

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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## Volume 23, Number 1

Post Amerikan

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BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 23

50¢

NO. 1

FEB/MARCH 1994

# Mal Chaplin: A Victim of Our Rape Culture



Pantagraph file photo

## Rittenhouse supporters beg Judge Witte for leniency

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# PAGE

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VOL. 23

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FEB/MARCH 1994

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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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Post sellers

### Bloomington

The Back Porch, 402 N. Main (inside)  
 Bakery Bank, 901 N. Main  
 Bloomington Public Library (front)  
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East  
 Circus Video (Emerson and Main)  
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)  
 Front and Center Building  
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front  
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)  
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)  
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market  
 Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main  
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)  
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe  
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

### Normal

Amtrack Station  
 Arte Copia, 204 A. North Street (inside)  
 Avanti's, 407 S. Main  
 Babbitt's Books, 104 N. Street (inside)  
 Franzetti's, 207 Broadway  
 Hovey Hall ISU (front)  
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)  
 Subconscious, S. Main  
 Subway, 115 E. Beaufort

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

David, Deborah, Linda, Ralph, Sherrin, Susie and Tom

## Good numbers

ACLU .....	454-7223
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
<i>Post Amerikan</i> .....	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

## Due Date:

The next deadline for submitting *Post Amerikan* material will be:

**March 7, 1994**



# Community News



## Olive Branch: Trail to Expand

### Paintings by Cedric Chatterley

While photographing a parade in Cairo, Illinois, Chatterley was approached by a young man who asked him to take photographs of the dilapidated house he and his mother lived in. This initial encounter began an eight-year relationship in which Chatterley documented the transitions in this young man's life. Over 100 photographs and texts, threaded with irony and dark wit, reveal the genealogy of poverty within an American family. They portray a life in motion, focused on the mundane and seemingly bizarre activities that encompass the young man's existence. The images, which are unposed, naturally lit and inventively composed, concentrate on a single subject as a method of introducing larger, more complex societal issues.

In conjunction with *Olive Branch*, a selected survey of documentary photographs from the 1930's - 70's encompassing distinctly different representational strategies will be exhibited. Featuring the work of Lewis Hine, Robert Frank, Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, Danny Lyons, Elliot Erwitt, and Larry Clark among others - this exhibition was curated from the permanent collections of The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, and Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Artist's Lecture will take place Tuesday, March 1 from 7-8 p.m. With the reception immediately following.

## Other Exhibits at CVA

January 18 - February 20  
*Peep Land*: Paintings by Jane Dickson

February 1 - February 13  
Computer Arts Festival

February 22 - March 13  
National Graduate Student Print Exhibition  
A juried exhibition organized by Ray George. Opening reception is Tuesday, February 22 from 7 to 9 p.m.

University Galleries is located in 110 Center for Visual Arts (CVA) on the campus of Illinois State University. Gallery hours are as follows: Monday - closed; Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 12 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Source: University Galleries

## Classy Fried Ads

SALES (Distributors), straight commission, ground floor opportunity: new technology in personal, auto, home, security devices. Products sell themselves upon simple demonstration. No investment required. Call John, (708) 202-2537.

The Bloomington/Normal Constitution Trail will expand in 1994. A grant, awarded by the State Department of Conservation, was announced when Governor Edgar visited in October. The new branch will begin on the east end of the Old Farm Lakes subdivision and travel along the Lincoln Street right of way to Hershey Road. At that point the trail heads southwest through State Farm's Corporate South grounds to Hamilton Road. It then travels west all the way to Bunn Street.

Whew!

Work will be under way in the summer of 1994.

Source: Bloomington's *City Notes*

## Vision Problems?

If you or someone you care about is 55 or over, has a vision loss, and lives in McLean, Ford, Livingston, or DeWitt county, help is available. LIFE-Center for Independent Living (LIFE-CIL) has outreach workers who have been trained to teach independent living skills to individuals with visual impairments. Various other services are provided upon request. Living with a vision loss doesn't have to be difficult. For more information, call Sue at LIFE-CIL, (309) 663-5433.

## Help, Help, Help

We know you've heard this before but it's still true. Over the past year, there have been *three* people putting the Post together. So, if you've been meaning to help out, now is the time to do it. It's really not that painful; it actually can be fun! Your help can come in a variety of ways, from typing and writing to layout of the paper. The Post has made it 23 years, but it's up to you to see that it continues. If you're interested, please call Sherrin at 828-4473.

## Excuses, Excuses

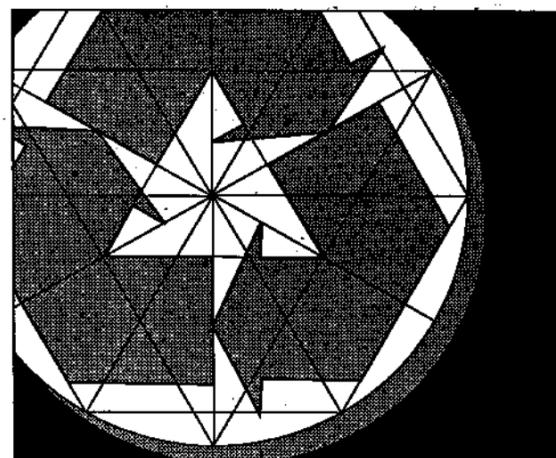
As the chair of the Public Retaliations committee, it has been designated my responsibility to explain why the Post Amerikan was regrettably not published last month. Let me begin by saying that these things are never easy to explain, what with so many factors involved. It would be easy to simply name who it was who left the computers out in the freezing cold overnight, but this won't change the fact that there was no Post in January. Similarly, if I were to provide any one of the names of those who were ultimately responsible for the unauthorized exchange of all of the Post graphic design supplies for four lottery tickets and a bag of old sweaters, these persons would be utterly humiliated, serving noone's interests. Let me just say that, although I personally had nothing to do with these things, and had almost no part, apart from dialing the phone, with trading the Post space heater for mismatched hubcaps, we at the Post are a team, dedicated to bringing you the finest in journalistic quality, almost every other month.

## Free Subs

The Post Amerikan will be giving away 20 free 1/2 year subscriptions (three issues) to the first people to respond (determined by the postmark on the envelope.) Enjoy the luxury of having the Post Amerikan delivered to your door *free!*

Fill out the following form and mail today!

FREE	Name: _____	SUBS
	Street: _____	
	City/State/Zip: _____	



# OPERATION RECYCLE

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• DROP OFFS  
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# 1994 Predictions

## By Madame Towanda!



Mayor Jesse Smart

Bloomington Mayor, Jesse (Notso) Smart, discovers a mysterious iron piggy bank in the wall of his office. In great anticipation, Smart contacts all local media to cover the event. The opening of the piggy bank will be broadcast live by TV-10, with a special guest appearance by none other than Geraldo Rivera. After a two hour media spectacle, the piggy bank will be opened, and its contents revealed. After discovering it to be two small screws, Smart will reply "I've been screwed - again!"

Michael Jackson, after being cleared of all criminal charges, will release a new album titled "Duets." Contributors include: Harlem Boys Choir, Boyz to Men, Kriss Kross, Tevin Campbell, Another Bad Creation and Jordy, the five year old French sensation.

Bill Flick's brand of Midwestern humor will amuse all of America in 1994 via syndication in several major nationwide newspapers. Flick will attribute his gaining popularity to the national exposure he received through a hometown paper. He will not release the name of that paper.

James Waller, author of Bridges of Madison County and Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend, will release his third book, titled Same Story, Different Name. The book will remain on the best sellers list for 62 consecutive weeks.

The Normal Theater will remain under construction throughout all of 1994. Town of Normal officials will announce that all restoration work will be completed "in about a year, or whenever we get that damn grant" Meanwhile, the message on the marquee will be changed to "Same Time, Next Year."

State Farm, after donating \$100,000 to expand the constitution trail, will require all participants using the new section (see "Trail to Expand," pg. 3) to be insured by their new "Trail Collision" insurance policy. This policy will insure walkers, bikers, rollerbladers and runners with extensive coverage in the case of accidents and other mishaps occurring while using their chunk of the trail. An identification card will be issued to each insured person. State Farm security will be on hand to monitor the trail.

Michael Jordan, after becoming baseball's all-time home run king after only one season of

play, will retire from baseball. Although not yet confirmed, rumors suggest that Jordan is interested in playing for the Chicago Bears and Blackhawks.



Shannon Doherty, former 90210 star who played Brenda Walsh, will make a career comeback. With the help of spin doctor, David Gergen, the much hated star made a remarkable turnaround amidst severe backslashing. Fox Network will take advantage of her popularity by announcing a new fall sitcom starring Doherty. The "I Love Brenda Show" will be modeled after the classic "I Love Lucy Show." Fox representatives will state that the show will be similar, but Brenda will "not whine" like Lucy. In December, the "I Love Brenda Show" replaces "Home Improvement" as America's favorite t.v. show.

**babbitt's bookstore**

Books Bought and Sold  
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Permanent Want List  
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**NOW OPEN SUNDAYS  
FROM 12-5**

104 North St. • Normal  
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## Uppers/Downers

**Downer** to Grace Baptist Church for its program attacking paganism/New Age spiritualism.

**Upper** to The Pantagraph for its liberal inclusion of same sex personals in New Acquaintances.

**SUCCESSFUL ENERGETIC SPWF, 30, 6'1", 160lbs. Enjoys sport cars, music, movies, sports, traveling. Seeking SWF, 21-31, who's attractive, energetic, professional with similar interests. ☎1027 (exp11/16)**

**Upper** to Planned Parenthood for pulling their unsafe condoms from the shelf.

**Downer** to The American Heart Association (Illinois Affiliate) and St. Joseph Medical Center for a glaring omission in their "Healthful Eating" pamphlet. The guide provides information on local restaurants to help consumers dine out in a more healthful manner. Some of the information given is whether or not a restaurant uses lean cuts of beef or offers egg substitutes. Nowhere in the guide does it mention whether or not any of the establishments provide vegetarian or vegan selections.

**Upper** to the Peoria and Urbana PBS stations broadcast of Armistead Maupin's t.v. adaptation of Tales of the City. Nashville's PBS station was the only known affiliate to refuse its broadcast.



**Downer** to The Vidette for their lack of understanding concerning the Rape Crisis Center's Take Back the Night March speakers and men only space.



**Upper** to Pastor Leon Hebrink for organizing a committee to look into racial problems existing in Bloomington/Normal. And...

**Downer** to the negative feedback Pastor Leon and his group have been receiving. Some people actually have asked the group why this issue is surfacing now. (There haven't been any race riots or police beatings, right?) It's scary to think that these horrifying acts have to become a reality before "white" Amerika takes notice of its persisting racism problems.



# Think About It . . .

Well, well, well . . . Here we are again. What's goin' on with you? Lots of things goin' on here at the *Post*.

How 'bout starting things off with something from Mahatma Ghandi (I heard it in church - the Unitarian Church to be specific): **Pacifism** is not being pacifiable, not be pacifistic, not being pacified. It is "bold, active, deliberate love."

Well, 10% juice was found not to be 10% juice, but 10% watered-down, sewage-treated, pulped, juicy water (maybe it's from Sugar Creek?). I feel good that the Food and Drug Administration caught that one! Now, let's get started on the agricultural industry as a whole in earnest!

And, hey, how about that new **female condom**. So, the next question is (at least that came to my mind): what are they going to do for the lesbians? How can they enjoy each other sexually -- without fear of sexually-transmitted diseases? I don't think the rubber-tube-with-two-diaphragm-like-rings-on-it is going to help them out . . . I guess there's still good ol' Saran Wrap.

I've had it up to here with the **Bobbitt** story. OK? A friend mentioned this to me: If a woman's breast had been cut off and thrown outside, would anyone had gone to look for it? That's all I'll say - no sneaky, whimsical innuendos about body parts. Your Welcome.

I thought it was admirably idealistic for **Loretta Scott King** to ask the country for one day - 24 hours - without violence. I guess we'll know by the time this paper hits the stands if we did it or not. (Doubt it.) It sure was a good idea, though.

he was honest with her about himself. No challenge. He's not allowed to lead a healthy life, find a partner, have a sex drive. I should probably write a letter to the network, but I thought I'd tell you about it.

Another outrageously disturbing occurrence is that **Rush Limbaugh** has wound his crooked way to Central Illinois - on WIHN. Yes, our Oldies station. Well, it's tumbled over and over in my mind . . . and in the interest of being fair to all and allowing all forms of life their expression, I can only pick the path of least resistance. (Yeah, right!) I tell myself maybe it's good he's here (yeah, right!). Maybe now people can hear for themselves the cobweb of hate this form-of-life concocts.

That brings me to my next subject: **Authorized Hate**. It seems there is a phenomena in this country (that is also pervasive around the world) that if someone solely follows their bible (or any other religious document - solely), their commander, their lawyer, their boss, their talk show host, or their government -- that they are allowed to treat people in unmentionable intolerable ways. I mean, I try to catch myself when I'm being inconsiderate, rude or hateful to another (EVEN someone as self-admittedly hateful as Rush Limbaugh). It's not an easy path to follow: being true to one's Self. Well, anyway, I call it Authorized Hate. When someone is allowed to tell you you're going to hell. When someone is allowed to talk to you like you're a burden to society. When one is allowed to legally murder you and your family . . . i don't get it . . . But I hope we can keep an eye on this. This Authorized Hate in Amerika.

We lost a bright life, the **Reverend Norman Vincent Peale**, in December. I really liked his attitude! Here are a couple of quotes from this thoughtful man:

"Change your mental habits of belief instead of disbelief. Learn to expect, not to doubt. In so doing you bring everything into the realm of possibility."

"Faith supplies staying power. It contains dynamics to keep one going when the going is hard. Anybody can keep going when the going is good, but some extra ingredient is needed to enable you to keep fighting when it seems that everything is against you."

