

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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12-1983

## Volume 12, Number 8

Post Amerikan

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ARMAGEDDON ON THE TUBE; 3RD WORLD INVASIONS

# POST AMERIKAN

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

Vol. 12 No. 8

Dec. 1983-Jan. 1984

## REVENGE OF THE CABBAGE PATCH KIDS!



8583

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
POST-AMERIKAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 168  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61761

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# Post sellers

## BLOOMINGTON

Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front  
Ault Pharmacy, 1102 S. Main  
The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main  
Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main  
Bus Depot, 523 N. East  
The Coffee Shop, S. Main  
Common Ground, 516 N. Main  
Front and Center Bldg.  
Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington  
Haag Drugstore, 1110 E. Oakland  
Law & Justice Center, W. Front  
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison  
Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main  
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park  
Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire  
Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main  
Pantagraph (in front of building),  
301 W. Washington  
The Park Store, Wood & Allin  
Red Fox, 918 W. Market  
Small Changes Bookstore, 409A Main  
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main  
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
(at exit)  
U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe  
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
Washington St., across from courthouse  
W.W. Bake Shop, 801 E. Washington

## NORMAL

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

## OUTTA TOWN

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

# POST A·M·E·R·I·K·A·N

THE POST AMERIKAN--BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL'S  
ALTERNATIVE SINCE 1972

Volume 12, Number 8 Dec. 1983-Jan. 1984

Member, Alternative Press Syndicate

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings.

We put out ten issues a year. Staff members take turns as "Coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, photography, graphics, paste-up, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis. You are invited to volunteer your talents.

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

to you, usually within a week.

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

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

The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is January 19.

## Post-Amerikan ad rates

Display ad rates are \$100 per page. 10% discount for a 6-in-a-row contract, 20% discount for a 12-in-a-row contract.

SIZE	REGULAR RATE	10% OFF	20% OFF
1/6 page	\$16.67	\$15.00	\$13.33
1/5 page	20.00	18.00	16.00
1/4 page	25.00	22.50	20.00
1/3 page	33.33	30.00	26.67
1/2 page	50.00	45.00	40.00
Full page	100.00	90.00	80.00

### BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS

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

#### Rates for Businesses

6-in-a-row contract.....\$42.00  
12-in-a-row contract.....72.00

Make-up charge.....\$1.00

#### Rates for Individuals

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

## 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  
Draft Counseling.....452-5046  
Gay/Lesbian Information Line...829-2719  
HELP (transportation for handi-  
capped and senior citizens).828-8301  
Illinois Dept. of Public Aid...827-4621  
Illinois Lawyer Referral...800-252-8916  
Kaleidoscope.....828-7346  
Mid Central Economic Opportunity  
Corporation.....829-0691  
McLean County Health Dept.....454-1161  
Mobile Meals.....828-8301  
McLean County Center for  
Human Services.....827-5351  
National Health Care Services  
(abortion ass't in Peoria)...691-9073  
National Runaway Switchboard...  
.....800-621-4000  
in Illinois.....800-972-6004  
Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195  
Occupational Development  
Center.....828-7324  
PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone  
Help).....827-4005  
or.....800-322-5015  
Parents Anonymous.....827-4005  
Planned Parenthood.....827-8025  
Post Amerikan.....828-7232  
Prairie State Legal Services...827-5021  
Prairie Alliance.....828-8249  
Project Oz.....827-0377  
Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005  
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428  
TeleCare (senior citizens)....828-8301  
Unemployment compensation/Job  
Service.....827-6237  
United Farmworkers Support....452-5046

# Ferdy to Summers: Drop dead

It pains me to write this, but I'm publicly renouncing Donna Summers. Usually I like to renounce someone before he/she renounces me, but I didn't hear about Summer's dumb anti-gay remarks until a few days ago.

I knew that Summers had been re-born awhile back, but I had the impression her commercial ambitions had conquered her twice-born conscience. She was making disco hits again, after all.

Yes, I did see her (briefly) on "the 700 Club" and heard her trade inane comments with slimey Pat Robertson about the negative influence of popular music on today's youth. (It drowns out the still small voice in the soul. . . or some such garbage.)

And yes, I did think she was being an A-1 hypocrite for making these cockamamie statements. If Donna Summers really thought pop music was spiritually detrimental, then she should stop recording and promoting it. (She'd also stop making millions of dollars--and Pat Robertson never advises christians to stop making money.)

Well, I should have known that her religious schizophonia would get the best of her. Last July, while touring to promote her latest album, Summers began to regale her audiences with a sanctimonious born-again rap.

And, according to several of her gay fans, during her concert at the Holiday Star Theater in Merrillville, Indiana, Summers said that she loves homosexuals but hates homosexuality and that "AIDS has been sent by God to punish homosexuals."

## The wrong stuff

# Glenn to gays: Drop dead

Sen. John Glenn, speaking at a New York forum sponsored by the Americans for Democratic Action on November 3, said that "it is not the government's job to endorse personal sexual preference."

Glenn repeated and expanded this position in an official statement, which read, in part: "I would not advocate or promote homosexuality . . . Americans' beliefs about the acceptability of sexual preference or lifestyle reflect their personal values and convictions. I do not feel that it is appropriate for the federal government to extend the reach of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act into areas of personal behavior."

Glenn said he continues to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment because a person's sex is a "genetic attribute." The senator did not indicate that he would withdraw his support of the part of the Civil Rights Act that provides protections for religious belief, which is not a "genetic attribute." We can assume, I think, that Glenn's distinction between the genetic and the non-genetic is a bogus cover for his own homophobia or the homophobia he perceives in the American electorate.

Glenn's statement makes his the second Democratic candidate to endorse women's but not necessarily gay rights. Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado told last month's National Organization for Women convention that he would not join co-sponsors of the federal lesbian and gay rights bill, although Hart was a featured speaker at last April's banquet of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles, the country's largest local gay political action committee.

Members of the gay press have tried to contact Summers to confirm the validity of these reports. You'd think she'd be eager to communicate with her gay audience and address this issue. Although her manager has denied that the singer made these remarks, Summers herself isn't talking. And the manager has stopped returning reporters' phone calls.

Well, that's it. I'm fed up.  
Donna: your show biz career would

not exist if it weren't for the rabid support of gay men. If there was any justice in this world, you would be donating 10% of your income to AIDS research instead of spouting such hypocritical malice.

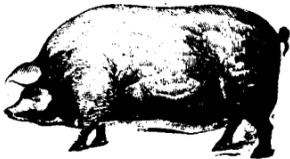
You're not "Hot Stuff" in my book anymore. I think you're a "Bad Girl," and I've danced my "Last Dance" to your music and listened the last time to you "On the Radio."

No more cruising "MacArthur Park" with you. Love is definitely not in control, and since I work hard for my money, I won't be spending it on your records.

--Ferdurdurke

Candidates Ernest Hollings, Walter Mondale, Alan Cranston, and Jesse Jackson have all made specific endorsements of gay rights, according to the Gay Rights National Lobby.

Glenn's recent remarks contradict his seemingly pro-gay stand made in 1981. A National Gay Task Force pamphlet from that year quotes Glenn as supporting legal protection of sexual preference. The booklet, "Who's Behind the Gay Rights Movement," quotes a statement by Glenn about laws that protect against discrimination: "Although the homosexual lifestyle is beyond the mainstream of American Society, we cannot deny homosexuals access to the pursuits guaranteed to all. The quality of our laws, if not our actions at times, is the accommodation they have for each of society's various elements."

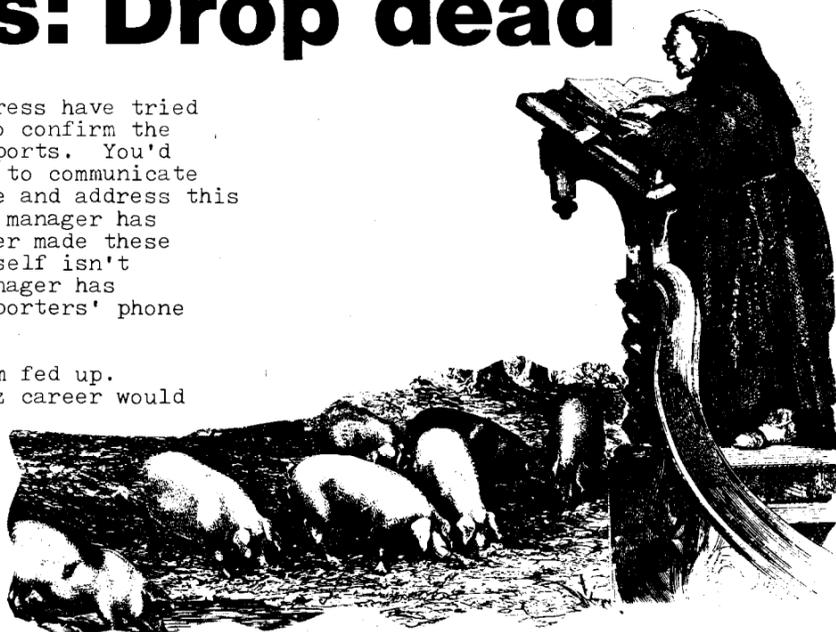


That wasn't exactly a resounding endorsement of gay rights. Is it so surprising that it disintegrated into further equivocation? The closer Glenn gets to the Presidency, the more he sounds like the President (especially the current model). But isn't that what usually happens?

And who do you want in the White House? A grade B actor or a space cadet?

--Ferdurdurke

Source: The New York Native, Nov. 21-Dec. 1983.



## Downstate gays top priority

The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force is pleased to announce the appointment of Art Schenck as chairperson of the Statewide Coordinating Committee.

The Statewide Coordinating Committee is responsible for lobbying state legislators, building a statewide constituent network and working with other gay/lesbian groups and individuals throughout the state.

"My highest priority is reaching out to lesbians and gay men who live outside of Chicago," Schenck said. "The Statewide Coordinating Committee is specifically set up to coordinate the efforts of the Task Force throughout the state. I intend to see that it does just that."

Those interested in the Statewide Coordinating Committee, or in the Task Force, should write to Art Schenck c/o IGLTF, 615 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 61657, or call 312/975-0707.

CLUB  
PEORIAN  
DISCO

733 S.W. ADAMS,  
PEORIA • IL  
676-9030

FINEST GAY ENTERTAINMENT  
IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

OPEN NIGHTLY 'TIL 4 A.M.  
PRESENT THIS AD AT THE BAR  
FOR A DRINK. LIMIT ONE PER  
CUSTOMER PER NIGHT

# Community News

## Health screening for seniors

The McLean County Health Department will be conducting a health screening clinic for senior citizens at the Miller Park Pavilion on Thursday, December 15th from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and again from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. Blood pressure, anemia, glucose, urine and glaucoma screening will be provided to senior citizens 60 years of age or older. Phone 454-1161 for an appointment.

Senior Citizens Health Check is a program provided by the McLean County Health Department through partial support of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

## Need help with heat bills?

With the winter months quickly approaching, MCEOC is happy to announce an early start-up date for assistance in paying heat bills. The Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program began providing assistance to low-income households in McLean and Livingston Counties on December 1. Applicants must have an appointment before applying and will be helped on a first-come, first served basis. An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required. Persons who do not pay their own heat may also be eligible.

When you apply for assistance, bring with you: Proof of gross income from all household members 90 days prior to application date, a copy of your current energy bill, and social security numbers of everyone 18 years of age and over in the household.

The amount of assistance depends on the type of fuel used, income and the number of persons in the household. One-time payments range from \$105 to \$395. To qualify for heat assistance your income must fall within the following guidelines:

Size of Household	90 day gross income
1	\$ 1519
2	2044
3	2439
4	2970
5	3276
6	3582
7	3768
8	3966

For an appointment in McLean County, call (309) 829-0691 and in Livingston County call (815) 844-3201.

Applications will be taken at rural sites through the month of December. Call MCEOC for times and dates.

I SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN ABORTION...



...TO BAN IMMORAL BOOKS AND MOVIES...



...AND TO BAN SEX EDUCATION. DO YOU SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN SEX DISCRIMINATION?



OF COURSE NOT! WE CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE GOV'T SPONSORED SOCIAL ENGINEERING.



## New film reflects women's work

"What You Take for Granted," a film newly acquired by the Iris Film Collective for distribution, presents an unusual, intimate, and moving exploration of women's experiences in non-traditional occupations. Written and directed by Michelle Citron, this 75-minute color film breaks our illusions about the romance of non-traditional jobs for women, but also leaves us better prepared to cope with and succeed in these fields. It also provides important insights for those of us not in non-traditional work.

Citron intercuts interviews with 6 non-traditionally employed women with a dramatic sequence that traces the growth of a friendship between 2 of these women. The interviewees work in both blue collar and professional jobs. They come from different ethnic and class backgrounds and their living

situations and relationships represent a broad spectrum. The script is based on interviews with 100 women who work in non-traditional jobs.

"What You Take for Granted" is an excellent film for both traditional and non-traditional workers; for labor, women's and progressive groups and classes; for high school, college, and trade school audiences; and for professionals who do or will interact with women in non-traditional jobs.

"What You Take for Granted" is essential for any library that includes films on labor, women, history, psychology, sociology, and on social and cultural studies.

For more information, contact Iris films, P. O. Box 5353, Berkeley, CA 19705; (415) 549-3192.

## Job training programs start

Eight new employment and training programs are aimed at helping the unemployed in Fulton, Mason, McLean, and Tazewell counties.

UPIC has awarded subgrants to six area organizations to implement programs for clerical training, youth employment, and General Education Development (GED). Intake workers are screening applicants for these programs, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Thursday, at all Private Industry Council offices.

Clerical The Pekin Area Vocational Center, the Bloomington-Normal Adult Education, and the Canton Union School District #66 will train qualified applicants for entry-level positions in the clerical field. A comprehensive curriculum will focus on word processing, business English and math, bookkeeping, data entry, microcomputing, and other basic office skills.

Youth The Tri-County Urban League has been granted funds for the Youth Try-out Employment Program, which

places high school seniors in part-time positions with local businesses. The Urban League will also offer Out-of-School Skill Training for drop-outs and Job Readiness/Vocational Exploration courses to help high school students determine potential careers and seek training.

The Pekin Area Vocational Center will operate a similar Youth Employment Training Program, which provides hands-on vocational training. Under a contract with Bloomington-Normal Adult Education, drop-outs, handicapped persons, and economically disadvantaged students will be assisted through the Training for Job Acquisition Project.

The Bloomington School District #87 will administer the Handicapped Employability Training Program aimed at aiding the handicapped make the transition into the job market.

GED Books and tuition will be paid for those unemployed who wish to receive their General Education Development (GED) high school diploma. Classes will be held at Illinois Central College and the Bloomington-Normal Adult Education Center.

In addition to these programs, the UPIC also offers On-the-Job Training with private business and Job Club assistance, which helps place enrollees in full-time jobs.

