

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

5-1982

Volume 11, Number 2

Post Amerikan

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mothers; cramps; nukes; other pains

Bloomington-Normal

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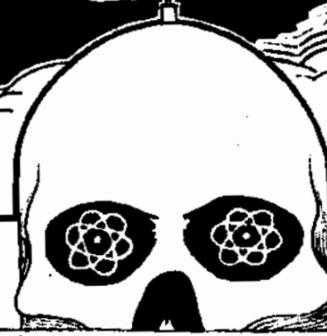
POST AMERICAN

Vol. 11 No. 2
May 1982

*The Nuclear Industry
cordially invites you to die
for their profits*



CLINTON



"WE ARE GOING TO BE NEEDING MORE PLUTONIUM FOR OUR WEAPONS PROGRAM,

AND THE BEST WAY I CAN SEE TO GET THAT PLUTONIUM IS TO SOLVE YOUR (REACTOR) WASTE PROBLEMS." Sept. 3, '81
Secretary of Energy
James Edwards

"WE ARE GOING TO... SPEND WHATEVER MONEY IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE A SAFE (!) OPERATING PLANT WHEN IT IS COMPLETED." Apr. 15, '82
I.P.C. President
Wendell Kelly

THE PEACEFUL ATOM IS A BOMB!

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BLOOMINGTON

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The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
The Coffee Shop, S. Main, Blm.
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
Discount Den, 207 N. Main
Front and Center Bldg.
Gene's Drive-in, 1019 S. Main
Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington
K-Mart, at parking lot entrance
off of Empire
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
Last Page, 416 N. Main
Law & Justice Center, West 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's Drugs, 1302 N. Main
Oakland & Morrissey, NW corner
Pantagraph (in front of building),
301 W. Washington
The Park Store, Wood and Allin
Red Fox, 918 W. Market
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
Steak and Shake, Locust and Clinton
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire (at
exit)
U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
Washington and Clinton, SE corner
Washington St., across from courthouse
W W Bake Shop, 801 E. Washington

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
Blue Dahlia, 121 E. Beaufort
Bowling & Billiards Center, ISU
Cage, ISU University Union
Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main
Drastic Plastic Records, 115 North
Eisner's, East College & Towanda (at
College entrance)
Fink's, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
Mother Murphy's, 111½ North
North & Broadway, southeast corner
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
Record Service, Watterson Place
Redbird IGA, 301 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

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

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

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome

all stories and tips for stories, which you can mail to our office. The deadline for the next issue is May 27.

We like to print your letters. Try to be brief. If you write a short abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. But long abusive letters, especially ones that set forth ideas you can read in Time magazine every week, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles.

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

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

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

good numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
American Civil Liberties Union 454-1787
CETA 827-4026
Clare House (Catholic Workers) 828-4035
Community for Social Action 452-4867
Connection House 829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence 827-4005
Department of Children and Family
Services 828-0022
Department of Health, Education and
Welfare (Social Security) 829-9436
Department of Mental Health 828-4311
Draft Counseling 452-5046, 828-4035
Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 828-9085
God 800-JC5-1000 (in New Jersey, 201-
555-1212)
HELP (transportation for handicapped
and senior citizens) 828-8301
Illinois Lawyer Referral Service
800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope 828-7346
McLean County Economic Opportunity
Corporation 829-1921
McLean County Health Dept. 829-3363

Mobile Meals (for shut-ins) 828-8301
National Health Care Services (abortion
assistance in Peoria) 691-9073
National Runaway Switchboard 800-621-
4000; in Illinois 800-972-6004
Occupational Development Center
828-7324
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone
Help) 827-4005 or 800-322-5015
Parents Anonymous 827-4005 (PATH)
Planned Parenthood 827-8025
Post-Amerikan 828-7232
Prairie State Legal Services 827-5021
Project Oz 827-0377
Public Aid, McLean County 827-4621
Rape Crisis Center 827-4005 (PATH)
Small Changes Bookstore 829-6223
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center 827-5428
TeleCare 828-8301
Unemployment Compensation/Job Service
827-6237
United Farmworkers Support Group
452-5046
Women's Switchboard 800-927-5404

Why kill people who kill?

I have never believed that WJBC is the Spirit of McLean County, but I do happen to believe that their "Problems and Solutions" is indeed a very important community voice. The folks who call P & S are a very real, probably very large, segment of this community.

As I like to keep in touch with what the other loudmouths in B-N are thinking, I listen avidly to P & S. So I was tuned in on the 23rd when the people of McLean County discussed the "tragic deaths of the McLean children" for an hour and a half.

I agree. The deaths of perfectly innocent 9 and 7 year-olds are tragic. I am truly sorry that Mary and Russell Roughton had to die so violently and so young.

But the death of any kind of justice, mercy, human dignity, that I witnessed on "Problems and Solutions" seems to me just as tragic and much more far-reaching.

For a very long 90 minutes the right-minded people (our neighbors, co-workers, friends) of this county wailed and moaned the loss of the death penalty. They

screamed for "an eye for an eye" quoting not only the Bible but also a code of ethics which sounded to me strangely mid-Eastern. (You know, like Iraq, and Kuwait, and I-R-A-N.)

And they talked on and on about bringing back the good old days, the days of public executions and lynching parties. They spoke of too many rights for the accused, and Amerika's sorry criminal justice system where justice for the criminal is nonexistent, and how if we are ever to feel safe again, we just have to kill people who make us unsafe.

I was appalled.

Public executions, indeed! For whom? For a child murderer this week, a bank robber next, a labor leader, a journalist, a homosexual? All without mercy, all without thought, all without any sense of justice whatsoever. It's a simple way to get rid of all the undesirables in our midst.

Execute enough undesirables, and the rest of them may get a little testy and join forces to put an end to the tyranny and injustice of the ruling class. It's called revolution.

It, too, is a simple way to get rid of undesirables. And, I believe, a much preferred one.

So I would warn those listeners of "Problems and Solutions": the next call for lynching you hear may be for your own. And it will not come from the likes of me. It will come from those you have given absolute power to--over such things as justice, mercy, and human dignity. •

--Deborah Wiatt

How many times has good old mom informed you that you have "broken her heart"? Has she ever told you to please "run a comb through that mop of yours--you look like a hag"? Well, you may not know it, because it's a well-kept secret, but mothers spend long hours preparing themselves for the heartbreak of child-rearing by going to a place called Mothers' School, where they study such things as Advanced Techniques in Manipulation 355, Basic Mother Vocabulary 101, Intro. to Martyrdom 255, and Theory of Humiliation and Guilt-tripping 288.5.

Well, kids, the Post Amerikan, always striving to keep you, the reader, informed, went undercover recently to infiltrate Mothers' School and came back with a wealth of information that you have probably known since you were a wee tot on Mum's knee. For instance, did you know that if you throw a block at your baby brother, you could put his eye out?

Here is a brief selection of facts, fiction, and sheer poetry that we compiled on our trip to Mothers' School:

"Listen, Lady Jane . . ."

"Girls are so much easier..."

Twenty-four years ago, my mother had a daughter. When the doctor announced my sex, she was overjoyed. She had lots of ideas about raising a daughter. She thought she would dress me up in frilly dresses. She thought she would teach me lovely manners so I could delight all the grownups with how ladylike I was. She thought she would help me select my prom dress. She thought she would help me select my nursing school. She thought she would cry at my wedding. And finally, she thought in her old age she would sit around sipping tea with me while the men were in the other room and reminisce fondly about when she helped me select my prom dress.

I have been a big disappointment to my mother. Herein lies the point of the story. To any of you women who have daughters or think you want daughters--let me assure you, there are NO GUARANTEES.

I know, I know, you're saying "But I'm different! I will base my relationship with my daughter on mutual respect, trust, understanding, and loving communication." Yeah, you probably think you're going to read Kate Chopin to her in the cradle, you'll encourage her to explore her natural talents, you'll talk openly about sexuality, birth control, falling in love with boys or even girls (yes, you are that hip). Very noble intentions.

But you know what? Someday soon, you'll be saying, "Come on honey, let's talk about this; I want to know what your FEELINGS are." And she'll turn to you, roll her eyes, and in that tone we all know too well, she'll say, "MUHH-THURR!!! I really WISH you would stop HASSLING me about what my FEELINGS are!!! So just LEAVE me ALONE. I have to go practice for PomPom tryouts with Kathy."

And when she gets over to Kathy's house, they'll sit around and say, "My mother is sooo out of it. She thinks it's 1970. And why did she have to name me Sasha? Why couldn't she have named me Sue?"

Your own daughter thinks you're a crackpot. And she'll grow up to be a

"What's wrong with that nice pink dress?"

"Just who do you think you're talking to?"

"I should have listened to Mrs. Hobart."

"I'm still your mother."

"Because I SAID SO."

"I don't know what's wrong with you kids."

"You kids only know one word--gimme, gimme, gimme."

"If your friends all went and jumped off a cliff, would you do that, too?"

"How could you do this to us?"

"Is that what we sent you to college for?"

"When I was your age. . . ."

"Just WAIT till your father gets home."

"They're only out for one thing."

"If I talked to my mother like you talk to me. . . ."

"Do you need an engraved invitation to come to the supper table?"

"You can quit your belly-aching or I'll really give you something to cry about."

"I guess I was cruel to my mother, too (sigh)."

"You'd go and listen to the kid on the street corner, but you won't listen to your own parents."

"If you think you're pretty enough to go without makeup, you're wrong."

"Never mind, I'll do it myself. You'd think I was asking you to go to the moon."

"I wish your Aunt Rae who adored you so could have seen the way you sass your mother."

To the daughter with large breasts: "Honey, you shouldn't run. . . it doesn't look nice."

To the daughter who brings home a skinny boyfriend: "If I were you, I'd think twice about being with such a skinny guy. You look big as a barn next to him."

As you attempt to leave the house in your favorite miniskirt: "If you want all the boys to see your ass, why don't you just go naked?"

To the daughter who's just had her first period: "It's time you stopped that rough-housing with the boys."

To the daughter who's recently divorced: "Your father was just getting to like him."

To the grown daughter who drives 50 miles for a visit (thrusting a \$10 bill into her hand): "If you don't get blown off the road into a ditch on this cold and windy night, take this and see if you can't get somebody to DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR HAIR."

Looking you over from head to toe, every time your return for a visit: "Your first grade teacher, Mrs. Martin, still tells me how cute I used to dress you."

"Mrs. Berg's daughter manages to send her a card on her birthday AND on Mother's Day."

--LVD

--LVD



fundamentalist who wants nothing more than a home, kids, and a husband--an ex-air force sergeant turned insurance salesman--living happily ever after. Until she has a daughter of her own.

Austin now protects gays

Austin, TX--Following the January defeat of a proposal to permit housing discrimination expressly on the basis of sexual orientation (see Post, v. 10, #9), the Austin City Council voted 5-2 to expand the list of categories protected by the city's fair housing ordinance. The new categories include sexual orientation, age, parenthood, creed, and marital status.

It was because these amendments had been proposed last summer by the Austin Human Relations Commission that a group called Austin Citizens for Decency launched a campaign to legalize anti-gay discrimination in housing. The proposed measure was soundly defeated at the polls.

City council member Ron Mullen, an opponent of the protection of lesbians and gay men, voted against the new amendments. Nevertheless, he appealed to "those of you who are going to lose tonight" to "take your lumps" and refrain from "starting a hate campaign." Mullen was apparently referring to the smear tactics used by the Citizens for Decency in their attempt to push through their anti-gay proposal.

Austin now provides protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, and retail services.

--Gay Life

Pleasure seeker's guide to menstrual cramps

When I was in high school, my best friend, Susan, used to faint and vomit during her periods. I would visit her, poor thing, and put wet wash cloths on her forehead. It was because she rejected her femaleness, I told her.

I showed the same sisterly sensitivity to the girls in my gym class who complained about cramping: it's your imagination, I would say. It was one thing to get out of gym class but--come on!--who did they think they were fooling?

I was reflecting my culture and I was reflecting what doctors still say today about cramps: that they are psychological, that they are unimportant, or that we are poor dears who must Bear Up. But I was wrong and the doctors are wrong. I don't want to talk about our psyches right now or about the validity of female experience, etc., but I do have a few home remedies I'd like to share with those of you who get cramps.

Cramps vary from woman to woman, and even from month to month, but (in healthy women) they all seem to be caused by the same things. The discomfort that you feel when your bleeding is the heaviest is probably caused by contractions in your uterus. This happens when large pieces of uterine lining or clots are being passed from the os, the opening of the uterus. During menstruation, the uterus and the tissues surrounding it, including the vaginal walls, can become a little enlarged. This is caused by water retention. The uterus is located between the bladder and the rectum. It can put pressure on these organs and the surrounding nerves, causing pain or a feeling of fullness. It can also make you urinate more often.

