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The Keep

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Volume 12, Number 7

Post Amerikan

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Bacon packing plant locks out workers; see page 4

POST AMERIKAN

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

Vol. 12 No. 7

Nov. 1983



ROBIN

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BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

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POST A·M·E·R·I·K·A·N

THE POST AMERIKAN--BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL'S
ALTERNATIVE SINCE 1972

Volume 12, Number 7 November, 1983
P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702

Member Alternative Press Syndicate

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings.

We put out ten issues a year. Staff members take turns as "Coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, photography, graphics, paste-up, 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, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We'll get back

to you, usually within a week.

We like to print your letters. Try to limit yourself to the equivalent of two double-spaced typewritten pages. If you write a short, abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. Long, abusive letters, however, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles. Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe that it is very important to keep a paper like this around. If you think so too, then support us through contributions and by letting our advertisers know you saw their ads in the Post Amerikan.

The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is December 1.

Post sellers

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Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front
Ault Pharmacy, 1102 S. Main
The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
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Bus Depot, 523 N. East
The Coffee Shop, S. Main
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Front and Center Bldg.
Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington
Haag Drugstore, 1110 E. Oakland
Law & Justice Center, W. Front
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main
Pantagraph (in front of building),
301 W. Washington
The Park Store, Wood & Allin
Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A Main
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
(at exit)
U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
Washington St., across from courthouse
W.W. Bake Shop, 801 E. Washington

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
Blue Dahlia, 121 E. Beaufort
ISU University Union, 2nd floor
ISU University Union, parking lot
entrance
ISU Milner Library (entrance)
Fink's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.
North & Broadway, southeast corner
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
Record Service, Watterson Place
Redbird IGA, 310 S. Main
Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway
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CETA.....827-4026
Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035
Community for Social Action...452-4867
Connection House.....829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005
Department of Children and
Family Services.....828-0022
Draft Counseling.....452-5046
Gay/Lesbian Information Line...829-2719
HELP (transportation for handi-
capped and senior citizens).828-8301
Illinois Dept. of Public Aid...827-4621
Illinois Lawyer Referral...800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope.....828-7346
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Corporation.....829-0691
McLean County Health Dept.....454-1161
Mobile Meals.....828-8301
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National Health Care Services
(abortion ass't in Peoria)..691-9073
National Runaway Switchboard...
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in Illinois.....800-972-6004
Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195
Occupational Development
Center.....828-7324
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone
Help).....827-4005
or.....800-322-5015
Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
Planned Parenthood.....827-8025
Post Amerikan.....828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services...827-5021
Prairie Alliance.....828-8249
Project Oz.....827-0377
Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428
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Unemployment compensation/Job
Service.....827-6237
United Farmworkers Support....452-5046

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Display ad rates are \$100 per page. 10% discount for a 6-in-a-row contract,
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SIZE	REGULAR RATE	10% OFF	20% OFF
1/6 page	\$16.67	\$15.00	\$13.33
1/5 page	20.00	18.00	16.00
1/4 page	25.00	22.50	20.00
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1/2 page	50.00	45.00	40.00
Full page	100.00	90.00	80.00

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12-in-a-row contract.....72.00

Make-up charge.....\$1.00

Rates for Individuals

One insertion.....\$6.00
6-in-a-row contract.....33.00
12-in-a-row contract.....60.00

Crab Alert!

Based on the number of calls received by the McLean County Health Department, it appears that there may be an outbreak of pubic lice in Bloomington-Normal.

Pubic lice are one of three types of lice that infest the human body. Each type has staked out its own territory and only rarely migrates to other areas. Head lice prefer the hair on your head to any other region; body lice prefer bedding and clothing and only climb onto your body to feed; and pubic lice seek out areas of the body where the hair is coarse: the pubic area, armpits, and occasionally the beard, mustache, eyebrows, or eyelashes. Pubic lice are rarely found on other body hair.

What they look like

Adult pubic lice (called "crabs" because they are shaped like crabs, with 3 pairs of claws and 4 pairs of legs) are no larger than a pinhead and move by swinging from hair to hair (though they don't like to travel much). Yellowish-grey in appearance, they are very difficult to see on white skin unless they have just eaten, when they are swollen with blood and can be seen as rust colored specks. The adult louse dies within 24 hours of leaving its host.

Unfortunately, pubic lice, during their 30 day life span, lay 3-6 whitish, oval eggs a day and attach these eggs to the hair near the surface of the body with a sticky cement. These eggs, or "nits," hatch after 7-9 days, and the nit "shells" may remain attached to this cement to the hair shaft. Even more unfortunate is that these nits can remain dormant outside of the body, on your clothing or bedding, for 35 days. Once hatched, however, the "baby" crab (crabette?) must feed within 24 hours, or die. "Baby" lice shed their skins every other day for six days in order to grow larger. (These skins either fall off or are removed from the infested area by simple washing with soap and water.)

How you get 'em

Pubic lice are most often transmitted by close physical contact, particularly during sexual intercourse. However, it is possible to get pubic lice from contact with toilet seats, clothing, and bedding used by infested persons. (People don't often know they have crabs at first, which makes things even more complicated.)

Trying on a pair of jeans previously tried on by an infested person in a store, sleeping in a hotel bed where someone with pubic lice slept the night before, or using the toilet immediately after an infested person has used it are all possible modes of infestation. And, according to a nurse at the McLean County Health Department, these routes of transmission seem to be on the increase. Human lice are not transmitted by animals; you can't get them from your cat.

Do you have 'em

Some people have no symptoms at all, though most develop intolerable itching in the pubic area, which is more intense at night. This itching is due to an allergic reaction to the saliva injected when the hungry louse bites, and not all people develop this allergy. You may see sky-blue spots on your thighs and upper body. If you notice white or rust-colored spots the size of the pointed tip of a pencil on the shafts of your pubic hair next to your skin, you've got 'em! If you aren't sure, your doctor can confirm your doubts by checking one of your pubic hairs under a microscope.



How to treat 'em

If you discover that you have crabs, don't panic! They are very easy to get rid of, but you must be determined and thorough.

If your sexual partner is infested, you must treat yourself even if you haven't noticed any symptoms. Housemates must decide if they want to risk infestation--the best treatment is for everyone in your house to take care of it all at the same time, preventing possible reinfestation of house members.

Treatment consists of two steps--using a product on the infested area to kill the adult lice and the nits and cleaning bedding and clothing. You must do both at the same time or you won't get rid of your problem.

According to most pharmacists and nurses, the most effective treatment is 1% gamma benzene hexachloride, or Kwell, which is a prescription product available as a lotion, shampoo, or cream. Your doctor will usually call over a prescription to your local pharmacy without wanting to see you in his/her office.

The lotion costs about \$6.00 a bottle, enough for two or more treatments. The lotion and cream are rubbed into the infested areas and should be left on for 12 hours. The shampoo is used to wet the infested area and then must be lathered for four minutes and then washed off. Follow the instructions carefully and do not apply Kwell to your face, around your eyes, or on inflamed or broken skin. You must use a fine-toothed comb (soaked in vinegar) after the Kwell treatment to remove the nits.



Caution (from the package insert): "Kwell should be used with caution especially in infants, children, and in pregnancy. Kwell penetrates human skin and has the potential for central nervous system toxicity." Kwell is also very toxic if swallowed, so keep it away from children.

Though the package insert does not mention reapplication of Kwell after 10 days (when all the viable nits should have hatched), re-treatment and another trip to the laundromat is your best precaution.

Over-the-counter agents, called Pyrethrins, are also effective in killing adult lice, but may be less effective in killing nits. RID, A-200, and PYRIN-AID are the names of some of these products, costing about \$4.00 per treatment. These products are shampoos which are lathered into infested areas, left on for 10 minutes, and then washed off. Unlike Kwell, Pyrethrins smell terrible. A small comb is supplied with these products to assist in nit removal. Reapplication is more important with these products, 10 days after the initial application. There is no known toxicity with Pyrethrins, but they should not be used on irritated skin, and you must wash the product off after 10 minutes. Again, read the instructions carefully.

Some people opt to shave their pubic and other infested hair. This may be effective if shaving is thorough and

clothing and bedding are cleaned. But when pubic hair grows back it is extremely uncomfortable, causing a lot of itching.

Wash your clothes!

In addition to treatment of infested areas, you must wash all your clothing and bedding and towels and washcloths in hot water, drying them in a hot dryer if possible. Dry cleaning non-washable items is preferred, but may be too expensive. You have several options:

- Ironing the items with a hot iron, covering every surface;
- Wrapping items up in plastic bags and putting them in the freezer for several days;
- Putting items aside in plastic bags for 5 weeks (allowing all the dormant nits to hatch and die).

Adult lice and nits are sensitive to extremes of heat or cold--either hot water wash or hot drying (and preferably both) should kill eggs on your clothing and other items. It is also best to vacuum your chairs, mattresses, couches, and rugs to get any nits which might have fallen off. There is also a spray you can purchase at the drug store which will kill nits on furniture (RCN Spray, usually found with the other over-the-counter treatments).

For optimum results, you must do all of the above in 10 days after your first treatment, to assure all viable nits are killed or removed.

Other things which might lessen your chances of reinfestation are: boiling combs and brushes for 10 minutes, cleaning your bathroom carefully, vacuuming your car seat, and most important, avoiding intimate contact with someone who may have been exposed to crabs until he/she follows the treatment guidelines.

How much of the above you choose to do determines your chances for reinfestation. The more thorough you are, the surer you can be that you "got them all." If you start scratching again in a week, you probably missed something!

If you have any questions, the Health Department is very helpful. Their number is 454-1161. ●

--Praxis

Moving?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post-Amerikan will not be forwarded. (It's like junk mail--no kidding!) Fill out the handy form below and return it to us.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____



Sugar Creek Packing locks out employees

Sugar Creek Packing might have "locked-out" its employees on Monday morning, Oct. 3, but they still haven't broken the spirit of their workers.

Sixty-seven packing house workers and seven maintenance personnel found the windows boarded and a large sign on the door, announcing a lock-out.

The packing house workers received a telegram the night before, telling them a lock-out was in effect and their final checks would be mailed to them.

The UFCW contract had expired on September 1. The contract with the maintenance personnel was still in effect at the time of the lock-out, and their union is now exploring legal action against Sugar Creek Packing.

At the time of the lock-out, the company was demanding a 10 percent



wage cut, elimination of the fourth week of vacation for senior employees, and a monthly lump sum payment to each employee instead of Health and Welfare payments and pension coverage.

According to George Britton, business agent for the packing house workers, this would have put the workers "back to the 1920s."

Britton said that neither he nor the members anticipated a lock-out. In fact, last year the union granted the company pay concessions, so the union was not expecting a complete break in production.

The packing house workers had agreed to indefinitely extend the old contract until a new one could be negotiated, but Sugar Creek refused even this agreement. Instead, the company used the lock-out tactic and also challenged the workers' unemployment insurance benefits.

The Sugar Creek workers haven't given up yet, and are now receiving strike benefits from the UCFW.

Verla Hall, a twelve-year plant veteran, shop steward and negotiating committee member, has been rallying the workers to hang on: "we'll have nothing if we let this go." Looking at the past record of concessions the union has offered, Verla said that during the "last two contracts we bent over backwards. He (Sugar Creek) knew it was his time to come across."

Sugar Creek lockout Slicing up the working class

There's a whole lot'o slicin' goin' on down at Sugar Creek. But it's workers' paychecks and benefits that are being chopped off instead of their fingers. By locking out 74 union members, many of them women, and refusing to negotiate, John Richardson, President of Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company, has pulled a power play that Andrew Carnegie would have loved.

Using a modern tactic, deliberately locking out its employees whose contract had expired, the company knew the workers would not be eligible for unemployment benefits. Indeed, management won its case on appeal at the Illinois Department of Unemployment Insurance in Chicago.

Thus a new low has been reached in labor/management relations in Bloomington/Normal, a community so conservative that a blue collar means you're on the wrong softball team.

In a classic case of pork bellies over people, the Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company is living up to its reputation as the living memorial to an earlier age when workers lost limbs in the name of free enterprise. Now they are being asked to give up eating as well.

It is no accident (excuse the pun) that Sugar Creek is drowning in Workers' Compensation claims. Safety is not that big with the Bacon Boys. However, the Buck is. Although employees start at \$4.25/hr., an abysmal salary for hard physical factory work, they can never make much more than \$6.20/hr.

Despite a 10% cut that employees gave up, management was still not satisfied. When they suspected that another plant in Dayton, whose contract expired December 1, was going to join forces with the Bloomington/Normal workers, they locked the doors. A source close to the negotiations reported that management had agreed with a study

that showed that wages could be raised to \$9.00/hr. without hurting profits. Management insisted on wage cutbacks anyway. Employees are also upset about the company's attempt to change the pension plan so that the company could withdraw from it at any time. Sugar Creek is hoping to replace negotiation with starvation. Such is the nature of collective bargaining in the age of Reagan (whose lust for jerking off the Industrial/Military Complex is almost pornographic in its thrust for Multi-national Orgasms).

However, on the other side of town all is serene. The big black spaceship is humming quietly. One night it will quietly slip away leaving only a scorched parking lot. Goodbye, E.T., Chief Underwriter. In Claims they will wave bravely; it is not for naught that they wear Smile buttons. It is all so neat and cosy. Never a smudge to mar the starched white collar. At State Farm one is in the womb. Safe. Go on. Bite off the nipple of the Future. You know you want to. Ah, the computer as Earth Mother! Insatiable. Eternal. But clean. Oh so clean. Hot data must be dust free. At State Farm the plants are always watered and the computers get fed regularly like cats. How old fashioned to want to make things! Even farmers are paid NOT to grow anything.

The cold cement floor, meat lockers, cut fingers, and slicing machines seem a universe away from the quiet clicking in the computer rooms of State Farm. They pay bills, go to church, and raise kids. Lately, they have been faced with a corporate gunslinger. But they have learned that in solidarity, workers can be their own Gary Cooper. They have learned that the ultimate weapon is the human spirit.

The employees of the Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company do not know they are obsolete. They will be replaced eventually by robots who won't get demerits for unauthorized potty breaks. These are downhome folks. They don't need a memo to tell you what they think. To them Seat and Toil is NOT working out with Richard Simmons. To them the Computer Age is just an overcharge on the heating bill. To the workers at Sugar Creek, Regan's "safety net" did not save them, it tried to strangle them.

Yes, the employees of Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company are an old fashioned bunch. They know what John Richardson wants for breakfast--THEM. The ultimate capitalist dream--workers sliced into tiny strips of humility, thrown into a frying pan of hard times, and burnt to a crisp. But as the housewife once said, "Save the grease, honey, it'll make a hell of a fire!"

---Jane M. Gleisner



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Bloomington, Ill. 61701



Come visit our newly remodeled store. We have more of everything, including an expanded produce section, to serve you better.



COMMON GROUND now offers you the opportunity to cut food and vitamin costs by 10%. You may obtain your 10% discount club card in the following two ways:

- (1) You may purchase a discount card for a yearly fee of \$10.
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Once you have your discount card, simply present it at the checkout counter for a 10% discount on every purchase.