To qualify for UPIC programs, applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and can receive screening on a walk-in basis at the following UPIC offices.

MCLEAN COUNTY 201 E. Grove St.,  
Bloomington 309-827-4026

FULTON COUNTY 111 N. Avenue A,  
Canton 309-647-5680

MASON COUNTY 118 W. Market St.,  
Havana 309-543-6393

TAZEWELL COUNTY 15-17 S. Capitol St.,  
Pekin 309-353-4475

# Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

If you want to talk to one of us

Call PATH 827-4005

and ask for the

## Rape Crisis Center

# Rent and housing assistance

Mid Central Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC) provides assistance to individuals in life- or health-threatening situations.

The Crisis Intervention Program provides one-time assistance for rent (where an eviction notice has been received), food, and prescriptions. In all situations, MCEOC must be the last resource in the community.

In 1983 MCEOC assisted twice as many households as in 1982 through funds obtained from a Community Services Block Grant.

This Block Grant also provides funds for MCEOC's Housing Referral Program. This program assists people in locating adequate housing which is affordable. To obtain assistance, the household income must be at or below 125% of the poverty level.

For further information on any of MCEOC's programs, phone (309) 829-0691 in McLean County or (815) 844-2301 in Livingston County.

## Christmas party Sunnyside

Sunnyside Center will hold its annual Christmas program on Thursday, December 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., for ages 3 to 12. Admission is free.

A parent or guardian must accompany children 5 and under.

A penny carnival, relays, arts & crafts, and fun with pinatas are among the activities planned. Santa Claus will be on the scene with gifts and treats for everyone!

Transportation will be provided at the Wood Hill, Evergreen and Holton Homes housing sites.

For more information, please call Sunnyside Center at 827-5428.



## Bacon bits: Sugar Creek workers still locked out

The employees of Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company are still locked out, but organized labor in Central Illinois has rallied behind the 67 members of Local 543, United Food and Commercial Workers. A benefit for them was held last month at the Carpenter Hall. Over \$2,000 was raised for the locked out workers who are still not receiving unemployment benefits (supervisors are receiving benefits because they are not covered by the contract). A food bank has been set up in Springfield. The union members are getting by on \$40 per week

lock-out pay and lots of guts.

If the management of Sugar Creek Meat Packing Company can get away with this flagrant union busting, who will be next? Is negotiation by starvation (with help from state agencies like the Illinois Unemployment Bureau) the wave of the future? Will we allow our fellow workers and neighbors to be ground into Bacon Bits while capitalists eat steak and make us "negotiate" for the scraps?

--Jane G.

This sleazy Santa was ugly as you-know-what in 1979, when this photo was taken. Now it's sad and be-draggled as well.

## Exhaustion hits downtown decor

"I've ridiculed that fool snowman and Santa for the last two Christmases," I complained to a friend, "and here they are again, uglier than ever, and I just can't let them go without some kind of rant'n' rave, but what can I say?"

"Well, make it a tired rant'n' rave," he said.

Perfect. When Bloomington first spent \$1500 on these grotesque polyethelene bimboos, they positively sparkled with slick bad taste. This year the slick and sparkle have given way to drab, drooping tatters. They're tired.

To add to the pathos, the sullied snowman squats at the corner of Washington and East, where the beautiful old Withers Library stood until the bank took over the site.

The scene reminds me of Christmas.

--Phoebe Caulfield

## Aging seminar

The McLean County Health Department will present a program on the Physical Aspects of Aging on Wednesday, December 14th, 1:30 - 3:00 P.M. at the McLean County Health Department, 905 N. Main St., Normal. This session will be of interest to older adults, families, and caregivers of older adults.

For more information contact Ann Charleston, R.N. 454-1161 or Karen Reeter, Social Worker, St. Joseph's Hospital 662-3311, ext. 221.

## Health care for the unemployed

In November, the McLean County Health Department began operating the Primary Health Care for the Unemployed Program. Through a federal grant, administered regionally, the Health Department is able to provide financial assistance to unemployed families in need of health care. Primary care is provided by local physicians, laboratories, and pharmacies that are under contract with the Health Department.

To be eligible for the program, families must reside in McLean County and confirm in writing that no member of the family is employed. Families covered by public aid medical assistance or private insurance are not eligible.

Primary Health Care for the Unemployed covers basic health services: prenatal care, laboratory tests, family planning services, physical examinations, treatment of childhood illnesses, care of chronic diseases, and provision of prescription medicine. Hospitalization and surgery are not covered under this program.

Families seeking information on eligibility should call the McLean County Health Department at 454-1161.

## Thanks

This issue is in your hands thank to: Danny, Deborah, Drew, Mark, Susie, Dave, Dru, Melissa, Nadene, Laurie S., Laurie D., Kathy, Bill, Sue F., Ralph, J.T., Terry, Imogene, Robin, Jeff, Diana, Michael, Bumper, Holly, Bobby, and Sue L. (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

## Vacation time

It's vacation time again. As you know, twice a year the Post staff calls it quits for a couple of weeks and tries to remember what it's like to have a regular life. So you should read this paper very slowly, 'cause you won't be getting another until the end of January. Don't panic--we're not quitting for good. We promise.

We will still be filling machines, collecting the mail, and fiddling with the answering machine, so feel free to write or call us. Try to survive the holidays and you'll be hearing from us next year.



## OPERATION RECYCLE



McLean County's only community not-for-profit recycling center

\* At our 24 hour drop boxes

1100 W. Market  
501 E. Stewart

\* At our warehouse every Sat. 9-12

1100 W. Market

\* At recycle drives Jan. 14

Sears, Eastland parking lot  
ISU, Turner Hall lot

829-0691

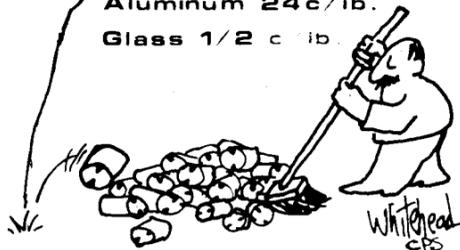
We accept newspapers, tin cans, glass containers, aluminum, corrugated cardboard and office paper.

WAREHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WEEKENDS.

Buy back prices:

Aluminum 24c/lb.

Glass 1/2 c/lb.



Whitehead  
CTS

# Billboard guerillas liberate ad game

A gray Corvette driving along Interstate-80 near Davis, California, braked suddenly and pulled off to the shoulder of the busy highway. A man stepped from the car and gaped at the luminous, 40-foot billboard that had caught his eye: Buy War Bonds: Help Support The U.S. Invasion Of Nicaragua.

The driver had witnessed one example of a new kind of political expression sprouting on highways in California. Groups of nocturnal political activists known as the "billboard guerrillas" have been pasting over such existing signs as Come to Marlboro Country with professional-looking--and free--radical advertisements.

The guerrilla ads often remain in place for several weeks because they are as polished as their commercial hosts. They typically publicize an upcoming event or make a general political statement. The roadside ads have appeared in or near many major cities, with the heaviest concentration around San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles.

"I don't feel guilty about it," says Charles (not his real name), a graphic artist who is one of the guerrillas. "I guess you could say I'm guilty of a small crime for attempting to stop a larger crime, but I don't respect billboard advertisers enough to feel remorse at covering their ads."

Charles began moonlighting as a Los Angeles billboard bandit after spotting, on Olympic Boulevard, a cigarette ad that boasted in huge, hot-pink

letters: U.S. Government Reports: Carlton Is Lowest. That night, he bought hot-pink paint and white adhesive tape, and by morning, the sign read: U.S. Government Reports: Capitalism Is Lowest.

"I'm willing to infringe on their property rights because they infringe on my rights all the time," Charles says.

"We don't hit any old billboard," explains one of his colleagues. "We try to target the ads for major corporations or the ones that are particularly obnoxious or sexist. But some of these billboards are just crying out to be liberated."

Alicen, also a pseudonym for a guerrilla, has helped to organize numerous "billboard raids" since moving to northern California two years ago. Her portfolio boasts such works as: El Salvador: Don't Pay Reagan's Blood Money. Alicen even has her own calling card--Fly by Night Advertisers.

"We're trying to shock people," she says. "We're trying to wake them up from the traditional advertising that dulls them. We don't have the resources to reach people like the large corporations do, so we organize it at a grass-roots level. I think it's appealing to do a sort of guerrilla act and know it's not going to be hurting any people or damaging any property in a serious way."

Most billboard groups have 4 or 5 members, who assemble in dark clothes when they prepare to go to work. They scale the billboard structures



equipped with house paint, 5 gallons of flour paste, a few paint rollers, butcher paper, and long-handled brushes. "One person rolls paste on the existing sign, another drops the first strip down, and another uses the dry roller to make the strip stick," says Charles. "Then you just line the rest up and repeat the same thing until you're done."

An advertisement that would cost upwards of \$1,000 if it were designed, painted, and posted by a professional billboard agency sets the guerrillas back about \$15.

On a few occasions, renegade billboarders have been caught in the act by police or California Highway Patrol officers. Although the guerrillas could face charges of trespassing or defacing private property, officers have, in some instances, looked the other way. Said one artist who was discovered "liberating" a Sacramento billboard late one night: "When we explained to them what we were doing, they just laughed and asked us to go do it somewhere where we wouldn't get caught."

--Melinda Welsh, reprinted from *The Progressive*, Dec. 1983.

# Help end child labor -- skip the soup

Child labor has plagued farm work in the United States for decades. In Ohio, as in California, farm workers are organizing to stop the abuse of children in Amerika's fields. But this often overlooked tragedy can only be ended through public awareness and support.

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), representing over 2,000 Ohio farm workers on strike in the fields contracted to the Campbell Soup Company, wants to alert the American public to the extent of child labor in Ohio's tomato and pickle fields. An adult field worker in Ohio earns an average hourly wage one dollar below the national minimum. To help support their families, thousands of small children each year are forced into hazardous work.

Long hours in the hot sun, use of heavy machinery, and exposure to dangerous chemicals make agricultural work one of the three most hazardous occupations, according to the Department of Labor. The unhealthy conditions and difficult life are reflected in an infant mortality rate 125% to 300% above that of non-migrant children.

By working in the fields, farm worker children are denied an education and the opportunities enjoyed by most children. 80% of migrant children will not graduate from high school.

Over 20 years of organizing in California have shown us that the only way to protect the rights of farm worker children is through a union contract, and the boycott has been the farm workers' most powerful tool in winning contracts. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee does not want to ask the taxpayer for health and welfare assistance--they want a contract with Campbell Soup.

For five years, FLOC has sought a contract which would provide wages high enough to end the poverty which necessitates child labor. Campbell Soup has continued to deny the farm workers union recognition; now, FLOC seeks support for their non-violent struggle through a consumer boycott of Campbell products.

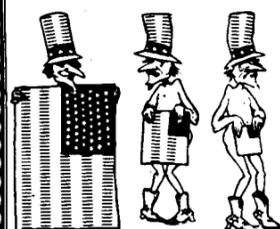
--FLOC  
714 1/2 S. St. Clair  
Toledo, Ohio 43609



Stop this cycle of human abuse!

We ask that you leave all Campbell Soup Products standing on your grocer's shelf as a reminder of this gross injustice.

## The Incredible Shrinking American Dream



Dec. 1983-Jan. 1984

Page 6

A hilarious cartoon history of the good old U.S.A.  
By Estelle Carol, Rhoda Grossman and Bob Simpson

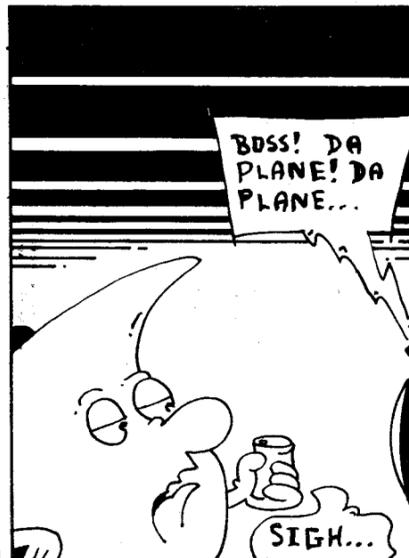
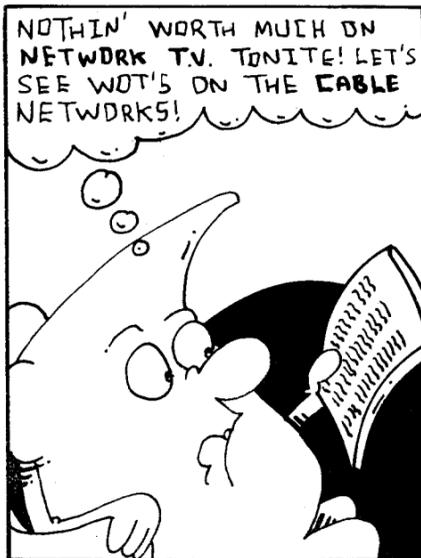
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Post-American

Vol. 12, #8

## Cartoon Comics



# Brought to you by Brokaw

These forlorn houses, transplanted to a muddy field off Adelaide Street in Normal, once stood where Brokaw Hospital's new parking lot now sprawls its asphalt glory. Lovely new neighborhood, isn't it?



Post-Amerikan Vol. 12, #8  
Dec. 1983-Jan. 1984 Page 7

## God's censors at work again

According to the latest issue of *The Progressive*, the distinguished publishing firm of Dodd, Mead, and Co. has been bought by the Tennessee Bible publisher Thomas Nelson, Inc., and censorship has become the order of the day.

Apparently two novels and a book of verse have already been rejected--not edited, rejected--for profanity. "Fuck" is now an absolute no-can-do, as well as any lesser profanity used in connection with religious terminology.

This is pretty arrogant behavior from the publishers of one of the truly obscene works of all time. Presumably books depicting religious persecution, slavery, genocide, incest, rape, and wars of invasion--as does the Bible--are all right, as long as it's done "tastefully." Give me a break.

## Urine for it now, kids

OK, Mom and Dad, a scientist has come up with the perfect holiday gift for you. Now you can get home urine test kits to see if your kids are on drugs. Isn't that great? Supposedly the kit can detect all the major street poisons, so you'll be able to crack down on Dick and Jane. Life's looking up: now you can control your kid's drug habits, abortions, birth control . . . practically everything they do.

And think what fun you'll have lying to them about why you need a urine sample! What a great way to increase family harmony, huh?



## News Griefs

compiled by Scaramouche

## Better late than never

It appears the Russians weren't doubling their military spending in the last few years. According to a new CIA report, they were just piddling along.

This is, of course, the exact opposite of the lies the Reagan administration has been feeding us to justify its immense arms build-up. Now that it has succeeded in getting its first-strike capability, along comes the truth--too late. The Soviet build-up was overestimated by about 100%.

## Sign here please

So the Grove, Oklahoma Board of Education actually did it. They fired Russell Turley for refusing to sign an oath of loyalty to Amerika--and to Oklahoma (long may it wave).

