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POST AMERICAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL VOLUME 30

FREE

NUMBER FOUR

AUGUST/SEPT. 2001

In this issue...

Reviewing Bloomington/Normal:

Movies

Open Mic nights

Band reviews

Von Frickle

Wiplot

The Hubbards

News from local organizations

Activist activities

Plus: Voice for Choice; Notes from the Land of Anti-Fat; Seeing Red; Jesse Wolf Hardin, Prison paradise, and more!



New Feature:

Places to go,
people to meet,
things to see

Six Points Rd

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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	Miomi@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
Clare House (Catholic workers)	828-4035
Countering Domestic Violence	827-7070
Dept. of Children/Family Services	828-0022
Gay, Lesbian & Bi teen drop in center	828-3998
Gay & Lesbian Resource Phoneline	438-2429
Habitat for Humanity	827-3931
Headstart	662-4880
Home Sweet Home Mission	828-7356
IL Dept. of Public Aid	827-4621
IL Lawyer Referral	1-217-525-5297
Incest Survivors Support Group	827-0790
LIFE-CIL	663-5433
Lighthouse (substance abuse treatment)	827-6026
McLean Co. Center for Human Services	827-5351
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
<i>Post Amerikan</i>	828-4473
Prairie State Legal Services	827-5021
Project Oz	827-0377
Rape Crisis Center	827-4005
Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
Salvation Army	829-9476
Safe Harbor Mission	829-7399
TeleCare (senior citizens)	828-8301
Unemployment comp/job service	827-6237
Western Ave. Community Center	829-4807
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
 Burwells, 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.
 Lizards Lounge, 612 N. Main
 Shockwaves, 415 N. Main
 To Your Health, 1214 N. Towanda, #2
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main

Normal
 Acne Comics, 115 W. North
 Babbitt's Books, 104 W. North
 Campus Town, 121 W. North
 Centennial Hall, ISU
 Coffeehouse, 14 E. Beaufort
 Deadpan Alley Records, 107 W. North
 Ecology Action Center, 208 W. College
 Mother Murphy's, 111 W. North
 Movie Fan, 202C W. North
 Normal Public Library, 206 W. College
 North Street Cafe, 205 W. North
 Stevenson Hall, ISU
 University Galleries, ISU

Peoria
 Bicycle Bus
 Illinois Central College

What's your new address?

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

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Due Date:

The due date for submitting articles to the *Post Amerikan* is: (please laser print your articles in columns of 3" using Palatino 10pt. type if possible.); or submit via e-mail at: pamerikanusa@netscape.net **Sept 15th**



Community News

Have you experienced discrimination? Let us know!

Those of you who have been in the Bloomington/Normal community for a few years will remember what happened five years ago: both the Bloomington and Normal city councils voted against amended human rights ordinances that would have barred discrimination against gbt people in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit transactions.

We still do not have gay-inclusive human rights ordinances in the Twin Cities, but this is the time to lay some groundwork for the future. One thing we need to do is better document cases of discrimination on our community, and that's where we depend on you to help. If you have experienced discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, or credit transaction—or know someone who has—please encourage them to contact us with their story.

We understand that some people are hesitant to come forward to report these acts. However, if you feel comfortable doing it please consider reporting incidents to the following government bodies:

Joe Garibay
Town of Normal
Human Resources Department
100 E Phoenix
Normal, IL 61761-0589
309-454-2444

Illinois Department of Human Rights:
222 South College, Floor 1
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217-785-5100

Barb Adkins
City of Bloomington
Community Relations Division
109 E. Olive St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-434-2218

Also, Please let us know of any acts of discrimination you or anyone you know of experiences. We constantly log this information for future use. Our phone number is 309-830-2521 and our e-mail address is achr@mailcity.com.

—from *The Rainbow Connection Newsletter*

hom-o-pho-bi-a
(hom'ə fō'bē ə) n.
insecurity about
being heterosexual

WGLT Recycled Music Sale

Are your old CDs and tapes and records gathering dust and taking up valuable space? Don't throw them away; donate them to WGLT radio's 10th Recycled Music Sale, to be held August 17-19 at College Hills mall in Normal. We are accepting used CDs, tapes, record, sheet music, instruments and stereo equipment. All types of music are welcome, and profits will go to GLT's equipment fund.

Drop-off points for donations have been set up for your convenience:

Bloomington
Bloomington Public Library
205 E. Olive/828-6091

Samuel Music
1717 R T Dunn Drive/820-9880

Schnucks
1701 E. Empire/662-9300

Horine's Pianos Plus
1336 E. Empire/663-7587

Normal
Normal Public Library
206 W. College Avenue/452-1757

Vitesse Cycle
206 S. Linden/454-1541

Twin City Self Storage
2019 Eagle Rd./454-1811

Peoria
Lakeview Museum
1125 W. Lake/309-686-7000

Horine's Pianos Plus
8516 N. Knoxville/309-693-7587

"Annoying Music" Host visits B/N

Host of the acclaimed Annoying Music Minute, Jim Nayder, will bring his unique brand of musical amusement to WGLT's 10th annual Recycled Music Sale on August 17th.

Nayder's Annoying Music Show is aired on public radio stations throughout the country and on the BBC. The show has spawned two CD released of Annoying Music. Those CDs feature musical attempts gone wrong, such as one by Bonanza's Dan Blocker.

The lure of Nayder's brand of humor can be summed up in a People Magazine review: "Annoying Music is like passing an accident. You don't want to look, but you sort of have to!"

The GLT Recycled Music Sale, which runs August 17-19 from a College Hills Mall location, features thousands of LP's, CD's, and cassettes in every category including jazz, blues, classical, country, folk, children's music, opera, comedy, pop and rock, R & B and much more. All proceeds from the sale benefit listener supported GLT's Equipment Fund.



Mt. Hawley Mini Storage
8101 N. Hale/309-692-5746

Samuel Music
4640 North Brandywine/800-685-2407

Morton
Morton Public Library
315 W Pershing/309-263-2200

David Erwin's of Minnesota Coffee & Tea
213 S Main/309-266-9066

Washington
Washington Public Library
301 Walnut/309-444-2241

Donations will be accepted at these places from July 6 through August 3.

Your support is needed and appreciated! Goods will be resold at reasonable prices to the public August 17-19. If you have any question, call GLT Promotions Director Steve Fast at 309-438-5083.

Karen Schmidt
Alderman ~ Ward 6

409 E. Grove St., Bloomington
home: 829-6318
work: 217-244-2070
e-mail: karens@uiuc.edu

Representing citizens' ideas, interests, issues & concerns to Bloomington city government.

Ward 6 is roughly downtown Bloomington and all parts of its surrounding neighborhoods. You need not live in my ward to call me.



Seeing Red: It's a Free Country

by Steve Eckardt

(GLENSIDE, PA.) - The college student and I were outside the theater with the Che T-shirts for maybe three minutes before the owner charged out shouting "You can't do this! You can't do this!"

In fact I was still parking the car when the big graying red-head made his appearance, threatening the college student like a 200-pound rooster who'd forgotten his chest had fallen into his belly long ago.

The squad cars showed up two minutes later. Thing was that the Afro-Cuban All-Stars band was playing the theater, and we wanted to reach the crowd. We hoped to sell some Che T-shirts to raise some cash for a big group of local young people organizing themselves for a trip to Cuba, thanks to a nationwide invitation from Cuban youth groups representing like two million people.

T-shirts for sure, but mainly we wanted to meet people who liked the Afro-Cuban All-Stars, let them know what was going on, and invite them to a big-ass party we were organizing.

Arguing with the proprietor meant letting the people pass by. And the squad cars and uniforms weren't exactly sending them a you-want-to-get-involved-in-this message.

Now the heat's pretext was "vending without a license," though they would've used anything from an 18th century law requiring horses to be hitched (yep, we hadn't hitched any horses) to a drug-positive nuclear analysis of our hair thanks to eating poppy-seed cake three months ago.

Sure, there is such a thing as the First Amendment (freedom of speech and press), and the Supreme Court has ruled that banning sales of things like Che T-shirts with anti-vendor laws is stone unconstitutional. And 18 months after the crowd was gone --and after an evening in the lock-up, a bunch of missed days at work, and a thousand dollars of attorney's fees-- we would have won.

Hey, it's a free country.

So, duh, we kiss crew-cut blue ass --all concern, apologetic smiles, and "yes sirs"-- put the shirts back in the big cardboard box, and start handing out leaflets for the party.

Eight minutes later the squads are back. "You can't hand out leaflets in front of the theater," they say.

I smile and show my palms. "Well, we're on the public sidewalk here, officer ... but why don't you show me the line we should be outside of so and we'll stay there." The crowd's passing by again and seeing us with the uniforms.

The bulls show us where they'll let us stand and we go there smiling. We hand out some more leaflets. But the cops don't leave. One beckons us back to the squad. "Problem, sir?" I ask cooperatively.

"People can tell what's in the box," he says. And sure enough we'd --oops--left enough of one hanging out so that people could tell we had a box of Che T-shirts. "You need to remove the box."

So I stuff the exposed shirt inside the box and move it further down the street. "Best I can do, officer, I have to wait for someone to pick me up. OK?" But now there's only a few stragglers left so we hand out a few more leaflets and leave.

"Does this happen every time you go out?" the college student asks. I realize that the kid, though he's done a lot of things, has never worked the street before.

But I can't help just saying, "Yes."

Later, over a cold one or three, I wonder if I'd said the right thing, thinking of ways the answer could have been finessed. I think of possible raps about capitalism's hostility to democracy, about police power being constrained by the legacies of struggles like the civil rights and antiwar movements, the international context of it all, and volumes more of blah and blah.

But the question was "Does this happen every time you go out?"

And the answer is "Yes."

Every time you do people's politics on a U.S. street, you meet a uniform within a matter of minutes. (OK, how many cops and how soon varies a little depending on what part of the U.S., whether it's rural or urban, if there's a President around, etc., etc.)

Every time.

In fact, there's a hierarchy of which First Amendment freedoms are actually allowed (as for where, almost nothing's allowed on "private property" --which is virtually everywhere except most sidewalks). Petitioning to get on the ballot, even for a Socialist, will usually be tolerated. Non-ballot petitioning runs into more trouble, but still flies much of the time. Handing out leaflets is more of a problem --they'll usually let you proceed only after missing a lot of people and being moved somewhere less effective.

Selling a newspaper --freedom of the press, right?-- is lucky to be allowed half the time. Selling posters or T-shirts fares even worse.

And the worst thing you can do? Sell books. Try setting up a table full of books anywhere outside the space of a demonstration or a political meeting ...or on a good day, a college campus, and you're almost guaranteed to be shut down.

A hundred words on a leaflet is one thing, fifty thousand is something else. People will start getting ideas, fer crissakes.

And I remember my first trip to Cuba. It's for a small international conference on the 30th anniversary of the TriContinental Congress (famous for Che's "two, three, many VietNams" speech). I walk into it, been in the country less than 12 hours, and here's three Australians with some boxes of political books, many of the same ones I've helped sell over the years.

But there's a problem --we don't have a table. And then the women in charge of the conference goes charging by, trailed by various assistants trying to get her attention on a panoply of pressing details like microphones and air conditioning and chairs. She sees the books, stops so dead in her tracks that there's nearly a pile-up and says, "You've got books!" And gives every one of us a hug.

Then she looks again, puts her hands on her face and exclaims "But you don't have a table!"

It's intolerable. "I'll get you one myself," she declares and shoots off to find one, leaving the assistants standing there hanging, but then nodding understandingly.

"Holy shit," I say to one of the Australians, dumbfounded. His face crinkles into a smile. "Hey, it's free country, mate."

Leave questions and comments at <www.SeeingRed.com>. Or email <seckardt@aol.com>.



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Burger King's dirty secrets

Burger King's dirty secrets inside one of their farms

Former PETA intern Freeman Wicklund and his team from Compassionate Action for Animals knew the Michael Foods egg factory wouldn't be pretty, but one step inside this Burger King supplier's Minnesota farm and they were appalled.

The activists faced endless rows of suffering hens and scrambled to help as many as they could. They watered desperately thirsty hens, untangled claws twisted around cage wires and pulled fly-infested corpses out of cages. They took photos and video of cages encrusted with filth and crippled, featherless hens who were being trampled by their cagemates. And they whisked away hens from death's door and delivered them to a sanctuary.

The rescue exposed everyday cruelties endured by hundreds of millions of factory farmed hens all over North America who are treated like machines—then killed, their bodies ground up for chicken soup and pet food. (Visit BanBatteryCages.org for more details on the rescue and investigation.)

Forced molting: A cheap, cruel ploy
"When man domesticated animals, it was inevitable there would be some negative aspects for those animals," says Donald Bell, widely considered a driving force behind forced molting.

The process of forced molting, starving birds and restricting water intake, was created by the egg industry as a cheap way to get more "product" out of almost completely "spent" hens. Some birds suffer multiple forced

moltings before they're finally killed. This industry ploy threatens consumers' health—forced molting weakens birds' immune systems and increases the risk of disease. Studies reveal a link between the stress of forced molting inflicted on chickens and the incidence of salmonella in the chickens and their eggs.

