

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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6-1-1998

### Volume 27, Number 3

Post Amerikan

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Interview with The Heatersons

Dancing Rabbit Project Part 2

Is there a city on the edge of forever?



# POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 27

50¢

NUMBER 3

JUNE/JULY 1998

Wishing Jack Porter well  
on his retirement from Praire State Legal Services.



circa 1969

Thank you for 30+ years of community activism.

Bulk Rate  
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Bloomington, IL 61702

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Post Amerikan  
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Bloomington, IL 61702

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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 828-4473 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*.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the *Post Amerikan* are available for the low price of \$6.00 per year for six complete issues.

Please send a check (made payable to the *Post Amerikan*) to: *Post Amerikan*, P.O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702.

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

**David, Linda, Fish, Gregg,  
Ralph, Sherrin & Steve**

### Post Sellers

**Bloomington**  
 AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main (inside)  
 About Books, 221 E. Front (inside)  
 Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main  
 Barnes & Noble, Veterans and Rt. 9 (inside)  
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East  
 Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)  
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)  
 Front and Center Building  
 Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main (inside)  
 Last Chance Newstand, 404 N. Main (inside)  
 Law and Justice Center, 104 W, Front  
 Lizard's Lounge, 612 N. Main St.  
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)  
 Mystic Link, 1206 Towanda Ave. Su.4 (inside)  
 Once Upon a Time, 311 N. Main (inside)  
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)  
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)  
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe  
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

**Normal**  
 Acme Comics, 115 W. North (inside)  
 Amtrak Station, 100 Parkinson  
 Babbitt's Books, 104 North (inside)  
 Bus stop, (School and Fell)  
 Coffee World CoffeeHouse, 114 E. Beaufort  
 Deadpan Alley Records, 129 E. Beaufort (inside)  
 Koffee Kup, 205 W. North  
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)

**Champaign**  
 Babbitt's Books, 614 E. Green, (inside)

### 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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### Due Date:

The due date for submitting articles to the *Post Amerikan* is: (please laser print your articles in columns of 3" using Palatino 10pt. type if possible.)

## July 15

### Good numbers

ACLU.....454-7223  
 Advocacy Council for Human Rights.830-2521  
 AIDS Hotlines  
   National.....1-800-AID-AIDS  
   Illinois.....1-800-243-2437  
   Local.....827-AIDS  
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092  
 Amnesty International-ISU ...Miami@ilstu.edu  
 Animal Protection League.....828-5371  
 Bloomington Housing Authority.....829-3360  
 Boys and Girls Club.....829-3034  
 Clare House (Catholic workers).....828-4035  
 Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070  
 Dept. of Children/Family Services...828-0022  
 Gay & Lesbian Resource Phoneline...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  
 Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-5051  
 Lighthouse (substance abuse treatment).....827-6026  
 McLean Co. Center for Human Services...827-5351  
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450  
 McLean Co. Humane Society.....663-7387  
 McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070  
 Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691  
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301  
 Narcotics Anonymous.....1-800-779-6178  
 National Health Care Services/  
   abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622  
 Occupational Development Center....452-7324  
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691  
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005  
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help).827-4005  
 Phone Friends.....827-4005  
 PFLAG(Parents, Families and Friends  
   of Lesbians and Gays).....663-0831  
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014  
   (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368  
*Post Amerikan*.....828-4473  
 Prarie 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 Ave. Community Center.....829-4807



# Letters to the Editor:

Post Amerikan:

I wanted to thank you for the publication that I recently received in the mail. Its nice to know others are also championing the cause of the independent press. It looks like you have a "cutting edge" product. I wish you a lot of success.

I'm up late tonight, so I thought I'd share some of my theories and ideologies with you. I normally don't discuss race with White folks, as I feel its confrontational by nature. I'd rather we agree to be social and let it end at that. But since Phillip wants to talk race, a creation of the white man, who has this psychotic need to separate and identify, let's talk about the New World Nazi article. I also would like to discuss the usage of the penis picture, and the cursing, but there's not enough time, and I hate typing.

First and foremost, I can not allow you to denigrate the torture, dehumanization, and otherwise barbaric treatment my ancestors received from your ancestors, the founding Slave Owners, with a simple, "they didn't think it was wrong." Secondly, slavery was an economic venture, not initially racist... it only became racial when the atrocities had to be legitimized. I'll explain.

Allow me a little leniency, because I must first set up the circumstances in which slavery evolved. Furthermore, I'll not contest that slavery existed in Africa way before Europeans began doing what they did, but you must understand or at least concede that, that form of slavery is more synonymous with indentured servitude, considering there was no torture and "slaves" had the ability to secure their freedom. No other people have been submitted to the type of slavery created by Western society, unless it was Western society doing the enslaving... I use society instead of civilization because we have yet to become civil.

Anyway, the first historical records of man can be found in the temperate regions of the good old Motherland. (Africa for those not in the know.) Briefly retracing history, and shockingly European history is much shorter than African history, not that I'm comparing, just making note of the fact that when taught history in our Eurocentric schools the only history we learn is that of the Europe! But I'm digressing... to be short here's my two minutes of World History:

Between 4000 and 3000 BC African priest began keeping written records. Pyramids and great temples were built and also being built by Africans at this time. At this same time Europe was a nonfunctioning entity, progressing through its Neolithic state, that's the cavemen period. We all didn't evolve the same way or at the same time... only Europeans Glacially Evolved... only Europeans were "cavemen". A very important point, because it begins to explain European temperament vs African temperament, European physical make up vs African physical make up, and the environments in which we "evolved", the Caucus mountains and rocky terrain of Europe vs the temperate and fertile Nile Valley of Africa.

The first real show of European literacy and intelligence surfaced around 1250 BC with the publication of two books; the Odyssey and the Iliad by Homer. Once Europe got themselves together and created the assemblance of what could be referred to as a state or nation, they quickly realized Europe could not furnish them with enough food to properly feed, or enough material to be properly clothed. Therefore, Alexander the Barbarian... (who says he's great?) invaded Africa in 332 BC. They also invaded Asia, but that's another tale of butchery.

Remarkably, this did not lead to racism. There was an amalgamation of the races. Blacks and Whites were intermingling more so than ever, and the social hierarchy was purely economical...classicists.

The racism that plagues us today has its origins from the 15th and 16th centuries. The so called middle ages, the Crusades, the Dark ages. During the "Dark Ages", Europe lost its command of longitude and latitude. Being land poor, people poor, and resource poor, Europe had to establish the slave trade to begin its economic recovery. First they tried enslaving themselves, white folks, with indentured servitude. As Europeans died under the strain, the Pope and other high officials ended the practice... no gain was being made... they were killing their own. So they tried to enslave the native American, but the Native American



had to strong a connection with the land to defile it, in their opinion, like the Europeans wanted. So much so that they would rather die... and they did, well that is Europeans murdered them... and now use them as mascots for their schools. Our Native American population is sadistically low... and its due to White folks.

Anyway, at this same time, Islam was becoming the dominant religion of the world. The Catholic church, the Pope, who ran things at the time, recognized this and used a war against Islam to unite the warring Europeans, and improve the economy by enslaving the hated infidels, the Africans that practiced a form of Islam. 1455 the Pope authorized Portugal and Spain to reduce to servitude all the hated infidels, Africans and Asians... This was the precursor to the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade.

Impress your friends!



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## Letters to Editor cont.

During the Slave trade Euro's colonized information, the world, the bible, and all complimentary images that non European people held of themselves. The most effective being the image of God. God/Jesus is not White! And yes it shouldn't matter what color Jesus was, but the fact that only White images of Jesus has been promoted, you must begin to realize the negative affects that has on all people of nonEuropean descent. Another topic for another day, however Racism lives.

Europeans, being God fearing people, ran into a serious contradiction. God loves mankind with no respect to kin or kith, and now Europeans had to make God a bigot, and very much unGodly. Europeans proclaimed ideologies and ideas they themselves didn't believe in or followed. They became the worlds biggest hypocrites.

Europe classically conditioned people across the world by tarnishing those peoples culture, spirituality, and overall way of life. Under the guise of civilizing, Europe caused many cultures to become extant. Cultures that were obviously much better off before their arrival. Cultures that, before the Europeans came, had no thoughts of White angels, blond hair, and blue eyes, which is cool for Europeans, but that should have never been forced into an unlike peoples spirituality. But it was, and once you got us to believing, slavery and racism were legitimized.

I say all that to get to this. Successful Europeans stayed in Europe. The new World, America, was filled with the garbage of Europe... White folks Europeans did not like. These folks had no problems working out years of frustrations of being a lower class of people on the indigenous people of America as well as the newly shipped in slaves... those that survived the tortuous journey that is. I'm digressing so let's get back to the article.

Slavery, not racism has made this country stronger. Racism is the legitimizer of slavery. Slavery is thievery. It stills anothers life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for free labor. We have one life to live, and with slavery, others make you live it for their selfish superficial and material needs.

The atrocity of European slavery was the methodology of conditioning necessary to make a man or woman into a slave. The beatings, the lack of respect, the inability to claim even the ownership of ones body. The raping, mutilation, dehumanizing treatment... So much so that it continued to be a part of African American lives well after slavery was supposedly abolished... Do you remember "Jim Crow"... separate but equal, the lynchings, castrations, burnings, bombings, the murder.

Wrong is wrong, no matter when it was committed. The mental state of those people only speak to how something went terribly wrong with their evolution. Whether it be "Group Think", mob mentality, or what, whatever the circumstances, they knew they were wrong, our Declaration of Independence speaks to how wrong such tyranny is, it even speaks to their mind state... considering they left a country because of less.

Once again, I really don't care how Europeans considered themselves... I don't care how Nazi's considered themselves. Wrong is wrong. Murder is murder. People are amazed by the many different complexions African Americans come in... its nothing less than the raping of a people...

Many wonder why the Black community is still fighting the legacy of slavery... its more so the legacy of racism... Europeans have inserted themselves within every facet of our livelihood, education, and even death, the spiritual realm. The shaving not shaving analogy, though insensitive in equating a fashion trend to enslavement, touched on some important facets of society. We do things without question, many times its tradition simply being passed down. "How many women are taught by their mothers and sisters..." "This cosmetic behavior is strongly reinforced by.." for these same reasons, this country is still racist...and half the time folks don't realize they are perpetuating the institution of racism. Reminds me of a Gorilla story I was recently told:

It starts with a cage containing five apes. In the cage, hang a banana on a string and put stairs under it. Before long, an ape will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the apes with cold water.

After a while, another ape makes an attempt with the same result, all of the apes are sprayed with cold water Soon, all of the apes realize that if any one of them approaches the stairs, they all will be sprayed with cold water!

Turn off the cold water.

If, later, another ape tries to climb the stairs, the others try to stop him, even though no water is sprayed on them. Now, remove one ape from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new ape sees the banana and tries to climb the stairs. To his horror, all of the other apes attack him.

After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted. Next, remove another of the original five apes and replace it with a new one.

The newcomer goes to the stairs and attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm. Again, replace a third original ape with a new one. The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well.

Two of the four apes that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest ape.

After replacing the fourth and fifth original apes, all the apes which have been sprayed with cold water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no ape ever again approaches the stairs. Why not ???

" Because that's the way it's always been done around here."  
Sound familiar ?

Skin does not help America remember... it fuels the fire to a psychotic irrational aggressiveness towards that which is not like yourself. If Whites would have continued to enslave themselves... we would not have the racial problems that currently exist and we wouldn't need the special parameters such as affirmative action to right such historical wrongs... and we wouldn't be discussing the absurdity of legitimizing Racism. However, since it did happen...

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## Letters to Editor cont.

I've taken on a task far to large, there must be a better use of my efforts. However, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. One day, maybe I'll discuss my theory on why the European has been the most barbaric, murderous people to walk this planet, but I'm getting sleepy.

Keep up the good work!

--  
Jamal Maatuka, Publisher  
Black Thought Publications  
PO Box 3212  
Champaign, IL 61826-3212

Harriet Tubman freed many slaves...  
She would have freed many more...  
Had they only known that they were slaves...  
Anonymous

The Revolution will not be E-mailed... the lamb

Dear Editor:

I would like to share some insight with the hard working taxpayers of Illinois as to how their money is being wasted and misused by the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). Being an inmate within the IDOC and having transferred through eleven different prisons since 1992, what I have witnessed sounds unbelievable to anyone outside of the prison walls. Some corrections officials are simply organized criminals. Let me explain.

The State of Illinois provides the IDOC with money to operate its facilities and provide food, clothing, medical and dental care for all employees as well as inmates. I have personally witnessed excess food purchased with your money by employees of the IDOC, being resold to the supplier for a "kickback" or given to IDOC employees to take home or resell.

I have seen equipment and materials purchased by employees of the IDOC either stolen or sold in a similar fashion by IDOC employees. For example, one day a man driving a pick-up truck, who was delivering products to Centralia Correctional Center, noticed a generator sitting in the workshop. The man asked the officer how much he would take for the generator? The two men walked over to the truck where the man placed several bills of U.S. currency in the corrections officer's hand. The officer then used an air chisel to remove the IDOC identification plate from the generator. With the help of nearby inmates the generator was loaded into the pickup truck and taken out of the facility. The correction officer then advised the inmates to forget they saw the

generator. These are only a couple of examples of what has become a routine practice of IDOC officials.

The American Corrections Association (ACA) audits each facility of the IDOC four times a year. I requested copies of institutional audit records as well as those of the ACA, by filing under the freedom of information act, only to be denied this public information.

In furthering their conspiracy to extort money from the State of Illinois, IDOC officials often stage incidents they allege personal injury and file civil lawsuits seeking compensation for these alleged injuries. These actions cost you the taxpayer millions of dollars each year for legal fees of the IDOC to defend itself from its employees as well as monetary settlements awarded to these state employees. You as a taxpayer, pay the union scale wages and medical and dental insurance for employees of the IDOC, for a job requiring no manual labor. As if that weren't enough, you also pay all of the costs of stolen materials and equipment as well as replacement costs. Prisons should be at minimal cost efficient and with proper management produce a profit.

