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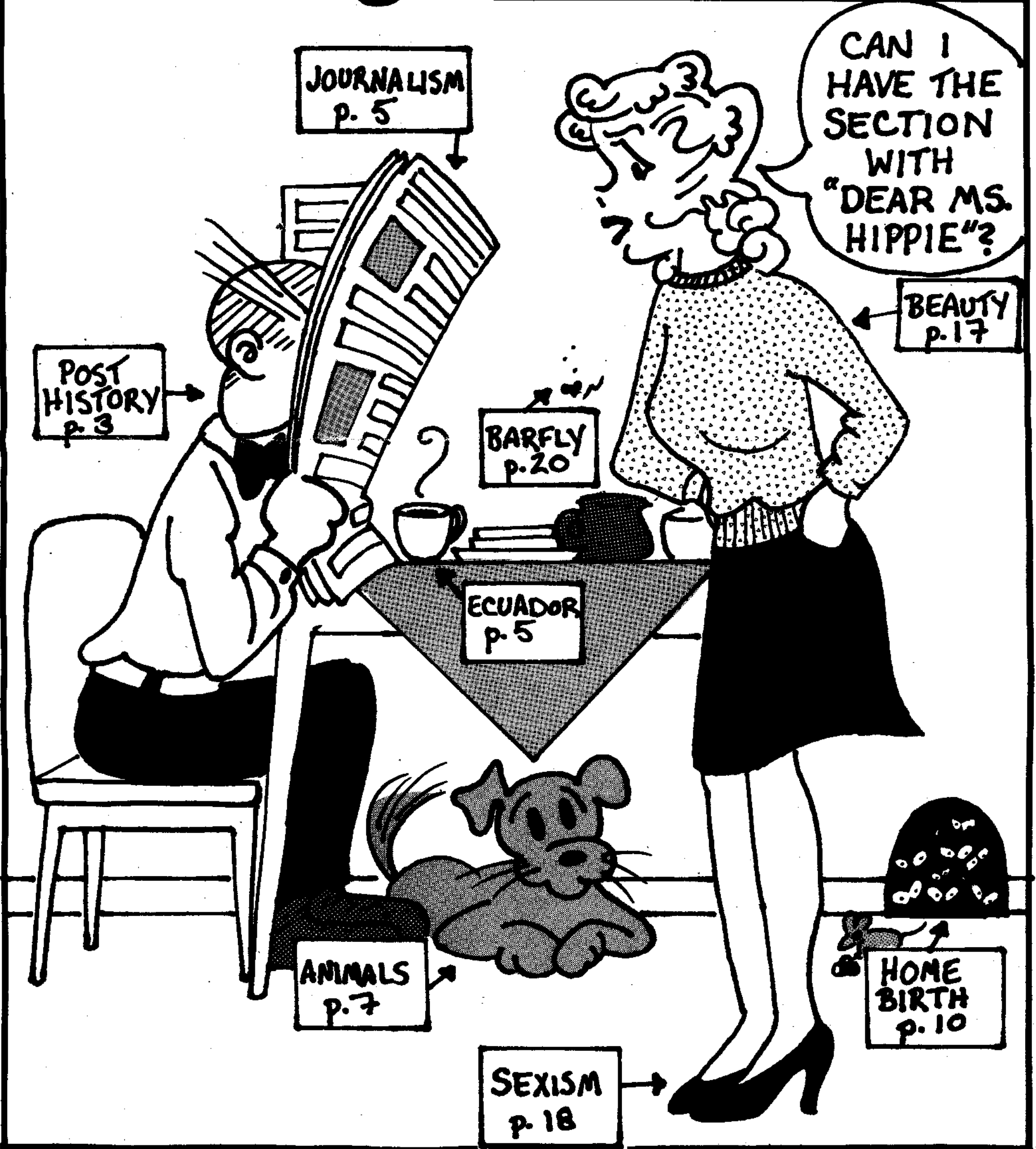
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About us

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

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The **Post Amerikan** welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 827-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

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

The next deadline for submitting Post material is Thursday, May 12. Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed.

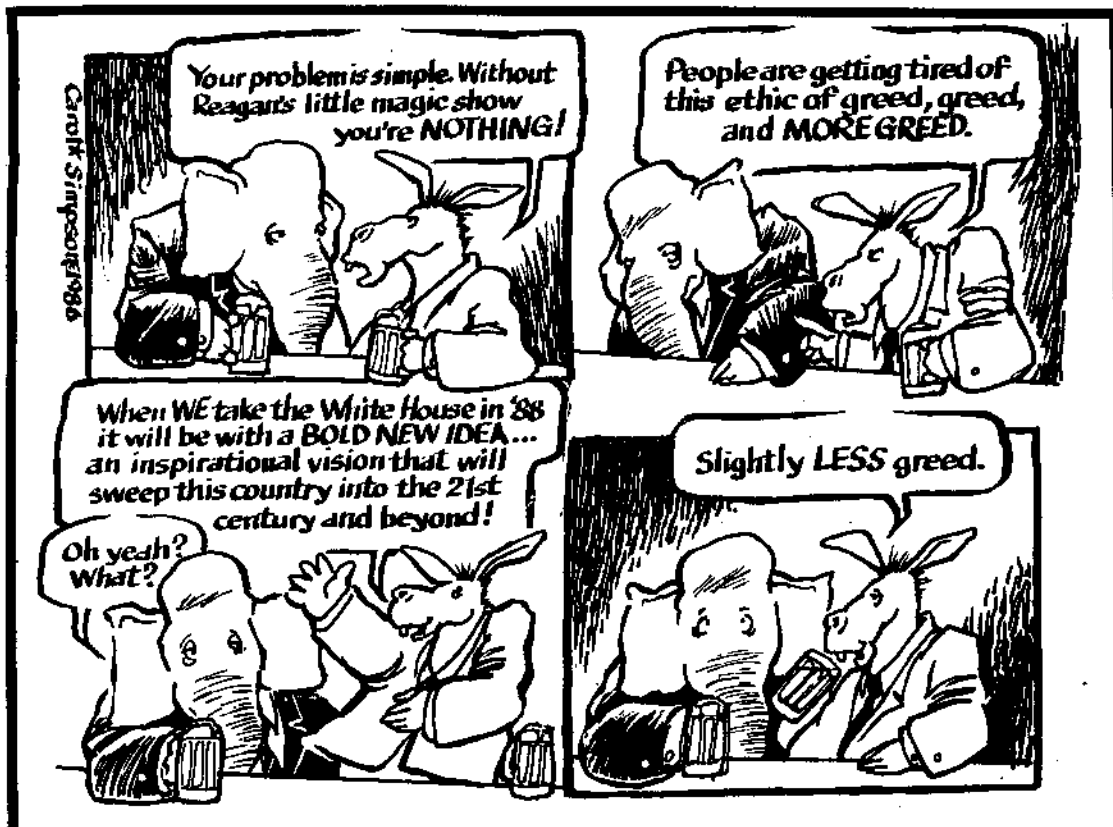
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Thanks

This issue in your hands is thanks to Deborah, Sue L., Sue F., Susie, Val, Laurie, Margaret, David, Dave, J.R., Bumper, Ralph, Bobby, Bill (coordinator), and probably others we forgot to mention.



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Vidette bungles Post history

Celebrating its centennial, ISU's student paper, the Vidette, recently devoted column inches to the early days of the Post. Not surprisingly, they screwed it up.

For this historical piece, the student paper interviewed yours truly as well as one-time editor Carole Halicki for some comments on the P-A's earliest days. I was interviewed over the phone three days before the story appeared (right in the middle of the Winter Olympics), and it was obvious from the questions reporter Derek Bridges shot my way that two-thirds of the story had already been written in the reporter's head. That's not unusual; reporters aren't scientists, after all, and you don't expect a journalist to have the same openness to contradictory info that's essential to the scientific method. But when the basic structure to a story is so wrong-headed, you still feel like hammering the writer with a copy of a Basic Journalism text.

The gist of the Vidette's article is pretty quickly summarized: according to its history, the Post was started by former staff members of the Vidette, all disgruntled by university president David Berlo's administration. Said former staff members' prime motive in starting the paper was to stick it to Berlo (and the Vidette, which was perceived as a mouthpiece for the university administration). Never mind the war or any of the other political realities that surrounded us in that era; forget the cultural energy that was all around--no, the Post's raison d'etre was solely the ousting of a greasy university president.

Missing the satire

And here's a snappy irony: one of them discontented staffers (your humble writer) had even written a piece in the paper two years earlier that satirized underground papers. How's that for a ripe contradiction, gang?

The final third of the Vidette's piece was devoted to a summary of that earlier bit of writing (an easy way to fill up space), and if its historical importance lies only in the fact that it reveals one basic truism--an underground reporter is nothing if not sarcastic about him/herself--at least that part of the article didn't get any info wrong.

But it's the article's basic gist that concerns us here: the Post's genesis. Some of you may remember the tale from the P-A's 15th anniversary issue (recommended reading for all future Vidette reporters): how the paper was started, not by former student reporters, but a philosophy prof and a few movement types. Yours truly--the only hard-core ex-staffer on the Post--didn't join the paper until its third issue.

The P-A's main reason for existing wasn't ISU's prexy but rather a whole slew of perceived injustices (issue one's biggest issues were marijuana and the paucity of good radio in the area). Berlo, when he was mentioned at all in those early days, was merely seen as one more administrator whose unctuous self-serving actions were consistent with the Nixonian tenor of the time.

According to former Vidette editor Carole Halicki (one bitter woman, to judge from her words to Bridges), the early P-A not only devoted all its time to trashing Berlo but also to ridiculing her. Would that it were true. The early Posts were frequently embarrassing in their writers' desire to move outside of campus into the community. The only criticisms of the Vidette that I recall were part of a short-lived feature called the "Journalism Review," a scattershot attempt at criticizing all the local media that was inspired by the Chicago Journalism Review.

Not that Halicki's tenure on the Vidette didn't deserve to be knocked: as two-term editor she managed to get administrative fiscal support for the paper that helped in the development of an increased schedule and a more attractive looking paper--but she did it, in part, by editorially bedding Berlo. In pointing out this ethically flimsy relationship, the Post was simply doing its job.

But even if the Big B. hadn't been president of Normal's biggest educational business, the Post-Amerikan would have come into being. The times called for it, and, hey, the community has continued to support it. That was the main motivation behind the early Post: the desire for a community-based underground that went beyond a parochial campus vision. I don't think we would have lasted half as long as we have if we'd been as campus-focused as the Vidette claims.

History is written by those with the loudest voices.

--BSherman

Dear Ms. Hippie



Dear Ms. Hippie,

My boyfriend has to go to court next week because he's three years behind in his child support payments to his ex-wife. Of course, he's not really behind; the whole thing is a stupid misunderstanding. (He told me how he and his wife had verbally agreed long ago that he didn't have to pay for a few years.) My problem is, what should I wear to the hearing? I can't find the answer in any traditional etiquette book, so I'm turning to you, Ms. Hippie.

Supportive Sweetie

Dear Supportive Sweetie:

You're going about this hearing thing all wrong. If you truly are a supportive sweetie, you will visit this awful judge's house the night before the hearing with a little message from all of us insurgents: Death to Pigs! I find that the Molotov cocktail is the perfect little pick-me-up for a mean old judge who comes home tired after a long day of picking on perfectly healthy men who don't make good on measly child support payments. And here's a helpful tip, gals--save those old juice bottles and salad dressing jars! They make great Molotov containers. Don't bother with cotton batting for the wick, as the books suggest. I find that a brassiere always burns best.

P.S. Just a little advice for that nasty ex-wife, if she's listening: Don't get so hung up on this money thing. Try to get beyond the materialistic mindset. What do your kids really need stuff like toys, new clothes and food for, anyway?

Peace.

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I have an important question about gracious hippie entertaining. I'm a vegetarian and, to brag a bit, somewhat of a gourmet vegetarian cook. I'm having the other women from my office over for a buffet dinner this month. My problem is, these gals are really straight in their eating preferences--I mean, they wouldn't know tofu from tempeh. Really! Their idea of health food is Lean Cuisine stroganoff. I planned to turn them on to some delicious, nutritious fare centered on a cold spinach and bulghur pilaf, with a clever tofu and carob souffle to finish. But my neighbor says this would be a big mistake. What about it, Ms. Hippie? Do I really

have to bend to Hamburger Helper and a molded Jello salad? Help!

Healthy Hostess


Dear Healthy Hostess:

I think your neighbor is giving you a bum steer. And being a vegetarian, it's no wonder you don't recognize it. I say, give those office gals your veggie best. You and I both know how delicious vegetarian cooking can be. In fact, a vegetarian dinner served with flair has been known to produce amazing conversions in meat eaters. However, if you are still in doubt and not adamantly opposed to recreational drugs, I might suggest a little wine or weed before the meal, to loosen their straight laces. I predict that before your friends finish the souffle, you'll have them eating out of your hand, which could lead to a most unexpected scenario. Ah, but we'll leave that dilemma for a future installment of "Ask Ms. Hippie."

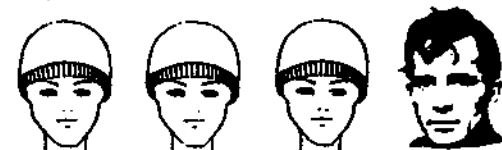
Readers: Do problems of life in the post-70's have you in a quandary? Send your questions to "Ask Ms. Hippie," care of the Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3052, Bloomington, IL 61702.

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Will El Salvador explode?

There are two sides to the topic of U.S. foreign policy failure. The first and legitimate side is that which affects people, and the failure of U.S. policy here is obvious--placing profit and power before human life and planetary well-being. The second failure occurs less often and is one that directly affects the U.S. elite and their foreign clients--the failure to stop popular and progressive movements by the people.

In the 1980s these two failures have occurred, together, in Central America. A case in point is El Salvador, which threatens to come to resolution in 1988 in a way which resolves the first failure of the U.S. positively for the people, and the second failure negatively for the elite.

Profit and poverty; power and death

Results of the first failure--misplaced priorities--can be seen in the millions who live in poverty not only abroad but here at home. For example, U.S. imperialism has left Guatemalans destitute while Goodyear, Coca-Cola, U.S. Steel, Bank of America and others expatriate large profits back to the U.S. elite. Further, to dispel the notion of U.S. corporations softening a regime (the nonsense promoted, for instance, in South Africa) one need look only at the words of a Mr. Parker from Bank of America. "If you use human rights in a country with guerrillas, you won't get anywhere."

Of course, more than poverty results from the first failure. Hundreds of thousands have been murdered in the name of U.S. foreign policy, such as in Indonesia (500,000 in 1964) and El Salvador (30,000 in 1932 while U.S. battleships sailed off the coast). The obsessiveness of this policy can be seen today in Nicaragua with the contras, where terrorists kill--for the U.S.--teachers simply because they are employed by the elected government of Nicaragua.

In El Salvador, 1988, the obsession with profit and power has caused the people to suffer from both abject poverty and death. Economically, the country is a shambles. Unemployment officially stands at 50%; another 25% who do have income earn less than what the Salvadoran government says is needed to live above poverty.

The people of El Salvador have no money, nor do they have land in areas under government control (although in areas under guerilla control, land is shared). While 60% of the population is engaged in agriculture, 2% of the population controls 60% of the land.

The impoverished in El Salvador can expect no help from foreign aid, even though U.S. aid alone is more than the Salvadoran government raises. Fully 84% of U.S. aid is military, and the amount of aid U.S. taxpayers have sent during the Reagan regime is more than \$3 billion, an amount greater than that sent to any other country save for Israel and Egypt.