Exercise?

In my own personal survey, the one cramp cure that I heard over and over again was Exercise. Run, swim, lift weights, do yoga, dance, stand on your head. Move.

I have to admit that I never take this piece of advice, myself. When I have cramps, I drink coffee and read erotic books, but neither of these cures (to my knowledge) has been substantiated by research or validated by anything outside of my own subjective experience. I also take dolomite, which is a mineral that contains both calcium and magnesium. I think that a lot of the problems associated with bleeding are caused by calcium deficiencies.

Adelle Davis points out that about 10 days before menstruation, a woman's calcium level begins to drop. She believes that this drop causes the water retention. It can cause headaches, too. Another interesting thing about calcium is that it maintains the permeability of the cell walls, protecting us from viruses (herpes, for instance) and allergins. Is this the reason women with herpes tend to have outbreaks during their periods? Could this be why women seem to be

more susceptible to herpes than men? I don't want to start any rumors, but these are interesting things to think about.

Adelle recommends that we supplement our diets with calcium pills (milk won't do it, she says), beginning about two weeks before the expected date of your period. Another suggestion is that when you get cramps you should try taking one tablet an hour, until they stop. Extra calcium is stored in the bones and doesn't appear to be harmful, but if you get diarrhea, you should probably stop taking it.



The one problem with taking too much calcium is that it can cause a deficiency in magnesium. That's why I take dolomite. It contains both minerals, in the proportion that your body likes best.

At the risk of sounding like a calcium freak, I'd like to add that vitamin D (which we get from the sun) and phosphorus work with calcium, but that sugar decreases our ability to absorb it.

And I want to give my personal testimony: dolomite always makes me feel better.

Teas

Both calcium and phosphorus are important for muscle contraction. A lot of our cramping is caused by uterine contractions, so I think that it's a good idea to be sure that we're getting enough of both of these minerals when we're bleeding. If you eat too much salt, it causes your body to lose potassium. During your periods, you might try cutting down on salt and eating foods that are high in potassium: bananas, oranges, dried fruits, tomatoes, melons, carrots, potatoes, and green, leafy vegetables. If you feel fat and bloated, these are nice, light foods to eat anyway.

There are lots of teas to drink for cramps. Comfrey root tea (which is

high in calcium, by the way), cramp-bark, catnip, bancha, raspberry, motherwort, camomile, ginger root, parsley, ephedra, and sweet balm are a few of the ones recommended. A general rule of thumb, when you're using herbs medicinally, is to steep them for 20 minutes. Experiment and enjoy.

A heating pad across the belly can provide temporary relief. A long, hot bath with a glass of red wine has been found to be particularly fortifying. Some women recommend placing ginger slices over the pelvic area and covering them with a warm towel to draw out the pain. Sounds a little esoteric, but why not?

According to Prevention magazine, recent studies have shown that bioflavonoids help to prevent cramps and to regulate periods. You can get them in supplemental form, or increase your dietary intake by eating green pepper or the white part and pulp of organic oranges or grapefruits. (You probably shouldn't eat inorganic pulp because that's where most of the pesticides are concentrated.)

Massage

Having a friend massage your lower belly can be very soothing. Roll onto your stomach and ask him or her to press along the sides of each vertebrae from your waist down to the tail of your spine with their thumb. The pressure should be light at first, increasing gradually to the count of 10; and then released, just as slowly. Orgasms can be therapeutic, as well. Experiment and share.

I think that occasionally the discomfort that we have when we bleed is caused by or heightened by the way we feel about our bodies. No amount of minerals or herbs is going to take care of that. I believe that the best thing to do is just learn about yourself. Get a speculum (that's the tool that looks like duck bills that your doctor uses when you get a pap test) and look at your cervix. You'll need a mirror and a flashlight, too. (Look at your cervix and marvel at the amount of money your gynecologist charges.) Look at yourself, pay attention to the cycles that your body goes through, learn what things feel best for you and share what you learn with your friends.

Learn about your body and when you get cramps, make some time for yourself. Take hot baths and calcium, make love, eat bananas, listen to oboe music, appreciate an opportunity to spoil yourself. And remember: when it comes to your body, you are the authority. •

--Alison Clement

Sources: How to Stay Out of the Gynecologist's Office, The Federation of Feminist Women's Health Clinics; Let's Eat Right to Keep Fit and Let's Get Well, Adelle Davis; Prevention; Wellbeing; and Richard from "Quintessence," a homeopathic pharmacy in Madison WI.

Racism--yes; Gay rights--no

Schaumburg, IL--Preaching before a "freedom rally" in this Chicago suburb recently, the Rev. Bob Jones called Wisconsin a "perverted, depraved state" for passing gay rights legislation.

"This is fast becoming a God-hating, devilistic country that I can't be loyal to anymore," said Jones. "Take Wisconsin. They just passed a law there that says you can't fire a person even from your own church, because he's a homosexual. . . . That's the work of the Antichrist."

Jones was also angry that the U.S. government doesn't want to support the racism of Bob Jones University and more than 100 other religious schools in the country. Jones attacked President Reagan as "a traitor to God's people" because of Reagan's stated opposition to granting tax exemption to private schools that practice racial discrimination on so-called religious grounds.

"The state is declaring war on our faith," Jones told an enthusiastic audience of about 700. "We are in

warfare. Spiritual wickedness, that's our enemy." His words were met with loud applause and shouts of "Amen, brother!" •

--Gay Life, 5 March 1982

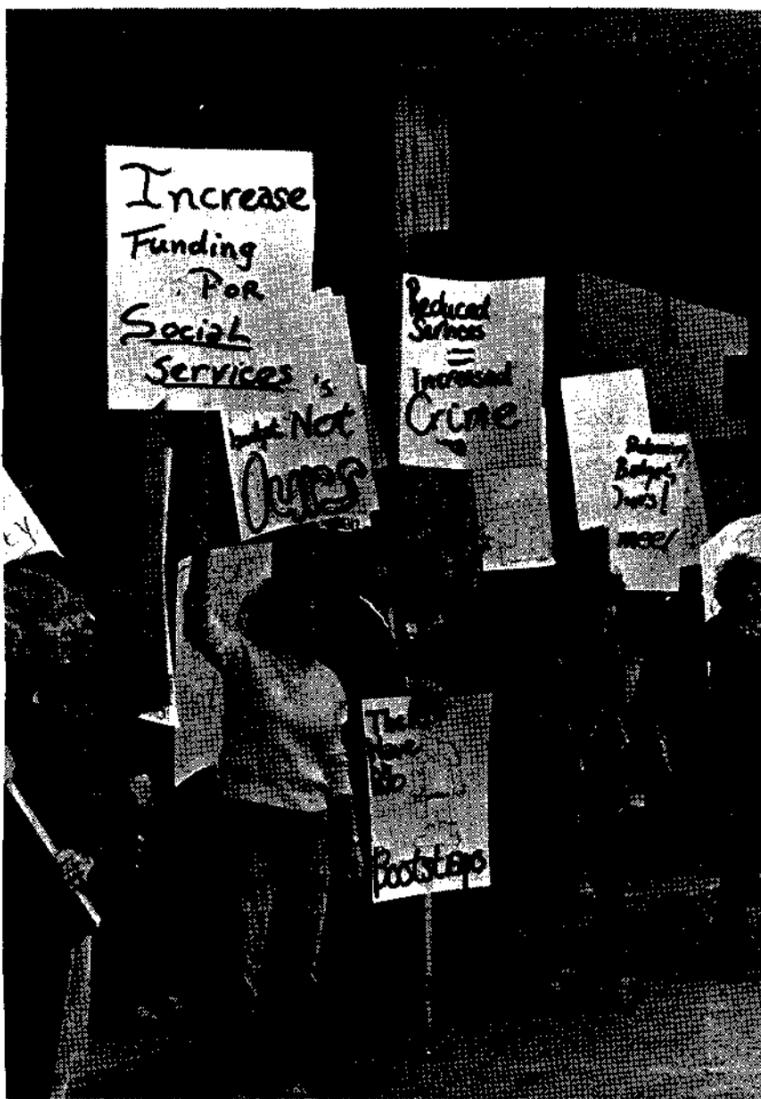
The Schweiker/Helms show

Spring demonstration season comes to Central Illinois about the time the Cubs start to come off their traditional opening winning spurt. The weather's about as consistently agreeable as you can get in the state at Spring (which is to say: not very consistent at all); people are looking at each other more (rather than huddling behind their winter clothes); and the local power elite starts to think in terms of testimonial dinners/picnics for this year's repugnant politico. The Spring '82 season got off to an especially fine start (the best in years) thanks to some convenient scheduling by two local power groups, the McLean County Republicans and the Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI).

Each organization had scheduled their own dinner in Illinois State University's Union on succeeding Mondays. The first dinner, sponsored by the Republicans, featured Secretary of Health and Human Services Richard Schweiker, while the second bestowed an ACI spotlight on U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. Both Helms' and Schweiker's offensiveness were detailed in the last Post, so for convenience let's just note that the pair are multi-issue men, Reaganomics pointsmen with a particular insensitivity on the abortion issue. These Renaissance Reactionaries, in a different political clime, might attract as much attention as a preppie in New England, but these are dire times for anyone who believes that government and humanity should not be separate. Both appearances sparked protests by a variety of local and campus groups: National Organization for Women, American Civil Liberties Union, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Black Students Union, Planned Parenthood, and National Abortion Rights Action League.

While the Bloomington Pantagraph reported both April demos as student affairs, the ratio between campus and town residents seemed a bit more balanced: students, town malcontents (you know, like this paper's staff!), union members, ordinary outraged townies. (This reporter, who also attended both events as a protester, hasn't been a student since 1974.)

Due to the better weather, Schweiker's demo had the better attendance--200 plus at its peak--but the Helms protest had its own small high points. Response to the demonstrators seemed to vary with the weather, too: this reporter heard one Republican woman call one group of anti-Schweiker protesters "cute." The anti-Helms demo drew audible snarls.



No demo story would be complete without a mention of some of the more memorable posters that were carried, and the Schweiker/Helms appearances sparked an assortment of well-wrought placards:

"Will the party that freed the slaves become the party that enslaves women?"

"Reduced services = increased crime."

"If you think Jesse Helms is against big government, think again."

"The Reagan administration is hazardous to your health."

"Pig Justice Is No Justice." (a personal fave)

"El Salvador needs food, not guns."

"Don't trickle down on me."

"Don't Allow Helms to Kill the Voting Rights Act."

With the weather damper during Helms' demo, one woman even brought a slogan-festooned umbrella ("Keep the government out of the bedroom!"). This reporter was impressed by her practicality.

By far the most satisfying moment in either protest came near the finish of the ACI demo. The bulk of both protests had been carried on outside the Union doorways, but with night drawing near and the weather turning chillier, demonstrators had moved inside the entryway. As folks discussed how much longer they were going to stick around, a procession of ACI types came out of the Union's auditorium area and marched toward the dining room.

Protesters stood on both sides of the procession of well-decked men and women, pointing out the folk that they knew while big band sounds (a remnant of the "better days" that Reagan and his ilk wish to bring back) floated out of the dining room. The music was probably loud enough to drown out the subsequent shouts and songs from protesters, but that's unimportant (they knew we were out there). Like so much surrounding the season, Spring demonstrations are an act of renewal and reaffirmation.

--Bill Sherman

NEXT

WEEK:

EUREKA

If you enjoyed reading about the demonstrations described on this page, you'll certainly want to join in the next one. It's a biggie! Ole' Dutch Reagan is slated to speak at the commencement ceremonies of Eureka College.

Yes, indeed, the Big Cheese-giver himself is coming to Central Illinois--and we should be there to greet him! Reagan will give the graduation address on Sunday, May 9, at 3:00 p.m. Protest festivities will probably get underway a bit sooner.

Reagan is also scheduled to speak at an alumni banquet in downtown Peoria on Sunday evening--at the Continental

Regency Motel. A large demo is planned for the Prez's appearance there, too.

So round up your friends and other malcontents that you know, make some snappy posters, and trek on over to Eureka (it's only 30 miles NW of Bloomington-Normal) and/or to Peoria.

Tell Reagan what you think of his administration! The media will be out in force, so let's give them something interesting to report.

(Nancy will be there, too, but she's not bringing the china.)

The President in Barbados

It was early. The phone rang. I answered. Hello? yes, this is Michael.