Each facility within the IDOC has its own industry. Inmate workers manufacture most all needed bedding, clothing and other products used within the IDOC. Common sense tells you that someone is getting very rich off of our tax dollars under the disguise of keeping society safe from criminals. As the fiscal year comes to an end, officials of the IDOC spend every last dime on excess or unnecessary entities just to assure the following year's budget won't be cut.

I urge you to contact your local state representative or senator and demand answers. Here are a few questions I think you need to consider. How many employees of the IDOC have been killed in the line of duty in the past 5 years? How many employees of the IDOC have filed lawsuits against the IDOC in the past 5 years? How much money has the IDOC paid out in legal fees and settlements to employees in the past 5 years?

After I began documenting incidents of corruption within the IDOC, and notifying prison watch groups and state and federal agencies of this corruption, I began being persecuted by officials of the IDOC. Within the last 2 years, I have been transferred between 8 different facilities within the IDOC and have had my personal property stolen by IDOC officials over 50 times. This is the tactic used to quiet down inmates who try to exploit bad acts of employees of the IDOC. This will only continue if you allow it to. Please seek out the truth.

Michael L. Widmer  
B30985  
Graham Correctional Center  
P.O. Box 500  
Hillsboro, IL 62049



## Men seeking women

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# Community News

## Beyond Normal Films

### Welcome To Sarajevo

THURSDAY July 2 7PM  
FRIDAY July 3 7PM

"Welcome to Sarajevo" invites audiences to enter the world of the international press corps - a group of war correspondents, some jaded, some still innocent, covering the news in one of the most dangerous places on Earth.



### Washington Square

THURSDAY August 6 7PM  
FRIDAY August 7 7PM  
SATURDAY August 8 7 & 9:30PM  
SUNDAY August 9 7PM

Catherine grows up sheltered at 16 Washington Square, a beautiful town house in 1850s New York. When she meets the young, dashing (and penniless) Morris, who sweeps her off her feet and wishes to marry her, everyone especially her father-is convinced that Morris is interested only in her hefty dowry.

### Ma Vie En Rose

THURSDAY August 20 7PM  
FRIDAY August 21 7PM  
SATURDAY August 22 7 & 9:15PM  
SUNDAY August 23 7PM

"Ma Vie En Rose" ("My Life in Pink") is the story of Ludovic, a little girl born in a little boy's body. For him, nothing is more natural than to change his gender. The situation turns into a real-life drama of intense reactions from neighbors, friends, and teachers, resulting in a profoundly optimistic ending.

### The Winter Guest

THURSDAY Sept. 3 7PM  
FRIDAY Sept. 4 7PM  
SATURDAY Sept. 5 7 & 9:30PM  
SUNDAY Sept. 6 7PM

This adaptation of Sharman Macdonald's play, "The Winter Guest" is set in a seaside town in Scotland on the coldest day in living memory, a day so cold even the sea has frozen solid. On this day, an elderly woman arrives uninvited and unexpected at the home of her grown up daughter.



## Classy-Fried Ad

Participants needed for investigative study of the restaurant industry. If you have ever worked in the business in any capacity, we need your experiences, good or bad. For more information and a questionnaire, send a SASE to J. Thomas, 114 Carol St. Carrboro. N.C. 27510

## Community picnic July 12

There will be a picnic Sunday, July 12, at the Underwood Park Pavilion, off Jersey in Normal. The Bistro, Once Upon A Time Alternative Books and Gifts, and the organizations of the Coalition for the Advancement of Human Rights (The Advocacy Council for Human Rights, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, CONNECTIONS Community Center, the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and the McLean County AIDS Task Force).

## B/N PFLAG spearheads school policy change

Carol and Craig Cadonic, founders of the B/N Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, are spearheading a movement in downstate Illinois to get school

policies amended to explicitly include wording to protect students on the basis of sexual orientation. One administrator is semi-receptive, but wants to see wordings from other districts in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin. Can you help them? They are Craiger42@juno.com

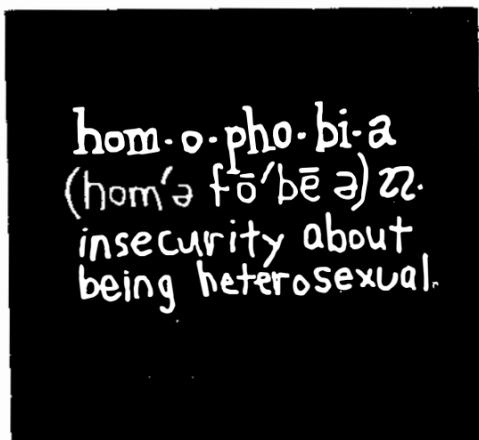
## Sound of the Sun: Contemporary Paintings, Photographs and Ceramics from Vladimir, Russia

Paintings, photographs and ceramics by artists from our Sister City of Vladimir, Russia will be on exhibit at University Galleries at Illinois State University from June 2 through August 2, 1998.

Sergei Skuratov's intimate black and white photographs portray aspects of everyday life in Vladimir, a city of 400,000, and its surrounding villages. Many of Skuratov's images explore the tension and confusion between the old Soviet regime and an ambiguous "New Russia," through the faces, gestures and environments of his subjects.

The painters in the exhibition include: Olga Gollman, Leonid Kosinstev, Yuri Lebedenko, Yuri Negodaev and Alexei Veselkin. They share a common interest in the universal qualities of the human spirit and its representation in Russian culture through the Orthodox church, folk art and Russian Avant Garde art.

--University Galleries  
Center for the Visual Arts  
Illinois State University



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# (Quick) Summertime reading



Longing for the days of youth and the participation in your local library's summer reading program? Well, how about starting your own! Go ahead, give yourself a gold star for every book you've read, but this time *don't cheat*.

I've included some of my favorite "quick reads" of the past year. They may be short on quantity, but not quality. So go ahead, enjoy those summer days with a good book.

Don't forget to treat yourself to a special treat when you finish. Psst...check em out at your local library - they're way cheaper.

## **Mouse Tales (ages 4 to 8)** **Arnold Lobel**

Okay, since we're on a summer reading theme here, I'll fill you in on my absolute favorite childhood book. It's silly and irreverent. Basically, I haven't changed my sense of humor, because they still crack me up in an endearing sort of way. Seven "tales" are told by Papa Mouse to each one of his children. My favorite one is #5 The Journey-especially the last line.

## **Flaming Iguanas:** **an illustrated all-girl road novel thing** **Erika Lopez**

"The louder you laugh and the farther apart you plant your feet, the more respect you'll get. Take up space because it's not a school dance." Meet Tomato Rodriguez; an unapologetic, bisexual, Puerto Rican, and did I mention *attitude*, who is on a mission to cross America on a cheap motorcycle. Her mission - to find the meaning of life, love, and the perfect post office. Combining line drawings and rubber stamp art, and written in a style that would make even the most rebellious Catholic schoolgirl blush, *Flaming Iguanas* will make you laugh and squirm simultaneously. It's a hell of a ride.

## **Election** **Tom Perotta**

The highly coveted school presidency is at stake. It's an all about battle between the school slut, the popular quarterback and his lesbian sister.

*Election*, which could pass as a young adult novel, looks into high school culture and the whole process of introducing politics to teenagers via school elections. This fast paced comedy-suspense story includes betrayal, first loves, the politics of peer acceptance and lost dreams.

You don't know until the end who the real loser's are.

## **An Underachiever's Diary** **Benjamin Anastas**

A novel that reads like a diary, introduces us to William, a devout underachiever. The firstborn of identical twin boys, he soon faltered to his overachieving twin, Clive. William decides early not to be competitive with his brother, and later adheres to the following principles: "The underachiever is misanthropic by default. He will use negativity as his greatest weapon, and reserve the right to criticize all that is exalted in both secular and religious society."

Kinda sounds familiar.

Anastas has created one of the most likable characters - and it only takes him 147 pages to tell his story.

## **A Good Man is Hard to Find and other short stories** **Flannery O'Connor**

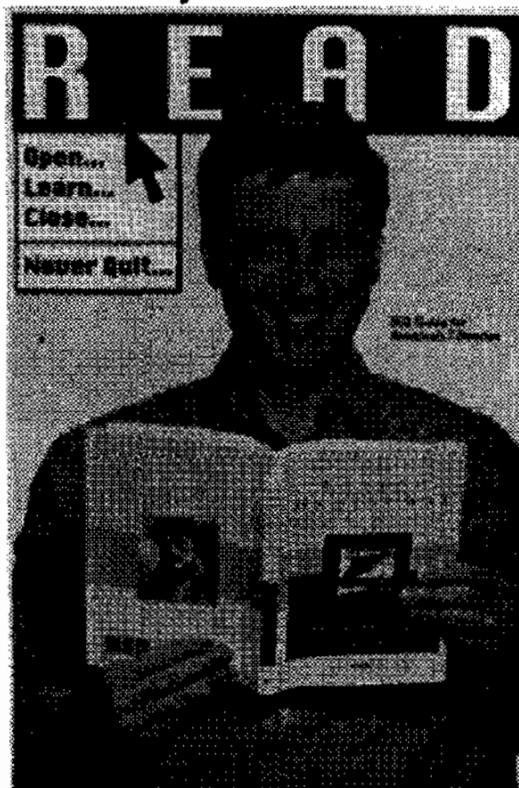
Flannery's stories, although deep and involved, are perfect reads for those times when you can't (or don't) want to commit to a long block of reading. The stories (most around 30 pages long) have been lauded for their apocalyptic vision of life in which the central character faces a problem of salvation.

## **Divine Secrets of the YaYa Sisterhood** **Rebecca Wells**

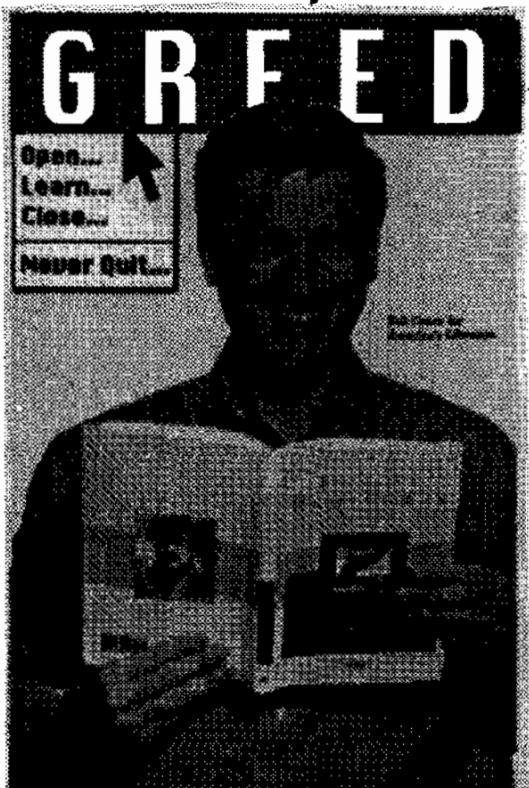
A follow up to her award-winning book, *Little Alters Everywhere*, Wells continues the story of Sidda, her siblings, her mother and her crazy friends (YaYa Sisterhood). Written in a style like many other Southern writers (Fannie Flagg, Michael Lee West), the YaYa's and their crazy antics and philosophies of life will have you laughing throughout the whole book.

# Truth in advertising

What it says



What it should say



Have any suggestions? Please mail them to (include ad) Post Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61704



# News from Voice

A Chicago jury has found Operation Rescue, Joe Scheidler and his other co-defendants guilty of racketeering under the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. This means that Operation Rescue and the co-defendants will be liable for triple damages for all of the harm their actions have caused to clinics that provide abortion services. The jury of four women and two men returned the unanimous verdict after a trial that lasted several weeks.

Maureen Burke, the original coordinator of NOW's Project Stand Up for Women was the first witness in the case on March 4. Burke set the stage as she described the background of the case, which was filed after anti-choice protesters trained by Joe Scheidler invaded a Pensacola clinic in 1985, causing extensive damage and injuring the clinic administrator and an officer of the local NOW chapter. Burke outlined the ways in which NOW activists defended against the blockades and invasions, and the impact of the increasing violence on women's access to reproductive care.

Dozens of patients and staff from clinics across the country came forward to testify about the impact of the defendants' actions on their lives. Women who had been prevented from entering clinics testified anonymously, each as "Jane Doe." A woman from California described the forcible blockade that prevented her from reaching her doctor for a post-operative appointment. A cancer survivor who had surgery to try to preserve her reproductive organs, was hit with an Operation Rescue sign; her sutures ruptured during the assault and she fainted in the parking lot. She was not allowed to tell the jury, however, about her year-long nightmares of being turned down for jobs because her picture had been on television.

Dr. Susan Wicklund, described wearing bullet proof vests to enter her clinics, and the threats that became a part of her daily life. Another woman testified of her own trauma and that of the 14 year-old rape victim she comforted as they struggled for days to cross violent blockades. Other women, along with clinic doctors and administrators from Pensacola, Melbourne (Fla.), Los Angeles, Atlanta,

Wichita, Milwaukee and other cities, described the effect of the intimidation and extortion on their lives and their communities.

Fay Clayton, the attorney who won the unanimous 1994 Supreme Court decision that allowed this trial to proceed, led the team of attorneys and volunteers who put the case together based on years of preparation and discovery. She presented the case on behalf of NOW, which is the class representative on behalf of all women "who have been or may be interfered with in their use of women's health clinics because of the actions of the defendants."

The next step will be to establish the amount of damages owed by the defendants to each of the individual clinics. NOW is seeking a nationwide injunction as soon as the judge completes the preparation. There will likely be appeals to this verdict.

Within a week of the verdict, anti-choicers in Congress took action to negate NOW's victory. Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Ok, a physician and one of the House's most extreme anti-choicers offered an amendment during floor debate that would have overturned the jury decision. Coburn subsequently withdrew his amendment, but House Judiciary Committee Chair and longtime abortion opponent, Henry Hyde, offered his support by indicating that he might hold hearings about the application of RICO.

*- Illinois NOW Times*

## New Violence Against Women Act introduced

The Violence Against Women Act of 1998 (VAWA II), containing over 40 provisions and \$3.7 billion in funding over five years, was introduced in March. Most of the funding would be allocated to and administered at the state or local level. In addition to reauthorizing successful programs from the original 1994 act, the bill would launch and fund badly needed programs to address domestic violence and sexual assault. Here is a sampling of the proposals:

Expansion of federal hate crimes laws to include crimes based on the victim's gender, sexual orientation or disability.