Our wide selection of wholesome foods now includes gourmet coffee beans fresh produce

The highest paid, senior workers in the plant average only \$6.50 per hour. Jacqui White, another union member, admitted that "nobody will ever get rich working there. You'll just get by and get old."

Besides the low wage rate, the chief complaint of the workers was what Jacqui called "the sweatshop conditions" and the high pressure of the plant: "they chew people up and spit them out." Workers complained about a continual disregard for safety in the meat-packing plant and what they saw as dangerous conditions.

The workers received another hard blow Tuesday, Oct. 25, when the State agreed with the company and rejected the employees' unemployment insurance claims.

The Bloomington and Normal Trades and Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO) has pledged its support and aid to the locked-out employees, and is planning to aid them with food distribution, facilities and moral support.

If anyone is interested in contributing to a food fund for the lock-out victims, call 828-8813 for information. ●

--MgM

**IT'S A NEW GAME CALLED
"RUN-AWAY SHOP."
YOU LOSE AND THE
WHOLE MACHINE MOVES TO
A UNION-FREE
ENVIRONMENT.**



Workfare--An alternative to starvation

In July of this year, I found myself out of a job, a situation which I had believed could happen only to "idlers" or "deadbeats," but certainly not to me. I had always felt very smug and secure in the last few jobs that I had had, and every time I lost one of them, it seemed that another one quickly took its place.

I had never paid much attention to the newspaper headlines about unemployment, nor had I made any effort to save any money for a "rainy day." As a result, I was not prepared for what was in store for me when I went to job interviews only to find that somebody else always, always was more qualified or made a better impression on the employer. It appeared that there actually was not one single job that I could get anywhere.

Perhaps, I thought, there was something wrong with the "system," that people might really be less important in our society than technology. A friend had told me that when he was in India he had observed people sweeping the streets by hand, and he thought it was a shame that in the United States a city would rather buy a mechanized street sweeper and pay one person \$20 per hour to operate it. Yes, I had replied, but the people in the U.S. who run heavy equipment are also in a union which protects that high salary and also makes sure no one else gets the job.

It finally came down to a matter of bare survival. "What to do?" I asked myself, while attempting to chase a bevy of silverfish from the lid of a centuries-old tea chest. I decided that I would simply apply for welfare, just like all the other "chiselers" who were already draining the federal treasury of untold quadrillions of dollars annually.

I applied for food stamps and rent assistance, and as a result ended up being assigned to work for the Bloomington Housing Authority for one week. Little did I know that my attitudes about welfare were about to change drastically.

When I arrived for work the first morning, I was a little surprised to find that the people who were to work with me did not look like deadbeats at all. They were, by all appearances, fairly ordinary citizens who, like me, were

in a situation which they didn't really like and also could not do much about.

We went out across the lawns of Holton Homes on West Market Street, picking up papers and beer cans, the morning stillness unbroken except for the occasional low rumble of an AWACS plane sailing overhead. After an hour or so of picking up litter, we were given to the job of mowing lawns, something which I was to do for the entire week that I worked for the city.

I'll have to admit that being given a job in exchange for having my rent paid did give me the feeling of doing something productive. I might also mention that the person in charge of the work crew, a man named Ernie, was one of the most decent bosses I have ever had. He could have made the job harder than working on a chain gang, but he didn't. Maybe he knew that mowing lawns in 95-degree heat was hard enough. In any case, I was amazed at how friendly and congenial the man was.

Some of the people who were on workfare were people whom I had already seen before, and some were complete

strangers. By talking with them, I came to realize that we all had the same basic ambitions, which were to get work and become self-supporting.

I slowly was coming to the conclusion that the idea of people not wanting to work was largely a myth.

On the last day of work, I had made plans with one of the other workfare recipients to apply for a job together. We had worked for five days at every housing project operated by the city--Holton Homes, Sunnyside, Wood Hill Towers, and a few smaller ones. I had seen for myself how being disadvantaged can work against a person, and I know that I would never again look down my nose at a needy person on welfare, or refuse to help someone else if there was anything that I could reasonably do.

I finally walked home for the last time, the stillness of the evening unbroken except for the occasional high-pitched whines of the F-16s returning to base at the Bloomington-Normal Airport. ●

-- Jim Tipnett

ACHD

McLEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PARENTS TOO SOON PROGRAM

If you're under 21 and pregnant or already have a child,

you may qualify for help getting

prenatal care;
family planning care;
school, counseling,
housing, legal and
other services

through the McLean County Health Department's PARENTS TOO SOON PROGRAM.

For more information call 454-1161 and ask for the Parents Too Soon Coordinator.



MTV: Art turned ad?

From the start there was something suspicious about MTV. They insisted upon referring to their programming--consisting primarily of short (3-5 minute) pieces roughly providing a visual illustration of rock songs--as "videos." It is a British term, and as rock 'n' roll remains dominated by English groups, there is a certain logic to appropriating the term. Still it sounded pretentious.

Perhaps the idea is word association. "Video" sounds somewhat like radio and stereo, standard items of the music business. But the best quality "videos" on MTV are all shot on film, which gives a sharper image and can use more elaborate lighting effects than videotape. They might as well call them cineos, or for that matter, cheerios. Now that's British.

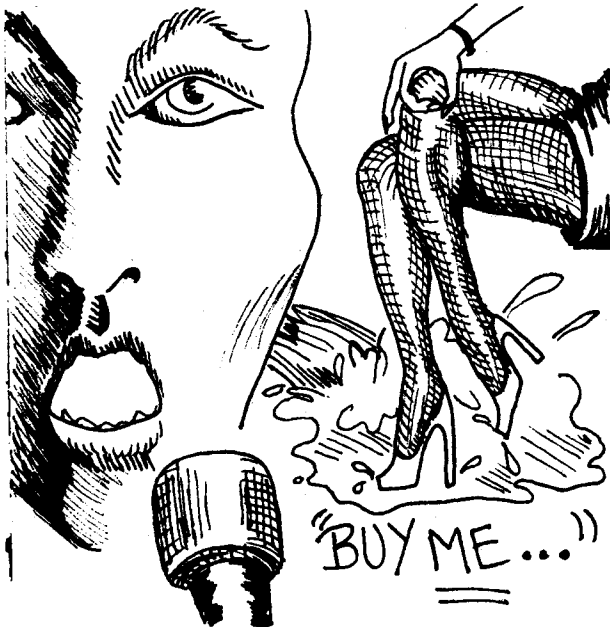
MTV is Music Television, a 24-hour rock music channel available through pay-TV cable services. Launched in 1981 by Warnex Amex, MTV quickly became one of the few successful ventures in the burgeoning but risky world of new cable television networks. In one year, MTV tripled its subscriber base, reaching 13.5 million homes through 1650 cable companies across the country.

MTV's rapid success at a time when other cable networks have fallen has spawned a host of imitators: NBC's Friday Night Videos, USA Cable's Nightflight, HBO's Album Flash, Playboy's Hot Rocks, Black entertainment Television's Video Soul. Some play clips that are longer or more avant-garde than MTV's. Some showcase performers avoided by MTV--black and Latin musicians are noticeably absent on MTV except when their appeal is to a predominately white audience e.g. Michael Jackson, Prince, Eddy Grant.

The conspicuous absence of Black music has been a sensitive subject for MTV management, though official statements attempt to deny any controversy. "We play what you want to hear" is their proud promotional refrain--the "you" just happens to be white.

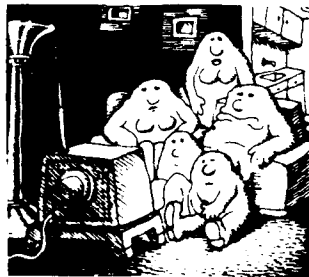
MTV prides itself on being one of the first successful examples of "narrow-cast"--programming for a select audience. The term was coined by the early visionary promoters of cable television's possibilities, who thought that freedom from traditional TV networks' need to cater to mass taste would produce a flurry of innovation and a broad range of diversified "narrow-cast" programming. With cable's potential for numerous channels, audiences or interest groups too small to receive programmer's special attention could be served.

But MTV has perverted the spirit of these early hopes by reducing narrow-casting to no more than a sales technique, a means to reach a target audience like toothpaste for denture wearers.



Since the primary consumers of records and music cassettes are teenage white boys, they are MTV's target audience. And MTV execs know their marketing and demographics. MTV, the hip alternative to the networks' formula sitcoms and predictable drama series, conducts market research as intense as any Madison Avenue agency. Each month, MTV management knows precisely who is watching MTV, how old they are, how frequently they watch, and how many others they watch with, how much money they make, and most importantly--how much they will spend on record albums.

MTV produces no videos themselves--record companies pay for them at a cost of \$25-\$50,000 and up as a promotional investment for new groups.



But is it art? Each tape is introduced with the song's title, name of musician, album title and record company superimposed over the opening shot. There is never a byline of the videographer or producer. It is as irrelevant on MTV as it would be on a Calvin Klein jeans or Diet Pepsi commercial.

MTV, the 24-hour music channel "playing all your favorite videos" is actually a 24-hour channel of nonstop commercials.

See the group--buy the album. MTV is an advertiser's dream.

And it works. After years of financial doldrums, the record industry bounced back with a vengeance. Retailers credit an 80% increase in record sales last year to MTV's influence.

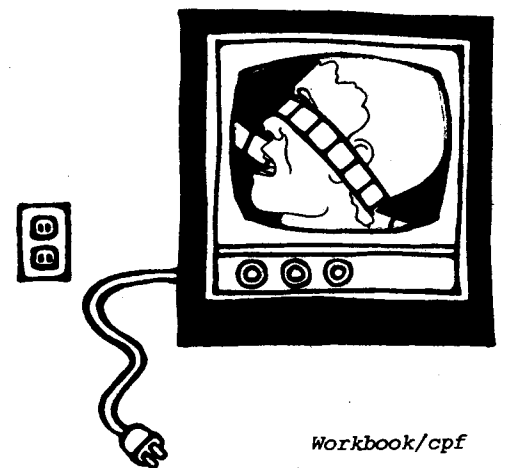
Rock videos have created a whole new category of musicians known for their look or visual style as much as for

their music. Men At Work, A Flock of Seagulls, Duran Duran are all MTV made successes. Is this the beginning of Image Rock?

For groups whose popularity was confined to an insular urban following in New York or Los Angeles, MTV has provided a breakthrough to the outlands.

As a forum for female rock groups, MTV has undoubtedly been valuable. Joan Jett, the Go Go's, Stevie Nicks, and the Waitresses have all benefited from the exposure.

Still, MTV could be an acronym for Male Television. Narrative sequences depict stereotyped images of rock heroes in endless pursuit of their stylized rock heroines. Songs are usually about love, or some 1983 version of it; the romantic images are strictly Victorian.



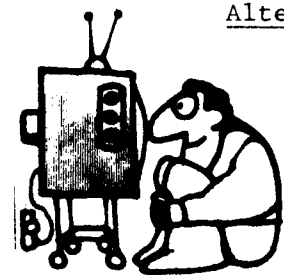
Workbook/cpf

Women on MTV comes in two types: hard and soft. The latter is ultrafeminine--wearing long wispy hair, diaphanous clothes and a facial expression that combines a perpetual pout with the glazed eyes of the permanently stoned.

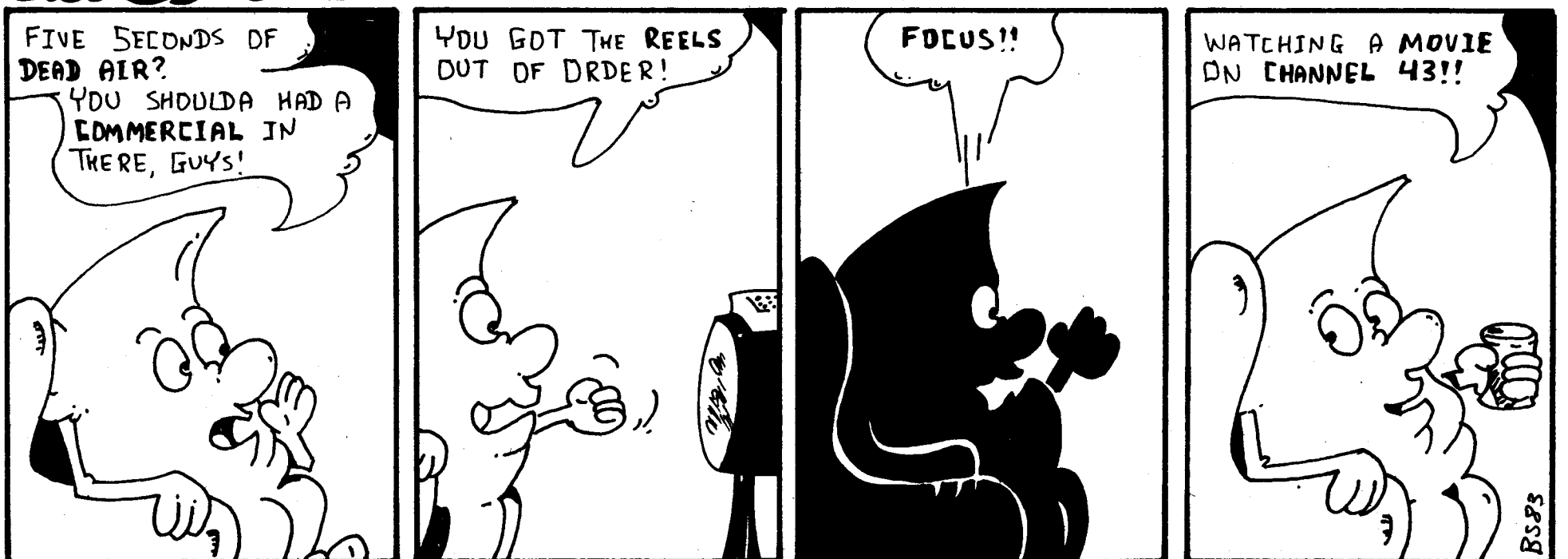
The other is the bitch type--mock S & M garb (leather jumpsuit, stiletto heels), severe new wave haircut, and a tendency to operate "male" things--pilot a plane, pump gas, play the saxophone (when obviously not one of the real musicians.)

MTV with all its drawbacks is still an original idea with enormous potential to explore new technology, visual effects and music. The real pity is that it's not better. The packaging has changed, but the product is the same--and young America has been content to be the target of yet more blatant consumer marketing. But then, they are used to it.

--Lisa Seidenberg, Alternative Media



COMIX



Big Chill: Big thrill or big nil?

I was charmed by "The Big Chill." I liked most of the characters (I wasn't real fond of Michael and I didn't like Karen at all). The dialogue was witty, the music great. The young, relatively unknown actors were all very good. But I got to thinking about the characters after I left the film. I do not like the fact that they were all so very rich. And I also think that they all had sold completely out. Not sold out a little, but sold out so much that you'd never know they were old lefties unless they told you so. I bet they don't even read Mother Jones or the Nation, let alone the Post.

They probably give no money to Greenpeace or the ACLU or their local rape crisis centers. Does the doctor give a day a week to a free clinic? Does the attorney handle class action

suits in her spare time? Does Harold donate his running shoes to the Special Olympics? No, no, and no. They just live their poor little rich lives, ignorant of the world around them and oblivious to the ideals they once held as important. They still smoke dope, just like they did then. BFD.

