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POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 27

50¢

NUMBER 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1998

"D'you really think I'd rent to some deviant who'd do unspeakable sex acts in my house?
Just imagine that!"

"D'you really think I'd hire someone with your 'questionable' lifestyle?
Just imagine that!"

"D'you really think these perverts deserve the same rights as other Normal people?"

Who do these straights think they are?
Just imagine that!!!"



YES, JUST IMAGINE...



PAIGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

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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...

Sherrin, Linda, David, Gregg, Deborah, and Ralph

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Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)
Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)
Front and Center Building
Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main (inside)
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Deadpan Alley Records, 129 E. Beaufort (inside)
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Champaign

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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.)

November 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...Miomi@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 Phonenumber...438-2429
Habitat for Humanity.....829-0693
HELP (transportation for senior citizens/handicapped).....828-8301
Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356
IL Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
IL Lawyer Referral.....1-800-252-8916
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



Community News

Blue Moon Coffeehouse Fall Semester, 1998

The blue moon is the second full moon occurring in a month--a rare and unusual phenomenon fraught with possibility and excitement. The Blue Moon Coffeehouse brings to the Illinois Wesleyan community entertainment presented in a coffeehouse setting. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Flavored coffees and light pastries are available, along with a varied venue of acoustic music with some reggae and salsa for spice. Entertainment like this is found once in a blue moon and on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

October 9-Al and Andi Tauber bring their eclectic blend of acoustic, R&B and occasional bad seventies pop songs to this special Homecoming Blue Moon Coffeehouse. In previous Blue Moon appearances IWU alums Al and Andi have charmed standing-room-only audiences with both their variety of musical stylings and their warm and humorous interplay from the stage--but mostly, it is the music that moves the audience. Comparisons to Tuck and Patti can be made--masterful guitar work that spans from jazzy ellipses to driving rhythms from Al punctuates strong fluid vocals from Andi. It's often difficult to believe that so much music is coming from two voices and a guitar--oh yeah, Andi is a virtuoso with her instrument of choice--the snap. Experience why Blue Moon audiences demand encores from hometown favorites, Al and Andi, and join them for an evening of music, along with some surprises, at this Homecoming Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

October 10-Susan Werner returns to The Blue Moon Coffeehouse for a very special Homecoming concert which will be held in Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall. Susan brings her remarkable ability with both piano and guitar. Those talents coupled with a songwriting language all her own and a sure command of the stage combine to make her one of the most riveting performers on the acoustic circuit. Touring in support of her recently released CD, *Time In Between Trains*, her return visit to The Blue Moon has been eagerly anticipated. Her musical influences are diverse-Jacques Brel, Joni Mitchell, Thelonius Monk, Sting and Nanci Griffith are among the artists she credits as influences. Her songs range from pop/rock to folk ballad to cabaret, but all share a precision of language and mastery of detail that single her out on the acoustic scene. An Iowa native with a master's degree in classical voice from Temple University, Susan Werner is redefining the acoustic genre and gaining admirers around the country. She has toured nationally in support of artists such as Joan Armatrading as well as appearing on NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Mountain Stage*. Don't miss

Susan Werner's return to IWU in Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall. Just added: Opening for Susan Werner is Rose Polenzani who has toured as part of Lillith this summer..as well as touring with the Indigo Girls.

October 17-Christine Lavin is one of The Blue Moon Coffeehouse performers who have helped to put the venue on the map of acoustic music. Christine has released a CD of her Blue Moon performance last Fall, thus bringing ambiance of The Blue Moon Coffeehouse into the homes of happy CD purchasers internationally. She is a highly acclaimed singer-songwriter who is a familiar presence and an extremely popular artist on the New England coffeehouse scene. She is the founding mother of the ensemble, The Four Bitchin' Babes as well as the organizer of the songwriters' retreat on Martha's Vineyard. Long on the top of her field as a solo performer, Christine has gone a long way to boost the morale, if not the careers, of many other musicians. Her generosity is matched by her own productivity--ten CDs to date feature the tender ballads and amusing stories that are staples of a Christine Lavin concert. She is touring in support of *One Wild Night in Concert* recorded right here at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse. It is with great pride that we welcome nationally acclaimed



singer-songwriter Christine Lavin back to The Blue Moon Coffeehouse for a special Family Day show.

November 13-Cheryl Wheeler is one of a handful of artists who can charm an audience regardless of its entertainment expectations, political stance or current state of affairs. She is known in acoustic circles as a songwriter's songwriter and is an artist of contrasts. Her music is introspective and tender, yet her stage presence is often sarcastic, cynical, and sardonic to the point of hilarity. Blue Moon audiences anticipate her flights of comedic fancy almost as much as they do the music. Her music has been covered by a variety of folk and country artists including Maura O'Connell ("Summer Fly"), Dan Seals ("Addicted") and Suzy Bogguss, who scored a number one hit with her rendition of Wheeler's "Aces." It is an honor to present a performer who has the talent and experience that Cheryl Wheeler brings to the acoustic stage...be among those at The Blue Moon as we welcome Cheryl Wheeler in performance at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

cont.



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Community News cont.

November 21-SONiA of disappear fear returns to play a solo show at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse, and already fans of the band are making plans to travel to IWU to catch this amazing singer-songwriter in a one-of-a-kind solo gig. Sonia writes with intensity and to-the-bone honesty while delivering her songs with both electric and acoustic guitars, a "dylanesque" harmonica, and a big voice that rocks a house. Sonia's writing draws from modern day subjects. She delivers these songs with a powerful angst and a passion that moves people to dance, to smile or to cry. Boston-based Rounder Records has released five disappear fear CDs, as well as her latest, SONiA. Fans across the country revel in Sonia's call to love out loud, and to confront the difficult issues of our times--from the political struggle against censorship to those for human rights to the turmoil and triumph of the heart. Don't miss this opportunity to see the dynamic Sonia Rutstein in a special solo concert at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

December 5-Dee Carstensen closes the fall season at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse and what a pre-holiday present we have for you! She brings to The Blue Moon a sophisticated ensemble sound that deftly fuses pop to folk with soulful touches of jazz and rock. Dee's chosen instrument-an 85-pound 47-stringed harp-is rarely seen in a contemporary pop setting or heard outside of stuffy chamber music halls or New Age environs. Dee uses it in a guitar-like way-to stunning effect. Her polished compositions and delivery put her in

league with Joni Mitchell, Shawn Colvin and Rickie Lee Jones. She writes smart, complex songs about love, relationships and searching for fulfillment with the authority of one who has been there. Touring in support of her new CD, *The Map*, Dee delivers highly personal lyrics which exude wit and wisdom. She has shared the stage with Paula Cole, Sinead O'Connor, Dar Williams and Jonatha Brooke as well as having played harp for Vance Gilbert's (a Blue Moon favorite, returning in February, 1999) *Shaking Off Gravity* project. Don't miss this evening of entertainment at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

We are excited about our seventh season of bringing the finest in acoustic music to the campus of Illinois Wesleyan and to the Bloomington/Normal community. We have old favorites as well as new friends coming to entertain and to enlighten. Don't miss our special Homecoming Weekend of music-alums Al and Andi Tauber on October 9 in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Center and Susan Werner on October 10 in Presser Hall.

All shows, except Susan Werner, are held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. ~ Performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

For information about shows, call the Blue Moon Infoline at (309) 556-3185. Send a comment or ask a question at bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu

October schedule for Open Door Youth Center

The **OpenDoor Youth Center** announces their schedule of events for the month of October. All the events listed take place at Connections Community Center, 313 N. Main Street, in downtown Bloomington.

October 2, 7:30-10:30 p.m.--Popcorn & a Movie

October 9, 7:30-10:30 p.m.--"Coming Out" Stories

October 16, 7:30-10:30 p.m.--Coffee House and Poetry Slam

October 23, 7:30-10:30 p.m.--Discussion with a counselor from the Heart of Illinois HIV Clinic, Peoria

October 30, 7:30 p.m.--Halloween party

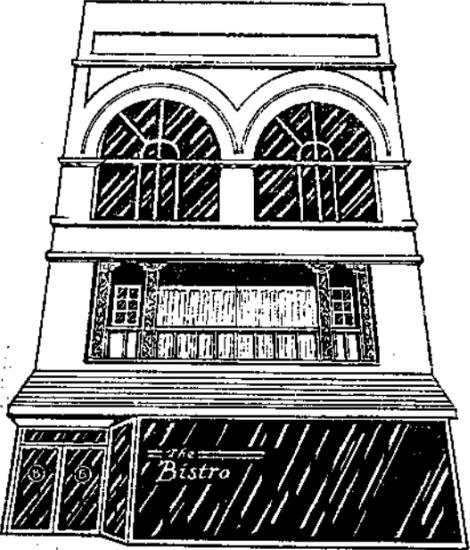
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Beyond Normal Films

Beyond Normal Films was formed in October 1996. They are a not-for-profit organization which assists the Normal Theater in selecting foreign/independent films to be shown on a monthly basis.

Admission is \$4.00. All films are shown at the Normal Theater in downtown Normal.

The Land Girls
Thursday, Nov. 5 7pm
Friday, Nov. 6 7pm

Based on Angela Huth's historical novel, "The Land Girls" takes place in 1941, in the midst of World War II. While the men were on the battlefield fighting German forces, England deployed its young women to join the Women's Land Army, a regiment that sent them all over the local countryside to lend a hand to ailing farms. The film follows three women who are sent to the Lawrence family's decrepit farm in Dorset.

Will it Snow for Christmas?
Thursday, Dec. 3 7pm
Friday, Dec. 4 7pm

The winner of the Cesar (the French Oscar) for best debut film of 1996, "Will it Snow for Christmas?" follows the story of seven children, ranging from a baby boy to an adolescent girl, who are being reared on a farm by a devoted mother. The farm is owned by the mother's lover and the children's father who lives with his wife and several older children in a village nearby.

The film begins in the summer and ends on Christmas Eve with the mother telling her children a personal story that she plans to execute on Christmas Eve. The tender result is a homage to the strength of a mother's love.