State and local grants to provide for a coordinated system of response to domestic violence by law enforcement, judges, shelters and social services,, including national crime databases for stalking and domestic violence.

An additional \$1.1 billion to fund and improve existing shelter services and increased financial support for rape crisis centers.

Creation of safe havens for children, including supervised visitation centers for use in domestic violence cases.

New availability of Section 8 low-income housing certificates for victims of domestic violence who are trying to escape from their batterers.

Establishment of a National Resource Center on Sexual Assault, with funding for rape prevention and education.

Services to address the special needs of older women, women with disabilities, and battered immigrant women.

Training for judges, social workers, and others about domestic violence.

Increased efforts to stop the cycle of violence, including education programs for elementary school students and training for their teachers on domestic violence and sexual assault.

New requirements for reporting violent crimes against women on college and university campuses.

The full text of the bill and additional facts can be found on the NOW Foundation web site at <http://www.now.org/foundation/>.

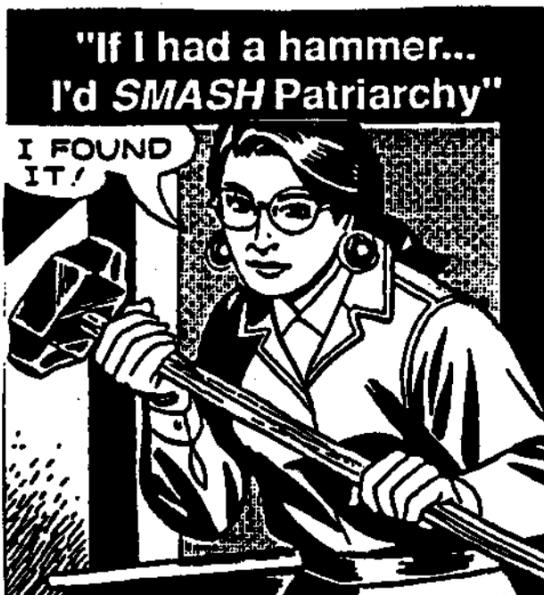
*- Illinois NOW Times*

## Judge gives go-ahead to Wisconsin abortion law

U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb decided last month to let the Wisconsin's abortion waiting period law take effect May 31. Crabb refused a request from the law's challengers to bar its enforcement until the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reviews her decision holding the law constitutional.

The challengers' lawyer, Simon Heller plans on asking the appeals court to delay the law's enforcement. The law forbids doctors from performing an abortion unless the patient has seen a doctor at least 24 hours in advance, has been told state-mandated information about abortion and has been given a fetal development booklet and a directory of services available for women and children. The law, enacted two years ago, replaced one that also required doctors to give information to women seeking abortions and get their signed consent but didn't require a waiting period.

Representatives for abortion providers in Madison, Milwaukee, and Appleton said they weren't pleased with Crabb's decision but were prepared to implement it. They said they would be able to provide the extra service required but that the law, one of the most restrictive in the country, would make it harder and more expensive for women to get abortions. "Patients will have to come to the clinic twice, which will increase the time they have to take off from work or family, which is going to trickle down into a financial burden for those patients," said Bethany Johnson, vice president





# for Choice

of clinical operations for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, which has abortion clinics in Appleton and Milwaukee.

--Wisconsin State Journal

## Abortion providers in Wisconsin declare moratorium

Confused by the states new "partial birth" abortion law, doctors across the state have declared a moratorium on the provision of abortion services. A state judge refused to bar enforcement of the law. The doctors said the laws is vague and bans all abortions. Many doctors have since resumed offering first-trimester abortions after the district attorneys in Dane County and Milwaukee said they wouldn't be prosecuted for performing abortions. Dr. Dennis Christensen, who practices at the Madison Abortion Clinic, says that he will resume offering abortions to women through the 24<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. Christensen says he changed his method so that he couldn't be prosecuted for performing late-term abortions. "I have been forced to alter the surgical technique, with the consent of the patient, so that procedure will not fall within the scope of the law even if the change results in a sub-optimal procedure, which increases the risks," he said. "I am appalled at having to make clinical decisions based on political considerations rather than the best medical science, but if that's what the public votes for, that's what the public gets."

--Wisconsin State Journal

## Atlanta bombing suspect makes Most Wanted list

The FBI wants to question the man charged in the first fatal U.S. abortion clinic bombing about the 1996 Olympic blast and two other attacks in Atlanta, Ga. The bureau offered a \$1 million reward and added him to its 10 most wanted list Tuesday. The reward for Eric Robert Rudolph was increased from \$100,000 "to get national attention," FBI Director Louis Freeh told a news conference.

Already charged with the Jan 29 bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., clinic, Rudolph is sought for questioning in three Atlanta bombings because "some similarities in the bombings...indicate a possibility that the crimes are related," Freeh said.

--Pantagraph

## Women's voting guide available

The Women's Voting Guide is designed to provide objective and detailed information on the positions of all candidates for office. The idea is to use the power of the Internet to let voters compare their own positions on important issues with those of the candidates who seek their votes. It is non-partisan and non-advocacy, and allows each voter to choose the issues she cares about most and her own position on those issues.

The guide was announced on April 21 at a reception in Washington, D.C. The event was co-hosted by Victoria Reggie Kennedy, a Democrat, and Sarah Brady, a Republican. The guide is also called "Vote your Values." The Women's Voting Guide currently includes the voting records of all incumbent U.S. Senators on 150 key votes cast in Congress since 1995. The voting records of the 435 incumbent U.S. Representatives will be available by the end of May. The on-line address for the guide is <http://womenvote.org>.

--NOW Legislative Update

## Military access to abortion amendment fails again

An action that has become a recurring event is the defeat of Rep. Jan Harman's amendment to repeal an odious provision of current law that prohibits military personnel and dependents from obtaining abortions at military hospitals overseas. The limitation even applies to women obtaining services using their own funds - something that would be constitutionally protected in the U.S. The amendment failed by a vote of 20 - 28 in the House National Security Committee during mark-up of the FY 99



National Defense Authorization Act on May 6. Abortion rights supporters criticized the vote for the risk to health that is poses for military women serving their country overseas.

--NOW Legislative Update

# 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.

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 and ask for the  
**RAPE CRISIS CENTER**



# Notes from the Land of Anti-fat

## Trash that scale!

Hope that all of you out there had a great May Sixth -didja take the day off?

One day after Cinco de Mayo, comes International No-Diet Day, a day set aside by size acceptance advocates for even the most diet obsessed to forget about calories, if only for one day. Across the country (and in those other countries where the message has taken a slight toe-hold), No-Diet celebrants have been tossing away their scales and diet books, treating themselves to a good meal just once - doing anything to say no to Diet Tyranny.

Even The Pantagraph, in the "Food Fare" column of its May 11, 1998 issue, saw fit to give the day some promotion, a sign that some members of the Wellness Community have recognized that too much focus on diet/ weight loss can be even more deleterious than none.

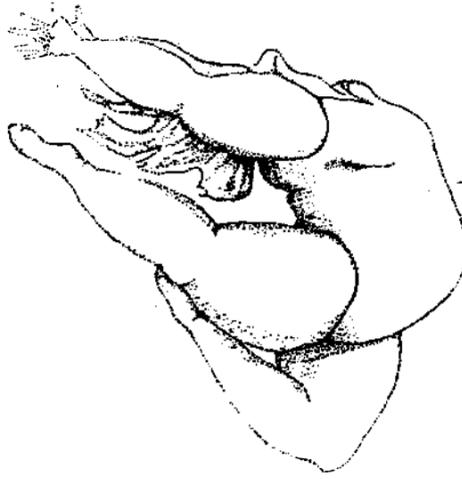
"Let's take the focus off a person's weight," the column, written by Pam Hein and Kathy Weinzierl, trumpeted. The article paraphrased some points made by the s.a. movement, specifically:

Weight is not the only way to measure health; Society has become obsessed with weight and "picture perfect bodies;"

We make it difficult for people of size to stay healthy by seeking medical treatment or to become more fit by exercising.

It was a nice article, so, of course, the paper had to redress that by printing one of those alarmist "everybody in America is too fat" articles a couple of weeks later. "Lifestyles padding a pudgy populace" bleated this 'un, quoting the latest in an endless string of obesity researchers, James Hill from the Colorado Clinical Nutrition Research Unit.

According to Hill - and we've all heard this before - Americans are becoming fatter because the current American environment encourages overeating. The body has mechanisms, Hill notes, to prompt people to eat when they are undernourished, he notes. But there are no such mechanisms "to stop us from eating if there is a



lot of food around."

Well, here's a thought, doc. Could it be that the body lacks such mechanisms because quote-overeating-unquote is not such a big deal, health-wise? And while there may not be a mechanism to keep folks from indulgin' too much, we do know that most bodies (those whose metabolisms haven't been screwed up by a lifetime of dieting, that is) do have a mechanism to keep 'em from growing past a set weight. In studies done where subjects have attempted to gain weight, no amount of overeating was enough to get individuals past their setpoints once they'd reached 'em.

So perhaps the point is not how much you eat, but what you eat.

But that's what size acceptance advocates have been saying all along: let's take the focus away from quantity and look at quality instead. The idea works when you're talking either body size or food intake. Even if it doesn't make for any good sensationalistic headlines. . .

## Pills . . .

The quest for that magic pill - the one that'll banish our dreaded avoirdupois forever! - continues. Latest trial med: Xenical, which

works by preventing the body from absorbing about a third of the fat ingested. The drug doesn't differentiate between "good" or "bad" fat and has been known to cause cramping and diarrhea, but an even more alarming side effect is its possible link to breast cancer.

In a one-year trial study of 4,000 women conducted by the drug's manufacturer, Hoffman-La Roche, nine women developed breast cancer, while only one in the placebo control group developed the disease.

Unlike recent diet drugs Fen-Phen and Redux, which were connected to a disease few Americans know about (primary pulmonary hyper-tension), the Xenical/cancer alignment has been daunting enough to make the drug company cautious. Roche even held up its FDA application to study the breast cancer issue further; in the interim, it found two new cases in

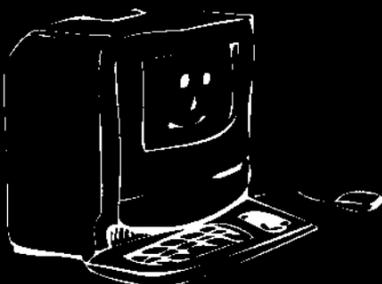
the Xenical patients and two more in the placebo group.

None of this prevented guardian of public health, the Food and Drug Administration, from its usual idiocy, though. Despite the initial findings, an FDA advisory panel recommended approval of the drug last year. Recently, the panel backed away from that approval in a second review that ended with a 5-to-5 tie. (Sez something when the more conscientious party in this one instance turns out to the drug company and not its watchdog, doesn't it?) This has left Xenical approval in the hands of more nebulous powers in the FDA. At this writing, a decision hasn't been publicized.

But let's make some of the obvious points, shall we?

A one-year trial period isn't very long when you're considering possible long-term side effects. And one has to wonder if the FDA would be so lackadaisical about this potential cancer tie-in, if, say, nine incidences of prostate cancer had been observed. While the drug's manufacturers typically promise that its use should only be considered for the "severely obese," recent history has shown what a line of b.s. that is.

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# Anti-fat cont.

# "Pain and bane"

And as someone who recently experienced a bout of picnic-induced food poisoning, I remain amazed at those researchers who look at stomach cramping and diarrhea as nuthin' much to worry about. It's that kind of mindset which reinforces the bulimic belief that vomiting is an acceptable method of weight loss. No pain, no loss.

## Seining-off

I know: you're sick of all the writing about that last weak episode of Seinfeld, too. I'll keep this short; I promise.

But c'mon, where did all those lame fat jokes come from? I'm not talking about the ones done at the expense of stand-up comic John Pinette when he was being mugged in front of the show's quartet: those were meant to be stupid and reflective of our New Yorkers' callousness.

More obnoxious were the visual jokes at the expense of Wayne Knight's Newman. Repeatedly through the show's second half, the long-standing, super-sized Seinfeld nemesis was shown sloppily gorging on junk food, looking for all the world like Knight's villain in Jurassic Park. Unfunny and all too familiar.

It was just one more graceless note in an episode that delivered so much less than was promised in a month of mega-hype. The most-watched episode of the entire teevee season, and it's filled with fat jokes. That's entertainment in the Land of Anti-Fat.

--Bill Sherman

Guess who showed up in the May 17 issue of *Pantagraph*? Mr. Mark Silverstein, one of the most infamous characters of the *Post Amerikan*, via an interview by Bill Flick. Flick describes Mark as a "wily-haired free spirit and founding father of the underground newspaper, *The Post Amerikan*, where he gained a reputation for being a constant pain and bane to B-N police, government officials and assorted stiff shirts."

This time he isn't working for the P. A. ; he is the Colorado ACLU legal director. And the "bold activist stuff" that he is up to these days is getting national press coverage.

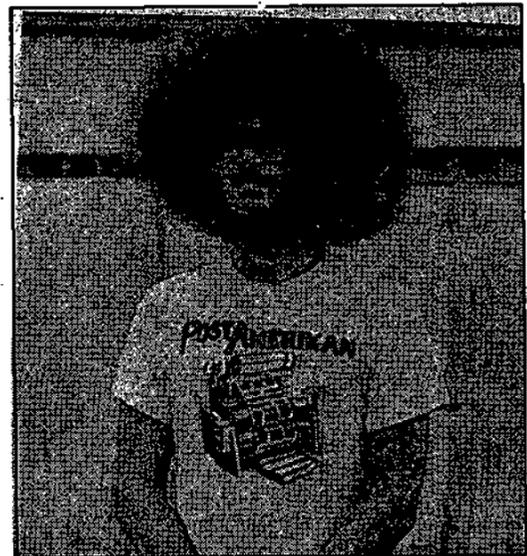
You may have heard of the buzz going on around Colorado Springs, Colo. when, after a 19th century profanity ordinance was reinstated, there were 14 people arrested for using "indecent language" in a city park. That is where Mark and the American Civil Liberties folks came to save the day--and free speech--by declaring such arrests "a clear attack of their free speech rights."