I came out of the theater feeling superior to the characters. And I'm not sure that's what the producers intended. I'm sorry they have meaningless lives, but they have the money and the leisure to do something about that. That they do not is not reason enough for my sympathy.

--Deborah

Well, I read several reviews in anticipation. I didn't get to see the "Return of the Secaucus Seven," so I was glad Hollyweird was going to give me a chance at a sixties rads revisited. I knew from the reviews that I wasn't supposed to be really impressed. But I'm an easy audience. I can even enjoy a Neil Simon comedy though I know that it's not cool.

Yes, I was taken by the characters, the acting, the ensemble, the cinematography, the music. I willingly suspended my disbelief and allowed myself to empathize. But afterwards, my Rape Crisis Center pager returned me to reality. And after I finished talking with that woman, I thought about those characters and that movie.

I'm sorry still that their lives are devoid of the illusion of usefulness and idealistic hope of helping and changing. But I felt for the characters in "Ordinary (Rich) People" and "Ordinary Rich Gay Men"---sorry--"Making Love." Maybe a working class background never dies. Maybe I'm lucky--and I know it--that my class background prevented me from being able to sell out as massively as they did.

That they didn't even try to impress each other with their financial attempts to express their liberal guilt finally rang false. I wanted to send the characters a letter asking for money for the Post-Amerikan, the Rape Crisis Center, the Nuke Freeze, and the Illinois lobbying efforts for abortion rights.

Maybe I'll send it to the producers and the actors.

--Sue

Everyone looks shocked when I say that I don't like The Big Chill's moral values. I guess since I don't appear to have any of my own, it's unexpected for me to criticize others'. The life pattern exemplified in the movie--and elevated to universality, naturalness, perhaps even "rightness"--may be true to some people's lives, but not to mine. Some folks--flower children, radicals, writers, artists, anti-war organizers, women's libbers--who were activists in their youth, in however murky a manner, have not settled into middle-class jobs, nuclear families, and their own antitheses, looking at themselves ten years past with bitter-sweet condescension. We've changed, yes, but the thread of social conscience, the texture of anti-authoritarianism, the pattern of our friend-families, still weave the fabric of our lives.

--Phoebe Caulfield



This isn't a movie about the 60s, it's about the 80s. There weren't any flashbacks, there were hardly any "remember whens?" And there weren't any heavy comparisons between some idealized past and the brutal present (all right, there were a few: "no one said it was going to be fun, not to me they didn't"). The music was from the 60s, 70s--but that music did shape us (them) and continues to illuvisely influence our lives.

Yes, I identified, and I'm a little ambivalent about this film.

The characters' lives seemed a little too implausible; I mean, they were almost all hot shots: a famous actor, a rich housewife, a doctor, a lawyer, a journalist, a successful businessman, and a drug dealer who'd never been in jail (and who had some sex wound from Viet Nam!). But that didn't seem to matter much.

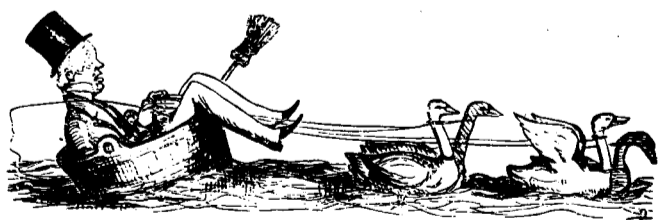
What did matter was their friendship, their connectedness that hadn't faded with time. The unconditional love they shared and the support they gave each other seemed more important in the present than it had in the past. As college friends they took it all for granted--now they saw how much they missed it.

People don't have to sacrifice such relationships for career and status, they often choose to. The characters were very confused when they were given a weekend to examine their lives, and they fed on a little nostalgia and self-deprecation. Some of them got apologetic--but I didn't think the film as a whole was making excuses for them.

It was the portrayal of these characters that made this film so enjoyable--the acting seemed flawless and the actors were so completely together, playing off each other with grace. And the music--the music was powerful.

And I went home after seeing the film and tried to call all my old friends. None of them was home, thank god.

--Praxis



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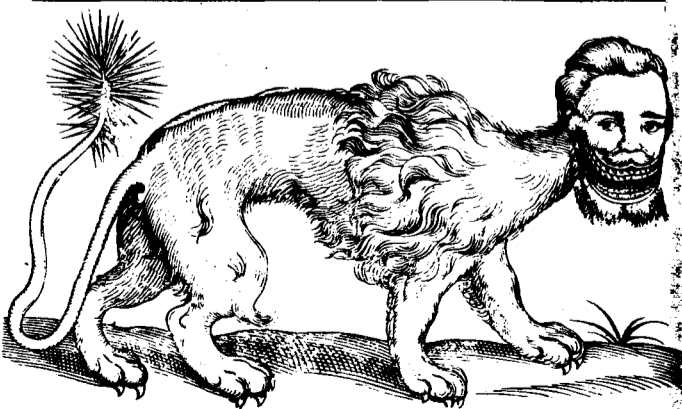
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FRI 18	MR. MYERS
SAT 19	MISS TAKES
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-- Lt. William Calley, in his own book.

(From Liberation News Service.)

sion history, the public gets to see and hear the previously hidden faces of the other side: interviews with Vietnamese revolutionaries abound in this series.

The immense pride in Communist leader Pham Van Dong's voice is clear when he speaks of his imprisonment by the French in the 1930's: "The prisons were schools. Places where revolutionaries trained themselves."

Most of the interviews, however, are with the people who actually did the fighting against the French and Americans: colonels, lieutenants, village and district political cadres, doctors, nurses, spies and just plain peasants--and at least a third to a half of them women.

Some of the interviewees are exuberant in marking their place in history; others look and sound more worn. And then there are those whose eyes are so full of hate and whose faces and voices express such deep sadness that it seems, while surviving the decades of war in the physical sense, in a way they died a long time ago. One old woman holds up her hand to the camera with her palm up and fingers curled as if grasping something and says that after American planes had dropped napalm (burning jellied gasoline) on her village all she could find of her family of nine people was a "handful of bones."

Bodies

Vietnam: A Television History also radically breaks from past network television news treatments of the war by allowing the American public to see just what dead and dying people look like.

During the war, network news edited its film portrayal of casualties according to the film conventions established by Hollywood movies and television dramas.

Bullet wounds were represented by small red dots at the point of entry. There was no acute visual or verbal indication of pain from the wounded. The camera panned quickly from physically intact corpses back to the living.

PBS has left the blood and mutilation intact. The series does not look like a Hollywood war movie. We see French postcards of severed Vietnamese heads. In a segment dealing with the massive famine in northern Vietnam in 1945, we see emaciated, starving people. At one point we see a street filled with people who died

of starvation during the night. There are many film clips of people lying in large pools of blood, and of bloody corpses, including children, being hauled away in carts.

Such scenes may seem sensationalistic or perverse, but think for a moment of the political effects resulting from decades of bloodless war movies and years of "objective" news films showing Vietnam as a war in which no one really died or became handicapped for life.

Grunts

The PBS series also involves a handful of engrossing interviews with front line soldiers, "grunts" as they called themselves in Vietnam. From their testimony it seems that war became a downward spiral of terror and the self-recognition of evil.

One soldier, thinking he was dying as he lay all night in a ditch, blood shooting from his mouth "like a faucet," began to reflect. "I started thinking for the first time. What the hell is Communism? I couldn't define it and I'm lying here and I'm going to die for killing a bunch of people because they happen to be Communists."

Another soldier began to see himself as closer to a British "red coat" than an American freedom fighter. "Somehow I had become everything I had learned was evil." This soldier regrets being there and regrets killing anyone, but only one killing keeps coming back in his nightmares.

"The woman in the rice fields that I shot one day because she was running, for no other reason, because she was running away from the Americans who were going to kill her. And I killed her. Fifty-five, 60 years old, unarmed. And I didn't think twice about it."

But these interviews with the American grunts only occupy a couple of minutes, the interviews with the Vietnamese revolutionaries maybe half an hour out of a 13-hour series.

To counter this testimony, in the name of balanced "objective" journalism, the series turns into a platform for every lie ever told by administration officials in the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford governments.

Interviews with U.S. officials occupy the overwhelming majority of air time. Since the series' producers agreed to ground rules which provided that no interviewee would be directly

Patriotism as hypnosis

Crazy things are happening in the world today--at least from the U. S. of A.'s standpoint. People from from the third world have begun to express their displeasure with our self-seeking foreign policies. They do so in ways that, for some strange reason, startle us. They are fighting fire with fire, and eventually we will all get burned.

We wonder--we are awed by the audacity of the barracks bombing, but if we saw ourselves as clearly as the people we "protect and support" see us, we would recognize the means and reason for attack.

As a nation we are still in the throes of the patriotic syndrome. We find ourselves in the protracted and nasty fight for existence, and the events of the past ten days shock the detached and tender psyches that were produced by the relatively happy days of the mid-to-late 70's. Our national pride (for those who subscribe to it) has been seriously wounded. It cries for revenge, and our leaders don't recall, it seems, all the times when maintaining our prestige took a

myriad of lives and a multitude of wasted years. But we are exactly where our leaders want us.

We have embarked on a voyage into the ultra-cold (which is to say, radioactively hot) world war, but before the doomsday destination is reached, there are bound to be some interesting, if not exciting, islands--ports of capitalist call--to be acquired along the way--like Granada.

Carefully timed to coincidentally coincide with other, more ponderous concerns, Reagan's latest war has all the earmarks of the old, imperialistic military endeavors that have made this country what it is.

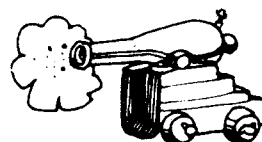
There's the same easy recourse to empty, high-sounding ideals for the intervention's justification (remember in WW I we were gonna "make the world safe for democracy?"), and the same bare-faced breakage of agreed-upon treaties that has marked our country's rise to greatness since colonial times (the OAS charter expressly forbids any one state to intervene in the affairs of another

--but look at the map, we're above all the rest).

The U.S. military's denial of press coverage, as of this writing, won't allow for absolute certainty, but it's safe to say that if this little invasion goes over with less than 200 American deaths, it will serve to effectively counterbalance the blow in Beirut, rally many hearts around the flag, and prepare us for the next passage into national absurdity. In time, history has shown, a people will swallow anything.

One thing is certain, though: today's freedom-loving third-worlder will not return words or gestures for force, or negotiate in good faith with vitally-interested (and active) fascists (no matter what flag those fascists carry).

--Archibald MacNya



Vietnam War history

challenged concerning the veracity of their testimony, the official "dis-course on war" is reiterated hour after hour.

The end result is that Vietnam is portrayed as a war of good men with honorable intentions fighting another set of good men with honorable intentions.

Thirty years of warfare appear as a mythic tragedy dictated by the gods, an independent war-for-itself against which our government merely responded step by step.

Deceptions

A list of either the omission or the deceptions perpetuated by this series would take pages upon pages. Only a few will be offered here.

***Vietnam was not a "mistake" of any kind; it was a testing ground. The idea of limited conventional war as a war of attrition, a production model of war, was first articulated by Henry Kissinger in the '50's as a way to utilize American production superiority without resorting to nuclear war; his approach found much favor in ruling circles.

***By the time the first Marines waded ashore, the Johnson administration knew full well that the war would require several hundred thousand American troops for five to seven years at minimum. This is not a "secret" truth; the memos are listed in the Pentagon Papers.

***In their desires for promotion, the officer corps came to indulge in systematic falsification of all their military operations in Vietnam. This phenomenon is openly talked about in some military publications, a few scholarly studies, and in virtually every single memoir and novel published by low-level American troops.

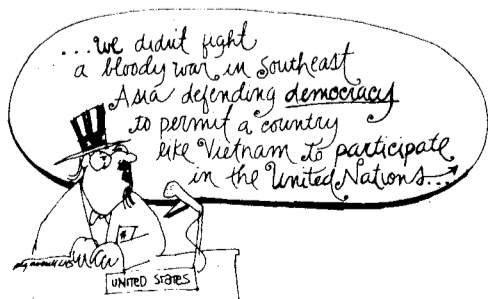
***Although the PBS series mentions the secret war conducted by the CIA in Laos, it avoids the most important feature of that campaign: it was financed by expanding the heroin trade in Southeast Asia, involving high-level Laotian and South Vietnamese officials and conducted with CIA cooperation. An American GI in the series mentions that heroin was available for \$5 a vial, but nothing is ever said about the heroin's origins. (The evidence is as "hard" as heroin is a hard drug in McCoy's The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia.)

***The PBS series remains completely silent on the breakdown and revolt of the American Ground forces during the war. There is no mention of the widespread mutinies which ranged from "fragging"--outright assassination of a commanding officer, to the milder "search and avoid" tactics designed to stay out of combat.

***The anti-war movement is given extremely marginal treatment, with the most well-articulated position being administration claims that peace marches prolonged the war.

As Walter Cronkite used to say, "And that's the way it is." But the PBS series is not the way it was. You can still learn something about the Vietnam war from it, however. Listen to the Vietnamese on both sides, together with the American GIs. Watch for the film clips that have no introduction. Beyond that, beware that you're being exposed to an extraordinary pack of lies and omissions. ●

--William Gibson, from a longer article published in In These Times.



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Ronnie's cavalry invades Grenada

Sometimes I have a lot of empathy for Mr. Reagan. We have a lot in common. We both tend to see things in black or white, good or evil. Life to us both, it seems, is very like a Western. Ya got your good guys and your bad guys. No complications, no ambiguities. Everything is nice and neat and tidy. And easy.

But there are two basic differences between Mr. Reagan and me. I know, deep down, that life is really not a Western. And I am not the President.

The recent U.S. invasion of Grenada reminded me of a cheap 1950s Western in which the cavalry comes in and saves the day. But there are a few problems with the script.

Grenada is not a frontier fort. Bishop is not a helpless schoolmarm. The Cuban engineers are not blood-thirsty injuns. The Grenadan soldiers are not white traders selling arms to the injuns. The Marines are not

the calvary. Life is not a Western.

I have a lot of questions about this invasion. I want to know, as do many other people, some answers to the following:

- Why did we fail to recognize the government of Granada under Bishop?
- Do the other nations in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States really have a treaty that okays intervention from the U.S. or any other nation if they get scared?
- If they do have such a treaty, and if the other nations had asked the Soviet Union to intervene in Granada, would the U.S. have sanctioned the intervention?
- Who built the airstrip everybody is so concerned about? Was it really the Cubans who, for some unknown reason, need to refuel their jets after a short flight? Or was it, as some people believe, built by U.S. and British engineers to help the Grenadan tourist trade?
- How can the island be a potential danger to the Panama Canal when, in

order to get there from Grenada, you would have to go through Venezuela first?

