

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

6-1992

Volume 21, Number 2

Post Amerikan

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MS. HIPPIE ON . . . STATE FARM AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 21

25¢

NUMBER 2

JUNE/JULY 1992



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BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 2

JUNE/JULY 1992

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About us

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

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The *Post Amerikan* welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and new tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while—we don't meet every week.

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

What's your new address?

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

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- Bloomington Public Library (front)
- Bus Depot, 533 N. East
- Common Ground, 516 N. Main
- Front and Center Building
- Inner Connection, 802 E. Grove St.
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- Medusa's, 420 N. Madison
- Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
- Pantagraph, 301 W. Washington
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- Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
- U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
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- Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
- Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

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- Babbitts Book Store, North St.
- The Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort
- Hovey Hall, ISU (Front)
- Manchester Hall, ISU
- Mother Murphy's, 111 North
- North and Broadway
- White Hen, 207 Broadway
- Subway, 115 E. Beaufort
- Zorba's, Main St.

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

Deborah and Angela (coordinators); John C., Nancy, John G., Tracy, Monica, Bumper, Sue, Ralph, Bruce and OUR MANY LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF THE LAST 20 YEARS! (LET'S GO FOR ANOTHER 20)

Good numbers

- ACLU 454-7223
- ACT UP/CI 827-4005
- AIDS Hotlines:
 - National 1-800-AID-AIDS
 - Illinois 1-800-243-2437
 - Local (309) 827-AIDS
- Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
- Bloomington Housing Authority 829-3360
- Childbirth and Parenting Information Exchange (CAPIE) 827-6672
- Clare House (Catholic workers) 452-0310
- Community for Social Action 452-4035
- Connection House 829-5711
- Countering Domestic Violence 827-4005
- Dept. of Children/Family Services 828-0022
- Draft Counselling 452-5046
- Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber 438-2429
- HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped) 828-8301
- Ill. Dept. of Public Aid 827-4621
- Ill. Lawyer Referral 1-800-252-8916
- Kaleidoscope 828-7346
- McLean Co. Center for Human Services 827-5351
- McLean Co. Health Dept. 454-1161
- Mid Central Community Action 829-0691
- Mobile Meals 828-8301
- Narcotics Anonymous 827-3898
- 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
- Prairie State Legal Service 827-5021
- 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

Deadline

The next deadline for submitting *Post* material is
JULY 27, 1992

Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed in the next issue.



Community News

Planned Parenthood offers "parent packages"

As parents, we know it's hard to discuss the "tough topics" with our children, but there is help for us. As of April 27, Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois offers its newest sexuality education resource for parents. "Parent Packages" are kits which include everything parents will need to talk with their children about topics such as babies, puberty, birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, relationships, and parent-teen communication. The kits are age-appropriate and include a video, books and pamphlets. There is a \$5 deposit for renting these kits.

For more information, call Planned Parenthood at 827-4368

ISU's University Galleries mounts three new shows Works from The Collection and Recent Acquisitions

Along with two other exhibitions featuring local collections, University Galleries will present an exhibition of works from its permanent collection from June 2 through July 28.

Selected from its permanent collection of 2200 contemporary artworks, the show will present works by Frank Stella, Mark Tobey, Max Klinger, Karl Schmidt-Rotluff, Georges Rouault, Buzz Spector and Won Sook Kim, among others.

The exhibition will also feature many of the works acquired during the past year. Among those recent acquisitions are works by Nicholas Africano, Alan Cohen, Richard Cramer, John Himmelfarb, Thorsen Kursel, Donald Lipski, David Moreno, Dennis Oppenheim, and Kiki Smith.

Summer Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-7:00 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, 12:00-4:00 p.m. For more information contact Peter Spooner at 309/438-5487

Collections: the vernacular object

Collections: The vernacular object is an exhibition featuring selected collections of common and not so common objects owned by central Illinois residents. Curated by University Galleries' Assistant Director Peter Spooner, the exhibition begins on June 2 and continues through July 28.

Most people collect some type of object—a fact that has been elaborated on by observers of the human animal as diverse as Sigmund Freud and Erna Bombeck. This exhibition presents a variety of "non-art" collections of objects which have been lovingly amassed by thirteen individuals. Presented in an "art context," the hundreds of items in these collections seem to take on the qualities of an aesthetic appearance, design and meaning normally associated with what we call "art." In other ways, the objects and collections in the exhibition can also be appreciated for their historical and social significance.

Collections and lenders to the exhibition include:

- Leslie Allen: Salt and Pepper Shakers
- Rodney Carswell: Pencils
- Glen Davies: Religious Artifacts, Pillow Slips, Lodge Items
- Dolls: The collection of the former University Museum, ISU
- Evan Evans: Mousetraps (pre-Civil War-present)
- Mark Genrich: Religious Artifacts and Lodge Items
- Gerry Guthrie: Religious Artifacts and Lodge Items
- James Huddleston: Picture Frames
- Adrien Marek: Purses
- Craig McMonigal: Religious Artifacts, Christmas Items and Photographs
- Ardie Nowers: Wooden Moulds for Picture Frames

Michael Sarver: Religious Artifacts
 Brian Simpson: Neckties
 Bob Steinman & Anne Scott: Bakelite and Lucite Objects
 Pat Stevens: Religious Artifacts and Lodge Items
 Tim Van Laar: Original Paintings based on collections
 Summer Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-7:00 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
 For more information contact Peter Spooner at 309/438-5487

The place of wonder: selections from local circus collections

In the days of traveling circuses when the names Barnum, Bailey and Ringling were as common as today's Cosby, Redford or Streisand, Bloomington-Normal was the winter home to 90% of this country's top circus aerialists. These days the Illinois State University library is full-time home to one of the world's finest and most complete collection of circus memorabilia.

During their off-season, the flying acts stayed in shape and worked on new routines in the Flying Wards' barn, the old Bloomington YMCA and in backyards throughout the community. As television and other post World War II innovations hastened the end of many traveling circuses, circus stars started sending their mementos to Illinois State University's Milner Library, at the request of the library's director, Eleanor Welch.

As time went on, other circus figures, from Buffalo Bill to Mrs. Tom Thumb and from circus band directors to business agents to circus devotees, continued to send items of historic interest to the growing Illinois State collection. Rare circus books, posters, programs, buttons, medallions, unpublished photos, films, newspaper clippings, letters, business ledgers, sheet music, more letters and photos, paintings and other works of art related to the circus, all came Milner Library's way. The collection has more than 100,000 items. There are 10,000 photo negatives and about 1,500 posters.

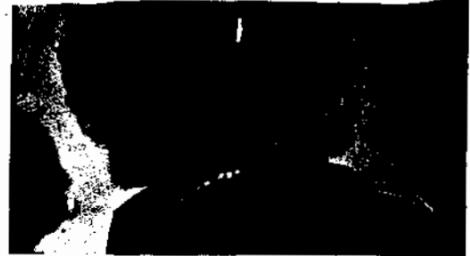
On June 2, a major public showing of selected items from Milner Library's immense circus collection and items donated by Stephen Gossard, local circus historian, and Cheri Valentine of the former Flying Valentines, a well-known trapeze act, will be opening at the University Galleries of Illinois State University.

The curator of the exhibition, Debra Risberg, has sought to create a broad, representative view of the larger body of local materials. She framed large lithographed posters that advertised the spectacular, the daring, and the exotic, and enlarged old unpublished photographs of the performers behind the scenes in the circus backyards. The photographs were taken by avid circus collector Sverre Braathen, a Wisconsin lawyer. The posters were from Braathen's collection that he donated to the University before he died in 1974.



Also featured in the exhibition are 8mm movies transferred to video. The movies were originally shot by another circus devotee, Harold T. Ramage during the '30's, '40's, and '50's. Many of the films show aerialists from Bloomington-Normal practicing their routines. Recent interviews with Dorothy Durban, Walt Graybeal, and Miki King, all former aerialists, will also be shown. Steven Gossard, local circus historian, served as consultant, interviewer and general collaborator on the project with Risberg. Gossard has been researching these collections over eight years and is recognized as one of the area's primary historians.

Summer Hours: Tuesday, 12:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 12:00-4:00 p.m. For more information call Peter Spooner at 309/438-5487



McLean County Health Department offers summer immunization appointments

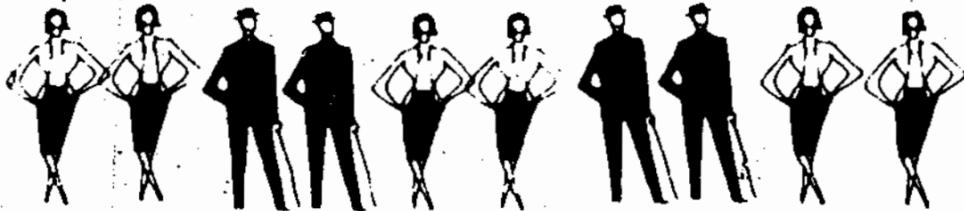
In order to assist families in McLean County, the McLean County Health Department will offer immunizations by appointment for the first time this summer.

Appointments for immunization services provided in June through September are available by contacting the Immunization Appointment Secretary at 888-5450. Please plan ahead to avoid scheduling problems during the summer months. Parents must accompany their children to their appointments and bring previous immunization records.

Don't delay—call the McLean County Health Department Today!

Bent Productions presents...

Les Follies Faux



Lovely ladies...handsome gentlemen...and a couple we're not quite sure of!

Saturday, August 8, 8:00 p.m. Unitarian Church, 1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington. Tickets \$5. For more information call (309) 827-7289

Bent Productions is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to support other local lesbian/gay/bisexual theatre activities.



Rodney King and Power

When I first heard of the Rodney King beating, when I first saw the videotape, I was horrified. I had an idea that people in power often abuse that power. In fact, that idea was axiomatic with me. Power always goes hand in hand with abuse.

Power=abuse. That's an ugly equation. But it never really hit me where I live. Sure, I could argue a good game, and from personal experience know something about abuses of power. But until I saw the videotape of Rodney King being mercilessly bludgeoned did I realize the full extent of power and abuse.

It was painful to watch. Those men, white males like myself, cops, unlike myself, were doubly empowered by their society. To begin with, they are representatives of the most favored class in our society--white, presumably heterosexual, men. And they had been given the power of the badge.

They reminded me of some warrior elite, pummeling the defenseless to test the efficacy of their truncheons.

The second beating

When the Simi County jury returned a not-guilty verdict, I recoiled. I heard it first on NPR. Numbness stole over me. Up until that time, I had considered myself unshockable. I thought nothing could get to me, and in my arrogance, believed that this was a strength in my activism. I was wrong.



I knew, then, the full extent of my obligation to be outraged. It is not just desirable, it is necessary, that every person in this country think very clearly about what happened to that man. We are responsible.

Particularly my tribe. White males. Whether we like to admit it or not, we are at the top of the heap. We own this world. Any jackass can babble about women pampered in gilded cages. Or welfare parents. Or "foreigners". And they can try to dent the fact that they and their sons control this Earth. They may even convince some. But they are lying.

White males hold the power in this world. We abuse the power in this world. That fact is ineluctable. We cannot escape it.

We have grown so accustomed to our power. For me, my strength, my seeming invulnerability, is like a third limb. I can wield it when I choose. I, like all with this power, can choose never to wield it. But there it is.

What do we do? We choose not to wield our power. We choose not to hurt. Our power does not go away. It is as built into us as the color of our skin, the fact of our penises. It was decided before we were born.

So we do not use our power. It is, after all our choice. And in not using our power, we are forced to question the necessity of power, ever.

Power means the license to beat a defenseless man, to rape a woman, to abuse a child. Power is genocide. I do not think it possible that power can be redeemed. As long as a power structure exists, one over the other and damn those below, there is no hope.

So what do we do? I keep asking that question. Well, we work for a day in which power is unnecessary. We work for a time that counts power as an evil, as a virus.

We do this by not exercising the power that we already have. By making our power invisible, so that our sons will not be raised with the notion that they control the destiny of any person or thing.

We do not give up. We are courageous. We are disciplined. We use guilt.

Guilt

Guilt can be a great teacher. Guilt can let us know that we are acting contrary to what we know is right. When we begin to feel guilty, it is because we have acted in direct contrast to everything we understand to be true.

Guilt can cripple and deceive. But if we do not let it, it can't. We can listen to it and understand the lessons that it is teaching us. We can live by those lessons. We can move from the infancy that we've inherited into a new adulthood, in which we, as the powerful, understand our responsibility to all persons, and act by that responsibility.

And in doing so, relinquish our power.

No one is free...

Until all are free. It's hackneyed, I know. It's an old model, I know. But it is true. Until what happened to Rodney King never happens again, we are a world of slaves. The holder of power is as much a slave as the powerless.

We are forced to grasp, to struggle continually to hold on the what we already have. We are forced to commit atrocities in the name of our privilege. And I cannot believe that this is what we really want.

We don't know what an egalitarian world has to offer us. I imagine that one of those things is an end to war. Another, an end to abuse of women and people of color. And gays. And animals. And our world.

But we're afraid of what we've never known. So we sit in the stone caverns of our own hearts and we betray ourselves. We enslave ourselves to what we imagine sets us free.

I want to know what a world in which everyone is granted full humanity is like. I don't want to carry that around in my heart any more. So I agitate. Where before I sat back and did my activist work with removed cynicism, I fight back with rage and passion.



We need to use what we've been given as the powerful in our society to change society. That third limb can be used to create rather than to destroy. It can be used to raise up rather than to lay low. And it can be used to embrace rather than beat.

Whether it will happen in my lifetime, or my children's, or their children's, is up to us right now. To continue the work that has been begun is up to us all.

Thanks.

--J. Guzzo





Post Amerikan serves as source for local performance piece

The man wears a pair of black sweatpants, no shirt, no shoes. Four United States flags sewn together drape around him as a cape. He crouches on the ground, completely covering himself with the flag. After a moment, his head begins to slowly peer out from under the flag.