The people's success; the elite's deadly tactics

In response to the economic morass, and to the 60,000 people killed by death squads and the army so far in the 80s, we have the second failure that threatens the U.S. elite--the success of progressive movements. The people have organized into trade unions, peasant unions, human rights groups, and a guerilla force exceeding 10,000 armed men and women. Today, all these groups are united in objectives and actions.

In a dialogue between the FMLN-FDR (the people's army and its political arm) and the government in the fall of 1987, 65,000 supporters kept vigils for 3 days outside the talks. The 500 government supporters (rumored to have been paid) went home after a couple of hours. Strikes and marches occurred weekly in 1987, and 1988 promises the same pressure on the government.

The government response (U.S. and/or Salvadoran, hereafter) has been bullets. July 8 saw the police open fire on striking hospital workers. August 28 saw the National Guard launch grenades into the Mariona prison where political prisoners are kept. On September 1, the Air Force bombed Santa Marta as refugees were preparing to return. On October 26, Herbert Anaya, the non-governmental Human Rights Commissioner, was executed by death squads. After comparing the government of El Salvador to Herod (of the Roman Empire), Archbishop Damas of San Salvador has received death threats.

This response by the government is a combination of the policies of 1979-1982 and 1982-1985. The first period was marked by massive amounts of death squad activity when 40,000 were killed. The second period was devoted to an attempt to control the population through the creation of a "third force," a policy effective in the campaign against the Huks in the Philippines in the 1950s. This policy sought to create a third party, an alternative to the far-right despots and the revolutionary opposition. In El Salvador this was marked by the decrease in death squad murders, the bombing of guerilla-controlled areas, and "elections" to put a democratic face on the country.

The first period failed to control the opposition; even though it drove all opposition underground, it only swelled the ranks of the FMLN and strengthened all resolve against the government. The second period failed as it put forward Napoleon Duarte (who headed the government previously from 1980-1982) as the democratic face. Whether he got to the top by force or by elections, the people of El Salvador were not fooled. The only success for the U.S. elite was that since the country now had held elections and had curbed the GROSSEST violations of human rights, the media could ignore the country.

The elite are not unified in their response today. Some favor a "scorched-earth" policy, stepping up aerial bombardment and military operations against the peasantry. Others favor a continuation of a "third-force" strategy. They are so divided that Salvadoran elites openly attack each other.



Whatever the response, it includes attacks against the people. In January a refugee camp was attacked. On March 10 a Salvadoran trade union leader was taken away at gunpoint from negotiations with the Minister of Labor in San Salvador. This was after he was severely beaten in front of his supporters on the street.

Yet the government cannot contain the people or the FMLN. The people continue to mass on the streets in response to every human rights violation. The FMLN continues to effectively strike at the Salvadoran military. Last year the FMLN stopped traffic in 95% of the country seven times. The FMLN operates in every province for the first time, and they are moving toward the major cities. This is despite the facts that the U.S. sent \$9 million in military aid to the police in San Salvador last fall, and the Salvadoran military officially admitted to nearly 4,000 casualties in 1987.

Building toward a critical mass

At a conference on El Salvador held in Chicago in January, a representative of UNTS (the Salvadoran workers union) stated that the situation is so grave that a "critical mass" is forming: that mass being the moment when urban workers join an insurrection with the FMLN.

There is no status quo in El Salvador in 1988. The revolutionary opposition is on the offensive with the support of the people. Generals Bustillo and Blandon of El Salvador have both admitted openly that the FMLN can exist on its own without foreign aid, and that the Salvadoran forces are demoralized. This is a dramatic contrast with the end of 1986 which was to be the decisive year which would finally contain the FMLN forces.

The UNTS representative also said that solidarity with the American people was still essential. Humanitarian aid for the people in the form of money for medicine, resettlement costs, and shelter is needed. Also, pressure on the U.S. government and media is necessary to stop the most outright abuses and make known the true situation in El Salvador.

To this end, a national campaign has begun in the U.S. by religious, labor, and peace groups called "Winning Democracy." To contribute to this campaign, you can contact your local Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) members at 829-3701 or 452-0977.

--Frodo

Sources: "Dollars and Dictators," by Tom Barry, Beth Wood, and Deb Preusch; and "Alert," published by CISPES.

A crooked road in Ecuador

For six months in 1987, the U.S. Army had troops in Ecuador, doing something like road-building. But not much road got built. And that's about all you can tell for sure, if you believe everything you read, and if you happen to read both *Soldiers*, The Official U.S. Army Magazine, and *In These Times*, a Chicago-based left-wing newsweekly. Sergeant First Class Dennis Steele wrote the heartwarming saga "Long Hard Road" in January's issue of *Soldiers*, while Paul Little, a development specialist who's lived in Ecuador for four years, wrote a distressing account of the same Army operation in the January 13-19 issue of *In These Times*. Following are quotations from both "news" stories, placed in provocative proximity. --Phoebe Caulfield

From *Soldiers*:

Abriendo Rutas is one of the Army's Blazing Trails exercises. Training conducted during those exercises contributes to civil projects in the host country, which supplies the needed materials and fuel. All had been staged in Central America until 1987. Abriendo Rutas was the first in South America. . . . A massive earthquake in March had cut the natives' main commercial route to industry and markets in western Ecuador. The devastation and an immediate need to help the victims left Ecuador unable to support a previously scheduled exercise at the coastal city of Monta, so the United States moved its resources to the Napo Province.

From *In These Times*:

46 percent of the U.S. Army's total combat strength is made up of Guard troops. Furthermore, by classifying this work as "training," the Reagan administration has found a convenient way to circumvent congressional approval for their deployment. . . . U.S. imperialism in Ecuador has focused upon the country's extensive Amazonian jungle territory. Though it is a sparsely populated area, it has great geographical importance, is rich in strategic minerals and offers enormous profit-making possibilities.

From *Soldiers*:

. . . soldiers would cut a southern route into the Amazon headwaters while Ecuadorians swung a second new road to the north. . . . Thus began one of the most daring Army engineering projects since soldiers wore campaign hats--and it packed the romance of bygone eras.

From *In These Times*:

Problems arose, however, in the negotiations between the Ecuadoran

government and the U.S. Army about the route of the road. The local Ministry of Public Works selected a 25-kilometer stretch of jungle as the best site for the new road. The Army balked at this proposal, claiming that the terrain was too rocky. Instead it insisted on building a 65-kilometer road along a river valley that the Ministry of Public Works claimed was on soft terrain. The solution to this impasse was to build two roads parallel to each other that start and finish at virtually the same place: one built by Ecuadorans and the other by the U.S. Army.

From *Soldiers*:

The largest single piece of equipment, a rock crusher weighing several tons, had to be pulled over peaks nearly three miles high. The crusher moved sometimes at a snailish one mile per day. But getting more than 500 pieces of construction equipment across the Andes was only the beginning. After the equipment made it, engineers had to fill a swamp to build their base camp.

From *In These Times*:

They [U.S. troops] shipped in hundreds of heavy machines, earthmovers and bulldozers that were inappropriate for the soft jungle soil and that regularly sank in the mud.

From *Soldiers*:

The six-month-long exercise was scheduled to end Oct. 15, but was extended to Dec. 1. The engineers built as much road as they could, but not as much as they would have liked.

From *In These Times*:

When the pre-allotted six months expired on November 15--after more than 800,000 man-hours of labor--the U.S. troops had completed only six

of the projected 65 kilometers of road. But the Ecuadoran crew building the parallel road completed the 25-kilometer stretch on September 30, reuniting the isolated jungle towns with the rest of the country and thereby rendering unnecessary the Army's six-kilometer road that leads to a dead end in the jungle.

From *Soldiers*:

The U.S. task force, however, has every reason to be proud of what it did in the time it had. While most of the task force worked on the road, other soldiers left hundreds of small civic improvements as time and resources allowed.

From *In These Times*:

Regardless of where they come from, the troops have created a climate of mistrust, anger and fear among the local population.

From *Soldiers*:

The U.S. base camp stood on the outskirts of Archidona, which had benefited greatly during the exercise. In addition to the construction and civil projects, the town's economy skyrocketed. The influx of money was constant. Each soldier took home at least one souvenir or gift. Archidona was a genuine boom town. . . . American troops and the people of Archidona suffered no negative incidents during an exercise in which more than 6,000 soldiers took part.

From *In These Times*:

One Archidona shopkeeper states emphatically that the U.S. troops were taking out sample of plutonium, uranium and iridium, citing a document found in the trash of the Army camp as his evidence. The townspeople are also upset about the negative impact the troops have had on their town. They have attracted prostitutes from all parts of the country who make fast and good money. . . . A Committee for National Sovereignty has been formed by more than 20 youth, Christian and women's organizations to oppose the U.S. Army's occupation of part of their territory. The group launched a petition drive calling for the immediate removal of the troops from Ecuador and spearheaded a large *comparsa* (masquerade march) in protest to their presence. In addition, anti-American graffiti has multiplied many times over, and in one form or another, carries that age-old Latin American message: Yankee Go Home.

From *Soldiers*:

Sweat-soaked, machete-wielding and dozer-driving U.S. soldiers had done everything possible to build their road and fulfill their dream.

From *In These Times*:

The deployment of U.S. troops to Ecuador's Amazon jungle is an alarming new expansion of the Pentagon's militarization of Latin America. Yet at the same time it continues a broader policy geared toward increasing U.S. corporate penetration in this vital area of the world. Providing earthquake relief has proved an excellent pretext for this policy, and all Ecuador has to show for it is a six-kilometer road to nowhere.

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Pat Robertson: Loony extremist or dangerous charlatan?

His resume lists him as "Author, lecturer, educator, broadcaster, news commentator, and Republican presidential candidate." But there is no mention of the 25 years that Pat Robertson spent as a Southern Baptist minister, tv evangelist, and hurricane traffic manager.

Robertson makes no mention of his former job in his speeches, his campaign literature, or his political ads. This is not an oversight. If you get the idea that Pat Robertson is trying to hide something, you're right.

The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) no longer honors journalists' requests for access to tapes of Robertson on the "700 Club." But Edmund Cohen, an ex-twice-born Kian, has been monitoring and taping Robertson's utterances on television since October 1984. That means Cohen is the media's main source of accurate quotations from Robertson.

Last October, Cohen and his cohort Gerry Straub (who used to be the producer of the "700 Club") succeeded in getting journalists to ask Robertson about a statement he made to the effect that only fundamentalists and Jews are qualified to hold the "reins of government." Robertson adamantly denied making any such statement. But he suffered a major embarrassment when he was confronted with an audiotape of the January 11, 1985, broadcast of the "700 Club," when he made the offending remark.

The tape was supplied by Cohen and Straub. (See Time, Oct. 19, 1987.)

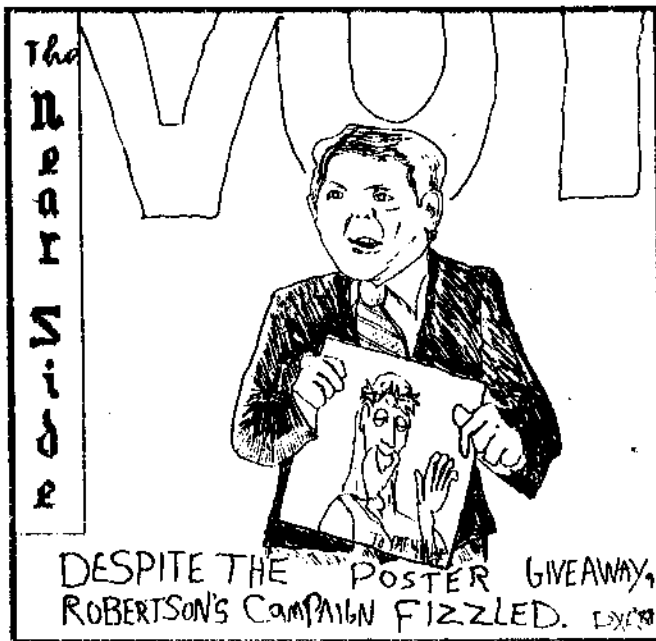
Deny the denial

After these items appeared, Straub and Cohen appeared on a New York talk show. Robertson's supporters in the studio audience tried to shout them down, and after the revealing videotape was shown, tried to claim

that Robertson's denial was a lie.

Little by little, Cohen and Straub are overcoming the benign image that Robertson manages to project. One of the extremist views that they want to expose relates to Robertson's obsession with Communism.

In the late 1970s, Robertson concocted an end-of-the-world scenario which involved ten Common Market nations ruled by a charismatic leader who would turn out to be the antichrist in disguise. He was convinced that Armageddon--triggered by Russia's invasion of Israel--would take place in 1982. Straub, who was then working



for CBN, was involved in serious plans to televise "the Second Coming."

Robertson and his staff imagined that Christ would return and preside for a thousand years over a theocracy. When this prophecy went unfulfilled, Robertson overcame his disappointment by making plans for his own theocracy. And his presidential aspirations were born (again?).

Eradicate us all?

Recent statements that Cohen has videotaped indicate Robertson still believes that the world will end in a cataclysm brought on by the clash between the forces of evil and the forces of good. For Robertson, the forces of evil include Communism, socialism, one-worldism, secular humanism, liberalism, feminism, and homosexuality. On the campaign trail he reportedly calls for the "eradication of Communism," but few people think to ask what that "eradication" might really mean.

Robertson's convoluted theology is often hard to follow. But Straub and Cohen want to make it widely known that Robertson has made some extremely dangerous statements. Three of the scariest:

1. His recommendation that there be special Kian courts to rule on the validity of claims by "spirit-filled" Kians that direct instructions from God induced them to break the law.
2. His proposal that there be prophetic Kian police authorized to arrest those whom God says will commit crimes in the future.
3. His stated belief that sometimes God, through a prophet, instructs his chosen people to exterminate an unregenerate human group completely, to "kill them all" in order to stop them from reproducing and ultimately overpopulating hell.

Just like Moses

Remember: Robertson proclaims himself a prophet, receiving and obeying divine marching orders like Moses did.

So it's not inconceivable that President Robertson could delude himself into thinking that God has instructed him to start a nuclear war in order to bring about Armageddon. Or that President Robertson could delude himself into thinking that God has instructed him to carry out the extermination of vulnerable minorities.

Is it any wonder that Pat Robertson wants to hide his religious beliefs and past statements? Thanks to Sony, Edmund Cohen has them on tape.

--Ferdurdurke

Sources: Free Inquiry, Winter 1987/88; Gerry Straub, Salvation for Sale: An Inside View of Pat Robertson's Organization (1986).

Post Letters

Dear Friends:

We received our copy of the "Post Amerikan" today and want to thank you very much for the good words you had for Lambda and its work and for printing our membership coupon. It means a lot to us. What a pleasant surprise!

In case you have not already seen it, I am enclosing for your library a copy of Lambda's newest AIDS-related publication, which is written for non-lawyers. It's called "Living With AIDS: A Guide to the Legal Problems of People With AIDS," and we hope you find it useful.

Thank you for your support and for your good works.

Sincerely yours,
Jerl Surratt
Associate Director
Lambda Legal Defense
and Education Fund

Typist's Note: Gee, letters like this one are enough to cheer up even the most temperamental Balrog, who reviews "Living with AIDS" elsewhere in this issue. To obtain your copy

of this booklet, or to join Lambda (\$35 contribution for an individual membership), write to: Lambda (or LLDEF), 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

P-Amerikan

OK--so I'm a rookie.

