations, as workers can easily contract diseases from the sick animals in their midst. Workers in the meat packing industry suffer injuries in the workplace at 10 times the national average, primarily due to damage to tendons and nerves from repeating the same motion up to 8,000 times an hour.

54. In egg factories all over the country, male chicks are weeded out and disposed of by "chick-pullers." A half a million chicks a day are literally thrown en masse into plastic bags where they are crushed and suffocated. Or they may be ground up while still alive.

55. Author and scientific director for EarthSave Foundation Michael Klapper, M.D. writes, "The price tag on the supermarket chuck steak does not include the loss of irreplaceable topsoil; yet future generations will pay dearly."

56. An animal at the top of the food chain will accumulate in its own flesh and fat most of all the toxic substances of its prey, its prey's prey, and so on. Due to the excessive use of pesticides, insecticides and petrochemical fertilizers on cropland, the injection of hormones and antibiotics into farm animals, and the abundance of PCB's and mercury in our oceans, there is toxicity in the flesh of all animals people eat. Today, more than

ever, it is wise to eat "low on the food chain," with plant food being the lowest and safest.

57. A diet without meat can help prevent diabetes, relieve the symptoms of diabetes and can even end the need for insulin treatments.



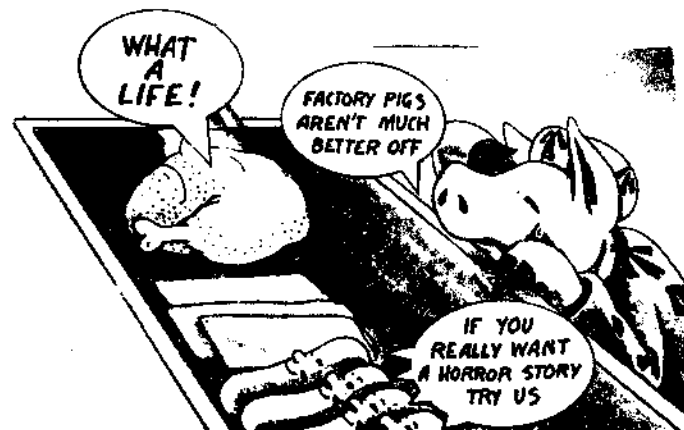
58. Detection of salmonellis is not required of meat packers by the USDA. There is not a single plant in the country that inspects for it. CBS's "60 Minutes" found half of the chickens they randomly bought at a supermarket contaminated with salmonellosis.

59. Jim Mason and Peter Singer write in their book Animal Factories, "Instead of hired hands, the factory farmer employs pumps, fans, switches, slatted or wire floors, and automatic feeding and watering hardware." Managers, as with any other capital intensive system, will be concerned with the "cost of input and volume of output...[T]he difference is that in animal factories the product is a living creature."

60. The digestive system of the natural carnivore is designed for plant food digestion. From the inadequate amount of acidity in human saliva, bile in the human liver and acid in the human stomach, to the relatively small size of the human kidneys, it is clear that the natural diet for humans is vegetarian.

©1992 by Pamela Teisler.
101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian

For more information or to receive a copy, send \$1.00 (plus SASE) for one copy; and 50¢ for each additional copy to: The VitaVeggie Society, Prince St. Sta., P.O. Box 294, New York, New York 10012

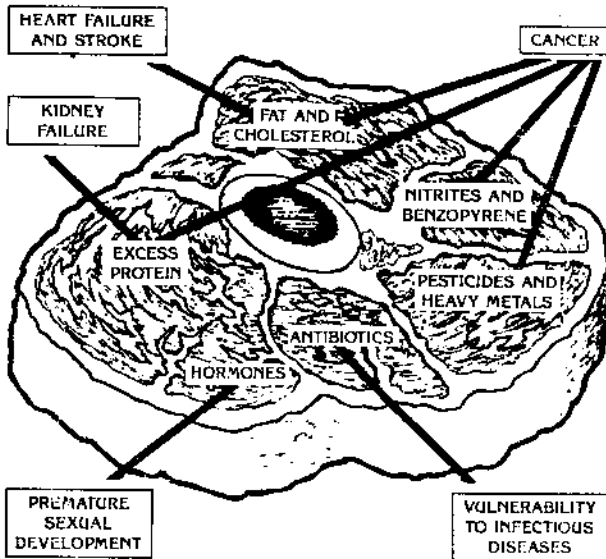




Animal Magnetism



HERE'S THE BEEF!



Labels Required

The labels on packages of all raw and partly cooked meat and poultry products will be required to carry instructions for safe handling to minimize chance of bacterial illness. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this decision on August 11.

The Agriculture Department estimates that foodborne illnesses attributable to meat and poultry cost the nation \$3.9 billion to \$4.3 billion each year. Microbial contamination is the most serious public health threat to the nation's food supply.

"Our goal is to improve public awareness about the necessity of safe food handling," Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said in a statement. "Until we have rapid tests to detect the presence of unseen harmful bacteria or vaccines to prevent the occurrence of bacteria in food animals, we must do everything we can to help inform consumers about proper preparation and storage of not-ready-to-eat meat and poultry."

The labels will be required on all raw meat and poultry and partially cooked meats sold in supermarkets, as well as on products sold to restaurants and institutions.

Editors note: The USDA has recently halted plans to label "food animal" products. This is a result of a court ordered injunction claiming adequate time was not given to manufacturers in order to comply with this law. Look in next months Post Amerikan for upcoming information.

Editor's Note: First of all, couldn't one say that the most serious public health threat is eating any animal's flesh?! Remember, heart disease is the leading cause of death in this meat-eating society. Not to mention, many diseases can, in some way, be attributed to the ingestion of meat and other animal products. So why not just stop eating animals? Matter of fact, you can refer to the ongoing list of reasons to become a vegetarian in the *Post* (entitled "Attention Meat Eaters"), listing the damaging effects meat consumption causes to one's body and the earth. Lastly, who do they think they are calling fellow creatures "food animals"?

No Excuse

PETA's work has made a huge dent in the fur trade. Scores of furriers have gone bankrupt, fur sales fell 55 percent over the past three winters--and the number of animals killed in the U.S. has dropped from 40 million in 1988 to 8 million last year.

But the furriers who are still in business continue to slaughter foxes, chinchillas, minks and other fur-bearers by the millions -- desperately trying to reach new markets, and even claiming that fur is "coming back." Ysabel Trujillo, director of communications for Canada's Fur Council, recently said, "Furs are back in fashion on U.S. streets. The appearance of Aretha Franklin in a fur at Bill Clinton's inauguration is a type of thing that helps."

The fact is, this wealthy industry is waging a multi-million-dollar media blitz targeting new audiences such as younger consumers, people in the middle-income brackets, and minorities. They're also selling accessories--fur trim, short coats, jackets and hats--to keep the grisly fur trade afloat. And, as more Americans choose cruelty-free clothing, furriers are pushing their ugly products overseas, in the fashion capitals of Paris and Milan, and in new markets such as Japan and Korea.

PETA's Plans:

* Investigate and expose animal cruelty for the sake of fur--until everyone knows there's no excuse for wearing fur!

