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The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

8-1994

Volume 23, Number 4

Post Amerikan

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Special Report: Women in Guatemala;

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POST AMERIKAN

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

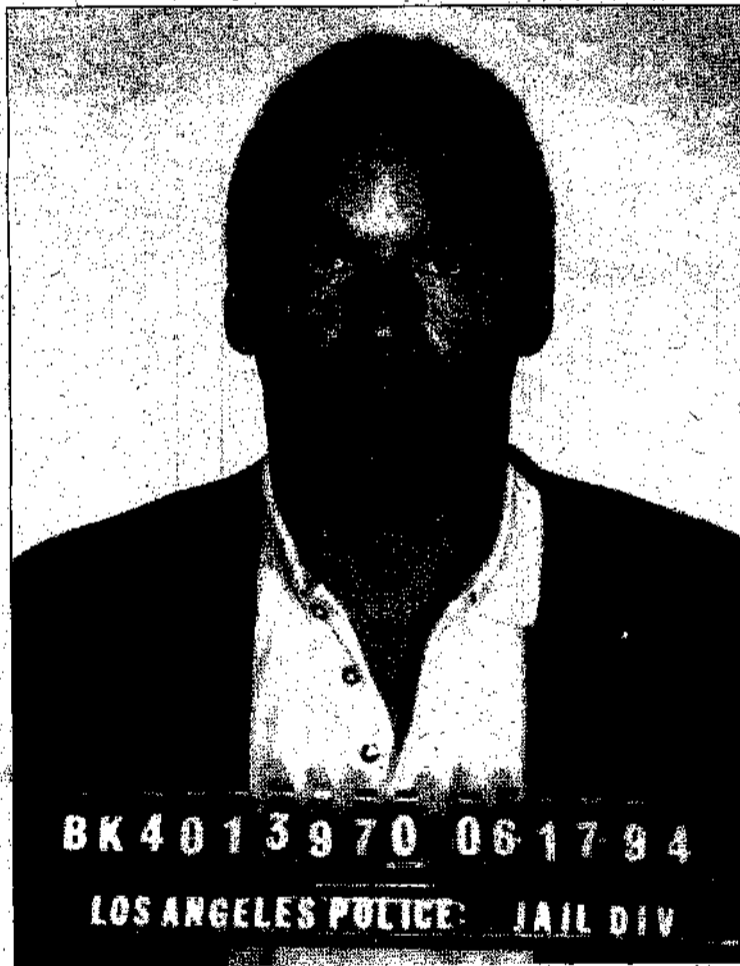
VOL. 23

50¢

NO. 4

AUGUST/SEPT 1994

Post Exclusive O.J. Simpson's Hidden Shame



Guilty of not recycling?

"I found glass and tin cans in garbage" states O.J.'s trash collector.

**O.J.'s fifth cousin's boyfriend's
neighbor's favorite bell boy's
mother tells all.**

"O.J. not into recycling."

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PALE



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 23

NO. 4

AUGUST/SEPT 1994

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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
 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)
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Normal

Amtrack Station
 Babbitt's Books, 104 N. Street (inside)
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)
 Subconscious, S. Main

Good numbers

ACLU 454-7223
 AIDS Hotlines
 National 1-800-AID-AIDS
 Illinois 1-800-243-2437
 Local (309) 827-AIDS
 Alcoholics Anonymous 828-7092
 Animal Protection League 828-5371
 Bloomington Housing Authority 829-3360
 Clare House (Catholic workers) 828-4035
 Countering Domestic Violence 827-7070
 Dept. of Children/Family Services 828-0022
 Gay & Lesbian Resource PhoneLine 438-2429
 Habitat for Humanity 829-0693
 HELP (transportation for senior citizens/handicapped) 828-8301
 Home Sweet Home Mission 828-7356
 IL Dept. of Public Aid 827-4621
 IL Lawyer Referral 1-800-252-8916
 Incest Survivors Support Group 827-5051
 Lighthouse (substance abuse treatment) 827-6026
 McLean Co. Center for Human Services 827-5351
 McLean Co. Health Dept. 888-5450
 McLean Co. Humane Society 663-7387
 Mid Central Community Action 829-0691
 Mobile Meals 828-8301
 Narcotics Anonymous 1-800-779-6178
 National Health Care Services/abortion assistance 1-800-322-1622
 Normal N.O.R.M.A.L. 452-4761
 Occupational Development Center 452-7324
 Operation Recycle 829-0691
 Parents Anonymous 827-4005
 PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help 827-4005
 Phone Friends 827-4005
 Planned Parenthood (medical) 827-4014
 (bus/couns/edu) 827-4368
Post Amerikan 828-7232
 Prairie State Legal Services 827-5021
 Project Oz 827-0377
 Rape Crisis Center 827-4005
 Safe Harbor Mission (Salvation Army) 829-9476
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center 827-5428
 TeleCare (senior citizens) 828-8301
 Unemployment comp/job service 827-6237
 Voice for Choice 828-3108
 Western Avenue Community Center 829-4807
 Youth Services of Mid IL 828-7346

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

Deborah, Linda, Ralph, Sherrin, Tom
 and Winter & John (last 2 issues also)

thanks!

Due Date:

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

Sept. 5



Community News

Letters

An open letter to Brother Sila and the Normal Library Board:

Ye have heard that it hath been said; Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye?

And if ye salute your bretheren only, what do ye do more than others?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven perfect.



Judge not, that ye be judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, heterosexual or homosexual, Let me pull out the mote in thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam in thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye.



It's not easy, but love one another. A job, a place to live and insurance coverage are not special rights. They are human rights.

Go and sin no more. Let your light shine so before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Sincerely,

Jesus H. Christ

Women Artists in McLean Co.

YWCA 85th anniversary exhibition on women artists in McLean County

Where: McLean County Arts Center, 601 N. East St., Bloomington, IL

Times: 10:00 a. m.--7:00 p. m. Tuesday
10:00 a. m.--5:00 p. m. Wednesday-Friday
12:00 p. m.--4:00 p. m. Saturday

Show runs through August 20th

Admission is free

Artists: Angel Ambrose
Ann Charback
Nancy Lenore Cook
Kathleen Costello
Dannel Dvorak
Lilith Eberte
E. B. Errion
Josefina Ferrar
Doris Knoblock
May Jones Perkins
Gloria Schabb
Kay Seefield
Claudia Smiley
Elizabeth Stein
Frieda Wan Sze
Naomi Whiting Townier



The Quickening of America: Rebuilding our Nation, Remaking our Lives



by Frances Moore Lappé and Paul Martin Du Bois

"An antidote to cynicism...an essential 'how-to' manual for anyone interested in translating values into positive results." Ben Cohen, Ben & Jerry's

New life is stirring in America; in communities, schools, and workplaces across the country. This new life is democracy itself...and citizens across our nation are discovering that:

Democracy is not what we have, it's what we do.

"A cornucopia of success stories and opportunities for becoming part of an effective civic culture." Ralph Nader

This book will take you beyond the bad news and feelings of despair, and show you how real Americans make real decisions affecting their lives positively.

"I highly recommend Quickening...It reaffirms that personal and social change are intertwined; that our lives do make a difference...." The Rev. Jesse Jackson

Send \$15 to: Center for Living Democracy, RRI, Black Fox Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301. Or call (802) 254-1234

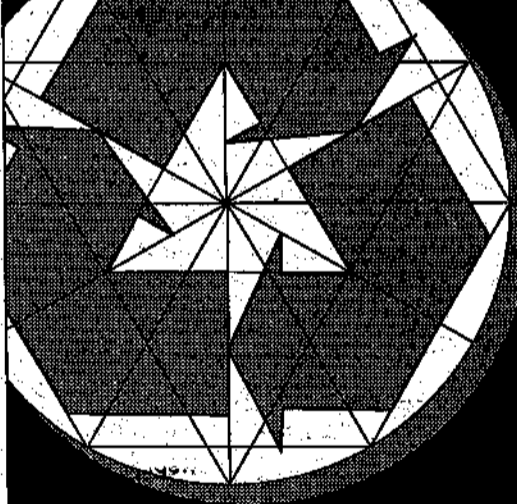


Downer: Citing financial reasons, *Equal Time*, Minneapolis/St. Paul's main gay and lesbian newspaper, recently closed down. Rumblings of financial trouble had been around for a while, especially after the 20,000-circulation paper became a weekly last September. *Equal Time* served as a point of reference for the gay community in the Twin Cities and beyond.

Downer to Spike Lee. Lee cut down a pear tree while shooting his new film, *Clockers*, despite having been told that the tree was a gift to the city where he was filming on location, and could not be removed, an act not compensated by his offering three more trees in its place.

Downer to L'Oreal. L'Oreal agreed to stop testing its products on animals, but not those products' ingredients.

Downer--maybe--to PETA for possibly having known about L'Oreal's deception, but not informing the public or the media of it.



OPERATION RECYCLE

WE RECYCLE:
Container Glass
Beverage Cans
Plastic Soda Bottles
Plastic Milk Jugs
Office Paper
Cardboard and more

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

829-0691
923 E. Grove
Bloomington, IL

• DROP OFFS
• RECYCLE DRIVES



Winter Wren's Star Guide

August/Sept.



A note prior to the current forecast: During the week of 16 July 1994, pieces of a comet struck Jupiter. This is a first ever recorded phenomenon and honest astrologers will tell you, up front, that its implications are as yet unknown. However, there has been a noticeable influence on people. The exact effect differs with each individual, depending upon the location of Jupiter in her/his chart. Persons with Jupiter in the third house of their natal charts have demonstrated an increase in "spaciness." Signs of increased financial activity have occurred in people who have Jupiter in the second house in their natal charts. How long these influences will prevail is unknown. Others are affected in other ways. This is a good time to consult your own professional astrologer for more insights.

ARIES--March 21-April 19

This is an excellent time for house cleaning and disposal of old clutter in your life. If you wish to see continued gain in your life, you need to make room for it. Communications have taken a decided turn for the better and conditions at work are following suit. Remember that little things do count for a lot in love. Pay particular attention to your financial hunches from September 3 through 15. A short getaway would benefit you during the last part of September.

TAURUS--APRIL 20-MAY 20

Urges to express yourself in a more complete and less pushy manner will be of utmost importance during the third week of August. Advice must be taken as well as give. Finances are looking more secure as the year progresses and you will see the light before August is done. Be aware of your own physical limitations and respect them. Take time for enjoyment in each of your days. Love life has been rather dull and bland lately. You should consider the possibility that the fault lies with you.

GEMINI--May 21-June 20

Difficulties on the work front have come from a breakdown in communications and some inconsistencies on your part. Follow through on your promises if you want to keep peace. A new romantic offering may heat up during the last days of summer to fever pitch; be careful not to let things get out of perspective. Your health would benefit from a more responsible diet. Fresh fruits and vegetables are easily available now; take advantage of them. Look for new forms of relaxation to attract you during this time. Make sure to pay attention to auto maintenance.

CANCER--June 21-July 22

Look for definite improvement in relationships in the days ahead. You need to work at expressing yourself on the job front; you have been rather misunderstood. A change of style is due before August is out; change your look in a dramatic but flattering way. Consider a short, out of town excursion over Labor Day; it will be your last chance to make a personal escape this year. Be close with the check book where friends are concerned. Consider a move into an abode that is more you.



LEO--July 23-August 22

An important project or speaking engagement at work carries far more weight than you are being told; shine with true Leo spirit. There is indication that a more suitable position with more responsibility, in which you can personally glow, is in the wings. A phone call from a distant relative brings unsettling news around August 18th. Be cautious of what you say to a loved one, especially in the midst of an argument; harsh words will not be forgotten quickly at this time. Start your holiday shopping now.

VIRGO--September 23-October 22

Work load is about to increase in a rather massive manner; rest up while you can. Plan some special quiet time with your family and very close friends for the third week in August; people close to you are feeling neglected. You need to express your point of view in important matters at work in the latter part of August and early part of September. A surprise trip is likely around September 23. Be careful of over-exertion in regards to exercise. It is good to exercise, but not to the point of hurting yourself.

Libra--September 23-October 22

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SCORPIO--October 23-November 21

Look for exciting times ahead in the matters of love, money, and travel. You are looking at some very busy times and a major juggling of schedules. Be careful not to cross up when it comes to which love you are meeting where. Your finances will escalate nicely, but make a change in spending habits. Put a good sum of this money into savings. Travel is going to be a predominant part of your winter schedule, so tend to the little stuff now so you can enjoy it.

SAGITTARIUS--November 22-December 21

Friends seem to demand an awful lot of your attention at this time; remember to save time for yourself. Who loves you if not yourself? Make sure to treat your self well. Look for gifts to come in the mail, and remember that wonderful things come out of small envelopes. Be wary of a meeting at work around September 22. Consider your long term goals over Labor Day weekend; are you on the path to success?

CAPRICORN--December 22-January 19

There are difficulties coming on the work front during the second week of August and the fourth week of September. These problems can be resolved if you take time and patience to all sides of the issues before you commit. A casual friendship turns romantic on September 8. Travel plans become confused at work during the first week of September; double check everything prior to departure. A past due bill must be paid now, or the damage will be major and long term.