I literally ran into the Post-Amerikan newsstand after leaving the Gallery the other night. Luckily, Wesleyan and the Gallery hadn't robbed me of my last quarter (or was it 40¢), so I indulged in a late-night literary snack. As you can guess--I'm hooked. It's about time I found some publication in the B-N area that tells it like it is--ignoring the patriarchal, heterosexual, bureaucratic bullshit that so often plagues our media. Thank for the release

Here's some dough--keep the change for that self-destructing answering machine of yours.

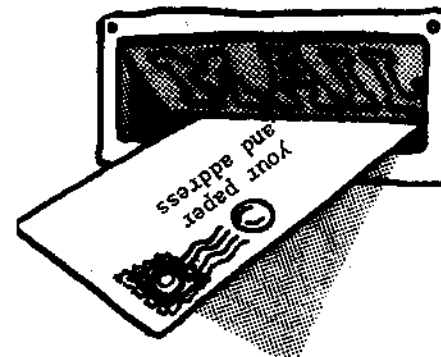
Chow!
Banana

P.S. When are your submission deadlines? Do most submissions get published? I'm a liberal feminist acting within the Greek system at IWU--rowdy, yea? I have opinions, a mind, and ovaries too! I just

returned from London and would like to write about the real world over there. Can you send me info?

Thank!

Typist's Note: Boy, do we love letters like this! We always need new vibrant staffers, whether they have ovaries or not. Don't worry, Banana, we'll be in touch.



Nice job, P-A. The format looks terrific!

Carol of Bloomington

For the love of animals

It has been several issues since I've shared with you, Gentle Readers, the news and views of animal activism. Actually, I took a medically-urged sabbatical due, in part, to a rampant hazard of the movement: Burnout.

The burnout syndrome is an Eighties' buzzword, linked to employment, parenting and relationships. Yet, for those of us who submerge heart and soul in the fight against the unspeakable cruelty of human toward non-human, burnout lurks, inexorably sapping strength and ideals. The more intense the zeal, the greater the chance of succumbing.

I cannot claim to be a zealot, but the seemingly endless suffering of animals on all fronts, as well as perceived personal and occupational failures, led me to a mid-winter mindsnap. Nightmares of laboratory torture and jaw-trapped torment haunted my nights, until sleep was a torture to avoid. Days were zombied wakefulness, and I could find no joy anywhere. The doctor diagnosed severe anxiety and resultant intestinal complications. So, for the duration of my recovery, I was to avoid everything which would depress or disturb me.



I stopped attending Animal Protection League meetings. I trashed PETA newsletters, unread. No more graphic pictures of factory farm victims, malnourished strays, cosmetics lab mutilation. The nightmares faded, and I no longer feared sleep. I returned to work, found purpose in my days. My lover, to whom I had become a stranger, supported and encouraged me. Slowly, I led myself from that dark place within that had threatened to swallow me whole.

My return to the A.P.L. has been tentative. The battle against wholesale animal abuse seems insurmountable, and it's so hard not to over-extend my energies. But if I have learned only one thing from my ordeal, it is that I can just live one day at a time. As trite as that sounds, it is reality, and I cannot change it with all the best intentions I own.

And so, Gentle Readers, I am back to say that you must find within yourself the level of commitment you can make to the cause. Don't regret what you cannot do, personally or financially. Just do whatever you can find within yourself to do, and know that your donation is another positive step toward animal liberation.

I have just discovered a marvelous magazine devoted to animal rights. The Animals' Agenda addresses all levels of animal welfare, from indictments against animal research and zoo management, to promotion of cruelty-free toiletries and objective strategic goals, interspersed with news and upcoming events.

One event the Agenda has announced is the "Compassion Campaign '88," developed in conjunction with the presidential and general election in November. Organizers are educating candidates and their staffs about animal issues, hoping that concerns for animal welfare will be addressed in national political platforms.

Another positive note: April 18-24 will see nationwide protests, forums and demonstrations during World Lab Animal Liberation Week. Last April 24, thousands of people who care about animals demonstrated, and hundreds were arrested during nonviolent protests. College campuses across Amerika will sponsor demonstrations next month--how about the ones in our community?

Of course, not all of the Agenda news is good. For example, the U.S. Justice Department sent a letter to the Fur Retailers Information Council, soliciting newspaper clippings about anti-fur attitudes and activities. Refusing to provide spokespeople to directly debate animal advocates in public forum, FRIC has now begun lobbying the media (especially TV) to halt coverage of anti-fur activities. A confidential letter to furriers concluded that "... any time the animal is directly related to the coat in advertising or publicity, the most lasting impression is anti-fur..." Not only is the fur industry trying to censor opponents, they slander us in the Fur Age Weekly, by warning that "violence and serious vandalism may accompany demonstrations... These are not just plain animal lovers ... these are criminals ... terrorists."

Well, this "terrorist" is proud to announce that I have subscribed to the Agenda, and that future "for the love" columns will include timely news from such a great source.

If you are interested in a subscription, write:

The Animals' Agenda
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 6809
Syracuse, NY 13217

A one-year subscription costs \$18.00.

One last observation. As I stated earlier, each one of us must decide the level of dedication we are willing to express in the battle for animal liberation. Yet some organizations cannot seem to see beyond their own rigid beliefs, to accept the individuality of commitment. Honest, well-meaning members are made to feel like pariahs for eating meat, drinking milk, or "owning" pets.

Now, that last one really gripes my cookies. We share our home with cats and dog, and fish ogle us from two aquariums. But to some hardcore activists, we "enslave" these poor

April 18 • 24

World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week

Contact: IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS
21 Tamal Vista Blvd.
Corte Madera, CA 94925
(415) 924-4454

Yes! I want to help in Defense of Animals and the April 24th Coalition make World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week a success.

Please send me information on how I can help.

I'm interested in serving as a local contact.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

creatures, feeding them food which once represented living flesh, denying them their free heritage.

Bullshit! These are our companions, afforded the same comforts we enjoy (and sometimes even better). We recently bred our female Siamese mix--not for great financial gain, not to enslave her as some kitten factory, but because she embodies loving, faithful characteristics which will continue in her children, enriching others' lives as she has enriched ours. Yes, I'm aware that thousands of cats die each year, unclaimed from the local pound. But these kittens were planned and they will find loving homes.

I guess that what I ask from all of you who espouse animal activism is tolerance for those whose level of commitment may not meet your standards. Too many advocacies (and not just animal) die from obstinacy, from losing sight of their goal: in our case, lessening the suffering of all animals.

--RAF



Non-smoking roommate/boarder wanted. Own room & bath in historic house in downtown Bloomington. Age/race/gender/sexual orientation not issues. \$250. + share of utilities. Contact Paul at 827-0629.

CLIP & SAVE



Operation Recycle Buyback

Buyback open 9 am - noon
Mondays-Saturdays

923 E. GROVE, BLOOMINGTON

FUTURE RECYCLE DRIVES
April 9 + May 21

Sears, Eastland, and ISU parking lot, College & Main

Call 829-0691 for More Information

Operation Recycle is a not-for-profit community recycling center, part of COMMUNITY ACTION.

Military course rammed into ISU's curriculum

This is a quiz. You have five minutes. In two words or less, state the difference between a university and the military.

Stumped? Well, if you answered "not much," you passed. If you sat there for five minutes trying to figure out how to say "the university is about learning, not killing people!" in two words or less, you're undoubtedly a sweet person, but you flunked. In fact, if you're that naive, perhaps you should enroll in MS 101, "Introduction to Military Science," here at ISU.

Not only will you learn about "(the) organization, mission, functions, and customs of the army . . . and . . . the United States defense establishment"; you just might, if the "Military Science" department gets its way, earn University Studies credit for it. Yep, enough of this pinko strategy of limiting the benefits of "Military Science" courses to those gung-ho enough to join ROTC--now every student can, in fulfillment of the course of studies designed to make them "liberally" educated, come to understand the deep significance of the military in our lives.

If you know something about "general education requirements," you're probably pretty concerned. After all, as the Undergraduate Catalog states, University Studies courses are supposed to "provide personal enrichment . . . reflect major values and ideas and offer the opportunity to examine such values and ideas . . ." Group 7, Contemporary Life Studies, is supposed to encourage "development and understanding of the use of liberal studies in applied areas in order to deal creatively and realistically with personal, community, national, and international concerns."

How could a "Military Science" course possibly be consistent with such a goal? Well, let me give it to you straight from the horse's you-know-what. According to the course proposal,

MS 101 meets the criteria of University Studies Group 7 in that it deals with the development and understanding of liberal studies in applied areas to deal with personal, community, national, and international concerns. (Note what is being omitted from the Group 7 statement above. One might also note the unrecognizable syntax of the above sentence, but let's not be picky.) The study of military science can be found in nearly all ancient civilizations. The Constitution organized the United States Army to provide for the common defense of this nation. Every state has a National Guard or Army Reserve organization. The military is a part of almost every known society and present in virtually every part of the world today. Our military commitments reach every corner of the globe, and require extensive resources to meet these commitments. This course is designed to foster an understanding of the major principles of organization, goals and objectives, and issues that confront the military organization and personnel in time of war and peace. This understanding is an essential part of a broad education required for contemporary society. . . .

Now remember, this explains why this course should fulfill University Studies requirements.

What would students learn in MS 101? That's a very good question. Wouldn't this course be a little too much like military indoctrination to really count as something that "offers students the opportunity to examine values and ideas"? Not according to the course proposal: "Students are exposed to the value system and ideology of the modern Army Officer. Students must examine these values and ideas to determine if they are compatible with their values and ideas. Students may feel the value

system and ideology is similar to theirs or one they may wish to adopt. The course doesn't defend these values, but presents their historical evolution. The student then evaluates their impact based on his/her personal experiences and beliefs." (Apparently, subjects and verbs, and pronouns and antecedents, do not have to agree in the military.)

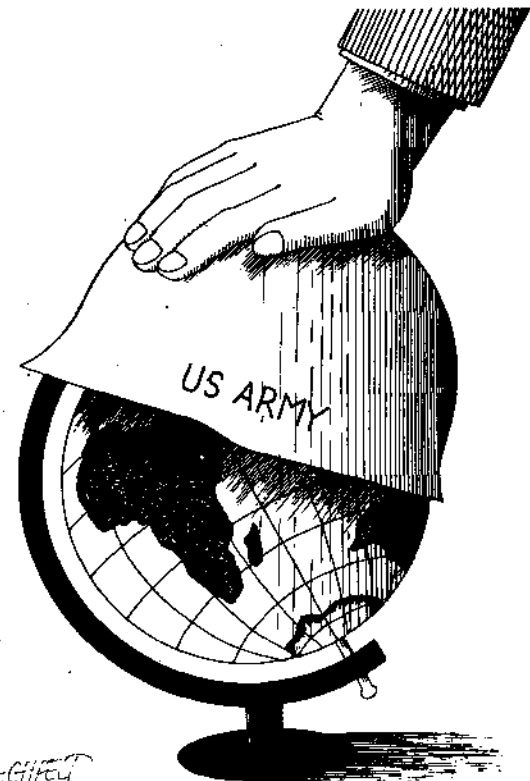
How is the historical evolution of military values presented without being defended? There's Lesson 2, "ROTC Program and Opportunities," which includes a section called "Benefits of Army ROTC"; or maybe it comes in Lesson 10, "Pay and Benefits of an Army Officer." Or perhaps the critical-minded analysis of army values comes through in the two required texts, The Army Officer's Guide by LTC Lawrence P. Crocker, and The Army, by the Department of the Army.

Or maybe the students learn to evaluate military ideology through one of the "optional tasks" listed on the syllabus: "1. Become a member of one of the extracurricular (i.e., ROTC-sponsored) clubs. 2. Attend the Army Orientation Visit. 3. Attend the Land Navigation Field Training Exercise. 4. Attend the Rappelling Field Training Exercise."

It all sounds perfectly even-handed to me. Especially since the course proposal also notes that "Students by being introduced to the role of the U.S. Army may be forced to reexamine their goals and values. The course attempts to dispel misconceptions many students have regarding the military." Like, they're all a bunch of semi-literate thugs who can't even lie consistently?

You may be wondering at this point how anybody, even ROTC types, could possibly believe that this course proposal could get by the Committee on University Studies (CUS). After all, this pig isn't even wearing a credible duck suit.

The fact is, most faculty members haven't even heard of this proposed course. Those who have heard were in effect prevented from filing a formal complaint, since the customary announcement, which goes only to department chairs and committee members, was sent out a few days before spring break, and the deadline for letters of complaint was a few days after spring break. Accident? Sure--everybody forgets when spring break is. In a university in which the faculty-administration relationship is beginning to look a lot like the Congress-Reagan administration relationship--they don't need any information, and if they demand it, shred the documents and man the forts--nobody should be surprised.



Pissed off, however, we should be. If you're a student, complain--to your professors, your student representatives, your acting Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Instruction. If you're on the faculty, write letters to CUS and the Assistant Provost. If you're a conscientious citizen who prefers that the local university stay out of the business of military indoctrination, write letters to The Vidette, The Pantagraph, and your state legislators.

Faculty members may get a copy of the course proposal from the Assistant Provost; anyone, however, can call up the "Military Science" department (438-5408) and ask for an explanation of this transparent move to get academic credit for ROTC training. An especially good question would concern the university's affirmative action guidelines. Are gay and lesbian students welcome in this course? Are the discriminatory policies of the military consistent with the university's mission? You might also want to ask how this course is funded. Who pays the army officers who teach this course? In what sense are these people qualified to teach at the university level anyway?

As far as I'm concerned, the mere presence of ROTC on campus is an offense to everything a university is supposed to stand for. Given the current political climate, we may not be able to get ROTC off campus, but we can at least try to prevent the militarization of the curriculum.

--Major Drag



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

What is this outcome based on?

In the next five years, District 87 is expected to change its educational philosophy to a new one, often called Outcome-Based Education. Not much is known about how Outcome-Based Education, or OBE, will be applied to District 87. For this reason, everything in this article is based on information received about how OBE is used in other cities, such as Johnson City, New York.

For those who do not know about OBE, I will describe briefly how OBE is supposed to work. The main principle of OBE is that every student will learn and can learn all the course material with 80% proficiency. This means that every student must make 80% correct on each test. If they do not achieve at least 80% the first time, then they will have to go through re-teaching and take a similar test within a week of taking the initial test.

OBE stands in contrast to the traditional system of merely giving students low grades if they don't know the material, with no follow-up to make sure they learn it.

The system does have very good objectives and realistic means of reaching them. Students should learn the material more thoroughly than they have been. Below average students should learn more with OBE. With re-teaching, students are more likely to learn the subjects covered. And students from schools under OBE, like Johnson City, do very well on the SAT test.

There are several unanswered questions that have been raised about OBE. Several students and members of the faculty are beginning to wonder if Outcome-Based Education is actually worth changing to.

Universities

Many people are wondering how colleges will react to the new system. Advocates of OBE say it does not matter how the universities react. But universities have several good reasons to question OBE. For example, universities use the class rank of students to select applicants. What would happen to the class rank of students in a school under OBE?

