

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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Wonder Woman, CIA, Vacuums, Xmas

Bloomington-Normal

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POST AMERIKAN

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

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 letters 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 our contributions and by letting our advertisers know you saw their ads in the Post Amerikan.

The next deadline for submitting Post material is January 8, 1987.

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 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
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 Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.
 Lee Street (100 N.)
 Main and Miller streets
 Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
 Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main
 Pantagraph (front of building),
 301 W. Washington
 The Park Store, Wood & Allin
 People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrissey
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market
 Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
 U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
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- NORMAL**
 Blue Dahlia Bookstore, 124 E. Beaufort
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 (in front)

Moving?

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

Name: _____
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Thanks

This issue is in your hands thanks to Deborah (coordinator), Laurie D., Laurie H., Melissa, Val, Dave, Cathy, Brace, Bumper, J.T., Kay, Marcie, Laurie S., Ralph, Mark, Chris (Little C), Peg, Susie, Sue, Susan, and probably others we forgot to mention.

Special thanx to Lauries' Hearth & Home for Saturday's dining pleasure.



At the end of every Rainbow...

A vacuum cleaner that really sucks

\$10/HR. SET-UP AND DISPLAY

If you were unemployed, wouldn't a Pantagraph "Help Wanted" ad beginning like this seem enticing?

That's what Jacqueline Nichols thought . . . and so began her nightmare journey into the dirty side of floor care.

Jacqueline, and how many other local jobless folks we don't know, hurried downtown to apply for this \$10 an hour gem. She filled out an application and was told to call back that afternoon to see whether she was accepted. She was: she got to go back the next morning for an interview. Then she was told to call back that afternoon to "talk about training."

"They made it seem like they were being very selective, like it was a big privilege to work for them," she said. (Later, she found out that they were really screening to find the applicants most desperately in need, because anyone else was likely to drop out too quickly.)

The training began, 9am--noon daily. What for? To sell "air filtration systems," they claimed. Questions from the ten lucky trainees were answered with, "Oh, we'll tell you all about that later this week."



It took three days to find out that "air filtration systems" are really vacuum cleaners, and that trained personnel are really door-to-door salespeople. In fact, the ironically named Rainbow system owners, the Morris family, insist that this is not a door-to-door sales job, because you never have to go door to door; they set up all your appointments for you, and all you do is go demonstrate and explain the Rainbow to willing victims. More about that later.

The three-hour daily training, Monday through Saturday, continues for as long as you stay with Rainbow. "Do we get paid for the training hours?" one trainee asked. "No, but we won't charge you for it, either," replied the trainer.

Trainees memorize a long demonstration

and a high-pressure spiel. "You were really supposed to put the squeeze on," Jacqueline reported. "Make the person feel like their rug was filthy, their air was scummy, their present vacuum cleaner was a piece of shit, all kinds of stuff."

The goal: To convince the sucker to buy a \$949.95 (plus \$200 or an old vacuum for the mystical "power nozzle") fancy vacuum cleaner so elaborate that you need training to clean it and--get this--to put it away properly! (If not cleaned and put away properly, the motor will burn out. What a modern convenience.) If the sucker chooses to make payments, the miracle machine will cost \$1,149.

Of course, it will clean your living room air, perfume it, turn your bathtub into a whirlpool, and do just about everything but wake you up and give you a hand job in the morning, in which case it might be worth it.

The trainees were told to target retired people for these demonstrations, for which they received the advertised \$10--except that the demonstration almost always takes two hour hours to complete. And if you demonstrated to single men or to couples in which only the wife worked (for no matter what salary), you got no pay at all for the work. Single women only qualified if they'd held the same job for two years.

Of course, if you actually sold a Rainbow, you earned more. \$40 more. And you had to load it in your car, deliver it, and remind the new owners how to run it, at least an hour's more work.

But wait! Weren't you told that the Morrises set up all the appointments, not you? Yes, but you must provide a list of eight possibilities every morning when you report for training. While you are training, they are on the phone to your poor friends, bullying them into setting up demo times. To keep your job, you need to perform three demonstrations a day.

That's right, for \$30 a day you can provide your own car and gas, do six hours of demos, and "train" for three hours. That's \$3.33 an hour, not counting transportation and recruitment time.

After running out of friends to list, you can get your friends to turn in their friends and family--they get a set of steak knives for a list of eight contacts. And that's all they get . . . but the Morrises will tell the contacts over the phone that signing up for a demo will "help your son Billy" or "help your friend Doug win a prize." Slimy, eh? No wonder the air around there needs perfuming.

A little over a week of this convinced Jacqueline that the jobless life wasn't so bad. ("I'm lucky I could quit," she remarked.) Some feisty curiosity made her call Nybakke's Vacuum, on Front St., to ask a few questions about Rainbows.

Two people there told her that they didn't even sell new Rainbows because the motors were so prone to burning out (and no parts are covered in the

guarantee). They said that the Rainbow company was involved in a bunch of consumer lawsuits. They said they could order a new Rainbow from a trade magazine for \$300. If they wanted to, which they didn't.

At the next day's training, with her demonstration Rainbow in pieces on the floor for cleaning drill, Jacqueline announced her resignation, and, for good measure, confronted the dad and son Morrises with the Nybakke claims. Furious, the Morrises denied



everything with zeal (claiming, of course, that it was only disgusting slobs who refused to put their Rainbows away properly whose motors burned out.)

"They really went wild," Jacqueline reported. Then she asked for her paycheck, which they refused to give her claiming that she had not "conformed to specifications" in her demonstrations. How could they tell? By the way the vacuum cleaner was put back in its box! Of course!

Jacqueline then picked up her power nozzle and tried to leave, saying that she'd return the nozzle when she got her money. "After all, I felt that the demo Rainbow was mine, after all the papers I signed to take it home," she said.

Not to be done out of a power nozzle, the Morrises surrounded Jacqueline, father in front and son behind, grabbed her and wrestled the power nozzle from her hands in a scene worthy of the Metropole.

Jacqueline tried to charge the Morrises with assault, but the state's attorney discouraged her, since technically the power nozzle really was theirs, and she was on their property. She believes that the state's attorney did intervene on her behalf as he promised, though, because she did get her check for \$40.

"How long have these people been around?" I asked, surprised that we haven't heard about the racket before.

"Well, they claim they've been in the business for 29 years," Jacqueline said. "They set up here before, a few years ago, for a little while."

"They move around a lot."

--Phoebe Caulfield

PVC plastic pollutes environment

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently considering whether to allow the use of PVC plastic (Polyvinyl Chloride) as a food packaging material. This will greatly increase the pollution from our trash. Yet, the FDA is considering waiving the requirement to undertake an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a study of the environmental consequences.

PVC is a plastic compound that is a known carcinogen to humans. It is used for construction materials and supplies and for some non-food containers. Recent technological advances have decreased its food contamination potential. Industry is now interested in using it for food packaging.

Consequences of PVC use

In addition to possible food contamination, PVC food packaging will at least triple the amount of PVC in your trash within five years. The FDA estimates that it will increase the amount of PVC we use to 600

million pounds per year. PVC is expected to be used for packaging milk, salad dressing, oils, frozen vegetables, cereals and more. Alcoholic beverages will be most heavily affected.

PVC will increase the toxic air emissions from incinerators. When burned, PVC gives off hydrochloric acid gases and some studies implicate the incineration of PVC with the production of dioxins, known to be among the most toxic chemicals. The FDA admits that more scientific data is needed about incineration of PVC. Currently, several states are sponsoring a test in Pittsfield, MA, on the impact of burning PVC. Yet the FDA is proposing to allow PVC use before the study is concluded and without conducting an EIS.

PVC is not biodegradable. If land-filled, it will sit for hundreds of years adding to our land disposal crisis. There are cases where vinyl chloride has seeped from landfills and contaminated groundwater.

Using PVC packages will decrease the amount of recycling. Why? PVC is not

recyclable from a practical standpoint. It is expected that PVC will be used for beer and soda beverage containers in place of aluminum cans. Of the 65.7 billion aluminum beer and soda cans produced in 1985, nearly 50% were recycled. If millions of PVC containers replace aluminum, it will increase the amount we must landfill or burn. In addition, litter will increase due to a loss of the economic incentives for recycling.

What can you do?

Write to the FDA and ask for an Environmental Impact Statement. There isn't much time. Any day the FDA will be deciding whether to waive an EIS and permit PVC food packages before the burn study is completed.

Write to: Frank Young
 FDA Commissioner, HF-1 1471
 5600 Fishers Lane
 Rockville, Maryland
 20857
 Docket # 84N-0334

---Environmental Task Force

Animal Outrages

If you were at any of eight wildlife or recreation areas on Sunday, November 9, I hope you tried not to look like a pheasant.

On that day, up to 615 young hunters took part in the Youth Pheasant Hunt. The young hunters were age 10 through 15. They had passed the Department of Conservation Hunter Safety course, required of hunters under age 16, and were supervised by a non-hunting adult. Also, each hunting group was accompanied by at least one non-hunting adult who had a valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card.

Even with all of these rules and restrictions, the thought of that many youngsters armed with shotguns wandering around looking for something to kill gives me the willies. I'm sure the N.R.A. points with pride at the new generation of gun-proud children who honor the Founding Fathers' and their right to bear arms.

However, those of us who find hunting and other blood sports abhorrent wish that the millions of dollars spent by that bloated lobby could be earmarked for compassionate education. Imagine arming those children with binoculars and cameras and sketch books, instead of tools of death. The fields of Illinois would have been safer that day for all living things.

A recent issue of Newsweek featured a short fashion alert. All you people who want to be In Vogue just must add pony skin and monkey fur to your wardrobes. The soft suppleness of pony hide makes it perfect for all those essential fashion accessories; and monkey fur makes its own unique statement, adding an air of animal savagery to your closet.

Having exploited every other type of fur-bearing creature possible, now Fashion dictates that the faithful horse and endangered primate come under the skinning knife. When will



fashion fascists realize that "Real people wear fake furs"?

