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Doonesbury censored; buses boosted; tampons bloodied

BLOOMINGTON—NORMAL

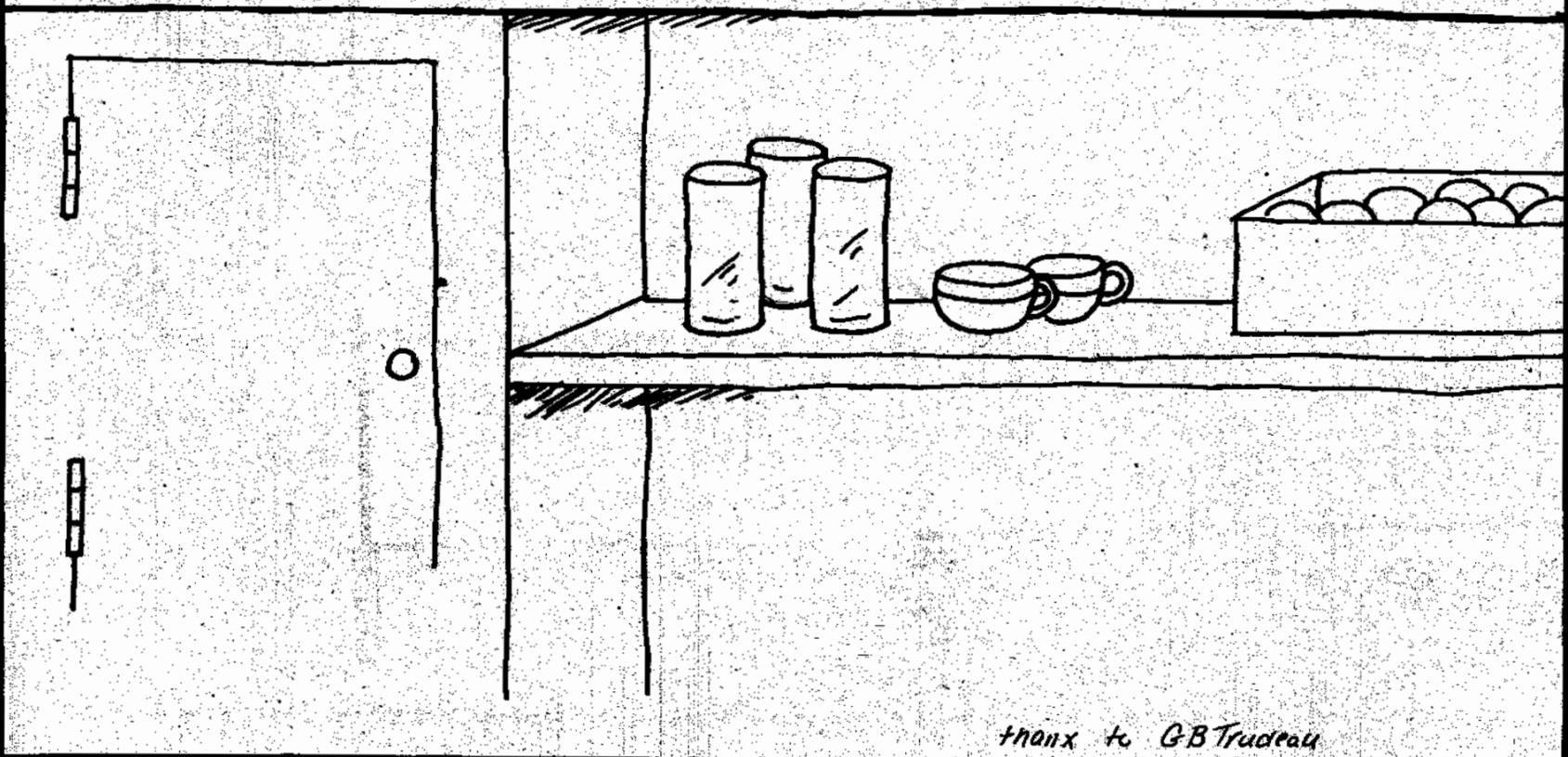
26¢

POST AMERICAN

Vol. 9 No. 10
March 1981

SAYS HERE THAT THE WATER'S
POISON, THE GOVERNMENT'S
CORRUPT, WOMEN ARE MISTREATED,
AND CHRISTIANS ARE
HYPOCRITICAL...

THOSE HIPPIES
CALL THAT
NEWS?!



thank to GB Trudeau

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How about night bus service?

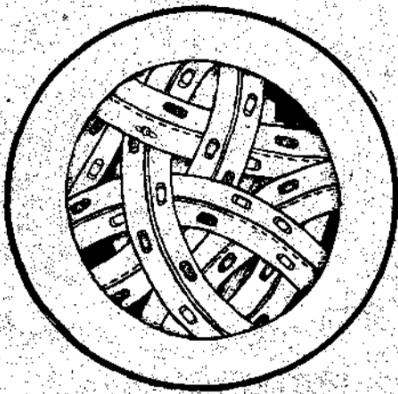
The Bloomington-Normal transit system is nearly recovered from the 1979 collapse of its FMC buses. It's time to look forward to a major expansion of the bus system.

As always, the obstacle to expanding a public service is money. In this case, quite a lot of money, because the bus system is already losing over \$1 million a year.

Cost figures are hard to come up with just now because of the breakdown of the cream-colored FMC fleet and the maintenance problems with the ancient replacement buses made even the reduced service of 1979-80 spotty. As a result, ridership and fare revenues dropped a lot.

Yet even a return to 1978 service levels would not be good bus service. Riders get discouraged by thirty-minute waits between buses and routes that leave many people 3-4 blocks from buses.

More frequent bus service, especially during morning and late afternoon peak hours, would certainly increase ridership (see "Where are the buses going?"). Whether such service could



itself be self-supporting is doubtful, without major changes in people's habits.

Money for buses

So major expansion, particularly into night hours or Sundays, will always depend on increased subsidies. Unfortunately the money has to be raised locally since additional federal and state money is not available.

One way to raise the money is to tax automobiles. A tax of \$15 for 8 cylinder cars, \$10 for 6 cylinders, and \$5

for 4 cylinders would raise more than \$300,000 yearly in Bloomington-Normal.

Such a 15-10-5 tax is scarcely a problem for most of the Twin Cities' affluent car owners, and if it were doubled to 30-20-10, it would raise enough money to pay for bus operations until midnight (at present 30-minute intervals) six days a week.

The economic arguments in favor of such a system are many and powerful: energy conservation, reduced traffic congestion, lower costs for street repairs and improvements.

Safer for women

The social benefits are also persuasive. Night bus service would help to open the city to women, who run a high risk of harassment and assault at night. Furthermore, 42% of Bloomington's citizens and 30% of Normal's are either under 18 or over 65--people who often need bus service to get around. And, in 1970, according to census figures, there were 2650 households in Bloomington-Normal that had no car.

Another financing idea, offered by the Regional Planning Commission, is to

ABOUT US

The Post-Amerikan is a worker-controlled collective that puts out this paper. If you'd like to help, give us a call and leave your name with our wonderful answering machine. Then we'll call you back and give you the rap about the Post. You start work at nothing per hour and stay there. Everyone is paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up and asking who's in charge. Ain't nobody in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informative, and not available in other local media. We will

not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories and tips for stories, which you can mail to our office. The deadline for the next issue is April 2.

If you'd like to work on the Post and/or come to meetings, call us at 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885.

You can make bread hawking the Post--15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call us at 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be sent to: the Post-Amerikan PO Box 3452, Bloomington IL 61701. Be sure you tell us if you don't want your letter printed! Otherwise, it's likely to end up on our letters page.

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON

Eastgate IGA, at parking lot exit
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
The Back Porch, 402 1/2 N. Main
SW corner, Main & Front
Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington
Blm. Post Office, E. Empire (at exit)
NE corner, Front & Prairie
Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main
Discount Den, 207 N. Main
Blm. Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
SE corner, Washington & Clinton
The Last Page, 416 N. Main
The Park Store, Wood & Allin
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
Doug's Motorcycle, 809 S. Morris
K-Mart, at parking lot exit
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
Lay-Z-J Saloon, 1401 W. Market
Pantagraph Building (in front)
NE corner, Main & Washington
Salt & Pepper Lounge, 1105 W. Washington
Downtown Post Office, Center & Monroe
Victory Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
Last Page, 416 N. Main

NORMAL

Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main
Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North St.
Eisner's, E. College (near sign)
Drastic Plastic Records, 115 North St.
Bowling & Billiards Center, ISU
Cage, ISU University Union
Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
Old Main Book Store, 207 S. Main
White Hen Pantry, (in front)
Alamo II, (in front)
SE corner, North & Broadway
Galery III, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Record Service, Watterson Place

OUTTA TOWN

Urbana, Horizon Bkstore, 517 S. Goodwin
Blackburn College Bkstre, Carlinville

good



numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous--828-5049
American Civil Liberties Union--454-1787
Clare House (Catholic Workers)--828-4035
Community for Social Action--452-4867
Connection House--829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence (PATH)--827-4005
Dept. of Children and Family Services--829-5326
Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (Social Security Administration)--829-9436
Dept. of Mental Health--828-4311
Draft Counseling--452-5046 or 828-4035
Gay Action/Awareness Union of McLean County--452-5852
Gay People's Alliance (ISU)--828-8744
HELP (Transportation for handicapped and senior citizens)--828-8301
Ill. Lawyer Referral Service--800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope--828-7346
McLean County Health Dept. --829-3363
McLean County Mental Health Center--827-5351
Mobile Meals (meals for shut-ins)--828-8301
National Health Care Services (abortion assistance in Peoria)--691-9073

National Runaway Switchboard--800-621-4000
--in Illinois--800-972-6004 (all 800 #s toll free)
Occupational Development Center--828-7324
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help)--827-4005
Parents Anonymous--827-4005 (PATH)
Planned Parenthood--827-8025
Post-Amerikan--828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services--827-5021
Project Oz--827-0377
Public Aid, McLean County--827-4621
Rape Crisis Line--827-4005 (PATH)
SAW (Student Association for Women, ISU)--438-7619
Small Changes Bookstore--829-6223
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center--827-5428
Tele Care--828-8301
Unemployment Compensation/Job Service--827-6237
United Farmworkers Support Group--452-5046
Women's Switchboard--800-927-5404

828-7232

Yes, that's our phone number--and now we have an answering machine! So you can call and leave us a message anytime. Be sure to leave your phone number if you want us to call you back.

charge major and potentially major sources of bus users like Illinois State University and other major employers. The planning commission suggested a \$10 fee for full-time ISU faculty and students, a fee which in 1978 would have increased the transit system's revenue from \$219,233 to \$345,520.

In exchange, fee-payers would receive no-fare bus service for 6 months. One trip per week would make the \$10 fee worth it.

Ideally, major businesses like State Farm and Illinois Agricultural Assn. would participate in a similar way, and in fact the bus system is now in the early stages of exploring such arrangements (see "Where are the buses going?").

Business strings

Another planning commission proposal called for shuttle bus service between the two major malls, service which would be paid for by mall businesses. The advantages to the businesses include reduced traffic, convenience for shoppers, and a likely increase of customers within the malls. Whether the malls would set aside their competitive goals to cooperate on a shuttle bus is an entertaining question—especially to those of us who don't like malls.

All schemes involving business participation require a willingness of businesses to subsidize bus service, and such subsidies would likely come with distasteful strings.

Another way to solve the money crunch is to charge a tax specifically for the transit system, as Champaign does. This route would be more likely to provide a vigorous, independent bus system, but without better service than we have now, voters would be reluctant to pass a tax. That doesn't mean we can't push for it, of course.

All for better service

Any new money, no matter how it's raised, would go almost exclusively for operating buses—thus improving service—because plenty of state and federal money is still available for buying new buses. The transit system could buy 6 or 7 buses a year with



money already earmarked for that purpose, but the federal and state governments won't provide any more money to operate them.

For the last year before the FMC disaster, 1978, the average cost per passenger was \$1.09, compared to 35¢ fare. Since many costs are fixed, more passengers would reduce this cost per passenger (and thus the deficit), and better service would probably improve overall ridership.

In the 1981 budget, the operating deficit was estimated to be \$1.2 million, of which Bloomington and Normal were to make up \$87,800 and \$43,900 respectively. (The feds and the state picked up the rest.) So local subsidies for bus service are still quite low—only about 15¢ per passenger at 1978 ridership levels.

We can afford better bus service. It's time for the bus system and the city councils to come up with a plan and to ask the citizenry to support it. ●

--D. LeSeure

Among the questionable budget cuts proposed by the Reagan administration, the plan to eliminate operating subsidies for mass transit by 1986 is one of the most short-sighted.

Eliminating subsidies will likely have a devastating effect on big city bus systems. Combined with other cuts for urban poor and for general aid to cities, the mass transit cuts would severely reduce bus service in many cities: the hard-pressed cities will find it very difficult if not impossible to come up with the money themselves.

Even a small bus system like the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System which operates only 27 buses was budgeted to receive \$595,000 in federal operating funds in 1981.

Collapse of federal support would make expansion of local bus service impossible. Indeed, Reagan's proposal raises the fearful image of buses sitting idle in the garage for lack of money to run them. ●

--D.L.

Where are the buses going?

The Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System is exploring increased service, even express bus service, in the near future for peak morning and late afternoon hours.

According to system manager Pete Weber, the bus system is conducting surveys of major employers like Illinois State University, State Farm, and Illinois Agricultural Assn. to identify potential riders.

By May the bus system may start special routes through areas where there are large numbers of potential riders. The routes, which would be covered only during peak hours, would carry employees directly to major employers. Peak hours are from 7:30-9:30 am and 3:30-5:30 pm.

Now it takes about 40 minutes to go by bus from west Normal to State Farm. New routes could considerably reduce such rides.

With existing routes, being able to catch a bus to and from work is "almost coincidental," Weber said. The routes weren't designed with the idea of transporting people to workplaces.

Regular service on existing routes (or modified routes) would continue during peak hours, Weber said, but there might be a longer period between buses—an hour instead of half an hour.

A survey at State Farm identified 420 people who said they would ride the bus if it were convenient to do so. "The potential is tremendous," Weber said, even if only 20% of employees at major employers were to ride the bus.

The advantage to the bus system would be an increase in riders and a consequent increase in fare revenue. Since many of the system's costs are more or less fixed, more riders can mean a smaller operating deficit even if buses travel more miles altogether.

The Association of Commerce and Industry is distributing surveys downtown to determine rider potential there also.