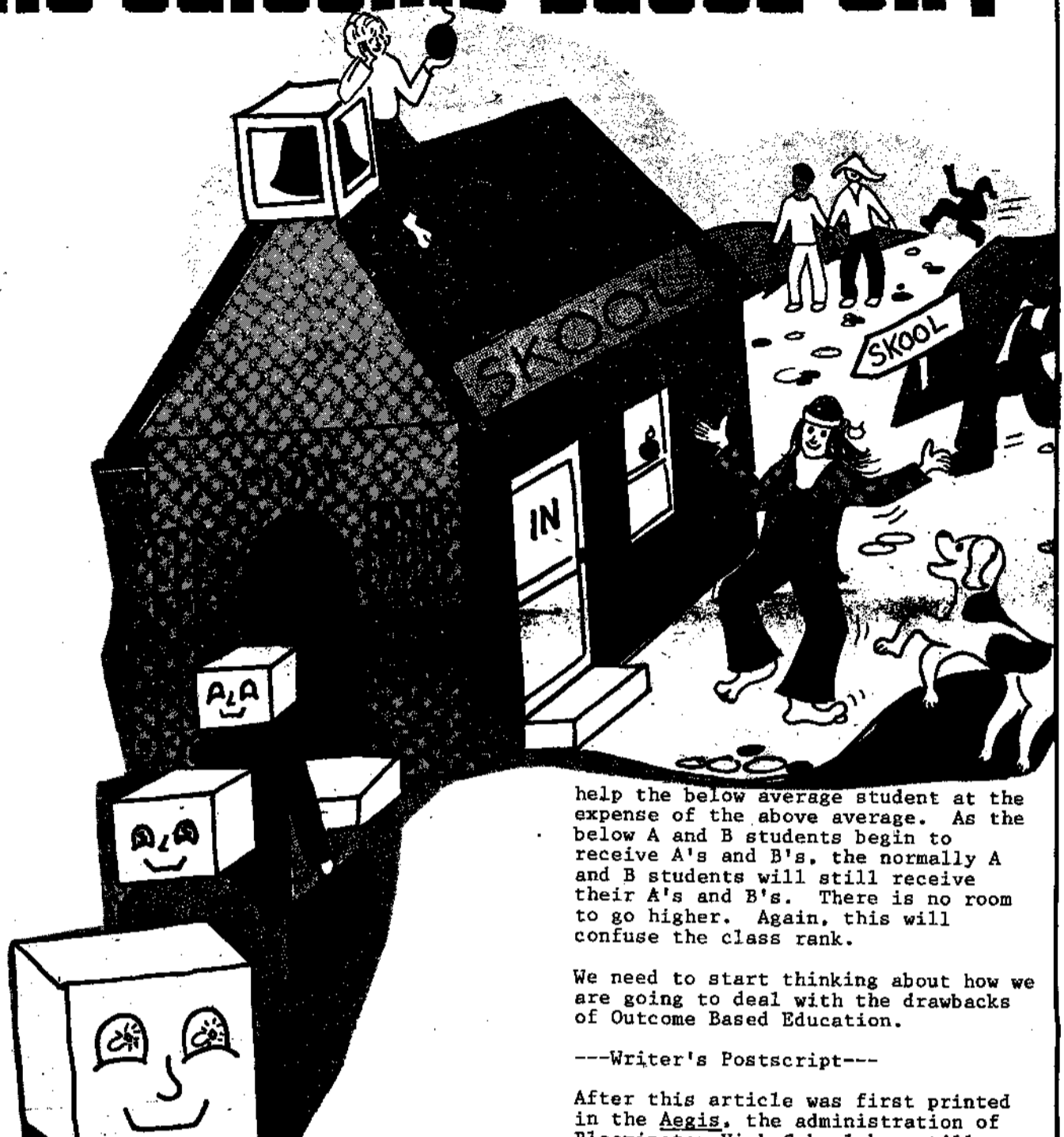
Because of its point assignment system, under OBE many students are likely to end up with exactly the same grade point averages, which alters the appearance of the class rank list. The students will be clumped at certain places instead of spread out along the scale, making fewer distinctions among them.

Another question universities are asking is that with OBE, students have the chance to retake tests, but universities frequently do not allow the retaking of tests. How can these students adjust to such different academic methods? It may be extremely hard.

Motivation?

The students under OBE have the ability to retake tests which they have done poorly on. Students tend to have little or no motivation to study the first time under such conditions. Would you? With re-teaching and retaking of tests, the student feels less of a need to study for the initial test. Even if the next one is a different form, the material will be extremely similar.

Those who are among the small part of the class who passes the test may work on enrichment activities while the rest of the class catches up. But there is no motivation for them to work on the enrichment units because these units do not count for a grade. Students tend not to work unless they receive credit for their work.



Slower pace

With re-teaching and retaking of tests, classes will move at a slower pace than they are presently. The courses that are piloting OBE in Bloomington have shown a slower pace. As classes move more slowly, will the students get as broad a background as they need for college?

Classes are only required to learn the basic necessities. And, will the slower pace take away time that has normally been used for such extra activities as guest speakers and field trips? These activities might not be necessary for a class, but they definitely add flavor to an otherwise dull class.

Money?

The change to Outcome Based Education will cost money. Money is something education in Illinois has less and less of with Governor Thompson's budget cuts. Teachers will need materials for the new system. If students pass the required subjects, then teachers will need materials for additional units and enrichment units. Johnson City pays its teachers to develop those additional units during the summer. And Johnson City has a full time staff that does nothing but look into new research developments in Outcome Based Education.

In conclusion

There are drawbacks to OBE. Bloomington High School principal O'Neal plans on completely integrating District 87 with OBE in only five years. To me, this seems too short of a time. Johnson City has used OBE for about sixteen years, and they still have people looking into new research full time. Also, OBE seems to greatly

help the below average student at the expense of the above average. As the below A and B students begin to receive A's and B's, the normally A and B students will still receive their A's and B's. There is no room to go higher. Again, this will confuse the class rank.

We need to start thinking about how we are going to deal with the drawbacks of Outcome Based Education.

---Writer's Postscript---

After this article was first printed in the *Aegis*, the administration of Bloomington High School has still not been able to answer most of my questions. They, instead, have decided to glorify OBE. Someone once said that if you give a person enough rope, they will eventually hang themselves. I just hope it will not be the future students of B.H.S. that will be hanged.

--Damon E. Rolfe

Typist's note:

Competency-based systems like OBE are becoming widespread, seemingly in response to national concern about educational standards. Many educators like me criticize these systems, saying they will wrongly change the focus of academic studies and they will limit teachers' academic freedom.

We are very sure that most of the valuable knowledge we impart can't be codified into an objective test and scored with a percentage. In literature, for example, an objective test can measure memorization of facts like dates and titles and understanding of established interpretations, but it can never test other kinds of knowledge, like how to approach a poem that you don't understand or how to visualize a literary image.

We are also alarmed because of possible misuses of our students' test scores, misuses that threaten our academic freedom. The state may look at the scores of students from our school or from a particular teacher and make decisions about how well that school or teacher is doing accordingly. We may find ourselves "teaching to the test," making sure first that our students will know the answers, meanwhile neglecting untestable elements. Such an event would clearly standardize not only students' knowledge but our teaching, and it's the individuality, variety, and spontaneity of our work that makes it meaningful to us.

The case for midwi

Midwifery and homebirth are emerging from the darkness of the eclipse here in the U.S. This movement truly crosses the spectrum of political beliefs. Women and men, old and young, gay and straight, and even those in the pro-choice and anti-abortion movements are all represented in this return to homebirth.

Why do I--a woman, mother, and nascent midwife--make the seemingly outrageous statement that every Amerikan reaps the benefits of homebirth and should support this cause now? There are so many reasons, I can't discuss them all in one Post article. This time I'll focus on the global aspects and safety issues of midwifery and homebirth.

Thinking globally

Remember: we all get born, even if we don't all give birth. Each birth affects the rest of us (subtly or not), for we all live on one earth together. (See Phoebe's comments on this matter, elsewhere in this issue.)

The Midwifery-Homebirth Renaissance here will help reconnect us, help us realize the sisterhood of all women and the timelessness of all birth. This is exactly what is happening with MADRE's work in Nicaragua, as is discussed in the accompanying article.

A good look at the accompanying bibliography should shock you. Whether the study is done in Amerika, Britain, Holland, or Australia, the message is the same. Our medically-oriented system of non-midwives and out-of-home births rejects a 3 million year old biological pattern that 77 billion people have followed. Just skim over the descriptions of the articles in the bibliography. They clearly show that we pay a substantial price for trying to fix what already works.

U.S. Midwives in Nicaragua

**MADRE Committee of Midwives
Women's Peace Network
853 Broadway, Room 301
New York, NY 10003**

MADRE sponsors teams of U.S. midwives to travel to Nicaragua to share skills in childbirth techniques, family planning and women's sexuality. The midwife teams meet with Nicaraguan women of all ages, in factories, market places and clinics. They also share information with Nicaraguan's "parteras" or granny midwives. Upon returning to the U.S. the teams participate in educational activities, write articles, give interviews, etc. about their experiences. U.S. midwives are encouraged to contact the MADRE national office in New York for information on participating in the exchanges.



As Marion Sousa said in 1977, "98% of the people now alive were born at home." Despite this statistic, the medical community believes that we should give them control during birth. And we have quietly acquiesced to this request. In stark contrast to the rest of humanity, approximately 98% of Amerikans are born outside the home. (See the American Journal of Public Health, August 1987.)

Although our out-of-home births are our mistake, the rest of the world also pays. Drug and device companies aggressively export our Amerikan way of birth. For example, the Women's National Health Network News has documented the tragedies of Third World marketing: Nestle infant formula, Depo-Provera dumping, and other dubious achievements.

The First International Conference on Homebirth in the fall of 1987 exposed the sad results of the "fashionable" adoption of Amerikan birth techniques. In Poland, women are now giving birth flat on their backs; many feel that this is the worst experience of their lives. Japan and its medical system were "Amerikanized" after World War II, undermining the established midwifery system and putting Japan in the "Machine Age" of giving birth.



The safety issue

At present, too many of us are suffering--and dying--from the cultural madness that, as one Amerikan OB phrased it, "all birth is high-risk." The Amerikan approach is to treat birth like a disease! Our birth attendants blindly follow the assumption that birth cannot succeed without machines and medical routines.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Natural homebirth has historically been proven to be far safer than the aberration we have turned birth into.

Miscellaneous birthing briefs

Among the industrialized countries of the world, the ones with the best outcomes, in terms of low mortalities and morbidities associated with birth, are those with the largest proportions of midwives.

--M. Wegman. "Annual Summary of Vital Statistics. Infant Mortalities in 25 Largest Countries of 2 Million Population or More." United Nations Sources. 64:6, 12/79

Homebirths increased 300% between 1973 and 1980. The biggest contributors to this increase are not the poor and uneducated families, but come straight from American middle-class.

--Yvonne Brackbill, Ph.D., "Birthtrap," p. 56.

You may think that this concern about our system's safety smacks too much of an unnecessary polemic. You may think that our system is "good enough." After all, it's worked for you, your babies, and those of most of the people you know. Even if you do hate episiotomies (and I've heard 8 years of women's disgust!) and rude OBs, you probably still trust the system although you may not admire it.

I ask you to first consider a traditional insight: "Dame Nature is the best midwife." Remember that almost all of the rest of the 5 1/2 billion people here today made it with only the Good Dame in charge with the assistance of a human midwife or two.

Then think about the following idea from the modern midwifery literature: "Each intervention has its place, but each intervention also has its price." If our current birth system would re-embrace the wisdom contained in those two simple phrases, the medical community would return to its proper role in the birthing process.

I believe that ignoring this wisdom has contributed to some appalling results. Many of us do not realize the tremendous price we are paying for the extent of medical interference in the birthing process. Consider:

--In spite of the billions of dollars spent, we have a shameful infant mortality rate. Despite our medical system, the U.S. is only 17th in the world when it comes to low infant mortality. Things are worse here in Illinois; 41 other states have lower infant mortality rates. (This is not surprising since midwifery is illegal in Illinois.)

--As Gena Corea said, we have a 20% "Caesarean Epidemic!" We accept this as "normal." But major surgery with 50% of women suffering complications and at least four times as many maternal deaths does not sound "normal" to me. (See the "Once a Caesarean" brochure Silent Knife: Caesarean Prevention and Vaginal Birth after Caesarean.)

--Incredibly, there are entire "forceps wards" in state mental institutions. Reading about these in Childbirth at Home so sickened me that I resolved to have a homebirth with a midwife in part to protect my baby!

In 1982, 6000 women demonstrated outside of a London hospital in the Birth Rights Rally. The issue was the head of the hospital saying a woman couldn't deliver on her hands and knees; he resigned. Now that hospital and most others in London allow women to give birth actively.

--Janet Balaskas, Leader of Active Birth Movement

The role of obstetricians in home birth is negative. Attending a homebirth is a subversive act. Women are going to have to change obstetricians. . . . There are 10 million grandmothers in the age range 45-64, several hundred thousand women of childbearing age, a large number of midwives, and so on, and only 764 obstetricians. The power lies with women.

--Wendy Savage, M.D., speaking in London at the First International Conference on Homebirth

fery and homebirth

Drugging our infants

We find drugs, drugs, and more drugs in out-of-home births. Ironically our culture is currently waging a pious war on drugs. Yet there is no tremendous outcry to demand severe restrictions on obstetric drugs—even though it is well-known that the human infant is vulnerable to their damaging effects.



Doris Haire is my own personal candidate for canonization, having written some tremendous publications including Cultural Warring of Childbirth and the Pregnant Patient's Bill of Rights. She has tirelessly warned about the link between obstetric drugs and the death and neurological impairment of infants (including minimal brain damage, learning disabilities, and retardation).

A few years ago, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a statement that NO drug has been proven safe for the unborn. I want to know why they aren't repeating this publicly and A LOT. Midwives do!

I've only mentioned a few of the many facts that support the case for midwifery and homebirth. Check out some of the publications I've mentioned and see for yourself why our obsession to "treat birth like a disease" is so damaging to our lives. Better yet, contact either a local midwifery and homebirth group or the Illinois Alliance of Midwives, 4943 Highland Avenue, Downers Grove, IL, 60515. Next issue, I'll discuss what the future will be like when midwifery and homebirth return as the standard.

--Local Birth Activist

... The push for hospital births came from physicians rather than from their patients. Most American mothers today have never experienced an out-of-hospital birth and so have no basis for comparison. Reports from England indicate that 80% of mothers who have experienced both chose homebirth, 10% chose hospital, and 4% have no preference.

--E. Riley, M.D. "What Do Women Want..." London 1973 Heinemann Medical

* * * * *

Doctors and men will not relinquish power and control graciously. . . . But when women's groups and a few courageous medical people and public health authorities do get organized and involve the media, they usually win.

--Marsden Wagner, M.D., head of the World Health Organization European Regional Office on Maternal and Child Health

THE SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT FOR MIDWIFERY AND/OR HOME BIRTH AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IMPORTANT NOTE: The studies listed here are but a sample of the published reports supporting home birth and midwifery. For an exhaustive survey, discussion, and bibliography, citing hundreds of references, see the book, **THE FIVE STANDARDS FOR SAFE CHILDBEARING**, by Dr. David Stewart, available from NAPSAC International, Box 648, Marble Hill, MO 63764. Price \$9.95 ppd. This 484 page publication is the most comprehensive review of the statistics of midwifery and home birth ever compiled. It is used as the definitive publication by courts of law and government agencies in the U.S., Canada and other countries. It is used by the World Health Organization.