Bill Flick quotes Mark saying, "Not a whole lot of people know that after leaving Bloomington, I sneaked off to law school. It was a nice change. Now instead of government officials saying 'no comment,' they have to say 'I can't recall' instead."

When asked by Bill about "his sixties vintage hair" he said "Like a lot of lawyers out of that era, I gave in and got a haircut."

He adds: "I miss Bloomington. I grew up there. Eventually, I'm coming back."

--David Hall



Mark circa 1976



Mark circa 1979

the launders

—david. ☺





# Surprises are coming for all of us

With this article I am going to try to skim the surface of a number of things that are going on. They fit together somehow, but I'm not sure how. They are leading to something. I'm not sure what.

I draw this information mainly from Art Bell's radio talk show and the *Pantagraph*.

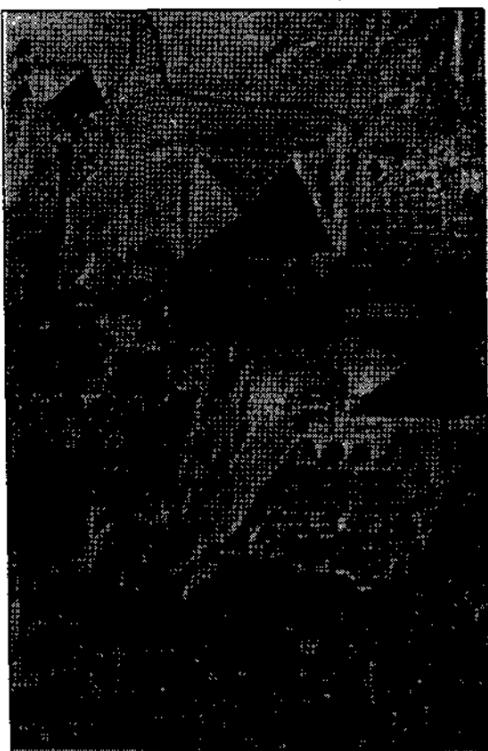
Bell's show on Thursday morning (May 28) with Robert Ghostwolf focused on Native American prophecies. He described the "7 thunders" that the prophecies say we are in the middle of.

He said there was a connection between the fires in Mexico and Central America and India's nuclear explosions. The cause of some of the fires is the volcanism in the region. Experts say the volcano near Mexico City may be close to erupting. Ground temperature in the region has been reported at around 200 degrees.

Mother Earth was harmed by the nuclear explosions and is reacting to the wounding in ways that we can't predict and that we won't like. As I write (May 29) Pakistan has now exploded its own nuclear devices, inflicting further harm on our planetary home.

On May 12, *The Pantagraph* ran an editorial about the issue of the storage of nuclear waste. It called the wastes "deadly," and described the political, legal and financial nightmare that has developed around these wastes. And, according to the editorial, there is still no plan to deal with these wastes in a rational way. It called on Illinoisans to be "outraged."

I know that the nuclear power industry and the corporations behind it do not want newspapers like the *Pantagraph* calling nuclear waste "deadly." That is a word that has been used by anti-nuclear protesters since day one. And they can't have liked the call for "outrage."



Early aerial photograph of the Gizeh Plateau.

## Egyptian pyramids

If enough people realize what has been done to us, they might actually do something about it, and that has to make some very powerful people very nervous.

Leslie Manskey wrote a powerful letter in support of the editorial, in which she said "The grand nuclear lie is being lit up, at last."

On May 20 and 21 the *Pantagraph* ran articles about the action of Rev. Larry Morlan, formerly of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Merna, and 4 others who attacked a B-52 bomber with a hammer and poured blood on it. His actions brought the nuclear issue even closer to home for many people. As the *Pantagraph* put it "jailed priest shook up Merna church." Some refer to him as a "modern day prophet." Another spoke of being "overwhelmed" by his courage.

Father Morlan participated in last summer's protest against the Prairie Air Show in Bloomington. He won't be able to be at the demonstration later this summer. If you are inspired by what he did, be at the entrance gate that Saturday morning in his place.

Robert Ghostwolf, after consulting with Native elders, said that the Earth changes will be coming in full force in only a matters of months.

He said we have "until the end of the year" to make the necessary changes to avoid the worst possible consequences.

Two nights earlier on Bell's show Gary North described the year 2000 computer problem. As he sees it, this will bring the whole interlocking grid system down. The critical first date is April 1, 1999. It will begin with the banking industry and ripple through government, transportation, utilities, commerce and society at large.

Bell made a rather enlightening comment at one point, when he said "Nuclear power plants and Earth changes do not go together."

Several times recently Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center, has spoken on the show about a UFO incident that took place on April 22 of this year. The Center has about two dozen reports about this object, most of them independent and corroborating. He said "the reports fit together like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle." The object apparently flew over much of the state of Washington, hovered briefly over the Bangor Submarine Base and then flew off until it passed out of sight.

And that is only one of very many UFO sightings that have been reported recently, around this country and the rest of the world.

Bell is following the vast UFO phenomenon on an ongoing basis, through many sources.

And then there is the story of the new photos of the seeming face and city on Mars. Bell, his guests and audience are largely responsible for getting these pictures taken in the first place.



7. View of the "Face" from the "City Square"; a group of features at the City's exact lateral center which appears somewhat like a "target" or "cross-hairs." Photo courtesy of Dr. Mark J. Carlotto, The Analytic Sciences Corporation.

## Martian pyramids (?)

Those pictures are impressing many people. Marilyn Glenn wrote a letter to the *Pantagraph* saying that she had looked at Richard Hoagland's web site and had found "overwhelming evidence that the face and pyramids at Cydonia are, indeed, artificial."

The implications are staggering.

Finally, there is the Return to Pimiteoui Intertribal Pow Wow, to be held at W.H. Sommer Park near Peoria on June 13 and 14.

I was able to attend the Pow Wow last summer. I found it to be a profound encounter with a way of life that has real connections with the natural world.

I urge you to go, if you can. And, if you are able, splurge a little bit and buy a few beautiful things. That will help you, and at the same time help the people to sustain this work.

While you are there, you will see teepees against a tree line. You will be smudged and purified by the smoke from the spirit fire. You will hear the sounds of many drums, bells and flutes. If you are lucky, a huge bird of prey will be circling lazily overhead, watching all.

For a few hours, you will be part of another world.

If the wisdom exists, that is great enough to save us, I personally believe, it is found there.

For more information on the Pow Wow call 309-691-9369.

I sense an inner coherency to these different things. But what they are leading to is beyond me.

Surprises are coming for all of us.

May we seek the truth, listen carefully, trust our hearts, keep our balance, honor our relationship with the mineral, plant, animal and human world and always and forever walk in beauty.

--Gregg Brown

Art Bell's radio talk show can be heard on Sundays 8-11 pm on WLS, 890 AM and every night, midnight to 4 am on WJBC, 1230 AM.

His web site is [www.artbell.com](http://www.artbell.com). For copies of interviews call 1-800-917-4278.



# An Intertribal Pow Wow

## In the land named Pimiteoui

During a period of more than 160 years following the arrival of the first French explorers in 1673, a large number of tribes are known to have either inhabited or passed through the part of the Illinois River Valley that is now Peoria. Once called Pimiteoui, this land of abundance included the Peoria Lakes and the immediate surrounding area. We welcome the many descendants of these peoples and all who will join us as we...*Return to Pimiteoui.*

### Schedule of Events

#### Saturday, June 13

10:00 - Grounds open to public  
11:00- Pipe ceremony  
1:30 & 7:00 Grand Entry

#### Sunday, June 14

10:00 Grounds open to public  
10:30 Interfaith worship service  
1:30 Grand entry

Host drum- Intertribal Song Chiefs-  
Quapaw, OK  
Head singer Kevin Dawes  
Head Female Dancer- Charla Dawes,  
Ottawa Quapaw, OK  
Head Male Dancer- Dave Tyner, Peoria,  
Cherokee, Absentee Shawnee - Dewey,  
OK  
Master of Ceremonies - Hayna Sine, Ho  
Chunk - Starved Rock, IL

#### Cultural Arts & Activity Center

...a special place where people of all ages can experience a glimpse of the past and use it to protect the future through...

#### Hands On Activities

Corn grinding, tool making, hide scraping, pottery making, painting, beading, pump drilling and Native games and toys.

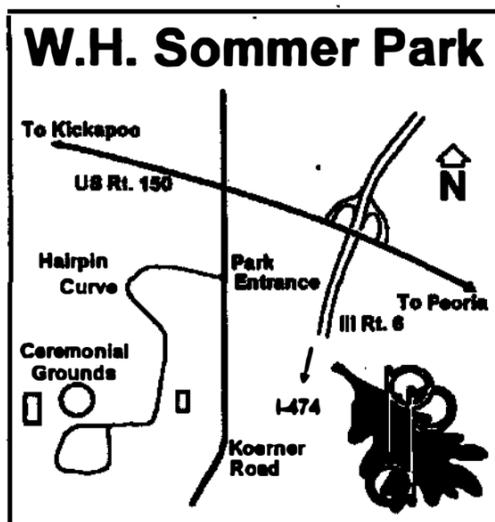
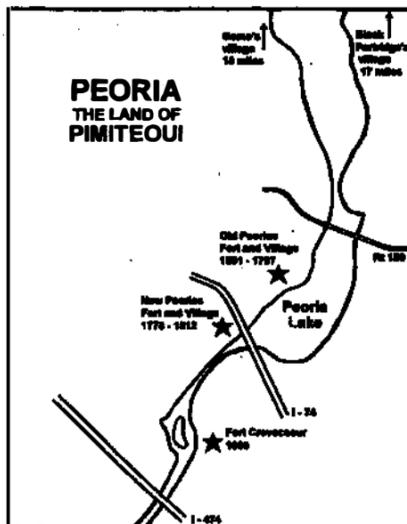
#### Special Events

Time with Wisdom Keepers, storytelling, educational exhibits, demonstrations of dance, Native American flute music, fiber arts, canoe building, Native garden.

For more information contact:  
Return to Pimiteoui, PO Box  
3874, Peoria, IL 61614-3874.  
Phone: (309) 691-9369  
Web: www.powwow.org

Limited bleacher style seating is provided. You may wish to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Admission: \$3.00 Adults, \$1.00 Children (under 12)



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## GOING OUT FOR BUSINESS!

Ruth and Tana would like to give a BIG Thank You to all of you that have supported us for the past three years. But now we are looking to the future and have decided to streamline our store into a mail-order and internet-order store only. This process will take awhile to facilitate but we are planning on having the physical store closed by Labor Day 1998. There will be deep discounts on all merchandise as well as store racks and equipment. We cannot afford a lot of advertising so we want you to know that there will be a lot of un-advertised discounts. We will, however, have our message sign set up in the front window with information and discounts stated on it 24 hours a day. Please let your friends know, especially those that may not read this publication, we will not be sending out a newsletter for this.

This was a difficult decision to make on our part. We have enjoyed meeting and visiting with all of you and hope to continue the friendships that we made over the years. But we also realize that mail-order and internet-orders are gaining in popularity and we feel it necessary to concentrate our efforts in that direction. If you would like to be on our mailing lists please let us know. We will be keeping our mailing lists, business phone numbers & email lists so that we will be able to let you know what's new.

If any of you out there really want to own a book & gift store we will consider any serious reasonable offers. But in either case Ruth and Tana will not be running the retail store after Labor Day 1998. We will, however, continue our printed catalog and internet sales.

**SALES! SALES! SALES!** Big discounts on all inventory from now till everything is gone. Shop now for those special items you have been wanting!!

There will be no discounts on special orders. Lay-a-ways & Gift Certificates will still be honored through August, 1998.

# The Heatersons: Pretty nice guys

## (even if they are Cardinal fans)

**Official Document**

Name: Scott Ligon Age: 28  
 Birthplace: Jacksonville, IL  
 Height: 5'4"  
 Eyes: Blue/Green  
 Hair: filthy Blonde  
 Favorite Color: Puce  
 Favorite Food: Corn dogs & lemon shake up  
 If suspect were a tree: Charlie Brown  
 Tree "all it needs is a little love"  
 Preferred underwear: whatever is clean



**Official Document**

Name: Tim Brickner Age: 24  
 Birthplace: Peoria, IL  
 Height: 5'7"  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Brown  
 Favorite Color: blue  
 Favorite Food: Broccoli  
 If suspect were a tree: Apple tree  
 Preferred underwear: Boxers



**Official Document**

Name: Randy Rogers Age: 28  
 Birthplace: Jacksonville, IL  
 Height: 5'10"  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: sandy blonde  
 Favorite Color: blue  
 Favorite Food: steak & potatoes  
 If suspect were a tree: Maple  
 Preferred underwear: boxers



### You can't sit down

After spending many a sweaty night dancin' to the sounds of The Heatersons, I had a chance to talk with them before their last show at Lizard's Lounge. The Heatersons are Scott and Josh on guitars and keyboard, Randy on drums and Tim on stand-up bass. When the Heatersons play make sure you have your dancin' shoes on. The band's energy is full-tilt from beginning to end.

While the Heatersons' music may be described as rockabilly the term doesn't seem to encompass the eclectic nature of their music. Their originals range from the country sound of "Lucinda" to the pure pop sensibilities of "Animal Life" and "The Camping Song." Their covers vary from the mainstream to the obscure. The Beatles, Everly Brothers, Chuck Berry, "Never Make a Pretty Woman Your Wife" and "13 Women and I'm the Only Man in Town."

### Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

The Heatersons have been playing together since November of 1996 and yes, you may have seen some of them before in various incarnations of other bands. Scott and Josh have been members of The River City Soul Review (who you may have seen at a Bloomington Pub Crawl) and Dollface. Randy and Tim have played together in Mr. Walker. The Heatersons is the first band where they have done original material and feel they have comfort and stylistic freedom.

Scott and Josh have been friends since childhood and playing music together since the fifth/sixth grade. While growing up they had the good fortune of being surrounded with quality music. Friends and family listened to The Beatles; Scott's dad plays the piano and Josh's dad is a barbershopper. Scott's brother,

Chris Ligon, is also a big influence on the band, particularly on Josh's songwriting. Chris wrote "The Camping Song" and "We'll Toast That Lie Again." He owns Record Round Up on Montrose and Chesbro in Chicago and has a band called Chris Ligon and the Problems.