AQUARIUS--January 20-February 18

The planning stage is over; time to put those ideas to work or get on with your life. Be cautious of get rich quick schemes; as the stars look for you, you would get the short end of the deal. Express yourself very honestly in relationships during the month of September. If you need to end a love affair, be honest and do so; don't drag it on. Wanderlust strikes hard at the end of August; travel is a better alternative to relocation.



PISCES--February 19-March 20

You have been unnaturally hard-headed as of late; time for some intense self-analysis to get yourself back on track. A promotion or job change looks very favorable as August draws to a close; money will definitely increase. Be careful of taking on additional burdens in the form of favors to friends; you can get buried under the weight. Love relationships have some major ups and downs at this time; if you want to keep the relationship, exhibit some patience.

***Personal astrology questions for Winter Wren may be addressed to her c/o the Post Amerikan. Send SASE for a personal reply.*

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Coming Out of the Broom Closet

I am a Witch. Yes, that's right, the dreaded "W" word. I use it freely. I take pride in what I am. The word is interchangeable with other words: Craft, Wicca, Goddess Worship, The Old Religion, Paganism. I like the word Witch, even in spite of its centuries of negative connotations. I want to reclaim the power and the honor of the millions who were burned. I want them to be remembered. I accept the responsibility to create the archetypes and to be what Witches will be remembered as in the future. I am a Witch.

I am a Witch, and therefore I have responsibilities. I am responsible for how the public views other Witches. My words and my actions can build or destroy our future. I am responsible to the Earth Mother. She is the life-giver; She has given me a home. It is my responsibility to help save Her. I am responsible to my fellow persons on this planet. It is the first law of my faith: As long as it harms none. It is my duty to help those I can; to treat all as I would be treated; to educate and instruct those who would listen. I am responsible to the animals who walk, crawl, swim, and fly. They have a right to be here, too.

I am a Witch, and I have been initiated and assumed the rank of High Priestess. Because I have accepted this training and taken this rank, I have more responsibilities. For example, it is my right and sacred duty to honor the Sacred Wheel of The Year and to lead others in these Rites. It is my duty to instruct those who come to my door to learn the ways of the Lady and Her Consort. It is my duty and my honor to console and counsel those who come to me in need of aid and guidance. It is likewise my duty to minister to those in prisons, hospitals, and the like, for they are in need of comfort and strength. It is my duty and my pleasure to perform handfastings and marriages, be they heterosexual or homosexual or polyamorous. It is my privilege to honor the naming of a child. It is my solemn honor to bless the crossing over of a member of our community. These are my responsibilities, my duties, and my blessings; I assume them with pride, regardless of cost or award.

I am a Witch. It is my dream to to be able to practice my Rites without harassment. It is my goal to see my religion receive respect, just as I respect the religion of others. It is my goal for myself and for others of my kind to wear our pentagrams in public, even to work, just as others wear their crosses. It is my goal that Witchphobia may pass into the past along with homophobia and racism; that all may live together in peace and harmony. It is my goal that our faith no longer be confused with that of the satanists, but instead be understood for the healing, life-loving, peaceful religion that it is.

I am a Witch. And I am your neighbor. I will bring home your lost pet. I will comfort your child who has crashed her bike in the street in front of my house. I will return your missing billfold, money intact, when you left it on the top of your car, and I found it in the grocery store parking lot. I will stop to offer you aid when your car stalls on the roadside. I will feed you if you are hungry. I will give you an extra blanket if you are in need. I will shovel your snow or mow your lawn if you are unable.

I will be your shoulder in time of need. Yes, in all of these ways, I am the Witch your fear. Blessed Be!

--Winter Wren

Winter Wren is High Priestess of the Temple of the Sacred Lady of Avalon and Director of the Illinois Chapter of WARD (Witches Against Religious Discrimination). Those who would like to have a same sex, polyamorous or heterosexual relationship honored with rites should feel free to contact her. More information on Wicca (the Craft of the Wise) may be obtained by contacting Winter at 309/888-4689 or P. O. Box 247, Normal, IL 61761.

Dear Ms. Hippie

The Post Amerikan welcomes Ms. Hippie back after her hard-earned hiatus from the June/July 1994 issue. Readers will be pleased but not surprised to learn that her tour of France was indeed a triumph.

Dear Ms. Hippie:

I have a question which concerns the computer revolution of which we are all a proud part. With computers getting smarter and smarter--and more like humans every day-- does that mean we should start treating them with courtesy and compassion, as we should do with each other?

For example, when I go to the store, the receipt always has "Have a Nice Day" printed on it, and I always feel good that the computer was so considerate. But there never is a way to return to the favor to those poor machines. And those stores with the talking checkout whatever's are so

polite that it just pains me that no one ever thanks them.

Sometimes when I talk to a machine on the phone (I feel so badly about this), I beep right through the computer message as it tells me which button to push next. Like when I'm calling Bill Flick's hotline, which I do every day, I know what to do, and so to save time... well, you get the idea. But what does the machine think? I don't want to be rude, just efficient.

Or when I use directory assistance, and the nice lady offers to connect the call for me, I never do, and I just hang up on the poor dear. Ms. Hippie, I feel just awful about these things, and you're the only one who can help me.

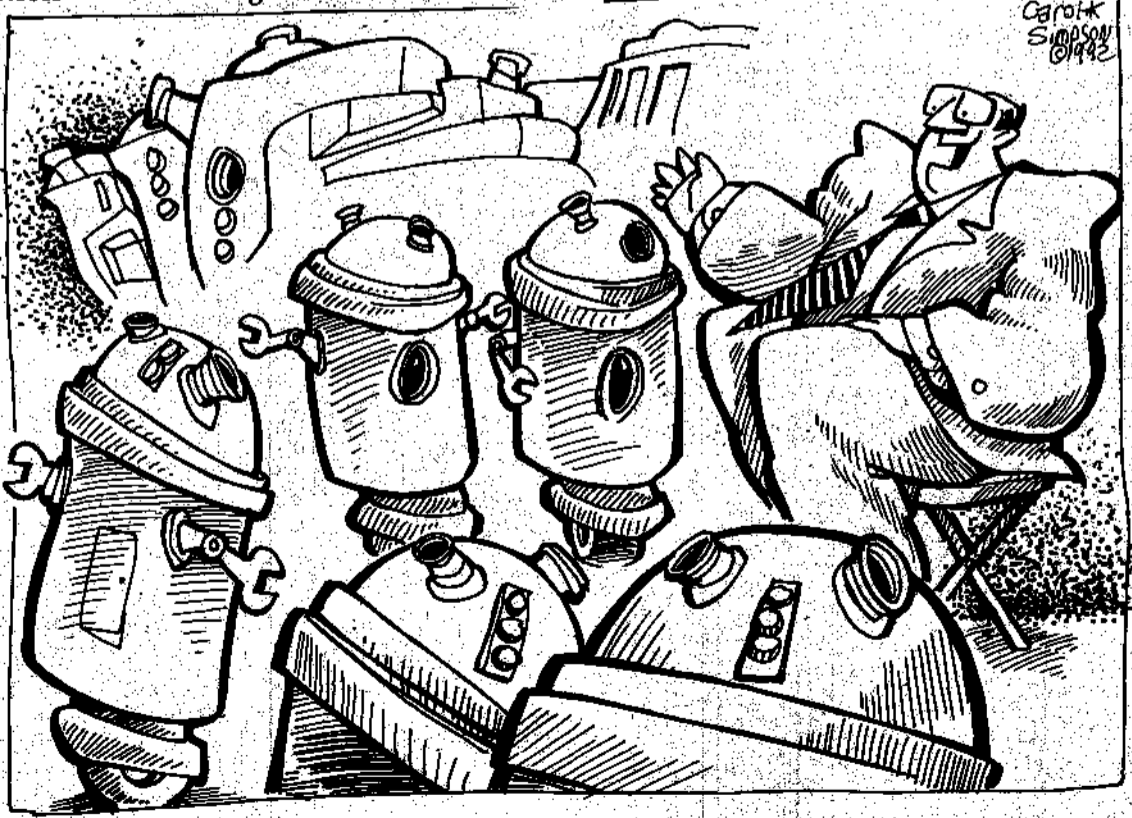
--An Inconsiderate Driver on the Information Highway



Dear Incon,

As my daddy always says, "Some problems are worse than others." Choosing your neighbor's daughter's fourth wedding present, apologizing for your diaphragm rolling down the aisle of a Greyhound bus, figuring out how to inform your lovers that unless they burp the butter tub you are leaving them--these are some worse problems than a bit of abruptness directed at nonpersons. And Ms. Hippie has dealt valiantly with these problems.

You are the only one who can help you here. Ms. Hippie senses a certain amount of drift from the reality base in your thinking. When you begin to think of objects as humans, a danger is that you begin to think of humans as objects. This type of confusion simply will not do.





Animal Magnetism



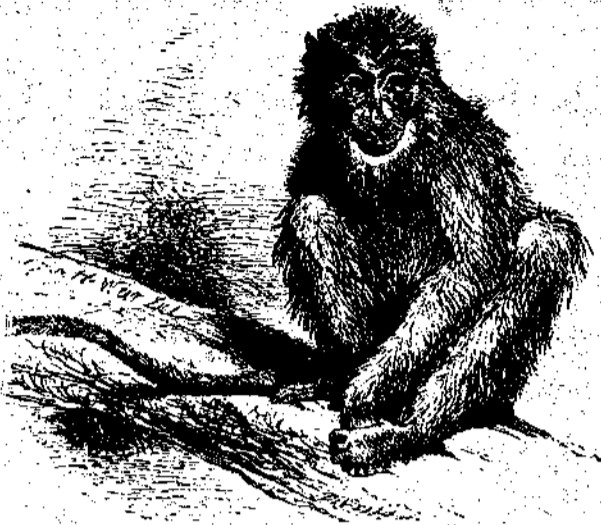
Nevada Supreme Court rules for PETA

The Nevada Supreme Court in January handed PETA a long-awaited victory, reversing a three-year old, \$4.2 million judgment against us. The judgment had been won by Las Vegas "entertainer" Bobby Berosini, who was caught red-handed on videotape beating the orangutans he uses in his night-club act. The Nevada Supreme Court ruled unanimously that PETA's videotape reflects an "accurate... clear and unequivocal" depiction that "showed the world" how Berosini treats the orangutans. The justices wrote, "Berosini is shown [in the videotape], immediately before going on stage, grabbing, slapping, punching, and shaking the animals while several handlers hold the animals in position." In the tape, the restrained orangutans cringe, grimace, and shake with fear.

The video footage, shot undercover by a dancer who hid his camera in a backstage prop box in 1989, was aired on *Entertainment Tonight*, and later in Australia and across the Atlantic. It sent shock waves through the animal protection community. Berosini slapped PETA with a lawsuit, charging libel and invasion of privacy, and we faced an icy uphill struggle in court, where the judge, a former college roommate of Berosini's employer, who had received a sizable campaign contribution from him, refused to allow many of PETA's best witnesses to testify. Berosini found support from the National Institute's of Health experimenters, trappers, hunters, and others opposed to animal rights.

PETA filed an appeal immediately. Last summer, after the Stardust Hotel lowered the curtain on Berosini's show in Las Vegas, he took his act to Branson MO, where PETA protesters were on hand to "greet" him. Shortly afterward, a falling out with colleagues in Branson drove Berosini back to Las Vegas where, so far, he remains unemployed.

PETA's tireless attorney--lead counsel Phil Hirschkop in Washington, DC, Dave Watkiss in Utah, and Robert Martin in Las Vegas--gave their all to the libel case; PETA will be forever grateful. To all the others who testified and/or provided expertise, including Louisiana attorney Peggy Woodward, and PETA's friend at Rutgers, Professor Gary Francione, as well as to all the experts who gave affidavits and testimony, PETA expresses its deepest thanks.



Berosini may be hit with huge bill

PETA submitted a petition to the District Court of Las Vegas asking that Berosini be required to pay court costs of close to a quarter of a million dollars.

U. S. Government revokes permit

Last September, PETA filed suit against the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) demanding that the agency revoke Berosini's wildlife permit and seize the primates into protective custody. On February 4th, PETA got its first taste of victory in that suit, too, when the government canceled Berosini's orangutan permit. He is now prohibited from buying or selling any more orangutans, although we are sad to report that Popi, the oldest orangutan, is now pregnant, and unless FWS acts to seize the apes, Berosini can still use them and any offspring in his crude and cheap nightclub act.

source: PETANEWS



Mercy for rats and mice

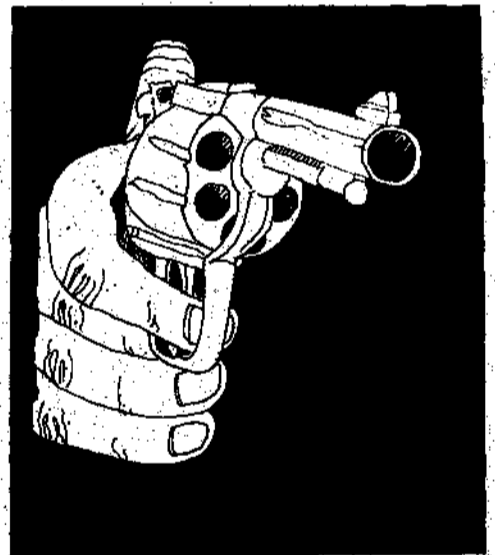
Hope Sawyer Buyukmihei, who runs a sanctuary for beavers, once caught a young rat in a box trap in her kitchen. "As I approached the trap," said Buyukmihei, "he screamed... It was a frantic, pathetic cry, as though he were a child shrieking 'Mommy!' in mortal terror. I released him far from the house..."