Well, doesn't that sum up the *Post* ?

Until next time . . . Write me if you dare.

moon

mdhunter

## FDA Targets food supplements

"Food supplements containing vitamins, minerals and other substances in potencies above that found in food have been judged to be unsafe for use without prescription. Federal law requires that you refrain from distributing any and all such food substances at once."

This restraining order has been distributed to homeopaths, health food stores, chiropractors etc. by the Federal Food and Drug Administration. Herbs, amino acids and even the common 500mg Vitamin C tablet will no longer be available without a prescription if the FDA has its way.

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (S. 784) has been introduced in the House and Senate in an attempt to override this FDA ruling. Please contact your senators and representative now to let them know that you want your access to dietary supplement protected. Let them know that there is scientific evidence which indicates that vitamins, minerals, herbs and amino acids can be an aid to good health.

If you would like to have mailgrams sent to your representative and senators call 1-900-370-1211. (The call costs \$1.95 per minute, the average call lasts only 2 minutes. You must be 18 years old to call).

SF

## Neato Stuff

Upon entering **Arte' Copia**, one cannot help but notice the eclectic mix of merchandise offered. The store, owned by Penny O'Neill, provides local artists with the opportunity to display and sell their artwork. But that's not all. Besides artwork, **Arte' Copia** sells homemade candles and soap, funky beaded (and non-beaded) jewelry, natural health products, cultural clothing and lots more.

So, if you find yourself in downtown Normal and are sick of browsing through the plethora of music and comic book stores invading the area, stop in **Arte' Copia**. You won't be disappointed.

**Arte' Copia** is located at 204A North St. (across from the Normal Theater) Hours are: Monday - Saturday 10-6.



And what's with all this darn white stuff on everybody's car? It dangerously covers up brake lights, windows and license plates. Snow? No, not really. Ash? No. Lime? No. It's SALT!

Road salt for the weather-stricken roads. Isn't there a better way than this? Don't some communities use sand or gravel? I just don't like the idea of all this salt corroding my car and being mined from salt mines or dredged from the oceans and applied to asphalt roads . . . ! It's pretty nasty.

I was most disturbed to see something on this newish sitcom "The Phenom." The mother (played by the person who used to be in . . . darn it, it won't come to me . . . you know, the show that had Tony Danza in it -- oh well) met a very nice gentleman. He was handsome, physically fit, an honored veteran of the military; he was respectful toward her and didn't rush her into anything. He was a knight in spotless armor. She fell for him pretty good . . . until, she found out that he suffered form a **mental disorder**: multiple personalities. Well, she dropped him like a hot tomato! And I guess the audience (us TV-watchers) was supposed to swallow this logic and assert "omigosh! You bet! It is simply not acceptable to get involved with a . . . you-know . . . crazy/insane person!" I was very disturbed by the treatment of this man with multiple personalities. There was no dignity afforded this man (or people with his condition), except that





# Bioregionalist Perspectives: A Quest for Human Identity and Survival

As the bloody remnants of the sun fall back into black earth, a lone grey wolf howls at the rise of a yellow moon. From the heights of towering mountains, rivers run their solitary courses through the grasses of the plains, on into the depths of pine green forests. Cradled in the arms of these massive rocky monsters are silver lake discs, breathing with the natural way of things. Caribou cautiously taste the sweet waters, half soaked by their warmth, as an owl hoots to the locusts chattering the night away into the brilliance of dawn. This is the way of the natural world; this is her discourse, presence, and vision. This is also the natural world that is rapidly falling to the hands of a societal entity that, for the most part, knows nothing of her beauty, methods, and efficiency.

Unfortunately, it is indeed true that the world of Nature is falling prey to the demands of our society. What many people do not understand, however, is that by destroying the natural world, we are destroying the very source that is necessary for both our physical existence and psychological identity. It is essential for the fate of the human race that the natural world be preserved and reestablished. Many individuals have made and continue to make a great effort in this task both in action and awareness: I salute them all. However, it is time to take the next step in securing every living being's right to a clean and pure existence. We need to rekindle our relationship and connection with the earth, thus establishing a balance that will allow for the development of purely human achievements while at the same time guarantee the preservation of all living creatures in a wild and natural environment.

The first step toward this goal is to understand the premises and methods of Nature, i.e., to understand the ground rules of the game in which every living being plays a role. The underlying theme in the natural world is that of a web: for every action at one point in the web, there is a reaction in other points of the web. This idea extends to the premise of the food chain: every creature feeds and depends on other creatures for survival. Another, perhaps more mundane way of putting this wonderful relationship is that "your ass is somebody else's meal." Thus, a complex system of integration and dependency between individuals is established that, when seen from a whole, makes up the world of Nature. And although every being has the possibility of possessing an individual identity, no being can exist outside of the system; each individual makes up part of the larger whole. It is essential for both the realization of human identity and the possibility of human survival that we once again become part of this web of Nature.

Secondly, we must look at the trends in human history and prehistory to discover exactly how the now dominant modern society has distanced itself from the web of the natural world. Though it seems strange to say, human kind has been struggling to break away from the natural system for the past 10,000 years, and has, as a result, created more destruction and alienation that seems possible. With the development of large-scale agriculture, specialization in human labor began to separate individuals from direct and necessary contact with the land. Civilization strove to create its own self-sufficiency; individuals no longer personally depended upon Nature. Soon, modern society began to believe that the natural processes and beings of the earth could be controlled or managed by human hands. After this ideological development, a distinct sense of separateness from and dominance of Nature began to appear. It is just within the past century that technological western society has come to realize

that this segregationalist hierarchy is not only unhealthy, but is rather impossible without destroying humankind along with the rest of the earth.

However, humankind has not always been fixed on breaking away from Nature, and it is not too late to reverse the thousand year old ideological shift that has caused so many of the problems that we are faced with today. For the first two million years of humanity (or 99% of human history), humans lived in groups classified as hunter-gatherer tribes. The cultural adaptation of hunter-gathering tribes with the appearance of homo erectus is considered the single most successful human cultural adaptation to date. The hunter-gatherers (which can still be found today in remote corners of the world) lived with the natural ways of the earth, and prospered because of it. (In fact, hunter-gatherer societies were the first affluent societies in human history, and worked only two to three hours a day, comparatively little labor compared to our eight to ten hours.) How exactly did these groups live with the natural ways of the world? First and foremost, these people respected and understood the methods of the world in which they lived. When hunting, they used every part of the animal, when gathering, they took no more than was needed. Being seasonal nomads, they understood every aspect of the forest, desert, mountain, or other environment in which they lived. As the Mbuti of the Ituri Rainforest of Zaire (one of the last hunter-gatherer groups surviving today) explain, the rainforest in which they live in their mother, and they would never do anything to harm her. Other than this deep veneration and trust, these groups did not believe in (or even understand) private property, and thus never thought that the "owned" their environment. Instead, they considered themselves to be an inseparable element of the natural order.



All of this, one might say, is good and noble, but how does this group of hunter-gatherer methods and characteristics concern modern humans? The answer lies on one all-encompassing premise: every cultural adaptation that is fundamental to our human identity took place during the two million years when hunter-gatherers roamed the earth. *Every adaptation that makes us human took place in the context of a wild and natural world.* Therefore, modern day human identity is out of place and context. Historically speaking, our natural identities as humans hinge on cultural adaptations such as language, tool use, religion, and mythology that developed in a wild and natural context. As humans, we have been removed from our natural environment and placed in an artificial world, thus making it difficult, if not impossible, to discover our personal and collective identities. This suggests that this prevalent feeling of being "lost" and "out of place" in modern society could be the cause of many of our most fundamental anxieties, frustrations, and worries. Thus, the first reason we need to restore a connection with the land is tied to a search for a true human identity.

Removed from a natural environment that is essential for our identity, humanity has tried to control and incorporate the natural world into an artificial one. This practice has many unhealthy consequences. However, there is one primary consequence that stands out above the rest: this practice suggests that humans are constantly bringing natural resources into our artificial world without ever returning these resources to the natural environment. It does not take a genius to reason that, after a period of time, the natural world will finally be exhausted with nothing to replace it. This, of course, would mean the extinction of every living creature on the planet. This certainly would not be healthy. Thus, the second reason we need to restore a relationship with the natural world is out of a clear need for physical survival.

In our modern methods of dealing with the earth, we have denied our human identity, and threaten to utterly destroy the natural world.

In order to offer a solution to our present day dilemma, it is essential to reconsider how we view the earth. In this world, we have arbitrarily selected plots of land and labeled them countries for our own convenience. However, these boundaries often cut across both ethnic and biological zones. This is one of the primary ways we have separated ourselves from the natural world: we no longer are a part of a concrete natural area but a citizen of an arbitrary (and often corrupt) political entity. This denies us our connection with the earth, and is the reason we now threaten both our human identity and existence.

The most innovative and practical way to solve this problem is through a technique that has been used by hunter-gatherers throughout the span of time but is just now reaching modern consciousness. This concept requires that we look at the world not through meaningless political divisions but through a natural standpoint of distinctive biological/natural features. This is a technique known as bioregionalism. It calls for the natural division of bioregions. Bioregions are zones classified by a dominant immobile species, such as the Douglas Fir, and/or a distinct topographical development, such as the various ranges of the Rocky Mountains, and thus define a homeland for all that live there. Thus, when people ponder their origins, they do not refer to a meaningless political identity, but to an environment with which they are intimately familiar. This homeland becomes an inseparable part of their identity, and offers a sense of pride in knowing the wisdom of the land. Every memory is associated with this region; every aspect of one's culture - legends, religion, tools, subsistence - is related with this bioregionalist homeland. Once one becomes personally familiar with the plants, trees, creatures, and climate of the region: one realizes that he or she is an inseparable part of the land. It is at this point that the human once again becomes a fundamental part of this web of the natural world that is both the basis of identity and survival of human and non-human beings. This is also the birth of respect for the land: you do not destroy what personally supports your physical existence and human identity.

The method of defining a particular bioregion is, when viewed in its entirety, problematical. The Native Americans communally decided exactly how to define their respective regions immediately following (within hundreds of years, perhaps) their migration to the Americas. In this day and age, the problem of deciding bioregions should be left in the hands of



## continued

concerned groups of *individuals* who will decide their communal or individual homeland. A model of this method of determining bioregions can be seen in Gary Snyder's establishment of Kitkitdizze in the early seventies. This community is now thriving in the hills of the San Juan range in California, and is making some very impressive communal and individual efforts in environmentalism.

There are some very important implications of this bioregionalist perspective. First of all, a very important sense of self-sufficiency develops within each individual. The simple pride of knowing that you are personally responsible for your own survival offers not only a richer sense of life, but an extra dimension to one's own personality. This is an important element that society, by its very definition (strict division of labor), removes from everyday life. Even the simple act of preparing a meal offers a new sense of respect for the beauty of life. This idea of self-sufficiency also ties one to a sense of place and home.

Another implication that is very closely associated with self-sufficiency is that of enthusiasm. Derived from the Greek "entheus", meaning "the god within", enthusiasm also offers an essential dimension to leading a wild and productive life. The basic premise behind this attitude of "the god within" is that within each individual, there exists an energy of nature that pervades the entire natural world. Living life should, in part, be a process of discovering and releasing this energy through a healthy relationship with Nature.

A final implication of bioregionalism is homelessness, as expressed by the Chinese philosopher Han Shan. Han Shan lived most of his life outdoors on and around a mountain he named "Cold Mountain". Han Shan, often depicted as a jovial, perhaps mocking figure, believed that one should never establish a permanent home within a general territory, i.e., become homeless. The implication here is that once one is homeless, he or she has the ability to establish home anywhere and anytime with relative comfort. This idea goes hand in hand with becoming intimately familiar with the environment in which one lives, developing a

sense of self-sufficiency and enthusiasm, and learning to respect Nature. These are all prerequisites to fostering an ability to establish a temporary home or camp anywhere one pleases at any time or season.

Bioregionalism, along with its implications, reconciles humankind with its psychological and physical source: Nature. The practical result of this practice is the end of the senseless destruction of the natural world. Once people begin to realize that their roots lie not in political entities but in cultural and natural bonds, they will stand up more readily against the destruction of our wild lands in the United States. Granted, this process could take many years, perhaps centuries, to fully realize its success. However, it is essential to begin today an individual and communal effort to restore our faith in and connection with the land both to guarantee our survival on this planet and to fully realize our human identity and spirituality.

Soren Larsen

# Anarchy, Revolution and Christ

Christmas makes me think of revolution, "Odd?", you may say. I am convinced the incarnation, the birth of the Christ, turned the world and its order of things upside down. This divine revolution has yet to be realized. Yet on a spiritual level it is done and on a practical level it is taking place. The corporate church, powers and principalities, unbelievers, and "religious" people have been mounting a counter revolution for 20 centuries. Religious and government leaders even tried to kill the revolution by killing its leader and he wouldn't even stay dead. This is why I understand myself and my being as an anarchist, a revolutionary, and a christian. Why? It is the only response that makes sense to me and it is based on reality rather than blind faith.

### Whoa, don't change the channel just yet

Before you scoff at this "christian" stuff and turn to "Veggie Mania" or "Voice For Choice", read on and view revolution from a christian perspective for a few moments. You have two months to read your *Post* anyway.

These thoughts are the fruit of many different writers and thinkers, Adrien Duchosal in particular. I cannot take credit. Most of my output is the result of processed previous input.

Just what is true revolution? Most revolutions are simply part of a cycle that grinds on and on. The oppressed will be crushed by those in power, or as they attain to power they will have acquired a taste for power and will become the new oppressors and the oppression/revolution cycle rolls on and on.

### Stopping the cycle

To find true revolution we have to find the impetus which leads to acting to remove the source of all violence: the spirit of hierarchy and fear; the fear that rulers have of not being able to live unless they rule; the fear also of the ruled that they cannot live unless they overthrow their masters, both fears leading to violence and oppression or the acceptance of them. The oppressed try to overcome by aiming to rule over others, always at the cost of violence in an oppressive and bloody cycle of revolt and oppression.