No beak, no room, no life

In 1999, the agricultural ministers for the European Union voted to ban battery cages because of cruelty concerns. But in the U.S., it's hideous business as usual—99% of all eggs sold in the United States are laid by battery hens in squalid factory farms, where the sights and stench of waste and death are hidden inside windowless sheds. Everything is mechanized. Conveyor belts deliver water and food and remove eggs and waste.

At this Michael Foods egg factory, a missing conveyor belt meant that hens in the lower tier of cages were covered in excrement from hens housed above them. Because the ceilings of their cages are actually conveyor belts, many hens who stand tall while the belts are moving are choked to death after their heads get caught and they are dragged along.

A single cage, roughly 18 by 20 inches, typically holds seven or eight hens—in the Michael Foods facility, as many as 11 birds were crammed into one cage.

In an effort to decrease injuries that frustrate, stressed hens might inflict on their cagemates, baby chicks are painfully debeaked by hot blades that slice off their beaks—and sometimes their tongues or faces.

You can help

Urge Burger King to commit to our list of specific steps to improve animals' lives. In the U.S. contact:

Mr. John Dasburg, CEO
Burger King Corporation
17777 Old Cutler Rd.
Miami, FL 33157
Tel: 305-378-7011
Fax: 305-378-7262

Please urge Burger King's Franchisee Association to take a stand:
Frank Capaldo, Executive Director
National Franchisee Association, Inc.
3901 Roswell Rd. N.E.
Ste. 208
Marietta, GA 30062
Tel: 770-971-0808

Please write to Michael Foods and request that it stop debeaking and force-molting hens and phase out the use of battery cages:
Gregg A. Ostrander, CEO
Michael Foods, Inc.
5353 Wayzata Blvd.
Ste. 324
Minneapolis, MN 55416
E-Mail: gregg.ostrander@michaelfoods.com

Write a letter to your local newspaper about how animals suffer for Burger King.

Organize a local demonstration and sponsor a billboard—visit www.MurderKing.com for details.

—from PETA's *Animal Times*

HIV on rise in young gay men—especially black males

Federal health officials reported yesterday that young gay men are contracting HIV at a rate not seen in more than a decade. The new data, released just before the 20th anniversary of the first published description of AIDS, suggests a "resurgent epidemic" among gay men—the population in which the first cases were found. Dr. Helene Gayle, head of AIDS prevention programs at the CDC, said the data underscore "the need to reach each generation of gay and bisexual men early—and to sustain those efforts as they age."

The survey of 2,942 gay men ages 23 to 29 was conducted in six cities between 1998 and 2000 and found that 4.4 percent were becoming infected with HIV each year. But this incidence rate varied widely by race and ethnicity: it was 2.5 percent among whites, 3.5 percent among Hispanics and 14.7 percent among blacks. According to the survey, 32 percent of young black gays are already infected, as are 14 percent of Hispanics and 7 percent whites.

"I'm very concerned about the pockets of epidemic that we are seeing," said Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher. "Thirty percent—that's approaching Botswana's level of infection." Phil Wilson, founder of the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute, said the data show "we have a screaming emergency . . . and that we've failed in developing prevention messages for young black men who have sex with men." He also blamed social prejudice against young black men, leading to low self-esteem. An incidence rate of 14.7 percent—that seen in young black gays—leads rapidly to a state where the majority of that population is infected, according to CDC epidemiologist Robert Janssen.

—David Brown
Washington Post (06.01.01)



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Reindigenation: Matters of



IN-DIG-E-NOUS: adj. 1) Occurring or living naturally in an area; native. 2) Intrinsic, innate.

"We see in the present best efforts of groups of non-Indians an honest desire to become indigenous in the sense of living properly with the land." "...Sacred places in North America may yet see a series of transformations in which new peoples using new languages rely on them for spiritual sustenance."

-Vine Deloria, Jr. (Sioux historian)

Not so long ago the tribes of the Americas marked five centuries of opposition to the European incursion. Five hundred years of resistance, preceded by over three millenniums of struggle by land-based tribes against the encroaching civilized paradigm in Asia, Europe, and Africa. We may remember this passage of time and our reoccurring loyalty to the Earth as part of a vast store of wordless information, a language of touch and smell, love and fright, sound and sight.

I remember it in bright pictures, in green fields tinged with red. I remember it in innocent laughter rent by screams, in the aroma of sexual bliss overcome by the smell of open wounds, oiled gears, and retching mountains of refuse. I remember and mark not five hundred, but over three thousand years of conscientious resistance to the encroaching colonialist paradigm.

The strength to resist destruction or assimilation, to resist the denigration and transformation of the physical landscape, comes from the depth of one's relationship to it. Strength is one of the gifts we're given in return for our devotion and loyalty, for acting like responsible natives. Power comes from belonging not owning, and it is their unimpeachable connectedness that gives all indigenous people the strength to face seemingly insurmountable odds. Such connection requires a slowing down and staying

put for a change, requires loving attentiveness and a great listening as well as ritualized prayer, a ritualized reaching out.

To commemorate, to celebrate, to pray, and just to make it real, contemporary land-based and spiritual communities have begun to fashion rituals relevant to the current times, the planet's dire straits, the mixed-lineage of the clans, and their terrestrial site: their place. They may be fourth and fifth generation inhabitants of Turtle Island, as the North American continent has been called, and yet they are unlikely to have elders to turn to for instruction, or rites to call their own. In camps next to threatened forests, in gardens and on mountain walks, during rites of passage for their children and attending the births and the deaths of their loved ones, they piece together fragments of prayers, symbols and ideas. They draw from the universal to tap the power of the sacred circle, of sweat lodges and burning smudge. They gather bagpipes, drums, rattles, sometimes even a saxophone—and open themselves to giving voice to Spirit, to Gaia, to God.

It turns out to be a fine line between the creation and adulteration of tradition, between honoring Indian spiritual traditions and what some AmerIndian activists have labeled "cultural genocide." After a history of their homelands being appropriated and sold, the extraction of their Native American rituals and symbols is experienced as the final affront, the ultimate theft. The one thing usually left to a defeated and dispossessed peoples was their unique cosmology, the songs and rituals through which any culture knows and defines itself. The new Indian traditionalists grew up with their artifacts sold to museums, their implements bastardized as rubber tomahawks and pueblo ashtrays, their people stereotyped thanks to non-Indians playing their part in a deluge of western movies. Many have struggled to eschew the materialist ways of the invader culture, and applied themselves to learning the old ways of their various tribes. Now they find other Native Americans sharing, and sometimes charging for lessons in their spiritual ways. They find EuroAmericans marketing "Lakota" Inipi ceremonies (sweats), and making money writing "Indian" books.

"It is essential that people reconnect with Earth-based religions, but many times people are trying to practice Lakota vision questing or other practices out of context. You can't practice Lakota without being in the context of a Lakota community."

-Winona LaDuke

LaDuke admonishes her mostly Caucasian audiences to search out Earth-honoring practices within their own cultures and religious framework, she means for one to look to the Kabbhalic roots of prepatriarchal Judaism, the Gnostic traditions of early Christianity and the example of St. Francis, and by implication the religiosity and rites of the Druids of Western Europe, the Yoruba of Africa, and the Jains of India. I agree with her this far, but the problem is that not everyone claims a single country of origin, a single (or any) existing religious

practice. They couldn't "go back where they came from," even if they wanted, when so many migrants from so many different countries may have crossed sweat and semen to create the persons they are.

Should one of mixed lineage return to their Pict roots, search through the sprawling cities of Great Britain for the vibrations of their history, or take off to find the birthplaces of ancestors on their mother's Russian side, where the oldest surviving tradition is patriarchal Orthodoxy? Or might they belong in France, the place of origin for at least one branch of the spreading family tree? Or is the only real geographical return one to Mother Africa, the playground of "Lucy," according to genealogists the original home of the common ancestor of every human on Earth? Nor can one carve up their body, send a foot to walk two separate shores, an arm to be raised to the Gods of the Pyrenees, guts to the Caucasus, one's head staked to the destiny of the Emerald Isles...forever looking west. And even if, our heart must surely remain in the place we love most, the place of allegiance, the place where we finally take on the responsibilities of home.

Being Indigenous doesn't necessarily require one be a member of an established culture, religion and community history previously associated with that piece of land, although it certainly helps strengthen and codify the relationship. More crucial, perhaps, is that the person (or other lifeform) be open to the directives of the ecosystem, ready and able to symbiotically interact, morphically and spiritually with every element of that ecosystem. A wolf, even bred of stock that never saw the Gila Wilderness, would quickly qualify as indigenous if released into its undeveloped interior. It would integrate, assimilate, and resonate with the vibrations of the bioregion in all its constituent forms...or else it would perish. That's how it works, and there can be no exemptions.

At the same time, the primal perception of remaining land-based and tribal peoples becomes increasingly important as our modern society reels out of control, out of balance both ecologically and spiritually. In their land-specific stories we can help recover our lost the awareness of place, the feeling of being home. The knowledge of how to live in balance, sustainably, already exists—in the ways of the ancient ones of every continent. The information is being lost along with the unraveling of tribal customs, with time tested skills and gifted insights disappearing as fast as their lands are being seized for development. The young often feel they have no choice but to embrace foreign values and lifestyles, seeking a livelihood in the major urban centers of the colonizers. As our existences and enterprises become increasingly commercial and controlled, our pleasures ever more vicarious, our sense of both culture and place perverted or absent, as both our schedules and our thoughts race ever faster, we can still turn to they who have lived here, and loved here the longest.

Turn to the Indian elders, placed peasants, Hispanic dirt farmers with their knowledge of weather and wild foods, nomads still following the reindeer and the seasons, the Kayapo and



respect & belonging

their jungle pharmacy. Not to emulate or simulate, but in a respectful search for the evidence of truths we might then apply in our own lives, families and societies.

The primal mind isn't just for the seekers of a few tribes, a state of mind accessible to the tranced-out Ladakh, the Kogi or the Shuar. It is a region or capacity of the human brain, accessible by the most predisposed of us. It surfaces during love making, while crossing the slick head of a waterfall, in the presence of enraptured children, whenever circumstance and surprise have delivered us most fully into our sentient bodies. At these times the Earth reveals itself as unquestioningly sacred, imbued with the numinous. Even the most mundane expressions of inanimate Nature appear alive, and one can sense movement in patterns of fiber and the grain of mineral and wood. We find ourselves in the timeless now, the eternal bodily and psychic engagement with the present, a part of an interconnected universe that unfolds and contracts in cycles. Even if only for the shortest period of time, we jettison words for reality, symbol for touch, and know the world through our primal minds. We feel more alive, complete, tested and worthy. And we are. Worthy to be. Worthy to be here now.

We become more and more indigenous to the degree that we reside in our primal minds, in place, in the moment. To become: coming to be, leaning how to really be, coming into one's self. In re-becoming native, we re-create a contemporary culture, community, vocabulary, spiritual practice, and finally a history true to our mixed-blood ancestry and the urgent and trying times at hand. Along with our grounding comes an almost forgotten humility. We can look to the first "two legged" peoples to inhabit this continent for guidance, but we must each establish our credibility directly with the land, own our deepening connection. We must stand up for the fact that we too belong, while respecting the ways of those peoples who showed respect to these places so long before us.

In time we may come to recognize being native as a condition of relationship. Of sensitivity, engagement, reciprocity and allegiance. To survive, those facing the tests of the next century will have had to learn to be placed. And they're likely to be of ever more mixed blood. They will be the descendants of Shona and Aborigine, Mongol and Semite, Hispanic and Cree, and they will have learned respect. They will be the proud inheritors of the affections of Aphrodite,

the temperance of Chuang-Tzu, the resolve of Odin and Ogun, the determination of the Berserkers and the spirit of Crazy Horse. No matter where they're situate, they'll have survived because they came to know and manifest themselves, completely and unapologetically, as indigenous. And this alone will have brought them great peace.

--JESSE WOLF HARDIN is a longtime sociopolitical activist and teacher of ecocentric spirituality, and is now available for university and conference presentations in your area.nbsp; For information on his counsel, resident internships, wilderness quests and retreats, contact: The Earthen Spirituality Project >, Box 516, Reserve, NM 87830.nbsp; Photographs of their special Sanctuary can now be found on the E.S.P. website: <www.concentric.net/~earthway>

The danger of cell phones

Everywhere you go you see people with cell phones pressed up against their cells.

Ubiquitous would be a good descriptive word.

So the book Dr. George Carlo wrote, *Cell Phones: Invisible Hazards in the Wireless Age: An insiders alarming discoveries about cancer and genetic damage, is eye catching.*

Dr. Carlo is presented as the "chief scientist of the world's largest research effort into wireless safety."

Cell phones were introduced into the market place in 1984. By 1993 many millions were in use. That year came the first reports that cell phone use could be harmful to human health. The industry reacted by announcing that they would bring in an independent scientist who would do the research that would reassure the public of cell phone safety.

Dr. Carlo took the position and for the first couple of years his findings generally supported the industry's contentions. But then his own research and that of other scientists around the world began to produce more and more red flag warning signs. As he began presenting these warning signs, as a conscientious scientist would have to do, the industry distanced itself from him and then severed the relationship.

Dr. Carlo stands by the research. What are some of these red flag warning signs?

Cell phones emit microwave radiation that penetrates the human skull. Research shows that the radiation that cell phones emit causes direct DNA damage. That damage is linked to cancer and other conditions.