* Protest in the fashion centers of the U.S. and Europe--including Chicago, New York, Paris and Milan. Throughout the fall and the holiday season, PETA activists will keep the pressure on furriers at their conferences and their businesses, working with the media to let consumers know there's no excuse for wearing fur!

* Co-sponsor "Fur-Free Friday" on the day after Thanksgiving, the busiest shopping day of the year. They'll notify activists nationwide of events geared to getting the issue before the public.

* Educate consumers in major metropolitan areas during a multi-city Speak-Out Tour. They'll also distribute riveting new ads, half a million new Fur Action Packs, "can't miss 'em" new buttons and bumper stickers, fliers and videotapes, including "Exporting Cruelty," a new videotape based on their recent investigations of U.S. fur farms.

Source: PETA

THE FACT IS, THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR WEARING FUR!

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News From Voice

News from the Front Operation Rescue Flop

The "Cities of Refuge" "sieges" by Operation Rescue fizzled out in late July as undramatically as they had begun two weeks earlier. Clinics in all seven targeted cities stayed open throughout the anti-choice ordeal. In fact, in most of these cities, Planned Parenthood saw a tremendous boost in volunteer numbers and fundraising results.

Although there is no Planned Parenthood affiliate in Jackson, Miss., pro-choice forces were led there by Christy Henderson of Planned Parenthood of Alabama, who leads Pro-Choice Mississippi, a statewide coalition. Pro-Choice Mississippi's intensive preparation and clinic defense training paid off when Operation Rescue protesters found themselves outnumbered two to one. The group's leaders were also frustrated by their inability to mobilize local fundamentalist congregations. When anti-choice demonstrators attempted to relocate their protests to clinic employees' homes, volunteer attorneys successfully obtained an injunction to protect the employees' privacy.

Despite full cooperation of local police, and the pro-choice coalition's success in preventing blockades, the arrests of approximately 50 anti-choice demonstrators in those weeks cost the city of Jackson thousands of dollars. On the brighter side, Pro-Choice Mississippi quadrupled its mailing list.

In Minneapolis, Minn., police authorities decided it was cheaper, and easier, to build an 8 foot-tall chain-link fence at their own expense around Planned Parenthood of Minnesota's Highland Park clinic than it would be to defend the clinic with police officers alone. But the thousands of dollars spent on that fence were a drop in the bucket compared to what the clinic spent for increased security.

The fence enabled the affiliate to protect access with fewer than 10 escorts, who could be used as a protective cordon of privacy around patients as they arrived. Strong support from a pro-choice state Attorney General and a new state clinic access law helped keep anti-choice forces at bay.

Although Planned Parenthood of North Texas (Fort Worth) does not provide abortions, its staff and volunteers were the heart and the organizing genius behind pro-choice forces in the city. Because members of the local police department had witnessed the melee in Wichita two years ago, there were very cooperative, and even had their informant infiltrate the Dallas/Fort Worth Operation Rescue. So on one

was surprised when almost 40 anti-choice demonstrators attempted a "sneak" attack on a suburban Fort Worth clinic. The demonstrators rushed the clinic and were promptly arrested.

The protestors expected to go free for \$20.00, the bail usually posted in such cases. Instead, the judge set their bail at \$1,500, and all were forced to spend a night in jail. After that arrest, no blockades of Fort Worth clinics were even attempted.

Malpractice Racket Launched

In what is perhaps one of the most hypocritical moves yet made by the conservative, religious right (you know the folks who think we have too many lawyers and as George Bush said at the 1992 Convention "we should sue each other less") the anti-choice organization Life Dynamics, Inc. is distributing a slickly produced information kit aimed at encouraging attorneys to take on cases of "abortion malpractice." The kit consists of a 10 minute promotional video, a 73 page handbook, and a questionnaire pamphlet.

The video opens with a woman, identified as an attorney, stating that doctors who perform abortions are the "least skilled, least responsible in the medical profession," and that most abortions are performed in "assembly line" conditions. She then pitches other Life Dynamics material that attorneys can use to attract clients, including a compelling, 30 second television ad. The handbook sets out options and strategies for attorneys in these cases.

The chapter on "Causes of Action" includes sections on battery, civil rights, and deceptive trade practices. There are also sections on abortion-related injuries, as well as alleged emotional effects such as post-traumatic stress disorder and increased substance abuse. In fact, studies in the field have shown repeatedly that a so-called "post-abortion syndrome" does not exist and that negative psychological complications from abortion are very rare.

We at Voice for Choice have had the opportunity to view this video and we have a few comments. First, the video fails to discuss the fact that women who carry a pregnancy to term are at a greater risk of complications, injury and death than are women who obtain an abortion. The video also fails to discuss post-partum depression. The list of ailments the pamphlet lists as possible effects of an abortion are so general and vague that they are likely to occur in most individuals at some time in their lives, men and women.



"Careful, honey, he's anti-choice."

Voice for Choice is considering starting our own movement (in an effort to point out the lunacy of this anti-choice effort). We are wondering if we couldn't put together some pamphlets for women who were/are encouraged to carry their pregnancies to term by Birthright and Crisis Pregnancy encouraging women who experience post-partum depression or any other physical or emotional effects resulting from their pregnancy and subsequent delivery (as well as any anguish caused by raising the child) to sue these agencies for their role in the woman's decision. Let us know what you think.

End the Violence

The recent shooting of Dr. George Tiller of Wichita, Kansas, five months after Dr. David Gunn was murdered by an anti-choice fanatic, has prompted a call from the pro-choice community to end the violence.

Only days after Dr. Tiller was shot, Dr. George Wayne Patterson was killed under mysterious circumstances in Mobile, Ala. Perhaps it is not such a mystery considering this is the state in which a Catholic Priest attempted to take out a newspaper ad calling the murder of abortion providers "justifiable homicide."

Rachelle Shannon of Kalmoath Falls, Oregon, is one of thousands of anti-choice activists who crisscross the country harassing abortion providers. The fact that she had a record of arrests yet was still able to obtain a handgun points to need for stricter gun controls in this country.

In the first eight months of 1993, there have been nearly 300 acts of violence against providers, including 57 death threats; a clinic in Boise, Idaho, and another in Missoula, Montana, were burned to the ground. The time has come for the violence to end. Violence is not an acceptable method of political expression.

Please contact your state and federal legislators and ask them to support legislation that protects women, abortion providers and clinics from such acts.

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 and male volunteers answer your calls and are available for crisis assistance, information and speaking engagements. You may request to speak only with female volunteers.

If you want to talk to one of us
Call PATH 827-4005
and ask for the
RAPE CRISIS CENTER



For Choice

Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso has lost a \$25,000 community block grant to provide cancer screening services for women, due to interference from the El Pasoans for Life. The anti-choice group testified at a city council hearing, attacking Margaret Sanger and Planned Parenthood as racist. The affiliate, which does not provide abortions, had a health department spokesman testify at the same hearing that there is insufficient access to cancer screening in the community and that the death rate for Hispanic

women in El Paso for cervical cancer is twice as high as the rate for other women. In spite of this, the city council voted 6-2 to rescind the grant.