Eventually, the bus system will approach employers with a proposal for some sort of subsidy. One possibility is selling monthly passes to employers at one rate, and then having the employers resell the passes at a reduced rate to their employees. Advantages to the employers include less traffic congestion, smaller parking lots and less parking maintenance.

The plan is a good way to maximize usage of the bus system by attracting a large, steady ridership. It could save money for many riders, especially those who would otherwise need a car or second car, and it will reduce traffic and wear on city streets.

It will be even better if it is used to subsidize other socially useful bus service, like night service, which is less able to pay for itself (see "How about night service?").

In fact, the proposal to run buses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights for ISU students will provide experience that could be used to expand night service city-wide.

Normal is likely to approve \$5000 for a six-week experiment in night service. The Normal town council hopes the availability of transportation will reduce the number of students participating in the large parties that have raised the ire of police and neighbors.

The council's rationale is pretty silly: would you go to the University Union instead of a beer blast? But the buses may prove popular for other reasons, and the experiment will certainly provide valuable practical information to the bus system about night service.

Let's hope that the bus system's current enthusiasm for experimentation will continue—and lead soon to better service for everyone. ●

--D. LeSeure

Diapers, drool and debris **Being a mother means never having to say you have nothing to do**

The doctor enters the examination room where the woman is anxiously waiting. The doctor gravely announces, "Your test came out positive. You are pregnant. I'd like for you to come in tomorrow for counseling."

Scenes like this play frequently in my rich fantasy life. I've been intimately involved in the messy business of reproduction and the avoidance thereof, and I've about had it with the folks who push pregnancy as wonderful and sane, and the alternatives as dangerous, ugly, and a mite demented.

If you compare a trip to your obstetrician with a trip to your local abortion clinic, you can see what I mean. Before you get an abortion, you must fill out page after page of forms

so. But shouldn't the newly pregnant woman who's considering motherhood be asked the same questions? The form might be filled out like this:

1. Whose idea was it that you undergo this procedure. (I honestly don't know.)
2. Have you considered the alternatives? (Yes. I thought about saving up the thousands of dollars I would spend on a child and instead buying a luxurious cabin in the Rocky Mountains and retiring early, but I decided not to.)
3. Has anyone coerced you to make this decision? (Does the full force of the entire social and cultural apparatus of Western Civilization count?)

Two more miserable than one

And so forth. Coercion questions are big at the abortion clinic: they ask you two or three times if you're doing what you want to do, not what someone else wants you to do. But when you're pregnant, your doctor never asks you that. And how many women do you know who feel that their husband or parents pressured them into getting pregnant? Stop counting, it'd take all day.

I'd rather have an abortion and regret it the rest of my life than have a baby and regret it the rest of my life. Kids notice that kind of thing, and it tends to make them unhappy. Then you've got two continually miserable humans instead of one intermittently miserable human. But does your doctor ever warn you, in the early part of pregnancy, that you may not be cut out for motherhood? Hah.

One of those forms at the abortion clinic is a terrifying list of health hazards involved in the procedure, including such nightmares as perforation of the uterus, hemorrhage, and death. You must sign the list, agreeing that you know these things may happen and if they do you won't be mad at anyone. The really interesting part is at the very beginning of the list, though. It says, "I understand that the risks to health of this procedure are fewer than the risks of childbirth..."



Get improved

Well, what do you know? When I was pregnant, my doctor never showed me a list of all those health risks, let alone made sure I understood them. And the little pink book I got explaining how to be pregnant never mentioned them either--although it did devote quite a bit of space to listing what to pack in my case for my hospital stay.

If you don't want more children, can't find a decent birth control method (is there one?), don't want to have abortions (no one really does), and don't find celibacy appealing, you can get sterilized. That is, you can if you can convince a doctor that you really really really don't want children, even if the ones you have get drowned or run over by beer trucks. Now, many women who don't want to be sterilized are sterilized anyway--like welfare mothers in big cities. But it's the women who want to get sterilized that have a hard time getting it done. This is the way of the world.

Some physicians require you to go home and think it over for a month before making a date to get fixed. But when a woman tells her doctor that she's trying to get pregnant, does the doc advise her to wait a month?



In fact, a friend once found out, two months late, that the doctor could've tied her tubes when he gave her an unexpected Caesarian section. When she inquired why he didn't ask her if she wanted to get fixed with her Caesarian, he said, "Why, I assumed you'd want two children."

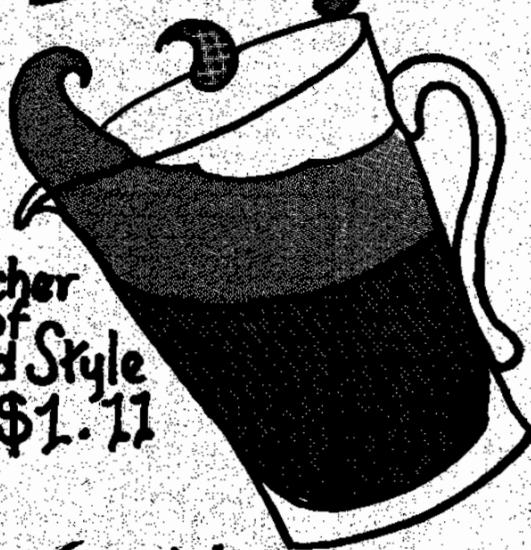
Cont. next page



with questions making sure that you know exactly what you're getting into and that you freely chose it. Rightly

page 4

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Cont. next page



Both men and women who want to get sterilized usually have to undergo some kind of counseling. When I got fixed, counseling consisted of my doctor telling me how this operation was absolutely final, utterly irreversible, really conclusive, as I blissfully nodded and glowed.

Motherhood irreversible

What doctor sits a pregnant woman down and gravely tells her how she's making a Big Decision, how motherhood is irreversible, how she should consider the alternatives? Oh no, everyone acts like just because she's physically capable of having babies, that's what she'll like. She's also physically capable of putting a baked potato in her mouth whole, but no one expects her to do that and like it.

If I had my way, prospective mothers would sign as many forms and get as much counseling as anyone else who considers drastic measures. I'd also have them sign a list of statements showing that they're suited for the lifestyle of motherhood. The list would include things like:

1. I have absolutely no desire to spend a summer hitchhiking around Europe with my girlfriends.
2. It doesn't bother me at all when my plants get knocked over.

3. Time to myself? I can take it or leave it.
4. I am aware that the rubber ducks all around the rim of the bathtub are full of ice cold water and that this cold water will gush or trickle onto me when I least expect it.
5. Uninterrupted adult conversation doesn't interest me.
6. I love the sound of tiny shoes banging on the high-chair footrests while I'm eating at Avanti's.
7. Being tired all the time makes life full and exciting.

And so forth.

I know, I know. I know that about half of you are getting all set to write indignant letters to me, telling about how when those little babies look at you with their big clear trusting eyes and wrap their tiny little handies around your thumb, you realize that it's all worthwhile.

Don't bother.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Borrow a kid for a test run

If you're thinking about becoming a parent (or deciding whether to have an abortion), find out if you're up to it ahead of time. Borrow someone else's child first.

Don't borrow one for an afternoon. Borrow one for a week or a month. I doubt you'll have any trouble finding parents willing to loan you one or a dozen.

I'm not the first to offer this advice to prospective parents (it's Margaret Mead's idea), but that doesn't make the advice any less sound. No matter what the Pampers commercials say, being a parent is not all fun, nor all easy. Not everyone is cut out to be a good parent.

In fact, very few people are good parents. If you don't believe me, ask any child.

Yet our society is full of pressures in favor of child-having (see adjoining story). How many ads have you seen that show anything but the happy moments of child-rearing? How many articles have you read with titles like "My Children Are Driving Me Up the Wall" or "What I Wouldn't Give to Be Alone One Day a Week?"

So before you decide to have a child, take five minutes to complete the Should-I-Be-A-Parent Quiz and think about some of the questions it raises. While you still have a choice.

--D. LeSeure

The should-I-be-a-parent quiz

Deciding whether to have a child may be the biggest decision you ever make, because child-rearing will put a lot of limits on what other things you can do. And it's at least a 20-year commitment.

What follows is a list of things that you might consider as reasons for or against having children. You may think that some of the reasons are

extremely important and some not important at all.

For each reason circle the number that applies to you: 1 = no importance, 2 = some importance, 3 = very important, 4 = extremely important. Total up the number of points you score in each category, and then read the little raps in the next column to get some idea of what your score means.

* * * *

Obviously, these aren't the only things you could consider, or should consider, before having a child. No simple quiz can cover everything.

Some of the questions may not even be entirely fair. For instance, it is perfectly all right to decide to be a single parent. But if you have no one to share child-rearing duties with you, your burden is likely to be more than twice as great than if you do have someone to help.

So these answers aren't the final truth--they are better than a Pampers ad, however.

Effects--If you got a score lower than 13, you're probably not giving enough thought to how having a child would change your life. Try talking to someone who recently became a parent.

Readiness--If you scored fewer than 10 points, you probably need to think more about what it takes to be a parent. For instance, most of us think we know what we want when we're 17, but we usually want something quite different when we're 27. Nor is money essential to child-rearing, but being poor usually adds a whole bunch of extra problems to the ones that everybody has raising children.

Desires--If you scored less than 10, you probably don't really want to be a parent. Having a child is the worst way to realize that fact.

Outside influences--If you scored higher than 7, your concerns about the world around you probably argue against having a child. If you think this world is a lousy place to grow up in, any grandchild you provide for your parents is not likely to be a very happy person either.

--Adapted from a leaflet put out by the National Alliance for Optional Parenthood, 2010 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20036.

Effects a child would have

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Whether I would have to quit school..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. Whether having a child would tie me down..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. How a child would affect my relationships with friends..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. The idea that having a child would make me an adult..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. The risk of birth defects..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

My readiness for being a parent

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. My age..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. How much money I have..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. How much I like children..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. How permanent my relationship with my partner is..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

My desires and dreams

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. My desire to experience pregnancy, labor, and delivery..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. Wanting to be a father or mother..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. Wanting to teach things to a child..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. Liking the idea of having my own child..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Outside influences

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Whether my parents want me to have a child..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. Whether I think the world is a good place to bring a child into.. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. My concern for over-population..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Total scores

Effects a child would have _____ My desires and dreams _____
 My readiness for being a parent _____ Outside influences _____

Gay researchers' findings

Too much muzak causes scientist mice

Fire Island (QNS)--Gay researchers here have determined that frequent exposure to Muzak causes scientist-like behavior in laboratory mice.

"It's really amazing," says one researcher. "Four or five hours of that dippy Muzak and the little buggers start acting just like scientists--you know, setting up expensive labs, applying for government grants, conducting ridiculous experiments, drawing unwarranted conclusions, that sort of thing."

The Fire Island research team discovered that longterm exposure to Muzak results in severe personality disorders, which might even become permanent if no antidote is administered.

"It's really sad to see what happens to the poor little victims," says the director of the Oscar Wilde Institute for Social Research and Afternoon Teadances, who conducted the Muzak studies. "The more muzak they listen to, the more tedious and dim-witted they become."

"The bright, alert ones lose all their imagination and artistic flair; they begin to dress in brown suits and white smocks, put plastic pencil guards in their pockets, and spend all their time on trivial experiments. The extreme cases become obsessed with trying to prove something worthless about sexual behavior of small rodents. It's depressing."

The only thing that will correct the degeneration into scientism (the exaggerated trust in the methods of science to explain social or psychological phenomena), says the

Institute, is "a good healthy dose of disco music--with maybe a few poppers or some quiche and white wine served in a tasteful glass."

According to one researcher, "a few cuts from Diana Ross or Chic will get all but the most serious drudges back on their four little feet and boogying on down." Only the very aggressive and ambitious science-crazed creatures



A SCIENTIST DISCOVERS HOMOSEXUALITY AMONG HIS LABORATORY MICE.

don't respond to "I'm Coming Out" or "Boogie Woogie Dancin' Shoes."

Across the country, at the San Francisco Center for the Study of Loony Scientists (CSLS), gay researchers duplicated in humans the

A Clue to Homosexuality? Stress During Pregnancy

Feminization and demasculinization of male rats is found in research

experiments of two professors at Brigham Young University, who submitted pregnant rats to psychological, nutritional, and hormonal stress. The BYU experimenters claimed to observe a "predisposition toward homosexuality" in the male offspring of the stressed mothers (Science Digest, Aug. 1980).

CSLS researchers conducted tests on three groups of pregnant wives of scientists: one group was subjected to stress by being forced to spend more time with their husbands; a second group was given a 9-month vacation in Key West; and the wives of Mormon scientists were considered to be under enough stress already.

The offspring of the scientists' wives who were stressed exhibited behavior remarkably similar to that of rats: they scurried around on all fours, ate out of garbage cans, and inhabited ghettos.

The unstressed wives produced offspring who were healthy, happy gay people who settled in Key West and opened a gay restaurant together.

And the Mormon mothers gave birth to uptight children who were either anxious homosexuals or scientists who got their kicks out of submitting pregnant rats to stress. ● --Ferdurke

S.T.A.R.

(Strange Truths



About Reagan)

1. Both Jerry Falwell and Ronald Reagan are practicing heterosexuals.
2. Both Jerry Falwell and Ronald Reagan have fathered 4 children.
3. Both claim to be Christians.
4. Both are registered Republicans.
5. Both oppose gun control.
6. Both oppose the ERA, affirmative action, and a woman's right to choose.
7. Both Jerry Falwell and Ronald Reagan attended the recent Religious Roundtable conference.
8. Both were interviewed in the same issue of People magazine.
9. Both are arch conservatives.
10. Both Jerry Falwell and Ronald Reagan. . .enough said. ●

--Jayne Whyman

WIDE WORLD OF WOMEN II

A WOMEN'S CAREER CONFERENCE

Saturday March 21, 1981
Illinois State University
Union Auditorium

I.S.U. Students Free!!

Others: \$3.00 at door

Registration: 8:30a.m.

Programs: 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.

Keynote Address:

PENNY SEVERNS

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Women in Many Career Areas

WORKSHOPS IN

What to do with a liberal arts major
Dual Career Couples
Resume writing
Mid-life career change
Returning women
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Discrimination

SLIDE AND FILM PRESENTATIONS

"Rosie the Riveter"
(Women workers in WWII)
"Women in Labor"
Women in History:
The Dinner Party by
Judy Chicago

Men are encouraged to attend.

I.S.U. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University

Take this plug and shove it

My sister-in-law was right.

About 6 years ago, she shocked me by saying that she'd sworn off tampons and was using only kotex. She said she didn't trust tampax. What, I marvelled, not trust tampax? Give them up? Go back on the Rag?