Guinea Pig Productions

What do you get when you combine comedy, drama, cheesy pyrotechnics, seemingly insignificant acrobatics and thought provoking miscellaneous nonsense designed to mess with your head and best left to your own interpretation? I suppose you wouldn't get much of anything unless you coupled all of that with the genius of three local writers, founders of Guinea Pig Productions.

Mark Hackman, Bob Kalmbach and Brett Presson (all recent Normal High graduates), astounded and amazed their audiences in August with an original play at Illinois State University. The 4 a.m. Variety Show A Dark Exploitation of Mind, Body and Aristotle was performed at Centennial West August 6th - 9th on ISU campus.

Written entirely by Hackman, Kalmbach and Presson, the play contained 21 sketches including an extremely entertaining intermission. Sixteen actors portrayed seventy different characters to packed houses. The cast included students from ISU, IWU as well as local high schools. While the sketches ranged from silly and bizarre to intellectual and topical. Donations were accepted during each performance to support Guinea Pig Productions and a portion of the proceeds was earmarked for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

If you were among the unfortunate few who missed The 4 a.m. Variety Show, don't worry, Guinea Pig Productions is still writing. They plan to produce two plays during the summer of 1999 and will be releasing an independent film in the near future.

-by Barbie Dockstader

We are not making this up

Percent of American's who believe Republican and Democrats offer a clear choice of political philosophies...27%

Armed border guards on the Mexican border are now more numerous than all the FBI agents in the US, says AP. INS agents outnumber the Bureau of Prisons staff.

The Realist reports that some insurance companies are claiming that domestic violence is a "pre-existing condition" like diabetes or heart disease and hence not coverable.

A study by the Project on Government Oversight finds there are now only 1:6 Navy ships per admiral. We managed to fight World War II successfully with just one admiral for every 130 ships. Also in 1945 there were 14 generals for every active Army division. Now there are 30. There were 244 aircraft per general in 1945, now there are 23. In 1945, there was one officer for every 11 enlisted personnel. Today there is one for every six.

According to the Center for Media and Public Affairs, there was an average of 14 Clinton scandal stories a month on TV news shows during his first term. During his second there have been an average of 140 a month.

Public Campaign reports that while only 5% of the public earns more than \$100,000 a year, 81% of those contributing to US congressional campaigns do.

--The Progressive Review
August 1998



L-R: Bob Kalmbach, Brett Presson, Mark Hackman.

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Reviews, Reviews

Book Review: *By Reservation Only*, a novel by Jackie Calhoun

When Shelley inherits Pine Shores Resort in rural Wisconsin, she sees it as a gift of personal freedom, the chance to be her own boss after years of working for others. She quickly feels at home at the resort, which is located on a beautiful wooded lake. But her lover Jan is not thrilled by the idea, and makes it clear that although she will visit on weekends, she has no intention of leaving Milwaukee, where she is active in feminist politics. Emily has just moved back to her home town to rebuild her life after a disastrous love affair. A chance meeting with Shelley and Jan sets off a chain of events that changes their lives of everyone around them.

This is a good summer novel, a light romance that moves along quickly. Although the characters are a bit shallow and predictable, I enjoyed the story and especially the setting at the lake resort. Maybe it is time for me to make a reservation at a cabin on a lake!

--From an article by Becky, a lesbian bookworm from the QCAD (Quad Citizens Affirming Diversity) newsletter, August 1998

Book Review: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson

One of the reasons that Bill Bryson is one of my favorite writers is the simple fact that he is a smart ass that has the uncanny ability to write all of his keen observations down in a manner that is somewhat eloquent.

In his latest book, *A Walk in the Woods*, Bryson decided to reacquaint himself with America (after living in England for the past 20 years) by hiking the Appalachian Trail—all 2,100 miles of it. The Appalachian Trail is a public trail that starts in Springer Mountain, Georgia and winds through forests, backwoods and national parks until it finally ends in the mountainous region of Mount Katahdin, Maine.

Bryson's fellow traveling mate was his friend, Kaz. Some of you might remember him as the person who traveled with Bryson twenty-five years earlier in Europe. This expedition, by the way, is documented in *Neither Here nor There*. The best way to explain their relationship is to describe it as somewhat like an older Conan O'Brien and his sidekick Andy Richter. Bryson and Kaz are two 40 year-old, out of shape smart-asses who take it upon themselves to voluntarily hike 15+ miles of rugged terrain a day, for days on end. Imagine the fun.

Along the way, by chance and through default, they encountered instances that opened their eyes to the idea of being self sufficient in a world where bear attacks (not to mention

rednecks who are still pissed that they had to give part of their land for a public use trail) are a common threat, and to be respectful of the wilderness and its varied inhabitants. In the end, they found patience and fortitude that they never knew they possessed. Katz and Bryson also had to contend with the fact that everything they needed to survive (tents, clothes, water, food...) had to be lugged on their backs. As a result, they were forced to make important decisions – decisions that were based on the sheer weight of items – not in pounds, but in ounces.

For all of its hilarity, and it is hilarious, Bryson conveys sobering facts about the wilderness in the eastern part of the U.S. He tells us of the fascinating history of the AP and the people who made it happen. He also tells us of the urgency of conservation, that pollution is killing species of trees, insects and wildlife at an astounding rate, that the government is not consistently or adequately funding national parks and that the beloved AP will soon cease to be as beautiful as it once was.

A Walk in the Woods, is a book for anyone who like to laugh at both the silliness and the beauty of the world.

--towanda! (hiked the AP. Okay, so it was only 2 miles...)

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CD Review: The Heatersons

When Heatersons entered the local music scene they immediately took everyone by storm. With their mix of energetic vocals and musical abilities, not to mention their varied repertoire of instruments (piano, acoustic bass, guitar and drums), it made for a combination that was hard not to get excited about.

Recently, the Heatersons released their first CD (self titled) and it includes twelve songs.

The first three songs on the CD start out slowly. There's "Will Toast That Lie Again," which is a bluesy bit - heavy on bass. It reminds me somewhat of a 50's western-musical. The CD picks up a bit of energy with "The Animal Life," where the simplistic life of animals is envied. *When you're people life can be so hard/monkey's don't know how lucky they are.* The next three songs are a mix of slow ballads and an instrumental piece.

"Opus 17" starts off with a heavy bass and Scott declaring, *Nothing could be finer/than to picture Carolina in the mornin'.* "The Camping

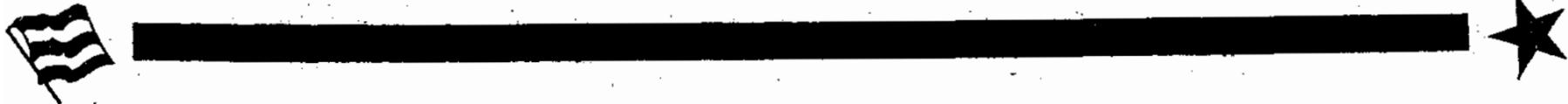
Song" laments the perils of camping, but adds, *"I still think air can do us good..."*

The CD comes to a climatic ending with the Heatersons highly energetic, "Lucinda." With its heavy bass and infectious vocals, (*"I wanna kiss ya/don't wanna miss ya"*) this is the song that usually gets everyone out to the dance floor.

In order to fully appreciate the multilayered sound, you must play this CD loud, the bass and piano is somewhat lost at lower levels. I enjoyed this CD and recommend it to anyone who enjoys the Heatersons live. If you haven't seen them around town, you may catch them at the Lizard's Lounge live on Halloween night and again with the Spelunkers on the 20th of November.

You may pick up a copy of the Heatersons at Mother Murphy's in downtown Normal.

towanda!



What the wheelchair guys taught me

I arrived late for my first semester at ISU. The ORL placed me in Whitten Hall, first floor. The first thing I realized was that most of the men are handicapped, disabled, whatever the politically-correct word is these days. Dealing with these wheelchair guys wasn't on my academic schedule, but I got educated anyway.

My experience with the disabled has been purely media related. I read about disabilities and watched disabled people on television and in the movies. Whitten Hall changed that. I was eating meals with the wheelchair guys, hanging out, and sometimes having a beer with them. Yeah, disabled people party. Throughout my stay at Whitten, I associated with two wheelchair-bound students, Carl and Joe.

One afternoon, Joe and I decided on Burger King for lunch—the BK next to Whitten. I went out the wheelchair door with Joe. Then he rode out into the street. I didn't know if it was proper for me to stay on the sidewalk, or if I should walk beside Joe. I learned quickly the street curbs are a hassle for wheelchair-bound people. Joe had to go completely out of his way to get inside Burger King. I've never thought twice about street curbs.

Later in the semester, my friends invited Carl to a cookout. He went ahead of us, via the street. The further from town he got, the fewer ramp-like curbs there were. When we got to my friend's place, I invited Carl inside, then went inside. After a moment or two, I wondered what happened to Carl. Well, he was still outside. There was a six-inch step leading into the apartment. I felt awful! I should have noticed that.

When the food came around, Carl asked me to help him eat. He's paralyzed from the neck down, except in one arm. The next time you hold a soda in one hand and a sandwich in the other, remember that simple luxury.

Helping Carl made me very uncomfortable. The idea of feeding a grown man—I couldn't finish, and asked my girlfriend to take over the task. Looking back, I realize I was not embarrassed for Carl—I was annoyed that I had to stop what I was doing to help. Helping Carl was more embarrassing for me than it was for him.

