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Leonard Peltier: Countdown to Clemency

Slavery & the Electoral College

Poetry by Firefly, Dockstader & more



# POST AMERIKAN



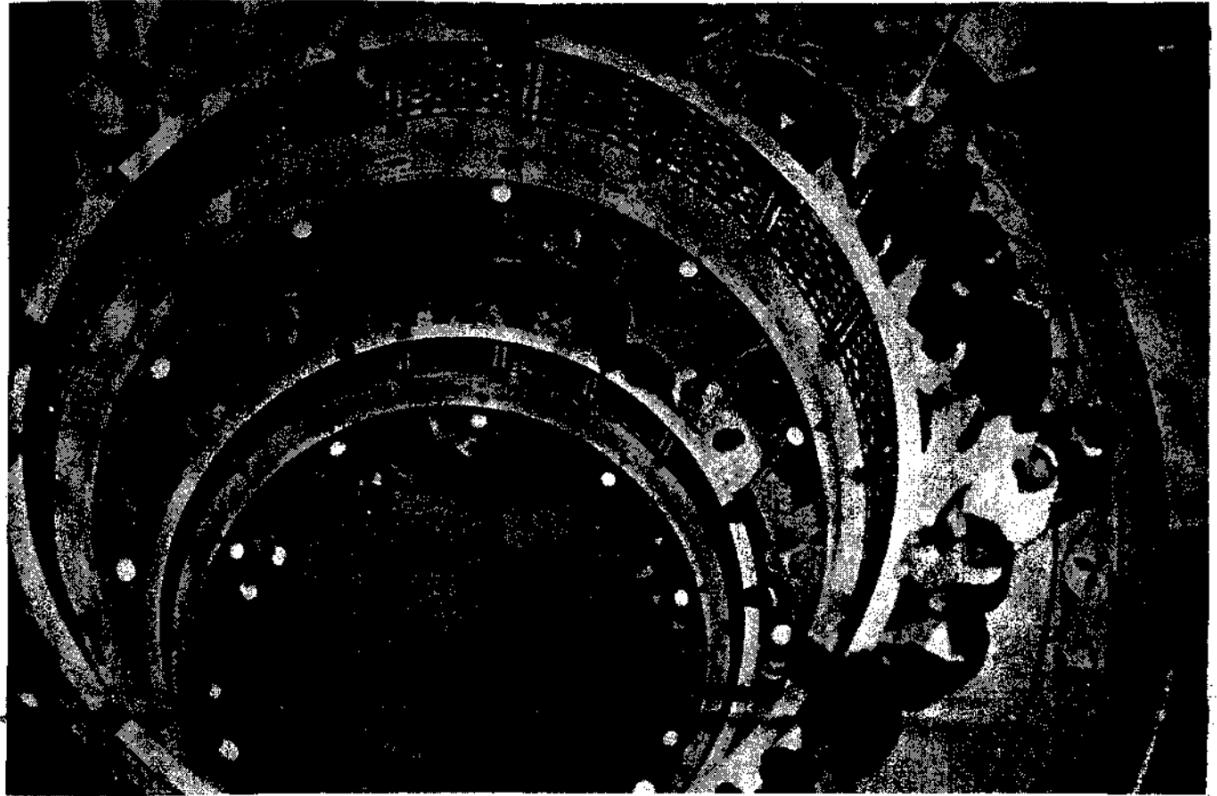
BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL VOLUME 29

**FREE**

NUMBER SIX

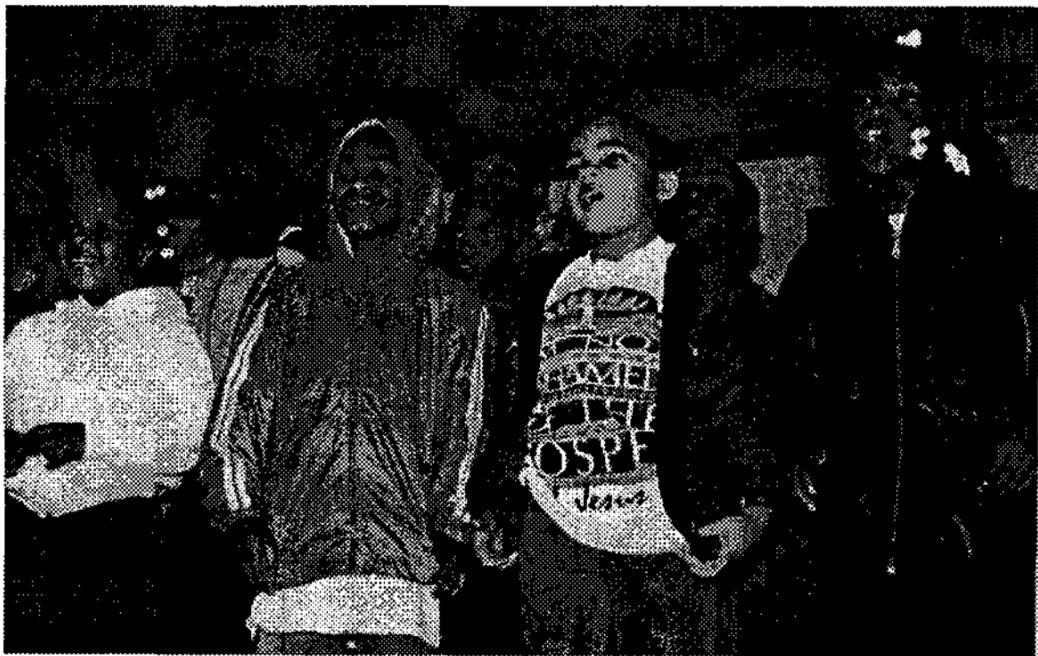
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2000-2001

Never doubt  
that a small  
group  
of  
committed  
citizens



can save  
the world.  
Indeed, it is  
the only  
thing that  
ever has.  
— M. Mead

**Diversity Celebration Program  
Saturday, October 28, 2000  
"We Are The World"**



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### About us

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

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The *Post Amerikan* welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and new tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-4473 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

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

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the *Post Amerikan* are available for the low price of \$6.00 per year for six complete issues. Please send a check (made payable to the *Post Amerikan*) to: Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702.

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

David, Linda, Ralph and Sherrin

### Good numbers

- 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 ...Miomni@ilstu.edu
- Animal Protection League.....828-5371
- Better Business Bureau.....1-800-500-3780
- Big Brothers/ Big Sisters .....828-1870
- Boys & Girls Clubs of B/N.....829-3034
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- Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber...438-2429
- Habitat for Humanity.....827-3931
- Headstart.....662-4880
- Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356
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- Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-0790
- LIFE-CIL.....663-5433
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- McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450
- McLean Co. Housing Authority.....829-3360
- McLean Co. Humane Society.....664-7387
- McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070
- Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691
- Mobile Meals.....828-8301
- Narcotics Anonymous.....827-4005
- National Health Care Services / abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622
- Occupational Development Center...452-7324
- 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
- Prairie State Legal Services.....827-5021
- Project Oz.....827-0377
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- Salvation Army.....829-9476
- Safe Harbor Mission.....829-7399
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- Unemployment comp/job service.....827-6237
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- Youth Build.....827-7507

## Pick up a copy

Copies of the *Post Amerikan* are now available for free at the following locations:

- Bloomington**
- AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main
  - About Books, 221 E. Front
  - Barnes & Noble, Veterans & Rt. 9
  - Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive
  - Burwell's, 908 N. Main
  - Common Ground, 516 N. Main
  - Crazy Planet Kitchen, 414 N. Main
  - Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
  - Heartland Community College, Raab Rd.
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  - Shockwaves, 415 N. Main
  - Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main

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- Acme Comics, 115 W. North
  - Babbitt's Books, 104 W. North
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  - Centennial Hall, ISU
  - Co-op Records, 503 S. Main
  - Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort
  - Deadpan Alley Records, 107 W. North
  - Koffee Kup, 205 W. North
  - Mother Murphy's, 111 W. North
  - Movie Fan, 202C. W. North
  - Normal Public Library, 206 W. College Ave.
  - Stevenson Hall, ISU
  - Three Crows, 1410 1/2 S. Main
  - University Galleries, ISU

- Peoria**
- Bicycle Bus

## What's your new address?

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.); or submit via e-mail at: pamerikanusa@netscape.net **Jan 15**



# Community News

## Farewell to Bark Park

"City of Bloomington requires all domestic animals be on leashes."

- Sign at Ewing Park II's parking lot entrance

I first heard about Bark Park two years ago. Ziggy Stardust had recently joined the family, and I was bragging about our new Australian Shepherd Plus Something Else puppy to anyone who would listen.

"You should bring Dusty over to Bark Park," a fellow dog fancier told me one Sunday during after-church coffee hour. "People bring their dogs from all over town and let 'em run free. It's a great place for dogs to socialize."

That helpful Dog Person was referring to Ewing Park II. Separated from two other Ewing Parks by a creek and a wooded area, the park is an ideal site for leash-free pups. It has a vast and varied terrain for running. The stream is rarely very deep yet attracts a variety of water happy canines. There are no busy streets nearby. Dusty has a good amount of working dog in him, and he clearly loves being active. From the first time my wife and I brought him to the park, we knew we'd hit paydirt.

It took a few trips for us to meet any other dogs - most Dog People either came out early a.m. or late in the afternoon - but once we did, it was fascinating watching Dusty acclimate himself to this new social scene. We began to recognize park regulars (dogs first; owners second), occasionally chatting with the humans but just as often quietly watching the animals romp.

The Dog People, we soon discovered, were an everyday part of Ewing Park. No one I talked to could say when the place had become a de facto dog park - some had been coming for more than four years - but they were glad it had happened. There are very few places where a dog can run freely in a city the size of Bloomington.

