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The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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POST AMERIKAN



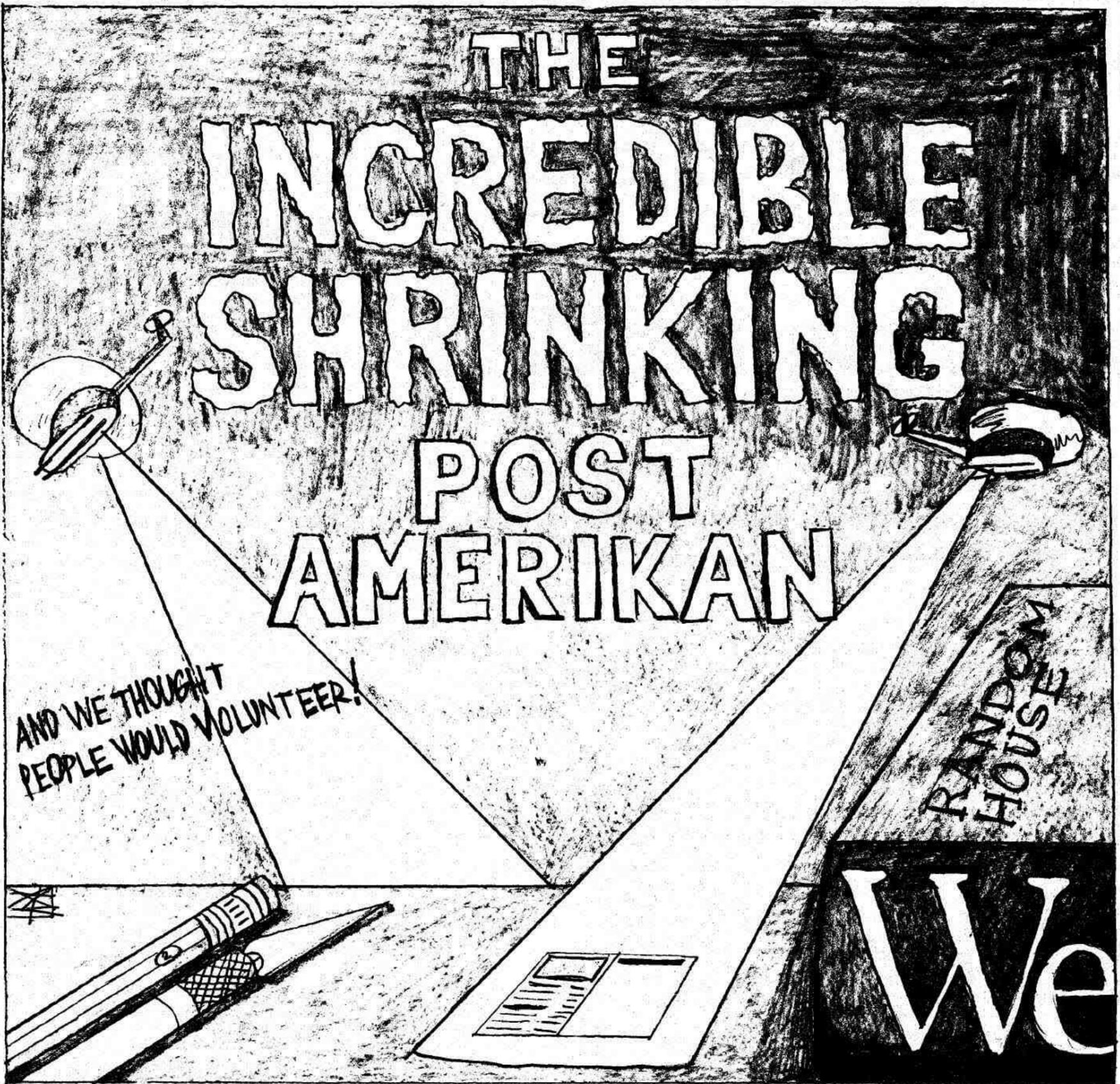
BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 23

50¢

NO. 3

JUNE/JULY 1994



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PAGE 2



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About us

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

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

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

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

What's your new address?

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

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Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)
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This issue of *Post Amerikan* is brought to you by . . .

Deborah, Linda, Ralph, and Sherrin

+ TOM

Good numbers

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Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber	438-2429
Habitat for Humanity	829-0693
HELP (transportation for senior citizens/handicapped)	828-8301
Home Sweet Home Mission	828-7356
IL Dept. of Public Aid	827-4621
IL Lawyer Referral	1-800-252-8916
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McLean Co. Humane Society	663-7387
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National Health Care Services/abortion assistance	1-800-322-1622
Normal N.O.R.M.A.L.	452-4761
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Operation Recycle	829-0691
Parents Anonymous	827-4005
PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help	827-4005
Phone Friends	827-4005
Planned Parenthood (medical)	827-4014
(bus/couns/edu)	827-4368
<i>Post Amerikan</i>	828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services	827-5021
Project Oz	827-0377
Rape Crisis Center	827-4005
Safe Harbor Mission (Salvation Army)	829-9476
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center	827-5428
TeleCare (senior citizens)	828-8301
Unemployment comp/job service	827-6237
Voice for Choice	828-3108
Western Avenue Community Center	829-4807
Youth Services of Mid IL	828-7346

Due Date:

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

July 15th



Letters



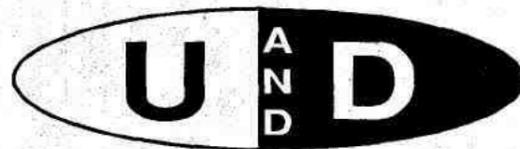
Classy Fried Ads

Musicians, dancers, poets, rappers, drummers, etc. needed to fill low-paying but fun Saturday night gigs in Peoria, Illinois. Originality and diversity are required. Evenings usually begin with a drum circle from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. For more information, call Tim at 309/676-4678.

Need a Date?

Looking for love in all the wrong places? You're the one that I (don't) want? I will always love yooooooooooooo? (not).

As always, the *Post* comes through for our beloved (yet dateless) readers. Our new service "Love (Post) Amerikan Style" may be just what you're looking for.



Uppers to Bloomington Parks and Recreation for allowing the Temple of The Sacred Lady of Avalon to hold its Earth Day festivities in Miller Park and to the *Pantagraph* for listing the event in its "On The GO" section.

Uppers to the First United Methodist Church of Lexington, IL and Dr. Ron C. Melzer for accepting a Wiccan High Priestess into their "Counterfeit Religions" Bible Study in a positive manner and for allowing her to express an enlightened view of witchcraft.

Downers to the same for considering anything but Christianity to be a counterfeit religion and for defining witchcraft as "the use of a supernatural power over people."



Keep in Mind

June 11 - ?
Farmer's Market
Eloise Craig-Burner Park/Normal

June 25-26
Twin City Fest
McLean Co. Fairgrounds

July 1 - August 7
Illinois Shakespeare Festival
Ewing Manor/Bloomington

July 9 - 10
Sugar Creek Arts Festival
Downtown Normal

Love (post) amerikan Style

WRITE YOUR TEXT

- 1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....
- 6.....7.....8.....9.....10.....
- 11.....12.....13.....14.....
- 15.....16.....17.....18.....
- 19.....20.....
- (ADDITIONAL) 21.....22.....23.....
- 24.....25.....

THE DETAILS

- JUST FRIENDS
- WOMEN SEEKING MEN
- MEN SEEKING WOMEN
- WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN
- MEN SEEKING MEN
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ALL RESPONSES WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

Dear *Post Amerikan*,

This article concerns a topic we are all concerned about -- even Ms. Hippie. I am about to write on a subject that concerns not only Ms. Hippie, but even the conservative citizens of Bloomington-Normal. I am talking about the child-porno industry in Amerika.

What is the child-porno industry in Amerika and who controls it? The child-porno industry promotes and profits from the sexual abuse and exploitation of children! Children are sexually abused and and exploited for profit! This of course exposes the truth about the degradation, exploitation, and evil of the capitalist-system!

How can such things occur in a so-called "Christian nation, one with a supposedly "Christian" government? Obviously, this industry is protected at the highest levels of the federal government, including the Central Intelligence Agency!

The proof of this is in the evidence, and simple logic makes it plain. The so-called "Man-Boy Love Association" in New York, NY provides just one example. (See last January's issue of the *Workers Vanguard*.) Then there is the widespread under-ground child-porno industry. We occasionally read about a person getting busted for this by the local police. The citizens of Amerika should ask themselves, however, how could this continue without federal protection, without some Postal Inspectors, without some law enforcement officials cooperation? The answer is obvious -- it couldn't.

The citizens of the U. S. should demand that this be stopped!

In solidarity,
Richard Scott Mote



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-- Earth Angels



Notes From the Land of Anti-Fat

WARNING: Dieting has been shown to lead to anxiety, depression, lethargy, lowered self-esteem, decreased attention span, weakness, high blood pressure, hair loss, gall-bladder disease, gall stones, heart disease, ulcers, constipation, anemia, dry skin, skin rashes, dizziness, reduced sex drive, menstrual irregularities, amenorrhea, gout, infertility, kidney stones, numbness in the legs, weight gain, eating disorders, reduced resistance to infection, lowered exercise tolerance, electrolyte imbalance, bone loss, osteoporosis, & death.

Thigh in the sky

Latest gimmick to come from the diet hucksters: a thigh cream that's being touted to "reduce the circumference of your thighs." Containing aminophylline, an asthma medication, the cream is being distributed by NutriSystem and Herbalife under the brand name Smooth Contours. Based on a five-week test of twenty-four women, manufacturers claim the cream reduced thigh circumference on an average of one-half inch. Though developed from a drug, the cream is being marketed as a cosmetic to circumvent testing and regulation by the FDA. (Shows how much these diet chains really care about customer health, eh?) At this point, the manufacturers of Smooth Contours admit that "there is no clinical evidence" proving the drug even works, though that hasn't stopped anyone from selling it. Reported demand for this wonder cream has been so strong that it may save NutriSystem, which was on the verge of bankruptcy months ago.