Hi, Post-Amerikan here, can you get to the office as soon as possible?

Sure, no problem.

I showered and dressed as fast as I could. Yes, this could be it, I thought, the special assignment I had always wanted.

I was to report to the "one in charge" --you know, the "one in charge" they always talk about in the part of the paper that says "about us."

I arrived early; the group had collected in the main office of the newspaper. They were waiting for me.

Good morning, hello. Michael, we have a special assignment for you. We want you for special coverage, and believe me, this is a special assignment. How soon can you be ready to leave?

Right away, as soon as possible! I always have a bag packed just in case I'm needed. I'm ready! The assignment: Cover the President in Barbados. Yes, this trip needs first class coverage, and we want it here exclusively in the Post-Amerikan.

My, what a large plane. Boy, this is first class. Stereo, let's see, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope comedy hour, Lawrence Welk walking in bubbles, the list is endless. What a choice. Boy, am I lucky.

We arrive in Barbados; the President hasn't got here yet. The secret service has, and is unloading their security equipment. After all, it's most important to secure the island. You know, this is the first President of the United States to visit Barbados.

More transport planes have arrived.

More secret service agents, computers, radar, anti-guerrilla devices--you know, the kind that can detect a guerrilla from 500 feet away.

Now they're unloading the limousines--one two--no, more than that. Nine seems more like it.

These big cars really dwarf the small cars of the island. The limos even dwarf the city buses designed to carry the majority of residents of the island.

The security check is running on schedule. 14 miles of the white sandy beach is now cleared for the President and the first lady to have at their convenience for swimming. (You should see the little rubber duckies they set out. They're cute.)

The parade routes are secured, the streets widened so the natives of Barbados can line up for hours and wait for the U.S. President to drive by in his limousine so they can wave at him. After all, the people of Barbados don't have much of anything else to do: their unemployment is very high, around 28%. But I'm sure with all this excitement, who cares? A touch of western civilization right here in Barbados.

The helicopters have arrived. The Navy has sent PT boats with a small arsenal aboard. Small rubber rafts with armed secret agents patrol the island: security at its finest, the best security that our tax dollars can buy.

Being a reporter, I get the final notice: Attention: Barbados Secured. The President of the United States will be arriving soon. Final cost, 3 million for our fine security--boy, am I impressed. And lucky.

Twenty-four hours later, the President arrives in Bridgetown, Barbados. The reporters get a copy of the itinerary, stamped "Important." Let's see here, 4 token stops to talk with the heads of whatever their government is here, two picture-taking sessions, one hospital visit and one stop at the horse stable. One parade, small yet effective. Housing with Claudette Colbert at her mansion. Then, the vacation starts. Well, I had better get busy planning what important



stories I'm going to write. My staff is counting on me.

What a day. Here I sit in front of my typewriter. I have been here a week. My articles are scattered all around me. Time to draw this all together.

It's hard to choose which story is best. I really did cover everything the President did in Barbados. Yet, I think this one is my favorite. I bet the Post-Amerikan staff likes it too.

THE PRESIDENT GOES SWIMMING

(Nice headline, pretty much self-explanatory.)

The President went swimming today in Barbados. Dressed in white swim trunks and looking fit for a seventy-year-old man. The president took a dip. Nancy by his side dressed in white slacks and red top (not really dressed for swimming, more for sunning) looked nice also.

The President entered the water slowly (it was a bit chilly) and submerged his physique in the waves. Then the President did the freestyle stroke, the backstroke, the sidestroke, and finally dove to the bottom and re-emerged with sand in his hand.

He was joined then by Nancy (we, the reporters who were stationed four hundred feet away had to turn our heads; she didn't want us to see her in a swim suit). The President and First Lady played together.



Upon completing the swim, the President and First Lady retired for a nap.

*** **

Yes, I'm sure this is the most meaningful story. I do hate to see this all end.

Well, not all is lost. If the staff is impressed by my stories, who knows? I might get the next presidential assignment. You know, the one when the President takes his next vacation trip to visit General Kadaffi in Libya, followed by a fishing trip with Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union and then on to Cuba for scuba diving with Fidel Castro.

So, until then, this is Michael in Barbados with the President. ♦

--Michael



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Legal Services president comes out

Dan J. Bradley, recently resigned as president of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), announced publicly that he is gay. He thus became the highest-ranking member of the executive branch of government ever to come out.

Bradley has been in public life for 15 years, always a closeted homosexual. In making his declaration, he said, "Today is my first day out of the closet and the happiest day of my life." At one time Bradley served as the racing commissioner for the state of Florida, under Governor Reuben Askew, who backed Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign in Dade County.

In an interview with Chicago's GayLife, Bradley indicated that he intended to devote his time to the gay movement and has agreed to join the board of directors of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL).

"With the time that I have left on this earth and with whatever ability and whatever talents I might possess, if there's anything I can do to further the cause of the gay civil rights bill in Congress or the individual and legal and human rights of gay Americans, then that's what I'm going to be doing," Bradley told GayLife.

A Reagan target

Bradley was prepared to come out a year ago, when he thought Reagan would replace him with a conservative. But the administration did not make personnel changes in LSC, apparently hoping to dismantle the organization altogether. (LSC is a federally funded private organization that offers legal assistance to the poor and has been a prime target of Reagan for years--he tried to do away with it in California because LSC was representing poor people in a number

of suits against corporations. The budget for LSC was reduced by 25 percent last year.)

Bradley revealed that he was convinced to join the board of GRNL by Steve Endean, GRNL's director. They met in a gay bar in Washington at the time both were lobbying against the anti-gay McDonald amendment (see Post, vol. 9, no. 5).

Bradley made his coming out public in a March 31 interview in the New York Times after the Advocate, a gay newspaper from California, reported his appointment to the GRNL board.

Bradley doesn't think his coming out will harm LSC: "There's no question that Howard Phillips (congressional conservative caucus leader) will try to use the fact that the head of the Legal Services Corporation was a closet gay, but quite frankly I just don't think it will work. . . . Legal Services is too strong a program and it has too much support in Congress for it to be done under because of my homosexuality."

A would-be minister

Bradley, who grew up in an Atlanta orphanage, originally studied to be a minister at Mercer University, a Baptist school in Macon, GA. He quit that area of study when the church's stand on segregation alienated him, and he became a lawyer.

The 42-year-old Bradley said he had his first homosexual experience at age 28 and underwent psychotherapy and periods of isolation for nearly 10 years. "All those years when I was struggling with who I was, when I had no social life or meaningful personal relationships, Legal Services was my life," Bradley said in his Times interview.



T.O. SYLVESTER

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As for coming out, Bradley told GayLife, "I had to do it for my own salvation. Life was not worth living in the closet. A closeted existence is no existence at all."

Since coming out, Bradley has been swamped with requests from the press for interviews. Ironically, he has a higher public profile now than when he was working for the government.

--Ferdurdurke

Sources: Gay Community News, 17 April 1982; GayLife, 9 April 1982; New York Times, 31 March 1982.

Post-Amerikan May, 1982

Vol. 11, No. 2 Page 7

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

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

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TV review

Lear's liberals love liberty

A few weeks ago I spent two hours watching Norman Lear's "I Love Liberty" extravaganza on television. I must admit I was curious about this new strain of patriotism from the liberal bench. Could you tell the difference between a Lear flag-waver and a Falwell flag-waver, I wondered. (No.) Would there be the singing of some biting alternative patriotic songs to replace the more traditional ones? (No.)

Would there be the obvious absence of high school bands, giant Amerikan flag flags, and all-around long, roving shots of the amber waves of grain superimposed on the Sears Tower? (No.) Would it really be a statement about alternative patriotism? (No.)

To be fair, there were some basic differences between this production and the New Right kind. Instead of Kate Smith singing "God Bless America," Lear had Helen Reddy. Instead of Anita Bryant doing "America the Beautiful," Lear produced Barbra Streisand, complete with the thrice-heard "And crown thy good with brotherhood" which never fails to irk me.

An afterthought

Then we had the Muppets doing their rendition of "There is a Brotherhood of Man," which had me screaming, throwing peanut shells at the tv, and scaring my cats. Even though Miss Piggy popped in to add "and woman" after the last chorus, it just wasn't enough. Seems women are an afterthought, even with liberals.

The thing is, there is a myriad of nice, patriotic, non-sexist songs that Lear and Co. could have chosen. What's wrong with Cohan's "Grand Old Flag" or "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor," from the poem on the base of the Statue of Liberty? Want a show-stopper? How about West Side Story's "I Like to Be in America"? Cynical and upbeat at the same time. Or perhaps something a little newer? Like "Equal Rights"?

But I gritted my teeth and picked up the peanut shells. The cats cautiously returned, and we settled back to watch the rest of the show.

I have to give Lear credit; it was fast-paced and very entertaining. Barry Goldwater introduced five high school bands playing five different songs all at the same time, Robin Williams pretended to be the flag, and Jane Fonda quoted the First Amendment.

Lots of tokens

And there were tokens all over. It was kind of like watching the Democratic National Convention. You got your women, and your blacks, and your youth, and your aged, and your Jews.

By far the most biting and touching moment came when five people appeared on stage: one black, one Hispanic, one Native American, one older man, and one woman. The black man started out by saying, "My name is...just call me an angry black." He went on to list the grievances that blacks in this country have and ended with, "America's not working too well for me. (Pause.) But I love my country."

We then heard from an angry Hispanic, and angry Indian ("Make that Native American"), and an angry woman, all ending with the same "America's not working too well for me...But I love my country." Then we heard from the older man.

I knew what he was going to say. "Just call me an angry senior citizen." I turned to my cats, "And where does that leave the queers, huh? Back in the dressing room closets where they belong. Goddam liberals." The cats put their ears back and prepared to bolt. Then the man spoke. "Just call me an angry gay," he said.

I was stunned. As, I am sure, was the bulk of the tv audience, for entirely different reasons. I made my apologies to Lear for presupposing his discretion, and listened to how America wasn't working for the gay man and how he loved his country, too.

A biting performance

The very next spot was a comedian who is a victim of cerebral palsy. "You know those five people who were just up here?" she asked. "Well, we left

the dressing room at the same time. I just got here." Hers was the most biting performance of all, and the only one that received a standing ovation from the studio audience.



The last sketch was a 1982 graduation address from the class valedictorian who stopped mid-sentence and claimed she couldn't go on. She could not tell her classmates how wonderful everything was going to be, because she didn't believe it. She was scared. Martin Sheen asked her if she thought her plight was any different from any others and told her that every generation had its problems. "Your generation invented the bomb," Kristy McNichols screamed, "mine grew up with it!"

She went on to say that she could not be concerned about tomorrow's solutions, since there was, in all probability, not going to be any tomorrow. Sheen told her (and us) patiently, calmly, fatherly, that one person can make a difference. One person can talk to another person, or two, or three, or ten thousand, and can stem the tide of conservatism and nuclear holocaust and everything will be beautiful and nothing will hurt. (Now, I believe that, but then I believe in the tooth fairy, too.)

Took out the punch

The show ended with everybody joining hands and singing "God Bless America," which seemed to me to take a lot of the punch out of the rap about religious freedom they had done earlier, but perhaps I was just tired.

Actually, the whole show made me tired. I understand what Lear and Co. is trying to do. I know that if the New Right is going to claim patriotism and love of country as their own, liberals probably do have to counter that claim. But somehow the idea of seeing who can out-flag-wave whom is a bit more than I can take.