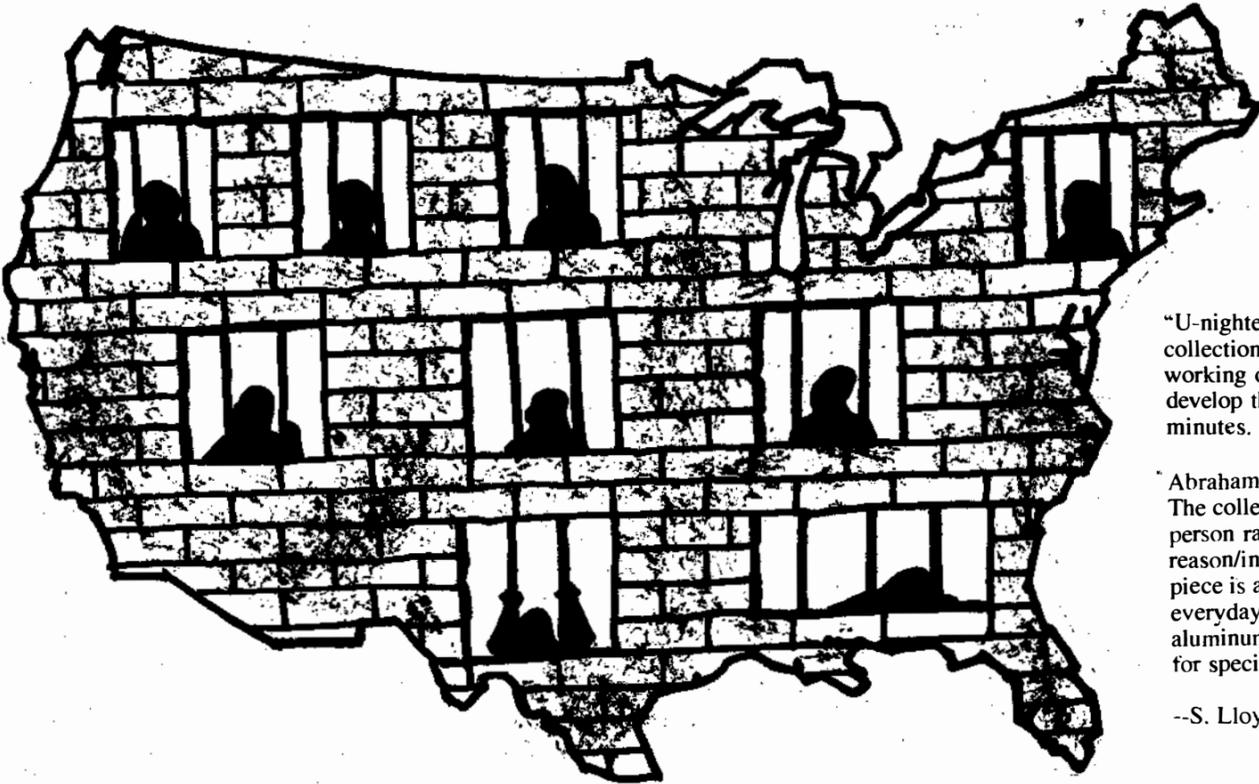
"DISCOVERY OF A NEW WORLD. BIRTH OF A NATION." A deep voice from behind the audience echoes between the walls of ISU's Center for Visual Arts and Centennial West.

Abraham's deep-toned, clear, indeed seductive voice, in the conventional role of narrator, wonderfully supplements Kirby's interpretive, representative movement.

"AND NOW, JUST OVER 200 YEARS LATER . . ."

Kirby throws himself backwards landing in a freshly turned, but unplanted University flower bed. He furiously jerks himself around, covering his body and the flag with dirt.

As an audience member/participant, I couldn't help but focus on the flag and its inherent paradoxes. At the risk of being rubber-stamped "PC," I wanted, unapologetically, more included in the pieces text about women, about people of color, about issues of sexual orientation. I wanted highlighted the restrictions and limits placed by "authorities" on creative thought and expression. I wanted foregrounded the contradictions of what it means to live in a "free" country. And in Abraham's own words, how we are being led by greed and hate.



"U-nighted States" is part of a one-person show, a collection of pieces, that Abraham has been working on for a year. He will continue to develop the piece that now runs just under ten minutes.

Abraham plans to perform the collection next fall. The collection includes a piece about a street person rambling about genesis, light/dark, reason/instinct, conscious/subconscious. Another piece is about toxic elements and chemicals in our everyday life (lead in paint, mercury in water, aluminum). Watch future issues of *Post Amerikan* for specific dates and times of performances.

--S. Lloyd DeWitt

This was the beginning of "U-nighted States: A Movement Piece," written and directed by Clark Abraham, featuring the acting of Randy Kirby, and based on an article published in a past issue of *Post Amerikan*.

I originally heard of Abraham's plans to write this performance piece when he inquired about a *Post* article written by Sue Kuykendall, "American Nightmare: What the Mainstream Media Don't Say," (Vol. 20, No. 2, August/September 1991) a compilation of statistics she obtained from mostly alternative new sources. In her political commentary, Kuykendall asks, "General Schwartzkopf has proclaimed the U.S. to be the world's superpower--but in what areas, besides the ability to destroy life in military action, are we #1?"

The performance of "U-nighted States" that I saw was for an ISU Theater Department course, "Movement for Actors," and everyone in the audience that evening was a member of the Department. Abraham is a first-year graduate student, and Kirby will be a senior. Both are studying acting at ISU.

Kirby slowly creeps out of the womb made of flag. It's Abraham who, again, speaks from behind the audience:

"IN LESS THAN 100 YEARS, WE BECAME A PURE DEMOCRACY. TRUER THAN EVEN THE GREEKS COULD SALVAGE."

Kirby, now standing, throws a discus. He smiles as it sails over the field where the audience sits. Poised Greek olympiad. All-American boy.

"A COUNTRY THAT LEADS THE WORLD IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. THAT LEADS IN THE PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL POPULATION INCARCERATED. THAT LEADS IN MURDERS OF MALES 15-24 YEARS OLD, AND MURDER BY HANDGUNS OF ALL AGES. A COUNTRY WHERE WE ALLOW OUR POLICE TO BATTER OUR CIVILIANS."

The piece's significance is clear on the evening of the acquittal of the L.A. police officers who beat Rodney King.

Kirby lies in the dirt, disgustingly gasping for air.

At this point, Abraham "physically" enters the scene, from behind the audience, to join Kirby--with pail and brush in hand. Determined, he begins roughly to scrub the country clean, quoting Jim Morrison's, "American Prayer."

"WE USED TO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS. WE STILL RECEIVE IN LITTLE WAYS. WE ARE TRYING FOR SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY FOUND US."

"In philosophy and theory, I think we *are* a great country--one of opportunity," Abraham said after the performance. "But we are being led by greed and hate, and corporations, and inhumane standards. Corporate America stains the flag."

The piece's writing was strong, the issues poignant and hard-hitting. But it is within the writing that the piece needs to be expanded. Clearly, the United States flag is a controlling visual element of the piece. So, however cliché, deconstructing "what the flag stands for" could follow. Again cliché, I think that the Pledge's, "... with liberty and justice for all . . ." could provide the direction.

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So much time, so little space

A view from the Right

So much to write about, so little space

So much to write about, so little space. Between the Rodney King verdict, the rioting afterward, and the victory of Carol Moseley Braun in the Democratic primary, the subject of civil rights has made a lot of headlines. But there are a lot of other newsworthy things that don't make the mainstream media.

There has been so much going on lately in the civil rights arena that the *Post Amerikan* should probably be published more often, just to keep up with it all. After all, it's going to be a really wild election year and a lot of the power in this country appears to be up for grabs. Anti-incumbent fever is sweeping the nation and this is definitely the year of the outsider. Register now to vote. **Strangers in a strange land**

At first glance, H. Ross Perot could be very appealing, simply because he's coming into the Presidential race from outside the Establishment. He is independent from the established parties and the politics of the smoke filled rooms. He's a rich man, but he started out from scratch. And he doesn't owe favors to any special interests as a result.

At least that's what he's saying. It's too bad that he hasn't taken a stand on any substantial issues yet. As of today, the best promise to the left is Bill Clinton, due to the untimely death of Jerry Brown's campaign. November is still in the fairly different future and Perot will have to start taking some stands if he is serious about winning.

Fortunately, the candidates of the radical right have slithered back under their rocks. That would be more encouraging news if the guy who steamrollered them wasn't named George Bush. It was truly gratifying to watch David Duke get flattened so fast. Maybe the conservatives of the world are human beings after all. Pat Buchanan stayed on his feet entirely too long, however. We haven't heard the last of him, and he may succeed in pushing Bush even farther to the right at the convention.

In the Senate, the primary victory of Carol Moseley Braun is the most earth-shaking event in Illinois politics since Lincoln went to the White House. Braun is on track to become the first black woman Senator in history. Again, she is a political outsider. Like I said, register now to vote.

She was an underdog who managed to beat two-term Senator Al Dixon, the Establishment candidate, and Chicago millionaire-attorney Al Hofeld in a three-way race. Dixon and Hofeld were the big campaign spenders, but they spent too much effort attacking each other.

Like Perot, if this outsider is serious about winning there are some moves that have to be made. With the moderate Dixon gone, there is no incumbent for the Republicans to beat, so their odds are better. And with the liberal Braun threatening to win, the stakes are higher. The Republicans will undoubtedly pour their resources into Illinois behind Rich Williamson. Underestimating an opponent is pretty stupid, but Williamson is no Chuck Percy. In fact, he seems like some kind of wimp. His campaign ads are the usual all-white, flag-waving, family-values pablum that Republicans have been routinely dishing up ever since it worked so well in 1980.

In other words, Williamson is beatable. He's making absolutely no effort to build the kind of multi-racial coalition that is Braun's opportunity to win. Braun must make every effort to create such a coalition for herself by appealing to moderates — the main-and-suburb people who voted for Dixon. In the primary she had the support of blacks and hard-core feminists, but that is just not enough to win a general election.

Let's face it: those middle-of-the-road folk have had images of Willie Horton and Cadillac-driving welfare queens programmed into their brains all too well by Republican admeisters. The image of a black female Senator who proudly hails from the left scares them a bit, the poor dears. If Braun can appeal to their sense of fairness, she will win. If she doesn't, they'll "play it safe" and vote for Williamson. Some really strong leftist rhetoric in this campaign would feel good, but this opportunity for the left is just too good to waste.

A view from the trenches

I've worked for three years as a paralegal for a law office that seems to get involved in a lot of cases with civil rights overtones. A full-blown civil rights lawsuit is where the battles over civil rights are most frequently fought. This is where the fighting is at its most bitter and most costly.

Working in a law office is a personal emotional roller coaster for anyone who has a scrap of conscience about civil rights. The victories are really tremendous and the defeats can be really crushing. As one writer (Balrog) observed in the last issue of the *Post Amerikan*, one of the best things about writing for an underground newspaper is getting to choose my own sexy pen name. Since my job involves fighting in the trenches of the civil rights war, it'll have to be Trench Rat. Not very sexy, but it fits. A true Trench Rat knows all the tricks to stay alive and unharmed, in spite of all the cheap shots flying around. Knowing exactly what your civil rights are is a big first step toward effectively defending them. I have my share of war stories to tell.

It is a war of attrition. Legal fees can run into the thousands of dollars very quickly and the defendants, who are usually private companies or government agencies, can afford to outspend the average civil rights plaintiff. All too often a lawsuit is won by the side that is able to pay its lawyers the longest. Delaying tactics are very common. It's especially ironic when part of the money to defend these creeps comes out of the plaintiff's own pocket. When Rodney King sued the four police officers who beat him, the cops got a free lawyer from the Attorney General's office. King's own tax dollars are being spent to help beat him in court.

Not having been involved at all in the Rodney King case, I think I can still make two pretty safe observations about the criminal trial of the four pigs who beat him, and the aftermath. Observation Number One: Guilty, guilty, guilty. The jury system clearly has its limitations because this jury was out to lunch.

In law schools they use videotape as the textbook example of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Watching four cops deliver over fifty kicks and nightstick blows to one helpless black man who obviously was not resisting should have been enough to convict. It fills anyone who has any faith in the legal system with a sense of rage. Sgt. Stacey Koon and Officers Timothy Wind and Theodore Briseno were cleared of all charges, but they remain suspended without pay. Officer Laurence Powell, who can be clearly seen in the video delivering the majority of the beating, had an 8-4 jury split in favor of acquittal.

He has been fired.

But the firing and the suspensions came, not after the first broadcast of the video, but only after the massive public outcry that followed. Part of the problem in L.A. is Police Chief Daryl Gates. For years, as evidence of racism and abuse in his department continued to mount, he denied the seriousness of these problems. The report of the Christopher Commission was revealing. The LAPD clearly has more in common with a redneck frat house than a professional, cosmopolitan police department. Transcripts of police radio messages have been loaded with racial slurs of every kind. Police even indulged in their own version of the helicopter assault from *Apocalypse Now*, playing Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" on their squad car loudspeakers while charging into a housing project on a drug raid.

As we all know, racism and brutality are not limited to L.A. police officers. Just about every police department in the country has at least one or two people who truly deserve to be called "pigs." For example, we've got a client named Robert Mazzanti who was booked into the Peoria County Jail. Mindful of the King video, the jailers took Mazzanti to one of the few spots in the jail that weren't covered by security cameras. Then they beat him to a bloody pulp.

Observation Number Two: There are a lot of people in L.A. (and, no doubt, a lot of other cities) who were just looking for an excuse to start looting and burning. Once these instigators got started, thousands more got swept up in the tum of events and took part. The ones who just went along with the flow, I believe, are the ones who are hauling in their loot to police stations and churches. This is the same sort of mass display of guilt that happened after the Watts riots three decades ago.

But the hardcore instigators who got it all started were the street gangsters. In particular, the four blacks who pulled a white trucker, Reginald Denny, from his cab and beat him into critical condition have been linked to these gangs. They've been arrested and I hope they go to prison for a long, long time.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Stacey Koon has wasted absolutely no time trying to get rich from his own infamy. He has drafted a 275-page memoir entitled *The Ides Of March*, portions of which were published in the L.A. Times. He described King with a racial slur and joked about using excessive force against minority suspects.