Perhaps she should've moved to the back of the bus?

While it's common knowledge that our country's airlines can be less than hospitable to fat passengers, a recent lawsuit filed against the Greyhound Bus Line shows things are no better on the ground. In Atlanta, a Greyhound bus driver recently had June Green arrested when she refused to get off a crowded bus. The incident occurred when a man trying to sit in the seat next to the 300-pound Ms. Green couldn't fit. For refusing to get off a seat that she'd already purchased, the woman was charged with disorderly conduct, handcuffed, and taken to jail. The charges were later dropped, and Ms. Green filed a lawsuit against Greyhound. Incidents like this make you wonder if basic courtesy and common sense have disappeared: weren't there any kids -- or thinner adults -- on the bus who could've swapped seats with the guy? Bus transportation has a bad enough rap these days as it is. What's the point of alienating a whole segment of the population.

Yes, we have no diets

International No-Diet Day (May 5) has come and gone, with some media coverage of the two-year celebration being noted in this column. The Chicago Tribune included a story in its Sunday women's section on May 1, and followed up with an editorial on International No-Diet Day itself, which in typically paternalistic Tribune fashion complained about all those inconvenient noisy people complaining about human rights. (There are too many "isms" in this country, the paper complained -- and hey, we wouldn't mind if we never had to use the words "racism," "heterosexism," or "sizeism" again either!) Locally, the Central Illinois Chapter of NAAFA had a quiet membership celebration at a local buffet restaurant -- with nary a calorie counter in evidence. Next year, chapter members plan to do something more public.



Fat criminals

Recently noted in the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance (NAAFA) newsletter has been the current media trend towards identifying accused criminals by their weight, reinforcing fat stereotypes in the process. Probably the most prominent case in point has been Skatergate conspirator Shawn Eckardt, whose 350-pound-plus weight has been a regular focus of commentary by the mainstream media, as if his weight was a reflection of his questionable moral character. But equally smarmy may have been stories around more minor league criminals like 400-pound-plus drug dealer Ruth Smith, described by one columnist as "sit[ting] and sweat[ing] and eat[ing] as the system weighs the evidence against her." Used to be newspapers regularly included the race of alleged criminals in their stories. That practice has been thankfully diminished -- or perhaps evolved into a focus on size or sexual preference.

Which body ideal?

One more reflection of the contradictory cultural zeitgeist: the sudden blossoming of men's magazines devoted to larger women models. While there has always been a small but loyal audience for such material -- represented over the past eight years by the charmingly entitled *BUF* magazine -- a perusal of the adult mag section at the Back Porch reveals new titles among this celebration of straight male horniness: among them Dugent's *Plumpers* and *Big Women*. Perhaps it's the success of size sixteen model and Marilyn wannabe Anna Nicole Smith, or perhaps the men's magazine market is getting more specialized in its titles. It's ironic that while women are being given the message that their body ideal is thinner than ever, the skin mags are, however inadvertently, promoting diversity.

Which body ideal? -- part two

Currently on display in Chicago's Michigan Avenue is a selection of seventeen bronze sculptures by Colombian artist Fernando Botero, known for his depiction of full-sized female and male figures. The selection of statues is being run concurrently with 100 drawings by the artists as part of the Chicago Cultural Center's "Botero in Chicago" exhibition, which runs through August 14. Botero's work, which harkens back to artists like Rubens, has its proponents and detractors (the latter often resorting to fat-bashing under the guise of criticism), but it's impossible to ignore. The statues themselves are so large that they can only be displayed, as a group, outside. Central Illinois NAAFA is planning a trip to view the artist's work the weekend of June 4; for information, contact the chapter at 454-2128.

source: NAAFA's newsletter.

-- Bill Sherman.



1008. FERNANDO BOTERO. *Portrait of a Family*. 1974. 93 1/2 x 77". Collection Toni and Martin Sosnoff

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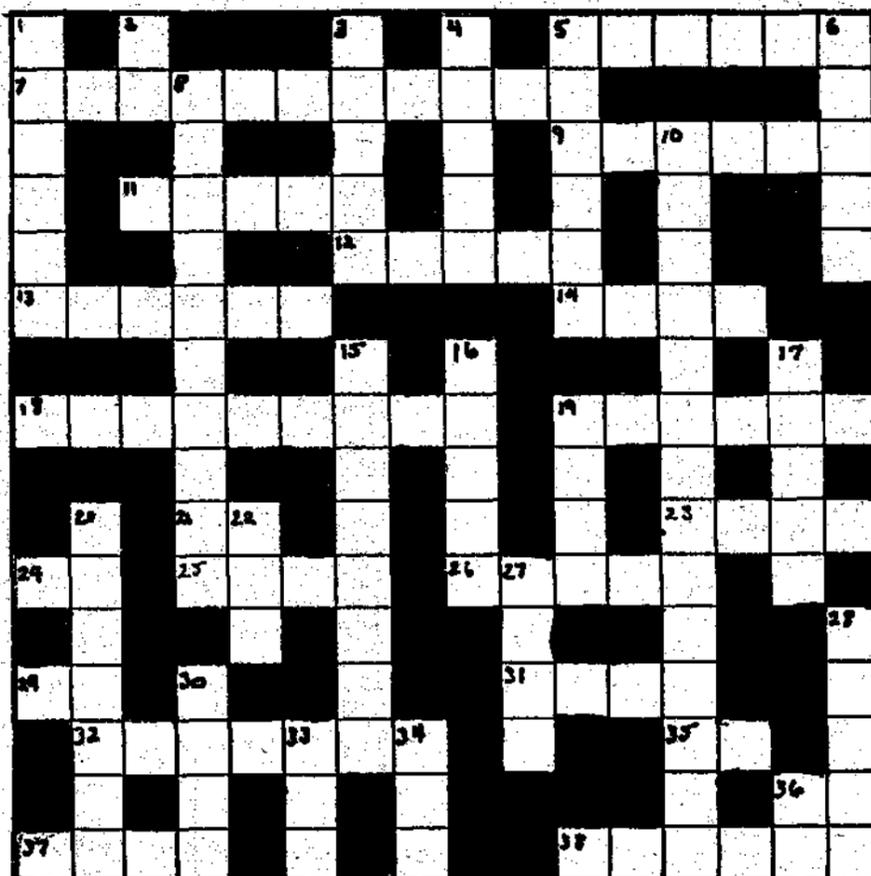


Larger Than Life Figures II

Hissable heavies & diet desperados

ACROSS

- 5 *Godfather* actor you don't refuse
- 7 Mr. Bahamian Diet
- 9 "Stop The Insanity!" madwoman
- 11 Gridiron nemesis, Mean Joe ?_
- 12 Diet resolution time - New ?_
- 13 Exploited then abandoned by 7 Across
- 14 60' diet drink
- 18 Cancer-causing fake sugar
- 19 *Maltese Falcon* "heavy," Casper ?_
- 21 Enemy of bad grammar (init.)
- 23 Weight-loss (?) candy
- 25 Much married British monarch, Henry ?_
- 26 Gene Siskel foil
- 29 "Mama" who may have dieted to death
- 31 Media phenom: a liberal's worst nightmare
- 32 "Deal-A-Meal" dimwit
- 35 Violet-eyed professional dieter
- 36 Beefed up for *Schindler* bad-guy role (init.)
- 37 Overeaters -?- (abbrev.)
- 38 *Little Mermaid* villainess



DOWN

- 1 NYC mayor/Slimfast stooge
- 2 Played a corrupt Huey Long in *All The King's Men*
- 3 ?_ Craig Diet "Censures"
- 4 Jane "Feel the Burn" ?_
- 5 Intestinal mutilation surgery
- 6 Wheeled wagon of lard to Show and Tell
- 8 Soviet shoe-pounding leader
- 10 Lynn Redgrave claimed "This is living!"
- 15 Diet entrepreneur, Nathan ?_
- 16 *Misery's* "biggest fan," ?_ Wilkes
- 17 SCTV's Evil Dr. Tongue
- 19 Played Mr. Mooney, who didn't love Lucy
- 20 "It's what's eating you" guru
- 22 Agency that labels obesity as "killer disease" (init.)
- 27 Was *Rear Window* wife-whacker
- 28 Ex-Teamster Boss - is he live or Memorex?
- 30 Ugandan dictator/Amnesty Int'l target
- 33 Diet "miracle": ?_ bran
- 34 Gluttony is one of 7 "deadly" ones
- 36 Lost weight, gained talk show, lost empathy (init.)

Becky
1994



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Circumcision: Male

The following descriptions and accompanying drawings are from Anne Briggs, *Circumcision: What Every Parent Should Know*.

The Squeeze Technique (Gomco Clamp)

"The squeeze technique [please see accompanying illustrations] is the one most widely used in American hospitals today. Careful attention to the diagrams is recommended, as the procedure is involved.

A.) First, the adhered foreskin and glans are separated by a probe.

B.) Then a slit is made in the foreskin to enlarge the opening, the foreskin is retracted, and a protective metal bell is placed over the glans.

C.) The foreskin is tied tightly around the top of the bell with string.

D.) The main part of the clamp is placed over the penis and the metal bell is attached to the flange at the top of the clamp. Then the clamp is screwed down (at point 1), which forces the flange up (at point 2), which [in turn] causes the foreskin to be crushed [tightly] at its base between the metal bell and the opening in the clamp (at point 3). (Note: These clamps come in different sizes. Each is a two-part unit, with a specific bell fitting a specific clamp. The instrument is designed so that there is a precise fit between the bell and the clamp, which will cause the foreskin to be crushed tightly at the point where the base of the bell is drawn up against the clamp. This is the basic principle of the instrument, that is, if the bell is applied correctly and is a proper fit, the proper amount of foreskin will be drawn over the bell and will be crushed at precisely the right point to guide the physician in removing the correct amount of skin. In addition, the crushing of the skin leads to less bleeding.)