In a time of global politics and the interdependence of all nations for the world good, this spirit of nationalism in Amerika and of near isolationism from both the right and now, too, the left, makes me a tad uncomfortable. I know the difference between "America--love it or leave it" and "Amerika--change it or lose it," but I think there is a fine distinction between loving the America of the New Right and loving the America of the New Liberal. And I guess I don't trust Lear and Co. nearly as much as I trusted Bernadine Dohrn and Abbie Hoffman and their view of Amerika. Maybe if there had been just one little flag flying upside down...•

—Deborah Wiatt

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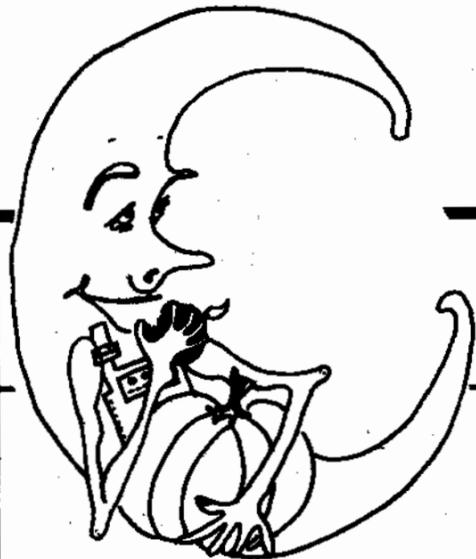
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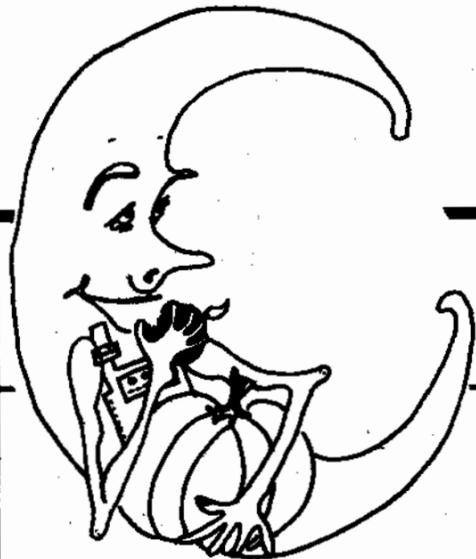
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The Fertile Crescent Almanac May 1982

				By Gary and Jolie Stutzman		Remove unwanted trees, shrubs; trim others.		Enters TR 18:10		1	
TR 2 Cultivate, plant flowers and vines-- wait to plant or transplant vegetables.		TR 3 Plant Corn These 3 days also good for hay, flowers.		Enters TR 1:33 4		5		Enters TR 10:25 6		Enters 7 21:17 8	
9 Plant garlic and chives near roses to prevent aphids. Plant onion seed.		10 Mother's Day		Enters 7 9:50 11 Through the 13th: Plant potatoes, onion sets. Successive plantings of carrots, radishes.		12 8		Enters 22:45 13 Cultivate, weed, spray. Ask for Rotenone and tobacco dust at your garden store.		14 15	
Enters 9:47 16 Plant for root growth.		17 Peace Day Prepare beds for cucumber, melons, squash, pumpkin, okra, lima beans.		Enters 17:05 18 19		Enters 18:03 20		Sun enters II 4:23 21 Lettuce, leaf vegetables, trees.		Enters II 20:55 22 NEW MOON 23:40	
II 23 Harvest: Already? Radishes, turnips, beets.		Enters 20:37 24 25 Plant herbs, flowers, cucumber, melons, squash, pumpkin, okra, beans, lima beans.		Enters 21:28 26 27 Week end: watch if the temperatures are in the 80's.		28 29 Prepare beds for flowers.		Enters TR 00:44 30 31 Plant Flowers Memorial Day		Times adjusted from The Daily Planet Almanac, Boulder, Colo.	
TR 30 Try some wildflowers from ESP Wildflowers P.O. Box 5125 El Monte, CA 91734-1125		Enters 7:03 31 Memorial Day						This design and more on T-shirts from Wild Things P.O. Box 190 Guesville, VA 22931		Fries - D. Taurus - II. Gemini - S. Cancer - Q. Leo - TR. Virgo - S. Libra - TR. Scorpio - S. Sagittarius - S. Capricorn - S. Aquarius - TR. Pisces	



Like Erich Segal's book and movie, nuclear power is a "Love Story." It sort of combines the love that King Midas had for gold with the love Dr. Faust had for knowledge and power.

Yet the measure of all great love is its price. We know that Edward Teller, Hans Bethe, and the corporation presidents of Kerr-McGee and General Electric love nuclear power. But what is its price? And who will pay it?

On March 1, 1954, a hydrogen bomb was exploded on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Fallout from this bomb fell on 236 Marshall Islanders over a 100 miles away. Due to the lack of warning about radiation or prior notification of the blast, the natives took no protective measures. Hours after the fallout fell on them, they began to feel itchy skin, burning eyes, and nausea. They became very tired, lost their appetites and soon had diarrhea.

The next day burns appeared on their skin, and hair started falling out. Two days later they were evacuated by the U.S. Navy to Kwajalein Island.

American newspapers and magazines reported that Admiral Strauss and the Atomic Energy Commission had told them that "there were no burns" and that "all appeared to be well." It was also reported that the islanders would return to their home islands soon.

Pictures of the non-existent burns and descriptions of the non-existent illnesses can be found in a book published by the United States government, The Effects of Nuclear Weapons by Samuel Glasstone and Philip J. Dolan. The return "soon" stretched to years--in July, 1957, islanders first went back to Rongelap.

Shifty experts

Periodically over the years, the islanders have been removed and returned, according to how "expert" opinion shifted concerning the safety of the remaining radioactive contamination. For the first 4 years Rongelap women exposed to the fallout had stillbirths and miscarriages at twice the rate of other Marshall Island

NUCLEAR

Means you never have

native women outside the fallout area.

In 1963, Rongelap islanders began to have thyroid tumors and a higher rate of growth retardation. Leko Anjain died of myelogenous leukemia in the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, in Nov. 1972. He was one year old when the fallout fell on Rongelap in 1954. When he was 13, he was first taken to the U.S. for removal of thyroid nodules. His father, mother, and two brothers have also had thyroid surgery.

In 1976, a Brookhaven report showed that 69% of the Rongelap children

under 10 when exposed to the 1954 fallout had developed thyroid tumors.

Yet, despite all this, the United States made the following report in the United Nations Review (Sept. 1954, vol. 1, no. 3, p. 16): "All persons who had been exposed to radiation were now restored to health. No person had ever been killed as a result of the tests or even seriously injured, no homes destroyed, no islands blown up. The only destruction had been that of two sand pits, uninhabitable and without vegetation."

On Sept. 23, 1954, Aikichi Kuboyama died in a Tokyo hospital from this



PRAIRIE ALLIANCE

FOR SAFE ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Rural co-ops own

Last week Margaret Maxey spoke at the Illini Rural Electric Cooperative's annual members' meeting in Champaign, and it is a sign that not all is well outside the city limits.

Why are electric coop managers across Illinois having this expert in bio-ethics speak at their annual members' meeting? Maybe because these 15 coops have 100,000 rural customers who discovered they own 10.5% of the Clinton nuclear power plant (\$2000 per customer).

Margaret Mazey is a professional pro-nuclear speaker whom Phyllis Schlafly would be proud of. She compares "anti-

nuclear fearmongers" to pagan Greeks and hints that corporate policymakers have Judeo-Christian values. I've seen her soften up her audience by suggesting they imagine "that millions perish--for lack of food, shelter, clothing and medicine: for want of the resources to resist anarchy and war."

How did rural electric cooperatives get into the nuclear power business? A little history in public and private utilities would help explain the situation.

Utilities have always had to be monopolies, because there is no economical way to have competition. Can you imagine having duplicate systems of electricity or water distribution, where you could choose your dealer? The costs would be higher because the retailer would have less income per mile of services. There are now two different types of monopolies distributing these necessities of life.

Investor owned utilities (IOUs) are set up by private individuals and corporations who want to have a

Prairie Alliance contacts

Normal-Bloomington Prairie Alliance
C.R.C. 210 W. Mulberry
Normal, Illinois 61761
or call 828-8249

Champaign Prairie Alliance
P.O. Box 2424, Sta. A
Champaign, Illinois 61820
phone 217-367-3527

Meltdown threat ignites Prairie

Imagine radioactive fallout all around you. Everyone is getting nauseous; many are violently ill. The hospitals are packed; there is general panic in the streets. You might think that such chaos could only be caused by a nuclear war, but you would be wrong. Knowledgeable scientists and engineers have said that a nuclear power plant--like the one being built at Clinton, 22 miles south of Bloomington-Normal--could melt down and contaminate a large area with deadly amounts of radiation.

The probability of a meltdown disaster is one reason Prairie Alliance for Safe Energy Alternatives has chosen to intervene against the Clinton Nuke operating license. Here are eight of the contentions which have been submitted by Prairie Alliance to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The contentions as they appear in this article are very much abbreviated and

written in plain English (not legalese).

Contention #1--The Clinton Nuke Plant should not be licensed before a safe and effective emergency plan has been developed. There is no reasonable evacuation plan for schools, hospitals, prisons and parks. The Illinois Power Company hasn't said how it will warn the public if there is a release of radiation or they contaminate soil and water.

Contention #2--Illinois Power Company's past actions give us grave concern that they may not be competent to operate the Clinton Power Station. (The NRC has decided to consider this possibility, by the way.)

Contention #4--No one has proved the Clinton Nuke invulnerable to sabotage by terrorists or lunatics.

Contention #6--Sometimes the control rods stick when the reactor is going out of control. Faulty welds would compound this problem.

Contention #7--The control room at Clinton is not properly designed. There is too much reliance on computerized monitoring. Since the Clinton plant will be one of the first nukes to use computers extensively, there will undoubtedly be problems.

Contention #10--The Clinton Nuke is not designed to withstand the shock of a severe earthquake.

Contention #14--The computer models used to predict how the emergency core cooling system will work are not reliable.

Contention #18--Environmentally superior and less costly alternatives

to say you're sorry

"harmless" fallout. Kuboyama was a radio operator on the Japanese tuna boat **Lucky Dragon #5**. Although Admiral Strauss and the AEC maintained there was no risk to Japan, a million pounds of fish were seized by Japanese health authorities, and the U.S. government paid Japan \$2 million in compensation (in 1954-55 value dollars!).

The same stuff

This 1954 information is interesting because the effects of fission products will be largely the same whether created and released by a bomb or a commercial nuclear reactor. The greater the amount of "fallout," the more serious the consequences. Radiation injury often takes time to manifest itself, thus making it hard to establish legal responsibility.

In Oct. 1957, there was a fire at the Windscale nuclear plant near Whitehaven, England. Air filters were be-

lieved to have contained most of the radioactive material, but 20,000 curies of radioactive iodine and 689 curies of radioactive strontium and cesium were released.

As a result, dairying was banned over a 200 square mile area for 60 days. Milk was seized and dumped into the ocean. To get an idea of how big 200 sq. miles is, compare it with Edwards County, Illinois, or the City of Chicago corporate limits, or 17% of the land area of McLean County.

In December 1957, a nuclear waste dump blew up at Kyshtym in the USSR. Little is known about casualties because of the secrecy of both the Russian government and the U.S. government. It is believed that "early fatalities" were at least in the 100s and most likely in the 1000s. Forty sq. miles were permanently too radioactive for human habitation. In 1972,

continued on next page

part of Clinton nuke

guaranteed profit on their capital. The management of these utilities involves increasing profits for investors while satisfying regulatory agencies.

Public owned utilities, on the other hand, are controlled by the customers themselves. City, state, and federal utilities were formed by citizens aware of the savings realized when profits weren't included in their utility bills. Many of these utilities were formed in response to corruption and price gouging from private utilities. Rural electric cooperatives were formed to improve life outside the cities, because private utilities couldn't make enough profit per mile of service to justify their investment there.

With the success of REA (Rural Electrification Administration) and TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) in the late 1940s and early '50s, IOUs started a publicity campaign identifying them as socialist. During the McCarthy era, this was all that was necessary to discredit competition. Many sincere community or-

ganizers feared for their reputations and abandoned the coop movement to businessmen and bankers, who eagerly served the interests of the IOUs.

So that is where we are today. Some folks in central Illinois are now taking a renewed interest in their coop, only to discover roadblocks to participation. We have discovered how undemocratic our coops have become.

The coop board of directors is usually made up of agri-businessmen who have been on the board for decades. They never question the coop managers' decisions, and they enjoy expense-paid conventions in New Orleans. Elections of directors are held at the annual members' meetings, and the incumbents have never been challenged until the last three years.

The management uses coop newsletters to cut down these challengers and influence members politically. They censor criticism from members and make a joke of democracy. They hire their lawyers to keep members from their right to check financial records, and they don't allow interested members to attend board meetings. The worst part is that there is no regulatory agency to control the management.

So now the majority of rural residents in Illinois have low-interest loans from the REA. The trouble is that this money has been handed over to Illinois Power Company (an IOU) instead of paying for home insulation projects to prevent wasted energy. (Just think how well each house could be insulated with \$2000 labor and materials, and think of all the jobs created!)

Anyone interested and who needs help dealing with their coop should contact me.

Greg Stoewer
1005 W. University
Urbana, IL 61801

Note: Cornbelt Electric Coop, surrounding Bloomington-Normal, also owns part of Clinton nuke.

Alliance

make Clinton Power Station unnecessary.

Of the 19 contentions put before the NRC, only 10 will be admitted into the licensing hearing. The rejected contentions were either "too vague" or "not as specific as required by 10 CFR and 2.714" or "should have been brought to our attention before."