- Why was there a news blackout of the entire invasion?
- Since when is the military responsible for the safety of reporters?
- Whatever happened to the UN? Isn't this sort of thing their job?
- Why was our government not in communication with the new regime if they were concerned about the Amerikans on the island?
- If the head of the medical school on Grenada was convinced that his students were in no danger, why does the administration keep insisting that's the real reason we invaded?
- If we can invade a country because we are concerned about the safety of our citizens there, can Cuba invade Florida on the same grounds?
- What are we doing fighting "pockets of Grenadan resistance" on Grenada? How does that differ from being at war with Grenada?
- How can an invasion that kills at least 11 U.S. soldiers, takes several days and may take more weeks, and whose purpose is to conquer an area only twice the size of Washington, D.C., be called a "success"?
- Isn't "enforced democracy" a contradiction in terms?
- What does Reagan mean that his administration is trying to find a leader for Grenada that the U.S. would accept?
- What if the Grenadan people elect a Marxist? Do we invade again?
- This action has angered U.S. allies in the UN Security Council, the OAS, and NATO, not to mention the Democrats on Capitol Hill, and quite a few Amerikans in general. How can Reagan justify the assault?

There are no answers coming from the Reagan administration. Well, to be fair, there are answers. They're just not answers to the questions. He and his cronies keep talking about "godless communists," "leftist thugs," and "Soviet-trained, armed Cuban military."

They also talk a lot about duty, democracy, peace-keeping forces, global responsibilities, and protecting the Western hemisphere from the Communist foothold.

At least no one has yet suggested that we need to invade Grenada to protect "our" nutmeg in the same way we need to protect "our" oil in the Mideast. But that's about the only standard response they have not used to date.

I do not know what's going on in Grenada. No one knows. And with the military having the only access to the information that was released for the first five days, we may never know. I'm not convinced that the Marines did not build up garrisons of Soviet arms themselves and then film them for us to see.

What is clear, perhaps the only thing that is, is that this has got to stop. We have troops in Honduras, Grenada, Lebanon, and "advisors" in El Salvador. We have ships off the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Japan. We have CIA agents and mercenaries throughout the world, as well as troops scattered all over Western Europe. Little wonder the Soviet Union is concerned about U.S. aggression and intervention. I'd be scared, too.

How many more places do our soldiers have to die before we have had enough? How much more of this "big stick" philosophy can this country tolerate? If we are going to consider it our job to be the police force of the world, shouldn't we stop at some point and ask the world if they want us to be?

It is high time for this administration, and this country, to study war no more. For good. ●

--Deborah Wiatt



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No news is censorship

The enforced media blackout of the Grenada invasion is yet another example in a long line of the Reagan administration's attempts to silence the American press and keep the American people from obtaining information.

The press was caught off guard, as was the rest of the nation, when the attack took place. They were forced to give us Pentagon films and recordings of ham radio broadcasts. The two did not always agree.

Reagan claims that Grenada was too dangerous for reporters, but Vietnam wasn't (apparently), Lebanon isn't, and, as I was reminded today, World War II was no piece of cake.

But Grenada, for some warped reason known only to Reagan, was not to be covered by the U.S. press.

One wonders what the military was really doing that they did not want us to know about. Forbidding the news media to report the news in a free and unhampered way seems to me vaguely reminiscent of a police state, a dictatorship.

Isn't that one of the problems we have with the Communist bloc? All those people who never get the whole story because the government intervenes and only releases officially sanctioned stories? I thought so.

It's a silly little concern anyway. Why harp about the denial of freedom of the press when we're doing what we can to restore democracy. ●

--Deborah

A brief history

Grenada is the southernmost of the Windward Island chain at the edge of the Caribbean. Its 133 square miles include the islets of Carricou and Petit Martinique.

Grenada was discovered by Columbus in 1498. The island was colonized in the 1650s by the French. The treaty of Paris in 1763 gave Grenada to the English. They imported slaves from Africa to work the sugarcane plantations. Slavery was abolished in Grenada in 1834.

It was administered as a separate British colony until 1967, when it became an Associated State with Great Britain. That status allowed for a move toward total independence if the people wanted. From 1967 to 1974, when Grenada gained its independence, it was self-governing in most respects: Britain retained control of the island's defense and foreign relations.

The election of Eric Gairy and his Grenada United Labor Party in 1972 paved the way for independence. Gairy's corrupt and brutal domination of the people of Grenada led to increasing unrest. In 1979 the black-power New Jewel Movement ousted Gairy in a coup.

Maurice Bishop, who headed the new regime, dissolved Parliament and promised a new constitution that would make the island a socialist democracy. Bishop's government restricted personal freedoms (no freedom of the press, no elections), but living conditions for the poor were improved and private enterprise on the island was largely untouched by the change in government.

Bishop wanted to blend private enterprise with socialist programs to make Grenada a better place for its people. ●

--Deborah

When the goat becomes the hero

The U.S. government, particularly the Reagan Administration, hated Maurice Bishop. He was--god forbid!--a Marxist who wanted to bring a socialist democracy to Grenada. He worked with the Castro regime to bring Cuban technical and military assistance to Grenada's People's Revolutionary Army.

Reagan and his cohorts viewed Bishop's government as nothing more than a tool of Moscow. Reagan imposed an unofficial blackout of communication with Grenada. He ignored the nation's ambassadorial candidate. He excluded Grenada from the Caribbean Development fund. Reagan also vigorously opposed any Western aid to Grenada.

The U.S. then blamed Bishop for getting aid from Cuba and the Soviet Union.

But now, as of Oct. 17, Maurice Bishop was our friend. He even visited the U.S., so he must have been our friend. (That he was coldly received, on the few occasions he was received, has gotten little attention in the media.)

The minute a Leninist coup took place, Reagan decided he hadn't minded the Marxist government of Bishop at all.

The lack of U.S. aid to Grenada and the nonrecognition of the Grenadan government by the Reagan administration has been curiously ignored or rewritten in the past few days. Bishop is a friend, a hero. And nowhere is the suggestion that if we had helped Grenada as we help Barbados, Dominica, Martinique and all the other Caribbean Islands, Bishop may not have had to turn to Cuba and the Soviet Union for advice and aid. ●

--Deborah



THE MILLIONS ARE BEHIND US



Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

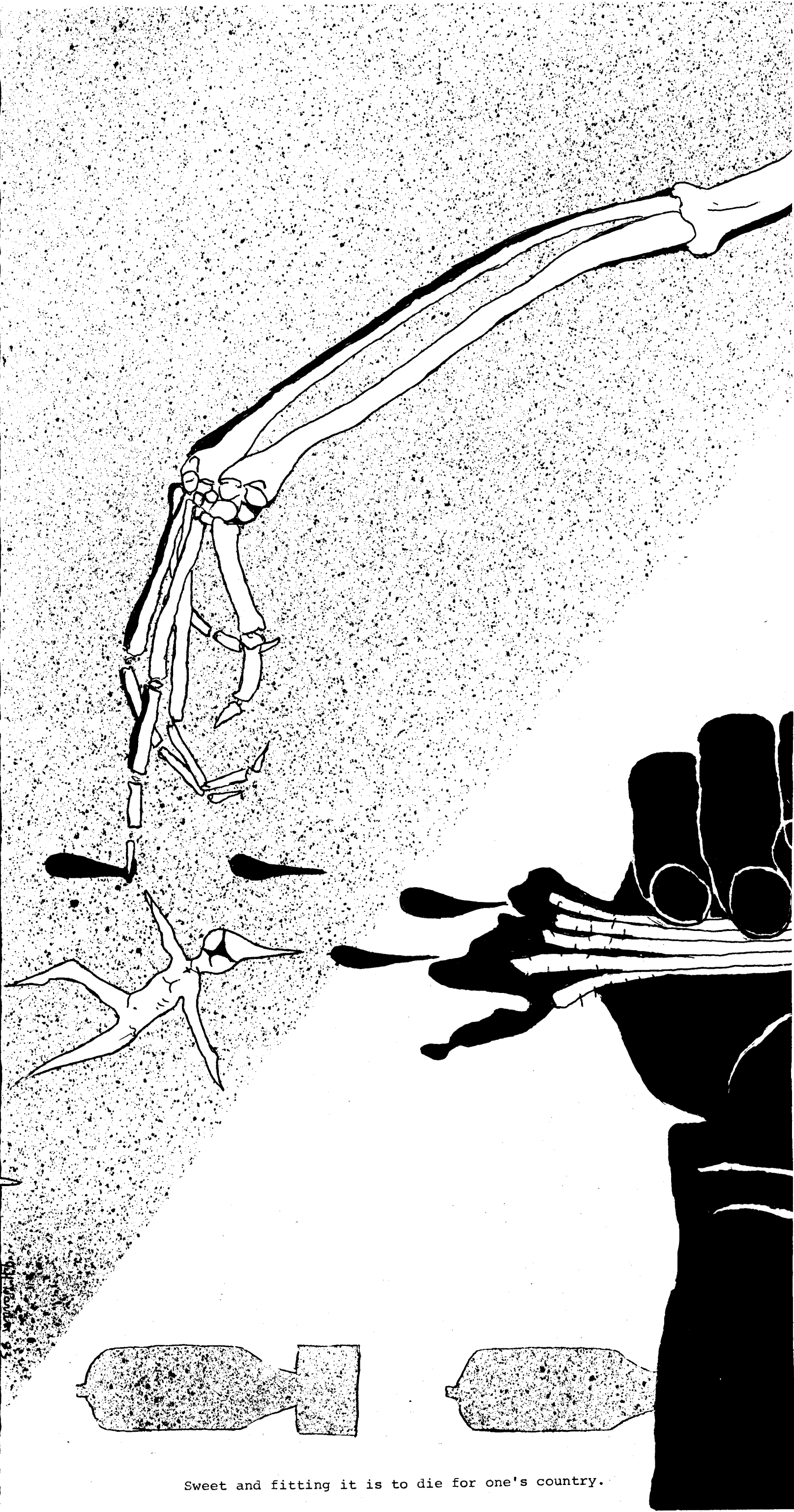
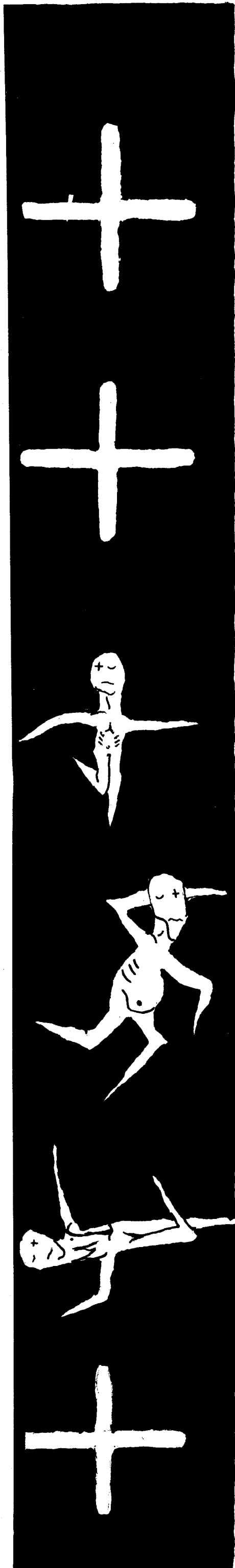
WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

If you want to talk to one of us

Call **PATH 827-4005**

and ask for the

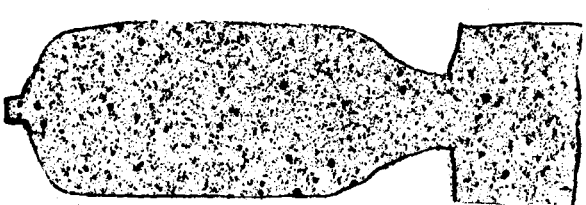
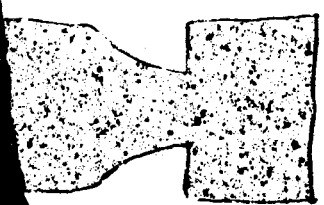
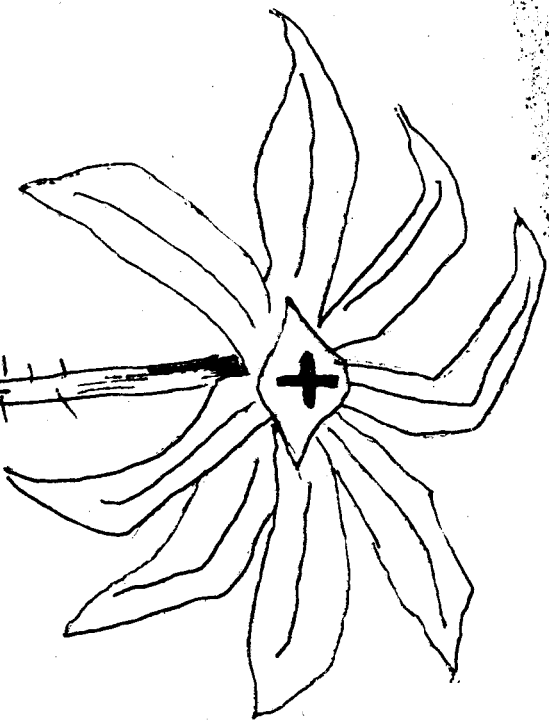
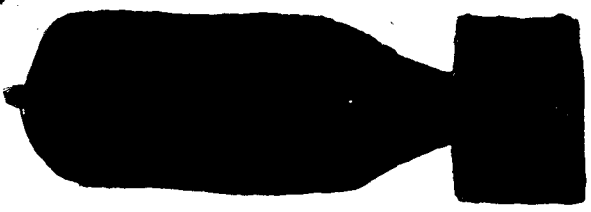
Rape Crisis Center



Sweet and fitting it is to die for one's country.

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA

MORI!



Sandinistas of the poor, for the poor

We've been living in Central America for the past 15 months. Actually my dear wife has lived there for 30 years, and myself for about three years altogether, since I spent two years in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica from 1976-78, where we met, and found happiness in a land with no military and therefore no wars. The past year we've been living in her homeland Nicaragua, so I've had the chance to get to know the rich indigenous culture there, my spouse's kind family, and of course the new Nicaragua.

Nonetheless we're concerned and worried about a great deal of misinformation about Nicaragua that has been circulating in America, especially those propaganda measures being used to stir up tensions between our two countries.

Nicaragua liberated herself from Dictator Somoza's 'Bloody Grip' (a book by martyr of public liberties, and ex-editor of 'La Prensa' Dr. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro C., the chief critic of ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle) in 1979 when the tyrant fled Nicaragua, landing in Florida with his private plane and hundreds of millions of dollars. But after realizing that he wasn't wanted even in the country that educated him (West Point), he fled to Paraguay to meet the outstretched arms of fellow dictator Stroessner where he later met his death in the same fashion that Dr. Chamorro did, blown away in his vehicle in the early morning hours.

We're not writing to you, however, to recite the history of Nicaragua; we're asking you as fellow Americans to write your representatives and senators asking them to stop funding the mercenaries that are daily attacking Nicaragua along the Honduran border. These terrorists are the same ex-National Guardsmen of Somoza who fled to Honduras when the civil war ended in 1979. The Boland Amendment, which passed the house, would have prohibited further arming of Nicaragua's enemy, but has been held up in the Senate. It is internationally known that the C.I.A. is trying to instigate a war between Honduras and Nicaragua without the consent of Congress and the American people.