"The guy is beneath contempt," said Joe Hicks, head of the Los Angeles office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "It's obvious we're not dealing with a genius here." Other minority leaders also were quick to denounce Sgt. Koon's literary venture, wherein he recounts, among his other memorable achievements, shooting a black suspect and later joking with his fellow officers that the man wouldn't die because blacks "are too dumb to go into shock." Sgt. Koon is looking for a publisher; the truly sad part is that he might find one.

My God, Bush did the right thing

In the credit-where-it's-due department, I must give some hesitant, reluctant, guarded praise to Mr. Bush. Within an hour after the verdict in the King criminal trial was announced, he put two Federal prosecutors on a plane and flew them to Los Angeles to look into filing Federal charges against these officers. We can all still hope that they go to prison for a long, long time as well.

It's called "the doctrine of dual sovereignty." It's one of the funny little quirks of our legal system that, even though we claim to hate the "double jeopardy" of two trials for the same offense, the Feds can step in to try and get a conviction if the state boys fail. I always used to hate that concept because our law office has usually been on the side of the defendant. But in this case it suddenly seems kind of neat, don't you think?

I must also give some golf-claps for California Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg, who presided over the trial on the state charges. Although he wasn't able to set aside the criminally stupid jury verdict, he didn't waste any time in declaring that Laurence Powell, the most blatant abuser on the video, will be retried on the one state charge that resulted in a split jury. Judge Weisberg also ruled that the trial will be held in Los Angeles County, but the decision is being appealed.

The courts decided that due to pre-trial publicity (and unrest), the first trial could not be held in L.A. This wasn't such a bad decision, but it should have been held in San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, or another city with a diverse population.

The really stupid move by the California courts was moving the trial to Simi Valley in Ventura County. This is a "bedroom town" for L.A. cops and other municipal workers, and there are very few blacks. The jury ended up with ten whites, one Hispanic, and one Asian-American. Some critics claim that moving the trial to Simi Valley virtually guaranteed an acquittal, but Judge Weisberg is doing what he can to repair the damage.

Naturally, he said the wrong thing

I'm neither hesitant nor reluctant about chastising Mr. Bush severely for blaming "the liberal welfare programs of the '60s" for the riots in L.A. Fifty-two deaths and \$750 million in property damage (not counting the damage done when the rioting spread to Atlanta, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Seattle and even Peoria), and the first thing he does is blame it all on the liberals.

Granted, the way that these programs have been administered is really stupid: creating a cycle of dependence, destroying ambition and self-esteem. But if handled astutely, these programs are the solution, not the problem. Perhaps this is what Mr. Bush intended to say all along, but he has at his disposal an entire coven of professional wordsmiths to avoid a gaffe like that. Besides, he has had plenty of time to clarify his statements. He really did mean to just blame it all on the liberals.



Unfortunately, while Rodney King had charges of assault and resisting arrest dismissed, Robert Mazzanti was prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law on similar charges. Fortunately, the jury took only 20 minutes to acquit him, and the jury foreman wrote a scathing guest editorial in the *Peoria Journal Star*, denouncing "the cynical prosecution of an innocent man."

The jury foreman also observed that the jailers were never charged for their crime. It prompted letters to the editor on both sides. Sheriff George Shadid and State's Attorney Kevin Lyons wrote that they "have long been committed to the stiff prosecution of criminals through fair play. Persons within the system enjoy no immunity nor privilege whatsoever in the event they engage in criminal, or civilly abusive, conduct."

As Sheriff Shadid knows, he and all his deputies enjoy qualified immunity if their actions are not "willful, wanton, dishonest or reckless." As Kevin Lyons knows, he and all his prosecutors enjoy absolute immunity, which means that they can be "willful, wanton, dishonest or reckless" any time they feel like it, and still be completely immune from a lawsuit. These two professional politicians wrote a persuasive speech. They skillfully deflected attention away from the case in question, to troublemaking jail inmates who are "drunk, loud and combative, spitting and urinating and shouting obscenities." Mazzanti did none of those things, yet he was taken to a remote part of the jail with no video cameras to be savagely beaten.

I've had a lot of encounters with cops over the past 16 years. Most of them seem very professional. These are guys who wouldn't even think about violating someone's civil rights. They realize that if the suspect knows he's been busted fair and square, the whole procedure goes a lot more smoothly and they can at least look each other in the eye when it's over. They know that when one suspect takes a beating, so does the reputation of the whole police department. But all too often these cops look the other way when their buddies get a little berserk. There were only four cops on trial in the King case, but there were about 12 in the video. The other eight looked the other way. The cops who are clean need to be more willing to do something about the ones who aren't. Otherwise, they become just as dirty. We must get tough with those who abuse power and with the instigators of the riots, but we must also look to the causes of the riots. This was a massive cry of rage and frustration. That's why thousands of otherwise law-abiding poor people were swept up in the looting.

Why can't we just live together?

Although there has been a lot of effort to portray this chain of events as race-motivated, race is only one of many factors in what happened. Mainly, this was a case of the rich and powerful getting over on the poor and powerless once again. And let us savor the exquisite irony of this: those people out on the street are the ones who are supposed to have the power. The cops, prosecutors and all the rest are only supposed to be the custodians of that power. That's all the more reason to throw the book at them when they abuse the power they've been entrusted with. We must listen to the words of Martin Luther King --- and of Rodney King, who emerged from months of seclusion to videotape the rioting and ask, "Why can't we just live together?" We must remind our conservative friends that the government's role in L.A. today should be more than just cracking down on rioters.

The cities need jobs. Not just burger-slapping, toilet-scrubbing, minimum-wage jobs, but the kind of jobs that pay for houses and college educations. The rebuilding of the local economy after the Watts riots had too much of the "hock shop" mentality about it. The businesses that appeared could only recycle the pitiful resources that were already there, rather than bringing in new resources and making a real difference. This time, we don't need a new row of hock shops in L.A. We need some genuine investment in the cities. It is far cheaper to school a young black man than it is to jail him.

As a working-class white man, I have more in common with Rodney King than with Daryl Gates. And he has more in common with me than with Clarence Thomas. Working-class white people are the greatest untapped resource of the civil rights movement. Although their misery and humiliation has generally been less severe, there are white people who are just as miserable, humiliated and downright pissed off as anyone else. People of color do not have a monopoly on these experiences; for example, Robert Mazzanti is white. (But I saw pictures of him a day after the beating and he looked pretty black to me. Not to mention blue.)

If he had been black, there might have been another massive public outcry. Shadid and Lyons probably could not have avoided dropping the charges against him and prosecuting the pigs who beat him, if only for political reasons. And the Justice Department might not have declined to press Federal charges against them.

This guy was really fired because he's black

This hasn't been the only incident of prisoner abuse at the Peoria County Jail. One of the jailers involved in the beatings was black, and has been fired (although Shadid's boys claim that the firing is unrelated to the beatings). This jailer has had the nerve to claim that the firing was racially motivated!

If the civil rights movement can show enough wisdom and maturity to stop defining itself along racial lines, and if it can enlist the Robert Mazzantis and the other millions of working-class white voters with whom it shares so much, then great gains can be made this year.

Remember those middle-of-the-road folk from the farms and suburbs? The video of Reginald Denny being dragged out of his truck and clobbered scares them ten times as much as Willie Horton ever did. (Denny needed 3-1/2 hours of surgery to remove two blood clots from his brain.) That footage makes a very damning counterpoint to the King video. Daryl Gates can point to it and whine, "See there? If we punish cops too much, that could happen on every street corner in America." There's nothing quite so stupid as handing ammunition to your enemies.

Every court case has civil rights implications. The civil rights of both defendant and victim are on the line in a rape trial. Drug-related cases often involve right-to-privacy questions. But a civil rights lawsuit punishes the offender directly for the civil rights violation, regardless of whether any other law was broken. At the law office where I work, our most important civil rights case involves the firing of O'Neal Jones, a black male, from his job at the Commonwealth Edison plant in Pekin. It all started when he tried to get medical benefits from ComEd to pay for his daughter's medical care.

O'Neal was turned down when ComEd learned that this was an out-of-wedlock child. He filed a complaint with the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and ComEd suddenly reversed gears: yes, illegitimate children do qualify. But O'Neal's life at work suddenly took a turn for the worse. His supervisors started writing him up for nickel-and-dime infractions that they used to ignore --- and still do, claims O'Neal, when the offender is white.

He has some convincing evidence. The work records of at least four white employees at the Pekin ComEd plant showed much more lateness and absenteeism than O'Neal's. When he was fired, the excuse for firing him was eventually changed to "overall attendance record." But these four white guys stayed. Perhaps O'Neal was fired to retaliate for his Human Rights complaint but, to make a long story short, he was really fired because he's black. Blacks are more likely to have children out of wedlock; therefore ComEd's original policy was a subtle form of racial discrimination.

O'Neal has filed a new Human Rights complaint and the evidence is compelling. Illinois law provides that any employer found guilty of such a violation loses all of its government contracts for three years. ComEd is the main utility carrier for the Chicago area. Its fanatically pro-nuclear policies have resulted in a long string of nuclear plants being built like a hangman's noose around the city. It's kind of amusing that after all those protests at the nuke plants didn't close them, O'Neal Jones might get the job done, all by himself.

Do white supremacists have civil rights?

You bet they do. There's a story which, I believe, was first told by a survivor of the Nazi death camps: "First the Nazis came after the Jews, and I didn't object because I never did like the Jews. Then they came after the labor unionists, and I didn't object because I always thought the unions were greedy. Then they came after the Catholics, and I didn't object because I don't like Catholics. Then they knocked on my door and there was no one left to object but me." If we allow the civil rights of one class of people (no matter how much we might dislike them) to be violated, it becomes that much easier for the government to violate the civil rights of every one of us.

A white supremacist from East Peoria named Matt Hale was, for a very brief and distasteful moment, a client of ours two years ago. (Oops, excuuuuuse me --- he now calls himself a "white civil rights activist.") The attorneys who run the office observed that people like Hale have a right to legal representation as much as anyone (and probably need it more than anyone). At the time Hale was a freshman at Bradley University and the Bradley administration was coming down hard and fast for his very first act of rabble-rousing. He came to us first, asking for help, so we took care of him until he could make other arrangements.

Ever since, Hale has been persecuted by every law enforcement agency that has had half an excuse to mess with him. He held a rally in Pekin and burned an Israeli flag; the Pekin police, perhaps attempting to rid Pekin of its racist image, cited Hale for violating a city ordinance prohibiting open burning. This was first passed into law to stop the burning of leaves and garbage and it normally involves just a notice to appear, like a speeding ticket. But they arrested him and hauled him away.

Hale and his brother were later involved in an armed confrontation of some sort with three black youths, and the two brothers were arrested for a variety of bogus charges. They were all dropped, but a new one was filed against Matt Hale: obstruction of justice, for lying to the police about his brother's handgun. Since it was his first offense, he managed to get probation. This has been the only time that the criminal justice system declined to give him the maximum penalty under law.

While on probation, Hale and one of his little buddies were out distributing Duke leaflets at Northwoods Mall and were ordered to leave by a security guard. Hale was within his rights; the guard had absolutely no legal authority to order him to leave. But Hale told off the guard a little too forcefully: he poked the guard on the chin with his finger during the argument. Bingo, aggravated battery.

After the guilty verdict Judge John Barra, a former Peoria County state's attorney, revoked his bond and as of this writing, Hale is spending four weeks behind bars awaiting Barra's sentence on this nickel-and-dime misdemeanor. Since he was still on probation, he can also be resentenced on the obstruction charge.

This is all very entertaining, but Hale's punishments clearly do not fit the crimes he's committed. Everything except the obstruction charge has been exactly the kind of trumped-up bullshit that police and the courts have traditionally used to oppress people they don't like. If we allow this bum's civil rights to be trampled on, the next bum whose rights get trampled could be you.

A funny thing happened on the way to Bloomington . . .

Our law office has been pretty prosperous and we just rented a new office in another city. I was assigned the task of setting up the new office. It's a long drive and it had to be set up and ready to go by 8:00 a.m. Also, I had never been there and I wanted to allow a little extra time to find the place, so I had to get started really early. I had to pick up some furniture at another of our offices in Pekin. This was the very day that the rioting in L.A. had spread to other cities and every police department in the country was on the lookout for looters. Pekin has a reputation as a racist community, so the cops were especially worried about a Peoria street gang coming over and starting something.

So there I was with a couple of buddies at 4:30 a.m., looting an office right across Court Street from the Tazewell County Jail. At least it looked that way. We were kind of in a hurry. Just as I was locking up and getting ready to leave, six squad cars converged on us from all directions. The cops came flying out of their cars at us and I jingled my keys at them. It was like a medieval druid shaking mistletoe at a bunch of barbarians: it stopped them in their tracks.

Then I started teasing them a little bit about calling out all the Mounties on little old me. I asked them whether they had reasonable suspicion, or probable cause, and I started listing Supreme Court cases which said that what they were doing was kind of questionable. Most of them took it in the spirit it was intended: just teasing. But one little cop developed an attitude.

Continued on page 8



Letters



Another view on the condom shop protesters

Dear *Post Amerikan*,

How do we chase away the protesters at the Protection Connection? We don't! How do we stop the Camera Man? We don't do that either!

For one, we must condemn the pathetic attempt at trying to make these teenagers feel guilty and dirty, trying to bust them on film and show Mom and Dad how sick and unholy their little daughters and sons have become thanks to Planned Parenthood (a belief that could only be held in an ill-informed mind). But we should also take advantage of this white, upper-middle class, totalitarian group of anti-freedom fighting, George Bush ass sucking bunch of fascist pigs [and show people] how maniacally twisted [their] tactics [are]!

How do we do this? Simple! Counter-demonstrate! Get on that prick's filmage! Show 'em what we just bought and tell his viewers how a group of right-wing scum are trashing Amerika's freedom. Tell them how [prohibiting] sex before marriage is a conspiracy manifested in the heart of a fascist country (Amerika) and its racist, sexist, homophobic, religion--Christianity--[conspires] to control Amerikan youth by [trying to persuade] us that we [should not] love our bodies or our sexuality.

Screw marriage. it's designed for males only. More on that later...