In the spirit of Jesus we undermine violence by being freed from fear. Jesus says, If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the left cheek also. He thus seeks to liberate us from the

fear of violence for the use of violence. Jesus himself, freed from fear, simply asks an explanation when he receives a blow: "If I have spoken wrongly, show that what I said was wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" He is not even afraid of the death which he knows is waiting for him.

Masters even begin to see their baseness as the oppressed are freed to show their indifference to their hypocrisy and oppression. Masters cease to live as they begin to despise themselves in light of those freed not to be dominated.



### Some Modern Comparisons and Contrasts

It is false to present Gandhi as a practitioner of nonviolent revolution in the same manner as Jesus. Gandhi used nonviolence, but only to establish the oppressive power of the Indian state. Gandhi used nonviolence against the stronger British while he used weapons of war against those who were weaker. He sent police to eliminate those who would stop him and appealed for war against the Sikhs who wanted independence from the Indian state. His fine thoughts and cultivated image masked the violence which remained critical to his leadership.

The nonviolent revolution of Jesus is also different than that of Lech Walesa or Lanza del Vasto who both feared violence and whose fear of violence led to more violence. They both were afraid to attack oppressive power and in so doing bring to light its violence. In 1976 Lanza del Vasto, facing violence, prudently advised us to be gentle and not to respond. Fear of violence led him to accept the violence of nuclear power. While we may admire the Solidarity movement which Lech Walesa launched in Poland, unfortunately he kept the brakes on any movement toward true liberation. In response to those in power who threatened a violent reaction and even bloodshed, he would not allow many demonstrations. As a result, the daily violence of the state continued for many years.

### Finding strength

In contrast, Jesus seeks a peace which bypasses

conflict and provocation. He realizes that when one takes the side of the oppressed they will automatically bring down violence on themselves. Even in the face of this he did not back off. The christian finds strength in their relationship with God, a strength that allows the freedom to choose for the oppressed. Otherwise a follower of Christ does not truly live. "The one who would save their own life will lose it."

In our day some people are powered by a universal spirit, finding brothers and sisters in everyone. Among these people are some who see God in Christ. We see that he does not pretend to be superior to others but that in love for all he takes the side of the oppressed against the oppressors, working to destroy all hierarchy, all power of some over others.

Speaking about institutionalized violence, Alvaro Ulcue' Chocue' said, "What are we doing? We are watching as spectators and approving by our silence, for we are afraid of proclaiming the gospel in a radical way." Alvaro was an Indian priest in Columbia prior to being assassinated by the state police for proclaiming Gospel and denouncing institutional, individual, and state violence.

### Christ was an anarchist

Nonviolent anarchists, oppressed revolutionaries, and most socialists I know seem to all want the same things. We may disagree on the means while the ends are very similar. History and practice both seem to indicate that the model and teaching of Christ is the only "means" that can or will work. While it would be a mistake to confuse following Christ with most of what we see of "christians" and the "church", Jesus embodies the only working approach to revolution and the destruction of hierarchy and violence on all levels. Christ defies the human labels of "anarchist", "socialist", or "communist". While these are all valid descriptions of his life and teaching, Jesus gives us the only formula for revolution that is lasting and which relies on a power that is bigger than self and transcends mere human potential.

Why form your "lefty" life within the framework of the life and teachings of Christ? If for no other reason, it works!

Pastor Leon



# Anarchy, Revolution and Crestwicke



There were many news stories which captured the attention of Amerika and the Twin Cities in 1993, including the first year of Klinton's term as President, Bush's first year as ex-president, and that peace thing over there in the Middle East, and while all these things are of interest here in the Middle West, a story was mentioned once and only once in the Pantagraph, of which the far-reaching ramifications which will be felt all the way down the corridor of time, shedding a new light upon the true nature of the history, doctored as it was, and kept a low-profile so that noone realizes the ramifications down the hallway of time, which I will try to explain how it happened, even though the undisclosed secret behind the Pantagraph's suppression of this story will be discussed later. Of course, I am speaking of nothing less than a genuine revolution brewing right here in the heartland, right smack in the middle of God's own pasture, right over the highway in CRESTWICKE!!

To further heighten the drama of this event, it will be related as a piece of historical fiction, looking back on this event from a vantage point two hundred years in the future.

It was another cold September morning back in 1993, and Mayor Jesse Smart (At that time, Smart had not yet begun his ascendancy to the presidency), from the old ghost town of Bloomington-Normal, or "Blormal", could see his breath as he walked towards the city hall. It had been another sleepless night of worry: would this be the day when the rebels in Crestwicke would rise up? He thought not--his analysts had pored over the intelligence information all night, and believed that, lacking sufficient weaponry, the Crestwickians would have to lay low for awhile longer. But their day would come soon. Leaflets had changed hands, conversations had been exchanged over Lite Beer and crackers, and the Suburbanites, as the mighty army came to be known, had been spotted darting back and forth in their minivans between Blormal and the then-subdivision of Crestwicke, charging as many supplies as they could to their credit cards in preparation for the long winter ahead.

As Smart's shod feet click-clacked along the sidewalk, he once again perused his options in response to the situation: He could, with a stroke of the pen and a well-timed photo opportunity, sign Crestwicke away, free to become their own community, complete with a separate tax system, sewer system, and their own Hardee's. After all, the benevolent Smart thought to himself, that's what they want. The "Stwickses" (a term used by Blormalites with no small amount of derision) were first and foremost Amerikans, and therefore had the theoretical right to self-rule, but how could they survive as a separate, landlocked country, surrounded on all sides by the rest of the United States? Smart knew that the Stwickses were known for their determination.

But then, as Smart stepped up to the glass doors, he was once again in the grip of the awful rage which had tormented him since the onset of this situation. Dammit, he had practically built Crestwicke, along with his poker buddy Jack Snyder. When the first Crestwickians came to Blormal, with no homeland, and facing discrimination and hatred from all of the Heartland, it was Smart who had made it

possible for them to build a home where once had been worthless cornfields and natural habitats. Smart had used every ounce of his political might to give them everything, including a school (where it was rumored that the young Stwickses were taught to rebel against the edicts of the Blormal government), a golf course (one little-known tenet of Marxist doctrine is that a people with no golf course, like the proverbial disgruntled employee making do with scratchy paper towels in the employee restroom, is a people with a grievance), and a very nice strip mall with several tasteful gift shops and a restaurant which stayed open til 12:00, except Sundays. All the while, Smart's colleagues had warned him--"Don't give them too much rope, Smart, they'll hang you with it!" "Don't give those Stwickses that building permit, Smart, that's a historical site where in 1845, the inventor of the self-sharpening cookie cutter was once drummed out of town for vagrancy!" "If you let 'em build that roller rink, they'll surely use it to ferment a revolution, Smart, and then they'll fix your wagon!"

Smart recalled what his grandpappy Ebenezer Smart had told him as a boy on the farm, that "if a body's got a yen to restructure their society to better conform to their needs in a changing political envahronment, yuh'd be best off jest leavin' 'em be." How many times had Jesse come to fall back on that sound advice, but this time it was different. The anger reared its fearsome head again as Smart stepped out of the elevator, and he felt a strong resolve to do what he knew had to be done, in the name of all that was holy in the Twin Cities. With a purposeful nod of his head, Smart summoned his ministers, who were anxiously awaiting his

"Gentlemen, oh, yes, and lady, too--sorry about that again, Judy--we have no alternative. I am resolved. All preparations which have been prepared for the eventuality of this situation must now be brought to fruition. There is to be no more discussion except for strategy, which as you all know is my weakest area (an anonymous smirk was heard from someone's throat). If Crestwicke does not withdraw its request to secede from the Union immediately, then this community has no choice but to declare War on Crestwicke. Oh, how my heart trembles at this historic day. Call forth the Civic patrol, and have them all declare their loyalty in a solemn oath to either us or them. Call the Pantagraph and tell them to save some space on Page One for another color photo of me. Call the Crestwickian commander and deliver the ultimatum at once-- I shall accept nothing less than full surrender. We will fight them on the beaches, we shall fight them on the streets, we shall fight them in the, in the, well, in the damned corn fields, if we have to. Let no man doubt that the battle is begun, and Smart Shall Not Fall while his Two Feet Are Standing!" (editor's note--Smart's now-famous 'to war' speech, as well as the song which he sang immediately after it, were recorded verbatim by Smart's live-in biographer, Stanley Scabender, who was hired after Smart's third mayoral term to provide a definitive history of himself.)

History tells us of the historic events which were to follow that fateful day, how the Blormal army fought long and hard throughout the cold winter of '94 and into '95. For the Crestwickians were a formidable foe, having brought with them so many years of resentment against their oppressors. Before two months of 1994 were gone by, the beautiful suburbs of Crestwicke were in near ruin, but the plucky determination of Crestwicke, our founding fathers, eventually proved victorious. To this day, as the anniversary of the birth of the Nation of Crestwicke nears, let us pause to remember our former foes, driven out of Bloomington and Normal and sent to scatter across the wide plains of the former United States, which we now, of course, call the United Stwickses.

Seem a little bit on the paranoid side? Well, it won't be the first time I've had to suffer that accusation. Things seem quiet enough now, but trust me, the tensions are growing, and there have already been several small, un-newsworthy skirmishes on the Crestwicke-Bloomington border. Let me close by offering a prayer for peace which I extend to our Crestwickian neighbors, and my pledge to do all I can to maintain the trust between our fair communities. But, as a native Bloomingtonian (with a brief stay in Rockville, Indiana), I am devoted to my beloved city, and will fight to whatever lengths are necessary to preserve the Union.

Joe Squint





# Notes From a Local "Lefty" & Small Business Owner

As a small business owner and member of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce I receive many advertisements and solicitations which are of a very different nature than my usual "lefty" letters. Of the many pieces of mail that have crossed my desk recently, 2 seemed particularly disturbing.

One seemed innocent enough at first glance: a bill for my Yellow Pages ad. As I was about to write the \$127.00 check for my business's "Yellow Pages Listing" I realized that something didn't seem right. Wasn't I paying for my overpriced Yellow Pages ad monthly as a part of my phone bill? If so what was this charge of \$127.00 for?

A representative of GTE informed me that I was indeed correct; GTE bills monthly for their ads. No, this was not a bill for my GTE Yellow Pages listing but a bill from another company. A call to the Atlanta Better Business Bureau provided me with more information concerning Telecom Yellow Pages.

The BBB has had a file on Telecom (alias National Business Directory; Telecom National Directory; Telecom Publishing) since April of 1986. The BBB requested information from the company in response to complaints concerning their direct mail solicitation.

Solicitation--not bill. The company is required to inform you that what you have received is in fact a solicitation for an ad in the Yellow Pages of Illinois (to be distributed at gas stations, restaurants, hotels etc. throughout the state). The problem is in the way Telecom chooses to provide this information.

What I received in the mail looked like a bill. It had the walking fingers logo on it. (The logo is not a registered trademark). It said "Return this portion with your payment." Nowhere on this piece of paper did it state that it was a solicitation. It wasn't until a couple of days later that I received another piece of mail from Telecom informing me that "This is not a bill." The second mailing told me that I was agreeing to purchase an ad from Directory Publishing Services.

Consumer complaints have been brought to the attention of the company by the Better Business Bureau. After this the information gets a bit vague. The BBB could not tell me how many complaints they received concerning Telecom nor specifically how these complaints were resolved. The tape which they let me listen to stated that the company had answered the complaints by "making an adjustment". A representative of the BBB informed me that "making an adjustment" could mean several different things ranging from Telecom "giving their side of the matter" to "some action being taken."

It appears that despite their less than honest marketing techniques Telecom will remain in business, leaving it up to business owners to be aware and inform each other of such deceptive practices.

Employees Beware! The American Management Association (AMA) is holding seminars across the Midwest to help employers learn "How To Legally fire Employees With

Attitude Problems." Yes, at this one day seminar employers will learn how to legally fire employees whose "personalities or life-styles clash" with their own. They will also learn:

--what rules to follow when firing "employees who are protected by the law."

--"3 rules for dealing with hypochondriacs who abuse--but don't violate sick leave policy."

--"a way to catch and document employees who badmouth you behind your back."



Four specific employee types are described in the brochure. They are (1) "The Jabbermouth" who "latches on to you and starts talking" thus keeping everyone from doing their work. (2) "The Shark" who "enjoys making people squirm" and is the "cause of fear, resentment and anxiety in the office." (3) The Plot-ician ✓ who gossips and manipulates. And (4) "The Snoop" who reads the bosses memos and knows too much about the bosses personal life.

The seminars are given by the Padgett-Thompson division of the AMA and come to Peoria and Springfield in February. So, let's roll people and Hey, Be Careful Out There.

Abby H. Trump



## Dear Ms. Hippiie

Dear Ms. Hippiie,

What is the best way, if one is a teacher, to inform one's students that one's domesticated animal, to wit, a cat or cats, has, in fact, peed upon said students' essays? This sort of thing is always so awkward.

Urgently,  
Terrified Tenureless Teacher

Dear Terrified,

Not nearly so awkward as putting so many interrupters into a short sentence that seven commas are necessitated, don't you think? So let's keep some perspective.

Remember, your students have been through several years of schooling. This means that they have constantly been misled through lying or omission. Teachers have told them that irrelevant material is important and vice versa, that lies are the truth, and that big chunks of history did not happen or do not bear mention.

This last bit is the one you can use now. Simply hand back the papers as usual, as though they were quite undefiled. If any student is uppity enough to mention telltale odor or appearance, just deny that such an odor or appearance exists. Furthermore, imply that there is something wrong not with the paper but with the complaining student. This technique will keep you firmly in power through denial of experience and undermining of confidence, making you an even more effective teacher than before the urinary nonincident. You might even get tenure.