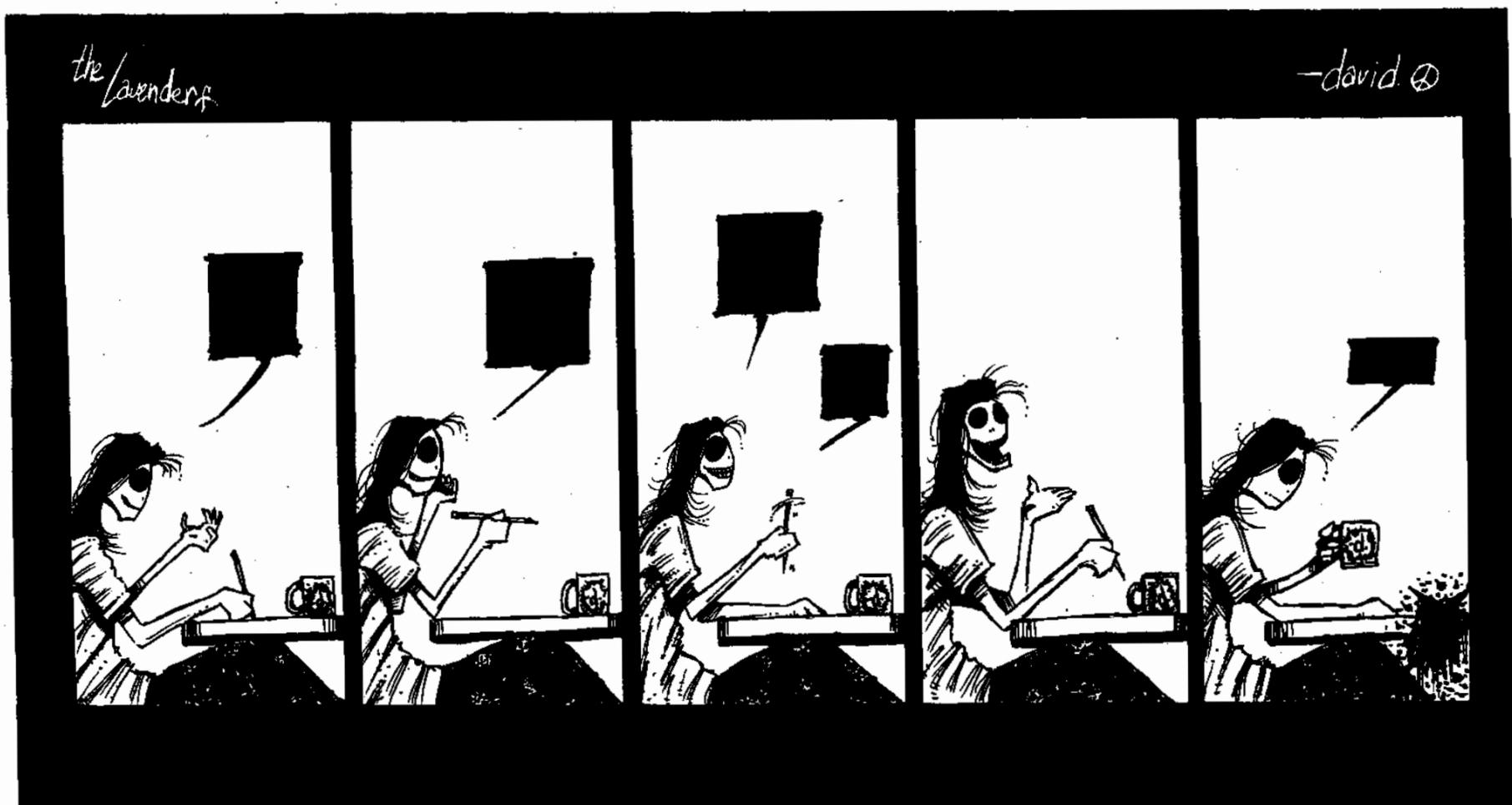
Many times, I wanted to ask the guys on my floor what got them in a wheelchair. Were they born like this? Accident? Disease? I never did, though. I'm basically a bitter person to start with, and asking for any kind of help, aside from financial, is last on my priority list. If I had an accident or was struck by a disease that left me in a wheelchair, I think I'd be the most hateful person on earth. If I had to worry about curbs, stairs, and the million other things handicapped people must deal with every day, I'd be in a basket, not a wheelchair. My own fears make me realize, though, that people who live in wheelchairs are very strong in heart and mind. It's not sympathy or even empathy I feel for the disabled, but sheer respect. Yet, I have not overcome my own fear. While I could work with handicapped people and generally socialize with them, I could not be friends with them.

Before Whitten Hall, I never paid attention to the architectural modifications on behalf of the disabled around the ISU campus—parking

spaces, low-to-the-ground urinals and drinking fountains, ramps, and cut-out curbs. I used to be annoyed by these things. I wondered what use they were if they only benefited a small percentage of the population.

Well, they do benefit the whole so-called able-bodied population. The low-to-the-ground drinking fountains, for example, are nice for small children. A parent who is carrying an armload of groceries doesn't have to pick up the child who wants a drink. The same applies to the urinals. I remember being a little kid and not liking the idea of being held up to use the urinal or toilet. And bicyclers benefit from the cut-out curbs and ramps. Modifications made for the disabled can benefit all of us. But even if this were not true, disabled people deserve the opportunity to get around and live their lives without obstacles. So the next time officials of a government or institution suggest diverting funds to make a building, campus, parking lot, or whatever handicap-accessible, support the effort.

--Phillip Camus





Mental Illness Awareness Week

A tale of two Katys

Once there were two women who were both named Katy. They lived in different apartments a mile from one another and never met, though their stories are similar. Each worked as a waitress, loved her independence, and owned a cat. They liked to read and tended their little gardens on the balconies of their separate apartments. They were both well liked by their neighbors and appeared neat and friendly to all that knew them.

The most striking similarity, however, was yet to come. A sinister disease began to manifest itself in both of their lives. It started when they began to make mistakes at work, and eventually lost their jobs. Some days they were fine, but there were times when the things they imagined seemed more real than the world around them. It frightened them and they worried that they were losing their minds. They were. They were often disorientated and important things were overlooked, like bathing. They sometimes forgot to feed their cats or clean the litter boxes, and their little gardens died of neglect. They had difficulty sleeping and were occasionally seen wandering the neighborhood after midnight. Other times they sat for long periods in their apartment and stared at the walls. Neither could concentrate enough to read, anymore. They forgot to fix meals or eat, even when food was brought to them. Their families worried and suggested they shouldn't be living alone; but both women resisted help, and imagined that those who tried were conspiring against them. Still, when it became obvious to everyone that they could no longer care for themselves, each Katy went to live with family. It didn't work out for either of them. The Katys became more stubborn and irritable, and very impulsive. Occasionally they struck out violently at those who cared the most for them. No one could handle them anymore. Their families took them to see doctors, where each was diagnosed with a severe mental illness and treatment was started.

This is where their stories take different turns. On Katy was moved to a nursing home where

she is today. A full-time staff makes sure that she is cared for. She is treated with dignity even when her mind is far away and her actions inappropriate. Medicaid began to pay for her needs when her own meager funds were depleted. When she tries to leave the home, as she often does, a nurse lovingly guides her back to her room or the solarium where other patients gather to pass the time. It is understood that Katy no longer knows what is best for her, and no one questions her need to be cared for in a restricted and safe environment. There are activities, programs, nourishing meals and snacks. Someone combs her hair, does her nails, and makes sure she takes notes and plan her treatment. Katy is not free—but she is safe, and she is cared for.

Our second Katy was hospitalized immediately, where her treatment began. She was prescribed medications and after three weeks she was released from the hospital through she was far from rational or capable of caring for herself. Her family protested, saying it was too early. After she took her pills for a while, though, she got better. Katy though more clearly and functioned on a limited level. The side effects were troublesome, however, and she began to wonder if she needed the medication. When she went without them for a couple days, she felt more alert and so Katy decided to throw them away. Her family tried to reason with her, but Katy would not accept that she was ill. Conflicts arose that became worse as her symptoms reemerged. She began to hallucinate and sank deeper into her delusions. Her family tried to get her into a group home, but there were none available for someone not taking their medications. When she became unmanageable they called the crisis center to have her readmitted to the hospital. They were told that, since Katy was not suicidal or threatening anyone, she could not be committed against her will. She has a right to do as she wills, they said, as long as she is not hurting anyone else. When her family reasoned that she could not take care of herself, they were told that, since she had food and shelter, no matter who

provides it, she was not in danger. Katy's family tried again to make her take her medications, but it was no use. The pressures of the situation finally erupted in a family argument and Katy left, convinced that they were her enemies.

She had no where to go but the streets and that is where she is today. Though Social Security sends modest disability checks, Katy can't gather the wit to find an apartment, so she sleeps at a shelter at night and eats her meals at a downtown mission. She drinks to deal with the hallucinations and lives in fear that alcohol will be taken away from her. Her family doesn't know where she is most of the time, and when they do make contact, their intentions are suspect. Katy is alone, haunted by the voices she hears and held captive by her delusions. She is afraid of the streets, but more afraid to go home. There is no staff to care for her - no activities and programs, no one to comb her hair and certainly no one to make sure she takes her medication. No caregiver conferences comparing notes and planning treatment. The vagrants on the street are Katy's companions. There is no dignity in the way she lives, and no respect afforded her. Katy's inappropriate words and actions are met with judgmental stares or a turned head, and no one wants to get close to her unwashed body. No nurse lovingly guides her back to safety. She has the right to be crazy.

Both Katys have a severe mental illness and neither understands the nature of her illness or its implications. They both deserve to be cared for in a restricted and safe facility by people who understand their illness and who treat them with dignity. The only difference is in society's perception. The first Katy is 67 and has Alzheimer's disease. We associate Alzheimer's with the vulnerability of age and so we appreciate the fragile nature of her disability and provide for her with our tax dollars.

Our second Katy is 31 and schizophrenic. She is no less vulnerable and her suffering is a national disgrace. She is being discarded by a society that is offended by the pitiful human wreckage that we allow to happen under our noses.

--Treatment Advocacy (TAC) News

Mental Illness week activities

Saturday, October 3, 8:30-11:45 a.m. -- Family Support Conference

The Saturday workshop at BroMenn Conference Center features Dr. John Gergen, psychiatrist, Covenant Hospital in Urbana speaking on "What's New in Medications and Treatment," followed by a question and answer period. Also, a panel of consumers tell their "Journey of Recovery." For more information, call 309/454-4983 or 815/842-1514

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Thursday, October 8, Depression Screening Day

National Depression Screening Day is sponsored locally by the Mental Health Illness Awareness Week, October 4-10. Participants who attend the screening hear an educational presentation about depression, a written screening test, review the test results with a clinician and receive a referral, if appropriate. Screenings will be available in Spanish, and possibly Japanese and Mandarin. Please call ahead for the times when multilingual therapists will be available at 309/438-5096.