Motherhood: Think First

Today--March 8--is the thirteenth anniversary of probably the most liberating action of my life: my sterilization. I think of it when I come home from work to my pretty, sunny apartment, pop a beer and listen to "All Things Considered." I think of it during a spur-of-the-moment week's trip to the Ozarks, as I am now. I think of it when I turn on the answering machine, lock the door, and write a Post Amerikan article.

If I had children, all these would be pleasures hard fought for, with so many arrangements, so much anxiety and guilt, that I might not even try. If I had children, I might not even know what station "All Things Considered" is on, or get a spontaneous invitation to the Ozarks. And my children would have long since broken the answering machine by banging on its buttons.

Aside from these thoughts, which could be called selfishness, there are deep and serious reasons to remain child-free. All the demands and duties and conflicts--even the little pleasures--of child-raising take up miles of inner space. This inner space, for a mother, often isn't big enough to hold both her family and herself as a separate person, or herself in relation to a bigger world. In fact, I've heard mothers say with relief that having children frees them from having to think and act in roles other than "mother."



Yes, it is a time honored and clearly prescribed role, but also a worn and bland one, not truly respected by the society we live in and often not by its practitioners, either. Its repetitive and mundane focus, its lack of monetary recompense, its burden of mindless stereotypes, its sheer commonness, and yes, its gender, all keep it from enjoying real day-to-day status. It keeps women weak.

Post Letter

Dear circulation manager:

Well, it's that time again. I'm ecstatic to enclose my \$4 to renew my subscription to your paper, and look forward to another year of happy news.

slogans to consider for the new year:

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* * * * *

We see ourselves as others see us. Romantic reflections of "mother" on tv and in greeting cards are clearly the sweet stale crumbs our system throws to its slaves. Other reflections are unflattering. What woman can say that she freely and knowingly chose such a state? It's not surprising that one of the prevalent stereotypes is that of the perpetually scattered and uninformed dupe.

How can women overcome these stereotypes when most of us line up for motherhood with less thought than we'd put into choosing any other profession? How can we argue that we have personal dignity when we mindlessly sign up for years of non-remunerative drudgery and low status? How can we claim independence when we constantly seem to choose a dependent state?

So much for the inverse relation of motherhood to women's liberation. Now consider the relation of motherhood to humanity.

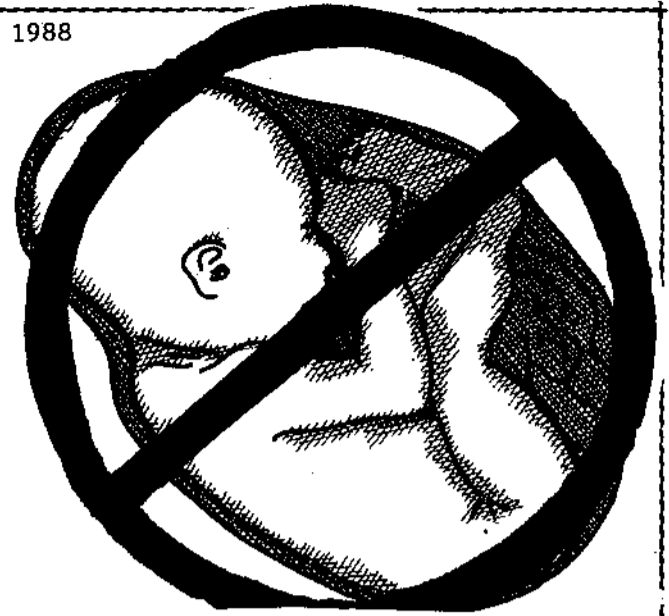
Every child that you do not have directly benefits other children who are born. Most of the problems of the world can be traced to scarcity (and its social result, scarcity mentality), and scarcity comes from having too many people for the natural and spiritual resources available.

Fewer people on the earth would mean better health for all of them, more individual freedom for each, and less destruction of the planet. There is nothing so special about your genes that intelligent life will simply atrophy without them. And there is nothing so special about you as a parent that society will languish without your example. It's simply self-aggrandizement to claim that if you do not have your little batch of offspring, people more stupid and slovenly will take over the earth. In fact, the more people there are, the more likely they are to be stupid and slovenly. Why not subtract a few? I'm not blind to the beauty of children or to the great satisfactions of receiving their love. Since those topics are completely, consistently, and cloyingly covered in other media, the Post need not dwell upon them. Meanwhile, I believe I'll lie down with a fat novel for an hour or two.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Ask Ms. Hippie

See p. 3



Post Amerikan quiz

Do you really want

to be a mom?

1. I have no interest in uninterrupted adult conversation during the next eleven years.

- a. true
- b. false

2. I'd love a diet of cold congealed food from a child's abandoned meal, eaten off the plate while standing in front of the sink.

- a. yes
- b. yuck

3. Sixteen years from now, I'd like to have

- a. a loutish, sullen teenager
- b. a cabin in the Rockies

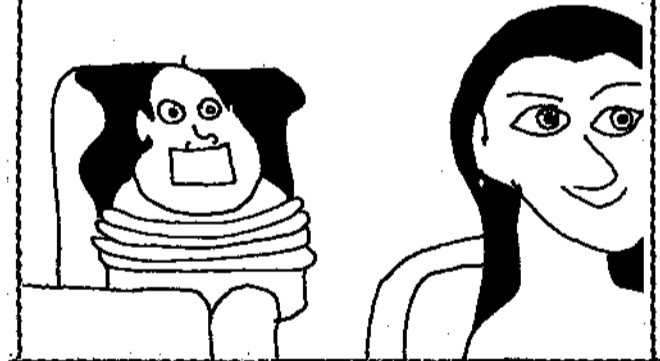
4. On Saturday mornings, I like to

- a. do laundry with the din of violent, racist tv superheroes in the background
- b. listen to the Saturday jazz program and ride my exercise bike

5. If I found my cutest barrettes covered with grape jelly and dust bunnies under a child's bed, I would

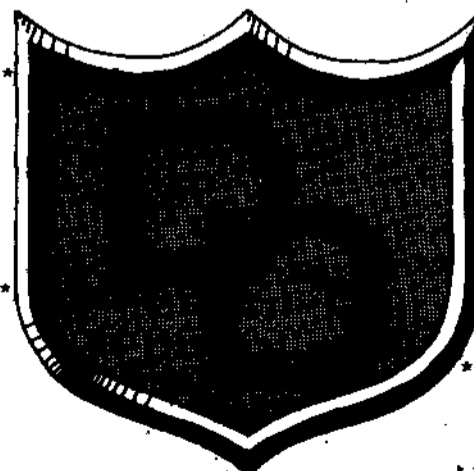
- a. smile indulgently
- b. burst into tears

Rating yourself is easy! For each "b" choice, give yourself one point.



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Uncle Sam wants you in "Real War Stories"

The scene is aboard a U.S. airliner. An author who has fled persecution in El Salvador finds herself seated next to two teenagers who are on their way to boot camp. She shows them a piece of her writing which relates to the murder of Archbishop Romero.

After reading it, one of them says, "My minister told me I would be defending our right to worship against the Communists who are trying to take everything over. Just let them send me where they think they can shoot up a church like with that there Romero!"

The author sees that he's missed the point. "No! You don't get it! Those are the guys our military is helping, and they're calling the priests 'Communists.' Read it again..."

This is one part of an interesting comic book recently issued by Eclipse entitled "Real War Stories." It contains six different stories relating to the decision to enlist

in the military. The premise of the whole thing is that many--and probably even most--of the people who do decide to join up are not well-informed about the consequences.

For example, the first story, "Elite of the Fleet," is about a fellow who was bored and felt he could use a little discipline in his life. "But there was no way I was going to join the Marines," he explains. "They shoot people." So he joined the Navy, thinking that this occupation was somehow different than "shooting people." He ended up as a sonar operator on a nuclear-armed submarine, and it gradually dawned on him that the Navy's real business is dealing death, just like the other branches.

My first reaction to this comic was that they were setting up and knocking down straw men. I mean, who could be so ignorant as to think that helping to operate an attack submarine has nothing to do with killing? Furthermore, I thought the art in some of the stories was pretty nauseating. But by the time I had

finished the book, I decided that it had some important things to say after all.

Essentially, I believe their premise--that some people truly don't know what they're signing up for--is correct. I'm reminded of the movie "Private Benjamin" in which Goldie Hawn joins the Army with completely misconceived ideas of what she's in for. Yes, that one's a laugher, and her naivete is almost absurdly exaggerated. But then, there are some pretty naive people out there.

The basic message of "Real War Stories" is pretty simple. Although its tone is distinctly anti-military, that's not the real point. The world is a complicated place, and peace and justice are elusive goals. What the comic says is this: if you're thinking about joining the military, consider your reasons, and consider where you may wind up. Once you decide to sign on that recruiter's dotted line, you won't be given the chance to make more decisions for quite a while.

--Dave Thompson

Comic book legal defense portfolio produced

Kitchen Sink Publications, a long-standing alternative comix publisher, has put together a portfolio to raise bucks in defense of Friendly Frank, the Lansing, Illinois, comic shop that was busted for selling "adult material" in the wrong part of town (see adjoining story).

"A Benefit Portfolio in Defense of the First Amendment" contains work by leaders in the early underground comix movement as well as the more subdued alternative movement: Sergio Aragones, Bob ("Flaming Carrot") Burden, Robert Crumb, Howard ("Gay Comics") Cruse, Will Eisner, publisher Denis Kitchen, Frank Miller, Reed Waller and more

Comic book shop convicted

Friendly Frank's, the Lansing, IL, comic book store, was convicted in January for displaying "obscene" comics in its store. Store manager Michael Correa was fined \$750, and sentenced to a year of court supervision.

At issue in the case were the state's assumptions that comic book shops are primarily frequented by kids and that the display of comic books featuring sexual content to a predominately youthful clientele constituted a crime. Friendly Frank's was not convicted for sale of such material, just the fact that it had adult-labeled material on its racks.

The state's assumptions were faulty, of course. With the Baby Boomer growth of comic happy adults, a sizable "mature" audience has grown for graphic material (as any number of recent book review features in mags like Newsweek have attested). A sizable amount of the comic shop market is composed of older readers, and the publishers have attempted (with sporadic success) to reflect that market's needs. Comic shop owners, wary of the religiously rightist climate in the country, have been cautious about who they sell such material to. But even if they weren't, the material in such books is generally quite tame compared to what's available on cable television, videocassettes, and paperback books these days.

But, in the eyes of the courts, funny-books are still kidstuff and, as a result, shouldn't be dealing with that messy reality stuff. If today's adult readers want to continue to be treated as adults, they need to make their presence felt.

--BS88

have all contributed work to the package. While some of the work is slight (Crumb's mock Weirido cover is as slight as any of his dashed-off sketchbook work; Miller's futuristic graphic is imitation Moebius), many of the artists have taken the chance to comment on the current flurry of self-serving overreaction to modern comic book art.

Most telling is horror comic artist Steve Bissette's "Censortivity," a picture of the American family with their eyes, ears and mouths sewed shut (little sister has an abridged copy of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz with all its pages removed). Mainstream comic book artist Hilary Barta presents a cartoonly vision of thuggish cops raiding a comic book shop, carting off ridiculously titled "adult" books (Scum Squad, Dr. Phlegm, Subtle Stories), a double-edged comment on the aesthetic morons who inhabit both the law enforcement and publishing communities. More satisfying on a vicarious fantasy level is Madman Sergio Aragones' "Croo And The Thought Patrol," which shows the artist's comic book barbarian attacking a monkish group of censors.

But for me, the portfolio's finest moment comes from Reed Waller, creator/artist of Omaha, The Cat Dancer, one of the titles seized in the Friendly Frank bust. Waller's is one of the sexiest comics around, a funny animal comic whose heroine lives in the shady world of dance clubs and modeling. Unabashedly sexual, Omaha has featured a number of well-rendered love-making sequences (from more than one sexual orientation), yet when Waller was called upon to render a page for the portfolio, he went the other way. His pen drawing of Omaha and male lover Charles dancing in full fancy dress in the corner of a flowering ballroom is an elegant rebuttal to those who see the "new maturity" in comics as merely an excuse to be adolescent and exploitive.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of the benefit portfolio can do so by pestering your friendly local comic book shop into ordering some copies. It's in a limited edition (1500 copies were produced) and will cost you \$20.00.

--BSherman

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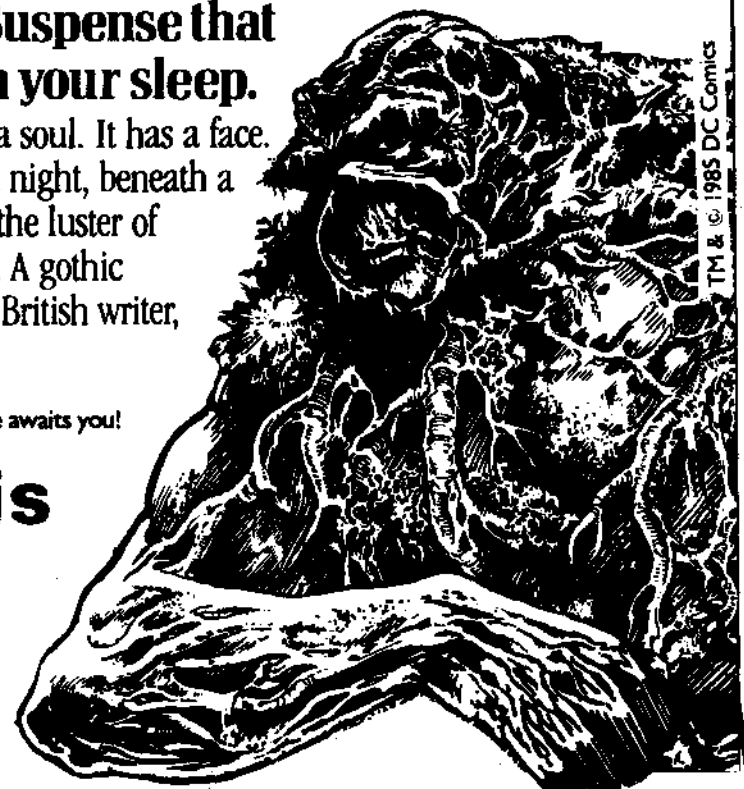
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Lambda's "Living

People with AIDS (PWAs) must face more than the disease which has crippled their immune systems. They have discovered that our legal system is ill-equipped to deal with the hatred, fear, and discrimination that have resulted from the AIDS epidemic.

This discrimination "is in no way theoretical," according to Mitchell Karp of the New York City Commission on Human Rights. As he testified before the biased, lethargic, slap-in-the-gay-community's-face excuse for a presidential commission on AIDS, "Over and over we hear the same thing from people [with AIDS]: 'Getting sick is terrible, but what's really made my life a living hell is the way I've been treated.'"

Not surprisingly in this era of Meesian injustice, it is difficult to find the legal avenues to fight the "living hell" of AIDS discrimination. The good news is that thanks to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, this important legal information is easier to obtain. The bad news is that still, over five years into the epidemic, only minimal legal protection is currently available.

Lambda's newest publication

Lambda has recently published a booklet entitled "Living with AIDS," which addresses the legal problems facing people with AIDS. It is written by Trudy Hayden, who has spoken and written extensively on civil liberties issues, especially the right to privacy.

The booklet offers advice on how people with AIDS can deal with areas in their lives where they are now likely to face discrimination. It hurts to observe that these are areas that most of us either ignore or take for granted: medical services, personal affairs (including wills and funeral arrangements), insurance, financial help, employment and the workplace, housing, and schools.

