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## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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4-1989

## Volume 17, Number 6

Post Amerikan

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Bloomington-Normal

Apr-May 1989

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# POST AMERICAN

Vol. 17

No. 6

*The Alternative*



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# Bloomington-Normal POST AMERIKAN



## 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 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

An alternative newspaper depends 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 Friday, May 26. Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed.

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 Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north  
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 North & Broadway, southeast corner  
 White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway  
 (in front)

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## Attention, For the Love of Animals Lovers

RAF is on vacation. For the Love of Animals will be back next issue with the results of the "Animal Rights" Opinion Poll! (And much more!)

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

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 [SANDSTONE-SUNNAPIETARINKISAIB  
 HELSINKI-14, FINLAND, SCANDINAVIA  
 EUROPA]

1.10

PARAVION  
 ENTIGOSTI  
 ELIPOSTI

ALSO WOPING FOR YOUR STIFF STRANG  
 HEALTH LIKE HAVE THE BEASING BIRNAY  
 AND TIGERS IN SIBERIA

TERVETTES  
 GOD  
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GREETINGS FOR PEOPLE, IN  
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## Good numbers

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- Community for Social Action....452-4967
- Connection House.....829-5711
- Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005
- Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022
- Displaced Homemakers.....800-252-4822
- Draft Counseling.....452-5046
- Gay & Lesbian Resource  
Phoneline (11-4 M-R).....438-2429
- HELP transportation for senior  
citizens, handicapped).....828-8301
- Ill. Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
- Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916
- Kaleidoscope.....828-7346
- McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161
- Mid Central Community Action..829-0691
- Mobile Meals.....828-8301

- McLean Co. Center for  
Human Services.....827-5351
- National Health Care Services-  
abortion assistance....1-800-322-1622
- Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195
- Occupational Development  
Center.....452-7324
- Operation Recycle.....829-0691
- Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
- PATH: Personal Assistance  
Telephone Help.....827-4005
- Or.....800-322-5015
- Phone Friends.....827-4008
- Planned Parenthood...medical..827-4014  
bus/couns/educ...827-4368
- Post Amerikan.....828-7232
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- Prairie Alliance.....828-8249
- Project Oz.....827-0377
- Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
- Sunnyside Neighborhood Center.827-5428
- TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301
- Unemployment comp/job service.827-6237
- United Farmworkers support...452-5046
- UPIC.....827-4026

# Post Amerikan Feminist Primer Lesson #1

Remember, oh say ten years ago, when any man who had the nerve to open the door for you would be the recipient of an icy glare and possible tongue lashing? "I can manage perfectly well on my own, thank you," you would inform him through clenched teeth. Depending upon the character of the man, he might have either slunk away, feeling like a whapped pup, or let the door slam in your face and say, "Up yours, sister!"

That scenario doesn't get played out much anymore, and I can't say I'm really sorry. Back in the thick of feminist consciousness-raising, it seems that in an effort to bust the notion that women are delicate creatures who are helpless without the assistance of men, we refuted many common acts of human courtesy and alienated a good part of the population. I think it's called cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

But wait a minute. Isn't it a fact that a certain amount of unpleasantness is bound to accompany any meaningful social change? Our means may have ruffled some feathers, but who can deny that our basic motive of demanding respect and equality for women was a righteous cause?

Now the tenor of the times has shifted to more relaxed, if not regressive relations between the sexes (and among our own gender). I'm certainly glad to be able to lighten up a bit, laugh at the little foibles that we can't seem to divest of our genders, and interact with people without silently drawing up the lines of combat. And for a long time, I thought that all that unpleasant confrontation in the sixties and seventies had actually made a change in the collective American consciousness. By and large, I heard less diminution of women in everyday speech--strangers were less likely to call me honey, or baby or

sweetheart. Women--collegians, hairdressers, business women, housewives--became more sure of themselves, more willing to demand what they had earned, because they had heard the rhetoric of feminism. That rhetoric hadn't remained in some rarefied intellectual strata of the culture; it had soaked all the way down to the grass roots! Men were willing to give up a little of their jealously guarded power, because they had witnessed the effects of "sisterhood." It was a start.

But something has gone wrong. For all that effort we went through trying to break old patterns of behavior and shake up the status quo, judging by what I see around me today, it appears as though those battles were never fought, let alone won. "Wet T-shirt Night" is back at Rocky's, women who do not understand the complex application of the hammer and screwdriver are on the rise and testosterone tempered tough guys are the order of the day.

I think that a refresher course in feminism is in order. Watch for the Feminist Primer in the pages of your Post Amerikan.



## A is for Activism

Activism is not a weekend activity. It's a way of life. This doesn't mean you have to quit your job so you can travel around the country to pro-choice rallies or give all your money to the Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors. It would be nice if you could, but let's be reasonable. You didn't get that Ph.D. --chauffeur's license--family, etc., for nothing. Do what you can when you can for the cause, but above all, speak out against sexism and injustice whenever you see it happening! That's activism. Being a small hero is better than being a safe nothing. Oh, and by the way, I feel that it is a reasonable assumption that a feminist

who is concerned with injustices between the sexes will also be sympathetic to other peoples who are oppressed. We have to stick together!

## B is for Body hair

Back in the seventies, body hair (legs, armpits) was *de rigeur* for good feminists. It does make a strong political statement: I will not let an arbitrary societal taboo make me shave. There are enough legitimate differences between the sexes; I refuse to contribute to artificial ones.

Nowadays, body hair is optional for women; some people like to think they shave for aesthetic reasons. But did you know that the hair under the arms has a very specific purpose? It acts as sort of a radiator to help evaporate perspiration. Without it, the sweat just clings there, causing one's arms to slip back and forth across the uncomfortable oil slick. And don't believe that stuff about it not being "clean." That's pure propaganda. I do shave my legs in summer (I tell myself it's for aesthetic reasons; deep down I know I just don't want to deal with the hassles from the public), but I refuse to shave my underarms. It would be like shaving off my eyebrows!

## C is for "Chicks"

Rather, why good feminists don't call other women "chicks." Are we to think of ourselves as being nothing but fluffy little vacuous creatures whose incessant peeping is tantamount to the inconsequential, monotonous dripping of a water faucet? Whose only appeal is the transitive charm of baby-ness? Do we only aspire to grow up to be neurotic, squawking, egg laying machines, whose sense of purpose is limited to pecking our own kind to death at the feeding trough? Need I say more?

--LVD

## Dangerous Liaisons

One of the most intriguing and surprisingly different films of the year has got to be "Dangerous Liaisons," which stars John Malkovich, Glenn Close, and Michelle Pfeiffer. The lavish sets and costumes set the mood for what turns out to be a surprisingly racy tale of sexual meddling in the 18th century by the rich and notorious. John and Glenn vie for who can be the most conniving, each plotting the other's downfall by throwing monkey wrenches (had those been invented then, that is) into the other's diabolical schemes. The resulting drama is peppered with bits of unexpected humor along with the emotional philandering. John Malkovich's character is perfectly despicable, yet sexually alluring (a delicate balance indeed), and Glenn Close's is a scary role altogether. Mildred Natwick, Swoosie Kurtz, and Keanu Reeves deliver excellent supporting roles. I was most surprised by the ensemble evident in such a diverse cast. There are few pretentious dialects to wade through in order to understand the dialog, which I thought made it

easier to get to the moralistic heart of the film: the words alone carry the theme throughout. But get a load of Glenn's teeth in this flick! I guess it was all the go back then to keep one's skin ultra-white, and in her case the lack of contrast made her teeth appear a khaki color. It was almost as if she had downed a pot of five o'clock blend every day of the filming and never brushed her teeth. Adding to this creepy aspect of her character were the startling close-ups (no pun intended) which helped us capture the intensity of every facial movement. The film does contain some blood and violence, and we get to see the beginning of a chase scene, but the film is otherwise completely cerebral. The one thing I found hard to believe was that they were able to get all these letters back and forth to one another so quickly long before there was express mail to get the correspondence through. I thoroughly enjoyed this film, and I recommend it to everyone who enjoys historical drama. •

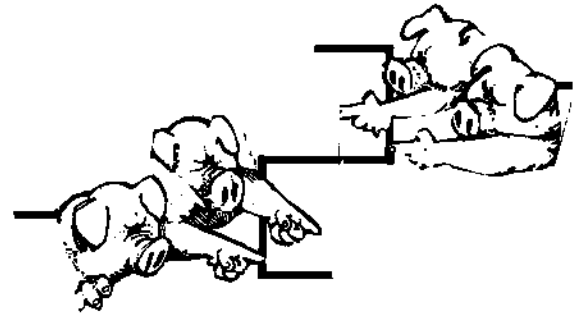
—T. Tucker



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# Iowa packinghouse worker framed on criminal charges



Chicago was once the slaughterhouse capital of the world. But now the slaughterhouses are gone: they've moved west. Iowa is now the meat packing center of the country. Just like the Chicago packinghouse workers in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, today's packinghouse workers face dangerous and filthy working conditions.

Company ordered speed-ups and automation have increased production by 24% in the past five years, and in some plants, production has increased over 100%. Yet, in the same time period, over 24,000 packinghouse workers were laid off, making the work that much harder and more dangerous for the average worker. Injuries have sky-rocketed; some plants report that in 1987, over 80% of their workers were injured on the job.

Where packinghouse workers were once relatively well-paid, there is now, in most plants, a two-tiered wage scale, with new workers starting at \$5.00-\$6.00 per hour. These lower wage positions are increasingly being filled by immigrant workers from Latin America and Southeast Asia, just as in *The Jungle* where these jobs were held by immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Although many workers and their union representatives accepted company claims that concessions would save jobs, others chose to fight. The Hormel workers in Austin, Minnesota in their 1985-86 strike became a symbol for those who were tired of making concessions.