 In a recent Committee to Fight Animal Research (C.F.A.R.) newsletter, a blistering indictment of the August 21 episode of Trapper John, M.D. was made. Its title "Research and Destroy" was labeled "a blatant example

of pure fiction concerning the issue of animal experimentation... This program is a very serious offense (travesty of the truth), denouncing all semblance of responsible program practices. If we do not respond to this, we can only expect more of the same in the future."

Since the aforementioned series is one I don't indulge, I do not know what the problem is, though I can imagine. If you saw the episode, and felt equally outraged, please let me in on the story.

The sponsors of the episode were: Dewey Stevens, Cascade, AT&T, Pizza Hut, Handi Wrap, General Electric, AMC Renault-Jeep, Scott Towels, Playtex, J.C. Penney, K-Mart and 7-Up. The CBS network address is: 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, and the people to contact to be made aware of your outrage are B. Donald Grant (President of Entertainment, Suite 343) and Chris Davidson (Director of Program Practices, Suite 231). Those responsible for disseminating biased "truths" must be made aware that bias should never be profitable.

 As an environmentalist as well as an animal activist, I strongly believe in the work that has been done by Greenpeace. For nearly two decades, Greenpeace volunteers have risked life and liberty to reverse environmental atrocities: toxic and nuclear waste dumping in our oceans, commercial whaling, the annual seal slaughter, acid rain, nuclear weapons.

This quote from a recent donation request dramatizes our global plight: "Each moment of every day, the life blood of our planet is ebbing away...While governments and organizations can find huge sums of money for more inhumane ways of killing millions of our own species, they cannot seem to find the money needed to alleviate human, animal and environmental suffering on a massive scale."

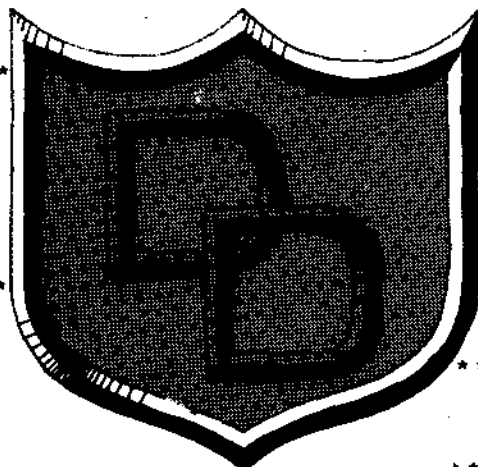
Greenpeace relies on donations to continue its work. If you have a few dollars to spare, send it to:

Greenpeace, P.O. Box 3720,
 Washington, D.C. 20007.

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Stone Soup really cooks!

Stone Soup is the name of an accoustical trio from Lafayette, Indiana. Their debut album, Long Fields, has attracted the attention of public radio stations across the country. A recent survey confirmed that 75% of these stations have given airplay to songs from Long Fields. This is a pretty neat coup for a self-produced record without the benefit of a national promotion campaign or distributor.

Stone Soup and their album caught the ears of Illinois Wesleyan University's radio station, WESN, disc jockey John Thomas and his friends Dan Grey and Joe Serio. In September they went to Champaign to see the band at Nature's Table.

Joe Serio reports that "it wasn't just their great music, but the really incredible performance" that prompted the idea of bringing Stone Soup to Bloomington. Enthusiasm from station staff and listeners soon convinced WESN to encourage the University Box Office to book Stone Soup for a show. Although WESN has sponsored several concerts by local bands, this concert is their first attempt at promoting a band "new" to audiences here.

An English folk tale inspired the name Stone Soup. A storyteller would travel from town to town entertaining the people with tales about objects he carried in his bag. At the bottom of the bag was a stone. He told the people that this magic stone would make the best soup in the world. He would fill a cauldron with water and place the stone at the bottom. He would then light a fire so that the soup could cook.

Disbelieving townspeople would crowd around to watch the soup and hear the stories. As he sampled the soup, he would lament although the soup was great, it would be so much better with a few potatoes. Someone would contribute potatoes. Then he would need venison, or carrots, or celery, or herbs, until the soup was indeed thick with the ingredients numerous people had contributed. At last he would pronounce the soup "done" and invite all of the townspeople to share the rich stew. And everyone would agree that the stone soup was delicious.

Like the main course from the folk tale, Stone Soup begins with a solid ingredient. Carrie Newcomer writes most of the band's material and provides the strong voice that is the soul for the folk songs, heart for the ballads, and gutsy power for the blues. She also adds the dulcimer and guitar from her solid folk background.

Larry Smeyak contributes the primary texture with his guitars, drawing on his varied musical experience which includes traditional blues, avante garde jazz, folk, and art rock.

Dennis Leas, the percussionist, adds the spice. He plays ethnic drums and, as he confesses, "anything else I can get my hands on." Whether playing Indian tabla drums, African congas or kalimbas, European glockenspiel, Oriental temple blocks, scrub brushes, bathroom pipes, or kitchen pots and pans, it is his percussion that spices Stone Soup.

The opening track of Long Fields is "Survivors," a melodic song celebrating self and inner strength.

The next song is "Waiting." It begins with the sound of a rocking chair in use and adds layers of a clock and windchimes. A rolling guitar interweaves with the tabla, bells, glockenspiel, and hypnotic vocals until the waiting is over and each musical layer is taken away and only the windchimes remain.

"Leaves" is a solo by Leas that is a mellow and haunting glockenspiel symphony.



Side one ends with the title track "Long Fields." This song is a ballad with many textures. The lyrics explore the magnetic hold that keeps people in the Midwest.

The first cut on Side 2 is "Alternatively." It's a bluesy song with a toe-tapping, almost danceable beat and smokey vocals.

"Under the Tree" uses kalimbas, tabla, and a cymbal to conjure up the image of an African afternoon under an umbrella tree.

"San Isidro" is a song built around a Spanish guitar and accented by congas, coffee cans, and film cannister percussion. It brings feelings of a long, hot, Central American day.

The final cut is "Weathertop," written by Larry Smeyak. It is a tribute to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth. "Weathertop" has intricately woven layers of guitars, dulcimer, and assorted percussion. It provides a fittingly rich ending to Long Fields.

Stone Soup's Long Fields is a finely crafted and well-polished work. The music, though mellow and soft, is surprisingly stimulating. It's great music for thoughtful listening.

Although attempts to reach WESN station manager Chris Kennedy were unsuccessful, the many phone calls to and from the staff at the station made apparent the tremendous enthusiasm the staff has and the amazing effort the staff is investing in Stone Soup's album and upcoming concert. The people who have seen Stone Soup's live performance are very excited about everyone else in this area having the opportunity to enjoy Stone Soup.

Stone Soup will perform on December 6 at 8 pm at IWU's Memorial Center. Tickets will be available at the door. If Long Fields is indeed an indicator of the concert, there exists the musical ingredients for a very tasty live performance stew.

--Cathy Ahart

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Mother Murphy's In Normal is the most popular hangout for the deal finder. If you only have a buck, you can leave with an album, which is in suprisingly good shape and usually very popular during its time.

Murphy's specialize in used records and also sell silk screens, buttons and other assorted items ideal for the dorm room. It is located at 111 1/2 N. Street.

— Tim O'Brien

Entertainment Editor
Daily Vidette

Pope declares open season on gays

In the most strongly worded statement ever issued on homosexuals, the grand poobah of the Roman Catholic Church condemned all forms of homosexuality as "disordered," blamed AIDS on homosexuality and careless gay people, urged churches around the world to withdraw all support from pro-gay organizations, opposed civil rights for gay people, and--most disgusting of all--implied that gay people bring violence on themselves.

Written in English, the 11-page letter was clearly aimed at the North American church and gay Catholic activist groups, which have dared to actually put Xian charity into practice in their approach to homosexuals. The document was issued by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith--formerly the Inquisition. And it was reported that the Holy Fodder himself personally approved the statement. The letter, dated Oct. 1 and released in Rome on Oct. 30, condemned not only homosexual acts but also said a gay orientation "is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward moral evil." The document also labelled homosexuality as an "objective disorder" which is "essentially self-indulgent."

The letter urged church officials to refuse all support for pro-gay organizations, including use of churches for services and meetings. It also rebuked efforts at establishing civil rights for gay people, calling any Roman Catholic involvement in such movements "an effort to manipulate the church"

Perhaps the most vicious section of the statement was the one which blamed anti-gay violence on the demand for protection of civil liberties. The letter states: "when civil legislation is introduced to protect behavior to which no one has any conceivable right" it is not surprising that "irrational and violent reactions increase." What this says is the Church can understand the hate-motivated violence of the queer-bashers, but they just don't understand why gay people want to be treated like other citizens.

The Vatican document also indicted gays for the spread of AIDS, saying that "even when the practice of homosexuality may seriously threaten the lives and well-being of a large number of people, its advocates remain undeterred and refuse to consider the magnitude of the risks involved."

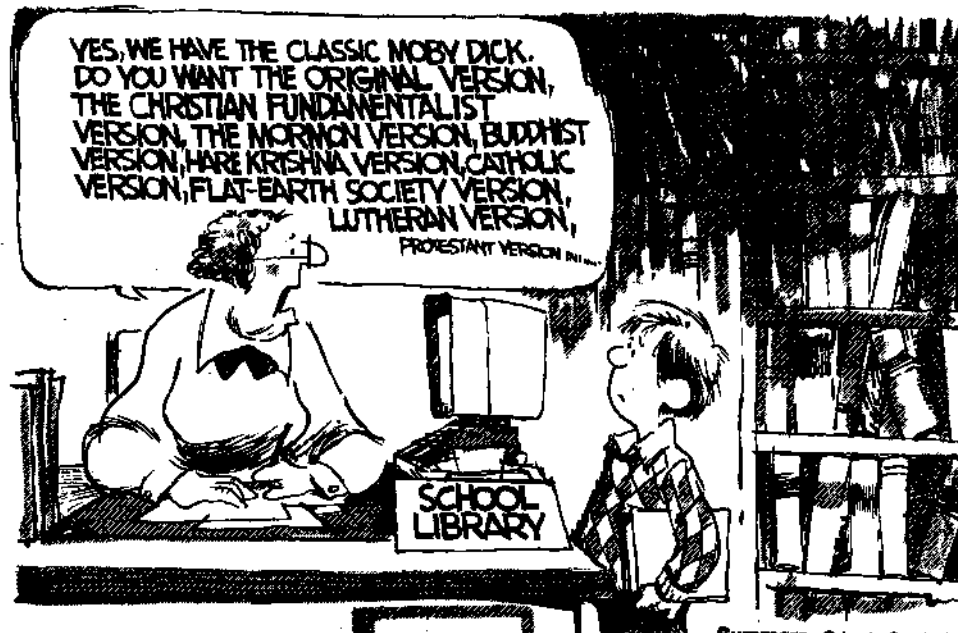
Well, what can you expect from the institution that took 200 years to admit that the earth wasn't the center of the universe? This same group of loving enlightened Xians failed to speak out against the Nazi death camp camps, and only this year finally apologized to Jews for 1,500 years of antisemitism (based mainly on the view of Jews as the killers of X).