It is also determined that the radiation penetrates deeper into children's skulls than into the skulls of adults.

Granted, more research is needed, but the stature of Dr. Carlo and the mature of the evidence presented make a very good case that serious warnings should be issued.

As an additional point of fact, it has been recently reported that no long-term studies of the possible harm the radiation emitting devices night do to our health were done before they were introduced for sale. So the reality is that no one knows for sure what their long-term effects are going to be.

But the experiment that will answer that question is being conducted now.

Look around you.

--Gregg Brown

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...fresh, future, wild, refined, all at once, which should be no surprise—that's how the real world is—my respects to Jesse Wolf Hardin. —Gary Snyder, Pulitzer Prize-winning author

Wolf powerfully brings us into the presence of our animal elders, reawakening us to the lessons they have to teach us in the recovery of our own instincts and aliveness. This is a fiery, passionate and important book. —Paul Winter, Paul Winter Consort

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News from Voice for Choice

Believe It: Religious Americans are Pro-Choice

For years, religious political extremists have claimed religion opposes abortion. They've said it so often that many people assume it to be true. In fact, this assertion is false. Religious Americans actively support a woman's right to choose. They trust women and their families to decide whether and when to have children. They recognize that in a pluralistic society such as ours, the decision regarding abortion must remain with the individual, to be made on the basis of conscience and personal religious principles. They do not want government to impose laws about childbearing based on any one belief about when life begins.

Protestants have long-standing pro-choice positions

Most Protestant denominations in the United States have long-standing pro-choice positions. The United Church of Christ has maintained a consistently strong pro-choice stance since 1970. In 1994, the General Convention of the Episcopal church adopted a resolution expressing "unequivocal opposition to any [legislation] that abridges the right of a woman to reach an informed decision about the termination of pregnancy or that would limit the access of a woman to safe means of acting on her decision." In 1992, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) reaffirmed support for a woman's right to choose; in 1993, the General Assembly voted to affirm the Freedom of Access to Clinics Act (FACE). At the 1992 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the principles of Roe v. Wade were reaffirmed by an 84 percent majority vote.

Unitarians support abortion rights

The Unitarian Universalist Association affirmed a woman's right to choose in 1963 and has consistently reaffirmed this right at all General Assemblies since then. In 1993, Unitarian Universalists overwhelmingly adopted a resolution urging members to support federal legislation that would guarantee the basic right to abortion, provide federal funds for abortion to low-income women and military personnel, and protect doctors and clinics providing abortion services from acts of violence and harassment.

Jewish tradition upholds choice

Jewish tradition has long affirmed and protected the life, well-being, and health of pregnant women and has upheld the basic right to abortion. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, representing Conservative congregations, in 1993 reaffirmed its resolution opposing any legislative attempts to weaken Roe v. Wade through constitutional amendments. Recent resolutions of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing Reform congregation, upheld an "unwavering commitment to the protection and preservation of the reproductive rights of women" and urge constituents to work toward securing or retaining these rights.

Most Catholics are pro-choice

On family planning and abortion, the attitudes and behavior of Roman Catholic laity often clash with Roman Catholic Church teaching. In the U.S., 59 percent of all Catholic women of childbearing age practice contraception - a rate statistically equivalent to that of the general population (60 percent). Further, 82 percent of Catholics think abortion should be legal, at least in some circumstances; specifically, 39 percent say a woman should be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one, no matter what the reason (1995 Time/CNN nationwide poll, cited by Catholics for a Free Choice.) Catholic women have abortions at the same rate as women in the population as a whole.

Clergy believe in women's right to choose

Clergy had an important role in abolishing anti-abortion laws that hurt women. Today, many religious leaders believe abortion must remain a private, moral decision and trust women and their families to make their own decisions in the light of their faith traditions and moral values. A 1998 national survey of Protestant and Jewish clergy showed widespread support for reproductive choice, including abortion. Ninety-two percent of respondents said that every woman should be able to decide when to have children according to her conscience and religious beliefs. Eighty percent supported a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion.

A personal, moral, medical decision

Those who seek to impose their religious views on others threaten not just women's reproductive freedom but the religious freedom of everyone in America. Most religious Americans believe that the decision to have or not have an abortion should be a personal, moral and medical decision, not a political one. Most religious Americans are prayerfully, faithfully, pro-choice.

--Reprinted from a whitepaper by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). Sources: We Affirm, published by RCRC; clergy survey conducted by RCRC; Catholics for a Free Choice.

On the other hand...

(excerpt from "Church and State, March 2001)

...So far, the primary support for Bush's initiatives has come from Religious Right groups and leaders, including TV preacher Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition and James Dobson's Focus on the Family.

Additional information about Bush's motivation for introducing these initiatives came in a private White House meeting with Catholic bishops and Catholic charities leaders. Bush spoke openly and candidly about his intentions for his faith-based project, largely because the President did not know that his comments were being overheard by reporters in the White House pressroom.

During his private meeting, the President indicated that he believes his efforts will assist and anti-abortion movement in the United States.

"See, this faith-based initiative really ties into a larger cultural issue that we are working on," Bush told the Catholic leaders. "It begins to affect the life issue." Bush added, "When you're talking about welcoming people who are disadvantaged, the logical step is also those babies."

Bush recount

In 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion. In 2001, Bush wants a recount

Join one million voices in urging Senate leadership to block any anti-choice Supreme Court nominations at the Feminist Majority's new site, <http://www.Million4Roe.com>

Legal abortion hangs by a razor-thin 5-4 margin in the U.S. Supreme Court. This summer, as many as two of the nine Supreme Court justices could announce their resignation, giving President Bush the opportunity to appoint anti-choice Justices who would overturn Roe v. Wade.

Join Dolores Huerta, Gillian Anderson, and one million voices in urging the Senate to filibuster any anti-abortion or ambiguous Supreme Court nominees!

Don't let anti-abortion politics win out! Tell Washington we won't go back at <http://www.Million4Roe.com> **Cont. p. 22**

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Illinois PIRG: Advocate for the public interest

Illinois PIRG (Illinois State Public Interest Research Group) is an advocate for the public interest. When consumers are cheated, or our natural environment is threatened, or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, Illinois PIRG speaks up and takes action. We uncover threats to public health and well-being and fight to end them, using the time-tested tools of investigative research, media exposes, grassroots organizing, advocacy and litigation. Illinois PIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects our environment, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government.

Preserving our environment:

Campaign to save our wild forests

Logging, mining and over-development have spoiled one-third of our national forests, which provide clean air and water to hundreds of communities across the country, habitat for endangered species, and recreational opportunities for millions of visitors each year.

Recent victory: In January 2001, the U.S. Forest Service finalized a plan to permanently protect 11,000 building, logging and other destructive activities. Illinois PIRG and other state PIRG staff are defending the plan from members of Congress and the Bush administration who favor rolling back the protections.

Safeguarding our health: Clean air now campaign

Air pollution contributes to the conditions of the hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents with respiratory illnesses and is responsible for 3,000 premature deaths in the state each year. Illinois PIRG supports action to reduce dangerous levels of smog, soot and other pollutants in the air. Our priorities are cleaning up the major contributors to air pollution: power plants and automobiles.

Recent progress: Through research, report releases, education and outreach efforts, and direct advocacy, Illinois PIRG and our coalition partners are making the case to Gov. George Ryan for bringing the state's dirtiest power plants in line with modern clean air standards to significantly reduce Illinois' air pollution problem.

Recent victory: Thanks to the work of Illinois PIRG staff and others, in December 2000, the U.S. EPA finalized new rules to reduce the amount of toxic diesel pollution from new trucks and buses by more than 90 percent. This action is expected to save 8,000 lives each year. Illinois PIRG is now working to stop attempts to roll back the regulation.

Cleaning up politics: Campaign to get big money out of politics

Our campaign system is being corrupted: powerful campaign donors hold undue influence over who runs for office, who wins, and what decisions those elected officials make. Illinois PIRG advocates for low limits on campaign contributions and spending in order to reduce special interest influence in elections.

Recent progress: Illinois PIRG staff documented that the high cost of running campaigns and the constant pressure to fundraise deters many would-be candidates from running for office.

Protecting consumers: Consumer program

Consumers face rising bank fees, error-filled credit reports, invasion of privacy and dangerous products. Illinois PIRG exposes these problems, advocates for solutions, and alerts consumers to how they can protect themselves.

Recent victory: Illinois PIRG's annual toy survey prompted major toy retailers to give consumers more prominent warnings about potentially dangerous toys.

Support Illinois PIRG

Illinois PIRG's research and advocacy are made possible by our contributing members. Illinois PIRG membership contributions support a staff of attorneys, scientists and other professionals who monitor government and corporate decisions, research and craft policy solutions, and advocate on the public's behalf.

Illinois PIRG members who want to do more without making a large one-time contribution can enroll in our monthly giving program—PUBLIC INTEREST PARTNERS. For more information, call 1-800-838-6554. Or visit our website at www.illinoispirg.org and donate on-line via our secure server using your credit card.

What the Bible really says...

What the Bible really says...

I'm sure most gays, lesbians and their supporters are aware that the Religious Far Right often uses the Bible to condemn our lives. Newspapers, religious leaders and zealots have a plethora of Biblical quotations they spout to condemn homosexuals. Their argument is that, since quotes are taken from the Bible, they are to be accepted without question.

What they fail to take into consideration is that the Biblical phrases are open to numerous interpretations...not just their own.

Additionally, the Bible has been interpreted and rewritten countless times, most often to make it state what the current ruling power wanted it to.

I've researched and assembled many answers to the Far Right's condemnation based on the Bible. When I first started, I was immediately encouraged by the abundance of different interpretations of the same statements that were being used as "proof" that the Bible condemns homosexuality. To the contrary, it seems some religious groups, and bigots in general, choose false interpretation over the truth.

As a result of this discovery, I want to share the "real" truth with our readers. Beginning in this month's issue, we will begin dispelling religious fallacies with the truth. Watch for a new column about the same subject in upcoming issues. As Emerson stated, "Every violation of truth is a stab at the health of human society."

What the Bible really says... about Sodom and Gomorrah

Sodom, creation and the Law:

Hebrew scripture tells an exciting story of epic scope and includes many books and writings. It was the Bible Jesus knew and studied. For Christians, it continues to serve as the foundation of faith history. It also contains some of the most popular quotes used against lesbians and gays.

What was the sin of Sodom in Genesis 19:1-28?

This Old Testament passage is often wrongly used as "biblical proof" that God is displeased with homosexuals. According to many people these cities were destroyed because residents committed the "sin of homosexuality." To suggest that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of homosexuality is to misinterpret Scripture.

The prophet Ezekiel, in an equally inspired book of the Bible, tells that God was displeased with Sodom for very different reasons: "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed, and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty, and did detestable things before me (literally, "committed idolatry"). Therefore I did away with them as you have seen." (Ezekiel 16:49-50, New International Version).

In every other reference in the Bible (and there are several) the condemned "sins of Sodom" are such things as pride and inhospitality. The people of Sodom broke the law of hospitality to strangers which was so religiously observed in their culture. Use of the expression "bring these men out to us, that we may know them" (Genesis 19:5) is the basis for most of the misinterpretation. The Hebrew verb *yadha* ("to know") used here is found 943 times in the Hebrew Scriptures and in only ten places does it mean sexual intercourse—each time referring to heterosexual relations. But even if the people of Sodom did attempt a "homosexual" attack upon the angels, the passage would serve as a clear condemnation of rape (certainly an extreme form of inhospitality). Rape, either heterosexual or homosexual, is sin under any circumstances.

—from *The Rainbow Connection Newsletter*



A prison paradise



The Interstate Compact is an agreement between states to transfer prisoners from one state prison to another state's prison for a myriad of reasons. Often it is used for protective custody reasons, such as transferring an incarcerated former police officer where he or she would not be recognized by those he or she may have arrested. Other times it is used to remove gang leaders from those they lead. As any prisoner can tell you this can back-fire, big time. In fact, it may spread gangs throughout the country.

The Interstate Compact is also used for economic reasons. It is cheaper for large states like Virginia and New Jersey to house inmates, than small states like Connecticut and Delaware. Interstate Compacts govern movement of prisoners from state to state. Connecticut's guard union has a strangle hold on the correctional funding, causing a shortage of funds for other purposes. The food budget is drastically reduced, educational and treatment programs suffer big time, and the general population is on permanent "lock-down." So, how does a state like Virginia incarcerate people cheaper and with better results?

States say they don't have the land to build prisons on. De-coded that means "We can't find property that is not filled with 'Not in my back yard' people." Or the excuse is, "We don't have the funds to build new prisons." It's not the cost of building, it's the operational cost. The reasons Greenville Correctional Center in Virginia can afford to operate cheaper are lower guard salaries and benefit packages. Most state's prison guard unions are out of control, feeding the media stories of violent and sex crazed prisoners, the danger they are in and how underpaid they are. In fact, they are highly overpaid, and many are lazy, careless, unthinking, sadistic and corrupt. Guards had their housing on prison grounds in the early days of prisons, not for convenience, but because they were the dregs of society, unwanted in towns.