## Activist on the kill floor

Amidst this atmosphere, there was a young man named Mark Curtis who was living in Des Moines, Iowa, and was a union worker in the "kill floor" of the Swift plant there. Curtis had been a human rights activist for years before he came to Des Moines. He was a former leader of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and had been a long-time supporter of women's rights and had struggles against racism.

Curtis was formerly the national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, is now a member of the Socialist Workers Party, and was the director of the Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines, a bi-weekly event to allow workers to discuss history, politics, and world events.

On March 1, 1988, the INS\* conducted a raid at the Swift plant, arresting 17 Latino workers for allegedly falsifying their documents to gain employment. This was during the same period that the federal government was trying to get undocumented workers to trust them, to come forward, and sign-up for the Amnesty Program. Seven of the seventeen workers arrested had already signed up for amnesty under this program. Thus, friends and relatives of the arrested workers were very angry about this raid. A protest meeting was planned for March 4th, and INS and Swift officials agreed to attend.

Curtis attended that meeting and spoke in Spanish. He encouraged all workers to unite to protest this raid and urged the union to get involved. The meeting was a big success, and many workers later went to a nearby Mexican restaurant to celebrate and have further discussion.

Later that night, Curtis was arrested, framed-up on charges of burglary and attempted raped of a black teenage girl. He was beaten by police, almost beyond recognition. His cheekbone was shattered. As the police beat him, they said to him, "You're a Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds." For the first time, Curtis had heard the real charges against him.

## Pigs

The Des Moines police, like the Chicago police, have a long history of police brutality. They are also known to be sexist and racist. Several weeks earlier, after a crime had been committed in a white suburb of Des Moines, the police had circulated a flyer telling people to call the police if they saw a black man in their neighborhood. The Des Moines Register has also printed stories in the past year of the police dressing up in Klan attire to "initiate" a black rookie cop, and also of police officers exposing themselves to female officers.

As might be expected, Curtis did not get a fair trial. The judge refused to admit key points of his defense. For example, no evidence was allowed into the record to show that one of the arresting officers, who testified at the trial, had been suspended for lying on a police report.

\*Immigration and Naturalization Services

Furthermore, Curtis was not allowed to introduce any evidence of the cops beating him, or that the cops has access to records of illegally obtained FBI files on him, gathered while he was active in CISPES. The jury did not get to hear that Curtis's sister is a rape victim.

However, the jury did hear some very inconsistent evidence from the prosecution: 1) The victim said her attacker was 5'6"; she is 5'4", and Curtis is 6'2"; 2) She said that the attack occurred between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. Witnesses testified that Curtis was at the restaurant from 7 until 8:30 p.m.; 3) She said her attacker had smoke on his breath. Curtis doesn't smoke; and 4) She said that she and her attacker struggled on the floor of an enclosed porch. Her clothes and the rug on the porch were covered with dirt and animal hair. The police crime investigator testified that no such hairs were found on the clothes or person of Curtis. In fact, he said there was no physical evidence linking Curtis to this attack.

The cops testified that they found Curtis at the victim's house with his pants down. He was at the victim's house, although he never saw her and didn't know she lived there. He had given a ride to a stranger, a woman who approached his car while he was stopped at a traffic light. The woman told him that a man was following her and that she was in danger. That's how he got to the house and was immediately arrested.

## Silence

Curtis was convicted and sentenced to 25 years. The jury was out for 2 days. Four jurors originally voted for acquittal: And one juror has signed an affidavit stating that she still believes that Mark is innocent, but she didn't understand that she could hold-out; she thought the jury had to be unanimous, no matter how long it took. All in all, the all-white jury could not believe that the cops would lie. That's the only explanation for this verdict.

Mark was framed to shut him up and to send a message to others fighting for human rights and dignity that they could be next. It's true; you or I, we could be next. It happens all the time. However, the cops were wrong about this one thing. Putting Mark Curtis in prison has silenced no one, especially not Mark Curtis. Thousands of people from all walks of life and political beliefs have sent letters of support.

Supporters include: Humberto Comacho, President of United Electrical Workers District 10 in Los Angeles; Anee Braden of the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice; Peter Mahlangu, South African Congress of Trade Unions representative in Canada; Carrol Nearmeyer, President, Iowa American Agricultural Movement; Piri Thomas, poet and author; Claudia Slovinsky, National Immigration Project, National Lawyers Guild; Local 577; Marcela Tardy, Midwest CISPES; and Frank Rosen, President, United Electrical Workers, District 11.

Letters of support and donations for the defense effort can be sent to: The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

--Susan O'Neal

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Book review

# All you wanted to know about surrealism but never dared to ask



Out of her childhood sprung passionate episodes.

*Arsenal: Surrealist Subversion* (Black Swan, \$12). I have to make a confession: I know nothing about surrealism, and the definition offered on the back cover of this book did little to inspire my confidence to review a book jam packed with articles about "pure psychic automatism, by which it is proposed to express, verbally, in writing or by other means, the real functioning of thought." Holy crap, Salvador, give me a break! After frantically ripping through the phone book in search of the number for the Surrealist Samaritans . . . or even a number for a grade school reunion, the only solution seemed to be to take the book by the covers.

Having dipped into the collection in a way that I think any neo-surrealists would be proud of (according to one arty insider, "surrealism is dead now," so this is the term I have to use), randomly and without any dictation of thought, control or exercised reason, I came to the conclusion that yeh, this'd be a pretty hip book to have around. It's not a book that aims at preaching to the converted, nor does it assume that its readers will be in the know. It presents a collection of articles that relates things I would never have imagined could be related to surrealism: the feminist movement, blues, homelessness, jawbreakers and Spuds Mackenzie. And it does so unpretentiously and controversially.

"Women and Surrealism" seemed a good place to start. Nancy Joyce Peters places women in the surrealist movement. Her comments that there are disproportionately more women surrealist artists in comparison with token women artists

elsewhere surprised me. But this turned quickly into suspicion when I read that the "old-boy craft networks with apprenticeships and traditional art and university training became nonessential." Was this another case of "it's not academic therefore it's o.k. to let women in?" She goes on to talk about how as a movement, the surrealists undermine sexual conventions promoting "neutered genders" . . . ouch! No thanks, I don't want to be neutered, and I don't want to lose my sense of difference. So already I'm provoked by the book and by the concept of surrealism which thirty minutes ago had me confused and contemplating grade school reunions.

"Farewell to the Eighties: or, Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish," starts out by luring you into its depths with the mention of Blues and Otis Rush. But that seems to me as far as the connection goes. It all seems an excuse for Paul Garon (he's the guy writing it) to declare that "the academic claim of neutrality is hardly pertinent when the object of study is changed by the nature of the site of investigation" . . . WOW! And I wonder how many blues songs have been inspired by those words.

The point I think Garon is making is that surrealism, like blues, has a place outside of conventionality. But that seems an awfully simple statement for such hifalutin words, so maybe he's not trying to say that at all! Who knows. Not too sure about this article. Interesting to read, but it loses the revolutionary consistency it starts out with (isn't that the sort of thing art critics are supposed to say?).

Now I think it's time for a little poetic interlude.

M A X I M S

Laws are against the exception; as for me, I love only the exception.  
 Only useless things are indispensable.  
 Men win diplomas and lose their instincts.  
 There is only one way to saved: Sacrifice your reputation.  
 The justice of men is more criminal than crime.  
 The poetry of tomorrow will arrive yesterday.  
 He who is with me is against me.

Francis Picabia

And a line from Ted Jones' poem, "Have Gone, Am In Chicago,"

Chicago with the No-Where-To-Live-tenants who sit stagger and illegally upside sleep downtown

Dave Wells (no relation to H.G.), in "Return Of The Repressed," (no relation "Star Wars"), seemed to me to be saying something offered by most of the contributors to this pot-pourri of whatever it is that it is but can't define itself as coz it's dead anyway, namely that surrealism and realistic images have now become an accepted part of our culture. He makes this statement in an analogy he draws between the revolutionary spirit, and the acceptance by society of the unprecedented number of homeless: "The violent discarding of those no longer needed by the profit system has resulted in the emergence of a sector of the working class that truly has nothing to lose."

So, surrealism is about subversion, and yes, I have just realized that this is part of the book's title, so I guess that I can say that it is at least about what it says it's about. It's got great pickies, and anything that moves surrealism through Black African art, and China, through Hitler's Prague, and Karl Marx and the Iroquois, through Beethoven's thirteenth and Bob Marley; is surely offering a smattering of something for all. And if nothing else, it'll keep you away from Surrealist Samaritan meetings and a knees up at the grade school reunion.

-Virginia Girley

# Shopping for a better world

When this old world starts getting you down, did you know that you should feel a lot better after taking a couple Nuprin than a couple Advil?

The two products' ingredients are just the same, but their parent companies are not. Advil's corporation has a poor record on advancement of minorities, does animal testing, shows little or no evidence of programs to benefit the community, and has strategic investments in South Africa—enough to give you a headache, isn't it? Nuprin's parent company has none of those drawbacks.

With our *Utne Reader* last month, we got a fat little pamphlet called *Shopping for a Better World*. It was put together by The Council on Economic Priorities (CEP), a public interest research group. This pamphlet rates thousands of products that you buy at the grocery and drug store along ten categories: charitable giving, advancement of women and minorities, defense contracts, animal testing, willingness to disclose information about their operations and social programs, community outreach, support of nuclear power, involvement with the apartheid government of South Africa, and efforts to protect the environment.

