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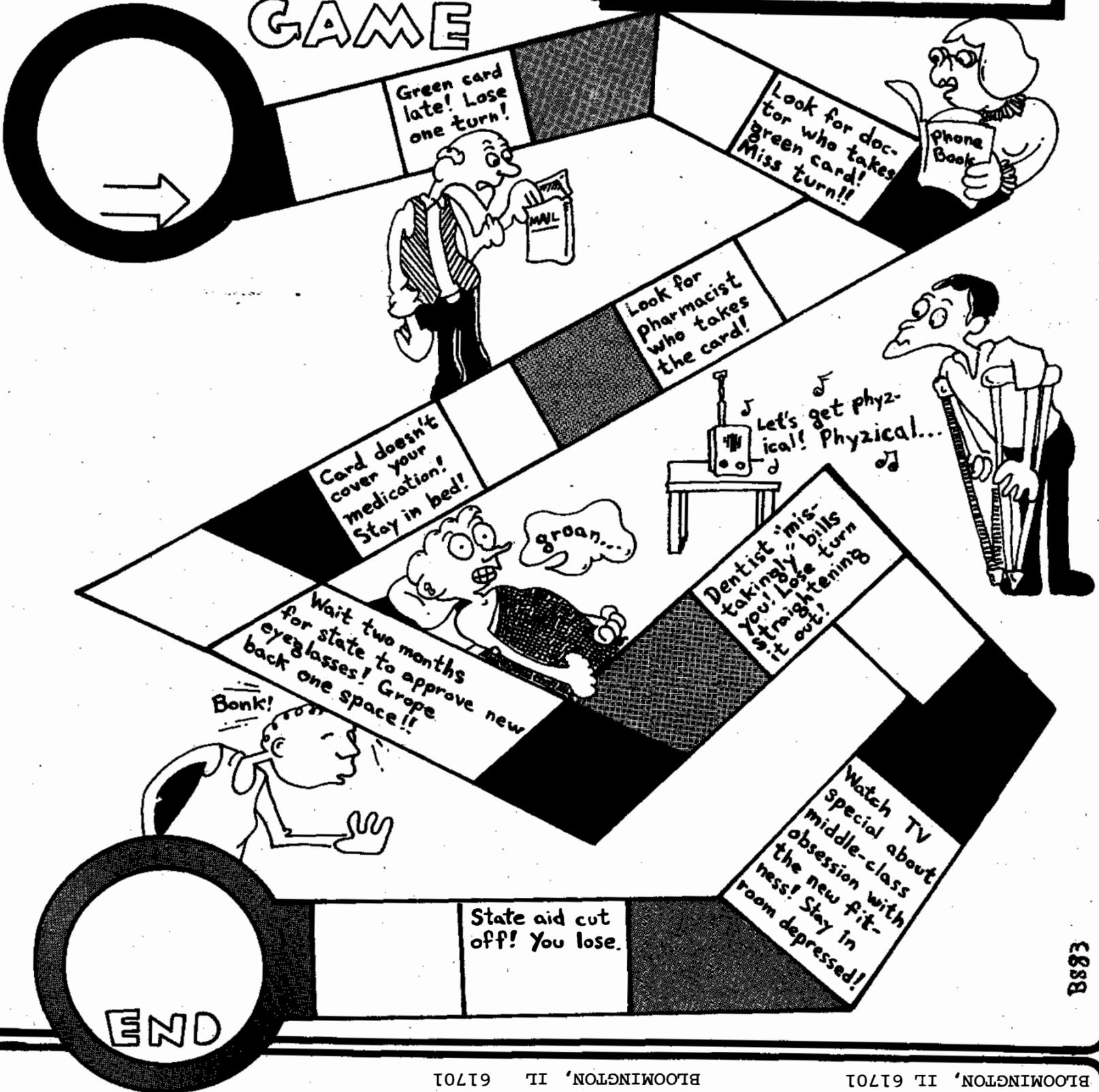
POST AMERICAN

Vol.11 No.10

March 1983

THE HEALTH GAME

OBJECT OF GAME:
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B883

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POST

A·M·E·R·I·K·A·N

The Post Amerikan--Bloomington-Normal's Alternative Since 1972.

Volume 11, number 10, March 1983
P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701

Member Alternative Press Syndicate
Indexed in the Alternative Press Index

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings. We put out ten issues a year. Staff members take turns as "Coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, graphics, photography, paste-up, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, and news tips from our readers, and if you'd like to join us call 828-7232 and leave a message with our answering machine. We'll get back to you, usually within a week.

We like to print your letters. Try to limit yourself to the equivalent of two double-spaced typewritten pages. If you write a short, abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. Long, abusive letters, however, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles. Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letter printed.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe that it is very important to keep a paper like this around. If you think so too, then support us through contributions and by letting our advertisers know you saw their ads in the Post Amerikan.

The deadline for submissions for the April issue is March 24.

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Post sellers

BLOOMINGTON

Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front
Ault Pharmacy, 1102 S. Main
The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
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Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Front and Center Bldg.
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Haag Drugstore, 1110 E. Oakland
Law & Justice Center, W. Front
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main
Pantagraph (in front of building), 301 W. Washington
The Park Store, Wood & Allin
Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A Main
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire (at exit)
U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
Washington St., across from courthouse
W.W. Bake Shop, 801 E. Washington

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
Blue Dahlia, 121 E. Beaufort
ISU University Union, 2nd floor
ISU University Union, parking lot entrance
ISU Milner Library (entrance)
Fink's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.
North & Broadway, southeast corner
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
Record Service, Watterson Place
Redbird IGA, 310 S. Main
Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway (in front)

OUTTA TOWN

Urbana, Horizon Bookstore, 517 S. Goodwin
Blackburn College Bookstore, Carlinville, Illinois

THANKS

This issue is in your hands thanx to Diana, Laurie, Susie, Ralph, Jody, Holly, Bobby, Ann, Danny, Sue, Dan, Steve, Melissa, Bumper, Dave, Bill, Mark, X, Michael, Eric, Susan, Gary, JT, Deborah (coordinator) and probably others we forgot.

Special thanx to Chief Donald Story, President Ronald Reagan, and the Reverend Jerry Falwell for providing the inspiration and the determination for us to carry on.

Post-Amerikan ad rates

Display ad rates are \$100/page. 10% discount for a six-in-a-row contract; 20% discount for a 12-in-a-row contract.

SIZE	REG.	10% off	20% off
1/6 page..	\$16.67..	\$15.00..	\$13.33
1/5 page...	20.00...	18.00...	16.00
1/4 page...	25.00...	22.50...	20.00
1/3 page...	33.33...	30.00...	26.67
1/2 page...	50.00...	45.00...	40.00

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Ads. the size of standard business cards (3½" wide by 2" tall) will be reduced slightly and appear in the paper as one column wide 3" and 1 3/4" tall.

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6-in-a-row contract..... \$42.00
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RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS

One insertion..... \$6.00
6-in-a-row contract \$33.00
12-in-a-row contract..... \$60.00

MAKE-UP CHARGE..... \$1.00

Moving?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post Amerikan will not be forwarded. (It's like junk mail--no kidding.) If you don't have a subscription, get one! For the next 12 issues, send \$4 to P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington IL 61701. Thanks!

Animal experimentation: If the public only knew

page 3

In the United States the use of animals in biomedical research and related activities represents an enormous, essentially unregulated industry that annually spends between \$9 and \$10 billion of public tax money. It also consumes between 60 and 80 million animals, including 50 million mice, 18 million rats, 1.4 million hamsters, 1.5 million guinea-pigs, 1.2 million rabbits, 400,000 dogs, 115,000 cats, 35,000 primates, and over 8 million non-mammalian vertebrates.

The rats, mice and non-mammalian vertebrates presently have no protection under the Animal Welfare Act or any other existing legislation.

Biomedical researchers often contend that the public should not be concerned about laboratory animals, since they are adequately protected, and since either anesthetics or pain-killers are routinely used during and after experimental procedures. These statements are false.

Millions of animals undergo incredible agony and suffering in toxicity testing, drug development, infectious disease research, behavioral studies and other procedures in which the researchers do not utilize anesthetics



or pain-killers because the law does not require their use and they would "interfere" with the conduct of the experiment. No laws protect animals during experimentation. Existing federal laws only regulate the transportation, caging and care of a few species of laboratory animals.

Two sets of laws

Cruelty laws in most states, including Illinois, specifically exempt laboratory animals. If an individual were to cut, burn or mutilate an animal on the streets of Bloomington/Normal, they could be charged with cruelty. However, if precisely the same thing were done in a research laboratory, nothing would happen. In effect, there are two sets of laws: one for the general public and one for the experimenters.

Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established standards of proper animal care for laboratories and is responsible for inspecting research facilities, the system is not working. Inspections are infrequent, often cursory, do not include the research laboratories (where many of the animals are kept) and are not adequately funded.

The principal funding agency for biomedical research, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recognizes that since the physical conditions under which laboratory animals are housed, raised, and transported do affect the behavior and physiology of those animals, there is a need for uniform, optimal standards of care. Failure to provide such care would invalidate any research conducted on those animals.



Together we can make a difference.

Unfortunately NIH does not regulate what is done to the animals and has no mandatory inspections; compliance with the guidelines is strictly on the honor system. There are no watchdogs independent of the research establishment. The emphasis is on self-regulation and not the needs or rights of the animals.

No public input

For the billions of tax dollars spent every year on biomedical research, the public has no input or influence on how that money is spent and derives little benefit from most of the work. The public cannot learn what happens in the laboratories. "Red carpet" tours show the public only what the institution wants them to see--not what actually happens behind closed and locked doors. This secrecy is maintained because supposedly "the public would not understand," a convenient way to evade accountability.

Perhaps the toughest standards for laboratory animal care are those of the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). Only a few institutions have applied for such accreditation, and Dr. Harold Feinberg (former National Chair of AAALAC) noted "what we worry about is cage space, cleanliness, training of animal caretakers, and nutrition. The organization cannot say anything about what the animals are used for, so it's like being a good concentration camp guard Somebody has to start asking, 'What are you doing in those laboratories?'"

Finally asking

Someone is now asking that question and doing something to change the existing system. Mobilization for Animals (MFA) is a coalition of more than 130 national, local, and inter-

national animal welfare and humane groups. MFA is dedicated to initiating and continuing a direct-action campaign to free animals from exploitation and suffering. Mobilization is concerned with fostering and promoting the protection and advancement of all sentient creatures in all spheres of social interaction. Through its coalition member groups, Mobilization works to create a world in which no animal will ever again be the victim of suffering inflicted by humans.

The first major project of MFA is organization for large mass mobilizations at the regional Primate Research Centers in Boston, Atlanta, Madison, Wis., and Davis Cal., on April 24, 1983. This is only the first step, and after that date, we will initiate another major direct action project with a different focus, while continuing to pursue the objectives of the Primate Centers action.

Throughout the process of building for massive, visible public gatherings, we are bringing into existence a broad-based international network of activists which will remain in place and grow stronger with each passing year, exerting pressure on all those who oppress or harm animals, and raising public consciousness about the nature of animal suffering, while offering solutions to the problem.

Local work

MFA is organizing in the Bloomington-Normal area to work on local issues and to get people to the demonstration in Madison on April 24. This will be the largest, most visible activity in the history of the animal welfare movement. There has never been this level of unity. But to make these actions a reality and to get meaningful change, we need your help. We need people in all areas, from campus and community outreach to letter writing and fund raising.

Alternatives exist for the majority of the uses and abuses of laboratory animals, but they are not being used and the agony continues. For more information, to get involved, or to sign up for the buses to Madison, contact John McArdle, Illinois Coordinator for MFA, 1001 Elder St., Bloomington, Ill., 61701. As noted by Jeremy Bentham, 19th Century moral philosopher, "The question is not can they Reason, not can they Talk, but can they Suffer?" ●

--John McArdle

They Can't Say How Much It Hurts....



SEVENTY MILLION ANIMALS ARE KILLED EACH YEAR IN AMERICAN LABORATORIES.

Unimaginable pain, suffering and mutilation can be inflicted upon them without violating the law. Some of the tortures include burning, starving, blinding and cutting without anesthesia. The government spends \$4,000,000,000 annually or nearly \$8,000 each minute to keep the torture going.

For More Information: Call 829-3065

or write MOBILIZATION FOR ANIMALS, Illinois Office, 1001 Elder Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61701.

Contributions are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Letters from the draft board

If you've recently received a letter from the Selective Service (SS)--or think that you might get one soon--there are a number of things you need to know about such correspondence. Trying to con half-a-million resisters into registering, SS is using a variety of approaches.

Some mailings sent out by SS have taken a shot-gun approach and involve very little risk for the resister. These letters are an attempt to frighten you into doing something that is not in your own best interest. The letter from SS does not mean your status as a resister has been recognized, and in most cases there is no need to reply to an SS mailing.

John Landau, a staff attorney at CCCO, places the letters to suspected resisters into five categories:

1. Mailings to Commercial Lists. These letters and postcards have been sent by third class mail to both registrants and non-registrants. The addresses were purchased from high schools, magazines, mailing houses, etc. There is no risk involved in ignoring this kind of mailing because SS plans no follow-up.

2. Letters from IRS. These letters are mailed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by first class mail to people who SS suspects are not registered. These letters begin, "Dear Sir: The IRS has mailed this letter for SS. Although the IRS has not



given your address to SS, it may be required to give this information in the future if you fail register." The IRS has announced that it will turn over to SS only an initial batch of 200 addresses of people who do not respond. In other words, recipients of this letter stand a very small chance of being prosecuted. On the other hand, if you receive a second letter by certified mail, the risk of prosecution has greatly increased.

3. Letters to DMV Lists. These letters are being sent to addresses obtained by SS from state Departments of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and they begin, "Dear Sir: Government records have identified you as a person who apparently has not registered with SS." The risk in not responding to this letter is slightly higher because the SS is already in possession of current information supplied by your state's DMV. On the other hand, it is likely that tens of thousands of men will not respond to this letter, and SS will probably decide to prosecute only a small sample chosen by a random computer selection. Once again, if you receive a second letter by certified mail, the risk of prosecution increases greatly.

4. Letters to Self-Reported Resisters. Sent by certified mail to resisters who have reported to SS that they have no intention of registering, these warnings involve a high risk of possible prosecution.

5. Letters from the Justice Department. Sent by the local U.S. Attorney by certified mail, these letters involve

the highest risk of prosecution if you don't register by the date given in the letter.

As a non-registrant, you have three options if you receive either the IRS or DMV letters (#2 and #3 above). First, you may not respond at all; SS has no proof that you ever received the letter. Many of these have been received by women, men in the active military, men who are either too old or too young to register, non-immigrant aliens, and others who are not required to register. SS policy so far requires a certified letter to be sent prior to prosecution. You always have the option of registering following the receipt of that second letter.

Your second option is to register. SS says it will not prosecute late registrants, but you will then be on the list for any future draft. This option cannot be reversed and should not be taken without consulting a draft counselor.

The third option, which some resisters think is the only one consistent with their beliefs, is to tell SS that you refuse to register. This response will increase your risk of prosecution, and if you are indicted it will be used against you in court.