E. The foreskin is then sliced off at the level of the clamp. Underneath the foreskin, which is being cut, is the metal bell, [still in place] to protect the glans. The clamp should rest in the "crushing" position for five minutes to gain maximum benefit in stopping the bleeding. The clamp and metal bell are then removed. No surgical equipment remains in place (in contrast to the Plastibell method . . .). A bandage is wrapped around the wound. Stitches are rarely necessary.

The other major type [of surgical circumcision] is the Plastibell Technique, though a number of physicians use a cauterization method, literally burning the foreskin off."

— Anne Briggs, *Circumcision: What Every Parent Should Know* (Birth and Parenting Publications, 1985).

With the exception being the Jewish *bris* (the ritual circumcision ceremony, which marks a male child's eighth day of life), circumcisions are usually performed in the first day or two of life. As impossible as it may seem, anesthesia is rarely used on the baby. For some reason, people believe that babies don't feel pain like we do, even though it has been shown by researchers time and again that babies have a heightened sensitivity to the world around them.

Not a painless, trauma-free procedure

Imagine being strapped down on a board, your arms and legs restrained by velcro straps, in a spread eagle position, away from all sources of comfort. Then, without anything for the pain, your penis . . . is maimed in a procedure that takes at least ten minutes. Some people think that the baby only cries because it is scared at first, but then when some get quiet, they think that it has calmed down. What [actually] happens is that the baby is so hysterical that it either gives up screaming for help and withdraws into itself, or passes out from pain.

Many mothers who have spent all of [their] first few hours with their babies and have really bonded with their children notice a complete personality change in their little boys. . . The penile glans is by then a bright reddish-purple, like raw liver, and left to heal in diapers that are frequently soiled, where this sensitive part of the body is allowed to "toughen up" so it can stand the constant chaffing against the diaper. What grown man out there would submit his penis to this kind of treatment?

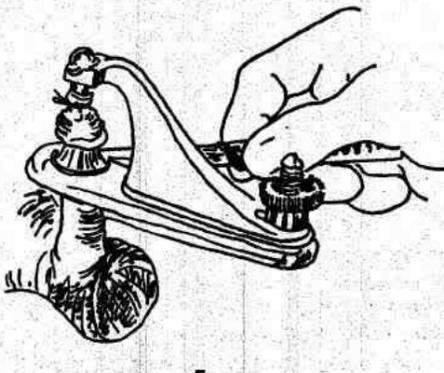
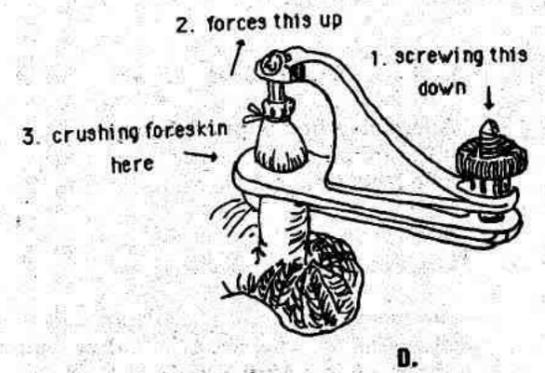
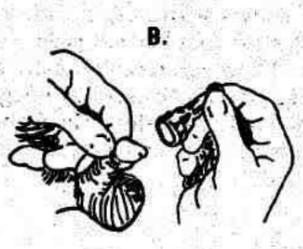
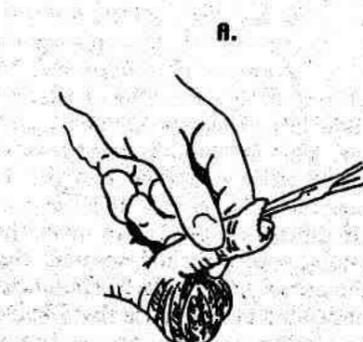
Secular Western circumcision: a brief history

The history of circumcision is long. It has rarely been done on a willing person. However, I will only concern myself with the recent history which helped mould our current cultural phenomenon of male genital mutilation. In the eighteenth century, it was felt that a "masturbation mania" was occurring. Not only was masturbation considered a sin, but it was believed it could cause mental and physical diseases, among them epilepsy, stammering, acne, blindness, and, the most dreaded affliction of all, masturbatory insanity. These ideas led to the rise of a whole school of medicine linking sexuality and disease. (Briggs 1985)

Here's another one for Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" Museum

Maybe what should be called for is a boycott of Kellogg's breakfast cereals, because, folks, that great American, John Harvey Kellogg, who gave us all these wonderful non-nutritional breakfast cereals also gave us circumcision. He "discovered" (by personal experience?!?) that masturbation could cause no less than 31 different diseases, and a masturbator could be identified by the manifestation of one or of 38 tell-tale signs, including changes in personality, shyness, poor posture, acne, insomnia, and biting fingernails. What adolescent alive doesn't exhibit some of these symptoms? Or course parents didn't want their children to suffer disease, or worse still . . . insanity! What was Mr. Kellogg's solution to this blight? Well, other than the obvious (eating his breakfast cereals), he had one other solution: circumcision without anesthesia. Thank you, Mr. Kellogg.

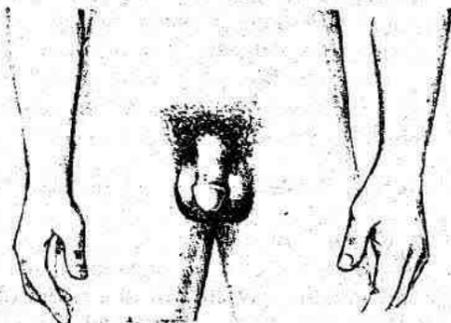
The rest is typical medical ignorance. The wonderful medical community (those great doctors who'd been bleeding folks with leeches, not too long ago) decided that circumcision could cure or prevent all sorts of other ailments, including syphilis, polio, alcoholism, and bubonic plague, and could prevent cancer of the penis. If we extend this rationale more broadly, then we should advocate that all women should have both breasts removed when they are still infants to prevent breast cancer, which is much more prevalent than penile cancer.





Genital Mutilation

In Figures 1 and 2, we see an adult circumcised penis in the flaccid (non-erect) state. The penis is made up of two major parts, and the shaft and the glans penis (usually referred to simply as the glans). The meatus (urinary opening) is located at the tip of the glans. The sulcus is the groove around the base of the glans where the glans joins the shaft. Just above the sulcus, on the shaft, are folds of shaft skin.

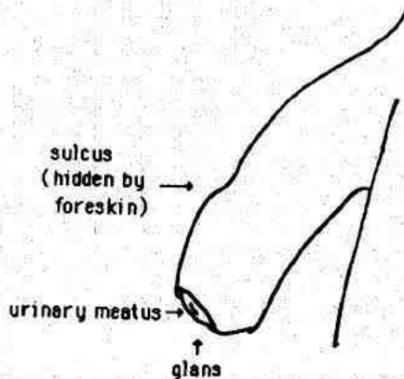


"Phimosis" means that the penile foreskin will not retract. This occurs usually in less than 1% of all men. However, it can also occur if a man does not practice adequate hygiene. In an intact baby, the foreskin will also not retract. However, over the years, normal retraction should occur on its own and without any intervention. Most boys will have fully retractable foreskins by the age of five, but if not, it will finish retracting before adulthood. Parents are instructed by doctors to force the foreskin back, claiming that it will not retract on its own. Once again, this modern medicine interfering with the body's normal functioning. When a caretaker or parent forces the baby's foreskin to retract, the baby not only experiences unnecessary pain, but may also cause scarring. When scar tissue develops, that tissue will adhere to the penis, resulting in the foreskin not being retractable in later years. The adult circumcision will be necessary. "Ah, if he had only been left alone this wouldn't have happened!"

And you guys thought it wasn't such a big deal

There have been men, who, for whatever reason, have been circumcised as adults. They all regret it. They all report decreased sexual pleasure! Yes, that's right, men... the foreskin increases sexual pleasure, and you are all missing out on it, courtesy of the medical establishment. The glans are extremely sensitive, and by not having this skin to protect it, it needs to toughen up, which decreases your pleasure. Don't do this to your sons! It should be a choice, but not the parents' choice. It should be the son's choice, and made when he is an adult. If you are worried about cleanliness, remember that it is easier to clean a penis with a foreskin than to brush your teeth or wash your hair.

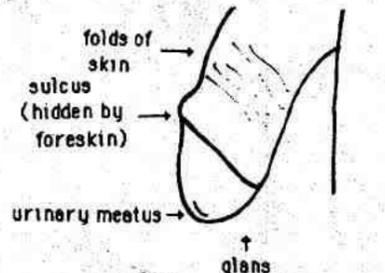
In Figure 3, an adult uncircumcised penis is illustrated. The foreskin covers the sulcus and most of the glans. The illustration here shows a foreskin that could be considered "average." In some men, the foreskin is somewhat shorter; in others, it is longer.



Please remember too that it doesn't end here. Circumcisions are botched all the time. Most such cases are settled out of court. Disturbingly, some parents never know that a circumcision's been bungled, because even though too much tissue has been removed, the baby's penis looks okay to them. As an adult, the son may feel uncomfortable when having an erection. In fact, some circumcisions have been so badly done that the penis has literally been removed, and in one case the boy was raised as a girl. Now, in the hospitals, you can write all over everything "no circumcision," but if you make the mistake of letting your little boy out your sight and alone in the nursery, he could be circumcised. It has happened at least once that I know! It could happen to your son too. Be careful. Be gentle. This is a violent act on a defenseless child, period.