In appreciation for what they'd unofficially been "given," the Dog People took a proprietary interest in park maintenance. Twice a year, the Friends of the Park assist with cleanup and the spreading of wood chips on the wooded side's Hedge Apple Trail. A strong number of these friends have been Dog People. Throughout the year, I've seen individual D.P.s out on their own, carrying trash bags and picking up debris left behind by less thoughtful pet owners.

Not every dog or owner is a model citizen. It'd be foolish to expect otherwise. Some Dog People act as if the park exists solely for them and their canines. At times, dogs can be like children: they may not recognize when their play has gone too far. I can recall a moment when my dog came dashing out of the creek alongside an unsuspecting jogger. Considering Dusty's long soaking hair and wall-eyed look of perpetual excitement, I suspect that poor jogger thought they'd run onto the Baskerville moors by mistake. Nothing much came of the encounter, but I know things could've gone differently.

Ewing Park II is more than a dog's place, of course. The area is a favorite for local birdwatchers (who don't always appreciate some four-legged hunter rousting their avian quarry), while its softball diamonds and football fields are well used during their respective seasons. My sense is that these different groups have tried to stay out of each other's way, though as with that creek encounter, occasional near collisions have occurred.

Last spring we began to bring a second visitor to the park, a Shepherd/Labrador/Who-Knows-What-Else mix named Cedar. Within weeks of her initiation to the joys of Bark Park, we started hearing rumors through the D.P. grapevine. Bloomington Police, reportedly, were showing up during peak weekday dog times to warn owners it was against the law to have their dogs off-leash. Though none of the dog folk that I talked to had direct experience of these warnings, the population markedly decreased over the summer. Prior to this, one could find fifteen to twenty dogs or more running over the park field. Now the numbers had dropped to three or four.

Dusty and Cedar continued to visit the park regularly, and while we periodically saw Bloomington Police cars in the parking lot, nobody ever came over to warn us. Still, I can't say I was surprised when the Bloomington Park District recently installed a new sign at the parking lot entrance. The message of this large red sign was clear and simple. Forget what you may have heard otherwise: it definitely is against the law to have your dog off leash in a public park. Break the law, and you're subject to a fine.

I called the office of Bloomington Parks and Recreation to ask about this new warning. After personally overseeing more than two years of free dog play, I wanted to know if there had been any reason for the autumn crackdown. I was told that the office had indeed received some complaints ("the typical type complaints you'd expect when dogs are off-leash,") but that the main reason for the sign was more basic. Dog People and their leash-less canines have been flouting the law for years if it was time to cease and desist.

We still bring our dogs to Ewing Park II, but it is no longer the same. On lead, they periodically look up at me as if to ask, "When are we gonna get to run, Dad?" We don't meet many other dogs, even when we go at former peak hours. Those few Dog People that we talk to are openly bitter about the new policy. There's talk of a petition going around, but I haven't seen it yet. The casual canine playground that was Bark Park has been dismantled.

I know I'll miss it - as will Dusty and Cedar.

-Bill Sherman

## Whorls, Loops, and Arches The 2000 MFA Biennial

November 7th through December 17th, 2000  
University Galleries of Illinois State  
University

Whorls, Loops, and Arches showcases the various talents and approaches of ISU's Master of Fine Arts students. Representing all studio areas of the Fine Arts department and emphasizing the interdisciplinary approach taken by many students, the exhibition contains work in painting, printmaking, sculpture, glass, metals, and ceramics, and also includes video, performance, and installations that blur the lines between disciplines.

Artists: Ninos Aghakhan, Betsy Alwin, Tyler Budge, Jacob Feldman, Brian Gustafson, Monique Hartog, Yoko Kawazoe, Koichi Matsufuji, Karl Rademacher, Jonathan Rutledge, Daniel Scogna, Chris Shepherd, Michelle Traver, Tom Vician, Cynthia Wang, Donovan Widmer, Dave Wilson, Anna Wollenschlager, and Sara Young.

University Galleries is located at 110 Center for Visual Arts, on the campus of Illinois State University (off Beaufort between University and School Streets). Parking is available in the parking garage off of University Street (located behind the tennis courts).

### Gallery Hours:

Saturday - Monday 12:00-4:00  
Tuesday 9:30-9:00  
Wednesday - Friday 9:30-4:30

**Karen Schmidt**  
Alderman ~ Ward 6

409 E. Grove St., Bloomington

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work: 217-244-2070

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Ward 6 is currently represented by  
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# Kohl's & Target confronted

Workers in the Chentex factory in Nicaragua make blue jeans for Kohl's, Target and other major U.S. retailers. They often work from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. six and seven days a week. Managers abuse and yell at the workers, calling them "stupid, useless work animals." In grueling heat, the workers earn just 20 cents for every \$20 to \$30 pair of Kohl's Sonoma brand jeans they sew.

When the workers asked for an 8 cent wage increase, the bosses fired the entire union leadership along with hundreds of other workers. They put up barbed wire and surveillance cameras, and brought union leaders up on bogus criminal charges. The company threatened to pull its entire operation -- including a planned \$100 million investment -- out of Nicaragua and go elsewhere, leaving families on the streets.

Chentex is a large, Taiwanese-owned maquila factory in the Las Mercedes free trade zone where 1,850 workers produce 20,000 to 25,000 pairs of jeans a day for Kohl's, J.C. Penney, Kmart and Wal-mart, along with various other labels including Gloria Vanderbilt and Bugle Boy. The workers earn just 18 cents for each \$24 pair of pants they sew.

A union was formed at Chentex in 1998, and a contract was signed. However, Chentex management said they could only discuss a wage increase when the contract was renegotiated the following year. The workers waited a full year, and raised the wage issue again in 1999 when negotiations began. They asked for a 60 percent increase in the piece rate. The minimum wage in Nicaragua, 800 cordobas a month, meets just one-third of the cost of living.

For the last nine months, the Chentex company has refused to negotiate in good faith, sabotaging the process every step of the way. The union requested official mediation four times from the Ministry of Labor, which was also ineffective. Having exhausted these avenues, the workers called a one-hour work stoppage on April 27, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Chentex management responded by: firing 9 union leaders; hiring thugs to terrorize the workers; putting up barbed wire and surveillance cameras; bringing in 20 armed National Police; forming a yellow company union; telling the Chentex workers that they would "never receive a wage increase," and that as far as the company was concerned the union is "dead." Chentex then tried to blackmail the workers and the Nicaraguan government by saying that if they were legally prohibited from firing the union leaders, they would shut the Chentex factory down, take their production elsewhere, and pull all the other Taiwanese investments out of Nicaragua as well, including the \$100 million planned to build a new Free Trade Zone in Leon.

The Chentex union is very strong and solid, they will fight this out to the end and they have no intention of losing. This is the strongest, most committed union in Central America. Chentex is not an isolated case. Workers are also struggling at the Mil Colores factory in Nicaragua.

Kohl's can make a difference. Business is booming at Kohl's. Sales were up 24% last year and profits were up 34%. In fact business is so good that Kohl's Chairman William Kellogg paid himself \$38 million last year. With \$258 million in profits and close to 300 stores, Kohl's can easily afford to pay 8 cents more per pair of Sonoma jeans.

Kohl's is a major customer of the Chentex factory and the Taiwanese consortium that owns it. Kohl's can tell Chentex to reinstate the workers, drop the bogus criminal charges, and negotiate in good faith with the union. Kohl's can make a difference in the lives of these workers.

For more information, visit the National Labor Committee web-site at: <http://www.nlcnet.org>

Write to Kohl's CEO Larry Montgomery and urge him to use Kohl's economic power to insure fairness for these workers; Larry Montgomery, CEO, Kohl's Corporation N56 W17000 Ridgewood Dr. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 (262)703-7000 Fax: (262) 703-6796





# Quit Wandering & Take Notice!

## Movies worth watching on video

Hello! Are you tired of looking around your video store and seeing a lot of big middle-of-the-road movies? We've all been there... you know it's bad when the *Wild Wild West*, *Random Hearts*, or *End Of Days* start to look watchable. Don't even think about it. Or worse yet *Patch Adams* (God forbid) is your rental choice and you soon realize you would rather stare at a blank screen instead.

Are there any diamond-in-the-rough movies out there? The answer is a resounding YES my movie friend, there are some very cool movies out there... you just have to take some chances, and of course, read the Post Amerikan movie column. Well, with that said I would like to suggest a few hidden gems.



**Timecode** -- This one's definitely not for all tastes, but if you are up for a movie that's unique in style then Timecode is well worth the time invested. Director Mike Figgis (*Leaving Las Vegas*) takes four cameras and follows the power and rage of a diverse group of L.A. players. It's shot in real time with no edits and no retakes. When viewing the screen it's split into four different screens but the audio only focuses on one screen. Characters move from screen to screen as they interact. Nice cast with Holly Hunter, Stellan Skarsgard, Saffron Burrows, Kyle MacLachlan and Jeannie Tripplehorn. Figgis is known for taking some chances and using the medium in this manner is inventive and somewhat challenging.



**42 Up** -- Strange name for a movie? Well, not exactly because *42 Up* is part of a series of films. Don't let that deter you from catching this extremely involving movie. Circa 1964 England 14 seven-year-old children from diverse backgrounds were filmed and asked about their lives and dreams for the future. Then every seven years director Michael Apted

(*Gorillas in the Mist*, *Nell*) revisits the same subjects and examines the progress of their lives. It's like learning the central mystery of life as we watch the people change both physically and otherwise. As mentioned earlier, if you haven't seen the other parts, no worry because they recap and reintroduce people. *42 Up* is both inspiring and emotional in ways that cut to the heart of the matter. Not rated and available now.