The results are impressive—and a bit daunting. As I studied my copy, I sorted out several common items whose "hipness" ratings (my term) are considerably different between name brands.

For example, finding life too short to make my own, I have usually bought Ragu, Prego, or Newman's Own spaghetti sauce pretty much according to whim, finding all of them tasty. I was wrong; wrong, wrong. Ragu flunks on charity, women, minorities, animal testing, disclosure, and South Africa. Prego is kinda hip to very hip on all ten categories, and Newman's Own is as hip as you can get, except, oddly, in advancement of minorities. From now on, I'm a Prego fan.

Another decision I used to make at whim will change. Always sanitary products have great hipness ratings, while Kotex, Modess, and New Freedom (ironically titled) all have strategic investments in South Africa and a mixture of other bad habits.

In most fields, similar products aren't widely different, but there are some decisive factors.

Banner and Charmin toilet papers are very hip and pay 50% of daycare costs for working parents.

Hellman and Kraft are about the same level of hip, but Kraft does animal testing.

Disappointingly, there's no hip way to bag your pot. Baggies do animal testing (grim thought), maintain defense contracts, invest in South Africa, make no efforts to protect the environment, and are reluctant

(understandably) to disclose. Ziploc do a bit better in most areas of hipness, getting the highest possible mark in charitable contributions, but the company supports nuclear power and makes pesticides.

This handy booklet even gives you some justification for munching on Cap'n Crunch, which rates pretty high on hipness (no negative marks at all).

To get your own copy of *Shopping for a Better World*, fill out the form below. CEP is membership-supported, so you might want to join.

-Phoebe Caulfield

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Mail this card with your tax-deductible contribution to CEP, 30 Irving Pl., New York, NY 10003. Or call 1 800 U-CAN-HELP. Thank you.

# Gannett news chain a weak link

Dear People,

Congratulations! You have carried truth in advertising to new levels. In the December-January issue you ran Part 1 of my Gannett story and closed by saying, "The next installment of this examination of Gannett papers will include a look at the chain's anti-union stance. LOOK FOR IT IN THE NEXT POST AMERIKAN (emphasis added)." .

Some may have protested when Part 2 failed to appear in the February-March issue. But they have no grounds for protest. You didn't say you'd run Part 2. You just said look for it. You didn't promise they'd find it.

Seriously, if it didn't run because the second part was lost by the printer, I have enclosed a xerox of the rest of the story.

If it didn't run because Gannett offered you a \$million to kill it, I expect 5% of the proceeds.

If the Ayatollah threatened to kill me if you ran the story, send me his letter so I can go on the lecture circuit.

Take care.

Steve LaPrade

## Rejecting competition

(7) Gannett is anti-competition. It doesn't want two-paper towns with different editorial voices fighting each other for news and advertising. It opposes morning and evening papers in the same town.

On May 7, 1987, Gannett President John Curley told the annual shareholders' meeting that by the year 2000, such papers would be a thing of the past. When Gannett has taken over a company running a morning and evening paper, the later paper is usually snuffed. Binghamton and Utica, New York; Louisville, Kentucky; Springfield, Missouri; and Jackson, Mississippi, are among the towns where this has happened.

## Eliminating initiatives

(8) Gannett is anti-democratic. On June 6, 1988, Gannett's USA Today called for elimination of initiative petitions by which voters in many states get proposed legislation on the ballot. The editorial urged those states with initiative laws to amend them, making it very difficult to get initiative proposals on the ballot.

## Endorsing plant closings

(9) Gannett is opposed to a fair shake for industrial workers. The May 25, 1988 issue of USA Today endorsed President Reagan's veto of the plant closing act.

## Skewing coverage

(10) Gannett is anti-labor in its news coverage, as shown in (9). A prime example is the strike in Modesto and Salinas, California, of 600 employees of United Foods cannery plants. The strike dates back to July 1987 against a company with quarterly earnings of \$27 million before the strike, according to Labor Notes magazine of March 1988.

United Foods is the second largest food processor in the U.S.

The unbalanced coverage by the Gannett-owned Salinas Californian has come under attack—even by the paper's own staff. Jacinto Roy Mendoza, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 890, wrote, "Regarding the reporting by the Californian and Gannett, there has only been a brief time when labor news was fairly reported. At that time, Douglas Foster, now editor at Mother Jones magazine, and a lady, Helen Manning, were working. Both left because of the atmosphere at the Californian."

## Sustaining male privilege

(11) Despite reports that Gannett's minority hiring practices are better than many papers', the chain can be anti-woman. Take the case of Sarah McClendon, a gutsy reporter whose coverage of President Nixon in the 1972 election was highly praised in Tim Crouse's famous book *The Boys on the Bus* about press coverage of the 1972 Presidential election.

In her book *My Eight Presidents*, Ms. McClendon told about her contact with Gannett during her nearly 40 years as a reporter. She worked 20 years in Washington D.C. for the *El Paso* (Texas) Times. The paper was owned by Dorrance Roderick. Ms. McClendon reports, of him, "Roderick became fearful that his heirs would be too liberal when they took over the Times. So Roderick sold the paper to Gannett."

She stayed on with Gannett several more years in Washington, but despite all her loyal years of service, Gannett still refused to allow *El Paso's* most nationally respected reporter to join their retirement plan. So she finally had to sue.

A further indication of Gannett's attitude toward women can be glimpsed by looking at the 1987 Gannett financial report. Twenty-four "executive officers of the company" are listed on pages 38 and 39 of the report. Only four are women. Does that mean they influence the final news product? Not hardly, since one is vice president for public affairs, one is senior vice president of personnel and a third is vice president of investor relations. Putting out the news product is almost exclusively a male province on Gannett's executive level.

Which may explain the backhand slam David Halberstam gave Gannett in his 1979 book *The Powers That Be* about the news media. The chop came in a section about the Los Angeles Times and its publisher, Otis Chandler. Halberstam wrote, "Some chains, like Gannett and Newshouse, made higher levels of profit, but among newspaper groups WHERE QUALITY WAS OF THE ESSENCE (emphasis added), no one ran an operation like Otis Chandler."

Halberstam obviously felt Gannett was a chain where quality was not of the essence.

## Union busting

(12) Gannett is a prime influence on national union-busting efforts. That sordid story was revealed by Southern Exposure magazine. It did an expose, featuring the infamous United States Industrial Council (USIC). The group, originally formed in the 1930s to combat child labor laws, now aids companies to destroy unions. Its president, for many years, has been Anthony Harrigan, a former Gannett reporter. Perhaps he learned something from Gannett while there.

The USIC sends out columns to newspapers around the country. One column took a dim view of "arrogant regimes of the Third World which have little capacity to create wealth on their own but a huge appetite for the wealth procured by a dozen generations of Americans" and urged America to "maintain and widen the distance between the advanced and retarded nations."

Harrigan's columns and pamphlets have been heavily anti-union with such titles as "An Employer's Guide to Staying Non-Union" and "Excessive Union Power."

Harrigan has even written a pamphlet endorsing J.P. Stevens' efforts to prevent unionization of its plants.

Stevens was the company involved in the "Norma Rae" situation which was cited 15 times from 1963-1975 for violating National Labor Relations Board regulations concerning companies and unions. The violations included firing 289 workers for union activities, electronically spying on union organizers, and firing workers who testified before the NLRB.

## Obstructing the Guild

(13) Gannett is even more vigorously anti-union when its own employees try to organize with the Newspaper Guild.

In 1974, a Wall Street Journal story "Profitable They Are, But Gannett Papers Find Prestige Elusive" gave details. The article stated of Gannett, "Its detractors—and there are many within and without the newspaper business—accuse Gannett management of giving editorial content short shrift while closely eyeing profit-and-loss statements."

The Journal reported, "Gannett discourages the Guild where it can. Many Gannett reporters believe that Phil Hand was relieved of his responsibilities as assistant city editor of the Binghamton Evening Press earlier this year as an outgrowth of his attempt five years earlier to organize the newsroom. In transferring him to Rochester as a reporter, Gannett officials are thought to have been trying to head off a new Guild organization attempt."

The Guild, in a Feb. 29, 1969 election attempt to unionize part of Gannett's Rochester paper, accused Gannett of using a phony report of Guild activities.

The anti-union situation is so bad that in the May 22, 1984, annual Gannett stockholders' meeting, Guild representatives from Rochester and Rockford, Illinois, handed out leaflets saying Gannett is a company that refuses to "bargain in good faith." The union from Gannett's Wilmington, Delaware, paper, told how the company was violating its longstanding contract to try to exempt district managers from union protection.

In a May 20, 1988, letter, David J. Eisen of the Newspaper Guild union was moved to say, "The chain (Gannett) is one of the most difficult with which we have to deal."

He added, "At the Cincinnati Enquirer, the company has refused to give us a minimally acceptable contract for 3 1/2 years since we won an NLRB election there."

You might be skeptical of what a union would say about Gannett, but what about the NLRB? Remember the Feb. 20, 1969, election I referred to? The NLRB threw out the pro-Gannett result of that vote and ordered a new election because of Gannett wrongdoing.

The NLRB said of Gannett, "To permit the election results to stand would allow the employer to capitalize on its own unlawful conduct."

The NLRB said Gannett, under orders of Al Neuharth, its national chairman, had published a booklet to discourage employees from voting for union representation.

The booklet alleged, among other things, that the Guild had kept employees at a Yonkers, NY, paper of Gannett's from obtaining pay raises.

But, as the NLRB noted of the lack of raises, "the actual reason was the employer's unlawful refusal to bargain."

