

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

Summer 1987

Volume 16, Number 2

Post Amerikan

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Bloomington/Normal

Hot Gossip Page 2

POST AMERIKAN

15th Anniversary Issue

Vol. 16 No. 2

Summer 1987



INSIDE:

*A Look at Our Past
& Our Future*

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Thanks

This issue is in your hands thanks to: Val (coordinator), Sue, Melissa, Deborah, Susie, Laurie S., Dave, Laurie H., Michele, Ralph, Joe, J.T., Bumper, Chris, Cindy, Margaret, Peg, Kay, Chance, Cathy, Bill, Susie J., and Laurie D.

The rumors you've heard are true

Hard times at the Post Amerikan

In the last couple of years, the number of hard-core Post staffers has dwindled. Those of us who are still here have become increasingly overbooked, both with the tasks of those who left and with external commitments.

This year, we are reaching a crisis point. Several of our central workers are leaving, and some others are profoundly burnt out and need to pass on some responsibility. In

effect, the Post collective is being cut in half, at best.

The outcome of this is that we need you. And without you, we will have to shut down. Without you, the September issue will be our last.

We're taking the summer off to regroup and try to drum up new bodies and new energy. We'll be having a couple of community meetings this summer, and then in

August, we will have to decide whether the September issue will be an integration issue for the old and new Post staffers, or the final issue of the Post Amerikan.

Please call the Post for information about the first community meeting if you want to work to keep it alive. We need you.

--Chris, for the Post collective

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Post Sellers

- BLOOMINGTON**
 Amtrak Station, 1200 W. Front
 The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
 Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
 Bloomington Public Library (in front)
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 Convenient Mart, Emerson and Main
 Front and Center Building
 Hit Shed, 606 N. Main
 Hungry House, 103 W. Jefferson
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.
 Lee St. (100 N.)
 Main and Miller Streets
 Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 Mr. Donut, 1310 N. Park
 Pantagraph (in front),
 301 W. Washington
 The Park Store, Wood & Allin
 People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrissey
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market
 Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
 (at exit)
 U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe
 Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
 Washing Well, E. Front St.
- NORMAL**
 Avanti's, 407 S. Main
 Big Rudy's, 107 E. Beaufort
 ISU University Union, 2nd floor
 Hovey Hall, ISU (in front)
 Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North St.
 North & Broadway, southeast corner
 White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway
 (in front)

Moving?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post Amerikan will not be forwarded (it's like junk mail--no kidding!). Fill out this handy form with your new address and return it to us, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____

Good numbers

- Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049
- American Civil Liberties Union.454-7223
- Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360
- Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035
- Community for Social Action...452-4867
- Connection House.....829-5711
- Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005
- Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022
- Draft Counseling.....452-5046
- HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped).....828-8301
- Ill. Dept of Public Aid.....827-4621
- Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916
- Kaleidoscope.....828-7346
- McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161
- Mid Central Community Action...829-0691
- Mobile Meals.....828-8301
- McLean County Center for Human Services.....827-5351
- National Health Care Services--abortion assistance, 1-800-322-1622
- Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195
- Occupational Development Center.....828-7324
- Operation Recycle.....829-0691
- Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
- PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help.....827-4005
- Or.....800-322-5015
- Phone Friends.....827-4008
- Planned Parenthood...medical..827-4014
bus/couns/educ..827-4368
- Post Amerikan.....828-7232
- Prairie State Legal Service....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 comp/job service..827-6237
- United Farmworkers support....452-5046
- UPIC.....827-4026

Why we need anti-bashing laws

Rick Garcia was buying a can of tuna in a supermarket when his suit coat brushed the coat of the man behind him. Gracia said, "Excuse me." Then all hell broke loose.

The man started screaming at the top of his voice, "You faggot, you homo. I'm going to bash your face in. I'm going to break your jaw."

Garcia called police, who took the man and Garcia to the police station. In the parking lot the homophobe was still yelling, "That faggot. I don't want his AIDS."

That was the second attack that Gracia experienced last February. He is the director of Catholic Advocates for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Chicago, and his openness has made him vulnerable to the raving crazies who think it's okay to threaten and beat up on gay people.

In early May, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force released a survey showing the number of complaints of violence it received in 1986 more than doubled from the previous year, to 4,946 from 2,042.

About 70 percent of the complaints involved insults or threats, but there were also "80 homicides in which the person's homosexuality appeared to be a relevant factor," the report says.

Because of this alarming increase in anti-gay violence, legislation has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly to allow a judge to impose a tougher sentence if the motivation for an assault was the sexual orientation of the victim. Reaction to this and other anti-gay-bashing measures has been swift and negative.

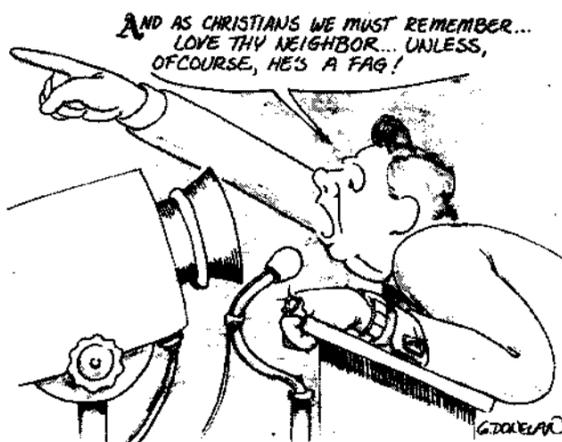
Newspapers, like the Bloomington Pantagraph and the Chicago Tribune, which usually have to be threatened with a cattle prod to print stories about gay people, lost no time in coming out against these laws. Their position is that an assault is an assault, and that we don't need special legislation to protect gay people.

But it's curious that these editorials don't say what should be done to stem the increase in anti-gay violence. They disingenuously recommend enforcing the existing laws against assault, without showing any awareness that it's often the cops who are doing the fag-bashing.

It may indeed seem to many right-minded people that we don't need any extra laws to protect gay people--that we just need better enforcement and more awareness. The problem with that view is that it ignores just how strong anti-gay hostility is in this country.

Most of our society's institutions are anti-gay: the government, the churches, the courts (remember the Georgia sodomy law?), the medical profession, the schools. We need something official, on the books, that says it is not all right to beat up on gay people.

In April the newsletter of the so-called Moral/Liberty Federation devoted most of its space to AIDS and homosexuality. The coverage included this statement written by Jerry Falwell: "AIDS is a lethal judgment of God on the sin of homosexuality, and it is also the judgment of God on America for endorsing this vulgar, perverted and reprobate lifestyle."



When influential religious leaders make remarks like this--and they do it all the time--they fan the flames of anti-gay prejudice and send a clear message to many Americans that it's all right to knock gay people around. It's time we had some official support to counteract this vicious gay-baiting.

Laws serve a number of purposes--and one of the them is symbolic. What this society needs is for more of its institutions to go on the record against anti-gay feelings and for the rights of gay people. Only a few communities in the country have anti-gay discrimination statutes; only one state (Wisconsin) has such a law.

Sure, if there was more education and awareness and across-the-board enforcement of existing laws, that would help solve the gay-bashing problem. It would also help if churches and politicians and educators and judges and police chiefs and newspapers and rock stars and professional athletes and other movers and shakers in our country would stand up for gay people once in a while, and come out in favor of gay rights.

But I don't see that happening. In fact, it's currently hip to be anti-gay: one member of the pop-rock group the Beastie Boys said right out in a recent interview "I hate faggots."

If we can get an anti-bashing law, I say let's take it. We need something.

--Ferdydurke



Breeders run amuck

Rampant heterosexuality is threatening to bring down the Republic. Breeder marines sell state secrets to commie chippies. Breeder candidates sell out their campaign supporters for another roll in the sack. Breeder preachers sell their souls and their considerable treasures on earth to hush up the sin of smashing commandments (seven and ten specifically).

(I used to think that PTL stood for Pass the Loot, but I recently read that it means People That Love. Indeed.)

Can't these people control their sexual urges? I don't understand why the government hires straight people, or why we let them hold public office. It is obvious that they are a danger to the country and too untrustworthy to be given any kind of responsible position. (Most of them don't know the first thing about matching fabrics with wallpaper, either.)

Quite clearly, heterosexuality is an

objective disorder which is self-indulgent. Although the particular inclination of the heterosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered towards an intrinsic moral evil. Besides, it produces too many bambinos. (The world population increases by 149 every minute: think about it.)

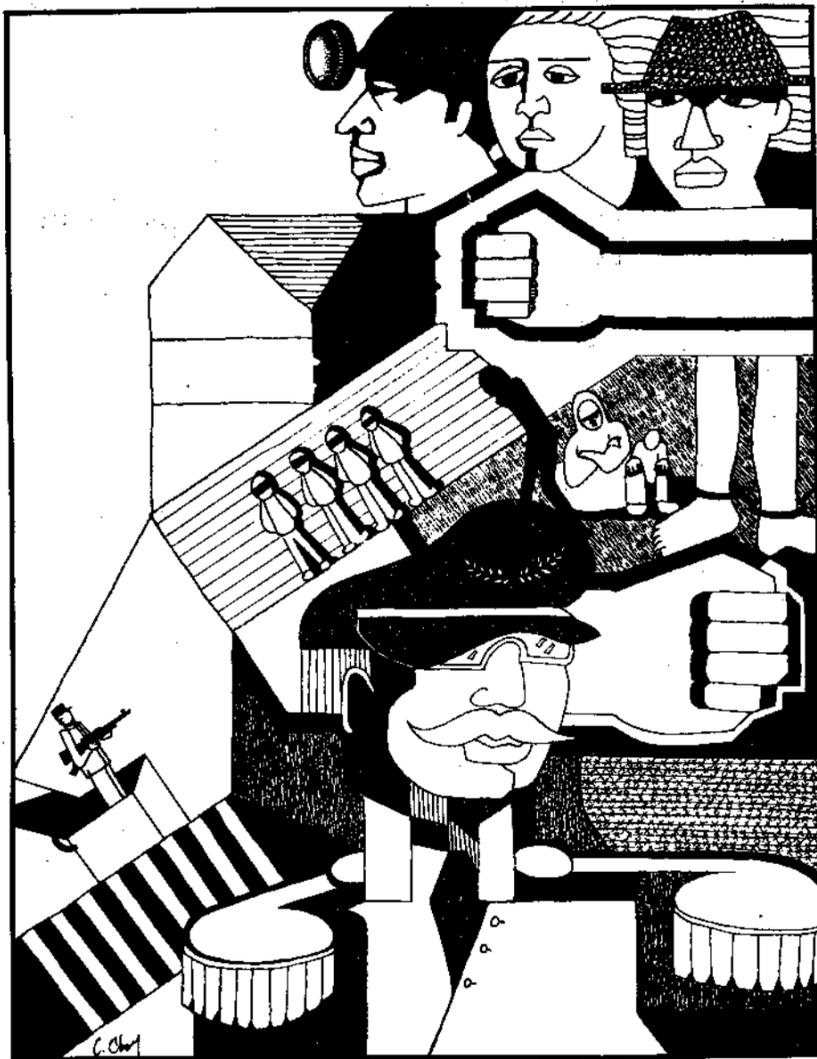
While I myself deplore violent malice toward heterosexuals, I must point out that when the government protects this kind of behavior, to which no one has any conceivable right, then it is not surprising when irrational and violent reactions increase.

So, hey, if you want to bash a breeder for Old Glory, it's no skin off my aspidistra. (And while you're at it, get in a coupla kicks for Tammy Faye; anyone who wears that much make-up has got to be a drag queen.)

--Ferdydurke

Report from Nicaragua

Talkin' Sandanistan Revolution Blues



Post Note: In January, Fred Jones, long-time friend of the Post, made an extended visit to Latin America. He returned just a few weeks ago, albeit a little worse for the wear (good luck with that hepatitis, Fred!), and brings us this account of his stay in Nicaragua. By the way, look for Fred's motion picture debut in "Walker" coming this summer to a theater near you.

I decided to go to Nicaragua without any organized group, without any affiliations, because I didn't want to get a guided tour--I didn't want anybody to show me only what they wanted me to see. I had an invitation from the mayor of Bluefields in the province of Zelaya to come down and work on a construction project that involved remodeling an old building into a sports center for kids--so they would have something to take their minds off the war. But when I got there the materials weren't there; there's a shortage of materials due to the war.

I entered the country in February and I went to Somoto, which was the first town that I came to, about 35 kilometers from the Honduran border. I asked around to see if it was safe to stay in the park, and the soldiers and the police said it was fine--that there was a military base right across from the park, a school for young military inductees. The next day I ran into all kinds of people who were there visiting their relatives. Boys from 17 to 25 have to do two years in the military and every 14 days the relatives were allowed to come visit the kids. I was invited to go in to the military base; got to walk on with my camera, was introduced to some of the young soldiers and their families.

During the day in the park I asked around to find some of the locals who had actually participated in the Triumph--the Revolution of 1979--and who could explain some of the local history. I wanted them to show me the kind of progress that's been made since the revolution, and show me some of the mistakes, as well. I was given the names of two people and I went and looked them up. I got to know them over the next several days. One of them was a member of the local junta (kind of like the city council) and he invited me to stay with his family.

Through him I got to go to different union meetings and I worked with a local union labor collective--carpenters, laborers and masons. I worked with them for about a week

doing the foundation for a ceramics factory. They're trying to bring back a lot of local industry. There's been a lack of development in their country and some of their native crafts and native industry had been pushed aside by manufactured products from outside. I also worked with a cooperative that's involved with the agrarian land reform program. For four days I made adobe blocks that will be used for a school building and eventually that would be used to build homes for members of the collective. I also volunteered to work for a day picking tobacco in a resettlement community, which was also involved in the agrarian land reform. This was a group of about seventy-six families. They have a tractor and an irrigation pump, which they have gotten through some kind of loan incentive.

