

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

10-1-2002

Volume 31, Number 5

Post Amerikan

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan



Part of the [Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in Communication Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Publishing Commons](#), and the [Social Influence and Political Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Post Amerikan, "Volume 31, Number 5" (2002). *The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)*. 261.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan/261

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Post Amerikan Project at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Post Amerikan (1972-2004) by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

The spiritual heart of activism FUDAfest Permanent war, Final conflict



POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL VOLUME 31

FREE

NUMBER FIVE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2002

JOIN THE WAR



AGAINST TERRORISM

Change Service Requested
Post Amerikan
P.O. Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON, IL
PERMIT NO. 168



PAGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL VOLUME 31 NUMBER FIVE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2002

In this Issue:

Page 3--YWCA's Week Without Violence & art exhibit
 Page 4--Complicity is complacency
 Page 5--Permanent war, Final conflict by Steve Eckhart
 Page 6--Off the beaten path--movie reviews
 Page 7--Banned Books Week
 Page 8--Mental illness awareness--Stigma busters
 Page 9--Letters

Pages 10-11--FUDafest busted
 Pages 12-13--Poetry
 Pages 14-16--Spiritual side of activism--Jesse Wolf Hardin
 Page 16--Notes from the Land of Anti-fat
 Pages 17-18--Labor news
 Page 19--ISU professor writes book on sexual orientation & gender identity & The sea of love

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 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, RALPH, 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...Miami@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 Phonenumber...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 & Friends
 of Lesbians & Gays).....862-1844
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014
 (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368
Post Amerikan.....828-4473
 Prairie State Legal Services.....827-5021
 Project Oz.....827-0377
 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
 Voice for Choice.....827-4005
 Western Avenue 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
 CommonGround, 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

Acme 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.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Due Date:

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

NOV 15

Community News

University Galleries presents Melanie Manchot

The first U.S. survey of Melanie Manchot's striking color photographs opened at University Galleries of Illinois State University on Tuesday, September 24th and will run through November 3rd.

Manchot is a German artist living in London whose artwork challenges socially constructed ideas about beauty, aging, sexuality, and fantasy. The traveling exhibition, *Melanie Manchot: Love is a Stranger* includes photography and video from three major bodies of work: *Liminal Portraits*--nude portraits of the artist's mother set within dramatic landscapes and domestic spaces, *The L.A. Pictures*--a photo-and-text series of kissing couples which explores notions of intimacy and personal space, and *Gestures of Demarcation*--self-portraits of Manchot in which figures, often turned away from the camera, pull and tug at the artist's skin. Also featured is a video installation, *For a Moment Between Strangers*, documenting various people's responses to the artist's requests for a kiss in public.

Organized by Stuart Horodner, curator at the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, the exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated monograph published by Prestel. During her time on campus she will visit with art students and will engage in a public project consisting of large photographic banners to be placed in several outdoor locations.

Manchot studied at the International Center for Photography in New York and at New York University, followed by The City University and The Royal College of Art in London. She has taught and lectured in many colleges in England and also in Portugal. She has been in group exhibitions at The Royal Festival Hall, London; Venice Biennale; and the National Portrait Gallery. Recent solo shows include Zelda Cheatle Gallery, London; Arquivo Fotografico, Lisbon; and Galerie Fiebig, Berlin.

All events are free and open to the general public.

Parking is available at the S. University Street garage (near the tennis courts).

Gallery Hours

Tues: 9:30 to 9:00
Wed-Fri: 9:30 to 4:30
Sat-Mon: 12:00 to 4:00

YWCA to host a Family Fun Fair

YWCA of McLean County's Health and Fitness Programs will host a Family Fun Fair on Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with FREE activities for all ages. Refreshments and giveaways will also be available. Programs will take place at the YWCA'S facility at 1201 N Hershey Rd, Bloomington.

Activities will include:

Music and Circle Time Play 9:00-11:00 a.m.
for infants and children under the age of 3 years

Circus Time 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Children (walking-6 years) and parents are encouraged to play together in the gymnastics area.

Basketball Shooting Contest 9:00-11:00 a.m.
for ages 7-13

Dance Time 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Youth, ages 5-10 years are invited to have fun dancing to music provided by a DJ. from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Families welcome 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Square Dancing 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Do-si-do with your family

Open Swim 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
for the whole family

For further information please call the YWCA Front Desk at 662-0461.

YWCA "Week Without Violence"

YWCA launches its annual "Week Without Violence" campaign on October 13th

Imagine a week without violence. No hitting. No name-calling. No killing. Imagine a week of peace. No violence. No fear. No hate. Imagine the possibilities.

This year's YWCA Week Without Violence will run October 13th through October 19th as a collaborative effort with Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence Program and Partners for Community. Activities will focus on educating people about the occurrence of violence in McLean County and discussing non-violent alternatives to everyday problems.

Each day of the week focuses on a different issue of violence. Each day has a specific theme and covers issues such as violence against women, violence against men, child safety and racism and hate crimes. Activities include workshops, exhibits, a free movie, an open mic night/poetry slam, a candlelight vigil, and a fun filled afternoon at the YWCA celebrating youth.

Please join us to promote "Everyday Peace" in Our Community!

Sunday
"Day of Remembrance"
Candlelight Vigil in remembrance of those who have died from domestic violence, including testimonies from survivors of domestic violence.



Monday
"Protect our Children"
Safety Fair at YWCA of McLean County for preschool and daycare children. Activities include Safety Booths; Hands are Not for Hitting Activity, OK Touch Bears, and a "Taking Back Our Children" video which educates children on abduction and child predators and offers tips to parents to aid in protecting their children from abduction.

Tuesday
"Safer Schools Day"

"Everyday Peace" Essay Contest for High School students. A panel of judges will be assigned to review all participants. Global Art Project Display.

Wednesday
"Violence Among Men"
Free viewing of the film "American History X" at the Normal Theatre 7-9 p.m., followed by post-film discussion.

Thursday
"Violence Against Women"
Voices for Peace Open Mic Event at the Coffeehouse in Normal.

Friday
"Eliminating Racism and Hate Crimes"
Racism and Hate Crimes speakers panel discussion and luncheon at Eastland Suites. Essay Contest awards.

Saturday
"Replacing Violence with Fun Day"
Junior High students celebrate through fun and fitness at the Youth Fall Fest Dance (6th-8th Graders). Event to be held in the YWCA Community Room, from 6-9 p.m. Music by a D.J.

New Sexual Assault program needs volunteers

McLean County's NEW Sexual Assault Program, sponsored by the YWCA of McLean County, currently seeks volunteers to provide phone counseling, and medical or legal support. An application and brief interview will be required of all volunteer applicants.

Classes start on Tuesday, October 8 and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday evening for six weeks.

For an information packet on the program, please call Vickie Smith at 662-0461 ext. 272.



Complacency is complicity

After the terrorist attack last September, I attended a Rockford Peace & Justice meeting along with many other political activists who felt some concern about how the United States would choose to respond. The local television stations were there to cover the event and somehow my image appeared on the news segment that night. As a result, students from the high school where I teach saw that I was there and proceeded to spread a rumor that I was "un-American."

Another member of the faculty brought this to my attention during a passing period. He told me what a student had said and I started to get that familiar sinking feeling: that many people in this country never look beyond what their leaders tell them.

Perhaps I should forgive the young woman who made the ridiculous accusation because she is uninformed, but I can't help but ponder the reality that she represents a larger group of people here the United States who haven't bothered to study their history, much less question the present.

With this experience in mind, I began to reflect on my political views and decided that I don't care 'who' calls me 'what' anymore. The time has come to challenge the authorities that lead us toward the brink of an uncertain future as they plot their schemes of destruction.

It's seems like just yesterday that I was in high school and a President named Bush was waging war on a foreign country called Iraq. Now it's more than ten years later, I'm teaching high school and another President named Bush is going to wage war on the same foreign country,

Iraq. The more life changes, the more it stays the same. What does this all mean? Saddam Hussein might be a ruthless dictator, but there are plenty of them around the world and we're not invading all of their countries, at least not yet. It's interesting how a lust for oil can make a nation act.

I have another uneasy feeling inside. As our leaders select enemies around the globe to target for military aggression, I can't help but think that our fear of terrorism has empowered them to do so. After all, what was that President's remark in his State of the Union Address about the "axis of evil?" Are we going to declare war on every country that doesn't subscribe to our blend of political and economic values?

What I find really disheartening is that the average person permits the government to make these decisions, as if all are made in our best interest. Perhaps that's the downfall of representative democracy — people assume too much, critically think very little, and openly speak out on a rare occasion in situations like this.

Isn't it strange that you can be ostracized for merely voicing an alternative perspective? Am I alone in thinking that? Are people so foolish? Or are they just so preoccupied with 'getting paid' to even care, like a junkie in search of a fix? They believe that because George W. Bush says we need a missile defense shield, that we must develop one. They believe that broad definitions of terrorism, granting police agencies the power to invade their privacy, holding innocent people in detention, and proposing that citizens spy on one another must be the path to solving our problems and promoting security.

Has anyone bothered to question what it is about our policy that provokes hostility toward our country in the first place? If you think the answer is that we're a freedom-loving nation, you are grossly oversimplifying the issue. Is it possible that the world is tired of being treated as a means to an end? That foreign people are angry because they are seen only as a supply of natural resources or cheap labor in our eyes?

If you study our history, you find a 'privileged few' that ordered the decimation of indigenous populations, enslavement of black people, and exploitation of the working class. Interestingly enough, a majority of the population considered this acceptable for quite some time. In retrospect, this injustice is dismissed as a necessary action in our evolution. But for just a

moment, consider all of the suffering that transpired. Most people are horrified at the thought because it's incomprehensible.

Have we learned anything from the experience in the past? One might argue that we have not. For years now, the 'privileged few' have been scouring the Earth in search of other lands that can be taken advantage of. It's the only way for them to maintain their standard of living and the only way they know how to function.

Welcome to the modern capitalist state. Trace the evolution yourself as the references change: colonialism, imperialism, and globalization. Perhaps there hasn't been a change at all because force is the enduring tool of the policies we enact. If you choose to openly disagree with or resist the United States' interests, you will eventually find yourself the victim of sanctions or bombs. Each of which kills far more innocent civilians than corrupt government officials.

I think that it's time we reevaluated how we treat people abroad while keeping in mind that individuals we call terrorists today were at one time our allies. Remember, problems exist whether or not you choose to address them, and that ignorance fuels anger to unimaginable levels. Does this mean I excuse acts of violence against the United States? No, I do not. However, if we are really serious about ending the political violence, we must examine our role in fostering it, for we are all guilty. For more info: <http://www.beyondtheself.org>

--John A. Duerk

"The oppressor must be harassed until his doom. He must have no peace by day or night. The slaves have always outnumbered the slavemasters. The power of the oppressor rests upon the submission of the people." -Huey P. Newton, Co-founder of the Black Panther Party

Beyond the Self:
<http://www.beyondtheself.org> pOliTiCal
aCtiVisM sOciAl cRiTicisM



Subscribe to the Post Amerikan
6 issues / \$6 bucks
Send check payable to Post Amerikan
P.O. Box 3452 · Bloomington, IL 61702



Permanent war, Final conflict

As all class-conscious workers knew when the second airplane hit the World Trade Towers one year ago, U.S. imperialism has seized the attacks to implement existing plans to radically alter the world relationship of forces in its favor. They struck immediately on two fronts, and are now moving on a third. The outcome of this offensive, however, is far from determined.