Please stop them, not for me, nor my Nicaraguan wife, but for the citizens along the border between Nicaragua and Honduras.

Those people, nor any Nicaraguans, are not the enemy of the American people. Nor does Nicaragua represent a threat to our national security. On the contrary, the administration's war-like tactics present a threat to the national security of the Nicaraguan people who have triumphed against tyranny, just as the first Americans triumphed against the tyranny of the English crown, just as American people triumphed in a terrible civil war against injustice and involuntary servitude. Yes, the Nicaraguan revolution favors the poor, the farmer, and the working man, and perhaps Robin-Hood-like tactics have taken place, but Nicaragua refuses to return to U.S. domination, and Nicaraguan leaders say that the moment that any foreign power puts conditions upon their aid will be the day that they refuse that foreign aid.

My brother-in-law, a poet, is in the mountains along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border right now, defending his country from enemy incursions. He often said, before his battalion left the last time I saw him, that only the people of the United States can prevent greater war from erupting in Central America.

Are you sure that you want your tax dollars to go toward overthrowing a foreign government?

No, this writer is not trying to persuade anyone politically, Republican or Democrat, ex-Viet Nam vet or not. We're all obligated, however, to prevent Viet Nam II from taking place in Central America.



The rhetoric that many are using, calling Nicaragua communist, marxists, and leftists, is getting old fast, and shows strong traits of the 1950's McCarthy witch hunts, but the American public is waking up to it. If Nicaragua is communist, then why have many communist party members been jailed in Nicaragua? I'll tell you why, for being accused of stirring up worker strikes, while Nicaragua is being attacked externally by the C.I.A.

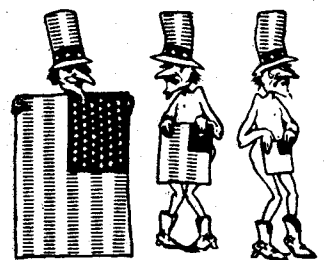
As a teacher I know that some day we'll have to teach our students the Viet Nam war, and the history of Central America, instead of just calling it middle america and skipping over it.

This writer is not unpatriotic; I'm patriotic because I don't want the young people of this nation to have to sign up to go to a war, like we had to without a cause in Viet Nam, or like young Nicaraguans are having to do, only they have a cause, to defend their homeland and their revolution.

If the administration in Washington is really a government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich, as one of the wealthiest (though charitable) U.S. senators has said, then don't believe what they say about Nicaragua, because there is a big difference here, because the Sandino government of Nicaragua does represent a revolution of the poor, by the poor, and for the poor. Does that consist of a threat to the United States of America? I don't think that Abraham Lincoln would have said so.

John Stewart Whitfield
U.S. Citizen & Teacher
at American Nicaraguan School
Managua, Nicaragua C.A.

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Requiem for a 20 - Watt bulb

On Sunday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in a tearful (my tears, not his, gentle reader) speech delivered while standing (appropriately) in a cow pasture, James Gains Watt passed on from his post as secretary of the Interior. I, for one, shall miss him. The tears in my eyes were not of joy, dear reader, but of sadness.

The passing of comic genius from the limelight is a common one and a sad one. While the words of Eddie Murphy, Gilda Radner, Joan Rivers, Richard Pryor, Freddie Prinze (remember Freddie?) and other such comedic talents amuse us and warm our memories for awhile, those of James Watt will be remembered differently.

When presidential historians (and maybe Studio Mom?) chronicle the Reagan years in Washington, Watt will surely appear more than a footnote. History texts and national archives will preserve for all time (if there are trees left) rib-ticklers such as:

"My responsibility is to follow the Scriptures, which call upon us to occupy the land until Jesus returns."

"I don't know how many future generations we can count on before the Lord returns."

"Compromise is not in my vocabulary. I don't know what compromise is, and I'm not going to learn. Some people in this town can't deal with that, and as a consequence my usefulness will expire."

"Americans now have the best Secretary of the Interior they've ever had."

"We will have a much better quality of life when President Reagan and I leave office in 1988."

"I determined in my heart that I would not leave until I brought that bureaucracy under control. I fired fifty-one lawyers and I loved it. I looked for men and women who would sell their souls for America."

"Those enemies of truth (news-papers) will distort anything they can to destroy this country."

"I have never had criticism from anybody I really respect."

"I never use the words Democrats and Republicans; it's liberals and Americans."

"If you want an example of socialism, don't go to Russia-- come to America and go to the Indian reservations."

"A sheep pasture will become an industrial site. Desert lands will be used for hotels and resorts."

"Well, I'm not a politician like Jim (Edwards, Secretary of Energy) here, so I guess I'll just have to tell the truth."

My all-time favorite describing his federal coal-lease commission: "...Every kind of mix you can have. I have a black, I have a woman, two Jews and a cripple." Anyone who can slur 70 percent of the U.S. population (calculated by me and backed by my trusty Texas Instruments SR-40) with one statement has to be honored.

We can't do anything as rash as establishing a federal holiday in his honor. We wouldn't want to burden the tax-payers with an additional \$40 a year just to honor a King among men, would we?

By the way, where were the bean counters when the other nine

federal holidays were established? Using the \$7.5 billion that a new holiday would cost (as figured by Martin Leskowitz, director of economic trends and statistics, U.S. Chamber of Commerce) as a base, we could generate \$67.5 billion in goods and services by eliminating the nine federal holidays we already have. How about it, Washington? Anybody for 60-hour work weeks?



Post-American Nov. 1983 Page 15

Back to Watt. I've thought of a few things that would probably bring tears of joy to his eyes. Like taking your chain saw to a national forest and running amok. Leasing city parks to developers. Allowing Exxon or Amoco to drill for oil in endangered wildlife refuges. Or downing a deer with one shot--don't miss, Jimmy.

Better yet, let's show proper thanks to Watt for giving up. On Nov. 24 at 9 p.m. we can all dim the lights. ●

--Sylvania Blue Dot

Building more prisons won't solve problem

Illinois prisons are in deep trouble. Overburdened already, the correctional system threatens complete collapse as a result of the Illinois Supreme Court's removal of its only safety valve--the use of "good time" to reduce inmate's sentences.

Now out of the courts, the prison crowding issue is being tossed around the political arena. All the major players, including Governor Thompson, state's attorneys, county sheriffs, agree that there is a crisis. But they don't know what to do about it.

Getting tough on crime has been the rage for years. Some of those now trying to deal with an inadequate corrections system, including Governor Thompson, made their reputations by getting tough.

Determinate sentencing--Class X was the sexy label Thompson used--became law in early 1978. Since then, more and more offenses have been added to the Class X category, prompting one observer to call it "the crime of the month club." This means mandatory minimum sentences, longer sentences, and less choices for the judges. As State Rep. Aaron Jaffe commented last spring, "We have enough laws to put every man, woman and dog in jail for 427 years."

Most of the new laws are short-sighted. Not until June 1983 did the legislature attach an impact note to criminal justice bills, meaning simply that if a legislator seeks to increase sentences for a particular offense, he or she must consider what impact it will have on the prison population.

Since most legislators don't seem to have considered this in the past few years, they were surprised to discover that many inmates were doing less time than when the tough new laws passed.

because the prison system simply couldn't accommodate them.

The number of inmates in Illinois has increased 122.5% since 1974. Felony filings and convictions have more than tripled since 1970.

One change alone in the criminal code--making "residential burglary" a Class 1, non-probational offense instead of Class 2--has meant an increase of 834 inmates since January 1982.

With no forced early release and only very limited use of alternative punishments, the Department of Corrections (DOC) projections have 2319 more inmates than beds by January 1984. The projected shortfall will increase steadily until by July 1986 when they will be 4526 beds short.

What's the answer? Build more bed space? The DOC is already in the midst of an extremely ambitious and extremely expensive building program that will add 4500 beds by 1986.

Double or triple celling is a possibility, but it's cruel, dangerous, and probably illegal.

The state could refuse to accept new inmates. Aside from the obvious political problems of this approach, this is a poor strategy that would simply shift the burden to county jails.

An early release mechanism is the most reasonable short term solution. Preliminary figures show that early release has not been detrimental to community safety: early releases committed no more crime than people who served out their sentences.

Illinois cannot continue to respond to our corrections problems by building more prisons and building them only in times of crisis. We must have

long range planning that includes the following:

1. A more rational sentencing policy that eliminates mandatory minimum sentences.
2. A revamped parole system that could serve as a real sanction, instead of just generating paperwork and providing almost no supervision.
3. The increased use of other punishments--victim restitution, community service, and expanded use of work release to keep the appropriate people at work and out of prison. ●

--from John Howard Society's Update



ISU Demo Slated

Illinois State University students will hold a demonstration on Monday, October 31, to protest the invasion of Grenada and to inform people of the facts about US involvement in Lebanon and Grenada.

Organizer Cindy Ojer told the Post that the protest will emphasize that the US was not really wanted in Grenada, that rules of international law preclude such invasions, that countries have the right to self-determination, and that the prevailing US policies may well lead to a draft. Ruth McPeck, an ISU student, will be the speaker. Informed discussion and argument will be encouraged. Ojer hopes that protesters will write letters to their congress-people.

Letters

Prisoners seek correspondence

Dear Post Amerikan:

I have been reading your newspaper for over 5 years, and your paper has always spoken the truth about everything.

I'm wondering if you can place my ad in your paper. You see I'm in prison and don't have anybody to write to, and your paper is the only one who can help me.

My name is Steve E. Woolard, I'm 5' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", I weigh 187 lbs. I have brown hair and blue-green eyes. My hobbies are writing, poetry, cooking, music, dancing, swimming, camping out, and horseback riding. I'm not looking for any pity or sympathy, but I'm lonely and need someone to write to. I answer all mail.

Steve E. Wollard A-86288
P. O. Box 711
Menard, IL 62259

Dear Post Amerikan:

I received your Oct. issue and I was glad to see your stories about AIDS and the way you really told it like it is. I'm straight but have some gay friends and was standoffish about all this talk of AIDS. I'm glad you brought me--and I'm sure many others like me--to light.

I'm 30 years old, in prison on coke charges, have 1 year left to do. I would like to hear from sincere, together people that like music, fun times and cooking. I don't care if you can't dance.

Yours truly,

James DiGiacoma A-71417
Box 711
Menard, IL 62259

**CLASSY-
FRIED
ADS**



Recycling Rolls?

Remember when X was collecting pop-top tabs? Well, now she's into toilet paper rolls, so start saving 'em for her. Once you get 20 or more (an average month's worth, she claims), she'll come pick them up. Maybe she'll even tell you what she's going to do with them. Call her at 828-2588.

Drug Problem? Call Narcotics
Anonymous, 828-1373

Victim of Discrimination?

Have you been discriminated against? If you feel you have been a victim of discrimination because of your race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry, national origin, or physical or mental handicap, contact the Bloomington Human Relations Commission at 828-7361, Ext. 218/219. The Bloomington Human Relations Commission is here to assist.

Fair Housing Is Your Right

If you feel you have been a victim of housing discrimination, contact the Bloomington Human Relations Commission at 828-7361, Ext. 218/219.

Long-time Post reader exhorts the staff to continue in their revolutionary efforts to promote freedom, happiness, and general weirdness

Dear Post,

Keep it up!

--Walt Gallas
10-17-83

Kool paper

Post:

Wow, what a kool little newspaper! Post Amerikan (woops) Amerikan is definitely on my shopping list from now on.

Ralphie (an ISU victim)

P. S. Sex Rules!

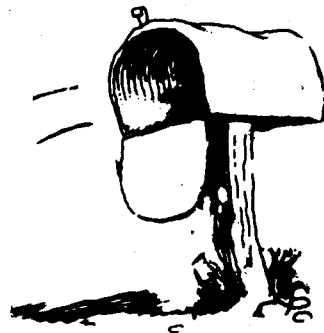
Sends pic of pic

Post,

I loved the idea of a picture to color --it's a nice peaceful way to take out emotions after a day in class.

I won't let you have my colored picture (I like it better next to my helmet in my roommate's bedroom), but you can have a picture of my picture. In reality the colors are strong and bold, not washed out like they look here. Keep up the good work. I love your paper.

--Martha Cade



Post enlivens

Dear Post-Amerikan,

Saturday October 8th, I was passing through town, as I had just hitched from Champaign, just getting back from Nicaragua. My dear wife is Nicaraguan, and she and my children are still there.

It was very enlivening for me to read your fine article on the Sandinistas, Francisco Campbell, and the Nicaraguan Revolution.

My brother lived in Bloomington for years and went to Ill. State for a while, but eventually moved to Eugene, Oregon.

I was quite down when I arrived in Bloomington because of the large degree of misinformation circulating in America about Nicaragua. Thank you, Post-Amerikan, for cheering me up and for expressing your solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution. Please contact me if you know of people that would be interested in having a workshop on Central America (workshop for peace?); I would be glad to provide some literature, or even lecture and conduct a question/answer session, although I don't pretend to know much about Guatemala or El Salvador.

Yours truly,

John Stewart Whitfield
103 N. Jefferson
Abingdon, IL 61410
(309) 462-3136
(Until X-mas)

Fatima Whitfield Cuadra
DEL MINT, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ C. al oeste
Barrio Cementerio
CDS #23, Casa #4
Jinotepe, Carazo
NICARAGUA, C.A.

Give peace a chance! Year of peace and sovereignty.

POST-NOTE: See Whitfield's article on page 14.

Get yer Post

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The correct line _____

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Parents Too Soon program

The McLean County Health Department is announcing the commencement of the Parents Too Soon Program October 1, 1983. Parents Too Soon is a special program funded through the Illinois Department of Public Health. The main goal of the program is to assist adolescents in coping with the increased responsibility of parenthood. Parents Too Soon gives pregnant adolescents or adolescent parents financial assistance for medical services, as well as providing case management, referral and follow-up to other health and human services agencies.

Parents Too Soon is open to McLean County women not covered under Medicaid who are under the age of twenty-one, pregnant or currently a parent, or eligible for the Department's WIC Program. Financial eligibility is determined upon intake. Parents Too Soon will pay for prenatal care and delivery by local physicians, routine laboratory tests ordered by physicians, prescribed vitamins and, following delivery, family planning services.

Fund hearings

The following is the schedule of public hearings for calendar year 1984 mental health funding proposals:

Date/Time/Agency/*Reviewing Agency.

Wednesday, November 9th/1:00 p.m./ ODC/HD, UW.
 Wednesday, November 9th/2:20 p.m./ MARC Center/HD, UW.
 Thursday, November 10th/1:00 p.m./ Center for Human Services/HD, UW, T.
 Thursday, November 10th/2:10 p.m./ Lighthouse/HD, UW, T.
 Thursday, November 10th/4:45 p.m./ Project OZ/HD, T.
 Monday, November 14th/1:00 p.m./ PATH/HD, UW, T.
 Monday, November 14th/2:10 p.m./ YWCA/HD, UW, T

*Health Department HD;
 United Way UW;
 Township T

All hearings will be held at the McBarnes Building, 201 E. Grove St., in Bloomington.