In 1979 the Somoza dynasty fell, which was a family that had ruled the country for close to 45 years. His national guard was overthrown with him; and that national guard had brutally suppressed and tortured people for years, which made them quite unpopular with the people. So there wasn't any real support for the military. The organized resistance that came to power in 1979 had been organizing for generations; they had been fighting ever since the imposition of the Somoza dictatorship back in the thirties. This Somozan National Guard left after the triumph of the revolution and scattered all over the world, but mostly in Latin America. In the meantime, while he was in exile, Somoza was assassinated.

When the Reagan administration came to power, they implemented a plan to overthrow the Nicaraguan Sandinistan government and basically replace them with the Somozan National Guard because the Somozans would be more receptive to multinational corporations based in the U.S. Reagan also imposed an embargo against Nicaragua to attack their economy.

I think that those kinds of policies do more to create the kind of government that Reagan says he doesn't want Nicaragua to have. I think they put more pressure on the Sandinistas to move in that direction because they are forced to defend their historical revolution, both philosophically and militarily. They can't buy or sell anything to or from the United States,

and they have to get their arms from someone. Naturally, they get them from Eastern Bloc countries, and since they have to pay for those arms, they set up trade alliances with those countries. It inevitably moves those countries, like Nicaragua, or, in the past, Cuba, in that direction.

If the United States would cease military aggression against Nicaragua and then make friendly overtures and open up normal business relationships, I think that Nicaragua would become a true and dear friend to America. I don't consider them an enemy of the American people or American business.

The whole three months I was down there, I never ran into anti-American sentiment. I ran into numbers of people who had a variety of opinions about their own government and our government. But when people would talk about America, they would make a strong differentiation between the American people and the American government. The American people were not perceived as an enemy within Nicaragua by the Nicaraguans, no matter what political persuasion they had. I just didn't encounter that. I travelled quite extensively and placed myself in a variety of situations, met people in their homes. I could walk down the street in Somoto and people would say "Hello" and ask me where I was from; they'd talk to me.

Often times they'd invite me in for something to eat even though they were really poor and suffering. When people have something and can share it, that's something; when people don't have something and they still share what they don't have with you, that's incredible. The people I encountered, from the simplest peasant farmer to educated people in Nicaraguan society, were telling me they don't want this war--"go back, tell the American people to try and stop the government's funding of the Contras."

Military actions

I met people who were quite conservative that basically supported the political ideology of the Contras but who didn't support the military actions of the Contras. The Contras' military actions largely consist of attacking the simple "compasino" or peasant farmers out in the countryside. In Somoto, I met a compasino farmer and his wife, who told me about one of the neighbor families who had, just a few days before, been attacked by the

Contras. One night, the Contras surrounded the house, which was just a stick house with a tin roof, and they lit it on fire. The whole family--mother, father, and two young children--all died in that attack.

The statistics on who dies at the hands of the Contras show that the largest group to be attacked is the campesinos, and then health care workers, teachers, and students: all people who can demonstrate the progress of the revolution. The Contras are not really trying to engage the military.

I think one of the things the Reagan administration is worried about is that the Sandinista Revolution will succeed, and give an example of a moderate revolution in this hemisphere. The Reagan administration cannot tolerate that, because if one country can successfully break away from this system of neo-colonialism that they're trapped in, then other countries could see that example and they might possibly consider breaking away as well.

Under their new constitution, the Nicaraguan people have a pluralistic economy where they take some of the best concepts of socialism and free enterprise and create a synthesis of them. And if they can successfully eliminate that conflict between east and west, or communism and capitalism, then that's a very frightening thing for the powers that be. They feel threatened by that. For instance, after the Somoza dynasty fell, under the Sandinista land reform system all the arable land that had been held by the Somoza government was freed up and redistributed to landless peasants. Many of these people operate within a free enterprise model, but they collectively pool some of their resources. They operate within a mixed economy. So although they organize themselves collectively, and

acquire loan guarantees collectively, the final product belongs to the individuals of the collective, and they can market their own goods as they see fit.

Against the current

The Sandinista government has made incredible progress in the eight years they've been in power. That's no small feat when you're just a tiny third world country swimming against the current of a worldwide system. They've implemented literacy campaigns, public health care institutions, construction projects, schools, and sewer systems. These are things that don't sound like a lot to you, but they really are huge accomplishments for them.

But even on terms of the basic necessities, there is an incredible amount of suffering in Nicaragua due to this war. Shortages are everywhere, because they lost access to the largest market in the world--the United States, the world's supplier of food and agricultural technology. But I wouldn't say that we have driven a wedge between the Nicaraguan people and their government. There's immense support from the people for the Sandinista government, maybe made even stronger by Reagan's policies. They understand the shortages. Most people make the analysis "Well, the reason I don't have this is because the United States is attacking us." They have to put over 60% of their economy into defense because of this war. That's a lot for a small country. It's taking its toll.

I met some Vietnam vets in Guatemala who work or have worked as mercenaries. They told me that they have a standing invitation to go down and train Contras.

The Contras do not have the support of the local people in Nicaragua. In my visit I just didn't find any support for them. I found indifference, and I found people who were not enchanted

with the Sandinistas, and those who were anti-Sandinista, but they were anti-Contra as well.

Earlier on, the Contras tried more direct military tactics--coming in force from Honduras, making direct attacks. But they were losing very heavily and were strategically defeated. So they've adopted new tactics. They'll infiltrate the country in small groups of 5 to 10 people, staying in sparsely populated areas, and they will rendezvous at certain coordinates where air drops of arms and supplies will be made. And they'll attack their target and then break up into small groups again and sort of melt away into the jungle or mountains.

You have to realize these are people who have been struggling against invasion from the outside and oppression from the inside since the turn of the century. I spoke to people in the resettlement camps. One man told me how his daughter was killed. He asked me to go back and tell my people to try and stop our government from arming the Contras.

I talked to another man who was 62 years old. He remembered when he was a boy of ten, how his family fought alongside Sandino against U.S. forces when they had intervened before. He remembers his grandfather's house being bombed by U.S. planes. He demonstrated against the Somozans in the 70's and he went to prison for it. He showed me the scars on his legs where he had been tortured by the Somozan National Guard. And he says that if the U.S. intervenes again, even though he's 62 years old, he'll get out and fight. Every member of his family had been personally impacted by our support for the Somozan regime. I remember him holding up his granddaughter and telling me, "This is our future. This is our future."

--Fred Jones

You are cordially invited to attend the
POST-AMERIKAN FUNDRAISING DINNER

"Comment? Dechiquete-moi?"

For an evening of unsurpassable food and entertainment
 Cuisine by Laurie "she makes Julia look like a child" Dahlberg



Le Menu

paulettes et crudites
 (cheese straws and relishes)

fromage Hongrais
 (Hungarian cheese)

gratinie lyonnaise
 (Lyons soup)

champignon grilles
 (grilled mushrooms)

petites tartes d'oignons
 (onion tarts)

coq au vin ou croustades remplant savourieux
 (chicken in wine) (vegetarian stuffed pastry)

dessert assortiment



7:00 pm Saturday, July 18, 1987

\$25 per plate

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* black garter

Nerve gas research in residential neighborhoods

Post note: This article was nominated for "Best Censored Stories of 1986."

In 1983, residents asked the Cambridge, MA city council to investigate reports that Arthur D. Little (ADL), Inc. was testing chemical warfare agents within the city limits. A committee appointed by city council found that "storage and testing of these chemical warfare agents within the densely populated city of Cambridge in the quantities and concentration used by ADL is inappropriate." The committee reported that in a worst-case accident at ADL's laboratory on a summer evening when the adjoining disco and bowling alley were crowded and when fans were watching a softball game at the nearby field, 25 to 40 people would be killed.

As a result, the Cambridge commissioner of health in 1984 prohibited ADL's use of nerve gas and blister agents within the city limits. ADL, of course, appealed, but during the summer of 1985, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that the ban was valid and enforceable. Neither ADL nor the Pentagon has appealed this state decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

This story may sound like science fiction, but the same thing is happening at universities and private research laboratories around the nation. Since chemical warfare funding has increased five times to \$400 million in Fiscal Year 1985, some researchers are falling over themselves to get a piece of the action. New laboratories are being constructed in residential neighborhoods without the knowledge of the communities.

Margaret Erickson of Gaithersburg, Maryland, for example, discovered that Geomet Technologies had been doing research with nerve gas only 100 yards from the local elementary school since 1983. Representative Michael Barnes (D-MD), whose district includes the Geomet laboratory, said, "The Army has indicated that, in effect, it has no policy with regard to the location of the testing facility."

Daniel Grossman, a member of the North Cambridge Toxic Alert, said: "Some opponents charge that the budget for chemical and biological warfare (CBW) is growing faster than creative ideas on what to pursue. Others charge that there is no ethical justification for working on the most efficient means of killing ever developed by humankind. And local activists have focused on the dangers that CBW research centers might present to densely populated neighborhoods."

--RECON Network

Chemical warfare contractors

ALABAMA

Southern Research Inst., Birmingham (1)
Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham (2)

ARKANSAS

National Center for Toxicological Research, Jefferson (2)

CALIFORNIA

Stanford Research Inst., Menlo Park (1) (2)
Systems Science & Software, San Diego (1) (3)
Univ. of California, Davis (2)
Univ. of California, Los Angeles (2)

CONNECTICUT

Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs (2)

GEORGIA

Medical College of Georgia, Augusta (2)

ILLINOIS

Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago (1)

INDIANA

Purdue Research Foundation, West Lafayette (2)

KANSAS

Univ. of Kansas, Kansas City (2)

LOUISIANA

Louisiana State Univ., New Orleans (2)

MARYLAND

Bendix, Baltimore (1)
Dynamac Corp., Rockville (2)
Geomet Technologies, Gaithersburg (1)
Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore (2)
Uniformed Services Univ. of Health Sciences, Bethesda (2)
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore (2)

MASSACHUSETTS

Arthur D. Little, Cambridge (1)

MICHIGAN

Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2)

MINNESOTA

Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth (2)

MISSISSIPPI

Univ. of Mississippi, Jackson (2)

MISSOURI

Midwest Research Inst., Kansas City (1) (2) (3)
Rohm & Haas, Kansas City (2)

NEBRASKA

Univ. of Nebraska, Omaha (2)

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Medical School, Newark (2)

NEW MEXICO

Los Alamos National Laboratories, Los Alamos (1)

NEW YORK

Calspan Advanced Technology Center, Buffalo (1)
Chemical Compounding Corp., Riverhead (1)

OHIO

Battelle Columbus Laboratories, West Jefferson (1)
Battelle Medical Research & Evaluation Facility, West Jefferson (1)
Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati (2)

OKLAHOMA

Univ. of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City (2)

PENNSYLVANIA

Mine Safety Appliances, Murraysville (1)
Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park (2)
Temple Univ., Philadelphia (2)

TENNESSEE

Univ. of Tennessee, Memphis (2)

TEXAS

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston (2)
Southwest Foundation for Research and Education, San Antonio (2)
Southwest Research Inst., San Antonio (2)
Univ. of Texas Medical School, Galveston (2)
Univ. of Texas, San Antonio (2)

VIRGINIA

Medical College of Virginia, Richmond (2)

WASHINGTON

Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland (1)

- (1) Laboratories certified to work with full-strength chemical warfare agents.
- (2) Laboratories contracted to work with diluted chemical warfare agents during 1984.
- (3) Accidents: Midwest Research Institute had individuals exposed to mustard gas (HD) on October 29, 1981, and on February 10, 1983; Systems Science and Software had nerve gas (GD) released into the laboratory on January 21, 1985.

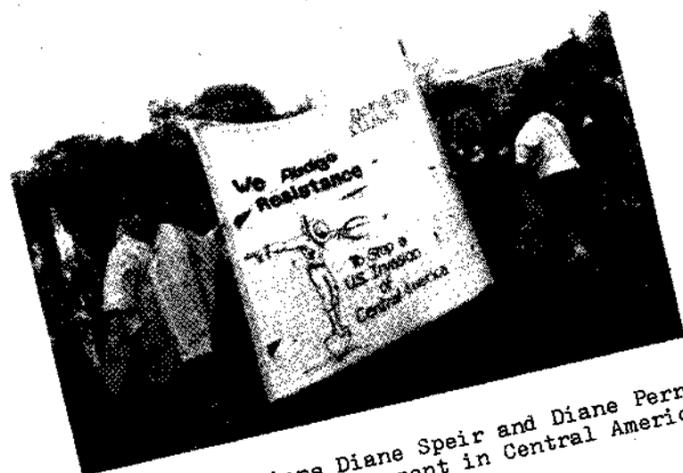
(Table prepared for the RECON NETWORK from information provided to North Cambridge Toxic Alert by the U.S. Army in July 1985.)

Photo essay

March on Washington



Protesters march on Washington, D.C., in the Mobilization for Justice and Peace on May 25.



Bloomingtonians Diane Speir and Diane Perris protest U.S. involvement in Central America during the Mobilization.

For The Love of Animals

Snow leopard, grizzly, California condor, Eastern bluebird - all seriously endangered, not from poisons or guns or cruel traps. The most deadly threat to their future is loss of home and habitat.

Humans have made an effort to rectify many of the atrocities they have visited on entire populations of wildlife. Bison once more graze beside pronghorn on protected grasslands. Moose are being transplanted to moose-less Maine. Red wolves hunt the swamps of West Virginia.

Yet the lessons of the past decades of environmental rape have taught us nothing. For centuries, people had, if not a partnership, then an uneasy truce with nature. Nature stood strong against ineffectual efforts toward "progress." Hand tools and sweaty labor made little difference to nature's ageless vitality.

With the industrial revolution, earth lost its advantage. The labor of many was reduced by machine horsepower, and nature quailed before a modern Prometheus.

Eons of pristine grassland was furrowed and churned by "sodbusters." Virgin timber was mowed from the landscape to create pseudo-grassland when the true had been claimed by corn and soybeans. Don't kid yourselves, Illinoisans. Wild grasses here once billowed, taller than a man on horseback. Streams were clear and sweet-water.