**Cecil B. Demented** -- Cinema's cult-fave director John Waters is back and up to near top form in this over-the-top, outrageous and garish comedy that slices and serves up the

entire film industry. Stephen Dorff (from *Blade*) is a young lunatic director who along with his devoted cult of cinema terrorists kidnap a Hollywood movie goddess (Melanie Griffith in a great role). They force her to star in their radical underground movie. Waters really gets a chance to lay it on the line as he sews the studio system, stars and even critics get the poison pen. For film buffs, *Cecil B.* is a treat with a lot of director references and its on-the-run style make for furious viewing. I highly recommended picking up *Cecil B.* (R rated and available in January).

Or check out:

- 1) *The Idiots*
- 2) *Last Night*
- 3) *Winter Sleepers*
- 4) *8 1/2 Women*
- 5) *But I'm A Cheerleader*
- 6) *Head On*
- 7) *Beefcake*
- 8) *Way of the Gun*

--Dave

# Sex

...okay, now that we've got your attention...

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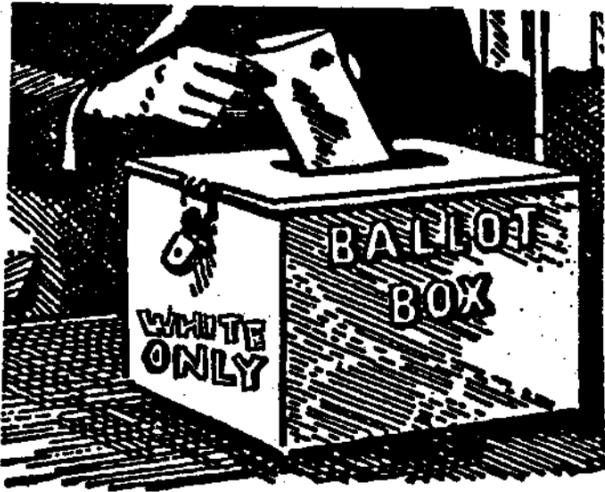
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# Seeing Red: 'Slaves aren't humans'

## Why you don't elect the President

by Steve Eckhardt



*Undemocratic.* What else could you call an election where the top vote-getter loses?

Thank the recent presidential election for revealing the one-armed bandit hidden inside the shiny surface of U.S. democracy. A tails-I-win-heads-you-lose machine designed to cheat anyone who pulls its lever.

Sure, the discarded votes, the confusing ballots, the moving polling places in Black neighborhoods, the Jewish votes for a Hitler admirer, and the ever-changing results say a lot about just how much "your vote counts."

But it's the Electoral College that shows the machine is *designed* undemocratic.

'To know something, know its origin,' quoth the wise man. So let's journey back and watch our fore-fathers build --and rig-- "American democracy."

Of course the most striking characteristic of the newly-liberated colonies -- besides all being stolen from native peoples-- is that half of them are slave-holding societies. Not just that they have slaves, but that slavery is their entire way of life.

Their very existence depends on kidnapping millions of men, women and children, buying and selling them, and constantly maintaining a system of terror, subjugation, and, well, *enslavement*.

Preserving *that* is the most crucial question when the U.S. Constitution is written. The slavocracy --worried that their Northern partners might someday jeopardize their system-- insists on numerous "checks and balances" to prevent majority rule. After all, what if a majority of Americans want to ban slavery?

But even the checks and balances aren't enough for them. Since 'slaves aren't humans,' the South will never have enough representatives in Congress or popular votes in a presidential election.

So a deal is struck -- inflate the Southern white population by adding in Blacks ... counted as three-fifths of a person.

But since Blacks can't vote, how to apportion their three-fifths of a "ballot?"

One way -- Electoral College. Winner-take-all vote by whites, and a second *real* election by the Electoral College, number of Electors determined by population ... with Blacks tossed in as three-fifths of a person each, thank you very much.

But it gets worse. Remember the checks and balances against majority rule? Not just Southern slavers think it's a good idea. Northern merchants know they're living at the expense of the majority, even with only propertied white men allowed to vote. What could be more dangerous to their privileges than majority rule?

Don't take it from me, listen to right-wing columnist Steven Chapman who's *proud* that "our system incorporates a variety of mechanisms meant not to facilitate action and

empower the people, but to prevent action, slow things down and ward off the excesses of popular rule.... The founders...had deep reservations about democracy, which they feared would degenerate into tyranny by the majority."

*Tyranny of the majority?* That's what most people call democracy -- majority rule.

But *that's* why you don't elect the president. The Electoral College does.

And *that's* why the Electors are not bound to vote the way their state did. That's right -- they can vote any way they want. Florida could go ten-to-one for Gore, but any Elector is entirely free to cast his vote for Bush ... or Buchanan.

Like some fiendish board game, the path to the presidency is built with appalling obstacles designed to stop an honest working person --a representative of the majority-- from making it to the goal. Age and citizenship limitations take out half the population right at the start. Trapdoors marked "news media" and "debates" make you invisible. A chasm needs filling with two or three hundred million dollars.

But if --despite all this-- *somehow* a representative of the majority makes it to the palace gates (a Black socialist only by Heavenly intervention), camping out for six weeks is required..

Above hangs one of those cartoon weights marked FIVE TONS. That's the Electoral College.

*That's* undemocratic. And that's why --short of deep-going changes the Constitution's designed to prevent-- this product of slavery will never be eliminated.

And *that's* why it votes a month and half after the popular election -- to "allow popular passions to cool."

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# Why all cats should be indoor cats

When the cat first appeared in the front porch, he had long silky fur. PETA staffer Alisa Mullins started feeding him and earning his trust. But as the months went by, he was bitten by other cats, he developed enormous abscesses that refused to heal. His coat grew dull.

Finally, Alisa gained his confidence enough to lure him into a carrier with food and whisk him off to the vet's, where the big once-handsome cat tested positive for FIV, the feline equivalent of AIDS. Already the disease had ravaged his teeth and gums. Most of his teeth had fallen out. His gums were flaming red. Eating must have been agony. The disease had also damaged his heart. An infection had spread from his gums, doing irreparable harm.

It was all over. The injection was painless -- but not for his human friend.

Feline AIDS is a highly contagious, incurable disease for which there is no vaccine. It can only be prevented by keeping cats indoors.

Besides the numerous diseases that cats who roam outdoors can catch, there are dangers posed by dogs, wildlife and the scariest predator of all, humans.

Cats sent outdoors unattended sometimes don't come back home. It's not that they have decided to live somewhere else. Some are abducted; others are found dead or injured. Thieves cruise neighborhoods for friendly dogs and cats they can sell to dealers, who then sell them to laboratories. In a world of tractor-trailers, psychopaths, intolerant neighbors, bored juveniles with baseball bats, rat poison and toxic antifreeze spills, the number of animals who disappear every year should come as no surprise.

## The Perennial mosaic

There is a little magic we can easily create whether we live in an urban setting or in the deep wood. It is a moss mosaic. It's a simple trick that is instantly amaranthine, inexpensive and acts as a living mulch, and is loaded with good karma.

Moss grows just about anywhere: sidewalk edges, stones, lawns, you name it. Hunting for moss is a fun sport. One lawn can turn up several cultivars ranging in a rainbow of colors. When you are lucky enough to find a myriad of cultivars (types) you can develop a whole palette to paint a living painting.

Once you have found the moss, try to only harvest one third to half of it so it can grow back and so you can have a stock for next year. Clean it, crumble it, and bathe it in lukewarm water to wash off the dirt. One inch of moss can have dozens, if not hundreds, of tiny thread-like plants. Each will create a patch giving the proper biome.

Next you need your blending tool. An old cheap blender is best, but an egg beater, a whisk or a little stick will do. Once you have your

"But he wants to go outside," "We live on a very quiet street," "It's cruel to keep her in," say the rational people who would never dream of dispatching a child into the street.

The way we learn not to let the cat out unaccompanied is usually the hard way. In Pompano, Florida, lost dogs and cats were found in a large storage warehouse used by dogfight "trainers." In South Dakota, a fur-trader was caught selling cat skins. In Washington, D.C., a cat let out for her daily stroll returned covered in burns from hot cooking grease. In California, a woman searching for her two cats found both shot through with arrows. Before I knew better, my cat went missing for three days and finally crawled back home to die on my back doorstep, her lungs collapsed and her ribs broken.

Today's concrete jungles are far too dangerous for vulnerable, trusting little life forms. But how do we prevent Tabby from being bored in the great indoors? Here's how:

### Six purr-fect tips to liven up the great indoors

1) *Bring joy with toys.* From paper bags and rolled up balls of foil to motorized "mice" and laser pointers, toys liven up even the laziest feline. All-time favorites are Cat Dancer and Cat Charmer (available from PETA; call 1-800-483-4366).

2) *Scratch that itch.* Cats LOVE to scratch. It helps to remove broken claws, stretch muscles and mark "territory." The best way to save your furniture is to provide lots of "approved" places to scratch. Cat "trees" and posts, cardboard scratching boxes and those ingenious "cat tracks" (a ball in a plastic tunnel surrounding a cardboard scratching pad) are big hits.

blending tool, drain the moss through a strainer, saving the water. Mix 40% water (including the saved water) 30% milk and 30% of one cultivar of moss. Once you master this you can blend cultivars just as you would blend paint to create various colors. Blend the mix for several minutes until the mixture is like a milkshake.

You can brush the milkshake onto a surface, or pour it on, or splash it on like Jackson Pollock. Soft Calder or Miro like shapes work the best. In a few months (weather permitting) you'll have a carpet of moss. Stay away from hard edges because the moss creates its own soft line. Besides hard edges are bad Feng Shui, and we don't want that. . . So pack a pick-nick lunch, take your lover or a gaggle of friends out to the local forest for a moss hunt. A bucket of moss can start you on a life time of living art. Who knew?

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick  
Architectonic Conceptualist

3) *Provide a room with a view.* Windows are cat "TV" -- a bird feeder placed near a window can provide hours of entertainment. If windowsills aren't wide enough, build or buy a cushioned perch (available from pet supply catalogs) to attach to the sill. Note: Make sure windows are secure and won't slide down on cats, and keep the cords of window blinds tucked out of the way so legs don't get caught.