— Marcee Murray

Figure 4 shows a partially circumcised penis. This is a distinction that has not been widely made in the past. However, recently many physicians performing circumcisions have begun to circumcise only partially. The feeling that several complications of circumcision are less likely to occur if partial circumcision is performed.



For more information, read Anne Briggs, *Circumcision: What Every Parent Should Know*; and *Circumcision: The Rest of the Story*, a collection of essays put out by *Mothering* magazine.

You may also write to the following:

NOCIRC
P. O. Box 23512
San Anselmo, CA
94979-2512
(415/424-9855
Contact: Natalie Bivas

Alternative Bris Support Group
248 Ventura Ave.
Palo Alto, CA
94306
415/488-9883
Contact: Marilyn Milos

For more information on natural childbirth, homebirth, or alternative parenting issues, contact Marcee Murray at 309/827-5843.

A brief list of specious justifications for circumcision

Current reasons for routine circumcisions are justified by the following reasons: circumcision prevents cancer, phimosis, (inability to retract foreskin), and social acceptance. In fact, circumcision advocates cite social acceptance most frequently. "What would the other kids say?" or "Shouldn't he look like Dad?" or (worse) "It didn't hurt me, why should it hurt my son?"

First of all, men who are uncircumcised have reported that they weren't teased... unless they were already teased for everything else (you know how, unfortunately, some kids get all the teasing). A simple retort to teasing in the locker room would be "Why are you looking at my penis?" Please remember, though, that there is a definite trend against circumcision. Some insurance companies won't even pay for it any more. (Yes, strangely enough, many insurance companies pay for this!)

We live in a high circumcision area, but in other parts of the U.S., only 50% of male babies are circumcised. Chances are, there will be others who remain uncircumcised. Also, most people try to raise their children to not follow the crowd. Why start them off by trying to make their penises fit an artificial norm? Likewise, would you cut off your nose because this was the trendy thing to do? Or your daughter's labia? Having junior's penis matching Dad's is a ridiculous justification for circumcision. The first time he asks his father why their penises are different, all dad has to do is explain that someone cut his foreskin off, and it hurt him really badly, so he didn't want his son to go through that pain. He will thank his father!

There have been many who have tried to make a connection between a higher rate of penile and cervical cancers among those who weren't circumcised and their partners. But after closer scrutiny, we find these assertions fallacious. People don't get cancer from having an intact penis. Period. Even the American Academy of Pediatrics acknowledges that circumcision is unnecessary.



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News From Voice

News from the front

Put the squeeze on Rush Limbaugh

Every time you drink Florida orange juice, you're lining the pocket of talk show host Rush "no feminazis" Limbaugh. That's because the all-white, almost all-male Florida Citrus Commission (the same folks who brought us Anita Bryant) is paying Limbaugh \$1 million to tout orange juice.

Call George Truitt, Citrus Commission chair, at 813/499-2500. Tell him you won't swallow Florida OJ till he cans Rush Limbaugh.

Source: *The New York Times* and *Working Assets Long Distance*

Q: What do Rush Limbaugh and oranges have in common?

A: They're both round and full of acid.

Religious right vs. reproductive rights

Leaders of the Christian Right have established a new organization to mastermind its legal strategy. The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) includes 17 major evangelical ministries and legal groups. Among the founders are James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family; Don Wildmon, president of The American Family Association; televangelist D. James Kennedy; Gary Bauer, lobbyist for the conservative Family Research Council; and Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ, as well as such groups as the Christian Legal Society and the American Center for Law and Justice, the legal arm of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

Headquartered in Phoenix, ADF's priorities include anti-abortion cases, religious freedom, education, pornography prevention, and "family preservation," with 10 percent of its budget allegedly earmarked for "legal aid to the needy." Its executive director, Alan Sears, is a former asst. U.S. attorney in Louisville, KY, and is probably best known for his work as the executive director of Attorney General Ed Meese's Commission on Pornography during the Reagan administration.

ADF's mission, according to Sears, is to "strategize, train, and fund." Rather than undertake cases itself, ADF will assess the strategic importance of cases, triage proposals on that basis, and assign or recruit attorneys (many *pro bono*) as needed. Sears claims that this method is modeled in part on the Civil Rights movement.

The organization has a \$6 million fundraising goal for 1995, which Sears says, "will be strategically disbursed through public interest law firms." Eventually, its literature proclaims, the alliance plans to generate \$25 million annually.

Lurking behind the scenes of ADF is the empire of televangelist Pat Robertson. Although Sears claims that "Pat Robertson is not at this point involved," in fact the chief litigator of Mr. Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, Jay Sekulow, chairs ADF's eight-member "grants committee." In addition, Mr. Robertson's law school (part of his Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.) graduates more than 100 lawyers every year many of whom practice activist evangelical law (gee, maybe Dan Quayle was right there are too many lawyers).

ADF's grants committee will meet several times a year to review proposals and decide which cases to fund. By the end of February, the committee already had 30 requests to consider for its March 14 meeting.

ADF has already awarded one \$20,000 grant to anti-choice protester Judy Madsen, who is challenging an ordinance banning her from coming within 300 feet of a Florida abortion clinic. Ms. Madsen's lawyer, Matthew Staver, says the grant will help cover the costs of arguing before the Supreme Court this term. Ms. Madsen applauds the concept of ADF, saying, "The Christian church has been far too passive in legal matters. Loving your neighbors doesn't mean allowing them to wipe their feet on you." Maybe Judy thinks "love thy neighbor" means shoot them.

Although the Christian Right depicts itself as a "David" in a field of supposedly well-moneyed liberal "Goliaths," the financial resources at the disposal of the alliance are considerable, and audience members for some evangelical radio shows are well known for their willingness to dip into their pockets: one appearance by Alan Sears on James Dobson's radio talk show on Jan. 31 netted \$100,000 in donations for ADF, according to Sears.

But the effort to centralize funding and decision making through ADF has unsettled some in conservative legal circles. Brad Dacus of the Rutherford Institute, as nonprofit Christian Right legal group, publicly objected to the "six or seven hundred thousand dollars" earmarked for salaries for ADF's six staff members. He questioned the need for a "new layer of bureaucracy" in order to achieve "unity." He said that he would prefer that money go directly to groups that are "truly, actually out there doing the work."

The alliance was officially launched on Feb. 1 in Washington, DC, at the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters, the trade show of TV and radio evangelists, a kickoff no doubt intended to elicit the support of the evangelical broadcast media. ADF hosted a breakfast attended by more than 500 leaders of the Christian Right and the leadership of TV and radio evangelism. Former Attorney General Ed Meese was the keynote speaker. Distributed to everyone in attendance was a set of fundraising spots for ADF created by James Dobson's Focus on the Family. The shrill, twisted rhetoric of these spots reveals the militant agenda of both ADF and Focus on the Family, one of ADF's most prominent and supposedly moderate backers.

One of the spots, for example, urges support for ADF because a "tidal wave of activism against Christians and the Church" exists. The ad predicts that "religious broadcasting may soon be censored" and that "hiring homosexuals in Christian schools, churches, even as Sunday school teachers, may soon become the law of the land." One spot featuring Ed Meese and the clanging of jail cell doors implores "Don't let Christianity become a crime."

Evidently, we can expect much more slippery, even demagogic, rhetoric from the Christian Right and its lawyers - along with a torrent of litigation.

Source: *Insider*

"Religion is the last refuge of a scoundrel."
- Dr. Samuel Johnson

An anti-choice activist believed that shooting Dr. George Tiller was the "most holy, righteous thing" she had ever done, according to a letter

introduced as evidence at her trial. Letters described in detail Shelley Shannon's efforts to disguise herself and her attempt to pose as a patient to find Dr. Tiller inside the women's Health Care Services clinic in Wichita, Kansas. "I'm not denying I shot Tiller. But I deny it was wrong," Shannon wrote in a letter to her 20-year-old daughter, Angi.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

Service marketing ad censored by high school paper

When Planned Parenthood of Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties (Akron, Ohio) was asked by student newspaper editors from Ravenna high school's *High Times* if they would like to place an ad, Jackie Ciaola, affiliate director of community services, was happy to cooperate. She selected the simple, informative "We care. We listen. We explain. We educate. We're private. We're affordable. We're professional. We're confidential. We're sensitive. We're courteous. We're convenient. We're experts in the special health care needs of women. We're Planned Parenthood" ad. The ad was submitted to the *High Times* editors.

On Friday, Jan. 8, Ravenna high school administrators halted distribution of the magazine-style newspaper, citing numerous errors, controversial articles on subjects such as legalization of marijuana and teenage homosexuality, and the inclusion of the Planned Parenthood ad.

Affiliate Executive Director Roberta Aber was stunned because the ad, and its messages, were so straightforward and non-controversial. However, Ravenna High School Principal R.C. Green said, "We as the administration do not like the message the ad sends. I'm not one that believes in abortion." (The Akron affiliate, ironically, does not offer abortion services). School Superintendent Philip Warner attempted to be less partisan by saying, "I'm not making a value judgement about Planned Parenthood, but it raises the question of equal access to other groups."

Lindsey Folkerth, *High Times*'s student editor-in-chief, said she thought the ad was important for students who need information on birth control and safer sex. She said, "There are people having sex at our school, believe it or not." Jaime Sollberger, the layout editor, said, "I had students ... tell me they were glad the ad was put in," adding that students were particularly interested to learn that Planned Parenthood's services were confidential.

Since a 1988 U.S. Supreme Court decision gives school administrator the right to oversee the editorial content of student-run publications, the Ravenna school administrators were able to mandate a revision, correcting errors and editing certain articles for balance. The Planned Parenthood ad was the only item they wanted to delete entirely.