Many native species of the population -- furred, feathered and finned, woke to find their homes defiled by greedy strangers. Native Americans had lived as stewards to their world; enter the Europeans who conquered and plundered.

A pleasant trip to Wildlife Prairie Park west of Peoria inspires both the optimist and pessimist in me. One side mourns all that has disappeared - yet there is an assurance that there are righteous people left.

Once an abandoned strip mine, left to leach under sun and snow, the land was reclaimed by a private party, seeded and sectioned, and transformed into a haven of refuge. Native animals once again herd and hunt, swim and play and make love.

Spring and early summer are great there, when the foliage is still sparse enough to catch a glimpse of bobcat or cougar, the panting grin of coyote and wolf, often nursing their young. The elk calves and white-tail fawns bound through the tall prairie grass. And the wild residents, the squirrels, songbirds and bunnies live as they always have.

Crisp autumn and winter days take on a special poignancy. Fall foliage blazes over fields and ravines, and its leafy bounty carpets the paths. Snowy days are a treat, especially the sun-sparkled powder days. Otters toboggan and tumble, bison snort and stamp, and the laden boughs dump their loads on visitor and resident alike.

I wax lyrical. Wildlife Prairie typifies all that conscious conservation can achieve if one person just tries. Yes, it took vast resources in time, money and effort to build on the ruins of industry. But it took one person's vision to realize success.

Active participation in the fight against habitat depletion is needed as well. The raze-and-burn method of land management is criminal. Hedge-rows and wooded lots must remain to provide shelter for wildlife. Interstate right-of-ways, unowned and natural, support countless residents (though I shudder at the thought of them as highway victims). Warm days often bring hawks, hovering on the thermals, seeking hapless rodents. Nature's ageless drama plays itself out for a motoring audience.

You and I can create suitable habitat, even within the confines of urban life. Flowering bushes and fruit-bearing vines, tangled brambles and grassy tussocks provide shelter and food for small creatures and songbirds. Fresh water is

necessary for life, and feeding stations are appreciated. For birds such as wrens and bluebirds, housing provides sanctuary where nature is lacking.

There were once vast populations of animals, supported by a rich and bountiful land. Man cannot usurp their place without trashing the integrity of his own existence. As another contemporary philosopher reminds us, extinct is forever. We must regain responsibility before we are extinct as well.

To Kris and Angie S. goes my Animal Hero of the Month award. It began with the usual tragic spring saga - Mother Bunny is slaughtered by a marauding mutt, leaving a nest of helpless babies. Seven tiny blind bunnies which need constant warmth and frequent feeding. Enter our heroes. Armed with eyedropper and tiny nursing bottles, they battled to give these orphans a future.

As so often happens, one by one the babes died of the complications to which they succumb. It was certainly not for lack of trying - multiple nightly feedings, heat pads, tears and prayers.

Kris could no more close her eyes to the plight of these innocents than I could. There is at our new home the abandoned product of the previous tenant -- a lovely spayed (and declawed) marmalade kitty. This victim of thoughtless neglect does not deserve such treatment, for she was apparently a pampered housepet and knows not the ways of the street.

I cannot close my eyes to her needs. We feed her and give her water, but our own pets will not accept her in their new home. If you have room in your heart for a sweet little lady cat, please call the Post office and leave word on the recorder for Becky. It may be a while before I get back to you, but someone checks messages occasionally and will pass it on. (Is this shameless solicitation or what?)

By the way, my Animal Villain award emphatically goes to the W. Putnam, who doomed his former faithful pet to untold danger and loneliness.

There is an unfounded rumor that this may be the final episode in Post Amerikan reportage. This would be a frigging shame, for where else could I have spoken of my environmental and animal concerns?

As I said earlier, extinct is forever, and while the Post could rise Phoenix-like in the event of such a demise, inertia is a heartless anchor. Such a restraint can hobble and trip efforts to start again.

For nearly a generation, writers of conscience (there's that word again!) have spoken their minds with one enduring hope: that they can make a difference-- in attitude and action. That closed minds may open. That compassion might bloom.

I have written from my heart on a very personal subject, this abiding love and respect for all life, and I hope that in doing so I have touched and made thoughtful some people who would not have otherwise known of the animal outrages and victories that occur daily. We are all soldiers in the battle against ignorant and needless suffering, and our strongest weapon is public awareness, for in darkness and blindness are the worst atrocities performed.

So it is with the Post. If and when it dies, its enlightenment will flicker out, leaving a dark void of ignorance and misinformation. You know the Paragraph doesn't have the desire (or the guts) to address many of the concerns of conscience that has always been a Post hallmark.

If you mourn the death of this "hippy" institution, MAKE SOME NOISE! Call, write, send a contribution, volunteer your time. This open journalistic forum could soon be barred to you, and that truly is a frigging shame.

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AIDS: Present and past

The history of AIDS as a major public health problem is rather brief. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome was initially identified in the United States during mid-1981 when young, previously healthy men, with theretofore previously rare forms of pneumonia and cancer became ill with these diseases.

In 1984, it was discovered that AIDS is caused by a virus. French researchers labeled the virus Lymphadenopathy Associated Virus or LAV while American researchers named the virus the Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus, type III or HTLV-III. In June 1986, the virus was renamed the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV. Presently, it is estimated that 1 - 1.5 million people in the United States are infected with HIV.

The history of AIDS as a local public health concern is even more recent. Communicable Disease Section staff began attending numerous AIDS related training seminars in 1984. These seminars and training sessions, conducted by the Illinois

ANTIBODY TEST RESULTS

Reactive*	4 of 75	(5.3%)
Nonreactive	70 of 75	(93.3%)
Equivocable**	1 of 75	(1.3%)

*Reactive-same serum sample reactive to two Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) tests and one Western Blot test.

**Equivocable-same serum sample reactive to two Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) tests and borderline reaction to one Western Blot test.

It is the firm belief of AIDS experts that testing alone does very little in preventing the transmission of the disease. A major focus must be placed upon reaching individuals whose behavior places them at risk for AIDS. The goal of such program emphasis is to counsel and educate persons at risk with the intent of effecting changes in community programs on AIDS reaching 854 county residents. During the first three months of 1987, twenty-



Department of Public Health and other health agencies, assisted Department staff in learning more about the disease and implementation of local programs.

During August of 1985, the inevitable impact of AIDS was felt locally as the first case was reported to the McLean County Health Department. The local AIDS program was stepped-up in scope through numerous meetings and phone conversations with the IDPH during October of 1985 to establish the McLean County Health Department as an alternate antibody testing site. Following Board of Health action, the McLean County Health Department officially began antibody testing and counseling on March 1, 1986.

Under IDPH guidelines, antibody counseling and testing is conducted on a strictly anonymous basis. Clients are identified by number in order to avoid compromising confidentiality and creating barriers to access. Following is a summary of the first year's activities of the McLean County Health Department HIV Antibody Testing Site.

McLEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HIV ANTIBODY TESTING SITE March 1986 - February 1987

PRE-TESTING COUNSELING SESSIONS

Scheduled		94
Completed	83 of 94	(88%)
Cancelled/ not completed	11 of 94	(12%)

TESTING

Completed	75 of 83	(90%)
Not Completed	8 of 83	(10%)

POST-TEST COUNSELING

Completed	72 of 75	(96%)
Cancelled/ Not completed	3 of 75	(04%)

four AIDS-related programs have already reached 658 people.

A counseling and testing grant received from IDPH during October of 1986 allowed for enhancement and expansion of counseling and testing and provision of additional outreach activities in McLean, Woodford, and Livingston Counties. Efforts are targeted toward individuals with high risk behaviors including: heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual sexual contact with persons infected with the AIDS virus or at risk for AIDS, IV drug users, hemophiliacs, and those receiving blood transfusions prior to March of 1985. Much of the additional outreach has been conducted by part-time personnel hired with the grant funds.

Further during October, a number of health care/social service providers and concerned citizens met to discuss the need for a local task force to establish, consolidate and unite community resources to address the AIDS issue on a local level. As a result of this initial meeting, the McLean County AIDS Task Force was organized for the purpose of addressing social service, medical and educational needs within the community. Through the Task Force, a speakers bureau was organized to meet the community's need for informed local presentations on the topic of AIDS.

Although McLean County has not seen a disproportionate number of AIDS cases, the County may have experienced four AIDS related deaths and revealed five positive or borderline HIV antibody tests through the alternate site. With such a small data base to review, few conclusions can be drawn with regard to trends. We do know, however, that rates will double nearly annually unless more research and program efforts are forthcoming.

--McLean County Health Department

US denies

The Pentagon has issued contradictory statements as controversy grows over allegations of a biological warfare connection to AIDS.

On March 30, the Soviet news agency TASS repeated earlier reports of a study by two East German microbiologists, Jakob and Lilli Segal, concluding that AIDS was caused by a genetically-engineered virus. The Segals argue that the virus may have been created and spread accidentally by the U.S. Army's Biological Warfare Laboratory at Fort Detrick, near Frederick, Maryland. According to this theory, the virus was experimentally injected around 1977 into "volunteer" prisoners, who after several months with no symptoms, were released and unknowingly spread the disease.

The Soviets have also cited two other doctors, one British and one North American, who maintain the HIV virus, considered by many to trigger AIDS, could only have been created by laboratory splicing of two infectious animal viruses. However, the doctors, citing several medical journal articles, believe the AIDS virus may have been created in civilian, rather than in military, laboratories engaged in cancer research.

U.S. military and diplomatic spokespeople have repeatedly issued heated denials of the Soviet charges, labeling them "an insidious disinformation campaign." But in elaborating their denials most recently, Pentagon officials have admitted a Ft. Detrick role in AIDS research, and have also contradicted each other.

The Philadelphia Daily News reported on February 18, 1987, that Col. David L. Huxsoll, chief of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease at Ft. Detrick, told a Press conference his facility had begun assisting the National Institutes of Health with AIDS re-

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AIDS bio war

search. "We are now looking at the anti-AIDS possibility of materials at our laboratory," Huxsoll reportedly said. In denying the Soviet charges, the official added, "Studies at the Army laboratories have shown that the AIDS virus would be an extremely poor biological warfare agent." No further details of these studies were provided.

However, according to the New York Times of April 8, a Pentagon report on AIDS only acknowledges Ft. Detrick's role in testing the drug ribavirin against AIDS, claiming that the lab "had no other involvement in AIDS research." The government document reportedly added that "the Ft. Detrick facility never conducted any experiments with the AIDS virus in the course of its earlier biological warfare research."

What neither statement mentioned was that Ft. Detrick's involvement in AIDS research is not a recent development. Since 1983, the "Frederick Cancer Research Facility"--the allegedly "civilian" part of Ft. Detrick--has done such work as part of the AIDS Task Force of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), directed by Dr. Robert Gallo.

For years, this fact has been openly discussed, though not publicized, in Congressional budget hearings. It resurfaced during the recently settled lawsuit against the NCI and Gallo by the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Gallo, an award-winning research scientist, was accused of using Pasteur's specimens of HTLV-III (now called HIV) to falsely claim credit for "discovering" the virus and to claim the royalties from the HIV antibody blood test.

On February 9, 1987, lawyers for the Pasteur Institute were to present in court two different copies of a letter sent from scientists at Ft. Detrick to Gallo's lab concerning HIV virus research. In one version, certain key information had been

blacked out. As the British magazine New Scientist of February 12 reports, "the copies of the letter provide powerful evidence that someone has tampered with scientific data." Pasteur lawyers were preparing to demand to see original documents from Ft. Detrick.



However, at that point Gallo and the NCI agreed to settle the suit by sharing credit for "discovering" the HIV virus with the Pasteur Institute. On March 31, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac announced the settlement, which splits the profits from HIV antibody tests between the two countries. It was the first time Reagan had ever publicly uttered the word "AIDS" since the epidemic was named in 1981. The question of the altered letter was never pursued.

The Ft. Detrick installation has a forty-year history of biological warfare (BW) research. In 1969, President Nixon claimed that the U.S. was ending its BW program and Ft. Detrick would be converted into a National Cancer Institute laboratory. But a recently settled lawsuit by the Foundation on Economic Trends, a Washington-based environmental group, forced the Department of Defense to admit that secret BW research continues at Ft. Detrick and 127 other government and university sites around the country. On February 17, 1987,

the Federal Court for the District of Columbia approved the settlement requiring all such BW labs to prepare environmental impact statements within 21 months. One of the activities acknowledged to be occurring at Ft. Detrick was the creation of new viruses by genetic engineering.

The United States' historical use of biological and chemical warfare against so-called "enemy" countries has been well documented. Among the poisonous agents unleashed by the U.S. military were anthrax, plague and yellow fever in North Korea in the 1950s, Agent Orange (a highly-toxic herbicide) in Vietnam in the 1960s, African Swine Fever in Cuba in 1970 and 1980, and dengue fever in Cuba in 1981. Often these toxins were sprayed from the air; the African Swine Fever virus was brought in on foot by CIA-employed Cuban exiles who infected pig feed with it. (See Covert Action Information Bulletin, Summer 1982). In each case many people became seriously ill and some died. More recently, Nicaragua has been investigating the possibility that the 1985 outbreak of dengue fever along its Honduran border may have resulted from the release of infected mosquitos by U.S. reconnaissance overflights.

The East German study alleging a BW origin to AIDS has been covered periodically since 1985 by the international press, but rarely by the U.S. mainstream media. However, after the renewed TASS publicity on March 30, the Associated Press put the story, accenting the U.S. denial, on its North American and international wires, and it was reported by CBS on Dan Rather's evening news broadcast.

Continued on p. 10

Is AIDS a designer disease?

Under the current US administration biological warfare research spending has increased 500 percent, primarily in the area of genetic engineering of new disease organisms.