"Living with AIDS" also discusses the special problems of PWAs who are aliens or in the military. Furthermore, a representative sample of the many public and private groups that have emerged to help those affected by AIDS is provided.

To deal with the legal problems in these areas, "Living with AIDS" focuses on federal and New York State law. This limits the direct applicability of the information provided. However, the problems are common to all PWAs nationwide, and their legal remedies (when they exist) will likely follow a similar pattern from state to state.

While I was reading "Living with AIDS," it was disturbing to realize how unprepared I am to deal with a major crisis in my life such as developing AIDS. I discovered how little I knew about the rights I do and do not have. I discovered my ignorance of the system that the medical, insurance, and employment sectors have developed to avoid the problems and costs of dealing with undesirable, high-risk individuals. I discovered that I would have been totally unable to "cover my ass" against the faceless, profit-hungry system that doesn't hesitate to use people and then toss them away as if they were rags.

Of course, in this short space I cannot share all of the information that Lambda has collected to help the layman deal with the complex discrimination issues facing PWAs. I've chosen to discuss some of the most disturbing and widely applicable privacy issues addressed by "Living with AIDS."

Confidentiality of medical records

I was surprised to learn that the "doctor-patient privilege" is about as substantial as the answers at a Reagan press conference. As Ms. Hayden states, "the law provides only limited protections for communications between doctor and patient and for the records kept by doctors and hospitals."

The list of parties that can obtain access to your medical records is staggering: insurance companies, government health and welfare agencies, employers, credit-reporting agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, colleges, and the military. At times, this information is obtained both with and without your knowledge or "consent." And of course, we know what the word "consent" means in this context—sign this form or get kicked out the door.

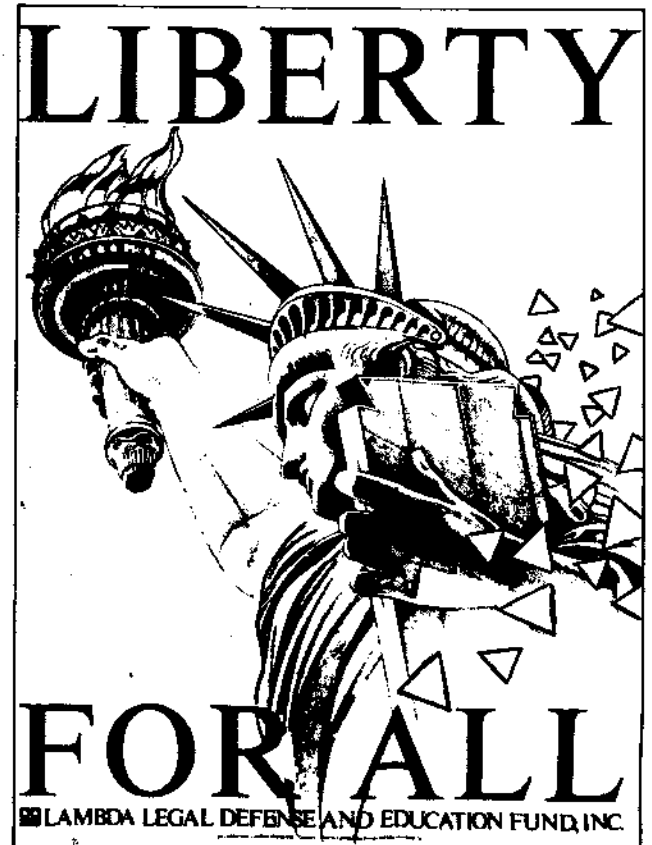
Do your best to limit this wide access to your medical records, especially if they contain information that would make others suspect you are in a high-risk AIDS group. "Living with AIDS" makes several recommendations.

First, realize that when your records circulate widely, they are apt to gather many errors. Try to review the contents of your medical records and correct errors. The laws in your state may or may not give you the right to obtain and correct records from your health care provider. You may have to try getting your records released to your personal physician, and then he or she can review them with you and attempt to make corrections.

Also, do not sign consent releases automatically. These forms are often "blanket release" forms granting undeserving souls eternal rights to your medical records for any and all purposes. Try to alter these forms by writing in restrictions—specify which records may be obtained, the sole purpose for which they may be

obtained, the specific people that may review the records, and the specific period of time for which these rights are granted.

Finally, get your physician's assistance in limiting the information he or she discloses. Discuss disclosure policies when you choose a physician, and demand to be informed about any and all releases of information. When substantiating an insurance claim, ask your physician to release only that information applicable to the claim. The insurance company will likely ask for the entire file—your physician should deny them this request.



Confidentiality of AIDS testing

As I noted last issue, you must be doubly careful with your medical records if you choose to take the HIV antibody test to see if you have been exposed to the AIDS virus. (See "Your HIV Status—Do You Want to Know?" last issue.) "Living with AIDS" offers the following guidelines for protecting the confidentiality of your AIDS test results.

As always, an anonymous testing program is best. But if you choose to take the test in your doctor's office, ask specifically how and where the results will be recorded and who may eventually have access to the results, including insurance companies.

Be sure to ask whether your test results will be identified by name or by code. Find out who will have control over the identifiers. Require to know what safeguards are used to prevent unauthorized disclosure.


If you're satisfied by the answers to these questions, you may be more comfortable with taking the AIDS antibody test in your doctor's office than in an anonymous testing program. But COVER YOUR ASS! Get all of your answers IN WRITING, and be sure to keep a copy.

Sleazy insurance practices

As I reported last issue, the actions of insurance companies to deny comprehensive health and life insurance to "high-risk" individuals are raising a quagmire of legal issues. (See "Miscellaneous AIDS Outrages," last issue.) "Living with AIDS" discusses many of the ways insurance companies are trying to avoid their social and moral responsibilities.

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There are several excuses insurers are currently using to avoid the people endangered by the AIDS epidemic. If your medical history includes hemophilia, past drug abuse, or sexually transmitted diseases, insurers may try to deny you coverage or charge you higher rates. The same may happen if you belong to a "high-risk" group.

Insurers are also practicing "redlining"--the insurance company designates certain people aged 25-45 as "high risks" to be denied coverage or charged higher rates. If you are single and live in a metropolitan area with a substantial gay population, if you work in a so-called "gay occupation," or if you name someone other than a child or spouse as beneficiary, then you may be "redlined."

Are these unethical, money-grubbing, sleazy practices actually legal? To quote Ms. Hayden, "The legality of these practices has not been settled." It is obscene that state law and State Insurance Department regulations have still not been updated to prevent the insurance grotesqueries that have resulted from the AIDS epidemic.

The information network

I hope you aren't surprised to learn that insurance companies do their best to make sure everyone can learn about every detail of your sordid life (especially your medical history and your lifestyle). They share every iota of information they've gathered about your little sphere of existence with each other and with the network of credit-reporting (a.k.a.. consumer reporting) agencies.

Of course these credit-reporting agencies don't just sit on their fat derrieres with this information. Their insatiable greed spurs them to sell this information to employers, landlords, creditors and banks, insurers, and at times even government agencies.

Can you imagine what they might be reporting about you? And how much of the dirt these sleazeballs have gathered on you is actually true?

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER!

CONSIDERED SAFE:

Mutual masturbation
Hugging, body rubbing
Massage
Social (dry) kissing
Fantasy
Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising)
Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE:

Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom
French (wet) kissing
Sucking (but stopping before climax)
Watersports (external only)
Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE:

Swallowing semen
Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom
Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts
Sharing IV needles
Fisting or rimming
Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment or sex toys

Fortunately for us, most U.S. and Canadian insurers pool their information together in a clearinghouse called MIB (formerly called the Medical Information Bureau). MIB files generally refer to medical history, but also include information on drug abuse, sexual orientation and lifestyle.

It is probably worth the trouble to find out if this disgusting invasion of your privacy is at least accurate. You can get a copy of your MIB files by writing to P.O. Box 105, Essex Station, Boston, MA 02112; medical information will be sent to your physician. MIB procedures allow you to challenge information you believe is incorrect.

Tell me why

As you can tell from our sampling of privacy issues, "Living with AIDS" contains a wealth of information. We at the Post wish to thank Lambda for sending us this valuable addition to our library.

I must admit that it's been painful for me to review this booklet for you. I read more about discrimination of PWAs than should be imaginable in a so-called civilized society.

Imagine being struck down by an ugly, painful, feared disease. You must deal with the almost-certain probability of dying within two years. How are you treated in our "civilized" society?

You may be unable to get ambulance service. You may receive excessive isolation in your hospital treatment. You may not get to see your same-sex lover during your hospital stay because he or she is not your spouse or next-of-kin. Your insurance company may refuse to pay your medical expenses, claiming you had a "pre-existing condition." You may be evicted by a landlord fearing what he or she doesn't understand. You are deported because you are an alien. You are a pariah at the workplace, if you are able to work.

Our "civilized" society does not provide laws to protect you from these injustices. After more than five years, the laws are still nonexistent or unclear. Your best hope is to depend on laws protecting the "handicapped." The Reagan administration refuses to act, insisting that anti-discrimination laws are the province of the states. This allows states like Tennessee to pass amendments exempting infectious diseases from state laws protecting handicapped people.

Lambda and many other groups have done their share to assist PWAs. I hope that you and I are doing our share. I wish someone would tell me why our government is failing to do its share.

At this point, I'm tired, angry, confused, and upset. It's time for me to have a cold beer or six and listen to Bronski Beat sing "Why?" Thanks for listening.

--The Balrog



State AIDS law: dumb, dumb, dumb

Mark Twain once said that no one should rest easy while state legislatures are in session. The new Illinois AIDS law offers new evidence that the ole boy was right on.

The new law requires applicants for marriage licenses to be tested for the AIDS antibody. Initial reports indicate that it is a resounding success for everything except the fight against AIDS.

The new law is an unexpected boon to the economies of neighboring states. Hundreds of eager, love-struck couples are fleeing to Indiana and Wisconsin to escape the hassle factor of getting an AIDS test. This could be the biggest blessing to border towns since the Interstate Highway system.

It's also a bonanza to the companies that supply AIDS testing kits. People who would have otherwise not have the least reason to be tested now have to in Illinois (and in Louisiana, which has a similar law).

The new law has also been a good thing for the private health care industry. The state doesn't provide any public funding for the tests, and initial surveys show that costs can vary from as low as \$10 to more than \$200. One study suggests that a couple in Illinois could spend from \$12 to more than \$500 in hospital fees, depending on which hospital is used and how much confirming follow-up testing is needed.

And make no mistake about it: a lot of false positives turn up when a

low-risk group is tested. Multiple confirming tests are then needed, and the more precise they are, the more expensive they get.

The new prenuptial AIDS screening will also be a boon to those industries that serve the poor. The law puts a special burden on the poor, helping to keep them poor. Medicaid does not pay for the screening, and many free or low-cost public facilities have turned away the business, unable to handle the extra load.

The free AIDS testing facilities have all they can do to handle the high-risk population, like gay men, intravenous drug users, and hemophiliacs. Cook County Hospital stopped giving free marriage tests after the first three weeks of the law.

No positive results on the AIDS tests were reported in Illinois for January or February. Medical experts predict that fewer than one percent of the people infected with the virus are likely to be found through prenuptial testing because engaged couples are a low-risk group.

So it looks like the new Illinois law helps the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer--and doesn't do a thing to stop the spread of AIDS. Nice work.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Chicago Tribune, Feb. 5, 1988, and March 8, 1988.



GPA events

Our congratulations go to the Gay People's Alliance (GPA) at Illinois State University for their successful Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) Week, March 14-20. Most notably GPA helped sponsor the appearance of humorist Kate Clinton, reviewed elsewhere on this very page. We hope you didn't miss any of the GALA Week events.

GPA meets every Wednesday, 8:00 pm, in 112 Fairchild on the ISU campus. The events scheduled for this month's meetings include:

- 03/30--Discussion of New Developments in the Research and Treatment of AIDS
- 04/06--Coming Out to Family and Friends
- 04/13--Guest Speakers: Parents of Lesbians and Gays
- 04/20--Movie: To Be Announced
- 04/27--End-of-the-Year Ice Cream Social

Also scheduled for April is a camping trip at Comlara Park/Lake Evergreen on the 22nd through the 24th, with a picnic scheduled for noon on Saturday the 23rd.

GPA also runs the Gay and Lesbian Resource Phonenumber. For information, questions, or referrals concerning the gay and lesbian lifestyle, or for more information about GPA and its events, call 438-2429 (438-2GAY) Monday through Thursday, 11 am to 4 pm.

--The Balrog

Kate Clinton visits the Big Marshmallow

Introduced as the woman who finds it hard to keep a "straight" face, lesbian, feminist comedian Kate Clinton made sure that her audience kept smiling right along with her.

Presented as a finale to Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) Week, Clinton's performance was sponsored by the Gay People's Alliance along with the National Organization for Women, the Progressive Student Union, and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Clinton's success was due in a large part to her ability to keep the audience involved. Never forgetting that her audience was there, she asked them questions and made the audience's reactions to her jokes

part of the show. With Clinton's comments on Normal, the Bone Student Center, and even the sponsoring groups, there was an illusion of spontaneity about the entire show.

Nothing was safe from Clinton's "straight"forward humor. She had something to say on everything from GALA Week to women's issues to the presidential campaign. Even though her topics covered a wide range, her transitions were so smooth that the hour-long show never lagged.

Thanks for visiting the Big Marshmallow, Kate. Your show was a treat for all who attended.

--M.D.

Anti-drug ad relies on shaky logic

Over the past several years, the campaign to "get tough on drugs" has gained a lot of attention. There can hardly be any reasoned body of opinion which denies that the abuse of drugs is a serious problem. But the rhetoric and hype which the First Lady and her followers have whipped up have begun to take on lives of their own, losing touch with any rational basis.



One TV commercial comes to mind in particular. In it, the camera looks up from the perspective of a patient about to undergo surgery. The doctor and his assistants are puffing on a joint as they fondle their scalpels. The narrator then asks, "Would you want to be operated on by someone who was on DRUGS!?" The answer is obviously "no." Therefore, smoking dope is bad, and no one should ever do it.

Okay, you probably get the idea, which is that there is a time and place for everything. But a two-step argument such as "Smoking dope impairs your judgment; therefore don't do it when you need to do something important" is just a little too tortuous. A watered-down message like that will not satisfy the anti-drug crusaders' craving for a quick and easy cure for everything that's wrong with our society.

But hold on a minute. Let's construct our own argument using the same process of "reasoning." Picture a crowded airliner flying over the Rockies. The Pilot is taking a nap, oblivious to the fact that his plane is on a collision course with a jutting mountain peak. The question: "Would you want to fly in a plane where the pilot was ASLEEP?" Of course not. Therefore, sleeping is bad, and no one should ever do it, right?

The fact is that these folks are arguing backwards, by starting with their conclusion that drugs are bad, period. Whether one agrees with the premise or not, this commercial is little more than an exercise in propaganda. If you want to influence my opinion, Mrs. Reagan, you'll have to do better than that.