B. A.

P. S. Have your readers write to me at my new fanzine: *SubNormal*, P.O. Box 602, Normal, IL 61761

20 years of LIP, too

Dear *Post Amerikan*,

Congratulations on 20 provocative and challenging years. What do I like about the *Post Amerikan*? Knowing that there is another gritty group of people, in another conservative town, who know it's great fun to publish a newspaper.

Best of luck.

Your comrades in print@,

L(ancaster) I(ndependent) P(ress).

P.S. Take it from us--it doesn't get any easier after 20 years.

Outliving Post Amerikan

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the *Post* on its twentieth anniversary!

I have not been reading this paper quite that long, but nearly. Frankly, when I bought a lifetime subscription some time back, I thought surely my life would outlast the *Post's*. Now I am not so sure. (Should have bought a lifetime subscription to *Mother Earth News*, too!)

Back in the olden days, the *Post* had a lot of local news, like scandals with the police, and interesting local pictures, like Sherriff John King picking his nose. Assistant State's Attorney Brad Muphy giving the finger to the *Post* photographer, and so forth.

There is still a lot of local scandal that is not adequately covered by the *Pantagraph*, and one would think that is grist for the mill of an underground--or at least alternative--newspaper. What did the *Post* do to cover Judge Dalton's drug case? Isn't there a lot more to the story yet to come out?

I myself would much rather read more of what is going on here than what the gay activists are doing on the West Coast.

Hope you have another good 20 years!

Sincerely,

Ethan Evans,
Bloomington

The *Post Amerikan* replies:

Dear Mr. Evans,

Back in the olden days, the *Post Amerikan's* collective members lived in communes. Their rent ran about \$20 per person, per month, so it was not too hard for them to get by on low-paying and/or part-time jobs that allowed them plenty of time to devote to investigative reporting.

Investigative reporting can be a very time-consuming proposition. In order to do investigative reporting, you have to find the time to park inconspicuous cars and vans in front of sleazy motels. Then you have to hide out in them for hours on end so that you can snap incriminating pictures of self-appointed guardians of Traditional Family Values as they take leave of the *bimbo du jour*.

Then you have to move your inconspicuous car or van and park it at a discrete distance from the Pussycat Theatre and Adult Bookstore so you can snap more incriminating photos of local, hypocritical politicians as they enter and then exit hours later, preferably with a glazed look in their eyes and bags full of sex toys in their arms.

Most of us currently working on the *Post* don't have that kind of time anymore. We all have very demanding jobs (many of us go to school full time, too) and volunteer our meager spare time to get the paper out.

We do not mean to disparage the investigative journalism that distinguished the *Post Amerikan* in its early years. The *Post* collective's members who engaged in that investigative reporting--of Sherriff King and MEG, for example--bequeathed to their successors a most honorable legacy, one that we are very proud indeed to claim.

But you're right, Mr. Evans, the *Post Amerikan* hasn't had enough coverage of local issues and scandals for far too long. And you're certainly not the first reader in recent months to point that out to us.

So if you'd be interested in doing some local investigative journalism, we'd be most happy to talk to you.

Readers interested in writing for or working on the *Post Amerikan* in other capacities, please contact us at

The *Post Amerikan*
P.O. Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702
(309) 828-7232

A view from the Right

Continued from page 7

Well, our IDs checked out and we had no outstanding warrants, so they let us drive away. One block later, six squad cars pulled me over. It seems that they had run a check on my license and it was suspended. All of the cops had this "We've got your ass now, hippie" attitude. When I had my hands on the tailgate of the pickup truck, about to be frisked, I did my very best impression of a professor at the police academy: "Gentlemen, you may have had reasonable suspicion to check us out back on the sidewalk for burglary, because it is 4:30 in the morning. But you didn't have reasonable suspicion to check my driving record or suspect me of any traffic offense. This is a bad bust."

Just like jingling the keys, it worked like magic. The attitude melted right off the little cop's face. One of his buddies, a sergeant with a Smokey-the-Bear hat and quarter-inch-long hair, just looked away and shook his head. Then I did a big no-no. While under arrest, without being told to, I took my hands off the tailgate, turned around and said, "Now why don't you guys take it on down the highway?" (Kids, don't try this at home!)

I guess I had successfully de-arrested myself, because the little cop just told me to "let one of the little guys drive." Smoke was coming out of his ears. I suppose he had to say something to make himself feel like he was still in charge. All this extra entertainment value with your *Post Amerikan*, at no additional charge.

--- Trench Rat



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Ms. Hippie

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I have a slight problem. Well, actually, it's not slight at all. God just visited our neighborhood and totalled my car. I know that sounds crazy but it's the truth. You see recently a 74 year old man "blacked out" and rammed his car into several--four to be exact--cars which were parked at the time (9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning) outside my house, which isn't even a church.

His insurance company (a HUGE corporation based right here in Bloomington) is now claiming that this event was in fact an Act of God. Wild, huh? You see, because this old man has no prior medical history, because he wasn't taking any form of medication, because he had no prior knowledge that he was going to "black out," this complete obliteration of four cars wasn't really negligence on the driver's part, but rather--according to Illinois State law--it was an "Act of God."

I'm very confused. I don't believe in God. So first off, I don't know whether I'm supposed to be grateful or what. And second, why should God choose a 74 year old white man as his representative on earth? Wasn't his troop all made up of young, handsome dark men? And third, why would God tell him to recklessly smash the shit out of four parked cars? Surely, God would have better things to do with his time on Sunday morning?

I feel kind of pissed off really as I was asleep in bed and missed it. I mean, this could be one of those occasions that they'll write about when they put out *The Holy Bible*, vol. II in 6,000 years time. Should I just pray for a repeat next week, or does God only hit a time like Bloomington just the one time? Also, I feel ingrateful because given the choice, I'd rather have my car back than witness God striking twice. Should I try praying for the return of my car as was? If so, for how long would be an appropriate length of time to set aside? Forty days and forty nights seem to ring a bell. I've never been in this situation before, so I'm in need of guidance

--Yours Waiting for A Sign

Dear Waiting,

One must understand, living here in Bloomington-Normal, that anything that is not an act of State Farm is an act of God. After all, every fifth building around here houses either a State Farm branch or a place of worship. Let's look at some other basic facts that you seem to misunderstand.

Like the nature of insurance: an insurance policy is only good for events that the insurer expects to happen. Unexpected events are never covered. These are acts of God. These acts seem to be negative--things like billboards falling down on people's houses. Ms. Hippie has never heard this phrase officially used in the context of *pleasant* unexpected events--like finding a hundred dollar bill on the parkway or having a second orgasm. In fact, *these* would ordinarily be labeled as acts of the devil.

Next, let's look at the nature of institutional language. At its best, it has a rather elegant indirectness. Consider, for example, all the signs you see that ask you to do something completely against human nature "for your convenience." Thus, we can assume that an "act of god" has nothing to do with the deity or religion. It is merely the insurance company's nice way to say "a nasty, messy event that we want nothing to do with." With this translation, you will see that your theological questions are useless. Most are.



Ms. Hippie suspects that neither State Farm nor God will be replacing your car. For your convenience, you may do so.

Dear Ms. Hippie,

At the age of 31 I am suddenly compelled to put happy faces at the end of my letters, etc. Is this a sign of complete mental debility? Any suggestions?

--A Happy Camper

Dear Camper,

Complete mental debility? Very likely not. If you live in Bloomington-Normal, then your signature happy faces could be an unconscious compensatory gesture on your part. You could be trying to convince yourself that every day spent here is a day spent in paradise. Or perhaps you're unconsciously trying to convince your friends of that in an effort to get them to return your visits?

However, you may indeed have cause to worry. It's possible that you've become brainwashed by watching too much television coverage of the three current frontrunners in the presidential race.

Remember, George Bush appropriated Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy" hit song for his 1988 presidential campaign, effectively gutting that little ditty of all irony and wit. And look where *that* got us.

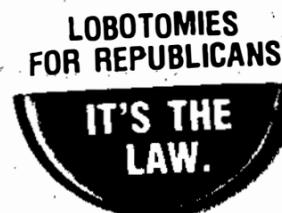
While George and His Suits fiddled away, the urban poor exploded in quite understandable rage when the Rodney King verdict came down.

Now Bill Clinton has started playing that same tune on his saxophone for people whose lives are so terrible that they're forced to watch him play solo on "Late Night With David Letterman."

And our spy close to Ross Perot reports that the Texas Terror is already ordering that his White House stationary (should he have need of it) be embossed with smiley faces. Rumor has it he'll then use that stationary to notify both Houses of Congress that he's setting aside the Constitution and suspending the Bill of Rights in order to make Amerika truly corporate.

But perhaps, dear Camper, things aren't that dire.

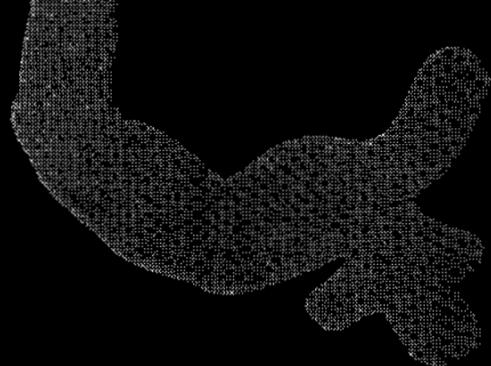
Ms. Hippie advises you to have your drinking water checked and to avoid Republican fundraisers. Perhaps subscribing to *Utne Reader* and *Mother Jones*, in addition to the *Post Amerikan*, would help.



Above all else, stop drawing those smiley faces! You can get over it! And once you do, if you're inclined to turning a profit to donate to some worthy leftie cause, you can write a book about your recovery, tell viewers of Oprah and Phil to buy your book, and maybe run weekend workshops for compulsive smiley face doodlers, and charge them outrageous registration fees.

That way you'll not only underwrite a worthy cause, but you might also put in end to the more absurd forms of the "recovery movement" and thereby perform public service of infinite value.

Rape Crisis Center of McLean County



We're a non-profit volunteer group whose main purpose is to offer assistance and support to victims of sexual assault and their friends and families.

Female and male volunteers answer your calls and are available for crisis assistance, information and speaking engagements. You may request to speak only with female volunteers.

If you want to talk to one of us
Call PATH 827-4005
and ask for the
RAPE CRISIS CENTER



News from Voice

Mark your calendars now, the *Second Annual Lefty Follies Variety Show* and Harvest Moon Dance will be held October 24th, 1992.

Look for More information in the next *Post Amerikan*.

On April 30, 1992, the U.S. House of Representatives, for the second time in six months, voted overwhelmingly to stop the implementation of President Bush's Title X family planning gag rule.

The House voted 268-150 to pass H.R. 3090, which extends the Title X program for five years and writes the old standard for pregnancy counseling - non-directive counseling on all options - into law.

Last November the House voted 272-156 for the Labor - HHS appropriations bill that contained a rider stopping the gag rule. President Bush vetoed the bill, and the House failed by only 12 votes to muster the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto.

The newly passed bill now goes to a House-Senate conference that will craft a compromise for action by both houses.

Contact Representative Tom Ewing, let him know where you stand on this issue and remind him that you'll be voting in November.

Source: *Insider*

Voice for Choice is asking for your help. As you recall, we are less than pleased with College Hills Mall because of their discriminatory treatment of Planned Parenthood. We are asking pro-choice people to save their receipts from any stores in College Hills Mall that they shop at and mail *Voice for Choice* a copy of the receipts. Please block out your credit card number if you charged your purchase. We have contacted the stores in the mall to ask them to put pressure on the mall administration. If Planned Parenthood is denied booth space next April for "Start Talking Week" we will declare a boycott of the mall. The receipts will be useful in letting merchants know how much shopping pro-choice people do in their stores each year.

Send your receipts to: *Voice for Choice*
P.O. Box 905 Bloomington, IL 61702-0905

"I'm not registered to vote because voting is a waste of time."

Yes, it's hard to vote for politicians who are less than ideal. Yes, there are a lot of politicians who are up for sale to the highest bidder. But if you don't vote, someone else will.

And "someone else" is the rich and powerful who profit the most from the Reagan/Bush administrations. They're all registered, and they will vote.

While most of the working class is catching hell trying to put food on our families' tables, the rich and powerful are finding new ways to screw us.

Protesting against unfair, corrupt politics by not voting is like protesting against unfair job conditions by staying home. You only hurt yourself.

Register. And vote.

The entire NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be unfolded in Washington D.C. from October 9-11, 1992. The focus of the event will be to draw attention to the need for an immediate, continuing and compassionate response to AIDS. Call 1-800-221-NAMES for more information.

The Supreme Court will likely announce their decision in the Casey case this summer. This is the Pennsylvania law that, if upheld, will virtually gut *Roe vs Wade*. *Voice for Choice* is working on planning some events once that happens. The problem of course is that we won't know when it's going to happen until it happens. If you would like to be on our list to contact regarding this event please call 828-3108, leave your name, address and phone number and reason for your call. We will add you to our phone tree and contact you to notify you of the date, place and time of the action.



Voice for Choice is looking for volunteers to march with us in the annual Labor Day Parade. Last year we were verbally assaulted by a number of anti-choicers in a number of locations. We would like to make a statement of strength regarding the pro-choice movement in this community through the parade. Did we mention that last year the Christian Action Council also marched? Women, men and children are all invited. We hope to have a float to go along with the Supreme Court Potato Heads we had last year. You can call us at 828-3108 for more information or just meet us on September 7, 1992, at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Planned Parenthood office at 318 W. Washington St., Bloomington. We will have someone escort you to our place in the parade lineup.

For those of you who were wondering, Planned Parenthood has appealed the decision of the United Way of McLean County to withdraw \$20,000 of the \$26,000 it usually awards to Planned Parenthood. *Voice for Choice* offered the United Way an opportunity to fully explain the rationale behind this decision (what you may have read in the *Pantagraph*, according to United Way insiders, was not the whole truth). We also asked the United Way to share with us the criteria they use in evaluating prevention programs. The United Way declined both requests. The United Way will announce their decision regarding the appeal on June 12, 1992. We will keep you informed as to what is happening.