At a House Appropriations hearing in 1969, the Defense Department's Biological Warfare division requested funds to develop, through gene-splicing, a new disease that would resist and break down a victim's immune system. "Within the next 5 to 10 years it would probably be possible to make a new infective micro-organism which could differ in certain important respects from any known disease-causing organisms. Most important of these is that it might be refractory to the immunological and therapeutic processes upon which we depend to maintain our relative freedom from infectious disease." (See "A Higher Form of Killing: The Secret Story of Chemical and Biological Warfare" by R. Harris and J. Paxman, Hill and Wang, pubs.)

AIDS was first diagnosed in 1981, 12 years after the requested funds were approved.

It is significant that the "discovery" of the AIDS virus (HTLV3) was announced by Dr. Robert Gallo at the National Cancer Institute, which is on the grounds of Fort Detrick,

Maryland, a primary US Army biological warfare research facility.

The AIDS epidemic emerged full-blown in the three US cities with organized gay communities before appearing anywhere else, including Haiti or Africa where it is supposed to have originated. This is epidemiologically absurd.

Before dismissing the possibility that a US Army Biological Warfare facility would participate in genocide, remember that the entire structure of the US military-intelligence establishment was completely overhauled and reoriented with the importation of hundreds of top nazis into key positions following WW II. There's no proof those nazis ever gave up their longterm goals of conquest and genocide, just because they changed countries. Fascism was and is an international phenomenon. (See "Project Paperclip" by Clarence Lasby, Atheneum 214, NY, and "Gehlen: Spy of the Century" by E.H. Cookridge, Random House.)

Also, homosexuals were the first to be exterminated in Nazi Germany, before the Jews, so fewer people would object.

After WW II, the US Army protected the Japanese germ warfare unit, that

killed 3,000 people, from prosecution on war crimes charges, in exchange for sharing their research data with their US counterparts. And not long ago it was widely publicized that the US Army's Biological Warfare unit had in 1959 conducted dispersal tests with live germs, on unsuspecting civilians in the San Francisco Bay area. So we're not dealing here with people who care about your health.

The dangers of overpopulation have been exhaustively described for at least thirty years. But the obvious "solution" of population reduction through mass exterminations, and who might be pursuing that, has seldom been examined.

Evil is hard to confront, especially on the preposterous scale we have here. If we acknowledge the presence of those who think their only hope for survival of their kind is to kill off two thirds of all the other kinds, and their ability to manage it, we then pretty much have to do something about it.

--Reprinted from NOW WHAT, issue one, March-April 1987 (\$2, \$10/year) c/o Waves Forest, PO Box 768, Monterey, CA 93942

Dis-education

Ignorance is fatal

As noted in the Pantagraph on Tues., May 7, a number of AIDS-related bills supported by the so-called "pro-family" or "right-to-life" lobbies came up before the Illinois House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on the previous day. These bills would: "ban school clinics from distributing contraceptives, require the teaching of sexual abstinence until marriage, and prohibit the teaching of 'safe' (sic) homosexual sex practices."

On the bright side: the Committee chucked the contraceptive-related bills. Given the current political mood, that is no small victory.

The bad news: the bills requiring that abstinence be taught in the schools (HB1225) and banning safe-sex education (HB1226) went through, and will be coming up for a vote some time soon.

These bills successfully combine both the repression of differences and the short-sighted naivete that the "pro-lifers" are so famous for. Let's look at them one at a time, shall we?

So they want teachers to teach abstinence in the schools. And that's supposed to work--that's going to keep post-pubescent teens, each one of them a small vat of bubbling hormones, out of each other's pants. Right.

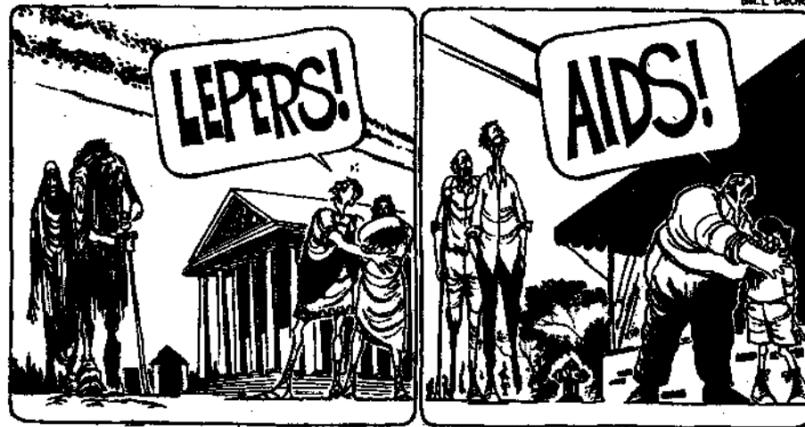
Do you remember being a teen? Then surely you remember the "it can't happen to me" rationale that even fairly well-educated teens seem to be possessed of. Look at the number of teen moms. Look at the number of teen pregnancies even during more repressive

eras than this. Telling teens to be good doesn't work. Preaching at them is even less effective.

So, they're going to tell 'em to keep their pants on, and then they're going to purposely undereducate them about what practices are and aren't safe.

thing to be uninformed and paranoid about.

But it is, of course, only the bad kids who screw around anyway, especially when they've been told not to. So, hey, they deserve it, right? God's punishment, right?



150 B.C. PROGRESS? 1985 A.D.

Let's face facts: there are no "heterosexual" and "homosexual" sex practices. Most sex practices can be, and are, practiced by people in all of the varying persuasions. So, to say that they're not going to teach "homosexual" safe sex to the kids seems to mean they're not going to teach any safe sex. Period.

Great. So the teens who've been told to stay out of each other's pants, and didn't listen (and don't kid yourself, that's going to be a lot of teens) won't have any idea what they can do safely and what they can't.

And since the emphasis is still on homosexuality, despite the rising number of heterosexuals who have gotten the disease from each other, the kids who prefer the opposite sex will probably think they're safe. 'Til it's too late. Whoops. Sorry, kids. And the gay teens, who have enough problems already, what with homophobia and their own hormones, have one more

As Phyllis Schlafly's Springfield spokeswoman Kathleen Sullivan told the Pantagraph, "There isn't a kid who is promiscuous who isn't sick in the mind or the body." And maybe she's right. But is that because sex is inherently bad? Or because people like Ms. Sullivan put so much energy into making kids feel evil and ignorant about something that is, after all, a perfectly normal part of life?

If we want to raise intelligent, responsible, alive kids, we have to teach them all that they need to know to survive and thrive, and we have to teach them how to make their own decisions based on that information.

Denying teenagers information crucial to them, and then using that lack of information to scare them into following someone else's decisions is not only dangerous, to all of us, it is also profoundly immoral.

--Chris M.

Health Dept. issues AIDS policy

The McLean County Board of Health, at its March 18th meeting, adopted a comprehensive policy regarding the Health Department's role in the control of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The policy outlines the Department's emphasis in the areas of testing, education and counseling.

High priority within the policy statement is given to the Health Department's ongoing effort to provide risk reduction education to individuals exhibiting high risk behaviors. High risk behaviors include: engaging in sexual relations with more than one partner; certain homosexual/bisexual activities, and IV drug use.

Other educational efforts are directed toward health care providers, emergency services professionals, law enforcement personnel, correctional workers, human service agencies, schools and the general public.

Two items were added to existing Health Department policies. First, the Board of Health approved the Department providing disease prevention devices, such as condoms, to persons counseled within its program. Second, the Board of Health stated its intent to ensure the provision of other Health Department services to individuals who have tested positive for the HIV antibody, and who qualify, so long as such service provision does not present a clear health risk to client or staff.

The intent of the Board of Health's policy is to make a definitive declaration to the public of its crucial role in stemming the spread of this deadly disease. The AIDS policy was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board.

U.S. denies . . .

Continued from p. 9

Over the years, gay newspapers have periodically speculated about BW theories. So have some right-wing journals. In fact, the two doctors cited by the Soviets, John Seale of London and Robert Strecker of Los Angeles, ironically hold extreme right-wing views. They believe that the AIDS virus, rather than being a product of U.S. BW research, was engineered in Soviet-

instigated cancer research experiments and then spread with Soviet complicity to attack the U.S. population. Seale's theories have been publicized by Lyndon LaRouche's organization, known for its racist, anti-Semitic and anti-gay views.

--Bob Lederer
Reprinted from Gay Community News



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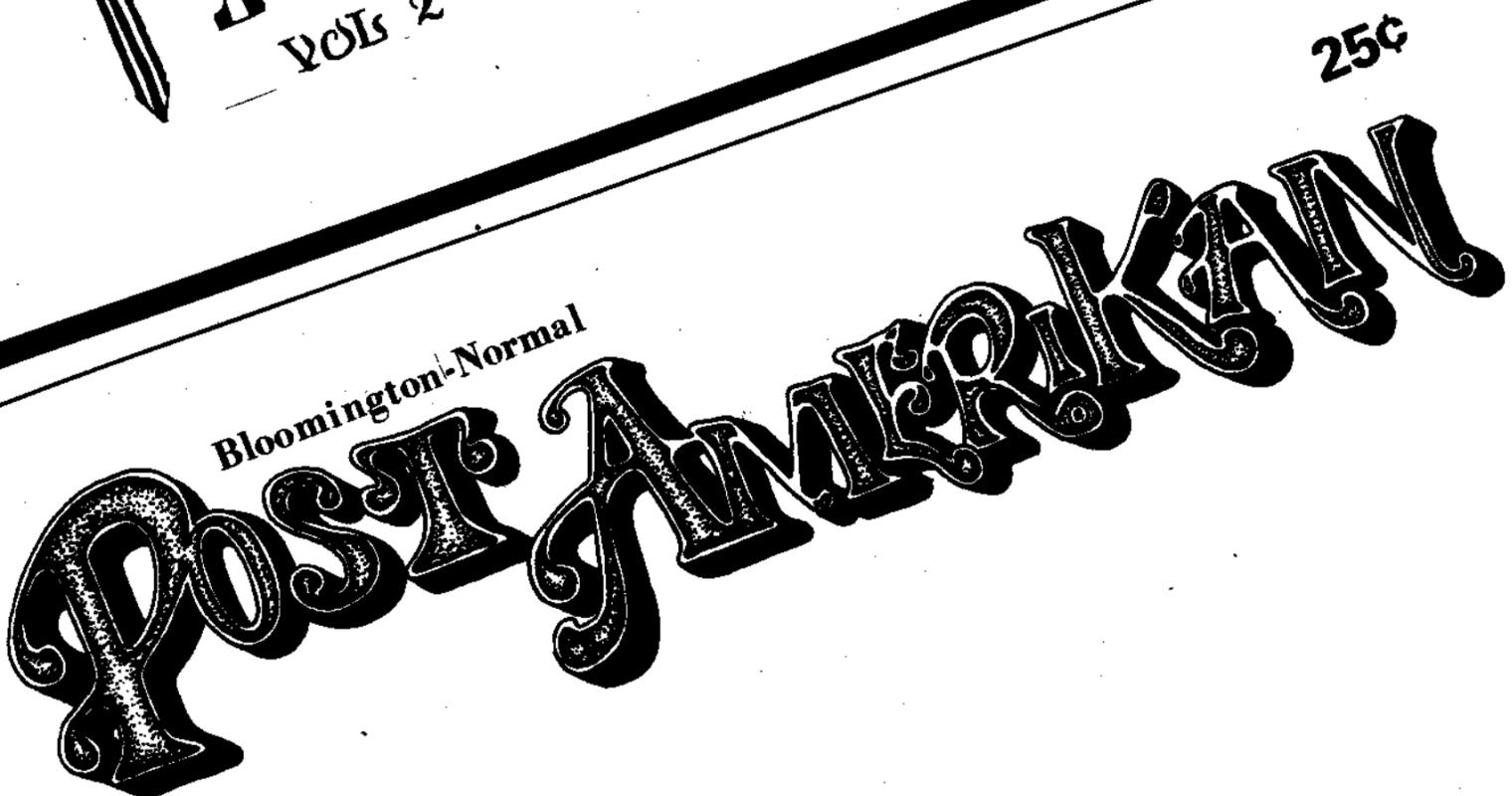
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15 years of alternative news



God fails to destroy Post-Amerikan

Murdoch acquires Post-Amerikan

There'll be some changes in the format of this paper now that millionaire publisher Rupert Murdoch has bought it for an undisclosed sum rumored to be as high as three figures.

Murdoch himself could not be reached because he was busy selecting the "Babe of the Week" photo for the Times of London, but a spokesperson for him said that the Post Amerikan needed a number of style changes.

"First off," said the spokesperson, "more color. Lots more. Purple lettering will really grab the eye. And pics, tons of pics. Something to hold the interest. We plan to run a shot of a naked narc, full front, every month, plus a Ms. Demeanor on page 2."

"And the format has got to change. No more of this wimpy cerebral junk. If you're gonna talk politics, go for it! Print the ballsy stuff. Believe me, economic forecasts don't go over. Dirt sells, man! Your average Joe Liberal wants to know

who's nuking who. Bland economic forecasts are as dead as last week's marine.

"Headlines . . . you gotta grab the eye. You guys are way too downbeat. Look at this cover: nice graphic, if you biz it up a bit with some color, but the head is nowhere--" "Revenge of the Cabbage Patch Kids." "I mean, c'mon! For something like this you need what we call a nut-grabber: "Tots Slash Dozens in Toy Orgy." See what I mean? Now that'll sell papers."

Post Amerikan staffers Ferdydurke, Phoebe Caulfield, and Marshall Law, picketing outside the paper's main office, told this reporter that they were considering founding a rival publication of their own.

"We're not sure what to call it," said Phoebe. "Maybe the Pre-Determined."

"Or the Post Bail," said Ferdy.