### Need a Heatersons' fix between shows?

For those of you, like me, who leave The Heatersons' shows singing their songs there is good news. Their debut CD will be released on June 13 at a CD release party at Lizard's Lounge.

Some songs on the CD you may recognize are "The Camping Song," "Animal Life," "We'll Toast That Lie Again" and "Lucinda." Tunes you may not be familiar with are "Drivin' With My Knees" and "Hammer Films."

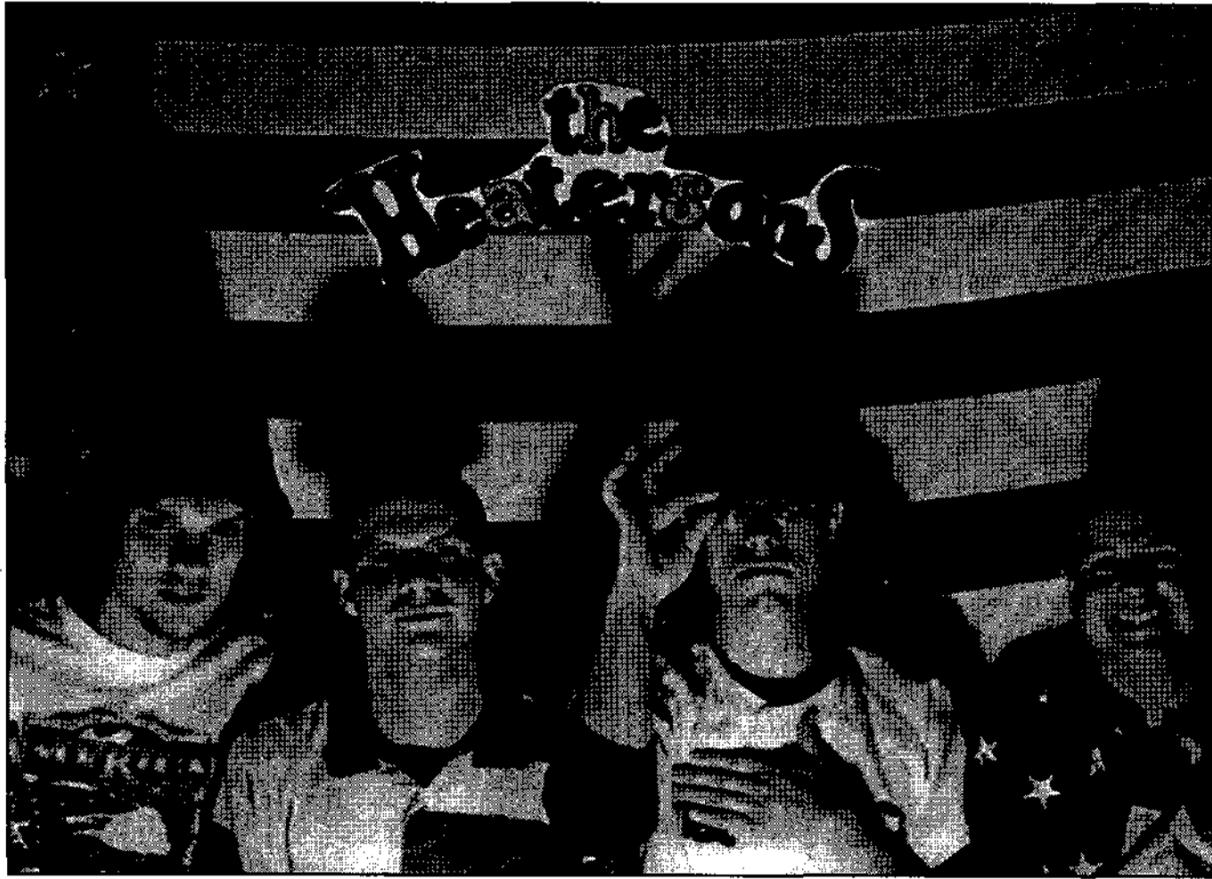
The band's very excited about the work that they did with Mark Rubel of Pogo Records in Champaign as well as the guest artists on the CD. Doug Daniels who has played with the Eddie King band plays sax. Dave Parkinson of Dave Parkinson and the Dynamics, who has played with James Brown, also plays sax. Kevin Hart plays vibraphone. The Heatersons send a big thanks to these artists for their work on the CD. Watch for a review of the CD in the Aug/Sept issue of the PA.

--Sherrin

**Official Document**

Name: Josh Shane Age: 27  
 Birthplace: Peoria, IL  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Blonde  
 Favorite Color: blue  
 Favorite Food: Cheese pizza  
 If suspect were a tree: Weeping blue atlas  
 Preferred underwear: mid-boxers





The Heatersons. From left: Scott, Randy, Josh and Tim



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## JULY

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- 7/4 TBA
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- 7/11 The Mighty Pranksters
- 7/16 Wally
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- 7/23 Andre's Blues Band
- 7/25 The Pub Crawl  
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# Seeing Red

## Third World Needs Justice, not Mercy

by Steve Eckardt

(CHICAGO) - Aside from devil-like fundamentalists, terrorists, and dictators, the primary images of the other-world outside the United States and Europe are of victims. Victims of butchery, of starvation, of disease, of death squads, and even of genocide.

Between the two, the "victim" propaganda is more pernicious than the "devils." After all, millions of Americans already see through the "terrorist" propaganda and actually identify with the Irish, the Palestinians, the Zapatista Indians of Mexico, and even with Cuba.

Far more dangerous--no less so for their truth--are the pictures of bloated-belly children dying in Africa or northern Korea, of bulldozed mass graves in Yugoslavia, of unimaginable butchery in Rwanda, and of the bullet-riddled bodies of women and children in Acteal, Mexico.

These images are especially pernicious for their astoundingly-cynical manipulation of common human decency. For just like charities show photos of big-eyed hungry children to enlist you in their cause, so does the Imperial media show photos to enlist you in backing the Empire.

After all, confronted with images of genocide, butchery and starvation, decent-minded people are naturally moved to demand that the government take action. Why, the rulers can

actually raise a public clamor--a groundswell of popular opinion--for foreign intervention by the Imperial military forces. (In fact, during the Rwandan genocide--and for months after--some folks charged that the U. S. government was racist . . . because it invaded Yugoslavia and didn't invade Rwanda too!)

What's NOT in the pictures, of course, is that Imperial forces *themselves* are inevitably responsible for the suffering you see on your screen. Rwanda's mass murders were twice installed in office by French troops . . . and then, after they were heroically overthrown by their victims, were fed and watered by the Western Empires in the border camps they regrouped in.

And guess who engineered the break-up of socialist Yugoslavia, and aided "ethnic cleansing" at every step? And who trains the troops and supplies the weapons for the killings in Chiapas, Mexico?

Actually most human suffering in the Third World--the deprivation of food, clean water and medical care which fells over 3,000 children an hour--is never shown at all. And forget the 700,000 Iraqi kids killed by the U.S. embargo.

Yet when a dictatorship which had just signed billion-dollar agreements with U. S. oil

companies was overthrown in Somalia, for instance, suddenly starving children were on every front page. And Texas oilman George Bush sent in the troops . . . for kids' sake, of course.

But even worse than how "victim" propaganda provides cover for imperialist operations, is its de-humanizing of people who live in the Third World. Surely any notion of globally organizing workers--likely the only hope for embattled First World trade unions--melts before images of women weeping amidst mass graves, or of children staring with fly-encrusted eyes.

Compelling as these images are (and awful as the truth behind them), people who live beyond the borders of the "advanced industrial democracies" are not human versions of big-eyed baby seals cringing before the butcher's club.

People in the Third World constantly rise against repression and inhuman living conditions--circumstances imposed on them by Western bankers and their governments. And they constantly meet Imperial intervention to crush their efforts.

They don't need "rescuing"--they just need Imperial troops, and weapons, and advisers to stop coming.

Now *there's* something Westerners moved by images of suffering can do: organize to oppose the operations of their own governments.

And in making common cause with our fellows on the rest of the planet, who knows what we might learn? After all, the recent protest by 100,000 angry Kosovo Albanians against the murders of 85 people by the Serbian military--a bold move under a police-state with a record of genocide--could surely teach our timid union, civil rights and feminist organizations a thing or two. (Of course the mass media showed not the march, but mourners crying at the funerals.)

And while the courage and numbers of those marchers spoke volumes, it was their three-word chant that said it all: "Justice, not mercy!"

[Readers are invited to visit the new on-line magazine *SeeingRed* for additional international news and views. Comments on the above piece can be left there, or sent to [seckardt@aol.com](mailto:seckardt@aol.com)]

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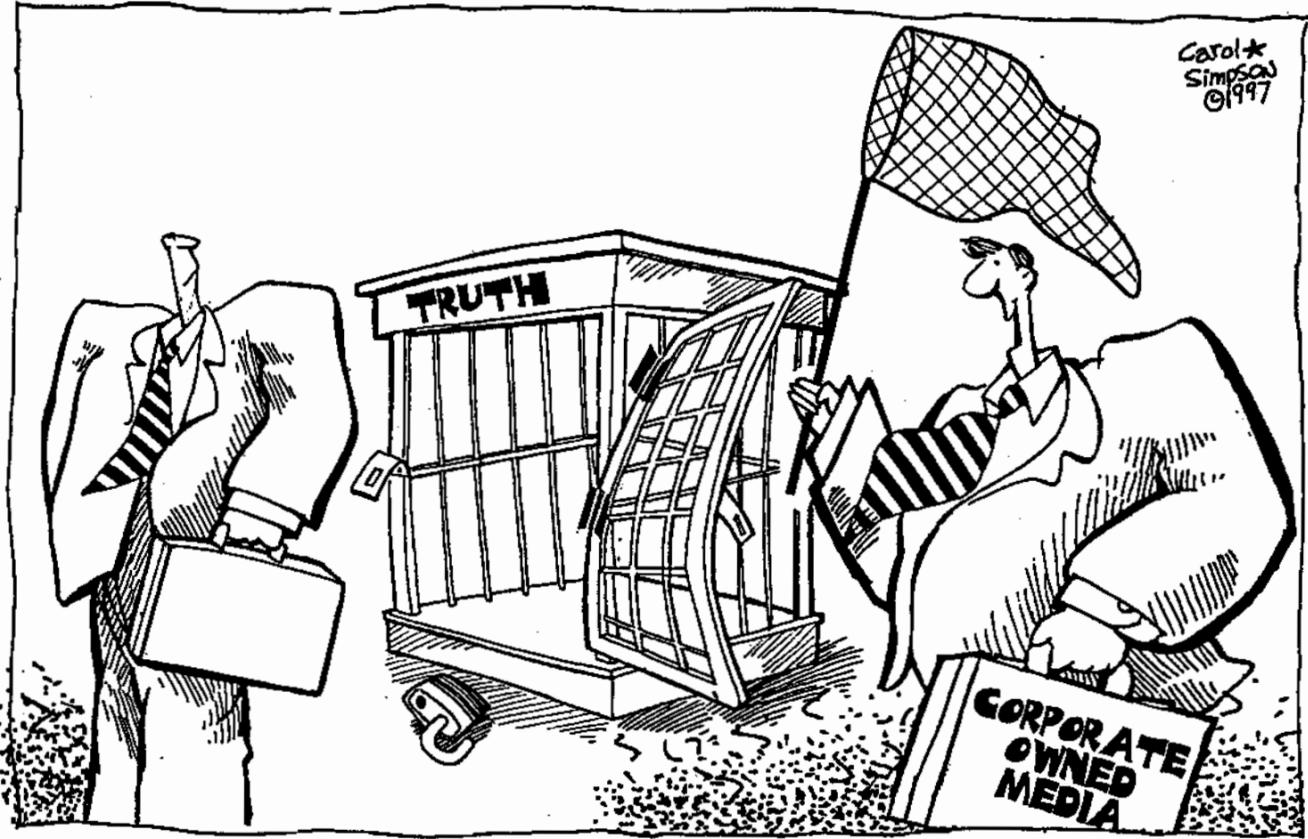
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*"We'll keep your resume in our files... just in case Affirmative Action becomes fashionable again."*



*"Here's a list of offensive ethnic jokes. Check off the ones we can repeat in your presence."*



# Dancing Rabbit

## But why MISSOURI?

The idea of moving to farmland in Missouri in the middle of nowhere is odd to some. The closest town is Rutledge, with a population of 107. It is only a few miles away, and easy to ride to on bikes. A town of any size is Memphis, 20 miles/minutes away, and it is a town of 2000. A library, a "regular" grocery store and a Pizza Hut are located there. Next up is Kirksville, which is 30 miles away, about a 40 minute drive. Northeast Missouri State University is found here, as well as a great Indian restaurant. You guessed it. This is not the cultural Mecca of the Midwest, being located in the middle of farmland, with strong Mennonite and Amish communities. The farmland is rolling hills, wide open spaces and scatterings of trees, some with heavy woods. My first assumption was that they couldn't have picked a worse place to live such an "alternative" lifestyle. I figured the locals would feel animosity towards a bunch of "outsiders" of this sort. I couldn't have been more wrong! After analyzing it carefully and asking a lot of questions, it does seem like an ideal location for many reasons.

To begin with, two miles away is a small egalitarian commune called Sandhill, which has been in existence for 25 years. When many communal and egalitarian communities have failed, Sandhill has succeeded, and done quite well. Skyhouse and Dancing Rabbit have the benefit of sharing with and learning from folks who "know the ropes." Sandhill has helped them a lot, and DR is learning why they have succeeded when others have failed. By Sandhill sharing their wisdom with DR, DR has a much greater chance of success.

Sandhill and the Skyhouse/DR folks also have a mutually beneficial relationship. They are able to help each other with both larger and smaller projects, as well as having like-minded folks within walking distance for purely social purposes. Sandhill was very helpful when the first part of the Skyhouse group showed up, providing them with housing at first and helping them find a place to rent and land nearby. Visitors to DR and Skyhouse usually visit the other group as well. With groups such as these visitors are usually asked to help with work while there, participating in the daily chores. It is good for visitors to be able to observe both groups in action.