4) *Porches bring purrs.* A screened-in porch or an area adjoining a window is a great way for kitty to safely commune with nature. If your yard is fenced, another option is Cat Fence-In, a netting kit that attaches to the top of the fence. Contact Cat Fence-In at 702-359-4575; [www.catfencein.com](http://www.catfencein.com).

5) *Cat walkies.* Yes, cats can be taught to walk on a leash -- just be sure to use an ultra-lightweight, retractable leash attached to a harness, not a collar. Get your cat used to the harness for short periods indoors; then pick an open outdoor area to explore.

6) *Plant a garden -- of catnip.* Cats will nibble it and roll in it. Other healthy snacks are wheat grass, alfalfa and oat grass (get seed-starter kits from companion animal supply stores).

For more information on ways to make your feline's life fore felicitous, pick up a copy of Ingrid Newkirk's book 250 Things You Can Do to Make Your Cat Adore You (Simon and Schuster, 1998).

--by Ingrid Newkirk (from PETA's Animal Times)

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Teachings by OhShinna Fast Wolf

OhShinnah will be coming back in the early spring. Call for information regarding her next workshop.

Guest Psychics  
Artwork by Local Artists



# Stop the presses! We need to

We are all familiar with corporations who will pollute without qualm to help their bottom lines, but what about outdoor writers and outdoor publications who are willing to undermine any protection or management of predators like wolves, mountain lions and coyotes to line their pockets? How can they be called journalists or upright publications? These writers encourage the hunting of predators through their writing and the publications through the advertisement of the calls and traps used to kill off mountain lions, coyotes and wolves.

Let's check some examples. With these you will note the writers and publishers encourage the slaughter of predators by demonizing them in their stories and advertising.

Take the November 2000 issue of Fur-Fish-Game a hunting and trapping publication dating back to 1925. On page 8 is an article about hunting coyotes called "Hounding Coyotes in the Wild 'Yoop'" by Dan Shideler. (The Yoop is the Upper Peninsula of Michigan - U.P. -- Yoop.) He calls coyotes, "a real threat to the state's deer and carefully cultivated elk population."

Shideler tells about a type of glorified fox hunt where hounds are unleashed on the trail of a single coyote. The hounds have tracking collars and are followed by hunters using FM radio equipment to keep up with them. The equipment is so sophisticated the lead hunter required an FCC short-range broadcaster's license! Nothing like stalking prey like a true hunter.

When the coyote is found, Shideler gleefully reports: "It bursts from the deadfall with surprising speed. But no coyote, not even a Yoop kye-yoot (author's word, believe it or not), can outrun a full-choked load of 32-caliber chilled buckshot." He wraps up with, "One thing was for sure; its deer-running days were over."

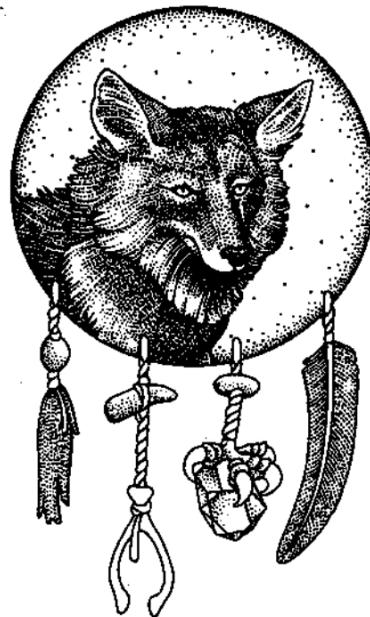
Now if the coyotes are such a threat to deer, the deer herds in Michigan would be in dire peril. Larger predators, like Michigan black bears would be suffering and starving due to a shortage of deer meat.

But I became suspicious upon noting the pages and pages of trap ads, including the bizarre one on page 61 for a company that can convert your animal hides into "fur lingerie." The ad even had a photo of a young lady in a fur bikini!

How decimated were Michigan's deer herds? I checked the 2001 Deer Hunters' Almanac (put out by Krause Publications of Wisconsin). Believe it or not, a total of more than 450 thousand deer were killed by firearm and bowhunters in 1998! And the average amount of deer killed over the past five years was 418 thousand -- the second highest average in all the 50 states!

And were the bears starved because coyotes slaughtered the deer population? Not really. According to the October-November 2000 issue of Bowhunter magazine. Page 112 reported tuberculosis had killed deer in certain areas of Michigan. But despite this, the deer hunting harvest was high.

And page 91 of the same issue of Bowhunter reports the bears were thriving well enough. Prior to 1999, only one Boone and Crockett black bear had been killed in any hunting season (Boone and Crockett is the Montana-based group that keeps records of the largest game animals killed). In 1999, three giant Boone and Crockett bears were successfully hunted!



*Coyote ... you devil!  
You tricked me once more!  
Must I sit and ponder,  
What you did it for?*

Another questionable predator article ran in the 2000 Sportsman's Hunting Yearbook, published by Harris Publications of New York City. Its cover story, "Lion" by Jim Shockey, argues California's protection of mountain lions should be stopped and that free, no-holds-barred hunting allowed. As with the first article, the predator is demonized. "The sinister killer moved invisibly down the mountainside," is the first sentence. Shockey continues with the following descriptions of the mountain lion: (1) "one of the most efficient natural killing machines" (2) "lord of stealthy murder" and (3) "a heart both craven and cruel."

I checked the magazine, finding a whole section on page 55 of "predator stuff" including mouth blown and electronic predator calls.

Another matter of interest was the picture of Shockey next to a mountain lion he had bagged. The caption stated, "Author Jim Shockey resides in British Columbia and runs a bear hunting outfitter service on Vancouver Island. His intimate knowledge of how and where the mountain lion roars has led him to dozens (!) of successful hunts."

This made me more suspicious. Shockey is an outfitter (hunters hire him to find their trophy) who has dozens of mountain lion kills on his record. But why push for an open season on California mountain lions when there is land between Vancouver and California to hunt at? The answer may be in the November issue of Outdoor Life on page 17, in a small article, "Cat Quotas in Question."

The notice reports the mountain lion population has declined in the Bitterroot Mountain range of Idaho and Montana to the point that several Montana hunters petitioned the fish and wildlife service to reduce licenses to hunt mountain lions in Montana!

The Outdoor Life article reports nonresidents of Montana account for 80 per cent of the cougar kill in certain Montana hunting districts. One proposal under consideration is to limit lion licenses with 90 per cent given to Montana residents and 10 per cent to non-residents. As the article notes -- tell me you were surprised -- "Outfitters have been strongly opposed to this."

Of course, if outfitter-assisted hunters can cut down the Montana cougars, imagine what fat-cat California hunters with outfitters could do. Maybe Mr. Shockey has. And maybe the California hunters can pay more than that "magazine" did for his "journalism."

And the demonizing continues by people with money to be made off increased predator hunting. Take the December 2000 issue of Varmint Masters magazine. In a feature article by Fred Webb about hunting the arctic wolf are passages such as: "next to man, this is the most highly organized, chillingly intelligent predator alive," and "sports hunters have a one-wolf limit. Hunting brings valuable outside money and employment to otherwise depressed areas in this section of Canada." He even has this line about arctic wolves: "I invite you to be hamstrung, crippled in deep snow, while someone pulls out your guts and eats them while you're still kicking."

By this time, I had the drill down pat. I checked the magazine ads and the background on the author. Page 95 of the magazine featured two outfitters specializing in Canadian wolf hunts. I also found ads for videos, lures, etc. to hunt predators.

Page 62 of the magazine reveals that author Webb and a relative "are third and fourth-generations big-game guides in Northern Canada with experience in the Arctic dating from the 1950s. They currently offer hunts for polar bear, musk ox, walrus, grizzly bear, caribou and WOLF (emphasis added)." These



# kill coyotes with them!

mercenaries are taking advantage of two wildlife management problems to beat the drums for ceasing protection for predators.

These problems are reported in the aforementioned Deer Hunters Almanac:

First, deer hunting is becoming a sport of the "elite and wealthy" because there is less private land to hunt on, according to Valerius Geist, a wildlife researcher from the U. of Calgary. When asked about the future of deer hunting, Geist told the Deer Hunters Almanac, "It will be grim. . . We are seeing a growing trend by land owners to privatize and exploit deer for money."

Al Hofackey, founder of Deer and Deer Hunter magazine, agrees. He says, "Privation of deer hunting land is a problem now and it's going to get worse." Rather than admit deer hunting is getting harder, it's easier for some people to blame coyotes, wolves and mountain lions.



Secondly, a sharp reduction in predators will reduce any chances minorities lacking deep pockets will have to take up hunting. For minorities, predators, especially coyotes, are often easier to find without hiring an outfitter.

Dick Lattimer, president of Archery Manufacturers and Merchants Organization (AMO) noted, "If the outdoor industry learns to reach out to minority groups for participation, then the future of our sport looks good. If they ignore minorities, then it's not so good because the racial make-up of the population is changing." In other words, if greedy outfitters and magazines have their way and all laws protecting predators are repealed, whoever might wish to learn hunting may never have anything left to shoot at.

--Steve LaPrade

## STERILE FERAL FOUNDATION

Promoting the humane management of feral cat populations



*Members of the Sterile Feral Foundation care for numerous feral cat colonies in McLean County. Colony caretakers provide shelter and daily food and water. In addition, they set traps to catch cats that need to be spayed or neutered. This takes a considerable amount of money.*

*The Sterile Feral Foundation has a program where you can help. Just fill out the form at the bottom of this page and pledge a monthly gift to support a colony.*

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Please indicate how you are interested in helping the feral cats of the McLean County area. Please include your name, address, and phone number.