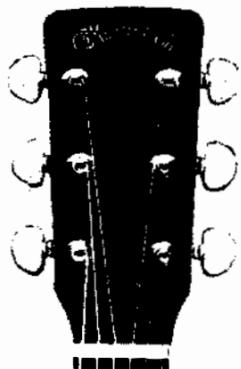
If you receive a certified letter from SS or from the Justice Department (#4 and #5 above), you have the option of not accepting or signing for the letter. Then SS will not have proof of notification, and they will be forced to have the FBI investigate you prior to indictment. While it's not clear what SS will do with certified letters that are returned unaccepted, it seems certain that the Justice Dept. will follow up.

In any case, don't panic. If you have not received a certified letter, you have not been located by SS and will probably never hear another word from them. But just in case, you should contact a draft counselor in your area right away. A counselor will help you define your response to the SS letter.

For more information about letters from SS, send \$1.50 for a copy of the January 20, 1983, issue of The Objector to CCCO, 1250 Second Ave., San Francisco CA 94122. Other questions about the draft can be sent to: Draft Counseling, RECON Publications, P. O. Box 1462, Philadelphia PA 19134. ●

--Chris Robinson
RECON

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**If you want to talk to one of us,
Call PATH 827-4005
and ask for the**

rape crisis center

Sanders' victim seeks compensation from city

Patrolman Tom Sanders and the City of Bloomington may soon be defendants in a second lawsuit alleging that Sanders' overly aggressive conduct has violated someone's civil rights.

David Butler, attorney for Brian Dietrich, told the Post-Amerikan that a civil lawsuit against Sanders and the city could be filed in the near future. Butler said he intended to try to negotiate a settlement with the city first, but would resort to a suit if necessary.

Dietrich spent 5 days in the hospital in early November after being knocked to the booking room floor by Officer Sanders. Sanders broke his own hand in the incident.

Dietrich, 18, had been arrested by another officer for driving while intoxicated and illegal consumption of alcohol. After an exchange of words, Dietrich shoved Officer Sanders. Instead of taking steps to restrain the intoxicated young man, Sanders simply hauled off and slugged him in the head.

Dietrich was charged with battery for pushing Sanders.

The battery charge was dropped in plea bargaining, and Dietrich paid a \$300 fine on one of the alcohol charges.

The incident prompted Police Chief Donald Story to reopen his "internal investigation" of Tom Sanders. At

first, Story told the Post-Amerikan in November, "I thought this would be the straw that broke the camel's back." But after reading reports of other officers at the scene, Story was more restrained.

"I don't think Sanders was out of line on this one," Chief Story told the Post-Amerikan, "but I do think he used some bad judgment."

"Bad judgment" is what State's Attorney Ron Dozier labeled the Sanders' conduct which prompted the first civil rights suit against the officer. In that 1980 incident, Sanders shot an innocent man at the Regal 8 Motel in Bloomington, causing him permanent brain damage. A \$9.5 million suit is pending.

Last November, Chief Story told the

Unlawful restraint

Will the person who wrote in suggesting we research a certain 1979 or 1980 unlawful restraint complaint please call us? We need to get a few more details in order to find the report you want us to look at. Call 828-6885 or leave a message about how we can get in touch on the answering machine at 828-7232.

Post-Amerikan that his investigation of Sanders was still incomplete, because his detectives had not been able to talk with Brian Dietrich.

In January, Story said nothing had changed, but he expected that his men would be talking with Dietrich after the criminal charges were resolved. "Dietrich's attorney still has not got back with us," Story said. Dietrich's attorney, David Butler, said he hasn't gotten back to the police chief because there was no phone call to return and no letter to answer. "His investigation isn't being held up because of us," Butler said.

Now that the criminal charges have been cleared up, I asked Chief Story how the investigation of Sanders was progressing.

"I have no more comments on the Sanders matter," Story said.

But Story will be hearing more about the Brian Dietrich matter.

"I can definitely tell you that we're not going to drop this," Attorney Butler told the Post-Amerikan. "I want to see first if we can resolve this without a lawsuit." If negotiations are not successful, the City of Bloomington will be facing its second lawsuit because of the actions of Patrolman Tom Sanders.

How many more will there be? ●

--Mark Silverstein

'Already punished'

Charges against Sanders' victim thrown out

Charges of battery and resisting arrest filed July 15 by Bloomington patrolman Tom Sanders against Alan Mann have been dismissed by the McLean County state's attorney's office.

The arrest had sparked charges that Officer Sanders had used racial slurs, applied excessive force, and violated Mann's civil rights (see Post Amerikan, vol. 11, no. 8).

Sanders was arresting Mann for an ordinance violation, for allegedly holding an open can of beer in the parkway in front of Mann's home.

In making the arrest, Sanders eventually struck Mann in the face with both his fist and a long-handled flashlight. Mann suffered a broken nose.

According to the court file, Assistant State's Attorney Todd Greenberg dismissed the battery and resisting arrest charges based on "prosecutorial discretion."

Greenberg told the Post Amerikan that a jury might choose to acquit Mann, who has maintained his innocence all along.

"Because the officer in this case applied physical force," Assistant State's Attorney Greenberg said, "the jury might be inclined to believe the defendant had already been punished."

Paxton Bowers, Bloomington's asst. corporation counsel, doesn't think the defendant has already been punished. Bowers is in charge of prosecuting city ordinance violations. Despite the state's decision to drop the rest of the charges filed by Officer Sanders, Bowers said the public drinking charge against Mann is set for the April jury calendar.

In the same week he dismissed the charges against Alan Mann, Assistant State's Attorney Greenberg also plea-bargained another of Officer Sanders' more famous cases. When 18-year-old Brian Dietrich was down at the station for drunk driving Oct. 31, Sanders broke his own hand punching out Dietrich, who had to spend five days in the hospital (see Post Amerikan, vol. 11, #8). Greenberg dropped the subsequent battery charge Sanders filed against Dietrich, letting him pay a \$300 fine on one of the alcohol violations.

Asked if the cases of physical confrontation involving Officer Sanders suggested a pattern to him, Assistant State's Attorney Greenberg hesitated. "I don't think I can comment on that," he said. ●

Every dog doth have its day

No one knows the reasons
Why a man would pull a trigger,
Bash a suspect in the face,
Or call a man a nigger.

Why he deemed it necessary
To punch a man named Brian?
When Debra Smith said, "I'm okay,"
Did he think that she was lyin'?

I still don't know how a man like
this can sleep.
For me that remains to be seen.
Maybe getting violent is a ritual
he performs
On every Halloween.

Do they teach this man to be
dangerous?
And does he know the laws?

To beat a man on the head with a sap
And have no probable cause.

It may have been prevented
That hot August at Regal 8.
But he pulled the trigger more than
once,
And now it's much too late.

They had some misgivings
About the judgment Sanders used,
But what of all his victims being
Shot at and abused?

I think that sometime soon
They will carry him away.
Because I believe that somehow
Every dog doth have its day! ●

--Kim Lichtman

--Mark Silverstein

Immune deficiency hits

It has struck 891 people as of Jan. 15, 1983, and has killed 333 of them. Almost three-fourths of the people who first got the disease are dead. Since it was detected in 1981, the number of cases has doubled every six months.

This epidemic is being called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): "acquired" because its victims didn't inherit it, "immune deficiency" because the one thing they have in common is a breakdown of their immune systems, and "syndrome" because the rare and ravaging diseases that take

advantage of the victims' collapsed defenses are the actual killers (see Post, v. 11, no. 6).

So far, AIDS has hit young homosexual men, users of intravenous drugs and their sexual partners, Haitians, hemophiliacs, and children. Seventy-five percent of the cases are gay or bisexual men, mostly between 20 and 35 years of age. Fewer than 5% of those with AIDS are women; of this small number, all are heterosexual women and most are either prostitutes or women

who have had sexual contact with men who have AIDS.

Most of the heterosexual men who have AIDS are intravenous drug users, although there also seems to be a pattern of AIDS in heterosexual Haitian men, both in Haiti and the United States. Most AIDS victims are from the major U.S. metropolitan areas of New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Houston, although the tally of cases includes some from Japan, Greece, and London.

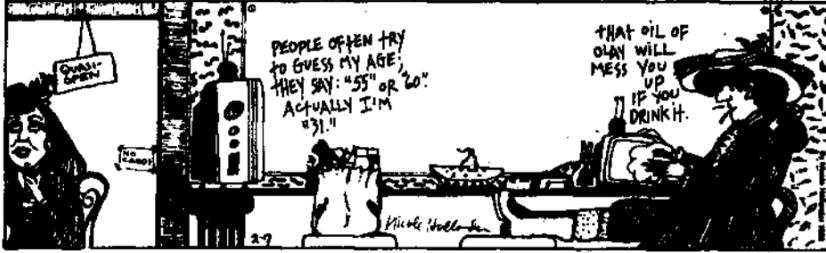
Sexually transmitted

"The leading hypothesis is that the disorder may have a cause which may be transmissible," said Dr. James Curran, director of the Task Force on AIDS of the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC). Many physicians have suggested that AIDS appears, like hepatitis B, to be sexually transmitted, through some agent in semen, urine, or blood.

At first AIDS' victims feel as though they might have the flu, as if they've

Sylvia

by Nicole Hollander



Post Amerikan

vol. 11

no. 10

March 1983

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\$11.3 million proposed for AIDS in '84

The 1984 budget released by the Reagan administration includes a proposed \$11.3 million allocation for AIDS research. The budget specifies \$2 million in funding for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, and a \$9.3 million research package for the National Institute for Health (NIH).

The CDC allocation of \$2 million is the same amount received by the Center last year for AIDS research. The \$9.3 million for NIH, however, represents a \$1.4 million increase over last year's budget.

Opposition to AIDS funding is already beginning to be heard from the new-right camp. Conservatives are claiming that the approval of \$2 million for AIDS last December was the result of "militant homosexual" lobbying. And a right-wing newspaper, the obviously misnamed Human Events, has taken what may be the opposition's main position on the issue: reduced promiscuity in the gay community would solve the problem faster than federal funding.

Gay activists did indeed have to lobby long and hard to assure passage

of the \$2 million appropriation in the lame-duck session of Congress last year. (Congress has approved funding for only 3 new health projects in the past 2 years.)

The bill for AIDS funding, first submitted in September, asked for \$15 million. Gay groups in San Francisco and Los Angeles were instrumental in getting the legislation introduced by Rep. Phillip Burton (D-CA) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA).

Concern about continued funding for AIDS research intensified with the Reagan nomination of former Rep. Margaret Heckler as the new secretary of health and human services. While Heckler is considered by some to be a "liberal" Republican (primarily because she supported ERA), her voting record on gay issues is distressing.

During the last Congress, Heckler voted in favor of the amendment to prevent Legal Services Corporation from handling gay-related cases, and she voted in favor of Jerry Falwell's campaign to let stand the 19th-century sex laws that govern Washington D.C. and provide sanctions against certain gay and nongay sex acts. In her campaign against Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), who defeated her last fall, Heckler blasted Frank for his cosponsorship of the House gay rights bill.

Sen. Robert Packwood (R-OR) has promised to question Heckler about her antigay voting record when she appears for confirmation hearings sometime this month. Packwood will also ask for her assurance that she will maintain a nondiscriminatory attitude in running HHS. ●

--Ferdurke

Sources: The Advocate, 3 March 1983; Gay Community News, 19 Feb. 1983.

Common Ground

NATURAL FOODS

516 N. Main St.

Bloomington, Ill. 61701



Come visit our newly remodeled store. We have more of everything, including an expanded produce section, to serve you better.

COMMON GROUND now offers you the opportunity to cut food and vitamin costs by 10%. You may obtain your 10% discount club card in the following two ways:

- (1) You may purchase a discount card for a yearly fee of \$10.
- (2) You may earn a free discount card by accumulating \$50 worth of COMMON GROUND sales receipts. Simply save your receipts until you have a total of \$50, at which time we will present you with a FREE 10% discount card good for one year.

Once you have your discount card, simply present it at the checkout counter for a 10% discount on every purchase.

Our wide selection of wholesome foods now includes gourmet coffee beans fresh produce

new groups

been to one party too many. But 6 to 18 months later, they still feel the same way. They don't know it, but they have lost their ability to fight off disease.

Then about a third develop Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer of the skin or internal organs. The rest come down with an unusual pneumonia called pneumocystis or one of a long list of so-called "opportunistic" infections that don't affect people whose immune systems are working properly.

At first, when most of AIDS victims appeared to be gay men, medical people suspected drugs, especially poppers. The CDC task force found that gay men with AIDS were more likely than healthy gay men to use marijuana and cocaine, to have many anonymous sexual partners, and to engage in sexual practices that cause abrasions and expose the men to small amounts of blood and feces. Gay AIDS patients also had a history of sexually transmitted diseases, such as hepatitis.

Another theory--the "immune overload" theory--developed when AIDS began to show up among intravenous drug users. This theory holds that both promiscuous gays and drug addicts are so barraged by years of infections that their immune systems finally give out.

The Haitians

But then the Haitians turned up. Early in the fall of 1981, Miami physicians reported to CDC that four Haitians had died of opportunistic infections; a few months later they reported several new Haitian patients. Doctors in Brooklyn also began to see Haitians with AIDS.

By January of 1982, 10 months after the CDC first heard about AIDS, 2% of all the cases were Haitians. What few reports came to the CDC from Haiti indicated that both Kaposi's and pneumocystis had been found among islanders. The disease had appeared in Haiti about the same time it had among gays. Haiti is supposedly a favorite vacation spot among gays; had some gay man picked it up there or introduced it to the island? No one wants to say.

What medical officials will say is



that the Haitians don't quite fit any of the cause theories developed to explain the gay and drug-user victims. The Haitians didn't all use needles, they weren't all gay, they hadn't all just come to the U.S., they didn't all have unsanitary living conditions.

Next--in the first few months of 1982--the hemophiliac cases began to appear. Eight hemophiliacs are now counted among the 891 official cases of individuals who have contracted AIDS. Since hemophiliacs must take frequent transfusions of blood or blood components to prevent uncontrolled bleeding, speculation has now focused on the theory that the syndrome may be passed through the blood.

As a result of these new cases, several blood bank associations and makers of plasma, as well as the national hemophilia foundation, have urged screening of blood donors to identify and exclude people who belong to high-risk groups--namely, gay men, intravenous drug users, and Haitians. There is considerable criticism of this position from both gay organizations and medical officials.

Two new groups

In addition to the blood donor controversy, two new groups of AIDS victims have received a lot of media attention. The first is women who are sexual partners of men with AIDS, adding support to the belief that the syndrome is passed by sexual contact. The second group is children.

As of mid-January, 26 children less than 5 years old appear to have gotten the syndrome; 10 have died. None has Kaposi's, but they have pneumocystis

or other infections and the characteristic immune system breakdown.

Most of the children have parents who are Haitian, drug users, or who have had homosexual contacts. Some of the parents have AIDS; some could be carriers. No one knows if the children pick it up in their mothers' wombs or from the intimate relationship of parent and infant. But more than ever, AIDS appears to be infectious.

Although epidemiologists have stepped up efforts to find a virus or similar organism that may be causing AIDS, they've found nothing in nearly two years. The reason may be that the virus or organism may be long gone by the time a doctor realizes a patient has AIDS.

Some authorities feel that AIDS research has entered its occult phase. Says Dr. Michael Gottlieb of the UCLA School of Medicine: "The more we learn about this, the deeper we go, the more it looks like science fiction." As with hepatitis B, 10 years could elapse before the puzzle of AIDS is solved.