Though there is some level of unacceptance in the community, which you would find anywhere, for the most part the local people are very accepting and open-minded. I have talked with folks in stores and had interesting and lively conversations. One woman asked me, "Are you visiting those Sandhill folks?" I told her that, no, I was visiting with friends of theirs who have a different group called Dancing Rabbit. She told me, "Those Sandhill folks sure are nice! My son used to hang out with them years ago when he was first out of high school." An interesting exchange. The community also knows them for their honey, tempeh and sorghum businesses, and locals stop

by when they need to buy some and stay for a chat. By being good, productive members of the community, bringing in many visitors which help the local businesses, Sandhill has paved the road well for Dancing Rabbit's presence.

Land in Missouri is also quite cheap compared to around here. Part of the reason for this is that it is a more economically deprived community, and not a lot of people are moving into the area making costs for *everything* lower. Thus, there is potential to expand upon the 280 acres they have already bought for not a lot of money. All services there are cheaper as well, making the cost of living lower. By way of example, there is an excellent local chiropractor that charges \$15 for a two hour session. You can buy the services you need there for a lot less money, so if you are making a lot less money, it's okay. Agricultural (rural) property taxes there are some of the lowest in the country, averaging about \$2.80 an acre, making ownership of a large parcel of land cheap. An additional perk is that much of the land in the area is federal CRP land, meaning farmers get paid to NOT farm it. By doing nothing to the land, they make money above and beyond taxes, making it worth their while to leave the land alone. The purpose of the program is to stop the erosion which has been going on there for so long and is ruining the land. I think more money is paid out for land that is actually restored to its original state by the planting of indigenous trees and prairie grasses. Much of DR's land is in the CRP program.

Missouri is also unique for having almost no building codes. Unlike in many parts of the country where people have to argue, debate and turn somersaults to use any type of alternative building methods, down there "we just expect folks to use good common sense." This means no hassle for building earth-bermed or straw-bale homes, grey water systems, composting toilets, rainwater collection systems, etc. They can be as alternative as they want without anyone caring.

The local town, Rutledge, is really neat for being so small. They have a general store called Zimmerman's which is just about the coolest store I have ever been in. Owned by a Mennonite family called, you guessed it, the Zimmerman, they have the best selection of practical foods. Buying in bulk from Blooming Prairie, they repackage items and sell them. They have many of the alternative staples like whole wheat flour, soy milk, etc. for cheaper than you can buy them at Common Ground or at Cub Foods. Thus, it isn't impossible to get what you need if you run out, and if you eat like we do in my home, you can probably get exactly what you need. They also have a great selection of other miscellaneous items, including the best calico cotton selection I have ever seen in my life at good prices, to meet the needs of all the quilter down there. If you can't find it at Zimmerman's, you probably can do without it. There is a drugstore in town with an old fashioned soda fountain that sells malted milkshakes made out of real ice cream and milk for the same or cheaper than a

McDonald's shake. I also found real drawing pencils and art supplies in there! Then there is the second hand store, owned by the woman whose son used to hang out with the Sandhill folk. She is a nice woman and carries a wide variety of junk mixed in with some neat stuff. There is also the local theatre where groups can get together and put on plays or someone can request a movie to be rented and shown. This means if DR folks got bored some winter, they could put on some silly play if they felt like it in the town. For a town of 107, there is a lot of neat stuff to be found.

Okay, so ticks are a problem down there, but they don't suck *that* much blood out of you, and they are kind of cool when you watch them.

They are like little hitchhikers, hanging on a piece of tall grass with their hind legs, waving their front legs at shadows passing by, hoping to catch a ride and a free meal. It looks like a slow, delicate dance. It is humid, but there is a pond to swim in surrounded by trees and a wide open sky; it is free, and there is no dress code. You can skinny dip there, which my kids thought was the greatest! In the deep of winter when it is very cold it is possible to ice skate or just glide on the ice in your boots. There are plenty of empty hills for sledding, quiet roads for biking, open spaces for wandering and dreaming, and deer, wild turkeys, turkey buzzards, owls, foxes, and coyotes. I have only spent two weeks and two weekends down there, and I have seen *all* of

these creatures except for the wild turkeys, but Halle' saw an entire flock of them not long ago. The coyotes are plentiful and come in quite close at night. Listening to them howl makes me feel like I am living "Little House on the Prairie." Their sound beautiful and haunting. But the stars! Ah, I have only seen so many stars a few times in my life. It is wonderful to lie outside on a blanket in the summer and spend hours watching the shooting stars, because you *do* see them every night if you lie out there and watch. Not having any cities of any size around for many miles does have its advantages. And that is an activity for any night! Everyone lies outside, talks about things, and looks for the shooting stars. Simple pleasures.

## Why are we exploring moving there?

We are seriously considering moving there, if they'll have us. Besides all the excellent reasons I have already listed, there are many personal ones I have. I think something like this will nourish my soul.

I used to be very idealistic in my life, helping others, often at the cost of my own peace of mind. After repeatedly feeling that I had been taken advantage of by others, and finding modern society so "dissatisfying" to my soul, I slowly started dropping out bit by bit, to find peace. Over the past few years I have become very cynical about the world at large and have chosen a personal mantra of "not my life, not my problem," which has helped me in many ways to separate my life from others, and not



# Project

be overrun by others needs. I feel that most people don't play fair anymore, and that most people are out for themselves and what they can get. Mark disagrees with me and thinks most people really are good inside, but just don't know how to always be good, which I find refreshing, but can't seem to embrace. Mostly, though, I don't trust people much. I get dismayed by the fact that I can't simply state my needs or expectations without people having their feelings hurt, and me apologizing somehow to make them feel better. I find that I swallow my feelings and needs because the energy expending in being honest with people who don't want to live honestly is too much, but this eats away at me. The less I deal with people at large, the happier I am. Worse still, though most of my clients in my homebirth practice were great, the thirty percent that weren't completely drained me of my faith and trust in people and in part led to me quitting my practice for the time being. Granted, I am responsible for part of the financial difficulties I have faced, but this is because I wanted to trust people to be good and fair. I had hoped that with homebirth I was dealing with the "cream of the crop" in society. In most cases, I was right, but that other side exhausted me. I, again, was too idealistic.

Obviously, nothing is a utopia, but I would hope that, in moving there, my faith in a part of humanity might be restored. This would be the closest thing I could find. Being with people who have dedicated themselves to living as we have already chosen to live could be very refreshing. Having people around who can already communicate honestly, and are much better at it than I am, would be great in the long run, though it would probably be hard having people be so open with me at first because I am not used to that either, but I need this.

I have also grown very selfish over the years. I guard my possessions, my time, my space. Some misguided people think I'm good and caring, but I am quick to point out that I am not really. I am not a good sharer. Letting someone use MY things is okay, but I analyze it all the time, and worry about it. Things I don't really use or need or even want I still guard. I am famous for giving someone something, but saying, "Don't throw it out or give it away...give it back to me

if you don't want it." I could probably fill a house with these things! Things I don't even remember! Working with people who have learned to share, not be selfish and work cooperatively is exactly what I need for my own spiritual growth. I have had to go from one extreme to the other, and now I need to come back to a point of balance to grow more.

My soul also seeks adventure, and I view this as the ultimate adventure. Living with a bunch of people who are living the way I want to live! Being surrounded by my values daily! Sure, you need to go into the "unreal world" at times, and this is necessary and important. The goal for them or for me is to not be isolated from the world, but to live life as I/we believe it should be lived, and to have support for this. As silly as it sounds, it would be nice to be

around people who wouldn't even wonder why I don't wash my hair every day (just because it is flat doesn't make it dirty, and even if it is a little dirty, does it warrant putting a bunch of soap in the environment?) or think it odd that I don't wear deoderant (unless it is something special) because I am clean and I don't think there is anything wrong with smelling human, and I very rarely smell anyway (at least, I don't think I do, but I guess you can't always smell yourself). In fact, having spent most of my life being in situations where I felt like an oddball because I have always been different, it would be nice to be where I'm not different after all. It would be nice to be live with people who think midwifery is a good skill and great work for the soul, instead of thinking it "cool" or bizarre...something that sets me apart as "unique." People who don't think it amazing that we make most of our kids' toys, but view that as a natural thing to do. I have always viewed our lives, with me at home with the kids, practicing my arts, both creative and spiritual, as normal, and the rest of the world as out of touch with daily life. *These people value a connection with daily life and the world around them.* In such an atmosphere, what could possibly be unusual about midwifery or herbalism? Practicing my arts for such people is all I want.

I view it as possibly the best environment my children could be raised in, surrounding by responsible people who are dedicated to hard work, being connected to nature by honoring it in

the most basic way...by how they live their day to day lives. Raising my children in such an atmosphere is not only wonderful for them, but for the world at large. These are the children that will be inheriting the world from us, and hopefully they will influence those in the "unreal world" to become more thoughtful, reflective people. We have had people accuse us of damaging our children by sheltering them from the "realities" of life. We view it as being actively involved in the preparation of our children for dealing with the very harsh realities they will face. Admit it: the world today is much more difficult, frustrating and dangerous as well as polluted than when we were kids. Hopefully, ours will be children that will help heal the earth. I believe Dancing Rabbit would help develop that in them. In our considering moving there, we view it in the long term. We would take it slowly and cautiously, but if we ended up moving there it would be because we think we could spend the rest of our lives there. If we are wrong and don't like it, we would leave, but the choice to move there or leave there will not be on a whim. We would view it, hopefully, as a place our children will find they will come back to as adults, and maybe spend their lives out of love for the land and the people.

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# Dancing Rabbit Project continued

Mark is much more pragmatic in his views on moving there. Changes in general are very difficult for him, and it took him years to even talk about homesteading. It only took him six months to bring up this on his own, which I see as very positive. He thinks that, even if we only stayed two years (because, if we moved there, we would commit ourselves to that long no matter what) we would learn a lot about alternative energy systems, alternative building methods, etc. Having people around would be nice for him, as living an isolated existence (having only me to deal with, is more like it) makes him uneasy. He doesn't think about it any further than that. Simply put, it sounds like a good idea he is willing to try out, but if we never moved at all, anywhere, it would be fine with him since he is resistant to change. Moving to DR makes more sense than going off to the wilds of Minnesota with no one else around (though that, too, would be a great adventure as far as I am concerned). Though he is resistant to change, he is usually glad after the fact, and that is why he goes along with it.

He doesn't have any lofty, spiritual views about any of it.

### Sounds great! Where do I sign up?

Sounds too good to be true? You bet. Remember when I said there wasn't a catch? I wasn't completely honest. Just because you want to go there doesn't mean they want you living there. That's right. Not just anyone can go. This is actually one of the benefits of Dancing Rabbit, in my opinion. The members must reach a consensus decision regarding the membership of each person interested in joining, including

children. If a couple or family wants to move there, they are voted on as individuals and not as a unit. Thus, if they liked the woman but thought the man was mean, lazy, or a drug addict, they could vote her in but not him. Then, it would be up to her to decide if she wanted to stay or leave with him.

This concept is difficult for me to deal with from a personal view. I hate the fact that when we go down there this weekend, they will be scrutinizing us, trying to decide if they like us or not. However, what have we done and what are we doing to them? What does anyone interested in moving there do? We scrutinize and analyze them. They live with this all the time, and have learned to be themselves in spite of it. People who are truly interested in moving there have a visitors' period they need to go through, usually at least a week, and hopefully longer, to see if they seem like sane, healthy people who can carry their own weight and be an asset to the community. Then, if accepted, they become provisional members for six months, where they must move down there to see if they truly like it and if DR members like them and want to live with them, working with and growing with them, possibly for the rest of their lives. After the six month period, a vote by the members is again taken...and again, it must be a consensus decision. One person with strong objections can prevent a person from joining at any time.



Does this seem at odds with their share, care and be kind mentality? Not at all! It means that people looking for a free ride or who will make the entire community intolerable to live in for everyone won't be accepted. They aren't

therapists. It means that they will avoid other pitfalls that other communities have encountered, making it more likely that DR will, in the long run, succeed. They want people committed to a lifestyle with a certain attitude, and people willing to try and experiment with it. They don't have to know how to do anything, just have a strong desire learn and grow.

Mark has only visited there for one weekend to help put up the timber framing for the home of a friend of theirs, and this weekend will be his second, though we have known Halle' and Aaron for years, and a couple of the other members were at our home for Thanksgiving two years ago. I am hoping, this summer, to spend a month there with the children, if they will have us, with Mark being there for at least two of the weekends, maybe three. He will probably be going down for another weekend to help with the building of the first two straw bale cabins. Through all of this, we should know for sure if we want to go there, and they should know if they want us.

These are people who are dedicated to a dream of how the world should be and are willing to work to make it happen. By doing so, the lives of others will be better and happier. Practically, our lives, by joining with theirs, would be simpler and more joyous than it already is. We would be living an even richer life than we already do, leaving the world a better place than we have found it. In my persistent pursuit of joy and simplicity, does this not sound like a wonderful dream to explore?

For more information, explore Dancing Rabbit's homepage at : [www.dancingrabbit.org](http://www.dancingrabbit.org); or send them e-mail at: [dancingrabbit@ic.org](mailto:dancingrabbit@ic.org)

If don't have internet access (smart person you are!), you can call them at: (816)883-5511.

They will be happy to send you any information or answer your questions. If you are really curious about all of this, they would love to have you go for a visit! Just let them know, and they will tell you a good time to head down there.

--Marcee Murray



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# Sandra Steingraber: Renaissance Woman

Hey, a big yellow taxi just pulled up front

Just when we find out that one of *Ms. Magazine's* ten women of the year, Sandra Steingraber, field biologist, environmental activist, and poet, is completing a year-long visiting professorship as a poet-in-residence at Illinois Wesleyan University right here in Bloomington. Now she's packing up to move back to Boston. But not before she graciously took an hour out of her daunting schedule to discuss her work, as an activist and a poet, with me.

Did I just hear a screen door slam?