And anyone who goes to Africa and tells the starving, poverty-stricken masses there that they should not practice birth control has little call to squawk about someone else's "moral evil."

Personally I don't care what some

Polish joke in a long gown and a funny hat says about my behavior, but I do care that this Roman Rev. Moon has so much influence and control over people who can and will make

American Catholics comply with the directives in this statement, then it's time someone brought suit against them to have their tax-exempt status revoked. The church makes



Summers, Orlando Sentinel

trouble for gays around the world. This statement all but blesses people who beat up on uppity, dirty queers (just like the priests once blessed the swords of the soldiers who slaughtered the Indians in Central and South America).

I'm also outraged that so-called religious groups like this can get huge tax breaks because they claim to be non-political. The Vatican letter is very clearly a vicious political attack on homosexuals. If

millions in untaxed contributions and owns real estate worth billions that they don't pay taxes on. It's time these pious hypocrites either got out of the civil rights business or got into the tax-paying business. They can't be tax-dodgers and queer-bashers, too.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Chicago Tribune, Oct. 31, 1986; Bay Area Reporter, Nov. 6, 1986.

AIDS testing in the military: A new witchhunt?

Last fall, in the midst of the growing hysteria over AIDS, the Department of Defense announced that all new military recruits would be tested for HTLV-III antibody; those who test positive would be rejected for military service. (HTLV-III is the virus believed to cause AIDS.)

In addition, active duty and reserve soldiers are to be tested in the coming months. People already in the military will be discharged simply because of positive test results. They may, however, be given medical discharges if they are ill, or "convenience of the government" discharges if they tell doctors about homosexuality or drug use during medical interviews.

The Department of Defense claims the testing program is necessary to prevent the spread of AIDS in the service and to protect those who test positive against exposure to other diseases. The HTLV-III test, however, was developed for use in blood donor programs, and medical authorities have warned repeatedly that it should not be viewed as a diagnostic tool. The test does not show the presence of AIDS, any AIDS-related illness, the AIDS virus, or anything else besides the anti-body.

Observers believe the military is more concerned about avoiding the medical costs of AIDS cases, and that the Pentagon really views the test as a convenient way of identifying gays. (Military policy continues to hold that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service.")

The recruit testing program began in September 1985. Although the policy called for recruits to be tested during enlistment physicals, the services started testing people initially during basic training, after they had begun active duty service. A number of recruits have been removed from their companies and discharged for "erroneous" enlistment because of positive test results.

Recruits object

Groups of Navy recruits in San Diego and Washington, D.C., objected to this treatment, and filed separate lawsuits in federal court to challenge the discharges. They argued that they should be treated like other people on active duty, and kept in the service if they were healthy. They also refused to accept the military's presumption that they must have been exposed to the virus before enlistment; that presumption, written into their discharges, would bar them from military medical care if they should later become ill.

In addition to complaints about the discharge policy, both groups of recruits objected to breaches of medical confidentiality and to continual harassment by other enlisted people and officers. "We've been called the 'A' team and 'faggots,'" one explained. "Some nurses have told us not to come close to them."

We're told we're recruits, and we have no rights."

Sailors on both coasts report that

Will wonders never cease?

The rebirth of Wonder Woman

Trivia question: Who was the very first Ms. magazine coverperson? That's a trick question, because it wasn't a person at all, it was none other than the very first female super hero, Diana Prince, also known as Wonder Woman.

This revelation is hardly big news today, though it could come in handy during a hotly contested round of Double Jeopardy, but there are new developments in the works for the mighty Amazon. In case you haven't noticed, the DC Comics series Wonder Woman disappeared about this time last year, after more than 40 years of adventures marred by inconsistent character development. Last month she reappeared on the shelves of the local comic book emporium in a revamped and revitalized return to her ideological roots, the champion of equality.

No longer that somewhat wimpy, trendy heroine barely clad in a skimpy version of the American flag you may remember from that embarrassing TV series with Lynda Carter, Wonder Woman now embodies the feminist ideals that her original creator, William Moulton Marston, may have had in mind when he first developed her in 1941. (For trivia fans, Marston was also a psychologist who invented an early version of the polygraph.) The outfit is still pretty much the same, but current issues are deeply rooted in feminism and the Amazonian legends of Greek mythology. Even Gloria Steinem was called in as a consultant.

What happened

Over the years, unlike the male members of the Super Heroes trio, Superman and Batman, the Wonder Woman character went through significant changes. Created by Marston to prove that a comic starring a woman hero was possible, Wonder Woman was to be a positive role model with strength as well as compassion and love. She became a symbol of Amerika as well, thus her costume, and in her early

days worked as an Army nurse and a secretary at the War Department. She interacted with everyday people (as well as arch villains and super criminals) and exemplified the virtues of positive thinking, self-confidence, and teamwork.

Following Marston's death in 1947, the Amazons began disappearing and the more typical evil aliens took their place. Critics called Diana's sexuality into question--she was too brutal, too butch--she must be a lesbian. Stories grew more trivial and so did recurring characters, reflecting the prevalent sex-role stereotypes of those glorious days of yore--the dreaded fifties.

By the early sixties, Wonder Woman spent much of her time battling all variety of evil twins and natural disasters. In the meantime, her Amazon heritage was rewritten for no apparent reason other than to make them less butch and less equal (superior?) to men. She also became involved with two males--the traditional Steve Trevor and merman Manno --to increase conflict and femininity at the same time. She appeared to gain a sister, Wonder Girl, and a father, demi-god Themo.

The late sixties saw a return to the original ideals and style of artwork, but by 1969, Diana Prince went mod, mimicking The Avengers' Mrs. Emma Peel's clothing and hair style. The Amazons retreated to another dimension to revive their power, while the hip Diana stayed in "the man's world" to help Steve. She also opened a boutique. In a major development, as if the boutique weren't exciting enough, Steve Trevor was killed off and the Amazons returned. There was even a "Special! Women's Lib Issue" in which Diana was introduced to feminist philosophy (to which she responded, "In most cases, I don't even like women. . . ." This from an Amazon!).

The seventies saw more and more schizophrenic moving around the ages,

bringing the dead back to life, and general mucking around in the comic book culture, until the series finally limped to a whimpering halt in 1985. The new series goes back to the very beginning before Diana's birth.

What's happening

Without going into too much detail, the new Wonder Woman is born into the Amazon society in a sort of immaculate conception, born when her mother, the reincarnated Queen Hippolyte, who originally died while pregnant, forms her from clay. She is given life by the "mid-wife of Olympus," and receives all of the strengths of the goddesses of Olympus. Free in a sense from original sin (she has never even seen a man), Diana matures to eventually become the champion of the Amazons, and is sent by the gods on a mission to stop Ares and the dogs of war as they wreak havoc and terror on the mortal world.

Upcoming issues will emphasize the "stranger in a strange land" theme so popular in social commentary. (Remember, she's never seen a man, and has grown up believing in equality, of all things.) Innocence and naivete mixed with culture shock and super powers--what recipe could leave more opportunity for educating and editorializing through a fun and painless medium? Add on an ongoing lesson in Greek mythology and a short course in feminism, and you have the perfect reading material for your little siblings, for your children, or even for yourself, if you aren't too embarrassed to be seen with a comic book at your age.

After you've been caught with a copy of the Post Amerikan, can an issue of Wonder Woman be so bad?

--LH

*Special thanks to the Secret Avenger and to Dreamth for issue #106 of Amazing Heroes, the source of much of the material contained here.

they were ostracized by personnel who thought that the recruits must be contagious through casual contact. One of the Washington-based soldiers told a January press conference that they were held in an isolated barracks "similar to a Navy brig . . . Some of the rooms even had bars on the windows, and we have to walk two miles to eat."



Initial attempts to halt the discharges through federal court action were unsuccessful, but the legal battle is far from over. Many of the recruits plan to continue the legal battle, if necessary fighting as civilians for reinstatement in the service.

Ethical question

The recruit testing program raises serious legal and ethical questions, and the abuse of recruits who have tested positive has been widely

criticized by legal and civil groups. But military counselors and attorneys are concerned that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

As testing of active duty and reserve soldiers gets underway, breaches of confidentiality and psychological abuse of those who test positive are

expected to increase. While the tests themselves may not be used to discharge GIs, innocent admissions to doctors may lead to administrative discharges and a loss of important military medical benefits. Observers are also quite concerned that the testing program may be used as part of military "witchhunts" to identify and discharge suspected lesbian and gay soldiers.

--Kathy Gilbert,
from The Anti-Draft
April-June 1986

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"Grace, the Pro-Life Doll"

Have a roly-poly-holy X-mas



Well, folks, it's that time of year again. Chr*stmas carols jingle through the air. The cities are getting ready to put up those tacky, bedraggled decorations one more time. (I'm going to be nice and not say anything about the Chr*stmas parade.) Yes, it's time again for the Post Amerikan Toy Review.

Only this year we have been blessed with a different angle. And I do mean blessed. God's servants have seen fit to offer us properly righteous toys to buy our children. And at a price comparable to those degenerate secular toys.