"Perhaps the solution is to clean up our act: use rat-proof storage, and if we must remove [rats], do it humanely as possible. For rats, like the rest of us, are flesh and blood and emotion. Surely, they too deserve some kind of justice and compassion."

Recently PETA sent mailings to "pest" control companies and city managers and county executives all over the U. S., asking them to deal humanely with rat-human conflicts.

PETA asked them to stop using poisons, such as zinc phosphide, aluminum phosphide, red squill, bromethalin, and cholecalciferol. These cause slow, pain-wracked deaths to rats and the dogs, cats, and other animals who eat the poison or the poisoned rats' bodies. PETA appealed to them to exclude snap traps and glueboards, to use a cage-trap when possible, and, if necessary, to perform euthanasia according to American Veterinary Medical Association standards.

Finally, PETA pointed out that just killing rats doesn't work. It only makes space for them to fill. PETA asked them to invest, instead, in regular trash pickups and yard and alley cleanups, and to teach people to seal entry sites and store food properly.



Sleazy Tactics

Two ex-posties, currently living in Minneapolis, sent us this disturbing flyer one had received at work.

You can help stop Sarah Brady for only 29 cents! Every time you request information from Handgun Control, Inc., 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC, 20005, you cost them \$3.00 to \$4.00 in printing and mailing costs. They also send a postpaid envelope, which will cost them 48 cents to receive your reply. Send it back empty or voice your opinion. Some have even attached the envelope to bricks or wood costing them much more. Add it up, one million gun owners could cost them three to four million dollars.

Send copies of this to all your friends around the country. Let's join together and bankrupt the organization. Write and keep on writing.

Post note: Don't you dare!

What? The Post-Amerikan needs money? James, get my checkbook!



Seriously, folks, we've been struggling along putting out this paper for 20 years now, trying to make income from ads and paper sales stretch to cover supplies and printing and what have YOU done to help except throw us a lousy quarter once a month (when you remember)?

We are depending on our readers, those who feel an alternative newspaper is good for the community. Please send contributions of any amount. Also, send gift subscriptions to a friend (or enemy). Send donations to:

Post-Amerikan
P.O. Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61701



Deer Killed in Stadium: "options not explored"

On Wednesday, June 29th, Normal Police Sgt. Andy Wood shot and killed a deer who was trapped in Hancock Stadium. *The Pantagraph* reported that "police and animal control officers said that public safety was the key factor in the decision to destroy the animal." The attitude conveyed in the article was that this was an unfortunate incident, but there was nothing else that could have been done. After further investigation, it seems apparent that the people involved did not consider alternative solutions and, as usual, profit came before the life of the animal.

Why weren't we notified?

McLean County has several resources available to contact in connection with wildlife concerns. The McLean County Humane Society refers its wildlife calls to licensed wildlife rehabilitators and/or the Illinois Conservation Officer. None of the three wildlife rehabilitators were contacted for advice or help in this situation. Jan Orcott, a licensed "rehabber," said that she felt "all options and resources were not explored." Rich Dunham, the Illinois Conservation Officer, who lives approximately five blocks from the stadium and was at home at the time, was also not contacted in connection with the deer.

It was McLean County Animal Control and the Normal and ISU Police Departments who were involved in the decision to kill the animal. A person at the Normal Police Department indicated that in previous situations involving deer "Animal Control was pretty much helpless." Peggy Gibson, Program Coordinator for Animal Control, herself admitted that they "were not experts on deer." Animal Control originally dealt mostly with calls concerning dogs, although Gibson noted that the type of calls have been changing. They have been receiving many more calls concerning cats and an increasing number of calls involving wildlife.

You mean there were alternatives?

Not only were the proper authorities not contacted, but all options were not exhausted before deciding to kill the deer. The option that first comes to people's minds would be tranquilizing the animal. This option was not even considered because, as Gibson told me, "in my 18 years of animal control I have never seen a deer survive the tranquilizing process."

So much for the wonders of modern veterinary pharmacology

The problems inherent in tranquilization were confirmed by Dr. Rowan of the University of Illinois Large Animal Clinic. Rowan stated that using a dart gun may have also resulted in the death of the animal. A dart gun leaves little control over the dosage of tranquilizer the animal receives. Because of the animal's high state of agitation, it is unlikely that the animal would go down immediately, and higher dosages increase the risk of killing the animal. "Capture Myopathy" is also a danger. When an animal's "fight or flight" instinct kicks in, the muscles release myoglobin into its system, which can result in kidney failure. However, even if a dart gun would have given the deer a better chance of survival, it is unlikely that it would have been chosen as an option. Gibson indicated that darts lost in the stadium would have posed a threat to public safety. (Read: lawsuit).

Well, Now We Know Where Their Priorities Lie

Concern about money and litigation seem to have played a part in the rejection of other options as well. Trying to herd the deer out of the stadium seemed like another possible alternative. This solution was rejected because officials felt it too risky, given the time of day and heavy traffic in the area. There was fear that the deer would cause a traffic accident or jump through someone's plate glass window.

Yet Gibson noted a deer who recently wandered into Normal Community High School was cornered in a room and released safely through an open window. The situations were not the same, she said, because of the time of day at which they occurred. The deer in NCHS was released at a time when there was much less traffic in the area.

Next, we'll all go off to the woods, bag us some possum, and 'preciate wine

When asked why the deer could not have been kept in the stadium until night fall, when its chances of being released safely were greater, Gibson noted that that would have been "a very expensive alternative." Apparently, there were contractual workers, working on the roof of the old stadium, who were being paid by the hour to stand and cheer as the deer was being stalked. A witness stated that workers would "wave their arms and cheer" as the deer ran down the field looking for an escape route. Another witness said that some workers were giving a blow by blow sports commentary: "He's on the 30 [yardline], he's on the 40." When asked the same question, *Pantagraph* photographer Lloyd Young said that the city was concerned that it might have a major lawsuit on its hands if the deer escaped and caused anyone to be injured. "The police were

called in to take care of the job and if they let the deer out they were fearful of being sued for negligence." Saving the animal's life was less important than the city saving itself from potential litigation.

Money played an even more basic and subtle role in the death of the deer in Hancock Stadium. That morning Animal Control received three other calls reporting sightings of deer in Bloomington-Normal. Our community is growing and we are taking the animals' habitat as we expand. So, as we build more strip malls, banks, and subdivisions, we can expect more animals to be forced off the land on which they once lived. Ultimately, the fate of these animals is the responsibility of us all. Will we behave more humanely next time? I doubt it—not as long as animals are considered expendable entities in our quest for the almighty dollar.

-SF



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"When truth is no longer free, freedom is no longer real: the truths of the police are the truths of today."
—Jacques Prévert

Regular readers of Bloomington-Normal's only daily newspaper, the *Pantagraph*, know that it carries Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury," except during a one week hiatus for the week of June 6. The *Pantagraph* refused to print that week's worth of "Doonesbury" strips on the grounds that it was "religiously offensive."

So much for freedom of speech . . .

In the past few months, a character in Trudeau's strip, Mark Slackmeyer, host of Washington DC's "All Things Re-considered," came out. Apparently Trudeau decided, after having his previous gay male character, lawyer Andy Lippincott, die of AIDS, that having another character come out would open up fresh story lines for his core group of characters, and would give a fresh perspective to America's favorite "Big Chill" support group.

. . . and now for freedom of the press

"Doonesbury" has a long and honorable history of getting blue-pencilled by tight-assed editors. For instance, dim-bulbed telejournalist, Roland Hedley, Jr., took us on a tour, *a la Fantastic Voyage*, of Ronald Reagan's brain during the mid '80's. Why anyone was surprised to see Reagan's brain represented as anything other than a series of empty caverns is beyond me—if the man ever conceived a thought, it had to have died of

neglect. Yet, newspapers around the country refused to run those strips. It's not nice, apparently, to point out that then-President Reagan had long ago allowed his grey matter to atrophy. True, perhaps, but not at all nice.

Those who would apply for the position of censor . . .

When Trudeau first introduced Andy Lippincott, in the mid-'70's, as Ms. Joanie Caucus's fellow law student at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall, Andy's simple declaration of his gayness was enough to send the editors of the *Cleveland Press* (the city's now long-defunct afternoon daily) into a tizzy. Declaring that some subjects were not suitable for a "family" newspaper, the earnest guardians of public morality refused to run about two weeks worth of "Doonesbury" strips. And how did Andy Lippincott make his announcement? By sporting nipple rings and juggling tubes of K-Y Jelly? Through extended discussions of the merits of fistfisting over penile anal intercourse? No. Andy simply—and sweetly—told a smitten Joanie that he was gay. "Oh, Andy," says Joanie, head in hand, in the last panel of that particular strip. "Are they sure?" "I'm sure, Joanie," Andy replies evenly. And that was what the *Cleveland Press's* protected its readers from.

. . . are not fit to hold the job

There are many other instances of "Doonesbury" getting suspended by some papers in the Universal Press Syndicate, which distributes the strip, and I've no doubt you all have your personal favorites. It's nice to know that "Doonesbury," at times just plain silly, and, on one occasion, indulged in a truly cheap shot, can still kick butt. When Garry Trudeau won his first

Pulitzer for Political Cartooning, he achieved a first: Not even the great Walt Kelly's "Pogo" ("We have met the enemy, and they is us."), or Al Capp's early "L'il Abner" (before Capp became so right-wing that he would have dismissed Rush Limbaugh as a soft-centered liberal, and an effete intellectual snob), who should have at least been contenders for the Prize achieved that.

**"Censors tend to do what only psychotics do. They confuse reality with illusion."
—David Cronenberg**

Sometimes, the right guy *does* win

The Pulitzer jurors for the political cartooning category spotted the real thing in Garry Trudeau; his is a talent that keeps evolving, keeps offering up truly memorable satire. The most recent example that comes to my mind would be the "revisionist" strips that Trudeau ran, even as the general body of the Fourth Estate went through collective amnesia after Nixon's death. Trudeau took some of his old strips from the Watergate Hearings (first congressman, frustrated at the blind loyalty of Nixon's defenders, even in the face of overwhelming evidence: "If only he'd [Nixon] rob a bank." Second congressman, suddenly perking up: "By George, then we'd have him!"), crossed out the old dialogue, and wrote in euphemistic, evasive paeans to Nixon's presidency, which ended in disgrace.

That brings us to the matter at hand, the most recent "Doonesbury" flap, the one that sent the editors at Bloomington-Normal's *Pantagraph* into such a nervous twitter. Mark Slackmeyer, still a total novice to the gay cruising scene, goes out for a beer after work, and gets to chatting with an attractive, affable man. Mark's newly-developed gay radar begins to register. Could this man be a possibly kindred soul? To Mark's chagrin ("I can't stand it . . . First time out of the gate, and I hit on a

married man!"), the man turns out not only to be a happily married hetero, but a fundamentalist Christian as well.

**"The most important service rendered by the press and the magazines is that of educating the public to approach printed matter with distrust."
—Samuel Butler**

"Jesus, he knows me, and he knows I'm right!"

The man offers the usual sludge: "The church teaches forgiveness, even though homosexuality is, of course, a particularly egregious sin before God." In reply, Mark mentions a recent publication, John Boswell's *Same Sex Unions in Premodern Europe*, wherein Boswell claims to have found evidence of Roman Catholic sanctioning of same-sex relationships during the Middle Ages. Boswell's book is a scholarly study, and, apparently, he engages in a recondite close-reading of some liturgical manuals and other such documents he found mouldering away in some of Europe's forgotten corners. According to Boswell, these unions were religious and personal celebrations, but not marks of legal sanction, since, unlike heterosexual marriages, same sex unions did not involve the exchange of property, nor were they expected to produce the "heir and a spare" necessary to sustaining a dynasty.

His smug little universe implodes, and Mark's drinking buddy, looking like someone who should have waited to have his chili dogs until after he tried the new roller coaster, limps off, presumably, to home and hearth to think it over.

Apparently, the *Pantagraph* was not the only paper to censor the strip, and a book that otherwise most likely would not have come to the general public's attention, caused such flap that the ever-vigilant *People* magazine actually did a write up on Boswell, a professor of religious studies at Harvard, and the academic controversy his new book raises. Once again, Trudeau's "Doonesbury" stands up to be counted in its shrewd and sympathetic advocacy of the gay rights movement—the civil rights movement of the '90's—even as it produces the quality of satire that garnered Trudeau his Pulitzer.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues in the Fourth Estate

When the *Post Amerikan* first considered running an editorial on the *Pantagraph's* censorship of "Doonesbury," we called the paper and asked them to send us copies of the censored strips—a courtesy the *Pantagraph* extends to anyone who asks. Thinking that one of the strips in question would make an appropriate illustration, we contacted Universal Press Syndicate's Carla Stiff, who handles permissions. We explained that the *Post Amerikan* is Bloomington-Normal's alternative community paper, that we wanted to print the strip described above as part of this story, and asked whether and for how much we could purchase the rights to print this particular strip?