The operating license hearings are scheduled to begin Aug. 30. Prairie Alliance has retained the services of Chicago lawyer Jan Kadner. He is an experienced anti-nuke lawyer and is eager to pursue the intervention. It is very likely that expert witnesses will testify for Prairie Alliance. Of course the intervention will be very expensive. Any help that concerned individuals can give will be much appreciated.

--Mike Judd



Energy needed for intervention

There is a \$2.2 billion time bomb ticking in our backyard. Illinois Power Co. calls it the Clinton Nuclear Power Reactor. Others call it insanity. Without opposition, the Clinton plant will begin active operation in only two years. Many people strongly feel that nuclear power is a hazard that should be fought against. If you are one of these people, then please keep reading. There are things that you can do to help.

The Clinton nuke is about energy and money, and ironically, energy and money are the two things needed to fight against it. The Prairie Alliance for Safe Energy has recently contracted a lawyer, Jan Kodner, to work on the intervention of Clinton's operating license (see related article). Although the members of the Prairie Alliance are doing a great deal of the legal research and paperwork in order to reduce Jan's fee, the cost of the intervention could soar as high as \$15,000! And this is where the need for money and energy come in. It's going to take quite a bit of energy to raise that kind of money.

Many fundraising activities are being planned including concerts, dances, slideshows and an energy fair! Donations of your energy will be gleefully and gratefully accepted by either the Normal-Bloomington Prairie Alliance or the Champaign chapter.

Monday May 3 at 7 p.m. the Prairie Alliance will be meeting at the Normal Public Library to see a FREE showing of the slide show titled "I Have Three Children of My Own." The show, produced by Dr. Helen Caldicott, discusses the health hazards of nuclear radiation. A discussion and meeting will follow. All are welcome to join us for part or all of the evening.

The energy fair, tentatively planned for Saturday August 14 at Miller Park, will be a festive day of live music, games, theater, positive energy displays, solar baked goodies and more!

If you have any suggestions for fundraisers, any connections that you might like to share with us, or the desire to join the Prairie Alliance, then give us a call or just join us at the May 3 meeting.

Special thanks to those who helped us out with our benefit at Fink's. Much obliged.

--Holly

NUCLEAR POWER

continued from preceding page

the U.S. government spent \$7 million to evacuate trench Z-9 at the Hanford, Washington, nuclear waste dump to prevent the same thing from happening here.

On Jan. 3, 1961, three men--Richard Legg, John Byrnes, and Richard McKinley--made a mistake at the Stationary Low-Power Reactor Number 1 near Idaho Falls, Idaho. By removing a control rod too much, they caused a "supercritical power excursion." This caused the reactor to blow the 9-ton pressure lid up to crush the three men.

The radioactivity that remained made it difficult for rescue workers to spend more than minutes in the facility. It took six days to remove a body from the ceiling by means of a remotely-operated crane and a closed-circuit television. The heads and hands of the three bodies were so radioactive that they had to be severed and buried with radioactive wastes.

In New Jersey, on Jan. 8, 1963, a truck facility dockworker found a box leaking a liquid. To stop it, he turned the box rightside up and then cleaned the floor. He got a little

of the liquid on his hand. His name was Edward Gleason. The box belonged to the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Center in Apollo, PA. The liquid was a plutonium solution.

Three years later, Gleason got cancer on his finger, then his hand. Later it spread to his arm. After many amputations, the cancer had spread throughout his body. He died in February 1973, and his widow collected \$350,000 in a court settlement with NUMEC. One of the other dockworkers, Charles Brown, also died of cancer.

Learning from history?

In 1952, Joe Harding got a job in Paducah, Kentucky, working for Union Carbide in the uranium enrichment plant. About 18 years later, in 1971, Union Carbide terminated Joe, and granted him a total disability pension.

The problem was that Joe had fingernails growing out of the wrong side of his fingers. He also had fingernails growing out of his knuckles, joints, wrists, elbows, shoulders, ankles, knees and even the arches of his feet. One of Joe's daughters died from a stomach ailment and the other is suffering from premature aging.

The doctors told Joe that these were radiation-related illnesses. Union Carbide retracted his disability payments four months after granting them. This left Joe Harding with almost no financial resources to pay his \$250,000 medical bills.

Once, back when Joe was working for Union Carbide, he and some other workers harbored some doubts about the health-physics personnel, who supposedly tested them for radioactivity each day. So they put their film badges on top of a smoking chunk of uranium for eight hours. No report came back of radiation overexposure. Then they put uranium in their urine samples. Again there was no report of a radioactive presence.

On June 12, 1961, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled a Court of Appeals decision to halt construction of the Enrico Fermi nuclear plant near Detroit. The Enrico Fermi I nuclear plant was the first commercial breeder reactor. The United Auto Workers union had sued the AEC to deny a construction license to the plant because the union believed it to be unsafe.

AEC agrees

The Atomic Energy Commission and the U.S. Supreme Court considered it to be safe. \$130 million later, after generating electricity for less than 30 days at its licensed capacity, the AEC denied a license renewal for the Fermi plant. It took until Aug. 27, 1972, for the AEC to agree with the UAW that Fermi I was too unsafe to operate--ever.

At 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 9, 1965, a power failure at an Ontario electric power plant began a "power cascade." In 12 minutes the electric supply for 30 million people living in an area of 80,000 sq. miles was shut off. This power failure shut off the lights in 8 states and 2 provinces of Canada.

In Jan. 1971, a Strategic Air Command B-52 bomber crashed about 2 miles from Big Rock Point nuclear plant near Charlevoix, Michigan. The plane was headed directly at the nuclear reactor when it crashed into Lake Michigan raising a fireball 200 to 600 feet in the air.

Another airplane incident occurred when Melvin Cale, Louis Moore and Henry Jackson hijacked Southern Air-



"Actually, we're part of the military-industrial-theological complex."

ways flight 49 in Nov. 1972. They demanded \$10 million ransom for the crew and passengers. When they had difficulty getting the authorities to raise the \$10 million, they threatened to crash the airplane into a nuclear reactor at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Part of the Oak Ridge plant operation was shut down while the airplane was flying above it.

Concern about the safety of nuclear plants caused the Atomic Energy Commission to hire a study group to study the likelihood and possible consequences of a "worst-possible" nuclear accident. This \$3 million study group, headed by Dr. Norman C. Rasmussen of M.I.T., issued its report on Oct. 1, 1975. The "Rasmussen Report" (also known as WASH-1400/NUREG 75/014) said that a person had one chance in 5 billion of being killed by a commercial nuclear plant accident in any given year. The Rasmussen Report also said that the chance of a \$1 billion accident happening is one in a million per each nuclear plant, and the chance of a \$500 million accident is 1 in a million per plant, per year. The report has been widely discredited.

Three-mile disaster

On March 28, 1979, the nuclear plant at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania had an accident after about 4 months of official operation. Since that accident, neither TMI 1 or TMI 2 has been used to generate electricity. TMI 1 will almost certainly never again be usable. In March, 1980, General Public Utilities, the owner of Metropolitan Edison Co. and Three Mile Island nuclear plant, sued J. Ray McDermott Inc. (owner of Babcock & Wilcox) for damages "exceeding \$500 million." Babcock and Wilcox built TMI 2. Then in Dec. 1980, General Public Utilities sued the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for \$4 billion, alleging that the NRC was negligent in its regulations and therefore responsible for the accident at TMI.

That's something to think about while the NRC decides about whether or not to grant the Clinton nuclear plant its operating license.

--Ralph Dring

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Mountains of poisonous waste

Radwaste by Fred Shapiro. Random House, 1982, 288 pages.

While the states and the federal government argue over what to do with the waste materials from the nuclear industry, the mountains of poisonous materials-- "radwaste"--pile higher and higher every year. In 1980, the numbers were already staggering:

--2.955 billion cubic feet of uranium mill tailings, which emit a radioactive gas (radon) at 44 sites;

--28,315 spent-fuel assemblies, most of them stored in underwater pools near 73 American reactors;

--10.2 million cubic feet of highly radioactive material from government and private research reactors, increasing at the rate of 85,000 cubic feet annually.

As Fred Shapiro argues, the nuclear industry failed to follow a basic rule of high school chemistry: before you invent any new substance, you should figure out what you're going to keep it in. His exhaustive study of the radioactive waste problem shows that this "oversight" could well make substantial areas of the earth uninhabitable in another generation or two.

"Everybody let it sit there," Rustom Roy, who heads the Materials Research Laboratory of Pennsylvania State University, told the author. "Ninety-nine point five percent of the nuclear budget went into making reactors, and what was left over went into this squeal of the pig, this reactor garbage."

The nuclear cleanup cycle went ignored for more than 20 years.

As Carroll Wilson, the first general



manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, once explained it, the problem was "not glamorous; there were no careers; it was messy, nobody got brownie points for caring about nuclear waste."

Every now and then, nuclear advocates suggest sending all this muck into space or using the South Pole somehow. But neither suggestion makes much sense. Can you imagine what would happen with just one failure in the release of radwaste into the atmosphere?

After the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, plans for 15 new reactors were canceled or indefinitely postponed. But there are 73 existing reactors in the U.S., each of which has a maximum operating life of 40 years. Decommissioning and decontaminating all these reactors will cost at least \$10 billion--in 1980 dollars.

If future Americans choose to "mothball" or "entomb" these facilities, instead of dismantling them, they will have them as permanent reminders of the short-sightedness of their 20th century ancestors.

As Illinois State Sen. Jerome J. Joyce testified in 1980, "our children and our grandchildren face the prospect of hundreds of 'tombs'--totally useless monuments built by their ancestors--dotting the countryside from sea to shining sea."

--Books of the Times

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Prisoner needs help

Post-Amerikan,

This is a very difficult letter. It is actually a plea for an inmate at Dwight Women's Prison. The lady I am referring to is illiterate. She has been promised a tutor several times. All it has been is a promise. Most people here are concerned only for the date they leave. Due to the fact that this woman cannot read, she has unknowingly broken several rules, receiving disciplinary tickets and too much punishment.

As fast as someone reads and explains a rule to her, there are two or three more posted. So to avoid being kept here any longer than necessary she has committed herself into the protective custody unit. In this part of prison you are allowed out of an extremely small cell for 20 minutes for each gross meal and one hour for recrea-

tion, which includes taking a shower, getting ice or hot water, and mail.

The rest of the time this lady is locked up without being allowed to speak to anyone. That's a total of 22 hours a day, 7 days a week, in self-imposed solitude to avoid any more trouble. To let you know what she is up against, she received two weeks recreation denial for sharing a cup of coffee! Things do get crazy around here. This inmate will be in protective custody for over two years. To save her sanity, we think a television may help and keep her up to date on news in the real world.

We are not allowed to have one brought to us. We have to order them from Dwight or an approved catalogue. Maybe they think we'll eat a tube or smoke a dial of a used TV and get

LETTERS

high. There is no explaining this reasoning. Anyway, we are not asking anyone to buy this inmate a TV. We have written letters to her family asking for donations, but they don't seem to care. They will not answer letters or accept her phone calls. So she really has no one.

We have had our families donate several dollars for her and she now has \$66.00. To get a TV from Dwight, it costs exactly \$99.95. Only compassionate people seem to read your paper and we would appreciate it if a few readers could send one or two dollars each. You could even monitor this till she has the right amount. We are not trying to make the girl rich, just to preserve the sanity she now has.

Any donation has to be in Money Order form as they return cash and checks to the sender. If you can help we would appreciate it. If not, maybe you could refer us to a way to solve this problem. When we solve this problem we are going to write everywhere and demand a tutor for her until we get some action. We may be able to get someone local to come in weekly on a visiting basis to solve this. We are doing all we can. Any donations should be sent to:

Jeanne Carpenter
A67448
Box C
Dwight, Illinois
60420-0319

This is the woman this letter is about.

Please send us an answer soon. If you would like any information for an article about Dwight please feel free to write to Jeanne as I read any mail she receives to her. Including all of two birthday cards and a one-page letter in the year of 1981. We could also send you a book of the rules and regulations if you are interested. Please answer right now.

--Written and composed by friends who care: Sheila, Cathy, Bonnie, Dorothy, Debby, Dawn, and Linda

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Restrictions on men

And how do

When one of her male colleagues introduced a bill to increase legal penalties for gay sex acts, Florida state Senator Pat Frank came up with a unique solution.

Frank threatened to add an amendment that would provide for the removal of any state senator from office who had extra-marital sexual relations. The anti-gay bill was quickly withdrawn.