Source: Insider

School Board Gets Right Wing Member

For those of you wondering why you should care about local elections here is one very good reason; Jim Fisher. Fisher is running for District 5 School Board and he will win. The reason is simple, only three candidates filed petitions for three seats on the Board. What this means for those of you in District 5 and for your children is that the Christian Coalition has now been successful in slating and electing a candidate that will attempt to change the direction of the board dramatically to the right. If you are a parent of Unit 5 school children you owe it to your children to begin attending meetings to ensure that Fisher does not get his way and that come next round of school board elections there are good, qualified, rational individuals running for those seats.



There are approximately 1.6 million abortions in the U.S. each year.

73% of women who have abortions are unmarried; 26% of them are teenagers; 33% of them have incomes under \$11,000.

16,000 women have abortions each year as a result of rape or incest.

Less than 1% of all abortion patients experience a major complication.

The risk of death associated with childbirth is 11 times higher than with abortion.

For every \$1.00 spent by government for abortions for poor women, \$4.40 is saved in medical and welfare expenditures for an unintended birth.

Before *Roe v. Wade*, 10,000 women died each year in the U.S. from illegal abortions. 50% of these women were women of color.

One-fourth of all women live in countries where abortion is prohibited.

A CNN/Gallup poll showed that 64% of Americans oppose the potential overturn of *Roe v. Wade*.

83% of the counties in the U.S. (including 16% of metropolitan areas) have no identifiable abortion facilities, yet these counties are home to 31% of all women aged 15-44.

Source: Women's Action Coalition (WAC): The Facts about Women © 1993

Other News

Kudos to Governor Edgar who signed legislation prohibiting judges from using contraceptive techniques/methods in sentencing. As violence against clinics and women increases it becomes more and more important that our legislators pass the clinic access legislation. Please contact Reps. Bill Brady, Dan Rutherford, Senator Maitland and Congressman Tom Ewing and ask them to support legislation that protects women exercising their constitutional rights.

Still no new word on RU486. The manufacturer is still refusing to apply for testing in the U.S. The FDA recently announced the results of their study of glow in the dark condoms. The conclusion was that glow in the dark condoms are not safe and do not adequately protect against STD's and pregnancy.

Glow-in-the-dark Condoms Not Safe

It's time to contact Planned Parenthood again and ask them if they have taken the glow-in-the-dark condoms off their shelves. Protection of people must be placed above profit. As a responsible health care provider the condoms should be removed from the shelves if they haven't yet. When we called around town we found that none of the drug stores we investigated would sell non-FDA approved condoms because of the safety concern. We also found that Medusa's Adult World and Spencer's sold non-FDA approved condoms but that Medusa's had them in a completely separate display clearly marked "not for protection."

Please call Planned Parenthood and ask them if they have removed the condoms from their shelves. If not perhaps its time to re-think our charitable giving when it comes to pregnancy and disease prevention.



Lefty Follies and Harvest Moon Dance

The 3rd Annual Lefty Follies Variety Show and Harvest Moon Dance will be held November 6, 1993. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds go to Voice for Choice, the Rape Crisis Center and the Unitarian Church. \$5.00 per person.

Lefty Follies Entry Form

Contract Name: _____

Phone# _____

Please give a brief description of your act:

Do you need any special equipment? (we will do our best to accommodate but can't make any promises).

Which category are you entering?

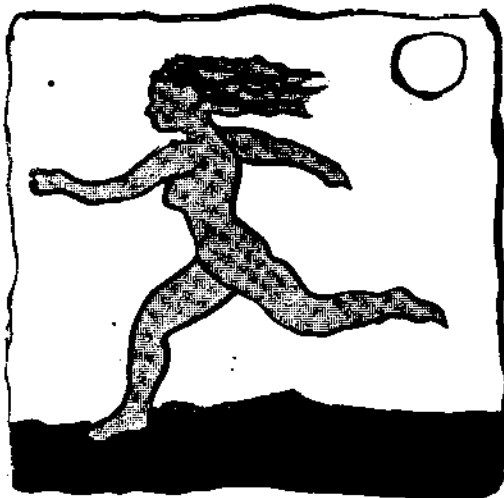
talent _____

talent impaired _____

All acts must be under 20 minutes.

Mail this form and your \$5.00 entry fee (made payable to Voice for Choice or Rape Crisis Center) to P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905. All forms must be received by 12:00 p.m. on Nov. 6.

MY BODY, MY CHOICE.





Think About It . . .

Hello. Quite some weather we're having, huh? (I always think that's just as good an introductory question as any, cuz I'm sure we're having some weather . . .)

Did you know that there is a nationalist group in town called the "Flame of Resistance." What they do is try to raise awareness of Puerto Rico's fight for independence. Did you know that there is such a fight going on? I think it's a good thing to fight for. Who ever said the U.S. could take that island, anyway? Who ever said the U.S. knows the best way to own/colonize/rule over it? It's quite a mess down there, politically speaking. But very, very beautiful, too. I had the distinct luck and pleasure of visiting the country this past January. I met very wonderful people (who are also believers in Puerto Rico's aspiration for independence). Anyway, the Flame of Resistance is a group everyone needs to watch out for and should pay some attention to.

A couple of male friends of mine recently got married. I am very very happy for them. I wish them all the best.

A friend of mine told me he's not a leftist nor a rightist but a "frontist" (he's involved in the environmental movement). Isn't that . . . something to think about? Has anyone heard of that?

Did you know that I.S.U. has a course called Courtship and Marriage? Okay, no problem. You'd think it was under Sociology or Psychology or even Health, wouldn't you? (I did.) Well, it's not; it's under Home Economics. I thought that was funny. I mean, no offense to anyone studying Home Economics. I almost thought that this was an isolated incident: to have a course like that offered in the Home Ec. department. But it's not. I looked in the catalog and there a slew of other similar courses about

families, children and relationships. Isn't that interesting? Home Ec. isn't just about sewing and cooking anymore.

Maybe I'm just being silly, but I got to thinking about something one day while sitting in the office of my car insurance company. What is the source of pride to have been established anywhere in the United States for a long time? You know what I'm talking about . . . those signs that brag: "On the Prairie Since 1867." I guess it's neat to have been around that long, in a successful business and all, but . . . if you've been around that long, aren't you closer to the time of genocide in this country?