Ironically, the media attention garnered by the story -- most of it favorable to the affiliate -- has already helped to spread the ad's message. Three newspapers and the local CBS-TV affiliate all covered the controversy.

Although the affiliate does not yet know if its ad survived in the magazine's final revision, Executive Director Aber is not about to give up that easily. If the ad is censored, she will try to get the affiliate's message out to Ravenna students some other way. "We'd really like to...distribute fliers in the school. Maybe something along the



For Choice

lines of, "You Couldn't read it in your school paper, so read it here."

Source: *Insider*

Taking on the Vatican

A coalition of more than two dozen groups is challenging efforts by the Vatican and some nations to weaken reproductive rights in a plan of action being readied for a United Nations conference on population slated for September.

"We view with alarm current attempts to weaken references to contraception, sterilization and abortion and to undermine women's rights both as individuals and as members and heads of households," said groups from officially accredited nongovernmental organization attending the third "preparatory committee" meeting for the Sept. conference.

The September gathering, the International Conference on Population and Development, will be held in Cairo. The three-week preparatory meeting opened April 4.

The women's statement was issued April 6, in response to a Vatican charge that the draft of the action plan lacks "a coherent moral vision." Vatican officials have called for limitations on the concept of "reproductive rights."

Pope John Paul II issued a pointed attack on the UN population plan, saying it permits the systematic killing of the unborn. "We protest. I have written to all the presidents of the world . . . to reflect and truly protect and defend the family," the Pope said during an audience in St. Peter's Square. "We cannot progress toward the future with a project of systematic death of the unborn."

For many of the hundreds of non-governmental groups at the conference -- especially those representing population, family-planning and women's health groups -- the Vatican's opposition to family planning is the key threat that must be countered in the coming weeks as the prep committee seeks to fashion a document for the Cairo conference.

The Cairo conference, which begins Sept. 5, is aimed at developing an international consensus and plan of action that would lessen growth rates and stabilize the world population at 7.2 billion people in 2015 and 7.8 billion by 2050.

At a news conference, women from eight countries denounced efforts by the Vatican and what they described as other "religious fundamentalists" to weaken the concept of women's reproductive rights as it has emerged in the draft.

The groups said that women's reproductive rights must be seen as including:

*the right to full participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of population, family planning and health policies and programs.

*the right of couples and individuals to decide freely how many children to have and when or whether to have them.

*the right to a full range of high-quality, reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning information and services. ~the right to other reproductive health care that includes prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and provision of safe, affordable abortion.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

AZT not proving effective in preventing onset of AIDS

The anti-AIDS drug, AZT, does not prevent development of the fatal disease in people who are infected with the virus but have not yet shown any symptoms, British and French researchers reported last month.

The long-awaited Concorde report, published in the British medical journal *Lancet*, supports initial findings that the drug is of little or no use in preventing the onset of AIDS in people who have become infected with HIV.

AZT has been shown effective in prolonging the lives of patients with full-blown AIDS. "The hope is that the use of AZT earlier in infection might delay disease progression and therefore further improve survival," the *Lancet* report said.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

News from the campaign trail

Dawn Clark Netsch assailed Governor Jim Edgar for supporting parental notification before a young woman can obtain an abortion, calling it a "cruel hoax" to believe it would help family relationships.

Netsch said that Edgar's support of such a bill demonstrates his lack of understanding of abortion rights.

Though the positions of the two represent a subtle difference between what are basically two pro-choice candidates, they also highlight a difference in gender on a women's rights issue that Edgar had hoped to avoid. "To me, what it says is that he has not really spent the time seriously looking at the impact of parental notification laws where they have been put into effect," Netsch said.

"To put that kind of an obstacle in the way of a minor getting an abortion can be a very cruel hoax, and I think Edgar does not understand that and my guess is he has not really spent that much time looking at that," she said.

The issue surfaced when Senate President Pate Phillips of Wood Dale said he was trying to reach a compromise on legislation that would require women under 18 to notify a parent before undergoing an abortion.



A parental-notification bill passed the Senate last year. But it was defeated in the House when the state's powerful physicians lobby opposed the plan because of penalty provisions for doctors.

Though the General Assembly is viewed as supportive of such legislation, some Republicans have privately questioned raising the issue in an election year. Translation, let's not talk about it now and well stick it to women later.

Edgar has supported parental notification for minors seeking an abortion since he ran for the legislature in 1974. Last year Edgar met privately with anti-choice groups to work on the parental notification bill while refusing to meet with pro-choice groups on the issue. Could it be that Jim is trying to please both sides by selling out teenage women?

"As a matter of principle, he is generally pro-choice and does support parental notification in the case of minors, unless the parents have forfeited their right because of abuse or other factors," said Edgar spokesman Mike Lawrence.

Lawrence said Edgar made it clear last year that he would not approve such legislation unless a young woman also had the option to go before a judge rather than notify a parent. This of course is a difficult task for a teenager to accomplish.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE



"Arrest them immediately. They're blocking the entrance to our office."



Netsch said it would be "ideal" if all pregnant young women could discuss the issue with a parent. But, she said, "there are many who cannot." She called a judicial option "totally inadequate." We agree.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*.

Bill in Illinois State Legislature to eliminate statute of limitations on laws affecting women's health and safety

Illinois Republicans in the House have proposed a package of women's health and safety legislation that would eliminate the statute of limitations for filing rape charges, require a study on spousal abuse and require health insurance providers to include annual cervical cancer screenings.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

Representative Howard Carroll, D-Chicago, introduced a resolution calling on the General Assembly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell three states short of passage more than a decade ago.

Carroll said an amendment originally proposed by James Madison was ratified only two years ago because there was no ratification deadline on the dormant bill

Source: *Pantagraph*

More health news

Planned Parenthood has launched its campaign to ensure that health care reform provides Americans with universal coverage and access to all pregnancy-related services.

The campaign will be divided into two equally vital components. An advocacy component with grassroots and national lobbying efforts will focus on ensuring that, whatever health care reform legislation is passed by Congress, it includes full coverage and access to all medically necessary and appropriate pregnancy-related services, including abortion -- for all women. Included in this component of the campaign will be a carefully targeted advertising effort to zero in on crucial "make-or-break" congressional votes.

The educational component of the campaign will include national and local paid advertising to raise public awareness of the importance of reproductive health care and to reinforce Planned Parenthood's role as the nation's most trusted authority on women's health care needs. This public education and information component will also be designed to help Planned Parenthood counter the misleading and distorted messages promulgated by the DeMoss Foundation's "Life, What a Beautiful Choice" ads.

Mobilization efforts will be challenging given the complexities of health care reform. Planned Parenthood staff and volunteers know that they must energize and activate their supporters -- and the clients who depend on them -- as never before. The success of these efforts will depend on Planned Parenthood's ability to galvanize communities throughout the country, with each and every affiliate empowered to be a full partner in the campaign.

"Health care reform is a historic opportunity for mission-dedicated health providers such as Planned Parenthood," said PPFA Vice President for Public Affairs Bebe Bahnsen. "Now is the tie for all affiliates, all Planned Parenthood clients, and all prochoice Americans to stand up and be counted, because their efforts will help determine the quality of health care for most American families for generations to come."

That urgency is intensified by the opposition's formidable efforts to defeat health care reform. Already the Christian Coalition is spending \$1.4 million on ads to saturate the American public with its anti-health care reform message. The U.S. Catholic Conference has announced that it will generate 18 million postcards to Congress, opposing the inclusion of abortion coverage in health care reform its largest lobbying effort ever.

This campaign is a once-in-a-life time opportunity to ensure that no woman in our country is ever without the health care services she needs, and that Planned Parenthood affiliates, as essential providers, will be able to provide American women and families with the low-cost, high-quality community-based services that are the model for health care reform in America.

Source: *Insider*

RU-486 to go through preliminary trials

RU-486 will be tested at a California hospital, as an "emergency contraceptive," for the first time in North America. If successful, clinical trials at San Francisco General Hospital could lead to over-the-counter availability of RU-486, or other similar drugs, said Dr. David Grimes, who will run the study. The pill, opposed by anti-choicers, is not approved for general use in the United States and most other nations.

Source: *Pantagraph*

Condom use rising among women in U. S.

Condom use among women in the U.S. has more than doubled since 1984. The increase is attributed to a fear of catching the HIV. The study was conducted by the Ortho Birth Control Study. The study surveyed 7,410 women and found that 19 percent relied on condoms, compared to only 8 percent in 1984. Almost half of the respondents said they were motivated by fear of sexually transmitted diseases, and used some other form of birth control as well.

Source: *JET*

African American health care community leaders take part in national health care reform

Representatives of more than forty African American health care organizations and interest groups met with Cleveland Rep. Louis Stokes to firm up proposals for President Clinton's health care plan soon to be debated in Congress.

Under Rep. Stokes' strong leadership, the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust was organized to help formulate a health plan to eliminate the crisis facing inner city residents. Argued Rep. Stokes, "Who knows best about who we are, how we think, and what we need, than us?"

With 39 votes available for supporting the President's program, the caucus is regarded as one of the President's mainstays for health reform. Caucus members, however, demand that the legislation contains safeguards for minority participation.

At the legislative forum, the representatives supported "universal coverage access to quality, affordable and nondiscriminatory health care." Also recommended was the expansion of the supply of health care providers and specialists along with the reinvigoration of public and community hospitals, health clinics, and neighborhood centers.

Calling for affirmative action programs to ensure representation on all governing bodies, the health care representatives also asked for empowerment programs to allow Blacks to gain entrepreneurial opportunities and capital to implement such endeavors.