The capitalists' most important priority was to attack the democratic rights of U.S. people not in their class. Paramount was an enormous propaganda campaign to whip up blinding grief and anger. Only on that basis was it possible for them to proceed to assault hard-won U.S. democratic rights.

[Aside: This was a textbook demonstration of the truth of the Marxist dictum that "foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy," against the opposite liberal/Leftist notion that the U.S. is polluted by wrong-headed foreign policies. In fact, it's the domestic policy of U.S. capitalism --exploitation of workers, oppression of "minorities" and women, and the heartless drive for profits at any cost-- that is poisoning the world. In this case, it's not possible for U.S. imperialism to carry out its war policies without first politically disarming its domestic population. And so "foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy."

Central to that propaganda campaign was and is the deliberate misrepresentation of facts and the withholding of information. A vast network of terrorists and nations devoted to attacking the United States was conjured up over 60 nations plus the shadowy, "powerful and sophisticated" Al Qaeda organization (which the FBI has actually numbered at around 200 people).

Afghanistan was presented as a country that had to be attacked and occupied, despite the people of that country having nothing to do with September 11th. Cut-throats, rapists, and thieves were lined up as front-men for U.S. rule and presented as saviors of Afghanistan from

the horrors of the Taliban regime, while a complete ban on on-the-scene news coverage shrouded bloody Imperial military actions on the ground.

The key reason for the deadly collapse of the World Trade Towers --shoddy fireproofing by a profit-hungry contractor has been kept almost entirely from public eyes lest it cloud the false picture justifying the imperialists' drive to exploit September 11th to wage war on both home and overseas fronts. (For more info on this story see the SeeingRed website).

On the first front, a list of the attacks on democratic rights --which include the 'disappearance' of U.S. citizens into military hands, just as under Latin American dictatorships-- would be lengthy indeed. They are best summed up by the phrase "the militarization of daily life."

On the second front, Afghanistan is now under U.S. occupation, its "president" closely surrounded by 300 U.S. soldiers. Military bases containing some 30,000 troops have been established in all the countries (except Iran) comprising the soft underbelly of the former Soviet Union, the ultimate invasion target of the U.S. Empire.

And now U.S. imperialism is openly moving on a third front --the military invasion and occupation of Iraq. Establishing Iraq as a de facto U.S. colony would cement direct imperial control of the Middle East, home to the world's largest oil deposits, and allow Washington to squeeze its imperialist rivals in Europe and Japan.

Given this purpose, this recklessly aggressive move --being conducted under the ludicrous guise that Iraq poses a military threat to the far-distant and militarily-omnipotent United States-- cannot and will not occur on anything but a unilateral basis. There will be no coalition except with Washington's junior partner, the racist military-theocratic state of Israel, and the odd traditional tag-along like Britain.

Underlying all this --what U.S. imperialism declares to be a new "world war"-- is nothing but the normal operations of the capitalist system. The presence of a Republican in the White House, upcoming elections, the operations of a small terrorist organization or any other "explanations" have nothing to do with it.

Capitalism regularly produces massive wars and economic depressions. The "crisis of overproduction" --too many goods to profitably sell-- is an inescapable consequence of a system based on profit [surplus value]. Wars inevitably result as rival capitalist classes vie to make the other take the losses as 'overproduction' grows.

War also destroys enormous amounts of value, allowing the cycle to begin again --of course on the wreckage of millions of human lives. The length of time since the last depression and world war was directly determined by the vastness of the destruction.

By now, however, the world is once again awash in unsellable goods, and bricks and beams are falling from the international economic structure. Theoretically, direct control of Mideast oil would buy the U.S. capitalist class a little time as it squeezes super-profits both from the natives rude enough to live where the oil is and from the imperialist rivals dependent on it. (That's why 'the entire world' is opposed to a U.S. war to conquer Iraq --it's aimed at it.)

But the war to conquer Iraq and maintenance of permanent military occupation will profoundly accelerate the unleashing of political forces which will lead to a whole lot of "regime changes" --from Pakistan to Jordan to Saudi Arabia-- that will not be to the liking of U.S. imperialism.

And how well Washington will succeed is far from a settled question. Indeed, in the long term --and not a very long one-- they will be defeated overseas; meanwhile "the entire world looks with hope," as Fidel Castro puts it, to the people of the United States to curb Imperial power and, ultimately, to drive a wooden stake through the heart of the beast that stalks the world. [See his speech 'Just Ideas vs. Brutal Force' in the new issue of SeeingRed.]

Meanwhile, clashes of growing size and scope have already begun --workers throughout Latin America protesting ruinous conditions, and soon, in the United States as corporations demand deep cuts in wages and working conditions from unionized workers in basic industry.

But not just economic matters are driving the growing resistance --battle over critical political questions like war and national sovereignty are rising from Cuba to Palestine, and will only spread.

Faced with worldwide and domestic battles, stuck with an economy whose collapse they are powerless to halt, and forced to wage ever-greater wars of conquest, the imperialists are compelled to create their own gravediggers as the people of the world, sooner or later, say "Enough."

--Steve Eckhart

11 September 2002

babbitt's bookstore

Books Bought and Sold

Book Exchange

Permanent Want List

Book Search Service

**OPEN SUNDAYS
FROM 12-5**

104 North St. • Normal
Mon. - Sat. 10-6 • 454-7393



Off the beaten path

Hello! I'm David from the independently owned video store, The Movie Fan located in downtown Normal. Do you like artsy films that make you think as much as I do? Are you tired of the same old mainstream, mass produced, commercial movies that get crammed down your throat by the powers that be? At The Movie Fan, we prefer to support the films that aren't seen at your local cineplex. Come into the coolest video store in the Bloomington/Normal area to check out our selection of first-rate films. The films I've chosen to highlight are some I love and hope you do too.

Frailty ****

Flat-out one of the best movies I've seen in the past year. This southern gothic thriller is a real gem that got lost in the shuffle theatrically. The directing debut of actor Bill Paxton (*Last Supper*) involves religious fanaticism in the Bible Belt and how far an individual will go when he thinks he's carrying out God's plan. Set in Texas (the buckle of the Bible Belt), a single parent with two young sons has an angel appear to him. The angel gives him a list with several names of demons that he is to destroy in the name of the Lord. He enlists the help of both his sons.

The elder son begins to question his father's sanity because the names on the list are real people, and they are going to go out and kill them. Of course the younger son completely buys into the plan but we the audience are not sure who to believe at this point. That's the great part because the filmmakers spin the movie in such a way that we are never sure whether the God's serial killer is actually right or insane. Tension mounts throughout with plenty of twists and turns creating many disturbing sequences that stick with you long after the movie is over. On repeated viewings you can catch something new... If you enjoy movies you can discuss with friends, you should definitely pick up *Frailty*.

Burnt Money ***1/2

A violent and sexually charged crime thriller from Argentina... sound interesting? In 1965, gay lovers Angel and Nene team up and terrorize Argentina with a series of violent bank robberies. They hide out in Uruguay. Eventually the robbers get tired of isolation and turn on each other when jealousy enters the mix. Stylistically lurid and gritty, this multi-layered thriller is a completely absorbing film. The characters we examine are dark and nihilistic--very cool movie.

CQ ***1/2

Debut director Roman Coppola has fun with this one and it shows. In 1969 France, an American film editor gets a chance to direct a sci-fi studio project called codename: Dragonfly. His reality and the film's fantasy merge and play out in trippy film-within-a-film sequences. The Dragonfly movie is an ode to *Barbarella* with 60's period music and sensibilities used to advantage. *CQ* boasts a cast with some well-knowns including Jeremy Davies, Jason Swartzman, and Gerard Depardieu, but it's Angela Lindvall who is wonderfully enchanting as Dragonfly. Indie fans take a chance on *CQ*.

A Matter of Taste ***1/2

Mind manipulation, utter wealth and food allergies make for a hard to resist combination in this diabolically clever French film. A wealthy businessman with some serious food allergies asks a waiter to taste food before serving him. The businessman hires the young waiter to "sample" other things as well, eventually manipulating the young man's tastes to match his own. An exercise in narcissism becomes a hypnotically tasty dish for the audience.

The Salton Sea ***1/2

Val Kilmer plays a jazz musician whose wife gets murdered. Hoping to trap his wife's murderer, he begins to lead a double life. His world becomes a gallery of dealers, drifters and double-crossers. A twisting noir thriller that's surreal and haunting.

Here are some other movies to put on a must-see list:

1. *Pumpkin*
2. *The Perfect Son*
3. *Beat*
4. *Sleepy Heads*
5. *The Fluffer*
6. *Hit & Runway*
7. *Beau Travail*
8. *Nine Queens*
9. *The Criminal*
10. *Enigma*
11. *Monsoon Wedding*
12. *Straight*
13. *The Son's Room*
14. *Triumph of Love*
15. *The Next best Thing*
16. *On the Run*
17. *What To Do In Case of Fire*
18. *Son of the Bride*
19. *Mean Machine*
20. *Italian for Beginners*
21. *Aberdeen*
22. *Taboo*
23. *The Wrong Guy*
24. *Gaudi Afternoon*

Sex

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

The **Movie Fan** can deliver...

No, we do not carry sex films

BUT we DO carry movies that ARE sexy

and interesting or if you prefer just plain

strange in an off-the-beaten-path

kind of way. Hmmm?

Think **Movie Fan**
think... DVDs | foreign titles
movie sales | knowledgeable staff

easily the best mix of titles in the Twin Cities
close to both campuses

Every Mon & Wed
Rent 1 new release
Get 1 FREE
(of equal/lesser value)

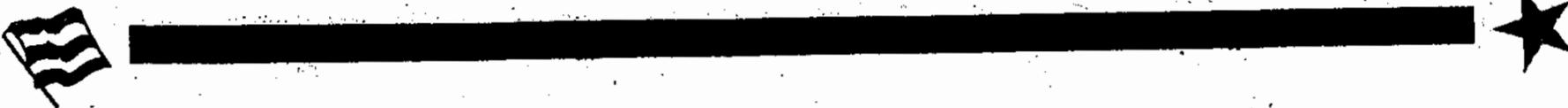
Every Day
Rent 1 catalog title
Get 1 FREE
(of equal/lesser value)

Every 12th movie is free! (with punch card)
Must have Driver's License & Major Credit Card



DOWNTOWN NORMAL
451.4443

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



Banned Books Week

What is Banned Books Week?

Banned Books Week (BBW) celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered offensive, unpopular, or unorthodox. It also stresses the importance of making sure that materials expressing those viewpoints are available to all those who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

Challenges are often motivated by a desire to protect children from "inappropriate" sexual content or "offensive" language. While this is a laudable motivation, **Free Access to Libraries for Minors**, an interpretation of the **Library Bill of Rights** states that, "Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents--and only parents--have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children--and only their children--to library resources. Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment."