--Scaramouche

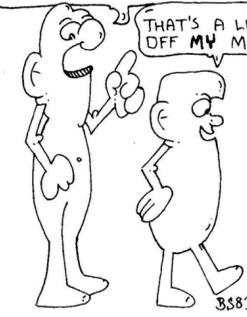


Wig stands read the Post



Why does Willie Wigstand read the Post-Amerikan? "For the polyester ads," says Wigstand, 23. "The Post has always had the very best in polyester, particularly in ski masks. It's paying attention to the little things that makes the Post the best rag around."

BEING A LEFTIST DOESN'T MEAN AUTOMATICALLY BEING AGAINST EVERYTHING, Y'KNOW!



ON LOW-BUDGET WEEK-ENDS, HEADLINES ARE MADE, GRAPHICS SELECTED, AND THE WHOLE SWERING IS PASTED DOWN.

YOU MESSAGED THE PAGE WRONG!

DOWN ARTICLES WON'T FIT! MIND IF I CUT OFF THE CONCLUSION?

DID ANYBODY DO A COVER?

Singers read the Post



Why does well-known capitalist folk-singer Georgie Glop read the Post-Amerikan? "For the bank ads," says Glop, 36. "Great inspiration, and I can use a lot of the interest rates in my lyrics."

I THOUGHT BARKANIKOV'S PERFORMANCE IN THE NUTCRACKER ACHIEVED A FASCINATING SYNTHESIS OF TENDERNESS AND VIRILITY, DIDN'T YOU, NED?

AW, SPOZE SO.



County jail warden tells reporter:

"If you print that, I'll cut your balls off"

"Feminine Hygiene"

--A Dangerous Myth

Falwell wants your baby!
Hi-tech babies in Bloomington-Normal

Urinary tract infections: no honeymoon

Sheriff King PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT.



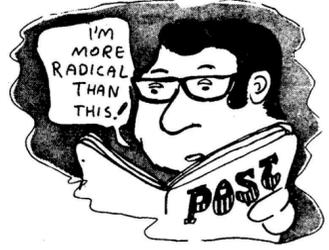
Response to the Sheriff King give-a-caption-to-his-photo contest was phenomenal, and it was a difficult task selecting a winner. Some of the criterion judges used involved relevance, conciseness, and good taste (and no wisecracks about that last item please).

Winner of the contest, Allan Sutherland of Normal (see photo left for caption) will be getting his free subscription starting with this issue.

Second place goes to "anonymous" for his/her entry: "I need a new NEG agent; hope I can get him out."

Third place goes to Robert Lambert of Bloomington, who wrote: "Ever since this Wickey House trial started, my lunch breaks have been getting shorter and shorter."

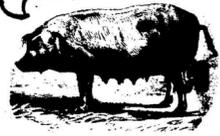
Honorable mentions go to: Timber Ridge Tomato Ranch, Roanoke; Marty Hartley, Menard; Dean Patrick, Bloomington.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LAWYER AND AN ANGRY CHICKEN?



THE CHICKEN CLUCKS DEFIANCE.



Phoebe gets a phone

Phoebe vs. the phone
Gen Tel dictates lifestyle again

All right, you can't get a phone number out of Gen Tel without paying for it; you can't even get hooked up easily without a savings account, a steady job, DAR references, sound dental records, and a telephone; and you can't take a long hot bath with the phone off the hook.

Now they won't let you space out when dialing.

EHNG... EHNG... EHNG... EHNG...



GenTel blames kids for poor service
GTE insensitive to symbolism
Gen Tel's phoney ring
Reading skills disconnected at Gen Tel
GTE threatens physical, mental health
Phoebe & her phone
Gen-Tel wants lifestyle changes

Moron Majority runs rampant

ISU white students storm city hall over party issue



Fifteen years and what do ya get? Another day older & deeper in debt



**Santa says:
"Send a sub!"**

Panel of long lines, high prices, lousy merchandise. Running out of ideas... what to get Aunt Ida, your friend Joey from high school, and your boss? Worried that the only thing you're going to get that will fit and is the right color is a pair of sweat socks? Your socks are over! No longer will you have to go out cash registers. No longer will you have to go out to the mall in the storm, fight little old ladies for parking spaces, or get irritated by the beep-beep-beep of electronic cash registers.

For only \$4.00 you can buy a subscription to the Post-American for all those folks on your Christmas list. And maybe one for yourself, too! Just fill out the appropriate coupon and send it to the Post-American, P.O. Box 492, Bloomington, IL 61701. Enclose \$4.00 for each subscription, and get a little present in the mail every month.

I want a Christmas subscription to the Post-American for only \$4.00. Name _____ Address _____

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YES, I crave the fame and glory a Post-American T-shirt will bring me! I can't live without it. In fact I'll just die if I can't have a Post T-shirt! Enclosed is my check for \$6.00. Thank you. You've made my life shine again.

L XL
M

Post-American, P.O. Box 492, Bloomington, IL 61701.



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YES! I NEED THE AMERICAN SAY! Get a colorful P-A T-shirt too!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____



WHO SAYS READING THE POST-AMERICAN TURNS YOU INTO A VEGETABLE?

This satisfied reader plans to give gift subscriptions to friends this Christmas: one to Sue Keeny, one to Rudy Bayga, and one to S. Karoal. Why don't you send subs to your friends, too? Or give yourself one.

YES! I need a subscription to the Post! Here's my \$2.50 for 12 issues.

Name _____ Zip _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Extra Line _____



WE KNOW YOU'RE COOL, BUT DOES ANYONE ELSE?

Our way to secure the coveted status of "cool" is to sport a Post-American T-shirt. Just wear it and keep your mouth shut. A Post T-shirt speaks for itself. In everyday life, you'll be the only one who's not wearing a "hippy" or "punk" t-shirt. It's the only political statement.

Yes! I want people to know I'm cool! Send me at:

Post American T-shirt
 My sister, the Punk rocker T-shirt

Size: S M L XL
Enclosed is my \$7. (See coupon below)

Clinton creates need for vigilance

Dear Post Amerikan,

Because Clinton was not prevented, the best we can do is to start planning now for vigilant watching of Clinton. Just like at other facilities, a near-accident or accident is inevitable. When emissions come, so do a rise in birth defects, miscarriage, and other harm to us all. As one concerned with birth, I ask that all of us focus on keeping damage from nuclear power at as low a level as possible.

The inertia was with the building of Clinton - a lot of good people tried but did not succeed in preventing it. Perhaps now gradually enough people in this area will be sensitized to the dangers of nuclear technology. The earth is not suited to nuclear technology - I strongly believe, even now, pro-nuclear people will someday realize this.

We must insist on close supervision, public input, and publicity about daily happenings at Clinton.

In solidarity,
Sue Frizzell

Feedback

An unidentified reader sent us this response to our well-loved "Your dog eats better than this hippie" subscription ad.



Yes, I want to support a

<input type="checkbox"/> Leftist propagandist	Post Amerikan
<input type="checkbox"/> Gay activist	PO Box 3452
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deluded nut starving hippy	Bloomington, IL
<input type="checkbox"/> Depressed feminist	61702

My dog is sick Send me a subscription, \$4

Send me a Post Amerikan or Punk Rocker T-shirt, \$7

S M L XL

Got no money, but I like you.

G. J. Murphy

Name _____

Address 677 Coulton Resist Way Anytown USA

City state zip _____

Letter(s)

Search for family roots

Dear Post Amerikan,

In the early to mid 2nd half of the 1800's, some of my ancestors' family settled in Bloomington for awhile. If any descendents are still there and recognize the following short history of this family, it would be greatly appreciated if they would contact me, as we need their story and other information we don't have.

"John Mahany married Hanorah McCarthy Hayes, a widow with 2 children, in Ireland. They immigrated to New Brunswick the next year (1834) leaving the child, John, in Ireland, and bringing Mary Hayes. After moving to Buffalo, NY, Mary married James Callahan, moved to Alton, then to Bloomington, IL and later to Hudson, Twinsburg, and Cleveland, OH. Their oldest daughter was named Mary Ann. Denis Henry, born on a ship coming over, went south to work, fought with the Confederates in the Civil War and was killed in the 1st battle of Fredricksburg in 1862. Jerry George moved and raised his family in the mining area west of Denver, CO. His oldest son was named Frank Albert. Anna eventually settled in Clear Creek Co, CO in 1865 as a teacher. She married Harry Elder and raised her family in Denver. Ellen was raised by the A.C. Moore family, married John C. Groves and moved to Herkimer, NY. Albert Daniel came also to reside in Colorado, ultimately building his home and raising his family in Fruita, CO."

Many of Albert Daniel's, Jeremiah George Mahany's, and Anna Elder's descendents surely still live in Denver and western Colorado, and some of Mary Callahans either in Illinois, Ohio, or Colorado. We need everyone's personal knowledge, old letters, papers, or photos that may give us clues to help us complete this history and pinpoint this family's beginnings in Ireland.

Please can any of you help? Write to: Lois N. Pope, 6310 Foothills, Farmington, NM 87401. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Lois N. Pope

Settlement lets peace groups into high schools

The Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD) reached a comprehensive settlement with the Grossmont Union High School District in a dispute over paid advertisements in student newspapers. As part of the settlement filed with the Federal District Court on April 6, 1987, COMD will have the same right as military recruiters and the Selective Service System to place advertisements in student papers.

This is not only a victory for COMD and other peace groups, but also for students, who have a right to receive alternative information on military service. This settlement improves their ability to take advantage of that right. It also helps ensure that the First Amendment rights of student journalists will not be trampled on by over-zealous school administrators.

The case originated from a 1982 decision by the Grossmont school district to ban paid advertisements by COMD from all nine of its high school student publications. COMD, which was then known as the San Diego Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD), had been placing advertisements in various school papers offering young people information on their rights and options regarding draft registration.

COMD brought suit against Grossmont in federal court and requested a temporary injunction while it waited for a trial. After this injunction was denied, an appeal was made to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In June 1986, the appellate court ruled that the lower court had abused its discretion and that a preliminary injunction should have been awarded.

This ruling was based on the court's determination that "military service is controversial and political in nature." The court further stated: "Here, the school board permitted mixed political and commercial speech advocating military service, but attempted to bar the same type of speech opposing such service. The board has failed to advance a compelling governmental interest justifying its conduct. Accordingly, the board violated the First Amendment when it excluded CARD's advertisements."

Soon after the landmark decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the school district petitioned for an appellate court rehearing, and the U.S. Justice Department--on behalf of the U.S. Army--moved to intervene in the case. Both the petition for rehearing and the motion to intervene were denied. The settlement of the case on April 6 removes the necessity of holding a trial to determine whether a permanent injunction should be issued to COMD.

Besides granting COMD an equal opportunity to place advertisements, the settlement requires that the Grossmont school district provide all its journalism faculty advisors with a copy of the appellate court decision, that a copy of the decision be posted in each journalism classroom, and that a memorandum be issued to all principals in the district cancelling the original 1982 order banning publication of COMD advertisements.

--Carol Jahrkow, Recon Network

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CLIP-N-SEND

YES, I crave the fame and glory a Post-Amerikan T-shirt will bring me! I can't live without it. In fact I'll just die if I can't have a Post T-shirt!

Enclosed is my check for \$6.00. Thank you. You've made my life worth living again.

Circle Size S M L XL

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Clip-n-send to Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Community News

Summer camp teaches diabetes survival

Decatur, IL--Camp GranADA is a summer camp for children with diabetes between the ages of 8 and 15 which enables the campers to enjoy the traditional camping activities, learn to establish good habits, develop independence, and receive education on all phases of diabetes.

The camp will be held August 2-8, and is located at Western 4-H Camp on Lake Jacksonville, Illinois. The camp is sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, Downstate Illinois Affiliate, and serves children in 79 counties.

There is a weekly fee; however, some camper scholarships are available.

If you would like to sponsor a child or would like further information concerning camp, please contact the affiliate office at 1-800-445-1667.



Oppression raising your blood pressure?

With its complications, diabetes is this nation's third leading cause of death by disease which affects nearly 12 million Americans.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life.

Hypertension is more common among diabetics than nondiabetics, but the diabetes may not explain its presence. The factors that contribute to non-insulin-dependent diabetes and hypertension are similar, such as obesity and aging.

Approximately 58 million Americans have an increased risk of illness and early death due to hypertension. This represents more than one out of every four adult Americans.

Hypertension is abnormal high blood pressure--the pressure in the arteries as blood passes through them.

Once again, May is National High Blood Pressure Month, and the National High Blood Pressure Education Program has developed a plan with suggestions to lower blood pressure or maintain stable blood pressure. The program focuses on diet, exercise, smoking cessation and medication.

Hypertension increases the risk of developing heart, brain, eye and kidney disease as well as diseases of arteries and may shorten life by as much as 20 to 30 years.

Whether you are diabetic or not, hypertension is a serious problem. Since May is National High Blood Pressure Month, why not have your blood pressure checked? It may save your life.

For further information concerning diabetes and high blood pressure, contact the Downstate Illinois Affiliate office of the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-445-1667.

650 summer jobs available for youth

650 jobs will be available to economically disadvantaged youth this summer across a 4-county area served by the United Private Industry Council (UPIC).

Young people, ages 14-21, may call or stop in for a screening appointment for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in their resident county UPIC office in Mason, Fulton, McLean, or Tazewell County. Screenings begin April 1 and continue through May 29.

The primary eligibility requirement, income in relation to family size, will apply when youth are screened, and a parent or guardian must accompany applicants under 18 years of age.

SYEP is funded through a federal grant totaling approximately \$945,000. UPIC has awarded contracts to four organizations who will use the money to place youth in temporary summer positions for minimum wage.

All jobs will be at public, non-profit worksites and will range from 15-35 hours a week for an eight week period beginning June 15. Workers will do everything from cleaning parks and repairing school buildings to working as interns for various municipalities.

In addition to summer employment, some youth will be enrolled in special tutoring classes for academic credit, remedial reading instruction, and an employability skills training session.

Close down Hanford

The Hanford nuclear reservation is not producing plutonium right now, because sloppy management and a near-accident forced an independent panel to demand an overhaul and inspection of the facility. Two of the six panel members recommended that Hanford be closed permanently.