Anti-AIDS vaccine research stymied

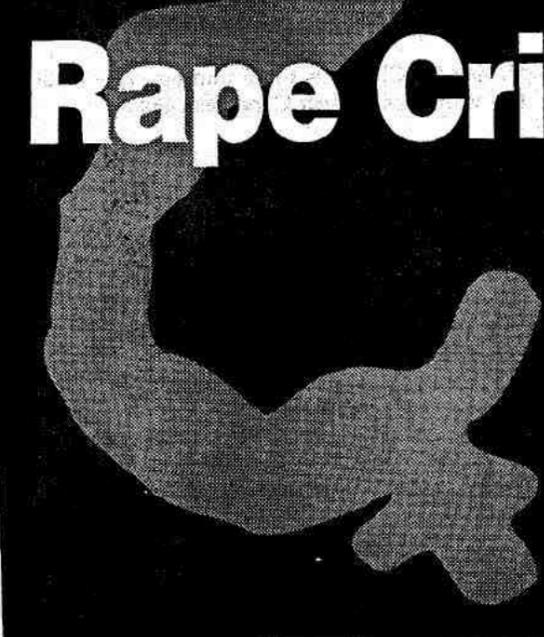
The Frenchman who discovered the HIV says scientists have hit a dead end in their efforts to produce an effective anti-AIDS vaccine and must now explore new ways of making one work. "This is the time to rethink the vaccine because the first avenues we explored are wrong. They have reached a dead end," Professor Luc Montagnier said in an interview in his office at the Pasteur Institute. Vaccines work by injecting viral proteins into the body to stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies that protect cells from invading viruses, such as the HIV virus. Vaccines tested so far on volunteers have succeeded in triggering the production of antibodies against only on strain of HIV and not the hundreds of others that exist.

Source: *Pantagraph*

Too many fingers in health care reform pie?

Whether you are a strong single-payer advocate, or believe that Clinton's plan is the best possible solution, you should be concerned about the way that special interests are trying to shift and spin the debate in the media. Senator Dole believes that the health care situation is only a problem, not a crisis, while others are spinning different types of misleading terminology. Universal access to private insurance is not the same as guaranteed coverage for everyone. And we all know that phase-in plans are merely excuses to postpone coverage indefinitely, and perhaps opportunities to delay forever any meaningful universal health care.

It's too bad that the national and local media do not spend as much time covering the real differences between the competing plans as they have in reporting the saga of Tonya and Nancy. President Clinton is to be applauded for taking a historic leadership role by proposing to make health care a right, not a privilege. The Campaign for Better Health Care (a McLean County Chapter is forming now, call 828-3108 for more info.) shares Clinton's commitment to universal health care, and joins with him in fighting those special interests who say we can't provide all Americans with comprehensive benefits and still control health care costs. While the President's initiative is a major step forward, the Campaign believes that the only way we can achieve these mutual goals is through a single-payer system.



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



The legislative language which was proposed by the White house is already being altered in the Congress. The fight to enact a universal health care plan will not be easily won. While the legislative battle will be fought in the halls of Congress, the political battle will be fought in town halls and over kitchen tables in every congressional district in the nation.

The Cooper Bill, which has recently received the most coverage is being portrayed as a middle of the road compromise to the President's proposal. Rep. Jim Cooper freely admits that his bill, the Managed Competition Act (HR3222), will not achieve universal coverage; instead, he has a modest plan to make insurance little more available and affordable for a few.

The Cooper Bill is extremely weak on cost containment. It is worth noting that Stanford University economist Alain Enthoven, the architect of the original managed competition proposal, has insisted that coverage must be universal -- everyone must participate -- in order for managed competition to work and bring down costs. Lacking universal coverage, and having no other strong cost control mechanisms, the Cooper bill will do little to contain spiralling health care costs.

The Managed Competition Act sets up a system of purchasing cooperatives to allow individuals to buy health insurance. All employers, regardless of size, are required to offer information about health insurance plans to their employees, but they are not required to pay any portion of their costs.

Benefits are not spelled out. The bill calls for a national health board to develop a uniform set of benefits, which must get congressional approval. Rep. McDermott observed that the Cooper bill, because it fails to specify the benefits that will be covered, asks Americans to "buy a pig in a poke." The same criticism could be leveled at the cost-sharing burdens the bill would place on Americans, since the Cooper bill is silent about deductibles and co-payments.

Besides failing to provide health security to Americans, or to do much for those who lack insurance, the Cooper bill is grossly unfair in its treatment of older Americans. Incredibly, the bill ends all federal payments for nursing home care under the Medicaid program -- the only significant source of reimbursement for nursing home expenses. Instead, states will have to pick up the whole tab, or scale back their nursing home programs.

The Cooper Bill offers more cuts in the Medicare program. In a system that doesn't cover everyone, this will be like pushing in on one side of a balloon: providers who see their Medicare reimbursements cut can be expected to shift at least part of those costs onto the non-Medicare population. What's more, the Medicare cuts will encourage more doctors to refuse to see Medicare beneficiaries, making access to care more difficult.

The bill also lacks several features of the Clinton proposal that are important to older people. There is no expansion of long-term care at home, no new prescription drug benefits for those on Medicare, no new initiatives to pick up the costs of early retirees, and no provision requiring all doctors to accept assignment for Medicare patients.

Cooper's Bill was drafted by the Jackson Hole Group (the Insurance Industry Roundtable). The major insurance companies each contributed \$60,000. to be members of the Jackson Hole Group. Far from being a middle of the road proposal, the only thing "middle" about this bill is that it is going to sock it to the middle class.

Source: Campaign for Better Health Care

Campaigning for better health care

The Campaign for Better Health Care sent a survey to all of the Democratic candidates for Governor and Governor Edgar. Edgar failed to reply to the survey. Dawn Clark Netsch responded, below are her responses to the questions:

1. Do you support the section in President Clinton's Health Care Plan that gives states the right to implement a state single-payer system?

Netsch: I support the section in Clinton's plan that gives states the right to implement a state single-payer system.

Edgar: ?

2. Do you support a state single-payer health care plan for Illinois?

Netsch: I believe whatever health care system is adopted in Illinois, it must incorporate the following five principles: Universal coverage, comprehensive benefits including preventive care, substance abuse treatment and mental health services; Portability and security of coverage even if you lose or change jobs; cost-containment; and quality care measures. Whether that is single-payer, multi-payer or managed competition will be determined by a bipartisan task force I will appoint upon taking office and which will return its recommendations within six months.

Edgar: ?

3. Are you in favor of the Illinois Health Security Act of 1993 and will you help to pass this Act this year in the Illinois General Assembly?

Netsch: The Illinois Health Security Act of 1993 incorporates many of the steps I will propose upon taken office. I pledge to implement by January 1996 a comprehensive health care reform package that includes the five principles I enunciate above.

Edgar: ?

4. Other general comments regarding health care platform.

Netsch: The need for reform of the nation's health care system is clear. In Illinois, some 1.5 million people lack health insurance, health costs for the average family during the 1980s rose 171 percent faster than its wages and the cost to businesses of providing health insurance rose 183 percent. However, Illinois is one of only two states that has failed to undertake some type of significant health care reform. Governor Edgar has been virtually invisible as this crisis has escalated and spiralling health care costs, especially Medicaid, have destabilized state government.

Edgar: ? Seems to have proven Netsch's point through his silence.

Source: Campaign for Better Health Care

Illinois Health Security Act

The Illinois Health Security Act of 1994 (1993 - HB 1459 & SB 303) requires the State of Illinois to implement a universal access health care system by January 1, 1998. Requires the creation of a Bipartisan Health Care Reform Commission by September 1, 1994, to make recommendations for a universal access health care plan.

In developing the plans, the Commission shall incorporate anticipated or actual changes in federal government policies regarding the availability and cost of health mechanisms, comprehensive benefits, and universal access beyond the new federal mandated programs that will be passed in Washington later this year or next year, if so desired.

Source: Campaign for Better Health Care

CHOICE CHOICE CHOICE

What does Voice for Choice do?

That's a question we've had asked recently and we thought that maybe we should update our supporters on the activities we participate in.

In addition to this column and our own newsletter which is published every other month, Voice for Choice is involved in a number of activities. The following are just a few of the things we've been working on or involved in:

*Community and campus education. Voice for Choice accepts, in fact welcomes invitations to speak to community groups about reproductive rights. Last month we participated in abortion rights debates at ISU and Wesleyan.

We also sponsor educational events. Last January we sponsored a public forum on adoption and adoption reform.

*Support of other community groups. Voice for Choice attempts to support other women's groups in our community through financial support, e.g. financial contributions to the Women's Studies Program to help sponsor Sarah Weddington and Betty Friedan's visits to the twin cities. We have co-sponsored events with Rape Crisis Center, AIDS Task Force, GALA and ACT UP.

*Voice for Choice was recently approached by the Illinois Adoption Coalition to join the coalition in its efforts to reform Illinois' adoption laws. We are proud of our participation in this effort.

*Abortion Assistance Fund. During the past five years Voice for Choice has raised money to assist women who wish to obtain an abortion but cannot afford one. Prior to January these funds were raised on an as needed basis. In January, Voice for Choice, in conjunction with the Rape Crisis Center, established a fund for such requests. Since January we have assisted five women.

*Sponsoring demonstrations and rallies. Voice for Choice annually sponsors a commemoration of Roe Vs. Wade. In addition we have sponsored other demonstrations in response to various Supreme Court decisions effecting women.

*Participation at various community festivals such as Ewing Arts, Cultural Fest, Sugar Creek Arts Festival.

*Voter registration. Many of our members are voter registrars, we are able to register voters at our booths at the above mentioned festivals.

*Voice for Choice is the founding organization of the Women's Health Care Task Force.

*Community resource. Voice for Choice has materials available, on loan, to interested community members and students. Some materials are available for individuals to keep, others must be checked out and a deposit made. These materials have been beneficial to students especially as they write papers and prepare presentations.

These are just a few of the things we do. If you'd like to join us please do. We meet on the First and Third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Studies Center, 604 N. Main St., Normal.