One might forget that Greenville Correctional Center is a prison. As dawn breaks, mist clings to the trees, woodpeckers tap out their morning cadence and the dew glistens on the neatly planted rows of exotic flowers along the boulevards. Then correctional officers appear, and the incarcerated humyn's day begins. The sounds of nature are replaced with friendly greetings, and the sound of sidewalks being swept, the rumble of garbage laden carts, the patting of guards frisking each inmate passing through check points. All is calm, but no matter how nice the recreation yard time is, or all the benefits are, one never forgets where he is. There are several daily "standing" counts, the gun towers peer out upon every motion, and not far off the popping of the target range is clearly heard. A great percentage of Greenville's inmates are from other states, as the Interstate Compact allows smaller states to save huge sums of money, and pours dollars into poorer states like Virginia.

Greenville was not always a "delightful facility." It has a past history of harsh repression. For the most part, this has been replaced by progressive and proactive attitudes, and a set of policies which strive to reduce recidivism. A myriad of well run treatment programs, a variety of religious services, nutritious and fairly tasty food, an abundance of fresh air, and a polite, professional staff (with a few exceptions) make Greenville quite different from the average national-state correctional system.

Greenville has much to teach other state's correctional systems. This brings up the need for a central clearing house of correctional information of what works and what policies are an utter failure from every perspective. Policies such as long term restrictive housing (or warehousing) turn humyns into raving lunatics that are then released back into society, or shuts them off from society so much that they are like fish out of water when they return to "the world."

Greenville's policies seen quite effective in preparing people to go back to civilization. The programs, real jobs, and treating prisoners like humyns works! Anybody who thinks that Greenville is molly coddling inmates is quite mistaken. All the rules and regulations of a prison system are very much in place. The staff is more than ready to squash any flare-ups that occur.

Greenville proves the power of television. Common public opinion says giving television, especially cable programs, to prisoners is outrageous. Yet seeing its effect in action gives one a quite different perspective. It is an excellent management tool. It reduces violence, and wrongful behavior that is often times caused by men going "stir crazy." From society's perspective, it adjusts attitudes. In the days without TV, prisoners were released into an alien world. But TV puts them in touch with a world beyond the bars. When educational stations like PBS, Discovery, and The Learning Channel, The History Channel, CNN, CSPN, Home and Garden Television, Odyssey and even stations like the Food Channel and Court TV are available television actually can be a

tool for positive change. Inmates allowed to purchase their own sets have an incentive to work hard. Friends and family can send them funds to purchase one, allowing them to help their loved ones. It's a win-win deal!

The argument might be made that prisons should install "educational TV" channels only with purely entertainment channels deleted. A couple dozen culturally enriching channels could probably do more to rehabilitate prisoners than any other program, for a fraction of the cost. Like the old expression says, "Garbage in, garbage out." If prisoners consume garbage TV it is a wasted opportunity. With good programming, it is a wise investment.

Greenville's personal property policies are great in some ways, and leave much to be desired in other ways. For instance, one can purchase items from approved vendors (i.e. art supplies, clothing, watches, etc.). However, magazine subscriptions and books are limited to twelve per inmate. To get more, inmates must arrange with a property officer to add and delete property. The exchanged item must be either shipped out via UPS or destroyed, or donated to charity. This applies to all property items.

The policy that is off the wall is the postal policy. It says letters may be no more than five sheets or paper, and not weigh more than one ounce. This causes frustration, extra time, effort and cost to the friends and family whose letters are returned for being a fraction over the maximum weight, or contain one extra page.

Another policy Virginia shares with other states is the insanity of prisoner families paying the highest phone rates allowed by law. For out-of-state inmates this creates a financial barrier to staying in verbal contact with their kindred. Policies like the postal weight restriction and unreasonable phone rates are counterproductive to the mission of corrections, which is to "fix" people. Essential links to the outside world are hampered, reentry into society becomes more difficult and recidivism is increased.

Cigarettes and cigars are permitted in Virginia. This is a two-edged sword. While it is desired by many inmates, more than a fourth of the inmates do not smoke, yet there are no non-smoking pods (blocks, housing units) so non-smokers are subjected to second hand smoke, posing the question of who is going to foot the medical bills for the long-term health problems.

The brutal events that happened in Virginia's "Wallen's Ridge" and "Red Onion" prisons are as much frowned upon by the Greenville staff as they are by the inmates that lived that waking nightmare. Greenville is the flip side of Virginia's correctional system. Here the Interstate Compact should continue, albeit with minor changes.

One dichotomy of Greenville is that this is where Virginia's Death Row humyns are killed. The execution building is within a few steps of two of the rec yards, and within view of a building nicknamed "The Yellow Brick Road" (once a place that if you got into trouble



it was the place where you started all over again). The goings and comings of the condemned ones' families and visitors on their way to say their final goodbyes, and the witnesses to the executions, are all within view, as is the brown ambulance-like hearse which lowly creeps by with the departed's body. Needless to say, this has a sobering effect on the inmates and staff alike.

Currently, in Connecticut there is a list of hundreds of inmates requesting transfer to Virginia because of the overcrowding and other aforementioned problems in the CT prisons. The Interstate Compact requirements have changed in that the inmates who used to be transferred were the "worst of the worst," while now prisoners requesting transfers must not have any violent crime charge, nor any tickets or rules infractions on their records.

The cost of transporting the prisoners, the continual trips of Interstate Compact officials, transportation officer pay, and moving prisoner property is allowed in the transfer, many of their belongings are dumped if they can't afford to ship it home (if the inmate has a home). Another transportation cost is that of returning inmates for court cases and hardship reasons, adding even more costs to the system.

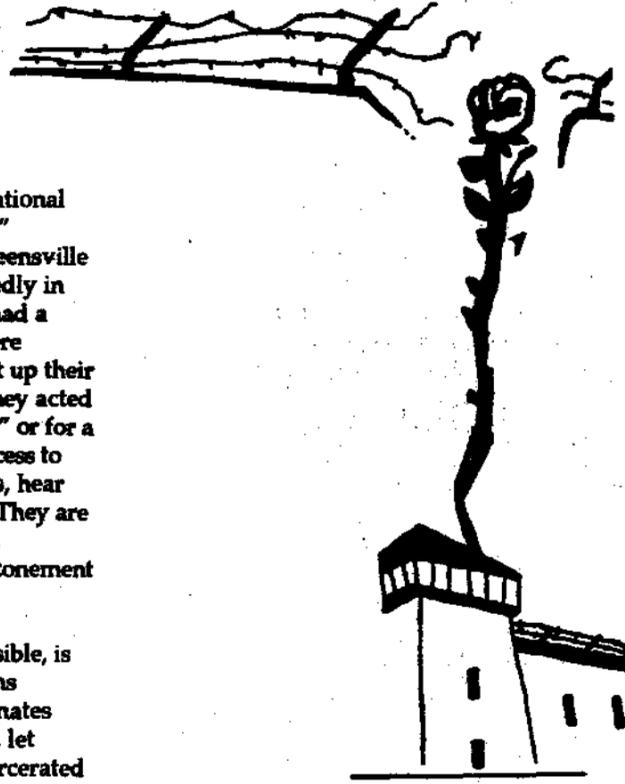
For the incarcerated, starting over is grueling. Making new connections, finding a friend, getting a job, begging friends and family for a start-over loan, getting magazines re-sent to the new addresses make it a nightmare come true! These are "tiny" distresses for men the public believes are deserving of "anything handed to them as part of their punishment," but little things are treasures to a prisoner. Family photos (easily "misplaced" during a move), a piece of tape to put them up with, a rubber band or a manila envelope to hold letters or legal papers, a few colored pencils, a special memory cassette or letters from home cannot be replaced. Purchased items take months to acquire and pay for. It takes time to adjust to new cell mates, to learn new rules and regulations and send them to family and friends, to find out what programs are available, which counselors are helpful and who is of no help. Any transfer, even to Greenville, is a real hardship, full of frustrations. If an inmate is lucky, he may get a job starting at 20 cents an hour at Greenville.

Surprisingly, in spite of the hardships of transfer, a majority of those sent to Greenville have written to their Interstate Compact Commissions, and/or state officials, asking to stay at Greenville for the duration of their state's contract with Virginia. For many it is a severe hardship to be so drastically separated from their families, and be put into a real culture shock. There have been reports that buses, which carry visitors from other states are being boarded by police and/or federal agents searching for drugs or weapons. Visitors are strip-searched and this has frightened many away. Somehow the need for security and the respect for privacy need to be balanced. This is true for all visitors in every state. Still the visits at Greenville are 1-6 hours long and visitors are allowed to embrace and kiss the inmate. In warm months there is an outdoor visitor court yard for use.

What should be made note of be the national onlookers is that the "earned freedoms" afforded to the inmates shipped to Greenville from out-of-state (and who are repeatedly in trouble back in their own state) have had a calming effect on them. When they were locked up 22 1/2 hours a day, they pent up their frustrations, so is it any wonder that they acted out when they were released for "chow" or for a quick shower? These men now have access to fresh air and sunlight, may touch grass, hear birds singing, eat like men, not swine. They are relaxed, suddenly pretty good workers, productive, and are working towards atonement instead of cultivating rage.

The obvious solution to this, when possible, is to make the interstate transfer programs available on a voluntary basis. For inmates that desire to return to their own state, let them go back. There are plenty of incarcerated humyns that will benefit greatly from such a chance to participate in the treatment, educational and work programs here.

The bottom line is that the Interstate Compact programs throughout the country can work, which is not saying that most of them do work. Many have serious drawbacks, but the solutions could be inexpensively and easily implemented. When a facility like Greenville, with its progressive and proactive policies, and its professional, well mannered



staff are made available to the incarcerated, then we'll see that the so-called "corrections machine" which is generally not known for correcting anything or anyone, could actually correct the incarcerated.

-Nikolai A. Zarick

AUGUST @ THE LIZARDS LOUNGE

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Open				3rd: Low Twelve, 8 pm	4th: Wiplo; Dead Sexy, 9 pm
Mic				10th: The Amazing Kilowats w/ Drag Strip Syndicates, 9 pm	11th: Taxi War Dance, 8 pm
Night	Every Tuesday!	Every Wednesday!	Every Thursday!	17th: TBA, 8 pm	18th: TBA, 9 pm
9 pm	Chris & Joe Acoustic Jam 9 pm	The Hubbards 9 pm	UPSTAIRS - Open Mic w/Tim DOWNSTAIRS - Martini Thursday Dance Party 9 pm	24th: TBA, 9 pm	25th: TBA, 9 pm
				31st: TBA, 9 pm	1st: TBA, 9 pm



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Things to do, places to go, people

Off the Beaten Path

Hello! Or should I say hello movie fans? My name is David, and I'd like to give you some tips on movies that you can put on your high-priority must see list. A lot of very good movies never play in Bloomington-Normal or play a week so catching it on video is a great way to see some knock-out films. You have to love discovering a cool flick. Okay, so you walk into a movie store and suddenly your mind goes blank—you have no idea what to watch...hmmm...take your *Post Amerikan* along, flip to the movie review page, and then you have at least a half dozen choices, just a slight warning: my movie tastes do run a tad off-the-beaten-path. With that in mind, enjoy the picks and write me if you catch any films that are must-see movies.

In the Mood for Love ****

Internationally respected director War Kar-Wai (who did *Chunking Express* and *Happy Together*) has fashioned a beautifully brooding romance. Hong Kong film stars Tony Leung and Maggie Chan both give subtle and layered performances as would-be lovers. The two share next-door apartments and seem to have little in common except that daily drift through lonely lives. They strike conversation and soon find in each other a common soul and an intimacy lost in their marriages. Though never consummated, the intensity of their love burns up the screen and draws the viewer into another world. Cinematically mesmerizing, *In the Mood for Love* lingers with you long after the last frame fades away.

Before Night Falls ***1/2

If you want to see an actor in top form, check out Javier Bardem's Oscar nominated best actor performance as the late Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas. Bardem breathes authenticity and an emotional depth into his character that few actors could ever hope to reach. Director Julian Schnabel (who did the unrated film *Basquait*) scores again with the true story of a poet who was victimized by a Cuban government that banned his books and hailed him for a crime he did not commit. Arenas made a stand against oppression and censorship, but making his stand was costly. He suffered intense persecution and became a man without a country. Johnny Depp (of *Chocolat*) has dual roles as a prison warden and a transvestite inmate. Arenas' lifestyle is front and center and it's the heart of what makes the film work.

The Gift ***1/2

Good supernatural thrillers don't come around that often so you definitely want to watch *The Gift*. Eerie mystery is set in a backwoods swamp town that has more than its share of strange characters and secrets. A well-to-do young socialite is engaged to the town's popular young doctor. However, she never makes it to the altar but instead winds up at the bottom of the swamp. Lack of clues means the police investigation grinds to a halt, and they turn to a local woman who is a fortune teller. Because of her supernatural gift of visions the woman is shunned by the townspeople but now they need her. Once involved in the case, she is plunged into a thick web of lies and dark deception that puts her own life in danger. Written by Billy Bob Thornton and directed by Sam Raimi, *The Gift* features a terrific cast of Cate Blanchett (of *Elizabeth*), Hilary Swank (*Boys Don't Cry*), Katie Holmes (*Wonder Boys*), Giovanni Ribisi (*Saving Private Ryan*) and Keanu Reeves (*Matrix*). Blanchett shines as the psychic and Reeves is very convincing as a violently jealous husband. Beautiful locales enhance a twisting plotline that spirals the viewers to an unsettling ending...creepy.