Although her logic was of the crude "It just doesn't seem right to stick them things up there and leave 'em" variety, her maverick suspicion was faultless; and here I am back on the Rag after 16 years of delicate odorless feminine secure daintiness.

It's not just that I'm certain that I'll be one of the 3 in 100,000 women who contract toxic shock syndrome. I have two other cogent reasons for kicking the plug: 1. I don't for a minute believe that toxic shock syndrome is the only health hazard of plugs, and 2. I'd like to see the \$300 million a year tampon industry as ruined as most of my underwear.

This summer's toxic shock wave brought about lots of interest in tampon safety, resulting in publicity about



health hazards that have been practically ignored for years. Nancy Friedman, a writer for New West magazine, summarized her research thus:

***Deodorant tampons have been associated with irritation of the mucous membranes of the vagina. The idea of deodorant tampons is ridiculous anyway, since odor associated with menstruation results from the exposure of the blood to air, which doesn't happen until the tampon is removed.

***Plastic tampon inserters, used in Rely, Playtex, and Kotex brands, have been responsible for numerous incidences of vaginal laceration.

***The new superabsorbant natural and synthetic fibers can be too absorbant, causing the vagina to become dry and vulnerable to irritation, infection, and even ulceration. A group of gynecologists at Massachusetts General Hospital have suggested that the new tampons block the vagina so effectively that they cause toxin-containing menstrual fluid to back up into the uterus and out the Fallopian tubes into the abdominal cavity.

***Women who use tampons all month to absorb vaginal discharges have suffered ulcerations of the vagina and cervix. Sometimes doctors even recommend month-round tampon use to women with discharge problems.

***Several tampon brands have been rejected in Japan, where government regulation of the industry is much stricter than it is in the U.S. The

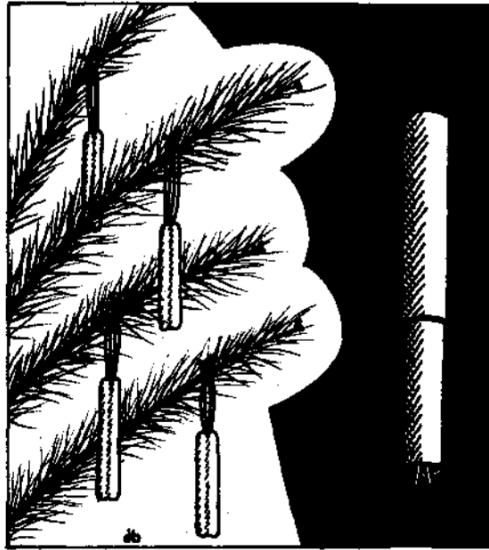


reason: high bacterial levels. It seems that all that elaborate packaging and individual wrapping doesn't guarantee sterility any more

than the paper band across the toilet in a sleazy motel.

***Though the tampon companies claim that they carefully test their products, none of them will give out the names of their medical advisors. Who is that "respected woman gynecologist" who supposedly designed "o.b." tampons? Johnson and Johnson ain't telling.

The industry and the government have treated us women very shabbily. (So



what else is new?) From its invention in 1936 until 1976, the tampon was classified by the Food and Drug Administration as a "cosmetic" and thus the tampon company was not required to disclose contents or offer consumer warnings. Yes, there were articles in respected medical journals in 1942, 1959, and 1966 which raised questions about tampon safety, but the FDA didn't look into the reports.

In 1976, the tampon became a "medical device." One effect of its change in status is that the FDA became even more aware of its dangers: the FDA's Bureau of Medical Devices keeps a computer file of all complaints lodged against products. From December 1976 through August 1980, the file documents 59 reports of tampon damage, many of which cite multiple cases. Considering the fact that there was no public encouragement

to send in such complaints, that's a significant number of reports from doctors and patients. Still, the FDA took no action.

The most outrageous crime, though, is that Procter and Gamble probably knew their Rely tampon was unsafe before the Center for Disease Control published its findings about toxic shock last summer. Before Rely was publically linked with toxic shock syndrome, Procter and Gamble was studying "a new absorptive material" for a tampon. Dr. Sidney Wolfe, of Nader's Health Resource Group, believes that Procter and Gamble was "seriously thinking of reformulating" the Rely tampon. In short, Dr. Wolfe believes that Procter and Gamble was selling the old Rely, knowing it to be possibly hazardous, and meanwhile secretly planning to change the formula and come out with a New Improved Rely. The company was hoping that the dangers of the old Rely would never have to become public.

This bloody business, Internal Sanitary Protection, has also brought us a bewildering and surely unnecessary variety of tampons at surprisingly uniform outrageous prices, and over the TV has given us those cheery ladies chatting about how they prevail over their monthly mess and those kind of blissfully



bland females in the mystical dresses stroking their tampon boxes lovingly with those weird looks on their faces. Maybe they're in the first stages of toxic shock attack.

Before it happens to me, I'm going to dye all my underwear a nice comfortable shade of rust brown, and then maybe I'll write an article for a ladies' magazine about how to make clever flowers and Christmas ornaments out of your old unused tampons. Look for it at the checkout lines.

--Phoebe Caulfield

(Thanx to New West, the Flint Voice, and Working Woman.)

Hi-De-Ho

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11 am - 1 am

Fri - Sat

12 noon - 2 am

HAPPY HOUR

Mon - Fri

3 pm - 6 pm



Blessed little health in HHS

In office less than a month, the new secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has not only called for the outlawing of abortion, but also for an end to federally funded contraceptives for teens and for an end to federal support for sex education.

Some health. Some human services.

Maybe the new secretary, Pennsylvania Republican Richard Schweiker, is trying to prove himself in his new crowd of right-wing nuts. He was, after all, Reagan's "liberal" vice-presidential choice in 1976, the choice that churned the guts of the most constipated conservatives.

Whatever Schweiker's reasons for behaving like the fox in the chicken coop (or warmonger in the Defense Department), so far he's splendidly up to the moronic measure of the Moral (sic) Majority (sic, sic, sic).

By denying Medicaid payments for contraceptives for teenagers, Schweiker would condemn millions of young women to pregnancies they don't want. Hundreds of thousands already quit school every year because of pregnancy; the number will grow. Thousands more 10 and 11-year-olds will be forced to give birth to children.

The HHS secretary's sympathy for the millions whose lives will be warped and ruined if his desires are forced on them is about as large as Ronald Reagan's brain. It's pitiful, really.

Schweiker is acting like the problems will happily disappear, if only sex education is stopped. Yes, and building more bombers, more tanks, more nuclear weapons makes the U.S. less likely to go to war, too. Sure thing.



Woman: A Journal of Liberation/cpf

I remember a couple of hours of sex ed in health class in 9th or 10th grade. Somehow I don't think that was the first time I'd encountered the subject. Sex is not likely to go away because schools stop teaching about sexuality, nor will teenagers stop screwing because they can't get contraceptives.

Sex ed and contraceptives are not the problem, as the moral morons maintain. With reduced availability of contraceptives, the teenage pregnancy crisis will grow worse, not better.

The facts are clear:

--More than 11 million teenagers in the U.S. are sexually active.

--The teenage childbearing rate in the U.S. is among the highest in the world.

--Teenage women are twice as likely to die from pregnancy complications than women in their 20s are.

--The younger the teenage mother, the more likely her child will suffer from childhood illness, birth defects or brain damage.

Facts like these don't impress the anti-choice Human-Life-Amendment types. Religious fanatics and opportunistic politicians like Schweiker don't use logical arguments. They believe only in raw power.

But most of us--80% according to most polls--want information about sexuality taught in schools. We want readily available contraceptives and legal abortions. So send the Honorable Richard Schweiker a Bronx cheer on paper--to the Department of Health and Human Services, Washington DC 20500.

Schweiker used to stand for family planning--until the Moral Morons went on their loud rampage and he decided that's where the political action is. Maybe he can be switched back.

--D. LeSeure

Things to do

Work to save abortion

Action to prevent passage of the Human Life Amendment (HLA) is essential. Even though the anti-choice groups are clearly in a minority (only 30% of the populace), they are quite well-organized.

From the earliest days of the anti-abortion movement, the Catholic Church has made its organization available. In New York, for instance, right-to-life crews collect donations after mass. And in 1977 the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment Inc. received \$272,747 of its \$279,119.35 in contributions directly from the church.

In many cases, priests and bishops and others of similar ilk use their pulpits and church newsletters to organize the anti-choice forces. A phone call from the Bishop of Peoria

has always mobilized the local faithful.

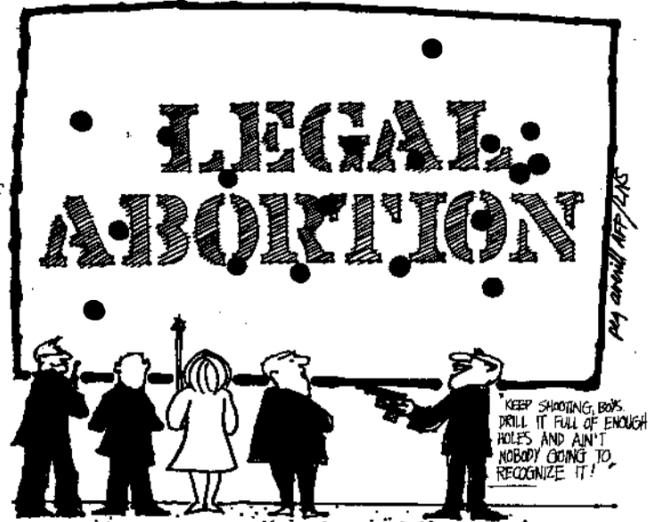
Big money raisers

The TV and radio bible-thumpers that have more recently latched onto the abortion issue have an incredible money-raising apparatus at their disposal--since raising money is their whole reason for being in many cases.

Naturally, the bible-thumpers use all their resources to organize their supporters, right down to collecting signatures on petitions.

Finally, the New Right politicians have made a religion of computer lists, lists of people who give money to right-wing causes. Some of them are also well fixed with corporate contributions.

To counter this well-organized, well-funded lobby, there are any number of things you can do, but nothing is more



important than personal involvement.

What you can do

Go to meetings, hold press conferences, stage happenings, collect petitions and send them to your elected representatives every month. Do all this and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Among the local groups already working to guarantee legal abortions are:

--the Bloomington-Normal chapter of the National Organization for Women, Dorothy Berkson, 829-6777.

--The National Abortion Rights Action League, Kay Wilson.

--The American Civil Liberties Union, Scott Eatherly.

--Planned Parenthood of Mid-Central Illinois, Dixie Axley.

--The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, Illinois State

Susie's Cafe

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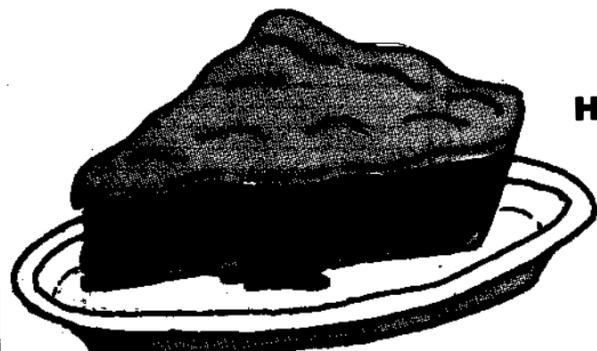
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Brad Murphy: prosecutor or persecutor?

I recently spent an entire day in the cramped office of Brad Murphy, an assistant state's attorney. For nearly 7 hours, I gazed alternately at the 2 Reagan for President bumper stickers that so gracefully adorn his small bulletin board and the worn black Bible that rests so attractively on his desk.

So Brad Murphy is into politics and religion. I'm glad he has hobbies. I'm sorry he brings his hobbies to work with him. I'm appalled that his hobbies promote this sorry rape culture that we lovingly call Amerika. I am disgusted that he advertises the fascist status quo in the office of a public servant.

Brad Murphy deals with the victims and the witnesses of crimes every day. He must win the confidence and respect of these people to do his job effectively. I don't believe that the display of partisan political advertising and religious documents do that.

The presence of Reagan paraphernalia in Brad Murphy's office is a statement of support not only for the man but also for those things for which he stands. It is not a

statement of presidential preference (the election was over 3 months ago), but rather a sign of support of the new right moral majority fascist conservatism.



Brad Murphy, shown here expressing his opinion about the separation between church and state.

philosophy similar to every other religious philosophy.

I believe he believes it is The Word.

And I believe he regards it with as much respect and he reads it with as much integrity as do his cohorts Jerry Falwell and the prez, RR, taking from it all the worst it has to offer and discarding the rest. By doing so, Brad Murphy is not only blatantly stating his religious preference. He is helping to participate in the care and nurturing of that age-old Amerikan tradition, rape culture.

That kind of religion penetrates our lives; and though it says the same things that the Republican party platform says, it is a much more dangerous foe, for it is not only Ronald Reagan talking, it is God. And if God says it, it is true. One can argue politics with RR; one cannot argue religion with God.

Nor can you argue with Brad Murphy, for you know the minute you step into his office that he believes that living in a racist, sexist, hetero-sexist rape-culture with a vengeful over-Lord watching every move is the ultimate living experience. The Reagan stickers say that with authority. The Bible says it with Authority.

If I were being generous I would cut the man some slack. But I do not feel generous. Brad Murphy has been a public servant for too long not to know what is and is not appropriate. Reagan blasting from the wall and God blaring from the desk are definitely not appropriate.

It is time that we, the public, take a stand where our servants are concerned. We should demand that Brad Murphy clean up his act (and his office). The relationship between a prosecutor and his witnesses is a tenuous one at best. It does not need to be further alienated by bringing politics and religion into the midst of things.

(I also have a problem with the little gold cross he wears on the lapel of his suit coat, but I hate like hell to be picky, so I won't mention it.)

--Deborah Wiatt

University chapter, Tom Todd.

--The Post-Amerikan, 828-7232.

Your elected representatives and their addresses are:

--State Rep. Gerald Bradley, State House, rm 314, Springfield IL 62706.

--State Rep. Gordon Ropp, State Office Building, rm 2023, Springfield IL 62706.

--State Rep. Sam Vinson, State Office Building, rm 2032, Springfield IL 62706.

--State Sen. John Maitland, State Office Building, Springfield IL 62706.

--US Rep. Edward Madigan, 2457 Rayburn Office Building, Washington DC 20515.

--US Sen. Charles Percy, 4321 Dirksen Office Building, Washington DC 20510.

--US Sen. Alan Dixon, address unavailable so far.

National organizations that deserve support:

--National Abortion Rights Action League, 825 15th St NW, Washington DC 20005.

--Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse, 386 Park Ave., rm 1502, New York NY 10016.