In the Associated Press Stories, Turley comes off as anything but a firebrand radical. He just seems to think the oath is unnecessary and "anachronistic." He's taught fifth grade for four years without swearing fealty to the system. Why should he suck up to it now?

Well, he shouldn't. What does the oath actually accomplish? Nothing. Loyalty to the country--basic loyalty--is mandated by law for all citizens, and signing a piece of paper makes you no more liable to prosecution for disloyalty. It's certainly no guarantee that he'll be a better teacher. More likely it's just one more hook for the administration to keep in its employees--the oath is so vague that practically anything could be construed as a violation by a vindictive school board. After PATCO, everybody's jumping on the screw-the-workers bandwagon.

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# A few days after 'The Day After'

I very rarely plan my life around television. I watch a lot of tv, but only occasionally do I pre-empt everything in favor of a tv show. Sunday, Nov. 20 was one of those occasions. Like almost everyone I know, I sat down to watch tv that night. So did millions of other people in this country.

Titillated by the advertising, seduced by the controversy, Amerika shifted from football to thermonuclear war in a matter of minutes. There was just enough time to grab a quick snack between the end of the fourth quarter and the beginning of the end.

Maybe if *Newsweek* and *TV Guide* hadn't devoted their covers and six or seven pages apiece to "The Day After"; maybe if the Moral Majority and the Nuke Freeze folks had not been so vocal in their opinions about "The Day After"; maybe if I could have just picked up the tv listings and decided against the Kennedy movie and *Masterpiece Theatre* and mindlessly opted for "The Day After" - maybe then I would have thought it was an okay movie. Maybe.

But by the time "The Day After" aired I knew more about it than I know about the *Post-Amerikan*. I knew who wrote it, who directed it, how Jason Robards came to star in it, why there were almost no other recognizable names in the cast, when it had been filmed, why it had been shortened from four hours to two and a half. I knew about most of the major scenes--who started the war, the disintegration of people after the blast, the shots of people with radiation poisoning, the gymnasium-cum-hospital.

I knew about some of the minor scenes--the one black family, the lonely voice from Lawrence, Kansas, asking if anyone else was there; the ever-so-tasteful diaphragm in the drawer that the network censors almost cut. I knew that for every three people the movie showed dead or dying it had to show seven buildings destroyed.

I also knew that ABC had a hard time selling advertising for "The Day After," due largely to Falwell and Company's threats of product boycotts. I knew that the Freeze people had made spots with Meryl Streep and Paul Newman to be shown in selected cities urging people to call the Freeze Movement, and that Pat Robertson had made spots to be shown in selected cities urging people to call God. (We in Bloomington-Normal were shown neither.)

I knew about the questions of whether or not children should be allowed to see the movie, of whether anyone should see the movie alone. I knew about the warnings that would be run at the beginning of the movie and repeated several times during the course of the movie. I knew about

the discussion that would follow the movie. I knew that Falwell was demanding equal time under the Fair Practices Act to give his view of thermonuclear war. I knew that the Freeze people were calling "The Day After" a victory.

I am not sure I saw the same film.

"The Day After" that I saw was an adequately acted and directed made-for-tv disaster movie, better than some, worse than others. It made one clear statement: Global thermonuclear war is a bummer. Now there's news.

It's a safe, typical television statement that absolutely no one from the Pentagon on down could disagree with. It should offend no one. The writer and director of the movie and the programming head of ABC kept claiming that "The Day After" was not a political film. I did not believe them during the height of the hype. I believed them after seeing the movie.

Fifteen years ago Rod Serling and his popular "Twilight Zone" made more significant and damning statements about nuclear war and the destruction of the human race than "The Day After" did last month. Serling at least had the guts to place blame--on the government, the authorities, the people in power, the basic wretched nature of humankind. "The Day After" places no blame, and the people involved with the film are very proud of that fact. It seemed to me like a "we-don't-make-the-news, we-only-report-it" theory of nuclear holocaust. Weak, at best.

I am also not sure why everyone was so bent out of shape about the "violent nature" of the film. To a generation that has grown up with televised assassinations, televised wars, and televised slasher films, "The Day After" seemed remarkably tame. To me, the killing of Bambi's mother seemed just as senseless and more violent.

The first hour was almost interminably boring, probably due to the fact that we were watching unknown actors go through the ordinary routines of life, like screwing and farming and washing and eating. This was not helped by ABC's decision to put all the commercials in the first 60 minutes. Interrupting a boring movie with three or four minutes of boring commercials makes for a bored audience.

Thankfully, the second hour and a half was less boring and commercial-free. A lot of people died, some people didn't, and most were going to. The survivors were by and large good victims--calm, resigned, willing to take direction, organized, and amazingly serene. They welcomed the black survivors into their hospital and food line with open arms, and they all smiled hopefully when a baby's first

cries echoed around them. There were the necessary "Animal within us all" scenes, as troops shot people for looting and someone shot a man for wanting his land back, but basically everyone was civilized and amiable.

There were a few good scenes: the president telling the people that everything was under control (which sounded so much like Reagan's telling us about Grenada that it was terrifying); the Air Force man telling his comrades that he wasn't going to die in the air raid shelter and they'd have to shoot him if they wanted to stop him from trying to find his wife; and the extension officer explaining to a group of farmers that they'd have to scrape off 5 or 6 inches of topsoil and being completely lost when one farmer wanted to know what to do with 6 inches of soil from 240 acres and what was going to grow if they took the topsoil.

"The Day After" is not a awful movie. But thanks to all the pre-showing attention, it was a very disappointing movie. Maybe someday television will grow up enough to make and air a movie that places blame, proposes alternatives, and prepares us for the day after. Maybe.

--Deborah Wiatt



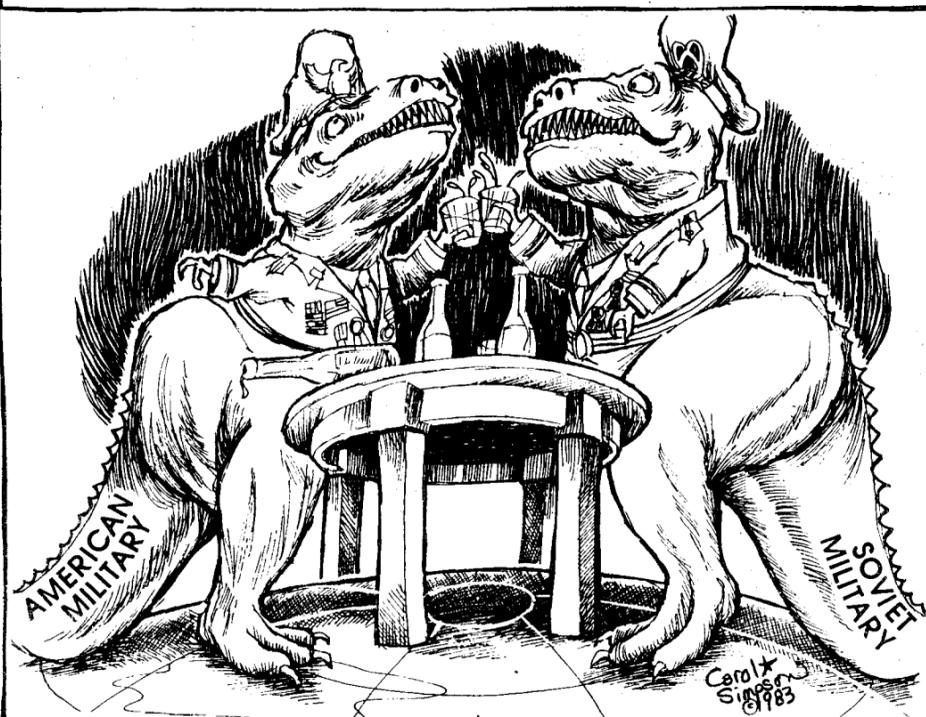
## Nuke the media: Do your own version of 'The Day After'

In my version of "The Day After" the movie would be over in ten seconds followed by a blank screen. Silence is the most profound statement on the media. For one day there would be no television or radio programs, no commercials. Newspapers and magazines would be blank pages except for a picture of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the cover. Politicians and pundits would have the hardest job: shutting up and listening to the heartbeat of humanity. Only one word would be uttered on this day: "PEACE."

In the event of an actual nuclear war, a peace satellite would be automatically launched with the missiles, a kind of "Pershing for Peace." It would contain all the names of people (we are all on a super microchip anyway) from every land. There would be this taped message sung by Godot, the Last Punk Rocker on Earth:

"See the people of the planet Earth. Man, they got tired, waitin' for me. They done blowed up. Then I showed up. They was a smash, till they turned to ash. Kansas called, but I said you was out-like a light. Heh, ABC, you ain't nukin' me. I ain't waitin' I'm celebratin' The baddest bash ever will never end!"

--Beulah Bloomington-Normal



At least (hic!) we agree on one thing  
... a nuclear war IS survivable!

# Nuclear war bombs on TV

Megatons of hype! Norman Rockwell-Land wiped out! Mom, we won't have time to pose with our pitchforks! One-hundred million destroyed! (By heartburn during commercials, as we contemplate the Last Pizza on Earth.)

Unless you just breezed into town from another planet (where nuclear war has been eliminated like other quaint customs). You know I'm referring to that audience grabber of angst, "The Day After." ABC nuked its rivals with a 62% share of the audience. Cynics were dubbing the show, "Unhappy Days" (will the Fonz become President and save the world for eternal hair combing?) Before the movie, parents were warned of the psychological damage of watching the Big Blast. Or was it bombast? I wanted to build a bomb shelter myself after listening to the verbal fallout from Phyllis Schlafly and Jerry Falwell.

Yes, there were pundits everywhere, and they were warning us about everything. "Don't let a child under ten watch this movie!" (But it's okay for him to write the script.) After the movie more pundits get us back to unreality by telling us what can't be done. "Bob" and "Henry" (McNamara and Kissinger) traded nuclear gossip. No, there wasn't a launch-on-warning policy in Camelot, sniffed

"Bob," William F. Buckley arched his eyebrows and called the movie "doomsday."

For Carl Sagan, intoning from the Cosmos, it wasn't doomsday enough. "We're talking about the end of the human species," he said. Philosopher-pundit, Elie Wiesel, whose face looked gaunt with the fatigue of contemplating the Holocaust for thirty years, said he was "scared." Perhaps the philosopher was scared at the prospect of sitting next to Henry Kissinger, who appeared fearless in the wake of nuclear destruction. His jowls seemed to harden at the thought of some pansy philosopher running things. There was even a War Game and an appearance by the real Secretary of State, who only proved that Bonzo and his circus in Washington should be sent back to Clown School as their nuclear juggling is no longer entertaining.

Being a Pundit is a job reserved for the white male establishment. Is Phyllis Schlafly the best they could come up with? Look where it's gotten us.

But what does it matter. Women, blacks, and poor people have already been nuked by Bonzo's repressive economic policies. Why bother with a nuclear freeze when you're going to freeze to death because you couldn't pay your gas bill? The message of the media was plain:

how can you nuke somebody if they're invisible? Leave the decisions up to the Big Boys. They can handle it 'cause they went to Harvard. Remember what a good job they did in Vietnam? Phyllis Schlafly knows real men don't eat Peace, they just gorge themselves on defense dollars and are still hungry an hour later.

As for the movie itself, it was expensive dramatic absurdity, which gave us an excuse to distance our emotions. It trivialized the terror with hokey special effects and cardboard characters. The Midwest was nuked twice. First by the fictional bomb and then by the screenwriter. Why don't these Hollywood types write about what they know? Nuclear war in Beverly Hills would mean cocaine clouds for days, and no one available to do their hair in the fallout shelter.

Is nuclear war beyond drama? Perhaps not if it was written by Samuel Beckett and Walt Disney. Evil Mr. Magoo in the Kremlin nukes Epcot Center. Will Bonzo retaliate from Disney World in California? Can Kissinger save us this time or will Bugs Bunny be the last one on Earth? "That's all, folks!" At least the end will be perky.

--Jane Gleisner

## Too late for 'The Day After'

The generation of Americans that I'm a part of (those 19-25) is unique. We were the very first to emerge from Mama's womb and find ourselves warmly enveloped in the happy world of around-the-clock, nurturing TV. At no time previous to ours in American history could a child jump out of bed at 6 a.m. and share his/her breakfast with a beneficent, humming box. It spoke to us like adults, showed us amusements, and depicted the entire world for us in real photo images--all at the mere touch of a switch.

The screen became our nanny (black, white, or colored), and we came to trust its tales and portrayals of actuality--as much or more than we trusted our comrades at school, and certainly more than we trusted our teachers or parents. TV was our un-failing, always-able friend, who

offered us instant escape into Sit-comland (whenever families began to offend) or Melodrama-land (when homework was put aside). It was it--all the perfections the U.S.A. was capable of.

So to me, and to others in my age group, ABC's much-hyped "The Day After" was powerful, true-seeming stuff, without precedent in our collective video past. And I would suggest that the great fervor for deriding the presentation, in rightist circles, on the grounds of its lack of authenticity, or because of its patchwork dramatic plot, reveals that the impact was just as great on those who derided.

Sure, it's true that the nuclear holocaust was not sufficiently authentic, faithful to the reality

of one, but then again, not even video cameras can film in total darkness. As for the rather confused and incomplete plot, the original "Day After" ran an additional two hours, but had to be edited severely for economic reasons (no sponsors really wanted their breakfast cereal associated with the end of civilization). The scarcity of advertisers for the program is a fact which serves as ironic testimony to what the show must have represented to the corporate world: Capitalism at a self-reflective impasse, the shadow of its commercial smile--twin mushroom clouds.

But TV has also taught my generation to be cynical. And so, when hopeful "freezeriks" talk about all the beneficial debate that will be prompted from coast to coast by the show and inspire a yearning for peace, we say, "bullshit." We are not fatalists to think this, but rather realists. The genie, after all, has been out of the bottle for quite awhile.

The game of nuke-war is simply too far along, and has too much at stake, for even a clear majority of expendable tokens (that's you and me) to rise up en masse and actually change the atomic scheme of things. It could never succeed.

Actually, I should amend that. If a populist socialist revolution (that's you and me) were to somehow occur in this land and do the impossible--overthrow its exploitative and inherently militaristic capitalist system--then, perhaps (supposing more quixotically that a simultaneous and real socialist revolution were to happen in the Soviet Union) there would be a real, partial progress made in diminishing the nuclear threat.

In the meantime, in-between times, I urge all "right-thinking, freedom-loving Americans" to go out and buy the nicest automatic rifle you can afford, and then get training in marksmanship. That way, if revolution someday comes, you can jump equipped onto the new anarchist bandwagon (before a bloody clampdown rebounds).

And if the revolution does not come, (provided "The Day After" finds you still standing), you'll have a slightly better chance of malingering a bit longer with a loaded M-16.