Bruce Lambert Jr. of Guild noted in 1976, "A Gannettized paper often finds its news space slashed, the remaining columns filled with cheap canned features, the news staff shrunk and paid among the nation's skimpiest wages, senior workers pressured to quit in favor of naive youngsters, union contracts violated, and labor laws broken."

So let us hope that having taken Gannett's money, Illinois students Wills, Yound, and Legon won't sell their journalist souls by working for Gannett.

--Steve LaPrade

# My generation meets "Bizzare Gyration"

With apprehension rooted in the fear of being too old, I donned my most alternative Disco Gear. Needless to say the color had to be dark: blue, black, green, it didn't matter as long as I could merge into the unlit corners that every dance hall thankfully has. In my camouflage I would be able to merge with the coats and other older types without being too noticed if need arose.

Overreacting? Yes probably, but golly this was going to be my first opportunity to experience that very subversive American subculture I'd heard and read about in my far-off British home. A subculture that boasted freedom of choice, drug crazed, gum chewing, live-for-today youth. Far too good an opportunity to pass over worrying about not wearing the right sports labels and not looking like a beanpole.

This was going to be an interesting evening. The venue was a One Night Only club scene event: a Chicago-type Nite Klub. The place, Wesleyan University, Bloomington. An event threatening to shake the Normalites and bring the underground alternatives to the surface. "Bizzare Gyration" begged me to strut my funky stuff, boogie on down, forget all I'd learnt from Saturday Night Fever, and let me think I was back in London for a couple of hours...

For moral support I dragged along my roommate, who like me missed the thrill of post-punkism.

With trepidation we parked, and eventually found the venue, overheard a couple of onlookers commenting on the Punker Types who had preceded us up the stairs. My hair may not have been *avant garde*, but I had used mousse--honest.

At the pay desk I got a purple splash of something on my hand, tattooed temporarily, stamped with a sense of belonging.

The price for this experience was only \$2--some of which was to be used for good causes, we trust.

Ok. So this was it... It was dark and loud and hot, so far so good. Not too different from the Fridge in Brixton. People were on the dance floor--another good sign, along with lots of dark corners. I was also older than many of the other Nite Klubbers and felt relieved that I had decided on my black artsy gear after all.

After a few fretful minutes of sight adjustment, I spotted my peers. They too had sought the comfort of the unlit side of the room.

"Oh God, I feel so old; I'm glad it's dark. Do I look stupid? This is weird but wonderful. What happened to Disco? I'm glad I didn't wear my yellow tuxedo" was the tone of the next five minutes vocal exchange.

But something was happening--my foot began to tap, my head started swaying to the thumping beat--no, not the effects of a twitch or drugs--I was starting to relax. This wasn't too bad. I actually began to feel slightly comfortable. I couldn't suppress a smile. Other people were smiling, a big difference from my punk days of self-inflicted frowns and depression.

I did wonder where all these wonderful haircuts had appeared from, though. Had they been created especially for this very evening? Where did these interesting looking people hang out in the light of day? They were a far cry from the fluffy headed, Alpha Krappa Loga jacketed All Americans of Bloomington/Normal.

The music was varied from well-known tunes by New Order to less familiar, to me at least, Nitzerebb and Inner City. Every track had people bopping and flailing themselves on the dance floor. Acid House has come and gone in London but had come to Wesleyan's main lounge with force. A group of the already energetic crowd at times got even more lively and partook in Slam Dancing. A ritualistic performance of flinging one's arms and simultaneously running, bumping, and shoving each other around the room. All in good fun, but I declined to take part--a mighty bit macho I must say, and besides I bruise easily.

Throughout the evening slides were projected onto the end wall. Massive images of art by Cindy Sherman, Robert Mapplethorpe, Diane Arbus, and so on, and a graphically descriptive safe sex clip highlighting National Condom Week.

Music played included Krush, Todd Terry Project, Depeche Mode, Ministry, Erasure, Africa Bombata. The hall was decorated with mural type art, and dancers did their thing on top of raised boxes around the room--just like MTV.

My initial fear from earlier in the evening was now non-existent. In fact, I spent most of my time on the dance floor contorting my body and sweating with the rest.

I really enjoyed myself, as did my fellow over 23's, and stayed until the end. The atmosphere was good; a mixed crowd, along with free refreshments and interesting music and fog made the evening successful. A good turnout reinforced my thoughts of the need for a good, alternative "klub" in Bloomington/Normal. So, I look forward to the next one with an enthusiasm that doesn't include counting my grey hairs. You never know--I might surprise myself and wear red.

Thank you to Eric Bryning and the rest of the organizers for showing me that Amerikan youth is not completely lost to yuppiedom and Macintoshes, and that people enjoy more than Rocky's has to offer. Also, many thanks for the support and publicity shown for *Post Amerikan*.

--Dr. Martens

brought American Bandstand (the show I lived to watch every Saturday when I was in high school) to mind, but only for a moment, for the crowd was not a "perfect-example-of-American-teenhood" that I always saw on TV, nor was the music the typical dance fare. Though, I recognized few of the tunes, I was surprised to hear some long-since-forgotten dance club numbers from the early eighties mixed in with the other much more contemporary selections. Near the end of the evening, there was a special number for the head banging slam dancer types, and they took off in a passionate frenzy as their special dedication was played. The violent aspect of this "dance" bothered me at first, but soon the more abrasive music subsided and the previous environment resumed.

For refreshments, the offerings were simple but bountiful: institutional-type cookies and Hawaiian-type punch.

This event was a very good experience for the Bloomington-Normal crew. "Bizzare Gyration" provided us with a huge dose of escapism and revelry when it was needed most, and it also showed us that we needn't exclude the under-21 set by serving alcohol at such a function. This age group seems to be starving for a viable diversion around this community, and it would be great if someone could address this problem.

We are indebted to the organizers of "Bizzare Gyration" and their sponsors for their efforts to make B/N a more culturally aware community.

--T. Tucker

## Not your average night at IWU

I had long thought of Illinois Wesleyan University as a peaceful, quiet little campus full of peaceful, quiet students until I discovered a one-night-only experience known as "Bizzare Gyration" which was held in IWU's Main Lounge right there in the middle of campus. Though I wasn't sure quite where this function would be taking place, there would be no mistaking the site once I got near the area. The music was strong and loud, and a definite danceable beat pulsed from the brick building. Once inside, I paid my two bucks and headed into the great hall, where the music grew stronger

still. "Acid house" music, I had heard it described, had almost everybody gyrating in unison while laser lights played Tinkerbell-like on the large screens at the end of the hall, along with some contemporary slides featuring the work of such photographers as Diane Arbus and Robert Mapplethorpe. They were in perfect sync with the cosmopolitan feel of the event and were interspersed with short bits of film footage depicting everything from astronomy to condom application.

I was amazed at the lack of inhibition that the crowd displayed: no one seemed shy about dancing at all, and I even noticed some same-sex dance couples that aren't often found dancing around these Twin Cities. There were platforms placed around the room on which several people were always dancing, either alone or in groups. This

### THE CYCLE OF BELIEF

<p>The early times</p> <p><b>RAPTURE CHURCH</b></p> <p>HI NEIGHBOR! TRY THE NEWEST CHURCH IN TOWN WE BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE</p> <p><b>OPEN HOUSE</b></p> <p>Pastor Jim Dandy</p>	<p>The ranks swell</p> <p><b>Church of the Rapture</b></p> <p>THE ANSWER IS WORTH THE QUESTION</p> <p>Worship: M-F 8:00 PM Groveling: M-S 8:30 PM Sunday School: 7-11 PM</p> <p>Pastor Jim Dandy</p>	<p>Divine communication</p> <p><b>Church of the Rapture</b></p> <p>THE RAPTURE IS HERE!</p> <p>Worship: M-F 8:00 PM Speaking in tongues 5-9 PM</p> <p>Pastor Jim Dandy</p>	<p>Visions increase</p> <p><b>Church of the Rapture</b></p> <p>THE LORD CALLS US NEXT SUNDAY</p> <p>Divine Revelation: 6:00 Autographs: 8:00 PM Tour Booking: 8:30</p> <p>Pastor Jim Dandy</p>	<p>The faithful depart</p> <p><b>Church of the Rapture</b></p> <p>REPENT! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE</p> <p>Divestment: 11:00 PM Sealing: 12:00 PM Boarding: 12:30 PM</p> <p>Pastor Jim Dandy</p>	<p>The building recycles as a taco stand</p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>
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# 17 years with the Post Amerikan his and heritage



**START HERE**



March on MEG!  
Stop drug busts.



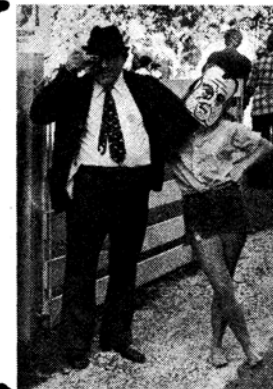
Police riot over  
Sheriff King, 1974.

Gain one  
point for Mom  
baking nut loaf  
for Thanksgiving.  
Lose two points  
for Dad, still  
watching the  
game all day.



J.P. Stevens boycott.  
Don't buy sheets.

Pay \$60 for a  
disastrous  
perm. Stay at  
home for a  
week.



Nixon anti-  
inaugural parade.

Miss two turns  
while waiting  
for collective  
consensus.

Post booth  
at People's  
Park, ISU  
Quad.



Phoebe reads the  
Post.

Turkey bust!  
Pay your law-  
yer \$500.



Anti-MEG sit-in.

Get high on ditch  
weed. Earn 3  
imagination  
points.  
Roll again.