For those of you who still aren't sure about who exactly this remarkably talented woman is, let me remind you that she is the author of *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and The Environment* (Addison-Wesley, 1997 \$24.00/hard cover; \$14.00/paperback). We reviewed it in these pages this time last year (*Post Amerikan*, June/July 1997: 17). Get in line at Barnes & Noble, because their shipment of the paperback isn't in stock yet. That's hardly surprising, since Ms. Steingraber told me that what had been planned as a three-week book tour extended into seven months.

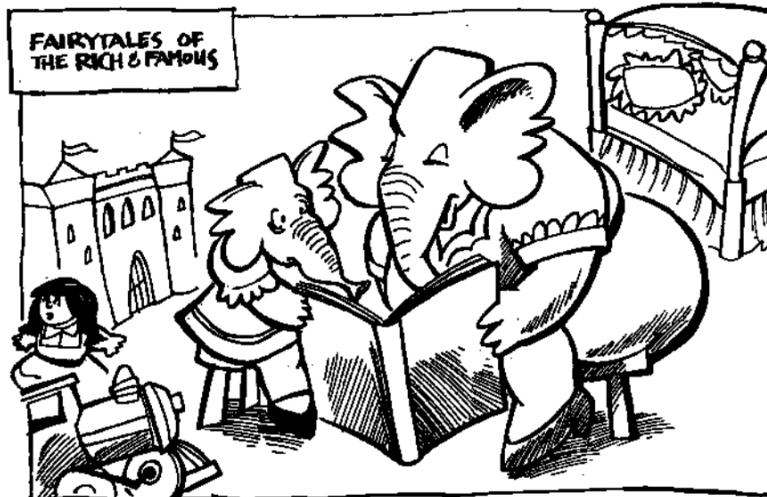
Rather than review her work again, I'd like instead to comment on her response to one of my questions. I had asked her if she had seen any substantial change in the attitudes of the working and underclass towards environmental concerns and causes, since the movement kicked into gear nearly thirty years ago.

Not just for comfortable white folks any more

Steingraber responded that she sees the environmental movement as the "civil rights movement of the 21st century." Once regarded by many of the working and underclass as a sentimental and self-indulgent diversion for middle- and upper-class people with more time and money than sense, environmental causes and concerns now cut across the barriers of class, race, and region.

In fact, more and more environmental activists, like Steingraber, insist that environmental concerns are really inseparable from human rights' concerns, arguing that the burgeoning health rights movement carries itself along with increasing attention to human rights issues across the globe—not to mention Our Own Backyard.

For example, the breast cancer rates in Mason County, the poorest county in Illinois, are "off the charts," according to Steingraber, and they also have the highest pesticide contamination rate for the state. Unfortunately, activists speaking on behalf of communities like Mason County have not been able to convince Washington that there is a direct link between things like (decades old now) DDT spraying and sky-rocketing breast cancer rates. DDT spraying ended long ago. However, the problem is that cancer can camp out in your fatty tissues for several decades, dormant, until something pulls the pin and the grenade explodes across your mammogram.



"Once upon a time there was a wicked Welfare Queen who had the power to destroy entire economies with one AFDC check..."

Next time Newt starts mouthing off about welfare queens, make him stand in line at the Public Aid Office--I'll have more time to canvas for Earth First

Then again, many of the working-poor and people below the poverty-line don't have the time to research cancer risks or have direct access to such things as mammograms. Forget what Newt Gingrich tells you--life on welfare is anything but easy, with endless lines at the welfare office for Food Stamps, Medical Cards, cash benefits. Many women simply do not have time or energy to stand in one more damn line, especially when they're trying to calm a colicky baby, meet with Junior's counselor, and worry about stretching out their remaining 120 bucks to feed their own kids and their sister's. Her building got torched and she's had to farm out her kids to relatives (i.e., her sister, who is now standing in line) while she finds new housing, replaces at least some household goods by trash-picking, and arranges to catch-up with the school work that's supposed to get her a self-sustaining job.

For every complex problem, there is a simple, direct, and wrong answer

As Steingraber points out, no social movement remains free of political complexities; environmentalism, like feminism, is nearly riven by a big class split over--you guessed it--funding. Yet, ironically, even as class conflict can divide, the dangers unite--dioxin from industrial incinerators can contaminate the breast milk of women in upper crust suburbs as efficiently as in the projects, and the folks who pay lawn care companies to spray their yards are no less at risk than the underpaid, (possibly illegal alien) workers who handle the equipment.

Science and art are *not* mutually exclusive, folks

As for how her poems and science writing mesh, she says her poetry "serves both science and beauty--telling stories--painting vivid pictures with language," that it's a way of "honoring life," and she hopes that integrating the two

makes both the roles and disciplines of the poet and the scientist more accessible to a wider public.

Is this what we mean by a "renaissance woman"? I should hope so.

--Dr. Attitude



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## Moore scores with "The Big One"

That bad boy imp - Michael Moore-- scores again with his third feature film, "The Big One."

Moore made the national limelight with his home-made movie, "Roger & Me," his quest for General Motors CEO Roger Smith, inviting the corporate big wig to witness the destruction of Moore's hometown, Flint, Michigan, as GM pulled out.

"The Big One" is basically a travel movie. Moore's a bestseller and Random House sends him out to autograph books - 47 cities in 50 days. Michael Moore, however, doesn't just sign books. Everywhere someone is being downsized or laid-off. So he jumps in - with hilarious results.

In Milwaukee, it's Johnson Controls, an auto supplier moving to Mexico. Moore appears at the CEO's office with a gift - an 80 cent check for one hour's wages for the first Mexican worker.

Illinois is prominent in the film, with a visit to Centralia's "PayDay" candy plant, where the plant was closing- despite record profits. Moore visits Rockford because the city is ranked lower than Flint in "Money" magazine's "best cities" index. He even strums guitar with local musician Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick. And in Chicago it's back to the CEO's office of Leaf, Inc., which bought "PayDay."

In many ways this off-beat travelogue is a Midwest film. The big coastal cities are briefly mentioned while the attention goes to Rockford and Centralia, Des Moines, Minneapolis, Detroit, Madison and Cincinnati.

In Detroit it's the newspaper strikers, in Madison they invade the Governor's mansion with welfare moms, armed with brooms and mops to house-clean, proving they're willing to work. At Pillsbury the corporate guard allows him to leave a post-it-note for the CEO, asking why the Doughboy is on corporate welfare.

A strong union message reverberates in the film. Borders Book workers secretly meet him in Des Moines, because they want a union.

Intercut with his excursions are pointed monologues. Moore slashes contemporary free-market rhetoric, where "being competitive" rules. "I've read the U.S. Constitution," he declares, "The word shareholder does not appear in the document. The word 'people' does."



Seattle is the film's grand conclusion, where Nike CEO Phillip Knight agrees to meet Moore. Moore invites the tennis shoe mogul to Indonesia to meet the 14-year old girls who make those "whoosh" shoes. Knight refuses - never been there, no desire to go. Then it's an invite to open a shoe factory in hometown Flint. "Americans don't want to work in shoe factories," Knight replies. So Moore gathers an unemployed hometown crowd, personally pleading for a job. Knight smiles that multi-million dollar grin, replying, "Flint isn't on our radar screen."

Flint, Des Moines, Decatur or Kenosha might not be on the CEO's radar screen but they're all still home to decent, hard-working Americans. Moore scores again with his biting humor, sharing a clear economic analysis in this garbled age, where greed is exemplified as a virtue and wealth is worshipped. Like a latter-day Mark Twain, he cuts through the lies, brandishing a swift-cutting sword-puncturing the facade of our sorry national mess. Thanks, Michael.

--Mike Matejka  
McLean & Livingston Counties Union News  
April 1998

# Unions

For more than six years, labor strife has marked the relationship between local giant Caterpillar and the United Auto Workers. This battle has caused many people to form opinions of the U.A.W. and unions in general. The word union means different things to different people, mostly depending on their relationship with a union. Those in management deal with unions daily but also must answer for profits. Union members seek to improve their lives as well as the lives of their children. Finally those in the general community have ideas on what a union should or should not be. I have been both outside as well as a member of a union and like to think I am objective enough to speak for management. I believe that by understanding all sides, then we may move forward.

It has been said that the best job security is a healthy company, and I firmly believe a company has a right to a profit. It is the business that is risking its capitol on the expectation of making a return on its investment. No company can lose money indefinitely and when a company folds, the effects are wide ranging on its employees, stockholders, and the community it is in. A company has a great responsibility to both itself and those with a stake in it, a responsibility that has caused nearly all companies to seek to lower their costs to increase their competitiveness.

More times than not, the first place a company looks to reduce is in its labor cost. It will try to lower its payroll cost as far as it can. This is where companies and unions often collide. Many companies now look only to the bottom line, not to the impact that such a narrow focus may have on its workers. When unions try to protect those employees, then businesses feel that they are being threatened and try to weaken or do away with the union. Out sourcing and job reduction soon begin to take place, anything to lower the costs.

The main reason given for this is that a company must be globally competitive. Global competition is the idea that American workers, who spend their money in the world's largest economy, must compete with workers from countries with economies far smaller. Global competition is a self-destructive notion.

With downward wage pressure on American pay rate, caused by the much lower wages elsewhere, how long can the average American continue to contribute to our economy? It is not the billionaires that make our economy strong; it is the spending power of all of us. When spending lowers then so to must our economy. A line must be drawn, between the profits of the company and the prosperity of its employees.

Many times that line is drawn by unions. Although union membership has gone down the past 30 years, there is still a great political power wielded by those who are still members. The Oxford English Dictionary defines union as "A number, group, or body of persons joined or associated together for some common purpose or action." The common purpose is most often to



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# bring prosperity

guarantee the prosperity of the union membership. By having all workers stand together in solidarity, a union has the power needed to force a company to negotiate for higher benefits. The past has shown that union solidarity can work, and in fact helped lead to the expansion of the middle class.

The past several years have shown that new variables have entered the equation. Many people, like I was, are willing to step up from low income non-union jobs to take a chance at a higher standard of living during labor strife. These workers have weakened the resolve of many union members. The moving elsewhere of large blocks of jobs has further dampened the spirit of the workers who remain. In many ways, now is a dark time for unions.

I think major changes are on the horizon. With the economy soaring to ever-greater heights, more and more workers will try to get a piece of the record profits many companies are receiving. This economic equality, along with the fact that more and more workers are

reaching retirement age with fewer and fewer youths available to fill the available positions, will give workers a stronger bargaining chip. It will be the unions who step in to gather the workers and bargain for a more secure future.

It is that power that people often do not attribute to unions. Most people know that union jobs have better pay and benefits than other jobs, and yet they think it is the union's only job to protect the lazy and unproductive. They look at the minority of union workers and believe it is the same for all union members, that we all have poor work attitudes. The average person does not realize the effect that union jobs and wages have on an area. If a company pays its blue-collar workers well then it will usually pay its white-collar workers proportionately. Union scale jobs can also force other employers to raise wages in order to attract good job candidates. A union will protect its members, even those who may not deserve it; but unions will also always try to bring greater prosperity to its workers.

In the end it is prosperity that is the key. All Americans want it, but how to get it is the question. One of the answers is by being a member of a union. I have been a member of the United Auto Workers Local 974 for over one year. I have enjoyed the benefits the U.A.W. have secured for me, and I have felt the responsibility I owe for what I have received. A company should prosper, and so should its employees. When a company does not wish to fairly compensate its workers, then other measures must be taken. In order to ensure the growth of our economy, we must have a thriving middle class. In order to ensure a thriving middle class, unions must prosper.

--Ryan Hundt

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# Poetry

Ken Mitchell's poems have appeared in over 70 magazines. His first book (*Poetry of the Deformed*) was released in January 1997 by Pygmy Forest Press. His second book (*The Fatman in the Mirror*), also by Pygmy was release in December 1997. Cedar Hill Publications has accepted a third book (*Proberbs for the Initiated*) for a late 1998 release.

## Save the rainforests

save the rainforests but not the city core. (only so much can be salvaged.) there is more magic in those trees than the hearts of the unemployable. raise a cash crop of weed. noble intentions aside, those bastards deserve the hell you offer. their bread is merely a form of penitence. another election year in which your vote means nothing. listen to the rhetoric of anger as America waits to be emancipated from the shackles of greed. listen to the cries of the children. even if inarticulate, their voices are as if an incantation. the beauty of their magic waits in the souls of all.

--Kenn Mitchell

## For BJS in Colorado

glacier cut valleys  
osprey on an occluded updraft  
the sound of gold in your pocket  
    you are the laughter  
    whispered  
    the laughter i hear  
    in the aching of bones  
the smell of morning glory  
& alabaster rivers giggling  
down the face of ancient mountains  
certain to be worn away  
    you are the laughter  
    echoed  
    the laughter i hear  
    in the aching of bones

--Kenn Mitchell

## In my Superman underwear

in my superman underwear i confront the gods of disorder  
tell them it is the dawning of a new age of reason  
they resist & beat me with fists of kryptonite  
i stumble out of the temple of darkness  
& search the cupboards for my wheaties  
certain they will bring back courage  
open the frayed box only to find it (as my life) full of flakes

--Kenn Mitchell

## Frost on the fog

1  
frost on the fog  
i face the apparition

my heart is the breeze  
broken by the obsidian rock  
of that place

where the mountain stumbled into the aqua-grey of the sea

i face the apparition  
of what i was supposed to be  
battered & perfect bastard

2  
kelp on the black waters  
broken boats moored as promises yet to be kept  
broken boats that are nothing more  
than scrap iron yet to be disassembled

there is no god i tell the mist  
other than that which is truth  
there is no truth the frozen fog replies  
other than that which is holy

mumbling seals in the dark surf  
howl with delight at our discourse  
they too waiting for godot  
even if they did not know

--Kenn Mitchell

## Song of the pioneer ghost

forget that i have stood before the wind. forget that it was my bones that broke the earth for your pretty garden. let the radishes grow for your salads forever. & i will be there, part of the opened earth that you carelessly walk upon.  
forget that i have opened the door to the mountains. the river will offer gold & nickel. forget that my bones were used to harness the troubled waters as you dip your toes & sip the crystal waters as if it were champagne.  
forget that i have frozen upon glaciated passes. forget that i have fallen into the foaming rivers that gnaw the very root of these mountains. i will be in the warm air of your electrical furnaces. i will be in the laughter of intoxicated company.  
forget that i have learned the language of desperation, that i have learned the songs of depression. forget that i have learned the chatter of wild flowers & the song of the eagle, that i have spoken with the gods of wind & stone. i will be there in your books gathering dust. i will be there in the schools & in the museums. & i will be in the eyes of the children you do not even recognize.