Grim.●

--Ferdurke

Author's note: An excellent chronological survey of the medical side of the AIDS story is Susan West's "One Step behind a Killer," which appears in the March issue of Science83. Another highly readable article appeared in a recent issue of Rolling Stone. I used both as sources, especially West's article. I also took material on this incredibly complicated topic from Gay Community News, Jan. 29, 1983, and The Advocate, Feb. 17 and March 3, 1983.

Right wing renews attack on gays

The effort to turn Amerika's political leaders against gay people took a new tack in January as two groups made a play for press attention with wild claims about gays in government.

The Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress held a press conference to hail a new book that it has sponsored. The Homosexual Network by Enrique Rueda, a Catholic priest, claims that gay groups are able to survive and even thrive because, unknown to most Americans, they are getting a windfall of federal, state, and city funding, as well as an impressive share of the collection plate passed around most churches any given Sunday.

Rueda estimates that expenditures by all gay groups around the country amount to a staggering \$245.6 million, of which some \$42 million is alleged to come from taxpayers and churchgoers.

Rueda's pitch includes a claim that he is being fair and dispassionate. Here's what he writes about antigay violence: "It would be difficult to justify the violation of the law in the commission of violence against homosexuals. However, it is obvious that these are clear indicators of the rejection of homosexuality by perpetrators who are acting, in some sense, as social agents of the majority of the population. . . ."

When asked by the press to explain why civil rights laws protecting gays are "special privileges" while similar laws for racial and religious minorities are not, Rueda replied that, in fact, all civil rights are "special privileges," but that some groups deserve them and some don't.

From the same fringe, the loonies who publish a Washington scandal sheet called The Deep Backgrounder have made more allegations that lesbians and gay

men control life in Washington's politics. In a desperate bid for publicity, the publication announced the formation of a new political action committee, TAG PAC, which stands for "Truth about Gays Political Action Committee."

A press release for the group, which is waiting for official recognition by the Federal Elections Commission, claims that the aims of TAG PAC "include educating legislators about the true nature of gays, what their culture is really all about, and how it poisons the societal structure."

The tone and approach of The Homosexual Network and TAG PAC will seem familiar to those who recall the Nazi claims that Jews controlled the financial circles of prewar Germany.●

--Ferdurke

Source: The Advocate, 3 March 1983

Decrease in teen patients

Statistics gathered by Planned Parenthood of Mid Central Illinois show that the number of teenagers who became new patients in 1982 decreased 26% from 1981 statistics. Planned Parenthood attributes this decrease to the publicity about regulations proposed early in 1982 by the Department of Health and Human Services that would require Title 10 funded family planning clinics to notify the parents of women 17 years old and younger who receive prescriptions for birth control methods.

Even though Planned Parenthood never has and does not intend to break their patients' confidentiality by notifying anyone, staff at Planned Parenthood think that the publicity about the regulation has made many teenagers afraid to seek birth control information and services.

Another interesting statistic released by Planned Parenthood is that problem-pregnancy clients, women faced with unintended pregnancies, increased in the 12 to 17-year-old category by 18% in 1982, while the overall number of such clients decreased by 9% for the same period.



Nuclear freeze update

The nuclear freeze resolution will be debated in Congress in March. Because of the immediacy of the weapons issue, it is imperative that we take responsibility to insure our futures by insisting on an active weapons freeze/reduction plan. Reagan's plans are potentially devastating, and it is up to us to counteract his black magic.

March 7 and 8 are the dates for the Citizen's Lobby for a U.S./Soviet Nuclear Weapons Freeze in Washington,

D.C. Thousands of people from all 50 states will be voicing their support for the Freeze to their legislators. Bloomington-Normal will be sending five representatives who will be presenting the Congresspeople with signatures of B-N supporters of the Freeze.

You can assist in the D.C. action in several ways. A press conference for the five people going to Washington will be held on Friday, March 4, at 7:00 pm at the Mennonite Church in Normal. Come and cheer them on!

The five lobbyists are being funded by the B-N Nuclear Freeze Coalition and traveling costs are high. Any financial support you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to: B-N Nuclear Freeze Coalition, 304 S. Evans, Bloomington, IL 61701.

For those of you who are broke but fancy the pen, this is the time to put your talents to use. The more mail Percy, Dixon, and Madigan get in Washington on March 7 and 8, the better. Let's hope the pen is mightier than the bomb.

For those of you with oral fixations, you can let your fingers do the walking to D.C.

Percy 1-202-224-7911
Dixon 1-202-224-2854
Madigan 1-202-224-2371

Secretaries carry a lot of clout and busy phone lines will make an impact. (Call before 8:00 am for cheap rates; Washington is one hour later than we are.)

In appreciation for your support, come and join us for an evening of enjoyment. The Bloomington-Normal Nuclear Freeze Coalition is sponsoring a multi-entertainment event coffee-house, Friday, March 25, 7:30-10:00 pm at the Newman Center, 501 S. Main, Normal. Activities will include "Street Musique," a musical film fantasy; contra dancing; live music; and edible extravaganzas. If you have any talent to contribute, call Holly at 452-7291.

March might be our only chance to enact a freeze. Please support the Nuclear Freeze issue in as many ways as you can.

In hope and struggle,

--Holly, with help from Mike

Hearings on Byron nuke begin

The hearings on the licensing of the Byron nuclear power plant, near Rockford, will be held during the spring of 1983. These hearings will determine the conditions under which Commonwealth Edison is allowed to operate the Byron plant. One of the issues concerns the design and safe operation of the specific steam generator model at Byron.

The public hearing has been set for Rockford College's Maddox Theater at 7:30 p.m. on March 1.

You do not have to submit written testimony (though that would be nice) and you do not have to file anything to be able to speak. You can contact Sinnissippi Alliance

for the Environment, 326 North Avon St., Rockford IL 61103, to reserve time to testify at the public hearing.

The presentations promise to be interesting. Some of the more outspoken critics of the Byron Nuke will be there, and some surprising folks, too.

Testifying at Rockford College has been likened to "entering the belly of the beast," but we may be able to gut this dragon before the night is over.

Please come, and bring your friends and family.

--Sinnissippi Alliance for Environment (SAFE)

MUSIC UPDATE

New wave invades!

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

1-6 PM

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1440 on your dial

Seminar slated

At 1:30 pm on Monday March 14th, the McLean County Health Department will sponsor a seminar on Legal Issues and the Older Adult. Gerald Kaluzny, an attorney representing Prairie State Legal Services, will be the featured speaker. Karen Reuter, Social Worker at St. Joseph's Hospital, will also be part of the presentation. The

Home energy assistance still available

page 9

Financial aid to offset rising costs of home heating is still available to eligible households in the area. Mid Central Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC) assisted 543 low-income households with energy costs in January; the agency anticipates that 40-50% of the money allocated for McLean and Livingston Counties will be paid out by the end of February.

Eligibility is determined by income during the 90 days prior to application. The 90-day income guidelines per household are:

Persons	Income
1	\$1347
2	\$1783
3	\$2187
4	\$2668
5	\$2956
6	\$3231

The amount of assistance depends on the type of fuel, income, and number of persons in the household. Payments range from \$95 to \$360. Some

PATH training set

PATH has set the dates for the Spring Volunteer Training Session. Training begins on Saturday, March 16, 1983. All of the training classes will be held on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, up until Wednesday, May 4.

During the training sessions, about 12-15 hours per week of training will be required to effectively teach trainees to handle the phones. Role-playing, supervised phonerroom training, discussions, lectures, and readings on the subjects of sexuality, drugs, suicide, and community resources are all integral parts of these training classes. Practical experience in simulated and actual telephone crisis intervention and counseling situations is also acquired.

The application deadline for this session is Friday, March 11. If you have any questions about the PATH training program, please contact the PATH business office at 828-1022. Applications can also be obtained by calling the PATH business office.

Holistic health seminar

The first Mid-West holistic Health Seminar, "A Holistic Approach to Better Health," is being held Sat. Feb. 26 from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Sheraton Inn, Normal.

Speakers will include Dr. Lamar Rosquist, Dr. Gary Whitley, Dr. Daniel Freesmeir, and Dr. Donald Chaput, who are doctors of chiropractic.

Local naturopaths Ruth Ann Bennett and Marjorie Kinsella; Deborah Carter, a reflexologist; and the Sunflower Health Foods Shop will also be giving presentations.

Call 663-5539 or 452-1060 for more information.

for older adults

session is part of the Health Department's ongoing monthly series entitled Care of the Older Adult in the Home and will be held at the Department's Office at 905 N. Main St., in Normal.

For more information phone the McLean County Health Department at 454-1161.

additional emergency assistance is available for households that have been terminated from their main heat source.

Applicants do not need an overdue bill or unpaid balance or shut-off notice to qualify, and may apply whether or not they pay for their own heat bill. Payments are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the time of application, the program participant must provide: 1) Written documentation of all household members' income for the past 90 days; 2) social security number of the head of household; and 3) most current heating bill.

During February, in addition to taking applications at the Bloomington and Pontiac offices, MCEOC outreach workers will be at the following intake sites: Feb. 22, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Anglers Manor, 1017 S. Mercer, Bloomington; Feb. 22, 9:00 am to noon, The Downtowner, 109 W. Market, Bloomington; Feb. 23, 9:00 am to noon, Amanda Brooks, 1402 E. College, Normal; and Feb. 24, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Phoenix Towers, 202 W. Locust, Bloomington.

People who live in McLean County and wish to apply for this assistance should call the Bloomington office of MCEOC at 829-0691 for an appointment. People living in Livingston County should call the Pontiac MCEOC office at 844-3201.

Soup kitchen to open in Bloomington

Because our government is building up the war machine at the expense of social programs and human survival, we now have 12 million people in our country who are unemployed. One million have already been cut from the food stamp program, and quite a number of those who are suffering the effects of Reaganomics live in Bloomington-Normal.

At Clare House of Hospitality (the Catholic Worker house that provides emergency shelter and food and clothing for folks in need), the signs of the times are right on our door step. A year ago, we had one or two people a week at our door in need of food. Now we see 15 to 20 every day. The statistics are staggering and the need is growing.

In response to the need within our community, the Clare House people have decided to open a soup kitchen in downtown Bloomington to help supplement the diets of the many in need. Unlike the Mission and the Salvation Army, no questions will be asked of the people who come for a meal, and people will not be asked to pray or make a donation. The fare will be simple but nutritious and will consist of a hearty homemade soup, bread, and a beverage. The soup kitchen, called Loaves and Fishes, will open March 1 and will serve on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Parish Center.

Amidst all the horrors of hunger and unemployment, there are signs of hope. People are becoming aware that the government cannot (and really never has been able to) take care of the basic needs of its people: food, clothing, shelter and work with dignity. Many are coming to understand we must take a personal responsibility for each other to help alleviate the injustice of poverty. Many have come forth to volunteer, and food is being donated by concerned groups and individuals. If anyone is interested in lending a hand, contact Clare House at 828-4035.

--Tina Sipula

Rape Crisis Center training

The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County will have a volunteer training session Saturday, March 20th from 9:00 to 5:00 and Sunday, March 21st from 11:00 to 6:00 at Illinois State University's Fairchild Hall Lounge. The session is free and open to both women and men. Please plan to attend both sessions.

Myths about rape, the sex offender, avoidance and resistance to attack, medical and legal aspects of rape, and the politics of rape will be among the topics discussed.

For more information, call PATH at 827-4005 and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.

GPA announces plans

The Gay People's Alliance at ISU has scheduled a wide range of programs for the second semester. GPA meetings are held on Wednesday evenings (8 pm) in room 112 of Fairchild Hall.

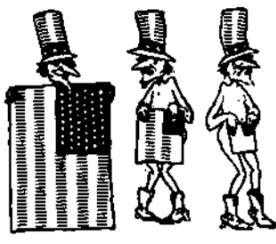
The line-up of topics for the next month is: Feb. 23--Symbolism and its effect on gay people; March 2--Gay American history; March 16--Long-term relationships; March 23--Gay rights issues; March 30--Self-esteem and self-enhancement.

Programs in April will include discussions of gay parenting, parents of gays, and community services available to local gay people. There will also be a program of readings from gay drama.

Two special events have also been planned: a coffeehouse for Friday, March 25, and a social for Saturday, April 23. Details for these activities will be announced later.

More information about GPA and its activities can be obtained by calling 828-9085 or the Gay/Lesbian Information Line at 829-2719.

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Book review **The fall of mere humans**

Mordecai Roshwald, Level 7. McGraw-Hill, 1959.

This is a book you may never read. But even if you cannot find a copy, even if your eyes never scan the pages, the words lie in some library, or some second-hand bookstore--screaming their truth to a public who hears, and even acknowledges their fearsome impact; a public who is determined to see that the predictions of the arts are made to come true.

The book is not new. Level 7 was written in 1959. The idea is not new--all forms of art and media, from the bible to television have presented the horrors of nuclear destruction: the tampering of man with the unseen, disunderstood* atom. But the intensity of Level 7 lies in its viewpoint.

A man with no family or friends is buried some 4000 feet in the earth. At his fingertips lie the buttons which, upon order, he will push to destroy humanity and its essence. Four hundred people live on Level 7 with this man, whose name we never

learn, whose politics or patriotism does not matter.

From the outset of the novel, we find this man's only passion lies in the sun--a massive energy source ignored by humans because of its aesthetic values. Has one ever felt pleasure from lying in the shine of a nuclear blast? Humanity understands the sun--understands that they cannot direct it to their ends. Humans do not understand the atom--do not understand that through their disunderstanding* they cannot control the atom to achieve their ends. In the end, the atom is split and dissipates--the sun still exists.

Presenting a series of diary entries, officer X127 tells of his situation to an audience he cannot anticipate. He shall never see blue sky or sun again. He is forever condemned to lie in wait for the red light that will instruct him to destroy the world.

He is not an Everyman, for Everyman would do as he was told--that is how we are conditioned. He is one person, able to question his own conditioning, his own personality, through the point

of insanity.

However, the microcosm of Level 7, intent on keeping him functional, purges his mind of unclean thoughts and puts his sane "self" back in front of the buttons to await the order. Lucky for us, after all of his forced society is gone, he is able to return to the person he was before being purged.

Ambiguity reigns as we realize that X127 could be one of us or one of them. Anonymity continues in the death of all but the last man alive on earth, who ends with his words: "I cannot see oh friends people mother sun I I "

The abruptness of the ending is matched only by the abruptness of a true nuclear-related death. We are not presented with babies and mothers and innumerable pitiful icons of innocence destroyed by the callousness and ignorance of authority. Rather we are presented the fall of mere authority to mere humans, and the fall of these mere humans to mere death. We are forced to sympathize not only with X127 and his compatriots but also with their enemy.