Highly radioactive liquid and solid wastes and millions of gallons of low-level wastes contaminate the area, posing a threat to the ecosystem that will persist for thousands of years.

The Reagan administration wants to reopen the reactor as soon as possible to supply plutonium for nuclear weapons. There is much evidence that existing supplies are more than ample.

The U.S. Congress may ask for an independent assessment of the need for plutonium, to be conducted through the Office of Technology Assessment, the General Accounting Office or the National Academy of Sciences. Please write your legislator and ask that the Congress examine the need for continuing plutonium production in light of the threat posed by the use of the Hanford reactor.

--Greenpeace Examiner, Vol. 12, No. 2

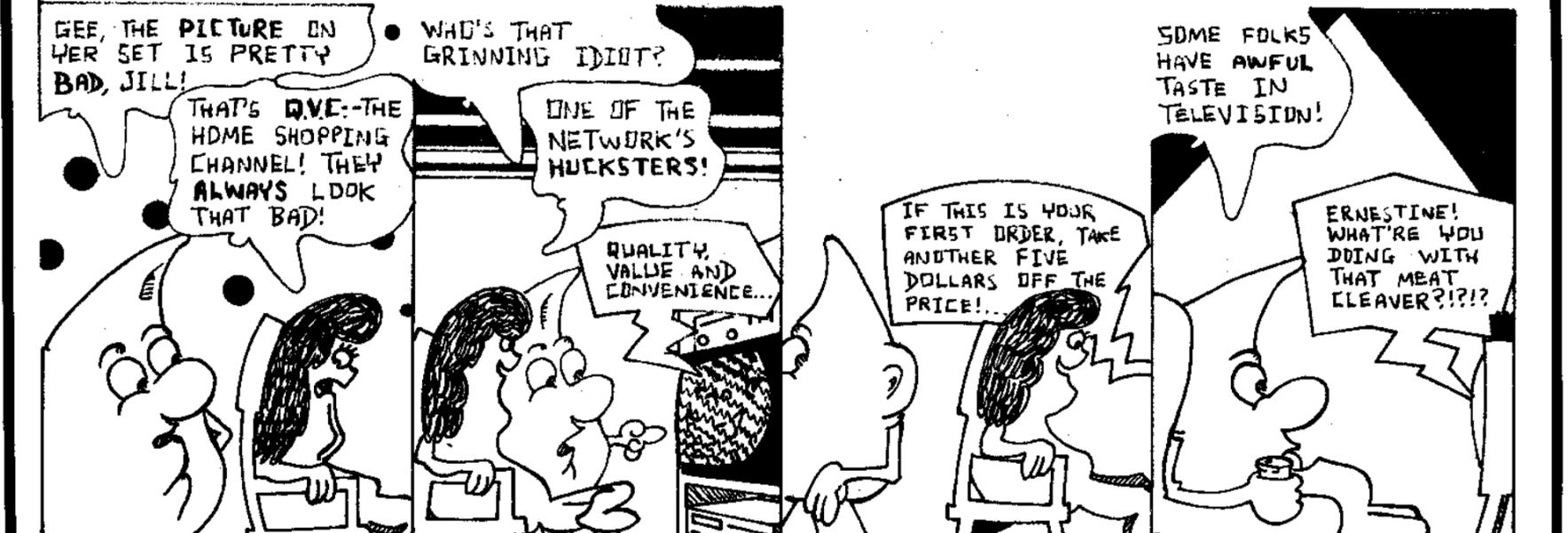
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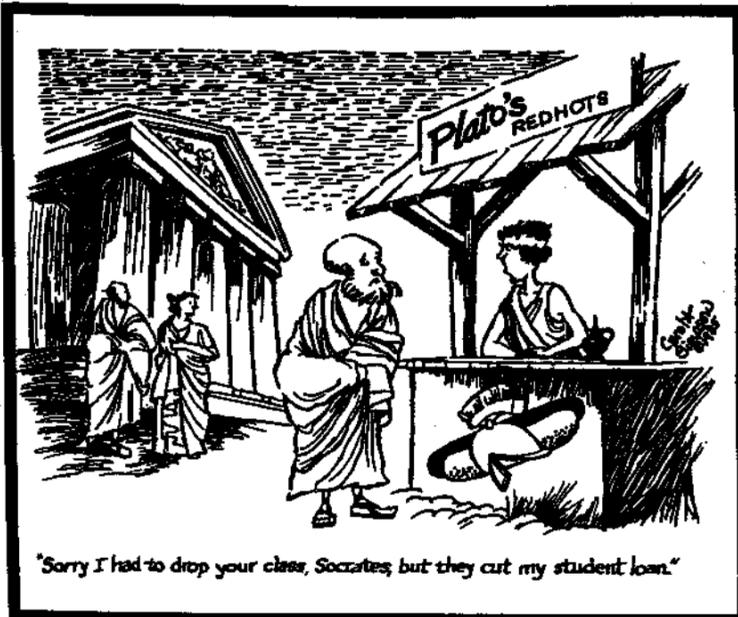


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CABLE COMIX





The fifth annual "Art and Music for the Rape Crisis Center" benefit will open with a reception for local artist Nicholas Africano from 6 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday, May 19, at Illinois State University's Center for the Visual Arts.

Thirteen monotype prints by Africano will be given to people who make donations of \$250 or more to the RCC.

Each signed monotype is different, and all were produced by painting directly onto a printing plate, which then was pressed on Japanese rice paper to make the print.

The monotypes will be exhibited in Gallery Two of the University Galleries until June 14, after which they will be delivered to donors.

Africano is represented in New York by the Holly Solomon Gallery. His work has been

shown in Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, and Venice. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, all in New York.

The Rape Crisis Center is a not-for-profit organization that provides trained counselors for the victims of rape, sexual assault, and sexual abuse; their families and friends; and the offenders of such crimes. It also provides training for hospital and law enforcement personnel, counselors, and other professionals. Its public education program speaks to high school, university, and adult education classes in the area, as well as community groups and organizations.

The RCC can be reached 24-hours a day by calling PATH at 827-4005 and asking for the Rape Crisis Center.

Camp directory available

The 1987 Camp Directory for children and teenagers with diabetes is now available free to the public.

The directory lists by state resident camps sponsored by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) affiliate associations and accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA). Information on local day camps is also available.

The 50 camps listed in the directory passed a rigorous review of both the ACA and ADA. Trained health personnel are on site, arrangements with local hospitals and medical facilities are in place, and other needs of this special medical population, such as nutritional needs, are taken into account.

Each year, approximately 100 children attend ADA camps in Western 4-H Jacksonville. Information on the camping program, financial assistance "camperships," and other ADA services and programs are available by contacting the Downstate Illinois Affiliate office at 1-800-445-1667.

Face behind the voice

One of the most popular National Library Service narrators of talking books, Yvonne Fair-Tessler, will be in the Community Room of Bloomington Public Library Thursday May 21, 1987 at 10:00 a.m.

Yvonne Fair-Tessler is presently a narrator for talking books, as well as a free lance talent and writer. She is noted for her narration of over 100 books for the National Library Service/Library of Congress, and has narrated such diverse works as *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *The World According to Garp*, *Hollywood Wives*, and *The Key to Rebecca*.

For further information on the "Face Behind the Voice" program or any of the talking book services, please contact H. Neil Kelley at 828-6091.

Chicago Blues Festival

Mayor Harold Washington has announced a partial list of headliners for the Fourth Annual Chicago Blues Festival, including James Cotton, Johnny Guitar Watson, Albert Collins, Carl Perkins and Clarence Carter. The festival dates are Friday, June 5, Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7. The world's largest free blues festival will include three staged areas for performances featuring local, national and international artists.

Other featured performers booked to date include Little Milton, Joe Liggins and the Honeydrippers, Jimmy and Syl Johnson, Sun Session Players, Jessie Mae Hemphill, Roscoe Gordon, Sunnyland Slim, Jimmy Walker, Homesick James, Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, Valerie

Wellington and Billy Branch. Music is scheduled continuously from noon until 10:30 p.m. each of the three days.

This year will host the return of the Chicago Blues Plate Special, the food area which premiered at last year's festival and showcased some of the city's most flavorful street foods.

In addition to the music scheduled during the three-day festival, the city and local blues community will host a wide variety of blues activities during the week prior to the festival, including several special neighborhood blues performances.

Last year's festival attendance nearly doubled from the previous year with 300,000 people visiting the Windy City during its three-day run. Friday night will be dedicated to "Sweet Home Chicago", featuring some of the best in local talent, while Sunday evening will be a tribute to Memphis-style Blues.

The 1987 Chicago Blues Festival will again include afternoon "Front Porch" sessions, presenting blues performers in a more intimate setting. Another successful addition to last year's festival was the "Crossroads" stage, which will also return this year, offering acoustic acts, as well as electric bands.

This year's program was chosen by the Blues Fest Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Special Events. The committee is comprised of musicians, club owners, record label executives, media and blues aficionados.

Further announcements regarding the Festival line-up, special programs, and sponsorship will be made later.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Center for the Visual Art Gallery

NICHOLAS AFRICANO

Monotypes

Exhibition and Benefit Sale for
The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

May 19 to June 14, 1987
Reception Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 p.m.

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Monday-Saturday Morning, 9:00-12:00

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Operation Recycle is McLean County's non-profit, volunteer supported, Community Recycling Center.
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Support community recycling.

This will be remembered as the time we were prevailed upon to "just say no." No to drugs, to alcohol, and tobacco; no to sex.

Nearly everyone I know has given up some formerly cherished "sin". Some are chewing nicotine gum and chugging nonalcoholic beer. Some are swearing off the midnight spliff or turning on in the bathroom, away from prying eyes of children who might love them just enough to turn them in. Some are turning in their own libidos, learning to regard the sex they used to revel in as a compulsion to be regulated.

Yesterday's stud is today's carrier; yesterday's head is today's substance abuser; yesterday's smoker is today's public health menace. As the war on drugs conflates with the war on porn, as AIDS becomes a buzzword for depravity, as drinking and smoking are rated R, Giving It Up has become a fashion statement. Antonovich, the furrier, advertises an "I-stopped-smoking coat"--the perfect '80's trade-off of pleasure for prestige.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with giving up smoking; it's more addictive, not to mention hazardous, than any illegal drug. And people do get hooked on drink, drugs, even sex. But not everyone who gets high is an alcoholic, not everyone who gets stoned is an addict, and not everyone who gets off is a sexual compulsive. Intoxication and arousal are supremely subjective experiences, with wildly varying effects on the body and personality.

Indulgence or abuse?

But God help the scholar or superstar who tries to draw a distinction between indulgence and abuse. That fool will never sit beside Joan Rivers, or banter with Ted Koppel, or cry out from the recesses of the op-ed page as legitimate extremists do. The only permissible way to talk about drugs these days is in the language of

crisis. Tell us the precise number of hospital beds occupied by casualties of substance abuse, the precise cost to business of drug use by workers, the precise level of increase in the potency of marijuana over the last nine years. Such statistics are in hot demand because they bolster the perception that a crisis exists.

The New Sobriety is more than a trend. It's a political program that expands the limits of law enforcement, the authority of employers. The concern over teenage pregnancy is used to mount an attack on television and rock music. The worry over child abuse in day-care centers becomes a source of anguish for working mothers--and an inducement for them to stay home. And, of course, the war on crack draws no distinctions between cocaine and marijuana, subjecting perhaps 30 million pot smokers to sur-

veillance. (The urine test is arguably most efficient at picking up marijuana use, since that drug stays in the body far longer than cocaine or opiates.)

Control paradigm

I call this process a control paradigm--that is, a model of clear and present danger that can be expanded to implicate and oppress many of us. It begins with a real problem--for example, teenage pregnancy. The obvious response would be to provide sex education, birth control, abortion. Instead, the New Sobriety preaches abstinence and instills guilt about sexual activity. By the same logic, fear of AIDS becomes the occasion for a wholesale libidinal purge, and measures that might enable millions of people to safely maintain their sexual activity are avoided in favor of continence.

A pilot whose judgment is impaired is truly a danger, but instead of testing the reflexes of pilots before they board a plane, the government is itching to monitor their alcohol and drug use.

Yes, smoking does cause lung cancer, drinking causes death on the highway, cocaine kills. Promiscuity does promote the spread of disease, and children have been abused in day-care centers. But when government deals with drunk driving by banning happy hours, or with lung disease by forbidding public servants to smoke cigarettes, or with child abuse by finger-printing all day-care workers (as well as all members of their families over the age of 16), something else is going on. In each of these situations, a problem provides the pretext to regulate "undesirable" behavior. The objective has less to do with personal safety than with social control.

As a balding, paunchy child of the '60's, my memories of friends and idols are laced with freak-outs and overdoses. Sometimes I think we went too far, sometimes not far enough; but in any case, I'm haunted by the world we failed to create. And this paralysis is one reason the New Sobriety has been such an unmitigated success. My generation, too, has its God that failed--and in the absence of faith, there's no basis for resistance, no temple to defend or ground on which to stand. If you let me have my stash, I'll let you have your crusade is about the best deal we care to make.

Collusion

So, the counterculture colludes in its own repression, and the backlash draws the same sort of momentum from this bitterness and uncertainty as it did during the Red Scare of the '50's when disillusioned former Communists joined in vengeful attacks on the left.

If the Aquarians are silent, the liberals are all too vocal. Once again, they're pressed to prove they aren't "soft" on something called "the enemy within." It's a mistake to see the New Sobriety as an aberration of the Reagan years. If anything, the recent rush to legislation on drugs ought to persuade us of how potent a consensus has developed on these issues.



Wrong

The New Sobriety

We'd do well to remember that it was Tip O'Neill, every liberal's favorite patriarch, who challenged Ronald Reagan to declare war on drugs. The Democratic House had no qualms about extending the death penalty to drug-related crime, urging suspension of the exclusionary rule barring illegally obtained evidence, and demanding use of the military to halt domestic drug dealing. We were saved from these abuses by a bipartisan coalition in the Republican Senate.