Saturday, October 10, Mental Illness Awareness Walk and Vigil

The 1998 Walk along Constitution Trail begins at the Colene House parking lot off Grandview Drive at 11:00 a.m. A brief Vigil will be held at the half-way point in recognition for those whose lives ended prematurely due to a brain disorder. It will be conducted by Jill Terwillinger, Unitarian Church. The purpose of the walk and vigil is to increase awareness of brain disorders, to show support for those with brain disorders, to improve their quality of life, and to raise money for research. Refreshments will be available.

Persons who turn in \$50 or more on or before the Walk will receive a Free 1998 "Discovery to Recovery T-Shirt.

These colorful "Walk" shirts are also available for purchase at \$12 each.

MIAW Activities are sponsored by NAMI of Livingston and McLean County, the Depressit and Manic Depressive Support Group, BroMem Hospital, Mental health Association of McLean County, McLean County Center for Human Services and the Institute of Human Resources of Livingston County.

Local politicians and worker bills

As the Illinois legislature closed session in late May, local Republican representatives maintained their average, voting only once with labor, and that one vote came on a bill that drew almost unanimous support.

The Illinois AFL-CIO followed five votes in the Illinois House, three in the Illinois Senate, The one bill that reached bipartisan, nearly unanimous support was improving teacher pensions, which Bloomington's Senator John Maitland (44th District), Bloomington's state Representative Bill Brady (88th District) and Pontiac's Dan Rutherford (87th) district, all supported.

In the House Brady and Rutherford voted against extending public employee collective bargaining rights to towns with fewer than 35 employees; against expanding the Illinois Family and Medical Leave Act, which grants unpaid leave to care for sick family members; against union rights for University of Illinois/Springfield professors; and against contractors for faulty scaffolding. Construction deaths have increased 40 percent in Illinois since the repeal of the Scaffolding Act in 1995.

At the Illinois Senate

In the Illinois Senate Maitland voted to appoint Douglas Stevenson to the Illinois

Industrial Commission, which oversees workers' compensation.

Stevenson was reprimanded by the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Council for unethical behavior and for trying to "starve workers into small settlements." He also voted to impose a 3/5 supermajority to raise taxes, hampering the states ability to handle crises.

In the U.S. Congress

Over in Washington, D.C., both Democratic senators, Carol Moseley-Braun and Dick Durbin, supported labor in stopping a bill which would have forbade union voices and lobbying on political issues.

Congressman Tom Ewing, who represents the Bloomington-Pontiac-Champaign area, maintained his consistent lifetime "0" voting record for labor. Ewing voted to silence union lobby efforts and against the construction trades. Union construction trades have been winning new members by "salting" non-union jobs - union members working non-union to recruit members. Ewing voted to make that tactic illegal.

In contrast to Ewing, Republicans Reps. Ray LaHood, (Peoria), John Shimkus (Springfield) and Jerry Weller (Joliet), voted with labor to allow salting and a union voice in politics. Democrat Lane Evans (Rock Island) also supported the union movement, keeping his lifetime average for labor at 97 percent.

--Union News
August 1998

**Review Lists
35 side affects of the War on Drugs**

1. International piracy
2. International kidnapping
3. Mining of harbors
4. Poisoning of forests with herbicides
5. De stabilization of Columbia, Peru, Panama, and Nicaragua
6. Funding anti-government terrorism
7. Iran-Contra Scandal
8. BCCI Scandal
9. Punishment of the user
10. Drug testing
11. Confiscation of property-civil forfeiture
12. Default vigilantism of neighbors forced into using small claims court
13. Funding of police operations with proceeds from seized property
14. Entrapment with police offering to buy drugs
15. Entrapment with police offering to sell drugs
16. Entrapment with police manufacturing drugs
17. Encouraging children to turn parents in to police for drug involvement
18. Taking babies away from mother who test positive for drugs
19. No-knock entry and other civil rights attenuation
20. Driver's license suspension for unrelated drug crimes
21. Expulsion from public housing
22. Exclusion from Medicare and Medicaid
23. Adverse drug reactions from depriving of safer medicinal cannabis

24. Dumbing down of medical research
25. Degradation of physician patient trust
26. Stigmatizing
27. Warrantless systematic searches on public transportation
28. Mandatory minimum sentences derived from irrational formulae
29. Class and racial inequality in application of laws
30. Overcrowding jails, prisons, and probation
31. Setting up growing supplies store to entrap cannabis growers
32. Obtaining public utility records to target potential cannabis growers
33. Militarization at state and federal levels
34. Downgrading evidence requirements to "good faith" from probable cause
- 35 Depriving students of federal loans and grants

--From an article by Tod Mikuriya, M.D. in Drug Sense Weekly

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Exposing the high cost of Capital

"Every dollar we spend on a capital case is a dollar we can't spend elsewhere....We have to let the public know what it costs."--Connecticut Chief State's Attorney, John M. Bailey

This comment by Mr. Bailey, who is a supporter of capital punishment, is at the center of an ongoing debate about the cost of the death penalty. Many judges, prosecutors, and other state and federal officials have joined with those questioning the wisdom of continuing to impose the death penalty in light of its exorbitant costs.

A recent federally funded study by Duke University in 1993 concluded that the average capital case costs an extra \$2.16 million per execution, compared to what tax payers would have spent if the same defendants were tried without the death penalty and sentenced to natural life in prison. Nationally, these figures mean that last year, when 74 prisoners were executed, this country spent \$160 million for the privilege of executing these men. It also means that since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, this country has spent \$933 million more to carry out executions than it would have cost to simply imprison the same prisoners for life. As former Texas Attorney General, Jim Mattox noted: "Life without parole could save millions of dollars. In other words, it's cheaper to lock 'em up and throw away the key....As violent crime continues to escalate, it's something to consider."

The death penalty in this country is not cheap. The United States Supreme Court has repeated ruled that because "death is different," that much higher levels of procedural safeguards required by the Constitution before it may be imposed. What this means in practical terms is quite lengthy, complex, and extremely expensive litigation with many years spent in various state and federal courts. In contrast, sentences of life without the possibility of release are far less complex, and many times are not appealed beyond the state level.

To begin with, it should be noted that the added expenses of a capital trial, whatever they may be, will be incurred whenever the death penalty is sought, regardless of the final outcome. It's not just the cost of one persons trial and appeals. That would be comparable to saying that the cost of landing a man on the moon is the cost of the fuel for the one rocket that brought him there--failed attempts must also be factored into that equation. The added expenses inherent in a capital trial occur regardless of the ultimate outcome. Now consider this one: One, the majority of defendants charged with a capital crime are never sentenced to death. Two, approximately 40% of all death sentences imposed are overturned for constitutional errors by state or federal appeals courts. And three, an expose in The Sun News of South Carolina, "The High Cost of Pursuing the Death Penalty," (May 1, 1994), found that nationally only one out of eleven defendants sentenced to death are likely to actually be executed. Every capital case sought, but not resulting in an execution, drains an enormous amount of taxpayer dollars.

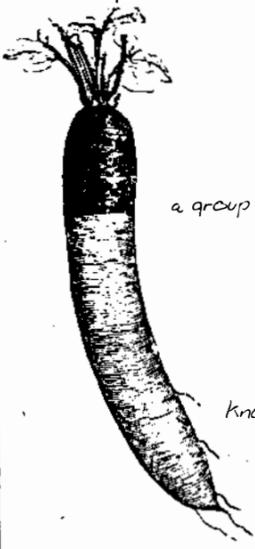
It should be noted that the bulk of the expense in capital cases occur at the trial level. Many people believe that the high cost of the death penalty comes from "endless appeals." But every study conducted has found that the trials themselves produce the largest share of capital costs. The Duke study found that the trial costs alone were about \$200,000 more for each death sentence imposed than if no death penalty had been sought.

Ultimately a capital case costs far more than a non-capital case. The added complexity and expense begins well before the trial itself. For example, it is far more costly for both the prosecution and the defense to investigate capital cases. The crime itself must be thoroughly investigated by both the prosecution, which must prove the existence of an aggravating factor needed to obtain a death sentence, and the defense, which must be prepared to argue in mitigation of such a

sentence. Evidence must be prepared as to the defendants entire family background, including childhood, mental and psychological conditions, family relationships, employment history, prior arrests and convictions, medical history, and much more. And because most capital defendants are indigent, the cost of preparing this evidence, both for the state to obtain the death sentence, and for the defense to avoid the death sentence, almost always will be paid by the taxpayer.

Pretrial proceedings are both numerous and more complex. Because there is a whole body of Eighth Amendment law that pertains specifically to capital cases, far more lengthy pretrial motions are required to be heard and ruled on by the court. The process of jury selection is also far more complex and time consuming in a capital case, where there are enhanced constitutional implications regarding pretrial publicity, racial prejudice, and other areas of possible juror bias. In cases where pretrial publicity has affected potential jurors, the considerable added expense of a change of venue must be incurred. In addition, jurors must be put through a complex series of questions designed to determine whether they are excludable for various reasons such as they could not impose the death sentence due to religious convictions, or they would automatically impose the death sentence if guilt was found.

Other areas of considerable expense include the trials themselves, which is divided into two phases--one to determine guilt, the other to determine sentence--and which makes capital trials much longer than non-capital trials. Then there is the appeals process, which is constitutionally mandated, along with the extensive and expensive collateral proceedings--all of which result in approximately 40% of all death sentences being overturned and returned to the lower courts for retrial. And finally, let's not forget the cost of maintaining "super-max" security on death rows, clemency hearings (and all that goes into preparing for





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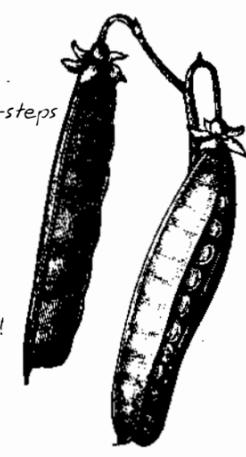
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Punishment

them--both for the state and the defense), and the cost of the execution itself (preparation, execution, and crowd control).