I have to tell you about something (as if you hadn't already heard . . .). There's a case of sexual harassment going to the Supreme Court very soon (if it hasn't already by the time you read this). It is one that causes me great perplexing concern. I heard the details one morning on WGLT's Morning Edition. First of all, there are the comments that the plaintiff claims her male supervisor said to her: "You have an ass like a race horse," "You should wear a thong bikini to the beach, and your ass is so big, you would cause an eclipse of the sun." There are also the very harassful implications of dropping coins on the floor and suggesting that the women in the office bend down and pick them up. Also, the suggestion was repeatedly made to turn up the air conditioning so the women's nipples would show through their blouses. This is all pretty sick and it really disgusts me to reproduce those comments, but I feel it is necessary to get a point across . . . To have to work in such an atmosphere would cause anyone to feel demeaned, harassed and worthless. But, that's not what really made the plaintiff take it to court. What really pissed her off was the fact that her supervisor would constantly tell her she was stupid and made too damn much money for a woman! Well, I guess it all could be untrue. But, I'm not so sure. What the lawyer for the defense says is probably the worst part of it all. He says that his client probably did say those things but that's not what's at issue here. What the plaintiff has to prove is whether or not she was psychologically harmed by this sexual harassment. She has to prove that her workplace was a violent place to work that this, in turn, impaired her ability to perform efficiently. Also, she has to prove that this situation caused her great psychological harm. Well, the plaintiff claims to have gone home and drunk herself to sleep every night and hated going to work everyday. Apparently, her supervisor keeps winning the case which is why she has appealed all the way to the

Supreme Court. It is so perplexing to me to think that these behaviors are tolerated in today's workplace and that this woman still has to fight for her sanity in this situation. Which I guess she doesn't want to do -- does she? -- if she wants to win the case.

In nearing the end of this column, it seems we need to pay attention to people as individuals. I mean, there's alot of racism, homophobia, sexism and hate out there that requires us to pay extra-special attention to those who are different and trying to eek out a living or trying to just get along in this world. I'm referring to a mess of things. I mean, even though things like that stated in the above paragraph occur often in our society, we need to keep in mind that each person is different. Not every man is like that. Not every Afro-American will ignore you if you are white. And not all whites are racist to people of color. Et cetera, et cetera. It's a shame to me that when I walk down the street, a man passing me in the other direction won't even look at me. It seems he is so scared to look at me because . . . then he'll be looking at me! Isn't that silly? I wish we could live more like neighbors. What we can do is remember that we're all in this together. We all have to live here; and if we can do it while trying to enjoy each other instead of hating and hurting each other, that would be a much better place to be. At least in the mind -- and in the heart.

Lastly, I want you all to know that we at the Post come up with many good ideas for stories and investigative pieces. And many people often suggest things for the Post people to do, but, something finally needs to be said . . . and a little sign in Susie's Cafe says it best: "Ideas are funny things - they don't work unless you do." So, the next time someone talks about writing an article or suggests an investigative story, keep that in mind. I don't mean to be negative, we really appreciate the ideas. We just don't have limitless time to spend on these wonderful ideas. So, if you really have a good idea, put it on paper and send it in! It's fun, it's easy and you don't have to be a writer. Just have the motivation to say or report something important to you. Thanks.

I will leave you with a piece of poetry from the poet Holly Horn:

To surrender oneself willingly to truth,
to earn it,
in every sense, to allow
a voice to the great unbegotten
mystery and, beyond that,
to listen,
is asking for trouble.

moon

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Uppers/Downers



Uppers: to I.S.U.'s Student Environmental Action Coalition (S.E.A.C.) for demonstrating against Mitsubishi at Diamond-Star Motors. Their message: Get Your Mitts Off a Mitsubishi - the Mitsubishi Corporation is accused of contributing to the destruction of Earth's rainforests.

Downers: to Bloomington Radio Station WIHN as they will begin bringing hate, prejudice and ignorance via "The Rush Limbaugh Show" November 1st to Central Illinois. Send your letters of protest now! We'll be letting you know who will be advertising on the show... stay tuned!



Uppers: to the U.S. Senate for extending the circumstances in which women assisted by Medicaid can now receive paid abortions. But...

Downers: to the U.S. Senate for excluding the group that needs this assistance the most - poor women and women of color.

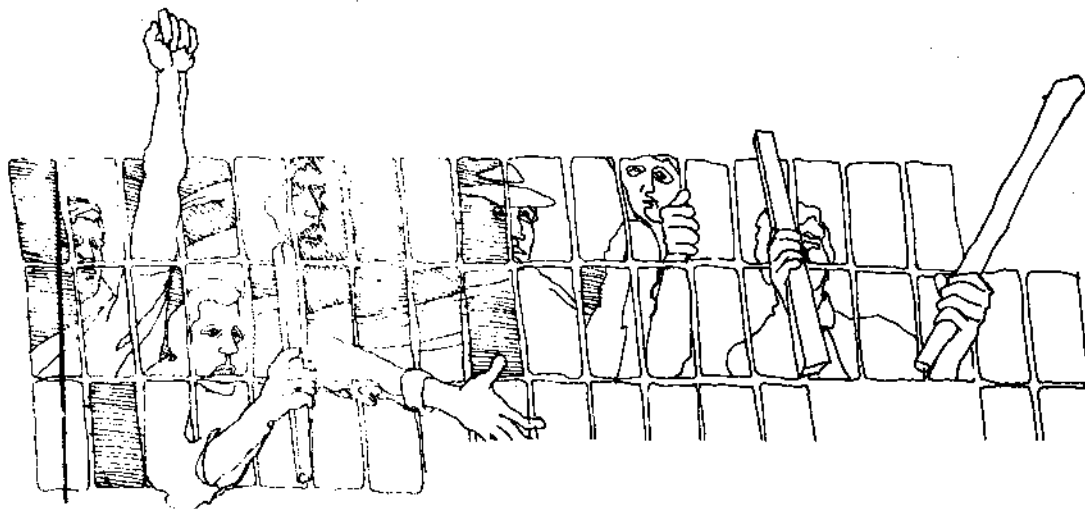
Uppers: to the I.S.U. Student Handbook (on drugs and alcohol awareness) for publishing the therapeutic values of marijuana.

Downers: to the Normal Police Department for using scare tactics by advertising the fines for various alcohol-related misdemeanors in the local paper. It certainly is pathetic that Normal's finest concentrates so much time, attention and money seeking under-aged drinkers while criminals who commit violent hate crimes are still out there!

Uppers: to the I.S.U. Health Services (I don't believe it myself!) for offering the latest in birth control methods. Depo-Provera is a convenient, effective, economical injection received once every three months. The Food and Drug Administration first approved of Depo-Provera about 1 1/2 years ago.

Finally, we couldn't let this one slip by...

Downers: to the Sigma Nu fraternity at Illinois State University for hosting their 21st annual "Foxy Lady" pageant which exploits and objectifies women.



Prison Legal News

Send \$1.00 to the address below if you would like to receive a sample copy of the *PLN*. The suggested donation for a one year subscription is \$12.00, or even more if you can afford it. Check the *PLN* out for yourself and see what a great little publication it is. For state agencies such as prison law libraries, the institutional subscription rate is \$35.00 per year.

The *Prison Legal News* is a monthly newsletter published and edited by Washington state prisoners Ed Mead and Paul Wright. The *PLN* has been regularly published since May of 1990. While the paper's focus is on Washington state, the *PLN* also has coverage of prison-related news and analysis from across the country and around the world.

The *PLN* reports on court decisions affecting prisoners and contains information designed to help prisoners vindicate their rights in the judicial system. *PLN* is aimed at prisoners and their friends and loved ones on the outside, with the goal of helping prisoners and their supporters organize themselves to have a voice, and to be a progressive force in developing a public policy debate around the issue of crime and punishment. With those objectives in mind, the *PLN*'s motto is: "Working/To Extend Democracy To All."