--Committee to Defend Our Reproductive Rights, 1638B Haight St., San Francisco CA 94117.

--Reproductive Rights Network, 17 Murray St., New York NY 10017.

--Catholics for Free Choice, 1411 K St., suite 430, Washington DC 20005.

--National Organization for Women, NOW Action Center, 425 13th St. NW, suite 1048, Washington DC 20004.

These groups can help with information and pamphlets, as well as providing action ideas. Get started now.

Reagan for President bumper stickers say, in effect: I agree there should be no gun control; I believe in profits before people; I believe that people on welfare are too lazy to find work; I believe in equating abortion with homicide; I believe that gay people are sick and perverted and should not be allowed to exist; I believe women have their place in this society and that place is in the home; I believe anyone who is the wrong color--anything but white--is suspect and should be watched very carefully for signs of inferiority; I believe we cannot have peace unless we prepare for war; I believe that God is our ultimate president.

Which brings us to the next point. I do not think Brad Murphy believes that the Bible is an interesting history of a (colored) race of people from the Middle East. I do not think he believes it is an interesting, if inaccurate, biography of some persecuted Jews. I do not even think he believes it is yet another

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--D.L.

Defense Dept. policy

Gays disrupt military life:

The Pentagon has revamped its policy toward gay people in the service. Formally approved in January, the day before Reagan was inaugurated, the new regulations emphatically state that all homosexuals without exception must be barred from the military.

Well, there is one exception: if it's "in the interest of national security" to draft, enlist, or retain them. In other words, gays are to be scorned and rejected unless it gets so bad that even perverts are needed for cannon fodder. The same thing happened in Germany when the Nazis kept the gays in concentration camps until the final years of the war when they called them to fight for the "fatherland" (see Post, vol. 9, #9).

The reason for the new directive from the Department of Defense (DOD) is that they've been taken to the cleaners recently because some branches of the service had "discretionary" clauses in their policies.

They couldn't explain

The Air Force regulations used to allow for retention of gay service members if "the most exceptional circumstances existed." But when the Air Force tried to expel Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, a gay airman with an exemplary record and all sorts of commendations, they weren't able to explain why Matlovich didn't qualify for the "exceptional circumstances." This led to a court order to reinstate Matlovich, and the Air Force ended up paying \$160,000 to keep him out.

Recently, Ensign Vernon Berg ended his 5-year court battle for reinstatement by settling with the Navy for an undisclosed amount of money. In the Berg case, a 3-judge panel found that the Navy does not discharge all those found to be homosexual.

So the DOD has mandated that all branches of the service must rewrite their regulations regarding homosexuals and eliminate clauses which gave leeway to retain some lesbians and gay men under "exceptional" circumstances.

Disrupting presence

The new DOD policy asserts that the presence of gay people "impairs the accomplishment of the military mission." It then lists seven ways that the presence of gays "adversely affects the ability of the armed forces."

These seven points include the tiresome old noise about maintaining discipline and morale and preventing "breaches of security." But it's the sixth one that really tells the story about the Pentagon's aversion to gay people: homosexuals prevent the armed forces from maintaining "the public acceptability of military service."

A spokesperson from Manpower Reserve Affairs and Logistics in the Office of the Secretary of Defense told Gay Community News that the "conduct and presence of homosexuals is prejudicial to morale basically because it isn't accepted in society." The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, went on to admit that "it's an

emotional issue. People wouldn't accept them. That's the basic reason for exclusion."

In other words, it's the prejudice of other people that makes gay men and lesbians disruptive to the military.

The unnamed official conceded that the armed services were an instrument of social policy when it came to integrating blacks and women into the military. But they're not about to play that role with gays: "We can't point a finger and say there is something wrong with them and they can't perform in the service. We don't believe that. But we depend on people being willing to join the armed service and remain in it."

Don't even think about it

The Pentagon has also offered a definition of homosexuality for use in military cases: "Homosexual" means a person, regardless of sex, who engages in, desires to engage in, or intends to engage in homosexual acts."

The directive also states that any homosexual act performed before entering the military, regardless of the age of the person at the time, is a ground for dismissal. If the Kinsey report is accurate, this definition means that the military is going to end up excluding 40 per cent of the male population.

Actually, the policy cites 3 different bases for separation from the service. Only the first is for doing it-- "bodily contact actively undertaken

Call him a faggot, beat him up

Beating up gay people is as American as killing Indians. You don't even have to be gay to qualify: the label "faggot" is excuse enough for any pack of bullies to target you for a beating.

That is exactly what happened to Doug Dawson in Pontiac last Sept. 18.

Doug went into a place called Big Dad's that night and sat down at the bar. Almost immediately, three guys behind Doug started in on him. "What are you lookin' at?" they demanded. One guy grabbed Doug's hair and called him a faggot.

The harassment continued until one of the guys--a guy almost 6 inches taller and 30 pounds heavier than Doug--came over and flipped a coin. "Let's see who takes this faggot out and beats his ass," the guy said.

Doug, who isn't gay, had been through scenes like this before, but now he was worried. "It was building to a crescendo," he told the Post. "I wasn't wanting to be there for the crescendo."

Saying he didn't want any trouble, Doug left and went to the bar next door. Inside, he saw his tormentors walking around in the street, apparently looking for him, but they didn't follow him into the bar.

A couple of beers later, Doug headed for home on foot. Passing through a



dark stretch of street, somebody came out of an alley and hit Doug with something--hard enough to literally shatter his nose.

"I was screaming for my life," he said. Bleeding badly, Doug stumbled off the curb, spraining his ankle, but he still managed to escape his attackers. Briefly.

They caught him in front of a brightly lit theater, and two of them beat on him some more before fleeing in a car.

Both Doug's lips were split, requiring 10 stitches, and his nose was so shattered that his doctor had to use a steel rod to straighten up the inside enough so Doug could breathe. He still faces a 3 to 4-day hospital stay to repair his nose.

"I laid in fear of my life for two months," Doug said. "Somebody who would do something that violent..."

Earlier this year, the Livingston County state's attorney's office took the case before a grand jury. A charge of battery was returned against one of the three men, Dale Higbie. The others were not charged.

Ironically, the roots of the beating may have grown in heterosexual jealousy. One of Doug's attackers, not the one charged, had taken a dislike to Doug after Doug paid too much attention to the guy's woman friend at a party. The eventual attacker later threatened Doug on the street: "Hey fag, you're gonna get yours."

It's also worth noting that of the 10 or so people in the bar where Doug was harassed before the beating, only the barmaid intervened to help Doug, and she not immediately.

Being labeled "faggot" is enough to turn a man into an outcast. Whether you're gay or not, being called gay will usually cause everyone else to look away while you're harassed or beaten; often the bystanders will actually cheer for the attackers. This is true throughout America, and it's a telling statement of the real status of gay people.

I can't forget a story a friend told me that he witnessed while working at Funk Seeds. One of his coworkers was telling another man about the beating of a gay. "You mean," the second man said incredulously, "that the guy got two years for beating on a fag?"

--D. LeSeure

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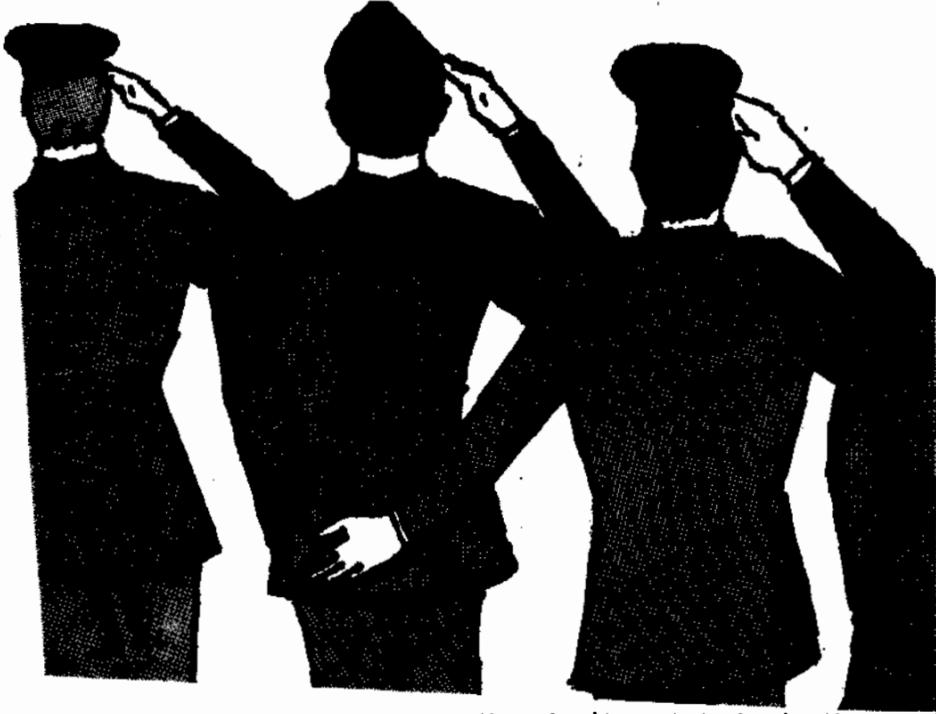
or passively permitted between persons of the same sex for purposes of satisfying sexual desires." The second basis, a clear violation of the First Amendment, calls for discharging any member of the military who has stated that he or she is a homosexual or a bisexual.

have married persons of the same sex "as evidenced by the external genitalia." Unless it's clear they got married just to avoid the service. In other words, if two men marry because they love each other, they'll get booted. But if they marry because

counts: due process, equal protection, freedom of association, and free speech. In supporting its claim that gay presence is disruptive, the military is going to have to show some connection between homosexuality and the ability to do the job (which they know they can't). But if they don't demonstrate some such causal link, then they'll be admitting that their policy is really built around bigotry and homophobia, that it serves primarily to confirm and placate society's prejudice against gay people.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Gay Community News, vol. 8, nos. 26, 28, 29.



Military logic

The third basis for exclusion is the most curious. It's apparently aimed at what the DOD thinks "transsexuals" are: members of the military who

they don't want to be in the service, they'll have to stay in. You figure it out.

Several gay activists point out that the new DOD regulations are clearly unconstitutional on at least four

Parent Drug Courses Begin

Project OZ will conduct four drug education programs for parents in the Bloomington school district (#87) during March. Each program will consist of one evening meeting per week, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., for four weeks.

The first drug education program for parents will begin on Tuesday, March 3, at Centennial School. On March 5 (Thursday), the Bent School program will begin. Later in the month programs will be started at Irving School (Tues., March 10) and at Stevenson School (Mon., March 16).

These programs are free to all parents in district 87. They include instruction in drug knowledge, why people use drugs, values clarification, decision-making, parenting, and parent-child communication.

Interested parents can register for these courses by calling Project Oz at 827-0377 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mon. through Fri. Parents are free to enroll in a program at any site, even if the school is not in their neighborhood.

Bring back the prairie

The local John Wesley Powell Audubon Society plans a program to illustrate our Central Illinois prairie heritage March 4, 7:30 pm, at Adlai Stevenson School, 2106 Arrowhead Dr., Bloomington.

Paul Knoop of the Aullwood Audubon Farm, Dayton, Ohio, will discuss the great diversity of prairie vegetation, the prairie before US settlement, how

small prairies can be recreated, and their aesthetic and educational potential. Knoop will offer plans for creation of a prairie site at Stevenson School for use as an outdoor classroom.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Money for ecology study

The local Audubon Society is offering a scholarship to attend an ecology workshop this summer.

The \$265 Marie Hoglund Memorial Scholarship would pay all fees for a workshop in Wisconsin or part of the fees for workshops in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming.

The workshops are 1 to 2 weeks long, cost from \$265 to \$475, and take place continuously from June 28 to Aug. 16.

People interested in the scholarship should apply to the Audubon Education Committee, 305 W. Monroe, Bloomington. Written applications should include: your reason for wanting to attend; any past experiences in conservations or environmental education; and a rap on what you think you can do to promote environmental understanding in your community as a result of attending the workshop.

More info can be had from Nancy Morgan (662-5681) or Susan Taylor (828-8730).

Pesticides for Pittsburg

As if there weren't enough pesticides already in the water, someone deliberately contaminated the drinking supply of three Pittsburg suburbs with heptachlor and chlordane last Dec. 6.

The county health department estimated 20,000 people getting water from the Western Pennsylvania Water Co. were affected. More than 150 people reported illness, mostly nausea and diarrhea, from drinking the water. The pesticides attack the nervous system and are highly stable carcinogens.

Although the water company tried to blame the poisoning on the Utility Workers union which had voted to go on strike four days before the pesticides were put into the water, police said the poisoning "could have been done by someone completely isolated from the company and the union. It could have been someone who has a mental hangup."

--thanx to AP & Tulsa World

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Moron Majority

Can't do it in the face of the Lord

A retired lawyer in the Senior Saints organization has been drafting legislation that will call for motels located on the interstate highways to rent rooms only to those couples who are legally married. The Senior Saints are affiliated with the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., where the Rev. Jerry Falwell is pastor.

The law is expected to pass both houses of Congress and be signed by President Reagan with dispatch. It should spark a series of local laws that will ban the renting of all hotel and motel rooms to unmarried couples.

One of the members of the Senior Saints said recently: "Highway motels just give out rooms to anyone who comes in off the road, people walking in like two stray dogs in heat."

"To a motel clerk, a family is any two persons going to flop around on the same bed. If two men walk in and sign the register, that's all right, too. If two women come in and want to use the bed together, that's fine. Homosexuality! Doesn't anybody care about it? God hates homosexuality!"

The plan is for the Department of Health and Human Services to issue marriage cards that will be shown to motel clerks, much as voter registration cards are shown at polling places.

Lawyers for hotel interests immediately said the motel law was

unconstitutional because it did not give equal rights to people who are married and unmarried.

"Nobody has the right to fornicate in the face of the Lord!" one of Falwell's people reasoned. "The Supreme Court can follow an election landslide just as well as anybody else. Ronald Reagan won that election because the American people are tired of families getting destroyed because of tomcatting."

--Jimmy Breslin
N.Y. News Syndicate

Daffy duck an atheist?

The Rev. Lars Wessberg, principal of the Omaha Christian School (Omaha, Neb.), burned record album covers, books, and magazines that he contended are detrimental to Christian living.

Students watched the burning, which destroyed Batman and Daffy Duck comic books among other items.

--ZNS

Love thy neighbor . . .

Dr. Curtis Hutson, editor of the fundamentalist weekly "Sword of the Lord," withdrew from the opening of the 1981 James Robison Bible Conference last month to avoid appearing with Phyllis Schlafly. Hutson said he could not "speak at a Bible conference with a Roman Catholic lady."