The Pledge ***1/2

Disturbing psychological thriller gives Jack Nicholson his best role in quite some time. Director Sean Penn (*The Crossing Guard*) submerges the viewer into an unpleasant and obsessive investigation headed by a homicide cop (Nicholson) who has some personal demons. Set in Nevada, a young girl is murdered and her mutilated body is found near a stream. Nicholson is the one who has to break the news to the girl's parents. The victim's mother is deeply religious and she makes Nicholson pledge to find her daughter's killer. She tells him to keep the pledge or he'll be damned to eternity. The pledge starts to invade his every thought. A man is arrested; he confesses and proceeds to take his own life, but the case is not closed for Nicholson. His instincts tell him they arrested the wrong man, and he begins his own elaborate and maybe not altogether rational investigation. He becomes obsessed with finding the truth and that drives him into the darker side of his own mind. The pledge is a total throwback to the solid 1970s character studies a la Clint Eastwood's *Play Misty for Me*. Grippingly twisted the film makes for some very uncomfortable viewing as it moves toward an ironic and haunting conclusion. Love it.

Blow Dry ***

Fun and funny comedy from the writer of *The Full Monty*. It's over-the-top time during England's hairdressing championship when a very dysfunctional family shows off more than a few split ends. Alan Rickman plays a way down on his luck hairdresser who has a rocky relationship with his ex-wife after she leaves him for one of his models. Through some circumstances they team up with their now teenage son and enter the contest. After years of not competing, they find their scissors are not quite as sharp as before, and the road to the top is full of scheming stylists hell-bent on winning at all costs. Natasha Richardson, Rachel Griffiths, Josh Harnett and Rachel Leigh Cook co-star in a warm-hearted comedy that is cleverly written and genuinely entertaining.

The Claim ***1/2

Immensely talented director Michael Winterbottom (who did *Jude* and *Welcome to Sarajevo*) strikes gold again with his latest critical success. Circa 1869, a young man (Wes Bentley of *American Beauty*) claims his fortune from his gold-rich California property. In the process, he encounters a mother and daughter with a shocking secret. Stark and picturesquely beautiful, this epic features a top notch cast including Sara Polley (*Go*), Natassia Kinski (*Your Friends and Neighbors*), and Milla Jovovich (*The Messenger*). Love and loss are both explored in unexpected way with Winterbottom providing us a richly detailed story. Highly recommended.

Here's a checklist for some more high-priority movies:

- Caveman's Valentine
- Poor White Trash
- Snatch
- The Last Cigarette
- Into the Arms of Strangers
- Blow
- Amores Perros
- Flowers of Shanghai
- The Dish
- Paradise Lost 2
- Memento
- The Luzhin Defence
- Western

--Dave





to see in Bloomington/Normal

Open mic nights are the places to go!

As a person sitting in the audience, you may be thinking, "Open mic night, this is going to be some amateur nobodys who write bad poetry and only know about three chords." That could not be farther from the truth, and besides, a lot of good songs have only three chords in them. Although, you do get entertainers who aren't as good as some, most of the ones that I have heard are fantastic. If you go to one of these, as a listener you are definitely in for a good time.

For all you musicians and poets out there who are looking for a place to show your stuff, I'm gonna tell you about a few places in town where you can do just that. Open mic nights in Bloomington-Normal are beginning to become quite popular and entertainers of all sorts are beginning to take advantage of the opportunities they offer.

For entertainers, every place I checked out is open to just about anything. If you're a musician, there is just about always someone(s) you can jam with. If your a poet, don't underestimate your audience; there are more poetry fans in Bloomington-Normal than you might think. If your some other kind of entertainer—comedian, juggler, artistic dancer, etc.—go for it! These places are open to just about anything.

Now let me tell you about some of the places that I checked out on the open mic scene:

Slick Rick's, located at 907 E Oakland in Bloomington, has an open mic night every Sunday from 7pm until they run out of entertainers. Here's a good one—they actually provide guitars for anyone who wants to get up and play some music! A drum kit is sort of an unpredictable thing—they never know when they're going to have one there. At Slick Rick's open mic night anybody can get up on stage and do anything. There is always a good crowd there and they love to be entertained. Slick Rick's is the only place I have ever heard the whole bar sing along to—I don't remember the name of the song, but the chorus goes, "Stop! Hey, what's that sound? Everybody look what's goin' down." It was a great time, and you're guaranteed to have a great time at Slick Rick's open mic night. It's run by Dave Scott from the band Easy Money. I would like to send my congratulations to Dave for getting a contract from a Hollywood movie producer to use his song "I'm Your Man" in the upcoming movie, *Out Of The Black*.

The Lizard's Lounge, at 612 N Main in Bloomington, open mic night is every Monday night from about 10pm to close, which is 1am. It is run by Matt Scott who did his first band review article for the *Post Amerikan* this issue, and if Matt's up for it, we'll see a lot more! Thanks Matt! The open mic night at The Lizard's Lounge is very cool. Although it's open to any kind of entertainer, there are mostly experienced musicians who know how to handle an instrument. The music varies from what was

described to me as "anti-folk" played on an acoustic guitar, to an electric guitar with a laptop computer (named Gary) somehow hooked up as backup (that was one hell of a show). Thanks to Mike Manna, the owner of The Lizard's Lounge, there is a drum kit that musicians can use and there is always someone to jam with. The open mic night at The Lizard's Lounge is not just a music scene. Quality poetry can be heard from time to time. But if you're not a poet or a musician, don't be shy, as I mentioned before, they are open to just about anything. From the audiences perspective, the open mic night at The Lizard's Lounge is definitely non-stop entertainment; you will not be disappointed.

The Coffeehouse, at 114 E Beaufort in Normal, has an open mic thing getting started that's run by the poet John Firefly. It's called Stone Soup and it happens every other Tuesday, starting July 24, from 7 to 9pm, but if it gets a good response from the artists and the audience in the community, it may begin at 6pm in the future. Speaking of artists, Stone Soup is open to all kinds of entertainers, though it is generally going to be a more mellow (or should I say less loud than at a bar at 11:30 at night—it's a coffeehouse—what do you expect?) kind of atmosphere for music—folk, blues, acoustic stuff, etc. Electric instruments are welcome, but remember that this is a coffeehouse, not a bar.

As far as other entertainment goes, poetry will probably be one of the main things on the list with poets ranging from amateur to published reading their poetry on the stage at The Coffeehouse. It sounds like it is going to be like the '60s beatnick coffeehouse kind of scene where Bob Dylan played guitar and Jack Kerouac did his poetry thing. Dig it.

Illinois Brewing Company, located at 102 N Center in Bloomington, has an open mic from 9pm to close (1am) every Thursday night. It's run by Amreen Kahn, and like The Lizard's Lounge, it has a wide variety of mostly music and some occasional poetry; but they are open to just about anything. When I checked out the open mic at IBC, as far as music goes I heard everything from acoustic cover songs to a Nirvana-ish sounding band to a guy with a big keyboard set-up that was timed to a video that was playing on a huge wide-screen TV. That was a pretty interesting show—very artistic. There have also been some poetry readings there and the audience, like The Lizards Lounge, has been surprisingly receptive. The stage at Illinois Brewing Company is high above the audience so the entertainer commands their attention. If you are afraid of heights, fret not; with all the lights in your eyes while you're on the stage and no lights on the audience, you can't see how high up you are. In closing, the open mic night at Illinois Brewing Company is a great place for all entertainers—musicians, poets, etc.—to go to, and as an audience member you're bound to have a great time.



For all you entertainers out there who aren't going to these open mics to do your thing; don't be shy! People want to be entertained! And you probably have some sort of talent that can entertain them with and it is a sin to hide it. Besides, this town, this country needs to have the arts supported in any way possible. So get out to one or all of these open mics and do your thing!

—David Hall

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Local activist/volunteer opportunities

Countering Domestic Violence

The following volunteer positions require 40 hour CDV domestic violence education program.

Medical Advocate Volunteer: Provides crisis support and assistance to survivors at hospital emergency departments, physicians' offices and health clinics.

Residential Service Support: Provides support to Residential Assistants (RAs) at Neville House, handles hotline crisis calls, assists RAs in working with clients, and helps with basic shelter maintenance.

Children's Service Support: Works with the Children's Services Coordinator to provide activities for child clients and/or assist with children's support groups.

The following volunteer opportunities DO NOT require 40 hr. training.

Office Assistant: Helps with office duties such as filing and making copies.

Donation Management: Helps sort donations that are given to the Neville House.

Publicity Volunteer: Get involved by helping with the monthly newsletter and other publicity events.

At-Home Volunteer: Volunteer at home by putting together packets, or distributing ribbons when necessary.

Special Events: Throughout the year CDV organizes volunteer events to educate the community about domestic violence, especially in the month of October which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Volunteers can help put up flyers, staff tables, recruit participants, and help plan events.

Countering Domestic Violence
923 E. Grove
Bloomington, IL 61701
828-8913

Sterile Feral

Colony Caretaker: Colony caretakers feed feral cat colonies around McLean County. Volunteers can commit to feeding an entire colony everyday or just once a week.

Trapper: Trapping feral cats to spay/neuter is a vital volunteer position. Volunteers are needed to set humane traps when necessary and transport them to a local veterinary clinic.

Fundraising/Publicity: Volunteers are greatly needed to help with fundraising ideas and helping to recruit new volunteers.

Office volunteer: Although Sterile Feral has no central office we are in need of volunteers to help with such things as sending out thank you letters, typing forms and data entry tasks. Many of these activities can be done at home.

Sterile Feral
PO Box 3415
Bloomington, IL 61702
662-0636

McLean County AIDS Task Force

The McLean County AIDS Task Force is an all-volunteer organization which depends on the talents and energies of its members. MCATF would like to expand the services we offer to our clients, but without new volunteers, our goals will never be reached.

Below are some of the opportunities available. MCATF training, its equivalent, or life experience may be required for certain volunteer activities and training is provided, free of charge.

HIV Prevention & Public Outreach
MCATF Phonenumber/ Office information, referrals, peer counseling; festivals & fairs; safer sex workshops; support groups for family, friends, significant others & caregivers of PWHIV/PWA; member outreach & volunteer coordination; panel participation; speaking presentations

Specific "Community" Outreach
general population; African Americans; Hispanics; men who have sex with men; women who have sex with women; GLBQT youth; injecting drug users; medical/dental; business; university/college

Liaison to/from Other Groups
MCATF has liaisons on numerous community boards & committees. MCATF needs people to act as liaisons on these boards & people from other organizations to act as liaisons for their organizations at MCATF meetings

Client Services
helping to administer client services & client financial services; providing transportation; chore services; hospital visits; pastoral counseling; client; buddy system

Additional
help is needed with advocacy, computer services/skills training and office work

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Fri-Sat 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.



Local band reviews: Von Frickle, Wiplot & The Hubbards

I have chosen to tell you about three bands in the area that are all pretty unique, the first being a band called Von Frickle. Von Frickle? Sounds like a disease or main course at a German restaurant. Despite their unusual name, they happen to be a very talented band pushing an instrumental style, that is very unlike the usual Bloomington Normal sound.

The sound is comprised of highly melodic bass lines played by Tim Pierson, technical drum rhythms played by John Ganser, harmonizing horn pieces from Dan Meyer (on CD only), and Lee Fehr playing guitar that adds the needed pieces to complete the puzzle.

Von Frickle has captured a sound that is futuristic and computerized but not so far out of whack that the human ear gets lost. They have just released their first CD entitled "feeding the organic computer" which has routinely found its way into my stereo many times. Hearing the CD is just as impressive as their live shows. You can hear them play in their white suits and masks at many places in Bloomington Normal. Be sure to check this band out, it is definitely an experience.

The band Wiplot has been in the community for a few years now playing at many of our local bars. Their sound is very traditional but is still unique in its own way. They have just released their first CD entitled "Soldiers From The Mock City Of The Dead" and I'm not sure what that means but don't judge a CD by its title. The CD was produced by the band and has whopping 16 tracks of pure original music.

Let's break it down brothas and sistas. Wiplot has the main lyricist and rhythm guitar of Dean Carlson, who if you have ever seen him on stage can also cut the rug. The strong lead guitar lines played by "Fish" Carpenter can be heard on such songs as "Oblivion." James McManus who has been playing around for some time now holds up the low end. Last but not least is Tony San Filippo who keeps the time in line with his fresh beats. All the members have been playing in various bands for years and have contributed their own style for a good original band.

Essentially they are a rock band with a sound that crosses over to other styles as well. From the hard sound of "Oblivion" to the soft sound of "Try" there is something about this band that you should see.



The Hubbard's are a new acoustic act with sounds that are down home and more familiar to our beloved Bloomington Normal area. While the band does not have a drummer, they still manage to keep a tight sound. The central pivot man is an 18-year-old by the name of Dan Hubbard who has come up with some good original songs to be reckoned with. His age only compounds the fact that he is a talented individual with sure promise. Backing up on vocals and throwing down the deep end is DJ Hubbard who keeps the crowd entertained with his outrageous personality and crazy hairstyles. Holding the harmony side on lead acoustic guitar is Seth Hubbard who does a good job of completing a good act. They will be playing at Lizards Lounge every Wednesday night this summer so go get involved with your local music scene.