Ms. Hippiie:

I hope you had a nice holiday. We had a nice holiday, and yet, certain situations which arose over the holiday have raised an important question, which we feel is somehow beyond our own etiquettal powers. We exhausted all of our dear friends in pursuit of a solution to this rather sticky social dilemma, and finally, we realized that it is such a conundrum that only the mighty Ms. Hippiie could possibly possess the wisdom and tact to adequately address it. And now, without further overwordy ado, here is the question: How do you politely explain to your family that you don't like them and you wish they would just go away? I know this must seem so very cruel, Ms. Hippiie, but you simply haven't any idea of the tribulations which we have suffered in the name of this culturally mandated holiday season, and we have decided that, in order to better appreciate the true meaning of these holidays, it would be best if we didn't have to see our families during them.

Signed,  
Holidazed

Dear Holi,

What is this true meaning jazz? The true meaning of the holidays is captured when you sit around stultifying bored or continually irritated, playing out old family patterns in nauseating repetition and worrying about having spent too much money for the privilege. And you want to just skip it?

Well, if you insist. Far be it from Ms. Hippiie, in most cases, to advise the telling of unvarnished truth. However, this might be a case requiring honesty. You may choose just to tell your

family that you are one of those people who finds holiday functions practically intolerable, and you have decided to forego them. There will be consequences, but if you stand firm, by the third Xmas you will just be crazy Aunt Holi who doesn't like holidays. (Really, everyone will be wishing they had thought of doing this.)

Now, if this amount of truth telling is a bit much, and Ms. Hippiie thinks it might be, you could add a bit of varnish. For example, tell the same story as above but put the decision almost out of your hands--blame your husband or children or therapist for insisting that you are too messed up by family holidays and must stay home for your own good, much as you regret it.

For a few cents' more varnish, you could add that your mental and moral health require you to devote the holidays to doing good deeds in your home town, such as serving at the mission or the women's shelter. If your family whines about this plan, they're even more adolescent than Ms. Hippiie imagined. In Ms. Hippiie's opinion, you really could improve the season by performing such good deeds and not focusing on your own misery.

On the other hand, there's a certain charm to curling up alone with a hot toddy and a stack of mystery novels, thinking about everyone stifling in the family bosom, and doing some heavy gloating.



# Rittenhouse Letters: Responsibility

"The woman, who was very small, was inside two garbage bags... She was tied with shoestring around her ankles and around her neck causing her head to bend in a way which she could not have accomplished in life."

In June of 1992 Bloomington was shocked by the brutal rape and murder of Mal Chaplin. Raped and stabbed, her body was placed in garbage bags and dumped into a culvert. In 1993 residents watched as Jeffrey Whitehead, Shaun Chaszar and Kevin Rittenhouse, three young affluent local men, were tried and convicted of the crime. As a person who has been active in the anti-rape movement I would have to say that I was less surprised by the rape and murder of Mal Chaplin (women are raped and murdered every day) than I was by the actual arrest and sentencing of the three young men (Most rapes are not prosecuted and certainly in our judicial system black men are convicted much more often than whites. The fact that Chaplin was homeless and Korean makes the convictions even more surprising).

Whitehead was sentenced to 65 years in prison, Chaszar 38. Both were charged with the rape, while Whitehead confessed to the actual stabbing. Rittenhouse, who did not rape or stab Chaplin himself, was also sentenced to 38 years in prison when the jury found him guilty of nine counts of murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and criminal sexual assault.

## Smart and Rutherford write letters of support

The sentencing of Rittenhouse drew much publicity when it was discovered that among the 50 supportive letters in Rittenhouse's file were letters from Bloomington Mayor Jesse Smart and Rep. Dan Rutherford, R-Pontiac. Smart's letter to Judge Charles Witte suggested that the sentence Rittenhouse receive be one "that will enable him to come from prison a better man." Many people were angered by the letter and felt that Smart had abused his position as mayor. Smart justified his actions saying that he wrote the letter as a friend of the family. Smart said, "I'm not defending what he did. The kid is bad. But don't get him down and keep kicking him."

Smart apparently had different feelings concerning the sentencing of the 43 young black men arrested in the Gangbusters case. The Concerned Communal Coalition for Equal Justice recommended an alternative to incarceration in the case to Police Chief Linsky and Mayor Smart. The community members suggested that the young men be sent to Teen Challenge, a Chicago-based rehabilitation program designed for gang members and drug users. As I reported in the July/August cover story of the Post it seems likely that such a program would have a much better chance of actually rehabilitating these young men that incarceration. When asked about this idea Smart told me that sentencing was not the responsibility of either him or the police. Apparently it is acceptable to continue kicking certain kids when they are down but not others.

## Letters reveal societal attitudes

The other 48 letters from family, friends, business associates, ministers and educators have similar themes running through them. Most ask that Rittenhouse be allowed to further his education. Some express a desire that he be sent somewhere where he is able to be rehabilitated and learn from his mistake. Many



reveal their incredulity at the fact that Rittenhouse received the same 38 year sentence as Chaszar. They are horrified at what they believe to be the unfairness of the conviction and sentence and feel because he did not actually rape and stab Mal Chaplin he deserves a lesser sentence. Others describe the Rittenhouse that they know—the one that seems so unlike the man who stood by as a brutal rape and murder took place.

## Education vs. substance abuse treatment

Almost every letter written to Judge Witte asks that Rittenhouse be sent to a minimum security prison where he would be able to finish his education. The letter writers seem to believe that this education would aid Kevin in his rehabilitation and help him to return to Bloomington as a productive member of society. While I support correctional education, education does not seem to be what would benefit Rittenhouse the most. Rittenhouse has had ample opportunity to finish his education. He is 23 years old and has attended several universities. This education does not seem to have helped Kevin with his alcohol abuse or to have prevented him from being involved in the rape and murder. As the Voice for Choice newsletter (see elsewhere in this Post) points out, "while many of the letters cite Kevin's substance abuse problem, few, if any of the letters recommend substance abuse treatment for him while incarcerated." It should also be noted that maximum security prisons in Illinois provide college programs. This fact seems to indicate that what the letter writers actually desire is for Rittenhouse not to have to go to a maximum security prison.

## Repeated problems with alcohol abuse

Court records reveal that Rittenhouse has a problem with alcohol abuse. These records clearly indicate that despite his father's claim to the contrary, Rittenhouse is in fact a threat to society and to himself. Rittenhouse has repeatedly put both himself and others at risk by driving while intoxicated.

Rittenhouse was charged in March of 1989 with driving under the influence of alcohol; driving with a blood alcohol content of .10 or more; reckless driving; failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident; improper display of license plate and failure to wear a properly adjusted seat belt. He was found guilty of counts one and three:

driving under the influence of alcohol and reckless driving. He received a fine of \$500.00 and 24 months court supervision.

When a person fails to comply with the requirements of court supervision the charges turn into a conviction and become part of a person's permanent record. In Rittenhouse's file is a petition from the State's Attorney's office for a "revocation of court supervision," probably because Rittenhouse received yet another DUI while under court supervision.

The second offense happened on September 2, 1990 and the charges were: driving under the influence of alcohol; driving with a blood alcohol content of .10 or more and driving in the wrong lane. The sentence was a bit harsher this time. Rittenhouse's license was suspended for a year. He received a \$500.00 fine, two days imprisonment, 12 months probation and 120 hours of community service. He was also required to undergo an alcohol evaluation. Court records indicate that these were not Rittenhouse's first encounters with either the law or alcohol. He had a previous arrest for illegal consumption of alcohol and one arrest for possession of cannabis.

This information clearly contradicts the letter which suggests that the night of Mal Chaplin's rape and murder was an isolated case of Rittenhouse acting under "impaired judgment." It is obvious that because of his alcohol addiction Rittenhouse's judgment has been impaired in the past. Even without further evaluation, the evidence indicates that Rittenhouse has a dependence on alcohol. It is likely that he was experiencing blackouts and increased tolerance to alcohol. Rittenhouse certainly meets one of the criteria for "psychoactive substance abuse" and that is "recurrent use in situations in which use is physically hazardous (e.g., driving while intoxicated)."

- List of people who wrote letters on their professional stationery:
- Mayor Jesse Smart
  - State Representative Dan Rutherford
  - Randy Arlan Williams, Pastor of Centennial Christian Church
  - Dennis Knoblach Striegel, Knoblach & Co., CPAs
  - Benjamin Snyder, Snyder Real Estate Enterprises
  - Joseph F. Warner, President Heritage Enterprises
  - Daniel T. Cole, Dean of Students, Normal Community High School
  - Norval R. Stahly, President of Stahly Truck City
  - David Davis, attorney at law
  - J. Anthony Dustrman, M.D., McLean County Orthopedics
  - James R. Brown, Chartered Financial Consultant
  - Edward H. Barnes, President of Glass Specialty System



# and the Rape Culture

## Family and friends deny his culpability

Many of the letter writers were horrified that Rittenhouse was found guilty of murder and sexual assault. Most friends and family members believed that he would be found guilty of obstruction of justice and concealing a homicide. Almost all of the writers expressed their disbelief that Rittenhouse received the same 38 year sentence as Shaun Chaszar. One letter said that Rittenhouse was taken from his friends and family "unjustly and unfairly." Another letter likens the situation to being in a bank while it is being robbed and asks "Does this mean that if I am in a bank when it is being robbed, and I choose to do nothing because I fear for my safety that I will be convicted of stealing?" Hardly an apt analogy.

Evidence suggests that Rittenhouse knew exactly what was happening to Mal Chaplin during the assault and did nothing to stop it. Rittenhouse told Zerfas (the friend who eventually told the police about the rape and murder) upon his arrival at the apartment that "They're doing her. It's going on. They are raping her." Testimony suggests he was in the room at least two times during the assault. Not only did he not attempt to stop it but he prevented Zerfas from leaving and helped destroy evidence.

We can never know exactly what happened that night. Testimony from the various defendants is conflicting. However, I would like to remind us of Chaszar's testimony concerning Rittenhouse's behavior that night. Chaszar describes Rittenhouse and Whitehead as "poking her and pulling her hair" before the rape took place. Chaszar says that Rittenhouse "kept flicking the light on and off in a strobe like effect" during the rape. (Rittenhouse stated that he flicked the light on and off because of his horror at what he saw in the room). Rittenhouse is described as shoving Zerfas against the wall, when he attempted to leave the apartment, telling him "You're not going anywhere. You're part of this too." Chaszar stated that the men "laughed" when they were told that Chaplin was dead. In his letter to Judge Witte, Mayor Jesse Smart stated that "Kevin is not a vicious individual." When asked who placed the two garbage bags inside Chaplin's vagina, Chaszar guessed that Rittenhouse may have done it, saying "Kevin is mean. It would be typical of him." Chaszar describes Whitehead and Rittenhouse as "laughing and joking around" while attempting to place Chaplin's body in garbage bags. He also disposed of the murder weapon and burned evidence at his home. Rittenhouse played volleyball and swam the next day.

## Rittenhouse - product of rape culture

Many of the people who wrote letters supporting Rittenhouse found it difficult to believe he could be "associated with such a crime." One writer said that Kevin "never seemed to fit the mold of someone that would have been involved in such a horrible and tragic incident." Another said that "the Kevin I know is not the one described in the papers as a murderer and sex offender." Others also describe him as a loving father, good friend, caring fiance, talented artist and Christian. These beliefs reveal a myth our culture holds about rape, one that seems to persist despite evidence to the contrary. People still seem to believe that rapists are sick, isolated individuals. People do not want to admit that the men who

commit rape are not unusual in our culture. They are our fathers, brothers, lovers and priests. What happened to Mal Chaplin that night is not an isolated incident. Whitehead, Chaszar and Rittenhouse's behavior is not aberrant or psychotic. It is all too common in a culture which devalues and objectifies women. What happened at 408 N. School Street that night happens in fraternities, at parties, on dates in Bloomington Normal, across the country and around the world. This time things got a little out of hand. Rape is typically a way for men to assert their power. What better victim than Mal Chaplin? Not only was Chaplin a woman, but Korean and homeless as well--all disenfranchised groups in our society.

And it is Mal Chaplin's image that haunts me. I think of the horror of her last night alive. I try to imagine what kind of woman she was. The only information I have about her comes from her husband's description of her in the newspaper. He described her as a "little doll . . . old fashioned Korean all the way. Very shy." These are not particularly illuminating details. As I read the letters bemoaning the fact that Rittenhouse will not be able to be with his baby daughter, Emma, the image of Chaplin's nine year old son, Jamie, appears before me as he sits alone in his room with his mother's photos and ashes. While, as several of the letters suggest, Rittenhouse's sentence will not bring Mal Chaplin back, perhaps it can remind us of the responsibility we all have to speak out and work to end the violence against women.

## Highlighted from letters

"Kevin's poor judgment has not been limited to the event of Mal Chaplin's death. He was in my Pastor's Class in 1985. On Palm Sunday when the rest of this class came forward and accepted Christ, Kevin went on Spring Break and never came back."  
--Pastor Randy Williams

"I have known Kevin Rittenhouse for a number of years and did represent him in some traffic matters."  
--David Davis, attorney who represented Rittenhouse on his first DUI

"I feel it is very *unfortunate* that he has been linked to the death of Mal Chaplin."

"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"He is well groomed and has a natural ability for dealing with the public."

"When Kevin was in the 8th grade, he was presented a certificate from the City of Normal for his design of the city logo. This logo flew over City Hall for ten years and was placed on all vehicles owned by the City of Normal. The letterhead for the sister cities in Japan utilized Kevin's logo."

## CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Honorable Judge Witte  
Law and Justice Center  
104 West Front Street  
Fourth Floor  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

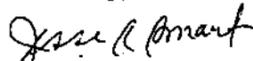
RE: KEVIN RITTENHOUSE

Dear Judge Witte:

As you probably know, I am friends of the Rittenhouse family, including Kevin, who was convicted of murder in the Chaplin case. I ask that the sentence he receives is one that will enable him to come from prison a better man for having learned from his experiences.

Kevin is not a vicious individual. He needs to be given the opportunity to pay his debt to society, then return to the world to become a valuable citizen. I know that you are a fair individual, Judge Witte, and will consider all facets as you deliberate on Kevin's sentencing.

Sincerely,

  
Jesse R. Smart  
Mayor

JRS:mv



JESSE R. SMART  
MAYOR

# 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**



# Attention meat eaters: Part IV



Note: reasons 1-60 have appeared in the previous 4 issues of the Post Amerikan.

61. What happens to the male calf born of a dairy cow? He is taken immediately after birth to a veal factory and locked up by his head in a stall to prevent him from turning around for his entire life. He is fed a special diet without iron or roughage. He is injected with antibiotics to keep him alive and hormones to make him grow. He is kept in darkness except for feeding time. The result? A nearly full-grown animal with flesh as tender and milky white as a newborn's.

62. Agricultural engineers have compared the energy costs of producing poultry, pork and other meats with the energy costs of producing a number of plant foods. It was found that even the least efficient plant food was nearly 10 times as efficient in returning food energy as the most energy efficient animal food.

63. Unlike natural carnivores who can eat excessive quantities of saturated fat without developing clogged arteries, humans, as well as herbivores, invariably develop atherosclerosis with saturated fat in their diets.

64. Unorganized groups of immigrant laborers of different ethnic origin, are generally pitted against each other by modern meat packing plants. The plants also make conditions so intolerable and dangerous that even immigrant laborers leave the industry. The high turnover serves to insulate companies from union organizing. It also serves to minimize meat inspection, the job done more and more by meat packer employees and less and less by USDA inspectors.

65. Food originating from animal sources, including milk, unlike most vegetarian foods, makes the blood acidic. When this happens, the body withdraws calcium from the bones to make it more alkaline. This process balance of the ph of blood, but consequently becomes one of the factors that leads to osteoporosis.

66. Nearly all (95% - 99%) toxic chemical residues in the American diet come from animal sources. Toxic chemical management today amounts to no more than self-regulation by the chemical companies. The Environmental Defense Fund estimates that, on average, each American has 1.5 grams of DDT in his or her body.

67. Synthetic hormones are injected into steers (castrated bulls) to make up for the natural hormonal loss from castration. These hormones may produce carcinogenic residues in the animal's meat.

68. Family farmers who sold their chickens independently to processors on the open market only 35 years ago operate nearly exclusively today as "contract growers." If he hasn't yet been squeezed out completely, "Old MacDonald" currently holds a contract with a company in which he agrees to provide his facility and labor to grow company bird, on company feed, to company specification. He can hardly get out of debt after his investment in the necessary hardware of today's intensive confinement systems.

69. A clue to help end the controversy over whether humans are carnivores: Generally speaking, it is not common for a person to stalk a wild animal, catch it by sinking claws into its body, bite its neck, and feel comfort in the taste of fresh warm blood and uncooked flesh.

70. Today, only 50 large corporations control 90% of all the poultry produced in the U.S. Eight of these account for half of the business.

71. To crank up pork production, piglets may be taken away from their mother soon after birth. They are then provided with a mechanical teat, without which they would die from the emotional loss. The forced weaning allows the sow to end her lactating period, so she can become pregnant again.

72. The high incidence of constipation, hemorrhoids, hiatal hernias, diverticulosis, spastic colon and appendicitis corresponds very closely to today's widespread adoption of high fat, low fiber, meat-centered diets.

73. Our dwindling supply of good water is directly tied to meat consumption. Over half of the total amount of water consumed in the U.S. goes to irrigate land growing feed and fodder for livestock.

74. It has been said that beef could be called a petroleum product so much fossil fuel is needed to produce it. With factory housing, irrigation, trucking and refrigeration, as well as petrochemical fertilizer production requiring vast amounts of energy, approximately one gallon of gasoline goes into every pound of grain-fed beef.

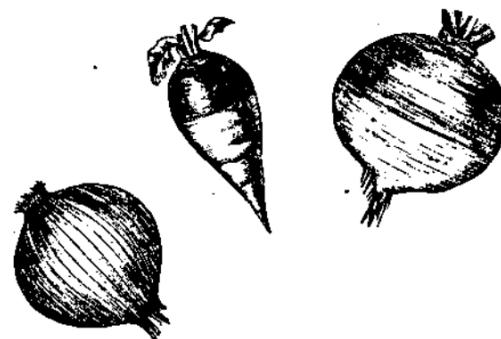
75. The Allied naval blockade during World War I of German-occupied territories in 1917 forced Denmark most dramatically into nationwide vegetarianism. The death rate there from disease during the period dropped by 34%.

76. It is deceptive to measure fat as the percentage of physical weight of foods as the milk industry does. Because of all of the water, by weight milk is under 4% fat. Fat in milk, however, is 50% of the calories.

77. Chicken feather, guts, and waste water, which normally need to be discarded during processing, are routinely "recycled" back to the layer and broiler houses as feed. Industry experts believe that along with unclean slaughtering and processing techniques, this forced cannibalism is leading to the rampant salmonella epidemic in poultry plants. Ignoring these root causes, the U.S. government recommends food irradiation to "sanitize" contaminated birds.

78. Even though organic farming and natural insect control do work, agribusiness continues to use pesticides. Up until now, 2.2 million tons of DDT alone have been used worldwide. Pesticides may take hundreds of years to decompose. In the meantime, meat from animals is fully laden with pesticide concentrations.

79. A 1978 study found blood pressure levels of vegetarian Seventh Day Adventists to be significantly lower than blood pressure levels of meat-eating Mormons.



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# Diet Syles of the Rich and Fatuous

It's January, and once again the media is awash with guilt-inducing flimflam trying to sell the same ol' diet plans in new celebrity packages. SlimFast® rings in the new year with jovial weather guy Willard Scott, and you can't watch a parade or a bowl game without seeing his before-and-after pics at least a half dozen times. (C'mon, Willard, did you really think we were gonna respect you thinner?) Weight Watchers® and Nutri-Systems® bring out their new campaigns, all selling a miraculous new life through diet and weight loss. In 1994, everybody who really and truly works at it will be thin and successful and deservedly happy!

It's a hoax, of course, but a lucrative one.

Submitted for your disapproval: the January 3rd issue of *People* magazine -- its big New Year's cover story, a review of celebrity diet "Winners and Sinners." Let's consider that distinction for a second, shall we? In the world of money and celebrity, short-term weight loss makes you a champion, while even the most negligible gain damns you to perdition.

### Playing against the odds

Perhaps the most depressing thing about this year's list of "winners" is the way their weight loss deadens their empathy. Take Ricki Lake, onetime fat heroine of John Waters' camp nostalgia classic "Hairspray," who has reportedly lost a hundred pounds and used her thinner physique as part of her new packaged talk show host role. Since her weight loss, Ms. Lake has lambasted her former fat self with the fervor of a born-again Christian considering her early wicked ways. What happens to poor Ricki if she's part of that 95% population of longterm diet failures? There's a

word for that particular brand of self-recrimination and yoyo weight levels; it's called "Oprah."

But, hey, Oprah's thin this year, so she's on *People's* "winners" list, too.

This year, at least.

### The Price You Pay

Beyond the year's list of fat battling celebs, we also got a glimpse into the expense of getting and staying thin. Personal trainers, high-priced spas: it's costly, striving to remain in that 5 percentile, and if nothing else, *People's* cover story makes it clear how class-bound thinness has become. To be thin these days means to attain a level of supersveltteness that flies in the face of our genetic maps. Takes big bucks to have your own personal exercise and diet fascist, to regularly wallow in the Colorado mud baths. Who else can afford it?

### Too Fat to Work?

Not Bonnie Cook, who ironically was profiled in the December 12 issue of *People* as part of their regular "Winners" feature. Ms. Cook was an attendant for a state institution for the mentally retarded in Rhode Island who sued the state when she was not allowed to return to work because she was too fat. After a series of court appearances calculated to be as humiliating as possible (attorneys for the state striving to present the 320 lb. mother as gluttonous and weak-willed), Ms. Cook won both job reinstatement and compensatory damages after a five year court battle. One can't help but wonder how many other Bonnie Cooks there are who've been kept or pushed out of jobs merely on the basis of their size.

As a result of the Cook case, the federal Economic Employment Opportunity Commission formally took the position that "morbid obesity" is a protected disability. When you start talking EEOC rulings, you've clearly moved a long way from the world of Robin Leach. And while the ruling might have been beneficial to Ms. Cook personally, its ultimate significance is still being debated by members of the size acceptance movement. Does classifying fatness as a handicap help or hinder size acceptance? What distinguishes the moderately fat from the "morbidly obese"? And where's the protection for the moderately fat?

### Michigan stands alone

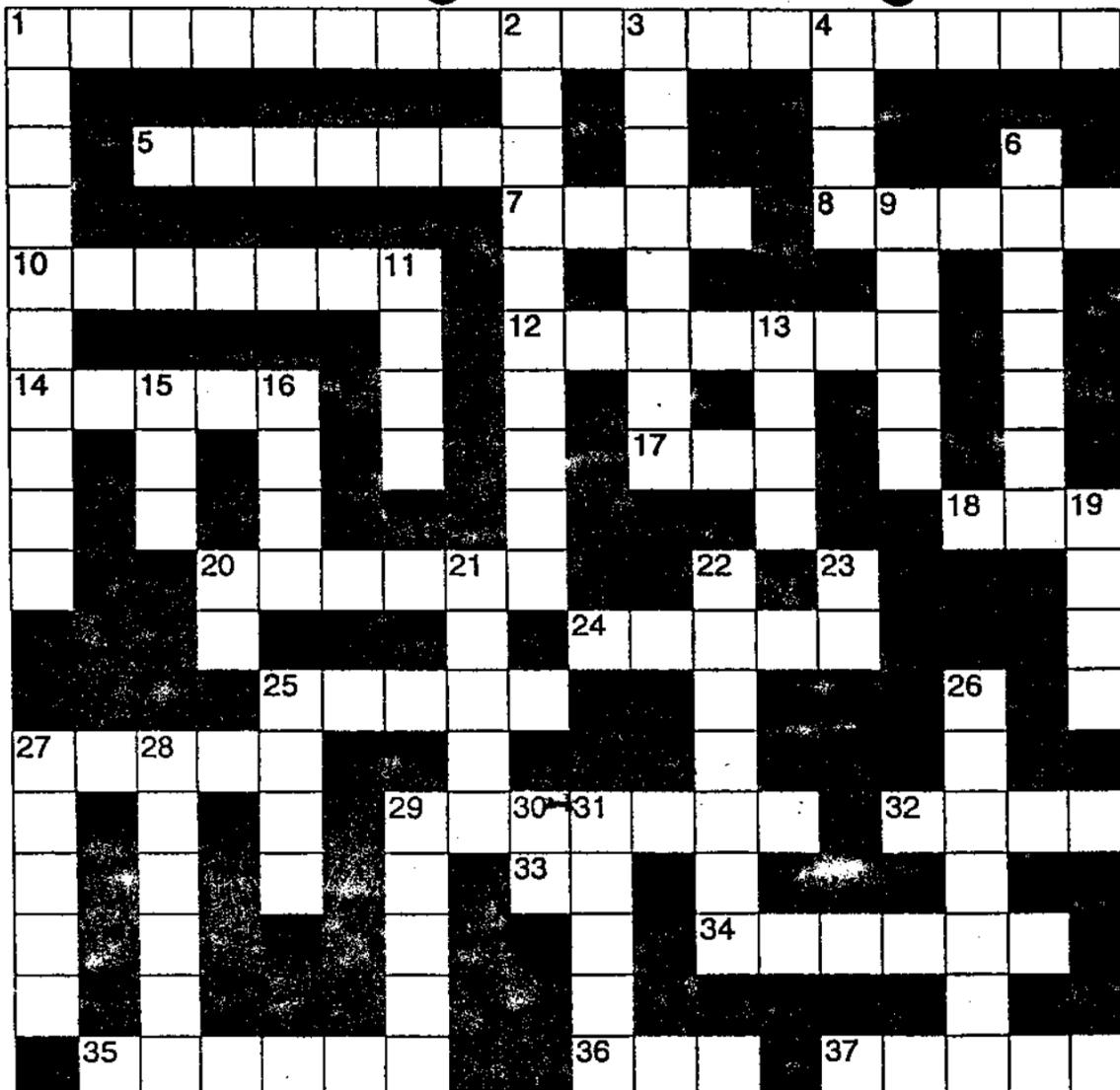
At this writing, only one state (Michigan) contains a state statute prohibiting discrimination on the basis of weight or height, though legislation is pending in New York and Texas. What keeps such legislation from becoming more widespread is the conviction shared by many Americans that fatness is a choice, a character flaw, not a physiological fact. Despite increasing evidence that size is genetically influenced, that there are a variety of factors playing in individual fatness, the diet industry has become so entrenched that its assumptions are not that easily dislodged.

We're back to *People's* "Winners and Sinners" dichotomy again, and while it may seem harmless applied to a bunch of shallow celebs, its use against struggling working stiffs like Bonnie Cook is pernicious.

--BS94 with information from *Dimensions*

(The Central Illinois Chapter of NAAFA, the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, can be reached at 454-2128 or P.O. Box 363, Normal, IL. 61761.)