The four-day conference in Ft. Worth included such alleged Christians as billionaire T. Cullen Davis, acquitted of murder and solicitation of murder before finding religion, and the Rev. Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention,

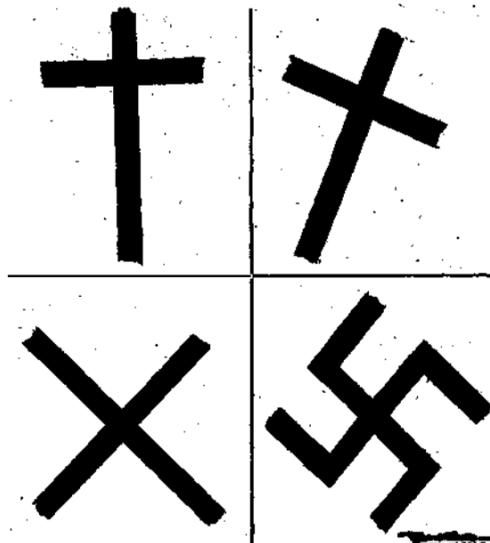
who has said God does not hear the prayers of Jews and has also made comments about Jews' noses.

--Detroit Free Press

. . . As thyself

The Rev. Billy Graham has reportedly given up politics for the pulpit, and he is advising the MM to do the same thing.

Graham, who gave political advice to Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and



TODAY, SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMOSEXUALS; TOMORROW, THE MORAL MAJORITY

Nixon, admits he used to equate "the Kingdom of God with the American way of life." Now, however, he has changed his tune and is advising the clergy to stick to preaching and to avoid politics.

In a Parade magazine interview, Graham says, "Evangelists can't be closely identified with such authority

As a diversion

Falwell Disc World

Remember what Richard Nixon did when everybody was coming down on him for Watergate? He kept pointing at Red China and yapping about foreign affairs.

Well, rascal see, rascal do.

The latest in Jerry Falwell's never-ending series of appeals for money makes absolutely no mention of his notorious Penthouse interview, nor does it contain one peep about the numerous Moral Majority crazies around the country who are calling for the execution of gay people, the release of confidential library records, and the restriction of motel occupancy to married couples only (see stories above).

No indeed. Jerry is giving all his attention this month to hunger in East Africa. In fact, he has declared a "Hunger Crisis Alert" and has promised



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or any particular party or person." He says that the MM's attempt to link religion with politics amounts to an act of bigotry.

The Rev. Graham did not comment on the morality of collecting millions of tax-free dollars in the name of the Lord or indicate how much the MM's political scam has cut into his own holy-money empire.

Anti-gay blitz launched

Calling San Francisco the "Sodom and Gomorrah" of the nation, a coalition of fundamentalist groups says it will spend \$3 million on a media campaign attacking gay people.

According to the Rev. Richard Zone, whose In God We Trust Inc. group is spearheading the campaign, some \$3 million will be spent, beginning with a mail and media blitz. The coalition will attempt to build anti-gay feeling in the community and persuade homosexuals to give up their lifestyle.

"I agree with capital punishment and I believe homosexuality is one of those that could be coupled with murder and other sins," said Dean Wycoff, a spokething for the Santa Clara Moral Majority, one of the groups involved in the campaign.

Wycoff called San Francisco, where 15% of the population is gay, "the Sodom and Gomorrah of the U.S. and the armpit of this perverted movement."

--Associated Press

Anti-feminist group formed

Karen Master Davis has signed on as co-director of a new anti-feminist religious organization founded by evangelist James Robison (see Post vol. 9, no. 6).

Davis was a key witness for her now-husband, billionaire Texas oilman Cullen Davis, in the two highly publicized trials in which he was acquitted of murder and solicitation of murder. They were not married at the time of the trials.

Davis says her new group, called the Christian Women's National Concerns, "will train women to be an effective force in preserving the rights of our children and families."

--Detroit Free Press

The root of all Christianity

Jerry Falwell intends to pursue his suit against Penthouse magazine for \$10 million in damages. After learning that published reports quoted him as saying he would drop the suit, Falwell told the Lynchburg (Va.) News that he would fight on.

Falwell has alleged that an interview with him published in the magazine's March issue had been obtained under false pretenses and has damaged his reputation.

But his main concern with the incident

has little to do with justice and morality: "I honestly fear a great dollar loss for our ministry. . . You can't imagine the hundreds of calls and letters we were inundated with. . . We have no idea how many people will now cut us out of their wills, how many will simply close their checkbooks on us."

--Detroit Free Press

Turn in that library card sinner!

MM is asking the Washington State Library to identify borrowers of a 21-minute movie entitled "Achieving Sexual Maturity."

The request to Librarian Roderick Swarts was made last week by Michael Farris, the group's state director, under provisions of Washington's Public Disclosure Act.

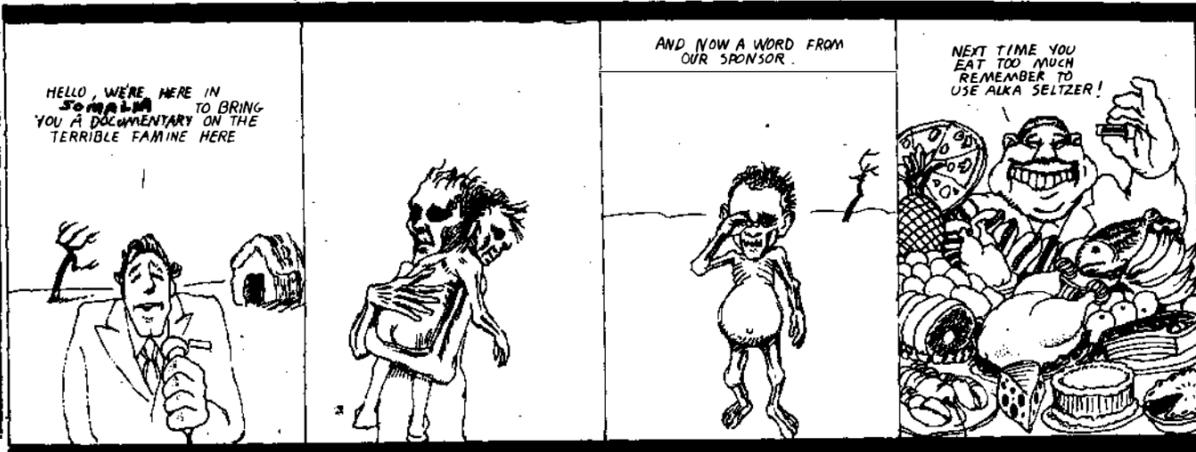
Nancy Zusey, the library's deputy director for services, said, "It is library policy nationwide that circulation records are confidential" unless borrowers give permission for their names to be released.

The film, produced by John Wiley & Sons of New York "is a scientific film on anatomy, physiology and sexual development throughout the life cycle," she said.

--Associated Press

Covers Hunger!

the tube
BY BILL PETERSON



to send \$100,000 to help the starving masses in Somalia.

You see, in the midst of the storm about the interview in Penthouse and the outraged response to the various proposals that the MM loonies have loosed upon the nation, Jerry got word from his missions director, Dr. Roscoe Brewer, that there is severe starvation in eastern Africa.

Praise the Lord for famine and drought! Just the far-away cause that Jerry needed to take the heat off the domestic strife and keep the loot rolling in.

As the Rev. Falwell incisively explains, "There is a hunger crisis in many parts of the world today." (Like Detroit or Alabama?) "People will die, if you and I do not come to their rescue."

So "you and I" are going to send our

money to the sick and dying of East Africa, right? Wrong. "I" isn't going to send any of his money anywhere. He just promised to send \$100,000 to something called Food for the Hungry International, and "you" are going to send your money to "I."

Now, some cynical, suspicious person might point out that the Hunger Crisis Alert Emergency Reply Form (marked "Rush") says to make the tax-deductible check payable to the Old-Time Gospel Hour, the same organization that has lent a bunch of bucks to Moral Majority, Inc. and that Jerry claims is losing tons of money because of the you-know-what in that unmentionable publication.

And some cynical, suspicious person might point out that the Justice Department filed suit last year to force the PTL ("Praise the Lord") Club of Charlotte, N.C., to open its books on the \$51 billion it grossed because

the FCC wants to know if the gospel television show broadcast "fraudulent and misleading" appeals by asking for money for overseas missions but spending it on overhead.

Some cynical, suspicious person might question whether the \$2 million budget of the Old-Time Gospel Hour's Liberty Missionary Society really goes toward feeding thousands of dark-skinned hungry folk and tyrannizing them into becoming Christians, or whether it actually supports campaigns to harass gay people and library patrons right here at home.

Some cynical, suspicious person might suggest that we send Jerry Falwell and his Moral Majority followers to Somalia and let the starving masses eat them.

--Ferdydurke

Chlorine does bring risks

Chlorination of drinking water does create health risks whether you can smell the chlorine or not--no matter how often the local water directors and the Daily Pantagraph proclaim the water perfectly safe.

Numerous studies in both the US and Europe since 1974 have proved that chlorination produces several chlorinated hydrocarbons, most notably chloroform. Furthermore, the National Cancer Institute concluded in 1976 that chloroform causes cancer in rats and mice.

The scientific controversy today centers on the degree of risk caused by chlorination, not on whether there is a health risk from drinking chlorinated water. (See adjoining article on cancer risk.)

In fact, the actual and suspected risks from chlorination are not limited to cancer, though that risk may be more than minor: a study done at Hunter College for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggested that women who drank chlorinated water had a 44% higher death rate from gastrointestinal and urinary tract cancers than do women who don't drink chlorinated water.

Other studies suggest that chlorinated water raises blood pressure and reduces vitamin C and E levels, which could cause liver and heart complications. These studies on humans suggest a cause for the rapid rise in heart disease, a suggestion which is supported by a study on chickens which found that all the chickens drinking chlorinated water developed atherosclerosis (development of obstructions in the blood vessels) while none of those who drank distilled water did.

In light of these risks, a Pantagraph story published last October with the headline "No need to worry about chlorine odor" was not exactly the height of responsible journalism.

The Pantagraph story dealt entirely with reassurances by the Twin City water directors that there was "no need for concern" if people occasionally smelled chlorine in their water.

The Pantagraph reporter mentioned a recent study by the US Council on Environmental Quality which "reported a link between heavily chlorinated water and cancer." The reporter offered no details from the study and did not mention, or show knowledge of, any of the controversy that has raged over drinking water since the famous EPA and Environmental Defense Fund studies linked cancer to minute amounts of carcinogens in the drinking water at New Orleans in 1974.

Instead, the Pantagraph offered Bloomington water director Don

Ferguson's interpretation that the study was "misleading." Ferguson "said it isn't the chlorine that causes the health danger, it is when chlorine combines with a certain type of algae for an extended period--up to 70 years."

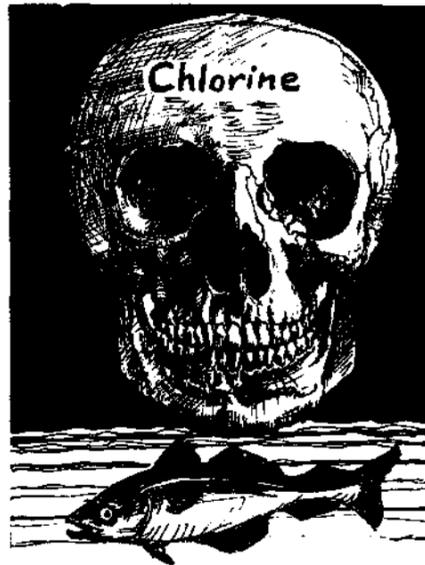
Ferguson didn't know if Lake Bloomington contained this algae, but the Pantagraph pointed out that the lake has been Bloomington's water source for about 50 years. The implication is that there is no danger.

In fact, chlorine appears to combine

in the water." When pressed, he did admit that chlorinated hydrocarbons can be carried on particles suspended in the water--which amounts to the same thing as being water soluble since you can drink them, and millions do drink them.

The position on safety that the water directors take, however, is largely backed up by the state EPA in practice, since it requires a level of 0.5 to 1.0 parts of chlorine residuals per million parts of drinking water (0.5 to 1.0 ppm, this is called). The chlorine's purpose is

What's bad for fish is good for us ?



There haven't been many studies on the effects of chlorination on people, but there have been a number on fish. The news is not encouraging.

Some species like trout are particularly susceptible. For instance, brook trout survive an average of nine hours in water that contains 0.35 parts per million (ppm) chlorine residuals. The state EPA requires drinking water to contain 0.5 to 1.0 ppm.

Half of a school of brown trout will be dead in 30 minutes at a 0.31 ppm concentration. Largemouth bass have a death rate of 50% after one hour in water containing 0.74 ppm chlorine residuals.

Rainbow trout will even avoid water with as little as 0.001 ppm.

The Illinois Institute for Environmental Quality recommends a level of 0.002 ppm to protect all fish. Treated sewage water dumped into streams and lakes often contains as much as 5.0 ppm chlorine residuals. ●

with a number of naturally occurring organic substances to form chloroform and other carcinogens. In fact, it is long-term exposure to these carcinogens that causes cancer, even at very low doses. It does not take 70 years for chlorine to produce carcinogens; the time it takes for the water to pass through the treatment plant is quite sufficient.

The assurance of Normal's water superintendent, Joseph Martine, that "if there were enough chlorine in the water to create a health hazard, it would smell so bad no one would drink it," is also not exactly confidence-inspiring.

At one point, Martin told the Post that chlorinated hydrocarbons like chloroform (and certain of the worst pesticides) are "not found in water per se." They're found in vegetation, silt, and fish, he said, "not actually

to destroy water-borne bacteria that can cause diseases ranging from diarrhea to cholera.

The actual amount of chlorine put into water is higher than 1.0 ppm since part of it reacts with materials already in the water and is then not available for killing bacteria. Bloomington adds an average of 1.1 ppm combined chlorine and Normal adds 2.5-3 ppm. Larger doses of chlorine tend to produce larger amounts of chloroform.

The EPA's presumed safe level for disinfection (0.5-1.0 ppm) is required for the end of the distribution system, which means that people near the water plants tend to receive water with

continued on next page

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higher chlorine residuals. These residuals are intended to insure the death of bacteria, but their presence also means that you are swallowing a chemically active substance that kills bacteria and could conceivably produce carcinogens in your stomach. (See adjoining story, ("What to do").

Europeans use less chlorine to kill bacteria, and the most common US test for measuring chlorine residuals often understates the amount of chlorine used.