--Kenn Mitchell



# Pages

## Society Takes a Stand

Society was talking, a slow smile in His eyes,  
and with Wonder in his voice  
he said, "I never realized, that Life was this bewildered.  
That Love was in this mess.  
I guess I never noticed. I guess I never guessed. . . .  
that I was in this state. That people just don't care,  
about the way they're living. About the why or where."  
He said it seemed the classes were lacking most in class.  
They live inside their prejudice, in a kingdom made of cash.  
I listened to His ranting from His soapbox in the sky,  
as He spoke of their philosophy that would bring His world to die.  
The rich folks fear of poverty has made them fear the poor.  
While the poor men sit and ponder  
how to even up the score.  
The white folks hate the blacks and the blacks folks hate the whites.  
But no one seems to notice  
all that's born from all these fights.  
He said, "It's not my fault. I never really knew,  
that I was just a tool to explain what's wrong with you."  
And Society stepped down as a tear rushed past His cheek.  
"I leave this mess to you, the rich and poor, the strong and weak.  
The world is now your own. Please remember it's no toy.  
It's all that you have left . . . .  
to save or to destroy."

--Barbie Dockstader  
Based on an idea by Patricia Dockstader

## radiator

i'm like a radiator. . .  
you only turn me on  
when you're cold.  
run your moist fingers  
across my dry, dusted ribs.  
paint flecking, curling  
potted plants and a couple  
pop psychology books  
resting on ny head.  
the windows of your bedroom  
are wide open, there is  
the sweetest symmer breeze  
when you don't need me.  
but when clouds come,  
the birds pack up their song.  
you remove your books,  
plants, retire them to  
corners of the room.  
you stroke my ribs,  
pipes of steam. . .  
you turn me on.

--Dan Knestaut

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## happiness

i used to think  
bukowski was cool  
for turning an  
impossibly hard life  
into something poetic.  
but now i know  
he's just a fuck  
pretentious asshole.

i have my own two bit  
paper back story  
complete with crazy women  
and endless bottles of wine.  
and in between the non-stop  
times, I've written a poem  
or two, same as you.

and i hold it to my ass  
feeling the stress of sex  
and drugs and all things wet.  
their weight on me.  
my attempt in life  
to make something which  
to justify my existence.

fuck bukowski.  
fuck his poetry.  
fuck all things dark  
and dirty, including me.  
i'm tired of whining  
and selfish poetry writing.  
i'm disgusted with drugs.  
and sick of sex.  
weary of all that promises  
when i know it will  
never fulfill.

--Dan Knestaut

## Ode to Leslie

Waiting.  
The clock ticks in time with my heartbeat.  
Nothing to do.  
I fill my day with unimportant tasks  
like cleaning out my junk drawer  
and matching up my socks.

Suddenly  
I realize that the sun has set.  
I call friends I haven't spoken to  
in years. . . just to make small talk.

Neck stiff and ears sore.  
I channel surf 'till mid-nite.

Weeks pass.  
I'm in a rut.  
Every day spent in the same tedious fashion.  
Where has the semester gone?

Six a.m.  
I bolt awake.  
My twenty page research paper is due at Nine.  
and the library doesn't open until Eight.

My mother was wrong.  
It's not my fault.  
How am I supposed to succeed  
when the system  
is working against me?

--Barbie Dockstader  
Written for Leslie Shimin

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# Fun with tofu

Tofu is processed soybeans, healthy for you and a great meat substitute. Tofu doesn't have much flavor of its own, so you can make it taste however you want, and it takes on the flavor of what you are cooking. There are many different ways to prepare tofu, but usually it involves slicing, cubing or crumbling. Slicing can be in small slices or large slices. When crumbling tofu, I usually chop it into tiny cubes first and then smashing it with a fork, or you can break it up with your hands if you prefer.

I don't have set recipes for tofu, but use it for everything. I use it as I would meat or, more specifically, hamburger. I crumble it for chili, make "Sloppy Barbies," use it for stir-fry, etc.

To begin with, not all oils are bad for you. I cook with olive oil or unrefined oils, which I get through our local food coop. Unrefined oils such as safflower, sunflower and canola provide the body with HEALTHY fats that are needed by the body, and which some folks try to get out of fish oils. Thus, when I use these oils I believe I am giving the body what it NEEDS.

"Silken" tofu can be used for an egg substitute in making mayonnaise and salad dressings. It isn't too firm and is easily blendable. You would basically follow normal directions for what you are making, but would instead substitute silken tofu for the egg. When cooking, I usually buy "firm" tofu, and organic firm tofu can be found at Cubfoods and Common Ground.

### Ideas for use of tofu:

I slice it into 1/2-1/4 inch slices and put it on a lightly oiled baking sheet. I brush soy sauce, mixed with a little oil and garlic powder on it, and bake it in the oven on about 350° for 10 minutes or so, flip it, baste it again, and bake it longer until "done." "Done" to me usually means



that the edges are slightly brown and firm, sometimes more cooked when I am using it for something specific. When it cools more, it firms up more, and then I put this in the fridge (if it doesn't get eaten up first by my kids!) to use later. We eat it cold as is, cold on sandwiches, heat it up for hot sandwiches, add it on top of stews at the last minute, put it in smaller pieces in pasta salads (try a pesto pasta salad with tofu cooked like this, only cooked a little "firmer"). Sometimes I saute it a bit with onions and "A1" steak sauce for myself for a treat. I also saute onions and toss the tofu in at the last minute, and use it for my "meat" with vegetables. My family loves it!

Sometimes I crumble it and cook it in a skillet, first without oil, cooking the water out some until it starts to stick, and then adding a little oil. I cook it then with onions and green pepper until the tofu starts to "brown". By browning with tofu, it means starts to turn a yellowish color. Then, you add all the fixings to make BBQ...ketchup, mustard, worstechire sauce and brown sugar. Let it simmer a bit and you have "Sloppy Barbies."

Crumbled tofu is also great for other stuff. One thing I do after the browning stage is pour some soy sauce in and stir and cook a minute, then generously sprinkle garlic powder and nutritional yeast (can be bought at Common Ground in downtown Bloomington and is great for you!) all over it, stir it up, throw in some green onions, mushrooms and sesame seeds, and serve it over brown rice. It is a favorite with the kids and my husband. When in a hurry, I cook it in the tiny cubes instead of crumbling it, or I do this if I want a different texture.

I take crumbled tofu and brown it with onions and garlic, add chopped mushrooms, thyme, pepper and basil, and then use soy sauce with milk and flour to make a "brown" gravy over it. To this I add sour cream.... and I have tofu stroganoff! I serve it over brown rice or noodles.

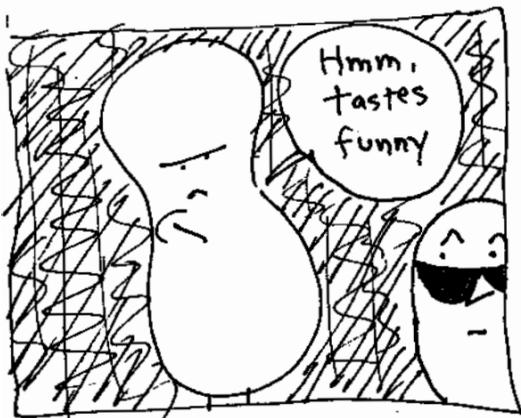
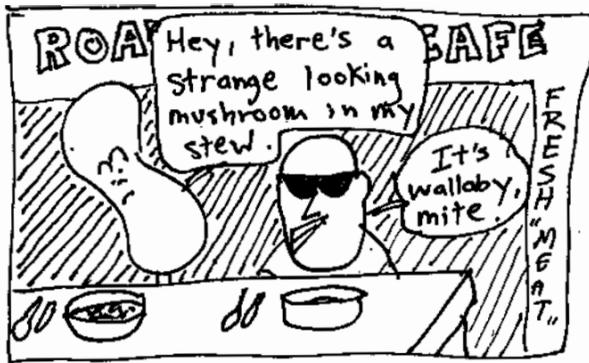
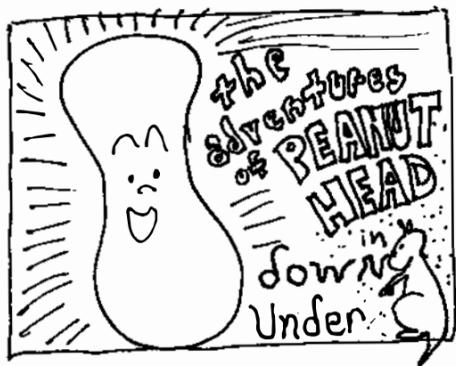
For a quick soup, I saute onions, garlic, grated carrot, chopped cabbage, with ginger or other herbs I like, add some soy sauce or red miso (at Common Ground) and water. When it boils, I taste it and adjust seasonings, sometimes whisk beaten eggs into it, and add strips of tofu. It is a yummy "Chinese" soup.

I chop or crumble tofu and brown it in a skillet or wok with soy sauce, take it out and saute onions, green pepper and garlic, take it out, brown potato chunks (leftover baked or boiled) with some paprika, and then put it all back in the pan with some pepper and basil and/or oregano, beat some eggs, make a hole in the middle and put the eggs in, scrambling them and eventually stirring it into the other ingredients. We call this "Slop." Sometimes it has other leftovers in it, and sometimes less. I personally love it without any eggs, but my family likes the eggs.

With tofu, you can't go wrong. Just always keep in mind that it doesn't have much flavor, and takes on the flavors of whatever you are cooking. Keeping this in mind, you can make anything out of tofu.

If you would like to take the hassle out of it, there is a program called GRAND PRAIRIE that provides all organic vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs and tofu to your door for a reasonable price. Katharine and Brian can be reached by calling 1-800-4-FOOD-99.

--Marcee Murray





# Gay victims of the Nazis

**They first came for the Communists and I didn't speak up-- because I wasn't a Communist.**

**Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up-- because I wasn't a Jew.**

**Then they came for the trade unionists and I didn't speak up-- because I wasn't a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up-- because I was a Protestant.**

**Then they came for me-- and by that time no one was left to speak up.**

**Pastor Martin Niemoeller (Nazi Victim)**

In addition to the millions of Jewish victims of the Holocaust, thousands of gay men and lesbians were also placed in and sometimes murdered in Nazi concentration camps. Just as the yellow star of David was used to publicly identify its wearers as Jews, the pink triangle was used to identify gay men while the black triangle was used to identify lesbians. Unlike the Jews and other victims, gay men and lesbians were not set free when the Allies liberated the concentration camps in 1945. Here are the stories of two victims of the Nazis:

**Count Albrecht von Bernstoff:** The nephew of the German ambassador to the United States during World War I, von Bernstoff was an aristocrat who used his connections to help Jews flee the persecution of the Nazis. As a retired senior counselor of the Foreign Ministry, he used his diplomatic connections to warn the Dutch government of Hitler's plan to invade Holland in 1940. von Bernstoff, along with several other Nazi resisters, was arrested on January 12, 1944 and placed in a concentration camp. Although his life was spared as Heinrich Himmler thought von Bernstoff might be useful, this reprieve was relatively short-lived.

As the Russian Army was approaching Berlin, von Bernstoff and a group of others were taken outside and lined against a wall, where SS officers promptly executed them with machine gun fire.

**"Inga:"** Inga was a female impersonator who helped the Nazi resistance after they invaded Norway in 1940. Since women aroused less suspicion than men, Inga was able to slip back and forth across borders with ease and was able to pass on vital information about Nazi

shipping movements in the North Sea. However, in the autumn of 1943, a group of drunken Nazi soldiers tried to rape Inga, whereupon they discovered that he was a man. After arresting and brutally torturing him, they executed Inga. A portrait of Inga, in full drag, hangs in the Resistance Museum in Oslo.

--Source: The New Gay Book of Lists (Rutledge)  
--QCAD

## The Review List: Clinton stats

- . 6 special prosecutors have been appointed.
- . 8 cabinet members have come under investigation.
- . 14 guilty pleas and convictions have been obtained by Kenneth Starr including one governor, one associate attorney general and two Clinton business partners. Two indictments are pending.
- . 7 individuals, five corporations and one law firm have been convicted as a result of efforts by special prosecutor Donald Smaltz. Two have been overturned on procedural grounds. Three indictments are pending, including one against a former agriculture secretary.
- . There has been one conviction and six indictments are pending in the investigation by independent counsel Davis Barrett including an indictment of former HUD secretary Cisneros.
- . 6 indictments or guilty pleas have been obtained in inquiries growing out of the Ron Brown affair.
- . 900 FBI files were misappropriated by the White House.
- . 160 visits were made to the White House by investigation subjects Johnny Chung, James Riady, John Huang and Charlie Trie.
- . 577 campaign contributors got overnights at the White House in the two years before the 1996 election.
- . 40 problem areas were listed in a memo by Clinton's own lawyer in preparation for the president's defense.
- . 200,000 plus is the estimated number of names in a White House database placed there without the knowledge of the named.
- . 29,525 hits at the Drudge Report site were made from the White House domain eop.gov in the month ending Feb. 13

. 72 Whitewater witnesses sought by congressional committees have pleaded the 5th (48), fled the country (12), or are foreigners who have refused to be interviewed (12). Asked whether he had ever run into anything like this before, FBI director Freeh said he had - in the course of investigating organized crime.

--The Progressive Review April 1998

## We are not making this up

Henny Youngman, who recently passed away, was once clocked at 250 jokes in 45 minutes.

A bear broke into a suburban Denver home, settling itself on the living room couch. The family's son walked in and said, "Hey, Dad," before realizing something was wrong. According to the journal *Westward*, "the bear then grabbed a plum from the fruit bowl and left."

The relief agency Christian Aid reports that every child born in Tanzania owes \$250 to international creditors. In Mozambique everyone owes \$350.

"Everyone should have enough money to get plastic surgery."--Model Beverly Johnson.

--The Progressive Review April 1998

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