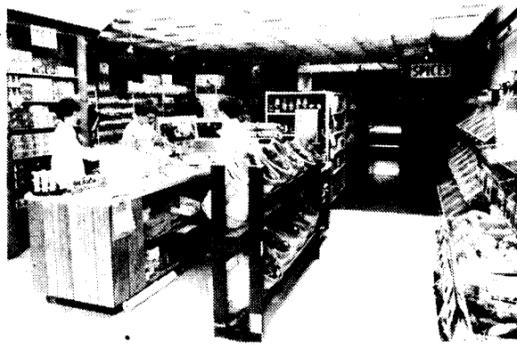
--Archibald MacNaya

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# With enough shovels, they'll bury us

With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush, and Nuclear War by Robert Scheer, Random House: New York, 1982. 285 pages, \$14.95.

Forget The Day After. Forget Fail-Safe. Forget Alas, Babylon. Forget all those Twilight Zone episodes. This is what you should be paying attention to, and it's a hell of a lot more terrifying because it's true.

Scheer is a pro journalist, currently with the L.A. Times, and his facts are absolutely indisputable, coming from taped interviews with Ronald Reagan and all of his top aides. His message is this: the Reagan Administration sincerely believes a nuclear war is winnable, inevitable, and really not such an awful thing at all. What's more, no one connected with Reagan has the slightest interest in arms control or treaties with the Russians. I'm scared to death.

This all comes straight from their mouths. The book is simple, straightforward reporting, and some of the things these people say will leave you reeling. For instance, Eugene Rostow, head of the so-called Arms Control and Disarmament Agency: "We are living in a pre-war, not a

post-war, world." And T.K. Jones, in charge of Research and Engineering for Strategic and Theatre Nuclear Forces, talking about digging holes in the ground to hide from 100-megaton warheads: "If there are enough shovels to go around, everybody's going to make it." (Jones is the acknowledged James Watt of nuclear war).

Scheer reveals that the Reagan administration is building up a huge stockpile of nuclear weapons based on a report of Soviet strength which George Bush personally inflated as head of the CIA. He also shows that the "massive civil defense program" Reagan points to as evidence that the Russians are preparing for war is also a lie. It consists of digging holes like T.K. Jones'.

First strikes against the Soviet Union are now considered a part of U.S. policy. Reagan publicly refuses to rule them out. His appointee to the Arms Control & Disarmament Agency, Colin Gray, publicly advocates them.

Gray, and practically every other official Reagan has put in charge of nuclear warfare, is a member of the Committee on the Present Danger,

a lobby group committed to abandoning arms control, rearming and, if possible, nuking Russia back to the Stone Age. Scheer's list of high Reagan officials from this group is terrifying: Reagan himself, Kenneth Adelman, William Casey, William Graham (Chairman, General Advisory Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament), most of the GACACD, Fred Ikle (Undersecretary of Defense of Policy), Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Paul Nitze (our chief arms control negotiator!), Michael Novak (our representative on the U.N. Human Rights Commission), Eugene Rostow (Director of the Arms Control & Disarmament Agency), George Schultz, Edward Teller (father of the H-bomb!). There are dozens more.

The most telling evidence of Reagan's real feelings toward nuclear war can be found in the words of the militarists he's appointed to "negotiate" arms control with the Russians. Eugene Rostow believes that nuclear war would be preferable to a break-up of NATO. Paul Nitze has been speaking against arms control since 1949, and yet he's our chief negotiator for arms control. He says in the book: "There could be serious arms control negotiations, but only after we've built up our forces--in ten years." A telling quote from the Washington Post about Nitze says: "[He] took a cynical view of arms control negotiations. To rally public support for rearmament, [he] recommended that U.S. leaders constantly put forth reasonable-sounding disarmament proposals which the Soviets were unlikely to accept. Of course, should the Soviets show unexpected flexibility, we would have to consider very seriously whether we would accept such agreements." Does this sound familiar? It is actually referring to Nitze's attitude in 1950.

The ultimate insult to peace activists comes from Richard Perle, Under-Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, who tells Scheer that the huge European peace movement is just a ploy by Protestant leaders to boost church membership, aided by "indigenous Communist involvement."

Read the book. Pass it around. Be scared--you should be.

--Scaramouche



## Dollars and 'The Day After'

Perhaps the significance of "The Day After" is not what was shown (your average, boring, made-for-tv movie is rarely significant) but that it was shown at all. Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, and most of the rest of the new right threatened ABC and the major tv advertisers right where it hurts--in the pocket book--if ABC insisted on airing this wildly political, anti-Amerikan, totally leftist movie.

ABC, and the other two major networks, have often listened to threats from the right about their programming. Sometimes the networks ignore the economic threats of product boycotts the new right is so fond of. "The Day After" was one of those times.

The major tv advertisers were not so brave. Nowhere did we see Coca-Cola, Lite Beer, or Kool-Aid. Gone were Snickers, Cheerios, and Campbell Soup. Obviously absent were ring-around-the-collar, I-can-see-myself-in-this-plate, and reach-out-and-touch-someone. ABC offered air time at a reduced rate and still the major advertisers stayed away. Spokespersons for ABC said, on CBS' 60 Minutes, that they would air "The Day After" at a loss if they had to, but they would air it. It is doubtful that ABC lost money. But the movie did lose advertisers.

The advertisers who bought cheap time for "The Day After" did so knowing the they faced censure from the right. Whether their ads were a political statement (doubtful, I agree) or just an opportunity for cheap time (more likely, probably), the commercials were still run with the knowledge that the products would be boycotted and the companies harassed by the new right.

The national spots during "The Day After" (for those of you who did not keep a running total) were for these products:

- Commodore Computers
- Certs Breath Mints
- Minolta Cameras
- Duration Nasal Spray
- The National Coffee Growers
- Soloflex Exercise Machines
- Orville Redenbacher Gourmet Popcorn
- Dollar Rent-A-Car
- English Leather Cologne
- Christine, the movie
- Slip Fast Diet Drink
- K-Tel Records
- Arm & Hammer Carpet and Room Deodorizer
- Never Say Never Again, the movie
- Maybelline Dial-A-Lash Mascara
- Dexatrim Diet Pills
- Mr. Coffee Coffee Maker
- Magnavox Television

--Deborah



RC

# Sorry lady, you need a penis to fix this Zenith

Ok, ok, I admit it. I had a chip on my shoulder the moment I walked in the place. It had been coming on for months--the impossible horizontal line, the ceaseless rolling picture until the set warmed up--first it was five, then ten, now twenty minutes! I grudgingly broke down and decided to take my tv into the repair shop. And I hurt my shoulder carrying the damn thing down the stairs.

So I was already pissed when I walked into Fey's Electronics on S. Main. What should I expect? This was my first sick tv... surely it couldn't be too expensive. It didn't seem to be a major thing, just your basic warm-up problems.

I entered a smoky room filled with decaying television carcasses. Several men were standing around with cigarettes and screwdrivers. One of them was pounding the side of a tv with his fist. Was this the kind of place to which I wanted to relinquish my precious tube?

And then I saw it! Posted unabashedly inside the door--"LABOR RATES-COLOR-MINIMUM CHARGE \$54.50 without parts. ESTIMATES, \$24.50." I swallowed. "God!" I said to no one in particular. "Fifty-five bucks? Isn't that kind of expensive?"

"Naw, it's not expensive," said the cigar-smoking gent who was dispatched to my service by the proprietor.

"Well, someone told me my tv doesn't have tubes, otherwise I'd try to fix it myself," I said wistfully.

"Naw, this here's an old tv. 'S got tubes," he assured me, biting his cigar. "95% of the time it's not tubes anyway. It's just not that simple." He lugged the hulk out of my trunk.

Back in the shop I muttered, "Well, jeez, I'm gonna be pissed if it's only some tube that needs replacing and I could have done it myself."

Plugging the set in, he turned to me with that 'I'm-only-gonna-tell-you-this-once-more' look and said, "Listen, if they made tvs easy enough for GIRLS to fix, we wouldn't be here." I could feel the rest of the men in the room chuckling. I was on low heat before, but I was boiling now. He continued, "You start taking tubes out, and first thing you know, you make things worse and it ends up costing you more money. You wouldn't try to fix your car, would you?"

"Yes, I would and I do," I replied, silently cringing, knowing that the last time I cross-threaded a sparkplug and set the timing the opposite of what it should have been.

By now, the set was plugged in and up to its usual tricks. "Well, I can tell you right now, you're gonna need a new cord. And this channel mechanism's shot. Right off the bat, it's gonna run you over a hundred bucks."

Forget that shit! Now he was laying it on. I knew that had nothing to do with horizontal hold. My mind was made up. I said, "Sorry for putting you through the trouble, but I don't



have that kind of money right now," and he icily put the tv back in my trunk.

I'd love to hear the conversation that went on in the shop the minute I left...something like, "Get a load of that dumb broad who thinks she's gonna fix her own TV set. Let her try! She'll break a fingernail and be back here in a minute!"

And here's the best part of the story. I finally located a U-Test-M tube tester (Stiles Ace Hardware, Towanda Ave.). My set had four bad tubes totaling less than \$25 I replaced them myself, and now my television works like a dream! So there!

--LVD

## Letters... Letters...

### Signs OK with reader

Dear Good People,

Please allow me a little space to comment on the story--???(\*)/o?-- on the back of your last issue. No one seemed to want to take credit for having put that article in print.

The author complained about the new street signs on West Market and Madison Streets. I suspect this person is a chronic complainer. In the story it is pointed out that these are "international symbols" and in closing suggested just heading on to the library to get something to read.

The writer may not appreciate how fortunate he/she is to be literate. Thousands and thousands of folks, sadly, cannot read. International visitors may not flock to the west side of Bloomington, Illinois but residents of international cities such as New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco share their streets with tourists from all over the world and are only too happy to learn these very difficult and confusing picture signs.

If the writer of that story ever somehow gets away from the soy bean and corn fields of central Illinois, she/he might be grateful for these signs while motoring through Paris, Mexico City, or Kyoto.

--R. Jay G.

### Author replies .....

Ferdydurke responds: I wrote the cut-line/article for the photos on the back page of last issue. My name was left off the article through an oversight--nothing more: the article was written and laid out in a hurry at the end of a long and tiring lay-out weekend.

I feel R. Jay misunderstands the main point of the comments: these signs are no good to anybody, literate or not, because they try to represent their messages in a clumsy and improbable way. The front end of an oncoming bus or locomotive is not a view that most people would readily recognize, in my opinion. The pictures don't convey a clear message; they just look weird. Whether someone can read or not is beside the point. (And why couldn't these signs have both pictures and words?)

It is true that my sniping tone may have been insensitive to those who can't read. I, too, am sad that thousands and thousands of people cannot read. I don't know all the causes of illiteracy, but I suspect that most people who can't read are the victims of poverty, racism, and other forms of oppression.

A few signs without words will do little to help these people (especially if the graphics in the signs are as puzzling as a few simple words would be). Instead of making non-verbal signs, the government should spend its time and money to eradicate poverty and provide quality education for everybody, regardless of race or class.

Yes, I am a chronic complainer.

That's why I write for the Post-Amerikan. I'm also a chronic skeptic, and I doubt that the system of International Symbols was designed with the underprivileged in mind, as R. Jay's letter seems to suggest.

### Hostages want correspondents

Two prisoners in Menard wrote to the Post this month asking for letters from earth. They are:

Rickey Dukes  
W30774  
P.O. Box 711  
Menard IL 62259

J. R. Hofstetter  
A-87767  
P.O. Box 711  
Menard IL 62259

### Note on Gen Tel's

#### Phone Service

Sometimes it's not enough to call repair service when your telephone isn't working up to snuff.

If you want to get in touch with a supervisor on repair problems, call 827-1294.

For problems with new installations call 827-1553.

# Reagan lies about reasons

The Reagan administration has offered at least three major justifications for its Oct. 25 invasion of Grenada. They are all phoney.

The first two justifications were offered by President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz in Oct. 25 statements.

The first and most often repeated reason for the invasion was, in Reagan's words, "to protect innocent lives, including up to 1000 Americans." Reagan and Shultz emphasized the threat posed to 650 medical students in Grenada at St. George's School of Medicine. The administration claimed to fear "another Iran" where Americans might be held hostage by a government hostile to the U.S.

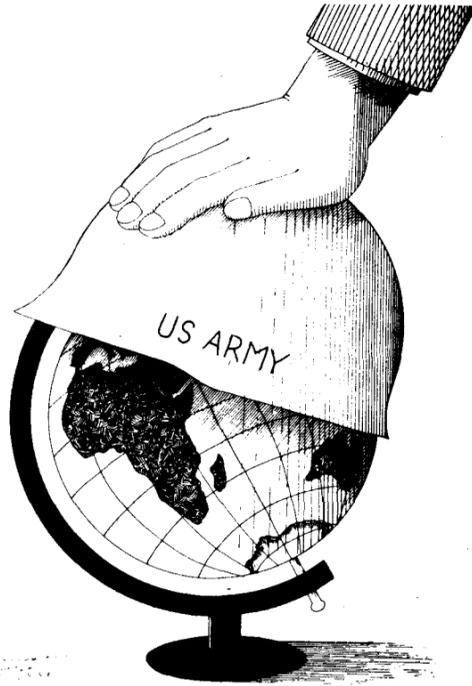
The second reason was a formal request by four of seven nations in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that the U.S. join an invasion force.

In his October 27 speech, Reagan offered a new justification--not cited in his earlier statements, but hinted at by senior State Department and Defense Department officials. This was that Grenada "was a Soviet-Cuban colony being readied as a major military bastion to export terror and undermine democracy."

Each of these rationales withers under scrutiny.

## Medical students

The questions of the medical students' safety must be broken down into two separate questions: first, were the



medical students in danger? And second, if they were in danger, was an invasion necessary to remove them?

Although several students said upon returning to the U.S. that they felt themselves in danger and were grateful to have been rescued, other students and medical school officials strongly disagreed.

The medical school's vice chancellor, Dr. Geoffrey Bourne and its bursar, Gary Solin, said the students were in no danger.

During the turmoil before the U.S. invasion, Dr. Bourne said he received personal assurance of the students'

safety from Grenada's leaders. During the five-day curfew, Bourne told the Village Voice, Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard (who had ousted Maurice Bishop) provided a vehicle to transport students from one campus to another to insure their safety. Bourne said he received the same assurances from General Hudson Austin, when his Military Council assumed control. Hudson reportedly gave Dr. Bourne his home telephone number in case of emergency.

Gary Solin, the medical school's bursar, said "We were used as an excuse by the government to invade Grenada."

A week before its action, searching for a pretext to invade, the U.S. government unsuccessfully tried to get medical school officials to publicly declare that the students were in danger, according to the Village Voice.

Six full days before the invasion, Dr. Charles Modica, the medical school's deputy director, was telephoned by Maylan Bish, the U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the eastern Caribbean. Bish asked Modica to come to Barbados to publicly ask the U.S. to intervene to protect the medical school students. Modica refused.