But there have also been challenges to the safety and even the legality of the EPA's standards and its

go-slow policy on establishing standards for carcinogens in drinking water.

The 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act "required" the EPA to establish regulations controlling the amounts of "contaminants which may adversely affect the public health." Congress actually specified that it "did not intend to require conclusive proof that any contaminant will cause adverse health effects."

Yet even today, water departments serving fewer than 75,000 people are not required to test for the presence of chloroform and related compounds.

One of the main reasons for the go-slow policy is the strong opposition of the waterworks industry and people

like the Twin Cities' water directors to change, mainly on the grounds of cost but also because they don't believe there is proof of a significant risk.

The American Water Works Assn. (AWWA) is challenging some EPA proposals in court, and trade magazines like American City and County run articles with headlines like "Chlorination still the 'top dog' of disinfection" and "Be prepared to defend chlorination."

The AWWA estimates that treatment-plant changes to reduce carcinogens would cost billions, but industry has always vastly overestimated the cost of environmental protection. The EPA estimated the cost in 1977 would have been \$4-7 per year per household for one efficient method.

Risks, too, are often distorted, the classic example being the New Orleans water director's statement that drinking his water was just as safe as driving a car. Eerily, Bloomington's water director used a similar estimate of the risk. After 70 years of exposure to a carcinogen, I might get cancer, he said, but "if I'm exposed to automobile traffic for 70 years, I might get run over."

Many people don't find it comforting to know they're taking a risk every time they take a drink of water. In Europe, governments recognize that fact and have been doing something about it for the last 20 years.

Ozonation, use of activated carbon filters, and other technological advances can make dramatic reductions in the amount of dangerous substances in drinking water. These methods are in use in Europe because the Europeans operate on a simple premise: the fewer dangerous or possibly dangerous chemicals in the water, the better.

Clearly, Bloomington and Normal don't have as serious a problem as do people drawing their water from heavily polluted rivers and lakes, but there is a risk now. It is a

The cancer connection

The link between cancer and small amounts of chemicals like chloroform is based on a number of scientific connections that are not absolutely proven, but which have gained a very high level of acceptance.

Only people employed by cigarette companies and pesticide manufacturers still dispute whether ingesting carcinogenic chemicals is risky. The real scientific controversy now is over the degree of risk and over what are the best ways to identify cancer-producing substances.

Since we don't want to wait until a lot of people are dying of cancer, and since it's hard to determine just which chemical (of the many we're all exposed to) caused which cancer, we've taken to relying on animal studies to identify carcinogens.

The basic experiment gives a small number of rats or mice large doses of suspected chemicals and sees if they develop tumors. Some dispute whether it's fair to use large doses when people are usually exposed only to small doses.

The problem with using doses comparable to what people get is that often, millions of mice would be needed to get a statistically valid result. Support for using large doses instead comes from growing evidence that tested rodents and people do have similar responses to many carcinogens like vinyl chloride, DES, aromatic amines, and polynuclear hydrocarbons.

As evidence piles up, it's now becoming possible to guess which chemicals might be carcinogens because of their chemical relationships.

It is also possible to identify some classes of mutagens by a relatively simple bacteria test. Mutagens are substances that cause mutations or birth defects. Many mutagens are also carcinogens.

Chlorination, for instance, apparently produces some mutagens other than chloroform and its related compounds, according to test results published in Science in Jan. 1980.

We also know that individuals vary considerably in their susceptibility, which means that some people (for

unknown reasons) are more likely to get cancer than other people even when all are exposed to the same chemicals in the same amounts.

Small doses administered over a long period are apparently the best way to induce tumors. So, drinking water that contains minute amounts of chloroform or pesticides, even at the parts per billion level, over a long period of time (like a lifetime) is the exact prescription for cancer.

Finally, it's probable that several carcinogens act together additively or even synergistically, so that the risk from two is greater than the risk from each one separately. This is an important factor given the growing list of carcinogens and their wide distribution: the EPA's first survey of drinking water found carcinogens present in all 80 water supplies tested.

Although the risks for each chemical are not exactly known and may turn out to be low, the risk from all sources is probably great. Which makes it important to reduce as many of the specific chemicals, like chloroform, to as low levels as possible. ●

--D.L.

continued on next page

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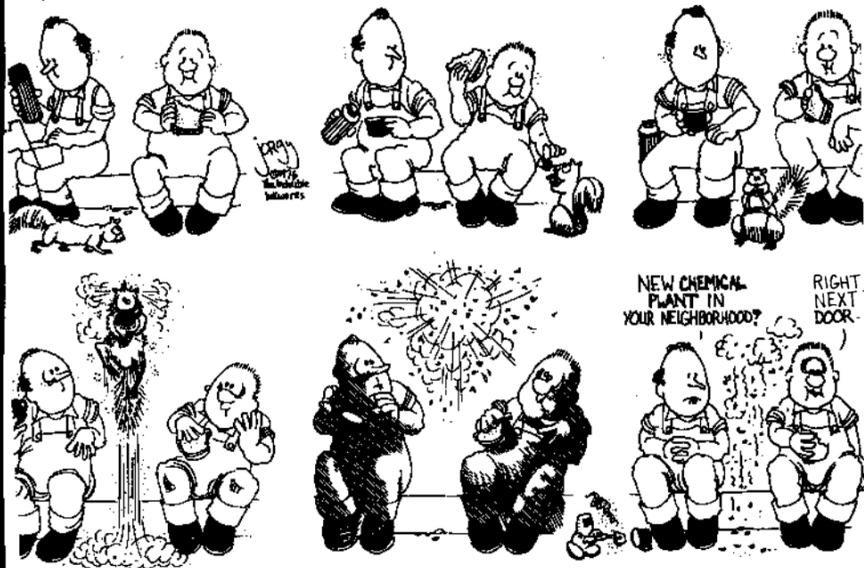
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What you can do on your own

Activated carbon filters are probably the best way of dealing with chlorination and many other water contaminants, according to Organic Gardening.

If you can't get your town to use carbon filters, you can do it on your own. The carbon will remove chlorine, chlorinated organics, PCBs, and pesticides like DDT and dieldrin.

It will also reduce levels of lead, cadmium and mercury--all dangerous--while reducing useful chemicals like zinc and chromium. Carbon filters do not affect the nitrate level, which is another serious problem with surface water supplies like Bloomington's.



Chlorine does bring risks

continued from preceding page

risk that should not be ignored, because it can be reduced. ●

--D. LeSeure

Sources:

American City and County; Dec. 1974, p. 8; May 1976, p. 42; May 1977, pp. 61-64.

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Resources for the Future, Safe Drinking Water (conference reports), 1978.

Science; 2 July 1976, pp. 55-7; 24 June 1977, pp. 1421-2; 10 June 1977, pp. 1205-6; 15 Sept. 1978, pp. 1008-9; 4 Jan. 1980, pp. 90-2.

Science News; 11 June 1977, p. 375.



The thing about home filters is that they must be changed regularly or they become saturated and start growing bacteria. Even with the bacteria risk, carbon filters are probably worthwhile. One gardener says the risk is less than that from improperly washing garden vegetables--which is pretty good compared to the risk of cancer.

Other ways to remove chlorine alone: boil water for 2-3 minutes, aerate it in a blender for 10 minutes, or add a tiny amount of vitamin C.

Organic Gardening does not recommend bottled water, although 1 in 6 Californians now get their drinking water that way, because distilled and deionized water lacks important minerals like calcium and magnesium.

If you want to make your own carbon filter, check out instructions in the July 1978 Organic Gardening. ●



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El Salvador: the next Vietnam

The tiny Central American nation of El Salvador has leaped into the headlines recently, as WarDog Alexander Haig and El Presidente Reagan have tried to turn the impoverished country into "freedom's next confrontation with communism."

The scene is all too familiar. El Salvador has known nothing but poverty and military governments in its history. Uncle Sam has kept Salvador's famous "14 families" in control, and they in turn have paid homage to Washington and kept the coffee flowing northward.

Recently, however, people's movements in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala have challenged the hold of corrupt military governments--successfully in Nicaragua. But the price has been high in all these countries, costing them civil war, assassinations, murder, economic dislocation, and further suffering for the poor.

Amerikans shocked

Until the onslaught of Reagan's anti-people policy, it looked like it was only a matter of time until El Salvador's right-wing junta would fall. Over 9,000 have been killed in the past year, mostly by right-wing death squads. What shocked Amerikan popular opinion was, first, the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a quiet but popular advocate of human rights and free government, and then the murder last November of 3 American Catholic nuns and 1 American Catholic lay worker.

The Salvadorean Government disclaimed the murders, although circumstantial evidence pointed to the government-backed death squads. The Carter Administration cut off military aid, and a special FBI investigative team was sent to El Salvador, receiving little cooperation from the junta.

The Reagan Administration sent the word to its beloved junta generals to "hang tight." The Salvadorean junta did, continuing its repression, and Carter finally restored military aid 2 days before Reagan took office.

Since then, "fighting communism" in El Salvador has become Reagan's most



R. Cobb/epf

"They're having troubles with their economy again."

popular game--besides trying to sink the poor at home further into the morass of poverty. Ambassador Robert White, a critic of the junta, was dismissed within 2 weeks of Reagan taking office, criticized by the new President for being a "social reformer."

Not all commies

The anti-junta forces in El Salvador, working through the FDR (Frente Democratico Revolucionario--Democratic Revolutionary Front), are not communist-dominated. There are communists in it--but there is a much higher percentage of plain old Democrats, liberals, social Democrats, Christian Democrats, peasant and labor leaders, and various other left-leaning groups.

In a place like El Salvador, anyone who speaks of the slightest social reform is a "revolutionary communist." The American missionary women who were assassinated were guilty of the terrible crime of refugee relief.

A few families still control all of Salvador's wealth and land, leaving only bare subsistence for the majority. The average per-capita income is less than \$500 per year.

Under the Carter Administration, there was a pretense of supporting reform in El Salvador, under the direction of the military junta. The junta changed during the Carter years, and the few reformers who were originally a part of it were forced out of office,

eventually being replaced by military officers. The military, besides using its troops to repress the rebels, has also been using another popular Central American tactic--death squads.

Govt. death squads

The death squads, who are often off-duty military or police personnel, publish the names of their intended victims, or send them death threats. Then at night they go about the task of assassination. The victims in El Salvador have varied, from famous figures like the Archbishop, the American nuns, two AFL-CIO land reform experts, and Frente leaders to thousands of unknown peasants, including children and a few infants.

The situation in El Salvador should not be seen in isolation. It has the seeds of another Vietnam, though Reagan claims he would avoid the "Vietnam syndrome," probably by "winning total victory."

El Salvador itself is not of prime importance to the U.S.; what is of prime importance is Central America and the Carribean. Victory for the rebels in El Salvador would mean that the life of the junta in Guatemala would be limited. Guatemala is the real key, for here U.S. multinationals have vast agricultural interests, plus oil has recently been discovered there.

The Carribean and Central America are viewed as the "soft underbelly" of the U.S. by defense planners, so any signs of rebellion must be crushed--even if those rebellions are only seeking simple social reforms to lift the people from poverty. ●

--MgM

El Salvador Week

The Peace and Justice Coalition at ISU, along with a number of other community groups, will be attempting to focus attention on El Salvador during the week of March 23, which is ISU's "Focus Week" and has the theme "Human Rights." A number of speakers, films and services will be held during the week.

As of Post-Amerikan press time, the schedule has not been finalized; but this is a rough outline:

Monday, March 23: Secondino Ramirez, a native Salvadorean, from the El Salvador Solidary Group in Chicago, will speak at the ISU Union and show a film, "El Salvador, the Revolution of Death."

Tuesday, March 24: The anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination; a memorial service is tentatively planned for the Newman Center, 501 S. Main St., Normal, at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25: "El Salvador, the next Vietnam," a videotape by Catalyst Films, which was recently made for Public Television and shown in other communities, will probably be shown at the ISU Union. This program has received much critical acclaim.

Thursday, March 26: Global Review, held each week at ISU's Fell Hall, will center on Cuban involvement. A guest will be Rev. Ted Braun, of Carbondale, who will speak on human rights in Cuba. As with everything else on the week's program, this session is still tentative.

Friday, March 27: RALLY! At noon, in the Quad, probably near Schroeder Hall. Bring your signs and banners. This event will feature music and short speeches.

The Weekend: a fund-raiser is planned. Time, place, and admission cost are still up in the air; performers are needed. The funds raised will cover the costs of films and speakers. The surplus will go to El Salvadorean relief efforts.

For final information on all these activities, or if you would like to get involved (in publicity, the fund-raiser, petition-taking), please call the Newman Center, 452-5046, or Dave, Brett, or Mark at 452-2040. Hopefully the schedule of events will be completed by the first week of March.

See ya' there. ●

--MgM

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Letters..letters..letters..letters...

Check out Mother Jones

Dear Post,

I want to tell the rest of you P-A fans about another great muckraker, Mother Jones. Almost every time I read an issue I wish I could tell the rest of the world about their news stories. They blew the whistle on the Pinto's gas tank, the "dumping" of outlawed dangerous and/or toxic American chemicals on Third World countries, and the Dalkon Shield.

The magazine is named after Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1830-1930). She was a mother, union organizer, a founder of the IWW, and in her own words, "a hell-raiser." She came to Bloomington during the 1917 streetcar strike.

I've been bummed out, but not surprised since the election. One quarter of the people voted--and they call it a landslide! So this month's MJ

announced that they are one of three organizations suggested for investigation by the ad-hoc groups, the National Committee to Restore Internal Security, and possibly the House and Senate internal security panels.

The editors say they're ready for a good fight. After all, the earlier witch hunters--Nixon and Mitchell, McCarthy and the notorious Attorney General Mitchell Palmer, the worst of them all, ended in disgrace. And they fell because, of course, witchhunting never solves the problems, no matter how many witches you catch. None of the rest of what Reagan is planning to do will solve any problems either.

"In a backhanded way," Mother Jones' editors say in their fifth anniversary issue, "the threat of being investigated in Washington is the best possible birthday honor possible--a

sign that we have become strong enough to threaten the born again Cold Warriors now running this country."

Here's an idea of what else is in the most recent issue: "Reagan's Gun Collection" outlines how Ronnie will, over the next five years, spend \$225 billion above and beyond the \$1 trillion already budgeted by Jimmy.

An article on private interest law firms (a Nader backlash) tells how the Pacific Legal Foundation fights no-growth zoning, pollution control in L.A., rent control, anti-sex-discrimination regulations, racial quotas, and OSHA. "Three Mile Cellar" discusses small nuclear reactors designed to replace your home's basement furnace. Some labor/union news. "How the Right Will Fall." "The War Against Choice: Inside the Anti-abortion Movement" by Diedre English.