Most of the books featured during BBW were challenged, and not ultimately banned, thanks to the efforts of librarians. Imagine how many more books might be challenged if librarians, teachers, and booksellers across the country did not use Banned Books Week each year to teach the importance of our First Amendment rights and the power of Literature, and to draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society.

--Adapted from www.ala.org/bbooks/whybannedbooksweek.html



Top ten banned and challenged books for 2001

(Out of 448 recorded challenges)

1. *Harry Potter series*, by J.K. Rowling, for its focus on wizardry and magic.
2. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, for using offensive language and being unsuited to age group.
3. *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier (the "Most Challenged" book of 1998), for using offensive language and being unsuited to age group.
4. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, for sexual content, racism, offensive language, violence and being unsuited to age group.
5. *Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Greene for racism, offensive language and being sexually explicit.
6. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger for offensive language and being unsuited to age group.
7. *Alice series*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, for being sexually explicit, using offensive language and being unsuited to age group.
8. *Go Ask Alice* by Anonymous for being sexually explicit, for offensive language and drug use.
9. *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers, for offensive language and being unsuited to age group.
10. *Blood and Chocolate* by Annette Curtis Klause for being sexually explicit and unsuited to age group.

Come Visit Bloomington-Normal's Fastest Growing Pawn Shop!

10% off all jewelry

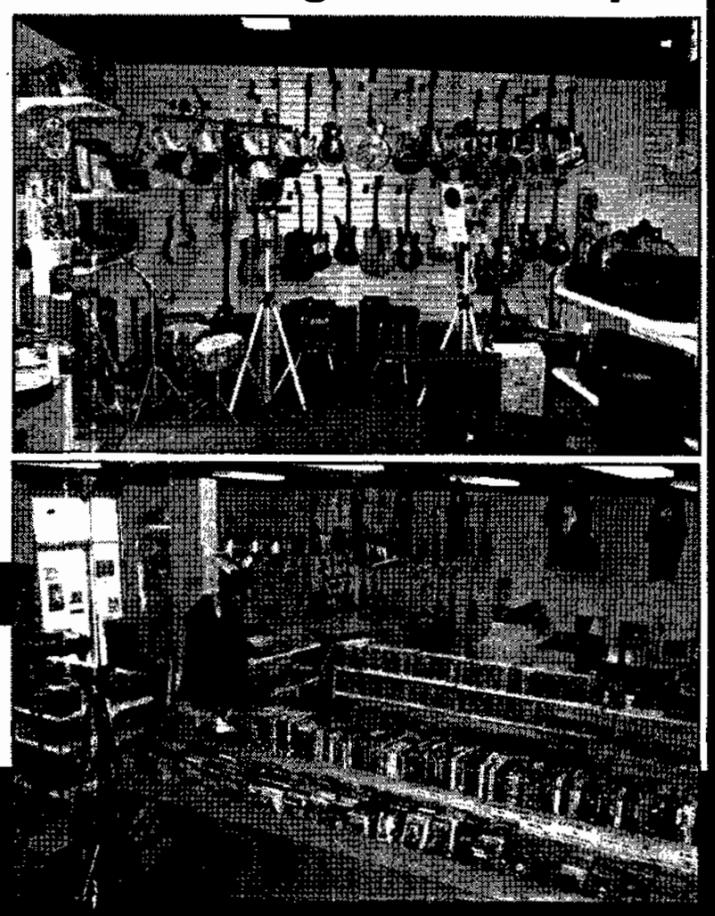
Buy 2 get one free VHS tapes

10% off all guitars

DVD movies \$1 off no limit

MONSTER PAWN

Coupons expires Oct. 21, 2002

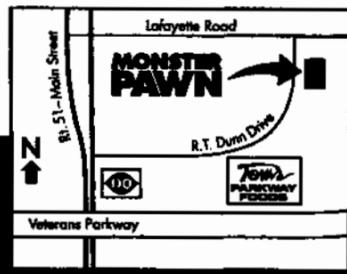


Looking to Buy or Loan You Cash on Cool Stuff Like...

- All Musical Gear & Pro Audio • Stereo Hi-Fi • DVD Players & Movies • TVs • Camcorders • Sterling Flatware • Jewelry •
- Hand Tools • Power Tools • Jam Boxes • Stereos • Coins •
- Bullion and Much Much More! •

1610 RT DUNN DR
BLOOMINGTON • 823-9115

(South Main/Veteran's Pkwy. turn in at Dairy Queen. Just north of Tom's Pkwy Foods)





Mental illness awareness

On the anti-stigma front: New Jersey tabloid needs to hear from us

The Trentonian (New Jersey) tabloid ran a huge headline: "Roasted Nuts?" over an otherwise straightforward story about a fire at the Trenton State Hospital--the same psychiatric hospital where Nobel Prize winner John Nash, Jr. once was treated. No one, by the way, was injured or killed. The headline came just one week before the new Presidential Commission on Mental Health begins holding public hearings, and two weeks before two major National Institute of Mental Health conferences to consider stigma in the media--including the need for formal industry standards.

Thanks to swift action by NAMI New Jersey, NAMI Mercer County, and NAMI Bucks County, the copy editor who wrote the headline apologized the very next day. However, NAMI felt the apology unpersuasive. It does not explain how higher-level editors allowed the headline to run and was additionally offensive by referring unsympathetically to the "criminally insane" who are also in the hospital. In many professions, people are fired for making ethnic, racial or disability slurs of this magnitude. The newspaper also clearly has demonstrated a hostile environment as a workplace for people with mental illnesses--and has a public obligation to do much more. NAMI believes it should educate its employees about mental illness; make a monetary contribution to local programs to help people with mental illness; donate space for a series of public service ads; and/or similar measures.

NAMI is asking all state organization to join NAMI National in protesting the headline and broader institutional issues. Please contact the Publisher, David Bonfield, and the Editor, Paul Mickle as soon as Possible at 609-989-7800 ext. 200 and 229 respectively. (fax is 609-393-6072).

NAMI's concern over institutional culture and hostility toward people with mental illness, as reflected in the incident, extends beyond the Trentonian. The newspaper is owned by the Journal register Company (based in Trenton) which also owns 22 other daily newspapers, 224 non-daily publications and 139 Web sites, and represents the largest on-line newspaper network in the United States (See www.journalregister.com).

Actions needed

1. Contact The Trentonian at editor@trentonian.com. Be polite and careful--it's a tabloid and you might be quoted in a subsequent column or article. Explain that you consider the "Roasted Nuts" headline offensive and hurtful. Encourage them to donate full-page advertising space to NAMI New Jersey and NAMI Pennsylvania and other groups to sponsor an anti-stigma campaign.

Please also contact the Journal Register Company to condemn the "Roasted Nuts" headline in The Trentonian and warn that legally it suggests an institution culture and hostile work environment for people with mental illnesses and their families that may extend to other newspapers and media operations. Politely ask that it take affirmative, corrective action. Encourage them to provide every employee with educational information about mental illnesses; utilize or support NAMI's Family to Family, Peer to Peer, and In Our Own Voice programs, to launch a coordinated anti-stigma public service campaign in the communities it serves. Write to Mr. Robert Jelenic, President, Journal Register Company, 50 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey, 08608; or rjelenic@journalregister.com.

--from NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties

Trentonian (New Jersey) victory!

The Trentonian's "Roasted Nuts" headline about the fire at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital was the worst example of cruel, mocking prejudice in the news media in a long time--receiving national condemnation. Thanks to NAMI StigmaBusters, the newspaper published a second and sincere apology from the publisher. Significantly, the newspaper will make donations to New Jersey mental health programs over the next two years and provide free advertising space for an anti-stigma campaign, and also through its reporting, to become "an aggressive advocate" for people with mental illness.

The publisher noted that his own 21-year-old son has spent much of the last year coping with a traumatic brain injury, and said that he personally shared NAMI's disgust over the headline.

--NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties

Donations to pay for treatment of persons affected by 9/11 terrorist attack

The American Red Cross and the Sept. 11th Fund has started underwriting of the expense of extended mental health treatment for people directly affected by the terrorist attacks last year.

The joint program which has begun, makes psychiatric help available to hundreds of thousands of people and is intended to remove many barriers that keep trauma survivors from seeking treatment.

Those meeting the program's eligibility requirements will be reimbursed for the cost of psychotherapy, drug or alcohol treatment, psychotropic medications and in some cases, hospital care. The benefit is available not only to residents of New York or Washington area, but also to people in other states and other countries. An estimated 150,000 families fall into the eligible category.

The administrator of the Sept. 11 program said that based on the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing it expected only a fraction of those eligible would use the benefit.

--NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties

McLEAN COUNTY AIDS TASK FORCE

Serving McLean and Livingston Counties

Services Provided

Buddy System • Independant Living Support • Hospital Visitation • Transportation • Pastoral Care • Peer Support • Non-Therapeutic Support Groups • Emergency Financial Assistance

PHONELINE: MON-FRI 7-10pm
(309) 827-AIDS



Letters

Dear Post Amerikan:

The purpose of my letter is I have received your latest Post Amerikan paper for August/September 2002. I do find your paper very interesting and exciting.

I notice your poetry page, and yes! I am a up coming poetry and short story writer. I would like to enclose two of my poems for you to read. And if you like them please feel free to share them with your readers. However, I ask that you publish my full name and address along with my poems.

The name of the two poems I am enclosing is called "Young People Future" and "American Corruption." I wrote these poems myself and have not shared them with anyone do to these conditions.

And I think you will enjoy reading them. But if you do decide to publish my poems, all I ask is that publish my full name and address with the poems.

So keep up the good work, and I am looking forward to reading your next issue very soon.

I do wish to thank you for your time in this matter.

Peace Out

Maurice

Letter to Roger Leisner re: LEAP

Hi Roger,

My name is Jack Cole. My wife, Ellen Cantarow, and I gave you a ride to where you were staying in Medford, MA after the Seminar on Palestine at Tufts University.

Just thought you might be interested in a new international nonprofit educational drug-policy-reform group I started called, "Law Enforcement Against Prohibition" (LEAP). It is composed of current and former members of law enforcement who believe the war on drugs is an abject failure and wish to end prohibition. Check us out at www.leap.cc.

Look over our mission statement, our advisory board, and an essay I wrote, "End Prohibition Now!" We are trying to exceed 5,000 members by the end of the first year.

Perhaps you might even like to join the "Friends of LEAP" and spread the word about us.

Peace,
Jack

Jack A. Cole
Executive Director
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
27 Austin Road, Medford, MA 02155
781-393-6985
jackacole@leap.cc www.leap.cc

"You can get over an addiction but you will never get over a conviction."

Who loves ya like your mother do?

established 1968

MOTHER MURPHY'S

NEW/ USED GUITARS
AMPS STRINGS
& THINGS

111 1/2 NORTH ST
452-6712

SHOP BOTH STORES!!