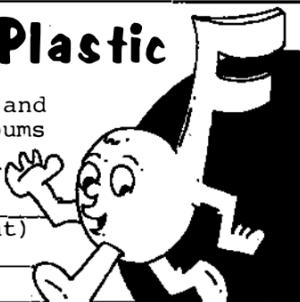
The senator had first tried her new technique to restrain rampant, right-wing male moralism during debate on an abortion bill that required a woman to give notice to her husband before she could have an abortion.

"All right," the outraged Frank said, "if you want to maintain that one partner has the right to know, what's good for the goose is good for the gander."

"If a husband gets another woman pregnant and she intends to abort, the wife of that husband should be given

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Citizens concerned for Pontiac prisoners

Dear Concerned Citizens:

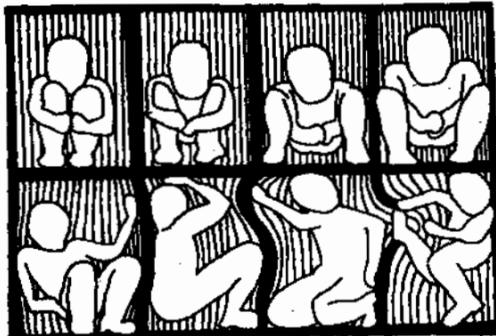
This letter is an attempt by sincere and concerned prisoners, incarcerated at the infamous Pontiac State Prison in Pontiac, Illinois, to inform all caring citizens of the various crimes and inhuman treatment prisoners are suffering at the hands of negligent prison officials.

The crimes and inhuman treatment take on many varieties of form. The most recent, being more eminently dangerous to society at large, involves the exposing and/or releasing of prisoners with communicable diseases into the general prison population.

The present policy--allowing infected prisoners to mingle with healthy prisoners--endangers the general health and safety of unsuspecting people both inside and outside the prison walls. Healthy prisoners and prison staff (i.e., turnkeys and case workers) are exposed to infected prisoners. Prisoners have visits with their family, friends, and loved ones, thus exposing society at large. Staff members, who work at Pontiac Prison, are exposed and return to society at large after work.

Some of the diseases that prisoners and staff members are exposed to daily include various venereal diseases, tuberculosis, sominella. There are document instances where prisoners bearing "health warnings" for v.d. are knowingly assigned to food service jobs, where they handle food that other prisoners must eat; prisoners bearing "health warnings" for tuberculosis are also knowingly assigned to food service jobs. Prisoners infected with the highly contagious disease sominella are allowed to be in the general population, where other prisoners are forced to double-cell with them. There is at least one prisoner we know of who has an infected and highly contagious growth on his leg--and is assigned to the general population where others must take showers with, eat with, and cell with him.

All of the above information has been repeatedly brought to the attention of prison officials. Their responses have been to tell lies, deny everything, and attempt to cover up the truth. When we presented official documents proving such acts were actually taking place, Pontiac officials issued an order ordering all turnkeys and staff to locate, confiscate, and destroy any such docu-



ments found in the possession of prisoners. It was further ordered that when such documents were not in use, they must be turned over to departmental heads or destroyed completely.

The Pontiac Prison officials seem to have the full support of the Director of Prisons and the Governor in their wanton and deliberate wrongs, even though both high-ranking officials have full knowledge of them. In addition, Pontiac Prison officials are encouraging employees to give out false information about legal action we have filed in an attempt to legally correct the Department of Corrections illegal and inhuman actions. (See: Jamal Ali Akbar et al, v. Michael P. Lane et al, No. 81-2151.)

It is common knowledge that Gov. James Thompson has a great deal of contempt for poverty-stricken people in general, and an even greater contempt for poor people who run afoul of the law. We, the concerned prisoners of Pontiac, are offering the above information with the hopes of making the general public aware of the criminal intent of Pontiac officials, with the knowledgeable support of higher ranking officials (i.e., Director Lane and Gov. Thompson), towards the people of the State of Illinois.

The prison walls cannot confine the highly contagious diseases mentioned above. Do state officials propose to solve their problems of overcrowded prisons by creating epidemics to kill hundreds of prisoners and unsuspecting citizens? Are prisoners being subjected to Nazi concentration camp experiments without their knowledge? We hope you will assist us in our efforts to bring an end to such dangers.

Concerned prisoners,

Jamal Ali Akbar
Khabir Ramzi Hadi
Chester Homes

LETTERS

Goodbye & good luck

To the Post-Amerikan,

I have been a student at Illinois Wesleyan for two years and I must say that it's been quite an experience. I've decided to leave this rather sheltered, conservative environment, but not without giving my total appreciation to the Post-Amerikan.

You have given me the only connection to an existing struggle for the poor, the unwanted, etc., which I rarely ever got here in utopia, oops, Wesleyan. I would like to wish all of you the best of everything and thank you for your contribution to the black liberation struggle.

All power to the people,
Vicky L. Brown



"And they said the churches
couldn't work together!"

Long-time reader says, 'Congrats!'

Congratulations. I heard you've been going 10 years. Well let me tell you, I've been reading your paper the last 7 years. Looks like we're getting old. Anyway keep up the good work, and let's both hope we last another 20.

--Jim Digiacomio

you like it?

notice of the intent of that woman to abort.

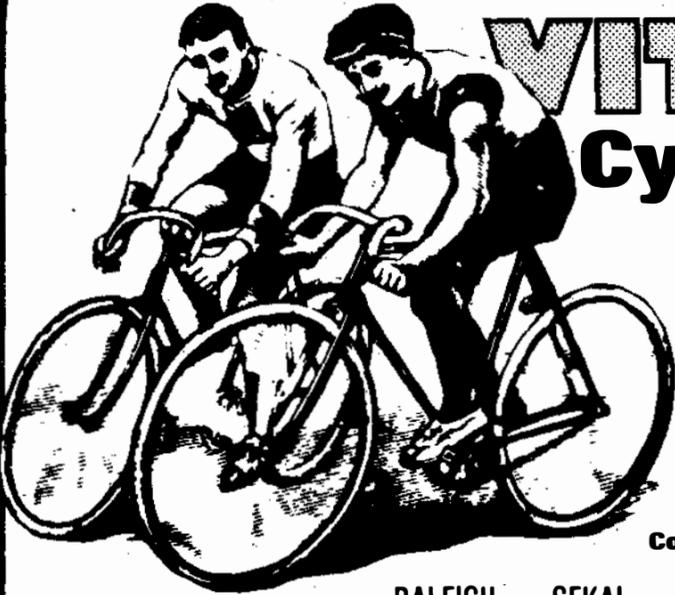
"If the husband has the right to the possibility of preventing an abortion because he wants to have a child (even though he is not the father), then a woman who has a fertility problem may want to have a child that is her husband's by another woman."

Frank's reasoning drew cries of "How could you do this?" and "That's not fair!" from her male colleagues.

When she went on to demand a recorded vote on her proposal, several members around her said, "Don't do that, please don't do that."

Her proposal lost by only two votes and produced the marvelous scene of several male senators scuttling from the room to avoid having to vote on the measure.

--thanks to Judy Mann
and Now Times



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Help available for heating bills

The McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation still has funds available under the Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program. These funds help low income households to pay heat bills.

Although payments range from \$95 to \$360 depending on type of heat and income level, the average payment per household is approximately \$180.00. A household can be served only once per year under the program, except in emergency situations.

Interested persons should call 829-1921 in Bloomington for an appointment.

Applicants will need to bring income documentation for the 90 days prior to the application date, the head of the household's Social Security number, and the most recent heat bill.

In order to qualify, a household's income must meet the following guidelines:

Size of Household	Annual income	Past 90-days income
1	\$ 5,388	\$1,347
2	7,133	1,783
3	8,748	2,187
4	10,674	2,668
5	11,826	2,956
6	12,924	3,231

Residents of McLean County who think they may be eligible are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Rummage for the revolution

Small Changes bookstore will be holding a benefit rummage sale sometime in May. This "Rummage for Revolution" will be held at the store. At present, donations for the sale are being solicited. If you have any items to donate to the rummage sale, you can drop them off at the store, 409A N. Main in Bloomington, or you can call 829-6223 and arrange to have them picked up.

The book store is now open again during the day. Although the hours will be changing weekly, they will be posted on the door each week. So those of you who have stopped by and found the store closed, come on back and check the hours on the door. Small Changes continues to sell buttons, used books, t-shirts, posters, calendars, and records, as well as new books and magazines of interest to women, gay people, and various other political interest groups.

Summer PATH training

Summer training for new PATH volunteers begins June 17. PATH, Personal Assistance Telephone Help, is a 24-hour information, referral, crisis response, and problem-solving agency serving McLean County. PATH's phones are staffed by paraprofessionals who have completed a specialized training program in preparation for their volunteer service.

PATH volunteers have an excellent opportunity to develop personal resources and to become familiar with, and utilize community resources. The six-week training session includes group and phoneroom training. Practical experience in simulated and actual situations are an integral part of the program. Once training has been successfully completed, volunteers meet an 18-hour-a-month commitment for at least six months.

The initial interview will be held on June 17. Applications must be received by Juliana Sullivan at PATH by June 14 to be considered for this session. For further information or an application, call Ms. Sullivan at PATH, 828-1022, or 1-800-322-5015, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Day camp drivers needed

The Sunnyside/Western Avenue summer day camp for children is in need of volunteer van drivers and/or funds for transportation. The program is scheduled to begin June 21 and run Monday through Friday until Aug. 6.

For more info on how you can help, please contact Mary Colteaux at Sunnyside Center, 827-5428.

See! Anti-nuke slides!

The Prairie Alliance for Safe Energy will be meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, May 3, at Normal Public Library to view Dr. Helen Caldicott's slideshow entitled "I Have Three Children of My Own."

The slideshow focuses on the health hazards of nuclear power. A discussion and meeting will follow. All are welcome.

Blockade the bombmakers

A nonviolent civil disobedience action will be held during the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in New York City. The action will blockade the U.N. missions of five major nuclear powers. Nonviolence training is required. For further info contact: June 14 C.D. Campaign, 339 Lafayette St., New York NY 10012.

Jeopardizing rights in Illinois

Springfield, IL--Civil rights ordinances of various kinds have been jeopardized in this state by a recent decision by an appellate court in Springfield.

On March 11, the court upheld a Champaign County Circuit Court ruling that an ordinance of the city of Urbana, which banned discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, personal appearance, family responsibilities or political affiliation, is unconstitutional. The circuit court had found that under provisions of the state's home rule clause the Urbana ordinance was unconstitutional because it included categories not covered by the state's Human Rights Act.

The case originated with a challenge to an Urbana Human Relations Commission order which prohibited a moving company from refusing to hire a job applicant because of the length of his hair.

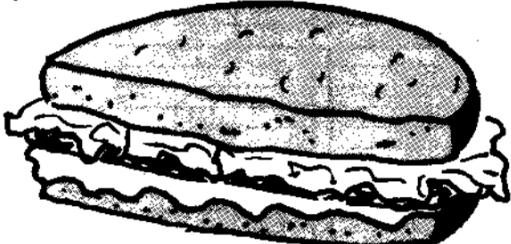
The ruling will be challenged. "The first order of business will be to file a petition for rehearing with the Appellate Court," said human rights officer Vernon Brown. "If that's denied, which it probably will be, we'll file a petition for leave to appeal with the state Supreme Court."

--GayLife (Chicago)



FINK'S

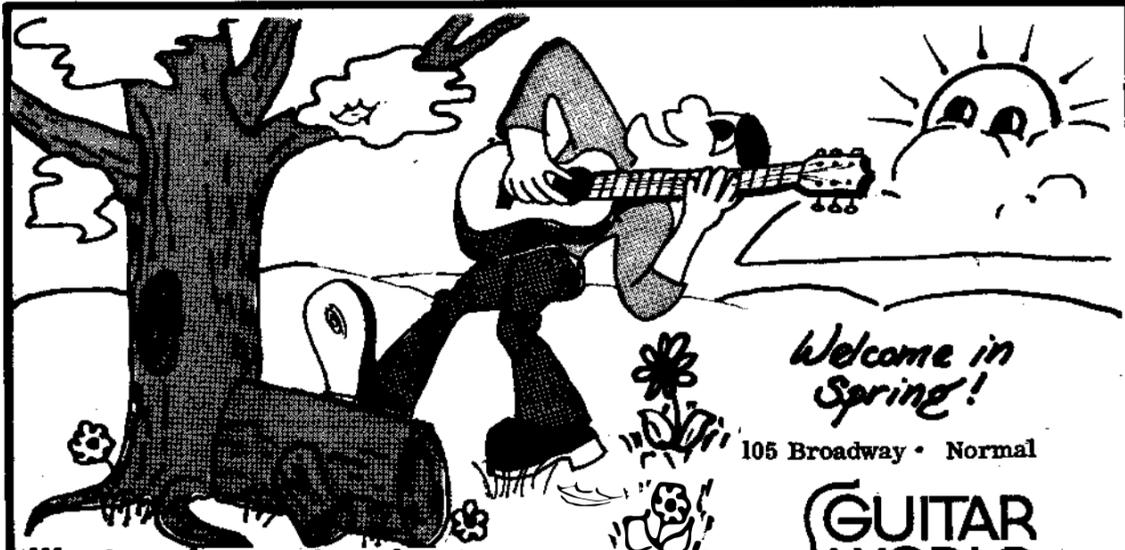
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The tinkle down theory in action

"If it weren't for all those spongers on welfare, the government wouldn't have such big deficits and interest rates wouldn't be so high, and I could afford to buy a new car."