The *PLN* is produced and mailed entirely by volunteers, and is completely non-profit. The paper relies on donations from readers in order to continue publishing. There is no set subscription rate for most people. This is because many *PLN* readers are on death row or in control units, and are thus unable to make any contribution at all. Prisoners in the general population are expected to donate something, as are family members and friends on the outside. The editors themselves are prisoners who, in order to publish, have to make up any shortfall in contributions from their own pockets.

Make checks or money orders payable to Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 1684, Lake Worth, FL 33460. New (unused) stamps can also be sent as payment. All contributions are deductible from the federal income taxes of any who pay them.

Source: Prison Legal News

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Life in the fat lane

"Xmas is Coming, the Geese are Getting Fat..."

Once again, the holiday gift-giving season is nearly upon us. Thoughts of that one perfect present for Mom and Dad, Brother/Sister/Significant Other haunt you, jostling and caroming through your tortured mind. Sure, those Swiss Colony cheese assortments are pretty nifty, or maybe just one more piece of Capodimante...

However, the fat person on your list can present a real challenge. Forget about Richard Simmons' latest video or anything by Susan "I Shave My Head" Powter - remember, you love that person-of-size and respect their corporeal uniqueness.

Well then, you ask, where do you find a gift that is fat-friendly as well as PC? The marketing powers-that-be are thankfully beginning to recognize the vast, untapped section of consumers who happen to not fall within arbitrary insurance weight tables, so the choices are greater than ever.

Here are my suggestions for bringing a merry Xmas to your favorite Santa-size person.

Clothing Makes the Man/Womyn

Once in the not-too-distant past, fat fashion was an oxymoron. Clothes, sewn from the stuff of a petro-chemist's nightmare (in 3 basic colors - black, navy, brown, thank you) served only to conceal our "flaws" without regard for aesthetics.

Now go to nearly any mall and you can freely browse through stylish fashions in main-stream department stores as well as specialty shops. Lane Bryant and Catherine's are no longer the only local sources for larger sizes. Fashion Bug has its Plus; Caron Charles replaced 14 thru 24; Dot's (a.k.a. \$10 or Less) reinstated its womyn's section after an abortive phase-out.

Yet, these small strides are not without their drawbacks. Lane Bryant still refuses to use full-figured models in its catalogs. And, with the exception of Catherine's, the magic cut-off for the others is generally size 26, leaving the super-sizer in the lurch.

Men, on the other hand, usually have more choice in their wardrobe. Only the exceptionally tall or stout man has to resort to the Casual Male Big-and-Tall Shop, since stores from Farm & Fleet to Bergner's feature Big Men sections.

If you decide that clothing belongs under that special someone's tree, please take my advice: go gift certificate. Sizing is a real hassle - more often than not sizes are wildly inconsistent from designer to designer. I also believe that a person-of-size naturally knows what they feel comfortable wearing, so let them choose items that will make them remember you-the-giver gladly, not for that snug-ugly outfit they had to return in the post-holiday crush.

What Foods These Morsels Be

Yes, that's right, regardless of size, we all love good food. However, plumpers often have special diet considerations (e.g. diabetic, lowfat or salt restricted.) If you are aware of such needs, choose your food gift wisely. Indulge them with fresh or dried fruits, sugarless candies, fat-free cheese. Better yet, choose a cookbook that caters to their special diet.

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

What better gift for Xmas this year than the power of words? Fat-positive magazines empower people-of-size and offer real-life role-models. A subscription to Radiance ("the lifestyle & fashion magazine for women all sizes of large") or Dimensions ("for men who admire the large figure

and the women who attract them") will give year-round pleasure, and also reveal you as size-supportive.

Enhance a library with such books as Fat Power by Llewellyn Louderback or Shadow On a Tightrope, a womyn's anthology on fat oppression. For younger readers, the size-acceptance message in Are You Too Fat, Ginny? and Belinda's Bouquet help build self-esteem and awareness.

Vendredi Enterprises produces an invaluable sourcebook for people-of-size. Formerly titled Help for Hefties, the 9th edition of this award-winning tome has been re-named Royal Resources and offers a mind-boggling array of sources. Useful items such as seat belts extenders mingle with fun stuff like belly dancing videos and Zoftig Nude artwork. There's advice on choosing size-friendly automobiles and airlines, furniture and physicians. While not truly a catalog, Resources packs a lot of info in its 70+ pages, not merely about where to find what you need, but how to live fat in comfort and dignity.



Say it Loud - I'm Fat & I'm Proud!

A membership to the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance may seem pricey, but its benefits are priceless. As the organization asserts, "We don't expect every fat person in America to send \$35 to NAAFA. Just the 38 million who are discriminated against." Nuff said.

This year, give that larger-than-life person a once-in-a-lifetime gift. Living fat can carry a heavy burden, but your advocacy and support does make a difference for those who live in the "fat lane."

Sources

Radiance Magazine - \$15/year P.O. Box 30246 Oakland, CA 94604

Dimensions Magazine - \$24/year Box 7247 Albany, NY 12224

Vendredi Enterprises - \$19.95 P.O. Box 41 Camas Valley, OR 97416

National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance (NAAFA) P.O. Box 188620 Sacramento, CA 95818 (800) 442-1214

Becky



AIDS Stamp

Postmaster General Marvin Runyon doesn't expect any opposition to the new 29-cent stamp promoting AIDS awareness. "I can't believe there would be any controversy about the fact that we need to make people of this country aware of AIDS," Runyon said Wednesday during a ceremony.

The stamp, which features a folded red ribbon meant to symbolize compassion and awareness, will be released nationwide Dec. 1 in conjunction with the observance of World AIDS Day.

"The AIDS Awareness stamp will help raise public awareness and encourage the action that is so necessary for stopping AIDS," Runyon said at Postal Service Headquarters.

He said he expected millions of people to be "very happy" about the stamp, which will be released in a one-time run of 350 million.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome kills some 100,000 people each year. According to the World Health Organization, by mid-1993 there were an estimated 14 million HIV infections, over 13 million of them in adults.

The Postal Service said that, in addition to the new stamp, it would also sell AIDS stamp lapel pins at cost to nonprofit groups.

The groups will be able to resell the pins in fund-raising efforts and will be allowed to use the stamp image on T-shirts, coffee mugs and other memorabilia.

Postal officials considered, but rejected, the idea of charging more than face value of the stamp as a means of direct fund-raising.

"We decided against this because there are so many causes" that postage stamps could address, Runyon said.

Previous social issue awareness subjects on stamps have included "Take a Bite Out of Crime," "Save our Soil, Cities, Water, Air" and "Alcoholism, You Can Beat It."





Notes from the land of anti-fat

The Burden of Office

With all the legitimate grounds for joking at our current president's expense, it's disheartening to see so many lazyass comedy writers relying so much on easy fat-bashing/gluttony refs. An informal survey of a week of "David Letterman," for example, showed that nary a night went by without at least one reference to the prexy's taste in fast food (outnumbering both philandering and redneck jokes by about two to one.) Perhaps if the Republicans had chosen to focus their electioneering slurs on Clinton's weight instead of his draft record, they might have kept the presidency...