SHOGNAVES

415 N MAIN 828-4521
Bloomington

IMPORT CDS
POSTERS T-SHIRTS
JEWELRY TAPESTRIES
CANDLES INCENSE
TOBACCO ACCESORIES

SKATEBOARDS
SKATE CLOTHES
BODY JEWELRY
DOC MARTENS
HAIR DYES- SHOES

WE BUY SELL TRADE
CDS TAPES RECORDS



FUDAFest: The Bust

Fifty armed local, county and state cops, some dressed as soldiers and brandishing assault rifles, terrorized families and children during a Saturday afternoon raid on FUDAFest in Norway, Maine on July 13, 2002.

The email said: FUDAFEST (Fully Unclothed Dancing Activism Festival) will be held on July 11, 12, 13 2002 in North Norway, Maine. There will be lots of local music, drum circles, puppet shows, a children's parade, free used tires and TV smashing, and petition signing. CJ Bunn of MassCann will be master of ceremonies. This is a peaceful protest against all unjust laws. Not everyone is naked but clothing is optional...come as you are. There is no charge to participate but late comers could be subject to parking fees.

FUDA
For more information contact fudafest@aol.com

I forwarded that email to all my friends stating "This looks like a fun time. Take your clothes off and come to Maine."

As both the CEO and chief bottlewasher of Radio Free Maine, plus a shady character known as the Maine Paparazzi, I travel throughout Maine during the summer attending anarchist, alternative, lefty, pro-marijuana events. From the West Athens 4th of July Parade and Play to Reggae Cruises out of Boothbay Harbor to Old Hallowell Day to Harvest Fest, shooting photos, displaying photos of previous events and selling Radio Free Maine (www.radiofreemaine.com) audio and video recordings of Noam Chomsky, Nancy Murray, Howard Zinn, Mike Ruppert and other marginal speakers.

I usually report on the Maine Vocals sponsored Hempstock during the summer, but with

Hempstock in disarray and being moved to a mosquito/black fly infested rocky site in Norridgewock, I decided to go to FUDAFest on Saturday morning. Because I had tabled at the Arlo Guthrie, Ramblin' Jack and Inca Son concert on the Penobscot riverfront in Bangor on Thursday night, I missed the first two days of FUDAFest.

But Arlo was worth it. Over 3,000 people attended a benefit "Concert for Our Future" to honor an ill Pete Singer and raise money for PICA (Peace through Interamerican Community Action) and the Maine Clean Clothes Campaign. During my college days in the late 60s, I rode the "The City of New Orleans" from Champaign-Urbana to Carbondale, Illinois, so I was in la-la land when Arlo performed the Steve Goodman penned song during his encore. I was primed for FUDAFest.

With Fully Unclothed Dancing Activism (FUDA) as his motto, Aaron Fuda has staged a three day event known as FUDAFest for over a decade in the western mountains of Maine to protest unjust and victimless crime laws.



Being the only clothing optional festival in Maine, FUDAFest is a backwoods libertarian/ socialist based combination of Nevada's Burning Man Art Festival, Vermont's Bread and Puppet Theatre, the continental Rainbow Family gatherings and Hempstock all rolled into one. Bodypainting is offered for free (I had a radio tower with ivy growing painted on the back of my leg), local alternative bands get a chance to perform outdoors, workshops teach FUDAFesters how to be sustainable and live in anarchist communities, hula hoops circle the hips of young hippies, the daring swing on a 100 foot rope hanging from an old growth tree and people just gather and share and talk.

At night, a giant bonfire blazes against a 2:00 a.m. Milky Way overhead. And through all of this, Aaron Fuda presides in an almost Buddha like manner. Providing a beautiful piece of earth where people of all ages and races can come together as FUDAville. As the welcoming sign says, "This is a Peaceful Place."

While chatting and photographing a beautiful, young blonde as she was being bodypainted,

Jim Ellsworth, a wobbler (Industrial Workers of the World) from Manchester, Maine shouted "Hey Roger, we're being raided". I was in such a state of bliss from the good vibes at the festival that I thought that Carolyn Chute and the 2nd Maine Militia were staging a fake raid. However, after confronting a soldier carrying an automatic weapon, I knew I was in trouble.

A week earlier, a friend from northern Maine had laid some fresh, green buds on me. Fearing that a search would cause all kinds of problems for me, I sat down on a rock and stealthily deposited my stash and pipe in the tall grass next to the rock. And yes, I did find my stash and pipe after the police left.

In a display of naked aggression designed to spoil FUDAFest, approximately fifty officers from various agencies, (MDEA agents; police from Norway, Paris, Livermore Falls, Jay and Bridgton; deputies from Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties; Maine State Police; the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement; State Probation and Parole; the Maine Warden Service; and the U.S. Border Patrol) served a search warrant on Aaron Fuda of North Norway, Maine at 3:30 PM on Saturday, July 13. The new post 911 State Police Tactical Team, dressed like "Rambo", complete with camouflage uniforms, painted faces, and automatic assault rifles (including M16s and a H&K MP5 SD3 with silencer), created a perimeter around the festival and emerged all at once from the woods just as a puppet show protesting unjust and victimless laws was about to begin.

The State Police Tactical Team rushed in without warning and immediately moved to secure the area surrounding an old school bus, which Aaron Fuda uses for a camp. Two officers, brandishing automatic weapons, climbed atop the bus and established a lookout on the highest point of the festival area.

The search warrant included a recent aerial photograph (taken a couple of days prior to the festival) of Mr. Fuda's property and specified that police were allowed to search the premises and all persons on the property for marijuana, other illegal drugs, any cash which might be connected to illegal drug activity and firearms located in the vicinity of any seized items. The search warrant only allowed a daylight raid. Even the Judge knew that trigger happy lawmen could cause mayhem during a night time raid.

An MDEA agent said that Norway police requested his agency's assistance because of complaints from parents about their children coming home from FUDAFest drunk, plus reports of drug overdoses. The State Police Tactical Team was called in because of reports of a major ecstasy and cocaine dealer hiding out behind a used tire pile armed with a .357-caliber magnum and a 9MM pistol.

FUDAFesters were told to leave the area for about two hours while the search was carried out. FUDAFesters were not allowed to remove their property or their vehicles, and at least one naked woman was not allowed to return to her tent to retrieve clothing. Agents searched tents, backpacks and purses, and with the use of a special tool inserted in a car window, opened and searched vehicles. Some "suspicious-looking" folks were searched on their way off

Every Saturday, Friday and Saturday, Thursday, Wednesday, Tuesday, Monday

DJ

The Bistro

Monday \$1.00 Jagermeister
 Tuesday \$1.25 Domestic Beer
 Wednesday ... \$2.00 Well Drinks
 Thursday \$3.50 Red Bull & Vodka

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

316 N. Main Street • Bloomington • 309.829.2278



and the Busts

the property, but most participants were not searched or questioned.

Josh, a ten year old boy, was trying to find his parents when the police asked to search him. He

responded, "I'm 10, you have no right to search me." He showed his disgust for the sorry episode by turning his pockets inside out and demonstrating that he was not carrying any contraband.

At one point, a cop came to the crowd gathered at the edge of the property and asked if Aaron Fuda was there. I immediately shouted "I am Aaron Fuda", and when other people began to shout out that they were Aaron Fuda, the cop walked off in disgust.

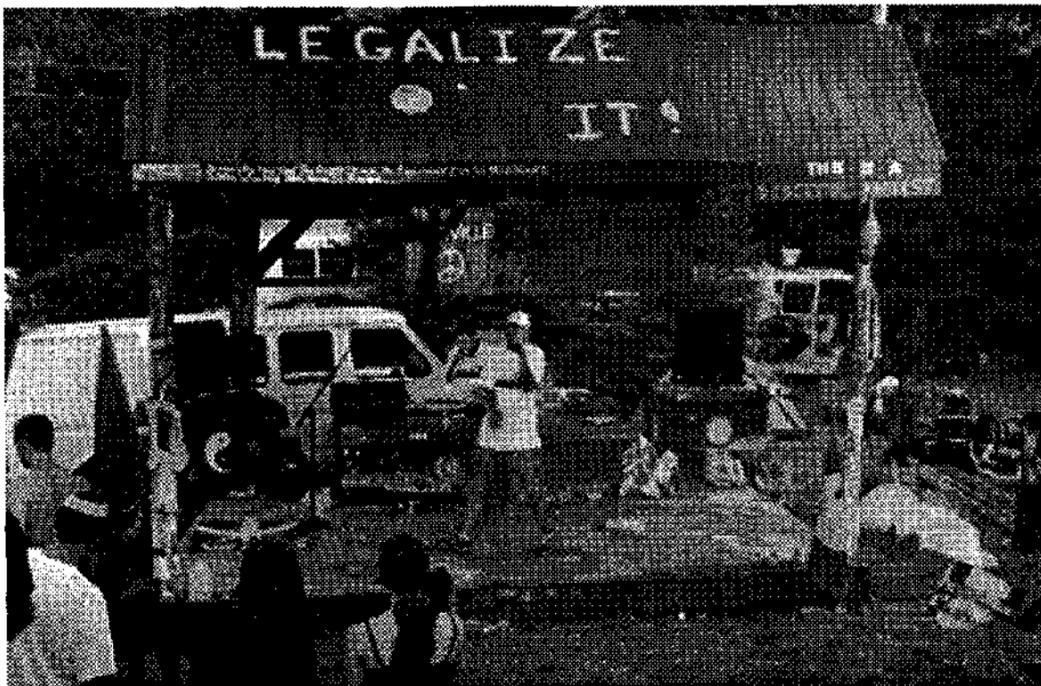
When the police allowed the festival to continue, Captain Jolly Bunn issued a plea to raise funds for Aaron Fuda, and in a true show of working-class solidarity, close to \$1,500 was raised by Sunday morning. One speaker thanked the

Throughout the raid, I heard cops openly talking about how glad they were that the raid was conducted on Saturday, since that meant overtime pay. The raid was evidently a state-funded venture, and with Maine facing a huge budget deficit, one wonders why the raid was not conducted on Thursday or Friday, the first two days of FUDAFest. All of the local and county police had been recruited via a phone call on Friday, the day before the raid. Is it possible that the conducting of drug raids has become some sort of political patronage? That is, if you support the MDEA and their "War on Drugs", you will be rewarded with overtime work in a period of economic decline and instability.

Why was FUDAFest raided? According to the owner of Cosmic Charlie's, a head shop in Augusta, Aaron Fuda was present at the 2001 Hempstock when the State Police entered the grounds on Saturday afternoon (another overtime raid). Aaron took off his clothes and confronted the State Police affirming that he had nothing to hide. Was the raid at FUDAFest revenge for this affront?

My best image of FUDAFest is late Saturday night. The bonfire is roaring. Painted, topless women are dancing on top of a log. Big Meat Hammer, a punk band from Portland, is tearing up the stage while FUDAFesters dance like banshees in the mosh pit. Aaron Fuda steps out of his bus stark naked and sits down next to the bonfire where he proceeds to bang away on the bongos between his legs. Aaron Fuda looks up with his Buddha smile and asks "Isn't this great?"