Anger-fear-frustration may be experienced throughout and at the completion of the book. The sometimes subtle, oftentimes blatant ironies humble us. This is a book you may never read. But try to find a copy. This book demands to be in print--to be thrust before a comfortably numb public: not to warn them in order to cause an arrest to the situation; but to move them to understand the situation. Only through this understanding may we see that it's not worth the trouble. And yet the words lie in some library, some second-hand bookstore--screaming. ●

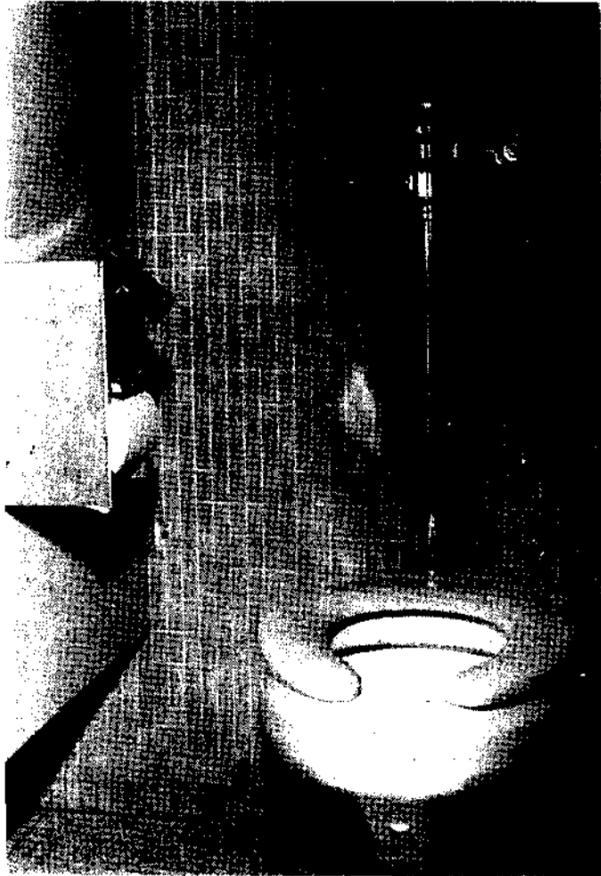
--Verle Spears

*disunderstand=rejection of comprehension

Fortification award **Toilet paper in bondage**

It's not the National Lampoon. It's not Kurt Vonnegut. It's Illinois State University, Stevenson Hall (home of the automated light switches), well fortified as usual. Every roll of toilet paper is firmly secured by a large padlock running through a metal rod. This renovation required hundreds of all-new fixtures and padlocks, at a cost I can't even guess at--but I'd bet that the stolen t.p. didn't cost as much. If you've ever used ISU's toilet paper, you know that anyone who'd steal it was really desperate. Conservation is great, but at what price? Maybe someone should ask the maintenance people who have to unshackle the empty rolls for refills. ●

--Phoebe Caulfield



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Know your fascists

Lefties are guilty of thinking that all fascists think and talk alike. Right wingers cannot be simply stereotyped as narrow-minded oppressors who haven't had an original thought in 2000 years. We must be fair to these people and recognize the individuality and depth of their convictions.

To help our readers raise their consciousness about the intellectual acumen of right-winger theorists, the Post Amerikan is asking you to take this little quiz on your knowledge of fascist heterosexism, then and now. Here are the names and titles of some prominent right-wing thinkers and some of the more memorable ideas they've put forth on homosexuality and related topics. See how many you can match up correctly.

- a. Rev. Jerry Falwell, national leader of the so-called Moral Majority;
- b. Speaker at an American Nazi Party rally, June 1982 (Chicago);
- c. Rev. Dan C. Fore, former leader of the New York State so-called Moral Majority;
- d. Heinrich Himmler, speech to the Gestapo, 1936;
- e. Adolf Hitler, 1933 edict on the education of German youth;
- f. Rev. Charles McIlhenney, of "Californians for Biblical Morality";
- g. Nazi Youth pamphlet, 1933;
- h. Dean Wycoff, of the Santa Clara County so-called Moral Majority;
- i. Richard Grunberger, in The 12-Year Reich: A Social History of Germany.

1. "Homosexuality is that mark of Cain, of a godless and soulless culture which is sick to the core."

2. "We intend to strike a blow for decency; our position is anti-homosexual, pro-life, and pro-family."

3. "It will always be my special duty to safeguard the right and free development of the Christian school and the Christian fundamentals of all education."

4. "We need some rather extreme legislation in some areas to hopefully rebuild the emphasis and credentials of the traditional family. We do not want people to promote homosexuality as an alternate or acceptable lifestyle."

5. "The new regime has proved its claim to be better protectors of family life by imposing harsh curbs on equality for women, abortion, homosexuality, and (conspicuous) prostitution."

6. "I agree with capital punishment, and I believe that homosexuality is one of those that could be coupled with murder and other sins; that it would be the government that sits upon this land who would be executing homosexuals."

7. "I support anyone and anything that is against homosexuals. No form of homosexuality will be permitted in any way, shape, or form. There will always be laws against it."

8. "Just as we today have gone back to the ancient view on the question of our judgment of homosexuality--a symptom of degeneracy which could destroy our race--we must return to the guiding principle: extermination of degenerates."

9. "Homosexuals could be stoned to death after a Biblical state is created in the nation."

Correct answers:

1-f. 2-a. 3-d. 4-b. 5-c. 6-g. 7-e. 8-h. 9-i.

Alternative law school has social conscience

Peoples College of Law was established in 1974 by its four founding organizations: the Asian Law Collective, La Raza National Law Student Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and the National Lawyers Guild.

These organizations saw the necessity for a school such as PCL in that traditional law schools had failed to concern themselves with the issues and needs of minority/working class communities and women. The need for PCL is even greater now, given the overall reduction in minority admissions programs as a result of the Bakke decision (the reverse discrimination case which challenged affirmative action quotas).

PCL has as its primary goal the development and training of lawyers dedicated to the struggle for social change in the communities of oppressed peoples. In implementing that goal, the PCL desires two-thirds Third World and fifty percent women students. Now in our sixth year, PCL's composition is 50% Third World and 40% women.

Our legal clinic deals with the problems of the community, providing legal services in the areas of immigration, landlord/tenant relations, and labor.

PCL is an unaccredited law school. It is a degree-granting institution and persons from PCL are eligible, after completing their studies, to take the California Bar Examination for Admission to practice law in the state of California. At the present time, PCL has decided not to seek accreditation, but is in the process of carefully analyzing the advantages and disadvantages involved.

--Admissions/Recruitment Committee, Fidel Gomez

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The 1984 budget: More of the same

Ronald Reagan's 1984 budget takes up where his 1982 and 1983 budgets left off: it chips away at the services and benefits for working people and the poor; it provides only token assurances to the middle class; it subsidizes the most backward public works and discourages the most progressive; and it gives the Pentagon a blank check.

The budget projects a 14% decrease in programs for the poor. Food stamps are to be cut 9% and child nutrition funds by 8%. The Legal Services Corp. (which provides legal aid to the poor), the Economic Development Administration (which funds high unemployment areas), and the Community Services Block Grants are to be abolished outright.

Medicare costs for the elderly are to be increased by changing the insurance formula. Presently, Medicare recipients pay \$350 for the first 60 days of hospitalization and then face rising costs. Under the new Reagan formula, the elderly would have to pay up to \$1350 for hospitalization during the first 60 days and then reduced expenditures afterward.

While the Reagan plan would provide some assurances against "catastrophic illnesses," it would mean added out-

of-pocket expenses for most of the elderly, since the average Medicare recipient stays only 11.5 days in a hospital.

Dangers to workers

The administration proposes to give employers an incentive to hire the long-term unemployed by providing them with vouchers that will defray about \$60 a week of these workers' wages for 32 weeks. But such a plan could incite employers to replace current employees with the long-term unemployed.

The Reagan budget would also establish a new sub-minimum wage of \$2.50 an hour for teenagers working summer jobs. Such a measure could likewise lead to the replacement of existing workers.

The Department of Education budget seeks to appeal to middle-class parents but ends up giving them only tokens. A new plan would make tax-exempt interest and dividends on up to \$1000 a year that parents put aside for each of their children's future college expenses. But at the current rates of interest, a parent could earn only enough in 15 years to pay for college board exams and college interviews.

More to the point, the entire education budget would be reduced by 12%, including \$770 million previously devoted to higher and secondary education. New restrictions would be put on student loans. And funds for the most vulnerable groups would be eliminated or severely cut--for instance, funds for the education of native Americans are to be phased out entirely by 1985.

No funds for alternatives

The Reagan administration would continue to phase out funding of non-conventional energy sources. Funds for solar, fossil and other alternative fuel sources are to be cut by at least 60%. The only energy funds that would not be cut are those for nuclear energy.

Similarly, the budget proposes a 37% increase in spending on highways, but a 4% decrease in mass transit and a 3% decrease in funds for Amtrak.

The Reagan budget resembles that of Chile or Guatemala. The only large increases are in police enforcement--the Justice Department funding would increase 10%--and the military. The military dominates the 1984 budget.

Military outlays would increase 14.2%. The military's share of the budget would increase from 25.9% in fiscal

1983 to 28% in 1984. Its share of the GNP would increase from 6.5% to 6.8%. It was 5.4% when Reagan took office.

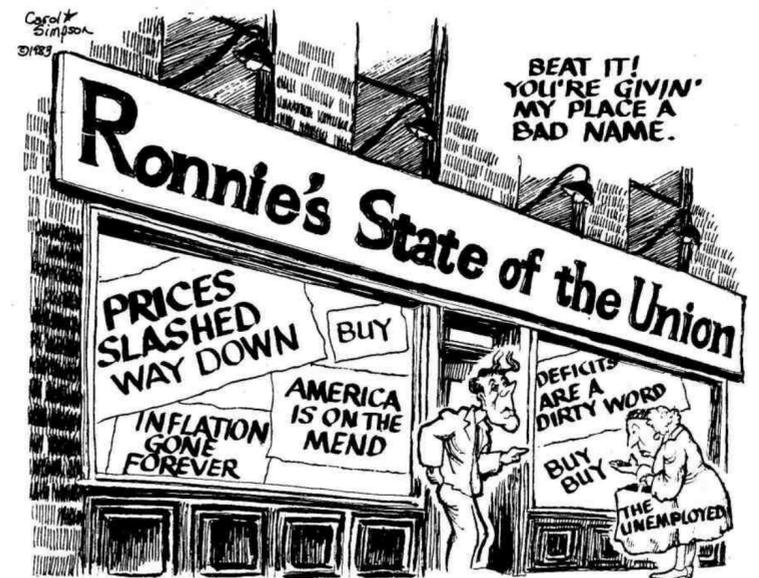
More for war

Through 1988, the budget projects military expenditures of \$1.6 trillion. Reagan's proposed \$55 billion cut in military expenditures during this period amounts to about 3% of that total.

The bulk of the 1984 increase would be in weapons research, weapons production, and military construction. Spending on nuclear weapons would increase 34.6% (the MX is allotted \$6.7 billion) while spending on general purpose forces would increase only 8.8%. Spending on personnel would increase 5.5% and spending on pensions 4.3%.

The projected \$8 billion cut in 1984 outlays--taken out of the inflation premium, pensions and salaries--would be made up by a 10% increase in fiscal year 1985. ●

--Thanx to John Judis, whose un-abridged article appeared in In These Times, Feb. 9-15, 1983.



No more pain relievers for public aid clients

Early in February, Illinois Public Aid released a list of prescription drugs that will no longer be covered by its medical program.

Before, public aid paid for any drug prescribed by a physician if the patient held a green card. (A green card is the ID given to a person on public aid's medical plan.)

February's cutbacks will eliminate medicines prescribed for arthritis, skin inflammation, anxiety, sleeplessness, infections, colds, congestion, and other disorders. Legal aid attorney Jerry Kaluzny outlined the cutbacks and summarized them as "anything that would relieve pain, basically."

Kaluzny says that Illinois Public Aid claims that they did not eliminate any "life-sustaining drugs."

"There is some question of just what life-sustaining is," he contended.

He suggested an example of a person

who can no longer get arthritis medicine and because of the pain is unable to work. If this person goes to social security and attempts to get disability benefits, social security will say that she isn't really disabled, since there is a drug available that would make her able to work. Kaluzny called the situation a "Catch 22."

We also discussed anxiety-relieving prescriptions and the possible effects of their elimination. Anxiety and depression, as we all know, can certainly make one unable to work. In extreme cases, an anti-anxiety drug may even be life-sustaining, if the person is likely to be suicidal without it.

The legal establishment has recently been absorbed in fighting a more severe cutback the Illinois Public Aid put forth in January. That one involved completely revoking the green cards of everyone between 18 and 65 unless pregnant. The State Supreme Court threw that cutback out following an injunction filed by Legal Assistance of Chicago.

The new cutbacks are also possible subjects for a suit, Kaluzny speculated, if Legal Aid is approached by someone who provides sufficient cause for that kind of action.

No help

Maxine Schultz, Bloomington township supervisor, has the job of overseeing a health plan for McLean County citizens called the John M. Scott Health Program. It's funded by a bequest in the will of a local judge, who wished his legacy to be used to provide health care for the poor (see adjoining story).

Thinking that the Scott program would be the logical place for poor people to go when suddenly cut off their prescriptions, I talked to Ms. Schultz.

She said that anyone who holds a green card isn't eligible for help from the Scott estate. She said that

people with green cards have inquired about getting money for their prescriptions, but they've been refused.



She was very aware that poor people were going without prescribed medicines; she said the Commission (the larger body that administers the Scott estate) was "currently re-evaluating" the guidelines that reject these people; she stated that the community should think of taking action to prevent more cutbacks. But when I asked when the guidelines might be changed, Schultz said she'd be "very surprised" to see any change before the end of April. That's almost 3 months from now--a long time if you're crippled by arthritis, or depression, or sleeplessness.

Schultz suggested that people whose drugs have been cut off should contact their doctors and find out whether there are substitute drugs that are still covered by the green card. The doctor may be willing to

change the prescription.

A little help

Mid Central Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC) does provide emergency assistance to people in crisis over medical needs, housing, heating bills, and so forth. But theirs, in keeping with state guidelines, is just a one-shot service. They can buy a prescription for a green card holder who's been cut off, but they can only do it once.

After that, people who are sick and poor in our county must sit in pain and wait until the Illinois Public Aid restores their medicine (doubtful) or until the Scott Commission changes their guidelines--a long, possibly endless, wait. ●

--Phoebe Caulfield

Scott Commission ignores need

In January of 1981, the almost \$9.9 million estate of former Illinois Supreme Court Justice John M. Scott was divided up in court according to the priorities he expressed in his bequest.

The City of Bloomington received \$5.4 million dollars with which to establish health care programs for the poor. A John M. Scott Health Care Commission, 11 local honchos appointed by the city council, was formed.

The Pantagraph reported that "In only its second meeting, the John M. Scott Health Care Commission last night dedicated itself to identifying the needs of persons who 'fall through the cracks' when it comes to paying for health care. 'Our initial direction should include circumstances where unmet needs are met...The judge Scott was thinking of meeting unmet needs,' commission member Paul Welch said."

Early plans included remodeling the city hall annex to house a Health Care

Center that would provide both medical and dental service to poor people and would conduct educational programs on preventive health care. Floor plans and budgets were drawn up; details of free physicals to be given at the Center were approved.

So how did such a great project, guaranteed \$600,000 a year just in income from the bequest, end up a few years later unwilling to buy a bottle of nose spray for someone who can't get it any other way?

Yes, I said unwilling. People whose green cards no longer cover medicines they need have clearly and unmistakably "fallen through the cracks" of the health care system. And despite former state's attorney Paul Welch's laughable prose at the second meeting, his meaning was clear: a person with no other agency to help pay for medicine has an "unmet need," and the Scott Commission dedicated itself to meeting it.