Conservative Republican trustees of the medical school were reportedly receiving calls from Reagan people, asking the trustees to declare that the students in Grenada were in danger.

On Sunday Oct. 23, two days before the invasion, U.S. Embassy counselor Ken Kurze had lunch with Leon

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# for Grenada invasion

Cornwall, a Grenadian government leader. Afterward, Kurze told reporters that "we have not recommended (to U.S. citizens) that they leave--or that they leave at any particular time."

## Evacuation

But assuming that the students were in danger, could they have been evacuated without an invasion? After the invasion, Reagan administration spokesperson Larry Speakes claimed that the Grenadian airport had been closed on October 24, which prevented any Americans from leaving.

But reporters learned later that at least four charter planes took off from the Grenadian airport that day, including one carrying the former director of the Reagan administration's National Commission on Social Security, Robert J. Myer.

Both Canada and Great Britain had arranged for commercial planes to evacuate any of their citizens who wanted to leave Grenada. A spokesperson for LIAT Airlines, the only commercial airline serving Grenada, said its plans to land on Grenada were not blocked by Grenada but by its neighbors, who were already planning to invade.

## U.S. was invited

The administration's second reason--that, in Reagan's words the "small peaceful nations" of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs) "needed our help"--is a fraud and a lie.

Although the invasion of Grenada was illegal under the United Nations and Organization of American States charters, Reagan claimed that the "invitation" from OECs countries legalized the action under the OECs treaty.

We now know that the Caribbean nations' supposed "invitation" was issued at the initiation of the U.S. The actual text was drafted in Washington at the State Department, and rushed down to the relevant Caribbean islands. Reason for this procedure, according to the New York Times, was that the administration wanted to "show proof that it had been requested to act under the terms of the OECs treaty."



But the OECs treaty, which provides for collective protection against external aggression, could have justified military action only if Grenada was about to launch an invasion of another island, a difficult feat for a turmoil-racked nation with no navy and no air force.

In addition, the treaty provides that such decisions must be unanimous. But only four of the seven signatory countries supported the Grenada invasion. The dissenting OECs countries noted that the treaty called on members to protect each other in times of crisis, and was never intended to overrule the terms of the UN or OAS charters.

The Reagan administration has also tried to claim legitimacy for the invasion by saying that Grenada Governor General Sir Paul Scoon requested U.S. intervention. As the representative of the British Queen on Grenada, Scoon's position was merely ceremonial. He had no power to request foreign military intervention, and any such request had no legal weight.

## Soviet-Cuban colony

The Reagan administration introduced the specter of Grenada becoming a "Soviet-Cuban colony" only after its first justifications for invasion

began to unravel.

It put up two kinds of evidence for this conclusion.

The first is a narrative of events in Grenada that claims Maurice Bishop's murder was part of an attempt to make Grenada more receptive to Cuban and Soviet dominance. (For a refutation of this story, see the adjoining article.)

The second is a variety of physical evidence on the island, including the alleged presence of 1100 Cuban soldiers (doubling as construction workers), sufficient arms, in Reagan's words, "to export terror" and an airstrip under construction by the Cubans which Reagan claims is planned for military rather than civilian use.

The U.S. grossly exaggerated evidence of a Soviet-Cuban military presence in Grenada. According to Reagan, U.S. military forces were "staggered by the depth and strength of the Cuban military presence on the island." Reagan asserted that instead of the 800 construction workers Cuba admitted having on Grenada, there were close to 1200 Cubans (some estimates went vaguely higher), most of whom were "professional soldiers" constituting a "military force."

The Defense Department has now admitted that it "does not dispute" Havana's figure of 784 Cuban nationals, and no more than 20% of them could be characterized as military personnel.

In his October 27 speech, Reagan claimed that American forces had uncovered three warehouses of weapons "stacked almost to the ceiling" with weapons and ammunition, "enough to supply thousands of terrorists."

"We got there just in time," Reagan said.

But when reporters visited the warehouse the next day, they found that it was about a quarter full, with 190 crates of guns. Some were modern rifles, but others dated back to the 19th century. Heavy equipment consisted of a mere four mortars.

For several years, Reagan has main-  
(Please turn to page 15.)

# Restoring democracy in Grenada

In explaining the American mission in Grenada, Reagan has piously intoned the goal of "restoring democracy." Let's take a look at how he's doing, and what sort of democracy he wants "restored."

Although Maurice Bishop was a popular leader whose New Jewel Movement built social services, cut unemployment from 50% to 18%, and built an economy growing at a 3% annual rate even in the midst of global recession (especially for poor countries), Reagan does not want any sort of return to a Bishop-style regime.

"Maurice Bishop staged a military coup and overthrew the government which had been elected under the constitution left to the people by the British," Reagan told a television audience.

Bishop's deposed predecessor, Sir Eric Gairy, may have been voted into office in 1976, but for that matter, so was Hitler in 1933. The 1976 elections were conducted under such conditions of political duress that they can hardly be counted as valid.

Eric Gairy was a Third World despot in the classic loony mold of Papa Doc Duvalier and Idi Amin. Gairy reportedly executed political opponents and forced women to have sexual relations in order to obtain jobs. His long-standing passion was for flying saucers and he would sometimes travel to New York to lecture on them at the U.N. He was a nightclub owner who had been dismissed by the British in 1961 for misuse of funds. He believed he was chosen by God to rule.

Gairy's political police force, known as the "mongoose Gang," terrorized the island. Maurice Bishop's father was among those who died when Gairy bloodily suppressed demonstrations against his regime.

But Gairy's corrupt rule was not big news. No reporters for big newspapers wrote articles about deteriorating political conditions. No political leaders raised a peep of protest. As long as Grenada was in the grips of a right-wing lunatic who faithfully supported American interests, Washington's attitude was decidedly laissez-faire. Only when Grenada veered sharply to the left was there suddenly a lot of hand-wringing over the lack of democracy.

(Please turn the page.)

# Grenadian documents don't

On November 4, the State Department released copies of documents that (it said) American forces had found in Grenada. These documents included arms pacts between Grenada and the Soviet Union, Cuba, and North Korea and minutes of Grenadian Central Committee meetings held during September and October.

According to the State Department, these documents showed that Grenada was, in Reagan's words, a "Soviet-Cuban colony" whose purpose was to "export terror" in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam said that the documents proved that Grenada "would have become a fortified Soviet military outpost."

The documents do not show what the State Department claims.

The pacts with the Soviet Union, Cuba, and North Korea for military aid indicate that the Grenadian government wanted to equip an army of about 2,000 and a militia of about twice this size with weapons whose function was defensive rather than offensive.

The Central Committee meetings show that the Grenadian regime was seriously adrift in the murky waters of Marxism-Leninism and might have run aground on its own had the U.S. not invaded.

But they do not reveal the slightest hint of a colonial relationship between the Grenadian government and either Cuba or the Soviet Union.

### Defensive equipment

The arms supply agreements are difficult to decipher, even in English. But with the help of Douglas T. Mathews of the Center for Defense

Information, I pieced together an estimate of the amount of weapons and their possible use.

The weapons to be sent consisted entirely of small arms and artillery and of vehicles and equipment that would be used by an army carrying rifles. Some of the weapons to be sent were antiques. For instance, of the 6500 rifles, 2500 were carbines that were used by second-line Soviet troops during WWII. "They're suitable for a militia or for gun collectors," Mathews said.

The prevalence of small arms suggests that the weapons were meant only for defense. Mathews estimated that the weapons would equip two infantry battalions--about 2000 soldiers--and a militia of about 4000. "We're looking at a rifle-toting force," he said. "Unless they're going to invade St. Kitts, they're not going anywhere."

The following are other tell-tale signs that the arms were not meant to "export terror."

There are heavy but not light machine guns included in the weapons. According to Mathews, light machine guns are used by an advancing strike



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## Restoring democracy in Grenada

(Continued from page 13.)

If, after democracy is "restored," Grenadians turn again to the Marxist New Jewel Movement for leadership, will that be all right with Washington? No. When voters in Chile elected the Marxist Salvador Allende, the United States government immediately took steps to destabilize the country's economy. Allende died in a U.S.-backed military coup in 1973.

But Grenadians may not even get a chance to vote for the survivors of Maurice Bishop's popular government under their newly restored "democracy."

Already, the new provisional government in Grenada has said that members of the New Jewel Movement will have to be approved by a government commission before being allowed to run for office.

Eric Gairy, on the other hand, is expected to be permitted political freedom.

Meanwhile, Sir Paul Scoon, at the behest of U.S. government military authorities, has declared himself head of Grenada's provisional government, and granted himself emergency powers.

Elections, once talked about as occurring in six months, have been moved first a year away, then two years away.

Rounding up and detaining Grenadian civilians continues in Reagan's new "democracy." U.S. army jeeps carrying blindfolded Grenadians being detained for "questioning" are a common sight on the island.

Military authorities told The New York Times that the civilian round-ups and interrogations are being done at the request of the new interim government.

But most observers believe that the real power in the government resides with U.S. Ambassador Gillespie and U.S. military commander General Jack Farris.

The "democracy" Reagan is imposing on Grenada looks more like military

government.

Kenneth Radix, a prominent Grenadian lawyer and a former Attorney General in the Bishop government, was arrested for "spreading ill will" against the new government.

Radix had spoken with the U.S. Congressional fact-finding mission to Grenada, and had characterized the invasion as a violation of international law.

At the detention camp, Radix was kept overnight in an eight-by-eight foot wooden isolation cell with a dirt floor. Radix, who was unable to keep dry in the rain, said that the camp's detention facilities were "primitive" and "beneath the standards as set by the laws of Grenada for prisoners."

U.S. military authorities, according to The Washington Post, are rounding up any "citizens suspected or accused of sympathizing or having had ties with the government of slain prime minister Maurice Bishop or the Coard/Austin military council."

The interrogation carried out by U.S. Army Intelligence focuses on the Grenadians' "political activities and beliefs and their potential threat to the establishment of a pro-Western government" in Grenada, the Post said.

After release from interrogation, prisoners are given green cards with this message:

"This individual has been released and directed to refrain from participating in anti-Government activities. Unless this individual participates in restricted activities or in criminal acts he/she should not be apprehended, as further questioning has not been deemed necessary at this time."

After conquering a tiny country to "restore democracy" the U.S. Army plays the role of thought police to retain "democracy."

# show what Reagan claims

force, while heavy machine guns are defensive. There are not enough heavy mortars for an attack unit.

There are also 30 signalling pistols included--not enough for an invading force. There are only 22,000 magazines for the 4000 AK-47 rifles. This amounts to about six magazines per rifle, which is the peacetime allotment of the American infantry. And there is a lack of training rounds and of spare parts.

## Cuban advisors

The documents do not bear out administration claims that massive numbers of Cuban military advisors were about to land in Grenada.

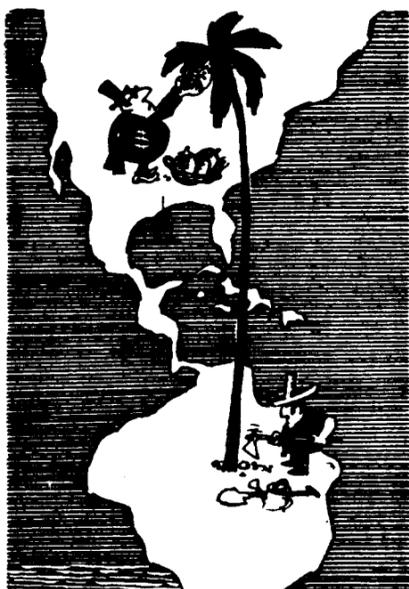
In a press conference, Admiral Wesley McDonald said that the documents revealed a "long-range plan for Cuban intervention." McDonald claimed that the Cubans planned to station 4341 troops and military advisers in Grenada.

But the documents show that the Cubans planned to station only 27 permanent and 12 or 13 temporary military specialists in Grenada. They planned to send 12 or 13 additional specialists over two-to-four month periods. According to the secret protocol between Grenada and Cuba, these specialists were to assist in "the elaboration of the operative and mobilized plans for the defense of the country."

## Grenada feared invasion

The size of Grenada's planned defensive force was unusually large for an island of only 100,000. But its size was the result of the government's fear that Grenada would be invaded by a U.S.-sponsored invasion.

Grenadian fears of invasion date back at least to the summer of 1981, when the U.S. staged "Ocean Venture" in the Caribbean.



In these military exercises, American forces invaded an island--labeled "Amber" in the exercise--that was supposed to be allied to Cuba and the Eastern bloc. Grenadians believed the invasion was a rehearsal for an invasion of their island.

In the minutes of the September 14 Central Committee meeting, Ewart Layne outlined the government's military tasks as organizing "the defense of the revolution in the face of a qualitatively stepped-up aggression from imperialism who for years has attempted to carry out its policy of becoming more and more into a 'gun boat' policy."

## Not a colony

Extensive minutes handed out by the State Department cover the climactic meetings of September and October in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's leadership was challenged by a majority of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement, the group controlling the Grenadian government.

The documents show no sign of a colonial relationship between Grenada and the Soviet Union or Cuba.

Grenada's Caribbean neighbors justified their call for invasion on the grounds that Bishop's October 19 murder was part of a Cuban-Soviet plot to tie Grenada closer to the Soviet bloc. But the documents contain an unsigned memorandum, dated Oct. 21, on Cuba's response to Bishop's murder. From the document, it is clear that Cuba meant what it said when it denounced the killing.

The memorandum complains that Fidel Castro's friendship with Bishop caused the Cubans "to take a personal and not a class approach to the developments in Grenada." It warned that Cuba's rebuke "creates an atmosphere for speeding imperialist intervention."

The documents do show that Grenada was aligned with the Soviet Union and Cuba --it did see itself as part of the "Socialist bloc" of countries.

Grenadian leaders constantly referred to Cuban, Soviet, and Nicaraguan practices in their discussion of what should be done in Grenada. But Cuba and the Soviet Union influenced, but did not control Grenada. Neither country was committed to Grenada's defense.

Grenada's relationship to Cuba and the Soviet Union was not as close in these respects as the relationship of Guatemala or Honduras to the U.S. One would be far more justified calling these countries American colonies than in calling Grenada a Soviet or Cuban colony.

--John Judis, In These Times

## Reagan lies

(Continued from page 13.)

tained that Grenada's Cuban-built airstrip is so long that its only purpose was to serve "Soviet-built long-range bombers." But the airport project, viewed favorably by the World Bank, has been financed by the British and the European Economic Community, as well as by the Cubans. The British contractor, Plessey Airports, told reporters Oct. 30 that five other Caribbean nations have civilian airstrips of equal length, which are necessary to land long-range jets carrying tourists on non-stop flights.

The Plessey spokesperson told reporters that the Grenada airstrip was being built purely to civilian specifications. Military airfields require bomb-resistant underground fuel tanks, sheltering bays for parked aircraft and fortified control towers. The Grenada project has none of these.