--Roger Leisner



Faryl Orlinsky, Aaron Fuda's companion, said that the police broke into her van, searched it and left everything in a mess. "We were having a peaceful protest and we got raided. It made me feel like I was raped."

A small amount of marijuana, 15 marijuana plants, psilocybin mushrooms, hand scales and over \$2000.00 in cash were seized in the raid. In an email, Aaron Fuda stated "The DEA would like the public to believe that the \$2,390 they confiscated was drug money, when in fact, we have proof that \$1,000 was from an insurance settlement for a car accident Aaron was recently in and the other \$1,390 was revenue generated from the sale of FUDAFest buttons, money which would have been used to pay for the bands and other expenses for FUDAFest." As of

this date, no charges have been brought against Aaron Fuda.

There was a distinct air of unreality as the crowd realized they were surrounded by heavily armed men and women. Is this what President Bush means when he says that Osama bin Laden hates American "freedom"? Jim Ellsworth asked a Tactical Team member if he liked his job. He replied that he did, so Jim asked him if he really thought he was doing a public service by busting up a peaceful party on private property. He replied, "I'm just following orders". Jim pointed out that's what the Nazis said, too. The cop's embarrassed silence spoke louder than words.

police for not hurting anybody, and also thanked them for creating five hundred more radicals. "The police are our best recruiters", observed a FUDAFester.

In a statement issued a week later, Aaron Fuda said, "As taxpayers we are disgusted by the astronomical expense that must have been incurred by the state in order to execute this raid, with the 13 different law enforcement agencies, that in the end provided no evidence to support their claims of drug sales or weapons. Instead what this produced was 400 new activists who can't believe that our government would spend large sums of money on harassing peaceful protesters instead of fighting to keep terrorists out of our country."

A number of questions remain. Why weren't dogs used in this so-called drug raid? Carrying out a drug raid without dogs is like conducting a high speed pursuit chase with a bicycle. Where were the crowd control tools? Raiding an event with over 400 people requires some tools for crowd control, but there were neither

gas masks nor batons. Evidently, the cops were going to fall back on the old reliable tool, a shotgun!

Karen Schmidt
Alderman ~ Ward 6

409 E. Grove St., Bloomington

home: 829-6318

work: 217-244-2070

e-mail: karen@utvc.edu

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

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



The Poetry Page

American Corruption

It's corruption in our world that destroys our lives,
 It's hungry children and silent cries.
 Fingers being pointed but we all know who's the blame,
 many different people, but the story remains the same.
 People bound and beaten then thrown in cages,
 we're all oppressed and so full of rage.
 People dying on a daily basic excuses that are lame,
 Homeless people flood the streets, but prisons remain jam-packed,
 spending millions on new prisons, why our education system lacks.
 Our country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,
 How can this be with two million people in cells next to me?
 Land of the free, home of the brave,
 How about all this corruption, and millions still in slaves.
 Corruption on every level, deception yet to come,
 destined to remain oppressed unless we become as one.
 They say freedom is a constant struggle,
 this is so sad, but so very true here in America.
 Freedom is a must, we are fighting for our lives,
 we must give all power to the people, so open your eyes.

--Maurice Bush
 Reg. No. 30961-120
 United States Penitentiary Maximum
 P.O. Box 8500
 Florence, CO 81226-8500

A Mother's Touch

The black orb eyeballs of a newborn pup
 Grope for a grip around a firm nipple's stump
 Mother's head tilts in ease and affection
 Despite the young tongues strange sense of direction
 She whispers to the litter, "Find some other milk and meat
 For the last drop has fallen from me old clumpy teat."

"Au Contraire," says the pup, "for I spot an extra liver
 Pull out that nipple, inject, and deliver
 Quick, before, it shrivels up and withers
 I like them ripe and sweet, not crusty, cold, and bitter"

"Watch your mouth little pup, before I swat you with my thigh
 For I saw you on my nipple and my nipple's been sucked dry
 Up til now I've done my best to keep you pups alive
 But now its time to fend your own
 So begone, piss off, good-bye"

--Spiff Spony

**YOUR POEM
 HERE.**

The Post Amerikan is seeking poetry
 submissions for the Poetry Page.

If interested, please mail your poem to:
 Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452,
 Bloomington, IL 61702 or e-mail to:
 pamerikanusa@netscape.net

We have the right to reject any poem.

Just for that
 You know, now you breathe on me
 As plutonic laying we
 Stupid and candle lit
 As before
 Phoning of you to me so
 A seven syllabic phrase
 I know I write to you in
 Some voice
 You've not heard from
 Me
 Before
 Such a critic being you of art of sort not
 Measured as I
 Seen that these whisks
 Ripped from
 Your more than ample mind
 May not be from me
 Yours as always I've found fucking beneath
 As surface ripples and you are mine
 Strip as I may your clothes
 As I play-to-dance-watch
 Beneath
 As before
 Breathing
 Heavy-soft-light-hard
 Burning eyes as
 Lost supple
 Hair bunch topple
 Eyes closed for
 Split second
 Brining mine
 To these I see
 Yours
 Slipping but a beat
 You may not know
 You may not admit
 These, your eyes
 Twitch too, mine loving us
 Witnessing universe flame and child born
 In these tasteful cloud

--Ed Tungate

Prison is not the Place to be

It's not the life for you or me
 I wish you all could see, what life was like when I was free
 Sitting under the old oak tree, sipping on lemon tea
 watching the kids grow so tall or the leaves change in the fall
 Sometimes I would get the call
 "Dad come pick me up at the mall"

But now that life is over
 no more rolls in the clover
 I had to take that ride that day
 now my life has turned so gray
 Because the judge said "15 years you will stay"

Family & friends slammed the door in my face
 All memory of me they did erase
 I feel like I'm gone without a trace

Waiting on letters that never arrive
 If I could get just one, it would keep me alive
 But today all I wanted to do was scream & yell
 All I got was divorce papers in the mail!

--John F. Lipscomb-ET1686



thank you Jenna fri july 12 2002

Jenna
 i rose up to her sleeping
 her words an way
 lifted me away to a right there
 in one night
 of living canvas dreams
 we danced the getting to know
 comfort all the while
 moments gentle were her movements
 making notice to achieve
 i teared as love leaned
 elated as we parted
 say the say of should have said
 think not the could have been
 for the now of then
 fulfilled

--matt

US

(A Widow's Cry)

No need to change the bed this week--
 only one of us sleeps in it now.
 I washed his clothes, gave them away
 Only half the closet is left--it seems so bare.
 I own this "empty" house--it's all mine now.
 I'm alone here--there is no "us" or "ours."

He was my eyes, my ears, my love.
 He could not walk, he fell so oft.
 Two of us could manage,
 We helped each other,
 Now the days are dark and long.
 Now "We" are only "I."

No need to cook a roast for Sunday dinner.
 At breakfast one piece of toast will do.
 We don't sit at table to pray.
 No need to pray for us
 We're not "us", not "we."
 His chair sits empty, only mine has me.

It was time. He was so sick.
 But I--I'm left behind.
 God bless our children, they do try.
 But he is gone away
 And I am here asking "Why?"
 Why is there me, not him, not us?

Lord, take me, too,
 the other half of "Us."
 How patient can I be?
 What more must I learn and bear?
 I feel so empty here alone.
 Half of "Us" waits here.

--M. J. Anderson

Why

My Lord please help,
 to you I pray,
 stop the hurt
 that happens everyday.
 People cry,
 while people die.
 Why won't it just stop?

I walk through the park
 and feel so at peace
 it only lasts one moment
 then the siren of police.
 People cry
 while people die.
 Why won't it just stop?

I wonder all the time
 when someone else will die
 a friend or family member close
 shot by the kid that seemed so shy.
 People cry
 while people die.
 Why won't it just stop?

Don't make fun,
 these words I plead,
 of a strange kid
 or one day you might bleed.
 People cry
 while people die.
 Why won't it just stop?

A strange sense of calm
 falls through me as I walk
 toward the Heaven of God
 I have just been shot.
 People cry
 while people die.
 Why won't it just stop?
 I leave you with this message
 before it is too late
 always give love and nothing else
 and rid this world of hate.
 People cry
 while people die.
 Only with love will it stop.

--Jeanne Lust

And beneath
 Broken mouth
 Spoken suck
 And such angular red
 Wrapped
 Fruit found
 I someway sloshed
 And clothed
 Cumming and
 Heat is bringing
 Song
 Low but not so much
 Beneath
 "I'll kill you 'till you die from it"
 But sideways
 She seems
 Supple
 Mothers wish for
 Bottle breathing
 Liquid seems heavy
 Still New Orleans fruit
 Associated breast
 Taste as softly as may need
 Lines lick and suck
 Ice-rain
 From outstretched branches
 And my hand
 Hurts
 But tea and jelly set
 As I may sit
 Lopped is mind
 Between pages of blue and
 Broken
 Brunette
 Bonnet silver-tasting
 Tuffets of turmoil
 Sample as you may
 Wander in May
 Mother still curses upon
 Gone
 Simple tastes of sandwich
 Make our the better butter

--Ed Tungate

A Snowflake

Even a snowflake
 has a face and a body.
 It can never cleanly
 disappear

It must die
 as a person dies

It must leave behind it
 a corpse, and a ghost

--Pilate Fish

To Poets Everywhere:

We at the Post-Amerikan are always getting a fairly good supply of poems for the Poetry Page, but we could always do with more and we would like to hear from you. Even if you think your stuff sucks give it a shot! What do you have to lose? To submit poetry send it to pamerikanusa@netscape.net re: poetry submission, or mail to P.O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702. Looking forward to reading some good poetry!

--Post Amerikan staff



The spiritual heart



The most powerful activism is inspired, fed and sustained by spiritual sensibility and spiritual practice. And the most powerful spirituality is inevitably rooted in place: in the human and more-than-human history of the land where the practices are based, and in the inspired earth itself.

In fact I cannot talk about myself, my work or beliefs without talking first about my place. It is the very ground of my being, and the source of my every surviving truth. I live in the Gila, in the Southwest corner of this state. In the ancestral lands of the San Francisco culture, the Sweet Medicine People who migrated out and down to the Rio Grande valley over a thousand years ago now.

It is home to the bear tribe and mountain lion clan, the deer and elk people. The home of dove and duck, hawk and heron, ringtail cat and raccoon, Of scarce coatamundi, threatened minnows, the endangered Spotted Owl and Red Willow Flycatcher. Of the Mexican Gray Wolf, only recently reintroduced to the wilds after nearly two decades of extirpation and captivity. It is home to echoing crimson cliffs and singing volcanic rock, ponderosa and pinon, alamo and willow, healing herbs and flowering cacti. And for a quarter of a century now, it's been a full-time home to me. It is the place I would risk death for. The place I will one day die. The place that has taught me what it means to be fully, responsively alive.... and to do whatever is necessary to protect and nourish the land in return.