Voice for Choice is looking for a pro-choice poster person. We are offering a free pro-choice t-shirt to the first person to send us a good photo of one of the anti-choicers picketing outside of Planned Parenthood. Taking the photo is perfectly legal so long as the individual is participating in a public demonstration. Picketing is a public demonstration. Because we will want to enlarge the photo, (life size if possible) we will also probably need the negative. We hope to have a life size cut out available. As a fundraiser people can pose with the cut out and have their picture taken with an infamous anti-choicer.

Mail your photo entry to: *Voice for Choice*, P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905. Be sure to enclose your name, address and home phone number.

On April 23, New York City's condom distribution program for city schools survived its first legal challenge.

The lawsuit filed against New York City Schools Chancellor and the New York City Board of Education was dismissed. The lawsuit, filed by a board member four parents of students, claimed that the schools' condom distribution program violates the plaintiffs' religious freedom. The suit also claimed that the program is a health service that should require parental consent.

The judge ruled that the school program does not violate religious freedom because no student is forced to participate. He also ruled that the program cannot be defined as a "health service" under state law and therefore does not require parental consent.

Source: *Insider*

Sociologist Maria Osmond of Florida State University studied condom use among 620 high risk women in Dade and Broward Counties. She found that "women generally would not negotiate condom use with someone with whom they have an emotional investment...For many, this person may be her only emotional support and her only economic support. Often, he represents her only home."

Ms. Osmond found that when prostitutes made the condom-use decision with clients, 92 percent used condoms in half or more of their sexual encounters. When women made the decision with primary partners, however, only 49 percent used condoms more than half the time. Condom use dropped further when men, especially husbands and lovers, made the decision or it was not discussed. Ms. Osmond says, "These women know the risks but can't plug their knowledge into action with men they are dependent on or in love with."

Source: *United Press International*, March 18, 1992

Pro-choice Republicans are criticizing and threatening party leaders, saying they should reverse the GOP's long-held opposition to legal abortion.

The party's platform now calls for a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

Abortion rights supporters vowed to take the fight to August's GOP convention, warning of November defections.

"Pro-choice voters are becoming single-issue voters...It should alarm you," said Ann Stone, leader of Republicans for Choice.



for Choice

But Phyllis Schlafly, head of the Republican National Coalition for Life, said, "the American people... respect public officials who have strong convictions and stick to them." Gosh you're right Phyllis, that must be why we respect George Bush so gosh darned much.

The exact wording of the Republican party's 1988 party platform is "The unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a human life amendment."

You'll notice that this wording implies that the fetus would take precedence over the mother's life under all circumstances.

The Democratic party platform states "The fundamental right of reproductive choice should be guaranteed regardless of ability to pay."

• • •

A new test cuts to two days, from four weeks, the time needed to diagnose contagious tuberculosis.

It could help contain the devastating lung disease, staging a strong comeback in cities and among those with weakened immune systems.

Among the causes: new strains resistant to the drugs that helped reduce TB cases to a low of 22,000 in 1985.

The current test involves culturing bacteria, which takes up to a month. Meanwhile, the bacteria is spread by coughing or sneezing.

The new method detects the TB genetic material in cough secretions, says Dr. Kathleen Eisenach, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock.

She reports today to the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans.

Using the new test:
*84 of 85 infected patients tested positive
*62 of 64 not infected tested negative.

Although it's usually curable with drugs, untreated TB has a 50% mortality rate. Test kits are expected to be available by next year.

• • •

More than 100 abortion protesters converged on a Champaign clinic on April 17. Many of the protesters entered the building and blocked hallways.

The protesters chained themselves together with bicycle locks. Two locksmiths were called to the clinic to cut through the chains. Other protesters taped metal rods around their forearms, making their arrests more difficult. The remaining protesters were outside of the clinic blocking doors, singing, praying and reading from the Bible. The idiots also tried to rush the clinic doors.

The protest was organized by *Collegians Activated to Liberate Life*. Peter Heers of Concord, California, a spokesman for that groups said the protest - "a regional rescue" was the year-old groups first such effort. Heers admitted that the protesters were largely from out-of-town and consisted of students from eight states and 25 colleges.

The group vowed to be back the next day but only a handful of protesters showed up. Unfortunately for the patients of the clinic (the clinic provides full medical services for women including fertility treatment and exams) the protesters screamed things like "It's never alright to kill your baby."



"BESIDE ANGRY LETTERS DEMANDING A PARENTAL LEAVE LAW... IS THERE ANTHING ELSE YOU REALLY NEED?"

Anyone interested in serving as a clinic escort can call *Voice for Choice* for more information.

• • •

An internal memo released by an official with the dept. of Health and Human Services has advised the Bush administration that special funding to research women's health issues is not necessary. If the Bush administration heeds this memo look for them to cut funding for research into breast cancer, ovarian cancer, endometriosis, and a host of other issues specific to women. The underlying message seems to be that if wealthy white men can't get it it's not important enough to study.

• • •

May 13th was declared lobby day in Springfield. The focus of the day was a General Assembly resolution supporting the import of RU486 into the U.S. for testing. Local Planned Parenthood Board members and supporters attended the event. Senator Maitland was unsure of his vote on this issue. Gordon Ropp appeared supportive of the resolution.

Source: *Students for Choice News*

• • •

The Bush administration recently announced its plans to establish fetal tissue banks for the purpose of research. The banks would collect the tissue from miscarriages and spontaneous abortions. Even Bush administration officials admit that the plan is worthless, there are two problems: 1. there won't be enough tissue to carry out the kind of research needed; and, 2. the tissue from miscarried fetuses will likely be damaged, deformed or diseased thereby rendering it useless.

Supporters of the Bush plan state that more abortions would be performed annually if the tissue of aborted fetuses were made available. Apparently they believe that more women would feel that abortion was okay as long as the fetus could be used for medical research. Absurd.

The use of fetal tissue research, and implantation is vital to the study of many diseases, including leukemia and AIDS. Those who oppose the use of fetal tissue for such purposes are costing individuals their lives each day that research is delayed.

The really ironic part is that this is some of the same technology that the right to lifers hold up as reason why deformed fetuses should not be aborted. Go figure.

The U.S. House recently voted in favor of legislation removing the restrictions on fetal tissue research. Unfortunately they probably don't have enough votes to over ride a promised veto.

• • •

For those of you who were wondering, according to Randall Terry of Operation Rescue, he "hates the renaissance."

• • •

Dr. Sharon Weaver, prominent anti-choice ob/gyn is apparently angry with the Women's Studies Dept. at I.S.U. As part of the Women's History Month celebration the Women's Studies Dept. held a panel discussion, the topic, child birth options. Represented on the panel were a physician, a nurse, anti-choice midwife, a consumer and a health educator. Weaver was apparently upset that women were given information about options to traditional childbirthing.

Not only does Dr. Weaver want to force you to have the baby, she wants to force you into having it in the hospital.

• • •

Voice for Choice could still use donations (surprisingly enough we don't get any money from anyone but our supporters). All donations are appreciated, they may be sent to: *McLean County Voice for Choice, P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905.*

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CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN A REAL DEMOCRAT FOR CHANGE

We can help make history.

Carol Moseley Braun is trying to become the first African-American woman to ever serve in the United States Senate. Carol is a strong candidate with a record of supporting -- and leading -- progressive causes. She is not a typical politician; she represents you and me and the things in which we believe.

And she needs our help. If you are willing to donate your time, your money, or your resources (food, computer, etc.), please call McLean County Citizens for Carol Moseley Braun at 828-3108 or 828-1066.



Some intoxicating facts

Dear Post Amerikan Readers:

Although the Bloomington *Pantagraph* has always been a little too conservative for our leftie blood, the *Peoria Journal Star* has shown some refreshing diversity as of late. In their "Forum" for reader mail, several letters on both sides of the marijuana issue have been printed. But the following letter, written by a certain hippie we know, was just a little too close to the truth for even the *Journal Star* to print. Of course we're printing it, and it contains enough references to the other letters to be self-explanatory. We hope you appreciate the brutal truth.

I read with interest Dr. Richard Horndasch's April 20 response to an earlier letter to the editor in the *Peoria Journal Star* "Forum" regarding marijuana. Dr. Horndasch has been provided with the tools of knowledge but, like so many others, he wields them as weapons to help the government wage its "war on drugs" which, in the case of marijuana, has been a war of disinformation.

Dr. Horndasch is in distinguished company. The last person to criticize a "Forum" letter that advocated legalization, Michael Banks, currently under Federal indictment for embezzling money from the Community Action Agency, where Banks is the executive director. Banks has already offered a guilty plea, proving that those who try to attack marijuana use on moral grounds all too often have little to brag about when it comes to morality. [Editor's Note: The guilty plea was rejected by the judge and a new trial has been set.

Dr. Horndasch mentioned a study at the Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, stating that marijuana traces were more common than alcohol in the blood samples from trauma patients. The doctor chose not to mention that a patient could take one toké from a joint, inhale deeply, and not be substantially impaired, yet the evidence will still show up in his blood 30 days later.

Even if the patient smoked a whole joint and stayed stoned for two hours, that gives 360-to-1 odds that this patient with traces of pot in his blood was actually stoned at the time the trauma occurred. Compare this to the drunken killers on our highways, who can be completely alcohol-free hours later.

Naturally most pot smokers (and most drinkers) are intoxicated more than two hours per month, so the odds are a little better than that. I've just tried to show that by introducing the 30-day timespan required by the medical facts, it's unfair to blame all these trauma incidents on pot, or to leap to the conclusion that it's more dangerous than alcohol. There are just too many variables.

I've also tried to show how isolating one variable can distort the whole picture by showing only a small part of it. It is profoundly irresponsible to suggest, as Dr. Horndasch did with his selective use of the facts, that alcohol is safer than pot. In any direct comparison, pot is far safer than alcohol, tobacco, and many of the drugs that doctors prescribe.

The earlier letter that he was responding to was written by my friend, Eric Vaughn, and published in the "Forum" on April 14. I saw the letter before it was sent in. Eric never claimed that smoking pot was entirely risk-free. The editors of the *Journal Star* edited out the following: "In all fairness I must observe that driving a car, or operating any other machinery, is very dangerous, whether you're intoxicated on alcohol or pot."

In fact, the National Traffic Safety Board spent a few hundred thousand tax dollars in 1970 to find out that stoned drivers aren't as dangerous as drunk drivers. Both are dangerous because the motor skills (such as depth perception and eye-hand coordination) were equally impaired. But the psychological effects of the two drugs were very different. Drunk drivers became overconfident and reckless, while stoned drivers more often became overcautious.

Eric also discussed the psychological addiction that was described at the World Health Organization Conference. However, he was right to say that pot is not physically addictive, unlike alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, aspirin and most prescription drugs.

Also, Eric was right to claim that pot can't kill the user through "medical effects." Alcohol, aspirin and prescription drugs can kill by overdose; also, the deadly long-term effects of alcohol and tobacco addiction are well-known. Marijuana does none of these things. Dr. Horndasch knows all this, yet he chose to divert attention to trauma patients with traces of pot in their blood.

Above the doctor's letter on April 20, the *Journal Star* editors quite rightly criticized the

The Post Resource

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/ Central Illinois (ACT UP/CI)

PO Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702
827-6841

Meetings: Alternating Thursdays,
7 p.m. at Up Front Gallery,
102 N. Center, 2nd floor, Bloomington.

Amnesty International/ISU

146 Braden
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761
454-2902, ask for Scott

Meetings: Alternating Sundays,
8 p.m., 112 Fairchild, ISU.

Bloomington/Normal Anti-War Coalition

829-3701

Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA)

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
438-2GAY (0429)

Meetings: Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
ISU campus
Fairchild Hall 112

ISU Feminist Alliance

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
436-0383, ask for Kate Eisenhour
436-0134, ask for Jenny Melnick

Meetings: Check ISU *Vidette*
for meeting time and location

Men Against Rape

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761

Meetings: Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Stevenson 352,
ISU

McLean County AIDS Task Force

Phoneline: 827-2437 (827-AIDS)
Monday-Thursday, 7-10 p.m.

Info recording at other times.
Emergency/crisis: PATH, 827-4005
Meetings: First Thursday of every month. Call
for information.

McLean County Human Rights Coalition

c/o Voice for Choice
PO Box 905
Bloomington, IL 61702
828-3108, ask for Linda

McLean County Voice for Choice

PO Box 905
Bloomington, IL 61702
828-3108, ask for Linda
Meetings: Alternating Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Call for meeting info.
Newsletter subscription: \$4.00 donation re-
quested

Post Amerikan Newspaper

PO Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702
828-7232, leave a message
827-6841, ask for Scott
Meetings: Call for information
Subscriptions: \$4.00 for one year (six issues)

Progressive Student Union (PSU)

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
452-3781, Angie
452-7955, Michelle
Meetings: Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., DeGarmo 551,
ISU.

Rape Crisis Center

Use PATH phoneline
827-4005

Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
Meetings: Alternating Wednesdays,
7 p.m., Schroeder 415, ISU.

Students for Choice

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
454-8587, ask for Lainie
Meetings: Thursday evenings,
8:30 p.m., Schroeder 114, ISU



An open letter

government for its two-year entrapment campaign against a Nebraska farmer. In that case the crime alleged was child pornography, but the tactics used in the "war on drugs" are no less appalling and far more common. They include both entrapment and invasion of privacy, and they're being used right here in central Illinois.

Believe it or not, obedience to the Bill of Rights can result in effective police work. It just means that the police have to work. But the lawyers, judges, and even a few doctors are getting rich fighting the war on drugs, just based on their salaries. As if that weren't enough, Operation Graylord showed that some of the judges, cops and prosecutors take bribes.



And some of these guardians of truth, justice and the Amerikan way are the worst junkies of all. Power is a very addictive drug and it's an incredible high. As Henry Kissinger observed, power is also the ultimate aphrodisiac. Whenever the cops break down a door, slap the handcuffs on or abuse a prisoner --- whenever prosecutors ask for harsh sentences and judges oblige them --- the power junkies among them are getting a fix. Any junkie who needs a fix will break a few rules.

The editors asserted that "there is a limit to government witch hunts." In the Middle Ages, church and king allied themselves to prey upon anyone who was a little different, or who lived alone. When the poor victim was burned at the stake, church and king divided her property equally among themselves. Widows and other single women who owned land were most frequently targeted, because the authorities had something to gain and because these victims couldn't fight back effectively.