-Matt Scott

Matt Scott is a musician and a native to Bloomington Normal who has been playing guitar for eight years and hosts an open mic every Monday night.

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Issues of Identity in recent American art

University Galleries is pleased to announce the opening of *Issues of Identity in Contemporary American Art*. This traveling exhibition presents work by nine contemporary artists residing in the United States addressing issues of culture, race, gender and national and personal identity. Often employing strategies of humor, cynicism and anger, the art in this exhibition represents a broad range of media and involves the viewer in such sensitive topics as oppression of women, cultural cliches, and revisionist history. It is curated by Dan Mills, Director of the Gibson Gallery at SUNY, Potsdam.

Enrique Chagoya intermixes the cultures of US and Mexico, old and new religions, and art and popular culture in his paintings and prints. The late Tseng Kwong Chi made photographic self-portraits in which he presented himself as cultural "other" in a Mao Suit, making expedition to Western tourist attractions. Bursting with drama, humor, and cultural cliches, Robert Colescott's paintings grapple with racism, sexism, and historical perspective, often through reinterpretation of earlier works of art. Brad Kahlhamer paints narratives that explore his Native American heritage and history as a child adopted into a European-American family. Michael Oatman's installations investigate the transformation of identity during processing for incarceration, or "classification" under the guise of faux sciences such as eugenics. Adrian Piper creates installations, performances, drawings, and videos that expand our attitudes about race, xenophobia, gender, and forms of oppression against women. Cindy Sherman employs photography to challenge the images and

myths of popular culture and mass media. Combining elements drawn from the traditional Japanese woodblock print, ukiyo-e, and American Pop Art, Masami Teraoka addresses issues concerning East/West culture clashes, contrasts of modern and archaic culture, and crass consumerism. Carrie Mae Weems utilizes photography and text in a strategic attempt to transform the representation of African-Americans.

University Galleries is located at 110 Center for Visual Arts, on the Illinois State University campus (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:
Summer hours (12 June-18 August)
 Mon: 12:00-4:00
 Tues: 12:00-7:00
 Wed-Sat: 12:00-4:00
 Sun: closed

Autumn hours (starting 20 August)
 Sat-Mon: 12:00-4:00
 Tues: 9:30-9:00
 Wed-Fri: 9:30-4:30

Beyond Normal Films August/Sept. shows

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. All films will be shown at the Normal Theater. Admission for adults is \$5.00, Children under the age of 12 pay \$4.00. All concessions are \$1.00. Free off-street parking is available throughout downtown as well as in the central lot located behind the theater. Please do not park in the Cyberia lot.

The Dish
 Thursday, August 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Friday, August 3 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday, August 4 @ 7 & 9:15 p.m.
 Sunday, August 5 @ 7:00 p.m.

Based on a true story, "The Dish" recounts the emotions, drama, and humor behind the four-day Apollo XI mission in July 1969 and the extraordinary role Australia played in televising the historical lunar landing to the world.

When Brendan met Trudy
 Thursday, August 23 @ 7:00 pm
 Friday, August 24 @ 7:00 pm
 Saturday, August 25 @ 7 & 9:15 pm
 Sunday, August 26 @ 7:00 pm

Brendan, a teacher, movie buff, baritone and loner is the first to admit that he's lost touch. His pupils ignore him and his work colleagues are wary of him, his only solace is in singing baritone for the local church choir and a passion for old movies.

Trudy is blond, beautiful, feisty and fast talking. She hates any films that don't come in color and has a secret night-time occupation.

Luzhin Defence
 Thursday, Sept. 6 @ 7:00 pm
 Friday, Sept. 7 @ 7:00 pm
 Saturday, Sept. 8 @ 7 & 9:15 pm
 Sunday, Sept. 9 @ 7:00 pm

Alexander Luzhin, shambling, unworldly and eccentric chess Grand Master arrives in a North Italian lakeside resort in 1929 to play the match of his career. A childhood prodigy, chess has been his refuge and his passion in a life bereft of love and affection.

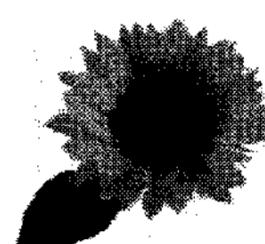
Songcatcher

Tentative booking; please check newspaper listing this week or call 454-9722.
 Thursday, Sept. 20 @ 7:00 pm
 Friday, Sept. 21 @ 7:00 pm

Set off on an exhilarating adventure across a part of America still rarely seen, deep into the raw and rambling, high-mountain roots of rock, bluegrass, folk and country music. This is the terrain of "Songcatcher," a different kind of movie about music: part love story, part archive of America's most secret musical legacies.

Panic
 Saturday, Sept. 22 @ 7 & 9:15 pm
 Sunday, Sept. 23 @ 7:00 pm

"Panic" is a black comedy gem about a middle-class husband and father who seeks the help of a shrink when he decides he wants out of the family business. His father and mother are killers for hire. At last year's Sundance Film Festival, "Panic" drew raves for the actors, including Neve Campbell as a twenty-something who gets between William H. Macy's character and his wife, played by Tracey Ullman. -Rolling Stone



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- We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
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Notes from the Land of Anti-Fat



Doctor, doctor

Occasionally, we in the Land wonder about those health care professionals who are responsible for wonder diet drugs like fen-phen. Recently, we had got one small glimpse into the life of one of these tireless servants: in June, the self-described "father of fen-phen," Piotr Hitzig, was convicted of illegally prescribing the diet drug combination over the Internet to patients he'd never seen.

Lest we forget: fenfluramine, the "fen" half of the combination, was pulled off the market in 1997 amid concerns that it scarred heart valves irreversibly and sometimes fatally. This didn't stop Hitzig from prescribing the drug combo not just for weight loss but Gulf War syndrome, chronic fatigue, alcohol and drug addictions, as well as AIDS and cancer. As part of his defense, Hitzig claimed that he'd discovered fen-phen was effective in curing a variety of addictions. Prosecutors had a different story, asserting that the doctor was just prescribing fen-phen willy-nilly.

Hitzig was charged with distributing medicine to twelve patients, two of them undercover agents. He was found guilty of 34 charges and faces a prison term of up to 104 years. Prosecutors said hundreds of patients around the world obtained drugs like fen-phen from Hitzig after visiting his web site and sending him requests by e-mail. Yet doctors in Maryland are required to examine patients before prescribing medication.

To add insult to patient injury, Hitzig was doing all this without a license. In December 1998, Maryland regulators had suspended Hitzig's physician license. He'd surrendered it two months later, admitting in a four-page statement that he'd abused his authority, "betrayed" his patients' trust and engaged in sexual contact with some under his care. Hitzig had agreed never to seek reinstatement as a physician in the state, but apparently he did not believe that this prohibition extended to activities over the Internet.

Back when this writer was a college student in the late sixties, there used to be a doctor in the Bloomington-Normal area who was known as a good source for diet pills. Didn't matter how fat you were, all you had to do was visit this man o' medicine, state that you wanted to lose weight and you'd get a scrip for "purple footballs," an amphetamine that more than grad student used to stay awake nights. As questionable as that may've been, at least this doc actually saw the students who were putatively benefiting from

his prescriptions. Thanks to the wired revolution, the capacity for quackery has significantly increased in the Land of Anti-fat.

She suits to conquer

Those of us who spend way too much time at the movies or at home tube-sucking are already aware of the recent prevalence of fat suits being used in current comedies. Belle du jour Julia Roberts has donned one for a segment of her newest comedy, *America's Sweethearts*, while tonier actress Gwyneth Paltrow is reportedly puttin' on the suit for an upcoming Farrelly (*Something About Mary*) Brothers comedy. On the small screen, meanwhile, the formerly funny Martin Short has been wearing a fat suit as part of his Jiminy Glick persona for the Comedy Central show *Primetime Glick*.

The trend has some members of the size acceptance community feeling qualmy — and with good reason. For actresses like Roberts,

donning a fat suit is easy shorthand for doing the Ugly Duckling thing. Put an actress in a fat suit (cf. Shelley Long in *Irreconcilable Differences*, Goldie Hawn in *Death Becomes Her*), and you're likely to see the following: slovenly dress, overeating, and a general mien that says, "There is no way I could be an attractive being." Like silent actor John Barrymore (who loved donning Mister Hyde makeup because it buried The Great Profile), fat suits are a means for actresses to escape the trappings of conventional beauty, to show off their range as "genuine thespians." Too often, though, this expansive move is in the service of stereotype reinforcement.

Take Jiminy Glick. (Insert Henny Youngman joke here.) As portrayed by Short, talk show host Glick is a no-talent egotist who's more interested in talking about himself than the celebs on his show. Amusing enough by itself, but as extra insurance, they decided to make the character fat and gluttonous, too. (The ad for *Primetime Glick* shows Short stuffing a large pastry into his mouth.) Result? An ongoing fat joke that negates anything that might have been inventive about Short's show and turns it into the Same Ol' Stuff.

Taken out of cultural context, a fat suit is just one more makeup tool. But popular entertainment has always been context laden — and until an actor or actress puts one on in the service of more than stereotypical jokes, than fat men and women are right to cringe when they read about the next big fat suiting.

—Bill Sherman

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The Poetry Page

Open letter

what the hell can i write about to make yall listen? who am i to persuade you anything, with whatchu read reading thru your mind tryin to be the next picked out piece for the memory chip ready to be a part of the next move ment to live that brighter now while you search for that magical door into realizing your dreams are what you are what you see, whatchu hear, whatchu feel smell taste think do say to everyone & every day, be, just that, is so much so so much it makes you not able to sleep, sleep too much either way more time to dream & show others what you have come up with, come down with, are they paying attention or giving it freely since you gave your sence here is some of mine which really comes from others get the pattern here getcha paper here no charge whatta deal although all art is free, free to be when you let it flow now so whatcha gonna do wit it, who's it for, whazit gonna do, probably more than you will know & thats amazing, yes daily miracles giving life another way to make love form from whatever you put together by yourself or with lots of help see its all so beautiful so when you're fukin up remember to really look, at what who else is goin on, what's who's goin off & learn my friend even if its only for a moment of course how long is that, undetectable, inconceivable all rolled into one particle, object, planet, universe get the pattern here.....

peacelove.matt.

For All Intensive Porpoises

I've heard it said and I agree
You've never told a lie
I've seen you walk the ocean
I've watched you swim the sky

Savor the sweet flavor
of your freedom every day
Each moment that you live this way
is cause to celebrate

Child-like in your innocence
Yet few are wise as you
Filling this world with wonder
Just like the dolphins do

Stay away from lonely sharks
and always pay your debts
Stay away from fishermen
and stupid tuna nets

For all intensive porpoises
I sing this swimming song
I hope to be joining you
at sea before too long

Swim swam swum
Dim damn dumb
Live love laugh
Splish splish splash

--Peter Elvidge

SPACE ALIENS

the aliens land on our roof and pleasantly ask what time it is
with crazy ink pens they scrape my sister and mother, both of whom
are crying and seeing visions from god
warm and exciting, a keepsake,
throbbing in my sister's hand like a chicken liver
the aliens have always been attracted to our women
the wind blows from the Pacific, bringing flying fish
and the aliens
like those Silkies in Scotland, half seal, half man, they creep into beds at night
leaving a trail of sea-water and sand
later a poor girl is stranded, pregnant
with some weird baby
in their red alien eyes, a fake smile, in their little hands they hold a gift
like a pantyhose package
previously hidden somehow in their pouches
it goes on until I bang on the door and yell that I'm calling the police
what are you doing there in the closet, sister dear?
oh nothing
in some orange juice dream world of necklaces and acorns of truth
the door sticks, and why won't she listen to me ever
they are pretending to be Patrick of Ireland treating the Irish to some lies
she wears an apron and ten hungry kids attached to her legs
mother dear, in your rocking chair, the crochet hooks are ready

--Eileen Murphy

FLOODED FIELDS (for Michael Dubina)

I see a few dark bumps
on the horizon, they look
like uh farmhouse an
maybe some trees,
far-uh-way
on the bleak
flatland,
an the sky
is shades
of tangerine
an blue,
and as the
recently plowed
field comes forward,
at the bottom
of the painting,
we see little
overflowing streams,
so carefully
dug by a man, yet
now this field is
weeping, with what
it cannot contain,
an the vast
picture of sky,
horizon, an field,
they speak of something
so powerful,
with an elegant
weary tired,
I somehow
get through
feeling,
an the mournful
hopeful sad song
of sky, is reflected
in flooded fields
of painting.

--John Firefly

7-1-01 Crickets

Crickets penetrate
Midnight's gray obscurity
Rhythm in the haze.