Christine Craft to speak at IWU

The Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate proudly presents Christine Craft, a former TV news anchorwoman who recently won the landmark sexual discrimination case against KMBC-TV (Metromedia, Inc. ABC), on Tuesday, November 8, 1983 at 8:00 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Student Memorial Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington, Illinois. Ms. Craft's topic will be "Television News & Show Business" with a question-and-answer session concerning her recent trial. The public is cordially invited to attend.

After various broadcasting experiences, including host of the CBS Sports Spectacular's "Women in Sports" segment, Ms. Craft was employed in 1980 as a co-anchor at KMBC-TV in Kansas City. A year later she was demoted from her position with the explanation that she was "too old, too unattractive and not sufficiently deferential to men." She sued Metromedia, Inc. for sexual discrimination and fraud, and in August 1983 was awarded a half-million-dollar settlement.

This will be Ms. Craft's first speaking engagement in central Illinois.

Community News

Aging changes discussed

Changes with Aging, a discussion group co-sponsored by the McLean County Health Department and St. Joseph's Hospital, will meet on Wednesday, November 9, 1983, from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the McLean County Health Department, 905 N. Main, Normal. Jerry Kaluzny, an attorney with the Prairie State Legal Services, will be presenting a program on the topic "Legal Issues and the Older Adult." Older adults and caregivers of older adults are invited to attend. For further information contact Ann Charleston, R.N., McLean County Health Department 454-1161 or Karen Reeter, Social Worker, St. Joseph's Hospital, 662-3311, Ext. 221.

Midwest People's Music Network

We are a Midwestern network of people who are interested in music, survival, and change; in music that in some way relates to the lives and struggles of our communities. Some of us are progressive singers, songwriters, performers. Some of us are music production workers, some are less directly involved in music-related activities and work. But we all share a love for music and a commitment towards building healthy cultures and a healthy society. We have two projects:

The Directory--a tool to encourage communication among people's musicians. The Directory is a list of our members, with their addresses, phone numbers, and a 30-word self-description of their resources, skills, interests, and needs.

The Gatherings--once-a-year weekend get-togethers for people's musicians from across the Midwest to meet and hear from each other in workshops, song swaps, and musical jams.

To join MPMN, send your address, directory listing as described above, and \$5 (yearly membership) to P.O. Box 8235, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

--MPMN

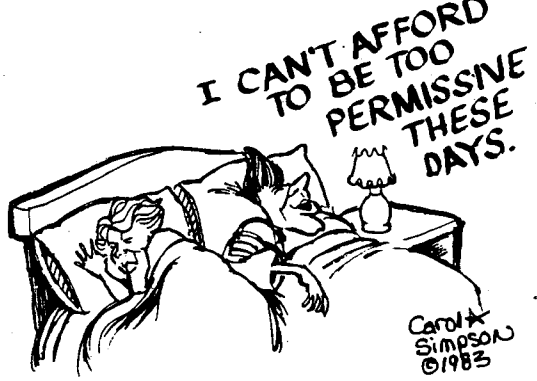
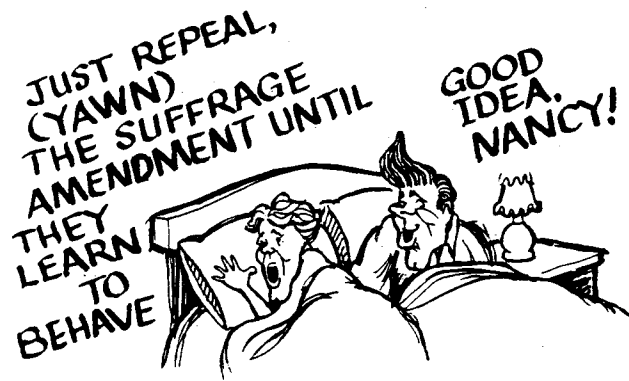
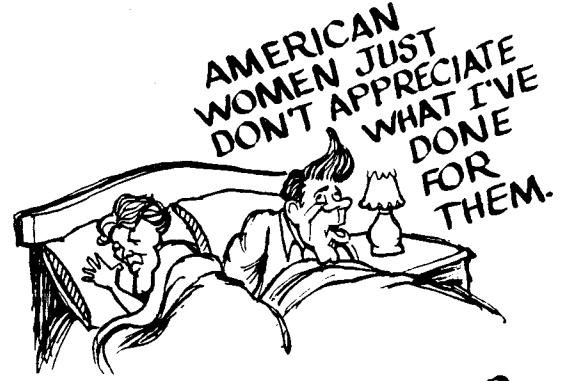
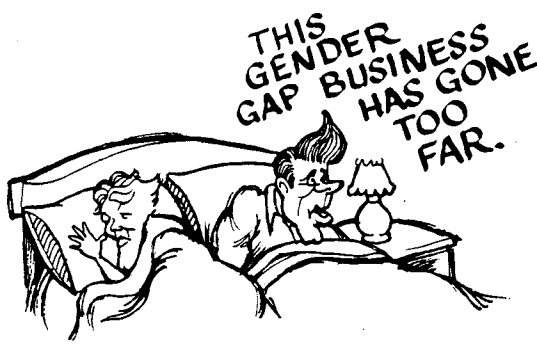
New job training program

The United Private Industry Council (UPIC) is now taking applications for new job training opportunities in the Fulton-Mason-McLean-Tazewell county area.

Eligibility screenings for the job training programs are available on a walk-in basis Monday through Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m. at local UPIC offices. The programs, which will begin in November, include training in clerical and office skills, on-the-job training with businesses, youth employment readiness programs, Job Club placement assistance, and GED classes.

To make application or receive more information, contact UPIC offices in the following locations:
 McLean County--201 E. Grove St., Bloomington 309/827-4026
 Tazewell County--15-17 S. Capitol St., Pekin 309/353-4475
 Fulton County--111 N. Avenue A, Canton 309/647-5680
 Mason County--118 W. Market St., Havana 309/543-6393

The United Private Industry Council, a 21-member board of local community leaders, is currently planning other vocational-specific courses for early 1984.



Carol Simpson ©1983

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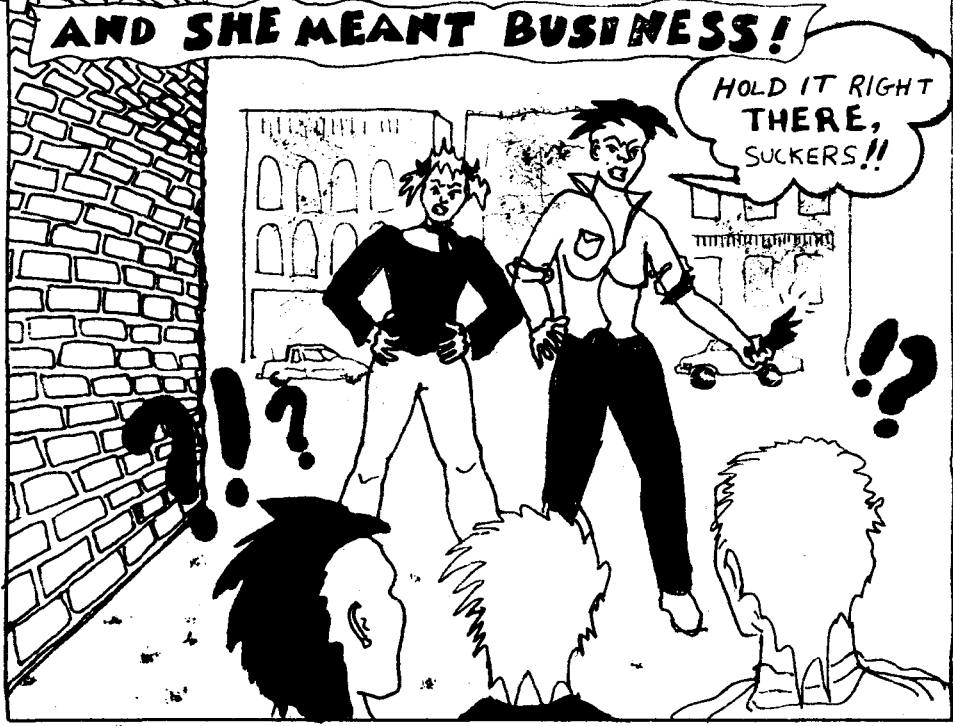
ANGINA SPITZ WAS OBSESSED! PATIENTLY PLOTTING THE DEMISE OF OUR PRECIOUS PUNKS, PAINSTAKINGLY PLANNING THEIR UNDOING! IS IT— CAN IT BE CURTAINS FOR TOOTS, FRANKIE, AND...

?

SURE, KAT HAD SEEN HER SHARE OF TROUBLE BEFORE... WHO COULD FORGET UNCLE CLIFF AND MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE WHOLE SORDID SCHEME... BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING INHERENTLY EVIL IN THIS ANGINA SPITZ AND HER UNSAVORY SIDEKICK, SNEERING SUE!

YEAH, IT'S THEM, ALRIGHT! LOOK AT HER, WALKIN' ROUND ACTIN' SO COOL! SHE AIN'T GONNA BE DOIN' NEITHER WHEN I GET DONE WITH HER!!

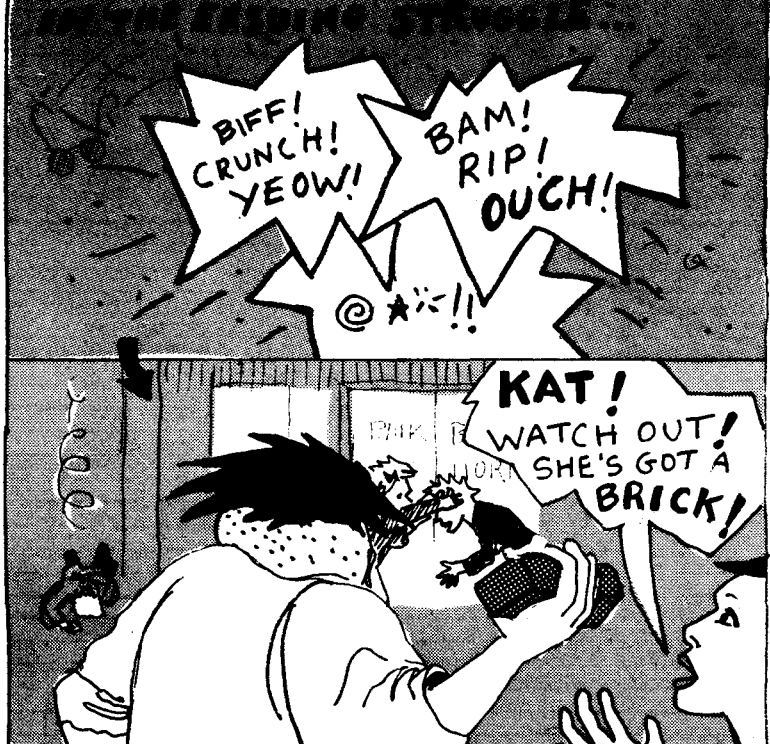
L.V.D. 83
MY SISTER, the PUNK ROCKER



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SUCKERS!!



KAT BARRINGTON I'M CALLIN' YOU OUT! YEAH, I'VE SEEN YOU WALKIN' ROUND LIKE YOU OWN THE STREETS, BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YA— YOU AIN'T SHIT IN THIS TOWN, GIRLIE! ANGINA SPITZ IS GONNA MOP THE STREETS WITH YA!!



BIFF! CRUNCH! YEOW! BAM! RIP! OUCH!

@*~!!

KAT! WATCH OUT! SHE'S GOT A BRICK!



CRASH



JEEZI!! IT'S THE BANK ALARM!! WE GOTTA GET OUTA HERE! SPITZ AND HER SIDEKICK SPLIT AND THE COPS'LL BE HERE ANYSECOND!!

R-R-RING!



COME ON!! RUN!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MY ANKLE!! I THINK IT'S SPRAINED!

MY GLASSES! I CAN'T SEE! GO AHEAD WITHOUT US! FRANKIE AND I WILL CATCH UP LATER!!



TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES: NEXT!

What's a legal search?

Many readers have had questions about when and where the police can search a person, their car, or their apartment and seize any evidence found. This question is especially important when the police are searching for drugs or other evidence of a crime.

The general rule is that the police must have a warrant to search a person, a car, or an apartment. Generally, all evidence found without a search warrant would be excluded before the trial.

But this Constitutional warrant requirement rule has been riddled with exceptions. The first important exception is the search-incident-to-a-lawful-arrest exception. The exception provides that when the police make a lawful arrest they may search any area in which the person arrested may have a gun or be able to destroy evidence. This is called the "wingspan." For example, if a person is given a traffic ticket for a moving violation, the entire passenger compartment is within the wingspan of the person given the ticket and may be searched.

The second important exception to the warrant requirement rule is the automobile exception, which provides that if the police have probable cause that a car contains evidence of a crime they may search that car completely. The outward justification for this exception is the theory that a car would drive away before the police had time to get a warrant. Obviously, a car is

a bad place to keep drugs or any evidence of a crime.

The third exception to the rule that the police need a search warrant is the plain-view exception. This exception provides that when the police are legitimately on the premises and discover fruits or instruments of a crime in plain view, they may seize the evidence. For example, the police may demand entrance to an apartment without a search warrant, and be allowed in. Any evidence they see in plain view may be seized and used against the owner. Obviously, police should not be allowed in an apartment without a search warrant. Also, anything in plain view of the police in a car may be seized, and the owner arrested.

Another exception is the consent exception. If the defendant consents to being searched, they may be searched. If a person shares an apartment with another, and the other person consents to letting the police search the apartment, the police may seize anything belonging to the first person and arrest them. But a landlord cannot consent to a tenant's apartment being searched.

Finally, there exists the stop-and-frisk exception. The police may stop and frisk a person if the police have a reasonable suspicion that the person is committing a crime, and the police believe the person is armed and

dangerous. The search is limited to a pat-down of the outer clothing. But this exception has been expanded by the courts and police, and just about any pat-down is allowed. The police need only state they saw a bulge that might be a gun in the clothing of the person.

For example, the police may stop a car for a minor traffic offense and order the driver out of the car. The police will then claim they noticed a bulge in the shirt pocket of the driver and then be allowed to pat the driver down. If the police find drugs instead of a gun, the person searched may be charged with drug possession.

The framers of our Constitution sought strict standards for search and seizure, and the Fourth Amendment states that, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, shall not be violated." The Fourth Amendment also requires a search warrant. But as noted, many exceptions to the search warrant requirement have evolved over the years. Now a person is not very secure from unreasonable treatment by the police, and an over-zealous cop may find many exceptions or excuses to search a person, a car, or an apartment. ●

--A. Barrister

Woman's coherence surprises Pantagraph

Gratuitous over-writing marred a story that appeared in the *Pantagraph* Oct. 19 on the trial of a Pontiac inmate later convicted of abducting and raping a Pontiac woman.

The story opened with a description of the woman, giving testimony, as "emotional without breaking down, confident without sounding rehearsed, graphic without being lewd."

The qualifiers imply amazement on the part of the writer--one wonders if he feels that victims of sex crimes, while on the witness stand, usually break down; sound rehearsed and lewd.

In contrast, the defendant is not described at all.