Thought for Food

Kudos to the recent (November/December 1993) issue of Utne Reader for its cover stories on "Food Guilt," a trenchant series on the way we've changed in our relationship with food over the past two decades. Perhaps the most telling point is the way that food has taken on the burden of sin and guilt in our culture. Where else do you hear otherwise open-minded humanistic adults even use the word "sin" but at the dessert table?

The Fat and the Short of It

A recent seven-year study of over 10,000 youths in the New England Journal of Medicine has confirmed what size acceptance advocates have been saying for years: to be fat in this country opens you up to discrimination—particularly if you are a woman. (Big surprise, right?) according to the survey, the heaviest 3% of women were 20% less likely to be married; had household incomes averaging \$6,710 lower than the others in the study, were 10% more likely to suffer from

poverty and completed one-third of a year less school. For men, interestingly, height had more negative impact than weight. While heavy men

were 11% less likely to be married, their weight did not appear to affect earnings.

The Diet Revolution Will Not be Televised

Dr. Robert Atkins, author of Diet Revolution and its sequel, New Diet Revolution, has had his medical license suspended by the State of New York. The good doctor's low-carbohydrate/high protein diet of predominantly meat, egg, cheese and butter can still be found in bookstores despite its palpable unsoundness. But Doc A. didn't get his hands slapped because of his dietary charlatanism; instead, he's under investigation for his method of treating AIDS and cancer patients with a technique he call "Ozone Therapy." (Does Commander Cody know about this?) Atkins' treatment allegedly created an embolism in the blood vessel of a woman patient's brain, which lead to a formal complaint against him. Maybe he should've just given her some gouda instead...

C'mon Cuomo!

Recent attempts to get an anti-size discrimination law passed in New York state initially met with ridicule from liberal governor Mario Cuomo (who publicly called the bill "unnecessary.") Fortunately (for those who want to see this column end on a positive note,) the gov changed his tune after meeting with several polite-but-pissed members of New York City's NAAFA chapters. A politico who listens to his constituents? We'll see...

—BS93
(Thanx to Rump Parliament)



In a survey of women aged 18-35, 75% believed they were fat, while only 25% were medically fat.

53% of high school girls are unhappy with their body by age 13; 78% are unhappy with their bodies by age 18.

45% of underweight women think they are too fat.

95% of enrollees in weight-loss programs are women (although the sexes are overweight in equal proportions.)

On any given day, 25% of women are on diets, with 50% finishing, breaking, or starting one.

1 in 40,000 women meets the requirements of a model's size and shape.

At least 2 million Americans use diet pills.

8 million American women are enrolled in Weight Watchers.

The diet industry currently grosses \$33 billion a year.

Source: Women's Action Coalition (WAC): The Facts about Women © 1993

Common Sense 1993

I made a vow to myself this summer to spend as much time outdoors as practically possible. In my good fortune, I was able to float from one national forest to another in the western half of the United States. What I chose to bring home with me—that is, what I have photographs of, are the landscapes and memories experienced in Paradise. The last of the pure nature of Eden is on this Earth. It is this Earth, and whichever name we choose to call it bears no meaning except for the conflict people have created over it.

Sitting here, studying the pictures from my journey into the "real world" of ancient trees, banana slugs, shoulder-high fern plants, dew dropped spider webs, rotting logs, and freshly born sprouts, I am happy. I am joyous and delirious because I have seen the wonder of the Earth before it disappeared from human stupidity.

It is time to change. The evolution of people which has brought us to this time of industry has not gone through an entire cycle and now it is time to look at the mistakes we have made both physically and idealistically. It is a fact that the logging industry is a dying one because of the dwindling area of forest land. Whether the wood is depleted or people stop cutting, the American society and any other crazy countries who decide to adopt the same values must learn to live without the oak furniture we have all been so fond of in the past.

looking for the answers to stop just such a thing. This arrogance is a last approach before the emotional fear of losing the trees comes to the surface. The executives of these companies are afraid that their versions of the American dream are going to end while the loggers and their families are afraid to lose the bread from the table.



I found the answers in those towering trees, the same that many others have known for a long time. The logging industry can maintain large scale cutting on private lands negating the possibility of destroying the national forests IF we eliminate a few key areas of loss. The industry must stop sending raw logs and lumber to Japan. The Japanese government protects its ancient forest land from logging and this is just another aspect of their improved society that is looming over the U.S.'s increasingly doomed industrialized world. The sale of the national forests is not a profitable sale for the United States government. It is losing millions of dollars every year because of the voluntary overhead costs of building roads. Find out for yourself, the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois turned a profit of NEGATIVE

one million last year, and land is still being lost as you read. Do you see? Do you see that your money is used to destroy your own property with only a small number of people benefitting? The logging industry will inevitably fall from its high position among American companies and many people will be left without jobs cutting down the national forests. The money which would be lost on the sales of land in the future can be used now in order to retrain and relocate those workers into new areas of production or even those of preserving and protection the national forests.

I could, and probably will write a book detailing the maneuvering strategies to win this game, but before anything can be done, before anything can be discussed reasonably, our society must change. We must first realize what it is that we need in order to survive. The pessimists will say that it is impossible to change the mindsets of so many people who have been taught to view the consumer world as the diamond paved road to the future, but it is happening. It is happening through widespread recycling efforts, through concern for endangered species, even through the protection of the national forests. Use your good sense and judgement: YOU ARE THE ENDANGERED SPECIE.

Rose



Gay / Lesbian / and

HIV Standard of Care

THIS STANDARD OF CARE is being published for the fourth time, with appropriate changes and revisions, to allow patients to *insist* that their doctors give them a minimum level of care to maximize quality and length of life with HIV disease. Remember, this is meant as a **MINIMUM STANDARD** - a "safety net" standard of care for adults with HIV disease. Children need another standard for their care, and we are working on a Pediatric Standard of Care. ACT UP Philadelphia emphasizes that good medical care is as much a political issue as it is a medical issue and we are awaiting Hillary's plan with baited (and *Pentamadined . . .*) breath. In the meantime, our past issues of this Standard in both English and Spanish have found their way all over the medical and patient world.

Convergent Therapy - or Doctoring from the New York Times: We are hoping that the idea of combining **AZI-DDI-Nevarapine** or **AZI-DDI-L** Drug works out in people as well as it does in the test tube. It is not a new idea, having been presented at Amsterdam last year. With the ACTG and Drug Company trials, we should know something soon. It is interesting that patients, doctors, and researchers alike adopt "treatment fads" based upon widespread news publicity. Some of the fads are interesting, but we think the *really good work* is being done by "slogging it out in the trenches" - working on

treatments for opportunistic infections (OI's) like MAI or CMV, which directly constitute the majority of AIDS deaths.