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# Leonard Peltier: The

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC) is continuing its efforts to free Peltier from prison with its current Countdown to Clemency campaign and December 10<sup>th</sup> walk on Washington DC. LPDC is trying to get signatures from as many people as possible to support his clemency. In January, President Clinton will be leaving office, and if Peltier does not receive clemency then it may take another five years before any other government official addresses this issue.

For anyone who doesn't know who Leonard Peltier is his trouble began on June 26, 1975, when two FBI agents were killed in a gunfight on the Pine Ridge reservation. Peltier was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for the murder of FBI agents Jack Coler and Ronald William in 1977.

"In 1975, in a pasture in Oglala, South Dakota, FBI agents and American Indian Movement activists met in a gunfight" ("A Hero for a Lost Cause"). The result of this gunfight left Chippewa Sioux American Indian Leonard Peltier serving two consecutive life sentences for the deaths of two FBI agents, Jack Coler and Ronald Williams ("A Hero for a Lost Cause"). According to Jim Vander Wall's article, "A Warrior Caged: The Continuing Struggle of Leonard Peltier," the FBI agents entered the Jumping Bull Compound on the Pine Ridge reservation on June 25, 1975, in search of a suspect believed to be involved with a robbery. As the agents were searching for their suspect, they followed a red and white van, believing it to be the suspect's vehicle. However, it would later come to everyone's attention that the van belonged to Leonard Peltier. The agents followed the van until it came to a halt and the occupants exited the van, and in response the agents also exited their two vehicles.

Coler exited the vehicle with a rifle and fired at the van, which resulted in a gunfight. At this time there was a lot of tension on the Pine Ridge reservation, so when other AIM activists heard the gunfire they believed they were being attacked, which resulted in them joining in the shootout. The agents called for backup, but by the time other agents arrived on the scene Coler and Williams were already dead. After the crime scene had been investigated, stolen weapons linked Darell "Dino" Butler, Bob Robideau, and Leonard Peltier to the deaths of the FBI agents, all who were AIM activists.

Butler and Robideau were charged and acquitted for the murder of the FBI agents by claiming self-defense. According to Vander Wall, Peltier had gone to Canada and was extradited with false affidavits given by Myrtle Poor Bear, who was coerced by agents into signing false affidavits. At Peltier's trial she was later ruled as an incompetent witness because she was mentally unstable. Because Peltier's trial took place at such a later date than Butler's and Robideau's, the prosecution was better equipped to prevent mistakes from the previous trial which allowed them to prepare a better prosecution.

Vander Wall also stated that the presiding judge on Peltier's case ruled in simple terms that the defense could not use a self-defense argument, and restricted questioning of witnesses. The defense was prohibited from questioning FBI agents about discrepancies in their statements or testimony, and could not use Myrtle Poor Bear as a witness. The judge explained his ruling stating that "to allow her testimony to go to the jury would be confusing the issues, may mislead the jury, and could be highly prejudicial to the government." Because of these rulings the defense was unable to defend Peltier in the best way possible, therefore, an "all-white jury found Peltier guilty of two counts of first-degree murder on April 18, 1977" (Vander Wall).

Since Peltier's conviction in 1977, many people have come to support him in his fight for freedom including Peter Matthiessen, author of *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*. However, Scott Anderson who wrote "The Martyrdom of Leonard Peltier" does not express the same support for Peltier. In Anderson's article he creates an image that makes Peltier seem as if he is a dangerous man with a past. Anderson also questions an incident where Peltier had a "run-in" with two off-duty officers at a Milwaukee restaurant called the Texas Restaurant. He believes that this incident was just merely a run-in between Peltier and the two officers, despite the fact that Peltier had just come from the walk for the Trail of Broken Treaties (Vander Wall).

Matthiessen believes that this incident was one of the reasons why the government jumped so quickly to accuse Peltier of the murder of the agents because he was jumping bail for the attempted murder charges that he had obtained in Milwaukee. Despite Anderson's claims that there was no conspiracy by the government, I would have to believe Matthiessen. Matthiessen states that "Peltier was speedily acquitted when the cop's own girlfriend testified that the whole episode had been a setup," which is supported by Vander wall. Vander Wall's statement was, "he was attacked in a Milwaukee diner by two off-duty policemen" and was later acquitted when "one of the policemen's former girlfriends testified that around the time of the incident he had show her a picture of Peltier and boasted of 'catching a big one for the FBI'"

In Anderson's article, he asks, "Why would the FBI railroad an innocent man?" He responded with Matthiessen's theory of conspiracy and quickly tries to discredit it. Anderson's direct comment is "Matthiessen argued that a hunt for the agent's killer was merely secondary to a larger, darker effort to crush AIM and neutralize its leaders." When I read his comment I quickly interpreted it as Anderson's belief that he could not consider the possibility that the government would create a conspiracy to protect its interest.

During the 1960s, African American citizens began a civil rights movement for equal civil rights. Because of this influence, Dennis Banks, Clyde Bellecourt, and George Miller started the American Indian Movement ("The American Indian Movement"). The goals of AIM activists were to improve housing conditions, education, and the preservation of their culture. There were a lot of riots and police brutality between African American citizens and government officials at the time of the African American civil movement. The same results were seen on the Pine Ridge reservation during the early 1970s. I believe that if the government did not want to see the American Indian's receive equal civil rights then they would do anything to keep it from happening, which includes the false imprisonment of one of AIM's activists. The government's attempts to discredit both

After the deaths of the two FBI agents, Peltier went to Canada. In Anderson's article he briefly mentions the extradition proceedings that took place, but he does not mention the evidence that was used to bring Peltier back. At the extradition proceedings, an affidavit given by Myrtle Poor Bear was used. This affidavit was one of three that was a false statement given by Poor Bear. Vander Wall states that the reason she gave these statements was because she was afraid of what the agents who kidnapped her might do to her if she did not cooperate. I believe that if the government did not use Poor Bear's affidavit that Peltier would not have been extradited from Canada, and therefore would not have stood trial.

However, the use of this affidavit is just another example of how the government used unfair play. In Matthiessen's article he uses Judge Donald Ross's, the judge for Peltier's first appeal, statement saying "that the manipulation of the Myrtle Poor Bear affidavits 'gives some credence to the claim of the Indian people that the United States is willing to resort to any tactic in order to bring somebody back to the United States from Canada. And if they are willing to do that, they must be willing to fabricate other evidence.'" Judge Heaney also stated in April of 1991, that "the FBI used improper tactics in securing Peltier's extradition from Canada and in otherwise investigating and trying the Peltier case" (Matthiessen). Two judges support Matthiessen's conspiracy theory, so why does Anderson find it so difficult to believe that the government is capable of creating a conspiracy theory?

Another issue of Peltier's case is the use of the AR-15 assault rifle, discussed at the trial as the murder weapon. The website of the No Parole Peltier Association claims "the crime scene examination located one .223 caliber shell casing from the trunk of Agent Coler's vehicle. Although a definitive firing pin test could not be conducted because of the smoothness of the Wichita AR-15 firing pin, an extractor mark test was completed, which matched this AR-15 to the shell casing found in the trunk." However, the LPDC comes back in their counter argument stating, "what the newly discovered documents revealed was that the firing pin test was done, and in fact, THE CASING DID NOT MATCH."



# Fight for Clemency

To support the LPDC, Matthiessen talks about an FBI telex from 1975. In the telex it "stated that the 'Wichita AR-15' allegedly used by Peltier during the shoot-out could not be linked to the casing found near the bodies." The evidence provided by LDPC and Matthiessen leads me to believe in Matthiessen's conspiracy theory. I believe that the NPPA does not have a solid and supported reasoning as to why Peltier should remain in prison. Their biggest reason, the AR-15 assault rifle as the murder weapon, has been greatly discredited by Matthiessen and the LPDC.

I strongly feel that Leonard Peltier was falsely accused and convicted of murder. It makes me sad to believe that the government had to use false and fabricated evidence to convict a man because they could not find the murderer of the agents. However, at the time of the deaths of Agent Coler and Agent Williams, I feel that the

government should also take on some responsibility due to the tension that surrounded the Pine Ridge reservation. I believe that Peltier was fighting to defend his people, and therefore should not be in prison. He has been imprisoned since 1977, losing a quarter of his life. His health is already starting to fail him, and to see him die in prison would be the worse kind of justice. Now that Peltier is getting older it is time for us to give him the justice he deserves. I am asking anyone who wants to support Peltier's release from prison to visit the website of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee website at [www.freepeltier.org](http://www.freepeltier.org) and sign the online petition. This will help to bring the issue to President Clinton's attention how important it is to all of us that Peltier receive clemency.

--Mandy Kemp

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Leonard Peltier is an Indigenous rights activist who has been unjustly imprisoned for over 24 years despite the total lack of evidence against him. He is considered by Amnesty International to be a political prisoner who should be "immediately and unconditionally released." Formerly withheld evidence casting serious doubt on Mr. Peltier's guilt forced the government to admit that they could not prove who was actually guilty of the crime he was convicted of and yet, he remains behind bars. Because he was unfairly targeted due to his key role in the American Indian Movement, Leonard Peltier is widely seen as a symbol of the US government's attempts to silence those seeking positive change for Native communities. Rigoberta Menchu, the National Congress of American Indians, the Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the Dalai Lama are only a few of his respected supporters. Now Leonard Peltier is facing the most critical time ever in his campaign for freedom and indeed his life. His only chance for a near future release lies in the hands of President Clinton through a grant of Executive Clemency. Now is the time for us to send a positive and united message that Leonard Peltier should be free. December 10 will mark the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Come join the Leonard Peltier Walk For Freedom and help begin the process of truth, reconciliation, and human rights for the Native Peoples of this land. Gather in Union Square at noon. Walk to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at the United Nations where a program of speakers, cultural activities, and traditional music will be presented from 2pm-4pm. Join us!