Bear in mind that the Scott money is

locally controlled: the commissioners live right here. They could find a couple hours to get together and hash this thing over if they felt like it. They don't need to worry about duplicating public aid's services; public aid no longer provides the services, and neither does anyone else. There was nothing to stop the commission from immediately recognizing that their guidelines need to be altered to include victims of the latest state cutback. There was nothing to stop them from making the alteration, presenting it to the City Council, and ensuring continuing health care. There was nothing to stop them from doing it last week. ●

--P.C.



Infant mortality increases in U.S.

A long-standing pattern of decline in infant mortality rates has been reversed in several states and urban areas, according to a study by the Food Research and Action Center.

Some observers link the infant mortality increase, along with a number of other health problems, to the economic recession and budget cuts in medical services. United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser told a subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Commission that the "tragic byproduct of unemployment may, in the not-so-long run, cost the nation as much in damaged and lost lives as the unemployment itself."

The study by the Food Research and Action Center said that infant mortality rates had increased from 1980 to 1981 in eight states: Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Roughly two-thirds of infant deaths were linked to low body weight, the study noted. "More babies are dying because their mothers lacked basic food and health care," an official of the center said.

Alice Rivlin, the director of the Congressional Budget Office, testified to the Energy and Commerce subcommittee that about 5.3 million laid-off workers had lost the medical coverage they had held as a job benefit. Counting the dependents of

these workers, the total number who had lost coverage was close to 11 million, she said.

The budget office director also said that an extension of Medicare to provide coverage to those who had lost benefits because of joblessness would cost about \$6 billion in fiscal 1983 and "would thus add significantly to the federal deficit." ●

--Facts on File, 28 Jan. 1983

Post note: The budget for the MX missile is \$6.7 billion.

We could junk the MX, give health insurance coverage to 11 million people, and have \$700 million left over to support alternative newspapers.

Before Stonewall, the public television funded documentary film on the history of America's gay and lesbian community and movement, received two new grant awards. The New York Council for the Humanities has awarded \$40,000 to the project, and the New York State Council on the Arts, \$15,000.

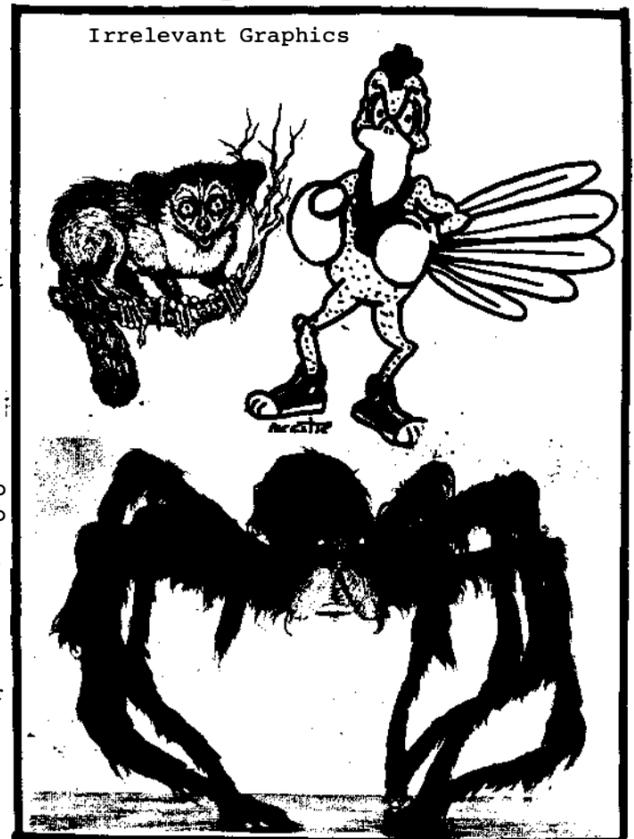
Before Stonewall will uncover the stories of men and women who lived "double lives" during a time when homosexuality was rarely discussed and then only in terms of medical pathology and criminal offense. The film will explore the sudden growth of the gay population during World War II, the flourishing black gay culture during the Harlem Renaissance, the scapegoating of gays during the McCarthy era, the lesbian butch/femme community of the 1950s, the development of early homophile rights organizations, and the changing attitudes towards homosexuality by the dominant culture.

The filmmakers have already begun to research and compile the visual materials that will form the core of the film. They are looking for photos, home movies, tape recordings, artwork, diaries and letters for possible inclusion in the documentary.

The producers of Before Stonewall want to hear from individuals who saved photographs of their friends and lovers, or who can talk about the one lesbian or gay bar that existed in their hometown before the birth of "gay liberation."

If you have or know of visual or audio materials that would be of interest to the filmmakers, please write and tell them what you have. But do not send the original material. All responses are strictly confidential.

Contact Before Stonewall at 630 9th Ave., Suite 908, New York NY 10036, or Mass Productions, 110 1st St., San Francisco CA 94105. ●



Film comment

"Tootsie": What's the big deal?

"Nearly everyone agrees that 'Tootsie' is fabulous," says Film Comment magazine. The movie has been praised for its witty, civilized script, its superb acting, and its probing look at contemporary sexual relationships. In the company of such high-powered films as "Gandhi" and "Sophie's Choice," it's taken quite seriously as a top choice for best movie of the year.

"Tootsie's" star, Dustin Hoffman, claims that he actually "became" the woman he impersonated, and he's going around telling everyone who will print or broadcast it "what it's really like to be a woman." And not just an ordinary woman, but an unattractive one, a "real dog," the kind Hoffman admits he "didn't go out with as much as I wish I had."

I must confess to wondering what most of the fuss is about. Not that "Tootsie" isn't an intelligent, often very funny movie. It's the excessive claims for the film's social significance--especially its supposed advanced sexual politics--that, after a certain point, start to set my teeth on edge.

As you probably know, "Tootsie" tells the story of an out-of-work actor who can't get a job because of his reputation as "difficult." When his thoroughly ego-less friend (played by Teri Garr) fails to land a role on a daytime soap opera because she "can't deal with anger," Hoffman (Michael Dorsey) dresses up like a woman (Dorothy Michaels) and lands the role himself.

Good things happen

In the course of the movie many good things happen. Michael, as a woman, learns a lot about how men demean and abuse women. He also develops characteristics--patience, caring, sympathy--associated with women. The character becomes a sensation and a model for women in the audience as well as in the cast (much to the chagrin of the pompous, chauvinist director, played by Dabney Coleman as only he seems able to play such creeps).

Hoffman also falls for, and transforms, Coleman's girlfriend, a mildly self-destructive blonde played by Jessica Lange.

There are some marvelous touches in the parallel relations among Hoffman, Garr, Lange and Coleman: as a woman, Hoffman is a good friend to Lange, supporting her through her break with Coleman; but at the same time, as a man, he is treating Garr as badly as Coleman treats Lange.

The problem is that the only "woman" in the film who seems to notice or resist the rampant sexism is not a woman at all, but a man in drag. His sense of outrage is presented as astonishment at being treated in such ways, and his resistance seems to be an instinctive (male) response. Does this brand of Hollywood feminism imply that "behind every great woman there must be a man"?

The other woman

The other women in the movie are weak and self-destructive (Garr and Lange) or opportunistic tokens like the tough tv producer who hires Hoffman because she senses a terrific gimmick in his interpretation of the role. And since the weak women are especially beautiful and the Dorothy character is not conventionally attractive, doesn't the film promote some sexist notion about a woman's appearance and her power--that an "unattractive" woman has nothing to lose by telling off a sexist pig?

What "Tootsie" does for feminism is pretty much a continuation of what Hoffman started in "Kramer vs. Kramer." Women have been suffering and struggling for ages against all forms of outrageous sexism, and along comes this guy--first as a single parent and now as an unattractive woman--telling the world how awful it is to be in these positions. And he gets praised and rewarded for it everywhere!

In the meantime, of course, women continue to suffer in economic and political ways undreamed of by Hollywood.

Quite frankly, I preferred the feminist messages of "9 to 5." But that movie got panned by the critics (although it was a box office success). And I thought "Victor/Victoria" dealt with gender roles more astutely. But some critics found Julie Andrews "unconvincing" as a man. Could it be that the so-called feminist message in "Tootsie" is taken seriously only because the assertive, powerful "woman" in the film is really a man? ●

--Ferdydurke

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"Lianna" - A sensitive film about lesbian love

Lianna. Directed, written and edited by John Sayles; produced by Maggie Renzi and Jeffrey Nelson; with Linda Griffiths and Jane Halleren.

In a film year when the biggest hit Hollywood can offer is a portrait of a man dressed as a woman, we can all offer offer gratitude to John Sayles for Lianna.

Sayles' last major film, Return of the Secaucus Seven, was an enjoyable look at a group of children of the 60's reconciling their lives in the 70's. His newest movie is the best feature-length, non-documentary film that has dealt with the subject of lesbianism.

Lianna (Linda Griffiths) is a young faculty wife who had left college to help her husband with his career as a film studies professor. The story is set in a small-town college in New Jersey. Hubby is a posturing male, desperate for a promotion and determined to show the correct family image: obedient wife, two cute kids, and a double-standard husband who freely sleeps with his best female students.

The marriage has always been rocky, and during one of these rocky periods, while husband Dicky is away, Lianna becomes involved with Ruth, her night school professor (Jane Halleren). The majority of the movie concentrates on Lianna's coming out.

Coming out

A number of small touches form a perfect collage of coming out scenes: Lianna at the card catalogue looking up "lesbian" (a cliché, but we've all done it); the first one-night stand to make sure that you love women and not just one woman; the first night in a gay bar when you're afraid you'll be seen.

The audience is constantly reminded that the realization of one's lesbianism is more than a purely personal experience. There are numerous social consequences. The film details the turmoil that Lianna creates: the children's stoniness, the husband's anger, the women friends' unease, and even the male friends' attempts to take advantage of the situation.

Some nongay critics will probably be upset that Dick is portrayed so negatively. But as someone who deals with lesbian mothers involved with divorce proceedings, I know that what real husbands do makes Dick look like the Angel of Mercy in this film.

Realistic

The relationship with Ruth is handled very realistically. Lianna must learn that you do not walk hand-in-hand with



Filmmaker John Sayles plays Jerry in "Lianna." The mustache came off after the film was done.

your lesbian lover on a college campus where she teaches child psychology.

But Ruth is not the forever lover. She must cope with her feelings for Lianna and for a long-term lover back home (her New Jersey teaching assignment is temporary). And Lianna must cope with Ruth's choice.

John Sayles himself plays the role of Jerry, a film professor on the make for Lianna, who descends on her as soon as her separation from Dick is public. When he finds out the true reason why Lianna and Dick have split, he covers his embarrassment with: "I'm from California; that stuff doesn't faze me."



Poolside fantasies: Lianna, left, (Linda Griffiths) and lover Ruth (Jane Halleren).

All of the actors do a fine job. Lianna's children, 13-year-old Spencer and 7-year-old Theda, are cute and charming, but just a tad more realistic than the usual Hollywood kid. Their confused and hurt looks when Lianna explains that she must leave the house or when she and Dick try to explain her visitation schedule will remind every lesbian mother of the painful moments with her own children.

A beautiful moment

Undoubtedly the most beautiful moment in Lianna comes in the ending. Sandy, Lianna's straight female friend who is freaked out and bewildered by Lianna's coming out, casts aside her apprehensions and puts her arms around Lianna to comfort her--in a public park. Sayles shows his nongay audience that they have as much to gain and learn from a friend's coming out as does the newly realized gay person.

The director is refreshingly honest about admitting that Lianna is a gay film (in contrast with the makers of Personal Best, who kept saying their film was about something else, anything else but lesbianism, it seemed). "I say this is a gay film because I don't like the attitude of saying that it's not," says Sayles. "I want to be fairly direct in saying what the film is about--it's a gay film, a film about divorce, about growing up."

The director of Personal Best also said his film was about "growing up," but his view of lesbian sex was of adolescent exploration that led to the "adulthood" of heterosexuality. It's downright radical of Sayles to suggest that coming out as a lesbian represents growing up and maturity.

Lianna is an oasis in a desert of films about gay lives. It's a movie we always hoped they'd make. Go and see it. ●

--Cindy Ruzzo

Adapted from her review and interview with John Sayles, which appeared in Gay Community News, 19 Feb. 1983.



Ruth and Lianna in Lianna's first visit to a gay bar.

POST-NOTE: It's unlikely that we'll be able to see Lianna in Bloomington-Normal. We'll probably have to go to Chicago--or if we're lucky, to Champaign--if we want to catch this movie. At press time, Lianna had opened in only a handful of locations on the two coasts. It is being distributed by United Artists, which means it will probably get some kind of general release, but just how general is not known. Certainly the film will come sometime to Chicago. But the local theater managers I talked to didn't know of any plans to bring the film to our town (they hadn't even heard of it.) However, decisions as to what movies come to the theaters in B-N are not made on the local level, so if the film does well enough in the big cities some theater chain decision-maker might give Lianna a try in a university town like ours. You can help things along by putting in a request with the local managers, who claim they pay attention to such things.

--Ferdydurke

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Dear Post,

I'd like to take exception with Ferdydurke's review of Community Players' production of "Deathtrap" in last month's Post. In one word, it was bullsh*t!

It was obvious that the article was written in haste to meet the Post's deadline. At most Ferdydurke had less than a week to write it. I think he saw the play on the Friday night before the Saturday layout. If he would have done some research he would not have been able to write an article at all. I can only assume that the Post is trying to be more like the Pantagraph by having no competent reviewers on its staff.

If Ferdydurke would have taken the time to read the script of "Deathtrap," he would have seen that there is no kiss in the play. He obviously thought there was a kiss in "Deathtrap" because there was one in the movie version with Christopher Reeve and Michael Caine. It is a rare occasion when a movie accurately reflects the book or play it's based on. Ferdydurke should have realized this.

That piece of shoddy journalism aside, I also take exception to the importance of the non-existent stage direction. I think the kiss in the movie was not "the motivational linchpin for a . . . storyline" (that sounds like something Dan Craft would write), but a shock value of seeing "Superman" kissing another man. I suppose it could have been a hammer-on-the-head for the less enlightened in the audience. As for me, I didn't really give a sh*t about the kiss. For me, the "motivational linchpin" (jeez) was the two actors' excellent portrayal of a gay couple.

As one who worked on the production of "Deathtrap," I did see a conscious effort not to portray the men as gay. While I believe that this was an error on the part of the director, I do not think it "slammed the closet door in the face of gay people. . . in the community." In my opinion if the actors that portrayed the two writers had been allowed to develop gay characters, they would have emerged as campy and stereotyped. Then Ferdydurke would have had something to write about.

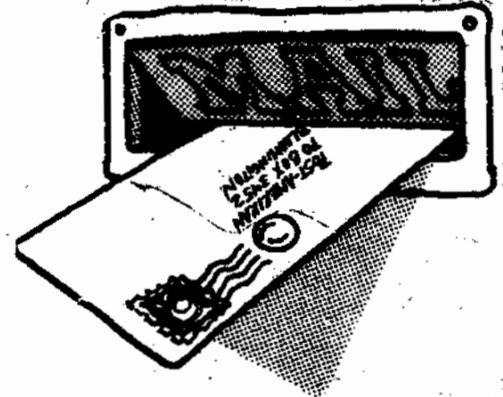
As for the statement that "Community Players isn't going to acknowledge the existence of gay people," Ferdydurke need only go back to the spring of 1981 when Community Players presented the musical "Applause." In that show there was a gay hair-dresser. The director opted to keep the gay references in the show. While some of the gay stereotype was built into the part, he was played without being campy and was played with great sensitivity. Ferdydurke made too much of the gay aspect in this play (just like he did with his review of "Personal Best"). The homosexuality of the characters in "Deathtrap" was written for a plot twist and nothing more (he admitted that himself).