Immunotherapy - an Idea that is Just Waiting to Happen: We think far too little time and research dollars are being spent on immune therapies - to boost the depleted immune systems of those who are at risk for OI's. The American medical establishment just "doesn't get it" on immune based therapies, and most efforts are underfunded small company or very modest academic efforts. We are following with interest the California work on plasma therapy, the Pittsburgh work on CD8 expansion, and some local work here in Philadelphia on the use of Very Low Dose IL-2 all of which look promising. It is time to ask your friendly local AIDS researcher: "What are you doing on immune based therapies?"

Drug Trials as Therapy: You should find out about the drug trials available through Philadelphia FIGHT (call 215-893-2672 for more information and a Drug Trials Directory) or the Penn-Jeff ACTU (U of P: 215-662-2473 or Jefferson: 215-955-6948).

The Little Things are Important: We continue to find that, to paraphrase a famous architect: "Staying alive is in the details." That means following this standard of care, watching signs and symptoms, and seeking good medical counsel. We have heard recently that patients are still being started on 1200 mg. of AZT - a significant overdosing by untrained docs.

And Now A Word from Our Sponsor: This Standard is published as a labor of love by ACT UP Philadelphia. We don't have any fancy government grants, big drug company budgets, or opera/gala fund raisers. (We don't even have Hollywood movie contracts . . .) We like to think that this little project is the "best bang for the buck" in the whole AIDS world. If you find this useful (or lifesaving) send us a donation: **ACT UP Philadelphia, 201 S. Camac Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.** If you would like our Spanish-language version, call (215) 731-1844 and leave a message. ACT UP Philadelphia meets every Monday night at 7:30 at St. Luke and the Epiphany, on 13th St. between Spruce and Pine.

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FINEST GAY ENTERTAINMENT IN

CENTRAL ILLINOIS

733 S. W. Adams, Peoria, IL,
(309) 676-9030

Sun-Wed: 10-3:00 a.m.

Thur: 9-3:00 a.m., Show night

Fri-Sat: 9-4:00 a.m.

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

World AIDS Day

Time To Act



World AIDS Day December 1, 1993

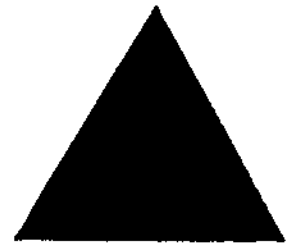
The GALA-hosted benefit will include student performances, musical or otherwise, and a keynote speaker. It will be held in Illinois State University's Bone Student Center Ballroom on December 1st at 7 pm. A donation will be taken at the door. The money raised will be donated to a local AIDS organization to be used for education and awareness.

In order for this benefit to be successful, GALA will need the support of everyone. We are hoping to pull together a community-wide effort for this very important cause. Also throughout the week, GALA will be planning other activities like a memorial service and volleyball tournament.

GALA meetings are held every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in I.S.U.'s Student Service Building, room 375.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance is planning an AIDS benefit to be hosted on World AIDS Day, December 1, 1993.

World AIDS Day is the only internationally coordinated day of action against AIDS. It serves to strengthen the global effort to meet the challenge of the AIDS epidemic which continues to spread in all regions of the world. World AIDS Day aims to stimulate discussion and action among people not regularly confronted by AIDS and to enhance community support for HIV/AIDS programs. This worldwide observance spreads message of compassion, hope and understanding to every corner of the globe.

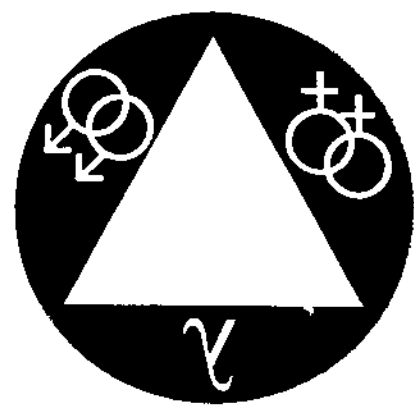


SILENCE=DEATH



Bisexual Issues

AIDS Alert



Down to the wire

In addition to several localities in Oregon, three cities outside Oregon will be facing gay-related ballot initiatives next month.

Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lewiston, Maine, are facing Colorado-style initiatives, which will repeal the local civil rights ordinance as it pertains to sexual orientation and will prohibit future inclusion of sexual orientation in the law. Meanwhile, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, faces a non-binding referendum on whether citizens believe sexual orientation should be included in the local civil rights ordinance. Earlier this year, the city council rejected an attempt to add sexual orientation to the list of categories protected from discrimination in the local ordinance. The same council members who rejected that amendment put forward the non-binding referendum. Activists in that city now have only one month to organize citizen support for including sexual orientation in the civil rights code.

Activists in these cities need your support. Contact them at the following addresses:
 Equality Cincinnati -- No on 3, P.O. Box 271, Cincinnati, OH 45201-0271, (513) 541-8000; Equal Protection Lewiston, P.O. Box 7804, Lewiston, ME 04242-7804, (207) 784-5818; Open Door City Coalition, P.O. Box 883, Portsmouth, NH 03802, (603) 431-4941.

Hot off the press

According to the Rocky Mountain News in Colorado, one of the co-founders of the Colorado for Family Values is marketing a how-to kit for Right Wing activists who want to pass Amendment 2 style initiatives in their own states. For \$49.95, you can learn how to manipulate the terms "special rights" and "protected class" so that the citizens of your state will also vote to limit the civil rights of gay men, lesbians and bisexuals and send us back into the closet.

Instead, you can get a copy of the newly updated NGLTF Fight the Right Action Kit for only \$10. The kit includes sections on working with religious organizations, working with labor groups and business leaders, rural organizing, media advocacy, field and campaign strategy. The NGLTF Action Kit has recently been cited by both the Traditional Values Coalition and Focus on the Family as an example of how the "homosexual lobby" is organizing to oppose the Far Right.

Order a Fight the Right Action Kit by sending \$10 to NGLTF Publications, 1734 14th St., NW, Washington DC 20009; or calling (202) 332-6483 ext. 3327.

Books Banned

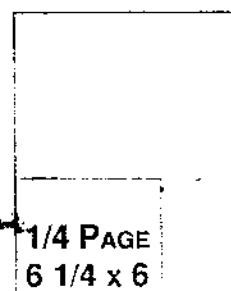
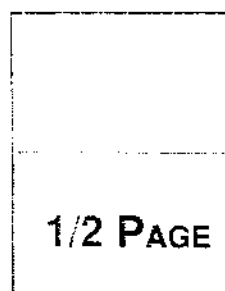
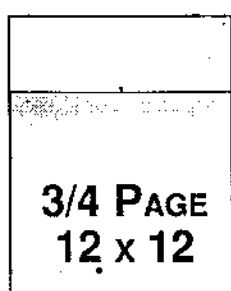
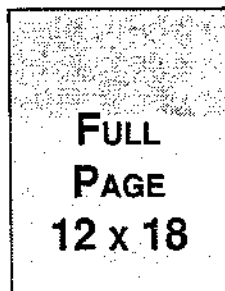
A bill recently passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed by Governor Roberts prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing any local measure "that singles out citizens or groups of citizens on account of sexual orientation." Specifically the new legislation stated that nothing in local measures should "be construed to limit public libraries from providing materials for adults which address homosexuality." In the opinion of some officials the law may force the removal of materials dealing with homosexuality from public library children's and young adult collections.