Off and on for 15 years I suffered having to leave the canyon where I belong, but for all the right reasons. I traveled the length and breadth of this country giving talks and performing concerts that resulted not only in the formation of new environmental groups, the raising of support and funds for the various regional campaigns, and the inspiration of our audiences? but often in their participation in direct actions following the shows.

We enlisted art and ritual in the service of Okenagon mountains jeopardized by cyanide leach mining, grizzly habitat protection, and the restoration of riparian zones. The gatherings usually concluded with group hugs, in powerful circles of teary eyed seekers, in howls and hopes, and spiral dances that burst out of the school halls and out onto the grass and into the rain. When pressed to describe the Deep Ecology Medicine Shows, one student said it was "It was like a ceremony affirming life, a ritual awakening my power to do something about the many problems we face."

It may be the same for conservative suit wearing environmental professionals, as those hard-core anarchist protesters that dismiss all ritual as meaningless "woo-woo." While they may not be aware of the fact, most if not all ecological activists are informed and inspired by an emotional, cellular, energetic connection to the imperiled Earth that is nothing less than spiritual. And it has always been so. Creator of a new land ethic Aldo Leopold described his experience killing a she-wolf, "watching the green fire in her eyes die," as a spiritual epiphany. John Muir, grandfather of the American conservation movement, was a wild eyed Irishman given to dramatic exclamations and acts. Books show grain black and white images of an aging man at rest at his desk, posing uncomfortably in a photographer's studio, or standing placidly on a Yellowstone overlook with an unperturbable President, Theodore Roosevelt.

But I picture him as he was when he was most moved, hootin' and hollerin' on a makeshift whitewater raft, in rapt intercourse with a line of forest ants, or struck breathless by awesome new vista. Perched at the spindly top of a giant conifer tree in the middle of a raging storm, swept by the wind into a giant arc, his eyes lit up by flashes of lightning: now there's an image of a man whose explorations of the natural world were nothing less than revelatory. He was, in every way, enraptured. In the ways of plants and beasts he found deep communion, and this revelation included a calling to protect and preserve that which he had grown to love.

There's a powerful story in the way the village women of the Southern Himalayas banded together to stop deforestation uphill of their villages. They acted not only to reduce the instances of dangerous mudslides, but to honor and protect the devas or spirits of the trees themselves. Because of their risky tactic of throwing their arms around pines about to be cut, their cultural and environmental movement is called "Chipko," a Sanskrit word meaning literally "to embrace." Australian rainforest activist John Seed talks about a nurturing a spiritual connection between himself and the trees, to the degree that when the chainsaw bites into their flesh, he feels it ripping into his own side as well. Redwood heroine Julia Butterfly writes that it was her spiritual connection to the tree she called "Luna," that allowed her to stay up in it so many months while besieged with police loudspeakers, loggers' saws and winter storms assaulting her tiny aerial platform.

The construction of giant telescopes atop Arizona's "sky island" Mt. Graham has been vigorously opposed by both environmental groups and native traditionalists. Resistance and ritual go hand in hand in the "sacred runs" regularly held by the Apache. In July of 1993 I participated in one of many protests involving Earth First! and the Mt. Graham Coalition. We ignored the Sheriff's orders not to proceed, and walked the rest of the way up the mountain to the chain link fences surrounding the scopes.

Sweating from the heat of the ascent, and deeply moved by the destruction we saw, everyone dropped to the dusty ground in a spontaneous circle of grief and prayer. Through our tears we spoke as witnesses, shared our pain, begged forgiveness for being part of a culture that disregards the relevance of wildness, of places of power, and the beliefs and traditions of the resident indigenous people. One man spoke for the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel, and a woman heavy with child bemoaned giving birth in an age when nothing? not even the Earth we depend upon? is held sacred anymore. Together we asked for guidance from the spirits of the mountain, the strength to continue the struggle of love and life no matter what the obstacles or results.

It's hard to maintain your energy and mood in the face of too many reversals, and this is especially true of the committed activist. A case in point occurred during a protest of clear cuts in the then pristine Kalmiopsis Forest of South Eastern Oregon, in 1988. Following a unexpected sweep by the Josephine County Sheriff's Dept., 24 of us found ourselves under arrest and locked inside a paddy wagon with barred windows. Rather than transport us right away to jail, we were left in the sweltering metal van for hours while the logging company downed the very grove we were hoping to save, right before our eyes. We comforted and encouraged ourselves by singing various songs we knew by Si Kahn and Walkin' Jim Stoltz, and by reaching out together to a creative force that includes us, but is so much bigger than any immediate person, group or trauma.

When an activist is arrested, it is often a deliberate choice. Especially when doing blockades or other civil disobedience actions, the protester volunteers to be arrested, humiliated, finger printed, jailed and fined.... in order to confront the perpetrators of destruction, attract media, instruct the masses, and draw attention to the plight of a people, species or place. Putting their bodies on the line is making their love real and manifest, a way of "walking the talk," turning rhetoric into risk and response. They risk losing their jobs when the boss hears. Risk being beaten if the police get out of control. It is their rite of passage into responsible adulthood, their way of giving something back. It is their glad sacrifice.



of activism

The word "sacrificial" derives from the same root as the word "sacred." When we sacrifice schedules and habits, predisposition and profit, and ultimately our lives on the altar of our love.... we do so as part of a sacred calling. Not out of atonement of ours or others' sins, but to give a little of our selves back to the powers and place that gave us birth. The young man on a tripod in front of the Biotech industry gates, is a teen Odin hanging from the tree of knowledge. The group of Bikini Islanders, elderly Japanese and Utah mothers refusing to move from the nuclear test site, share more than hot brittle ground with the distant Indian fakir sitting in lotus on his hard rock perch. A woman, her neck fastened to a Pacific Lumber Company gate with a Kryptonite bicycle lock, a can of mace being shoved in her face, draws strength picturing a praying Sioux sun-dancer, with buffalo skulls hung from bleeding skewers in his chest.

When deciding what action are needed in defense of the Earth, we are called to go directly to the source. By silencing the verbose mind and opening to the meaning-filled signals from the rest of the living planet, we create the condition of respect necessary for rapport. It is our natural, if often suppressed ability to communicate with the other agents of the earthen whole, to serve as a conduit for their expression, and to send our own response back to the whole, informing it as it informs us. And acting in ways that heal self, community and planet? as instruments of the whole and holy all.

Whatever one calls it, there's an undeniable force that courses through this planet, a vibrational unity, an underlying if mysterious pattern? an entity of inclusion that animates, inspires, enlightens, and fuels the evolution of the spiritual as well as bodily forms of its participant beings. Even the most mental, the most clueless of us can get it. We know it as children, but then at some point we agree to join the collective denial. I grew up in major cities with little or no healthy spirituality to refer to or learn from. I was affected not by engaged people and examples of activism, so much as by distracted masses and creeping complacency. And like most in the American culture, I was surrounded by attitudes of apathy and atheism, technological monuments to scientific query.

Yet nothing I read or witnessed diminished the reality of the mysterious and the miraculous. I still recognized a numinous presence in all things, and found it first and foremost in what I could find of the natural world: in starling squatters taking over hollow street signs, ivy sucking the facades off of pretentious government buildings, and the always untamable weather. I felt it just beneath the pavement, pregnant with swelling seed and palpable purpose: a wildness of spirit, and the Spirit of the Earth.

We are both blessed and cursed with the perhaps unique ability to self-reflect, and thus to imagine ourselves as separate from the rest of the sacred, ecological whole. The key to inner peace is in aligning oneself with the will of the whole, the self-known living Earth, Gaia? adapting to its patterns, tapping its prevalent energetic momentum in the accomplishment of selfhood, the fulfillment of our most significant roles. To this end we seek out divine guidance. Not "divine" as in other-worldly, but as in "divined"— derived from the greater, larger self, channeled directly from the inspirited planet holon.

Those accepting of the living Earth have always moved close to the ground in order to better hear: the shamans of Tuva throat-singing on the dirt floors, AmerIndians vision questing in dug-out pits, and the early Irish watching for signs and omens inside the "Tigh'n alluis," the Celtic sweat lodge. The most valid understanding of the workings of this planet are more likely to result from personal intimacy with the flesh of its being, than from clever conclusion. Our role within this whole is clarified not by taking charge, but by adjusting ourselves, our plans and modes perception in ways that bring us closer in tune with the extant will of the holy, wholesome, planet organism.

We seek the guidance of Mother Earth, of Gaia, through the aperture of a particular, specific place. A place we've come to know well and deeply appreciate. For me it is a specific bend in the St. Francis River, that even now I ache to return to. For others it may be a treasured camping spot, a prominent peak just outside of town, or an enchanted section of their own backyard. In this way we contact the entire universe through the eternity of a single touch. It is the way of our hunter-gatherer foremothers and forefathers, the way of intense and intentional Nature, the way of Spirit incarnate.

Our ancient ancestors believed and acted as if the world would end if ever they failed to properly carry out their rituals on time. And in essence it was true, for these ceremonies grounded the people in right relationship with the Earth, without which the people could not survive. A people divorced from the ways of Nature must eventually perish as a result of this estrangement, and then for them at least, the world would have indeed come to an end. It is no different for us now. Without a reciprocal, ritual relationship with the natural world, without those feats of ceremony and sentience that reunite us with the Earthen body, we are fated to endlessly repeat our most debilitating mistakes. All that stands between a healthy planet and nuclear or biological meltdown is us ourselves, and the ways we choose to perceive, relate to, and resacrament the living world we are a part of.

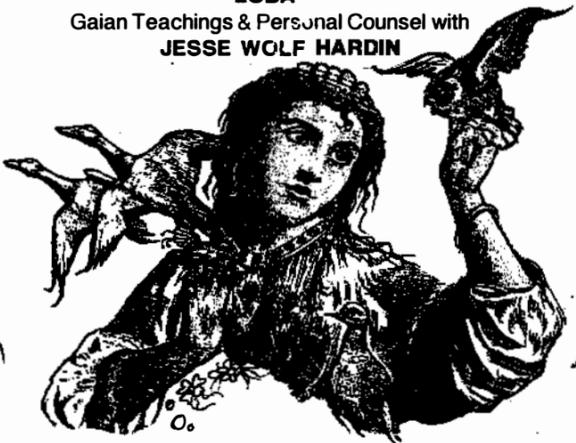
All ritual raises power, but none more so than those growing out of the contemporary context, the needs of the people and the place, right now, right here. The Great Spirit didn't just reveal itself to our progenitors and then withdraw, leaving only commandments behind for us descendants. No! Whatever we choose to call the inspirited All, the instructions are nonetheless still there to be read in the text of living creation. Revelation remains readily available to the seeker, directly, with no institutional agents or professional intermediaries to confuse, dilute or derange.

Of course, it's ideal when our rituals and our activism also affirm the common values, desires, and needs of whatever community we are a part of. Together the people of the community can develop rites and ceremonies that mirror and focus our shared connection to the customs of culture, the relations of family, the fiestas and celebrations and demonstrations of grief that characterize them. These ways of being and acting are not New Age, but "first nature": of our nature, and of the natural world.