In the modern witch hunt, the government preys on minorities and hippies because they're a little different, and because they can't fight back effectively. Although the "grunts" of the war on drugs may actually believe they are doing it for the good of society, the "generals" have their own motives. They have a socio-political agenda that the drug war is only a small part of.

In the opinion of the social engineers of the right, the hippies and minorities who are a little different have to be beaten into submission and conformity. Pot symbolizes the defiance of the left against the orthodoxy of the right; therefore, the drug war is the perfect weapon to beat them down with. It has been carefully custom-designed to bash hippies and minorities.

While defendants risk lengthy prison sentences, asset forfeiture goes on at the same time in civil court, where the government doesn't have to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. In fact, in asset forfeiture a defendant is guilty until he proves himself innocent, just like the old witchcraft trials. And the judge, almost always, is an ex-prosecutor.

It's impossible to prove a negative. After the inevitable verdict, like church and king, the law enforcement agencies divide the spoils of war. There is no limit to this government witch hunt. It's more and more stylish for our courts and our legislators to support the war on drugs, by relaxing the rules that govern police and by providing them with more money and more power.

There's the law, and then there's justice; when it comes to marijuana, they are definitely not one and the same. Treating harmless pot smokers with the same harshness (and the same disregard for civil rights) as the heavily-armed crack dealers is an outrage. The government's war on marijuana exemplifies everything that is wrong with our government.

Yes, Dr. Horndasch, it would be smart to get the facts. But let's get all the facts, shall we? I believe that continuing this public dialogue is very important. Once the public is fully informed, the hypocrisy of the war on marijuana and the Byzantine mercenaries who are getting rich fighting it will be fully revealed.

A.J.

Human Rights Coalition collecting evidence of sexual orientation discrimination

The McLean County Human Rights Coalition would like to know if you have ever been discriminated against based on sexual orientation. We believe that it is time Bloomington/Normal had a human rights ordinance that protected the rights of gays and lesbians.

We have been told by some city government insiders that it would be helpful if we could point to some actual cases of discrimination, then we could prove the need for the ordinance. Apparently thus far they have not acted on such an ordinance stating that no one is demanding one and that there is no proof of need.



If you have been discriminated against please contact us c/o P.O. Box 905, Bloomington. If you do not wish the information to be used publicly, please let us know.

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Guatemala 1992

Peace and social justice nowhere in sight

Guatemala 1992: Peace and social justice nowhere in sight

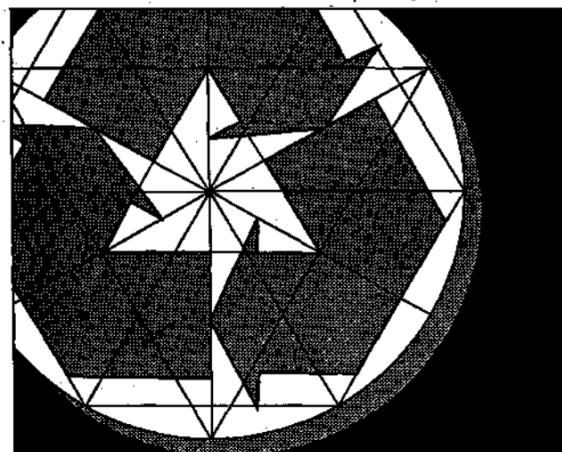
Our man in Central America, Jon Reed, reminds Post Amerikan readers that the struggle for a decent life for all is not limited to the United States.

Marching with the army of the disenfranchised

In the mid-day heat, 2,000 Guatemalan *campesinos* and workers are marching silently north along the Pacific Coast highway. After hiking five days and 125 miles, after spirited rallies of plantation field workers and trade unionists in the conflictive zones of Coatepeque, Tealhuleu, Mazatenango, Patulul, Santa Lucia, and Escuintla, these apparently tireless campaigners--members of the UASP (the Union of Trade Unionists and Popular Movements)--are a mere 12 miles from their final protest site, Guatemala City.

The hand-lettered sandwich-board style signs draped over the shoulders of the Mayan-featured men walking next to me explain what's happening: "Farmworker families are dying of hunger"; "The minimum wage (supposedly \$2 a day) is a wage of starvation, and the *patrones* (the land and factory owners) are not even paying that"; "While corruption and impunity persist, there can be no peace"; "The only peace that exists is the peace of the cemeteries."

A straw-hatted, barefooted *compa* smiles as he hands me a leaflet for the CUC (the United Campesino Committee). It reads: "For Life, Land, Employment, and Peace." On the other side it says that Guatemalans have a right to struggle for a small piece of land, for human rights, for a just salary, for humane working conditions, for the right to organize unions, and for a just and negotiated peace.



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An eight-year old boy, Israel, temporarily resting with some of the other children, admits to being "very tired," but he says he has to "help his father." Since Israel's father lost his job (like 535 others on the march--because of trade union activity) their family has been eating only what they can find, "wild herbs and grasses and a few fish from the river."

The Mayan Gulag

The mountains and volcanos in the distance are majestic, but unfortunately peace and social justice are nowhere in sight. Listening to the stories of these embattled *campesinos*, I see that economic deprivation and injustice have reached new levels of barbarity.

While the newspapers and television are filled with reports of corruption and bribery while banks, military officials, and right-wing businessmen are awash in narco-dollars; while new exclusive housing developments are mushrooming in Zone 15 of the capital; 85% of the population, according to the latest statistics, are living in poverty. As President Serrano and his U.S. and other international creditors herald successful "economic adjustment," and the government prepares to levy new taxes on the poor (while reducing taxes for the wealthy), the so-called "Program of Tax Modernization," prices are rising for life-and-death necessities, and wages--for those "fortunate" enough to have a job--are falling.

Meanwhile, behind the facade of this tourist and foreign investor's paradise, savage repression continues. Activist *maquiladora* workers and plantation field hands, like many of those here on the march, who are caught trying to organize unions or fight government austerity measures, are routinely fired, threatened, and/or killed by death-squads.

As a human rights lawyer recently reminded me, among the most often over-looked and oppressed victims in this "Mayan Gulag" are the indigenous women (80% illiterate, highest unemployment, lowest earnings, longest working hours, lowest nutritional intake) and their children, 40,000 of whom die annually from easily preventable, medically curable diseases, starvation, or chronic malnutrition.

Murder, Inc., still in business

According to reports in the national press, there have been 150 political assassinations and disappearances in the last four months [dating backward from April 1, 1992]. The organizers of the march UASP, have denounced the death threats, which have been made this month [March, 1992] against all of their leaders.

While a military-connected commando set off a bomb on a University building in Guatemala City a few days ago, (a sequel to the bombing of the University Students' Association (AEU) headquarters in February, 1992), this week's terror has been especially concentrated in the Pacific Coast agro-export zone, where left-wing URNG guerilla activity and grassroots organizing have been advancing steadily. The *Costa Sur* is the agricultural heart of the country, and its land monopolies and slave-labor conditions are the key to the continued dominance of the oligarchy and the military.



Among this week's notable and grisly events in the southern region are the discovery of a clandestine mass grave in San Marcos containing a half dozen corpses of women who previously had "disappeared"; a "kangaroo court" judicial hearing in Coatepeque investigating the case of a Mexican journalist (whom the Army claims was killed in combat, fighting alongside URNG), who actually had been kidnapped, tortured and killed by counter-insurgency officers; a 19-year old man robbed and murdered by the assistant chief of police in Coatepeque; a small-businessman from Escuintla, robbed and shot to death by the National Police; a schoolteacher who worked on a plantation near Mazatenango "mysteriously" assassinated; a *campesino* in Santa Rosa murdered, death-squad style, by a group of armed men, in the presence of his family; another Santa Rosa farmer, dragged out of his house and machine-gunned by a squad of heavily-armed assassins; and finally, indiscriminate attacks by Guatemalan Air Force jet fighters and helicopters on civilian-populated zones near Nuevo San Carlos, Retalhuleu and Rio Bravo, Suchitepequez.

Peace talks at an impass--armed resistance continues

Near Villa Buevo, the march passes the remains of a downed and twisted 30 kilovolt electrical transmission tower. The tower was blown up by URNG guerillas on March 26 as part of their ongoing economic sabotage campaign. Although the URNG has been negotiating with the Guatemalan government for the last two years, both the URNG and the above ground popular movement have recently criticized President Serrano and the military high-command for their intransigence. As the URNG put it in a communique released this morning [April 1, 1992], "the peace negotiations are not advancing, and in fact they are at an impasse..." Specifically, the government, even in its own words, is refusing to negotiate the dissolution of the Civil Patrols; the military draft; a reduction in army forces (currently 43,000 troops) or military spending (\$322 million--a 64% increase since 1985); the formation of a "truth commission" to investigate human rights abuses (over 150,000 assassinations and disappearances) or to discuss the "humanization" of the war in regard to the wounded, the captured, the displaced, and the civilian population in general.

In response, 3,500 guerillas of the URNG have stepped up their attacks, carrying out takeovers of numerous fincas, roadways, and villages in the southern plantation zone as well as in the departments of Quiche, El Petem, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, and the capital area itself. Over the last month, the URNG has inflicted over forty casualties on government troops, and has caused significant material damage in sabotage attacks. In turn, the government has returned to its old rhetoric, calling the URNG "delinquents and terrorists." Government and military spokespersons who have been gone so far this week as to claim that guerillas are linked to the drug cartels, a charge highly ironic given the frequent and undeniable links (cited even by the United States' own Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala) between Guatemalan military officials, the police, government bureaucrats, businessmen, and cocaine traffickers.



And in regard to to the country's increasing crime wave, which has led to a "tourist travel advisory" on the part of the U.S. State Department, recent statistics indicate that as many as 80% of all violent crimes in Guatemala are committed by active-duty or "ex-" military or police officers.

In this period of economic austerity, the death squads and the security forces are apparently branching out from murder and kidnapping into bank robberies, car thefts, extortion, and cocaine smuggling.

In March 1992 alone, over 50,000 *campesinos* have taken over garbage dumps, vacant farmland, or literally any space they can find for shelter. According to the government planning office, Guatemala needs at least 800,000 more dwellings--if it were to house adequately its burgeoning population of nine million people. Fearing anarchy, and citing the need to "develop" some day Villa Lobos III, the government sent in 400 armed riot police on March 26, 1992 to evict the squatters and tear down their shacks.

As we arrive chanting in the industrial outskirts of the capital, the column gradually swells to 5,000. Squads of spraypainters, with red bandanas over their faces, remain active. They have literally left a trail of educational messages behind us that stretches all the way to Coatepeque.

A wall of sympathetic bystanders, coming out from dusty and grimy factories, shops, and stores take leaflets and voice their verbal or express silently their support. In front of the Coca-Cola factory, union members hand out free cokes and Fantas to the thirsty crowd.

At the Trebol Park, we are joined by hundreds of trade unionists and indigenous women in their traditional clothing--representing GAM (families of the disappeared) and CONAVIGUA (war widows)--as well as by a contingent of hooded and robed students from the AEU, who are brandishing wooden clubs and steel pipes, to defend us no doubt, should the march be attacked. The black and white hoods and robes are the traditional garb for a forthcoming student anti-government, anti-military protest march, *La Huelga de los Dolores*, [which took place around April 11, 1992].

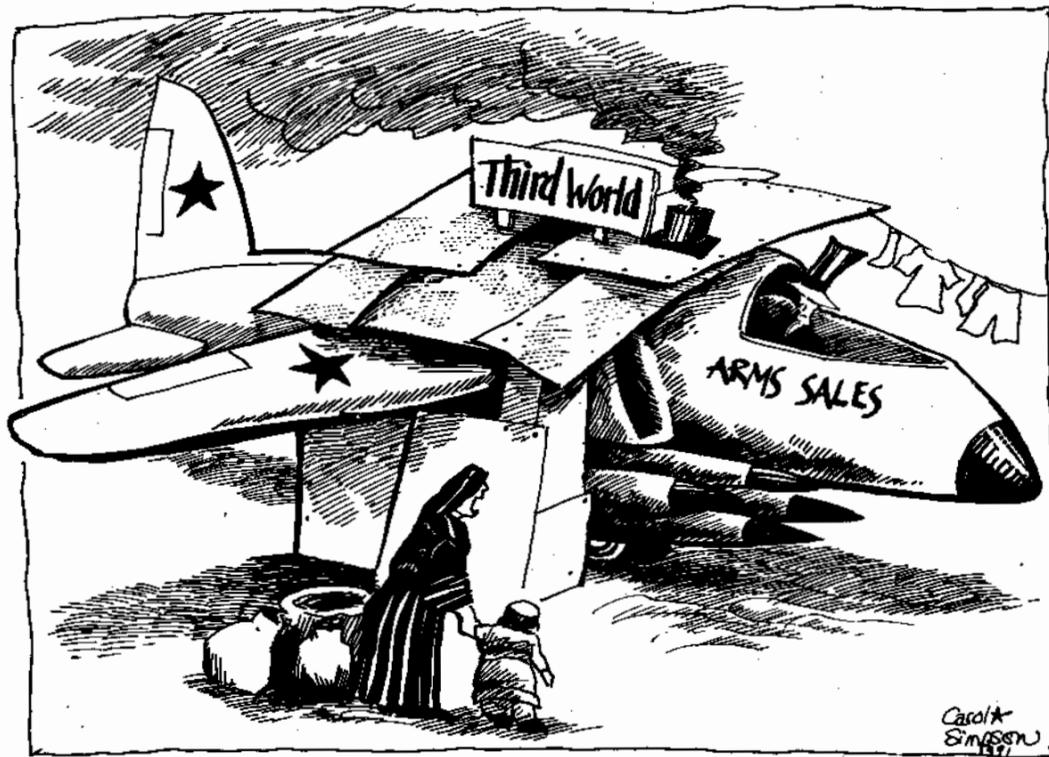
The end of the road, but not the end of the struggle

After a lively march through the crowded rush-hour streets of downtown, Guatemala City, we arrive at nightfall at the Plaza Mayor, in front of the National Palace. Although a rainstorm drenched us a half-hour ago, we are now at least 10,000 strong, and a palpable sense of accomplishment and confidence seems to animate the crowd.