The opening paragraphs cast aspersions on the woman by evoking pictures that were probably the opposite of the reporter's intent, since he is apparently trying to portray how collected and coherent the woman was. They also interfere with the reader's progress to the relevant part of the story, the testimony itself, which would have been sufficiently moving and vivid to grab reader attention at the outset. ●

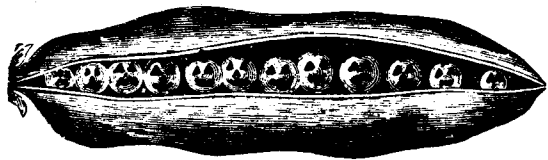
--Louise Bryant

PUNKIN WITH A PURPOSE

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT PUNKINS AND THEIR ROLE IN OUR CULTURE



IN 1908 HORACE SMITH ENTERED THE PUMPKIN PICTURED AT LEFT IN THE SOLON MILLS JACK-O-LANTERN CARVING CONTEST HELD AS PART OF THEIR ANNUAL HALLOW-EEN FESTIVITIES. OFFICIALS MISTOOK IT FOR THE HEAD OF A LOCAL POLICEMAN REPORTED MISSING EARLIER IN THE MONTH. HORACE SMITH WENT TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, PROTESTING HIS INNOCENCE TO THE END!!



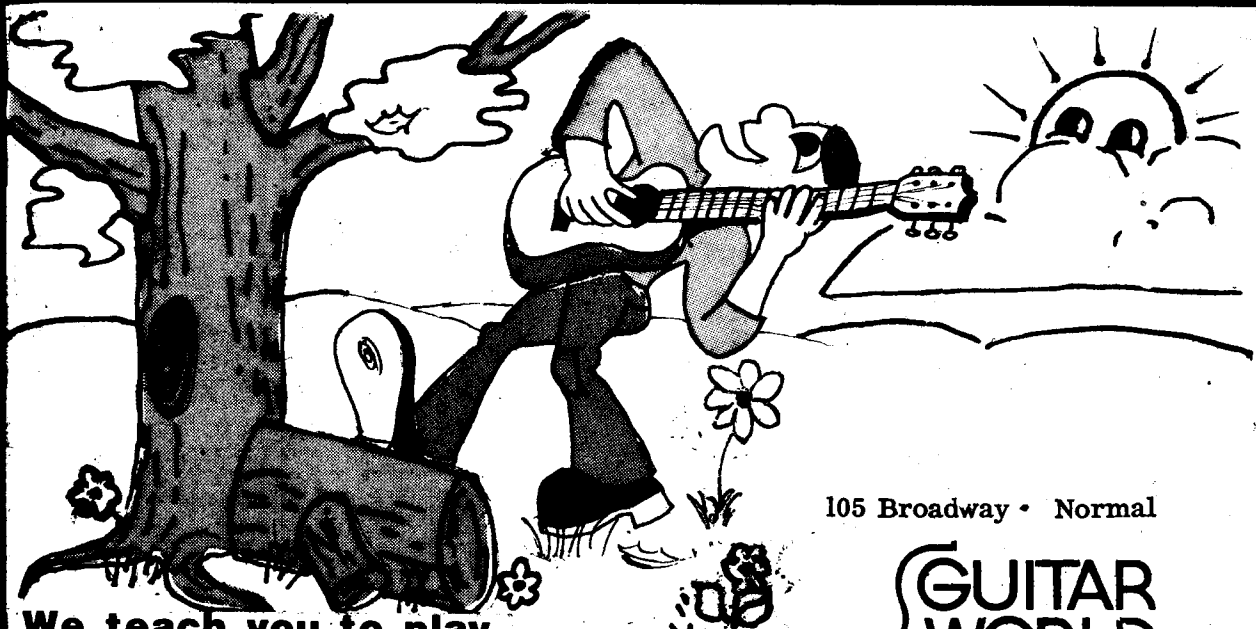
THE MIRACULOUS PEAPOD OF ST. CLAIRE, WA - PEA FARMER BILL WILSON WAS SHELLING PEAS IN OCTOBER, 1963 WHEN HE DISCOVERED THIS AMAZING PEAPOD CONTAINING TWELVE TINY JACK-O-LANTERNS!



FEW PEOPLE KNOW THE REAL REASON WHY THE MONSTER FRANKENSTEIN WENT BERSERK - KILLING HIMSELF AND HIS LOVELY BRIDE!

UNFORTUNATELY, SHE WAS EXPECTING HER FIRST PUMPKIN ON THE EVE OF HER WEDDING! WORSE YET, THE HUSBAND TO BE CLAIMED IT WASN'T HIS AND SWORE HE WOULD NEVER RAISE A BASTARD PUMPKIN!

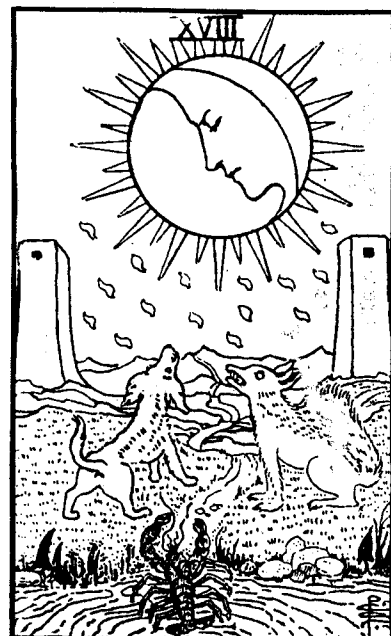
IN A FIT OF JEALOUS RAGE IN THE WAKE OF HIS BRIDE'S CONFESSION, THE MONSTER TOOK ALL THREE LIVES - HIS, HERS, AND THE BURGEONING PUMPKIN IN SIDE HER!!



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We teach you to play, then sell you the right guitar.



THE MOON.

Whistle a happy tune

Remember all the trouble I had getting a telephone? Well, would you believe that just a couple days after it was installed, people were suggesting that I leave it off the hook?

I was finally settled in my new apartment. One morning, early, I was awakened by the still-beautiful ring of my very own telephone--my protector against danger, loneliness, information breakdowns.

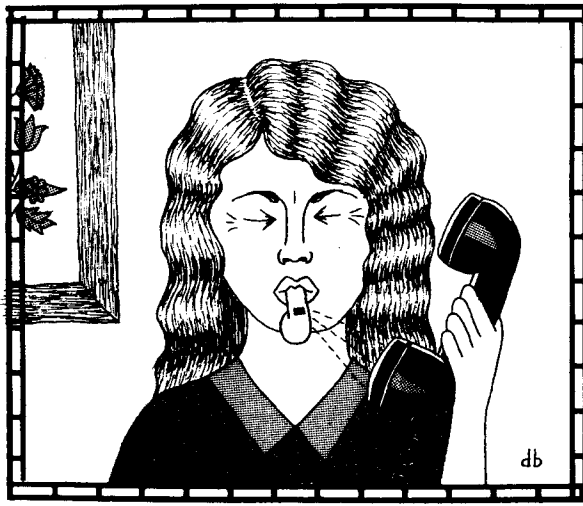
It was an obscene call.

He called four times, five to ten minutes apart. The first time, it took me a while to realize the nature of the communication; then I hung up.

The second time I heard more heavy breathing and distinct fuck noises, and I hung up. The third time I yelled at him, as any good school-teacher would, and hung up.

By the fourth time, a male friend came to the rescue--he picked up the phone, and said hello, and the caller hung up, never to call back that morning.

I was relieved, but also still pissed--this creepo caller had ruined my morning. Then dread set in--what if it happens again? What if no man comes around to scare him off? Will I have to spend all morning bouncing my receiver on and off the hook?



So I did.

It was about a month later, again in the morning, that he called again. I recognized his fuck noises. My whistle was by a different phone, so I just hung up.

Adrenalin pouring into my veins, I rushed to the kitchen and posted myself, with whistle, next to the phone. It rang.

"Hello?" I almost whispered, trying to sound terrified and meek.

He started his routine, pant, pant, shlup, shlup, and for my part in the concert I moved the receiver away from my ear, breathed deeply, and blew a long, loud, shrill, ugly blast.

The coda was the gratifying clatter I heard as he dropped his telephone. (John Cage, move over.)

He never called back. ●

--Phoebe Caulfield

I got advice:

Take your phone off the hook after the first call.

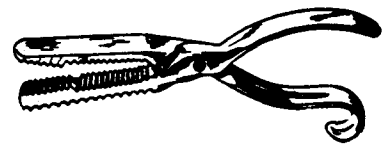
Unplug your phone.

Don't answer it.

(All of which, please note, are exactly like not having a phone at all, my protector against etc. All of which also involve being bullied by a yahoo with an itchy dialing finger.)

And then:

Get a whistle.

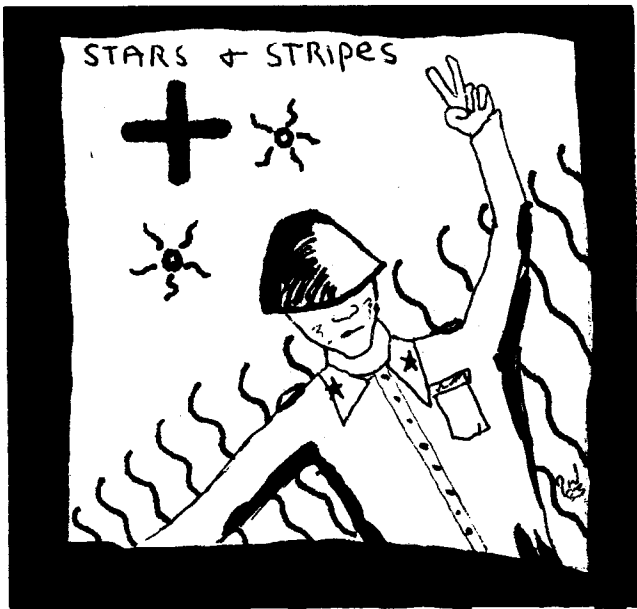


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Roaches infest breakfast cereal

It's every mother's nightmare: dope in the breakfast cereal! It actually happened to Fort Wayne, Indiana, resident, Julie Harmeyer.

Julie's 10-year-old-son Todd was just sitting down for his morning nourishment one day this summer, when some curious items floated to the surface of his bowl of Frosted Mini-Wheats.

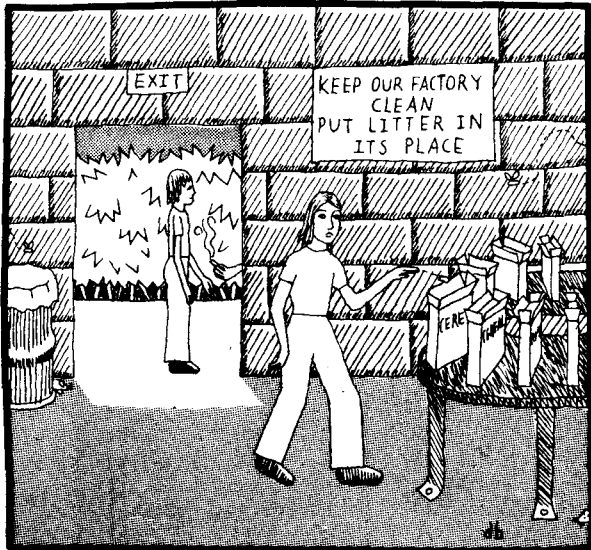
A couple of greenish brown seeds bobbed in the milk, and there was something else too, something the color of the milk, but black along one ragged edge.

Julie Harmeyer had a hunch about these bits of flotsam and called in the Fort Wayne police, who "analyzed" the foreign materials and found them to be just what she had suspected: refuse of marijuana.

Julie dashed off a letter to the Kellogg Company, venting her consternation. "We were surprised," she wrote, "when my son opened the cereal and found seeds and burned paper floating in the bowl and there was more in the box. My son knows better, but smaller children very well could eat it."

The people at the Kellogg Consumer Center in Battle Creek, Michigan, told her to mail the rest of the box of Frosted Mini-Wheats to them, and their chemists would give it a good going over.

Kellogg's director of communications had to answer a lot of press inquiries



regarding his chemists' conclusions, which aren't yet conclusive.

According to Kellogg's, the marijuana had not entered the cereal during the "wet stage" of manufacture, since the paper and seeds were dry and separate from the little wheatie biscuits. However, Kellogg's PR flak noted, the investigation was a difficult one, because the bits of weed could have been dumped into the Mini-Wheats at any stage of packaging, shipping, distribution, or on the store shelf, or even (gasp) in the household where they were found. Furthermore, he pointed out, despite national news coverage, there had not been a single additional report of pot findings in Frosted Mini-Wheats.

The mystery will probably remain unsolved. But with assembly-line workers all over America substituting marijuana breaks for coffee breaks, and with the publicity given the Fort Wayne incident, a rash of copycat crimes could easily ravage the food industry.

The federal Food and Drug administration now sets limits on the number of rodent hairs and insect parts allowable in certain foods. The agency has not commented on whether a similar limit for marijuana roaches can be anticipated.

--High Times

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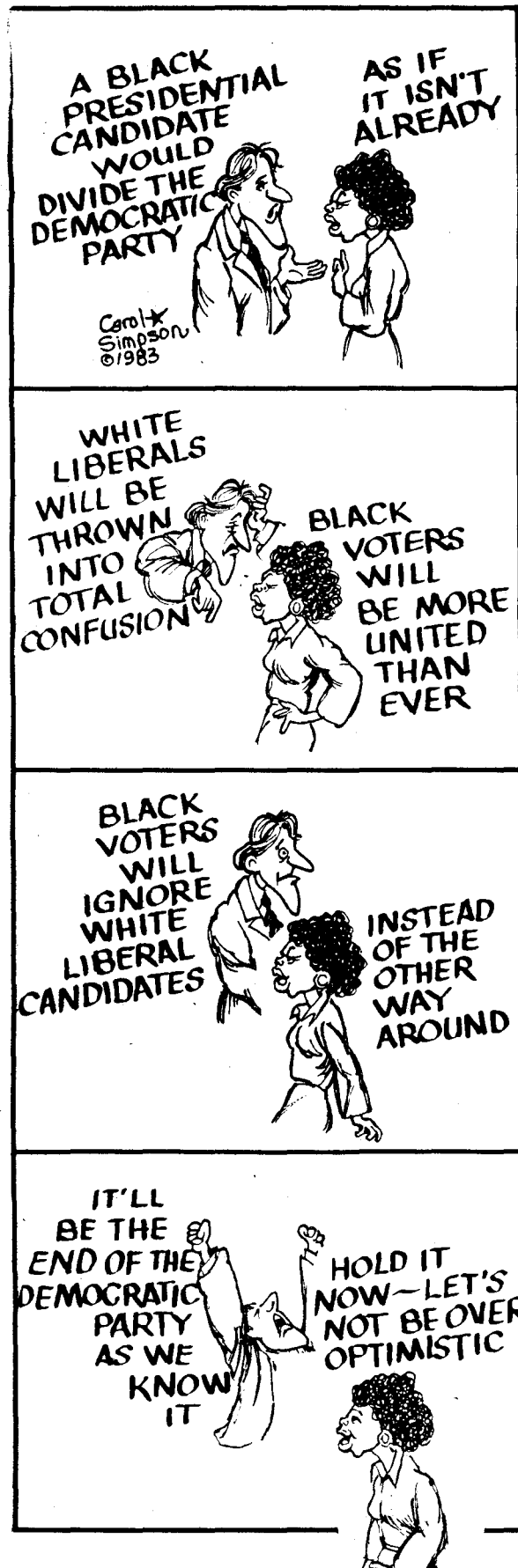
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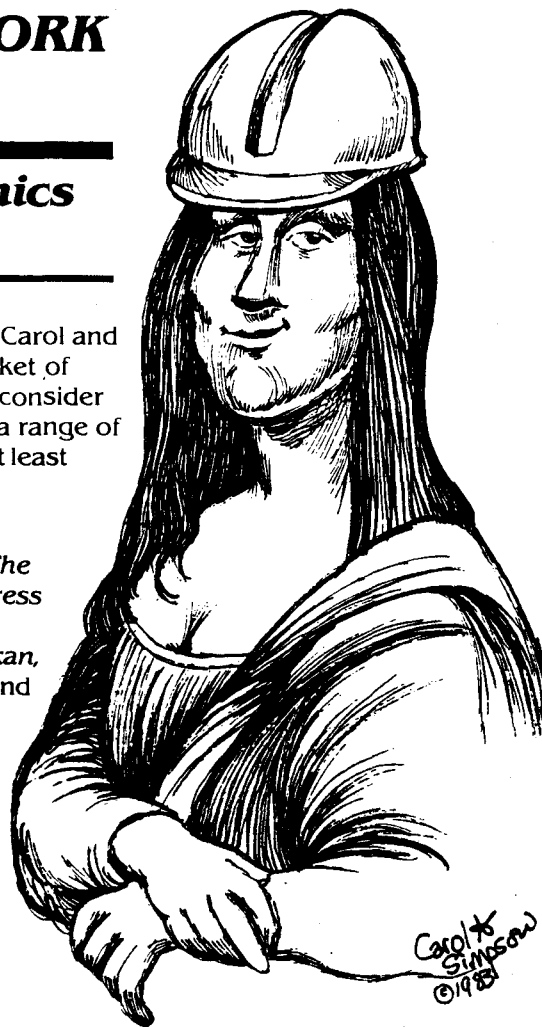
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Gay rights news