Indeed, there's nothing to fear from such Earth-centered spirituality, an allegiance to love compatible with the deepest roots of nearly every religious tradition. Unlike their more contemporary manifestations, a primary Earthen spirituality promotes celebratory existence. And promotes full individual and cultural freedom, in essential combination with reverence for life, diversity and that essential quality we call "wildness."

GILA WILDLANDS
LIFE QUESTS & ENCHANTED RETREATS
in a true place of power

Women's Quests, Wildcrafting & Apprenticeships with
LOBA
Gaian Teachings & Personal Counsel with
JESSE WOLF HARDIN



Experiencing Earth and Spirit in a deeper way... reclaiming
authentic self... fulfilling our most meaningful purpose
THE EARTHEN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT
Scot Deily, Box 516, Reserve, New Mexico 87830
<www.concentric.net/~earthway>
"...helps us see the world whole, even holy!"
-Terry Tempest Williams



Spiritual activism continued

It is embodied in the child, saddened by the sight of a butterfly bounced off a windshield onto the shoulder of some numbered road, and in an old woman finding reason to go on living in the slow unfolding of a window-box flower. It is voiced in the sermon-scream of falcons feeding on pigeons in downtown New York City, in the spontaneous living prayers of outlaw dandelions erupting in the cracks of every aging sidewalk, in a liturgy recorded in the spiraling reggae of the DNA helix and the twisting samba-line of ants ascending a gnarled cottonwood. Its only commandments are "written in stone" in the many "rocks of ages": a testament in limestone, granite and quartz, a demonstration of and demand for authenticity and substance, the weight and substance of one's commitment to place. Its message is carried on the lift of robin's songs, and delivered on the backs and in the hearts of every activist devoted to this Earth's protection.



Spirituality is not just the inspiration and reward. It's part of the great work, the most crucial mode of awakens, perception and connection? the means to the fulfillment of our most meaningful purpose. It is both the literal and liturgical ground for a new start. It is activism's true heart.

Jesse Wolf Hardin is an acclaimed presenter on Earth-centered spirituality and author of *Kindred Spirits: Sacred Earth Wisdom* (Swan•Raven, 2001). Wolf and Loba share an enchanted riverside sanctuary where they teach deep ecology, wildfoods gathering and preparation, presence and purpose. For information on books, programs, quests or resident internships contact: The Earthen Spirituality Project, Box 516, Reserve, NM 87830 <www.concentric.net/~earthway>

Notes from the Land of Anti-fat

Who Are the Ad Police?

From the Department of Now-Tell-Us-Something-We-Didn't-Know comes this tidbit from the Federal Trade Commission. According to a report issued on September 17 reviewing 300 advertisements for weight-loss products, 40 percent were found to have at least one false claim and 55 percent had assertions that couldn't be substantiated. The ads, often found in magazines and newspapers, made statements such as "lose weight in your sleep," "lose 30 pounds in just 30 days" and "eat anything you want and still lose weight."

The only major perpetrator to be fingered was a Canadian-based company called Bio Lab, for making false claims about two products, "Quick Slim" and "Cellu-Fight." Quick Slim is advertised as a fat blocker that uses apple pectin to control weight. It costs \$70 for a bottle of 180 caplets. The FTC said promotions for Quick Slim promised rapid and substantial weight loss without diet and exercise.

Bio Lab sells Cellu-Fight on the Internet and through direct mail brochures for \$40. According to the FTC, its ads falsely claim that the product is clinically proven to eliminate cellulite from the stomach, backside, hips and thighs. The FTC said Cellu-Fight does not eliminate or substantially reduce cellulite.

Bio Lab is one of a growing number of companies that locate in Canada and market to Americans. Generally, they have a post office box and a bank account in the United States. The FTC filed a complaint against the company on September 3 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

This column applauds the action, though we have to wonder if the FTC shouldn't be taking this a bit further. There are plenty of diet and food companies within our borders making similarly bogus promises. Take the ad company that came up with this year's big Subway Jared/Clay Henry campaigns. If - as current Surgeon General Richard Carmona notes in the report's preface - publishers and broadcasters

should screen ads to ensure they "are based on science and not on wishful thinking," then what are we to make of those spots?

According to the FTC report, consumers spent about \$35 billion in 2000 on weight-loss products ranging from books and videos to drugs and diet shakes. Though the figures haven't been collected yet, one suspects that this number hasn't dipped too much even in a time of recession.

The study was conducted with the Partnership for Healthy Weight Management, a coalition that includes scientists, government agencies and mainstream weight-loss companies. The presence of the latter in this li'l group has made the report a tad suspect in the eyes of some size acceptance advocates. But, then, the Big Guns ceased relying on refutable claims years ago: primarily utilizing anecdotal examples ("I lost 200 pounds on the Blank Diet!") and images of the ultra-slim to sell their dream products. Their brand of consumer fraud is a lot slipperier than the marketers of such out-and-out boondoggles like Fat Magnets.

Still, it's not that far from using professional celebrities with the money & wherewithal to devote half their life to keeping skinny to the company selling ground-up shells of shrimps, crabs and lobsters. ("Have you ever seen an overweight fish?" the ad asked. "Or an oyster with a few pounds too many?") Either way, it's all a shell game.

--Bill Sherman



Labor news

How the rich get richer: money & politics

Wealth & Democracy: A Political History of the American Rich by Kevin Phillips
Broadway Books, \$29.95
ISBN: 0-7679-0533-4

"The rich get richer and the poor get poorer"--that's an old, tired and true cliché, but particularly true in current America, according to Kevin Phillips' latest populist economics text: *Wealth & Democracy*.

Phillips is a nationally known commentator who got his start in the Nixon White House, predicting the realignment of the solid Democratic South into a Republican stronghold.

Since his Nixon years, Phillips is increasingly critical of the Republican Party, seeing it tilt away from the middle class to the wealthy.

Weaving political history with economic trends, Phillips takes his readers on a trip through American history, noting previous high marks for greed and resulting political reforms.

He particularly compares the last decade to the post-Civil War "Gilded Age," when huge fortunes were made through railroads and manufacturing, while workers languished in slums and children labored.

Noting the political connections, he reviews a time in U.S. history when Senators were most famous for which corporation controlled them, not the people they represented.

This economic bubble eventually burst, leading to "progressive" reforms under Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, reforms which limited corporate power and establishing worker and consumer rights.

Another financial excess period followed World War I in the 1920s, again corrupting politics and leading to the 1930s Depression. Under President Franklin Roosevelt (1932-1945) significant reforms were undertaken, including workers' right to organize. Through the Roosevelt years and into the 1950s the

United States had its smallest gap between rich and poor.

This gap slowly widened in the 1960s and by the 1990s was a chasm. Again, Phillips notes, wealth accumulation also infected politics, leading to special breaks for the wealthy and large corporations. The biggest recent fault he lambastes, which he blames on the Reagan-Bush I years, is shifting the tax burden from the wealthy and large corporations to the middle and lower classes.

Another section looks at former "great" empires: Spain in the 17th century, Holland in the 18th, England in the 19th and the U.S. in the 20th centuries. In these examples, the country shifted from being a productive economy that actually made things, to a financial economy that lived off interest and quit investing in its own productive facilities and people. As this shift to finance took place, workers suffered economic doldrums, while the wealthy grew rich off speculation, but eventually were surpassed by another nation, which used capital to expand productive facilities, not just speculation.

There is not necessarily anything new in this book, but Phillips does an excellent job of pulling together diverse sources to reflect U.S. economic history, and how its various trends infected politics.

The book's hope is the previous periods of political reform and corporate control that followed excessive years. The dismal point is the hanging question: are Americans living in a declining empire, with average people stagnating and the wealthy thriving on speculation?

If you've wondered on the ups and downs of your own economic life, from the relatively secure 50s through the inflationary 70s and the booming 90s, into the crashing new millennium, then Phillips' *Wealth & Democracy* is an excellent overview of our turbulent economic system and how the rich have used politics for self-enrichment.

--Mike Matejka

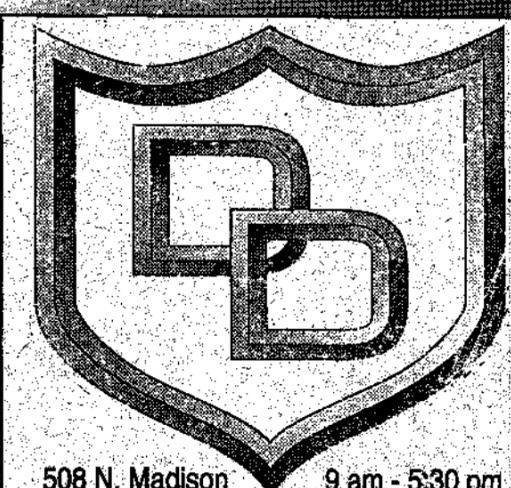
Hi-tech Alcoa Mexican sweatshop

The National Labor Committee's latest report: "Alcoa's High Tech Sweatshop in Mexico" documents the current struggle of Alcoa workers who have become victims of the race to the bottom.

Alcoa operates 13 maquila factories in Acuna and Piedras Negras, two cities along the U.S.-Mexican border, where 15,600 workers assemble wire harnesses--automobile electrical systems--for export to the U.S. to Ford, Harley Davidson, Mack Trucks, Volkswagen, Subaru and other auto companies.

In Acuna, when Alcoa workers attempted to organize to defend their basic rights, Alcoa responded by firing more than 236 workers, many of whom were also blacklisted and thrown out without severance pay. When workers in Piedras Negras voted overwhelmingly for an independent union, Alcoa responded with more firings and threats to shut the factory down and take the jobs elsewhere.

With many workers fired and blacklisted, Alcoa management is slashing benefits, which the workers had won over the years. The first to go were blankets distributed to every worker as a Christmas bonus. These blankets are a necessity for workers who live in makeshift huts without heat when the winter temperatures drop below freezing. Alcoa also announced that they would no longer provide transportation to workers returning home to rural villages for the holidays.



**DIESEL
DICK'S**

we specialize in
GM diesel repair

complete automotive
and truck service

foreign and domestic

508 N. Madison 9 am - 5:30 pm
828-1714



continued

The base wage for the most experienced Alcoa workers in Acuna is no more than 528 pesos a week--\$57.55, or \$1.20 an hour. These wages come to less than seven percent of what unionized Alcoa workers earn in the United States. In Piedras Negras, more than 30 percent of Alcoa workers cross the U.S. border to sell their blood and plasma. Many Mexican workers also cross the U.S. border to shop for basic subsistence goods are cheaper in the U.S. than in Mexico. Between 1997 and 2002, Mexico's inflation rate has averaged 12.4 percent a year, raising the basic costs of basic

goods such as milk, eggs and gasoline to prices higher than those found in the United States. These workers cross the U.S. border daily in order to survive.

The national Labor Committee and Alcoa workers agree that this struggle represents a critical turning point. Through a Workers Committee, workers are fighting for a breakthrough to destroy the intimidation Alcoa has put against the right to organize and defend workers rights. The National Labor Committee is working with the United Steelworkers of America, People of Faith Network, United Students Against Sweatshops, the American Friends Service Committee, Border Workers Committee and many others. If these workers in Mexico are ever to win their rights they will need international solidarity to put pressure on Alcoa in the U.S. marketplace.