Stiff's office informed us that the UP Syndicate wouldn't release the strip to the *Post*, because they considered us competition to the *Pantagraph*. Since, understandably, they want to protect their client, they would sell us the strip, but only on the condition that the *Pantagraph* gave its formal permission.

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Continued

Oh, please, get serious

Amazed to hear that *anyone* would consider our tatty little bi-monthly lefty rag competition to a daily newspaper, we dutifully approached Fred Kardon, Executive Editor at the *Pantagraph*, reiterating what had passed between us and Carla Stiff of the UP Syndicate, and asked if we could have formal permission to print the "Doonesbury" strip. No, Kardon told us, the *Pantagraph* would not allow UP to release one measly "Doonesbury" strip to us, even though we were willing to pay the UP Syndicate's fees for same, since as far as he and the *Pantagraph* are concerned, the *Post Amerikan* is indeed the competition.

Deja vu all over again

Shortly before Nixon resigned, "Doonesbury" featured Rev. Scott, the radical cleric, and Mark Slackmeyer, that erstwhile, all-purpose lefty-student agitator, talking over all that had come out in the Watergate wash: illegal phone taps, general surveillance, informers, etc., all massively deployed against all varieties of public dissenters and the civilly disobedient: anti-war, women's rights, civil rights, gay rights, etc., movement activists. Mark tells Rev. Scott that behind his general activist burn out lay a mountain of frustration—all that marching, letter-writing, petition-signing, sitting in, and media attention didn't seem to be making one damn bit of a difference.

Now, however, the Watergate Hearings showed that those activities to which he had thought the government generally—and the Nixon Administration particularly—indifferent and impervious, actually drove the administration into an almost unbelievably frenzied paranoia. Thanks to Watergate, Mark could see that the massive power of government had become mobilized against a relatively small and contentious pack of loosely affiliated individuals and groups, and their establishment sympathizers. Mark and Rev. Scott ponder that a moment, as they look out across the rolling hills surrounding the university campus. Then, in the last panel, Mark turns to Rev. Scott. "My, but it's gratifying," he declares gleefully. "Isn't it, though?" Rev. Scott slyly agrees.

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."

--A. J. Liebling

Imagine our surprise

Our circulation runs—max—to 2400 readers (those numbers include estimated pass alongs, and we usually print under 1,000 copies per issue). We're always short of money and staff (yes, readers, you can take that as a hint), and somehow a random few of our faithful subscribers always seem to get shorted on an issue or two.

The *Pantagraph* considers the *Post Amerikan* competition? Us? A rival newspaper? I'll be damned.

Gratifying, isn't it?

--Dr. Attitude



You go grrrl! Near Fell and Clinton



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Looking for love in all the wrong places? You're the one that I (don't) want? I will always love youoooooooooo? (not).

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Special Report: "Women for



*It goes on one at a time,
it starts when you care
to act. It starts when you do
it again after they said no,
it starts when you say We
and you know who you mean, and each
day you mean one more.*
—From "The Low Road"
by Marge Piercy

It was with these words in our minds that Joyce Patton and I joined the *Women for Guatemala* Peace Delegation last May. With the support of many friends from the Bloomington alternative underground, we counted our pennies and dollars, bought our plane tickets and embarked on a journey that took us back hundreds of years in Central American history and forward in time with hopes and dreams the Guatemalan people currently struggle to bring into the present.

In the 1800's a European visitor called Guatemala the "land of eternal spring." Indeed it is a garden paradise with the most compactly varied geography in all of Latin America. In a country merely the size of Ohio, there are 10,000 mountain ranges, two dozen volcanic peaks, rainforests, jungles, and flatlands and coastal plains. A century later, however, Guatemalan essayist Manuel Galich poignantly described his country as the "land of eternal tyranny." Despite the lush beauty of the land, Guatemala has been paradise for a only few. For the majority it is not.



Graphics by Rini Templeton

It is precisely the issue of land and who owns it, who controls it, which threads through all of Guatemala's history from the time of the Spanish "conquerers" to the present struggles between the indigenous Mayan peoples and the ruling army oligarchs.

Some Background on Guatemala
Over two thirds of the population of Guatemala is rural and indigenous, generally identified as Mayan. The other third are ladino (Spanish/Indigenous mix or of indigenous ancestry but "Westernized"). Amongst the indigenous (Mayan) peoples are four major ethnic groupings (*Kiché, Mam, Kaqchikel, and Q'eqchi*) and 22 different languages, Spanish being the 23rd.

Guatemala is a nation plagued by a long history of colonization. The Mayans called this mountainous and tropical rain forest covered land their home for centuries before the Spaniards seized both land and power over the Mayans in typical fashion of 16th century white conquerers. Only a small number of Mayans survived the massacres but those who did preserved traditions and a culture that survive to this day.

Between 1957 and 1972, some 2,000 Guatemalan army officers were trained in U.S. schools while over 425 police officers received antiterrorist training at the International Police Academy in Washington, D.C.

Corporate Greed Takes Over
Independence from Spain was gained in 1821, although the country's political powers continued to be held by those of Spanish and Ladino blood. In 1906, the first United Fruit Company contract was signed and, like many other central American countries, Guatemala became yet another plantation land producing export crops for its greedy Northern neighbor. Jungle, rain forests and beautiful coniferous forests were, and continue to be, flattened to make way for plantations and cattle grazing (for beef export). The destruction of the rain forests continues at such an exponential increase that a mere twenty years ago the rainy season provided six months of rain and today the rains fall for only five. Export crops of coffee, sugar cane and cotton benefit the wealthy at the expense of the campesinos who labor yet today for less than one dollar per day.

By 1952 United Fruit Company owned 42% of Guatemalan land, and to this day 65% of the land (the very best land) is owned by 2% of the population. Such economic interests prompted U.S. intervention through a CIA-sponsored coup in 1954 which aimed to reverse popular efforts for agrarian land reform.

The People Revolt
In the 1960's as an armed guerilla movement began to develop, the U.S. Green Berets were sent in, killing 8,000 people, mostly civilians, laying the foundations for the Guatemalan army which became a ruling oligarchy beyond the law and unto itself. In 1976 a severe earthquake killed 22,000 more, leaving 1/5 of the population homeless and ever deepening the conditions of poverty and powerlessness. As grassroots organizing began again, the repression by the military and death squads increased. In 1979, U.S. President Carter cut off direct military aid to

Guatemala because of widespread human rights abuses, but Israel became the proxy supplier and trainer throughout the early 80's until U.S. military aid was again supplied beginning in 1985.

Guerilla forces joined together in Feb. 1982 forming the URNG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity). The very next month General Rios Montt, a far right-wing, Evangelical Neo-Pentacostal Christian, took power by coup. A decade of "scorched earth" massacres in which hundreds of civilian villages were burned and bombed to obliteration and tens of thousands of Guatemalans tortured and forcibly "disappeared" began. By 1985, over 48,000 persons had disappeared (their whereabouts still unknown), leaving 200,000 widows and 40,000 orphans. One million persons were displaced within the country and 100,000-200,000 refugees left the country, most of them to Mexico.

Women in Guatemala

Creating political space for hope

Recent international pressure to rectify human rights abuses, popular outrage, and the Guatemalan Congress' appointment to the Presidency of the former Guatemalan Procurator for Human Rights, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, have shifted the political sands creating what the people are calling a "new political space." Within this "new space" people's organizations are proliferating, giving collective voice to hidden stories of abuse and survival.

A Peace Process is underway bringing the URNG and the Guatemalan Army to the negotiating table, and efforts are being made to form a Truth Commission to counter the army's "disinformation" campaign and call to accountability those who have lived with flagrant impunity. A Civil Assembly meeting May through October, 1994, as part of the Peace Talks, is in the process of articulating the foremost concerns and recommendations of the civilian population. In recent months and weeks there has been an outpouring of stories from the grassroots, as a people long silenced begin those first steps toward healing which is always the "hearing to speech," the speaking the unspeakable, the telling of their experiences which until now were forbidden to be shared. It was into this moment in Guatemalan herstory/history that our small delegation set foot.

What is "Women for Guatemala"?

Women for Guatemala is a Chicago-based organization seeking to provide support and networking between North American and Guatemalan women. Begun by a Guatemalan woman in 1986, its specific goals have been:

- to provide solidarity and economic support to Guatemalan women by marketing indigenous weavings produced by widow's cooperatives.
- to provide economic support for school supplies and basic survival needs for children of the CPR's.
- to promote education about the social, political and economic situation in Guatemala
- to promote activism and involvement of North Americans in changing the U.S. role in Guatemala and responding to human rights violations there.

Our May 15-25 delegation of thirteen was one of two delegations sponsored annually by *Women for Guatemala*.

Guatemala" Peace Delegation



Throughout our time in Guatemala, we learned that the primary issues of controversy and concern for the Guatemalan people are those of land, racial discrimination, indigenous heritage, poverty and its resulting urgent needs for food, housing, health, and education, environmental crises, the return of the refugees from Mexico, the public declaration of the Communities of Population in Resistance (CPR's)—whole civilian communities who have fled destruction by the army by hiding in the jungle for more than a decade—and the peace process itself between the URNG and the Guatemalan government and army.

Meeting with Popular Organizations

In Guatemala City we met with several Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) working for collective change and empowerment.

Almost all of these organizations have endured threats, harassment and violent attacks by the army. But the amazing turn of events, in this "new political space" is the fact that, despite the risks, each of these organizations now have an office in Guatemala City and a more public face than ever possible before.

- **CIEP (Investigation and Popular Education Center)**—Sponsors and organizes popular education projects and leadership training for campesinos, unions, students, women's groups, and pobladores (persons displaced from rural areas to the cities)

- **AVANCSO (Assoc. for the Advancement of Social Sciences)**—An alternative investigative center for the popular sector with research, academic, investigation, publication emphases.

Their founder, Myrna Mack, was assassinated for investigation of mass grave sites.

- **CONAVIGUA (National Widows Coordinator)**—Widows of the disappeared, and other women whose families have disappeared. This group currently has 15,000 members. They have a very feminist organizational structure of shared leadership. While their work includes a vast range of projects—from working against discrimination of the indigenous peoples and indigenous women in particular, organizing for better health care, income and survival issues for the widows, and obtaining basic school supplies for their children, to fighting against forced conscription of their sons into the army—a spokeswoman for the organization told us that their greatest achievement is the actual participation of women. Women of CONAVIGUA, who had previously never spoken in public, never confronted an authority, never spoke to men outside their own family and village are now invited to speak to community groups and public forums.

- **UPAVIM (Women United to Live Better)**—Located in *La Esperanza* (Hope), a barrio of the displaced formed a garbage dump in a ravine on the outskirts of Guatemala City. The women there have organized a medical and dental clinic, breast-feeding and well-baby program, laboratory, day care center, and crafts cooperative.

- **UNSITRAGUA** (a union umbrella organization)—There we met with eight women maquila workers from clothing factories. Enduring deplorable work conditions for wages of \$3-4 per day, these women have dared risked loss of their jobs for the sake of organizing unions in their workplaces. (We noted that while last year the U.S. Labor Dept. was reviewing the preferential "no-tariffs" treatment of Guatemalan imports because of the conditions and rights of Guatemalan workers, the U.S. government has just taken "off review"

this status, probably to lay the basis to extend the so-called "free market.")

- **CENTRICAP** (organization for women domestic workers)—almost entirely indigenous women. While these women say that conditions are so oppressive that they cannot yet even consider organizing a domestic workers union, their projects include working for legislative protection, a safe house for women who are fired (often because a male employer has raped them and the pregnant woman is banished from her workplace), domestic skills improvement workshops, and social events and celebrations.

- **COINDE** (part of a non-government organizations and cooperatives umbrella organization)—Our speaker worked with the council of development agencies especially with issues of health, education, and accompaniment for refugees and internally displaced persons.

- **Jornadas por la Vida y la Paz** (an ecumenical religious organization)

- **CONFREGUA** (conference of religious—consisting mostly of Catholic nuns/priests).

- **CPR Office (Communities of Population in Resistance)**—Met with representatives from Ixcán and Sierra CPR's to make plans for part of our delegation to travel to the CPR communities in the Ixcán up near the Mexican border.

It is not by coincidence that the term "DESPARECIDO" (to be disappeared) entered the Guatemalan vocabulary at the same time as the U.S. military's decision to make Guatemala it's regional experiment in counterinsurgency.

Out in the Countryside

For about half of our time in Guatemala our delegation split into two groups with very different itineraries. From a total of 13, eight participants went to the CPR communities and five travelled westward visiting various villages in the highlands.

The group to the CPR ventured on a 17 hour ride standing in the back of an open bed truck lumbering northward over nearly non-existing roads to the point at which the "road" ended, at which time they embarked on a four and one half hour hike through the jungle to the CPR communities of the Ixcán. The CPR are civilian communities who have been in hiding since the 1980's, internal refugees many young enough to have known no other life than being ever on the run, hunted by the army. Following is their statement of identity (CPR document, March, 1989):

"We are thousands of Guatemalans from the civilian population, poor indians and ladinos—men, women and children—we had to flee to the forest and mountains of the north of Guatemala since 1982 because of the brutal repression that the Guatemalan army let loose against the campesino communities and cooperatives in the departments of Huehuetenango and Quiché. . . . In spite of the persecution, . . . we have developed elevated forms of living together and working collectively. We constitute an option for thousands of Guatemalan refugees who aspire to voluntarily and peacefully return to their lands."