Such was the drift of one man's complaint in the YMCA lockerroom the other night. No exaggeration.

Such is the drift of Reaganomics: greed.

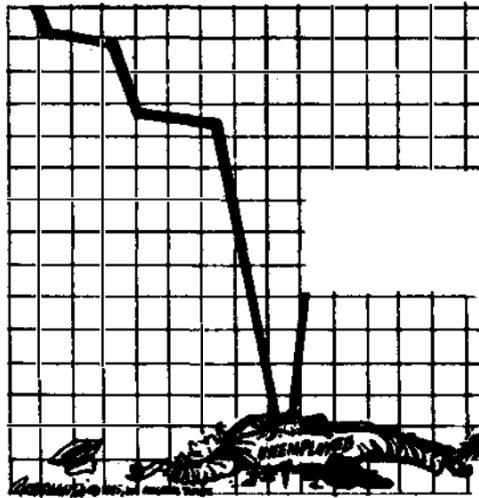
Consider the president's much-publicized personal income tax cut, the one that he claimed would reduce everyone's taxes by 5% last year and by 10% more this year and next.

After taking into account inflation and scheduled increases in social security taxes, the mythical family of four earning \$10,000 a year in 1984 will actually be paying \$125 more in taxes.

But the family of four with an income of \$100,000 a year will be paying \$4,408 less in taxes in 1984, and the family pulling in \$200,000 will be paying a tidy \$19,427 less.

Reagan's wonderful tax cut will actually leave over 60% of all taxpayers paying more taxes, while 85% of the benefits go to those with incomes of over \$50,000 a year--a paltry 5% of all taxpayers.

The president is not likely to mention any of these facts during his next Saturday morning radio chat because these facts are exactly the kind of "distortions" that Reagan hopes to counter with regular doses of cartoon-time doublespeak.



"The economy will bottom out by mid summer."
—Treasury Secretary Simon
-- 1976

Of course, the greed crowd does have a "logical" argument for favoring the rich (all the while denying that's who they favor). They say it's the rich who save, and Amerika needs savings to reindustrialize.

Unfortunately, the rich have been doing quite well for the last 10 years without giving the least sign of being willing to invest in getting Amerika moving again.

Between 1972 and 1980 the median (average) family income just barely managed to stay even with inflation--before taxes. In real life--after taxes--the average family's income has declined since 1972. But other groups have done better.

For instance, even after adjusting for inflation, the pay of corporate executives has nearly doubled since 1972. Not a bad reward for a group of guys who were running Amerikan industry into the ground, eh? (Maybe they're commies?)

Three other measures of who's done well lately: Personal dividend income (from stocks) has kept ahead of inflation by nearly 50%, after-tax corporate profits by 95%, and personal interest income by 138%. Not many people with incomes of \$10,000 a year own stocks or have large sums drawing high interest rates.

(These income figures, by the way, come from the Economic Report of the President, January 1981, so they're hardly prefabrications of the liberal media.)

By now you've probably got a feel for Reaganomics--it's something close to the way you feel before throwing up into an already none-too-clean toilet. But here's a charming anecdote to round out the picture, fill in the human side of the greed crowd:

This is how Charles Z. Wick, Reagan's director of the International Communications Agency, explained to the New York Times (16 Aug. 1981) why the publicly luxurious life of his colleagues is an excellent public diversion:

"During the Depression when people were selling apples and factories were still and guys were jumping out windows because they lost everything, people would go to the movies. They loved those glamour pictures showing people driving beautiful cars and women in beautiful gowns, showing that people were living the glamorous good life."

--D. LeSeure, with more than a little help from Robert Lekachman's Greed Is Not Enough: Reaganomics

Ladies Against Women want you!

With slogans calling for "Warfare, not Welfare!" and "Suffering, not Suffrage!" the California-based Ladies Against Women (LAW) marched in Pasadena's annual alternative to the Rose Parade--the Doo Dah Parade. LAW participants inspired the crowd to rousing cheers of "What do we want? NOTHING! When do we want it? NOW!" and "Keep our nation on the track/ One step forward, three steps back."

Ladies Against Women evolved from the Plutonium Players, a comic group specializing in spoofing the absurdities of modern-day politics. LAW's lady spokes"man," Virginia Cholesterol, who lives under the name of Gail Williams, says, "The five of us who started the Plutonium Players began by performing at antinuke rallies and demonstrations and branched out from there. After all, it's gotta be fun to be committed or it's not worth it."

In addition to their highly successful "Reagan for Shah" campaign, the group has created such national treasures as Students for an Apathetic Society ("How can we invade El Salvador if no one is apathetic?"), Mutants for a Radioactive Environment, the Moral Monopolists, Another Mother for World Domination (which holds

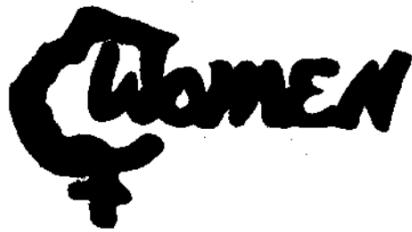


bake sales for the Pentagon), and the National Association for the Advancement of Rich People.

In the planning stages is a group on gay rights, whose spokes"man" summed up the entire issue: "Would you want your son in a trench with another man?"

Currently, LAW is working hard to revise the U.S. Criminal Code to include an American Dress Code, thus squashing the "feminist blight of blue jean, flat shoes, and female facial nudity." LAW welcomes new members--don't forget that you must have your husband sign the membership form before you can join. Write Ladies Against Women, 1600 Woolsey, Box 7, Berkeley, CA 94703. •

--MS magazine



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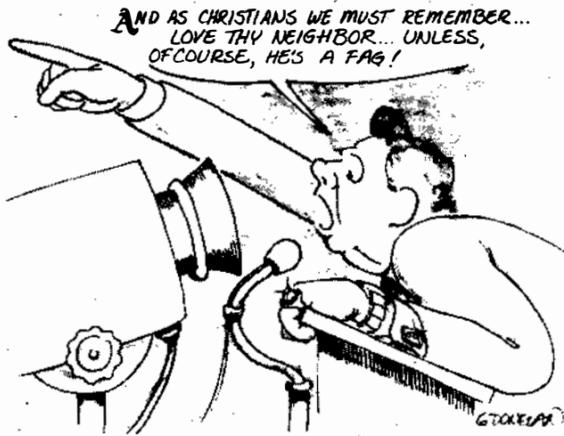
and ask for the
RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Moral Majority raises \$80,000

The Moral Majority raked in more than \$80,000 with a direct-mail appeal for funds to combat what it claimed is a growing homosexual influence on the government.

The organization's own analysis shows that 5063 contributors responded to the anti-gay mailing with donations totalling \$83,354--an average gift of \$16.46. The mailing was sent to 2,500,000 households last December.

The document that gives this rare glimpse of the fund-raising activities of the Moral Majority was a report prepared for the organization's officials by the marketing firm that



handles MM's direct-mailing solicitations. Copies of the report were leaked to news organizations.

The "gay menace" letter was one of MM's most successful fund-raisers. The mailing infuriated gay leaders because it grossly distorted the intent of pending gay-rights legislation and wildly exaggerated the influence and resources of gay political groups.

The letter was one of six highly successful mailings in November, December, and January to people who had previously contributed to the Moral Majority. Together the letters--each "targeted" to a particular conservative cause or subject--brought in \$1.3 million in contributions, the internal report indicates. The letters cost \$400,000 to produce and mail.

There was one notable failure, however. The Moral Majority's annual membership appeal, sent to 10 million households, drew only 150,000 responses and brought in slightly less than the \$1.5 million it took to produce and mail the letter.

--The Advocate, 29 April 1982

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Hollywood's true love or a

Making Love, Personal Best, Victor/Victoria, Deathtrap, Partners, Pixote, Taxi Zum Klo, Evil under the Sun. All recent feature films, all containing overtly gay or lesbian characters as a necessary part of the plot.

Is it mere coincidence that all of these movies have appeared at the same time? Or have gay people become the film industry's hot new topic?

No one seems to know--or won't say. All that moviedom's professionals will acknowledge is that almost \$70 million has been invested in a subject that five years ago would have been unthinkable, much less bankable. And everybody concerned with these films is waiting to see how the movie-going public will respond.

Initial returns are inconclusive so far. Making Love, 20th-Century Fox's \$13 million gamble on gay romance, started off strong. But reports of a 30% dropoff in attendance the 2nd weekend and a 24% decline the next week have not inspired confidence in industry circles. The Los Angeles Times reported, however, that an unnamed Fox executive was "very pleased" with the \$9.3 million gross earnings that the movie had earned by mid-March.

Fox spared no expense in marketing

Making Love, designing three separate ad campaigns for three target audiences (gays, women, non-gay men), courting prominent members of the gay community, hosting a press junket to Los Angeles for college newspaper editors, selling a novelization of the film and a theme song recorded by Roberta Flack. The studio even handed out 25 million Making Love matchbooks in supermarkets and gay bars across the country.

If all these efforts fail to make Making Love a hit, several of the other films seem well on their way to box-office success:

--Personal Best, with Mariel Hemingway as a lesbian athlete, has been widely acclaimed by critics and is doing well in its limited run of 10 to 15 cities. As of April 7, Variety reported this film among the top 10 money-makers with a gross of over \$3 million and a wider release still to come.

--Victor/Victoria, Blake Edward's witty and definitely pro-gay farce, stars Robert Preston as a healthy, happy homosexual. It started slow at the box office but shot up to 5th place by April 14 in the Variety listing. It grossed almost a million in its third week of a limited release (only three cities).

New anti-gay mailing

Apparently inspired by its recent financial success at queer baiting (see related story), the Moral Majority has a new anti-gay mailing. It asks the question, "Is There a Gay Conspiracy? You Be the Judge!"

The promo letter, dated Feb. 15 and mailed to Moral Majority members, touts a preliminary "report" and warns that minor issues like the economy and foreign policy shouldn't distract the faithful from carrying out their "moral agenda." Saying there is "one project that I believe we cannot delay! This is a project to investigate, document, and expose the gay conspirators" the Rev. Jerry Falwell urges his followers to dig into their pockets and contribute.

The funds, Falwell contends, will go toward the preparation of the "Moral Majority Reports," which is heard on hundreds of radio stations and is also sent to members of Congress.

The preliminary report is, at the moment, only 1½ legal-size pages long and offers fewer examples of gay success than the news briefs in the

Post-American. Falwell's report ends with this rallying cry: "San Francisco has already been taken over by the gays, and there is no telling which cities will be next! Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Houston, and New York are just a few of the cities we should keep a sharp eye on!"

--The Advocate

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gay fling: one-night stand?

--Deathtrap, which features Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve as mutually murderous lovers, has been among the top 5 money-makers from its first week in release. It shows no signs of a dropoff like that of Making Love.

--Pixote, a brutally honest film about Brazilian street children, was named Best Foreign Film of the year by both the New York and Los Angeles film critics. A central character in Pixote is Lilica, a homosexual transvestite who emerges as the movie's strongest, most practical survivor.

--Taxi Zum Klo, a big hit in Europe, also had modest success in the U.S. and easily earned back its production and distribution costs.

If all goes well, these films should more than offset any disappointments with Making Love.

But Partners, the straight cop/gay cop "comedy" starring Ryan O'Neal and John Hurt, which is scheduled to open at the end of April, may prove to be a bust. A report by Toronto's gay newspaper, Body Politic, on a test preview of Partners accused the film of basing "its cheap shots on the understanding that homosexual men are laughable and pitiable. . . . Suffice it to say that

the malignant inanity of the script is matched only by the film's amateurish camerawork, editing, lighting, and color work."