P.S Thanks to all of you who sent donations to the Abortion Assistance Fund. The women of this community appreciate it.



Oh Well, Whatever...Nevermind

Speaking of Kurt Cobain...

The world lost more than a talented musician/songwriter last April when Kurt Cobain decided to end his own life. As you may or may not know, Kurt was a strong voice in the music industry when it came time to support many political/social issues, including AIDS research and abortion rights. He helped organize Rock for Choice, a touring menagerie of musicians who hand over their proceeds from concerts to abortion rights groups. Also, if you remember, a few issues ago we gave Kurt an Upper for stating some impassioned views relating to racism, sexism, rape, homophobia, etc. in Nirvana's booklet for their album, "Incesticide."

I don't support Kurt's method for ending his obvious unhappiness, and depression, I just wish he could have found inner peace and happiness in a more positive and healing way.

Premonition or co-in-ki-dink?

The Tuesday following Cobain's suicide, his wife, Courtney Love and her band, Hole released an album titled "Live Through This." Some of the manic depressive-like lyrics include - "My better half has bitten me," and "Someday you will ache like I ache," which Love belts out in a realistic, heartbreaking manner. By the way, this album rocks and Love can *really* scream. Two thumbs up.

Recent Arrivals: Hate and Ignorance

According to my sources, a board member of the Normal Public Library has written a letter supporting discrimination towards homosexuals.

Here's the scoop.

The American Library Association (ALA) withdrew their plans to hold conferences in Colorado and Cleveland this year (both have passed anti-gay referendums in recent elections). Their reason? The ALA believes that denying special rights, i.e., any rights, to gays and lesbians, or any one else for that matter, is a violation of basic civil rights. Apparently, there's been a lot of debate from ALA members throughout the country, both good and bad, about this decision. That debate includes Normal. Someone from the Normal Public Library Board of Directors (psst. it's Charles Sila) decided to throw in his two cents worth and wrote a letter on behalf of the board letting ALA know that their boycott is not representative of the Normal Library's views because the library does not support special rights for homosexuals.

What does this mean to you?

The right wing/moral majority in Normal is now having input into which books you will be reading. The view of the right wing is now being represented in one of the most sacred of all democratic institutions - libraries, which have a history of adamantly supporting our First Amendment, the Freedom of Speech. Please, please send a letter to the library board (or to Charles Sila alone) and let them know that you believe in separation of church and state, and it is not his duty or any others, as elected library officers, to push his or her religious/moral beliefs on anyone but themselves.

Don't Say I Never Warned You

Next time you want to read Tom Sawyer, The Color Purple, or Catcher in the Rye, and stroll on down to the Normal Library, guess what folks, it just might not be there.

Women need not apply

Pope John Paul II declared on May 30, that the Roman Catholic Church wouldn't ordain women as priests. But, the Pope added, women should accept this situation "as the faithful observance of a plan to be ascribed to the wisdom of the Lord of the universe."

What a bunch of crap.

While this news is certainly no surprise, I am still very disappointed in the church's decision. (like countless others). I am a Catholic, I guess. I mean I was born, raised, did the Catholic school bit...etc., but I gave up Catholicism awhile ago. (I like to say I did it for Lent!) But on the other hand, I don't think religion can be a throw-away thing, you just can't cast something like that aside, it's too much a part of you. Especially Catholics, most of us would probably feel too guilty.

God has no daughter

Women's role in the church has always bothered me. Why couldn't I be an alter boy (girl)? Why must all girls without question, be in the choir? We could clean and dust and vacuum the inside of the church, but we

couldn't hand out communion. It didn't seem fair. The boys were always favored. (Christ was the *son of man*) Girls were supposed to be like the Virgin Mary, pure, innocent, quiet. But on the contrary, I was told that everybody is equal in the eyes of god. It all seemed so confusing to me in grade school, and still does.

The Catholic church, to me, is a huge hypocritical, sexist, racist, homophobic, old boys' club. It does, however, preach of some ideals and morals which I still adhere to. One being...everyone is equal in the eyes of god. I for one, hope that I wasn't the only one who took that to heart.

Driver's Ed

I consider myself to be a type "B" personality - laid back, non aggressive - except when I'm on the road, where it all changes.

Here are a few things that get my goat.

- 1. My biggest pet peeve - turn signals.**
I am *not* a psychic. I can't read your mind and figure out that you will be making a right hand turn at the next street. Cars come equipped with turn signals not only to stop the guesswork, but as a *safety* feature. If you are guilty of this annoying act and proceed to continue, make sure you don't do it around me, for I will make it a point to *remind* you.
- 2. Cheaters and stallers at 4-way stops.**
Do you ever find yourself directing traffic from the *inside* of your car? I do. Two types of drivers cause this, stallers and cheaters. Stallers, also known as Sunday drivers. Um...gee...ok...um...well...oh, is it my turn?...oh...ok then, I'll go, seems to be their mindset when approaching a stop sign. A pointer - stay away from Lincoln Town cars, any station wagon, any car with a covered up tire on the trunk, and all mini-vans. See also #5. The second, cheaters, i.e. people that take your turn at a 2 or 4-way intersection. If I see one trying to sneak by before I do, I usually pull up close without actually hitting them. However, I do not recommend this practice.
- 3. Driving slow or hanging out in the fast lane**
The left lane on the highway, except when there is heavy traffic or construction, is to be used for passing purposes only. You might be driving in the left lane going 75 m.p.h. and think you're Speed Racer. You're not.
- 4. Leaving your turn signal on, and on and...**
This needs no explanation.
- 5. Mini Vans**
Am I the only one in Bloomington/Normal who doesn't own a fucking mini van? I really hate these things. Unless you cart around a slew of children, there is no need 15 square feet of cargo space - buy a truck instead. I know of a few single/childless people who actually own these things. Really. Why do I hate mini vans? They are a hazard. You can't see over them or around them, and you never know what to expect, especially if there are 2.5 hyper children inside with a harried mother/father. If you get behind a mini van, take my advice and switch lanes if at all possible.

Happy driving!

towanda!

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Winter Wren's Star Guide

June/July



ARIES -- March 21 - April 19

Keep a positive outlook as the summer heats up and don't let your temper rise with the thermometer. Romance is indicated around you near June 24th. Luck runs high for you after Mercury returns direct on July 6. Until that time reconfirm all your plans in order to avoid disappointments and/or confusion. Pressure at work should ease up due to positive energy flows during the week of July 11. Watch out for impulsive urges July 18 - 20.

TAURUS -- April 20 - May 20

The high point of the Taurus summer on a creative level will occur during the week of July 25th. Even if you have only had creative urges in the past, now is the time to make those urges into something tangible. The shortened work week after the 4th of July holiday will bring excellent trends in business. There is great potential for large profits during this week. The Saturn retrograde during the week of June 20 will require a great deal of energy to make all the changes necessary. Develop patience.

GEMINI -- May 21 - June 20

Now is an excellent time to end an abusive relationship. Better things will come in the future, but not if your life is too cluttered to accept them. Avoid extremes around June 4 and 5. Be careful not to finalize any long term agreements until after July 6th. Work situations will seem extra stressful to those Geminis who are working in positions they don't really want to be in. Take advantage of badly needed rest time over the 4th of July weekend to make some serious decisions about what you really want and where you really want to be.



CANCER -- June 21 - July 22

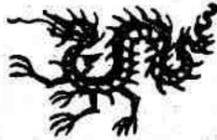
Your self-confidence level has been a touch shaky as of late; have more faith in yourself. June 13 - 19 is an excellent time to apply for work in the service area, the insurance industry, and property management. Spend time healing the body during the week of June 27th; get the toxins out of the system. Be careful of fraud through the electronic channels during the week of July 25th. Workaholic tendencies take over July 20.

LEO -- July 23 - August 22

Set realistic limits and goals and don't let yourself be talked out of them. Keep in mind that love is completely unconditional and that goes doubly for self-love. A cruise is likely to present itself in your life during the week of June 20th. Purchase of a new (or used) vehicle is positive during the week of July 11th. Be very careful regarding escape through intoxicants. A vacation through meditation would be much safer at this time. Clarity in speech and writing intensifies with the heat.

VIRGO -- August 23 - September 22

Have a great deal of respect for the Sun and its power around the water during the week of July 11th. A totally unnecessary sun burn is quite likely around this time. It is likely that you will find a cause to champion during the week of June 13th. Be aware that the arguments that accompany this will be challenging. Power plays at work will come to a head around June 27th; clear the air and be done with it. Watch out for the full moon craziness on July 22.



LIBRA -- September 23 - October 22

A love relationship at work will lead to extensive complications during the week of July 18th. Keep counsel with no one but yourself unless you wish your secrets to become a matter of public knowledge. If you are still suffering a great deal of stress after the July 4th break, re-evaluate your life and get things back into balance. Remember, Libra is always searching for balance. Watch out for work games and head games around June 16 - 18. Start up exercise program week of June 13; it will pay off.

SCORPIO -- October 23 - November 21

Finish off old projects during the first week of June; many new things are heading your way and you don't want to start out behind. Be aware of acts of passion which are not thought out during the week of June 20. A major emotional cleansing cycle will occur during next week any way, so why complicate matters needlessly. A sincere conflict with religious zealots is indicated during the week of July 25th. Remember: everyone is entitled to believe as they choose.

SAGITTARIUS -- November 22 - December 21

Expect an increase in the level of emotions in your closer relationships at this time; try to avoid the element of control. A job opportunity needs to be scrutinized heavily before any committed decisions are made. Be careful in money matters at this time. Don't let emotions send you into a financial tail-spin. A gift or letter arrives from an unexpected front about June 24. Energy levels should increase around July 10th.