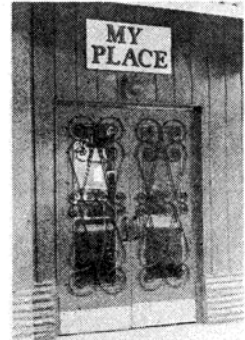


Falwell decries  
Post Amerikaners.



Santa busted at mall  
for distributing anti-  
shopping leaflet.

Berate a frat  
boy for his  
racist remark.  
Advance three  
squares.



Gay bar closes.  
Return to closet.

Join Greenpeace.  
Collect 12 karma  
points.

Nazi Stealth bombers  
sighted in B-N. Build  
bomb shelter.

Subscribe to  
Post Amerikan and  
become a radical.



Reading Post turns  
you into what?

Shaved your  
armpits for  
Auntie Maude's  
wedding. Re-  
turn to My Place  
for re-education.



Lost Fido at MEG  
rally. Go back one  
square.

Crab epidemic:  
break the news  
to your loved  
ones.



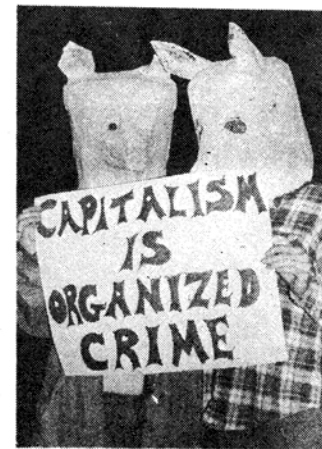
Demo against Anita  
Bryant.

P.A staff--underground  
for 17 years and still  
smiling!

Anti-Exxon demo  
at City Hall.



You become  
vegetarian.  
Drive to Cham-  
paign for  
dinner.



Throw six to  
move.



Post shuts down  
shady rentals service.

Go back to start,  
collect \$200, and  
give to good  
cause.



Debutantes against  
pigs.

Post's put to bed  
Subscribe now.



Anti-nukes on phone  
booth at courthouse  
square.

**YOU WIN!**

# Community News

## Charlie King concert scheduled

Popular folk singer Charlie King will return to the Twin Cities on Friday 21st April, at 7:30pm, at Laborers 362 Hall, RR3, Cabintown Road (behind Howard Johnson's), Bloomington. The admission cost is \$5.

The performance is a benefit for the Livingston & McLean Counties Union News, the local labor publication. Admission is free for children under 12.

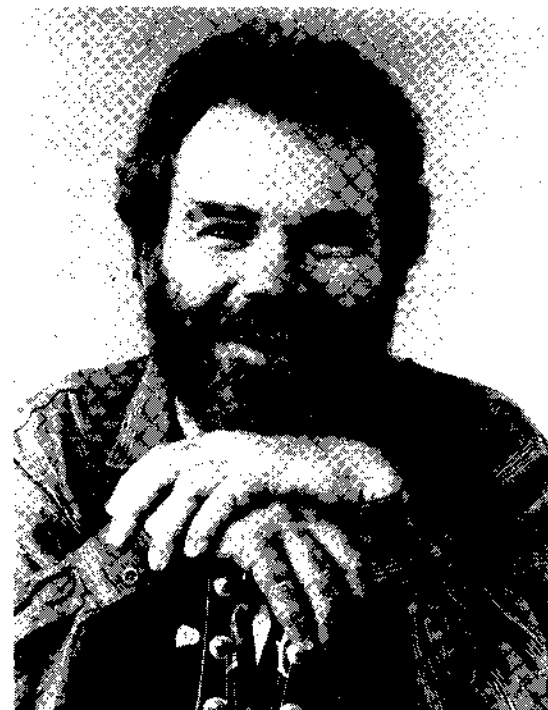
King appeared at a Union News benefit in 1987. He also appeared twice in the Twin Cities with the group, "Bright Morning Star." Charlie King is noted for his songs about everyday people and everyday life. He takes items out of the newspaper and makes music out of them--sometimes hilarious, sometimes tragic, but always a step above.

Billboard magazine noted, "Charlie King's music reminds us of the happy resilience of the human spirit. His songs vary between the funny and the frightening, but he pulls them off with unvarying taste, musical skill and charm."

The United Auto Workers' Solidarity magazine said, "A gentle singer with a powerful voice, King's songs range across many of the things important to union men and women--struggle, love, war, and peace. His messages are non-preachy, the music is first rate, and his songs are laced with humor, good-will and a well deserved jab or two at the establishment."

King has recorded five solo albums and three with "Bright Morning Star." His album, "My Heart Keeps Sneakin' Up on My Head," was named one of the top three folk albums by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors.

King takes his motto from the Catholic Worker movement, "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." Proceeds from the concert will support the Union News, a non-profit labor publication dedicated to the working people of Central Illinois. For more information or for advance tickets, call 309-829-4885.



## TB skin testing services

During 1989, the McLean County Health Department will provide TB skin testing on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. TB skin testing is not available on Thursday. The service hours have been changed to coordinate with the Health Department's Walk-in Clinic schedule.

In addition, TB skin testing is available during evening immunization clinics offered on the third Tuesday of every month from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Appointments are not necessary; however, the individual must return to have the skin test read during the Health Department's daytime hours. For information, please contact the McLean County Health Department at 888-5435.

## Free legal help for elder abuse victims

Free legal assistance for elderly persons needing help in elder abuse situations and in certain other cases is available at Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. Prairie State is a non-profit organization which provides free legal assistance in civil matters to low-income elderly persons. Senior citizens who are victims of financial, mental or physical abuse may contact the office for advice and possible representation. All communications are strictly confidential. For further information, contact Prairie State Legal Services, Inc., at (309) 827-5021 or 1-800-874-2536.

## Memorial Service

A local observance will be held in the entranceway to the old UNARCO asbestos plant, on the corner of North Morris and Perry street at 4:30pm. A memorial reading of names is planned to commemorate those workers killed locally. This site is particularly appropriate given that many who worked at the UNARCO plant contracted asbestos-related cancers and other diseases. This is on the northwest side of Bloomington, in the 40 Acres neighborhood, west of the railroad yards.

On setting the occasion, AFL-CIO noted that, "more than 100,000 workers die each year in American workplaces from job-related injuries and diseases, almost twice the number of Americans killed during the Vietnam War."

The labor federation went on to say that, "we have won major victories like the 'right to know' about toxic chemicals. Now we must act on what we know to improve safety and health in every American workplace."

For more information on the local observance, or to have a worker's name added to the memorial reading, call 309-828-4368.



## EQUALITY MARCH

On Sunday 9th April at 12 noon, local citizens will be sponsoring a march at the Bloomington court-house in support of women's equality and reproductive rights. The march is being held simultaneously with the National Women's Equality/Women's Life March organized by the National Organization of Women, and Planned Parenthood in Washington D.C.

To promote women's equality and freedom of choice, concerned citizens will gather at the circle drive at I.S.U.'s Bone Student Center on Wednesday 5th April at 6pm. The march will proceed to People's Park on the corner of University and Beaufort, where a send-off rally will be held for local citizens attending the march in Washington. The rally will include local speakers and musicians who will voice their support of the action being taken, and the concern being shown by local citizens.

## ISU Freestage Rachel's Night

The Illinois State Theatre FreeStage Program will present *Rachel's Night*, an original play for young audiences, on April 4th at 7 p.m., April 8th at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and April 9th at 2 p.m. in room 207 of Centennial West on the ISU campus. *Rachel's Night* depicts the dream adventures of a young girl in remission from leukemia. Admission is free. For more information, contact Karen Libman at (309) 452-7977 or (309) 438-5133.

## mantra mash 89

the 6th global free x arts festival

## REBIRTH

may 5-7  
(fri-sun)

converging upon:  
the eddy building  
427 n. main  
bloomington, IL 61701

Festival space is still available, if you are a musician, performance artist, painter, sculptor, reader, dancer, dramatist, etc, call (309) 849-2254 or 827-7464 for info. writers: publish in PUPP 88, send works to K. Johnson, 502 E. Monroe, Bloomington, IL 61701.



## 500 summer jobs

Over 500 summer jobs must be filled--exclusively by people 14 to 21 years old living in Fulton, Mason, McLean or Tazewell counties. The summer jobs include secretarial, janitorial, day-care, groundskeeping and many others. Applications can be picked up now at the United Private Industry Council (UPIIC). Call or stop by at the UPIIC office in your county to see if you qualify.

- Fulton:  
700 E. Oak St., Canton (647-5680)
- Mason:  
305 W. Main St., Havana (543-6683)
- McLean:  
201 E. Grove St., Blmtn. (827-4026)
- Tazewell:  
15 S. Capitol, Pekin (353-4475)



Dear Post Amerikan Staff:

Enclosed please find information about the recent controversy in Chicago concerning the "flag on the floor" artwork by a student of the Art Institute and information on the "flag-burning case" to be heard by the Supreme Court on March 21. Thought you'd find all this of interest as the Court may very well act in this case (TEXAS V. Johnson) to overrule current law and place new limits on "free speech."

UNpatriotically yours,

A READER



## Dread Scott



A storm of controversy recently broke at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as veterans' groups tried to suppress an artwork featuring an American flag draped on the floor. The artwork has been the target of disruptions, demonstrations, vandalism, and counterprotests.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has heard arguments on whether the government has the power to punish a politically motivated burning of the American flag. Historically, violating the flag has been construed as a symbolic expression of free speech, protected by the First Amendment.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) are in the forefront of groups wishing to narrow the field of the First Amendment and censor artistic and political violations of the cloth of the flag. To show where they're coming from, we're reprinting a leaflet distributed by the VFW.

--info from Revolutionary Worker and the Nation

VS.