So what does it all cost? You will be surprised, if not totally shocked:

Florida has spent \$57.2 million as of 1987 (the latest figures I could find, the actual figures are much higher now a decade later) on the death penalty. The cost of keeping an inmate in prison for life, estimated at 40 years, is approximately \$500,000. But Florida, as of 1987, had spent at least \$3.2 million for each prisoner it had executed--six times the cost of life imprisonment. (Source: The Miami Herald, July 10, 1988)

Texas estimates that a single death penalty case costs the taxpayers an average of \$2.3 million, about three times the cost of imprisoning someone in a single cell at the highest security level for 40 years. (Source: The Dallas Morning News, March 8, 1992)

California estimates that capital trials are six times more costly than other non-capital trials. They estimate that each death penalty case has cost at least \$1 million to prosecute so far (this figure does not include defense costs). It has been estimated that the taxpayers have spent more than a billion dollars on legal and political battles over the death penalty since 1977. (Source: The Sacramento Bee, September 5, 1993)

North Carolina found that a death penalty trial takes about four times longer than a non-capital trial, that less than one-third of all capital trials end in a death sentence, and that the trial costs alone were about \$200,000 more for each capital case. It costs the taxpayers approximately \$2,16 million more per execution, than it would to simply lock the same defendant up for life by not pursuing the death penalty. (Source: The Sun News, May 1, 1994)

The use of the death penalty results in an enormous diversion of funds from areas where they could be more effectively utilized. For example, in 1991 New Jersey was forced to lay off more than 500 police officers. At that same time it was implementing a new death penalty statute that cost an estimated \$16 million per year--more than enough to hire the same number of officers at a salary of \$30,000 per year.

In Florida a 1990 mid-budget cut of \$45 million to the Department of Corrections forced the early release of over 3,000 inmates. However, by 1988, Florida had already spent \$57.2 million to execute 18 people. Ten other capital punishment states have been forced into the early release of prisoners due to overcrowding and underfunding.

New York has recently reinstated capital punishment, but one study estimates that the money it would take to implement the death penalty for the first five years alone would be enough to fund 250 additional police officers and build prison cells for 6,000 new inmates.

A number of judges, prosecutors, and other law enforcement officials oppose the death penalty for precisely these grounds, believing the enormous concentration of judicial services on a relatively handful of cases--most of which, ultimately will result in life imprisonment--needlessly diverts valuable and increasingly scarce resources from other, more effective, areas of law enforcement.

In Sierra County, California, the local government was forced to cut police services in 1988 to pick up the tab of pursuing death penalty prosecutions. the County's District Attorney, James Reichle, complained: "If we didn't have to pay \$500,000 a pop for Sacramento's murders, I'd have an investigator and the sheriff would have a couple of extra deputies and we could do some lasting good for Sierra County law enforcement. The sewage system at the courthouse is failing, a bridge collapsed, there's no county library, no county park, and we have a volunteer fire and volunteer search and rescue."

In Orange County, California, Vanda Bresnan, who manages the criminal courts, questioned: "Even though I do believe in the Death penalty, I wonder how long the state or county can afford it?" And Gary Proctor, an attorney from the same county notes: "What I see happening is that other services--such as libraries and parks--are being cut back. People are not aware of the tradeoffs." And he added: "Strong beliefs are easy enough to hold if you don't think they're coming out of your pocket."

Dallas County District Attorney, Norman Kinne, expressed his frustration at the high cost of capital punishment prosecutions in Texas: "Even though I'm a firm believer in the death penalty, I also understand what the cost is. If you can be satisfied with putting a person in the penitentiary for the rest of his life...I think that maybe we have to be satisfied with that as opposed to spending \$1 million to try to get them executed...I think we could use [the money] better for additional penitentiary space, rehabilitation efforts, drug rehabilitation, education, [and] especially devote a lot of attention to juveniles."

In Houston, Texas, Judge Doug Shaver agrees: "When the law was changed so that

defendants can be sentenced to 40 years flat time [as an alternative to death], and when you start taking into account what the taxpayers are getting for their money, it seems like some defendants should be tried without the death penalty."

In Oregon, the Chief Criminal Judge, James Ellis came to a similar conclusion: "Whether you are for it or against it [capital punishment], I think the fact is that Oregon simply can't afford it."

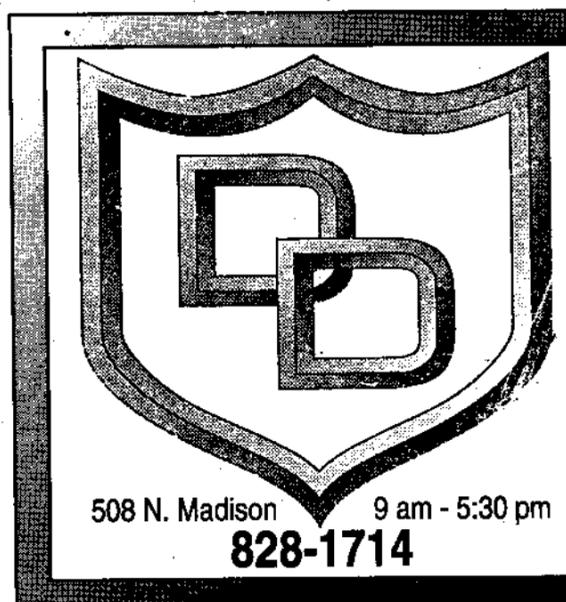
The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, James Exum stated: "I think those of us involved in prosecuting these [death penalty] cases have this uneasy notion that...these cases are very time-consuming and very troublesome and take a lot of resources that might be better spent on other kinds of crimes."

Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger agrees, stating: "We need major criminal justice and court reform now to address the crisis in our criminal justice system. The death penalty, however, has no place in this reform effort. It is a simplistic, arbitrary, misguided, ineffective and costly response, cloaked in the guise of a remedy to the brutalizing violence that angers and frustrates us all."

As Vincent Perini of the Texas Bar Association notes: "There's some things that a modern American city and state have got to have. You have to have police and fire and public safety protection. You have to have a criminal justice system. You do not have to have the death penalty. The death penalty in criminal justice is a kind of luxury item. It's an add-on; it's an optional item when you buy your criminal justice vehicle."

Our politicians often leap at the chance that the death penalty gives them to sound tough on crime. But what they are actually doing is playing on the strong feelings of anxiety, anger,

cont.



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and frustration to most people feel towards the seemingly uncontrollable plague of crime that our country is currently experiencing. They hold out capital punishment as a meaningful and effective solution to violent crime, while at the same time, more effective and vital services to the community are being sacrificed. The public should not allow themselves to be fooled by such political rhetoric. There are programs that do work to reduce crime--community policing, neighborhood watch programs, educational and recreational programs, juvenile mentor programs, etc.--but the resources to pay for such programs are increasingly being diverted into the black hole of capital punishment costs.

There is no simple "quick fix" for our crime problems today. Our politicians should be working to find real and lasting solutions to our problems with crime. Simple solutions such as more police, more prosecutors, more judges, and more prison cells, all of which could be funded simply with the money saved from abolishing capital punishment and replacing it with sentences of life without the possibility of release. And we, the public, need to allow our

politicians to implement this necessary reform by realizing that being sensible about crime is not the same thing as being "soft" on crime.

The situation was perhaps best summed up by now-retired Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John Dixon when he stated: "The people have a constitutional right to the death penalty and we will do our best to make it work rationally. But you can see what it is doing. Capital punishment is destroying the system."

What can you do? You can get involved, for no justice is done if everyone leaves the work of justice to everyone else. There are numerous local, state, and national organizations working hard to abolish the death penalty in this country. They need your help and support.

For a list of these organizations send \$3.00 for your copy of **The Abolitionist's Directory** to: The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, 1436 "U" Street, NW-Suite #104; Washington, DC 20009. Or call them at (202)387-3390. And please tell them that Michael Ross sent you. Together we can make a difference.

Author's note: I am a condemned man on Connecticut's death row. I have been on death row since June of 1987. I am currently under a stay of execution pending the resolution of the appeals process. I expect to be executed before the year 2000.

--by Michael B. Ross #127404
Death Row --Northern C.I.
P.O. Box #665
Somers, CT 06071

Do as I say...

"Public media should not contain explicit or implied descriptions of sex acts. Our society should be purged of the perverts who provide the media with pornographic material while pretending it has some redeeming social value under the public's 'right to know.'"

(Kenneth Starr, 1987, "Sixty Minutes")

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Notes from the Land of Anti-fat

The PETA principle

Sometimes the people you most expect to be receptive to you turn out to be the least.

Case in point: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The animals rights group, PETA, has begun a fat bashing campaign in the name of promoting a vegetarian lifestyle. Taking the specious premise that meat and cheese eating inevitably leads to obesity, PETA has been flying anti-fat messages over the Florida beaches this summer. "Eating veggies is the best way to get less bounce for the ounce," the group's explanatory press release notes. As if having the aforementioned "bounce" were the worst that could happen to ya.

Pandering to the fat phobia that fuels eating disorders and low self-esteem may not seem like the most sensitive way to sell vegetarianism, but PETA appears committed to this approach. Also reportedly in the works: a print ad featuring a fat man holding a burger capped with the message, "Don't be a Whopper." Now there's a message guaranteed to warm the cockles of the multi-billion dollar diet industry!

With their new campaign, PETA has essentially spit in the face of fat adults: many within PETA's own constituency. Go to any dog or car show and count the number of plus-sized attendees. Sheer eyeballing will reveal that there are plenty of fat men and women who are also committed to animal rights. Some, no doubt, are already vegetarians.

All of this seems like the cheesiest type of calculation. I can just visualize some media

type telling the group, "Look, promoting the healthy aspects of vegetarianism won't cut it - you've got to scare the American public. Let's tell 'em that eating meat will make 'em fatter!" Fear, an adman's best friend.