I think Ferdydurke's review was unfair to Community Players. I admit that Players too often does plays that are not controversial. And when they do controversial plays they tend to edit them. But I think they (the board of directors of the shows) are responding to their core audience. I don't think the Post would want to offend their core audience by writing offensive articles (i.e., sexist, racist, etc.).

This is Community Players 60th season. They are one of the oldest community theatres in America. They have made much progress in the five years I have been active at the theatre, and they have room for more. "Deathtrap" (and the next show, "Company" by Stephen Sondheim) could not have been done at Players five years ago.

Instead of writing a review with some constructive criticism, Ferdydurke resorted to snottiness in its lowest form (a la Dan Craft). For me that half-page could have been better used to give "My Sister the Punk Rocker" its usual (well deserved) full page.

--Don Semmons



Prisoner needs barbering job

Dear Post:

I have a strange and unusual type of request to make of your readers.

I have been corresponding with a man who is incarcerated; currently he is in Graham Correctional Center, Hillsboro, Ill. Graham is a minimum security prison. After eight years of hell, some of it in Pontiac and Stateville, he will finally be up for parole in May.

I have gotten to know this man very well in the past couple of years, both through correspondence and visits, and I can assert that he is a very gentle man now. He has completed the necessary training in preparation for a barbering license and is taking classes now in Graham.

My request is this: if he has a job waiting for him upon his release, the Parole Board will be much more apt to grant him parole on the first hearing. I know jobs are among the scarcest items in the world these days, but any position of any kind would help him incredibly. He has had clerical and maintenance jobs in prison, is a very talented artist, and has incredible initiative. I know that's not a Ph.D., but he's not looking to teach grad school!

If anyone who reads this letter has even a glimmer of an idea that could help him, please take a few minutes and drop him a line! You could be helping a worthy individual get back into the world again. His address is:

Kenneth J. Harazak #C-08320
Box 500
Hillsboro, Ill. 62049

If you need more information before writing, you can contact me at this address:

"Anita"
c/o P.B.O.
427 N. Main St.
Bloomington, Ill. 61701

Please include a phone number.

Thank you,

"Anita"

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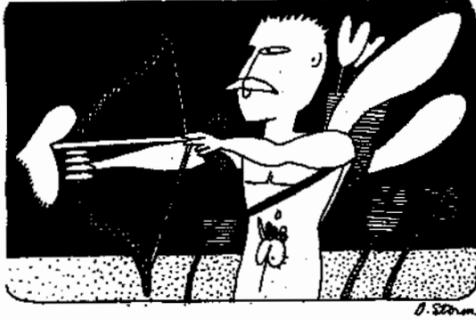
"Deathtrap" review wonderful

Dear Post:

"The kiss isn't in the script. You're confusing the play with the film."

Everytime I discuss Ferdydurke's piece on "Deathtrap," I seem to get this response. It's as if these people never read more than one-third of the article. These folks are correct; there is no kiss indicated in the stage directions of the script. It is also impossible from the reviews of the Broadway production to determine the existence of the kiss since it would be considered an aspect of the plot, and, as Brendan Gill wrote in The New Yorker, "The producers of "Deathtrap" request in the program that the audience refrain from revealing Mr. Levin's ingeniously mystifying twists and turns of plot." Fortunately for theatre-goers in New York in 1978, none of the critics did reveal the plot.

However, in the first scene of the second act, Sidney Bruhl asserts, "I want to live out my years as author of 'The Murder Game,' not 'fag who knocked off his wife.'" As neither



"English public school boy who acts as servant to another" nor "cigarette" logically can replace the word "fag" here, the remaining definition must be "one of the derogatory terms for homosexuals." Thus, Sidney Bruhl is a homosexual.

Then there is Clifford Anderson. At the end of Act One, Sidney informs Clifford that the floor creaks and that he should "get into bed and stay there." According to the stage directions, Clifford "considers, smiles," and replies, "I'll buy that." Clifford is overjoyed that he can retire early?

In terms of character motivation, given the Community Players' production's interpretation, why would two straight men murder the wife for her assets without knowing her worth? Why would the murder accomplice move in? Why involve the young playwright at all if it were strictly for financial reasons?

The woman from whom I obtained the script remarked that Players was "accommodating for the community taste." Well, gay men and lesbians are part of this community and part of Community Players. The absence of people of color will be left to another article. If Players could not find actors who would kiss on-stage, it is certainly understandable. Playgoers in small towns can somehow accept that an actor playing a murderer, rapist, or spouse abuser is not necessarily any of those things offstage.

However, let an actor portray a gay male (no one seemed to mind the Auntie Mame--Vera Charles/Alice B. Toklas--Gertrude Stein allusions in the "Bosom Buddies" number last fall), and suddenly we hear that the actor is "one of them."

There are other ways of showing affection. Sidney and Clifford could hug, look at one another like lovers in Gothic romances, or leave a hand on a shoulder longer than is socially acceptable.

Casting someone who doesn't choke when saying "fag" is also helpful.

So what is needed now? Rather than mounting half-assed productions of controversial shows, may it be suggested that the board advise the Play Selection Committee of topics which are considered taboo and that the producers pay a little more attention to what the director is or is not doing?

For those gay men and lesbians who participate in Players and are free to be "out," get on the board and change things.

As for me, I'm taking a less constructive tack: I'm not renewing my series ticket. There have been too many anti-gay remarks in the presence of gay and lesbian members of casts and crews. When Players begins doing shows of substance again, such as "Inherit the Wind" and "All My Sons," instead of musicals which leave one with the message that it's o.k. to beat your wife ("Carousel") or other productions which imply that homosexuals don't exist ("Deathtrap"), I'll reconsider. ●

--Julie Edwards

Ferdydurke adds:

One New York reviewer did reveal one of the play's plot turns. Richard Eder, writing in the New York Times of Feb. 29, 1978, said: "Mr. Wood [the actor who played Sidney] and the student are revealed to be homosexual lovers. . . ." Too bad we couldn't say the same for the Community Players' production.



Prisoner wants letters

Dear Post-Amerikan,

A friend turned me on to your newspaper and I must say I really liked what I read. I am happy someone is telling it like it is.

I got locked up due to MEG and an informant that was on their payroll. And they just didn't pay him off in money. It seems like entrapment is their claim to fame. I really wish you would print more articles exposing these people so that more won't end up like me.

I would like to write to some good people who have their heads on straight and don't play head games, because I already have enough of those being in here.

I am into rock 'n' roll, bikes, education, and am interested in computers. I have 18 months to serve and would like someone to make it a little easier on me.

Very truly,

Carl Beam
A-81234
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Law enforcement and your daughter

Dear Post-Amerikan:

I sent the following letter to the Pantagraph, but they elected to pass:

I cannot help but wonder if the average Pantagraph reader noticed the contrasting irony of the two accounts of criminal activity consuming the upper two columns of page A3 in the December 18, 1982, edition.

The first account details a series of kidnapping and rapes that have occurred in Normal in the past week. It features a composite drawing of the perpetrator of the Dec. 15th armed kidnapping and rape of a 23-year-old Normal woman abducted from a major intersection in downtown Normal. The article mentions that this same man attempted an identical crime in the recent past. It further states that he is probably not involved in the incident yesterday (Dec. 17) when two men attempted to kidnap yet another Normal woman off a downtown street.

The article concludes with the request that anyone recognizing the composite picture of the man assist the Normal police in their investigation.

This type of crime reporting is essential and hopefully will serve its purpose of alerting the women of the Bloomington-Normal area that their lives and dignity are in extreme danger whenever they choose to avail themselves of our public places, even those as conspicuous as major downtown intersections.

The police request for help from the public is laudable, and well in keeping with modern investigative techniques. It is more than obvious that our local police departments make every effort possible given their somewhat deficient funding and manpower. It is safe to assume, however, that when the unaware and sometimes apathetic public fail to respond to their cry for help that the case will fade and eventually become part of the outdated file of a local junior detective.

The second article I refer to immediately adjoins the kidnapping and rape accounts. It chronicles the results of a three-month investigation by the Illinois Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and the FBI working together out of their Bloomington offices. It reports that the results of their exhaustive three-month investigation resulted in a possible one-year sentence for a small-time marijuana suspect who agreed to buy \$1100 worth of marijuana which was to be supplied by our agents themselves.

Obviously this individual was a pathetic excuse of a dealer without a source of supply, and surely



represented little or no threat to society.

It occurs to me that the contrast between these two investigative reports demonstrates a great deal of what is wrong with our current law enforcement priorities.

In one instance we have a series of vicious rapes and kidnappings occurring at an alarming frequency which are expected to be solved (hopefully, before someone is killed) by our small town police agencies. At the same time the awesome capabilities of our most elite State and Federal investigators are being squandered in the haphazard pursuit of petty drug offenders, even those so inept and disorganized that they have no supply of the drugs with which to commit an offense.

I recently discussed this enigma with a senior police official who informed me that if he had the unlimited funds and manpower of these elite agencies he would triple his chances of apprehending our local rapists and



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kidnappers before they can strike again. He further stated that since kidnapping is a federal offense he has been surprised that no help has been forthcoming, and expressed his hope that the State and Federal task forces would examine their priorities.

I find it absolutely unacceptable that the talents and resources of our more elite investigative agencies are not directed towards the apprehension of these dangerous kidnappers and rapists. I urge the citizens of our community to voice their protest of this deplorable lack of priorities in our law enforcement.

Marijuana dealers always replace themselves overnight. Who will replace our daughters, wives, and other loved ones?

--Priscilla Johnson

Chemical additives in booze

Tastes great, and it may even be less filling, but don't bother reading the label to find out why.

The label won't tell you about the foam stabilizer in your Miller Lite, or about the sulfur dioxide in your Paul Masson wine. The label, in fact, will tell you virtually nothing about these chemicals, some of which are powerful allergens, and none of which has ever been tested in the presence of alcohol.

Now, for the first time, the specific ingredients in numerous alcoholic beverages are disclosed to consumers in Chemical Additives in Booze, a new book published by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI).

Chemical Additives in Booze unravels the carefully cultivated images of purity and old-world mystique that alcoholic beverage manufacturers convey in their advertising. Published by the consumer group that for the past 10 years has fought to get ingredients listed on the labels of alcoholic beverages, this book may literally be a life-saver for drinkers who are allergic to particular chemical additives.

Why should consumers care about what is in their drinks? According to Chemical Additives in Booze, several additives pose significant health hazards. Sulfur dioxide, which is used as a preservative in most wines, can cause severe allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock and coma. And yellow dye #5, which may be used in liqueurs and beer, causes allergic reactions in tens of thousands of aspirin-sensitive people. Additionally, many people are allergic to certain grains used to produce beer and liquor.

Chemical Additives in Booze outlines a story of industry trying desperately to protect an image of romance and purity that surrounds its products, while using some of the questionable chemical additives that consumers seek to avoid in food products. And it is a story of government foot-dragging and policy reversals that has made alcoholic beverages the only major food product group not to carry ingredient labeling.

Michael Jacobson, executive director of the non-profit CSPI and editor of Chemical Additives in Booze, says, "The history of the ingredient labeling regulation is a microcosm of how things work in Washington: big business exerts tremendous pressure--through the Congress, the administration, and the courts--to get what it wants." •

Chemical Additives in Booze is available for \$4.95 from CSPI, Box 3099, Washington, D. C. 20009.

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Amerikan Almanak

Compiled by Holly & friends Send items to Amerikan Almanak, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington.

Feb. 14-28

Springfield: "Maple Syrup Time." This annual event offers you a chance to tap a tree, collect the sap, evaporate it down and to sample the finished product. A highlight of the festival period will be a gala open house during the weekend of the 26th-27th. Lincoln Memorial Garden. Sat. & Sun. 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m., daily 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 21

New Post Amerikan hits the streets! Pandamonium reigns.

Tues., Feb. 22

Film, Let It Be. ISU Ballroom, 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00.

Film, The War Game. Academy Award winning documentary on the consequences of thermonuclear war. 210 Moulton Hall, ISU. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free

Wed., Feb. 23

Film, Black Men and Iron Horses. Laborers' Local 362, R. R. 3, Bloomington (behind Howard Johnson's). In honor of Black History Month, a look at black contributions to the rail industry. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Gay People's Alliance meeting: "Symbolism and Its Effects on Gays" 8 p.m., room 112, Fairchild Hall, ISU.

Thurs., Feb. 24

Movie, Casablanca. ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.25 for students, \$1.75 for general public.

Theater, The Rose Tattoo. ISU Westhoff Theater. 8 p.m. \$5.00.

Also performed Fri. Feb. 25, Sat. Feb. 26, Sun. Feb. 27, Tues. March 1, Wed. March 2, & Thurs. March 3.

Theater, Da. IWU Theater. 8 p.m. \$4.50. Also performed Fri. Feb. 25, Sat. Feb. 26, Wed. March 2, Thurs. March 3, Fri. March 4, & Sat. March 5.

Forum, "Venezuela and Mexico as Mediators." Part of the Central America and the Caribbean Basin series. Noon. Campus Religious Center.

Fri., Feb. 25

Film, American Gigolo. ISU's Capen Auditorium, 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.25 for students and \$1.75 for public.

Film, Richard Pryor Live in Concert. IWU Buck Auditorium. \$1.00. Call 556-3131 for show times.

Sat., Feb. 26

Wholistic health seminar, "A Holistic Approach to Better Health." 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sheraton Inn, Normal. Information at 663-5539 or 452-1060.

Film, American Gigolo. ISU's Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.25 for students, \$1.75 for public.

Film, Richard Pryor Live in Concert. IWU Buck Auditorium. \$1.00. Call 556-3131 for times.

Radio, Prairie Home Companion "Best of" special. Two hours of entertainment that is as much fun as a basket of powdermilk biscuits! Bluegrass music and homespun comedy. WGLT, 89.1 FM, 5-7 p.m.

Radio, Alive and Pickin'. Two-hour special featuring a quilt of local talent: New Moon, Bluegrass Crackerjacks, Stringtown Swing Band, Susie Bogus and Burt Carlson. WGLT, 89.1 FM, 7-9 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 27

Film, American Gigolo. Capen Cinema. 4 & 7 p.m. \$1.25 and \$1.75.

Peace and Justice Coalition presents Models of Resistance--Midwest folks from different walks of life share their experiences in resisting the nuclear arms race and U.S. militarism. 7:30 p.m. Newman Center, 501 S. Main, Normal.

Mon., Feb. 28

Today is a quiet day for Bloomington-Normal entertainment, so it's perfect for writing letters to Percy, Dixon and Madigan, c/o U.S. Senate or House, Wash. D.C., in support of the Nuclear Freeze.

March

Tues., March 1

Film, Sunset Boulevard. ISU Ballroom. 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00.

Wed., March 2

Opera, Cinderella. Chicago Lyric Opera, ISU's Braden Auditorium. 7 p.m. \$4.00.

Gay People's Alliance meeting: "Gay American History." 8 p.m., room 112, Fairchild Hall, ISU.