An article in Newsweek ("They Walk, Talk and Preach," Nov. 3, 1986) introduced the Post staff to this phenomenon. According to the article, the manufacturers consider these toys to be a "wholesome" alternative to the violence and materialism of the average toys on the market.

The toys include a series of "biblical action figures" (I'm not joking, folks, you can see them for yourself--both the Love Shop and R & W Religious Book Center carry the things). The series, called the Heroes of the Kingdom, includes Jonah and the Whale (Jonah really fits inside!), David and Goliath (Goliath comes with shield, spear, and sword; David, with staff and sling), and John the Baptist (we wondered if his head was detachable).

The series also has some biblical women--Mary and Josphe (I haven't seen this one--do they come with a donkey? And what kind of action are we talking about here?), the Queen of Sheba, and Samson and Delilah. Samson carries--you guessed it--a plastic jawbone, and Delilah is wearing a blue lame sort of thing. (Shows you how ignorant atheists can be--I didn't know they wore blue lame before Chr*st was born.) She also wears coral lipstick and has bright red hair, in Egyptian braids (a la Bo Derek--no slick commercialism here). I didn't see any barber's shears, though.

These things are just as slick--and violent, I might add--as the G.I. Joe genre of toys. The dolls are built the same way--plastic, rippling with muscle (or, in the case of the women, just rippling) and endowed with the same strange, slightly inhuman facial features and bizarre hinged joints. They come in those chintzy, ill-fitting costumes, adapted slightly to fit some poorly informed artist's



conception of biblical fashion.

The boxes they come in are just as commercial as those the Transformers come in--and just as wildly violent and even more decadent. Jonah grimaces in anguish as the whale sucks him in amidst a fury of wind-whipped waves, Delilah looks seductive as she prepares to do Samson in. Wholesome stuff. Right up there with "Dynasty." I can only imagine what the packaging for John the Baptist or David and Goliath looks like.

Each of the Heroes of the Kingdom also comes with a story/script and a cassette tape. God forbid our children should make up the stories their toys act out. Can't have them thinking for themselves.

Now, I'm not really saying that these things are really worse than G.I. Joe. But they're sure no better. The makers claim that these toys are more wholesome than the average toy nowadays, and will teach better values. I say bushwa. Instead, why don't we buy toys for kids that let them think for themselves and do their own pretending. Why don't we buy toys that don't have an adversarial relationship built into the charac-

ters already. If the kids want a fight why don't we give them dolls where if they want to have the dolls make up at the end, its not quite so preposterous. And why don't we give them toys that don't pretend that good and bad are both apparant upon first glance.

The Christian toy companies have given us other gems, as well--here are a few samples. (This is not a joke--April is months away.)

--Grace, the Pro-Life doll. This little cutie comes with a tape by Pat Boone entitled "Let Me Live; the Anthem of the Unborn Child," a bib with scripture printed on it and more blond curls than a human head that size would be physically able to support. According to Newsweek, she sings "Jesus Loves the Little Children," and says, among other things, "God knew me before I was born."

--The Full Armour of God. Complete with the Shield of Faith, the Breastplate of Righteousness, and the Helmet of Savation. Now, maybe I'm cynical, but it seems to me if you give a kid a full set of defensive battle wear, he (let's be real--you know they're not buying this stuff for girls) is going to find some offensive weaponry, if he has to make it. I'm all for letting the kid's imagination go wild, but I thought the aim was to get rid of violent toys.

--The Prince of Peace Pets. Among which is Born Again Bunny. With, according to Newsweek's article, "New Testament verse tacked to his ear (John 3:3, '...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God')." Tacky.

--"You're Either One or the Other." A tape I found in the kid's section of the Love Shop. I couldn't afford to buy it, so I can't give you intimate details, but the cover was a picture of two kids--a boy and a girl--doing dress up in the appropriate grown up clothes, and the gist of it seemed to be making sure our kids didn't have any social confusion about just exactly what their place in society was. No Comment.

--Chris M.

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SECULAR TOYS CAN'T COMPARE!

SECULAR ACTION TOYS COME IN SUCH UNGODLY COLORS LIKE PURPLE, GREEN, EVEN BROWN!!

MAN'S WEAPONS NO MATCH FOR GOD'S WORD!

TIGHT LOINCLOTH PUTS CHILDREN'S MINDS IN THE GUTTER!!

*DELILAH AND HER BOUDOIR SOLD SEPARATELY

SAMSON

HERO OF THE KINGDOM

JUST ANOTHER INFERIOR SECULAR TOY

Xmas toys are coming

You'd better watch out



It's Saturday morning. Parents, do you know where your children are? Chances are they're parked in front of the TV, transfixed by one of approximately 20 kids' TV shows that are modeled on popular toys. This potent marketing marriage of television and toys, say several recent articles, has reached new heights of commercialism. And the values inherent in some of the most successful toys are the ones we need to examine.

"Transformers" and Strawberry Shortcake dolls are products of a historical odyssey that began, as David Owens notes in the *Atlantic Monthly* (October 1986), when "children had no toys per se, but played with pine cones and lumps of coal." Some classics remain popular, like Lincoln Logs (production still consumes four carloads of Ponderosa pine from Oregon every month), Lego (sold in 125 countries, including the Soviet Union and Israel, which boasts the highest per capita sales in the world), and Barbie (if she were blown up to human size, her measurements would be 39-21-33).

The toy industry now generates \$12 billion in retail sales each year, propelled by "the two great empires of post-war American culture: television and plastic." Owen speculates that the rate of divorce and remarriage creates a burgeoning grandparent rate, which in turn increases the ratio of presents to birthdays. Also, parents in two-career families tend to buy more toys to compensate for spending less time with their children, Owen says.

Manufacturers learned from Barbie's success that by creating an imaginary environment they could, says Owen, "give the customer a reason to keep buying." The trick is to "manage" the package from beginning to end. Enter Strawberry

Shortcake, cooked up by General Mills and American Greetings, whose first program-length commercial appeared on the air in 1980. Strawberry Shortcake is from a new generation of toys that precede television series, unlike earlier toys that spun off from TV or movies. Although consumer groups like Action for Children's Television protest such blatant marketing measures, last year the Federal Communications Commission refused to hold hearings on product-based TV for kids.

In "Saturday Morning Fever" (Mother Jones, September 1986), Tom Engelhardt examines the values reflected by the hot new toys. The action figure superhero reigns supreme and, "whether in space or on earth, the emphasis is on teamwork. Rugged individualism plays no part on kids' TV. After all, no one wants to sell only one action figure." In the shows themselves, Engelhardt points out that humans are invariably helpless and reliant on technology, and superheroes, living in a world of "strangely ritualistic and utterly un-

convincing violence, a world of fear, suspicion and anxiety about a science that dwarfs humanity; a world in which you can never trust what you see because it may instantly metamorphose..." The ultimate forum of this scientific betrayal is, of course, nuclear cataclysm.

By contrast, girls' TV is relentlessly happy, full of caring, sharing and magical hugging. Just as action figures come in teams, "Ten Care Bears are better than one," says a Care Bear special.

If superheroes take care of threats from without, Care Bears, My Little Ponies and their ilk manage emotions within. Cheer Bear, Tenderheart Bear, Share Bear, etc., each handle a fragment of personality presenting, according to Engelhardt, "the managing (or healing) process as a highly complicated one that needs lots of cooperation by lots of highly specialized dolls."

Archetypes have always existed in children's fare; why then are superheroes and Care Bears any more dubious than villains and fairies? Because for the first time on such a massive scale, "a 'character' has been born free of its specific structure in a myth, fairy tale, story, or even cartoon, and instead embedded from the beginning in a consortium of busy manufacturers whose goals are purely and simply to profit by multiplying the image itself in any way that will conceivably make money."

Yet others argue that values implicit in modern toys are not all bad. In the article "'Transformers,' Barbie Dolls and the Cabbage Patch Kids: Toys, Technology and Human Identity" in the semantics journal *et cetera* (Summer 1986), Dreyer Berg suggests that "the fact that many 'Transformers' are war toys is of little importance when compared with the psychic effect of the unexpected metamorphosis of form...signifying as it does the labyrinthine encounter with the self. (Typist's note: Wha??) In revealing the inside nature of form, Transformers direct our attention to processes of inner growth and transformation."

Cabbage Patch Kids, he goes on, "offer insecure children... a form of mental and physical security and satisfaction at the time of the disintegration of the nuclear family and the possible computerized nuclear annihilation of the human family."

He contrasts the moods evoked by these favored new toys with the older Barbie and Ken dolls, who remind us of "the nuclear family and the waning age of conspicuous consumption, hot competition, and the buying and selling of sexual power points like legs and busts."

Now that a generation of Barbie owners has grown up to become Yuppies, we can see, as Berg suggests, that many "girls and boys subliminally adapt their inner selves to the patterns of behavior (Ken and Barbie) represent." Perhaps we are better off with a generation of "Transformers" and Cabbage Patchers, but personally I'd like to kick in the TV and invest in some lumps of coal.

--Nina Rothschild
Reprinted from *Utne Reader* (Jan./Feb. 1987)

'Tis the season



As the great Thanksgiving feast is finished and a satisfied belch echoes over the land, Americans across the nation will prepare themselves for the most sacred time of the year--the X-mas shopping season.

Across the nation, worshippers will flock to their sacred shrines--the indoor shopping mall--where they will jostle and shove each other to make an offering to that holiest of gods, the cash register. The high priests of the media and store management will carefully scan the spewing register tapes, so again a successful season can be crowned and safely relegated to memory in time for the first-after-X-mas sale, probably beginning at 12 noon on December 25 (this gives the store employees X-mas morning off with their families, a generous gesture of the season).

What will the worshippers be looking for? Happiness, peace, contentment, acceptance by their loved ones. What will they use to find these things? Miniature Uzi machine guns, automated teddy bears, laser guns and the latest marketed "children's favorite character" from Saturday morning TV and every morning's cereal box.

Here and there a few scattered voices will cry "Peace on Earth," but they will be ignored, as everyone knows peace on earth can be found and cherished in the nirvana hum of the mall's musak carols. With Star Wars just around the corner, why worry about peace?