As someone who can enjoy a Green Harvest Burger with the best of 'em, I'm not going to get into any Vegetarian vs. Omnivore arguments. That's not the point. What's at issue is the way that fat stereotyping and faulty science have been used to bolster an otherwise viable point-of-view. Not a very ethical way to treat the human animal, think I.

(If you'd like to email PETA to express your thoughts on this new campaign, the contact is: peta@norfolk.infi.net.)

Monica Moonshine

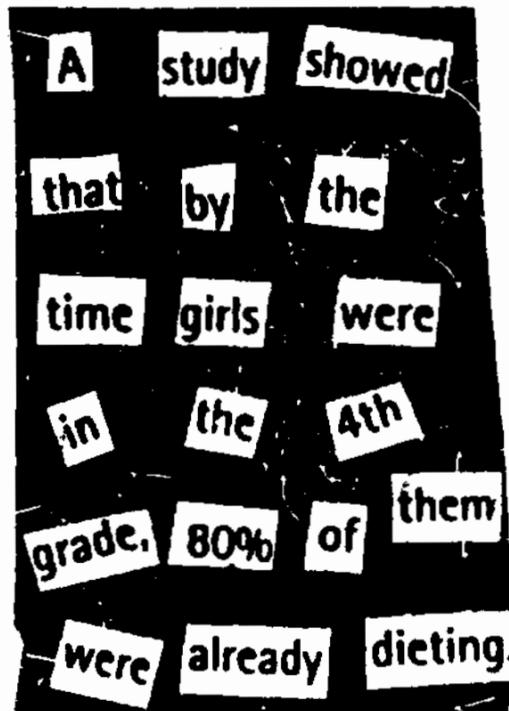
I don't have a whole lotta indignation to spare on the Bill Clinton/Monica Lewinski brouhaha (privileged white guy in a position of power lies to the American people - gee, what're the odds?) But there is one aspect of the whole controversy that repeatedly fries my hash: it's when comedians or commentators refer to Monica as "fat."

Monica Lewinski "fat"? This is the kinda nonsense that bolsters eating disorders and moronic PETA campaigns. Has the English language grown so debased that the only way we can refer to a normal-sized American woman

is to call her fat? Whatever happened to "pleasingly plump"?

This is not some misguided attempt to replace the word "fat" with something more P-C. I love the word "fat." I can even be titillated by the idea of our Chief Executive carrying on an affair with a genuine fat vixen. But Monica ain't fat. Maybe she was back in high school (when she was playing Ethel Tofflemeyer in "The Music Man") but these days, I'm sorry, the adjective just doesn't apply. If we know nothing else for certain in this entire sorry story, we know that for a fact.

(Notes from the Land of Anti-Fat can now be read on the web at <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Square/8362>. It's the same stuff you just read, but, hey, doesn't it look so much more convincing on a computer monitor? Thanx to "Wilson Barbers" Haus O Fun for giving up some bytes for us!)



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as it
waves beats flows along

improvisational music
always changing
shifting building
ebbing flowing

improvisational music
simple can be beautiful

improvisational music
there are no wrong notes

improvisational music
it's all in the rhythm

improvisational music
have as many different
instruments as you can
and play each one

improvisational music
keep changing instruments
so that each jam
comes from a different
instrumental space

improvisational music
if you can
record the music
and afterwards
listen to what you've just created
that is one
of the special joys
of being a musician

improvisational music
it will surprise you

improvisational music
it is music for music's sake

improvisational music
it can be
as simple and innocent
as child's play
or as complex
as can be
imagined

improvisational music
it can be emotionally healing

improvisational music
do at least
some of the music
unplugged
the lower the tech
the more music

improvisational music
if you can
have some ancient
tribal instruments
at hand
they add emotion
richness and depth
to the music
as nothing else can

improvisational music
explore softness
there are subtleties
and harmonics possible
in soft music
that can't be heard
at higher volumes
then build to the power
that only comes
with louder sound

improvisational music
anyone can do it

improvisational music
anyone can do it

improvisational music
anyone can do it

improvisational music
simple lines of music
weaving together
sometimes
sound wonderful
and sometimes
everyone is kind of
wandering alone
or searching for each other
but even those times
are sometimes
very interesting
in their own way

improvisational music
and sometimes
the searchings and wanderings
come together
in a moment
and everyone goes off
in an unexpected
and sometimes amazing
musical direction

improvisational music
rhythm and melody
harmony and dissonance
point and counterpoint
weaving together
and blending into ever changing
patterns of sound

improvisational music
sometimes
use non-lyrical vocal toning
nowords
the voice as an instrument
other times
use your own words

improvisational music
it's risky
take the risk

improvisational music
and when recording
there are going to be
mistakes made
and some beginnings
and endings
will be ragged
this is improvisational music
after all
no hits
without some misses

improvisational music
it is a journey
and a journey takes time
and gives experience along the way
be patient with each other
and don't be too critical
of yourself

improvisational music
it can be
one of the funnest things
you can do

improvisational music
and everyone gets
a copy of the tape
so that after awhile
you begin to build up
a collection
of original creations
that you have been
a part of
after awhile
it can become
an important part
of the sound track
of your own life

improvisational music
and sometimes
while playing
the energy will flow through you
seemingly
effortlessly
and those are moments
that are close to ecstasy
and deeply profound

improvisational music
it is the creation
of beauty
and this poor sad old world
needs all the beauty
it can get

improvisational music
improvisational music
improvisational music

--by Gregg Brown

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Page

A Perfect Dress

for my little friend, Renee

You didn't know where you lived, and as far as you were concerned, your home was under a tree and the bathroom was in a sandwich shop across the street: the shelter was somewhere down the street and was called Promises.

The only promise was for a shower if you showed proper identification, but you haven't been identified in this world yet, so you were given a number to get you in the door when your home loses its leaves and your blanket doesn't shine.

The only friend you had wanted the shirt off your back and was responsible for the holes in your shirt and the bruise on your face, so you made friends with the grass and caterpillars and me that just happened to be there.

Your life looked so free: the grass you played on was greener to me, but the road I drove on was greener to you and was where you wanted to be when all I wanted was to be free.

There was a reason why I wrapped that awful brownie in napkins that morning in the coffee shop and slipped it in my bag while the frequenters looked at me like passersby look at you.

I knew when I watched you devour it down to your fingers, and with the look on your face among the images of the faces in the coffee shop, I could laugh at your remark that it was a "crappy" brownie.

After I pulled out the warm pop from my bag, I had to pause, for you asked me if I had a red tricycle with three wheels in my car that I could give to you, but I couldn't think of one shiny enough to fit your personality.

All I could think of was a perfect dress to match your golden hair, but you thought my daily-wear flannel smelled like new and would do for you if you could just have it: it would be more than the dresses you never had.

Now I look back and wonder why you sat in the grass next to me after running around me and asked me to sing you a song when you knew full well of the strangers and strange people you would rather avoid on the streets.

So we played, and I was the first to teach you to tumble in the grass and clap for you when you almost did a cartwheel: I must have been the first you came up to who took the time to sing you a song.

I wanted to leave and come back with that perfect dress and watch you for a while doing cartwheels in the grass.

But when I did leave, my grass wasn't as green any more and I wasn't as free. Then I saw that perfect dress and thought back to spinning you around in the grass until we both fell down.

I found that perfect dress and went back the next day, but you weren't barefoot in the grass: you weren't there. I went back the day after and then the next and then days after that, each time with the perfect dress in my hands.

It's been so long that I can no longer see your beautiful smile golden-framed by your hair, but I can imagine a beautiful girl in the perfect dress running around and tumbling in the grass that was no longer green.

I can only hope now that you are doing cartwheels in the green grass in front of a new home running around in some beautiful dress, and maybe one day, you will think back and remember the day when someone taught you a cartwheel and clapped for you when you almost had it.

I know from this day on I will think back to the day we played in the green grass, and I will have that perfect dress to remind me of what you gave to me and what I can give to you.

--Amreen Khan

I met a beautiful, four year old girl on the lawn of the Old Courthouse one Sunday afternoon who knew of car alarms, purse snatchers and parking tickets in the downtown area, but did not know about zip-lock bags, candy stores and dresses. Right here, in our own town of Bloomington, she doesn't have a dress or a closet to keep it in: she doesn't have a home. As you walk in the downtown area, maybe to the bars or coffee shops or even to work, you may not notice the kids playing around the courthouse with their families sitting out on the picnic benches whom have nowhere else to go. For these kids, that is their life, and this is how they live. Because it is a small town, our big city problems are even bigger.

Women seeking women

I am out of the closet. Who else is like me? Please write me. I am lonesome.

--pwe123

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cont.

Send Supplies

The fridge is stocked with Sadness.
 The cupboard's full of Pain.
 The coffee reeks of Madness
 and the tea is made from rain.
 I keep a piece of Confidence
 in the top left dresser drawer.
 It's locked up safe from Loneliness
 'till I make it to the store.
 I've made up a new shopping list.
 It has everything I need.
 From Peace of Mind to a cup of Bliss
 and Love that grows from seeds.
 But I can't escape the shell I'm in.
 I just can't seem to leave.
 I'd really like to start again.
 But I can't get a reprieve.
 They won't deliver anymore.
 They say I'm too far gone.
 And I really can't get past the door.
 I think that something's wrong.
 The spice rack's full of Bitterness
 and the recipe's call for a Smile.
 I know one was left by a long ago guest,
 but it hasn't been seen in awhile.
 My Heart is asleep in the freezer.
 My Joy is decayed in the hall.
 My Spirit's come down with a fever.
 My Teardrops are staining the walls.
 I'm trying to capture a Wish or two.
 They were making a break for the door.
 I'm hoping that they'll see me through
 just 'till I get to the store.