Byron Morales from the UASP is cheered as he denounces the the government for the illegal firing of workers, the continued impunity of human rights violators, the lack of social, labor, and economic justice, and the impasse in the peace negotiations. Pointing at the National Palace, Morales says it all: "This is a government of the rich."

After the rally ends, the 2,000 marchers from the Southern Coast make the decision to camp out in front of the National Palace until President Serrano agrees to meet their demands. Overhead the sky has cleared. Many of the exhausted marchers are already sprawled out on the stone plaza, sleeping. A few stars are visible. But an end to this struggle seems nowhere in sight.

--Jon Reed



"IT'S...UH... NICE, BUT WHERE DO WE SLEEP?"

Villa Lobos III--life in a garbage dump

After several more hours, we come upon an enormous *barranca* or street hillside, a favored spot for the military and police to dump bodies, as well as the site of a large garbage dump, where over the past few weeks, 18,000 homeless squatters built an entire village of cardboard and plastic shacks, called Villa Lobos III.

Similar evictions have been taking place all over the country. But some of the evicted families here have already returned, rebuilding their flimsy dwellings. With a backdrop of buzzards and young children scavenging in the mounds of garbage, a group of pregnant women rather uncomfortably pose for a news photographer. Asked why they had returned, one young mother, holding a child in her arms, says simply, "We had no choice."

IT WHITENS

IT MOISTENS

IT BRIGHTENS

MAKES LIPS FULLER



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Use rubberbands to strap a damp sponge to your lips while you sleep (improper application may cause suffocation or drowning).

Try staring at the sun for twenty minutes each day (may cause retinal damage).

Try pinching each lip 25 times before bedtime (may cause undue swelling and/or loss of color).

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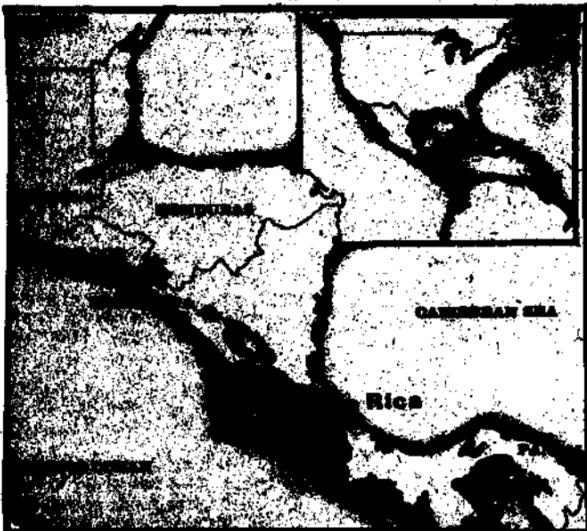


Police Terror Highlights Social Decay in Costa Rica

Once again, the Post Amerikan's man in Central America, this time reporting from Costa Rica, notes that things are no better there than they are in Guatemala.

"The Security forces of Costa Rica have ceased to be agents of peace, and instead have become converted into agents of violence, repressing the population which they are supposed to be serving.

-- Dr. Hugo Alfonso Munoz
National Assembly Deputy

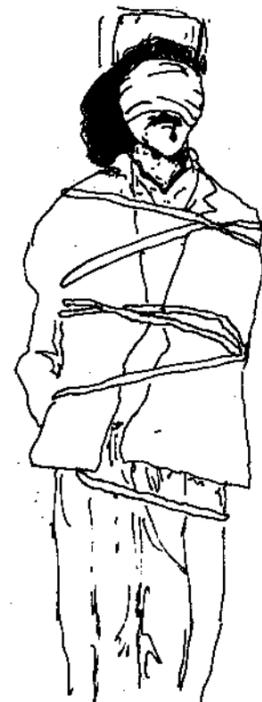


Over a five day rampage the drug warriors handcuff and threaten a five-year old Indian girl whose mother has been "uncooperative"; set fire to Indian huts; rob, assault, and intimidate villagers; spray-paint houses with death threats; beat and starve their hostages; and rape two indigenous women, one aged 15, the other 24. Informed on Feb 22 that his men had killed two suspects, the *Guardia* commander, Col. Carlos Poveda, for the Limon zone does nothing. On Feb 24, fearing public outcry, Poveda orders that the 12 police marauders be taken into custody and charged. At the moment of their arrest the Cobra Commanders are enjoying themselves in a bar in Puerto Moin, just north of Limon.

Right-wing Costa Rican President, Rafael Calderon, reacts to this reign of terror by declaring in San Jose that he sees no reason to discipline or fire Col Poveda, despite the fact that the Colonel inexplicably waited almost three days before detaining the members of the "Cobra Commando."

Calderon and his Minister of Security, Luis Fishman, do their best to play down the incident, emphasizing that these rural marijuana farmers are "armed and dangerous" (in their week of terror the Commandos encountered no one with weapons; that the US subsidized counter-insurgency training of the Tico *Guardia* poses no threat to the civilian populace (over 1000 of Costa Rica's security forces have been trained by US Israeli, Chilean, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and other military "experts"); and that opposition political figures in San Jose are trying to "politicize" and "over exaggerate" the implications of the incident.

Action: Behind closed doors, both Calderon and Arias admit that, yes, they and their respective political parties did accept "questionable" funds from CIA fronts, money launderers, and representatives of cocaine traffickers in the 1990's. But, they both maintain, they weren't aware that this money, these personal gifts and campaign contributions, were "tainted" at the time that they received them. And yet many informed sources, as well as ordinary citizens, seem to find the "plausible deniability" of Arias and Calderon rather hard to believe.



No, this is not Guatemala, this is Costa Rica!

Scene I: February 21, 1992.

Cunabre, Limon, a remote, impoverished, mostly indigenous-populated area in the mountainous rainforest and banana plantation region of eastern Costa Rica.

Action: a dozen heavily-armed, camouflaged-clad, specially trained rural *Guardia*, led by Rambo-style alumni of US Chilean and Israeli counter insurgency schools have apprehended a "dangerous suspect," Rolando Watson Suarez, found to be in possession of a bag of marijuana.

In the presence of a group of terrified indigenous and *campesino* "detainees," kidnapped two days earlier and forced to accompany the drug warriors as hostages and guides through the jungle, the police tie Watson to a tree and proceed to torture him. Warning Watson that they have "a license to kill," the soldiers demand to know where the marijuana fields of local Indians and small farmers are located. After Watson refuses to answer, two of the *Guardia* shoot him, at point blank range, in the chest. Later the rural guards murder another suspected *marihuaniista*, Julio Trejos, as he attempts to flee from them.

Throughout their ordeal the hostages of the drug police are warned to "watch their step" by the patrol commander, Lieut. Minor Masis, who, in his own words "loves to kill." Over the next three days the "Cobra Commandos," as they are called, continue their "anti-narco" operations, terrorizing indigenous residents unfortunate enough to live in the area.



No, this is not Columbia or Miami. This is Costa Rica

Scene II (A flashback): January 20-30, 1992. San Jose, the capital.

Costa Rican Special Legislative Commission on the Drug Trafficking. Witnesses are being called before the Commission to testify about their knowledge and/or involvement with Contra/Noriega/ CIA/Medellin Cartel cocaine trafficking: money laundering; and accepting donations. Among the more illustrious Costa Ricans brought in to testify are former President (1986-90), Oscar Arias and current President, Rafael Calderon (1990-94).

According to reports in the national press, Arias resorted to serious arm-twisting in an attempt to avoid testifying before the Commission. In one of Arias' more blatant collaborations with the anti-Sandinista drug traffickers during the Iran-contra era, it was revealed that Arias deposited a \$20,000 check from the Ocean Hunter Corporation (a front for the Reagan/Ollie North/Nicaraguan Contra network) in his own personal bank account; while Calderon and his cronies, for their part, accepted a \$100,000 campaign contribution from notorious US money-launderer Lloyd Rubin.

Other cocaine traffickers such as John Hull, Fernando Duran Ayanegui, James Casey, Sheik Kadir Sahib Tajudeen, Ricardo Alem, Lazaro Abel, Caro Quintero, and Manuel Elizalde were apparently bi-partisan--preferring to give money to both the National Liberation Party (Arias' party) and to the United Social Christian Party (Calderon's party). But of course nothing is expected to happen to either Arias or Calderon for this hanky-panky.

As the respected weekly newspaper *Semanario Universidad* put it in their Feb 7 edition: "it is doubtful that any if these revelations about narcotrafficking will bear fruit, given that this Commission itself is made up of representatives of these very same political parties: and given the world-wide nature [of drug trafficking] as well as the involvement of current government officials, security and espionage agencies, and ambassadors." After Watergate and Iran-Contra (don't forget the BCCI), this all sounds rather familiar, doesn't it?

Continued on page 17



Continued from page 16

**Yes. This is Costa Rica.
Sounds familiar?**

*Scene III: The streets of downtown San Jose.
March 1992.*

Action: Most capital residents this week say that they are appalled by the action of the *Guardia* in Limon province, but will admit to being even more preoccupied by their own financial problems; by the increase in crime all around them (up to 50%, according to some sources); and by the dramatic escalation in governmental and police arbitrariness and corruption--*chorizo* (literally "sausage" or bribery) as it is called here.

Today's newspapers routinely report yet two more police atrocities (a "specially trained" Tico policeman shoots an unarmed 18 yr old prisoner locked in his cell in Tres Rios; narco police terrorize Pacific Coast fishermen as they search for a supposedly "giant" hidden cache of Colombian cocaine), but even ordinary folks are complaining about the fallout of social decomposition.

According to tourists, whenever you take a rental car out on the highway these days you are running the risk of being shaken down for a bribe by the highway patrol. Street vendors in the capital also complain about harassment and police shakedowns. (The police, I am reminded, earn less than \$150 a month in salary). On the Avenida Central, nearly everyone, foreigner and Tico alike, seems to be clutching their hand bags or back packs today as if they expect to be mugged at any minute.

There are steel bars on literally every window and door in the metropolitan area. The radio, TV, and newspapers publicize a steady stream of robberies, rapes, assaults, and homicides. The once mostly unarmed Tico police now brandish sidearms, and even M-16s and Uzis. Gun shops report a brisk business. Special "tourist police" are on duty in downtown areas. Welcome to the New World (dis)Order.



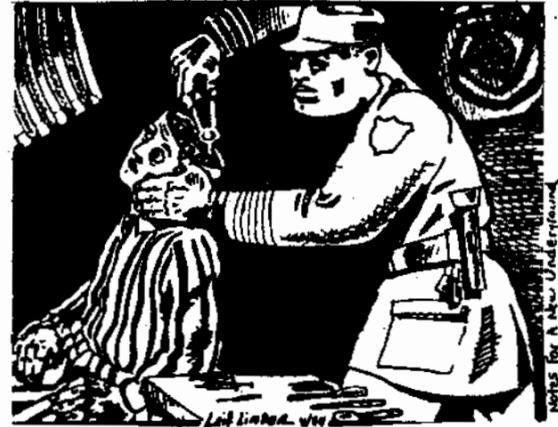
But what are the structural causes of this social malaise and militarization? What's happening to what was once the most peaceful and tranquil nation in the Americas? Most people on the street here will tell you straight out that it's the economy. The "Economic Adjustment Package" mandated by the Bush administration and the IMF are destabilizing Costa Rica, just as they are destabilizing the other countries in Latin America and the developing world.

While wages and social welfare programs are being reduced, prices are rising, unemployment is increasing, and more and more people on the bottom of the economic ladder are feeling desperate. While there are certainly more new Mercedes Benz and BMW autos on the streets (a manifestation of drug money according to many Ticos) there are more beggars and derelicts as well. While tourism and banana exports have expanded, so has the misery and poverty index.

A recent study found that 20% of the countries richest families receive 50% of the national income, while the poorest 20% obtain barely 5%. Nearly one-quarter of the Costa Rica national budget now goes to pay the interest on the country's (unpayable) four billion dollar foreign debt, making it impossible to maintain the necessary social safety net. Although the country has received much publicity for its environmental programs, Costa Rica's timber industry (and desperate *campesinos*) are deforesting the country at the world's fastest rate (5.9% per year).

For the moment there appears to be only one really "promising" economic growth industry in Costa Rica--cocaine transshipping and money laundering--which of course has its "down side." The US Embassy and local DEA operatives, taking note of this phenomena, emphasize that the Tico police must be militarized and thoroughly trained in counter-insurgency techniques. And yet recent events seem to have frightened and disillusioned even the most rabid law n' order advocates. One can only hope for the best. But, for the moment, things are not looking that good here in the "Switzerland of Central America."

--Jon Reed
San Jose, Costa Rica
March, 1992



**"Tell the people we're returning to civilian rule--
my suit's back from the cleaners."**



News from Lambda

Lambda condemns police brutality and racist oppression in King beating verdict

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund joins in the national cry of outrage over the acquittal of four white police officers who assaulted Rodney King, and expresses grief for the violence that has torn apart our cities and communities across the nation.

The tragic and devastating events that occurred in Los Angeles and other cities across the country reflect the racism so deeply entrenched in our nation's legal system, law enforcement agencies, and economic structures. The riots were horrible because they destroyed lives, businesses and homes. But now we must rebuild our communities--whether they smoulder in the fires of rioting or the fires of frustration--and forge a society that is mindful of the disastrous effects of racism and economic oppression and that is committed to eliminating these and other scourges rooted in prejudice.

What the events reveal

Many of our communities are oppressed and then pitted against each other. Exclusion and alienation from the political, legal and economic systems lead to violence. A country where police feel they can target the people they are supposed to protect is a country where abuse of power has gone unremedied too long. We must have responsible law enforcement--that is, enforcement which is not infected with racist or other dehumanizing stereotypes.

Throughout the history of this country, the assaults on vulnerable groups--native people, people of color, women, gay, lesbian and bisexual people, people with HIV/AIDS, religious minorities and others--has proliferated uninterrupted. In the last twelve years of the Reagan/Bush administrations, these attacks have only accelerated. The events in Los Angeles and other cities have shown that there is widespread police abuse of minorities--from refusing to protect women from abusive partners to entrapping gay men on "lewdness" charges to beating African-American men in the harsh light of a video witness. Clearly, racial, gender, and anti-gay stereotypes are incredibly potent and have the ability to turn human beings into non-human caricatures. We ignore this dehumanization at our imminent peril.