Thurs., March 3

Forum: "Global Review." ISU's Walker Hall lounge. 7 p.m. Free.

Forum: "Israel and Central America" Dr. Jamal Nassar speaking as part of the Central America and the Caribbean Basin series. Noon. Campus Religious Center. Free.

Fri., March 4

Film, Midnight Express. IWU's Buck Auditorium. \$1.00. Call 556-3131 for show times.

Press conference for 5 Bloomington-Normal representatives leaving to attend Citizens Lobby for a U.S./Soviet Nuclear Weapons Freeze in Washington, D.C. Mennonite Church, Normal. 7:00 p.m. Come and support your Freeze representatives.

Sat., March 5

Film, Midnight Express. IWU's Buck Auditorium. \$1.00. Call 556-3131 for times.

Mon., March 7

Citizens Lobby for a U.S./Soviet Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Washington, D.C. Call and voice your support: Sen. Charles Percy 1-202-224-7911; Sen. Alan Dixon 1-202-224-2854; Congressperson Edward Madigan 1-202-225-2371.

Tues., March 8

Citizens Lobby for U.S./Soviet Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Washington, D.C. Call your representatives in Washington.

Wed., March 9

McLean County Wheelers Club (bike club). Downstairs community room of Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan, 115 E. Washington, Bloomington. 7 p.m. Call Vitesse bike shop for more information.

Fri.-Sat., March 11,12

Film, Missing. IWU's Buck Auditorium. \$1.00 556-3131 for times.

Sun., March 13

Peace and Justice Coalition presents War Tax Resistance: talk on tax resistance by the "Dovetail Caravan" and a slide/sound show from the World Peace Tax Fund. 7:30 p.m. Newman Center, 501 S. Main, Normal. Free.

Tues., March 15

Film, Fireman's Ball. ISU's Old Main Room. 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00.

Wed., March 16

Gay People's Alliance meeting: Discussion about long-term relationships. 8 p.m., room 112, Fairchild Hall, ISU.

Thurs., March 17

Film, Summer Lovers. Capen Cinema. 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.25/\$1.75.

Forum, "Global Review." ISU's Walker Hall lounge. 7 p.m. Free.

Forum, Dr. Joel Verner, "Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador," part of the Central America and Caribbean Basin series. Noon. Campus Religious Center. Free.

Fri., March 18

Film, The World According to Garp. Capen Cinema, 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.25 students/\$1.75 public.

Music, "Chicago Rhythms," Dixieland Jazz. 8 p.m. ISU Prairie Room. \$1.00.

Music, "Stray Cats." ISU Braden Auditorium. 8 p.m. \$12.50.

Theater, Clara's Husband. ISU Allen Theater. \$. Also performed Sat. March 19, Sun. March 20.

Sat.-Sun., March 19,20

Film, The World According to Garp. Capen Cinema, 7 & 10 p.m. \$1.25 students/\$1.75 public. Sun. 4 & 7

Wed., March 23

Gay People's Alliance meeting: Representatives of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission will discuss gay rights laws.

Thurs., March 24

Deadline for Post Amerikan's April issue.

Fri., March 25

Coffeehouse, sponsored by Gay People's Alliance and Small Changes Bookstore. Time and place to be announced. Open microphone. Donations.

Premenstrual syndrome: Why a woman can't be more like a man

Post Amerikan vol. 11, no. 10 March 1983 page 20

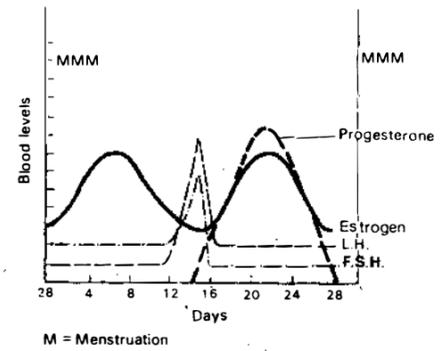


Figure 1 Female hormone levels during the menstrual cycle

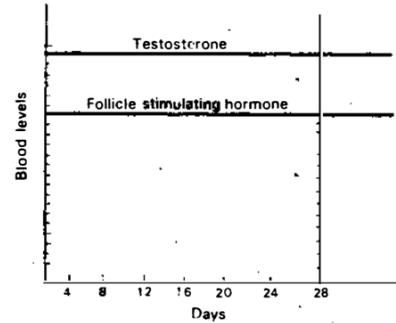


Figure 2 Male hormone levels during a month

What is PMS?

Premenstrual syndrome, PMS, is a hormonal imbalance affecting women of childbearing years, women from puberty to menopause. It is a new syndrome to explain old symptoms of "that time of the month." Dr. Katharina Dalton is the pioneer in the area of PMS. She is credited for first identifying the syndrome, naming it, and coming up with a treatment.

PMS is apparently a very common syndrome. It affects (depending on your source) from 20 to 95% of the American female population, or from 5½ to 25 million women in the U.S.

The symptoms of PMS occur sometime during the period from ovulation to (and in rare cases, through) menstruation. If they're present at any other time of the month, what you have is not PMS. The symptoms may be present for only a few hours or may last the entire two weeks.

The discovery of PMS has been a god-send for some women who thought they were the only ones in the world who got out of control before their periods. Women report feeling like they were going crazy, like someone or something else took control of their bodies. For years, doctors have been telling women that all their premenstrual complaints were either

psychosomatic or indicated nonacceptance of being a woman. These women are now able to return to those doctors with recent articles and research, wave them in their faces, and scream "Bullsh*t!"

Different effects

The ebb and flow of hormones in the female body affects different women in very different ways. No one knows why, but few dispute that claim. For some women, PMS means that they retain water and get a bit more testy. For others it means epileptic seizures and violent actions.

PMS has become the female health concern of the 80's. TV talk shows, radio programs, and magazine and newspaper articles have given PMS the attention its proponents believe it deserves. When both Phil Donahue and the *Reader's Digest* talk about PMS, the nation listens.

Women all over the country talk about PMS, start PMS support groups, and attend PMS workshops. A recent workshop in Bloomington sponsored by Planned Parenthood drew more than 250 women. One of the most important functions of the legitimizing of premenstrual symptoms is that women no longer feel crazy or alone. They discussed their orgasms (or lack of same) 10 years ago.

More and more women are entering doctors' offices armed with a list of symptoms, a three-month menstrual chart, and a demand for treatment. But most doctors have not even heard

of premenstrual syndrome. (Doctors, apparently, do not have the time to watch TV or read magazines.) And many of those who have heard of it refuse to believe in its existence. So a woman who believes she suffers from PMS may have to shop around before she finds a doctor who will treat her with anything but a pat on the head and a prescription for Valium.

Charting symptoms

The charting of symptoms and when they occur is probably the most important thing a woman who believes she suffers from PMS can do. Special PMS calendars are available, but the spiral notebook from last semester's English class will do just as well. The chart needs to be kept for at least three months, and all symptoms, regardless of when they occur, need to be recorded. Your menstrual periods need to be recorded as well, and if you know when you ovulate it wouldn't hurt to include that.

It is not always necessary to seek medical help for PMS, especially if you have a relatively mild case. For some women, just knowing that their symptoms are cyclical and are real is enough to help them control or regulate the syndrome by themselves.

Others may find that a hypoglycemic diet during the two weeks from ovulation to menstruation will do it. These women apparently have a low tolerance for the adrenalin which is produced when their blood sugar level dips; eating small amounts every three or four hours keeps the blood sugar level high, the adrenalin in the adrenal glands, and the woman from getting irritable, panicked, or epileptic.

One response to PMS that everyone

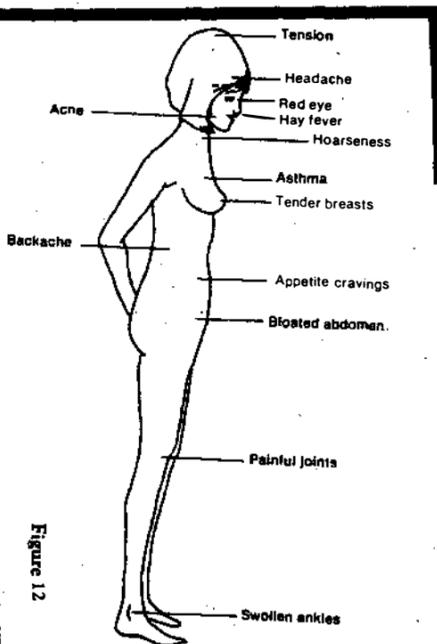


Figure 12

Common symptoms of the premenstrual syndrome

According to Dr. Elizabeth Dalton, "The Premenstrual Syndrome is used to embrace any symptoms or complaints which regularly come just before or during menstruation but are absent at other times of the cycle."

Physical symptoms of PMS include backache, asthma, sinusitis, epilepsy, weight gain, breast soreness, water retention, swollen ankles, swollen gums, blotchy skin, lank hair, glaucoma, numbness in fingers, sinus headaches, migraines, hayfever, hoarseness, loss of the sense of smell, dizziness, fainting, cystitis, urethritis, joint and muscle pain, varicose veins, boils,

styes, herpes, acne, conjunctivitis, capricious appetite, food cravings, food binges, alcoholic bouts, ulcers in the mouth, abdominal distention, constipation, fatigue, lethargy, greater need for sleep.

Psychological symptoms include mood swings, tension, depression, irritability, drop in mental ability, confusion, irrationality, aggressive outbursts, panic attacks, spontaneous crying spells, anxiety, clumsiness, and forgetfulness.

No woman has all the symptoms. The symptoms can range from mild to severe.

--Deborah

Symptoms

Progesterone -- the miracle cure and its problems

Natural progesterone (not to be confused with the synthetic hormone progestogen) is a female hormone made from the roots of yams or soybeans. It has recently been lauded as the miracle drug for the treatment of Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS). Dr. Katharina Dalton discovered its use for PMS, and most experts in the field agree that it works.

But they don't know why. Dr. Michelle Harrison says, "We don't know whether progesterone is making up for a deficiency, like insulin, or acting as a drug, like aspirin." She says she uses it because sometimes it works.

Although there is now a progesterone powder which can be sprinkled under the tongue, this is the least effective method because the liver too quickly breaks down the drug. And it tastes very bitter. The most common forms of natural progesterone are suppositories (capsules inserted into the rectum), pessaries (capsules inserted into the vagina), implants (pellets of the drug

which are inserted directly into the body tissue and muscles), and injections (given in the hip).

Suppositories and pessaries have the shortest life-spans. When taking them it is necessary to use from two to four per day, with 200-400 mg of the drug in each capsule. Injections last a little longer, and a woman choosing this form of progesterone therapy will probably

need only 75-100 mg every day or every other day. Implants last the longest, 6-18 months, but the body has a tendency to expel them at times of greatest need. If this happens, the skin around the implant will become inflamed, and the woman will need injections for five consecutive days to relieve the inflammation.

Women want it

Progesterone alone, or with changes in diet and lifestyle, is believed to eliminate all or nearly all of the symptoms of PMS.

Progesterone will work only if it is "started at midcycle, or at least four days before the symptoms would be expected," according to Dr. Dalton. Since the drug seems to work, women all over the country want progesterone. Most doctors will not give it to them.

There are many reasons doctors are

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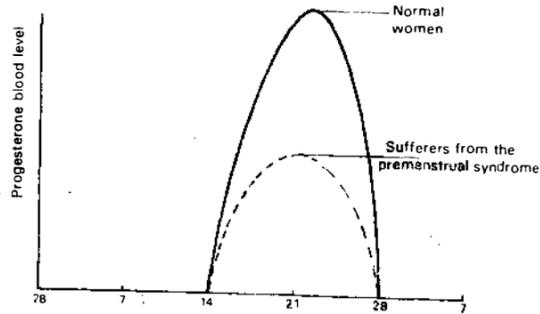


Figure 23 Progesterone in patients with the premenstrual syndrome and in normal women

recommends is that women should not "set themselves up." If you know little children make you crazy right before your period, don't volunteer to drive the car pool that week. Plan the dinner party for your boss next week instead of this one. Buy that new puppy after your period, not before.

Medical help

Women with more serious symptoms may want, or need, to seek medical help. A doctor sympathetic to your problem will work with you to devise the best course of action to treat your symptoms.

Most women also seem to find it helpful to discuss their PMS with those close to them--lovers, children, bosses, co-workers, etc. If you can warn the people around you about your symptoms and when they are likely to occur, your premenstrual stress may be lessened just because you do not have to hide it all the time.

Even with the discovery of progesterone therapy, the biggest achievement of the acknowledgement of PMS seems to be that it assures women that they are sane. They do have changes in their bodies every month, and these changes affect them in many different ways. Women will no longer have to pretend that they have no premenstrual discomfort. And if they make enough noise for a long enough time, someone will come up with a variety of treatments for the symptoms.

And it's the symptoms, not the women, which are the problem. The medical profession and the male sex will both probably be a while discerning the difference.

--Deborah Wiatt

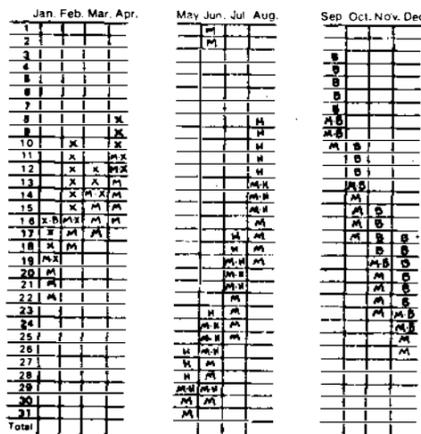


Figure 3 Menstrual chart with the Premenstrual syndrome

PMS sources

Katharina Dalton, M.D., Once a Month, Hunter House Inc., Pomona CA, 1979.

Jennifer Allen, "Premenstrual Frenzy," New York, 1 Nov. 1982.

Elizabeth Rasche Gonzalez, "Premenstrual Syndrome: An Ancient Woe Deserving Modern Scrutiny," Journal of the American Medical Association, 10 April 1981.

Susan Edmiston, "Now Premenstrual Syndrome Emerges as Important Issue," New York Times, July 22, 1982.

Nadine Brozan, "Premenstrual Syndrome: A Complex Issue," New York Times, July 12, 1982.

Graphics and charts from Once a Month.

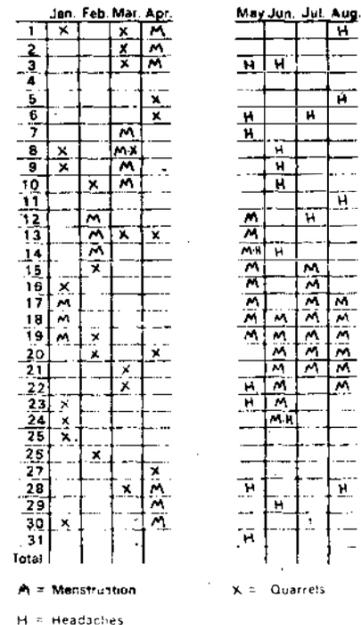


Figure 4 Menstrual chart with unrelated symptoms

Pick a cure, any cure

Through Dr. Dalton's work in England and the PMS clinics in the U.S., natural progesterone is the treatment usually cited for relief of PMS. But rest assured there are others.