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Leonard Peltier Defense Committee: PO Box 583 Lawrence, KS 66044 P. 785-842-5774

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# The Poetry Page

## TO MARY JUANA

Green lady,  
high as a spaceship--  
my parents hated you,  
my shrink, my boss likewise.  
Fake is what you are,  
making me tick-tock  
like a brighter clock.  
A rank smell, headache, then sleep.  
Sleep's the real dream machine.

Hey, old pal, do you miss me?  
I miss you.  
When I broke up with you,  
I had no place to hide.  
My lungs will cough up brown soot,  
my house will filter itself clear.  
I will be alert  
like a wet owl with a pen in my beak.

I have given birth to you, leaf by leaf.  
I have drunk you in  
and spit you out like milk.  
Your absence is like the white bear  
I'm not allowed to think about  
who tramps along beside me,  
puts its paw on my brain.

I won't buy you any more,  
hovering on the phone,  
that corrupt connection.  
I will call only for pizza delivery.  
But part of me will want you forever,  
like a dog who waits for her dead master  
to come home.

--Eileen Murphy

## Ode to a Lover

You began an encounter rare  
a fondness of name  
a cloak I could wear  
were our skins made of the same?

You'd lighted a candle  
unconsciousness intact  
a flickering of Handel  
comfort warmth of melting wax.

Your lip nectar taste still candies my tongue  
you fill my every pore  
drenching thought of you never wrung  
for of you there must be more.

--Nicole Simmons

## Destitution

Feel my freedom befall you.  
Consent to my freedom before you.  
Everything I experience  
you wish.  
Everything you lust  
I live.  
Evermore envy my heart's ambience.  
Covet the passion residing inside me.  
Accept all you have --  
all you have refused  
all you have always wanted  
Refuse the faith fabled in your life  
Embrace an Angel's kiss  
As I have allowed,  
you wish.

--Rick Reliford

## SHE YOUR MAMA

(for Amesha)

Her nickname was  
Rudy, like the little  
girl in the Cosby show,  
her mama had her name  
tattooed on her arm, her  
mama's mama said, you  
bettah be sure you want  
that name on there forever,  
she said, I couldn't ever see  
me not wantin' my baby's name  
on me, forever and always mama,  
I hadn't seen her in the longiss  
time, lost her phone number, bump  
into her a few days ago, she told he  
'bout her little girl, said would you please  
write a poem for her, you see I put  
tattooes into the air, an they travel on  
the wind, there you go Rudy,  
told yah mama I'd twirl  
some ink on that,  
cause she do love you  
so, even after the stain  
on her arm done faded  
dead away, always and  
forever, she your mama.

--John Firefly

## Self Realization

Night.  
Pure, foremost, darkness  
Accept your true self, you travel unnoticed.  
Create the dream of yourself,  
There is no one here, only you.  
live the night  
Accept your own darkness.  
Spread your wings seraph.  
Angel you have found yourself:  
pure, true, complacent  
creature of the night.  
Created out of true love for life.

--Rick Reliford

## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

We're a non-profit volunteer group whose main  
purpose is to offer assistance and support to victims  
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Female and male volunteers answer your calls and  
are available for crisis assistance, information and  
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Call PATH 827-4005

and ask for the  
**RAPE CRISIS CENTER**

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pamerikanusa@netscape.net

We have the right to reject any poem.



I want a do-over. You know, a "Do Over"? Like when we were kids. You have to remember. Go on, take yourself back for a moment... grade school, playing 4 square at recess and you made a mistake but it was one of those mistakes where it might have been okay but no one's really sure so you get to call a do-over and try again... remember it now? Yeah, I thought you would. Well anyway, that's what I want. I called it so I guess, if memory serves me... okay it was about 20 years ago... but I think all I have to do is call it. So I call it. Do Over. Pretty cool huh? Well I think so. See this gives me back a little of the power I've lost in these last 20 years. I bet you don't remember that either. The power of being 8 years old. You probably remember having fun, but not having freedom or you might have had a crappy childhood and choose to not think of it at all. Well I had a fun and crappy childhood, but what I think I miss most is not having to make the big choices and not understanding the impact of all the little ones. I lost some of you again didn't I? I'll go back. Not having to make the big choices...well that's fairly easy...I couldn't ever really fuck up anything important in third grade now could I? The not understanding the little choices part... now I guess you have to be a Saturday morning cartoon buff of the old school to get that one. See, there's this one episode of the roadrunner and coyote where, of course, the coyote gets the shit end of the deal. Go figure. But for a minute there it's really cool because the coyote has fallen off the edge of a cliff and he's just hovering in mid-air. Why? Because he knows nothing about gravity therefore it cannot affect him. After a few seconds the roadrunner hands him a book on Newton, which the coyote reads and upon learning the laws of gravity the now learned coyote plummets to the bottom of the cavern into those heinously pointy rocks. Yeah, he should have called a do-over. And even though that's a cartoon I still think it has merit. Think back. The object of your affection now couldn't have really hurt you deeply back when the two of you were 8, but they can now. That's because at 8 you were still highly confused about sex and you didn't comprehend how intricate the whole dating and mating process could be. Right? If someone would've explained all the stuff they left out of that birds and bees talk you would've been really grossed out. I'm supposed to put my mouth where? But yeah, anyway, I've strayed away from the ever so important subject of do-overs. For those of you who still need to hear more on all that sex ed. Class glossed over, we can talk later. So back to do-overs. I don't want to do-over everything, and I really don't want to change the way my life has turned out so far, but I just want the opportunity to go back and retouch some tiny little mistakes. Nothing that would affect the outcome of the big picture. I don't want to do the Quantum Leap thing and make right what was once made wrong. I want to do those things that will make my memories a bit fuller. A bit more beautiful. I want to spend more time with my friends who have died and not fight with my boyfriend about unimportant things. I want to go back and really call those people who wanted to hang out with me and not spend so much time with people I didn't really like but hung out with anyway. I want to go back and eat the

right things and have that surgery that I should have had years ago. I want to go back and spend more time with my dog with the realization that she wouldn't always be around when I needed her. I want to go back and find the girl I used to be and used to like so much and analyze her so maybe I can find my way back to that state of mind. I want one big, gigantic do-over. Is that really too much to ask? I know. I know. If I go back and do all of those things then I will seriously alter the course my life has taken. I would change all my options and might not be here right now having this little epiphany for your entertainment. And then again I am also aware of the opposite happening, that if I did go back that there is that possibility that I'd do it all the exact same way. After all, that's what I did the first time. Those were the choices I made based on the life I had been living. Maybe it is better this way. Maybe I should just walk away right now with the knowledge that I can do better in the future. That I can spend more time with the few friends I have now and make an effort to be a better girlfriend and a better person in general. Yeah that sounds like a pretty good plan. To try harder in the future. You know what? Fuck it. I want my do-over. Who's got the ball?

--Written for Bobby Angell  
by Barbie Dockstader 7/6/00

### Eyes

smoky quartz  
these loving gems a sight

like a thick robe sublime,  
their gaze covers me kind

Hershey Kissed divine,  
as my heart flows a milky tide

as handsome as winterberry wine,  
reflecting snow flakes of white

behind earthen-rich lashes of night,  
how could such dark jewels of Onyx be so bright?

--Nicole Simmons

### Untitled

Take off that mask  
and reveal  
your iron face  
vain with crippled fear

Echoes ringing  
in your ears  
imprisoned yourself  
with excess mirror

Dandy your cloak  
tightened of twine

Baggage of loss  
amount to unwind

--Nicole Simmons

### Working Hands

the hands of civilization  
are  
tired beyond holding a smile  
Sore, yet they work on  
strong, yet making a fist hurts  
attempts at tenderness, scratch softer skin  
cracked and bleeding  
crying for lotion  
if they're lucky, they're gloved  
if they're blessed, they have good to grasp  
there is no mistaking a working hand  
it's a beautiful thing  
to be honored  
respected; and  
loved

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

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# Poetry Page Cont.

## APRES MOI, LE DELUGE [AFTER I'M GONE, ANNIHILATION]

When I heard about  
the Third World War,  
I stuck a stone in my backpack, a stolen star.

I tried to unplug  
my electric sheep.  
I stroked pink lipstick, I paid to cheat.

I baked in a bunker  
buried in my dress  
as hot birds flew bombs north by northwest.

I hobbled down streets,  
in my high heels;  
I saw no other people for ten thousand miles.

I choked when I ate  
a pound of moral pears;  
I slept with an old sock; I washed my hands, I swear,

in Clorox, but they glowed  
fluorescent green  
when I authorized the war, and I never got them clean.

-Eileen Murphy

## No more (about one night stands)

Be still my beating heart  
Before the evil starts  
others souls are torn apart  
forgetting in my way

I mean no harm to pass  
But it somehow always has  
cut other lives like glass  
as I went on my way

Don't judge me by my deeds  
I, too, have basic needs  
and indifference only feeds  
this hunger I keep at bay

-Ken Hall

## :love:

Between the distance of our fate, a spark  
of passion ignited the beginning of a new  
dynamic love. Unknowingly our conscience  
withheld its strength that it may make way a  
path for the triumphal entry or satisfaction.  
This satisfaction is the substance of two spirits  
becoming one. The door that was closed in our  
hearts has opened, and now new life has  
walked through to embrace loves welcome. The  
two of them intertwine so that they may give  
strength to the Hope that layed barren. Now  
Hope stands with expectations and shows life  
its Joy.

My name is Love. . . I come from the center of  
light, the very core of its power. I expose  
darkness and His camp flees at my presence. I  
am the cornerstone of Happiness. If you open  
the door of your heart, I will come in to dine  
with you. You will eat the fruit of my tree, and  
never again will you hunger.

My name is Love. . . Before we knew each other  
I was your teacher, invisible but always with  
you. I opened your eyes in your mother's womb.  
I gave you breath the day of your arrival and  
watched over you in your tears, pain, fear and  
doubts. . . My name is Love.