Of course, not every land celebrates the great season as we do. In Central America, the quaint peasants huddle

in their little shacks or in a crude dug-out, wondering what strange new firecracker-greeting cards their richer cousin up north will send bursting around them this blessed season. Or they might wonder about this new apparition of Santa Claus, sent from that land to the north, presently invading Nicaragua, bringing wondrous gifts called "freedom and democracy," complete with rape, terror, torture and murder.

In South Africa the joyous season comes in two versions, white and black. You can have one, but not both.

In Iran they don't watch for Santa's sleigh; instead they scan the skies for mysterious jets, bearing wise men from afar bringing strange gifts to make dead jets zoom and quiet helicopters purr again.

Yes, this is how we celebrate the birth 2000 years ago of a non-violent revolutionary, born in an animal stable in an occupied land. We mark his coming by doing just about everything that would disgust him.

But, hey, it's X-mas; let's all just give an "aw shucks" grin just like our fearless leader in the White House, and set the tree a-blazing. Forget the homeless, hungry, unemployed, abused, forgotten, mistreated. Let's revel in our riches and have some fun--for that's what made Amerika great.

--MgM

Help with heat bills

The Mid Central Community Action, Inc. will administer the Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program in McLean and Livingston counties. The IHEAP Program is designed to provide financial assistance to eligible households to help meet the costs of home energy. The priority group to be served are elderly and handicapped. To make this possible, during the month of November the program is only for the elderly, handicapped and emergency applications. On December 1, the program opens to anyone who meets the the guidelines and wishes to apply.

Community Action takes emergency applications for households that have been terminated from their primary heating source. This also includes users of fuel oil and propane if the tank is at or below the 10% level and the user has received written notice from the fuel company that they will not deliver until arrangements have been made.

Emergency payments will be made only if a household has made a "Good Faith" payment during the previous 90 day period. The Department of Commerce and Community Affairs defines a "Good Faith" payment as: making payment to the household's primary heating or secondary electric vendor of not less than 10% of the household's income during the previous 90 day period.

Applicants are helped on a first come first serve basis. The amount of assistance depends on income and number of people residing in the

household and type of primary heating. Payments will range from \$105.00 to \$395.00.

At the time of application, the applicant should bring:

- 1) Proof of gross income from all household members for 90 days prior to application date,
- 2) Current heat and electric bill which includes their name and address, and
- 3) Social security numbers of all household members.

Changes in the guidelines

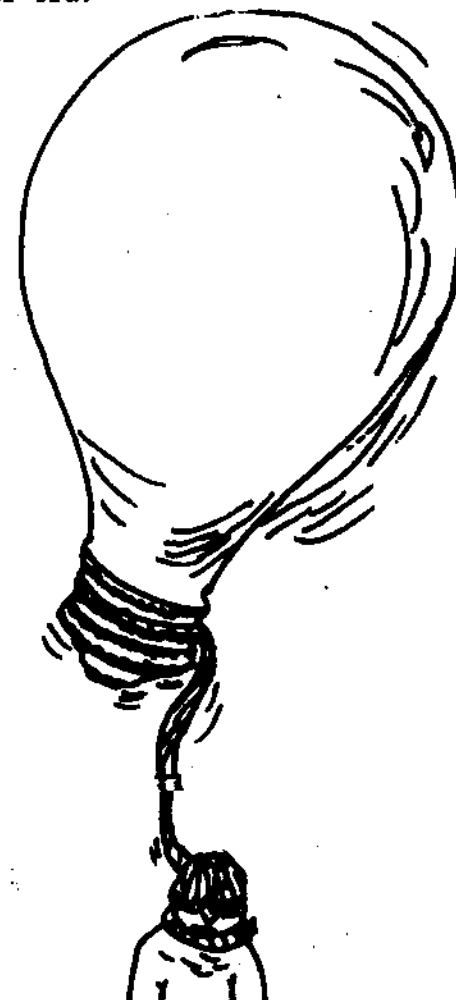
The 1987 IHEAP Program is similar to last year's program, with one exception. Tenants residing in Public Housing Authorities who have no heat cost and are not subject to surcharge will not receive a direct client assistance payment. However, these clients may be eligible for an emergency service payment, if disconnected from their electrical service that is an integral part of the heat source.

Families who receive a government subsidy for their rent, and do not pay their own heating bill, must provide a lease.

The 1987 IHEAP income guidelines have also been raised:

Household Size	90 Day Gross Income
1	\$1,675
2	\$2,363
3	\$2,850
4	\$3,438
5	\$4,025
6	\$4,613

Persons who have been terminated from their main heat source, the elderly and handicapped may contact the Community Action office in McLean County at 1100 W. Market, Bloomington, and in Livingston County at 731 East Madison, Pontiac to schedule an appointment starting November 3rd.



Enforcing draft registration

Almost six years after Jimmy Carter reinstated draft registration, Selective Service is still struggling with the problem of enforcement, while some in Congress, the Pentagon, and the White House are openly advocating that this country begin drafting those young men who have registered.

Prosecutions

Selective Service admits that nearly 400,000 men have failed to register (or succeeded in not registering, depending on how one looks at it), yet only 20 have faced criminal charges.

Eighteen of the 20 were identified through the "passive enforcement system," under which the government prosecuted only those persons whose names happened to come to its attention. Even though this system results in the selective prosecution of outspoken opponents of the draft, the courts have been unwilling to declare it unconstitutional.

The two remaining non-registrants were identified by comparing the list of men who have registered to lists of registration-age men obtained from drivers' license bureaus or other government agencies. Charges against the first, a Laotian refugee whose lack of understanding of English was responsible for his violation, were dropped after he registered. The second, an Arkansas libertarian who had attempted to enlist in the military on several occasions but failed the aptitude tests, is awaiting trial.

Intimidation

While the "active enforcement system" has led to only two prosecutions, it has, according to Selective Service, resulted in more than a million registrations. Before providing a suspected non-registrant's name to the Department of Justice, Selective Service sends a series of warning letters to the person, offering him a chance to register and avoid prosecution.

These letters, sent by first class mail, carry little real threat of prosecution, but can be very frightening for young men who do not have access to draft counseling, or aren't aware that hundreds of thousands of other men are receiving the same letter.

Solomon amendments

To date, Congress has passed three Solomon Amendments making non-registrants ineligible for federal aid and employment. Solomon I covers federal student loans and grants; Solomon II restricts Job Training Partnership Act benefits; and Solomon III (also known as the Thurmond Amendment) puts federal employment off limits to non-registrants.

In January, the Department of Education announced that it was releasing its list of financial aid recipients to the Selective Service for use in detecting non-registrants. According to press reports, violators who are detected through this method will be offered a chance to comply before any legal action is taken.

According to its most recent semi-annual report, Selective Service plans to encourage private sector corporations to deny employment to non-registrants. "We anticipate many American corporations will adopt such a policy as a practical means of demonstrating their commitment to our national defense," the report said.

Bringing back draft

Last August, the *New York Times* noted a growing interest within Congress, the Pentagon, and White House in reviving the draft. Proponents of the draft or compulsory national service--including Democrats like Senator Gary Hart and Ernest Hollings--argue that conscription would be fairer and cheaper than the All Volunteer Force.

Furthermore, they argue, a projected decline in the number of 18-year-olds

will make the draft unavoidable as we enter the 1990s.

More recently, *Army Times* reported that the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill, which was designed to reduce the federal deficit, may bring about a return to the draft. Proposals circulating on Capitol Hill suggest cutting the military budget by replacing recruits with draftees, who could be paid as little as \$100 per month, and eliminating many benefits for enlisted personnel.

Twenty-one-year-olds aren't the only ones in danger, however. On March 6 Representative Sonny Montgomery introduced legislation (H.R. 4346) which would require health care workers to register for the draft.

For more information about any of these developments, write the CARD Midwest Office, 731 State Street, Madison, WI 53703.

--Gillam Kerley,
from *The Anti-Draft*



Victorian India on view at ISU

The University Galleries at Illinois State University will present an exhibition entitled "Colonial India: Photographs 1870-1895." The images, which include the work of several photographers, offer a unique view of this exotic country which held a special fascination for the Western world in the Victorian era.

The differences in wealth, culture, religion and geography which exist side by side in India seem to find strong expression here, and it comes to mind that these very contrasts have created the Western view of the subcontinent as a place of mystery and intrigue.

Apart from their historical interest, the photographs also serve as a valuable record of the technical and artistic developments of early photography. These prints were made by the "wet plate" process of photography, which was developed in the 1850s as the first

practical and widely used negative/positive process. Traveling photographers in the tropics had an even more difficult job, as the process required that the glass negatives be sensitized, exposed and developed on site, while the chemicals on the surface of the negative were still damp. The outdoor photographer completed this process in a portable "dark tent," where temperatures could climb above 120 F in the tropical heat.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Professor Robert Hunt (political science) will give an illustrated lecture entitled "British India: High Noon to Twilight of Empire," at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 2, in CVA Gallery II,

The photography exhibition is on view in Gallery II at the Center for Visual Arts from November 18 to December 15. The photographs are on loan from Knox College.

Unemployed families' Xmas party

A Children's X-mas Party for unemployed families will be held Saturday, December 20, at 10 am at Bloomington High School.

To register for the event, simply send your name, address and the number of children participating to:
Children's X-mas Party
PO Box 3248
Bloomington, IL 61701

The deadline for registration is Dec. 13.

The Party will feature carnival games, karate demonstrations, X-mas card making, a petting zoo, a performance by the Twin City Ballet, Disney cartoons and a visit from Santa, with a grab bag for each child.

The annual event is co-sponsored by the Bloomington and Normal Trades and Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO) and the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

Bestseller rental plan

No more waiting on a reserve list to read a best seller! Now the Bloomington Public Library is offering a new service to patrons--Best Seller Rental Plan. This type of collection has been requested by patrons who wish to read best-selling books immediately and pay a small fee rather than wait on a reserve list. The books included in this collection are selected from the New York Times weekly best-seller lists. These books are in addition to the copies already in circulation. Some books already featured in our rental collection are Bill Cosby's *Fatherhood*, Kitty Kelley's *His Way: The Unauthorized Biography of Frank Sinatra*, Jackie Collins' *Hollywood Husbands*, Stephen King's *IT*, and many more. The fee for a rental book is 50 cents for the first week and 10 cents for each additional day. No reserves are placed on rental books.