CAPRICORN -- December 22 - January 19

Travel is indicated throughout the summer and is likely to affect your desire for stability in a rather negative manner. Be careful not to take your displeasure out on others. If the situation really becomes unbearable, get back in control of your own life. Financial security is one of your chief concerns at this time. July 4th brings about an argument in a main relationship. Don't play second fiddle; seek someone for a romantic partner who truly loves you. Lies will be revealed as July draws to a close.

AQUARIUS -- January 20 - February 18

Avoid thinking too much, especially when you shouldn't; over analysis can be hazardous. Schedule rest for yourself; you have definitely been abusing the body of late. There is a definite need to clarify responsibilities on the home front, especially during the week of June 13th. Accept the fact that perfection is frequently an unattainable ideal; this will be spotlighted during the week of July 18th. Moral arguments will escalate during the last few days of July.



PISCES -- February 19 - March 20

Demand what is owed to you or take legal steps to put the matter back into the light. Communications are totally screwed up by the Mercury retrograde (June 12 - July 6); if you want to avoid confusion and distress triple check all plans and commitments and sign nothing during this time. Metaphysical development will be viewed as a labor of love starting the week of July 11; make a commitment to it. Make sure to take credit due you for your successes.

***Personal astrology questions for Winter Wren may be addressed to her at the Post Amerikan P. O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702*

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It's War! National Mobilization for the Locked-Out Staley Workers

On June 25, 1994 ...

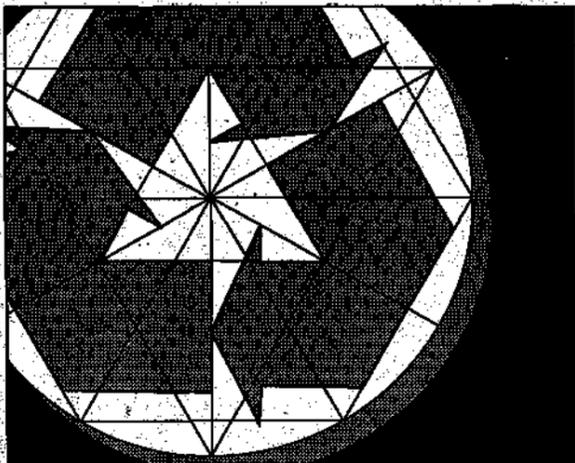
CALL IN THE TROOPS ...

It's War! National mobilization
for the Locked-Out Staley
Workers

WHAT: Solidarity March &
Demo at the A. E. Staley Plant

WHEN: Saturday, June 25, 12:00
Noon

WHERE: Meet at UAW Local
751 (Caterpillar workers) 2365 East
Geddes Avenue Decatur, Illinois
We will march 1 mile from there
to the Staley plant and corporate
head quarters at 2200 East
Eldorado. (Call 217/876-7006 for
more details.)



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▪ DROP OFFS
▪ RECYCLE DRIVES

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The lockout of the 760 workers at the A. E. Staley Company has entered its tenth month, and although the members are suffering from severe hardships, so is the company.

Since the lockout, the members of UPIU Local 7837 have struggled to get by on drastically reduced income while escalating their campaign against Staley and its British parent company, Tate & Lyle, PLC. Today, Staley workers — people like Ron Van Scyoc, Lorell Patterson, Dee & Rudy Scott, and Shawn Wilson — are hanging tough on \$60 a week strike pay and groceries from the union's food bank. They are more determined than ever to win their fight, but they need the support of labor unions and others across the country.

Since September 1992, Local 7837's members have fought this vicious company with discipline, creativity, and power. Their corporate campaign has strained Staley's coalition with creditors, investors, customers, and other allies in the corn processing industry.

In short, the Staley workers have mobilized themselves into a potent political army. Local 7837 has distributed literature to hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country. Members have personally taken their message on the road, gathering the support of unions and other concerned individuals and groups from coast to coast. Local 7837's campaign is an inspiring reminder of the power union members have — and they band together and stand up for what's right.

At the beginning of the dispute, a Staley representative introduced the issue of concessions:

"Rather than having people ticked off over several contracts and years, we're going to take it all at once."

But, in order to finish their fight for justice, these workers need your help and the need it now. In the last eighteen months, the Staley workers have stood bravely on the front lines against corporate greed and aggression against U. S. workers. We

cannot allow these courageous brothers and sisters to be starved into submission.

We are writing to ask that you adopt a locked-out family so that Staley workers continue to wage this important battle. We are asking unions to participate in the Adopt-A-Family Program for up to six months. (The program provided locked-out families with a financial floor of \$600 per month. Donations less than \$600 per month will be combined with other donations.) Families will be chosen in order of economic need as determined by an outside committee of Decatur unionists. Unions who participate in this program will receive regular reports from the family they adopt, updating you on the struggle in the Decatur, IL "War Zone."

The Executive Board of the AFL-CIO unanimously endorsed this struggle and encouraged affiliates to provide "all appropriate assistance" because they know that we need to turn this symbol of corporate greed and lawlessness into a symbol of hope and solidarity for U. S. workers.

Please do what you can to support Local 7837's Adopt-A-Family Program. These workers have come too far and worked too hard to be starved into submission. By providing an economic floor under these families you give them the ability to do their job, which is fighting back against corporate greed and scoring a major labor victory against a \$6 billion multi-national corporation. Adopting a family is not only a statement of solidarity, it is an investment in all of our futures.

As local union leaders who have witness the struggle from the beginning, we wholeheartedly endorse Local 7837's Adopt-A-Family program. As their slogan says: it's our solidarity versus theirs — only together can we win.

In solidarity,

Signed,

Larry G. Solomon
President
UAW Local 751

Buddy Maupin
Local Union Development
Supervisor
AFSCME Council 31

Jack Peterson
President
East Central Illinois
Building Trades Council

If you want to Adopt a Locked-Out Family, please contact

*Adopt--Family Committee
c/o UPIU Local 7837
3080 B Kandy Lane
Decatur, IL 62526
217/872-2205 or 217/876-7006*

The 760 workers at the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company have been locked out for ten months. Staley, at the direction of parent Tate & Lyle PLC, threw these workers out of their jobs because the wouldn't give up their hard-earned health and safety provisions, seniority rights, 8 hour days, and basic union rights — to a company that regularly makes \$200 million in profits!

Staley/Tate & Lyle has made its strategy clear: if these union brothers and sisters don't give in, the company will starve them into submission. Meaner still, Staley/Tate & Lyle has enlisted the support of banks, insurance companies, and other corn-processing companies in their union busting, community wrecking crusade.

While the Staley workers are locked out, by no means are they knocked out — in fact, they're fighting back harder than ever against Staley, its allies, and its customers. They're traveling across the country building a national campaign, one person at a time, and spreading a message of solidarity for the labor movement of the 90's. The Staley workers have the people and the program against a giant multinational corporation.



Roadkill on taxes

Roadkill on taxes

Let's take a look at how it's supposed to work: at the time a dealer comes into possession of a controlled substance, the tax is due. The rate is \$5 per gram of marijuana, \$250 per gram of controlled substance, and \$2000 per 50 dosage units of a product not sold by weight. This is collected through the sale of tax stamps which may be purchased either in person or by mail, if you want to submit your address. Payment must be made in cash, certified check, or money order. No personal checks are accepted. Then, the stamp must be affixed to the container of contraband in such a way that the stamp will be destroyed upon opening. If they are not properly affixed, our dealer may be fined for non-payment.

It's true. The only sure things are death and taxes. It turns out that since January 1, 1988, all dealers of controlled substances must pay tax on their goods, illegal though they are. The government is profiting from drug sales - again. At hand is a relatively obscure provision, administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue, requiring anyone who "manufactures, produces, ships . . . [or] sells . . . more than 30 grams of cannabis," or five grams or dosage units of a controlled substance to pay a tax. Failure to pay the department its fair share will result in a penalty of four times the amount of tax due. In other words, one ounce of your favorite herb costs the dealer (and I assume that cost is passed on to the consumer) just over \$35 in taxes. What does the dealer get in return? Not a license to sell, as would normally be the case with another industry, but merely immunity from prosecution for controlled substance tax evasion. Even tobacco growers get price supports but marijuana growers realize no benefit from their taxes.

Now, even the State of Illinois knows that no one but a complete fool is going to waltz into an office and say "I'm shipping a pound of cocaine tomorrow. Here is \$113,400 for stamps." Therefore, the state does not consider these stamps evidence of actual possession, and although payment of the tax does not legalize possession, at least all such information is confidential.

So even though it is illegal to traffic in drugs, the state still collects a tax. Sounds like they wrote a law just to make money. And they are. In the first four years of the program, 850,000 was collected. It is unclear whether this was paid voluntarily or after charges were filed, as part of a plea bargain.

This, it seems, places the state in a rather compromising position. Even as programs are implemented to keep people from exploring drugs, Illinois takes a hefty cut of the profits. Which side is it on? The Department of Revenue will say that the program takes the profit out of drug dealing and that the law is intended as a tool for sending dealers even further up the river. But the bottom line becomes that through taxation the profits have not disappeared from the drug trade; instead, they are being collected by the state.

Fortunately, although the law remains, following a challenge in 1992, no taxes have been collected. The Illinois Supreme Court did not rule the law unconstitutional, but stated that the "400% penalty the state seeks to impose may be so extreme . . . as to constitute punishment within the meaning" of double jeopardy. At this time, the code is being revised to conform to the Court's opinion.

-- Roadkill



Who is Aunt Rita?



Aunt Rita urges her niece Susie, "Sport a short haircut, let your body hair grow, never eat another living creature, carry a pack of chewing gum in case you happen upon a bourgeois pig in a fur coat- that's büzh-wä...you can say it- and always read Post Amerikan."



POST AMERIKAN

YES! I do want to be like Aunt Rita!
Enclosed is a \$5.00 check/money order for a 1 yr. subscription.

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