"Do You Know These Godfathers? You Should" by Jina Klopfer tells who bankrolls the New Right. "U.S. Patriots Without God on Their Side" is about some famous American atheists. I bet you didn't learn in history class that George Washington said "The government of the U.S. is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion." Other prominent Americans featured in the story include Abe Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Edison, and Clarence Darrow.

The issue contains reprints of the Doonesbury series which featured a trip through Reagan's brain. Many newspapers across the country refused to run the strip last fall.

"Reaganomics: Facts, Follies and Faults" discusses how and why Reagan won't solve too many problems.

What more can I say friends, but read that magazine! It's great, easy to read, and usually covers a wider variety of issues than this month's post-inaugural edition.

--Post fan, too

COMMUNITY NEWS

Prison support groups form nationwide

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has announced the formation of a Gay Prisoners' Group which will "document incidents of selective abuse or discrimination suffered by lesbian and gay prisoners at the hands of police, the courts, jail or prison personnel or other prisoners." This program, part of ACLU's National Gay Rights project, is the first comprehensive program for collecting data on the status of gay prisoners. Anyone having information about selective abuses in US prisons should send it to Don Campbell, ACLU NGRP Prisoners Committee, 633 S. Shatto Place, Los Angeles CA 90005.

outreach work to women prisoners, and researching and informing prisoners of their mailroom and visiting rights. Contributions can be sent to and information obtained from Mike Riegle, Lesbian and Gay Prisoner Project, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston MA 02108.

The GAYCON Press Newsletter distributes news and other useful information about gay prisoners. It is available from US Mission Outreach for \$6 per year (free to prisoners) and can be obtained from Ron Endersby, Gaycon Press Newsletter, 20 12th St., #326, San Francisco CA 94103.

--Gay Community News

People Organized to Stop Rape in Prisons (POSRIP) is a group of men and women, gays and non-gays, prisoners and non-prisoners, who are working to stop sexual abuse in prison. POSRIP puts out a newsletter and sample copies are available from POSRIP, Box 4413, Chicago IL 60680.

A prison project is now being formed to support Gay Community News (GCN) in its long-standing effort to get free subscriptions to the paper to lesbian and gay prisoners. The GCN's Lesbian and Gay Prisoner Project is also attempting to secure books and penpals for gay prisoners, doing

Meet with candidate

Dan Linneman, a candidate for city council in the second ward, will be available to the public for questions on his views about city government from 3:30 to 5 pm Saturday March 7.

Linneman, 1009 W. Monroe, hopes the new ward system will make city government more accessible to more citizens. He encourages residents of the second ward to talk with him about their ideas and problems concerning the city.

The meeting March 7 will be at the Western Avenue Community Center, 1300 W. Locust.

the MEXICAN BORDER CANTINA

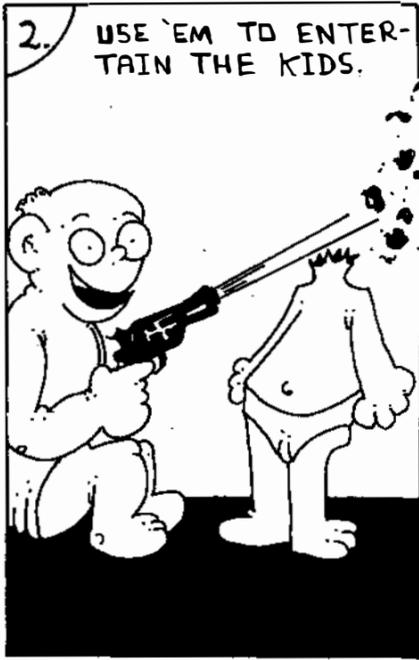
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More letters... letters... letters

page 19
Post-Amerikan

Post wrong about juvenile law

Dear Post,

I would like to comment on your article on page 10 of the January issue. The article states that "The new law requires that any juvenile convicted of a third felony be sentenced to prison until age 21." This is a misstatement of the law.

According to chapter 37, section 705-12 of the Juvenile Court Act, the offense must be one of the following: "murder, voluntary or involuntary

Great to hear women's music

Dear Post,

I just recieved your Feb. 1981 issue and was just thrilled to read your article on Women's music. I recently moved to Normal from Los Angeles and very much miss the feminist surroundings that I had grown accustomed to. From this Tuesday on, I will be tuned to Cathy Ahart's show on WESN.

I was the Los Angeles distributor for two major women's labels and am glad that one woman, Cathy Ahart, and one radio station, WESN, have the courage and insight to make this music available to the public. I also salute you for finding this newsworthy and sharing it with us, your devoted readers.

Thank you,
Carol Bennett
Normal, Illinois

manslaughter, rape or deviate sexual assault, aggravated or heinous battery involving permanent disability or disfigurement or great bodily harm to the victim, burglary of a home, home invasion, robbery or armed robbery, or aggravated arson."

Thus your use of "thief" was inappropriate because theft from a store is not included in the act. Also, the offenders may be sentenced to prison until they reach the age of 21, but they would not serve the full sentence. You indicate that the 13-year-old thief would do 8 years, while the 16-year-old rapist would serve only 5. This does not accurately reflect the time actually served by the offenders.

The habitual offender law provides that "the minor shall be entitled to earn one day of good conduct credit for each day served as reductions against the period of his confinement. Such good conduct credits shall be earned or revoked according to the procedures applicable to... adult prisoners serving determinate sentences for felonies." Thus the actual sentences of the juveniles would be cut in half.

In the future I would appreciate the Post maintaining its otherwise high journalistic standards to documentation.

Randy Johnson

Give this Post to a friend!



Wants narc pix

Post-Amerikan,

Down in Memphis for a year while my ole man finishes his 4th year in the Marines (he's a corporal). I stay in touch with home by having your paper sent here every month. I only have one question. . . why aren't you printing as many narc pics as you used to? Keep up the good work!

Pejo & B.J.

Another 'measly' donation

Hi folks,

Enclosed is a check for \$10, \$3 for renewal of subscription and the rest for a "measly" contribution to your great paper. Keep up the good work.

Blanche Patrick

Life too costly

If people started living longer, it would cost more to pay their pensions --so it might not be a good idea to stamp out cancer too fast.

That was the argument Dr. Gio Gori of the Franklin Institute in Pennsylvania made at the Fourth International Symposium on Prevention and Detection of Cancer last summer. Using Ford Motor Co. figures, Gori also argued that longer lifespans would mean more people and thus more strain on natural resources.

Gori urged planners to be "prudent" in thinking about prevention of cancer and "to anticipate the dimensions and timing of the added social costs" of a lower death rate.

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Read the book, don't wait for the movie

This has been a depressing year for TV news watching.

Even old Walter Cronkite seemed ready to cry a few times.

The election, the economy, MX missiles, John Lennon's murder, and a war criminal for secretary of state is all bleak news.

However, there was one redeeming day last summer, when a young TV scriptwriter upstaged the tragedies, the day Abbie Hoffman emerged from the underground.

In true style, Abbie's re-emergence had numerous messages--the system can be beat, it can be fun, and check out my new book, Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture. Buoyant, alive, and not mourning for the 60s, Abbie's smirk and smile was the only happy news all summer.

The mention of the name, Abbie Hoffman--the clown prince of the 60s youth rebellion--probably brings a nostalgic sigh from most 60s vets and from most 70s survivors, too, who yet yearn for the days of frizzle-headed rampage and provocative theater that Abbie Hoffman represented.

Well sorry, fans, but nostalgia, that craze that brought "Deutsch" Reagan to the White House, ain't for Abbie.

To Abbie, nostalgia is some kind of sick, slightly neurotic disease. Here and now is where it's happening, or where we're gonna make it happen.

Abbie's latest volume, Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture, is as timely and fresh as Woodstock Nation or Steal This Book were (and are).

Abbie doesn't indulge in misty-eyed remembrance of great demonstrations of the past. His main message is that we, the movement, are alive and well, with battles to come that will only be won by looking forward, not backward.

Of course, all the classic tales are here--dropping cash money on the stock exchange floor, the Chicago 8, his romances and life in the underground.

But Abbie is better than just old war stories. His book is packed with insight about the rise and fall of social movements, the American character, politics, and sharp, sensitive, sarcastic insights that rip you into laughter.

Abbie himself is the prime story. Witty, resourceful, he bares his soul, and as always, flaunts his exploits and highs.

Ego, however, is not the outstanding factor. More than an autobiography, this is the history of a generation, alienated by war and consumer culture, fired by idealism, that challenged its parent culture of greed.

Abbie is kind to his old fellow voyagers, doesn't bad mouth those who have gone on to Wall Street or religious cults, though Tom Hayden does catch a few barbs.

He's especially sensitive to the fact that a movement is not a media superstar, but lots of folks everywhere, taking risks and changing their lives and communities.

Abbie burst on the national scene in 1967-68 with YIP, the Democratic convention, and the war.

It's important to know, however, that long before he was parading around in American flag shirts, Abbie Hoffman was putting in his time with the civil

rights movement, registering voters in small Mississippi towns, and fighting under the ACLU's banner against the commie-hunting House Un-American Activities Committee in the early 60's, in small New England towns.

He recognized the vitality and freshness of the hippie phenomenon, and connected it to the anti-war movement, cementing Hippiedom's outlandish cultural challenge to the national struggle.

Like all of us, Abbie Hoffman has grown. Life underground has forced a lot of reassessment and evaluation.

The "generation gap" doesn't impress him as much anymore. He sees more value in united communities, including both old and young folks.

He, unlike a lot of the liberal/radical elite, hasn't rejected American-Hollywood culture, but instead is always looking to inject a message into it--hence his deliberate and successful use of TV and radio, rejecting left rhetoric for unifying image.

Read Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture. It's fresh, it's lively. You'll laugh, read passages aloud to your friends, feel the sting of teargas and storm trooper boots, plus the impish delight of pulling a fast one. Even better, you'll feel better, alive, knowing that you, like Abbie Hoffman, have been a part of something that has changed the face of the nation, regardless of "Deutsch" Reagan, the Moral Majority or Jerry Falwell (and feel twice as good, knowing that you're a part of a crew that I don't think is quite done with change.)

So read this book. If you're really dedicated, steal this book.

There's an infectious disease in its pages bound to dispel the post-inauguration/coronation blues.●

--MgM

Stop the frame-up --demonstrate

The Coalition Against the Pontiac Frame-up has organized a demonstration in support of the Pontiac Brothers to be held at the old courthouse on the square in downtown Bloomington, March 14 at noon.

As you have probably heard, the trials of the 16 men charged with the killing of 3 guards during the riot are about to begin in Chicago. There is also one trial yet to be heard here in McLean County. So now is a good time to show your support of the brothers and say "no" to the State's plan to railroad these men to the electric chair.

The demonstration is planned to coincide with other actions in support of the Pontiac Brothers throughout the country.

Bring a sign and a few friends down to the courthouse March 14. There are also statements of solidarity with the Pontiac Brothers being circulated. If you would like more information about the demonstration or want to circulate a solidarity statement, call Rosemary at 452-6180 or stop in Small Changes Bookstore at 409A N. Main, Bloomington.●

--S.O.

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

If you listen to the city fathers, the Pantagraph, the civic boosters and the phony speechmakers, you would think we lived in a 1930's Hollywood set. But let's look behind the scenes. Each month since April, 1972, the Post-Amerikan has been denting that serene facade, printing the embarrassing truths the city fathers would rather overlook. Take another look at Bloomington-Normal. Subscribe to the Post-Amerikan.

For the next 12 monthly issues, send \$4.00 to Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay - straight rap March 4

The first gay-straight rap of the second semester will be held at the March 4 meeting of Illinois State University's Gay People's Alliance. The meeting begins at 8 pm in room 112 of Fairchild Hall.

These raps are a regular feature of the GPA educational program and are intended to give any interested person, gay or non-gay, student or community member, a chance to ask questions about gay people and gay life. The raps are informal and unstructured.

After the mid-term break, GPA will continue to hold weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 8 pm in Fairchild 112.

Some programs slated for the second half of the semester include a women's reader's theater presentation, a slide program on the Pontiac brothers, a lecture-discussion on communication within lesbian couples, and several other seminars on specific topics related to gay life and gay politics.

GPA will soon have an office on campus, where gay people and their friends can drop in to chat or look at various publications that the organization receives. The GPA speakers bureau continues to provide speakers for groups and classes that request them. You can call 828-9085 to get more information about GPA and its programs. ●

Women's potluck



Is the change in role models getting you down? Are you never allowed in the kitchen anymore since your man friends have discovered the stove? Do you find yourself fantasizing about cheese blintzes or three-bean salads? Have you been known to curl up with Betty Crocker or the Joy of Cooking and consider it only a little light reading before bed-time?

Well, women, your problems are solved. It's hard to believe, I know. But it's true! All you have to do is come to the women's potluck. Imagine it, if you can. Women regaining access to the kitchen, if only for one day a month, and sharing their new-found wealth with other women. Sounds fantastic, doesn't it?

This month's women's potluck will be held on March 22 at 3:00. (That's a Sunday afternoon.) It will be going on at 1404 N. Lee in Bloomington. Remember, this is a once-in-a-month-time chance. Liberate your kitchens! Liberate yourselves! Come to the women's potluck! (This offer will not be repeated until next month.) ●

Feminism and militarism

"Feminism and Militarism: A Conference for Women" sponsored by the War Resisters League will be April 10-12 at YMCA Camp Speers-Eljabar, Dingman's Ferry, Pa. Cost will be \$39 for adults and \$14.50 for children ages 3 to 8.

A panel on "Feminist Perspectives on War, Militarism, and Violence" will begin the weekend. Tentative workshops include: How do feminism and non-violence relate?; The macho mentality, militarism and violence; How does living under the nuclear shadow affect women's lives?

For more info contact War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St. NY NY 10012 (212-228-0450). ●

downstOWN



"Artists have no respect for power, and that is what society cannot tolerate."
--Ti-Grace Atkinson

PATH training time

Spring is the time to reach out and grow. Become a PATH volunteer. Training begins March 18.

PATH, Personal Assistance Telephone Help, provides information and referrals as well as crisis help 24 hours a day.

PATH volunteers can develop personal resources and become familiar with and utilize community resources. The 6-week training includes group and phonerom work. After training, volunteers must meet an 18-hour-a-month commitment for at least 6 months. PATH is particularly looking for people who can work during the summer.

The initial interview will be March 18. Applications must be sent to Juliana Sullivan by March 13. For more info or for an application form, call Sullivan at PATH, 828-1022, during the week from 8:30 am to 2 pm. ●

WZND-- on the air

WZND, the new radio station at Illinois State University, began broadcasting March 1. The station is a carrier current AM/cable FM unit operated by students under faculty supervision.