For more information about the rental collection, stop by the Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, or phone 828-6091.

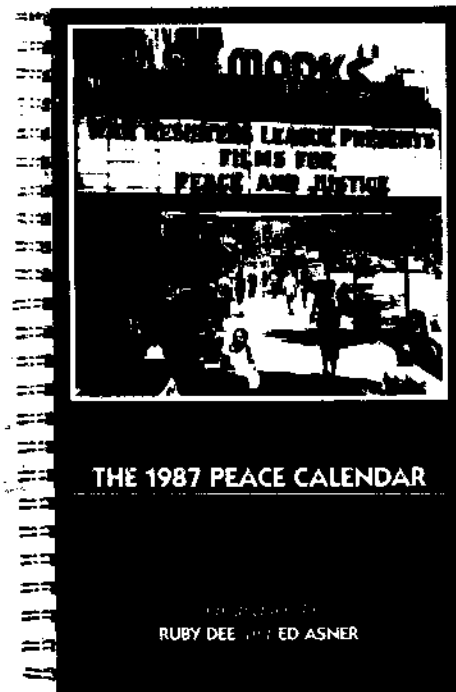
War Resisters calendar available

The War Resisters League has published a desk calendar (128 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches, wire bound) about films with themes of peace and social justice. The League has published a desk calendar annually for many years, each year on a different theme. This is the first time they've done one about movies.

The calendar includes over 150 films, with still photographs from 54 of them. Actors Ed Asner and Ruby Dee have each written introductions for the calendar. There is also a list of distributors and resources on books, periodicals, and organizations for more information on films.

The 1987 WRL Calendar is a unique gift and is valuable as well as a practical reference. It has a page for each week of the year with plenty of room for writing in appointments, notes, and reminders.

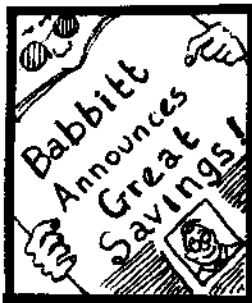
To order, send \$6.75 (or you can get 4 for \$25.00) to War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.



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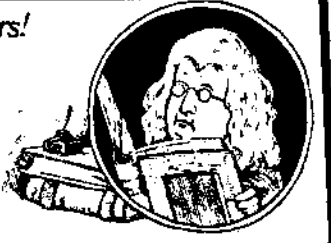
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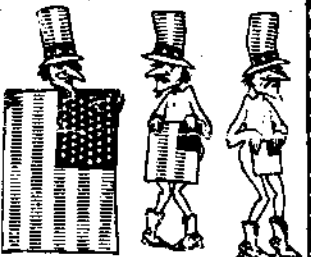
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Community News

Time out for teen moms!

It's hard enough to be a teenager. It's twice as hard to be a teenager and a mother, too. Many teenagers in McLean County find themselves trying to do both. It's not easy, but it can be done.

One thing that can make it easier is a Time Out group sponsored by the APPLES program of Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois. The Time Out weekly meetings give teen moms a chance to get together, share ideas and concerns, discuss what works--and what doesn't. Time Out provides child-care during the meetings, a meal for both the teen mom and her child, and transportation to and from the meetings within Bloomington-Normal.

The Time Out groups are free of charge and are open to any young woman under 24 who had her first baby as a teenager. New groups are starting soon. For more information about Time Out or other APPLES programs, or to register for a Time Out group, call Cathy Ahart at Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois, 827-4368.

If you are a teen mom, or if you know a teen mom who could benefit from Time Out, take time to find out more about the groups and about APPLES. Take Time Out for you!

Operation Recycle update

Operation Recycle is keeping its buyback facility open six mornings a week through the end of December at the recycle warehouse, 1100 W. Market. The nonprofit community recycling center buys aluminum cans, container glass, bimetal cans, and newspapers.

The price paid for newspapers has just gone up slightly, and OR hopes this will encourage more people to use the buyback facility. As of the beginning of November, Operation Recycle had paid out over \$8000 at the buyback.

The buyback will be closed November 27 - 29 for Thanksgiving.

The city councils of Bloomington and Normal have passed funding assistance for Operation Recycle for 1987. The funding for the year will be for a total of \$38,000.

Dates for recycling drives for the first half of 1987 are January 10, February 28, April 11, May 23 and July 11. All drives are held from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. at the Sears Eastland parking lot and the ISU lot at the southwest corner of College and Main. Volunteers are needed to help at the drives; please call the recycling office if you can help.

Operation Recycle has several varieties of recycled stationery and note cards available for holiday gift giving. Contact Myra Gordon at 829-0691 to see what is available for gifts that do not destroy more of our environment.

Current volume recycled at OR for 1986 is 1,834,000 lbs., or 917 tons. The total includes over 350 tons of newspapers, 210 tons of glass, and 300 tons of corrugated cardboard.

Dr. King Awards Program

The 11th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Program will be held on Saturday, January 17, 1987, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Ballroom of the ISU Bone Student Center.

The speaker for this year's program will be the Reverend Joseph E. Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

The purpose of the Dr. King Awards Program is to further the goals and ideals of Dr. King while at the same time acknowledging those residents in Bloomington-Normal who have made outstanding contributions to human relations or human rights.

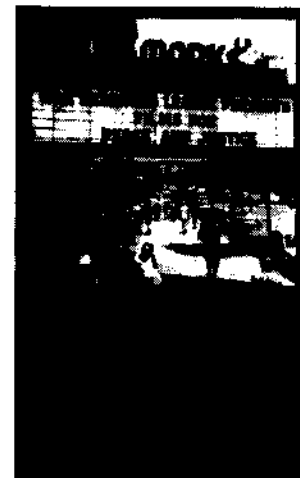
Tickets are \$8.00 which includes a luncheon and \$2.00 to hear the speaker only. Tickets may be obtained from the Bloomington or Normal Human Relations Commission by phoning 828-7361, Ext. 218/219 or 454-2444, Ext. 249.

This annual program is jointly sponsored by the Bloomington and Normal Human Relations Commissions.



JOSEPH E. LOWERY

The reviews are in and it's a hit!



Films for Peace and Justice

is the subject of the 1987 WAR Peace Calendar. It features descriptions and facts about more than 150 feature films, documentaries, Hollywood, independent, and foreign films. Illustrated with stunning photographs from 54 of the films, this attractive desk calendar also lists 112 distributors where you can find every one of the films mentioned. It's great for organizing film showings!

The desk calendar has 198 pages and is wirebound for convenient opening. On the 5 1/2"x8 1/4" pages there is a page for every week of the year, with plenty of space to jot down appointments.

Order a calendar for yourself. Plus, it makes a great gift for friends and family that they'll use and remember throughout the year.

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The Bloomington Human Relations Commission is here to assist and to help.

Operation Recycle services

Operation Recycle will work in 1987 on three special projects--recycling plastic milk jugs, expanding its network of drop off locations, and recycling office paper at Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan, thanks to three grants from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

On grant is for \$9799 to establish an office paper recycling project in eight buildings at Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan. Operation Recycle will pick up from offices in the selected buildings on a weekly basis after providing faculty and staff with information on what items can be recycled.

A second grant for \$9902 will allow OR to expand its drop box system from five to nine locations and to provide new boxes at all locations. The first new location will be the Zayre parking lot; it will be opened sometime this December. OR will also be looking for other locations in west Normal, north Normal, west Bloomington and southeast Bloomington.

Operation Recycle will also share a grant with three other community recycling centers and Eaglebrook Plastics of Chicago which will enable each of the centers to start recycling plastic milk jugs.

Under the grant, OR will get a small plastics grinder to grind the plastic jugs. Eaglebrook Plastics has agreed to buy the ground plastic--which is actually high density polyethelene, the most commonly used plastic.

Operation Recycle hopes to start accepting the jugs in early 1987. The DENR grants are part of the Illinois Solid Waste Management Act which places a surcharge on all materials going to landfills starting in January of 1987. The act creates a hierarchy for disposal of solid waste in future years naming reuse as first priority, recycling as second priority, followed by incineration with energy recovery, and then incineration without energy recovery. Total dependence on landfills is the least desirable alternative.

Community Players show

Bloomington/Normal Community Players announces their Christmas Show. The show is made up of two acts--the first being "Holiday Fables," consisting of favorite short stories of verse and song, and the second being "The Night Before Christmas" as seen through the eyes of a child.

Performances will be:
 December 11 at 7:30
 December 12 at 7:30
 December 13 at 10:00 (SOLD OUT)
 1:00 (SOLD OUT)
 4:00 (SOLD OUT)
 7:30
 December 14 at 2:30

Tickets are available Monday through Friday at 201 Robinhood Lane in Bloomington, or can be reserved by calling the theater's box office at 663-2121.

Stone Soup to play at IWU



Stone Soup, an acoustic trio from Lafayette, Indiana, will be holding a concert on December 6 in the Main Lounge of Illinois Wesleyan University's Student Center. The concert will begin at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$3.00 and will be available at the door.

For more information on Stone Soup, call WESN radio, or read the review of their debut album on page 5.

New director at Planned Parenthood

Susan Sulaski has recently been named the Director of Education and Training at Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois. Susan has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, with an emphasis in Sexuality Education, from Illinois State University. Susan was previously employed as a part-time Family Life Educator at Planned Parenthood while also the Office Manager for Sulaski and Webb, CPAs.

As Director of Education and Training, Susan is responsible for managing four full-time and two part-time employees at the McLean County Office and one full-time educator at the LaSalle County office.

Susan will be supervising all the Planned Parenthood educational programs, including the OK/Not OK Touches Program, a sexual abuse prevention program for children and their parents; the Teens Care Too, a teen committee which does peer education and outreach; and the Teen Rap Program, a pre-clinic educational session for teenagers who will be experiencing their first pelvic exams and who may need to talk about sexual activity, sexual involvement, and various contraceptive measures.