Reagan claimed that documents taken in the invasion, including arms supply agreements with several socialist countries, proved his claim that Grenada was to become a Soviet-Cuban base for "exporting terror." An adjoining article, examining those arms agreements in detail, refutes Reagan's claims.

--compiled from material published in In These Times, the Guardian, the Village Voice, the New York Times, the Progressive and The Nation.

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# Quality care cutback at Fairbury Hospital

You know the Post Amerikan's subscription pitch, "Looks like a sleepy little community"? Well, an even sleepier little community not far from Bloomington-Normal has suddenly found itself in the middle of a not-so-sleepy controversy centered around its 68-bed hospital.

Fairbury Hospital, located in Fairbury, Illinois, a township of about 2500 people approximately 35 miles north-east of Bloomington, is a casualty of a nationwide "empty-bed epidemic," along with Brokaw, Mennonite, and many other hospitals. With patient census down, many hospitals are being forced to make cutbacks, or find other means to deal with the problem. Brokaw and Mennonite are planning to consolidate. There are rumors that St. Joseph's in Bloomington and Carle Hospital in Urbana are working on a deal.

In Fairbury, the solution was to make a \$230,000 budget cut which included the termination of the hospital's full-time pathologist and his assistant, and a reduction in hours for other members of the staff, including nurses and aides.

These cutbacks have triggered the formation of Citizens for Quality Care, a group of concerned community and staff members who believe that the cutbacks will be extremely detrimental to the level of care offered at Fairbury.

Pathology work will now be farmed out to out-of-town labs, probably in Peoria or Bloomington, and the hospital isn't saying what the cost of that practice is going to be. The fired pathologist, Dr. Don Kreutzer, offered to take a \$25,000 cut in salary (from \$75,000) in order to stay on the staff, but the hospital board refused his offer.

Shortly after he was hired at Fairbury, Dr. Kreutzer became nationally known when he was involved in a libel suit concerning a hospital he worked at in Arkansas and the ABC television program "20/20." ABC won the suit, which involved Kreutzer's accusations about unnecessary surgery at the hospital. It seems like no small coincidence that he was fired from Fairbury only a few months later.

Leaving Fairbury with Kreutzer will be the quality control check which cannot be performed without an in-house pathologist. Infection control (which involves keeping records of all infections patients develop while in the hospital and studying and discovering which are care-related and can be done away with) and the tissue committee (which has the last word on whether or not surgery is necessary) will no longer be major concerns of the medical staff.

Also leaving Fairbury in protest of Kreutzer's firing is Dr. Orville

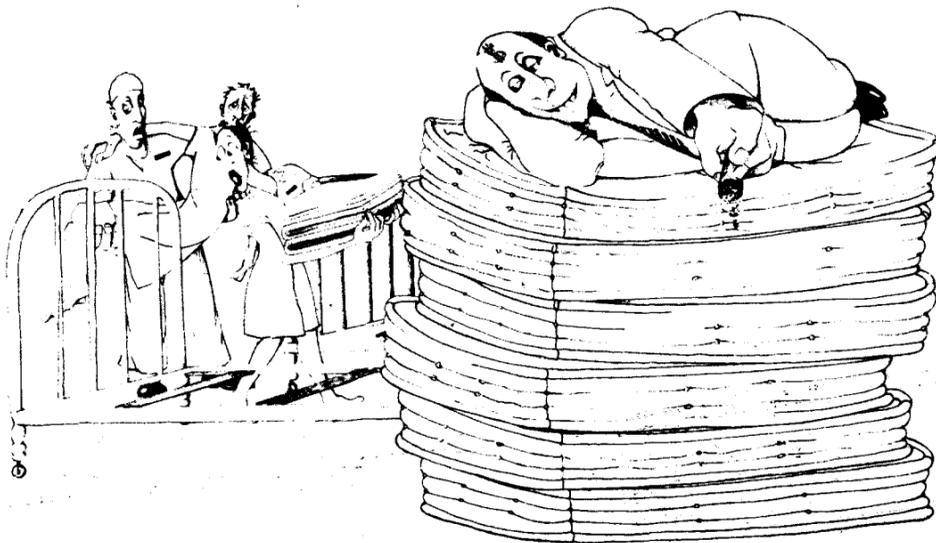
Hable, a popular and well-respected family physician who operates the hospital's satellite clinic in Chenoa. He is personal physician to approximately half of the nursing staff at Fairbury, and it is his very loyal clientele that have been active in forming the Citizens for Quality Care. Hable has had offers from 11 hospitals for staff positions already, but may attempt to buy the satellite clinic in Chenoa, where it is a possibility that he and Kreutzer could go into practice together.

Hable is also the only doctor on staff at Fairbury who is willing to supervise birth deliveries, believing that people should have the kind of medical care they want; and he has also been responsible for treating high-risk babies at Fairbury, when normally they would have been sent to another hospital in Peoria or Bloomington. He has office hours until 10 p.m. and on Saturdays.

hour to air their views, they were first confronted by the entire medical and administrative staff, and then allowed only a half-hour to give just 2 of the 7 points they had hoped to make.

Board members also called the police to clear out the other members of CQC who had gathered in the hallway outside the meeting room to lend their support. Nothing came of the meeting except to pinpoint which staff members stood where on the issues--mostly, the doctors with the board, and the rest of the staff against them.

Until that meeting, the hospital had instituted a news balckout, refusing to send press releases to any media but the local paper, The Fairbury Blade, which in turn has refused to print any letters or articles which go against the board's side. In an editorial, editor Jim Roberts accused



As a private institution, the hospital board doesn't have to answer for its actions--except, eventually, to its patients. Hable has said he doesn't believe quality care is possible at Fairbury now, as a result of the cutbacks. The nursing staff has been cut from 40% to 20% in hours, and the in-service director, who was in charge of teaching new techniques to the nurses and keeping them otherwise up-to-date, has been let go.

As a result of these and other cuts, says one staff member, morale is extremely low these days, and resentment of the recent public nature of these problems is extremely high among the other doctors on the staff.

At the November 23 meeting of the hospital board, 5 members of Citizens for Quality Control were allowed to attend the otherwise closed-door affair. Told they would have an

the Pantagraph and the Pontiac Leader of National Enquirer-like journalism, apparently for attempting to tell both sides of the issue. Roberts will talk only to the board or administration, and the favor is returned. His newspaper chain serves most of the same 7 or 8 small communities that the hospital does.

A staff member admits that, for the most part, the battle with an administration which makes its cuts from the bottom up has been lost, and the patients are the ones who have lost the most.

-L.H.

Post-Amerikan Vol. 12, #8

Dec. 1983-Jan. 1984 Page 16

# A's

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## The drug that deformed

Just like Thalidomide before it, Bendectin (commonly prescribed for "morning sickness" or nausea and vomiting in pregnancy) has been finally revealed as linked to birth defects. Bendectin hasn't produced deformities at as high a rate as did Thalidomide. But try comforting a mother of a damaged baby with that fact:

The sale of Thalidomide was stopped in the 1960's, but until recently Bendectin was still being used. The manufacturer--after increasing disclosure of a cover-up on its part, several research studies linking the drug to deformities, and lawsuits against the company bringing more and more bad publicity--finally in June, 1983, began a voluntary recall from drugstores and stopped worldwide production. Even then the remaining stock was still sought out by druggists because it was recommended by MD's and then taken by women who likely didn't know the danger.

It is probable that few women have read the excellent Mother Jones expose, "The Bendectin Cover-up," Nov. 1980. It tells what the more likely sources of drug information leave out or don't know. The MD she consults very likely relies almost exclusively on drug salespeople and drug company-influenced medical journals, continuing education and conferences.

If a woman receives the package information insert for the patient and/or the MD's copy of the professional package insert, she will only again get the company's laundered version of Bendectin's record. Literature sources, such as Physicians' Desk Reference, also reflect the company's cover-up. They describe studies on Bendectin and birth defects as clearing Bendectin of guilt, or reaching no conclusion, or needing further study.

In actuality as the Mother Jones article notes, the cover-up was very effectively engineered by the manufacturer. . .until this year, when even the FDA finally was going to force them to reveal studies linking the drug to pyloric stenosis (a condition where the stomach outlet is constricted).

Even then, after all the evidence had finally come out publically, the manufacturer insisted that they were victimized, that "bendectin was essentially the victim of these litigious times!" Worse than that, they

continue, "despite our decision to cease production of Bendectin worldwide, we are attempting to assure that supplies of Bendectin in the marketplace are sufficient to fill the needs of patients currently completing therapy. There is no reason for these patients to stop medication. . . . Unavoidably, our decision will create a significant therapeutic gap by the loss of this drug, long valued in the treatment of nausea and

vomiting of pregnancy. It may be that our action will highlight once again the need for society to reflect upon the effect our nation's attitude toward litigation is having upon the health care community." (Mailgram communication, June 9, 1983; from David B. Sharrock, Pres., Merrell-Dow Pharmaceuticals). Fortunately, Merrell-Dow will probably not re-start making this particular drug because of all the lawsuits and the loss of public confidence. Women's groups such as the Women's National Health Network has lobbied and testified against the drug intensively. Of course pharmaceutical companies hate a market vacuum--it is up to us women to tell one another about natural, safer alternative remedies and help assure that drug companies in general stop pushing dangerous drugs for pregnant women and the unborn.

Oh, yes, Thalidomide? While it was never approved for sale in the US, samples were given to MD's who gave them to women. Then, of course, the horrible news from Europe and here started being openly known. The company that got the US marketing rights and gave out the samples? Richardson-Merrell:

### If damage has been done

According to the Women's National Health Network (Network News, July/Aug. 1983), Bendectin-linked defects have included: missing fingers, arms or legs; facial and brain damage; pyloric stenosis; heart valve defects; genital or urinary deformities.

For anyone whose child has a suspected Bendectin-related problem the WNHN has a registry:

Women's National Health  
Network Bendectin Registry  
Box 5055  
FDR Station  
New York, NY 10150

The Mother Jones article also gave this address:

Association of Bendectin  
Children  
3201 East Central Lake Ave.  
Orlando, Fla. 32806

### Alternative remedies

Women have successfully alleviated morning sickness symptoms by trying these safer, more natural alternatives to drugs:

1. Eating small meals throughout the day, about every 2-3 hours, especially before bed and when getting up in the morning. Some women even wake up in the middle of the night for a snack if nausea gets especially bad.

2. Concentrating on getting protein-rich and easily digestible foods (avoiding greasy, fatty, over-spiced foods) at each small meal.

3. Drinking plenty of water (this helps counteract dehydration from the vomiting, too).



4. Some women have found B-complex vitamins help.

5. Valerie Hobbs, in the excellent Herbs for Women: A Guide for Lay Midwives, says a half a lime squeezed in water and taken upon rising will help secrete bile and so help minimize morning sickness. Her recipe for a soothing anti-nausea tea is one many generations of women have used as a remedy. Steep 1 ounce peppermint leaves and 2 ounces wild yam. Boil in 3/4 pints water for 20 min. Take 1 teaspoon in water 3-4 times daily.

6. Loving support by friends and family can help. Gently remind the woman, too, that most morning sickness disappears by the end of the fourth month of pregnancy.

7. Other sources to consult for ideas: Tom Brewer. What Every Pregnant Woman Should Know. Coalition for Medical Rights of Women. Safe Natural Remedies for Discomforts of Pregnancy. (This can be ordered for \$1.75 from them at 1638 B. Haight St., San Francisco, Ca. 94117.)

--S.F.



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# Let's stop fighting about gun control

It is a disturbing by-product of Western culture, this tendency to consider complex questions in simple dichotomies. You know what they are and we all employ them: yes or no; East or West; right or left; capitalism or communism; etc.

Few issues of the day reflect the problem with this black-and-white, which-side-are-you-on attitude better than the debate over gun control. It's the same debate that's been going on for years and the further it goes, the less it progresses.

Meanwhile, thousands of Americans continue to shoot thousands of others--and themselves--while the two sides in the debate do little more than irritate each other. And me.

Who is wrong? Near as I can tell, most everyone.

The battle lines (pardon the militaristic analogy, it seems to fit) are clearly drawn.

## Gun lovers

In this corner, we have the gun lovers. The hunters, the collectors, and those who are neither but have deep desires to be.

Armed with that tired, snooty polemic "if guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns," they never fail to trot out an incredible bastardization of the Constitution that supposedly gives everyone the right to own a gun.

My guess is that few of them have ever read that enlightening document, and if you haven't either, I offer in its entirety the Second Amendment: "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

A simple, and necessarily narrow, reading must recognize the first clause as the operative one.

Allowing for nearly 200 years in which the free state has developed since then, we should substitute for the word militia "military," "national guard," "police," and maybe even a few others that escape me.

But no reasonable interpretation can hold that just anybody walking the streets with a .22-caliber pistol stuck in his belt qualifies as "a well regulated militia."

In the other corner, we have the gun haters. They can't seem to get enough of baiting the hunters into pure hatred while appealing to the Bambi sentiments of the populace. What a terrible tragedy it is to kill poor defenseless animals--those cuddly creatures we put in jails called zoos.

These folks must not be allowed to skirt a simple yet vital question: Are you a vegetarian?

Many are, but many more are certainly not. We have reached a point where killing for food, like everything else, is performed at such a highly specialized level that we don't even think about how it is done.

Anyone who eats hamburger in a fast-food joint, a ham sandwich at home or a steak in a fancy restaurant is no better or worse than the hunters.

The distinction is that they see only the finished product, and thus removed, are free to run off and cry about cruelty to animals.

Lest you wonder where I stand, let me make clear that I personally oppose hunting. But this is largely the result of a basic fear of guns and the instant destruction they can cause merely by accident.

Although I don't want anything to do with the things, that does not give me the right to dictate what equally responsible people who enjoy hunting should do.

I admit the failure to recognize (appreciate?) the sport of it all. Using the latest high-powered technology to shift the balance of nature's own predatory instincts seems a bit unfair. Responsible hunters, however, can make a compelling case that they do wonderful things to maintain that balance. Ducks Unlimited seems to be a fine example.

## The middle ground

Apart from that, what is missing in this endless two-sided debate? As always, the middle ground. And that is what the majority on both sides would really like to reach, I believe.

The issue is handguns, and sensible controls that establish who has them and how they get them. I don't think we are seriously talking about total

prohibition anyway, however desirable that may seem.

We can argue that guns kill people, or that people kill people, but the bald truth is that bullets kill people. Let's put aside the statistics, the rhetoric and the trite slogans. In a democratic society, people must respect each other's wishes as long as they do not threaten the general welfare.

The hunters and collectors want (or should want) assurance that they can do their thing without the threat of it being legislated away. They are generally responsible folks. Hunters don't shoot ducks with Saturday Night Specials, so a model plan should be no threat to them.