Only the libertarian right dares express any skepticism about the New Sobriety. It's William Safire, not Anthony Lewis, who labels the drug panic "narcomania"; it's National Review, not Rolling Stone, that worries about "a political movement that proposes to make outcasts of 30 million citizens." About the best the left can do is to point out that Big Money and No Money are responsible in a fundamental way for the drug traffic. In Harper's, the last angry hippie, Robert Stone, asks: "When they've said no to crack, can we give them something to say yes to?"

Fun

Yet somewhere in my marrow, I'm convinced people get high because it's fun. People fuck because it's fun. Even smoking, for all its evident hazards, is a pleasure. An acknowledgment of the pleasure principle is what's missing from the current assault on sex and drugs and rock "n" roll. People may alter their consciousness in destructive ways, they may be trapped in a culture that encourages addiction, but the initial impulse springs from a basic human desire for transformation, not a failure of self-esteem.

In a hostile, atomized environment it's easy to forget why sex and drugs were once regarded as vectors of liberation. It's hard to remember that the transformational power of an orgasm is something worth struggling for.

I can't forget that self-denial is every bit as dangerous as self-indulgence. I'm old enough to have lived in a society where physical pleasure was severely regulated. I can easily call up the memory of a '50s boyhood: the constant strain of clothing that pinched and cinched, the near-hysteria that roiled our politics and our libidos. I remember friends who suddenly appeared in school with different names, as their parents tried to escape the wages of some distant Marxist sin. And I remember the man in my building whose teenage daughter was pregnant. One morning, he collapsed and died from the strain. His teeth fell out of his mouth and lay on the sidewalk. Staring down at them, I learned something: The wages of virtue can also be death.

As church and state, corporation and family reassert themselves, as the grip of institutions tightens over our lives, regulating pleasure has become a tool in the construction of social

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In the rush to saturate the airwaves with antidrug messages that forsake realism for naive righteousness, we can glimpse the coercion that underlies consensus. Just as businesspeople are monitored by "activists," we are all under implicit observation by hot lines any neighbor can dial. The president urges workers to report their drug-using colleagues, arguing that informing should be seen as "saving a life," not "squealing on a friend." Add to these vectors of surveillance our own children, suddenly invested with the power to betray. No wonder there's so little opposition to the New Sobriety.

Brouhaha

To separate what society says about pleasure and danger from what we actually feel, we need to understand what the war on drugs, the panic over adolescent sexuality, the anxiety about alcohol, and the brouhaha over birth control have in common, and why these issues are arising now. Ten years ago, we were up in arms about additives and pollutants; today, we're mobilizing against intoxicants and promiscuity. In the shadow of Chernobyl, that's quite a shift.

The power of the New Sobriety lies in its ability to fuse groups that are usually at each other's throats. There has always been a connection between the counterculture and the evangelicals, in their common quest for a transcendental political reality, in their mutual mistrust of rationalism, materialism, and liberalism. But who ever thought the Granola generation would come to embrace an agenda in which sex and drugs are proscribed? Who ever thought that feminists who once insisted on their right to pleasure would end up embracing the politics of safety?

In the rolling dialectic of cultural politics, alliances are constantly shifting. But one thing about the current critique that is unlikely to change is its association of sinful pleasure and insurgency. That connection must be fundamental to the New Sobriety, because all the forms of pleasure under attack have this in common: They represent—at least in the popular imagination—a powerfully antisocial impulse. When we get high, we really are withdrawing from ordinary social discourse. When we watch a porn film, we really are embarking on an interaction in which the rules of conduct are suspended. At their most profound, these alterations of consciousness allow us to regress to a state of infantile arousal in which the self is utterly omnipotent. And this recovery of pure desire was an emblem of the counterculture at its

most utopian. So the current repudiation of sex and drugs is one more renunciation of the '60s, with its promise to make ecstasy part of ordinary existence.

Fit to print

We don't hear from the millions of people for whom drugs and erotica are components of a productive life; this is not the kind of news that's fit to print. We do hear from those who were endangered, and we see those who've been destroyed; they are all around us, visible proof that the pursuit of ecstasy is a risky business. But a program that focused on rescuing the afflicted would not have created such elaborate mechanisms of intrusion into our bodies and homes.

For the New Sobriety has as its ultimate aim the standardization of ecstasy. It is the psychic arm of a cultural movement to reassert "values" - the codes of behavior and, more significantly, social hierarchy that were suspended, or at least muddled, in the '60s and '70s. As Reaganism calls an end to racial and sexual mobility, as it restores the dominance of family and corporate units over the individual, as it affirms the power of religious orthodoxy over modernist faith in the heterodoxies of "identity," those emblems of inner autonomy—sex and drugs—must also be brought under control.

America has always veered precipitously between extremes of hedonism and frigidity, ecstasy and repression, anarchy and regimentation. As a culture, we dance wildly round the maypole and then, abruptly, try to chop it down. In this sequence, one can glimpse as clearly as in the political process a struggle between our abhorrence of desire and our urge to unleash it.

Ecstasy and violence, pleasure and danger—maybe they are inexorably linked. If the New Sobriety accomplishes nothing else it will



force those who despise its grim commandments to reconcile the often warring imperatives of pleasure and safety. The counterculture fell apart before its moral impulses could be institutionalized, leaving us free to invoke powerful drives, but adrift without a tradition to regulate them. In the absence of community, pleasure went private in the '70s, and the burgeoning commercialism of sex and drugs that followed is one reason why the current backlash has such credibility. The project now must be to resanctify pleasure and all its implements - to produce erotica that commemorates the primal human act, to generate strategies for getting high that maximize revelation and minimize dependence, to develop lubes and shields that free sex from the scourge of disease. Such inventions can only be possible if we insist on what the New Sobriety denies: that arousal and intoxication are fundamental human impulses, not accessories to a lifestyle. At the same time we need to acknowledge what the New Sobriety proclaims: That pleasure can unleash violence, and that attention must be paid.

--Richard Goldstein, for The Village Voice

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consensus. The forge is fired with anxiety, generated by media that uncover crisis after crisis. There's no time to stop and think: How authentic is the state of emergency? Is drug use really on the rise? (A recent government study concluded that the use of all illicit drugs except cocaine has remained stable--or declined.) Are teenagers drinking more than ever before? (A whole new criminal class has been created by recent laws raising the drinking age from 18 to 21.) Are kids having sex sooner these days? (Or is it just that "nice" girls are now doing what boys always did?)

Anthems of resistance

In the '50s, when the mainstream culture was obsessed with "jungle music" and juvenile delinquency, kids could cultivate another perspective in comic books, horror movies, and especially rock'n'roll. Their adversarial nature inspired my generation to resist, and ultimately to assert its own values. It might seem as if nothing could



be more of an invitation to resist than the parched rictus of Nancy Reagan urging kids to "just say no" but in fact, the capacity for personal dissent depends on a culture of dissent. And one of the most compelling aspects of the New Sobriety is its command of youth culture. With the occasional exception of rap (a refuge for the earthy prerogatives of black music), there are no anthems of resistance to the New Sobriety (and even rap artists know enough about commercial survival to put their shoulders to the antidrug campaign).

The incredible speed with which Madison Avenue, the networks, the sports and music industries joined forces to respond to the declaration of a drug emergency could only occur in a climate where the media have already been subjected to assault by quasi-governmental "citizen's groups." What with the monitoring of rock lyrics, the picketing of movie houses, and the threat to boycott convenience stores that carry Playboy, a distributor, exhibitor, or programmer who brazenly promotes hedonism risks the wrath of "activists" who are far better organized and much more sanctimonious than those secular humanists who enjoy erotica.



Perverse ideas

Sometimes the routine of life is almost unbearable. Five days a week there is the same job for the same hours of the day. There is a safe place to return to at night. There is always enough to eat and drink. Occasionally the desire is pressing to be free of all this comfort and stability, to start now on some pilgrimage with only the provisions carried at that moment. It would be truly dangerous, but also truly stimulating. All of your faculties would be totally concentrated on the present--keep your eyes open. Listen. How will I survive? What will I eat? Where will I sleep? Such an adventure would be like traveling to another world.

Living sometimes presents us with alarming challenges whether we want them or not. There are automobile crashes, natural disasters, serious illnesses and catastrophic economic turns. The Great Depression, for example, eradicated people's jobs and life savings simultaneously.

Today, many family-owned farms have been taken in foreclosures and still more are threatened with the same fate due to economic changes. A group of significant numbers believes that the Government should enact laws and administer programs to stop these foreclosures. The basis of this conclusion appears to be that it is wrong for people to lose their way of life due to forces beyond their control. The farm-owning families were working just as hard and honestly as before the economic turn. They committed no crime. Therefore, society should not permit calamity to strike them.

In the same way, many agree that the Government should insure everyone against such disasters as job loss due to economic/technological changes and serious illness. Some even think the Government should provide some minimum of food, clothing, shelter, employment, and

medical care for everyone who requires assistance. In short, to guarantee every person some standard of living comfort and stability. Well known and respected advocates of such a system in recent times include Andrei Sakharov, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Kenneth Galbraith, and Erich Fromm.

In the past few years East Coast city government actions indicate movement toward this type of Government. In 1985, Mayor Koch of New York authorized police and social workers to stop anyone who appeared to be homeless on nights



when the temperature dropped below 32°F. The person was then to be offered a ride to a shelter. If the person refused, a superior officer or social work executive could be consulted. If the superior ordered it, the police or social workers could forcibly transport the person to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation. Later that same year, a federal district judge allowed the U.S. Government to close a decaying shelter in Washington, D.C., only on the condition that it find new homes for all the residents.

Is this course of making the Government responsible for providing everyone a minimum standard of living really desirable? Consider what would be necessary to provide such a standard. Taxes would increase dramatically. The Government bureaucracy would mushroom with the people required to administer the increased revenue. Any aid administered through the Government is, of course, going to be regulated. One can see this even today. For instance, there are restrictions on what can be purchased with food stamps. Medicare payments are likewise contingent upon certain conditions and regulations. Let's suppose a program is created to guarantee everyone retraining if their former job begins to be done by machine. Isn't the scenario of aptitude tests used by officials to "recommend" the most appropriate area of study all too believable? If employment is guaranteed for all, won't the case be one of Government assigning people to jobs and not individuals selecting their own? In any

situation where society is footing the bill, the use of the resources will be that which most benefits society and not necessarily what the individual would choose.

The presumed good to be achieved by these increased restrictions on individual freedom is the elimination of suffering and danger in life. This may seem like a stupid question, but is that truly good? Aren't the challenges and risks in life an indispensable part of it? That's what I was trying to show at the beginning of this essay: too much stability does not enhance life, it stagnates it. For example, what would happen to personal growth and integrity if one of Erich Fromm's prescriptions was applied? He proposed in his book *The Sane Society* that, "Each individual can act as a free and responsible agent only if one of the main reasons for present-day un-freedom is abolished: the economic threat of starvation which forces people to accept working conditions which they would otherwise not accept." Fromm recommends that people be allowed to escape this "un-freedom" by claiming their guaranteed minimum standard of living. Such a program would remove much of the risk of quitting a job simply because you don't like it. Which action requires more integrity? Quitting when you know some minimum income will still be available to you, or quitting without such a support?

Looking from another angle at how danger in life is necessary, consider why the astronauts of today are so admired. They are because they have chosen to face dangers and suffering in order to follow the desires of their hearts. They are not risking their lives solely for altruistic reasons. They have accepted a dangerous challenge because of the opportunity it provides to develop and test their abilities to the utmost. "It is so much easier to live placidly and complacently. Of course, to live placidly and complacently is not to live at all" (Jack London).

The more we demand Government to make our lives placid, to insure us against handicaps, against job loss, against the infirmities of old age, ultimately against all hazards, the less free we will become and the less rich our lives will be. Perhaps the course we should take is not attempting to provide this insurance, but improving our mental and bodily abilities for coping with hazards. It should be realized that suffering and danger are necessary for life. Does this sound insane? I hope that I am not simply trying to make an elaborate excuse for selfishness and cruelty. Certainly it is perverse to recommend that people be allowed to live in misery for their own good. But the response to human misery must not be locking ourselves into golden prisons.

The quarrel is with those who see in sound public service some danger to society. In fact the public services are one of the two great forces in the fiscal system working for economic equity and social stability.

John Kenneth Galbraith

"The world's stable now. People are happy; they get what they want, and they never want what they can't get. They're well off; they're safe; they're never ill; they're not afraid of death. . . . And if anything should go wrong, there's soma. Which you go and chuck out of the window in the name of liberty, Mr. Savage. Liberty!" He laughed.

Aldous Huxley

--Madame Bovary

Coors banned in Boston

Openly gay Boston City Councillor David Scondras announced that Coors Beer will no longer be sold at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. The move to ban Coors came as a result of negotiations between Scondras, Fenway Park management and union representatives.

"Boston baseball fans should not be subsidizing a terrorist war in Central America," said Scondras, referring to Coors' funding of the Contras, "nor should they help support a family that is dedicated to attacking the rights of gay people, blacks, women and unions."

Last year Scondras won an agreement from Fenway Park management to severely restrict Coors sales. This year's decision to ban the beer entirely is believed to be one of the single largest contracts Coors has lost as a result of its alleged homophobic, racist and anti-union activities.

"Councillor Scondras has shown that together working people, gay people and all those struggling for social justice can win," said Dominic Bozzotto, head of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 26.

Bozzotto went on to urge activists in other cities to investigate beer sales in other sports parks and arenas to see if Coors is being sold; "Baseball is supposed to be an all American sport -- with their record of union-busting, opposing workers' dignity and human rights, and funding terrorism in Central America -- Coors doesn't deserve to be sold in any park in this country."