--Written by barbie dockstader
 June 24th, 1998

Mirage

Heat, heat
 beat the heat.
 Heat waves shimmering on the black top.
 Degree days, El Nino, El Nina, global warming, heat.
 Muggy, humid, dripping, oppressive, heat.
 Dry heat, sucking the essence from your spirit, heat.
 Honest sweat left to the poor.
 O'Lordy. It's hot, a nation of thermal shutins worshipping
 a new diety, the almighty airconditioning unit.
 Families gather at the summer hearth.
 Why plant deciduous trees? When you can flip a switch.
 Flip a switch, and erase southern breeze ways.
 The folks inside now, their porches empty.
 Heat, heat, beat the heat.
 Children frying eggs on mommy's car.
 Country kids fly off Tarzan swings into creeks.
 City kids dance, and dash in and out of open fire hydrants.
 Ice cube chewing, paper fan waving, brow wiping, heat.
 Hot sweaty summer love making, body heat.
 Heat, heat, desert winds, deserted streets.
 Damn hot, hot as hell, scorching, blistering hot.
 Police delivering fans, and bottled water to America's
 forgotten, when not using heat seeking devices.
 Border patrol say, *Hey!* You'll die, if you try to
 come bathe in our air conditioning.
 Climate control, destroying our climate.
 Heat, heat, beat the heat.
 Heat.

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick
 1998

Dinner time-- Fairfield's rattlesnake pen

"I am CancerRat.
 You, Rattlesnake,"
 Hissing, Slapping his tail
 Not nearly as loud as the rattling Rattlesnake rattle
 Rattlesnake shut him up.

Venom needle daggers inject
 Hot honey
 Quick as John Hancock
 Signing his name.

Rattlesnake waits
 Coiled in patience
 In the corner,
 Waiting to slither
 Over There
 Unhinge his jaws
 & turn that rat to shit.

--Stephen C. Zimmerly

Cloudlet#77

little piggy in a cornsack
 don't know what to do

little piggy in a cornsack
 could be me or could be you

--Stephen C. Zimmerly

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Cloudlet's high as the moon digression

I am high as the holy moon, St. Teresa above me like a crucifix in a holy whore house. Counting & praying on her holy rosary, thank you Father for holy rain. I ask sister, did you ever pray to holy Mother? I don't mean Mary, but MotherEarth. I plainly see your tight focus upon holy Jesus, always gagging down a holy spoonful of cross agony.

I am high as the moon, holy St. Teresa above me like a holy crucifix in a whore house. Counting & praying on her holy rosary, thank you Father for holy shelter. I ask sister, did you ever pray for a holy orgasm? Teresa, I hope you rolled in the ecstasy of holy abandon, the warmth of holy arms, the close beat of holy hearts. I see your saintly little deaths deflecting holy pouring pain rain.

I am high as the moon, St. Teresa above me like a crucifix in a whore house. Counting & holy praying on her rosary, Thank you father for holy daily bread. I ask sister, did you pray for everything but the girl?

I am high as the moon, St. Teresa above me like a crucifix in a whore house. Counting & praying on her rosary, thank you Father for Love. I ask sister, didn't the Pope need you to be a saint? St. Teresa of the Holy Condom.

I am high as the moon, St. Teresa above me like a crucifix in a whore house. I hear through the wall, John Paul muttering while wadding up five squares of holy toilet paper—"Thank God Mother Teresa was there to hold the unwanted. Now what, God? You assassinated Lady Di, as well. HOLY SHIT, I need a miracle."

--Stephen C. Zimmerly

Gay liberation before Stonewall

Although June 27, 1969, the night of the riot in front of the Stonewall Inn in New York City (commonly known as Stonewall or the Stonewall Rebellion) is commonly referred to as the beginning of the modern gay civil rights movement, there is a rich history of gay and lesbian pioneers who fought for equality even before that fateful night.

The first known organization in the United States to advocate gay and lesbian equality was the Society for Human Rights. This group was founded in 1924 by Henry Gerber. It lasted less than a year, disbanded after nine members were jailed following a complaint by the wife of one member.

Following World War II, there was a rekindling of gay and lesbian organizing (perhaps due to the fact that many gay men and lesbians found themselves among like company in the military, in spite of its official ban on gays in uniform). One of these groups was the Mattachine Society, founded in Los Angeles in 1950 by, among others, Harry Hay (perhaps the best known early pioneer of gay and lesbian equality). Mattachines, literally, "little fools," were court jesters who dressed as women and performed songs and spiritual rights in 13th and 14th century Spain and France.

Yet another group that started in Los Angeles was ONE, Inc., founded in 1952. This group was more overtly academic or intellectual in nature than was the Mattachine Society. ONE, Inc. produced a journal which eventually came under attempted censorship by the U.S. Postal Service. The group successfully challenged that attempt and established the right of gay and lesbian organizations to distribute materials through the mail. In 1956, ONE, Inc. established the ONE Institute for Homophile Studies and began offering forums, public lectures and classes related to gay and lesbian topics. The organization also maintained an extensive library with materials from around the world that dealt with homosexuality.

The first national lesbian organization, the Daughters of Bilitis, was established in 1955 in San Francisco. The name of this organization comes from Pierre Louys's poem, "Song of Bilitis," in which Bilitis is a lesbian on the isle of Lesbos with Sapho. At the time, the Daughters of Bilitis was formed primarily as a social alternative to bars. However, the early founders were also interested in offering education and advocacy for and about lesbians. In 1956, they began publishing a monthly magazine and shortly thereafter, new chapters were formed in Los Angeles and New York and soon thereafter in other cities.

--from QCAD News

The Earth changes are here

Last June, three Hopi elders were interviewed on Art Bell's radio talk show "Coast to Coast AM." The interview lasted four hours. They talked of the prophecy of their people, and the message that prophecy has for our world.

I believe the message that they shared can be summed down to 4 key points:

1. The period of "Earth changes" spoken of in the prophecies has begun. Those changes are happening around us now and will intensify rapidly.

2. Though those changes are not, at this time, avoidable; what we do still matters. Right action can ameliorate, to some degree, their affects.

So what can we do? What constitutes right action?

3. On an inward level: pray.

4. On an outward level: live a simple life.

I believe that the Hopi's message is essentially true.

Our industrialized economy has simply inflicted too much harm on the natural world for it to continue for much longer. At lower levels of power, such as we had available in

previous centuries, the affect of wrong thinking was relatively limited. But, with the great power that modern technology has given us, we become capable of inflicting unlimited harm. And that is just about what we have done.

The bad signs are all around us. Bottled water, sunscreen, and irradiated food to name three. But that is not to be taken as an excuse for irresponsibility. What we do does still matter. We have vitally important inner and outer work to do.

By purifying and simplifying our lives, as the Hopi advise, we reduce our impact on the planet and its life-system to sustainable levels.

It is time for us to begin to walk in beauty on the good red road. For reference I suggest The Book of the Hopi by Frank Waters, Black Dawn/Bright Day by Sun Bear, Last Cry by Robert Ghost wolf, and In the Absence of the Sacred: The Failure of Technology and the Survival of the Indian Nations by Jerry Mander.

--Peace
Gregg Brown



News from Voice

Prominent Pro-Choice activist and reproductive health professional dies

Liz Karlin provided abortion care in Madison, WI. She worked hard helping Medical Students for Choice get off the ground. She died of a brain tumor (she was in her early 50's). This is the article she wrote which was published in the NYT Magazine on Sunday, March 19, 1995.

I don't do abortions because it's a filthy job and somebody has to do it. I do them because it is the most challenging medicine I can think of. I provide women with nurturing, preventive care to counteract a violent religious and political environment. I hope to do it well enough to prevent repeat abortions. Like coronary artery surgery, an abortion is a response to things gone wrong. It is not the underlying disease. Ignoring the disease is bad medicine.

There is only one reason I've ever heard for having an abortion: the desire to be a good mother. Women know when we don't have the resources to be the mother we expect to be. Those resources may be lacking because of rape, incest, alcohol, youth, poverty or an abusive relationship, but the resulting despair is the same. Women have abortions because they are aware of the overwhelming responsibility of motherhood. Of course, the punishers will have to continue escalating the penalty for abortion. Violence, or even the thought of an eternity in hell, is nothing compared to a woman's own despair over an unwanted pregnancy.

I don't know what the punishers will do when they read this, but it will be something. They've invaded my block carrying grisly pictures of full-term stillbirths with decapitated heads. They've jumped out at me when I walk my dogs at night. Once they invited extremists from around the country to march around my house seven times praying, in the hope that the house would fall down -- a Jericho march. They plagued my mother, who was then 86 years old, with hang-up calls every three minutes for two days. (She finally said: Thank you for your calls. You know how lonely we old ladies get. I'll expect your call in exactly three minutes. That was the end of that.) They sent hundreds of postcards to medical facilities in Wisconsin, proclaiming that I am an abortionist, with both my home and office addresses and phone numbers. They've invaded my office, repeatedly glued my locks shut and vandalized my office building. In some places now, they shoot to kill.

Paradoxically, many of my patients come from among those groups who scream loudest against abortion. The counselor in our office often opens her interview by asking, 'So, how long have you been pro-choice?' Laughter and the answer, 'About 10 minutes,' is the healthiest response. 'I still don't believe in abortion,' some women say, unaware that refusal to take responsibility for the decision means that I won't do the procedure.

From our questionnaire, we know that Catholic women are significantly over represented among those seeking abortions. Every Catholic woman who comes to my office believes she is the unique, shameful exception. About 6 percent of my patients come from actively protesting, anti-abortion families, and 90 percent have said, 'I would never have an abortion.' Such a statement has two meanings: 'I would never let my life or relationship...be such a mess that I would need an abortion.' And, 'I am not like those bad women having abortions.' What they are telling me is, 'This abortion is different.' My response is: 'I'm sorry, but I only know how to do one kind of abortion -- the kind that results when your heart sinks when you discover you are pregnant and the despair won't go away. If that's not the kind you want, leave now.'

Most doctors don't know much about abortion. This is not only because they have little or no exposure in medical school or residency, but also because 75 percent of women who see us don't tell their doctors they are having abortions -- even when the doctor's ignorance about birth control was directly responsible for the unwanted pregnancy. Women who come to this abortion provider are expected to discuss their predisposition to unwanted pregnancy. We offer a soothing and safe environment to women who have come to expect humiliation. When we provide a full range of medical care and respect, we see a lower than expected repeat abortion rate.