## The Flag Wavers

### YOU REMEMBER THE REAL AMERICA

*If you can remember*

When riots were unthinkable.  
 When you left front doors open.  
 When socialism was a dirty word.  
 When ghettos were neighborhoods.  
 When the flag was a sacred symbol.  
 When criminals actually went to jail.  
 When you weren't afraid to go out at night.  
 When taxes were only a necessary nuisance.  
 When a boy was a boy, and dressed like one.  
 When a girl was a girl, and dressed like one.  
 When the poor were too proud to take charity.  
 When the clergy actually talked about religion.  
 When clerks and repairmen tried to please you.  
 When college kids swallowed goldfish, not acid.  
 When songs had a tune, and the words made sense.  
 When young fellows tried to join the Army or Navy.  
 When people knew what the Fourth of July stood for.  
 When you never dreamed our country could ever lose.  
 When a Sunday drive was a pleasant trip, not an ordeal.  
 When you bragged about your hometown and home state.  
 When everybody didn't feel entitled to a college education.  
 When people expected less and valued what they had more.  
 When politicians proclaimed their patriotism, and meant it.  
 When everybody knew the difference between right and wrong.  
 When things weren't perfect — but you never expected them to be.  
 When you weren't made to feel guilty for enjoying dialect comedy.  
 When our Government stood up for Americans, anywhere in the world.  
 When you knew that the law would be enforced, and your safety protected.  
 When you considered yourself lucky to have a good job, and proud to have it.  
 When the law meant justice, and you felt a shiver of awe at sight of a policeman.  
 When you weren't embarrassed to say that this is the best country in the world.  
 When America was a land filled with brave, proud, confident, hardworking people!



### Pride Runs Deep

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**  
 Of the United States



### OPERATION RECYCLE

We recycle:

- Newspapers
- Corrugated cardboard
- Non-glossy office paper
- Container glass
- Beverage and food cans
- Plastic milk jugs

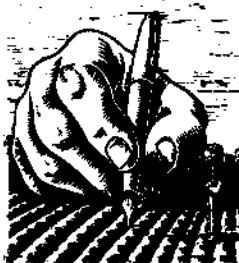
Make a difference for our environment.  
 Call 829-0691  
 (Community Action)  
 and find out how!

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

# 829-0691

923 E. Grove  
 Bloomington, IL

- Drop offs
- Buyback
- Recycle drives



Is the pen mightier than the sword? Well, maybe, maybe not, but it is better than a sharp stick in the eye. Tell the world (or a small part of it) how you feel in the pages of the Post Amerikan. Send contributions--typed, if possible, to

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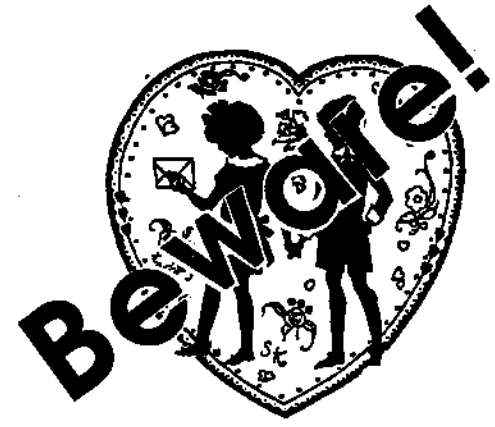
## THANKS

This issue is in your hands thanks to

Scott, Susie, Anna Maria, Angela, T. Tucker, Pita, Laurie (coordinator), Richard, Bumper, Ralph, David and Peg, Glen, Michael, Esther, Ray, Diana (donors)



Beware!  
Beware!



# "Sex Respect" Beware!

## may be coming to your child's school

Beware! "Sex Respect" may be coming to your child's school

- "Control your urgin', be a virgin." (student's guide)
- "Don't be a louse, wait for your spouse." (student's guide)
- Sex is like driving--you need a license for both. (student's guide)
- Boys tend to use love to get sex--girls tend to use sex to get love. (student's guide)
- Pet your dog, not your date! (student's guide)
- The public health department wants you to be one of the proud virgins . . . help stop S.T.D.s. (student's guide)
- Make no contact with someone's genitals until after the blood test and the wedding. (student's guide)
- There is no free lunch and no free sex. Someone always gets hurt (pays)! (parent's guide)
- Pregnancy brings either abortion (the killing of a grandchild) or the raising of the child by another child or a grandparent. (Adoption may be the best option.) (parent's guide)
- The sex act creates an emotion. Contraceptives do not protect our emotions. A responsible teen is one who will wait for a mate who will care for a lifetime within the protection of marriage. (parent's guide)
- Do the right thing, wait for the ring! (student's guide)

- Not on weak days . . . only on wed days! (student's guide)
- Score on the field . . . not on your date! (student's guide)
- You can choose to go on having sex before marriage with all its risks, or you can choose to stop and gain sexual freedom. This decision to stop pre-marital sex is called "secondary virginity." (student's guide)
- Cool down the fire on your sexual desire . . . wait for your permanent mate. (student's guide)
- Are you prepared to push a carriage? Probably not . . . save sex for marriage! (student's guide)

These are excerpts from the most extreme abstinence curriculum, "Sex Respect: The Option of True Sexual Freedom." This program was designed by Colleen Kelly Mast, an education consultant, and was funded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

As reported in a publication entitled "Liberty Report" in April 1987, Kathleen Sullivan, director of the Committee on the Status of Women has received funding from DHHS to promote "Sex Respect" in Illinois public schools.

So, what could possibly be wrong with teaching our children to abstain from sexual activity?

Being able to say NO to intercourse without being hurtful to oneself or others is a valuable skill. But, abstinence should be taught within the context of family life education, not instead of such comprehensive education. Experts in child growth and development recommend allowing young people to make their own decisions. But radical programs like "Sex Respect" dictate "correct" choices and condemn alternatives.

"Sex Respect" instructs teenagers to "say no" to all premarital activity. The slogans quoted earlier leave teens no choice and rob them of decision-making and responsibility. In "Sex Respect" the adolescent's ability to make decisions is only valued when the "right" choice is made. This approach rejects information in favor of ideology.

"Sex Respect" repeatedly emphasizes the negative aspects of teenage pregnancy yet fails to provide any information about birth control. Studies in other countries have repeatedly shown that without accurate, available birth control information, teenage pregnancy rates increase dramatically. Although teenage sexual activity in the United States is approximately the same as in Sweden, France, and Norway, the rates of teenage pregnancy, births, and abortion are considerably higher in the United States.

A recent study in one South Carolina county demonstrated that effective teenage pregnancy prevention includes practical information about contraception. This intervention program, designed to reduce unintended pregnancies among unmarried adolescents, has been highly successful. The information--targeted at parents, teachers, children, and religious and community leaders--included decision-making and communication skills, self-esteem enhancement, human reproductive anatomy, physiology, and contraception.

Pregnancy rates among 14- to 17-year-olds declined from 60.6 per year in 1981-1982 (before the intervention) to 25.1 in 1984-85. These results clearly show that practical birth control information is an integral component of effective sex education programs.

Similarly, the comments about abortion are misleading and inaccurate. The guide cites the general problems of heavy loss of blood, infection, puncturing of the uterus, infertility, and an increased risk of miscarriage with future pregnancies, whereas these problems usually occur only in late abortions. In fact, medical morbidity and mortality rates arising from full-term adolescent pregnancy are much greater than those arising from adolescent abortion.

In addition, the psychological risks entailed in adolescent completion of pregnancy are substantially greater than the psychological risks of adolescent abortion. Once again, "Sex Respect" fails to provide accurate information and insists on dictating the "correct" choice, irrespective of the situation or the teenager's desires.

"Sex Respect" fails because it does not follow the principles of child development. The curriculum is overwhelmingly negative about sexuality and distrustful of adolescents. In order to reduce pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents, a balanced, positive curriculum is necessary. The program should trust and empower young people.

Please help ensure that quality, comprehensive family life education is taught in our Illinois schools. Support Planned Parenthood.

--from Illinois Planned Parenthood

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# The high school counselors' project

## High schools need lesbian/gay information

Responding to a survey sent out by the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF), high school counselors throughout the state have expressed overwhelmingly their need for information on gay/lesbian youth and on issues related to these youth. The survey, which was sent to all 691 public high schools in Illinois, is the first phase of a statewide outreach to high schools.

In preliminary responses received from every part of Illinois, 44% of responding counselors said that they have counseled lesbian and gay youth, and 58% said they knew other counselors who had counseled gay and lesbian youth. However, 75% of the responding counselors answered "no" to the statement "I am aware of the gay and lesbian church groups, social agencies and services that are available as resources."

69% said they thought "gay and lesbian youth are capable of helping themselves if they are provided with positive reading materials on the subject," but 77% were unaware of such resources.

"I knew what the problems were, but I had no idea counselors were in such need of information as is indicated by the survey results,"

said Al Wardell, an IGLTF board member who is coordinating the project.

Wardell, who taught public high school in Chicago for 20 years, has been working on youth issues for several years. In 1982, he coordinated a similar project, which involved sending packets of lesbian/gay-positive information to every high school in Cook County, including those within Chicago. Wardell contacted about forty of the counseling departments and found that two-thirds said that the information might be useful.

In the years since, acceptance for the project has grown. Counselors responding to IGLTF's 1989 survey were asked if they could use a collection of materials that would

"include vignettes (stories) by gay and lesbian youth, teachers who have helped gay and lesbian youth, and the parents of gay and lesbian youth." 93% answered "yes."

"include information on gay and lesbian youth in relation to the armed services and enlistment." 90% answered "yes."