-Israel Jimenez

## :My Crime:

A pause in breath, a stop in time. . .  
light turns into darkness, I committed a  
crime. The last beat, the last look. . .  
His soul rised from his body and in GOD's  
Hand it was put. . .

-Israel Jimenez



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**FREQUENCY:** 2 or 3  
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horizontal (7.5" x 5").....	\$140
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1/4 page (3.75" x 5").....	\$75
1/6 page (2.5" x 5" or 3.75" x 3.25").....	\$55
business card (3.75" x 2").....	\$37
classified ad (50 words).....	\$10

Deadlines for receipt of black & white ads:

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**Issue #6 - Jan. 29th, 2001**

**Payment:** A check or money order made payable to **Tail Spins** must  
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## Muse

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Dark, deep, gothic night sky  
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Self-liberating cigarettes  
State of senseless mind  
Poetic divinity  
Inspiration

Begin life  
Accentuate life  
Eccentricate life  
Understand life  
Trail through life  
Your love for life

-Rick Reliford



## LAURA PLAYS THE JAZZ FOR ME PART TWO

Laura plays the jazz for me,	an begins ta go so much further,
it's part two, but it ain't no sequel,	whenever,
Om all alone with my radio,	Laura plays the jazz for me,
an life is cutting through the crackle, hiss, pop,	it's uh voodoo spell I don't wanna shake,
an Miles Davis is out there going off on some classical revelry,	it's taking over the world, an the FCC can't stop it,
an Superman got his kryptonite,	whenever,
Popeye got his spinach,	Laura plays the jazz for me,
an this poet has his radio,	it's all about the vibe,
uh blue lover in the underworld,	the message you give to the world,
I turned around an she was gone,	the message you take from the world,
yet she's more with me in this empty way,	Louis Armstrong attacking segregation via sound, baby, sound,
and I hear her echo so clearly,	truly King of the Zulus in another parade,
whenever,	whenever,
Laura plays the jazz for me,	Laura plays the jazz for me.
she holds my hand in uh dream, an caresses my lips with uh murmur,	--John Firefly

## Silent Battle on a Quiet Night

The candle light cuts through  
the night  
It stabs every opaque thing it touches  
with a bright sword  
The wounded creatures bleed  
shadows  
Their silent tears are mocked by the  
dancing flame  
Yet they stand, still strong enough  
to fight

They have the strength to do battle with  
light  
And light fights with the energy of  
the sun

Shadows fall like the blood of martyrs in this  
war as the hard, callous light wields its  
burning sword, silently slicing the  
quiet night.

--David Hall

## Living in the South

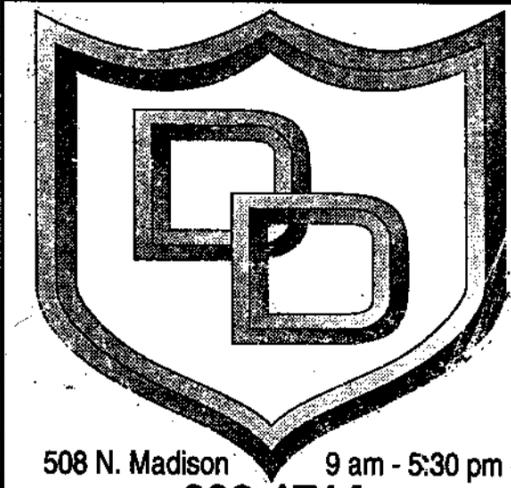
Flowers in December  
Lord have mercy  
Old time gospel  
Hush puppies  
Hush up  
Corn bread  
White bread  
White trash  
Race division  
No coloreds allowed  
Confederate flag  
Remembering the Civil War  
Southern hospitality  
Southern Baptist  
Simple folk  
Laid back  
Ham hocks  
Hangings  
Tar 'n' feathered  
Black eye peas  
Black eyes  
Black pride  
How y'all doin  
Y'all come back now

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

## CORN CUT AFTER THE HARVEST

uh bland color  
peppered with the  
seasoning of death,  
that would dream  
to glisten, but is  
no longer green,  
hard of stubble of  
ground still pointing  
towards the blue,  
in lines that ride  
the hill of earth  
curving, an what  
is left is noble  
still.

--John Firefly



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# DIESEL DICK'S

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## Needs for Clare House, soup kitchen, pantry

Prayers, bologna, hot dogs, someone to repair parking blocks, chickens, hamburger, large and small paper sacks, detergent and dish soap, sanitary pads, SMALL PAPER PLATES, powdered drink mixes, tickets to anywhere, a good truck, Ice-Foe for the sidewalks, prayers, prayers, prayers, money for bills, insurance, taxes, money for bills: insurance, utilities, taxes, stamps, celery, onions, potatoes, carrots, fresh fruit, canned fruit, eggs, cheese, paper cups, napkins, mayonnaise and relish, large jars of soup base, diapers, baby food, people to shovel the snow, a Nice Retreat Center Property.

Clare House hours for donation:  
Wednesday 9-11 am & 7-9 pm  
Saturday 9-11 am

Food Pantry:  
Wednesday & Friday: 1 pm

Soup Kitchen hours at Holy Trinity:  
Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 am

Clare House has been helping the needy with food and other necessary items for a good amount of time. If you would like to donate anything to them, they are located at 703 E. Washington St. in Bloomington.

## Children and mental disorders: myths and facts

*And whosoever shall give a drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water . . . he shall in no wise lose his reward. Matthew 10:42*

**Myth:** Children do not get mental illness  
**Fact:** Twelve million children under the age of 18 will have some form of psychiatric illness in any 60 month period.

**Myth:** The majority of children with mental health problems receive appropriate treatment.  
**Fact:** Fewer than one in five children who have a mental disorder receive treatment of any kind.

**Myth:** Children do not suffer from depression because they are spared the stresses adults must face.  
**Fact:** Three to six million children suffer from clinical depression.

**Myth:** Children rarely commit suicide.  
**Fact:** Children who suffer from depression are a high risk for suicide. Every hour 57 children and teenagers try to kill themselves; every day 18 succeed. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people.

**Myth:** Attention-deficit Disorders (ADD) is over diagnosed.

**Fact:** ADD affects three to 10% of all children in the United States. It is thought to be 10 times more common in boys than girls. This disorder often develops before age of seven but is most often diagnosed when the child is between ages of eight and ten.

**Myth:** "Poor parenting" is a cause of childhood mental disorders.

**Fact:** Blaming parents is not appropriate, since the causes are complex and never due to any single factor. Research indicates that many mental illnesses have a biological component which makes a child susceptible to the disorder. Blaming parents, and feelings of guilt be parents, is often as inappropriate as feelings of guilt about other childhood illness or about inherited health problems. The key is to recognize there is a problem and seek appropriate treatment.

—from NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties

established 1968

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# A few signs of a democracy in deep trouble

## Education

- Less time being spent in schools teaching the Constitution, democracy, civics and social studies; hence a declining population familiar with such matters.
- Increased punishment of students exercising free speech rights.
- Use of school ID cards including private data.
- Failure to teach the Constitution and democracy to immigrants, many of whom come from countries without a democratic tradition.

## Justice

- Large increase in surprise raids on private homes.
- Mandatory sentencing that transfers discretionary power from the courts to prosecutors.
- Use of racial profiling in searches and traffic stops.
- Use of high tech surveillance without regard to constitutional safeguards.
- Growing attempts to restrict citizens' constitutional right to bear arms.
- Change in the use of forfeiture laws - formerly applied primarily to customs violations - to enforce such statutes as those involving wildlife, gambling, narcotics, immigration, and money laundering.
- Major increase in criminal cases handled without juries.
- Number of criminal court cases in Texas 1999: 774,918. Number decided by juries: 0.8 percent.
- Number of of civil court cases in Texas 1999: 566,918. Number decided by juries: 0.6 percent.
- The unconstitutional, counter-productive, and corrupt war on drugs.
- The U.S. incarceration rate has increased 300% since the 1970s.
- Nations whose combined prison population could fit inside California penal institutions with space left over: France, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands.
- Number of black men in California state universities: 8,800. Number of black men in California state prison: 44,600.
- Increased use of "emergencies" to justify undemocratic actions.

## Politics

- Percent of Americans who chose not to vote in 1998: 64%.
- 27% of Americans believe the First Amendment goes too far in guaranteeing free speech.
- Increased dependence by politicians on financial contributors rather than voters - including contributors representing foreign, military, and drug interests.
- Easily rigged computerized vote counts using corporate-owned proprietary systems not available for inspection even by the jurisdictions that purchase them.
- Rigged presidential debates excluding all but GOP and Democratic candidates.

## Public space

- Use of concealed video cameras on streets and in parks.
- Illegal preemptive actions against protesters before demonstrations have occurred.

- Illegal arrests used solely to remove unwanted persons from the streets during a demonstration.
- Punishment on zoning or public nuisance grounds of those providing food and services to the homeless.
- Mock military invasions of urban centers.

## Media

- Growing insensitivity of media to constitutional issues and matters of democratic practice.
- Unchecked monopolization of the media.
- Democracy being questioned in elite publications.
- Major efforts to censor and suppress content on the Internet and elsewhere.
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR now headed by former government propaganda officials.



- Assault on the independence of Pacifica Radio.
- Number of books banned from Texas schools in 1997-98: 55.
- Percent of books on the Modern Library's list of the 100 greatest books in English that have been targets of censors: 50%.

## Privacy

- Attrition of privacy, acclimating citizenry to ever increasing intrusions.
- children being taught not to expect privacy.
- Technology constantly introducing new ways of abusing privacy.
- Attempts to introduce a national ID card.

## Spying

- Encouraging children to spy on parents and employees to spy on each other.
- 63% of corporations admit spying on their employees. Only 23% tell the employees they're doing it.
- Increased use of wiretaps.
- Increased spying on customers by bands on behalf of the government.