Even when I was a strongly pro-choice general physician, testifying before our state legislature on reproductive issues, I -- like many of you -- thought an abortionist was a filthy man with dirty fingernails, dropping cigar ashes between a woman's legs as he worked. Now I find that an abortion provider is me -- an honors medical graduate, a respected doctor in the community. I am blessed to be a feisty, increasingly radical middle-aged mother, providing important medical care, who travels the country to describe the joys and agonies of my job to medical students the age of my children.

Despite the Brookline murders, the first two months of 1995 have been the busiest since the gulf war call-up (the Bush abortions, we call them). But with Dr. Foster minimizing his association with abortion, legitimizing only a mere few, my patients -- though no fewer -- are more frantic.

My job is to stop the next abortion. To do this we expect our patients to leave us empowered, more informed, healthier and, yes, happier than when they came in. Last June, we received a clipping from a local newspaper featuring one of our patients, the first of her extended family to finish college. She was bound for graduate school. She talked of emerging from a life of near slavery and constant childbearing and her plans for helping her sisters and nieces. She neglected to thank her local abortion provider for making this all possible. But it's O.K. I'm doing exactly what I want to be doing.

LISBON, PORTUGAL - Voter turnout was too low Sunday to validate a Portuguese referendum on whether to ease abortion restrictions, with just 32 percent of registered voters casting ballots.

The national Electoral Commission said the abstention rate was the highest in any national ballot since a revolution in 1974 introduced a fully representative government.

Of those that did vote on the divisive topic in this mostly Roman Catholic nation, 51 percent favored keeping most abortions a crime while 49 percent favored permitting the procedure on demand.

But the result of the referendum would be legally binding on parliament only if more than half of the country's 8.4 million registered voters participated.

The outcome left lawmakers in a dilemma over whether to press ahead with a controversial project to allow abortion on demand throughout the 10th week of pregnancy.

Under current laws, the termination of a pregnancy is permitted only for limited medical reasons or in cases of rape, and only until the 12th week.

The low turnout came as a surprise to most observers. Opinion polls had given no indication of potentially high abstention after an intense two-week campaign.

Women can be imprisoned for up to three years for having an illegal abortion. --Pantagraph 6/29/98

Stinky Acid Spilled at Abortion Clinics

HOUSTON - A foul smelling acid was intentionally spilled at four abortion clinics Wednesday the same chemical that was used in recent attacks on clinics in New Orleans and central Florida.

Three of the clinics were evacuated and 10 people were treated on the scene for breathing problems. One woman was taken to the hospital after she slipped in the substance and twisted her knee.

No arrests were made.

Anti-abortion groups denounced the attacks, which came less than a week after the state Supreme Court expanded protesters' boundaries at the clinics.

"It's an act of lunacy" said Bill Price, president of Texans United for Life. "it does nothing to further the cause."



for Choice

The FDA declared RU-486 safe and effective two years ago, but withheld final approval until it received additional information on its manufacture and labeling. The Population Council holds the U.S. rights to market the drug, but has suffered a series of setbacks in finding a manufacturer.

□ The House voted 223-202 to attach an amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., to a \$55.9 billion fiscal 1999 spending bill for agricultural, nutrition and food stamp programs to prohibit the federal agency from approving RU-486 or other abortion-inducing drugs.

□ The overall bill was approved 373-48. The Senate, which is expected to consider its version of the legislation next month, is unlikely to go along with the Coburn amendment.

□ RU-486 works by blocking the hormone progesterone, which is needed to sustain a pregnancy. It has been found to be safe and effective as a non-surgical method of early abortion during the first nine weeks of pregnancy. A woman can take it as soon as she learns she is pregnant.

-Pantagraph 6/25/98

□

□ The FBI said the proximity of the attacks was an "interesting situation," but that a connection between them wasn't clear. The four clinics are, however, listed on the first page of the abortion section of the local telephone book: A to Z Women's Services, America's Women Clinic, AAA Concerned Women's Center and Aaron Women's Medical Center.

-Pantagraph 7/9/98.

□

House Vote Blocks Abortion Pill

□RU-486

WASHINGTON - Abortion foes claimed victory Wednesday after the House voted to block the Food and Drug Administration from using federal money to test, develop or approve any drug that would induce an abortion, including the French pill RU-486.

□ Abortion rights advocates blasted the vote as an attack on women's rights.

□ WASHINGTON (AP) - Demonstrating their election-year commitment to conservative activists, House Republicans pushed through legislation Wednesday to restrict abortions by teen-agers.

The House voted 276-150 for a bill making it a crime for anyone who isn't the parent or legal guardian to evade parental involvement laws in the pregnant teen-ager's home state by taking her to a state that imposes no requirements on underage girls seeking abortions.

□ Sixty-seven Democrats joined 209 Republicans in voting for the bill, but the tally came up a few votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override President Clinton's threatened veto.

□ Sponsors said the bill would safeguard parental rights, protect the health of young girls and ensure compliance with parental consent or notification laws on the books in more than 30 states.

□ Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., the prime sponsor, said many schools require parental consent to give children medicine, take them on field trips or dismiss them early from class.

□ But when it comes to abortion, "a stranger can take our daughters with no repercussions whatsoever," she said, adding that "this is simply not acceptable."

□ Rep. Linda Smith, R-Wash., said the bill would protect older girls from older men who prey on them, get them pregnant and then take them to another jurisdiction for an abortion.

□ Others said the constitutional right to an abortion doesn't include breaking the law and that minors should seek the court's permission for the procedure as the statutes allow.

□ "Meaningful, constitutional parental consent laws are designed to help and protect minors," added Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla. "Today, we are voting to uphold those laws."

□ But opponents said the bill, while well-intentioned, would force teens who fear telling their parents about their pregnancies to seek unsafe, back-alley abortions or travel out of state by themselves for abortions - for which they would not be punished under the legislation.

□ "This bill tells young women who cannot tell their parents, 'Don't tell anyone else. Don't tell your grandmother. Don't tell an aunt. No one can help you. You're on your own,'" said Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y. "We need to make abortion less necessary, not more dangerous and difficult."

□ Critics also said well-meaning relatives and friends would be unfairly subjected to fines and a year in jail for helping a minor get an out-of-state abortion. The White House supports the bill's purpose, but insists that Congress exempt close family members from the penalties.

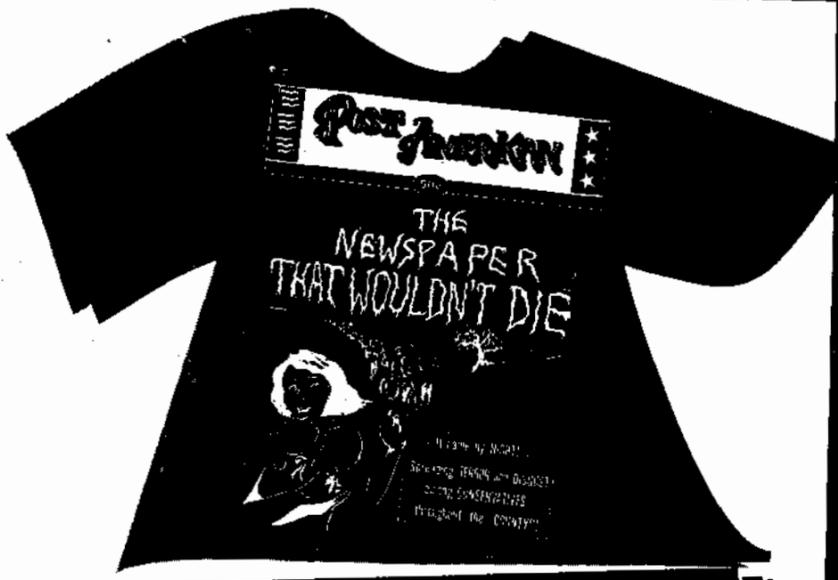
□ However, House Republicans blocked all amendments to the bill, which makes it a federal misdemeanor to evade parental involvement laws regarding abortion by going out of state.

□ In addition to Wednesday's vote, the House was expected to vote next week to override President Clinton's veto of a ban on a late-term abortion procedure called "partial-birth" abortion by its critics. The proposal cleared the House by a veto-proof margin of 296-132 last October.

□ House and Senate GOP leaders are eager to get these proposals to Clinton before Congress adjourns for the fall elections, as well as to demonstrate their commitment to the Christian Coalition and other conservative groups whose support will be critical to Republican candidates (The bill is H.R. 3682).

□-wlo-news@clio.lyris.net 7/15/98

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cont.

Abortion Legislation Passes House

□ A hearing was held on July 17th in the House Judiciary Committee, Crime Subcommittee, Bill McCollum (R-FL), chair, on whether the federal RICO law (Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) should be amended. Abortion rights opponents in Congress would like to change RICO so that it cannot be used against such organizations as Operation Rescue and PLAN, the Pro-Life Action Network, who organize clinic actions to deny women their right to abortion. Abortion opponents claim that the use of RICO in these instances impinges upon First Amendment (free speech and assembly) rights. Proposed legislation suggests, curiously, that extortion be deleted from the statute as a prosecutable crime (H.R. 4245. The Civil RICO Clarification Act of 1998). The hearing occurred in the wake of the April 21st Chicago jury decision finding Joe Scheidler and his co-defendants guilty of 120 counts under the law (including extortion) in the class action case brought by NOW. [See *NOW v. Scheidler* lead attorney Fay Clayton's testimony for the hearing posted at the NOW website.]
 □-now@now.org 7/31/98



□ WISCONSIN - A federal appeals court Thursday blocked enforcement of a Wisconsin ban on certain abortions.

□ Acting on a motion from a group of abortion providers in that state, the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of appeals in Chicago enjoined Wisconsin's so-called partial-birth abortion law pending an appeal scheduled for August 10.

□ The providers contend the law, which went into effect May 14, is deliberately vague and so broadly written as to outlaw common abortion procedures performed at every stage of pregnancy, including first trimester. The penalty is mandatory life imprisonment.

□ Courts have struck down similar statutes in more than a dozen other states, including Illinois.

□ -Chicago Tribune 6/26/98

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McLean County Voice for Choice

□ P.O.Box 905
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□ The McLean County Voice for Choice meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at Connections: 313 N Main, Bloomington.

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