Our delegation came as part of an international effort to acknowledge the legitimacy and existence of these communities. *Women for Guatemala* has had an ongoing relationship with these communities since 1991 when WFG was asked by the CPR to organize a children's Campaign in support of the children of the CPR. We brought school supplies and a photo album of pictures and letters from children in Chicago schools to the children of the CPR. The community shared with us tortillas, stories, music, and their hopefulness and commitment to peace in the coming years.

Meanwhile, five of the WFG delegation travelled through the mountains of western Guatemala. There we stopped to visit various crafts persons, cooperatives, and an orphanage and gained a small glimpse at life in the Guatemalan countryside. We spent an afternoon at Santa Apalonia, an orphanage giving permanent residence to 119 children, run by the school sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee.

Cinderblock buildings housed several classrooms, workshop areas, living quarters, and a weavers cooperative. As we played with the children we were acutely aware that this was one of our few opportunities for interaction with children. Widespread rumors of North American women kidnapping Guatemalan children have run rampant, and all too frequently mother's would clutch their children tightly as we passed on the streets of Guatemala City.

We left Santa Apalonia and continued west, passing Chupol, a town completely destroyed by the army in the '80s and as yet an area controlled by the army. There we were stopped and searched by an Army "lightning" checkpoint. (At random places throughout the countryside the army will stop and search all travelers.) At Totonicopan we visited a family of potters in their home, and another at his workshop.

We learned that for the Mayan to weave and wear their indigenous dress is to claim membership in an ancient cultural tradition. For this they endure severe discrimination.

Throughout the countryside we noted the predominant presence of the indigenous peoples. Each village and region has a unique style of dress with uniquely woven patterns and colors. We learned that for the Mayan to weave and wear indigenous dress is to claim membership in an ancient cultural tradition. Common to each of them is a presence on and with the land, working by hand, planting maize and beans, traveling by foot, women carrying baskets and water jars atop their heads and babies on their backs, washing clothes in a river, men carrying loads of wood on their backs with machetes in hand, children working side by side their parents, herding sheep or goats in the upper highlands, selling their vegetables and crafts at the markets. The beauty and color of the people is awe-inspiring. Their simplicity of life is profoundly evident.

Yet we heard stories of the harsh discrimination they experience and the poverty they struggle to survive. Living on plots of land too small for subsistence survival, most are forced to migrate south to the *fincas* (plantations) to harvest sugar



Continued

cane, cotton, or coffee, or work producing non-traditional export crops such as broccoli, snow peas, and strawberries. Still others must leave the land altogether and seeking work in the city as a malquilla worker or domestic servant. There they are often forbidden to wear their traditional dress, and forced to relinquish ancient customs.

Contrasting the Rich

Back in Guatemala City we requested a drive through the wealthy sector to see for ourselves a comparison of lives. There the roads were all smooth, widening to six lanes rather than a congested two, truck and bus traffic rerouted through poorer neighborhoods. It was quiet and far less polluted, with Southern California style mansions fortified by 15 foot razor wire crested walls, resting atop a scenic overlook of Guatemala City and the volcanoes in the distance.

In a land of such poignant contrasts, the pressures and tensions of gross inequities and daily atrocities inevitably erupt in waves of anger and frustration. But the truly amazing phenomenon is the collective power by which the Guatemalan people survive and work day by day for change.

Women in the Forefront

Only eight years ago, the first human rights organizations dared to organize in Guatemala. Among these there are now 73 women's organizations in Guatemala! Just as all human rights organizations have been working to expand the "political space," women in particular have continually pushed back the confines of

the oppressive space. Women in Guatemala today are speaking out against gender and racial discrimination, and transforming oppressive space into a new political space of survival and liberation.

Action Suggestions

So how can one respond, support, and participate in this movement for change?

• Join a future *Women for Guatemala* or other human rights delegation. Nothing beats seeing for yourself. Also, international presence and accompaniment is a critical need right now.

• Send a donation or become a sustaining member of *The Weaver's Project* or *The Children's Campaign of Women for Guatemala*. (see address in box at right)

• Participate in the *Urgent Response Network* (A Network in concert with other Central America solidarity groups to develop a rapid response to human rights abuses.) Authorize the use of your name for cables sent once a month to Central American governments and the U.S. Embassy to let them know we know what is happening and want it stopped! (Contact WFG at address below)

• Sponsor a speaker or house party to further inform friends, family, and the public at large about the situation in Guatemala.

• READ READ READ! Education yourself. We don't get the truth or the full story in our daily newspapers and mainstream medias.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

I, Rigoberta Menchu — Culture, history and struggle of the Guatemalan indigenous population through the life experience of a Maya-Quiché woman. Recipient of the Nobel

Peace Prize. Rigoberta Menchu narrates the forms of resistance implemented by the indigenous peoples.


Bitter Fruit — U.S. involvement in the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Guatemala in 1954. This book reveals the covert operations of the CIA to destabilize legitimate governments in order to protect the economic interests of U.S. corporations. Explains the role of the media and the manipulation of public opinion.

Gift of the Devil — Guatemala's history from precolonial times to the present. Explains the current social turmoil as a logical consequence of a past based on oppressive colonial institutions, racial discrimination, and economic exploitation.

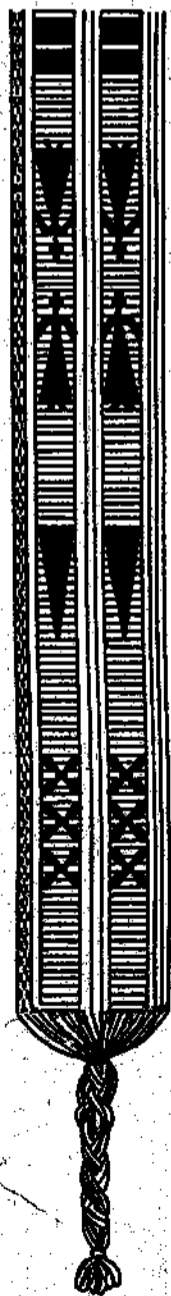
Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny — a powerful book of full color photographs and poignant text, eyewitness journalism and reflection on Guatemala by Jean-Marie Simon, consultant to Americas Watch and Amnesty International.

—Kari Sandhaas

FOR MORE INFORMATION
on *Women for Guatemala*
contact:



**Women for Guatemala:
The Weaver's Project**
529 So. Wabash, Room 404
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 431-1165
or
(in Central Illinois)
Kari Sandhaas (309) 829-4885.



TIME LINE OF IMPORTANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF GUATEMALA

1500 B.C.	The Mayan Civilization
1524 A.D.	Spanish Invasion
1906	United Fruit Company
1944-54	The Era of Democracy
1954	The United States/C.I.A. sponsored Coup
1970's	Popular Organizing
1978-84	Government Repression; establishment of Model Villages and of the Civil Defense Patrols
1983	Formation of Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM) (organization dedicated to human rights and the investigation of the "disappeared")
1986	President Cerezo grants amnesty to army for any infractions of the law
1988	Two important self-help organizations formed: CONAVIGUA (National Widow's Group - indigenous widows working to stop the oppression against their people) and CERJ (Council of Ethnic Communities "Runujel Junam" - indigenous peasants organized for the defense of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Guatemalans)
1989	National Teachers Strike
1990 (March)	National Dialogue Process begins in Oslo, Norway
(September)	Communities of People in Resistance become public
(December)	Santiago Atitlan Massacre
1991	Election of President Serrano

URGENT RESPONSE

Resistance in Central America takes many forms - from working with the relatives of missing people to moving back home to a depopulated area. When resistance is met with capture, torture and disappearance, a fast response by US citizens can help secure the release of prisoners and can help save lives. When an area is being bombed it is important to let the Salvadoran, Guatemalan or other Central American governments as well as, the US embassy, know that we know what they are doing and that we want it stopped.

Therefore, we are acting in concert with other groups around the country to develop a rapid response to human rights abuses in Central America. We would like your participation by authorizing the use of your name for a cable, not to be used more than once every month.

The cable would be billed to you and would cost from \$5-10. Please fill out the information on the other side. Send to WFG-Weavers' Project, 529 S. Wabash, Chicago IL 60605, 312/431-1165.

_____ I authorize that cables be billed to me and sent in my name, not more than once every month, in response to human rights emergencies in Central America.

_____ I would like to organize others or to help to be part of this Urgent Response.

_____ I'd like to volunteer.

_____ I need more information.

For a quick transaction here is my VISA/MASTERCARD (circle) # _____

_____ exp. date _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ST/ZIP _____

PHONE(Day) _____ (eve) _____



Pell Grants for Prisoners Canceled



*Inmate awards reduce average awards to other students by less than \$5.00.

*Restrictions have been placed on inmate eligibility in the last two years--inmates with life sentences without parole or on death row are not eligible.

What is the impact of Pell grants on recidivism and employability?

*State and federal studies+ show education and job training reduces recidivism and places many ex-offenders in gainful employment. Inmate Pell grants save more than they cost the taxpayer in prison costs. When one adds in budgets for police, court, and social welfare or victim pain and agony, the savings are even greater.

The Name Game

Think you've got stuck with an awful name? The following names were taken out of the book, Remarkable Names of Real People by John Train.

- A. Moron
Commissioner of Education Virgin Islands
- Bambina Broccoli
- B. Brooklyn Bridge
- Buncha Love
- Cardinal Sin
Archbishop of Manila
- Reverend Christian Church
(Madame) Fouqueau de Pussy
- Mrs. Friendly Ley
- George Baretits
- Hugh Pugh
- I.C. Shivers
- I.O. Silver
- I.P. Frilh
- July August September
- Justin Tune
Chorister Westminster Choir College (1947)
- Nita Bath
- O. Hell
- Orange Marmalade Lemon
- Miss Pensive Cocke
- Miss Pinkey Dickey Dukes
- Mrs. Screech *Singing Teacher Victoria, BC*
- Shanda Lear
- Sodawater Bottlewalla
- T. Hee
- Ufuk Restaurant *Izmir, Turkey*
- Mrs. V.D. Whynot
- Virginia May Sweatt Strong
- Warren Peace
- Zoda Viola Klontz Gazola

Anti-crime bill

The anti-crime bill, which at press time may have made it to the floors of the House and Senate, has an amendment attached that is getting less publicity than some other aspects of the bill. The amendment will cancel Pell Grants for prisoners, effectively eliminating their chances for continuing education. This decision would appear to contradict the supposed purpose of the bill, which is the reduction of crime. 97% of inmates currently incarcerated will eventually return to society. Without education, a good portion of these inmates will end up back in prison. The following are some statistics concerning prisoners, Pell Grants, education, and crime.

*States and jails are freezing or cutting back on correctional education and other inmate programs as the population of lockups grows and prison building increases.

Facts about Pell grants for inmates

*278 colleges and universities offer basic through postsecondary education in all 50 states to about 92,000 students. Only about 27,800 students receive Pell grants.

*Of the \$6.3 billion in Pell grants, about \$35 million goes to inmates, or about 1/2 of 1% of the total.

*The annual cost of one Pell grant per inmate is less than \$1300.

*Inmates do not receive full Pell grant awards--only books, tuition, and related fees.

*Inmates do not eliminate any other students from receiving Pell grants.

The Case for Pell grants for the incarcerated

"We must accept the reality that to confine offenders behind walls without trying to change them is an expensive folly with short term benefits--A winning of battles while losing the war."

--Warren Burger, Chief Justice of The United States Supreme Court

The number of inmates and costs of incarceration are astounding.

*Currently, over 1,000,000 adults are incarcerated in the nation's prisons and jails and more than 3,000,000 are on parole and/or probation. The numbers are growing at alarming rates.

*The annual average cost of incarceration is about \$25,000 per inmate and the cost of building a new cell is about \$90,000.

Correctional education programs at all levels are insufficient

*75% of the incarcerated do not have a high school diploma.

*Nationally, only 20% of all inmates are enrolled in formal school programs.

*Most inmates have few marketable skills or work history.



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GM diesel repair

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and truck service

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News From Voice

As we prepare this column, National Public Radio has just reported that three people were shot outside of an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida. Two of the victims were killed, one a retired air force Lt. the other a doctor, both men were shot in the head as they arrived at the clinic. The third victim, a retired nurse, was also a volunteer clinic escort. The three pro-choice victims were shot with a shot gun by a former Presbyterian minister who advocates the use of violence to stop abortion, he is in custody.

A clinic in Virginia was bombed early July 30, no one was injured but the facility received extensive damage.

RU-486

The political battle to secure rights for testing and distribution of RU-486 in the U.S. is over. The Population Council will begin clinical trials of the much-heralded drug in September; and American women should soon have the option of ending an unwanted pregnancy without the risks of surgery. Pro-choice advocates and health care providers now face new challenges as RU-486 moves from political dream to medical reality. What impact will RU-486 have on the health and choices of American women, and how will it affect our health care delivery system?