"include information about how to 'come out' to parents--that is tell them about one's sexual orientation." 96% answered "yes."



**"And God Bless Uncle Harry and His Room mate Jack, Who We're Not Supposed to Talk About."**

"I am struck by the positive nature of the responses, and the high degree of need expressed by the answers," Wardell said.

When complete, the survey results will be used to determine what materials will be included in the packets, which IGLTF hopes to send out in late 1989.

Major funding for the project has been provided by a bequest from the estate of Bob V. Krause, who died last autumn from complications due to AIDS. More than a dozen funding organizations had turned down requests for grants to conduct this project.

--Arthur Schenck for the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force

# IGLTF applauds Senator Dixon for anti-hate crimes support

The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF) has congratulated U.S. Senator Alan Dixon (D-Illinois) for becoming a cosponsor of S. 419, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. If passed, the legislation will mandate the Attorney General to collect data for the next five calendar years concerning crimes "that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity."

IGLTF had requested that Senator Dixon support the legislation during a meeting with the Senator in his Washington, DC office on September 14, 1988. The IGLTF repeated its request at a November 2 meeting with two top aides to Dixon, Executive Assistant Emmet O'Neill and Special Assistant Sarah Pang.

According to Arthur Schenck, IGLTF National Legislation Project director, Dixon's co-sponsorship will help broaden support for the legislation. Schenck said, "Senator Dixon is generally regarded as a moderate-conservative, and his support for this legislation will make it easier for more conservative members of Congress to support it."

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act is sponsored by Senator Paul Simon (D-Illinois) and enjoys bipartisan co-sponsorship. In addition to Dixon, Senators as diverse as George Mitchell, the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator Orin Hatch (R-Utah) have signed on as co-sponsors.

So far, the version in the House of Representatives is co-sponsored by three U.S. Representatives from Illinois: Cardiss Collins, Charles Hayes and Henry Hyde. IGLTF has sent letters to the rest of Illinois' delegation in the House asking them to co-sponsor.

In 1988, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act passed the House of Representatives but was defeated in the Senate by Senator Jesse Helms (R-N. Carolina). Thirty U.S. Representatives had voted against inclusion of lesbian and gay people in the provisions of the legislation, and two of them are in the Illinois delegation: Philip Crane and J. Dennis Hastert. IGLTF has requested meetings with Crane and Hastert to press for support of the House version of the legislation.

"The fact that they opposed it in the past does not necessarily mean they'll oppose it again," Schenck said. "At the very least, they will have to listen to their lesbian and gay constituents and consider their viewpoint before deciding how they will vote."

Founded in 1974, the IGLTF is the oldest and largest gay and lesbian civil rights advocacy group in Illinois. IGLTF has over 600 paid members, a chapter in Central Illinois, and a paid lobbyist in Springfield. All of its other work, however, is done by volunteers. For more information, contact IGLTF at 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 975-0707.

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# Guatemalan agricultural workers launch a massive strike



In a remarkable display of unity and disciplined militancy, 50,000 agricultural workers in Southern Guatemala have gone on strike, paralyzing and in some cases temporarily seizing more than 30 major agro-export plantations in the Esquintla, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez and Quetzaltenango region of the country.

The strike, which began on Jan. 23, was called by the semi-clandestine Campesino Unity Committee (the CUC) and the national federation of Trade Union and Popular Action (UASP). According to a CUC press conference held on Jan. 24 in Guatemala City, the primary demand of the strikers is a doubling of the minimum wage (to approximately \$3.50 US a day) and an improvement in the slave-like working conditions on the fincas.

The coordinated region-wide action is the first major agricultural workers' strike since 1980 when the CUC organized a nation wide two week work stoppage that succeeded in raising plantation workers' wages from 40 cents to approximately \$1.12 per day.

## Right-wing death squads

Following the 1980 strike, a tremendous wave of repression swept across the country. Agro-export producers fired 10,000 of the strikers and the Guatemalan Army and right wing death squads launched a murderous campaign of retaliation, both in the agro-export zone of the South and in the mountainous highlands of the North, killing thousands of people and forcing the CUC to go underground.

The CUC re-emerged from the underground only last year, appearing in May-Day demonstrations in Guatemala City and several provincial capitals. Since that time the CUC has become increasingly more active, despite assassination threats by finca owners' gunmen and military officials. Recently CUC organizers have been seen hanging out on the plantations and encouraging the primary indigenous workforce to band together and demand their rights.

On Jan. 23 the CUC published a position paper in the national press, run in the form of a paid advertisement, which explained quite clearly how the current wage levels of agricultural workers make it impossible to survive.

Throughout 1988 and continuing throughout the strike, the CUC has received overwhelming support from trade unions, progressive activists, students, and the human rights movement.

## Extreme left-wingers

The strike in the Pacific Coast region is centered principally in the sugar cane plantation and in the sugar refineries where the work force earns an average of \$0.87 to \$1.75 per day, according to the UASP. Coffee and cotton plantations have also been affected. The central demand of the strike, a doubling of the minimum wage, has been flatly rejected by UNAGRO, the national association of agro-export businessmen.

Finca owners and president Vencio Cerezo denounced the strike as illegal and as being led and promoted by "extreme left-wingers." On January 24, President Cerezo acceded to plantation owners' demands and sent in thousands of troops and National Police to quell the

rebellion and occupy the fincas. According to reports in El Grafico and Prensa Libre, striking workers occupying sugar refineries in Escuintla were violently dislodged by armed police.

Hundreds of strikers fought back, building barricades, throwing stones, and attacking trucks that tried to cross the picket lines. Riot police, wearing gas masks, fired hundreds of tear gas canisters and clubbed workers to the ground in clashes that took place in over a dozen locations.

As National Police occupied the sugar refineries and major plantations, roving bands of militants began setting fire to sugar cane fields and delivery trucks, damaging farm machinery and causing a million dollars' worth in losses, according to news reports on Jan. 26.

## the progressive movement

In a press conference called on Jan. 26, General Hector Gramajo, Minister of Defence, denied that the CUC had any chance of success and stated that the CUC had direct connections with the EGP (Guerrilla Army of the Poor), an organization based in the northern highlands of Quiche. Gramajo blamed the turmoil, in an incredible statement, on a mere band of "13 armed leftist extremists," whom he claimed had forced the thousands of campesinos to go on strike.

Trade union, student, campesino, and human rights groups have renounced Gramajo's statement as preposterous. Furthermore, they have pointed out that recent government slander directed against the progressive movement is setting a dangerous precedent that could lead the country back to the bloody carnage of the early 1980's.

Recent reports by Amnesty International and American Watch have called attention to the rise in politically inspired killings, kidnappings, and human rights abuses in Guatemala. Since the US sponsored military coup in 1954, over 140,000 Guatemalans have been murdered or have disappeared, giving the country the dubious distinction of being the worst human rights violator in the hemisphere.

Critics point out that 150 million dollars per year in US aid is instrumental in keeping the country's repressive system functioning. According to reports in the national press and the newspaper organization Enfoque, over 100 civilians a month are being murdered or kidnapped.

## Hanging on

As of now, the CUC is holding firm in its demands, and the strike continues. The country is holding its breath in hopes that a bloodbath can be averted, but the military occupation of the area—stopping all cars and buses, and occupying the major fincas one by one—is not encouraging. On Jan. 26, CUC held a press conference in the office of the UASP in Guatemala City and issued the following statement:

*The agricultural workers' struggle has its roots in the misery and hunger in which our people live, in the grand injustices and suffering that we must endure, and in the high cost of living and constant discrimination. Farmworkers do not earn money like the ministers and deputies of the government, like the president. We do not have money like the plantation owners. Those people know nothing of the hunger and the pain of a community that is struggling tirelessly to obtain justice, liberty, and peace.*

The CUC went on to denounce the military occupation of the Pacific Coast region and pointed out that thousands of strikers were being dismissed. Thousands more were being forced to work at gunpoint. The Guatemalan press on Jan. listed no fewer than 10 murders and attempted murders of campesinos in the conflictive zones of the South—all of which took place the preceding day.

The UASP and the Archbishop of Guatemala, Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, have called for the plantation owners to enter into dialogue with the strikers. As of press time, President Cerezo has refused to call for negotiations.

--Jon Reed



## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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## Rape Crisis Center

# Dear Ms. Hippie:

Dear Ms. Hippie:

My girlfriend (live-in) and I recently shared our fantasies, and they coincided perfectly. We both would like to make it together with members of the opposite sex—a sort of gentle '60s group grope. It was mutually very orgasmic. Then she asked me if I had ever done that sort of thing. When I said yes, once with some good friends, I was pressed for details because it sounded so "erotic." After a few details, it was obvious that instead of a turn-on it was jealousy city. Like, I found myself sleeping back to back for weeks.

Since then, I feel really inhibited in telling her my true fantasies, though in wilder moments she repeats her desires to see me with another man and woman, and herself likewise, etc. Ms. Hippie, I would like to see fantasy become reality. Dare I press farther?

Trusting your judgment,

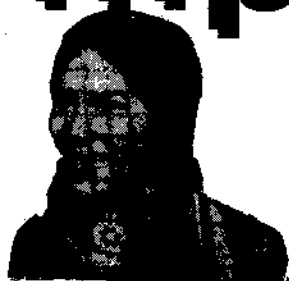
Baffled in the Heartland

Dear Baffled,

Having dipped your toe in these waters and having found them too hot, why would you consider dipping your dick in, dear?

The great thing about fantasies is that they are not reality, and therefore none of our baser aspects like jealousy, modesty, and stretch marks come into play. We are free to be as open and beautiful as we like, frolicking nude on the soft green grass in the worship of Bacchus and so forth.