--Dave Thompson

The politics of typeface

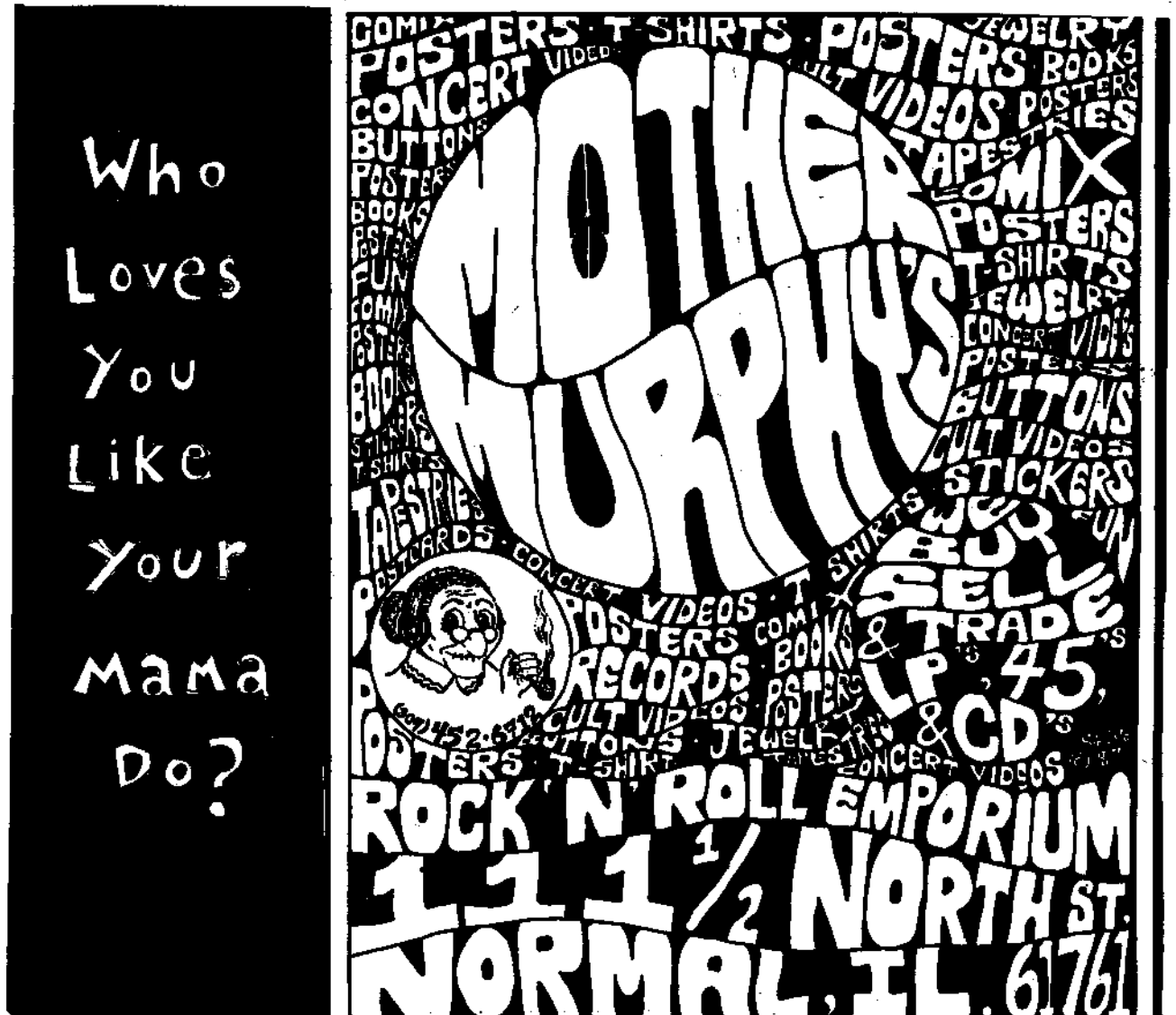
The Illinois primary has ended and with it, one of McLean County's hottest races: the battle in the Republican Party between Ron (Mensa) Dozier and Charles Witte for Circuit Court judgeship.

The conflict was a heated one, but for my money the most intriguing aspect of the race was each candidate's choice of campaign poster. Witte chose a rather sedate lettering style, redolent of dignity and Republicanism. Dozier chose the swashbuckle: a large hand-lettered "Z" announcing itself in the middle of Ron's name.

You know the reference: "Z" for Zorro, the fox so cunning and free. Dozier has pushed this sort of ersatz renegade self-image in the past, much like former state's attorney Jim Thompson did. He's the right-thinking man o' law tilting against the namby-pambies, pushing back the forces of secular humanism. As a state's attorney that image made a shaky kind of sense; as a judge (where one is supposed to be a wee bit more objective) it's embarrassing.

But, hey, not even Don Diego won 'em all the time ...

--BS88



Beauty in the eye of the beholder

So, sisters and brothers, you thought sexism was dead or at the very least, dying?! After all, today's women have choices in their careers and lifestyles. We may marry or not. We may have children or not. And in some areas a woman's paycheck is equal to a man's (although sometimes it's equally low, unfortunately).

Pimping for dollars

So what's my beef? Ads such as the accompanying one which have been running almost weekly in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch annoy me. The majority of these ads depict women as less than perfect and in need of "fixing" by a male medical professional. True, a few "pregnant" men modeled in ads promoting liposuction, but the majority of the models are so-called imperfect women.

Aided by a "pimp" (i.e., registered nurse), the doctor gets a customer and a chance to improve her imperfections. Granted, a few kindly plastic surgeons may talk to a client and get the client to realize that a physical problem could really be a problem of self-image. (See the book Psycho-Cybernetics by Maxwell Maltz, M.D., for example.) But as the ad says, you should do it "because not every body's perfect."

By and large, plastic or cosmetic surgery brings in big bucks. Liposuction is the number one surgical procedure performed by plastic surgeons. Seduced by advertising's image of thinness as perfection, more and more men and women are submitting to this procedure.

Ignoring the obvious

Going beyond sexism, I am again annoyed by our culture's obsession with physical perfection. Apparently if a person doesn't measure up to advertising's standard of perfection and beauty, then surely such a person is not a worthy human being.

The black community resented being bombarded by white standards of beauty and said so in the '60s and '70s. Like many provocative ideas from that era, these claims of racism and sexism are ignored. Even worse, some black magazines have bought into the idea of physical perfection,

promoting only (physically) beautiful black women.

The pressure of being physically perfect and its detrimental effects are likewise being ignored. Do any of us measure up to advertising's standards of beauty and perfection? If we do, how long can we maintain our beauty? Why are eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia on the rise?



According to an article in the Chicago Tribune, March 3, 1988, "children age 6 to 9 have developed a dislike for the obese body build, the American Academy of Pediatrics says. As adolescents their behavior indicates that they have trouble accepting biological realities and the medical concept of appropriate weight, which may vary considerably according to many biological factors. . . . Further study is needed on television's

societal effect in equating thinness with beauty and the good life, on society's obsession with thinness and on the increasing prevalence of eating disorders." We are desperately trying to conform to an ideal.

Guess what, folks? Ugly people fall in love too. Old people, fat people, skinny people, people of color, "handicapped" people, "retarded" people--all are capable of love, of inner beauty and perfection. Why are we letting the media manipulate and literally reshape us?

A lesson from Buddha

The denial of imperfection by advertisers reminds me of the beginning of Buddhism. Before he became the "Enlightened One," Buddha was named Siddhartha by his parents. Siddhartha was described as "well born on both sides, of pure descent, handsome, gifted with great beauty of complexion. . . ."

Siddhartha's father, a king, summoned fortunetellers to foresee his son's future. Two predictions were made. If Siddhartha remained with the world, he would unify India and become her greatest conqueror or universal king. If he forsook the world, he would become not a king but a world redeemer.

Faced with this option, his father spared no effort to keep his son's mind attached to the world. Every material pleasure was given to the prince, and no ugliness was to intrude upon the courtly pleasures. The prince was shielded from sickness, decrepitude, and death. Wherever he went riding, runners were to clear the road of these sights. However an old man was overlooked, and Siddhartha learned the fact of old age. Next he encountered a body racked with disease, lying by the road. On a third journey, he discovered a corpse. Finally he discovered a monk with a shaven head and other robe and learned of the possibility of withdrawing from the world. He concluded, "Life is subject to age and death. Where is the realm of life in which there is neither age nor death?"

If we believe these ads, the realm exists--in the world of cosmetic surgery and medical science.

--Jean D'arc

On to the Supreme Court

Gays win victory in court

After seven long years, Perry Watkins found a court with some common sense.

Watkins had been open with the Army about his homosexuality since 1967. But when the Army issued new regulations in January 1981 barring homosexuals, without exception, from military service, Watkins' fine record of service came to an end. (Of course, the military has always tried to keep gays out, but before the new regulations, exceptions could be made for "unusual circumstances.")

The hopes of getting this blanket restriction overturned in court were slim and none. In a 1981 ruling by Anthony Kennedy (who now sits on the Supreme Court), the Navy's right to discharge anyone who had engaged in homosexual conduct was upheld. This was because it had the right "to protect the fabric of military life" and "to maintain the discipline of personnel in active service." Robert Bork upheld another Navy discharge in 1984, declaring that "private, consensual homosexual conduct is not

constitutionally protected." And of course, the Supreme Court in Hardwick v. Bowers gave government the right to regulate blow jobs and other private consensual sexual behavior.

But Meese and Reagan have not yet contaminated all the courts with the stench of active conservatism, homophobia, and government intervention in our bedrooms. On February 10, 1988, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 in Watkins' favor.

To circumvent the homophobic rantings by the Reagan appointees, the Court considered the issue of discrimination based on homosexual orientation instead of the right to homosexual behavior that other cases have focused on.

Writing for the majority, Judge William Norris wrote that the Army's policies violate rights to equal protection and "illegally cater to private biases." Furthermore, the Court recognized the lengthy history of discrimination against gay people,

claiming that under equal protection doctrine we are entitled to the same "suspect class" protection of our constitutional rights as racial minority groups.

Gosh Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore. I just thought I heard a court ruling on gay rights that's based on common sense.

Of course, this case now moves on to the Supreme Court. I would be very surprised if they uphold the wisdom of Judge Norris' ruling. They'll probably claim that homosexual conduct plays too central a role in homosexual orientation for the two to be separated, and hence the Hardwick ruling will apply.

Even if the Supreme Court does overturn the Watkins decision, Norris' ruling will go down in history with Judge Harry Blackmun's eloquent dissent in the Hardwick case as one of the most important rulings in our fight to gain our constitutional rights.

--The Balrog

Sources: NGRA Monthly Litigation Report, March 1988; and "Court Strikes Army's Ban On Gays" by Peter Freiberg, The Advocate, Issue 494, March 15, 1988.

Sexism in peace groups

I'm weary. Like other women active in peace and justice groups, my struggle is not only with oppressive systems and U.S. foreign policy; it is also with oppressive behaviors and beliefs inside the peace and justice group. The weariness arises perhaps due to the exceedingly high expectations I place on the group, but it also comes from unresolved, unspoken differences in value systems and analyses. To put my frustration bluntly, sexism rears its ugly head and gets away unchallenged.

I become tongue-tied and defensive in uncomfortable instances, so I channel my energy into this attempt to offer insight into the way the oldest form of oppression harms us today. I also offer alternatives to the sexist habits we all display from time to time.

"None are free until all are free."

Here is a very brief analysis of sexism and the dangers it presents to all of us on the planet. My thanks and apologies to all the great writers and "herstorians" who inspired this simplistic summary.

Sexism--the systematic discrimination on the basis of gender--is, as I mentioned before, the oldest oppressive belief system and is one that pervades all modern societies. Women were the first people as a class to be considered inferior, mentally and physically--to be considered less than human. All other systems of oppression are modeled on this. Theologian Martin Buber's teachings assert that men have established themselves as the subjective "I," while the rest of humanity are objects relating to and subordinate to men.

Religion reinforces this notion. God is referred to as Father and is believed to be male. Men are closest to this image, therefore are church leaders. Women have been considered too remote from the image of God, too sinful and looked upon as temptresses, to be allowed positions of responsibility in churches. Religious laws are written to suit the interests of men and to keep women down. Women's bodies are considered the property of men. The words patriarch, dominion, patriot, lord, and so on all suggest rule by men. In time, women who challenged or threatened rule by

men were burned as witches, ostracized from their communities, arrested or terrorized into silence.

Buber might say that the task for humanity is to change our collective conscience to the posture of "I-thou," reflecting equality and respect for women--full humanity. Though simple-sounding, this change in consciousness is quite radical. Theologians are beginning to recognize the feminine principle in God, more particularly in Jesus, pushed to this recognition by the feminists in their ranks and congregations. Finally religious services are dropping the masculine when referring to the Creator. Women are beginning to see their own reflection of divinity, finding that a spiritual equality liberates their self-esteem as much as any other change in consciousness could, using the goddess and other feminine imagery, some borrowed from prepatriarchal and indigenous cultures.

This change is not a rejection of the masculine principle altogether. It is a long overdue re-emergence of the feminine and a celebration of both aspects in balance.

The damage done to people and the world by the predominance of the masculine principle cannot be told fully here. The problems we face in the modern world are a sad summary of the damage. Societies have held dear the values of competition, the "I"-to-object mentality and "might is right" with the end result of humanity being held hostage by governments wielding nuclear weapons. People, specifically men, are permitted to resort to violence to resolve conflicts. Women and people of color are used as cheap labor and cannon fodder. Women must fight constantly for control of their own bodies. Rape, sexual abuse, forced pregnancies, surrogate mother/babies by contract, and discrimination because of sexual orientation all reflect the belief that women are the property of men, objects with no rights, to be used and discarded.

Sexism has also hurt men incredibly. Men have been conditioned not to feel or express emotions and are ridiculed if they are seen doing so. Fathers are not encouraged to nurture their children, to fully share in the raising and care that creates the strong bond to the kids or the

connection to the life cycle that women speak of. Role expectations are rigid and harsh. Gay men know the risks and consequences of moving outside the strict boundaries.

I believe that challenging sexism is crucial for the survival of the planet. True peace and justice depend on the recognition of all types of oppression and their connections. All people will benefit from the change of consciousness that sees all people as equals, humans as guests on the planet. Once sexism is resolved, governments might become truly representative and democratic, self-determination would be a value held from the personal to the international level, the nuclear mentality would end, and maybe diversity would be celebrated.

"A pacifist feminist's first obligation is to end her complicity in the violence of sexism."--Jane Meyerding

It is my opinion that men and women committed to peace and justice--whether in Central America support groups, in anti-nuclear groups, in anti-apartheid work, in church social concern committees--must embrace feminism as a central element of their work. And these individuals should be fighting the daily battles, as well, at work, in the home, in churches and schools, to end the complicity. Here I've included a few actual incidents of sexism seen locally, with alternative responses offered to demonstrate possible radical changes we could have made.

1) In the middle of the night, returning from a national demo, packed in a van, one woman wakes to find herself being touched sexually by a man sharing her seat. She quietly hisses that he stop it. He responds, "I didn't have anything to do with my hands." Later she tells friends who are enraged, but no one confronts the jerk.

Alternative: She wakes others near her, tells them loudly what is occurring. The van is stopped, he is shamed before the whole group and asked to sit on the floor by himself for the rest of the trip.

2) At several demonstrations for ending U.S. intervention in Central America reporters approach the tallest male in the group each time. He speaks for the group. (I call this the "Microphone Attraction to Penis Effect.")

Alternative: Before demos, women and men are paired as spokespersons; each pair has an opportunity to take this responsibility. When media approaches, "tallest male" directs them to spokespersons.

3) At weekly peace group meetings, an outspoken male offers to facilitate each time. Group acquiesces. Same woman takes notes each time.

Alternative: All people in group rotate as facilitator so all can gain experience and confidence as leaders. All learn to take notes and rotate this job as well.