The Population Council will begin clinical trials for RU-486 at approximately 12 sites on an unspecified date in September. Planned Parenthood affiliates will probably comprise about one-third of those test sites, which will not be publicly announced. This discretion is not only an attempt to avoid opposition targeting of test sites, but also an effort to keep test results from being skewed. If test sites were made public, researchers fear that large numbers of women who are highly motivated to choose RU-486 might travel to the test sites.

The testing protocol will be very similar to the procedure used in France. Women will be scheduled for three visits. The first will include counseling on all available options, medical history and examination, and determining how far the pregnancy has advanced through vaginal ultrasound. (This last step is important because RU-486 only works reliably during the first six weeks of pregnancy, and because it does not work if the pregnancy is ectopic.) The woman will then receive a 600 mg. dose of RU-486 and remain under observation for 30 minutes. At her second visit approximately 48 hours later, the woman will take an oral dose of prostaglandin to induce uterine contractions and complete the abortion. She will remain at the clinic for four hours, since approximately two-thirds of patients abort during that time. Two weeks after the date of the

RU-486 dose, the patient will be examined to be sure the abortion is complete.

Following FDA approval of the drug, providers will need vaginal ultrasound equipment in order to determine gestational age and will need to be able to perform or refer for surgical abortion in the small percentage of cases where the abortion is not complete. The skills needed to deal with RU-486 failures are the same skills used by doctors everywhere to deal with miscarriage, a relatively common medical occurrence.

Once RU-486 is approved, Planned Parenthood plans to play a major role in helping to market and distribute the drug, and through education training, and negotiating discounts, will work to ensure that it is accessible and affordable for women throughout the U.S.

Like most aspects of women's health care in America, the future of RU-486 depends in large measure on the outcome of health care reform and our success in making abortion - both medical and surgical - a truly accessible option for all American women in a reformed health care system. As clinical trials make this long-awaited drug a medical reality, Planned Parenthood and other pro-choice advocates will still face the challenge of ensuring that RU-486 is a real choice for every American woman.

Source: Insider

Anti-choice zealots will have to pay a considerable ante for the grief they've cause women and health care providers over the years.

On May 9, a Houston jury ordered Operation Rescue and Rescue America to pay more than \$1 million in punitive damages to Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas for disrupting the provision of services at the affiliate's Houston clinic during the 1992 Republican National Convention. Days earlier, the same jury awarded the affiliate \$204,000 in actual damages, to compensate for the extra security measures and other expenses incurred by the affiliate during the protests.

Neal Manne, the affiliate's lead counsel who worked pro bono, felt confident that the affiliate would be able to recover the damages awarded, despite threats to the contrary from Operation Rescue. The affiliate has already begun identifying recoverable assets held by the two radical anti-choice groups and their leaders. The long term impact of the decision on the organizations' donations could be even more damaging. "I expect this jury's award will totally dry up the financial contributions to these groups," said Mr. Manne. "Potential contributors will realize that any money sent to one of these groups is likely to end up in Planned Parenthood's pocket."

Source: Insider

Reproductive rights advocates used to think that our biggest challenge was defending clinics from Operation Rescue assaults. Many of us didn't make the connection between anti-choice protestors and the rest of the far right. After all, hadn't its power faded with Pat Robertson's presidential aspirations?

When 60 of 90 radical right "stealth candidates" won local offices in the San Diego elections in 1990, we realized, with some shock, that the political arm of the religious right in California was a force to be reckoned with. Planned Parenthood of Sacramento Valley decided last year to find out more about this newly formidable opposition and initiated a project to research the Christian right in California and publish their findings.

Without Justice for All: A Report on the Christian Right in Sacramento and Beyond. was released at an April 13 press conference in Sacramento's capitol building. It provides an overview of this far reaching movement and an analysis of the 20 most active and prominent Christian right groups in California; it also offers extensive documentation to

most active and prominent Christian right groups in California; it also offers extensive documentation to support its findings.

Most of the radical right candidates running for office in California are financed primarily by just four individuals: Howard F. Ahmanson (heir to the Home Savings & Loan fortune), Rob. Hurtt (president of Container Supply Company), Edward Atsinger III (owner of Salem Communications Company, which operates 19 Christian radio stations); and Roland Hinz (owner of High Torque/Daisy Publishing, which publishes dirt-bike magazines. In 1989, these four formed the Capital Commonwealth Group (CCG) to funnel money to candidates who share their fundamentalist beliefs.

The group's biggest contributor is Ahmanson, who with his wife, Roberta, contributed nearly \$2 million to various causes and candidates in 1992 alone. Ahmanson has said that he seeks "the total integration of Biblical Law into our lives." Ahmanson is a member of the Vallecito California based Chalcedon Foundation which can best be described as the think tank for theocracy. Another member of this group is R.J. Rushdoony (he's the president actually). Rushdoony calls for the abolition of democracy and the installation of a theocratic republic and "Biblical Law." Rushdoony is the founder of "Christian Reconstructionism," an influential movement within the Christian right, and he advocates a long and shocking list of capital crimes, including astrology, adultery, heresy, blasphemy, and homosexuality.

When the press began to report on the CCG in 1992, its four leaders formed Allied Business PAC as a smokescreen. During the 1992 election cycle, CCG/Allied Business PAC contributed more than \$2 million to various candidates and ballot initiatives. Other groups active in California that embrace many aspects of Rushdoony's theocratic social vision include the Capitol Resource Institute, the Coalition on Revival, Focus on the Family and the Traditional Values Coalition.

In addition to targeting Planned Parenthood and other reproductive health providers, these groups also oppose gay civil rights, public education, funding for the arts, and much more.

The coordination and consolidation of the far right in California have resulted in an alarming increase in the introduction of reactionary legislation in the state legislature and in strong radical right influence in the state's Republican Party caucus.

Media coverage of the report's release was extensive, and the press conference itself was attended not only by a wide range of reporters but by several far right legislators themselves. Pro-choice legislators have also been eager to see the report.

Source: Insider

On May 16, approximately 22 Operation Rescue demonstrators attempted to block the driveway at Planned Parenthood of Central Texas. Police had been at the clinic since 6 a.m. that morning, since opposition activity had been expected all week because the affiliate was initiating abortion services. Police in Waco had taken the initiative to communicate with police in other communities attacked by the opposition in order to learn more about Operation Rescue National before they arrived in Waco. Police removed the protesters, made five arrests, and cleared the clinic entrance by 8:30 a.m.; all patient appointments went ahead on schedule.

A blockade was attempted at the 16th Street clinic in Washington, D.C. Nine people sat down and obstructed the front door and others blocked the emergency door in the rear. There was only one police officer on the scene for some time; finally, after almost an hour and six warnings, the police made four arrests, and the rest of the protesters left to avoid arrest.

The Planned Parenthood of Southern Indiana clinic was invaded by more than a dozen trespassers from Collegians Activated to Liberate Life (CALL).



For Choice

The gained access through a rear fire door opened by a woman pretending to be a patient and locked themselves together in the hallway. Twelve arrests were made, with some remaining in jail for refusing to give their names. Almost all have previous arrest records from Indiana and Wisconsin. Patients were still seen at the clinic during the morning. Both the police and fire departments were very helpful.

Dr. Susan Haskell, medical director for Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, was harangued outside her home by an Operation Rescue activist against whom she, Executive Director Jill June, and other clinic employees have a standing "No Contact" order. He was arrested by the police, then released by an assistant county attorney who was not fully informed about the case. On the next day, the protester harangued Jill June and an employee as they left the clinic. An arrest warrant was issued after the second incident.

Dr. George Woodward of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin has been the subject of all day residential picketing (6 a.m. - 8 p.m.) since Mother's Day. Dr. Sue Pfleger, who works at a non-Planned Parenthood facility, had her car blockaded and vandalized when she took her two-year old to day care. She was then blocked from the clinic when she arrived at work. Using an existing injunction, the police tracked and ticketed the perpetrators. Any expressions of support during this ongoing harassment would be especially helpful for Dr. Pfleger. Call Ann Glazier (212)-261-4615 for details on how to send messages of support for Dr. Pfleger and Dr. Woodward.

Source: Insider

A clinic access bill was recently defeated in the Illinois legislature. Conventional wisdom and Springfield insiders tell us that the reason was Governor Edgar did not want any abortion legislation during this session. Apparently he wants to avoid offending anti-choicers just before the election, at the expense of women and clinic workers. The bill, co-sponsored by a Republican, was defeated thanks to the allegedly pro-choice Edgar's efforts.

The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) was passed by the Senate in May. The bill is the first truly pro-choice legislation ever to pass Congress.

After years of suffering anti-choice harassment, reproductive health care providers will now have the power of federal law enforcement behind them to counter the opposition's blockades and terrorism. The law will make it a felony to obstruct clinics or to harass patients or health providers in order to deny them access to health care facilities. Unfortunately we still need a state law to ensure clinic access since federal marshals are needed to enforce the federal legislation and that may take some time to access.

In an unanimous vote, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The U.N. defined violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life."

According to the declaration, violence against women encompasses, but is not limited to:

"Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, and violence related to exploitation."

"Physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and intimidation at work, in educational institutions, and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution."

"Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs."

And the most exciting news of all, the Declaration emphasized that States should "recognize the important role of the women's movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in raising awareness and alleviating the problem of violence against women."

Source: Off Our Backs.

Author Alice Walker, named a California "state treasure" in February, was horrified when she received the award statuette, a foot-tall sculpture of a nude women's torso without arms, legs and a head. Says Walker, "Imagine my horror when, after four years of thinking about the mutilation of women, I was presented with a decapitated, armless, legless women, on which my name hung from a chain."

Walker initially refused to accept the state's highest literary award because educators pulled two of her short stories from a state achievement test for students because religious conservatives found them offensive.

The statue was designed by artist Robert Graham whose spokesman stated that "anyone who is an art lover would be happy to have the piece displayed in their home." Walker disagrees: "Though these mutilated figures are prized by museums and considered "art" by some, the message the deliver is of domination, violence and destruction."

Source: Off Our Backs

A federal appeals court recently ruled that a White supervisor at Western-Southern Life Insurance co.'s Milwaukee office created a "hostile work environment" by using the word "nigger" even though the company argued Black workers used the word.

James E. Rodgers, who is Black, alleged that Western-Southern discriminated against him by fostering the racially charged workplace, and in doing so constructively discharged him. Rodgers sought \$101,674.78 in back pay.

The court ordered that he receive the full amount and ordered Western-Southern to provide an annuity in accordance with its pension plan.

Western-Southern had filed an appeal of this judgement, and Rodgers filed a cross-appeal with respect to the issue of damages. The court rejected the company's contention that Rodgers' supervisor, William Mann's statement, "You Black guys are too fucking dumb to be insurance agents," was intended as a motivational tool.

Source: JET



Abortion providers won a battle when the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that judges may create "protest-free" zones around clinics "to ensure the health and well-being of the patients."

The court allowed a 36 foot buffer zone around a Melbourne, Fla., clinic ordered by a judge last year, saying the limit passes muster under the First Amendment.

But Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice, lawyers for clinic protesters, said: "By endorsing a zone of exclusion, the court crushes both the pro-life message and its messengers."

Some groups vowed to defy the ruling. "Protesters cannot abide the surrender of our constitutional rights, says Pat Mahoney of the militant group Operation Rescue. "We will not let the Supreme Court tell us where we can be Americans."

The court tempered its ruling by finding that the injunction went too far by banning protesters from approaching clients within 300 feet of the clinic or protesting within 300 feet of staff members' homes.

But the ruling bolsters most of the roughly 50 injunctions against protesters nationwide and may prompt more clinics to seek court protection.

Source: USA Today

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



Continued

With all the "hero" talk we've been hearing and reading in the media, we at Voice for Choice wanted to take this opportunity to offer our definition of hero and to thank some of those local heroes who work endlessly to improve the quality of life for people.

To us, a hero, is someone who has dedicated her life, either professionally or through volunteer efforts, to the principles of peace and justice. These folks don't get paid millions of dollars because they can run, jump or throw better than anyone else, instead, most of them are paid very little (if anything) for their efforts to create a stronger, more equitable community. McLean County is full of real heroes. The following are just a few:

Butch - who spends her retirement working with the Rape Crisis Center, Voice for Choice and Planned Parenthood. Carrying a pager, attending meetings, sitting at booths and transporting women to Peoria or Champaign to obtain abortion services.

Babette - another Rape Crisis Center volunteer, Voice for Choice supporter and all around good friend. Whether it is supporting AIDS awareness efforts, carrying a pager or administering the Abortion

Assistance Fund, her compassion and gentleness is much appreciated.

Sherrin and Deborah - who have kept the Post Amerikan going for the past several years. Those of us who look forward to each new edition of the Post do appreciate your efforts to ensure that we get, as Paul Harvey would say, the rest of the story.

Cathy - at Planned Parenthood who works tirelessly providing options counseling for women and helps them locate the resources for needed medical procedures.

Bertha - who, along with her son Max, attend more meetings than anyone else we know, including city council, South Hill Association, NAACP, Women's Health Care Task Force, and Netschwerk. Most recently Bertha has been recruiting bowlers to help with Chestnut Health System's fundraising efforts.