## Famous Larger-Than-Life Figures



by Becky Fox

### ACROSS

- 1 German *Sugarbaby*
- 5 Yaz songbird, ? Moyet
- 7 300 lbs.+ President
- 8 Bart's donut-dunkin' dad
- 10 Mythical woman warriors
- 12 "chubby" rock&roll legend
- 14 "Th-th-that's all, folks!"
- 17 Ponderosa's Hoss, ? Blocker
- 18 Fleetwood ? singer, Stevie Nicks
- 20 W.C. or Totie ?
- 24 Opera diva Beverly ?
- 25 "Nyuk, nyuk, nyuki"
- 27 *Star Wars* villain, ? the Hut
- 29 "Come up & see me sometime"
- 32 Character actor (think hot chocolate)
- 33 Dom ? Luise
- 34 *Sister Act*-ress Kathy ?
- 35 William Conrad detective
- 36 Wears a tatoo of 15 down
- 37 ? of Willendorf

### DOWN

- 1 "Marshmallow Man"
- 2 Round, jolly old elf
- 3 Lasagne-lovin' fat cat
- 4 Sultan of Singing, Babe ?
- 6 Girlfriend to 14 Across
- 9 Yo-yo dieting TV hostess
- 11 Japaneses athlete
- 13 The "?", Elvis Presley
- 15 Roseanne Barr Arnold (init)
- 16 Boo-Boo bear's best buddy
- 19 Spaghetti king, ? Boyardee
- 20 "Yabba dabba doo!" (init)
- 21 Played Suzanne Sugarbakere
- 22 The Great One
- 23 ? Piggy, feminist
- 25 60's pop "Mama"
- 26 *Arachnophobia* exterminator
- 27 "Rose is Rose" cartoon FA
- 28 Rub his tummy for luck
- 29 TV's best-loved lawyer
- 30 Was Lou Grant
- 31 *Cheers* star - "Norm!"



# News From Voice

## Unsafe Condoms Pulled from Shelf

Voice for Choice is pleased to report that Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois has removed both the Peter Meter and the Glow In the Dark condoms from the shelves at the Protection Connection. As you recall, Voice for Choice had expressed concern over the sale of the condoms as neither were FDA approved. We are pleased that Planned Parenthood has decided to place patient safety above profits. We are also grateful to all our supporters who contacted Planned Parenthood regarding this issue, your opinions were heard.

## Clinic to Open in Champaign

Champaign has been chosen as the site of a new clinic, operated by Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois. With the move to a new facility, Planned Parenthood will be able to expand their services. Among those new services will be abortion services. While we understand the rationale for the decision, we are disappointed that the women of McLean County will have to wait for abortion services to become available in their community. It is our sincere hope that Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois will again consider offering abortion services in McLean County once the lease on their current facility here expires in 1995. It is unacceptable that women in McLean County must travel at least one hour away to obtain legal, safe, medical procedures. It is also up to the pro-choice members of this community to voice their opinions on this issue and to begin to work together with Planned Parenthood and Voice for Choice to help guarantee that someday the women of McLean County can access the full spectrum of reproductive health care services.

## Female Condoms Available

Female condoms are now available at the Protection Connection. The Reality (the name of the condom), looks like a long baggie. At the closed end of the condom is a ring that looks like the ring of a diaphragm. The ring works the same way, it is inserted and holds the condom in place by resting on the pelvic bone. At the open end of the condom is another, smaller ring, that looks like the ring at the end of a male condom (although it is slightly bigger). One advantage of the female condom is that it is more comfortable than male condoms and offers more protection to women by also covering the outer labia. As with any condom,

the Reality is to be used with a lubricant/spermicide. It is important to note that after intercourse the condom should be removed before the woman stands up. The Reality is being sold for \$2.00 each (which includes a bottle of lubricant and instructions) and is available only at Planned Parenthood. We hope that eventually drug stores and physicians in town will jump into the 90's and offer the Reality.



## News from the front

On September 29, 1993, the Planned Parenthood of Lancaster County in Lancaster, Pa., was fire-bombed. The attack was the third fire-bombing of a U.S. health center in 10 days. The ensuing fire destroyed an office, examining rooms, and equipment, totaling over \$100,000. in damage. However, the clinic continued to serve the public.

According to the affiliate Public Affairs Director Pat Brogan, the clinic was able to take calls the day of the fire using only one phone line. By the next day, the clinic had set up extra phone lines in the parking area and a way to provide pregnancy tests and other services from a single small room that was only minimally damaged by the blaze.

Source: *Insider*, Oct. 1993

The Christian Coalition held its third annual "Road to Victory" convention last Sept. in Washington, D.C. The meeting was highly publicized and marked the accelerating legitimacy of the religious right. With Pat Robertson at the helm the group aims to take over the Republican Party.

## They're everywhere

We should mention that, for those of you not aware of this, the Christian Coalition is headquartered in Normal, Illinois. Leaders of

the group are Lee Newcom and Jerald Janulis (one of the unsuccessful city-council candidates (thank God, goodness or whatever higher power you might believe in).

The group appears to be successful in its attempts to take over the party. Robertson moved the convention to Washington to gain more media attention. Attending the event were Haley Barbour, Chair of the Republican National Committee, Bill Bennett, Phil Gramm and Jack Kemp (regarded as the left wing of the Republican party). Kemp even boasted that his son runs an affiliate of the far-right group, Focus on the Family. Buchanan was greeted with a "wildly enthusiastic standing ovation" as he praised the Confederacy as part of his "our Christian-culture-is superior" theme.

## 24 Hour Commercial-Free Fascism

Meanwhile, the consolidation of the party base was proceeding. Paul Weyrich, president of the Free Congress Foundation, announced the launching of a 24-hour satellite/cable far-right propaganda program. He is also starting a weekly broadcast to specifically vetted far-right leadership, beamed on a shifting frequency to make it more difficult for outsiders to gain access to it.

## Gaining Clout

In fact, so successful are the efforts of the Christian Coalition, the hierarchy of the Catholic Church is now aligning itself with the group, and religious right organizations are joining forces with secular groups, such as the National Rifle Association, to form a "popular front" for the far right. If Robertson and his followers are able to consolidate their hold over the Republican party, the nation as a whole, and, indeed, the whole global environment, will be politically destabilized. In that event, even the positions of power that more liberal forces hold in the White House, Congress, state legislatures, and the governors' mansions will be no protection from the political nightmare that will ensue.

If you are a pro-choice Republican (and we know you're out there), consider this your wake-up call. The fate of your party rests in your hands. It is time for the pro-choice Republicans of this community to find the courage to publicly take as stand on this issue.

# CHRISTIAN COALITION: A HOUSE UNITED.

Mail to:  
Christian Coalition  
of Illinois  
PO Box 1776  
Bloomington, IL 61702

At long last, a grass roots coalition of Evangelicals, pro-family Catholics, and their allies has formed to make government and the media responsive to our concerns. It's high time we realize the strength that comes through unity.

Christian Coalition is an issue-oriented organization, designed to mobilize and train Christians for effective political action. It is our stated purpose to reverse the moral decline and encroaching secularism in this country, and reaffirm our godly heritage.

### Here's What We Can Do.

Our five-fold mission is to: 1) represent Christians before local councils, state legislatures and Congress; 2) speak out in the public arena and in the media; 3) train Christian leaders for effective social and political action; 4) inform Christians about timely issues and pending legislation; 5) protest anti-Christian bias and defend the legal rights of Christians.

Christian Coalition will promote Christian values through a network of state affiliates and county chapters. Our broad-based membership will monitor legislative initiatives of concern to our membership, take concerted action to further our mutual interests, and interact with state and local officials.

With your help, we will have a significant impact on our communities and on our nation.

### Here's What You Can Do.

Christian Coalition cannot succeed without people like you. By joining us, you can help us achieve our immediate goal of at least 32 state chapters and representation in 300 Congressional districts.

As a rank and file member, you'll be joining forces with others in the body of Christ who are taking a stand for righteousness in these challenging times.

If God has blessed you with leadership skills, you may play a role as precinct captain. As such, you will be working as liaison with national and state organizations to defend Christian values in your community and elsewhere.

### Benefits And Opportunities.

Membership in Christian Coalition entitles you to a subscription to our newsletter, as well as your official membership card and Christian Coalition lapel pins. You may also participate in the following activities:  
**Field Program.** Those selected as regional field directors will establish county chapters and help affiliates mobilize Christians in their state.  
**Christian Leadership School.** This weekend of



intensive training will instruct those with political leadership potential in the nuances of candidate recruitment, voter registration, opposition research, contacting elected officials, and more.

**National Convention.** An annual event in Washington, DC, featuring prominent speakers, seminars and a day of interaction with your Congressman and Senators.

**Christian Legal Defense Fund.** This project will fund legal challenges by Christians protesting violations of their historical freedoms.

### Are You With Us?

Together, with God's help, we will topple the abomination known as abortion on demand. We'll see a day when a Christmas nativity scene is no longer considered a threat to our Constitution. We'll witness the demise of films and TV programs that defame our Lord and caricature His servants. And our children will again bow their heads in prayer in public schools.

Will you stand with us until Christians have a voice in their government again and there is a return to righteousness in American society? Please fill out your application for membership now.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, add my voice to Christian Coalition.

One Year Plan \$100 Enriched

3-Pay Plan \$35 a month for 3 months

6-Pay Plan \$15 a month for 6 months

I cannot join at this time, but I'm enclosing a contribution to show my solidarity with your members. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me more information.

**NAME: DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!**

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Congressional District or Name of Congressman \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to Christian Coalition are not tax deductible. Make checks payable to: Christian Coalition, P.O. Box 1776, Bloomington, IL 61702. Tel: (309) 437-2610



# For Choice

## Harassment through mail

Life Dynamics, Inc. (LDI), the anti-choice company that has launched the "Abortion Malpractice" campaign, has launched other campaigns to harass abortion providers and discourage medical students and young doctors from offering abortion services. LDI's offerings this year included: "Bottom Feeder," a collection of sick jokes about abortion providers, mailed to thousands of medical students.

A nationwide "survey," under the banner of a bogus organization, "Project Choice" seeking providers reactions to anti-choice harassment.

A "next day express" mailing, urging recipients to become "spies for life" by sending LDI information about abortion providers. LDI aims to provide abortion malpractice attorneys with a detailed history of "every abortionist in America."

A nationwide mailing to physicians, inviting them to act as consultants and expert witnesses in the "abortion malpractice" campaign.

The "800 Club, or "electronic rescue": anti-choice fanatics flood providers' toll-free phone lines, blocking access and running up phone bills.

"Direct mail": blitzing physicians' neighbors with postcards advising them that an abortionist dwells among them.

Such tactics mark a change in the anti-choice strategy, from plan A, make abortion illegal, to plan B, make abortion unavailable. Unfortunately the plan is working.

If you would like to fight back here is one easy way, call Life Dynamics at their toll free number and run up their bill. The number is 1-800-962-2319 (or 1-800-U-CAN-SUE.)

Source: Insider (the idea to call their phone # and run up the bill is ours.)

## Health News

The big question regarding women's health seems to be just what will be included in the Clinton Health Care Proposal. What we know is that the plan outlines the first major steps toward providing universal coverage for every American, good news for women and children particularly. The basic benefit package includes "family planning" and "pregnancy related care" which is so-far understood to include abortion. The health plans in the Clinton proposal must contract with "essential providers," apparently including organizations such as Planned Parenthood that have historically provided care to underserved and hard-to-reach populations.

The plan includes an initiative to provide funding for school-based and school-linked clinics. Unplanned pregnancy and teen pregnancy are identified as priority health problems and as such, will eventually be targeted by "a flexible pool of resources" in the Clinton plan.

The plan also calls for increased investment in recruiting and training non-physician providers such as nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives.

As hopeful as this sounds there are still some grey areas. It is unclear whether or not specific health plans will be able to "opt out" of abortion coverage, or whether a "conscience" waiver would apply only to individual medical practitioners and specific health facilities. Some important preventive health care services, such as mammogram for women under 50 and SAD testing for teenagers, are not covered. The plan will allow states to continue to impose Casey-type restrictions on abortion. It is not clear

whether family planning clinics can act as "gatekeepers" and have direct access to patients in managed care plans.

As we prepare to go to press it appears that the Clinton health plan will cover some abortions, or at least allow states to determine whether or not they wish to cover abortion services. We will hopefully have more information in our next edition.

Source: Insider, Pantagraph & Chicago Tribune

The French-made abortion pill may lead to a break-through oral contraceptive for men that would become active in a few seconds and could be taken right before sexual intercourse.

The effect of the male pill would also wear off quickly, said the developer of the abortion pill, Dr. Etienne-Emile Beaulieu. "I can envisage a pill that can be effective for varying amounts of time - for one hour to one week to one month."

Beaulieu said recent test-tube experiments with human sperm show that the pill may work as a kind of "hormonal condom."

He said preliminary testing on rats and monkeys will begin soon. Human testing is expected to start in two or three years.

Voice for Choice does have copies of the New York Times Magazine article on breast cancer. It is a good article, unfortunately it is too lengthy to duplicate here. If you would like a copy please send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we will send you a copy of the article.

## Other News

Kudos to Governor Edgar who signed legislation prohibiting judges from using contraceptive techniques/methods as sentencing tools.

The FDA recently announced the results of their study of glow in the dark condoms. The conclusion was that glow in the dark condoms are not safe and do not adequately protect against STD' and pregnancy. We had suspected as much.

## Battle not over yet

With the recent passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic to Entrance Act (FACE) a good number of folks now believe that the issue is resolved. Unfortunately this is not the case. While FACE is a good start toward ending anti-choice violence outside of clinics, it is not enough. We still need similar legislation at the state level.



FACE is a federal law. What that means is that within each state, each county, each city, local law enforcement will determine whether or not they will enforce this legislation. It is possible for local law enforcement to refuse thereby forcing Federal Marshall's to protect the clinics. We would rather see legislation at the state level that would protect clinics from illegal, violent protests. We are not talking about those who choose to stand peacefully outside of clinics with pamphlets or signs, we are talking about those individuals who chain themselves to clinic doors, who physically assault women and clinic staff.