"The Sound" features rock albums with specialty programs ranging from soul, jazz and blues to more progressive music and new wave.

Specialty programming is going to be the backbone of the new station's format. Evening shows include Top 20 Album Countdown, Roots of Rock, Featured Artist, and New Album Releases.

Program director R.L. Sampson said he has tried to shape "The Sound's" format into an "alternative to the stale Top-40 type of music that is predominant in central Illinois."

WZND is located at 401 Cook Hall on the ISU campus and broadcasts at 106 cable FM and at 540 AM for those living in dorms on campus.

For more info, call 436-5491. ●

Welcome in Spring
105 Broadway • Normal
GUITAR WORLD
We teach you to play, then sell you the right guitar.

Why not generals?

When Ronald Reagan's energy advisors recommended greater emphasis on production and less on conservation, few were surprised. The Reagan task force is headed by a Texas oilman, and among its members are the presidents of Shell and DuPont and the chair of Standard Oil of California.

What is surprising is that there weren't any generals among the Reagan advisors since about half of the federal Energy Department's budget is spent on two programs greatly influenced by the Defense Department: production of nuclear weapons and purchase of petroleum for the strategic reserve.

--info from Fortune

PUNCHLINE?

WHAT PUNCHLINE?

Boy, do I feel like a fool. Here I've gone on the record complimenting the Daily Pantagraph for an action I considered expansive and intelligent, and the geeks go and violate the very terms of that compliment first chance they get.

I refer to the paper's recent editorial treatment of "Doonesbury," Gary Trudeau's acclaimed social and political satire strip. "Doonesbury" has been gracing the "Second Opinion" page of the Pantagraph since fall, and its presence in the paper has been a constant surprise to me.

I remember when the paper dropped both "Li'l Abner" and "Pogo" for being "too political," you see, and neither strip ever matched Trudeau's in its sharp-minded use of real-life political figures and issues.

Walt Kelly's "Pogo," for example, in its finest hours (attacking Sen. Joe McCarthy when most of the country's editorial writers were cowering behind the easy out of red-baiting), still had to mask its political satire behind a set of animal identities--McCarthy becoming a wildcat named Simple J. Malarkey, Nixon drawn as a teapot-shaped spider--but "Doonesbury" has never resorted to such subterfuge. When Trudeau focuses his pen on our 20 Mule Team President, for example, he doesn't shy away from letting us know that, Yes, This Really Is Reagan He's Talking About.

This mild courageousness--amazing in comic strips where a cartoonist like Ernie "Nancy" Bushmiller has been known to eliminate jokes at his bosses' dictates because said jokes were considered too complicated for "Nancy" readers--has earned the strip its share of brickbats. Some readers don't like seeing their fave political hero(ine)s being so openly satirized.

Reagan's Brain

Consider the following: when "Doonesbury" ran a pre-election sequence consisting of a TV documentary trip "inside Reagan's brain," ten different newspapers refused to run the strip in its regular spot.

Some eliminated the offending six-day sequence altogether; others took it out of the comics section and placed it on the editorial page; others held the strips until after the election, apparently fearful that the entire electoral process would be affected by a comic strip.

That brand of censorship has been practically a yearly event with "Doonesbury" (last year several newspaper editors got bent out of shape over a sequence parodying Virginia Sen. John Warner and his wife, Liz Taylor).

The "Reagan's Brain" sequence, amazingly, appeared intact in the Pantagraph, though, and here's where the part about my feeling foolish comes in. Within days of its appearance, the paper was printing letters condemning the strip and the paper itself for ever running



The truncated Doonesbury: note the darker periods and cloddishly rendered question mark that have been tacked onto Zeke's final line.

it.

Never mind the fact that "Doonesbury" was run from the start on the editorial pages, and that there are much more offensive items run there regularly (George Will, for instance). Never mind the fact that--with the exception of "For Better or Worse" (a well-rendered but innocuous strip)--the paper's actual "comic" page consists of strips that are about as culturally contemporary as a re-run of the "Gale Storm Show." Never mind the fact that editorial cartoonists like Pat Olliphant were frequently appearing with equally caustic sketches of our president-to-be. Heck hath no fury like an outraged Reaganite.

Which is where yours truly, sap that I am, fits in. After reading the first "Doonesbury" denunciation to appear (from a Ms. Judy Stein of Normal, who demanded that the paper "cancel the sick thing"), I felt spurred to dash off a defense of the strip. This I did, complimenting the paper for its wise selection in running Trudeau's work and praising the strip for its even-handed humanistic satire.

So how was I to know that three months later they'd start slicing into "Doonesbury"?

Mild Stuff

Compared to the Reagan sequences, the first censored strip (Friday, Feb. 27) was pretty mild: not a political personality in sight. The strip in question concerns titular hero Mike Doonesbury's relationship with his current flame, J. J., and the intrusive presence of J.J.'s former "old man" Zeke. Mike and J.J. are preparing for an evening on the town, and Zeke is an awkwardness that J.J. wants to ignore. "You don't have to talk to him," she tells Mike, but as soon as she's out of the room, Zeke is trying to gain

our hero's attention by asking, "Hey, you know what drives her wild, man?" The final line is J.J.'s off-panel shriek.

It's an amusing strip, based like many of Trudeau's nonpolitical sequences, on verbal timing and economy. Zeke, in his role of scene spoiler, acts like a parody of hip machismo, but what makes his clumsy attempt at camaraderie so funny is the fact that Mike is still paying attention to it and J.J. obviously knows Mike will pay attention to it.

Part of the strip's joke, then, lies in the assumed complicity that even the most sensitive male shares with his sexist brothers: even if Mike knows that Zeke is a callous fool, we know he'll also hear him out and to some degree register what Zeke is saying. Because Trudeau is one of our most verbal cartoonists, much of "Doonesbury's" humor arises out of what characters don't say as much as what they do.

Needless to say, that brand of verbal humor isn't something that any old hack editor should be fooling around with. Yet that very act of manhandling occurred on the Pantagraph editorial page.

Instead of printing Zeke's final line

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*Program has now been opened to city-wide participation.

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intact, some hamfist with liquid paper and a pen cut the second half of the sentence. The result of this slicework turns Zeke's final line into "Hey, you want to know . . . ?"--which is so nonspecific a sentence fragment that it renders the whole strip incomprehensible (or at least no longer funny).

At A Loss

Now this act of censorship shouldn't have stunned me, but it did. After all, "Dear Abby" contains blunter discussions of you-know-what these days, and barely a week goes by without the paper's television columnist describing that medium's highs/lows in matters sexual with much franker phrases than Zeke's. Heck, previous Trudeau strips have been much more upfront about their characters' activities.

Frankly, I'm at a loss trying to figure what sparked the sudden shift in policy. Were the editors offended by the implication that college students might be engaging in--choke!--premarital sex? Or were they just offended by the fact that J.J. obviously doesn't have enough good taste when it comes to partners in premarital sex?

Or was Pantagraph editor Harold Liston just getting edgy because he hadn't made a fool of himself lately? (It's been a long time since "Sunday Sundries," Hal!) Darned if I know.

But I do know two things.

Censor something and you've opened the way to further acts of blue-nose-penciling. Censors, as TV columnist Tom Shales pointed out the following day in the paper's arts and television section, can be arbitrary and about as aesthetically sensitive as a decaying wart-hog. (But at least the wart-hog just lies there and rots.)

I also know not to be surprised when I come upon any future "Doonesbury" strips that read like a movie where the projectionist has accidentally lost a reel. I'm not getting foolish again.●

--Bill Sherman



Toll free numbers

Page 23

You can make phone calls to all parts of the country--free!--just by using a toll-free phone number. There are hundreds and hundreds of toll-free phone numbers that manufacturers and service organizations have set up for your use.

Any phone number preceded by an "800" prefix instead of an area code prefix is a toll-free number. When you dial it, no charge is registered against your phone. You may call a toll-free number as often as necessary--without charge--and you may speak as long as you wish.

If you dial a toll-free number which is no longer in service, you can call toll-free information service by dialing 800-555-1212 (from anywhere in the U.S.) and the information operator will advise you if there is a new toll-free phone listing.

Millions of people use toll-free numbers every day to make travel reservations, check prices, order merchandise, etc. But there are also toll-free numbers that give you access to public service information and provide a place to make complaints about matters of concern to socially conscious individuals. If you are one of these folks, the following numbers may be of interest to you:

Auto Safety: For information on which car models have been recalled by a manufacturer for repair of a defect; to report any safety-related defect that you have found in your own car. 800-424-9393.

Consumer Product Safety Commission: For complaints about products consumers have found unsatisfactory or unsafe. 800-638-8780.

Educational Grants: For information

on Basic Education Grants program. 800-553-6350.

Election Commission: For information on fundraising regulations and requesting financial reports of federal candidates. 800-424-9530.

Energy Resources Administration: For complaints concerning overcharges on gas and heating oil. 800-424-9246.

Energy Regulatory Commission: To answer questions on the administration of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. 800-424-5200.

Housing--Fair and Equal Opportunity: For complaints about housing discrimination. 800-424-8590.

Interstate Commerce Commission: For advice on problems arising out of use of public transportation or in the moving of household goods. 800-424-9312.

Medical Advice: For the name of a local doctor when seeking a second opinion before surgery. 800-331-1000.

Refugee Aid: For information on teaching and language aids for refugees. 800-424-3750.

Runaway Hotline: For runaway children who want to pass messages on to their parents without revealing where they are. 800-972-6004 (in Illinois); 800-621-4000 (elsewhere in the country).

Solar Heating and Cooling Information Center: For non-technical information on solar heating and cooling for homes and commercial buildings. 800-523-2929.●

Source: The Directory of Toll-Free Phone Numbers (1980).

Planting the seed of disloyalty

The free market rhetoric of US corporations is coming back to haunt them: more and more corporate managers are casting aside company loyalty in favor of grabbing the job with the biggest bucks.

According to National Personnel Associates, a network of independent recruiters, almost one of every three managers has a resumé circulating. The trend is especially strong among young managers--half will leave their first corporation within five years.

Such statistics have left alarmed corporations looking for ways to re-establish corporate loyalty, says Fortune, which predicts that a prolonged recession would have the positive effect of increasing loyalty. "When it comes to establishing loyalty," says one boss, "I have yet to find a substitute for fear."●

--info from Fortune

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Even the state Agriculture Department has developed a taste for secret police operations.

Something called the Compliance Staff of the Division of Meat, Poultry and Livestock Inspection recently completed "an undercover investigation in 85 of Illinois' 102 counties," according to the ag department's newsletter AgScene.

The AgNarcs, posing as buyers of breeding swine, were looking for farmers selling swine without proper tests for brucellosis and pseudorabies, two swine diseases. The AgNarcs filed charges against four farmers.

Farmers are a notoriously independent



1984 on the hog farm

lot, and the ag department was apparently a bit nervous after its try in the secret police field.

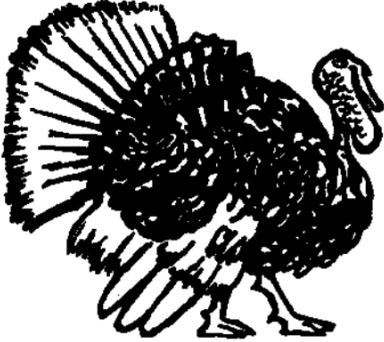
"We wish to stress," AgScene reported defensively, "that no one was contacted relative to purchasing swine unless that person had publicly advertised breeding swine for sale and no one was coerced in any way to sell swine."

Maybe so, but I doubt many farmers will be glad to hear that the ag department has copied the secret police tactics of drug agents, the FBI, and the big city red squads.

Farmers, like the rest of us, can expect more of this sort of thing. But don't blame the Post; we've warned our readers repeatedly that the secret-police craze is catching. ●

--D. LeSeure

Post-Amerikan
page 24



New fairness doctrine

The rich get richer and the poor get what's left. That's only fair, explains the new Reagan regime, because after all the rich were richer to start with.

Huh?

"We're trying to be fair about it," Treasury Secretary Donald Regan said recently in defense of Ronald Reagan's tax cut plan. "Those who pay the most taxes, when we make an equal 10% cut across the board, will get a greater part of the savings. That's only natural. I see nothing wrong in being fair to everybody."

Regan stopped short of actually claiming that the graduated income tax was never intended to make the rich, who can afford it, pay more than everyone else. But Reagan budget director, David Stockman, did offer the novel opinion that the new administration is unable to identify the rich and therefore unable to tax them more heavily than the poor.

Expect more of this doubletalk. ●

--Post-Amerikan

USDA discovers organic farming

The US Department of Agriculture has been charged with neglecting the "new breed" of farmers, those who avoid or largely exclude use of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and feed additives. Now the USDA has completed its first study of organic farming and finds it surprisingly varied and successful.

Organic farming is not limited to young upstarts using old-fashioned methods on small plots of land. The study reports that the size of organic farms the USDA team encountered ranged from 10 to 1500 acres. The farmers, in general, were found to use modern farm machinery, recommended crop varieties, certified seed and sound methods of waste management and soil and water conservation.

The organic farmers themselves varied in age, with 42% being 50 or older. Forty-four per cent had 30 years of farming experience, usually including more chemical-oriented crop production.

"In most cases, the team members found that these farms, both large and small, were productive, efficient and well-managed," says the USDA report. The team found a wide variety of practices, attitudes and philosophies within the community of organic farmers. Some common practices, however, are to rotate plants including legumes and cover plants to provide adequate nitrogen in the soil and to feed livestock grain and forage and then return the manure to the land. The USDA team was impressed with organic farmers' ability to control weeds through timely tillage and cultivation, delayed planting, and crop rotation.

In comparison with more conventional chemical-based US agriculture, the USDA team finds organic farming more labor intensive but requiring less energy. The team calculates that the economic return above variable costs was greater for conventional corn and soybean farms than for the rotations of several crops on organic farms. Still, when costs of detrimental aspects of conventional farming, such as water pollution, soil erosion, and depleted nutrient reserves, are included, the USDA report says the cost comparisons may be different. ●

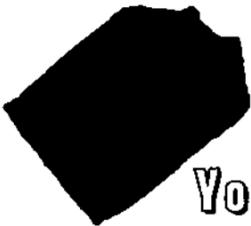
--Science News



Mike Peters
The Dayton Daily News
United Feature Syndicate

You bought a bomb

The Pentagon budget of \$180-plus billion for next year works out to almost \$820 per person. What did your 800 bucks buy? ●



POST AMERIKAN



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