4) During a decision-making process, it is evident that two men are dominating discussion. A woman is interrupted as she makes a comment. Others begin to daydream. She becomes agitated and leaves room.

Alternative: The woman calls attention to being cut off and requests time to speak uninterrupted. The facilitator asks each person in group for their opinion, giving the most shy people ample opportunity to speak.

5) A new group member uses sexist language and masculine pronouns repeatedly, also restates the input of a woman as if she had never said it.

God wants your social security check

New Hampshire got the Word, and I do mean The Word. It went out to 100,000 homes in the February 7 Manchester Union Leader News: a 40-page slick magazine called "The Presidential Biblical Scoreboard."

The Scoreboard rated the presidential candidates on whether they support "pro-Biblical" positions. These are nothing like the missionary position, I can assure you.

One "pro-Biblical" position is "the gradual privatization" of Social Security. Ah, yes, that must be from the book of Gerontology, chapter 4, verses 6-10. Right after Habakkuk and before I Effluvium.

Some other "pro-Biblical" issues include support for Star Wars and aid to the Contras--both mentioned in the last chapter of the book of Armaments, no doubt--and the Balanced Budget Amendment, which is clearly spelled out in the words of Haggai the prophet: Take care unto the day that thy debits equal thy credits, lest thy double-entry ledger doth rot and thou shalt not see the kingdom of heaven.

Pay equity for working women? Sanctions against South Africa? "Anti-Biblical," according to the Scoreboard, which has apparently

decided that all of Jesus's words are apolitical and irrelevant, especially the ones about giving to the poor and treating your neighbor as yourself.

Author/educator/broadcaster Pat Robertson leads the field with a 95% "pro-Biblical" rating. (One wonders what the 5% deduction is for: perhaps they don't give credit for lying about your war record.) But Baptist minister Jesse Jackson gets a zero. Jack Kemp gets 85% (ex-quarterbacks are always biblical), and Bob Dole only 60%. Every Democrat flunks.

This thing is no jokes, folks. The Scoreboard was distributed in Iowa. Thousands of copies were given out in New Hampshire churches, and hundreds of thousands more in the southern states for the Super Tuesday primaries.

These people mean business--in a Biblical sense, of course. Amerika belongs only to their kind of Xians, and to be a good Xian you have to buy their entire political agenda.

That must be what Thomas Jefferson and James Madison had in mind all along.

--Ferdurdurke

justice starts at home

Alternative: Men in the group are the first to point out the sexist language and suggest alternatives. The woman lets him know he just co-opted her words.

6) A woman's spirituality exploration group is formed. Men in the community complain that its purpose is "male-bashing."

Alternative: One or more men in the community ask the women about the group, then support the idea of the group to other men.

7) A man in a group asks for opinions on the inclusion of a Native American woman speaker for a peace service. Several people affirm the idea. A woman supports the idea by stating that the women of the community will find this relevant to trends in feminist spirituality and environmentalism. He comes back defensively, "What you just said excludes me," and changes subject. Group gets very quiet. Woman leaves that evening hurt and angry.

Alternative: Woman asks man what triggered his defensiveness, group supports a dialogue/discussion on including women's spirituality in religious events. He is assured that this doesn't exclude him.

I hope these real-life examples help to illustrate typical problems and struggles with sexist habits and attitudes that occur in most groups where men and women work together: Ending sexism is not just the task of men. Women must take charge of their own well-being as much as possible and are charged with recognizing their own competencies and equality, as well as those of other women.

Here are a few beginning steps to take to start the process of equality in peace groups.

Women:

--Offer to take on challenging responsibilities.

--Take responsibility for yourself when attacked or discriminated against--don't wait to be rescued.

--Speak out with your opinions in a confident manner; avoid apologizing or minimizing your idea.

--Value both the masculine and feminine qualities you possess.

--Form a women's support group within your organization, and present workshops to the larger group regularly.

Men:

--Be the first voice to call out against sexism from other men, or support women as they confront it.

--Offer to take notes/make coffee/do dishes/watch children and do other traditional "women's work."

--Listen with respect and attention when women speak even if they speak softly, hesitantly or apologetically.

--Form a men's group within your community to advance your liberation and further challenge sexism.

--Ask women about good books on the subject. There is a treasury of wonderful feminist literature in all forms.

--Value both the masculine and the feminine qualities you possess.

Groups:

--At annual retreats, statewide meetings, and other events, dedicate workshops/discussions to women's issues.

--At meetings' end, hold process evaluations including a look at cooperation/role stereotyping/language.

--Balance speakers at rallies to include women/people of color.

--Make sure all media interviews and stories include women as active participants--help dispell the myth of men as active/intelligent, women as passive/dull.

U.S. cities still paying for pope's junket

The CEO of Vatican, Inc. (aka John Paul the Sequel) has been gone for several months, but he is anything but forgotten by the nine U.S. cities and the Catholic dioceses still paying his bills for his 10-day visit.

Phoenix shelled out \$86,000, more than three times what it spent on last year's national Fiesta Bowl game. San Antonio spent almost 10 times that amount, more than it has ever paid for any other event, including last year's Grand Prix auto race.

Though the final tab may never be known, the papal stay cost more than \$32 million, or about \$133,000 an hour, according to estimates compiled by church officials and public agencies. About \$20 million was borne by Catholic dioceses and \$12 million by local, state, and federal governments that were responsible for security, clean up, and transportation.

The San Francisco diocese spent \$3 million, more than any other diocese. The city spent more than \$500,000. The total spent in Los Angeles exceeded that, with the diocese spending \$2.5 million and the city about \$1.7 million.

New Orleans spent almost \$3 million. But Columbia, SC, was the least expensive stop. It cost the Charleston diocese a mere \$475,000, and the city of Columbia \$120,000--for five hours of JP2's smiling presence.

The length of the holy stay did not necessarily dictate expenses. Six hours in Monterey County (CA), for a mass at the Laguna Seca Raceway and a visit to a mission in Carmel, cost the diocese \$1.8 million and the county \$74,000.

Most governmental units opted to pay for the pontifical jaunt out of existing budgets. Thus, municipal departments, like the San Francisco police, are hoping that the rest of the fiscal year is uneventful. Overtime pay for the San Francisco police cost \$335,000, or more than one-third the department's yearly budget for special events.

The host dioceses had little money in reserve to draw upon. Most began about two years ago to raise money in advance, often relying on professional fundraisers. Five dioceses--New Orleans, Los Angeles,

Monterey, Detroit, and San Francisco--are still raising funds to pay the bills.

Meanwhile, the ranks of the nation's homeless continue to grow, and more and more AIDS patients are unable to pay for the cost of their treatment. Forty percent of the poor people in Amerika are children, and the country blows \$32 million plus on 10 days in the life of some Polish sausage in a white gown and more jewelry than Tammy Bakker.

--Ferdydurke



Mantra Mash slated

Mantra Mash '88, the 5th Annual Free X Avant-Garde Arts Festival, will occur on Saturday, April 30, beginning at 3 pm. This year's Festival will happen simultaneously at four locations in downtown Bloomington, centering at the Eddy Building, 427 North Main. (Other prospective locations include the Upfront Gallery; Robinson's Cocktails and Ribs, and Electric Coffee.)

The Free X Festival is a regional event designed to stimulate and integrate the various fine and performing arts, including music, performance art, painting and sculpture, drama, literature, film, and other forms of creative expression. Held in Bloomington/Normal, the Festival has grown tenfold since its inception in 1984. It now attracts artists from Champaign/Urbana, Madison (WI), Chicago, Philadelphia, Decatur, West Germany,

This is what I am: watching the spider rebuild--"patiently," they say.

but I recognize in her impatience--my own--

the passion to make and make again where such unmaking reigns

the refusal to be a victim we have lived with violence so long.

(Adrienne Rich, "Natural Resources")

Though our backgrounds and experiences are diverse, perhaps we all can strive for the equality of women in the context of peace and justice work. Hopefully someday this value will be held by all people. I'm continuing forward in spite of weariness, still clinging to utopian visions, like Adrienne Rich sometimes feeling the "passion to make and make again." Truly the future of the planet depends on its people respecting and loving each other as equals.

--Diane Speir 3/19/88

Lexington, Pontiac, and many other places.

The key to the Festival is in its flexibility, which allows for the exhibition of both novice and expert works. Moreover, the art show is by no means limited to the avant-garde.

This is the time to come together and revel in the creative spirit. The response this year has already been more tremendous than ever (don't miss "Molombo" by Madison-based interpretive artist Luciano).

Festival space is still (as always) available. If you are a musician, performance artist, painter, sculptor, filmmaker, reader, dancer, dramatist, etc., call (309) 829-4377 for information. Writers: Publish in PULP '88. Send works to M. Johnson, 502 East Monroe, Bloomington, IL 61701.

The Underground Barfly

Forget All Your Troubles,
Forget All Your Cares
Downtown

The Lucca Grill
116 East Market
Bloomington

Step Inn
111 West Monroe
Bloomington



We walk the night alone. On an unseasonably balmy Friday night in mid-February, you may have seen us casing the bars in downtown Bloomington, pulling our trenchcoat collars up to conceal our identities. We swill beers, we munch nachos, we take notes. We're the Underground Bar Flies.

In our tireless search for Nightlife Nirvana, we've developed a system of facing off two bars that are in the same league. Last Friday, after a grueling week as working stiffs, our plan was to find a couple of contenders where we could catch the happy hour scene, talk, drink, and get some chow. The Lucca Grill and Step Inn seemed to fit the bill.

The Lucca Grill is an old favorite of ours, so we were already predisposed in its favor. As many Bloomington-Normalites already know, the Lucca is a family-owned establishment that has sat at the corner of Market and East streets since Christ was a boy. This authentic old-time bar radiates a smoky, well-worn charm, with its high, pressed tin ceilings, old formica tables, and long, smooth wooden bar. No hanging ferns or pale natural wood here. And behind this formidable, lavishly cluttered bar reside the friendliest bartenders in these parts, representing several generations of the Baldini family.

Speaking of service, the waitresses at the Lucca Grill are part of a breed of serving persons that you don't see much anymore. Unlike most of the flatulently effervescent wait-people that seem to dominate the scene in restaurants these days, the waitresses at Lucca don't bubble, sparkle, introduce themselves or make cheery chit-chat about the daily special: these women just do their job and spare us the fanfare.

In true neighborhood-bar style, regulars are treated better than mere familiar faces, and familiar faces are treated better than strangers. (Some Lucca devotees swear that it takes five years of faithful attendance to become a regular, but we're not sure.)

In addition to the basic alcoholic necessities (draft beer is 75 cents, bottle \$1.10), the Lucca Grill serves lunch and dinner. The food is pretty much standard American tavern food--sandwiches (\$1.50-\$2.50), fried chicken (about \$5), pasta dishes (\$4-\$8) and steaks, but we must point out that they serve uncommonly good pizza (\$5-\$11) of the ultra-thin crispy crust variety (in the real Northern Italian tradition) with a large choice of ingredients. If you are a meat eater, we recommend the pizza *A La Baldini*--which comes with almost everything you could hope for. Great Sex, World Peace, and an Informed Electorate are not optional toppings (however, Lucca for years has been the hangout for the county's Democrats, so the patrons at least include the latter).

After taking in a great pizza and a couple of beers at the Lucca, we pulled up our trenchcoat collars and walked the few blocks to Step Inn. Now we were ready to try on a couple of drinks in Bloomington's newest downtown bar, but all of that pizza had given us a collective sweet tooth, so we were really hoping to get some dessert. Some barflies, huh?

We weren't disappointed. This is the bar that tries harder. Judging by the bar's name, the tiny dance floor and the wallpaper trim which features sleek dancing couples, it appears that the establishment is trying to woo the over-thirty dancing crowd. It didn't appear to be working quite that way.

But over-thirties were there, enjoying the cosy, clean, welcoming atmosphere, which included just the right amount of bar noise--the sounds of people having a good time in the background, not on your lap, and classic country tunes that we didn't have to shout over. The decor featured a rather unusual clothier motif (involving old-fashioned pictures of ladies in chemises and knickers) which benefited from some local flair: the menu cover gave a history of downtown Bloomington's Winnie's Suit Shop.

At 8:30 on a Friday night, Step Inn still offered a selection of free happy hour munchies (deep fried chicken wings, cheese and crackers). Barflies were delighted with big glasses of Rhine wine, ideally blended Kahlua and coffee, and the cleverest martini served inland--the vermouth came in a medicine dropper, so the drinker could define dry for herself.

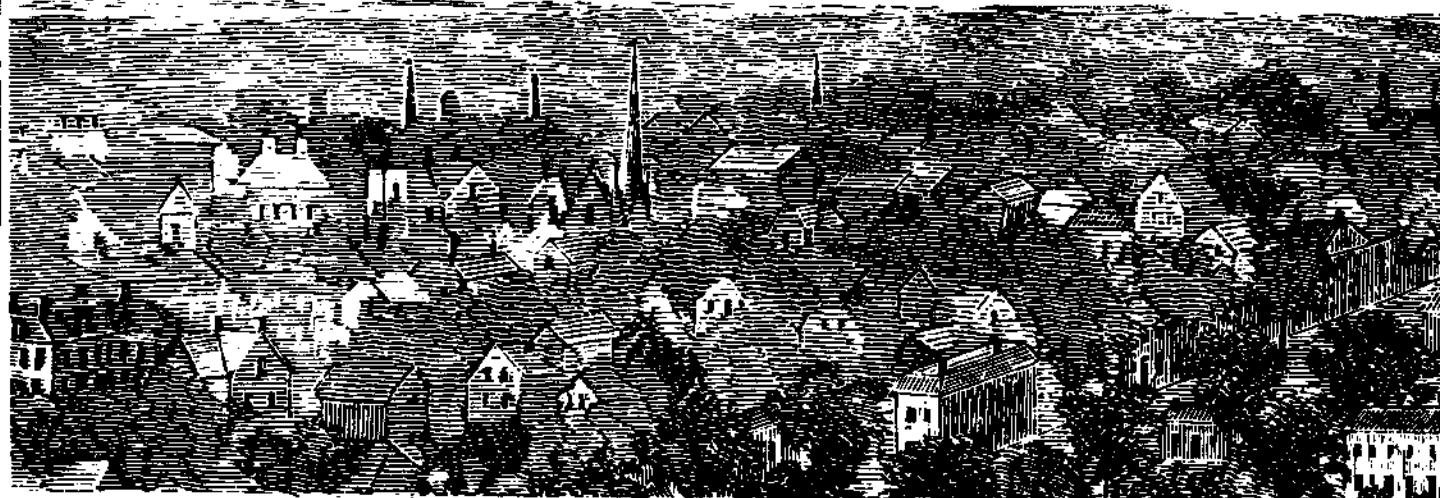
Two barflies enjoyed big schooners of fresh ice cream and another smiled over a piece of homemade chocolate cream pie with flaky crust, thick dark filling and a perfectly browned meringue.

Our dapper waiter made us feel like we were in some modest hotel bar hideaway in the city, rather than a little Midwestern watering hole. With cosmopolitan sophistication, he didn't blink an eyelash over the martini-and-ice-cream order. A gentleman of a certain age, he gave us the impression that he would find no order disconcerting nor serve no wine before its time. Like the Lucca waiters, he didn't bounce, chirp, or sing the day's specials, thank goodness.

The note-taking Barfly fully intended to meticulously take down Step Inn's salient prices and meal offerings, but she finds that her notes end with "Kahlua and coffee perfect." And a perfect ending it was, too.

--Blanche, Stella and a Gentleman Caller

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

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