But place four (or worse, five) people in the same scene in reality, and the bumps under the grass can get mighty uncomfortable. A mathematician could tell you how many different possibilities for bent-out-of-shapeness are inherent in the situation. Remember, the



other people you're thinking of recruiting will bring along their very own weirdnesses, too.

However, you needn't feel inhibited about telling your girlfriend your true fantasies, since she clearly understands the difference between fantasy and reality, though her grasp of past versus present could bear improvement. (It's probably never a good idea to go on and on to one's present lover about past sexual pleasures, anyway.)

As a veteran free-love advocate, Ms. Hippie hates to hear herself giving such staid advice. In the good old days, a group of young, pretty hippies could happily spend a rainy afternoon in an orgy, as long as not one of them were romantically involved with another. However, that was before drought and disease; nowadays, it's in very bad taste to fool around with anyone about whom one isn't literally crazy.

Besides these problems with '60s group gropes, Ms. Hippie has found that the kind of people who are happy to come over for them are also the kind who will eat all your food, stub out their roaches in your plants, and ignore proper leave-taking etiquette. That would really make your girlfriend mad.

Dear Ms. Hippie:

The problem at hand? My hair. I hope you can help.

I have been bleaching out my black hair for about three years now, and it's really taking its toll. What was once soft and silky is now a dry flaxen mess. My only solution was to stop bleaching my hair and let the dark roots grow out.

My best girlfriend, though, told me that all was not lost. She informed me that it's quite fashionable to have two-tone hair—light and dark. How exciting! I was on my way to high

fashion. So I decided to wear fashionable hats until my hair grew out enough to sport this new style.

The day finally came when I was ready to show off my new "do." I styled my hair ever-so-nice, put on a new outfit, and made my way to work.

I knew that my new hair was going to be the talk of the office. And the talk of the office I was. Everyone turned and stared, and I briefly overheard a group of people discussing my new look.

I don't have to tell you how disappointed I was when a woman I work with pulled me aside that day to inform me that I didn't have the style quite right. It seems that the light colored hair is supposed to be on the top and the dark colored hair is supposed to be on the bottom—exactly opposite of what I had.

I have two questions for you. First of all, what should I do? And second, how do people grow their hair like this? I'm really stumped.

Signed,

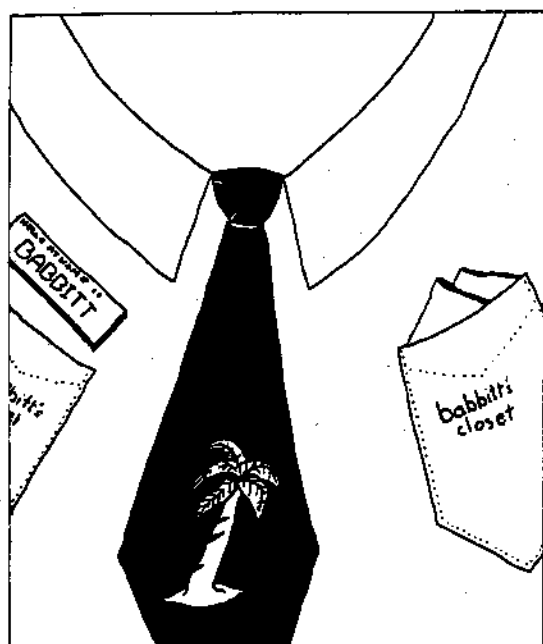
I could just dye.

Dear Dye:

Oh, for heaven's sake, quit making a beehive out of a spike. Hairstyles are meant to be carried off with a sense of humor, after all. Ms. Hippie herself has sported dos that an aesthete would have concealed from the world. One of her favorites made her look like a *National Geographic* photo of a native of Papua, according to her mother. What fun!

Your hair may be upside down today, but tomorrow it may be right side up, especially since your style is so much easier to come by. Those with light-on-top, dark-on-bottom have to really work at it, whether they're naturally dark or light haired, which is sometimes hard for them to remember. The process no doubt involves masking one half and dying or bleaching the other half, which sounds like almost as much fun as washing the dog. Don't bother.

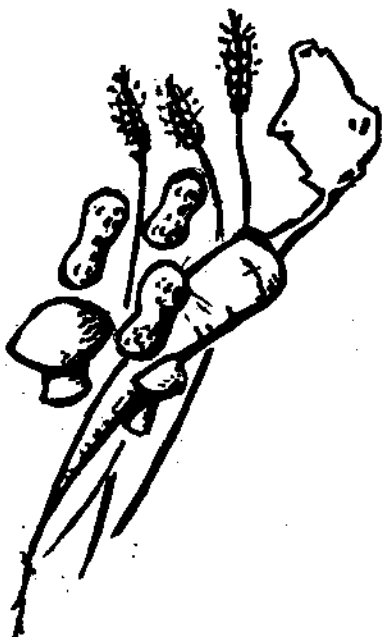
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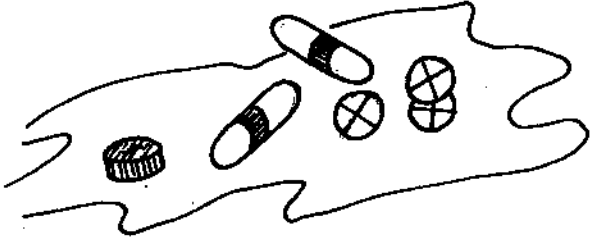
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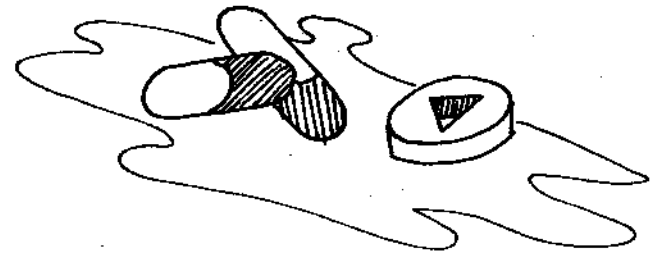
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# Uppers and Downers



"Uppers and Downers" we hope will become a regular column which allows all of us the opportunity to briefly sound off about the good and bad things we see happening around us. *Post Amerikan* welcomes readers' contributions of any U's and D's they feel people need to hear about.



-Skeet Floyd

**UPPERS** ... to Eric Bryning and Illinois Wesleyan for "Bizzare Gyration." Bryning and his crew transformed the Main Lounge at IWU into a Chicago-style night klub, proving to be the "bizzarest gyration" B-N has seen in a long time. Read the reviews of "Bizzare Gyration" in this issue of *Post Amerikan*.

**UPPERS** ... to WESN out of Illinois Wesleyan for providing this Central Illinois community with shows which feature progressive and alternative music. It's nice to have a radio station which caters to college listeners—especially in a town with two colleges. But before we get too nice ...

**DOWNERS** ... to WESN for dumb and close-mindedness. DJ's often make what they consider "humorous" sexist and sexualist comments which many listeners consider offensive. For example, one DJ told another DJ that the anecdote she told on the air was "gay and lame." And what about some of those Public Service Announcements? What type of "service" is provided by condemning safe sex, presenting one-sided "evidence" regarding the failure rate of condoms? Get with it, folks.

**UPPERS** ... to Coffee World for a great addition to Bloomington-Normal (114 E. Beaufort, Normal). Great coffee, healthy food,

good music, and an overall hip atmosphere provides patrons with a neat place to relax, work, and/or socialize. They are even featuring live jazz on Thursday evenings. And the new location has lots of seating. But ...

**DOWNERS** ... to Coffee World for its recent Grand Opening two-for-one specials. Each day of the week, Coffee World featured one of their specialties, "Buy one, get one free!" The only problem with this offer is that customers coming to enjoy the hip atmosphere of the Bloomington-Normal java hut were not allowed to get one drink and return for the second when they were finished with the first: they needed to take both drinks at the same time. How good is the second cup of Ghiradeli hot chocolate going to be after it has sat for fifteen minutes? Owner Bill Schumann defended that allowing customers to return for the second cup would cause a "real accounting dilemma" for his workers (it seems that giving single customers a token for the second cup would solve his "dilemma"). But what we have here is yet another merchant who caters to couples, ignoring the single people who would like, for example, to enjoy a cup of coffee without having to work around designed-for-twosome policies.

**UPPERS** ... to National Organization for Women for their boycott of Domino's Pizza. In a fit of philanthropic benevolence, Tom Monaghan, owner of the Domino's franchise, has donated \$60,000 to Operation Rescue, an extreme anti-abortion group. NOW has targeted college campuses with their boycott because students make up the bulk of Domino's market. And by the way, if you've ever had a Domino's pizza, you know that it won't be a difficult boycott to participate in.

**DOWNERS** ... to Peter S. Prescott and Donna Foote of *Newsweek* for their 27 March article entitled "A Celebration of Language" about the Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd edition. They write, "Invaluable as its citations are, problems can arise. A series of quotations can't show the damage that a current usage can do: how gay—a delightful and necessary word—is now virtually lost to us except in its homosexual association." Damage? Virtually lost? The only damage done to the word "gay" is when close-minded homophobes like Prescott and Foote attempt to deny the existence of a community who has brought to socio-cultural awareness and consciousness-raising something which is far more sensitive and valuable than the dated definition they wish to promote. If Prescott and Foote want a "celebration of language," they ought to spend an evening in a gay bar.



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Yes! I, too, seek an inner sweetness (or whatever) that will touch everyone who knows me. And if you don't have any of that, I'll take a year's subscription to the *Post* (that's *Post*) *Amerikan*. Here's four bucks. Don't spend it all in one place.

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