Please contact your state representative (hopeless as it may seem) and ask them to support legislation in the Illinois House that will protection.



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# Pregnancy, Childbirth and

## A few things you ought to consider when you buy that home pregnancy test . . .

Men, imagine this: you want . . . no, *need* to get a vasectomy. Yes, Public Aid will pay for you to have it, but because you don't already have a doctor, you will have one randomly assigned to you. Your doctor will be a woman. No sexism intended, but nonetheless you wonder why she specializes in men's medicine rather than women's. Then, you learn that not only does she have a reputation for being a butcher, she, for some sadistic reason, gives her patients nothing for the pain before she operates. You would be upset, to say the least, because, remember, you *need* the vasectomy. Furthermore, not only will she be operating on you, but she will be operating on a body part that is particularly dear to you. Yet the rules governing the local medical society make it impossible for you, as a patient on Public Aid, to switch doctors.

That sums up Bloomington-Normal's obstetrical services for women with Medical Cards. I know. Two of my friends and I went through a similar hassle when we were all pregnant last year.

## And some people say we don't need to reform public health care policies

From my perspective, the problems with childbirth under Public Aid are too complex to be fully redressed any time soon. The McLean County Medical Society explains that obstetricians were dropping out of their public health program and refusing to see women with Medical Cards. The Medical Society also claims that in order to protect women from being dropped from the program, or worse, not being able to locate a doctor, they had to establish their present rotation system. Under this system, when a pregnant woman has a Medical Card but not an obstetrician, she must call the McLean County Medical Society to get one, and will then be assigned to the obstetrician at the top of the list, regardless of that doctor's sex, reputation, or beliefs about pregnancy and childbirth.

It is a good thing that women can get care, but I am equally concerned about the quality of that care. Women need a medical system that will be responsive to the personal issues that directly affect their pregnancies and deliveries: the quality of their prenatal and postnatal care. If a woman is well-educated about her childbirth options (though most women aren't), this system can prove even more frustrating.

My friends and I all wanted natural childbirths, an option virtually impossible to choose in Bloomington-Normal hospitals. We all know that not only does natural childbirth prove the safest and best way for low-risk Moms to have healthy babies, it is *empowering*.

## Not to mention cost-effective, too

Natural childbirth means exactly what the word "natural" implies: giving birth as nature has intended. Being the birthing radical that I am, I take natural childbirth to mean staying at home for delivery, but hey, let's not get picky.

Natural childbirth also means *not* being hooked up to a foetal monitor, *not* receiving IV, *not* receiving any pain medication or an epidural (An epidural is an anesthetic injected through the spine at the base of the skull. Sometimes called a *spinal block*, it literally blocks painful sensations from travelling their normal course, along the body's network of nerves through the spine and to the brain.). Or being offered any of this stuff every half hour by a smiling nurse cooing "Come on, honey . . . you don't have to go through all this! We can make it better . . ." (Sounds like she's talking to a junkie going through withdrawal!)

## Who's the one having the baby here, anyway?

Natural childbirth means *not* spending most of your labor in bed, *not* giving birth flat on your back, or insufficiently propped up (So not only are you fighting gravity with every contraction, you're also forcing your muscles to work unnecessarily hard. That can contribute to exhaustion, and possibly lead to a caesarian delivery that should otherwise have been unnecessary.), *not* being given an episiotomy (a surgical incision of the tissue that separates the vagina from the anus, purportedly done to prevent tearing during delivery), *not* being scheduled for a caesarean, just because you had a caesarean for a previous delivery, and, finally, *not* having your baby pulled out by forceps.

All of the procedures described above benefit the doctor, but, in a normal delivery, neither the mother nor the baby. Conventional medical delivery frequently forces the delivering mother to remain on her back, feet in stirrups, with her hips raised higher than her head. In that position, she's fighting gravity rather than using it to facilitate a quicker, less traumatic delivery for both her baby and herself. Delivery under these conditions can become unnecessarily protracted, and, in turn, requires using forceps to get the baby out safely. For a routine delivery, none of this should be necessary.

Unquestionably, any of the procedures and interventions described above have their place, but they should be used only as they are needed, not as a matter of course. Unfortunately, most hospital births in Bloomington-Normal include routine use of drugs and epidurals, external and possibly internal foetal monitors, IVs, and episiotomies! On top of all this, the nurses come and go, while the laboring woman is allowed nothing to eat, and isn't given very much encouragement by the attending medical staff. It's very difficult for any woman to give natural birth under these circumstances. And to make things worse, my friends and I were told we would have no choice in selecting either our obstetricians or in opting to forgo any of the procedures I've listed above.

## Since most men have yet to directly experience pregnancy and childbirth . . .

In order for male readers to appreciate the full impact of such experiences, let me encourage you to imagine being forced into one of those ugly and demeaning hospital gowns (open in the back), being put into a bed, hooked to an IV, having monitors attached to you, and having a bunch of strangers stream in and out of the room while you and your loved one try to share what should be an intimate experience. Imagine then being told to go ahead, get an erection, and have an orgasm. Performance anxiety? You bet. Yet women are expected daily to do this -- what is supposed to be an intimate and joyous experience -- and no one thinks twice about it.

## No means no. Now, just what part of that sentence don't you understand?

Another issue that does not get sufficient attention would be the sexual abuse of delivering women. For some women that may mean being forced to have a male doctor deliver their babies. Women who have experienced sexual abuse may find themselves reliving that experience if their doctors remind them of their abusers -- especially if they prove to be sexist jerks. Yet they must nonetheless be attended to by such people during a most vulnerable time. Some women may very well have emotional difficulties that could actually slow the progress of their labor. Yet they will very likely will not have anyone present who will understand that they need further support, at least partly because they cannot choose who will attend them. I, personally, could never spread my legs in front

of a man I despised, especially when birthing my child! Yet women on Public Aid are forced to just that -- they have no say in the health care they receive.

During my only encounter with a doctor during my pregnancy, I was asked how I knew I was pregnant. Here I was, pregnant with my second child, with my belly sticking out so far you'd have to be blind not to notice! I told him, "Well, besides the fact that I can feel the baby moving around, I did a home pregnancy test and the Health Department did a pregnancy test too." He looked at me sternly and replied, "Only a doctor can diagnose a pregnancy!" This same man later told me that I needed to have faith and trust in doctors.

We chose to deliver our baby at home and by ourselves. We wanted a midwife, but there are none practicing around here. We felt nonetheless that I was safer in our home than entrusting ourselves to the sort of outdated interventions they call obstetrics around here.

## Some dispatches from the front-lines

Please, allow me to share with you stories and comments from some of my friends.

One friend was told that she couldn't give birth without an episiotomy, or she would risk permanently brain-damaging her child. Such claims are completely unfounded, and I have much medical evidence to back up my claim. Apparently, this doctor does not keep as current with the appropriate medical literature as I do.

One doctor routinely tells women that they can't gain any more than 26 pounds during pregnancy. If they do, this doctor insists they must get tested for gestational diabetes, and then be put on a calorie reduction diet. Yet these women may not know that they could also risk a *false* diagnosis of gestational diabetes, which is exactly what happened to one of my friends. This is *extremely dangerous!* Average weight gain for pregnant women should be 25-35 pounds, but a very thin woman can safely gain even more. I gained between 40 and 50 pounds during both of my pregnancies because I was very thin when I started out. *Weight reduction diets during pregnancy can be very dangerous to mother and baby, yet this quack practices obstetrics right here in town!*

When asked by her doctor if she was taking a Lamaze class, another friend said no, she taking natural childbirth classes from me. Her doctor replied sarcastically, "This ought to be fun. You better tell her to teach you how to spread your legs farther apart for your next exam."

Yet another friend, in her early twenties, also on Public Aid, and who was having a bi-racial baby was advised by her doctor to get sterilized after the birth of her baby.

Still another friend did not want an episiotomy, knowing that this procedure can cause more trauma to the body than not having it at all, and hurt you even more after giving birth. Her doctor agreed. Yet during the birth this same doctor kept telling her, "If I give you an episiotomy, it will get the baby out faster." Her husband was trying to be supportive, reminding her that she didn't want one. The doctor then turned on him and said "You butt out. This is her birth!"

The stories go on and on.

## First the free lunch, now the free clinic

A new free prenatal clinic has opened up in town, but it sounds to me like it will only offer more of the same impersonal, intrusive, unnecessarily expensive prenatal "care." The



# the Limits of Public Aid

## Know your rights

There are no quick solutions. Educating the public about what kind of options it has in regard to prenatal and birth care is a crucial first step. Unfortunately, the only three independent childbirth educators in this community, Jill Flier I saw advertising this new clinic said that patients must follow doctors' orders. What if the patient thinks the doctor is wrong? Will the doctor then not serve her, thinking s/he knows best? From what I understand, the women using this clinic still get no choice as to whom will deliver their children. Once again, it sounds to me like more "free" services, but only if you do what you're told and be a "good patient." That could cost you something far more important than money.

Women with Medical Cards are treated as if they should have no choice about their health care, and too many of them believe that. Consequently, they think they should be grateful for getting any help at all, so they shouldn't push too hard for what they themselves want. Women need to understand all their reproductive rights, and become educated about the safest childbirth options available to them as individuals. Just because they hold Medical Cards and need Public Aid to pay for their prenatal and obstetrical care doesn't mean that they should have to accept whatever they're Rubio, Holly Foy, and myself, are competing with the free Lamaze classes at local hospitals, and these classes teach you how to be a good patient, not an educated consumer.

offered -- especially if what they're being offered is impersonal, insensitive, substandard -- let alone dangerous -- medical services.

-- Marcee Murray

*For further information on resources for childbirth options in Bloomington-Normal, or for further information on natural childbirth contact*

Marcee Murray 309/827-5843  
Jill Rubio 309/454-3285  
Holly Foy 309/827-6672

# Homebirth: Fighting for Another Reproductive Right

On October 7, 1993, the Citizens' Council on Women, one of the seven councils established by the Illinois General Assembly to hold hearings on topics that legislation may be sponsored at some future date, met on "The Role of Midwifery in Today's Health Care." The Council is composed of eight consumers and eight lawmakers, all sixteen of them women.

## The legal case for licensing midwifery

Currently, the legality of midwifery in Illinois is unclear. In 1991, the Illinois General Assembly thought they made the practice of lay midwifery in Illinois illegal in order to, as they believed, make all births safe in Illinois. However, many midwives in Illinois believe it is not illegal to practice midwifery, because the law in question pertains to practicing medicine without a license. Midwives argue that they are *not* practicing medicine, and, therefore, the law does not pertain to the practice of midwifery. Many attorneys have supported this interpretation of the existing statute.

Nonetheless, the Illinois Alliance of Midwives, headed by Yvonne Cryns, has been working since 1991 to try and establish clearly legal recognition of midwifery through campaigning for the passage of the proposed "Licensed Midwife Practitioners' Act." So far, however, the campaign for this bill's passage has been waged without success.

In the most recent step down the road to licensed midwifery in Illinois, both direct entry and certified nurse midwives were able to present their arguments for legal and professional recognition of midwifery before the Citizens' Council on Women, as were also midwifery consumer representatives (of which I was one), two doctors, and one attorney from the Illinois State Medical Society. Present also was the director of a free prenatal clinic in Springfield, who appeared to be opposed to legal recognition and regulation of midwifery.

## Some people truly are public servants

The Council on Women proved an ideal audience. They were well-informed, receptive to what we had to say, and were actually somewhat skeptical of those representatives of the established medical community who oppose licensed midwifery. The Council was clearly dubious of some of the medical representatives' more ridiculous statements.

The midwifery consumer representatives all had varying stories, but they really only differed in the details. We all testified that either because of previous negative hospital birth experiences, or, in two of our cases, because of lots of research, we all turned to midwives for our care and for a homebirth experience.

Anne Nicholson Weber, Consumer Advocate Attorney, Childbirth Educator, and homebirth mom, spoke on the safety of homebirth and how, for consumers, homebirth is cost effective. For example, the average hospital birth costs \$5,000, whereas the average homebirth costs \$1,000. She also cited excessive use of ultrasound and external foetal monitors as two common medical interventions that drive the cost of health care up by as much as a billion dollars annually. Common as these practices are, she claims, they do not prove statistically beneficial to infant health.

In fact, Ms. Weber further claims, these medical interventions encourage caesarean delivery -- a much more costly procedure than vaginal delivery. She also pointed out the obstetricians cannot give the same quality of care and do not "labor sit" (stay with the woman throughout her labor until she delivers her baby), as midwives do, because it isn't cost effective. Since birth is a normal, healthy event, and not an illness, she further noted, it is wasteful to use doctors for normal deliveries, especially since their training prepares them more for perinatology (risky pregnancies), neonatology (diseases of newborns and birth defects), and complicated or even hazardous deliveries, rather than for normal delivery.

## And now for some professional misinformation

On the other hand, Jane Arbuthnot, who has been practicing obstetrics in Springfield since 1982, gave opposing testimony. She believes that the role of Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) is vital, but that doctors should be present at all births because, she says, 1 out of every 5 births presents complications during labor and/or delivery. She also said that doctors are needed to control such complications as maternal hemorrhaging during delivery, and that control of potentially life-threatening complications such as this are beyond a CNMs' training and abilities. In her arguments before the Council, she also made patently illogical generalizations about what CNMs and direct entry midwives could or might do under such

circumstances. For instance, she argues that they would be prone to prescribing unnecessary treatments. She also claimed that CNMs and direct-entry midwives would increase the cost of medical care by making unnecessary interventions in order to make more money.

In reply to Arbuthnot and others who might share her views, the midwives present described to the Council what they actually do. For example, they pointed out that properly trained midwives do not deliver babies for high-risk women, but only for low-risk women. When asked if this distinction skews the relevant statistics, they replied that 95% of all babies in this country, whether high or low risk, are delivered by doctors, and nationally, these doctor-assisted deliveries prove statistically poor in relation to infant health and mortality rates.