## White House & Executive Branch

- Use of IRS audits as a form of political punishment.
- Illegal use of FBI investigative files.
- Attempt to rewrite the 10th Amendment and bypass Congress by improper use of executive orders.
- Failure to execute faithfully the laws of the land.
- President and high officials allowed to lie repeatedly with impunity.
- Suppression of executive branch whistle blowers.

## Congress

- Signing of gag agreements and submitting to executive branch security clearance, both of which violate separation of powers.
- Increased corruption undermining public confidence in democratic legislature.

## Corporations

- Elected officials mainly serve corporations rather than citizens.
- Massive distortion of elections and political decisions through huge corporate donations and pressure of lobbyists.
- Fingerprinting by banks for check cashing.

## Transportation

- Massive increase in airport security procedures following a plane crash that the government insists was caused by mechanical malfunction. These procedures:
  - Violate the constitutional prohibition against asking for identification from law-abiding citizens who are raising no suspicion by their conduct. Restrict the constitutional right to travel
  - Requires certification by a government agency in order for a person to be qualified to travel by air.
  - Conditions Americans to present ID upon demand of any person in authority.
  - conditions Americans to accept a requirement that they carry a government-issued ID card thus accelerating the trend towards a mandatory national ID document.

-from *The Progressive Review*





# Rainbow Connection News

## "Defending" marriage

I approach the campaign for gay marriage much as I do gays-in-the-military. I don't want to, but if you do, I don't think you should be denied.

OK, I do care more than that about the issue. I'm reminded of my fave movie, "The Lion In Winter," in which the king and queen are continuously and bitterly fighting over which child should inherit the throne. The king asks, "Why do you care?" and the queen replies, "I care because you care so much."

I care, out of all proportion with my personal desire to participate, because the homophobes care so much. It is such a vital issue to them that we not be allowed the official sanction of marriage, either in their churches or in out civil life. The irony is, the 'phobes consider their position - prohibition - to be based on "family values." (And they say we're perverse!)

They even launched legislation they called the "Defense of Marriage Act." As if the very existence of our relationships somehow threatens their home life. As if, when told we can't marry our same-sex partner, we will say, 'Oh. Hmm. Then I guess I better go straight.' As if in the absence of such a law, some bridegroom might suddenly realize, 'Hey, I'd be happier married to the Best Man!'



The 'phobes are right about one thing: the compromise of registering domestic partnership is another step on the slippery slope, and we should welcome it. The first churches to pioneer holy unions and the first corporations to give partner benefits set the cultural luge in motion. Gay marriage is now just a matter of time. The 'phobes will exhaust themselves trying to push the sled back up the mountain; we can just coast.

Of course, many will be impatient for the inevitable to arrive. So by all means keep up the fight. Is traditional marriage such a feeble

## Queer theatre course offered at ISU

The Illinois State University department of Theatre will offer a "Queer Theatre and Performance" course on Mondays and Wednesdays during the spring semester.

The course will range from the "we are here" plays of Jane Chambers to the politically-charged "we are queer" works by playwrights from from the 1980s and 1990s. Students will be expected to read plays and performance pieces as well as recent scholarship in queer studies.

The instructor for the course is Ann Haugo, an instructor in the Theatre department and the Women's Studies program.

## HIV/AIDS support group continues to meet

The local HIV/AIDS Support Group continues to meet from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays at a confidential location.

The group, coordinated by Stacy Parton, MA,LCPC, is open to all who are HIV-positive. For more information, call Stacy at 827-5351. institution, with so few points to recommend it, that it really needs a "defense" against a more inclusive definition?

-Pam Bailey (from QCAD News)

## Countering domestic violence in the GLBT community

Domestic violence is not an easy topic of conversation. It can seem confusing to both individuals who have experienced an abusive relationship, as well as for those who have observed a friend or loved one caught in the cycle. But, as a community, we must talk about the subject so that we can support the abused individual in finding safety and healing and support the batterer in changing. Below are some facts about domestic violence:

- G/L/B/T relationships reflect the same occurrence of domestic violence as heterosexual relationships, which means 1 in 3.
- Domestic violence can happen to anyone.
- Battering is not mutual and it is not a "relationship problem."
- Batterers are not always bigger or more butch.
- Violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or verbal.
- The abuse does not happen all the time, it often occurs in a cyclical fashion.
- The victim often feels as if s/he cannot do anything right.
- Abuse in the home impacts children living in the home, whether or not they have observed or directly experienced the abuse.
- Battering and S/M are not the same thing.
- Abuse often becomes worse over time.
- Promises to change, though they may be sincere, often fail without the intervention of trained counselors and advocates.

Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence (CDV) Program is a comprehensive victim service agency. All services are free and confidential. Services include:

- 24-hour hotline: (309) 827-7070
- Neville House emergency shelter services.
- Individual and group counseling services.
- Court advocacy - assistance with protective orders. Please call 888-5521 for assistance.
- Medical advocacy.
- Volunteer program.

If you are concerned about your partner's behavior towards you, or if you have questions about domestic violence please telephone the 24-hour hotline.

-from The Rainbow Connection

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

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The **Bistro**

Monday...\$1 Jagermeister  
 Tuesday...\$1<sup>25</sup> Domestic Beer  
 Wednesday...\$2 Long Island Ice Tea

Hours: Monday - Thursday 4 pm - 1 am  
 Friday 4 pm - 2 am • Saturday 8 pm - 2 am  
 Sunday 6 pm - 1 am

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# Students for a Sane Drug Policy

I was in the food court at Heartland Community College and saw a poster with a pot leaf on it. Thought it might be of interest to Post readers, so I checked it out. It was from Students for a Sane Drug Policy and what follows is some info that can be found on their website, beginning with their mission statement:

As students and young citizens in this country, we believe that the current U.S. policies concerning illicit drugs are harmful and ineffective. We are spending billions of dollars, giving up our Constitutional rights, and imprisoning hundreds of thousands of our citizens in a vain effort to stop drug use.

The U.S. needs to acknowledge the failure of prohibition and support a policy that aims to reduce the amount of damage done to individuals and society by drug abuse.

Students for A Sane Drug Policy is dedicated to providing education of harms caused by the War on Drugs, working to involve youth in the political process, and promoting an open, honest, and rational discussion of alternative solutions to our nation's drug problems.

Following are just a few of the topics that the website discusses:

## HEA Reform

The Higher Education Act was to open opportunities for higher education. It establishes federal financial aid programs such as Perkins Loans, Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, PLUS Loans, and Work-Study Programs. But the 1998 revision includes an amendment that will close college opportunities for many students. This new provision will deny or delay federal financial aid, whether it's grants, loans or work-study, to students convicted of any state or federal drug offense.

## ASSET FORFEITURE

The right to own property is one of the most basic principles in our form of government. The United States Constitution speaks of "life, liberty and property" all in one breath. The Fifth Amendment states that no citizen shall be "deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." The Fourth Amendment protects "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures..."

Unfortunately, these familiar phrases from the Constitution do not mean what they seem to mean when "civil forfeiture" ears its ugly head -- or so says the Supreme Court. Relying on forfeiture's ancient "legal fiction" that it is the property that is on trial -- not the property owner -- the courts have interpreted away most due process protections in forfeiture cases, on the theory that property does not have rights.

## MANDATORY MINIMUMS

During the 1970s and 1980s, Congress and many state legislatures passed mandatory minimum sentencing laws that force judges to hand out fixed sentences, without parole, to people convicted of certain crimes.

Mandatory sentences must be imposed regardless of a person's role in the crime or other mitigating factors. Prosecutors, not judges, have the discretion to decide what charges to bring, whether to accept or deny a plea bargain, to reward or deny a defendant's "substantial assistance" or cooperation, and ultimately, to sentence will be.

These are just a few of the topics that you can read more about as well as drug testing, DARE, medical marijuana, the prison industrial complex and more. Check out SSDP's site @ [www.NormalSSDP.com](http://www.NormalSSDP.com)

# "The C-SPAN of the Left" ((((RADIO FREE MAINE))))

PRESENTS

## Julia Butterfly Hill

The courageous woman who lived in an ancient redwood tree for more than two years will be visiting Maine this fall. This is your opportunity to meet with her and hear her message of community responsibility to Mother Earth and one another.

*"It is not a matter of whether or not we can make a difference, but that each and every one of us do make a difference."* Julia Butterfly Hill

((((RADIO FREE MAINE))))

PRESENTS

AUTHOR OF "LEGACY OF LUNA"  
JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST WHO SPENT TWO YEARS LIVING IN AN ANCIENT CALIFORNIA REDWOOD TREE TO PROTECT IT FROM LOGGERS.

\*\*\*\*\*

AVAILABLE ON AUDIOTAPE (SPEECH ONLY) FOR \$11.00 AND  
VHS VIDEO (SPEECH PLUS Q&A) FOR \$20.00

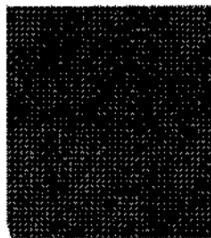
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ROGER LEISNER AND MAIL TO  
RADIO FREE MAINE P.O. Box 2705 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04338  
(207) 622-6629 TEL WEB SITE [WWW.RADIOFREEMAINES.COM](http://WWW.RADIOFREEMAINES.COM)

# Make your list and check it twice.

Don't forget the folks that matter the most  
this holiday season.

\*

**PATH  
PFLAG  
Project Oz  
Head Start  
Clare House  
Sterile Feral  
Neville House  
Voice for Choice  
Rape Crisis Center  
Safe Harbor Mission  
Habitat for Humanity  
Home Sweet Home Mission  
Prairie State Legal Services  
Mid Central Community Action  
McLean County AIDS Task Force  
Advocacy Council for Human Rights**



**OTHER PORTS**  
120 North St., Normal  
Monday - Saturday 10-5:30  
Sunday 11-4:00