Tom T. and Peter - whenever we need music for an event these guys are there providing it, always free of charge.

Mike - the voice of the left on Bloomington's City Council. In a community often hostile towards diversity, Mike represents hope that people of good conscience can get elected to political office.

The women of Neville House, both those who work there and those who find the courage and strength to leave their abusive partners. In a culture that devalues women and social services we must remember to thank these women for the example they set and the hope they offer us as we strive to recognize women's worth.



These are just a few of the people we believe are truly deserving of the title hero. We thought some perspective was long overdue. Thank you for your efforts and please know that many of us in this community appreciate your efforts and commitment.

Well once again we at Voice for Choice have received a very important communiqué from that all around lunatic Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue. In this most recent letter (Terry sends the literature to his supporters, we have a mole), Randy laments the passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) bill. We thought you might enjoy reading some of the passages from Randy's letter:

"Well, I still cannot believe it has happened. The United States government - a majority in both houses and the President of the United States - have thrown in their lot with the child-killers and stretched out their hand against Christ's Church. (I assure you - they will not go unpunished by the Ruler of the universe.) In case you haven't heard, the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) is now law.

A group of us held a protest in front of the White House the day before Mr. Clinton signed the abominable law. We "sat in" near the front gate of the White House. We were arrested, released after several hours and fined \$50. That is the end of it. We did this protest to show the absurdity - no, the naked injustice of FACE.

I was in Washington, DC on the weekend of June 17. While there I providentially, bumped into Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY). He is the author of this godless FACE law. I told him God was going to judge him for stretching out his hand against Christ's Church and for helping the baby killers. It was very intense. He shouted back that he believed in another church (what are the sacraments? - abortion? - that he didn't believe abortion killed babies and that I and those with me (he motioned to the friends with me) should all be more tolerant! Most of those with me had never seen anything like it - but they all supported me for rebuking Schumer before the Lord, even in the face of his evil response toward us. Friend, if you come face to face with a wicked leader in your area, quickly seek the Lord if you should prophetically rebuke them. They need to be warned of the wrath to come.

Concerning FACE, all is not lost. With the help of Jay Sekulow and the American Center for Law and Justice we have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Government in federal court in Washington, DC. Other similar lawsuits have been filed around the country. We have a good chance of having FACE overturned because of its discriminatory and selective nature. Keep praying and I'll keep you posted."

The letter goes on endlessly about the dire financial straits Terry is in and begs for a gift of any size. If you'd like to send a gift, any gift, any size the address is: Randall Terry, P.O. Box 1180, Binghamton, NY 13902. Please send no cash, we're sure you can be more creative.

It's time to start planning your act for the Fourth Annual Lefty Follies Variety Show, sponsored by Voice for Choice and Rape Crisis Center. The show is tentatively planned for the last weekend in October or the first weekend in November. Start planning now, you can enter in either the talent competition or the talent impaired. Entry fee per act is \$5.00.

The Abortion Assistance Fund is going strong. We have helped a number of women from this community and as always would appreciate your donations. Donations may be sent to: Voice for Choice, AAF, P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905.

President Clinton is waffling on his support of the inclusion of abortion services in a national health care plan. Please write him and let him know that such a reversal on his part is unacceptable.

Mental Illness Awareness Week: October 2-8, 1994

Each year across the country thousands of mental illness professions, their patients, friends, and families come together to educate their communities during Mental Illness Awareness Week.

Mental illness refers to a group of neurological disorders that cause severe disturbances in thinking, feeling, and behaviors, often resulting in the inability to cope with the ordinary stresses of every day life.

Serious mental illness can strike anyone at any age—from children to the elderly. Some people are affected for a few weeks or months while others may suffer a lifetime disability. In a given year, nearly one in six people suffer from some of mental illness.

There are several types of mental illness and varying degrees of impairment within each group.

Schizophrenia is not "split personality"! ("Split personality," wherein the sufferer develops a number of separate and distinct personalities—as in the famous cases of "Eve" and "Sybil," actually refers to a clinical condition called "dissociative hysteria.") Instead, schizophrenia is a disorder of the thought processes. It impairs judgment, sensory perceptions, and the ability to interpret and respond to situations appropriately. It is estimated to occur in as many as one out of a hundred people. Typically, schizophrenia appears in the late teens or early twenties.

Some—or perhaps all—of the following symptoms may appear in someone suffering from schizophrenia: poor reasoning, memory, and judgment; disconnected and confusing language; eating and sleeping disorders; hallucinations, either auditory, visual, or both; delusions; suspiciousness; withdrawal; deterioration in personal appearance and hygiene.

Mood, or "affective," disorders are the most common in the group of serious mental illness, appearing in about 6% of the population. They can be grouped as bipolar disorder (also known as manic depression) and depressive disorders. Persons who have bipolar disorders swing between extremely high and low moods, while people with depressive disorders have persistent severe depression.

Symptoms of bipolar disorder may include boundless energy, enthusiasm, and little need for sleep; impulsive involvement in activities which can have harmful consequences, such as buying sprees and reckless driving; poor judgment and grandiose ideas, which may suddenly segue into deep, perhaps even suicidal, depression.

Severe depression can take the form of a total loss of interest in daily activities. The sufferer may experience feelings of guilt and hopelessness and a persistent sadness that is much more than the "blues." Sufferers often have suicidal thoughts as well.



There are other mental illnesses--panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive illness, and other behavioral disorders that are as disabling.

Research into the causes of this kind of disease proves that mental illness is the result of biochemical abnormalities of the brain, not the result of poor parenting or weakness of character.

Although the cause is not completely understood, there are treatments that can alleviate the worst symptoms in most people. Many well-known people are known to have suffered from one or another form of mental illness, and yet continue, with appropriate treatment, to lead normal and productive lives.

For the family of a person with mental illness, however, the disease can be confusing and frightening. Before it is diagnosed, there can be a period of uncertainty and anxiety. After the diagnosis, family members typically go through a period of shock and disbelief. There may be attempts to rationalize and perhaps to blame. Next, the family may grieve over the loss of hopes and dreams. This may be accompanied by shame due to the stigma still associated with mental illness. Finally, the family may reach a point of acceptance--it is a long and rough passage to this point, but, fortunately, there is help. The Livingston-McLean County Alliance for The Mentally Ill offers a support and advocacy group for the mentally ill, their families, and friends. We work together with other chapters of AMI across the country to eliminate stigma in the media. (Who would poke fun at someone with cancer?) We lobby our legislature for full parity in

health care and try to make the public aware of the facts about these neurobiological diseases lumped together under the heading "mental illness."

I can attest to the need for increased awareness about these brain disorders. I have had bipolar disorder for 25 years. My medications now keep me out of the hospital, but I am unable to work. I have also been through the nightmare of having a beloved son develop schizophrenia, of watching a bright, friendly boy disappear into his own, private reality. Over the years, I have been, with the help of AMI, able to let go of my hopes and dreams for him, and accept this new person who is my son.

I have known first hand the discrimination and stigma that accompanies mental illness. At the present time, most insurance companies limit coverage for the mentally ill--that is, if they can get coverage at all. Medications are very expensive. We are all apprehensive about the state of our health care system. Our health care system is in need of change, but we must insist on parity with other illnesses!

Since the discovery in the 1950's of new drugs to treat mental illness, many hospitals have returned patients to their own communities. In turn, these communities were supposed to have treatment centers available. Instead, we now have monumental social problems because of our failure to provide enough help for those who need it. Inadequate supervision, care, job

training, and community resources for the mentally ill has greatly increased the homeless population, and in turn puts greater strain on shelters, soup kitchens, as well as the public health and welfare systems. Other community health problems, such as the exponential rise of tuberculosis, can also be partly attributed to this same phenomena.

The record numbers in our crowded prison populations include many people who are mentally ill. Indeed, it has been said that our penal system is our largest mental health facility, but where few--if any--mentally ill prisoners get appropriate treatment. An estimated 30% to 50% of our homeless population includes the seriously mentally ill. Left untreated, the mentally ill among the homeless' lives become more and more unmanageable. Without affordable and available treatment, homelessness may become the fate of people who fall through the ever-widening cracks in the system.

If you want to help, get in touch with your local AMI and watch for public announcements about activities during Mental Illness Awareness Week. There will be a walk, a day-long conference, and a vigil to remember those who have died as a result of their illness. The Mental Health Association will hold a screening for depression at several locations. And most of all, speak up and help us clear away the cloud of fear and stigma that confront us every day.

--Faye Townsend, AMI member

Notes From the Land of Anti-Fat

Film fat

Looks like the filmland moguls have found a comparatively safe group to exploit: fat folk. Following Darlene Cates's sympathetic (and critically noticed) portrayal in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*, no less than four films with full-sized protagonists have been announced. These range from the cringe-worthy to the promising. In the former category, let's put Eddie Murphy's remake of Jerry Lewis's *The Nutty Professor*, which will update the Jekyll/Hyde comedy by making its pre-Buddy Love hero 400 pounds. Sounds about as subtle as a Weird Al video; we all know how sensitive Eddie Murphy can be toward minorities that he isn't part of. Equally dire sounding is a bit of "family fare" from Disney, *Heavyweights*, which concerns itself with an 11 year old boy's adventures at a fat camp. Oh goody, a movie jam-packed with fat kid jokes! Can't wait!

On the let's-keep-our-fingers-crossed side of the list, we have an Australian import entitled *Muriel's Wedding*, about a romantic plump girl's obsession with "weddings and ABBA." Could be this decade's *Sugarbaby*. And, finally, there's *Body Language*, a Cyrano-type story that's been written for Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. (To make up for *Jurassic Park*, perhaps?) Former journalist Andrea King, who herself is mid-sized, has written the script. Ms. King seems ambivalent about her experiences as a fat woman (no unapologetic size acceptance advocate she!), so it's anybody's guess how this 'un will end up. Anyone remember the fat kid in Spielberg's production of *The Goonies*?

While we're talking matters filmic, whatever happened to director Milos (One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, *Ragtime*) Forman's sumo wrestling project?

NAAFA is Twenty-five

This summer marks the 25th anniversary of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance's founding, and members of the national organization are celebrating the event August 23-28 in Washington, DC. Some of the issues to be discussed at NAAFA's 25th Anniversary Convention include Size Diversity, Employment and Public Commendations, Health Issues, Sexuality and Relationships, and Size Acceptance Coalition Building. Attendees will also be participating in a demonstration outside the White House/ Anyone interested in more information about the event can contact the Central Illinois Chapter of NAAFA at Box 363, Normal, IL 61761.

Dance the night away

The *Chicago Tribune* recently did a nice feature article on Chicago NAAFA as part of its "Tempo" section. The article focused on the chapter's regular monthly dance, an event that has attracted both fat adults and fat admirers from Chicagoland and beyond. Too bad the one place most fat single men and women can feel comfortable doing what others take for granted has to be NAAFA sanctioned. But, hey, straight fat adults aren't the only ones forced to circle the wagons whenever they want a night out.

Cybersocializing

We hate to think of Rush Limbaugh being on the cutting edge of anything, but it looks like the Man-You-Love-to-Channel-Surf-Past is in the forefront with his recent marriage to a woman he met on the Information highway via CompuServe. The latest issue of *Dimensions*, a magazine for fat admirers and "the people who attract them," devoted substantial space to



cybersocializing, which has grown phenomenally over the last year and a half. As several fat men and women would attest, online can be an efficient place to meet compatible soulmates. If all sounds rather utopian (a dating system where people get to know each other's thoughts and feelings before they lay eyes on each other), but as editor Conrad Blickenstorfer points out, the system is currently rather class-bound.

"Information have-nots," Blickenstorfer notes, "the people who do not have computers, who do not know how what electronic mail, the Internet, or any of the incredible resources of the information age are" run the risk of falling behind those with a modem and money to blow on online time. We already know that too many fat men and women are being financially penalized for their size in terms of jobs and salaries. So guess who's less likely to have a means of riding the Information Highway?

--Bill Sherman



Gay Lesbian and

NGLTF Activist Alert

Get the Olympics out of Cobb

In conjunction with the Olympics Out of Cobb Coalition (OCCC), the NGLTF is demanding the removal of the 1996 Olympic volleyball games from Cobb County, Georgia. The county has been the focus of media attention since the County Commissioners passed a resolution last August that condemns the "gay lifestyle" as incompatible with the community's standards. In a three to two vote on June 28th, they defeated a "compromise" resolution that was proposed by one Commissioner in an attempt to weaken the extremism of the first resolution, while refusing to rescind the original.

Members of Olympics Out of Cobb Coalition have met with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), requesting that the volleyball venue be moved from a county that has put itself on record in support of anti-gay bigotry. To date, ACOG has not agreed to move the venue. Meanwhile, gay organizations, including NGLTF, have vowed to demonstrate in Atlanta if the Olympics are held in Cobb County.

NGLTF Executive Director Peri Jude Radecic focused her speech during the Stonewall 25 rally on the hypocrisy of the multi-cultural Olympics being held in a county entrenched in divisive bigotry. If the Olympics are not moved, she said, "activists will descend on Atlanta and tie the city into an Olympic knot."