"Almost every physician has at least one pet treatment," says Elizabeth Rasche Gonzalez in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Other "cures" include lithium carbonate, Vitamin B₆, methyltestosterone, progestogens, estrogens, oral contraceptives, minor tranquilizers, regular breakfasts, aspirin, bromocryptine, potassium, calcium alone or with magnesium, amphetamine, ibuprofen, optivite, testosterone, and placebos.

And there's more. There's also "learning to live with your nervous system," individual and group psychotherapy, biofeedback, hypnosis, scientific information and emotional support, special diets (low sodium, high protein, high fiber), eating every three or four hours, "Relaxation for Living" classes, orgasm, and hiding in your room.

I like the last two best.

--Deborah

What causes PMS?

Good question. Unfortunately, nobody has a good answer.

Theories, however, are abundant. It could be caused by inadequate progesterone levels, excessive estrogen levels, vitamin B₆ deficiency, altered glucose metabolism, allergy to endogenous hormones, deficiencies in magnesium, sodium, potassium, and assorted B vitamins, hypoglycemia, poorly functioning prostaglandins, or neuroendocrine events within the hypothalamic-pituitary axis that modulate neurotransmitter function. (And if anybody out there understands what that last one means, please let me know.)

Or it could be, as Dr. Dalton suggests that woman's reproduction system "is still in the process of evolution," and that it will take "another two or three million years for Mother Nature to iron out the flaws."

Everyone does seem to agree that PMS almost certainly has something to do with hormones. Probably.

--Deborah

cont. from page 21

reluctant to prescribe progesterone. Many do not believe that PMS exists in the first place. Others are concerned that the FDA has not approved progesterone in such large doses or for relief of PMS. They undoubtedly also do not like being told by their patients patients what to prescribe (the "Doctor as God" theory).

But there are legitimate reasons, too. Dalton's work has never been subjected to controlled studies, and many researchers claim there is no proof that progesterone works any better than a placebo. Dr. Cynthia Cooke claims that 20 mg suppositories work just as well as do Dalton's 200-400 mg ones. Dr. Georgeanna Jones has done research with progesterone and says it does not work at all. She claims that not only does it not improve the premenstrual symptoms, but that it often makes the symptoms worse.

Progesterone is also no fun to take. Says Jennifer Allen in *New York* magazine, "Taken vaginally, the suppositories leak, and users must wear a sanitary napkin at all times; inserted rectally, they tend to stimulate a bowel movement and get expelled."

Side effects

But the biggest problem with the drug is that it seems to have side effects no one expected. Dr. Dalton says that "It is impossible to give an overdose of progesterone to a woman who has borne children," but that the drug used on childless women "may very well occasionally cause euphoria and restless energy, insomnia and dysmenorrhea..."

But women who have been to the U.S. clinics report even more side effects. The pessaries give some women vaginal infections. Some women who take the capsules bleed, lightly or heavily, every day of the month. Women have found that taking the drug for the premenstrual time (which is when it is to be taken) merely pushes all their symptoms to their previously nonsympomatic time. It makes some women so dizzy they can hardly walk across a room. Other women have found that the drug sometimes makes their vaginas swell so much that they have trouble walking.

Dr. Michelle Harrison uses a consent form before she gives a patient progesterone. According to her, the list of side effects also includes "delayed or early menses, heavier or lighter menses, loss or gain in weight, increased menstrual cramps, change in sex drive, euphoria, and faintness."

Some researchers believe that progesterone may be addictive.

And some women report no side effects from progesterone treatment at all. Almost everyone agrees that progesterone, which has been used in Europe for 30 years, needs more study. But the women in search of a treatment for PMS today are not willing to wait. They believe that the side effects from progesterone are better than the effects of PMS. They want progesterone, and they want it now.

--Deborah

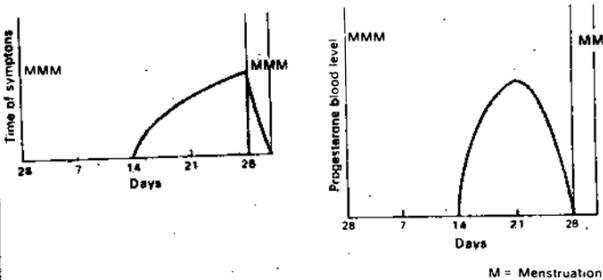


Figure 22 Time of premenstrual syndromes and progesterone level during the menstrual cycle

Premenstrual syndrome:

I do not dispute the fact that some women get a little messed up once a month. I do not question that hormonal imbalance in our bodies causes us to act a little stranger than we would otherwise. While ovulating, I myself have been known to burst into tears when watching *The Bad News Bears* and *The Magic of Lassie*. I do not deny the experiences of other women who say they have PMS symptoms every month.

But the whole PMS thing makes me very nervous. In 1970 Hubert Humphrey's doctor got into a whole lot of trouble with a whole lot of women when he publicly said that menstrual cycles made women subject to "raging hormonal influences" and that they could not be presidents of banks because they could not be trusted to make loans at "that particular period."

Five years later, those same women were urging me to get "into" my periods. I was to feel close to nature and the moon, to view my periods as celebrations of womanhood, and to believe that my bitchiness was due to the undue stresses of being a woman in this society. I was told to get to know my periods, to welcome them and get to know their color changes, their differences in flow, and, if I was truly committed, to taste my menstrual blood. Menstruation was not a curse, it was an old friend come to visit once a month.

Now, the same women are telling me that I am to admit my pain, discomfort, and moodiness. I should no longer deny my hormonal imbalances. I should chart them and get to know them. And if I get to know my raging hormones, and thus myself, I may realize that I should never be president of a bank because I could not handle making loans at that time of the month.

Excuse me

Excuse me. I think I've heard that one before. And I don't think I liked it any less when Hubert's doctor said it. Katharina Dalton and her followers seem to have put women in a double bind that they had spent decades getting out of. She suggests that women be treated differently because of PMS. Differently from men, that is. We need special treatment, special working hours, special jobs, because we have this special problem.

Dalton writes, "One chiroprapist complained that during the paramenstruum her hands get stiff and she finds skilled movements difficult. 'If ever I do cut a patient you can be sure it will be during those premenstrual days.' One wonders if the same ever applies to surgeons (before their periods)."

"In restaurants it is recognized that

the premenstrual clumsiness of waitresses accounts for an undue number of breakages.

"Lowered judgment during the premenstruum must also be considered by teachers, magistrates and examiners. Hasty and wrong decisions are the problems of the executives."

Dalton wants industry to know about PMS "so that women can be assigned to less skilled jobs such as packing and stacking during their vulnerable days, rather than remaining on tasks which are harder to remedy later, such as soldering or filing.

"The cost to industry of menstrual problems is high," says Dalton. "It has been estimated to cost British industry 3% of its total wage bill, which may be compared with 3% in Italy, 5% in Sweden, and 8% in America."

Dalton does not stop with telling us which jobs we're going to have problems doing. She also spends an entire chapter on sports and leisure activities.

She tells us that women may not be able to perform in sports during those critical two weeks. We may also not want to cut out a sewing pattern because we might ruin the material. We may lose our touch at arranging flowers and not be able to play intellectual games like bridge.

Women should also probably not drive a car. PMS will inhibit the coordination, instant reactions, good judgment, alertness of hearing, sharpness of vision, patience, rationality, or even memory of the driving laws. She goes on to say that insurance companies still consider women better risks than men, and that "women are at risk only during the paramenstruum."

At a time when women are beginning to make strides in the previously male-dominated fields, along comes Dalton to tell us all that we're rational, contributing members of society only

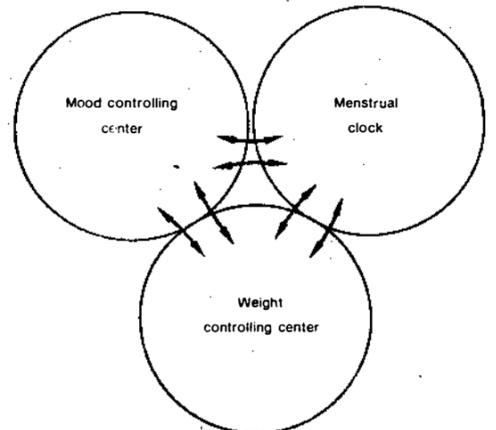


Figure 18 Diagram of controlling centers in the hypothalamus

Progesterone and cancer

Dr. Katharina Dalton claims that "there are no risks of progesterone producing cancer..." But some U.S. studies have shown that progesterone produces cancer in rats and beagles.

Dr. Ronald Norris, who started the Lynnfield (MA) PMS Program, pooch-poochs those studies. He ignores the studies done on rats, and claims that everything gives beagles cancer (which is not widely disputed). "Dr. Dalton has been using

progesterone since the fifties," he adds, "and last year a million and a half suppositories were sold in England. So where are all these women who are getting all these cancers?"

Hmmm. We've been doing nuclear testing since the fifties. So where are all these people who are getting all these cancers? ●

--Deborah

50% of the time.

Dalton also refuses to take into account any sociological or cultural pressures and biases which affect women. She claims that "Premenstrual irritability is commoner in the married woman," and does not acknowledge that marriage itself could be causing that extra stress. Her views on marriage seem to be a cross between Victorian England and St. Paul, and her methods of coping with PMS within a marriage reflect those views.

She writes: "How many wives batter their husbands during their paramenstruum is unknown, nor do we know how often the husband is provoked beyond endurance and batters her." Elizabeth Holtzman, a District Attorney in Brooklyn, is afraid that PMS "might justify violence against women: If a woman's out of control, you've got to control her."

Catch 22

Dalton also puts a wife into a "Catch 22" with her husband and her PMS. If the husband recognizes the wife is experiencing PMS symptoms and suggests that she should get treatment, "he will receive a flat denial that anything is wrong. In fact, she is quite unaware of the changes taking place, but this rigid refusal is another sure sign."

Dalton seems to be telling us that women are so incapacitated by PMS that they don't even know what's happening to them. Sorry, Doctor, I don't buy it. If a woman is keeping a chart, why should her husband have to tell her when the symptoms are beginning?

As I understand PMS, women do not cease to exist for two weeks. They may, however, not be able to fully control their actions. Surely watching yourself saying things you never meant to say is more devastating than hearing them said. A woman knows when she's being out of control. She doesn't need a man to tell her.

PMS can start or can get worse after a woman has a baby. Undoubtedly, hormonal changes might bring on some of the PMS symptoms after birth, but Dalton seems not to realize that PMS isn't the only reason a woman is

irritable with the baby:

"They become impatient with the children, not waiting for them to learn to dress or eat for themselves. They won't accept that 'kids will be kids' and shout at them when they are romping about harmlessly and then complain that the children won't behave."

Hormonal imbalance? Or spending too much time alone with the babies? Probably a combination, but you'll never get Dalton to admit it.

Abusive monsters?

"The most tragic presentation of the premenstrual syndrome," says Dalton, "is when it reaches such severity that the mother, in a state of confusion and rage, batters her much-loved child." It is this theory--that PMS turns normally serene women into violent, battering, physically abusive monsters--that makes people nervous.

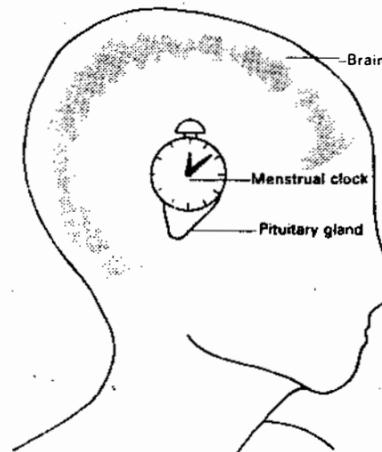
This is the concept which makes PMS a defense in criminal courts. Would you trust a woman in a position of authority, knowing that at any week she could turn into a sociopath with violent tendencies?

PMS could be used to launch a whole new campaign against women. Should women be teachers, pilots, social service workers, ministers, baby-sitters, or even wives and mothers? Should women exist outside locked (gilded, of course) cages? Would you trust a woman behind the red phone in the White House?

And lest you think I am the only person who is very nervous about this use of PMS, read on.

Dr. Sharon Golub: "By itself, I don't believe that premenstrual syndrome can cause a woman to become violent. The effect of premenstrual syndrome on women who are psychologically disturbed may be different than it is on 'normal' women, and one cannot generalize from the pathological subgroup to all women."

Sybil Shainwald, chair of National Women's Health Network board: "This



It is at the base of the brain in the Hypothalamus, above the Pituitary gland.

Figure 17 Position of the menstrual clock

is viewed as a sword that will be used against women in a society that routinely discriminates against women. Premenstrual syndrome does not make killers or child beaters. But if the premise works in court, I expect that more lawyers will take advantage of it. Then all women could be considered deficient, and that could be used to keep women out of jobs and positions of power."

Judith Levin, attorney: "This could be an opportunity for the law to oppress women."

Most PMS clinics and PMS therapists use Dalton and her research as their basis. Dalton's books are considered to be PMS bibles. And at times the PMS disciples and the PMS bibles are just as repressive, anti-feminist, and frightening as the original disciples and their bible.

Katharina Dalton is not God. She is a physician who has done a lot of research on one particular disorder. But when she tries to explain every sociological and cultural event in terms of biology, I start to doubt her word, even about PMS.

And she makes me, and a lot of other women, very nervous. ●

--Deborah Wiatt

Snake-oil salesmen?

PMS has become big business in this country. The rapid growth of PMS clinics and therapists has led some people to question the honesty and scruples of those who make their money off the monthly suffering of women.

Some clinics have apparently become rather questionable in their push for patients. According to Jennifer Allen, a woman visitor was asked by a nurse in one PMS clinic what symptoms she had. The woman said she had none. She was then told, "Maybe you should consider a blood test. You may have it and not even know it" (emphasis hers).

Since the causes or cures of the syndrome are unknown, women should be very careful before believing only one opinion.

Women come seeking medical help for PMS because they want relief from the symptoms that hamper their physical or emotional well-being. "These women are very gullible," says Dr. Lloyd Greig. "It's very easy to

sell them anything."

And it is easy to see why it would be. If you have been suffering from PMS for 20 years and some doctor tells you he/she can treat your symptoms, you are likely to believe it because you want to believe that you can be treated.

The doctor who "refers to those who run (PMS) centers as 'snake-oil salesmen'" may be snitty because women are getting treatment in clinics rather than posh individual offices, or he may be legitimately concerned that women not get ripped off by fly-by-night organizations.

If you check out the doctor, nurse, or clinic with other women, Planned Parenthood, or other women's health centers before you go, you will probably not be burned by the very people who claim they are there to help you. ●

--Deborah

PM\$\$\$\$

Although Katharina Dalton claims that premenstrual syndrome affects all races, classes, geographical areas, and economic conditions, you'd better have bucks if you want to be treated for PMS in this country.

A month's supply of rectal progesterone liquid costs over \$32.00. A month of suppositories will set you back from between \$1 and \$2.75 per suppository, that's \$50-\$137 every month.

If you're planning to go to one of the clinics, you can probably forego that trip to Hawaii. Prices from the major clinics in the U.S. run from \$225-\$325 for two visits, with blood tests, lab fees, injections, group therapy sessions, and in some clinics menstrual charts as well, all for extra charges.

In England, where Dr. Dalton practices, the poor can get medical treatment thanks to socialized medicine. But in the good old USA, PMS is, and will probably remain, a white, middle-class problem. ●

--Deborah