Boy Scouts have to, Catholics don't

Gay Americans can join a labor union and belong to the Boy Scouts, but can't expect the Catholics to recognize their constitutional rights of free speech and assembly. That's the way the latest round of gay rights battles has turned out.

Here's the struggle-by-struggle account:

AFL-CIO

--Amid the hoopla of endorsing a presidential candidate, the AFL-CIO overwhelmingly approved a resolution supporting the rights of gay workers and urging the enactment of gay rights at the federal, state, and city levels. The 900 member-delegates attending the union's 15th constitutional convention passed the gay rights resolution and a separate resolution urging governmental action on the AIDS crisis.

Both resolutions were passed on voice votes and both were introduced by John Sweeney, president of the Service Employees International Union. Bill Olwell, vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and an openly gay man, worked in guiding the gay rights resolution to its passage.

According to Olwell, there was no audible dissent to the resolution, which reads, in part: "The AFL protests any personal actions taken against workers merely on the basis of sexual orientation. The AFL supports and urges enactment of legislation at the federal, state, and local level that would guarantee the civil rights of all, without regard to sexual orientation, in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, and public services."

The same or similar resolutions have been passed by the International Ladies Garment Union, the California Federation of Teachers, and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (see Post, v. 11, #5).

Boy Scouts

--On Oct. 3 a federal court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America may not expel a member simply because he is gay. The Boy Scouts' membership policy excludes girls, homosexuals, and atheists.

The 2nd District Court of Appeals ruled that the expulsion of Eagle Scout Timothy Curran violated his constitutional rights to fair process and ordered the organization to reinstate him. The court also said the Boy Scout organization is a business and is subject to state law forbidding discrimination.

Curran's battle with the Boy Scouts began in 1980 when he was denied a position as an adult leader which he sought to enable him to work on the organization's newspaper. Mt. Diablo (CA) Boy Scout Council officials denied him the position because they had seen a newspaper article in which Curran was described as an "outstanding gay youth." Curran was subsequently expelled from the Boy Scouts.

Curran says his troop always knew he was gay and that they didn't care. "I want to rejoin my troop and I will," Curran exclaimed after the ruling.

Georgetown

--Eighteen months after hearings on the matter ended, the Washington, D. C., Superior Court has ruled that Georgetown University cannot be prevented from discriminating against its gay student groups. While acknowledging that the University's actions violate the D. C. Human Rights Act, Judge Sylvia Bacon agreed that as a religious institution Georgetown is exempt from the law's provisions in this case.

The university is a Jesuit-run institution which claims affiliation with the Catholic Church. It also receives federal funding.

The conflict started in early 1979 when Gay People of Georgetown sought official recognition from the university. Although the group had already been approved by the student government, the administration turned down the request because they considered the group's aims and philosophies to be contrary to the tenets of the Catholic faith.

In 1980 the Gay Coalition at the Georgetown Law School went through a similar process and were also refused a charter at the administrative level. The net effect for both groups is that they are unable to apply for university funding.

In 1981, the D. C. government entered the case, filing a brief with the court in support of the gay students. Later that year Judge Leonard Braman ruled that the university's actions were a violation of the Human Rights Act. But he also said that what remained to be determined was whether Georgetown was exempt because of its religious affiliation and whether the university had forfeited its religious exemption by accepting federal funds.

Braman retired before ruling on those issues, and the case was turned over to Judge Sylvia Bacon, who took almost 2 years to reach her decision.

--Ferdydurke

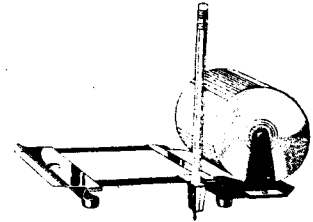
Sources: Gay Community News, Oct. 22, and Oct. 29, 1983.



Your money helps

The response to our recent appeals for contributions has been very gratifying. In the last several weeks we've received donations of \$25, \$100, \$40, and \$30, as well as two \$10 donations and a number of \$1 and \$2 additions to subscription and t-shirt orders.

Of course we still need money. Your contributions do make it possible for us to continue to put out the paper.



We also have some colorful new "My Sister the Punk Rocker" t-shirts--burgundy on light blue. Upgrade your wardrobe by adding one of these smart new fashion items. A real bargain for only a \$6 donation. You can also get a classy Post-Amerikan t-shirt for the same price. Order forms can be found somewhere in this paper. Keep looking.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us in one way or another. Your financial help is encouraging and much appreciated.

--The Post staff



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Who's killing religion?

Some people are killing off religion in this country. No, it's not some small group of atheist thugs. It's the christians.

That's right. The christians are going around removing christ from christmas and taking religion out of prayer. Consider the evidence:

1. A christmas nativity scene was erected at public expense in some city in Rhode Island. Of course the ACLU objected and took the matter to court. Using public funds to pay for christian artifacts clearly violates the constitutional separation between church and state.

After all, some Amerikans don't believe in christ. Christianity is not the official religion of the country; there is no official religion of the country. City governments shouldn't spend taxpayers' money on nativity scenes. Religion is a personal, private matter; individuals and private businesses and churches can pay for their own nativity scenes. And do. There's no dearth of nativity scenes in the land at christmastime.

Yet the case of the Rhode Island creche is still in the courts. In fact, it made it all the way to the Supreme Court, which heard arguments on the matter a few weeks ago.

How can this be?

It can be because the christians claim that christmas isn't a religious holiday. (Well, the people who support the city-owned nativity scene are saying that, and I assume they call themselves christians.)

They say a nativity scene is an established part of the "culture." Like fire crackers and jack-o'-lanterns, I guess. At least that's the way they argued their case before the Big Court.

You know who

Now, you and I know who's supposed to be in that cradle in the middle of that nativity scene, and it ain't the baby Buddha. But the christians deny the significance of that fact. It appears that baby you-know-who and his mother, the v*rg*n Mary, mean no more to Rhode Island christians than witches at Halloween and cupids on valentines. Or so they'd like us to think.

2. In December of 1982, the New Jersey legislature mandated that all public schools in the state should observe a minute of silence at the beginning of classes for "quiet and private contemplation or introspection."

Jeffrey May, a science teacher from Edison, NJ, refused to conduct the moment of silence; he knew a silent prayer when he didn't hear one. Because he was threatened by disciplinary action, May went to court, along with the ACLU and a bunch of other folks who recognized religion



in disguise.

The New Jersey attorney general decided not to defend the law; he knew an unconstitutional statute when he read one. Thus, the NJ legislature has had to spend \$150,000 in outside legal fees so far to defend their moment of silence.

Not secular

The federal judge who heard the case ruled (Oct. 24) the law unconstitutional; he knew a breach of separation between church and state when he saw one. He also knew that the NJ legislature tried to pass a school prayer law 18 times in the last 5 years. He knew that Governor Kean vetoed the bill and that the state lawmakers who overrode the veto made religious arguments in supporting the law.

But the attorneys for the legislature insisted that the moment of silence had a secular purpose; it provided students with "a transition from non-school activities to school work."

The judge was not impressed. He observed that once the veto had been overridden and the court challenge had begun, "Bill 1064 became a statute in search of a secular purpose."

He also pointed out that the law required all students and teachers to "assume the traditional posture of prayer of some religious groups" and that that inhibited those whose form of prayer included movement and sound. ("Sit down and shut up, Little Running Bear! Johnny Protestant is making his

transition from nonschool activities to school work.")

So there you have it. If the christian apologists are telling the truth, christmas isn't any more religious than arbor day and a silent prayer isn't any more significant than a nap. And if the christians are lying, then they're not very good christians, are they? What kind of religion includes dishonesty and deception?

I think I know the answer to that question.●

--Ferdydurke

Source: New York Times, Oct. 25, 1983.

Wig stands read the Post



Why does Willie Wigstand read the Post-Amerikan? "For the polyester ads," says Wigstand, 23. "The Post has always had the very best in polyester, particularly in ski masks. It's paying attention to the little things that makes the Post the best rag around."

THANK YOU

This issue is in your hands thanx to: Barb, Kathy, Drue, Kelly, X, Dave, Mark, J.T., Melissa, Bobby, Sue, Jeff, Bumper, Robin, Danny, Laurie, Ralph, Bill, Stan, Deborah, Michael, Diana, and Susie (Coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

And special thanks to MGM for bailing us out.

Post-Amerikan Nov. 1983 Page 23

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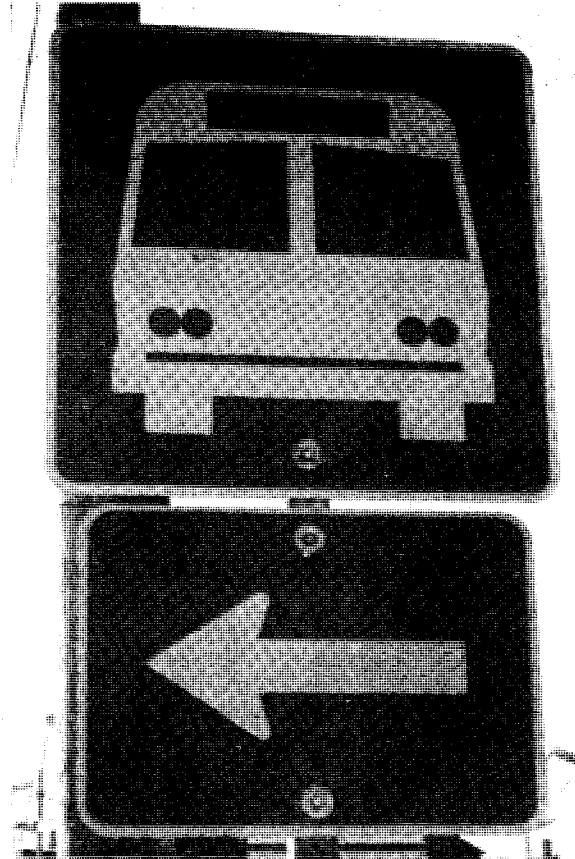
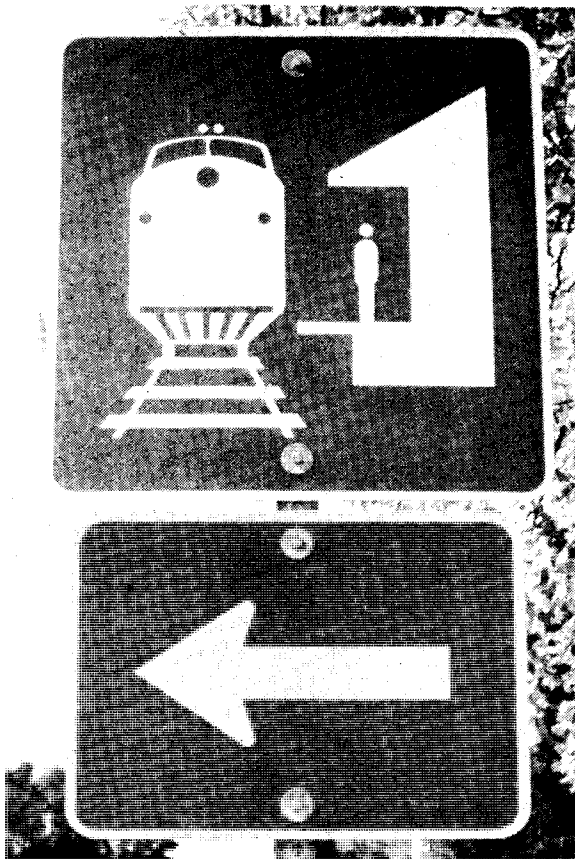
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????(E)*
30/2



There you are toolin' down Market St. at a respectable 25 mph, and you look up and see the sign on the left. What the hell does it say? If you stop, you'll cause a 6-car pile up. If you go on, you'll be puzzled for the rest of the day. So you circle the block and give it another try: "Turn left to see E.T. saying goodbye to Elliot"? That can't be it. Around the block again: "A giant Doberman pinscher is eating a robot"? Surely not. Wait a minute--oops! gotta keep going. Could that be a railroad track? . . . the little person is standing in a phone booth . . . you can make a phone call while watching a train go by? But you wouldn't be able to hear. Wait! The little person is waiting for a train! Yeah, that's a platform. But it doesn't look anything like the Bloomington train depot. But that

must be it--the train station is in that direction. But you already knew that. What if you didn't? What happened to the sign that said Amtrak Station? What happened to signs that said anything?

The next day you're whizzing down Rt. 51 Speedway (aka Madison St.) and you see the sign on the right. Another one? What could this one mean? No wasting a half a tank of gas this time. Park the car and walk back; give yourself plenty of time to contemplate the perplexities of international symbols. "Beware: Darth Vader Ahead"?? "Buy Your Riot Helmet Here"?? Who cares? Whatever it is to the left, you don't want to run into it. Just drive to the library and get something to read.

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I remembered to take out the garbage, leave food for the cat, turn off the air conditioner, pay the telephone bill, and water the philodendron. But all of that means nothing, without a Post-Amerikan subscription. My life is empty... I desperately seek thrills and find them all sordid and meaningless...

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