Much of Susan's time will be spent directing the APPLS (Adolescent Parent Program for Learning

Essential Skills) Program. APPLS is concerned with teen pregnancy and parenting. Susan will be involved with the Time Out component, support groups for teen moms; the ADAM component, which deals with teen fathers; and the Grandparents Too Soon component, which offers assistance to the parents of those teen parents.

Susan will also supervise all of Planned Parenthood's counseling programs: problem pregnancy, infertility, sterilization, sexuality, genetic, sexual abuse, and family counseling.

All of Planned Parenthood's training programs will also be under Susan's direction. Planned Parenthood frequently sponsors workshops and trainings for both community members and other agency professionals.

The Planned Parenthood Speaker's Bureau is also now Susan's responsibility. Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois offers speakers for community, church, and women's groups, as well as college and high school classes and clubs in McLean, LaSalle, Logan, and Livingston counties. If you are interested in any of these or other Planned Parenthood educational programs, call (309) 827-4368 and ask for Susan Sulaski. She's there to help.

Kaleidoscope kids make honor roll

Three youth enrolled in Kaleidoscope's Youth Development Program earned a place on the honor roll at Bloomington High School this grading period. All three youth are full time students and two are enrolled in the work study program.

Kaleidoscope's Youth Development Program is currently assisting 13 young people to prepare for living independently. Completing school is one of the many goals each of these young people work to achieve. The Kaleidoscope Score Card of Success for the Youth Development Program shows the following achievements:

- 4 have graduated from high school
- 3 have earned their High School Equivalency Certificate
- 2 are studying for the General Educational Development test, and
- 4 are attending high school full time.

We can all be proud of the educational achievements of these youth. Special congratulations go to the three Kaleidoscope HONOR STUDENTS at Bloomington High School.

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Ex-CIA agent confirms fears

Deadly Deceits: My 25 Years in the CIA. Ralph W. McGehee, Sheridan Square Publications, Inc., New York.

The journey from ignorance as a Notre Dame football star to becoming a cynical critic of U.S. foreign policy is one aspect of Ralph McGehee's 1983 book. It is the least compelling aspect, as his motives and rationalizations seem unconvincing. The stunning effect of the work is the revealing of the modus operandi of "the agency," the vastness of its influence and, at the same time, its almost complete incompetence.

McGehee appeared at ISU on October 23. He came at the invitation of the Third World Student Association. The focus of his presentation seemed to be an attempt to dispell the myth that the CIA exists to gather information which is critical to national security.

"It acts largely as an anti-intelligence agency," he told the ISU audience, "producing only that information wanted by policy-makers to support their plans and suppressing information that does not support those plans." He stressed that the largest audience supplied with this produced information by the CIA is the American public, which is regularly fed disinformation so that public opinion is favorably molded to the particular interests of the CIA at the time.

Leaking disinformation

Most disinformation is channeled through the White House. From there it is leaked as "intelligence" to the usually unquestioning media. McGehee alleges that most of the reports we have heard, for example, of the finding of communist weapons caches in places like El Salvador or Grenada, were planted by the CIA to be "discovered" and thereby garner public support and Congressional backing for increasing intervention.

One pattern of the CIA's modus operandi that McGehee illustrated in both his book and his presentation goes something like this:

- The CIA is brought into a country where social unrest is occurring. (McGehee himself worked largely in Thailand.) The CIA forms, trains, and arms a paramilitary terror force to suppress protest and discourage community organizing.
- The CIA report says things like, "200-300 communist guerillas in the hills are raiding villages and intimidating peasants into cooperation." An arms cache of Soviet/Chinese weapons is "discovered."
- Congress is asked to appropriate funds to protect the people and to stabilize the region. Congress is assured that that the problem is small and quickly resolvable.
- Congress approves the appropriation, the intervention grows, and more lives are lost.

What McGehee discovered in his position as the head of a CIA survey team in Thailand was that the insurgents numbered 200-300 per village; that the communities had begun to organize farmers unions, clinics, and schools without any help from their government, and that the "guerillas" were the local militia which had been formed to protect the villagers from the CIA-trained terrorists.

Creating policy

McGehee contends that he presented this information in a thorough, well-documented report to his supervisors. The report was ignored. Frustrated by the lack of concern by his supervisors, he agitated to have his report acknowledged. He was then removed from his post.

It was then that McGehee reached the conclusion that the CIA has top-down policy-making. The U.S. administration decides on a policy, then uses

the CIA to change or create "intelligence" to support the policy.

He witnessed the same process in Vietnam a few years later and saw first-hand the horrifying results. The deliberate bombing of civilians, the use of napalm, and the courage and determination of the Vietnamese people helped push McGehee into a change of consciousness. He continued to work for the agency, hoping to work change from within, while he also explored the scope of the CIA's resources and influence.

Conducting business

The CIA has its own airline companies. Air America, Civil Air Transport, and Air Asia were some of the lines. At one time 10,000 people were employed in these companies.

In the 1950s, the CIA conducted covert operations in the U.S. and set up dummy corporations. They used university personnel to draft agents from the foreign student population and to recruit U.S. students. (The CIA recruited many football players. They suited the agency's need for agents with good physical strength, conformity, and unquestioning medium intelligence.)

McGehee alleges that the CIA maintains liaison relationships with approximately 50 U.S. journalists and media organizations, as well as with hundreds of foreign journalists. He feels it was likely that *La Prensa* in Nicaragua was CIA funded, and therefore was legitimately closed. He also confirmed suspicions that many U.S. Embassy personnel are CIA-connected in posts all over the world.

Managing spies

Ironically, according to McGehee, though their sphere of influence is enormous, the CIA is mismanaged and inefficient. The records facility in Washington, D.C. is chaotic. In foreign posts, the communication between agents is so poor that they often unknowingly use CIA-planted news items as real intelligence for their operations and reports.

In-depth research and understanding of "the enemy" is not taking place. Of the agents McGehee knew in Vietnam, only one had ever read the works of Mao or Ho Chi Minh, and none understood the history of the country's colonization.

This lack of understanding was not only tolerated, it was almost condoned. Any agent who explored the local lifestyle was accused of "going native" and was reprimanded. CIA families socialized with each other, when possible, or at the Embassy. Only myopic views of the cultures in which they were living were established.

In his book, *Deadly Deceits*, more than in his October 23 presentation, McGehee told "sour grapes" stories of

his problems with other CIA personnel. Along with those irritating sections, his attitude toward his wife can put people off. He noted being aware that his wife was distressed by the secrecy, by being uprooted every two years, and the like. But his attitude of placating and/or ignoring her legitimate concerns was paternalistic at best.

Abolishing agency

The fact that McGehee was able to come to some fundamental conclusions was both pleasing and surprising. He now sees that the agency's task is to keep governments in power, or bring others to power, which are friendly to U.S. corporate interests. He has decided that it is wrong for military dictatorships to exploit their people and their resources and to reign through terror. He believes that social change movements in the Third World have legitimate goals and methods, even if they are Marxist movements.

Though McGehee advocates the abolishing of the CIA, he stops short of recommending ending all covert operations. He envisions the formation of a new intelligence-gathering agency not charged with covert duties, free of loyalty to political groups, composed of individuals with integrity, and supervised by some part of the judicial system. He recognizes that the current administration would never permit such an autonomous group to perform intelligence work.

McGehee neglected to note that this "Peace Corps" of intelligence would still serve a country run by corporations greedy for Third World resources and cheap labor. He also failed to address the power of the public in his book, but in his ISU presentation he encouraged the audience to become informed by reading the alternative press. At that time he mused, "... We're gonna invade Nicaragua unless the American people protest enough."

Experiencing outrage

After hearing McGehee and reading his book, I experienced a strange sensation of relief. Finally some of my worst paranoid beliefs had been validated.

Within a few days after completing the book, I experienced outrage. Reagan and his CIA boys are still getting away with murder: the secret arms sales to Iran and Reagan's bumbling excuses, the Hasenfus lie, the covert militarization through National Guard troops in Honduras, the undermining of the Nicaraguan economy.

The lies and deadly games won't cease without a committed opposition and an enduring public outcry of "Stop U.S.-sponsored terrorism and economic oppression of the Third World!"

--ds



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Public access comes to Bloomington-Normal

Is hell finally frozen over or what? Public access cable television has arrived in Bloomington/Normal.

In compliance with an agreement entered into some 18 years ago, Telecable has gone on the air--make that on the wire--with one of three promised public access channels. Operating very quietly since late summer, the channel has been featuring local sporting events and several regular series, including an interview program and something called "Teleaerobics," starring an aspiring Jane Fonda clone and a revolving corps of exercise natics. If you are interested in viewing any of these offerings, good luck, because they aren't listed in the local TV guide, and the station itself seems to be jumping channels as of late. But be persistent.

The philosophy of public access has a long history. Basically, these channels are made available to the general public to provide an arena for the multiplicity of ideas and the robust and open debate deemed necessary for effective decision making in a free democratic society (like ours). It was an idea conceived by the cable companies in an effort to keep the Federal Communications Commission off their backs. Unlike broadcast television, cable is not regulated by the FCC because it does not use the public owned airwaves--the rationale for such regulations is the Fairness Doctrine and the equal time rule. If the public owns the airwaves, the public is entitled to hear all sides of controversial issues. Fearing a similar regulatory fate, cable operators invented the concept of the public access channel.

As it has developed over the years (in areas where it has been allowed to develop over the years), public access has been less of a political forum than an outlet for the sometimes creative and entertaining but more often the tedious and boring programming produced and submitted by the more vociferous members of the Silent Majority. Notorious as the breeding ground for nude interviews and student experiments, the public access potential for education and information has yet to fulfill its goal.

But no matter, it has arrived in these Twin Cities, and life as we know it will never be the same. For anyone interested in taking advantage of this wonderful gift from the good folks down at Telecable to us, their loyal customers, beware: they don't seem to be much more interested in letting us use the public access facilities than they were to build the facility in the first place. Note the astounding lack of publicity the service has received thus far. For the determined, however, the service is indeed available, contrary to other reports, if you have the fortitude (and a few spare dollars) to go after it.