The so-called liberals want (or should want) assurance that they can do their thing, absent the threat of maniacs senselessly shooting them with easily-obtained handguns. They are also generally reasonable folks. Killers don't walk the streets with antique Civil War muskets (after all, those guns killed as many soldiers by exploding in their faces as they did the enemy), so the liberals should be willing to accept a workable plan.

I would like to think the powerful NRA lobby, that's National Rifle Association, is truly concerned about the hunters and collectors. Considering that group's historical position, however, it would not hurt the gun haters to display true liberalism and make overtures the NRA could live with.

## Sensible compromise

In politics, sensible compromise is essential. Make no mistake about it, politics is not limited to faraway realms of governments. Politics, simply, means me getting along with you.

If both sides of the debate would quit sniping at each other's particular values and come out of their trenches, it would provide the basis for cooperation in forming a coherent and safe public policy.

Only when these combatants join forces can we all sit down at Thanksgiving dinners and give thanks that we are relatively safe without denying legitimate hobbies.

You eat your turkey or ham; you eat your bean curd or salad; and you eat your fish.

What about fish? Are they any safer than birds or deer or cows or pigs? Are they any safer than me walking down the street? ■

--Murray Poppins

Pest-Amerikan p. 18

# Amerikan Almanak

Send items to Amerikan Almanak, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington.

## Mon. December 5

"The Death of Bessie Smith" and "The Maids" ISU's Allen Theatre, 8 p.m. Ticket prices vary.

## Tues., December 6

"The Death of Bessie Smith" and "The Maids" ISU's Allen Theatre, 8 p.m. Ticket prices vary.

Film: "Diva" ISU's Bone Center Ballroom, 6 & 8 p.m. \$1.00

## Wed., December 7

"The Death of Bessie Smith" and "The Maids" ISU's Allen Theatre, 8 p.m. Ticket prices vary.

Gay People's Alliance meeting. 8 p.m. 112 Fairchild Hall, ISU: last meet-

ing of the semester--evening of gay literature selections.

Diatribes--New Wave tunes at Mickey's

## Thurs., December 8

"The Death of Bessie Smith" and "The Maids" ISU's Allen Theatre, 8 p.m.

## Fri., December 9

"Nutcracker Ballet" ISU's Braden Auditorium, 8 p.m. Tickets at Union box office.

## Sat., December 10

"Nutcracker Ballet," ISU's Braden Auditorium, 8 p.m.

## Sun., December 11

"Nutcracker Ballet," ISU's Braden Auditorium, 8 p.m.

"Alive and Pickin" 2nd Annual Chr\*stmas concert, 7:15 p.m. ISU's Kemp Recital Hall. Adults: \$3.50; Kids: free.

"Reading the Winter Landscape," Winter nature walk. 2 p.m. Comlara Park's Shady Hollow Nature Trail.

## Wed., December 14

McLean County Health Dept. program on the "Physical Aspects of Aging," 1:30 - 3 p.m. McLean County Health Dept., 905 N. Main, Normal.

## Thurs., December 15

Health screening for senior citizens at Miller Park Pavilion, 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.

National protest against U.S. policy must be louder

# The whole world is waiting

I was accidentally caught between the front rank of protestors and a line of riot police standing before the White House in Washington, D.C., when I ran out of film.

I felt that same rush of excitement I used to get at demonstrations in college confrontations with police and other authority figures when the mood began to get ugly.

I reminded myself that this is the 80s and the march is guarded by trained peacekeeping demonstrators. There was no place for violence in a sophisticated movement like this one.

Large protests can make changes, like during Vietnam, but not until the public is faced with violence at home.

A mass demonstration to protest the U.S. invasion of Grenada was planned for November 12 in Washington, D.C., by a coalition of splintered political groups.

Things went smoothly but demonstration organizers were disappointed when only 35,000 people showed up. Though the march caught the attention of the New York Times, the Washington Post, and NBC news, the organizers had hoped for at least 100,000 people.

Originally organized to protest U.S. presence in Central America, the coalition figured the Grenada invasion would be the spark that would turn the march into a national conflagration. However, by the end of the day word among the cynical was that the Grenada invasion clouded the issue and kept people away.

Protest by 35,000 probably didn't quite convince Reagan to withdraw U.S. troops from the southern hemisphere. His mind was probably set at rest by the idea that only commie-pinko extremists were at all upset.

### Sparse showing

Several factors contributed to the sparse showing. There had recently been a large (300,000) march in August for "peace, jobs, and freedom." November 12 was freezing. People

showed up for part of the all-day event, figured they had done their time, then went home.

The painful smallness of the current U.S. dissent movement corresponds no doubt with the hopes of the rest of the world that they won't get blown away by one of the superpowers.

"The whole world is watching," one speaker shouted. Despite its aptness, the slogan didn't catch fire in the crowd.

The world is watching this tiny movement inside one of the most aggressive and greedy nations on the earth, the only giant that rubber stamps the right to freedom of speech: a movement so small it has to mean something.

### Not enough

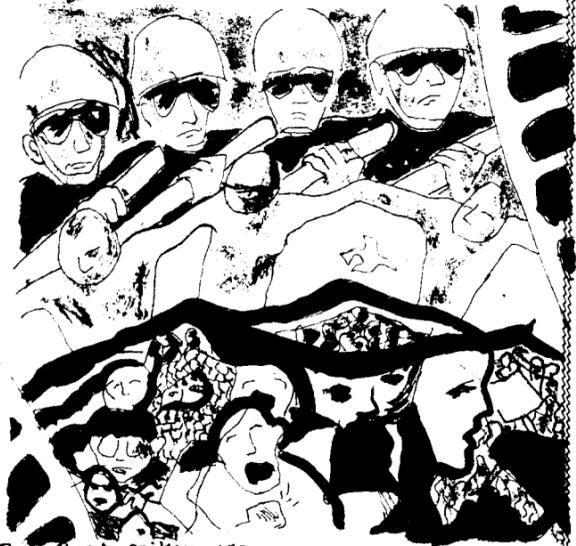
The November 12 coalition is people like you and me, except that for them the "movement" is a full-time job. They worked very hard to provide a meaningful experience. They brought in Jesse Jackson. (I didn't know Jackson was so much a candidate of the left. "He's not," I was informed. "That was a slick move on his part.") They brought in Holly Near, Peter, Paul and Mary, Bernice Reagon, and an exiled musical group from Chile. But for the participants it wasn't enough. Their role was too passive.

Not to say that every person voting with their feet and bodies in Washington (and L.A., Seattle, Portland, and Chicago) November 12 wasn't doing something significant. They were. But it's going to take a lot more. If you lived in D.C., you went to the march. But if you lived anywhere else, you should have been organizing your own.

We need commitment from everybody who believes in self-determination for all existing nations in this hemisphere. The Nov. 12 rally has to be one step in a rise of protest that will eventually be heard.

### New tactics

We need new tactics. The U.S. too



B.A. Post Amerikan '83

often looks to Europe for cultural inspiration. The demonstrations there, in the hundreds of thousands, have not stopped the governments of West Germany, England, and Italy from voting to deploy U.S. missiles.

So what will it take to arouse the sensibilities of people if they are not moved by nuclear horror shows on TV?

At the very least we'll need more planned actions such as the body blockade of production at the bomb plant in Savannah River, S.C., and the women's peace encampment at Seneca Falls, N.Y. More arrests in the local paper of people who used no violence, broke no laws, but merely expressed what they thought on "public" property. And if we get media attention for personal expression in decentralized actions we won't have so far to drive.

Weekend protests are becoming quite the thing among the affluent yet responsible white young middle class. It's the self-conscious middle class (a camera per demonstrator to record those great moments in history) that has the money, time, and education to lean on the Big Guys.

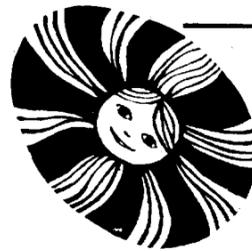
But as things get worse under Reagan, perhaps more people will join us.

Without numbers, we shall be voiceless

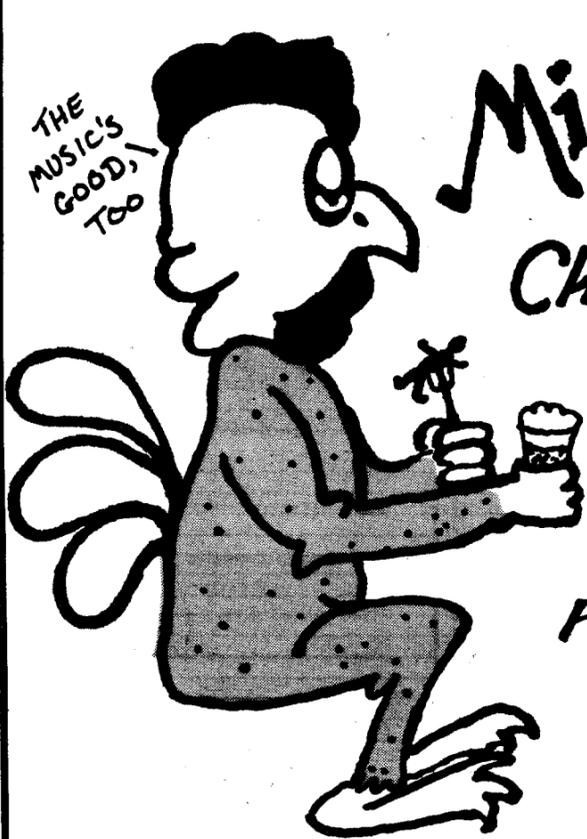
--Imogene Blackstone

Post-Amerikan

Vol. 12, #8



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Dec. 1983-Jan. 1984



THE MUSIC'S GOOD, TOO

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# and banning books

The first thing the pilgrims did when they got to Amerika was to thank their god for finally giving them religious freedom. The second thing they did was to ban all reading material but the bible.

Yes, censorship is a time-honored American tradition. And, as you might have guessed, the advent of Wrinkles Reagan and his lovely wife Mrs. Reagan in the White House has added new fuel to the book-burning fires. According to Judith Krug, director of the American Library Associations' Office for Intellectual Freedom, censorship reports have tripled since the 1980 elections. Some of the complaints come from the political left, but most of the attempts to censor are the work of those busy little minds on the (new) right.

A recent school library survey reported 253 books under attack, most of them dealing with--gasp! horror!--birth and sex. Here are some of the more outrageous cases in recent history:

## **Burn now, read later**

In 1973 the public schools in Drake, South Dakota, removed Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., and Deliverance by James Dickey because the novels allegedly contained profanity. All 32 copies of the Vonnegut book were put in a school furnace. Not one of the 5 school board members who voted for the ban had read either novel.

The school board of Warsaw, Indiana, in 1977 banned Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar along with several other books, including The Stepford Wives and Go Ask Alice. Members of the Warsaw Senior Citizens Club praised the board's decision to rid the high school of such "filth" and took charge of the burning.

## **Anti-white, too?**

In 1976 the Island Trees Union Free School District in Nassau County, New York, banned The Best Short Stories by Negro Writers, edited by Langston Hughes, along with 10 other "objectionable" books (including The Naked Ape by Desmond Morris and Bernard Malamud's The Fixer). A parents group had complained that these books were "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic, and just plain filthy."

The superintendent of schools in Oakland, California, removed Daddy Was a Numbers Runner (by Louise Meriwether) from junior high library shelves after a black father complained about the book. This highly acclaimed autobiographical novel describes the growing up of a young girl in a Harlem tenement. The school superintendent who issued the 1977 ban was a former director for the National Right to Read program.

## **Havepen, will doctor**

In 1977 school officials in Springfield, Missouri, took a felt-tip pen to the illustrations of In the Night Kitchen, a storybook by Maurice Sendak. A pair of shorts was placed on the drawing of a naked boy.

Explained the director of elementary education: "We felt it was a good story but as far as nudity is concerned I guess I'm an old fogey, I think it should be covered."

The school board of Cobb County, Georgia, in 1977, banned Richard Dorson's American in Legend from school libraries, saying the book "is terrible for children." They also charged that the book "condones draft dodging" and includes stanzas from "Casey Jones" that refer to the legendary hero's sexual prowess.

## **Death of a classic**

In 1981 the principal of Springs Valley High School in French Lick, Indiana, stopped the reading of Death of a Salesman (by Arthur Miller) in an English class after some ministers complained that the play



included the words "bastard," "goddamn," and "son-of-a-bitch." Students became so curious about the work that they quickly checked out all the local public library's copies.

The school board of Issaquah, Washington, voted, in 1978, to remove J.D. Salinger's classic Catcher in the Rye from the optional reading list of a high school literature course, following the complaint of a citizen who claimed the book "brain-washes students" and represents "part of an overall Communist plot." She testified that the book contained 222 hells, 27 Chrissakes, and 7 horneys.

## **Poor John Steinbeck**

In 1977 the school board in Oil City, Pennsylvania, removed copies of Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men from the school library and had the books burned. The action was prompted by parental contentions that the novel "uses the Lord's name in vain, refers to prostitution, and takes a retarded person and makes a big issue of it."

Then in 1980 Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath was banished from sophomore English classes at two Kanawha, Iowa,

high schools after a parent complained that the book was "profane, vulgar, and obscene." The president of the school board said that the U.S. was "going pell mell downhill" morally and that Kanawha was reversing the trend by banning the book.

## **Words, words, words**

The American Heritage Dictionary has been removed twice from high school libraries--once in 1976 in Cedar Lake, Indiana, and once in 1977 in Eldon, Missouri. In both cases parents singled out at least 80 definitions that they found "offensive." Entries they criticized included those for "bed," "shack," "rubber," "hot," "horny," and "slut." Said one Eldon parent: "If people learn words like that, it ought to be where you and I learned it--in the street and in the gutter."

If a dictionary can offend, it's no wonder that the women's health book Our Bodies, Ourselves was permanently removed from school libraries in Helena, Montana, in 1978. The action was taken after Marc Racicot, a member of the state attorney general's staff, informed the school board that "any person distributing it to a child under the age of 16 could be subject to criminal charges."

The Helena chapter of the Eagle Forum had first brought the book to Racicot's attention; they felt, and he agreed, that the book by the Boston Women's Health Collective "assists, promotes, and encourages the reader to engage in sexual conduct."

Racicot made a comment to the press at the time that seems to sum up a lot of the book-banners' attitudes about their incendiary efforts: "I'm sick and tired of hearing the cry of censorship. We've genuflected at the altar of free speech far too long." Praise the lord and pass the Bics.

--Ferdurdurke

Sources: American Library Assn. report on censorship; Richard Turbo, The People's Book of Lists, 3.