--Matt Toczko

for john firefly

i have read
that poet of Firefly Nation
i have heard
beautiful things he's flung
i have seen
night walking inna white rain
an i know he knows
poetpennotebookflow
turn this to notice
exclaim "You are a poet!"
to one who was unsure
now if i wuz a female
i'd be a mermaid
bustin outa his dream
to become that great moment
woven within natty canvas
or instead i be a poem yea
printed on this Amerikan page
black ink to scream an shout
cloud revolution uprising
& a whisper inna air
ove jusa Normal breeze
what i really eez
isa 'rita ana reada
ove what we all here
gently bringin to tha
hear

--matt erickson



Thousands of dreams

To break the outline
is not easy
to begin new paths
nor it is
end up do not believe
in those old histories
carry the pain
of lose

To find a real love
is not easy
can see it before you die
nor it is
end up do not say
to nobody your ideas
carry the fear
to be veiled
without still to born

Knock down frontiers
to break color chains
to declaim poems
that claim freedom

Knock down systems
to end the stupid wars
and invoke the peace
are only thousands of dreams
that I put up in my mind
and day to day
are many more

To come back to love her
is not easy
to live without smell her
is too hard

is too hard with a cloth
dry the blonde weeping
over all when still
there is so much for walk

but I find in the weariness
a new strange place
and I find that to die
is not hard
and I do not want to
come back

--Presvi Sotelo

Backyard

artificial daylight drowns
the parking lot, sick ochre
security lamps
lit up all night. the pigeons
living in the store signs along
the strip mall coo in ignorance
of the cycles of the sky;
sometimes the light
is warm,
sometimes the light
only buzzes...payphones
stand in a line, backs to the wall,
appearing idle to the untrained
eye...potential energy
somewhat psychotic when translated
into kinetic mayhem. ring....ring....
collect calls and stray
receipts litter the spaces striped
goldenrod for pedestrians
and shopping carts on the lam,
dreaming of fatty ankles
roaming the scuffed linoleum plains
speckled vermilion by the prowess
of their hunt

--Matt Toczko

A View From the Edge

Lost man, sad man, young man, old
Light years from his ancestry
Racism, antisemitism and ageism pin his spirit to a world of lies.
He's not black, he's not caucasian, not Asian, nor hispanic, but gray.
He's not unique, there is a million more locked up beside him.
He's not young, for he never had a childhood.
Caught up in a vicious cycle of hate, cards, porn and scams.
Blind, he sees nothing
Deaf, he refuses to hear the truth
Words of violence mask his fear
Always ready to swing his fist, because he has no answers.
The only thing he does better than running from reality, is running
from his responsibilities as a man.
The only thing he has accomplished in his life is the pain and
suffering he created in others.
He knows God has the answers he craves, yet he ignores God's call.
He knows knowledge is obtainable but false pride prevents him from
learning to read.
He can stop the madness with a snap of his fingers for it's never
too late to live the examined life.
Hear the wake up call, my brother
It's your turn to live standing upon your own two feet.

--Nik Zarick

Real Estate for Sale

We found ice on the moon
And hope to settle there soon
Cause the damage we've done here
Has left folks with the fear

That the Earth can no longer sustain
Life if humans remain
On this course of destruction
The Earth in seduction

So off they'll fly
Those with money to buy
A ticket to the moon
And real estate too
They'll divide the land
Melt the ice so they can
Have water for drink
That ice they will shrink

And hope there's enough
"Til to another planet they can thrust
Their spaceships so they can survive
Humans have brains that can devise
Ways of changing life to their needs
To fill their hunger on it they'll feed

So though some may fear
That human life's end is near
No need to worry
Those pocket books will surely
Buy life on another planet
Maybe a home on Saturn
Perhaps them the meek will inherit the Earth
And respect it for its worth
Though years may go by 'til it heals
Again its beauty and love warm hearts will
feel.

--Lin "Frog" Simmons

Cont. p. 23

RIDING THE WIND

This old cut
on her nose, the
stitches weren't too
smooth, you could
still make it out,
it said so much
about her, uh remnant
of something wild hanging
around, on the face
of an angel, something
other worldly, lurking,
waiting for uh chance
to be known again,
like uh fresh blooming
rose, the scent
riding the wind
unseen, but
speaking intimately,
of rose blooming,
of unraveling,
paper petals
with the shadow
of ink falling,
as the unsaid
is heard, this
wild other worldly
thing, damning
evree thorn,
my sweet Kathleen.

--John Firefly

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The Post Amerikan is seeking poetry
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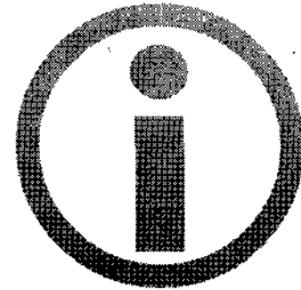
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All Ears
Dennis Cooper
As the media monopolies consolidate, novelist Dennis Cooper marvels that "we just let political and corporate higher-ups manipulate our very ways of receiving information."
Our price: \$9.00



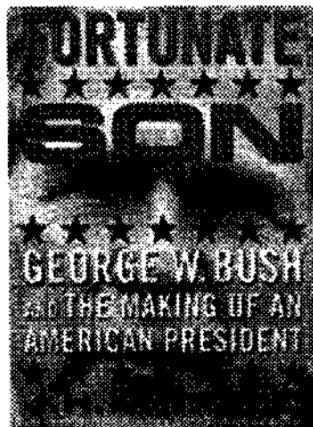
The Breaking Light
Sander Hicks
Three plays that resist the defensive conformity of contemporary America.
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Antler
Antler
Antler is a wilderness poet, bard in the tradition of Whitman, prophet critic in the footsteps of Ginsberg.
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No More Prisons
William Upski Wimsatt

A hitchhiker's guide to community organizing, urban life, home schooling, hip-hop leadership, the cool rich kids movement and why philanthropy is the greatest art form of the 20th century.
Our price: \$8.00



Fortunate Son
J.H. Hatfield

Prior to recall by St. Martins Press, *Fortunate Son* was #30 on the New York Times Best-Seller's list. What caused this book to be censured?

J.H. Hatfield's *Fortunate Son* presents George W. Bush haunted by the specters from his past. It researches the allegations of GW's abuse of extreme privilege, draft-dodging Vietnam and a past cocaine habit, and comes up with almost 400 pages of more startling information. And there's more. The Bushes' anti-Semitism, their connection to the BCCI Scandal, GW's SEC investigation for insider-trading, and the cronyism practiced with business associates while Governor of Texas.

Banned Book (Go ahead, try to buy it at Amazon.com)
Our price: \$12.00

Online Diaries
Various

Online tour journals of Lollapalooza Tour Artists. An interactive space where fans could communicate with artists such as Courtney Love, Beck and Thurston Moore.
Our price: \$5.00



Saving Private Power
Michael Zezima

The Hidden History of the "Good War." *Saving Private Power* is the most provocative history of the "Good War" ever published. It questions the ultra-patriotic assumptions we have been taught since birth.
Our price: \$13.00



Republican Like Me
Sparrow

Sparrow lost the GOP presidential nomination to Bob Dole. "How?, Why?, Uh...What?" asks a tearful, angry America. Finally, an answer in this poetic record of Sparrow's campaign trail.
Our price: \$5.00



Burning Down the House
Various

Selected Poems from the Nuyorican National Poetry Slam Champions. These five poets stand at the vanguard of the slam movement, with verse that is passionate, tight, political and lucid.
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You Don't Have to Fuck People Over to Survive
Seth Tobocman

The sick heart of conformist, competition-obsessed culture cries out resist!
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Bomb the Suburbs
William Upski Wimsatt

Most books are suburban books. Neatly designed, neatly packaged, and automatically produced. The author chooses one topic, one voice, one style, one audience, one point of views, and lays out the book according to plan.
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Soft Skull products and services are intelligence and intelligence gathering for the anti-nomian community. From inside of the international workingclass and its bastard children subcultures punk, hip-hop, etc. we report on the true progress of human history. We publish the history, pop culture studies, graphic design, art, poetic records and fiction that fuel the vanguard. We are the CIA of anti-imperialism



Mental illness awareness

Update on stigma busters

NAMI has received many reports from parents about children's TV animation series and comic books:

-Green Lantern comic book series "While Rome Burns" with its villainous character Nero who has schizophrenia.

-Saturday morning popular TV animated series "Max Steel," featuring one of the villains he fights named "Psycho."

-A cartoon test strip, "Agnes" which used offensive language and inaccurate concepts i.e. "crazy-woman-hair," "look-of-lunacy," and restoring "a crazy woman to mental health" by combing out her frizzled out, wild hairdo.

NAMI has sent a letter to the editor/producer/writer for each of the above, advising them of the offensive and dehumanizing nature of their creation. NAMI has not received a response. However, should they continue the described story line or names, please inform NAMI and we will turn of the Stigma Busters Alert.

A film to be commended

A Caveman's Valentine with Samuel Jackson portrays a homeless man with paranoid schizophrenia. This film which played in theaters this spring was based on a mystery novel with the same title. The film provided a welcome change in the story line, which did not stereotype the lead character. He lives in a cave in a New York park. He hallucinates and has delusions, but he is not violent. In fact, he is portrayed as an individual struggling in his own way with his disorder, who actually becomes the hero of the movie by solving a murder mystery.

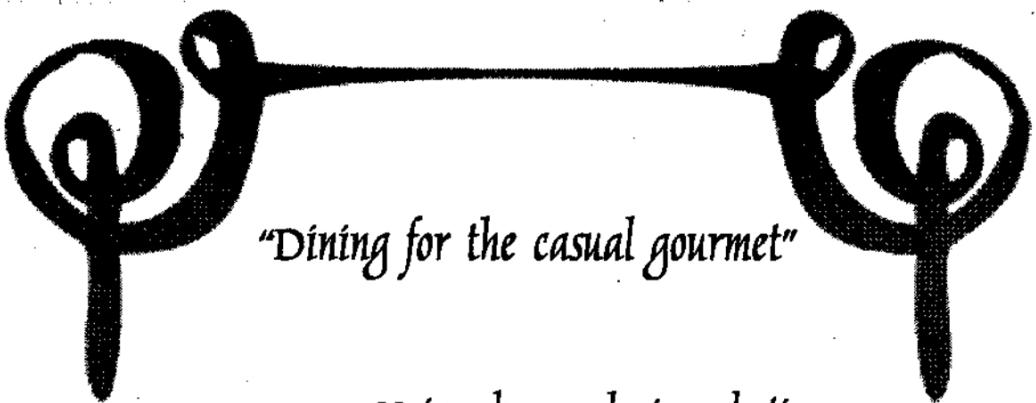
The video will be out this summer. Watch for a review of *A Caveman's Valentine* in the upcoming issue of the NAMI ADVOCATE.

-from NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties newsletter

"As The World Turns"

The long time soap series *As The World Turns* included a recent story line where the character, Julia, commits herself to a psychiatric ward of a hospital, pretending to be "insane." Stereotypical language such as: "loony," "nuthouse," "psycho," and "lunatic" was used repeatedly by the other characters.

NAMI has written to the producer reminding him that a few years ago this soap opera received honors for its sensitive treatment of AIDS and AIDS patients and advised him that mental illness including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression, OCD and panic disorder deserve the same respect; and that this situation was de-humanizing and hurtful to real persons struggling with a real mental disorder which are devastating as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, HIV, etc. We will be following up!

"Dining for the casual gourmet"

Unique beer and wine selection

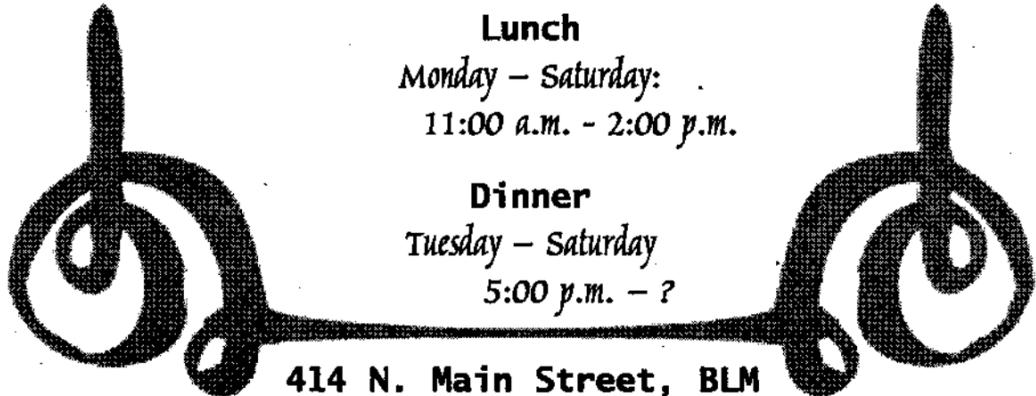
Extensive vegetarian selection

Reservations recommended

Lunch
Monday - Saturday:
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner
Tuesday - Saturday
5:00 p.m. - ?

414 N. Main Street, BLM





Cont. from p. 8

Roe v. Bush...What's he been up to since taking office?

Gagging Globally

President Bush wasted no time in starting his attack on reproductive rights. On his first full day in office, Bush issued a memorandum that reinstates the Reagan-era Mexico City policy, known as the "global gag rule." President Bush says he's imposing the Mexico City policy to ensure that taxpayer funds are not used to "pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion either here or abroad." In truth, however, no taxpayer funds were being used to pay for abortions. Such practices have been illegal, by Act of Congress, since 1973. Why is the President misleading the American people? At the heart of the policy, and what makes it so intrusive and far-reaching, is that it denies U.S. funding to any foreign non-governmental organizations that provided abortion services, counseling or referrals with their own money. This policy would violate the 1st Amendment right to free speech if it was imposed on U.S. soil. "Compassionate" conservative Bush apparently feels comfortable denying that same right in the international community.