Hospital ordered to hire HIV+ pharmacist or lose federal funds

April 20--In the first federal civil rights enforcement action based on HIV discrimination, a federal administrative judge ruled that a major medical center in New York discriminated against an HIV-infected pharmacist when it refused to hire him without restrictions on his duties. The decision, which ordered a cut-off of all federal assistance to the hospital until it ceases its discrimination, sent a strong message that health care workers with HIV who use universal precautions pose virtually no risk to patients.

The case first arose in 1986 when the pharmacist was hired by the Westchester County Medical Center (WCMC) and came in for a routine physical. In an admitted breach of state confidentiality rules, a nurse from another section of the hospital informed the hiring physician of the pharmacist's HIV status. The Medical Center then refused to give the pharmacist his job.

Condemning those responsible

The acquittal of Rodney King's attackers and its aftermath have shown us plainly that our society must be transformed if it is to survive, and that those currently in positions of power must be held responsible for their construction and support of a system that is inaccessible and hostile to so many voices.

The cause of the violence and the rage that followed the verdict was not only the failure of twelve jurors to see Rodney King as a human being. The violence and rage result from decades of fragmentation and marginalization of people of color from and by the larger society.

Given this larger perspective, we must condemn those responsible on a systemic level: Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates; and Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. The Reagan and Bush administrations--and their conservative counterparts on the state and municipal levels--have systematically dismantled civil rights laws, purposely pitted disenfranchised groups against each other, and eroded basic human respect for nearly all Americans except the powerful privileged few.

Taking back the system, making it our own

When systems of justice and law enforcement fail us, our response must be to take back the system. We must continue to challenge the racism, classism, sexism and homophobia that prevent justice from being served. In this context, the work of lesbian, gay, and AIDS advocates, in alliance with other civil rights organizations, is more critical than ever. The survival of each of us depends on the survival of us all. A true civil rights movement combines inextricably the issues of people of color, women, gay people, people with AIDS/HIV, economically oppressed people, and people with disabilities. As Rodney King said, "We must all pull together."

We can begin doing this by forging bonds of coalition and support that are not willfully blind to the long-standing and systematically-entrenched problems of racism and classism that our different communities face. As lesbian/gay/bisexual people, we must be as committed to ending racism, sexism, and economic oppression as we are to ending homophobia. As citizens of different and overlapping communities we must call upon all of our brothers and sisters to meet us where we live and to recognize how our issues are connected.

In addition, we can begin changing this country by voicing our rage through voting. When we look at a Senate Judiciary Committee which is composed of twelve white men, we can go to the polls and vote our rage. When we examine the policies of twelve years of Reagan/Bush administrations and the decimation they have levied on social services in general and on our cities in particular, we can go to the polls and vote our rage. Everywhere--from our local school boards to our national presidential elections--we can register ourselves and our communities, we can march to the voting booths in peaceful, angry crowds, and this November and every November after, we can vote our rage.



For our part, Lambda will continue to wage the battle for human dignity and human rights in the courts and challenge the legal system to see all of us as full human beings with full human, civil, and legal rights. We will continue working to change the legal system to accept gay men, lesbians, and people with HIV/AIDS as full citizens of this country, and will continue to stand in solidarity with other civil rights groups and activists so that all members of our communities can be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The decision by Administrative Law Judge Steven T. Kessel in the federal government's Department of Health and Human Services followed a week of testimony from public health experts, including doctors from the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health. Based on this expert testimony, Kessel ruled that the discriminatory policy of WCMC of placing limits on the pharmacist's performance of duties, such as the preparation of IV products, violated the federal Rehabilitation Act. Kessel ordered that all federal financial assistance to WCMC, as much as \$107 million, be terminated until the hospital rehires the pharmacist without restrictions or penalty.

Lambda Staff Attorney Evan Wolfson said, "Today's ruling restates the overwhelming expert evidence that, with proper infection control practices, health care providers present virtually no risk to patients. The key to protecting against HIV transmission is to clean up the workplace, not clean out the workers."

In parallel litigation, also brought by Lambda, the New York State Division of Human Rights held on December 12, 1990 that WCMC's policy violated the New York State Human Rights Law, which prohibits HIV discrimination.





Lambda news continued

Lambda wins second jury trial; sheriff discriminated

April 21--A federal jury in Denver has concluded that the sheriff of Weld County, Colorado discriminated against a reserve deputy sheriff solely because the deputy was HIV positive. The jury found that the sheriff violated section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits disability-related discrimination by any program receiving federal financial assistance. The case is believed to be the first HIV-related jury trial under the Rehabilitation Act and the first such case involving an HIV-infected law enforcement officer.

The verdict represents Lambda's second victory in a jury trial in a six week period. In March, a jury in Florida found that the Orange County sheriff had fired a deputy for being gay.

In the Colorado case, the Weld County sheriff's office declared in a letter terminating the plaintiff, Bret Tanberg, that Tanberg's fellow officers no longer wanted to work with him because he was rumored to be HIV positive. In reaching its verdict, the jury rejected the notion that Tanberg posed a direct threat to others by working as a law enforcement officer.

"The jury's verdict demonstrates that the prejudice of co-workers cannot justify irrational discrimination against people with HIV," said Lambda Cooperating Attorney Lynn Palma. "The jury's decision shows that federal laws against HIV-related discrimination not only protect HIV positive people in large metropolitan areas, but also prohibit discrimination in rural communities like Weld County."

The court gave the parties ten days to file proposals related to equitable remedies. Tanberg will ask the court to order Weld County to provide comprehensive AIDS awareness training to its employees.



Secretary of Army discharges lesbian colonel despite objection by National Guard

May 29--In the midst of renewed opposition to the military's 40 year-old ban on lesbians and gay men in the armed forces, the Secretary of the Army has ordered the discharge of a lesbian colonel in the National Guard with a stellar 26-year career. Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer--Chief Nurse of the Washington State National Guard, who was awarded the Bronze Star for her service in Vietnam and was selected V.A. Nurse of the year in 1985--now faces discharge, effective June 11, following the proceedings on an administrative hearing board which stated that it was their "sad duty" to recommend the discharge, despite Cammermeyer's outstanding record of service and leadership, merely because she is lesbian.

Discharge proceedings were initiated against Cammermeyer after she acknowledged her sexual orientation to a Defense Department investigator during a review of her security clearance. The application was submitted by Cammermeyer's application to the Army War College, where she hoped to obtain credentials to support her bid to become Chief Nurse of the National Guard.

Cammermeyer stated, "I am being discharged for my honesty and integrity."

The order to discharge Cammermeyer comes just days after Representative Pat Schroeder (D-CO) and 33 co-sponsors introduced legislation that would direct the President to overturn the ban against gay men and lesbians in the military. Lambda Staff Attorney Mary Newcombe observed, "This ill-formed decision to discharge a remarkable servicemember--against the desires of her fellow colonels and immediate supervisors--represents the senseless destruction of a long, committed and spectacular career. Clearly, Greta Cammermeyer is of the caliber and the quality of the kind of person we need and deserve to serve our country. We will fight this injustice, and are planning a lawsuit to stop this irrational bigotry, this waste of human resources and taxpayer's interests."

Lambda Executive Director Kevin Cathcart noted, "As the stakes keep getting higher, and the military has to go to greater stretches to justify its senseless policy to an increasingly disbelieving public, the pressure mounts for the anti-gay ban to go the way of racial and sexual segregation in the military."

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is a national advocacy organization with offices in New York and Los Angeles. Lambda is dedicated to protecting the legal and civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS, and to assuring sound public policy on AIDS and health care.

Ninth district court rejects army in *Pruitt v. Cheney*

May 8--The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the petition of the United States Army for rehearing in the landmark decision of *Pruitt v. Cheney*. In that case the same court ruled last August that plaintiff Dusty Pruitt, a former Army Reserve Captain, must be allowed to continue her lawsuit, which challenges the policy banning gays and lesbians from the military. The court also rejected the Army's request that the entire Ninth Circuit rehear the case, noting in its order that no judge on the court had requested a vote to rehear the case.

Concurrent with its order rejecting the petition for rehearing, the court issued a modestly amended opinion that clarifies its earlier holding that the Army must show a rational basis for its policy that is not based on the prejudice of others towards lesbians and gay men. The amended decision states plainly that tension based on prejudice against homosexuals is not a legitimate basis for the policy, and that, instead, such disapproval is justified only when linked to specific disapproval of criminal conduct. Lambda Staff Attorney Mary Newcombe said, "Being gay is not a criminal offense in any jurisdiction of this country, including the military. This decision squarely places the burden on the Army of showing that its discriminatory policy is not based on prejudicial attitudes about gay people and assumptions about how they conduct themselves."

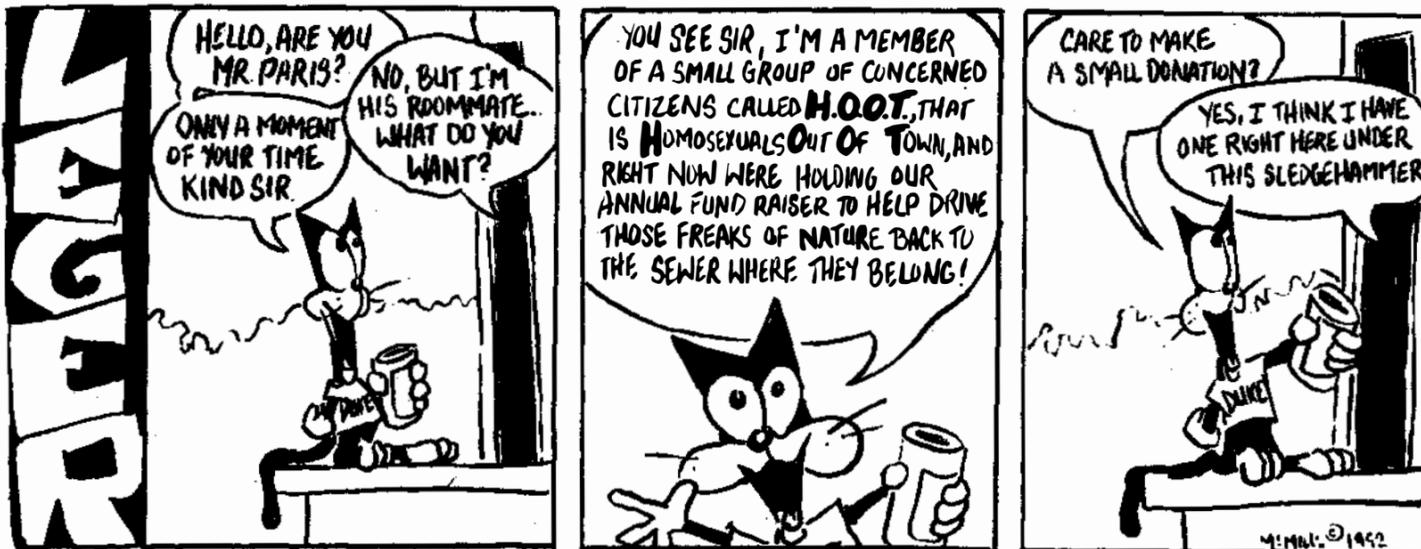
Pruitt was discharged from the Army Reserve in 1983, following publication of an interview about her ministry with the Metropolitan Community Church. The decision of the Ninth Circuit is now final, the case will be remanded to the district court, unless the Army petitions the U.S. Supreme Court for review.

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Normal Theater to reopen

The lights turned on for the very first time at the Normal theater in November of 1937. Since that time it has been a landmark, both in downtown Normal and in many people's lives. Now the Normal Theater will get another chance to do what it does best.

The Normal Theater closed in mid-1991 and sat unused until November of the same year, when the city bought the building in hope of restoring and reopening it.

The idea behind the restoration is to reopen the theater as it originally appeared in 1937, but now use it as an all around community center. The Normal Theater will be available for a number of uses ranging from private birthday parties, to local bands, and music recitals.

In a survey conducted by the city, all of the 100 people responding said they were enthused about the theater's reopening, and would probably use the building.

In addition to the public rentals, the theater will also be used by the city for things like film festivals and library programs.

The restorations of the Normal Theater will be done in two stages. In the first stage, the marquee will be restored to its original appearance and the facade will be restored. The rest rooms will be made accessible and the second film screen will be removed. Every effort will be made to return the building to its original Art Deco style.

In the second stage, the ceiling, walls, lighting and seats will be restored.

Even though so much attention is focusing on returning the theater to its original style and appearance, some compromises must be made if the theater is to be used for things other than just showing films.

The most significant of these compromises necessitates enlarging the stage to approximately eighteen by twenty-five feet. This compromise is necessary because of all the old theaters in Bloomington-Normal, the Normal Theater is the only one that was designed solely as a movie house.

Other compromises include basic lighting improvements for live performances and an updated sound system.

The architect who has been invited to supervise the renovation is Gail White, of Carbondale, IL. Mr. White is experienced in the area of theater restoration and specializes in acoustics. He has already started work, and has just recently submitted his preliminary plans to the city council. These plans include projected timelines and costs estimates.

Fund raising for the project is being done through several different venues. T-shirts, buttons and mugs are all being sold by local stores and businesses in conjunction with the "Light It Up, Turn It On" program.

The "Light It Up, Turn It On" program offers two options: interested individuals can donate \$250 to turn on a letter in the word "Normal," or donate \$100 to turn on one of the marquee's neon lights.

People interested in making donations, suggestions or volunteering their help in the restoration project should contact:

"Light It Up, Turn It On"
c/o Normal City Hall
100 E. Phoenix
Normal, IL 61761

All inquiries and/or correspondence are welcome.

--Alex Bennett

Drag show to benefit local theater

Les Follies Faux will be presented on Saturday, August 8, at 8:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1613 E. Emerson in Bloomington. The show, featuring "lovely ladies, handsome gentleman, and a couple we're not quite sure of," is the first presentation of Bent Productions. Bent Productions is a new non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to support other local lesbian/gay/bisexual oriented theatre activities.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call 827-7289 for more information on the show or on Bent Productions.

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