One doctor, who made some other ridiculous remarks, ended up comparing women to her friend's racehorses. She said that her friend won't even let his racehorses give birth in the stable, but instead sends his mares to the vet, where the best care is available. One Council member told her bluntly that her comments were insulting to women. Yet this doctor also stated that one of the greatest concerns in a homebirth is the risk of infection, and because of this risk, women are better off delivering in a hospital. She is wrong on this point: the reality is that hospitals still have high maternal infection rates, whereas homebirths have much lower maternal infection rates. Frightening to think that this woman is not only a doctor, but that she also teaches medical students!

## And you thought your vote couldn't make a difference

Democratic Representative Janice Schakowsky remarked, after hearing all the testimony, that while doctors are clearly needed in high-risk pregnancies and deliveries, women nonetheless should have a choice as to whom can turn to for maternal health care, as well as to whether or not they will deliver their babies at home or in a hospital. If other members of the Illinois State Legislature prove to be as thoughtful, responsible, and open-minded as Rep. Schakowsky, legal, licensed midwifery for the women of Illinois may be just around the corner.

--Marcee Murray



# Gay / Lesbian / and Bisexual Issues

## Applaud Apple

Williamson County Texas commissioners voted on Nov. 30 to deny tax breaks to Apple Computer because the company offers health benefits to the domestic partners of its gay employees. Apple had stated prior to the vote that it would not change its policy, and would choose another site if it did not receive the tax breaks offered to other companies moving to the area. The vote will cost the county 700 jobs and an \$80 million Apple complex. This is the first time, to our knowledge, that a government entity has used its power to punish a company for treating its gay employees fairly.

Apple has recently been the target of a phone-fax-mail zap by the Religious Right, attacking the company's non-discrimination and domestic partnership policies for including gay and lesbian employees.

Thank Apple Computer for its domestic partner policy and for not buckling under anti-gay bigotry. Write to Apple Computer, RE: Policies, 20525 Mariani Avenue, Mail Stop 72P, Cupertino, CA 95014.

## Question Dell

Meanwhile, Dell Computer, in Austin, TX, received the tax breaks denied to Apple. Dell Computer has no domestic partnership policy and does not ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Dell has not responded to inquiries from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Write, call or fax Dell to suggest implementation non-discrimination and domestic partnership policies. Contact Grace Alcalá, manager of Employee Relations, Dell Computer, 9505 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759-7299: (512) 338-4400: (512) 728-8922 (fax).

## Health Care Reform & You

NGLTF is preparing an analysis of the President's Health Security Act and its impact on the health concerns of gay, lesbian and bisexual people. The document will be available in mid-December.

NGLTF is also establishing a nationwide network of lesbian, gay and bisexual health reform activists who want to receive ongoing mailings about health care reform and who will contact their federal legislators regarding reform.

For a copy of the Health Security Act analysis, write to NGLTF Publications Dept., 1734 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 332-6483, ext. 3327. To join the nationwide network of lesbian, gay and bisexual health reform activists, contact Marj Plumb, NGLTF Health Policy Director at (202) 332-6483, ext. 3310.

## Congressional Action

The House and Senate passed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act in November by overwhelming margins in both chambers. This piece of legislation advances the federal response to crimes in which the perpetrator intentionally selects a victim because of his or her "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation." The legislation increases penalties for hate crimes under the federal law; enhances federal sentences not less than three offense levels and demands proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a hate crime occurred. The House passed a stand alone measure while the Senate passed and Omnibus Crime Bill package that included the hate crimes issue. This legislation will be going to conference committee in January to resolve differences between the chambers.

Please write your member of Congress and ask them to support final passage of the Hate Crimes Sentencing Act. U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510: (202) 224-3121; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510; (202) 225-3121. For further information call Martin Hiraga, NGLTF Anti-Violence Organizer, at (202) 332-6483, ext. 3307 or Tanya Domi, NGLTF Legislative Director, ext. 3308.

Source: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

## Dear Cracker Barrel:

Greetings,

Yesterday, I went to lunch with my wife, at the local Cracker Barrel restaurant & Country Store. It was a very pleasant lunch for both of us, the food was excellent, and I topped it off with some delicious peach cobbler and hot coffee. The employees were friendly and competent, and the roaring fire was a nice touch for a blustery day.

Alas, as much as I enjoyed the dining experience, I may not be able to return. The other day I read in the business section of our newspaper, that Cracker Barrel is defending (in court!) a written company policy excluding homosexuals from employment. In other words, your company actually discriminates in employment on the basis of something other than how well an individual can do his or her job.

I am a family man with good, moral values. One of the highest of those values is respect for people's differences. If you assumed that homosexuality was a personal choice (it isn't), you could just as easily say, "We will not hire any Moslems at Cracker Barrel because that would create friction in the workplace." (Or, it would go against your religion, or it might offend some customers, etc.) If you believe homosexuality is inborn, you could just as easily say, "We will not hire any blacks at Cracker Barrel"(for all the same reasons.) In either case, such discrimination would be illegal, and in any case, it would be immoral.

I urge you to become informed about gay people. I have worked with gay people, and one of my college roommates was gay. They are not terrible people, they are perfectly normal people. Some are honest, some are not; some are kind, some are rude; in about the same proportions as the rest of us "normal" people. If anything, I give them credit for personal strength for living under the weight of prejudice and discrimination such as your restaurant chain apparently practices. Again, I urge you to become informed about gay people.

It would sadden me to have to avoid your restaurant - there are not very many good places to eat in Bloomington/Normal. But I cannot continue to patronize a business that deliberately practices discrimination. If any of us are not free, no one is free. Can you tell me that this policy is under review, with an intention to change it as soon as possible? Can you tell me that you will not wait until the law inevitably recognizes gay rights, and that you will begin to practice fairness because it is the right thing to do?

Until I know this, I cannot continue to eat at Cracker Barrel.

Sincerely,  
George A. Wiman

*Collective Note: If you would also like Cracker Barrel to know your feelings concerning their indecent company policy, please write to them at the following address.*

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.  
P.O. Box 787  
Lebanon, Tennessee 37088-0787

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Sun-Wed: 10-3:00 a.m.  
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Present this ad at the bar for a drink.  
One per customer per night



# HIV, AIDS and Related Health Stats

The first nationwide survey of AIDS infections conservatively estimates that about 550,000 Americans carry the virus. This number is less than previous government estimates. However, the researchers who conducted the study caution that this is a conservative number because the random sample only included people living in homes, it did not question the homeless, incarcerated individuals or any other people living outside of a home setting.

Source: Chicago Tribune

## STD's affect women more

Researchers from Johns Hopkins University reported at the international conference on STDs in Helsinki, Finland, that 250 million people worldwide are thought to be suffering from some form of STD. The crisis is especially acute in the developing world and in the inner-city areas of the United States. Scandinavia and northern Europe are the only regions of the globe where STDs are declining.

Dr. Hunter Hansfield said that "women are far more easily infected than men. They also suffer the effects of infection more profoundly. Infertility and maternal mortality are particularly high among women in the developing countries."

## STDs increase HIV risks

Dr. Peter Piot (World Health Organization) warned that studies show that "where there are classic STD infections, the risk of HIV is much increased. STDs facilitate the spread of HIV because the genital lesions and inflammations associated with them are easy points of entry into the body for the virus."

Source: AIDS Weekly, Sept. 20, 1993, Johns Hopkins Public Health news release

The number of AIDS cases in U.S. women grew 10 percent from 1991 to 1992. In sub-Saharan Africa, women becoming infected with HIV now outnumber men by six to five. In Malawi, infection rates among women attending antenatal clinics increased from about 3 percent in 1985 to 30 percent in 1992.

Michael Merson, executive director of the WHO Global Program on AIDS, reported that: women are biologically more vulnerable as receptive partners because they have larger mucosal surfaces exposed during sexual intercourse; women are epidemiological vulnerable because they tend to have sex with older men who may have had more sexual partners and because women in the developing world frequently require blood transfusions during pregnancy or childbirth; women are socially vulnerable because they are expected to be passive in their relationships with men and, in many cultures, are sexually subordinate to men, making it difficult or even impossible to protect themselves from sexual transmission through mutual fidelity or condom use; Dr. Merson concluded that "women face extra challenges in protecting themselves and their children from HIV infection. But this social vulnerability is hard for women to challenge as individuals, or even through female solidarity alone. It will take an alliance of women and men working in a spirit of mutual respect."

Source: AIDS Weekly, Sept. 20, 1993

## Multivitamins may prove helpful

Upon completion of a preliminary study, University of California at Berkeley researchers found that nearly one-third of 296 men with HIV were protected from developing AIDS by using a daily multivitamin.

Source: AIDS Weekly, August 23, 1993

New York teens account for 20 percent of the nation's AIDS cases. The rate of HIV infection among adolescents in New York state has increased by more than 80 percent in the last two years.

Source: Fact Sheet, Gay Men's Health Crisis, July 1, 1993

Columbia University researchers concluded that six consecutive sexuality education and safer sex classes reduce teens' risky sexual activity by only 5 to 10 percent and that more comprehensive programs would be more effective.

Source: AIDS Weekly, Aug. 30, 1993

Urine tests for chlamydia in asymptomatic men have now proven to be more accurate and less expensive than traditional urethral cultures, which cost \$69 and fail to detect the disease nearly 40 percent of the time. The new urine tests detect infections about 80 percent of the time. Testing and treatment with the new tests cost from \$199- \$434. Between six and 11 percent of young men have asymptomatic chlamydia.

Source: The New York Times, Nov. 3, 1993, Journal of the American Medical Assoc., Nov 3, 1993



## Common Questions

Risa Denenberg, author of *Gynecological Care Manual for HIV-Positive Women*, suggests that clinicians must become familiar with the questions most frequently asked by women with HIV, including: Does HIV infection lead to menstrual abnormalities such as missing periods and heavier periods? Or are these problems a side effect of AZT or other drugs prescribed for HIV? Why am I losing my pubic hair? Why do I have pms now? I never had it before the HIV. And I never want sex anymore. What's the problem? I think I'm going through menopause, but I'm only 30. What's going on with my hormones? Do I need estrogen? Is it safe to take the pill, with all the other medications I'm taking? Will it suppress my immune system? Why am I having all these gynecological problems: I have infection after infection, and now I have an abnormal Pap test. Is that a sign I'm getting sicker? What will happen to my immune system if I get pregnant? Is having an abortion safe for me? If I have a baby, who will see me for my HIV problems while I'm pregnant? I think I might be infertile. How can I find out? Why should I use condoms if my partner also has HIV? Can I be reinfected with HIV?

Ms. Denenberg claims that there is a tremendous gap between what women want providers to address and what "women's issues" actually get attention

Part of the problem is that these questions raise difficult and emotional issues for many clinicians and researchers. A larger problem is the pervasive exclusion of women as research subjects.

Source: AIDS Clinical Care, Sept. 1993

## Kit offered

The CDC has put together a kit of materials that demonstrate that latex condoms offer effective protection against HIV and other STDs. The kit is a joint effort of the CDC, FDA, and NIG and provides "compelling evidence that further substantiates our earlier findings..." For a free copy call the AIDS Clearinghouse at 1-800-458-5231. Ask for the updated kit of "Background Information on the Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report: "The Effectiveness of Condoms."

Source: Insider

Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health have found that while 20.2 percent of babies born by vaginal delivery to women with HIV are also infected, only 14 percent of those born by cesarean section are infected.

Source: AIDS Weekly, July 19, 1993

## Another reason not to smoke

Dr. Richard Nieman of the National Heart and Lung Institute in London reports that smokers with HIV develop full-blown AIDS twice as quickly as non-smokers with HIV.

Source: New York Newsday, May 12 Oct. 13, 1993

Use of condoms reported by women has more than doubled since 1984.

Source: New York Newsday, Oct. 13, 1993

Genital ulcers are part of the spectrum of HIV-related illnesses in women, according to an abstract presented at the 33rd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy held in New Orleans.

Source: AIDS Weekly, Nov. 15, 1993

A Texas physician, Dr. David Wright, claims he is treating two lesbians with HIV who may have become infected through sex with women.

Source: AIDS Weekly, Sept. 6, 1993

Call 212-807-6655 for information about the Gay Men's Health Crisis's new brochure, "The Safer Sex Handbook for Lesbians."

A study published in the July 24 *Lancet* indicates that the risk of sexual transmission of hepatitis C is "absent or very low."





# You May Already Be a Winner!

The Post Amerikan is holding a raffle to raise some much needed cash. As you can see from the raffle ticket, there are some neat prizes to be given away to eight lucky winners. If the reader response is anything like it has been in the past, there will be an excellent chance to win. So what are you waiting for? These odds don't come around often.

The raffle drawing will be held the first week of March. All ticket stubs and money sent to us after the February 25, due date will be void. Of course we reserve the right to keep all money. Please make checks out to Post Amerikan and send to: Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702. Good luck!

<b>Post Amerikan Raffle</b> Donation \$1.00  Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Phone _____ Please mail ticket stub and money to: Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702. Due by Feb. 25, 1994.	<b>1st Prize \$100.00</b>  <b>Other Prizes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3.5 hrs of housecleaning from Menage Cleaning (\$42 value) 828-4473</li> <li>- 1 hr classical guitar playing at an appropriate event by Tom Townsend (\$50 value) 828-4473</li> <li>- 2 hrs graphic design services (\$40 value)</li> <li>- 5 tarot card readings by Madame Becky (read for 5 people at a single event) (\$50 value)</li> <li>- 1 pet waste pickup for your yard from John Biloz, owner of Home Buddies (worth \$10) 828-9159</li> <li>- 2 copies of Rock Art Family Dog concert photos (reproduction print portfolio) (\$9 value)</li> <li>- 2 lbs coffee from Common Ground</li> </ul>
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