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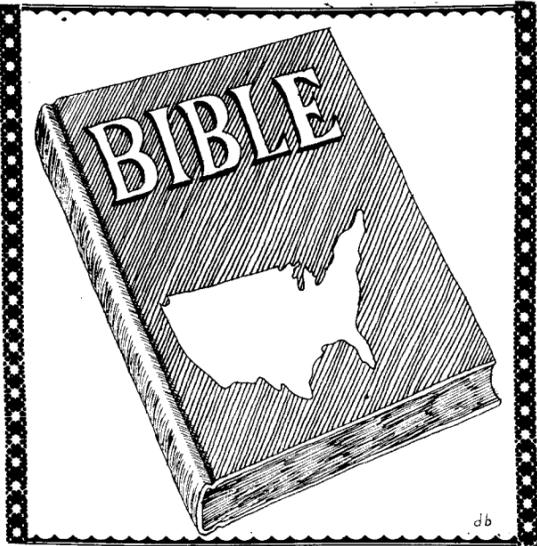
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# "Year of the Bible" law: We're in big trouble



The other day I was listening to the Illinois-Northwestern football game. Just before it began there was a moment of silence in honor of 1983 officially being the "year of the Bible."

You may not have heard about this outrage. It has me near apoplexy. On October 4, 1982, the otherwise do-nothing Congress came out with a Public Law 97-280: a joint resolution "authorizing and requesting the President to proclaim 1983 as the 'year of the Bible.'" A page-long proclamation, which breaks the 1st Amendment at least a dozen times, is the body of this law.

Remember that this is a law--Public Law 97-280. That's the key word. Now read the 1st Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. . . ." It's that simple.

In case you think this is some minor violation of our rights, here is the text of the law, which illustrates that the law is not only clearly illegal, but factually incorrect:

"Whereas the Bible, the Word of God, has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation and people; whereas deeply-held religious convictions springing from the Holy Scriptures led to the early settlement of our nation; whereas Biblical teachings inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States; whereas many of our great national leaders--among them Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, and Wilson--paid tribute to the surpassing influence of the Bible in our country's development, as in the words of President Jackson that the Bible is 'the rock on which our Republic rests'; whereas the history of our nation clearly illustrates the value of voluntarily applying the teachings of the Scriptures in the lives of individuals, families, and societies; whereas this nation now faces great challenges that will test this nation as it has never been tested before; and whereas that renewing our knowledge of and faith in God through Holy Scripture can strengthen us as a nation and a people: Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President is authorized and requested to designate 1983 as a nation 'year of the Bible,' in recognition of both the formative influence the Bible has been for our nation, and our national need to study and apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures."

Where do I start? Well, right off the bat the law calls the Bible the "word of God" and makes large portions of our population outlaws. Hindus, Buddhists, Moslems, atheists, and anyone else who rejects divine inspiration of the Bible are in trouble already. And of course making

a law to this effect makes a travesty of the First Amendment.

The early settlement of our nation had precious little to do with "deeply-held religious convictions" and a great deal to do with getting rich quick. Not that the two aren't usually opposite sides of the same coin. . . .

I have no idea what "concepts of civil government" we use from the Bible. The constitution is a thoroughly secular document. Besides, there isn't much in the Bible worth using as law. Read Leviticus sometime (but not on a full stomach).

Of the four national leaders mentioned as great Christians: Washington was a Deist who had no use for the Bible, only a non-interfering Nature God; Lincoln was an avowed non-Christian; Wilson said, "it is a futile hope that the world can ever be converted to Christianity by knowledge"; and Jackson refused to enforce Supreme Court rulings (what a great role model!).

If the history of our nation illustrates the value of voluntarily applying the teachings of the Scriptures (such as the words of Jesus:

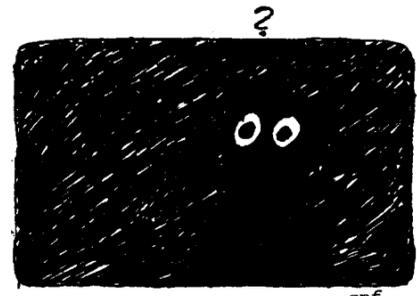
## SERIOUS BUSINESS

"I come not to bring peace, but a sword"), then why do we need Public Law 97-280?

It is clear that this is an illegal law. If it weren't so dangerous it would be funny. I'm not laughing. I'm tired of this Administration bending and breaking the Constitution in order to create its vision of an ideal government, which is obviously a harsh theocracy bent on mind control and military conquests. As far as I'm concerned, the passage of Public Law 97-280 is an impeachable offense for the President and for every member of Congress who voted for it.



I'm not overreacting. Listen to what Pastor Sheldon Emry has been mailing all over the country: "Under Public Law 97-280 a study of the Holy Scripture should now be made a part of every public and private school curriculum. . . . Anyone attempting in any way to prevent any American citizen from acquiring knowledge and faith in God through Holy Scripture is attempting to weaken America. Individuals and organizations who advocate the banning of the Bible from public schools . . . would be guilty of violating this law and probably guilty of sedition against the United States of America. . . . Copies of Public Law 97-280 should be given to friends, neighbors, and especially to public servants who can then take whatever action is necessary to conform."



Can you believe this? It sends chills down my spine. Luckily, I'm not alone. The Freedom from Religion Foundation brought suit in U.S. Federal Court in Madison, Wisconsin, to stop the law. That was a year ago, in November of 1982. The injunction was denied by Judge Ames Doyle, even though he admitted there was probably a violation of the 1st Amendment, on the incredible grounds that Doyle felt he did not have the power to intervene "in advance of any act contemplated by the President."

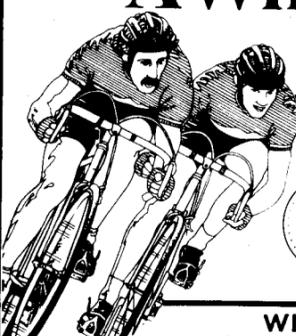
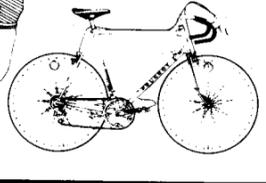
Well, if a Federal judge doesn't have the power, who does? Anyway, the injunction was denied, and Doyle has yet to rule on the constitutionality of the law. I feel safe in saying that he'll let it sit till Jan. 1, 1984, and then declare that the question is moot.

The question is not moot. A sick and dangerous precedent will have been set if this law isn't flushed down the toilet and its authors removed from office. Even if it takes ten years . . . or twenty.

--Scaramouche

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# "Homelands": Abolishing blacks in South Africa

The new constitutional "reforms" in South Africa have been criticized for "leaving out" blacks. But that misses the point. Blacks haven't been "left out"--they have been deliberately placed outside the system.

Letting in 900,000 Indians and 2.5 million "coloreds" still leaves 4.5 million whites in control. But admitting 22 million blacks would not.

Wishful thinking in Washington sees the recent vote in South Africa as "a step in the right direction." But that view is based on the misconception that the South African government doesn't have a political policy for blacks. President Reagan and others who support "construction engagement" with South Africa also apparently believe that the matter is still open for debate. It is not.

The government of South Africa has a very clearly defined policy on black political rights and has been implementing it ever since 1959. It is called the "homelands" policy and consists, quite simply, of denying citizenship to blacks and removing them to dumping grounds in the rural reserves, euphemistically called "homelands" by the government.

To date, 7.8 million black South Africans--more than a third of the 22 million total--have been denationalized and turned into foreigners under this system.

The "homelands" policy began in 1959 with the proposal of the Bantu Self-Government Act, a piece of legislation that began to identify each black "ethnic" group with an alleged "homeland" somewhere in the hinterlands of South Africa. The act of



depriving blacks of their South African citizenship takes place automatically when the "homeland"--with which the blacks are linked by some supposed historical tribal affiliation--becomes a constitutional state separate from South Africa.

Of the 10 so-called "homelands," 4 have so far been declared constitutionally "independent." Of course, not one of these fake countries has achieved any international recognition at all.

It is also true that most of the people shipped to the "homelands" were not born there, never lived there, and possibly never even heard of their

"homeland" until the white government told them about it. It's a little like being moved back to New Jersey because maybe your grandparents lived there, or stopped once at a gas station outside Newark.

As you may have guessed, the "homelands" don't exactly resemble Palm Springs or Key West. They are overcrowded, arid, poverty-stricken regions that provide little employment and pitiful living conditions. Of the 7.8 million people who lost their South African citizenship when the 4 "homelands" became "independent," more than 3.3 million do not actually live in them. They have passes to live and work in the 86% of South Africa that is officially designated as "white."

But as far as their political rights and citizenship status are concerned, this situation makes no difference. In the eyes of the government, they are foreigners and have no claim to South African political rights in the "white" areas.

It is the government's intention that all the other 6 "homelands" will also become "independent." Simple arithmetic will tell you that if one third of all the blacks in South Africa have been denationalized by the creation of 4 "homelands," then 6 more "homelands" should just about do the trick. The result will be that there will not be one single black person in South Africa with South African citizenship.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: New Statesman, 12 Nov. 1982, 18 Feb. 1983; report of South Africa Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (1983).

## U.S. business aids apartheid

It sounds so reasonable: U.S. corporations investing in South Africa tell us that they are deeply opposed to racism and that their investments provide jobs for black employees and act as a catalyst for change.

But the overwhelming evidence points in the opposite direction. The net

effect of U.S. bank loans and corporate investment in South Africa has been to strengthen apartheid and maintain the white supremacist system that discriminates against the black majority in virtually every aspect of their lives.

How do U.S. banks and companies back

this awful system? Easy. American banks loan hundreds of millions of dollars to South Africa to finance public projects, and the government uses the money to finance its growing military budget.

U.S. corporations end up supporting the police and military, too: IBM and Control Data computers are found in many government installations; GM and Ford products are sold to the police and military; Mobil, Texaco and Standard Oil of California assist South Africa in its strategic oil industry; Westinghouse has recently decided to help build a nuclear industry.

When U.S. shareholders urged Mobil to end all sales to the repressive police and military, the company publicly responded that it was obligated to continue these sales--and, besides, the police and military protect people of all races, don't they?

Texaco revealed that it had been served with a legal order requiring continuation of sales to the police and the military.

The result is a hostage situation, with U.S. oil companies--and many others--in a "forced" partnership with the government of South Africa.

Companies doing business in South Africa provide blacks with pitifully few jobs. And no amount of improvement in employment could offset the massive assistance that U.S. corporations and banks give to the white power structure in this country.

The only "reasonable" approach to apartheid is to quit supporting it. American investors in South Africa should simply head for the exits.

--Ferdydurke

Source: USA Today, Nov. 4, 1983

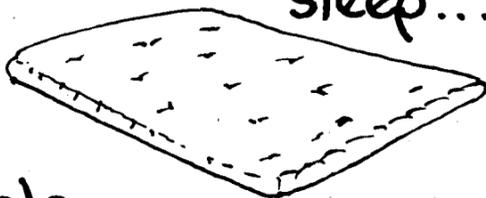


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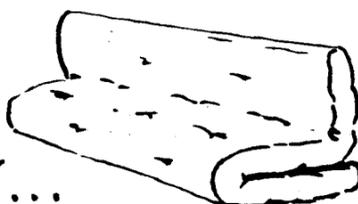
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**South Africa's elections**

# Apartheid remains in place

On Nov. 2, "voters" in South Africa approved a new constitution. The South African ambassador to the United States heralded the "reforms" as ushering in a new era of changed attitudes and democratic process.

Consider:

1. The only citizens in South Africa who can vote are whites.
2. The constitutional "reforms" set up parliaments for the nation's 2.5 million "coloreds" (people of mixed race) and 900,000 Indians.
3. They will be able to debate only those matters that the white president deems "their own."
4. Blacks will not be able to debate anything.
5. South Africa has 22 million blacks and only 4.5 million whites.

A new era it ain't.

South Africa's policy of white supremacy and racial separation, called apartheid, was formalized in 1948. It is designed to insure, as one white man once put it, "our unadulterated European racial survival."

Apartheid is a cruel and brutal system, cynically carried out by denationalizing the country's black majority. Early on, the government created scattered "homelands" for blacks (see adjoining story). They are permitted to work outside these "homelands" only if needed by white employers. "Pass laws" require blacks always to carry identification cards.

Blacks found in white areas can be jailed or deported to the "homelands," and more than 3 million have been involuntarily moved there. Every person is racially classified, often by appearance. Segregation of public places, with separate but very unequal services for blacks, is the law of the land.

In the 1950's, nonviolent resistance began. The government responded with new terrorism laws. Since 1963, 60 dissenters have



died in jail. Police explanations--"he slipped in the shower"--are arrogantly transparent. (See adjoining story.)

The government has many tools to crush dissent. It has the guns. It controls the water, food, and electricity of the large black ghettos. It "bans" its critics--they cannot speak out without being jailed or exiled, and their words cannot be printed or spoken.

Those whites willing to talk about sharing power with blacks have little impact.

Occasionally, blacks have rioted. In 1960, 70 were killed protesting the pass laws. In 1976, 1,000 died in Soweto. Now resisters have turned to terrorism: 18 died in a bombing last December; two bombs exploded on election day several weeks ago.

The United States is hypocritical in its support of this tyrannical white regime. While condemning apartheid publicly, the Reagan administration carries out a policy of constructive engagement," saying Amerika "needs" South Africa for its strategic minerals and control of vital sea lanes. Despite some shareholder protests, more than 400 U.S. companies do business there, directly and indirectly supporting South Africa's military and police (see adjoining story).

In the past, Prime Minister P.W. Botha, urging minor alterations in the system, has told the white minority to "Change or die." But it appears the keepers of apartheid will do neither. The new constitution is meaningless. It gives a debating hall to a minority, and to the black majority of 22 million it gives nothing.

--Ferdydurke

Sources: New York Times, Nov. 3, 1983; report of the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (1983).

## The dead and tortured in South Africa

Since 1963, at least 60 persons known or believed to have been held under various South African security laws have died in detention.

After the 1977 inquest into the death of Steve Biko, internationally known leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, deaths in detention in South Africa appeared to decrease. But the recent deaths of 6 key black leaders suggest that security police have once again stepped up their brutal methods of interrogation.

These deaths in detention are widely accepted as the result of police torture. But the most common official explanation of cause of death has been suicide.

The South African government alleges that 20 of the deceased hanged themselves in their cells using items of clothing or bedding, 5 jumped or fell out of windows in tall buildings, 2 jumped or fell down stairwells, 2 committed suicide in an undisclosed manner, and one committed "suicide by strangulation." One death was attributed to "death by hanging."

Allegations of maltreatment and torture of political detainees have become commonplace in South Africa. Various methods of torture have been described, including electric shocks, being made to assume a sitting position without the support of a chair ("the invisible chair"), wearing shoes filled with small stones, driving nails through the genitals, prolonged interrogation, choking and arduous physical exercise, slapping, kicking, beatings with hoses and sticks, crushing of toes, banging detainee's heads on walls and tables.

In 1982 the Detainee's Parents Support Committee submitted to the Minister of Law and Order more than 70 statements from ex-detainees, in which various forms of torture, intimidation, and pressure are alleged.

All allegations of torture and

maltreatment are denied by the security police.

--Ferdydurke

Source: report of the South Africa Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (1983).

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