--Nick Bervelier, Students Against Sweatshops
Livingston & McLean Counties Union News

Blagojevich: Let's reform & renew Illinois

Rod Blagojevich is driven by a fundamental belief in the promise of the American Dream.

Rod Blagojevich was born in 1956 on the Northwest side of Chicago, where he grew up in a modest apartment. Rod's father was a World War II prisoner of war, coming to this country penniless and unable to speak English. His father later got a job at a Chicago steel plant, worked hard, and together with Rod's mother, saved for 15 years in order to send their children to college.

Rod learned the value of hard work from his parents: shining shoes at age 9, delivering pizzas, working at a meat packing plant and even washing pots and pans on the Alaskan Pipeline. He graduated from Northwestern University and earned a law degree from Pepperdine University in 1983.

As a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, he prosecuted domestic abuse cases and felony weapons charges. After General Assembly election in 1992, Blagojevich led the fight for Illinois' truth in sentencing law, requiring criminals to serve at least 85% of their prison term.

As a Congressman from Illinois' 5th District, Blagojevich focused on public safety issues.

Blagojevich secured funding for after-school programs, providing students with tutoring, and establishing the National Teachers Academy in Illinois. As a product of Chicago Public Schools and a lifelong reader, Blagojevich secured up to \$700 million to replace out-dated library books.

In Congress, Blagojevich has fought for a Patients' Bill of Rights, to assure prompt access to mammograms, and to require higher safety and care standards at nursing homes.

Interview questions

1. What are your primary goals for the State of Illinois?

I believe Illinois can do better. As governor, I would work to expand opportunity for every family in Illinois

I believe our state is ready for a fundamental change in the way government does business. I want to improve our schools for every child in the state, restore ethics and honesty to government, grow our economy and create good jobs and provide affordable, high-quality health care to people across our state.

For far too long, we've accepted a state government that is more concerned about preserving power for insiders than working to improve the lives of families across our state. I want to bring a new sense of optimism and innovation to state government.

You cannot stand up for working families if you don't fight every day to improve our economy and create jobs. I am committed to promoting a detailed plan to revitalize our economy and create jobs throughout our state. My "Illinois Opportunity Fund" will target venture capital toward areas of our state that need new investment and jobs the most. I support an "Economic Emergency Task Force" that would help areas that have experienced job loss.

Even more important, I strongly support an increase in the state minimum wage. I support taking steps to guarantee a safe work place. I'll fight to make sure we protect the right for workers to organize effective labor unions.

To improve the lives of working families, I'll also work hard for better schools. I want to increase class size, focus on improving reading skills, give our teachers the support they need and demand higher standard and better results. Illinois has no second-class children; we should not have any second-class schools. We cannot increase opportunities for every person in our state if we don't demand excellent schools.

I also want to assure that every senior in our state can afford the prescription medicine they need to stay healthy. Unlike my opponent, I have a comprehensive plan to provide prescription drug coverage to every senior who needs it for every medicine they need.

2. Explain the differences between you and your opponent on workers' rights?

I am very proud to have the endorsement of the Illinois AFL-CIO because of my strong support of working people and the labor unions who fight for them every day.

I have been a consistent and effective voice of behalf of working people both as a member of the Illinois General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Labor leaders and labor union members across the state have examined my record and know that clear differences exist between me and my opponent on the vital issues of work-place safety, the right to organize and join labor unions, and demanding good wages.

3. Will you comment on the importance of employing Union workers and shopping at Union represented retailers?

I know the importance of employing Union workers from my personal experience.

I am the son of working-class parents who belonged to labor unions. My dad worked in a factory; my mom was a ticket agent for the CTA. They both belonged to labor unions. Their ability to find jobs that paid good wages to hard-working people made all the difference to our family and to my future.

I know the importance of union protections for working people. Being paid time and one-half and double-time for overtime are more than words to me--those protections and guarantees helped to put me through college. I want every person who is willing to work to have the same opportunities I had. The ability to earn decent wages and benefits, the right to a safe work-place, the ability to save for the future and reach the American dream will all be vital goals for me as governor.

Hiring union workers and shopping at union stores and buying products made in union factories is essential to providing every family with the opportunities I had and that I want every resident of our state to have. As governor, I would work to encourage support of union workplaces and stop the erosion of Union Market Share in Illinois.

4. How do you think corporate ethics and responsibility affects working families?

As governor I will take direct and immediate action to keep unscrupulous corporations from cheating their investors, pension holders and employees.

I recently announced a detailed plan for action at the state level to take on dishonest corporate practices and protect the people of Illinois. My plan is aimed directly at stopping unethical accounting practices, protecting pension-holders, increasing penalties for corporate officers who engage in illegal practices and continuing to encourage federal action on corporate abuses.

Corporate irresponsibility has real results for real people in our state. Public pension funds have already lost nearly 100 million dollars in Illinois. Illinoisans who invested in WorldCom have lost nearly their entire investment. My plan will protect the people of Illinois and assure that corporate scams stop.

--from *Livingston & McLean Counties Union News*



ISU professor writes book on youth sexual orientation, gender identity issues

Illinois State University faculty member Paula Ressler has written a book describing her efforts for the past 14 years to use drama as a teaching technique to examine LGBT issues in an educational setting.

The book, *Dramatic Changes: Talking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity with High School Students*, was recently published by Heinemann Publishers and can be purchased at Amazon.com.

The techniques Ressler discusses in the book include workshops on roleplays, scripted dramas, and more specific, in-depth extended dramas. The goal is to help foster a classroom environment that accepts, supports, and celebrates all people across differences of sexuality, gender, race, and ability.

"The techniques are designed to help people acquire new knowledge through experience and reflection, instead of simply through transmission of information," Ressler said. "I find such strategies critical when working with issues that have been suppressed in traditional educational settings and are therefore mired in taboo and confusion."

The book is directed toward teachers across the curriculum, teacher educators, and teacher education students who are interested in addressing issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in the high school classroom, Ressler said.

Ressler, who is an assistant professor and Director of English Education at ISU, has been at the university for two years and her areas of concentration and research are teacher

education and LGBT issues in education. She received her doctorate degree from New York University. She has written other books but *Dramatic Changes* is her first book to address the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Ressler's subject matter for her latest book was prompted in part by events in her own life.

"It was my son's experience as the child of a lesbian mother and his journey to understand his own identity that initially led me to do this work," Ressler explained. "It is his recent death through suicide that has made me rededicate myself to doing whatever I can to help make life easier for people like my son and other young people who grow up facing enormous obstacles and discrimination in a world that does not understand or accept them or their families."

--from *Rainbow Connection*

The sea of love

Who of us has tasted the sea of love? So many people prefer to live inland and never even smell a sea breeze. Some people watch the sea from the beach. Others flirt by walking in the sand, but keep their toes dry. A somewhat brave lot wade gingerly, perhaps once or twice they take a quick plunge, yet hop out rapidly. Some who swam never return after being bitten by a shark. Some seek the sea, but only find mud puddles.

Then there are those that go swimming in deep waters frequently, even if they can't swim. The depths are nothing to play with. People drown when they are not careful of the undercurrents.



Yet for the sure of body, mind and spirit, it is a blessing from the source of all the oceans to be engulfed in the ever healing, thirst quenching, eternal waters. To feel the caress of gentle waves; to experience the buoyancy; fearing no thing below, nor having any concern for what might happen if we lose sight of the shore. This is the faith in the everlasting sea.

To reap the benefits from it, you must become one with it, share it, embody it, exude it from every pore and let the tide take you away. Yet so many never know if they only swim they shall be set free from their internal prisons. Instead they stay "safe" and dry as they sink into loneliness and despair.

Swim!

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick



McLean County Voice for Choice

"No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her own body."
Margaret Sanger

McLean County Voice for Choice advocates for reproductive choice and provides assistance, when needed, to women making reproductive choices whatever the choices may be. All contributions made to the address below go to the assistance fund.

Visit our table during the Facing Violence Against Women event on Thursday, October 17. 7:00 p.m. at the Coffeehouse, Normal.

McLean County Voice for Choice
PO Box 905
Bloomington, IL 62702-0905



kutting mae (in the name of development)

you
hafe
brang
down
thae
nife
untue
mae
flesh
tu
tel
thae
uthairs
but
rally
tu
tel
yusalf

I
AM
HERE

--matt

When Will It Stop

When did it become uncool
to only want to be safe at school?
When it did become illegal
to not worry about such evil?
Why wonder everyday about a knife
coming to school and ending a life?
Why worry about a gun
killing someone's teenage son?
I live with these worries everyday
and I just want them to go away.
But until we stop this terrible violence
a young, dead body will only hear silence.
Please God help us everyday,
every night these words I pray.

--Jeanne Lust

RHINO

I got uh thick
skin and uh sensitive
touch,

Om uh rhino poet,

I follow my horn,

I move in thunder,

Om uh walkin' storm,

I whisper earthquake
when you say my name,

but I know myself
alone, between the
tremors of earth,

enjoying the smell
of exotic flowers,

and how they pass
through what some
call the wall of rhino,

all they know
are the sparks
of lightning in
my eyes when
they disturb my
world,

but I am so
much more,

I write rhino
poems in the tracks
of my wandering,

hoping someone
will discover,

I have rhino tears,

I have rhino laughter,

I have uh rhino smile,

I even have uh rhino sigh,

and I smell my rhino
shit and piss in the wind,

and I wonder
at where I been,

and my hell is your
rhino zoo, where you
want to put me behind
bars, with my name on
uh sign outside in Latin,

but Om more
than you know,

and you will never
dissect rhino passion,

Om uh rhino poet.

--John Firefly

Young People Future

Young people of the future, listen and take heed,
selling drugs and killing isn't what you need.
You'll need a direction in which way to go,
So why not start out by taking it slow.
Taking that crack and making a sale,
is gonna have you in someone's jail.
So why not stay in school and get a decent job,
and stop hanging around with those fools who steal and rob.
Being in jail is nothing but a waste of time,
most children say it's just a school of crime.
We all know the difference between right and wrong,
maybe we can be an actor or the singer of a song.
Dreams sometimes, they do come true,
It all starts with you believing in you.
Take that first step and get on the right track,
and stop stealing and messing around with that crack.
The reason I know so much about this stuff,
I ran the streets and thought I was tough.
And now I'm serving time in a federal joint,
So are you listening young people and getting the point?

--Maurice Bush
Reg. No. 30961-120
United States Penitentiary Maximum
P.O. Box 8500
Florence, CO 81226-8500

Come Die In My Garden

Come die in my garden
That,
Like the petals of sweet flowering
tobacco
Which fall on my soil to nourish next
years roses;
Tobacco seeds that mingle with dry
columbine sprays and cosmos;
Fading buttercup flowers and tender morning
glory vines,

You too will be a part of them

So I might smell your perfume
Know your touch
And be stricken by your beauty
For so long as God gives us sun and rain.

Come die in my garden,
And live with me.

--Urban Frost