The bill was introduced in response to the Oregon Citizens Alliance efforts to pass local measures that prohibit town governments from spending money "to promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

The Oregon Civil Liberties Union has filed one lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the alliance initiative, and another seeking to block cities and counties from voting on the initiative which will appear on the ballot November 1994.

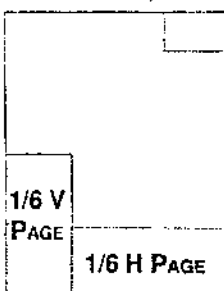
Source: Library Journal © 1993

POST AMERIKAN Advertising Rates



The *Post Amerikan* is an open-minded, community-conscious, unprejudiced newspaper generally printed every two months. We estimate that our total readership is around 2,000, with most living (and shopping) in the Bloomington/Normal area. As you can see from the illustrated ad sizes, our rates are very reasonable.

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Full Page	12 x 18	\$100
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Vertical	3 3/4 x 7	\$20
Horizontal	6 3/4 x 3 1/2	\$20
Business Card	2 x 3 1/2	\$10



Harper's Index

Percentage of the time that Ruth Bader Ginsberg voted with Clarence Thomas on the U.S. Court of Appeals: **91**

Chances that an Amerikan working in the private sector is a union member: **1 in 9**

Percentage of Amerikans with no health insurance who live in a household headed by a full- or part-time worker: **85**

Chances that an Amerikan believes that the President's health-care plan will not improve health care: **1 in 3**

Amount the Health Insurance Association of Amerika spent last spring on health-care policy ads: **\$4,000,000**

Number of TV stations that have refused to air a consumer group's ad advocating a Canadian-style health-care system: **8**

Ratio of the number of Canadians who favor a U.S.-style health-care system to those who believe Elvis is alive: **1:2**

Average amount an Amerikan would be willing to pay to see live dinosaurs: **\$15**

Percentage of Amerikans who say they would not be willing to pay anything at all: **55**

Number of Shemp Howard's canceled checks sold for this year by Odyssey Group of Corona, Calif., for \$695 apiece: **37**

(We know this is Curly)



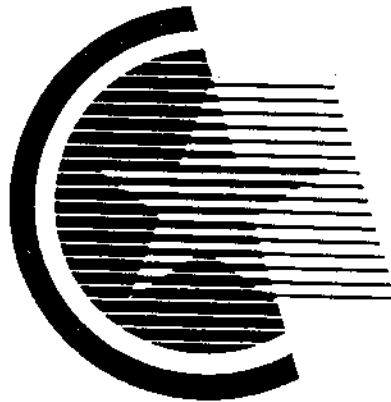
Number of Mexicans who became billionaires last year: **7**

Number of former U.S. Trade Office employees hired by private companies since 1989 to lobby for NAFTA: **6**

Percentage change, since 1990, in direct foreign investment in the United States: **minus 80**

Ratio of average daily junk-bond sales this year to average daily sales in 1986: **2:1**

Number of the 37 contested elections for seats in state legislatures this year that were won by Republicans: **23**



Number of Amerikans who have joined Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition since November: **300,000**

Number of Amerikans who have joined NRA since then: **275,000**

Maximum number of handguns a Virginian may purchase per year under the state's new gun-control law: **12**

Maximum number of feet at which a car stereo may legally be audible in Fort Wayne, Ind., as of June: **30**

Average number of cars per registered driver in Kuwait: **3**

Daily wage the Israeli government pays Palestinians banned from working in Israel to sweep the West Bank: **\$9**

Number of brooms the government has sent to the Occupied Territories since the ban took effect in March: **80,000**

Ratio of the amount the U.N. spent last year on peacekeeping to the amount it spent on economic development: **5:2**

Number of pocket-sized cans of tear gas sold in Hungary this year by Universal Security Associates of Phoenix: **20,000**

Percentage change in consumer spending in Russia last year: **minus 38**

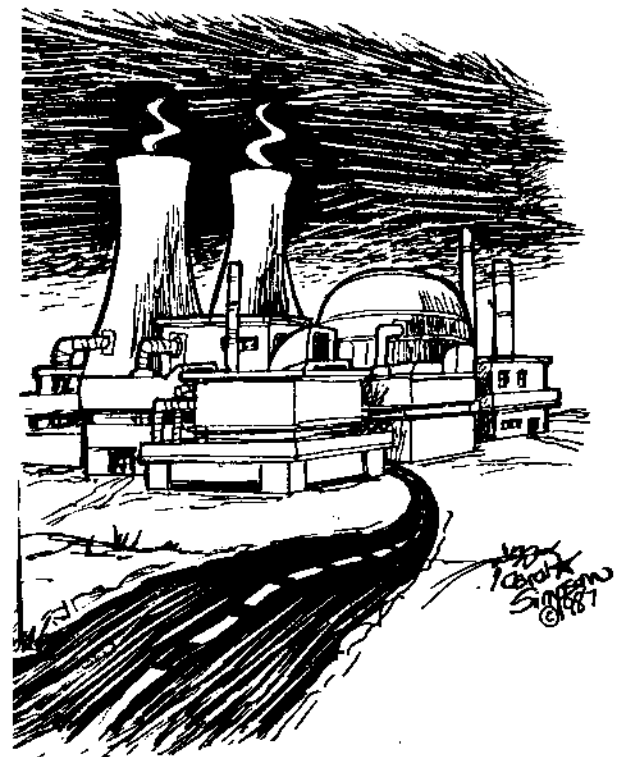
Percentage change in consumer spending in the United States between 1929 and 1933: **minus 21**

Estimated number of cows it takes to supply the 22,000 footballs the NFL uses each season: **3,000**

Number of pigs: **0**

Estimated number of nuclear reactors it would take to supply the energy consumed by U.S. refrigerators: **25**

Number of kinds of refrigerator magnets sold at the Dan Quayle Center gift shop, in Huntington, Ind.: **3**



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Towanda's Index

Of totally useless facts

Number of times I use the word "idiot" in one day: **21**

Percentage of times I use the word "idiot" while at my public service job: **99**

Number of times I got my coat stuck in the closed door of a Post Amerikan box: **1**

Number of buttons I tore off my coat while trying to get it out of the closed door of a Post Amerikan box: **1**

Number of white shirts I own without coffee or food stains: **0**

Percentage that I will not spill anything on my white shirts within the first ten minutes of wearing it: **35**

Average amount of money I save using grocery coupons each trip to the store: **\$7.80**

Percentage of times I forget to bring my coupons to the grocery store, abandon my half-filled cart and return home to get them: **50**

Percentage of times I turn my car radio up just loud enough not to hear my brakes squeaking: **100**

Probable ratio that my brakes will go out while I'm driving downward on a curvy road: **1:3**

towanda!

ORIGINAL ART & HANDMADE ITEMS

ARTE' COPIA

- Artwork
- Jewelry
- Candles
- Incense
- Natural Health Products

NON-NORTH-NORMAL