According to "Operating Rules for Telecable of Bloomington-Normal," the channel is available "on a first come, first serve nondiscriminatory basis" if you submit a written request at least two weeks in advance of intended use. This request is supposed to include some information that they probably can't really ask you to give, like affiliations and likely intended use of the channel. Minors, who are apparently being discouraged from using the channel according to a Pantagraph interview with station manager Al Shepston, may only apply with a consenting adult.

Pre-recorded tapes can be played, but copyright proof has to be provided prior to cablecast. Regular advance commitments can be made (like "Teleaerobics") but could be pre-empted by "reasonable requests" to allow "new or infrequent users" to use the channel. Exactly how a request is deemed "reasonable" is not specified in the guidelines, nor is the policy on the allocation of time, which is left up to the discretion of the channel operator.

Another grey area in the policy concerns the age-old problem of indecency and obscenity. According to two ISU mass communication professors, while the Supreme Court rejects obscene material on cable, it has never upheld an indecency case. In other words, Telecable can forbid obscene material, as established by the FCC and the Supreme Court, but indecency is perfectly all right. To be more specific, anything you already see on Cinemax (if you've been paying close attention at home, you know that this includes everything that happens before and after insertion, but not that particular detail itself) should be within the community standards.

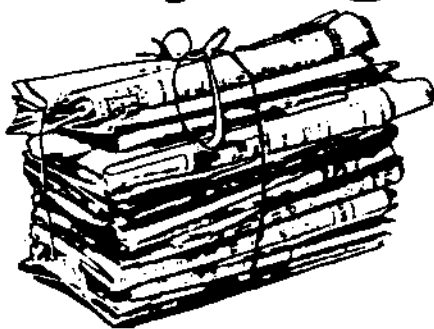
Further regulations are primarily concerned with Telecable protecting itself against libel, and the cost and availability of equipment and facilities. (See box for rates.)

If you decide to take advantage of this service which you have paid for through a franchise fee taken out of your monthly bill, don't believe what they are likely to tell you at the Telecable office. No matter who you are, you are entitled to use public access to say whatever you want, as long as it isn't obscene. Get a copy of the operating rules, and don't let them tell you anything that isn't written out in black and white.

Remember, they don't really want us to use public access, and what better reason can there be to do it?

--LH

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The Underground Vegetarian

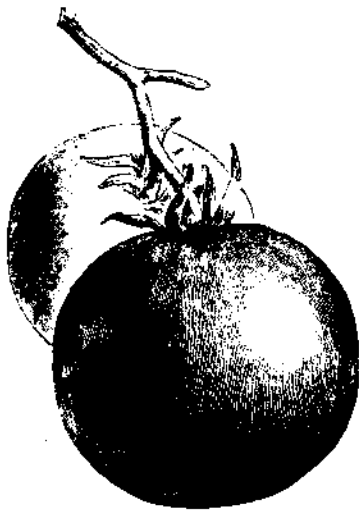
We went to Diamond Dave's for the reason I used to think anyone went to Diamond Dave's: we were at College Hills Mall anyway. And, since Mexican food is second to salad bars in the short list of local veggie dining-out options, it seemed a logical choice.

As soon as we sat down, we remembered that even though we'd only been to Diamond Dave's a few times before, we really didn't have any complaints. And we still have very few, even after turning our finely honed critical skills loose there.

Most importantly, the kitchen is flexible. Though most of the menu listings contain meat, our requests for vegetarian versions were handled with ease. The cook also added extra chopped onions to one dish.

The refried beans, which form the basis of much veggie Mex, are lively and rich. (We've been served enough bland, glutinous refrieds to deeply appreciate the difference.) The waitress willingly went to ask the cook whether the beans were really meatless, and returned to tell us that "there's a little lard, but not a lot." Purists, beware.

Ann and I had tostados and enchiladas, while Sue (keeping us eclectic) had a chicken super-burrito. Our dinners were huge, including a heap of shredded lettuce and more beans as side attractions. The house dressing, a creamy ranch, was cool and bitey, the picante hot and spicy. For chicken eaters, Sue reports that the meat in her dish was much better

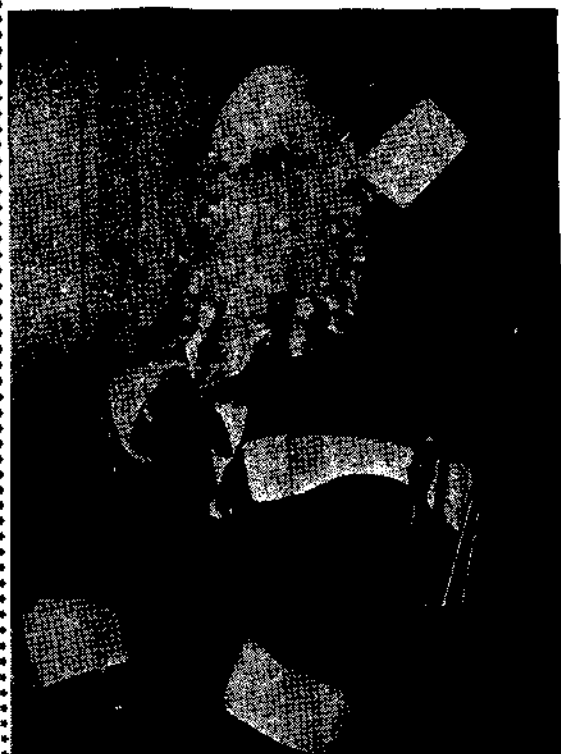
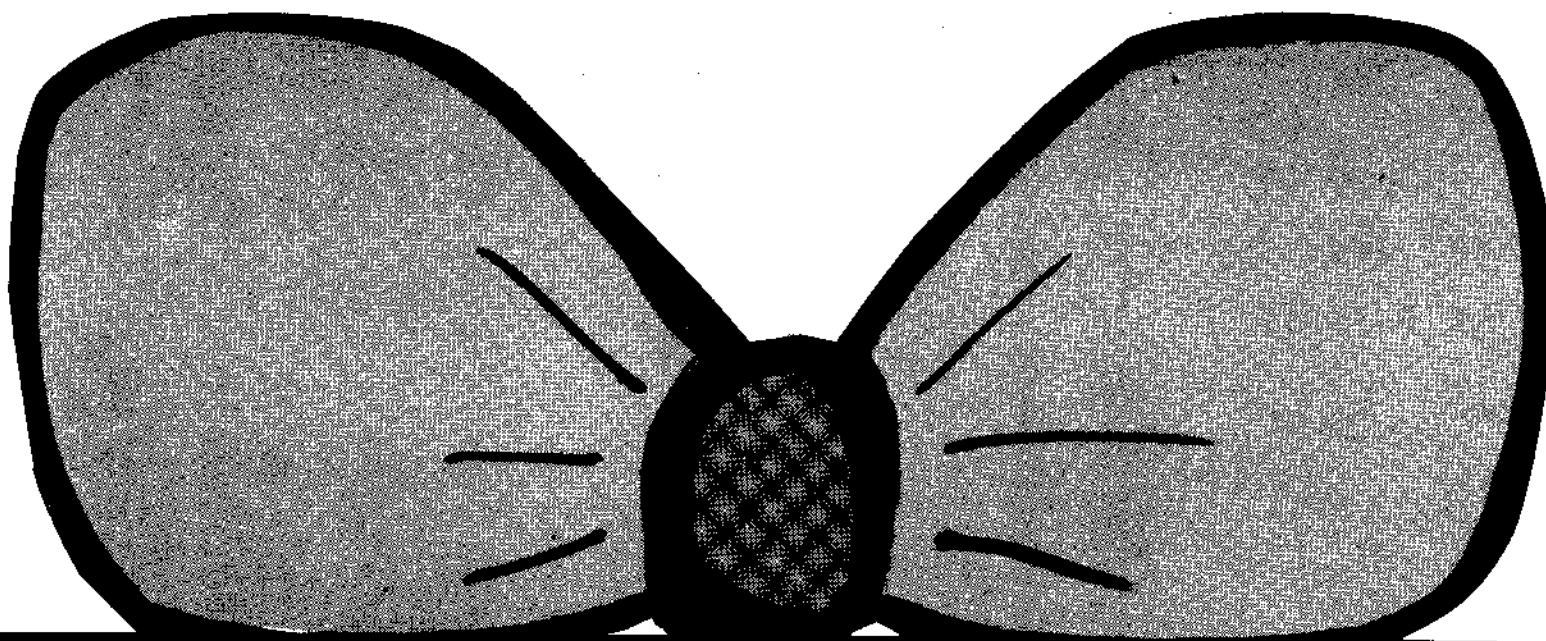


than she's learned to expect: it was moist, well seasoned, and lean. We all agreed that the atmosphere was great, especially for being in a mall. You can really pretend that you're not, with the dim lighting and old rock 'n' roll softly playing. We like to sit over dinner a long time; thus, Diamond Dave's soft seats are a plus. The walls are ornamented with tacky things bearing no apparent relation to the food, the geography, or each other. No doubt an existential remark, but so subtly done that we felt not even a twinge of angst.

Diamond Dave's prices are pleasingly low, especially considering the lavishness of the helpings. We were there on a Tuesday, when drinks are half price, and each of our dinners was just about \$4.00. We drank two Coronas, two draft beers, and one diet Pepsi. Our total bill was \$16.97, very reasonable.

So don't let the uninspiring location and the basket of characterless chips for openers fool you. Diamond Dave's, right outside of the Target store in the mall, may be the oasis you need, whether you're shopped out or not.

--Phoebe Caulfield



*Santa says,
"Send a sub!"*

Tired of long lines, high prices, tacky merchandise? Running out of ideas about what to get Aunt Edna, your friend Joey from high school, and your boss? Worried that the only thing you're going to get that will fit and is the right color is a pair of sweat socks? Your worries are over! No longer will you have to go out to the malls in the storm, fight little old ladies for parking spaces, or get irritated by the beep-beep-beep of electronic cash registers.

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