If stars the caliber of Caine, Reeve, Hemingway, Hurt, Preston, Catherine Deneuve and Susan Sarandon (as lesbian vampires in MGM's announced The Hunger) are not hesitating to play gay characters, maybe the traditional fear of such roles will become a thing of the past.

(Actors William Hurt, Michael Douglas, Harrison Ford, Tom Berenger, and Peter Strauss are all reputed to have refused principal roles in Making Love.)

And if at least some of these films are successful, perhaps it will be easier for talented gay and lesbian filmmakers--like Donna Deitch, who wants to direct and produce an adaptation of Jane Rule's lesbian novel Desert of the Heart--to find financial backing for worthy projects. That would be progress indeed!

--Condensed from an article by Douglas W. Edwards, The Advocate (Issue #341); additions and editorial hackwork by Ferdydurke

Wisconsin first to pass gay rights law

In an historic move, Wisconsin became the first state to pass a gay civil rights law when the Wisconsin Senate approved a statewide gay rights bill Feb. 18 on a 19-13 vote. There was no debate.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), was passed by the Wisconsin State Assembly in November. Governor Lee Dreyfus signed the bill Feb. 25 and published it on Tuesday, March 3. A bill becomes law in Wisconsin the day after it is published.

Dreyfus, a Republican, commented that he had "no problem" with the bill as long as it does not require affirmative action--in other words, as long as it does not require the hiring of gay men and lesbians to compensate for past discrimination. An amendment approved on Feb. 17, which explicitly states that no affirmative action is called for, was designed to assure the governor's signature.

In the private sector, violators of the new law are subject to fines of up to \$1000 for the first offense and up to \$10,000 for more than one offense in five years. Persons who are discriminated against in the public sector can bring complaints to the state Equal Opportunity Commission. In addition, people who feel discriminated against can bring suit in court to recover damages.

Two major daily newspapers in Wisconsin published editorials supporting the new law. The Madison Capital Times commented that the bill's passage "is not, as some would have it, a sign of civilization's imminent collapse. Rather, it reflects a growing recognition that people's private sexual behavior should have no bearing on their access to jobs and housing. . . .

"Callers and letter writers, many of them alerted by fundamentalist Christian radio stations in Milwaukee and Madison, told the governor that

homosexuality ran counter to Biblical injunction. If people want to believe as much, they are entitled to do so, but their beliefs ought not to dictate social policy for all of us. And those who like to invoke Christianity



to deny others their humanity would do well to acknowledge two other tenets of the faith; that we should love one another, and that we should treat people as we would like ourselves to be treated," the editorial concluded.

The Milwaukee Journal ran a front-page editorial on Feb. 26 which commented, "Dreyfus and the lawmakers can be proud that Wisconsin now forbids sexual-preference discrimination, as it has forbidden other forms of bias. What is regrettable is that intolerance made the law necessary." The editorial also noted that "the issue is not homosexuality. The issue is an unpardonable form of discrimination."

The bill outlaws discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment in both the public and private sectors, public accommodations, the National Guard, and administrative rules (agency operating procedures). Any firm, whether within or outside Wisconsin, which has a contract with the state, is also bound by the law.

An aide to Rep. Clarenbach said the bill was presented as a civil rights issue, not as a pro-gay rights law. "The line we took was, 'This is not a moral issue. This is about bigotry. You cannot debate a person's human rights.'" As a result, the bill was supported by almost every religious denomination in the state--including the American Baptists. In turn, both Republican and Democratic state legislators supported the measure.

Clarenbach called the passage "a step in the right direction." He also pointed out that "despite the alleged strength of the Moral Majority, our state's progressive tradition carried

Florida court strikes down anti-gay law

Tallahassee, FL--The now-infamous Bush-Trask amendment, which would have cut off state funding to any college or university in Florida with a gay/lesbian student organization, was declared unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court on Feb. 4. The court's decision was unanimous.

The amendment prohibited state funding of any public or private college which gave recognition or facilities to "any group or organization that recommends or advocates sexual relations between persons not married to each other."

The law was written by Rep. Tom Bush (R-Fort Lauderdale) and Sen. Alan Trask (D-Winter Haven), and was passed as an amendment to the state budget last spring. Bush acknowledged that the amendment was aimed specifically at gay people.

The 7-0 opinion was strongly worded. The court stated that "the rights of persons to express themselves freely is not limited to statements of views that are acceptable to the majority of people. . . . The real purpose of the First Amendment is to protect also the expression of sentiments that the majority finds unacceptable or even unthinkable."

The Bush-Trask amendment created an uproar on several Florida campuses, from gay and non-gay groups alike. In one notable action, a group of students at the University of South Florida formed an organization called Sigma Epsilon Chi (SEX), whose sole purpose was to advocate sex outside of marriage. Formation of the organization was a direct challenge to university officials, who had taken the cautious position that since no student groups explicitly advocated non-marital sex, there was no danger to university funding.

Following the formation of SEX, the Florida state comptroller informed university officials that they had 48 hours to decide what to do about the group, since its existence potentially violated state law and jeopardized university funding. Action by the comptroller was stayed by a federal court injunction granted to university officials, who decided to support the existence of SEX, pending a decision by the state Supreme Court.

--Gay Community News

the day." The victory was especially significant, in Clarenbach's view, because Wisconsin is a rural, conservative, Midwestern state not identified with the large urban gay centers.

The city of Madison has had an anti-discrimination ordinance on the books since 1974. But in 1980, both the Milwaukee city council and the supervisors of Dane County, in which Madison is located, passed ordinances that banned anti-gay and lesbian discrimination. The momentum from these campaigns was seen as a significant factor in the passage of the statewide bill.

Shortly after the state bill was signed, Rep. Clarenbach announced that he would renew his efforts to "decriminalize certain laws regarding sexual activity between consenting adults." Such a bill was defeated in the Wisconsin Assembly last year on a 50-49 vote. Many observers think that legislators who supported a gay bill will see that such support is not necessarily a political liability and will vote to legalize all consensual sex acts among adults.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Gay Community News, 27 Feb. and 13 March, 1982; The Advocate, Issue 339.

Teen sex makes grownups nervous

"Any thoughtful person must be concerned about the increase in sexual activity among teenagers. . . . If I thought this (proposal to force Planned Parenthood to squeal on teenagers who seek birth control) would stop teens from having sex or becoming pregnant, I would be all for it," --Dixie Axley, director of Planned Parenthood.

"The problem with a 13-year-old taking the pill is that it gives her sexual freedom."--Bill O'Neal, assistant principal of Bloomington High School.

These quotations appeared in a Pantagraph story (11 April 1982) about the issue of notifying parents when their teenaged children get birth control from publicly funded clinics like Planned Parenthood. Although Axley is against the proposal, realizing that it would cause an alarming increase in teenage pregnancy, and O'Neal is for it, both share the notion that teenagers really should not be screwing around.

Why?

Of course teenagers probably shouldn't have children. It makes their chances for hitchhiking around Europe, owning a cabin in the Rockies, or conducting an uninterrupted adult conversation go from puny to microscopic.

But if they use birth control, why shouldn't they have sexual freedom?

Is it that the act destroys adults' illusion of control over them?

No, grownups will say. It's because teen sex is so often irresponsible,

clumsy, fickle, inept, foolish, ill-motivated, muddled, impulsive, volatile, and emotionally perilous.

Hmm. Sounds awfully familiar. And I'm 31. •

--Phoebe Caulfield

Plastification Award

Plastic punctuates wage slavery

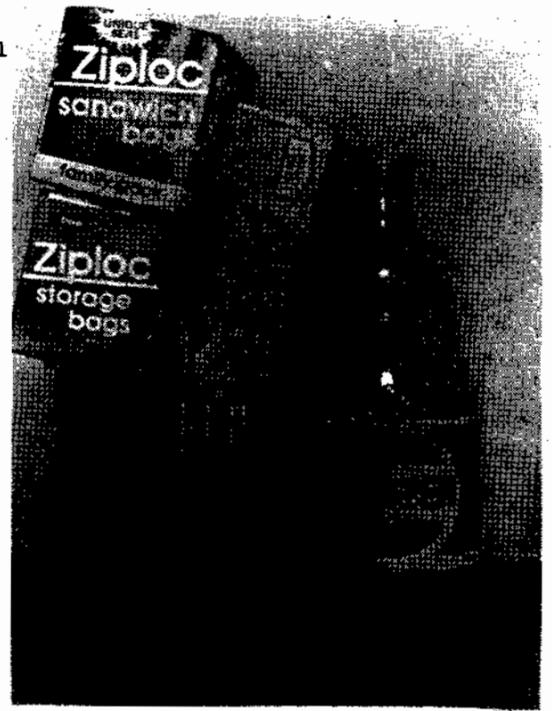
Friday afternoon . . . work's done and the weekend stretches out before you like a lazy cat in the sun. You stroll down to your favorite bar with your pals from work to share a pitcher of beer.

It's the best beer you'll have all weekend, cold, golden, and bubbly in its gleaming glass pitcher. Ever notice that a full pitcher of beer is the perfect weight, that comfortable heft, that smooth round handle thick in your fist? It's clear and friendly and reassuring, everything the work week wasn't.

A plastic pitcher is a blot on the moral landscape.

Dull, cloudy, bland, ragged, it's a corrupt substance put to illegitimate use. True, plastic pitchers don't crash when drunks drop them or hit each other over the head with them, and of course no one cares to steal the unsightly things. But the spiritual price we pay for these sturdy, safe, unworthy vessels is too high. Some pitchers, like promises, were made to be broken. •

--Phoebe Caulfield



MY ARGUMENT WITH KATIE ON SATURDAY HAD TORN MY HEART APART. BY MONDAY I WASN'T SURE I HAD THE STRENGTH TO FACE CHAD IN CHEMISTRY CLASS. BUT THERE I WAS, PRAYING I WOULDN'T HAVE TO LOOK IN HIS EYES AND SEE THE SCORN HE HELD THERE FOR ME AND...

MY SISTER, the PUNK ROCKER

MY EYES WERE GLUED TO PAGE 367 AS HE WALKED IN AND TOOK HIS SEAT. PAGE 367 STARED MOCKINGLY BACK AT ME. I FELT MYSELF SINKING THROUGH THE FLOOR AS CHAD TURNED TO SPEAK TO ME...

JILL, I'D REALLY LIKE A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN MY BEHAVIOR THE OTHER NIGHT! HOW ABOUT COFFEE AND DONUTS AFTER CLASS?

SURE CHAD! I'D LOVE TO!!

ISN'T IT FUNN! HOW LOVE CAN MAKE YOU SHED BITTER TEARS ONE MOMENT AND FILL YOUR HEART WITH JOY THE NEXT? I FELT THE ADMIRATION AND ENVY OF EVERY GIRL THAT WE PASSED AS WE CROSSED THE QUAD...

LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE WAY I RAN OUT ON YOU AT THE PARTY... BUT, WELL... I HAVE A HARD TIME CONTROLLING MYSELF AROUND THOSE PUNKS! BUT, I FIGURED, SINCE IT WAS YOUR SISTER AND HER FRIENDS, I DIDN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS YOU BY CAUSING A SCENE, SO I JUST LEFT!

YOU-- YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HATE ME? YOU DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME?!!

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO THROW AWAY MY CHANCES WITH A SWELL GIRL LIKE YOU!!

HOW WELL I KNEW THOSE WORDS-- ♡♡♡ HE HAD SAID THEM SO MANY TIMES IN MY DREAM..!

I WAS WALKING ON A/F, BUT I HADN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY SISTER-- OR THE HORRIBLE THINGS WE HAD SAID TO EACH OTHER SATURDAY NIGHT!!

OH CHAD-- YOU DONT KNOW WHAT I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH!! KATIE AND I HAD A TERRIBLE ARGUMENT AFTER YOU LEFT!! I'VE TRIED TO TALK TO HER, BUT SHE'S LIKE ANOTHER PERSON!! AND I FEEL SO RESPONSIBLE... IF I HAD TAKEN CARE OF HER WHEN SHE NEEDED HERE, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN RECRUITED BY THOSE ANIMALS!!

LISTEN, JILL... YOU JUST CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF OVER THIS!! TRUST ME... I'VE HAD A COUPLE OF PSYCH CLASSES!! YOUR SISTER IS EMOTIONALLY IMBALANCED-- IT'S TYPICAL THAT SHE WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO OTHERS LIKE HER... BUT-- THERE ARE WAYS OF DEALING WITH PEOPLE LIKE HER-- AND I THINK I CAN HELP YOU... BUT YOU MUST TRUST ME!!

NEXT: THE LAST STRAW

AND OTHER OUTRAGES