Activists from across the nation should contact the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and demand that volleyball be moved out of Cobb County. AS OCCC says, it is up to ACOG whether gay and lesbian people will be on sidewalks or in the streets during the Games. FAX letters to ACOG at 404/224-1989 or 404/224-5176; or call ACOG Chair Billy Payne at 404/224-1996.

Health care reform crisis

Congress is currently marking up and amending a variety of health care reform bills, with such basic concepts as universal coverage, in jeopardy. Bills are being amended and altered on a daily basis, making it impossible at this point to give definitive support to any of the current proposals. Because health care reform bills are in flux, it is best to focus on reform criteria as our community assesses the various proposals. In assessing all health care reform plans, NGLTF encourages activists to use the following five criteria:

- 1) Universal coverage, providing health care to all those who reside in the U. S.;
- 2) Comprehensive benefits, offering a broad package of treatments, including non-Western and alternative therapies;
- 3) No restrictions for pre-existing conditions;
- 4) Non-discrimination language, barring discrimination based on sexual orientation;
- 5) Permanence, ensuring that coverage cannot and will not be taken away.

Call your Representatives and Senators and make the following request: "I want a reform measure that will ensure comprehensive, affordable health care for all that cannot be taken away." If you have an opportunity to discuss the health reform debate in more depth, advocate for the five criteria previously listed. Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202/224-3121 to get the names and numbers of your Representatives and Senators.

Employment bill introduced

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Reps. Barney Frank and Gerry Studds (all D-Mass) introduced a bill last month that would ban employment

discrimination based on sexual orientation. The bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 1994, was introduced at a press conference June 23 where Coretta Scott King, other civil rights leaders, and members of Congress expressed support for legislation. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the pre-eminent civil rights lobbying group, has endorsed and is spearheading passage of the legislation, in conjunction with NGLTF and other gay and lesbian organizations. The legislation (S 2238 and HR 4636) has 30 co-sponsors in the Senate and 113 co-sponsors in the House.

Contact your Representatives and Senators and ask that they co-sponsor and support HR 4636 and S 2238. Act quickly--hearings are proposed for later this month. Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202/224-3121 to get the names and numbers of your Representatives and Senators.

Other action on the hill

When Congress reconvenes after the July 4th recess, several measures of concern to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community will be voted upon.

NEA: On June 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee cut five percent of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) 1995 budget in a veiled punishment of the NEA and its Chair, Jane Alexander, for supporting and defending a controversial performance at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. The full Senate will vote on the budget this month. Ask your Senators and Representatives to oppose the reduction of the NEA budget.

ESEA: We're anticipating an anti-gay amendment to the Elementary/Secondary Education Act during Senate reauthorization, similar to the measure introduced in the House by Rep. Mel Hancock (R-MO). That measure, which was diluted in the House, would have prohibited programs that "encourage or support homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative."

Ask your Senator to oppose all anti-gay amendments offered to this legislation.

These measures move the week of July 11, so call immediately. Contact the Capitol Switchboard at 202/224-3121 to get the names and numbers of your Representatives and Senators.

Job discrimination

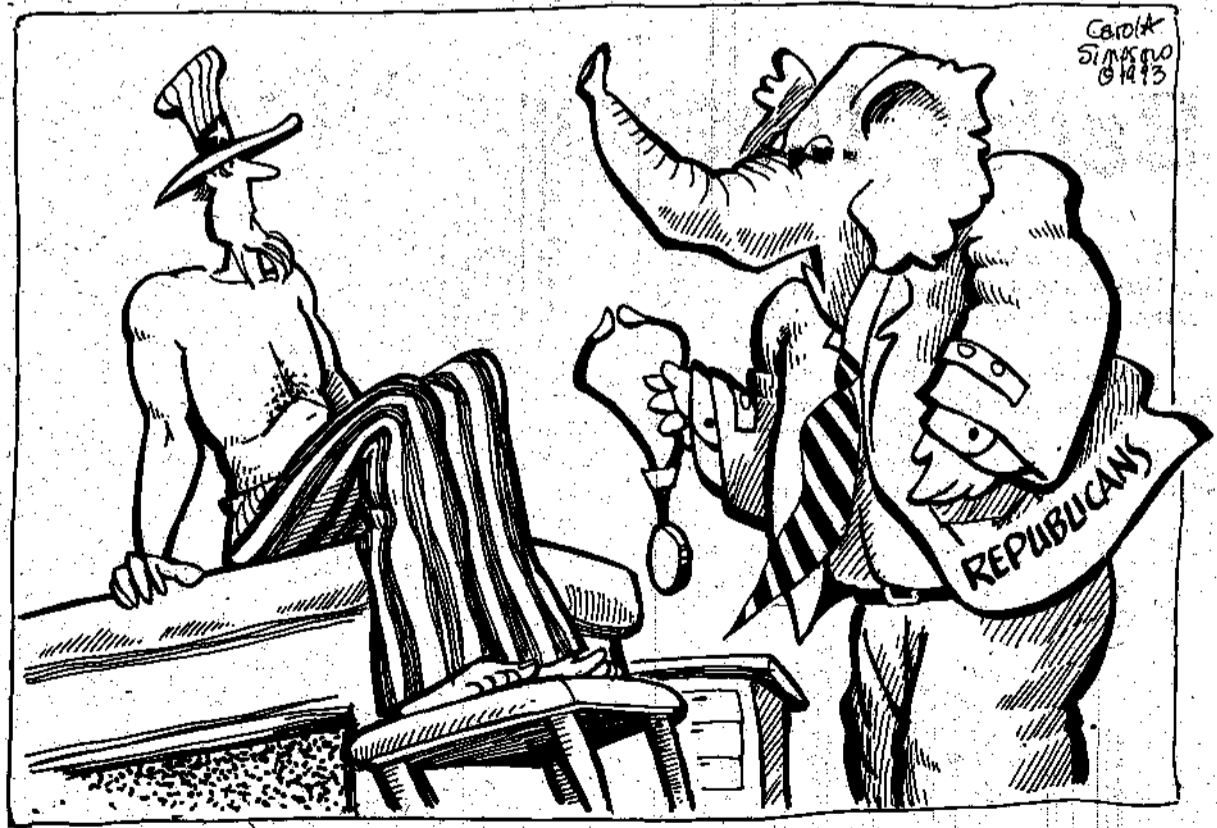
NGLTF, working with the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other groups, is looking for individuals who have experienced discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. The cases should clearly illustrate the negative impact of anti-gay discrimination in the workplace and provide compelling arguments for Federal protection from discrimination. We are especially looking for cases involving women and people of color, cases not in a major metropolitan city, and cases that involve working class or labor oriented jobs. Individuals would need to be comfortable with and perform well under substantial national media exposure.

If you have experienced such discrimination, please contact Tanya Domi, NGLTF Legislative Director at 202/332-6483, ext. 3308; e-mail to tldnltf@aol.com.

Protect domestic partners

Because DC is not a state but operates home rule guidelines, Congress has blocked DC from implementing its domestic partnership law by placing language in an annual appropriations bill prohibiting DC from spending any money on domestic partnerships. This month, it is expected that a negative amendment will again be offered on the floor to the DC Appropriation Bill (HR 4649). Because votes on DC issues do not affect their hometown voters, members of Congress often use it as an opportunity to grandstand on gay issues.

Contact your Representative immediately. Urge her/him to oppose attempts to deny DC the right to establish domestic partnerships. Tell them the act is a local law passed by DC's elected officials and Congress should not meddle in DC's local laws. Call your Representative through the Capitol Switchboard at 202/224-3121.



"Now take a deep breath and hold it while I go undermine healthcare reform."

Bisexual Issues

Recent Movie Releases

"LIGHTEARTED, CHEERFULLY
RAUNCHY AND SEXUALLY FRANK!"
- Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES



GO
Fish

Here's the scene: Current New Yorkers and former Chicagoans Rose Troche and Guinevere Turner sit in the office of a big Hollywood studio executive nervously pitching their story.

"What's it about?" inquires the exec.
"Well," tiptoes Troche, "it's a romantic comedy."
"Good, I like those. *When Harry Met Sally* was soooo cute," chirps the exec.
"A lesbian romantic comedy. Shot in black-and-white," adds Turner meekly.

Yeah right.

Will Work For Film Stock

The only thing more ridiculous than the above exchange is the idea that Troche and Turner, at that time, could actually get a meeting with a studio merchant. Now, of course, the situation might be different since the Samuel Goldwyn Company picked up *Go Fish*, a paean to urban lesbian life, for distribution this summer. Troche and Turner jointly wrote and produced their shot-on-16 mm, no-budget debut (Troche also directed and edited, while Turner stars), which is set in Wicker Park 60622.

Money and the Man

In a purist effort to "please every lesbian in the world," the pair conceived the picture using only women for the cast and crew while forsaking any money from men. The two largely financed the film, on weekends over many, many, hot months, with money earned on their day jobs. They hooked up with Christine Vachon (who produced *Swoon* and Todd Haynes' oft-depated *Poison*) and director Tom Kalin (*Swoon*). Vachon and Kalin brought in indie film maestro John Pierson to complete funding and help sell the picture. After two days at the Sundance Film Festival in January and "aggressive verbal volleys" between interested parties, the Samuel Goldwyn Company purchased *Go Fish*.

Troche explains that Goldwyn expects *Go Fish* to have crossover appeal; it should play well to the lesbian audiences as well as the "art house" market. The responses have been very positive, even from predominantly heterosexual crowds.

article written by Scott Petersen
Lumpen Times
2558 W. Armitage
Chicago, 60647
send \$3-4 for current issue



Ballot Measure Nine

"This is the film we've been waiting for. It is a clear lesson and a warning for all citizens."
--Donna Red Wing, National Organizer

The provocative new video documentary, *Ballot Measure Nine*, tells the disturbing story of what happened during the 1992 campaign for Oregon's anti-gay ballot initiative. Statewide, a virulent discourse on the dangers and morality of homosexuality thrived, and in this climate of lies and fear came the inevitable rise of harassment, vandalism, assault, and murder of lesbians, gay men, and their supporters.

Culled from hundreds of hours of material shot during the campaign, *Ballot Measure Nine* eloquently tells the stories of people finding new courage in the struggle of their lives. It captures the war-zone atmosphere and the lives changed by the raw public discourse. It shows the religious right's attempt to dehumanize lesbians and gay men with propaganda and moralistic rhetoric. It places these attacks within the Christian right's larger agenda, illustrating the effectiveness of their divisive "no special rights" strategy.

With eight states now fighting similar initiatives, and more predicted, it is essential that people understand the devastation these measures cause. *Ballot Measure Nine* is a powerful tool for change, and a vivid testament to the courage and stamina of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and their supporters. This video is ideal to share with family and friends, for community and church gatherings, PFLAG members, students, professional associations and lesbian and gay organizations.

Produced by award-winning filmmaker Heather MacDonald, *Ballot Measure Nine* will be released in late June, 1994 for wide grassroots distribution. Tapes (running time 75 minutes) are \$22.00, which includes shipping and handling. Make checks payable to Media Network/Oregon Tape Project. Order now, or write for more information to

Ballot Measure Nine, 54 West 16th Street, #12-J,
New York, NY 10011

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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

Ollie's Fun Page

Hi kids, it's great to be back after an exhausting pre-campaign fundraiser. Those little shindigs are certainly taxing (well, not in every sense of the word-HA HA!), but boy do they fill the old coffers.

Well, Betsy and I have got a new puzzle for you. The subject of the puzzle is radio legend Rush Limbaugh. It's easy—using the clues, simply unscramble these mystery phrases: each one gives a reason why my old buddy Rush is a blight to the American airwaves. These are called ANAGRAMS, and they were invented by the CIA. To give you a head start, we've told you the number of letters in each word in the answer, if there is more than one word. Ready? Go ahead, but don't forget to contribute to my campaign! I mean it. DONT FORGET.



mystery phrase #1:
GLACIAL COAL FLY "for example, false analogy, false premise, distraction" (7,7)

mystery phrase #2:
BOGUS OX'S ONIONS "annoying musical parodies (PS- disregard punctuation in clues) (9,5)

mystery phrase #3:
A GREEN MOTH "inspires divisiveness"

mystery phrase #4:
FAILS TIDY GOOSE C. "Rush and Hitler share this trait" (7,8)

mystery phrase #5:
LEANING CLAM "for example, 'Feminazi' or 'Wack-o'"

mystery phrase #6:
KILLJOY HARES "mocks prominent female" (7,5)

Good luck, my fellow Americans; see ya on the ballot in about aught-zero. I reckon. (Answers in next POST)



You can help this machine.

Or, you can turn the page.

As you may have noticed, time has been hard on those one-bright, friendly red boxes that sell the Post Amerikan on street corners. People who lose their quarters are sometimes not kind, either. Not to mention the extreme heat and cold they are subject to every day of the year.

For just pennies a day, you can provide a machine with new plexiglass, sturdy legs, some much-needed nuts and bolts, and maybe even a little paint.

Or you can let them rust.

Think about it.

—Sally Struthers

_____ Yes, I'd like to adopt a Post machine. I'm sending \$_____ to help pay for the bare necessities of life on the streets.

_____ No, I'm sick of losing my money, and have no sympathy whatsoever. I want dependable service, please mail my Post's. Enclosed is \$5.00 for a one year sub. Mail check to: Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702

_____ All of the above, please