The very same conditions that prompted health care providers, members of the clergy,

women's health advocates and legislators in the U.S. work to overturn laws that put women's health at risk are still occurring throughout the world. Nearly three decades later, more than 75,000 women die every year as a result of unsafe abortion. New restrictions on family planning providers overseas might even prevent them from speaking to their clients or their governments about this grave health risk. Does that sound compassionate to you?

RU-4...eighty-sixed?

During his confirmation hearings, Bush's nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services - Governor Tommy Thompson - revealed his intention to review the recent FDA approval of RU-486 (officially called mifepristone) citing safety concerns. Afterwards he admitted, "not knowing the details", but that someone had told him it was unsafe.

Already, legislation has been introduced that would restrict access to mifepristone. Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) and Rep. David Vitter (R-LA) introduced the so-called "RU-486 Patient Health and Safety Act." This bill would

codify restrictive provisions that severely limit the availability of mifepristone. Congress has never before acted to enforce limitations on the use of an FDA approved drug.

Nipping Stem Cell Research in the Bud

President Bush has said that he is opposed to all federal funding for research using embryonic stem cells to combat and cure such grave diseases as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Huntington's and diabetes. The Clinton administration approved rules for funding research last summer, but Bush's spokesperson has said that policy is under review. The Bush Administration might block funding before any experiments actually begin. Secretary of Health and Human Service Tommy Thompson, while serving as Wisconsin governor, praise the Wisconsin researchers who co-discovered stem cells as "pioneers." But when asked about his earlier support for stem cell research, Thompson said that his new position might have to change. "I found out that I'm a cabinet officer now," he said.

-Voice for Choice

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.

The Cats Need Your Help!

You can help Sterile Feral and the feral cats by making a donation.

YES! I want to support the work of Sterile Feral with a tax deductible donation of of:

- Subscribing \$15 Supporting \$20
- Sustaining \$50 Other \$ _____

Any amount is appreciated!

Send \$15 or more and you will receive issues of *The Feral Fixation*. Please make checks payable to the Sterile Feral Foundation and mail to the address listed on the right.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

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

Thanks for your support

- I am interested in volunteering to help care for feral cat colonies.
- I am interested in the monthly Support-A-Colony program.
- I am interested in donating wish list items such as dry & canned cat food, litter, humane traps, carriers, & old towels.
- I am interested in helping foster feral kittens and friendly strays.

The Sterile Feral Foundation

P.O. Box 3413
Bloomington, IL
61702-3413

Phone: 309-663-4406
www.sterileferal.org

Sterile Feral Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization

Cont. from p. 19

Matthew Kosbob

With a single moment your life was changed.
Four narcissistic thugs stole your voice.
Yet the universe hears your silent scream.
Every soul weeps for your agony and loss.
A father and mother so noble, so loyal, so lugubrious, so valiant.
So much pain in a world of apathetic chaos.
Rest well, Matthew.
We shall never forget the image of you.
--Nik Zarick

Twistory

Time is a ripple in the cosmic pool
That never seems to stop
Truth is a bubble on a fickle wind
That suddenly can pop

The H.M.S. Titanic swerved and avoided
That hidden iceberg
only to collide with disastrous misfortune
and the airship Hindenburg

Wyatt Earp cried like a baby
Abraham Lincoln burned his beard
John Wayne dressed up as a lady
Amelia Erhardt just disappeared

Glenn Miller sat in with the band
Bozo the Clown kept a stiff upper lip
ZZ Top plugged in and jammed
Jack the Ripper went down with the ship

History is full of little twists
and mysteries gigantic
How well I remember that fateful night
The Hindenburg hit the Titanic

The seas were calm, the skies were clear
The great ship sailing proud
The Zeppelin plummeted, billowing flames
and crashed into her bow

Lindsey Buckingham sang out of key
Lucky Lindy slipped on the soap
Benjamin Franklin fell into the sea
Joe Namath threw him a rope

Louie Armstrong launched a boat
and saved a lot of lives
Donnie and Marie fought a hammerhead shark
with their ninja knives

History and destiny
keep the gods amused
Reality and fantasy
sometimes get confused

The Titanic hit the Hindenburg
in the most amazing disaster
in the history of mankind
not caused by Japanese monsters

--Peter Elvidge

Cloned to the Bone

I'll take
two copies
One for my girlfriend
and one for my wife
And please
don't get sloppy
I want those clones
to have my eyes

How could this world get along
without me
I've wondered how
it would be
But they've found a way
to make a copy
So today I'll go
clone shopping

Be careful
with that cell
And remember it must *almost* die
but don't send it to hell
Be careful where
you incubate
A Mother no longer
is just fate

Find me one
who's understanding
Loves me unconditionally
with perfect handling
No need to keep those photos
from when I'm a baby
They'll send me back around
just by paying

Oh Cloning
at last I've found
A way to keep
this ole' body around
And I can be in more than
one place at a time
I may commit
the perfect crime
Human discoveries
they persist in finding
Ways to keep
this old Earth crying.

--Lin "Frog" Simmons

THE GREEN I CAN'T LET GO

Another gray
winter day in
Ill-uh-noy,
snow has not
yet stuck, most
leaves have fallen,
and if uh day could
be uh painter, taday
would be uh dreary
Ren-wah day,
with uh bitter
wind that says,
death an sleep
are the same,
falling like
shadows,
falling like
the snow,
falling like
my eyelids
that weary
grow, and
I begin dreaming
like the fields of
cut corn, of green
shiny and shimmering,
the green I can't let go,
no matter how high the snow,
no matter how deep the shadows,
the green I can't let go,
that pushes through the earth,
with the force of stars,
the green I can't let go.

--John Firefly

Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

We're a non-profit volunteer group whose main purpose is to offer assistance and support to victims of sexual assault and their friends and families.

Female and male volunteers answer your calls and are available for crisis assistance, information and speaking engagements. You may request to speak only with female volunteers.

If you want to talk to one of us
Call PATH 827-4005

and ask for the
RAPE CRISIS CENTER



BioDemocracy News: Agbiotech aggression

Quote of the Month:

"Genetically modified food is viewed as unsafe by most [Americans], and the public wants warning labels on food, a new ABCNEWS.com poll finds... 52% believe such foods are unsafe, and an additional 13% are unsure about them... 93% say the federal government should require labels on food saying whether it's been genetically modified... 57% also say they'd be less likely to buy foods labeled as genetically modified... The image problem of genetically modified food is underscored by contrast to organic foods. While only five percent of Americans say they'd be more likely to buy a food labeled as genetically modified, 52 percent say they'd be more likely to buy food that's labeled as having been raised organically." (<www.ABCNEWS.com> 6/20/01)

Attack of the Gene Giants

The global controversy over genetically engineered foods and crops has intensified. Sensing that they are losing the battle for the hearts and minds of the public, even in the US and Canada, Agbiotech interests, large food corporations, and their allies in government have stepped up their propaganda and intimidation campaign. Since the beginning of 2001 an unprecedented number of editorial, opinion, and news stories have appeared in the world press, extolling the virtues of agricultural biotechnology while denouncing opponents as know-nothing Luddites. Accompanying this industry media barrage, choreographed by leading public relations firms, are a number of other recent noteworthy aggressions:

* In Canada, Loblaws, Sobey's, Safeway, A&P, and other large grocery chains have banned the use of "GMO-free" food labels. Natural food companies marketing organic and other foods certified as free of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been ordered by Loblaws and other chains to block out or remove "GMO-free" labels or else their products will be taken off supermarket shelves. Despite polls that show 90% of Canadians support labeling GMOs, government regulators, pressured by the US and the biotech lobby, have thus far ruled out mandatory labeling. But a new GMO food labeling law has been introduced into Parliament, supported by 80 public interest groups.

* In 1994 Monsanto and state agriculture in the United States launched a similar intimidation campaign against several thousand dairies and health food stores in the US attempting to label or advertise their dairy products as free of recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH). To this date, Monsanto's "no labeling" intimidation campaign has been quite successful. Less than 10% of US dairy products today are labeled as "rBGH-free" even though the overwhelming majority (90%) US dairy cows are not being injected with the drug. Most of America's 1500 dairies, backed by food giants such as Kraft/Phillip Morris, have collaborated in

denying consumers free choice by co-mingling rBGH-tainted milk with regular milk and then deliberately lying to consumers about the presence of the hormone ("we don't know") in their company's products. rBGH is banned in every industrialized country except for the USA, primarily because of scientific concerns that it is a cancer hazard and likely to cause increased antibiotic residues in milk. Voting with their pocketbooks against rBGH, millions of US consumers have turned to organic milk and dairy products as well as rBGH-free labeled brands.

* Reports of genetic pollution and genetic drift continue to proliferate. According to a CBC (Canada) radio broadcast (6/2/01), genetically engineered canola plants are showing up in farmers' fields all across the Canadian prairie, even though many of them have never planted GE seeds. Martin Phillipson, a University of Saskatchewan law professor, said that Monsanto may be liable for damages if their gene-altered, herbicide resistant canola continues to spread. "The GM canola has, in fact, spread much more rapidly than we thought it would," said Martin Entz, a plant scientist at the University of Manitoba. "It's absolutely impossible to control."

* Similar genetic pollution has been reported in the US by farmers growing organic corn and certified "GMO-free" soybeans. US trade representatives, working hard to engender a growing sense of fatalism regarding the "impossibility" of growing "GE-free" soybeans, corn, and canola, have told EU bureaucrats that it is unreasonable and "unworkable" to expect anything less than 5% genetic contamination in non-GMO grain exports. (Financial Times 6/20/01)

But well-known critics such as Jeremy Rifkin point out that the biotech industry's genetic pollution is creating a backlash. "They're hoping there's enough contamination so that it's a fait accompli." But the liability will kill them. We're going to see lawsuits across the Farm Belt as conventional farmers and organic farmers find that their product is contaminated." (New York Times 6/13/01)

* The US government has warned EU officials that their proposed mandatory labeling and traceability requirements for genetically engineered grains and foods violate World Trade Organization rules mandating free trade and could subject EU countries to major WTO sanctions and fines. (Reuters 6/1/01) In a 5/18/01 letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Grocery Manufacturers of America, and 17 other farm and commodity giants warned the EU's proposed regulations threaten "a \$4 billion US agricultural export market."

* The White House and the biotech industry continue to pressure Brazil to approve Monsanto's Roundup Ready soybeans for commercialization. Because of their ban on GE soybeans the Brazilians have captured an increasing share of the EU and Asian export market—while US market share has declined.

"We are very hopeful that last domino will fall," said Bob Callanan of the American Soybean Association. "That's why the environmentalists are putting up a stink down there in Brazil. They know if that goes, it's all gone." (New York Times 6/11/01) According to USDA figures (PS&D database) US soy exports to the EU during the 1995-2000 period declined 14.3%, while Brazilian exports increased 10.7%.

* The Bush administration announced 6/13/01 that studies carried out by the Centers for Disease Control found "no evidence" that Aventis' genetically engineered StarLink corn has caused allergic reactions in humans. Last fall, revelations that StarLink corn, banned by the EPA for human consumption, had contaminated over 300 brand name food products, caused a massive billion-dollar recall and disrupted overseas grain markets. Further recalls were announced July 5 as StarLink corn was detected in white corn tortilla chips. US critics from the Genetically Engineered Food Alert <gefoodalert.org> coalition immediately denounced the CDC findings as inadequate and unscientific. Among serious problems with the CDC tests: a tiny and insignificant sample of human blood serum was tested, too small to be representative of the potentially affected population; the Cry9c protein studied for allergenicity was a synthetic lab construct rather than the actual gene-altered protein as expressed in the corn plant; and special risks to infants, children, mill workers, and farm workers were not taken into consideration. For a scientific critique of the StarLink whitewash see (www.purefood.org/gefood/fdaallergyscandal.cfm)

* Reuters reported 6/25/01 that Sri Lanka was being pushed by the US to reverse its ban on genetically engineered foods. Responding to intense pressure, Sri Lanka officials announced a temporary suspension of their ban, but emphasized that the ban would likely be reimposed Sept. 1. "We know of no credible scientific evidence justifying Sri Lanka's ban. We believe it is totally unwarranted," Weyland Beeghly, agricultural counselor of the U.S. Embassy in neighboring India, told a news conference in Sri Lanka May 10. Informed sources report similar strong-arm tactics being employed by American diplomats and trade bureaucrats throughout the Asia and Pacific region (and across the world)—where mandatory labeling and production or import bans on GMOs are steadily gaining momentum.

* Cropchoice.com reported 5/21/01 that Monsanto has continued suing "hundreds" of US farmers for "patent infringement," for the "crime" of having genetically engineered plants growing on their property without paying royalty payments to Monsanto. Several farmers being sued by Monsanto are fighting back however, filing counter-lawsuits in North Dakota and Illinois, claiming that Monsanto is deliberately causing genetic pollution, and then turning around and suing innocent farmers who are victims of this genetic trespass.

—Ronnie Cummins, Organic Consumers Association—www.organicconsumers.org