--MGM

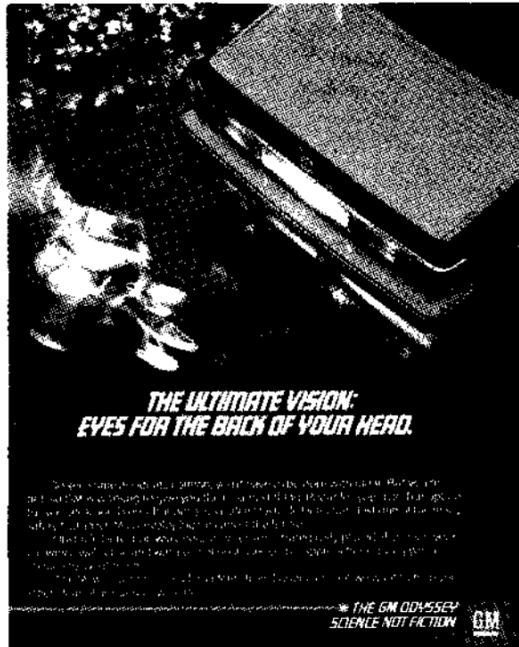
The GM odyssey: Lies, not science

The adjoining ad is one in a series of "GM Odyssey" pieces now appearing in popular magazines like Scientific American. In an Orwellian twist, the advertiser improves its image by promising impossible advances in a future never to come. Most importantly, the promises will not be remembered.

This ad shows a blonde, white child on a tricycle behind a car. The caption: "The Ultimate Vision: Eyes for the Back of Your Head." It implies, of course, that the child has narrowly escaped being squished. How? With the new radar technology from GM, which provided a WATCH warning on the dashboard when it sensed the trike. (Note the sample dashboard at the bottom of the ad.)

A quick glance at the ad and its text makes GM look pretty good. After all, squishing a blonde, white child would be disconcerting to almost any driver. But one thought further and you realize that the driver's old-fashioned turn-head, check-mirrors, honk, and scream-at-kids method would also work.

In fact, one thought further would make you wonder how much this radar technology will add to the price of the family car. And whether it will indeed alert you to every garbage can and telephone pole in your vicinity. Or, if the sensor only alerts you to movement, imagine what your dashboard will look like when you drive on the freeway.



Well, not to worry, because a bit closer reading lets you know that this great invention is only a fantasy at GM, anyway. "GM is working" to bring you Obstacle Detection for "cars of the future."

Actually, GM is working on your mind's tendency to retain an overall impression and forget the details. Since most of us don't carefully think through ads like this, we're likely to remember, "Oh, yeah, GM is doing all that high-tech safety stuff so we won't squish white kids and cute deer."

Yes, cute deer are saved in the next installment of the GM series, which adds an infrared monitor onto the dashboard, thus showing the driver outlines of two deer in the road ahead, otherwise invisible in the dark, rainy night. Will the driver really be able to stop in time under these conditions?

It doesn't matter, does it? What matters is the reading public's memory that GM really tries to save Heidi and Bambi, to make humane use of technology. Given that we all want to believe that technology has humane uses, it's quite a gimmick.

You can almost see the ad team slapping their thighs and hooting when they finally came up with the slogan: "The GM Odyssey: Science not Fiction."

--Phoebe Caulfield

Equal Rights Amendment Returns

As many of us may already be aware, the 200th birthday of the U.S. Constitution is being celebrated this summer. In the great celebratory tradition of the Bicentennial and last year's Statue of Liberty festivities, our government will be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to salute that document which guarantees the fundamental rights and liberties of Amerikan citizens. But once again, legislators are going to be asked to stop and think about what is wrong with this picture, a picture that after 200 years, still doesn't include over half of Amerikan citizens--women.

A new Equal Rights Amendment will be introduced to Congress this summer with hopes of finally providing a fundamental Constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women. In an era in which the Supreme Court has grown increasingly conservative, when the President appoints right-wing reactionaries to judgeships in the lower Federal courts, and the Justice Department plays fast and loose with everyone's legislative gains, an ERA is needed now more than ever. It is not a mere symbolic gesture, for in addition to the legislative losses



women have faced, economic discrimination continues.

According to the National Organization for Women, women employed outside the home receive on average only 64 cents

for every dollar paid to a man. Elderly women dependent on Social Security must manage on barely two-thirds of the benefits men receive. Young women with a college degree earn, on average, about the same wage as men with an eighth-grade education. And the list, unfortunately, goes on.

With Reagan and his ilk in power, these trends will be difficult to reverse--Phyllis Schlafly is even a member of the government's official Bicentennial Commission. But without an ERA, these trends will be impossible to reverse. The time has come to include women in the Constitution.

The struggle for Constitutional equality has been long and hard fought, and this new battle will be equally difficult. The opposition is already hard at work planting fear appeals in the minds of an uninformed public. But remember that the suffragists took 72 years to win the right to vote. Justice will be ours in the end--failure is impossible.

-LH



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Mantra Mash '87: "Artluck"

Well, it's been over a year since the Gallery closed. Bands have broken up, performers and artists have left town, and the live art scene in Bloomington/Normal has seemed more dismal than ever. With no place to exhibit or perform their work, it felt like our creative community had really dried up for good.

Not so. As this year's Free-X Avant-garde Arts Festival (Mantra Mash '87) proved, there are still plenty of creative folks out there with lots to offer to the artistic community. They've just been all dressed up with no place to go.

Mantra Mash '87 happened on May 2, again in the Eddy Building, thanks to the hospitality of hosts Larry Sylvester and Mary Ann Dillman. The format for the Festival was much the same as last year's (that is, almost anything goes) with a few organizational additions: Programs and posters for the Festival were available, as well as the first edition of HULP, a publication featuring poetry, prose, and artwork contributed to the Festival. Out of respect for the performers and artists involved, the Mash was made alcohol-free this year. And finally, due to the increased number of people interested in performing and exhibiting their work, the Festival was split into different areas of the fourth and fifth floors.

A large studio on the fourth floor provided space for musical guests. A wide variety of sounds were heard during the course of the evening, from the tense dance/pop of Diatribe to the atonal improvisations of Madison's Grace, joined by Pennsylvania avant-garde improviser Jack Wright and W. Germany's Andreas Stehle on saxophones. (To give an idea of how the Festival has grown, these two were on tour, heard about the Mash from people in Madison, and called to ask if they could play!). Other bands which kept the floor shakin' all night long were Bad Examples, Les Dix, Earl's Breakdown, 100 East, Mr. Hand, Toltecs, and Sert Lom Boon's Festival of Love.

The entire fourth and fifth floor (penthouse) space was open for visual artists to exhibit their work. Artists from ISU, Bloomington/Normal, Champaign/Urbana, Decatur, and Chicago showcased a variety of paintings, sculpture, and collage in the hallways, galleries, and studios. This created a wonderful and diverse visual experience to be walked through, around, and under. This area also featured a table of small press offerings from Bloomington, Champaign, and Madison.

The Penthouse space was open to performance art, drama, readings, and some improvised music of a more experimental nature. Some of the highlights of the evening here were Beth Murphy, et al., doing their hilarious performance "why do I live with rats", Kelly Frazier's readings from "Faces Fauz Pax", and Aquatics Ever Tarhish's "The Honeymoon Deconstructs." Liz Was and Miekel And from Madison make up Aquatics, and they were married in Madison as a performance piece. "Deconstructs" was their honeymoon performance and featured tapes, improvisation, and audience involvement. Other performers included Mark Stairwalt, Tood Garrison, Ed Ridgeway, the Patchouli-Scented Crazyies, Grudge, KJ Productions, and Schiz-Flux, who's slogan "Free the Genitals, Cage the Generals" became very appropriate in their piece, "What the Hell is Going On?"

The Festival also featured "Artluck", an art exchange idea in which all persons attending the Festival were asked to bring in a piece of original art. These would be exchanged later in the evening. Unfortunately, the "Artluck" didn't really get off the ground, probably due to lack of publicity and advance notice. Oh, well better luck next year.....Wait a minute! Why wait till next year, anyway? The whole point of the Festival, its reason for being, is to bring artists out of isolation, and to encourage the exchange of ideas and talents. I think it would be a real shame if everybody that participated and attended the Festival now crawled back into their own niches (i.e. bands, studios, classrooms, desks) to wait until the next for-

mal, organized opportunity to share comes along. Why not make it a continuous endeavor? Here's some suggestions:

If you're in a band, get out and play with different people. Look for musicians with an open mind, and keep one yourself. Try to play with people who aren't necessarily like-minded. It's a great way to learn and create brand new sounds at the same time.

If you're a visual artist, don't always work alone. Give yourself some time to paint, draw, sculpt, etc., with other people in a collaborative effort. Don't worry about producing a piece that is "gallery quality"--it's the process that counts.

These same things hold true for writers, performance artists, photographers, filmmakers, etc. A writer doesn't always have to sit alone in his/her room to work, he/she can write in collaboration with a dancer, a dramatist, or a musician to produce a piece of intensity and effect. Get the picture? Anybody can make art. And everybody should be looking for alternative places to present their work.

I guess what I'm really trying to say is that the Mantra Mash, as exciting and fun as it is, shouldn't be seen as just a singular event designed to bring artists out of the woodwork once a year. Hopefully, it will be seen as an inspiration to stay visible and to try to build a network within the creative community, one that results in growth for everyone involved.

Anyway, next year's Festival should be bigger and better than ever, so start getting ready for it now.

'Nuff said?
--Diane Ferris

P.S.--Mark Johnson and I are beginning to network with other artists in the area who are interested in collaboration and live performance. If you're interested, give us a call at 829-4377.



Looking forward, looking back

We always try to mention in the Thanks column everyone who has directly participated in getting the paper out. However, in light of the conditions at the Post, I wanted to add a special thanks.

This issue I, as the coordinator, requested articles in advance of the usual deadline. The writers came through. So did those people who edited, proofread and typed a week in advance. Some of these folks have never worked for the paper before, but they gave hours of their time for this issue, easing some burdens for the rest of us. It is to these people and the people who came down and laid out the paper that I want to say a special thank you.

I also can't forget those individuals who have been doing thankless, routine, behind-the-scenes Post work for years. We may not see you often, but you are terribly important to us. What we need are more people like you.

To those people moving or leaving the Post in the near future I want you to know you will be sorely missed. You have given years of time, energy and creativity to the paper, and one of the reasons it has survived so long is because of people like you.



I have a few thoughts for the folks who are new and who are interested in becoming a part of the post. Getting involved with putting out a paper might seem like a tremendous commitment of time and effort, but it does not need to mean total involvement on your part. You can still help us by doing one task every six weeks, tasks such as taking the paper to the post office, typing, buying supplies, etc.

We still, of course, need people to write and edit articles, sell ads, and do the actual lay out of the pages. Lay out can be a pleasant experience, but it can become grueling if too much is done by too few for too long. You lose talented and dedicated people that way.

Obviously things are going to change at the Post, but I cannot seem to let the paper go, at least not without trying to save it. And there are others who feel as I do. Others who feel we just have not tapped into that network of people who will help a little bit here, a little there, who feel there are those out there who will come in and join us. We have got to have you if we are going to survive. Please think about it. If the Post Amerikan is as important to you as it is to us, call and let us know how you can help support the longest, continuously printing, alternative newspaper in the United States.

--Val

Passed Normal Review

Here's the recipe: take a bunch of guys, feed them a steady diet of Zappa and Pink Floyd, throw in some Brian Eno, Robert Fripp, Laurie Anderson, John Cale, Ornette Coleman, and Dr. Hook. For good measure, nurture with beer, bongos and mushrooms, throw them in a room with some musical instruments, electronic effects and a multi-track recorder. Mix to taste. What will you get? Probably something akin to "Passed Normal" and "Way Passed Normal"

("the cassettes"), two more releases from Home Recordings/Fot Records, Central Illinois' own alternative music label.

Like many of Home Recordings' other releases, "Passed Normal" may be living proof of that much over-quoted remark by Andy Warhol, you know, the one about everybody getting famous for fifteen minutes. Well, maybe these guys won't get too famous for these efforts but at least

they're giving it the old college drop-out try.

"Passed Normal" (which is also available in album form) is a compilation of local (including That Hope and Tricycle Thieves) and national (Shockabilly, Snakefinger, and Fred Frith) alternative artists, kind of the musical equivalent to abstract expressionism in visual art. Some listeners' first reaction might be "shit, I could have done that myself," and that may be the case for a few of these tracks. These are the cuts that sound like your roommates after they have over-indulged in the chemicals of their choice and begin reliving moments of all their favorite Queen albums outside your bedroom door at three in the morning. This is the sort of self indulgence best experienced in a chemically enhanced state of lowered expectations and heightened appreciation of new and unusual experiences.

On the other hand, "Passed Normal" offers quite a few selections which are interesting enough or whimsical enough, or have enough of that certain something about them to make them worth a listen. I caught myself smiling from time to time, and even, much to my surprise, found my foot tapping once. A warning to animal lovers--my dog was somewhat disturbed by various electronic noises contained on this album.

The bottom line is, everyone isn't going to like everything contained on "Passed Normal" or its even weirder, less accessible sequel, "Way Passed Normal." A lot of people aren't really going to like anything on these two tapes, but there is something here for some of us to enjoy. If you actively listen to Madonna or Lionel Richie, forget it. However, if you are in an adventurous mood or just like something kind of wild and wacky to listen to when you're high or even when you're not, "Passed Normal" and "Way Passed Normal" could be just the thing you've been looking for.

-LH

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VIDEO MUSIC

Mother Murphy's in Normal is the most popular hangout for the deal finder. If you only have a buck, you can leave with an album, which is in suprisingly good shape and usually very popular .ring its time.

Murphy's specialize in used records and also sell silk screens, buttons and other assorted items ideal for the dorm room. It is located at 111 1/2 N. Street:

— Tim O'Brien

Entertainment Editor
 Daily Vidette

Post-Amerikan--solid past, shaky future?

Can Central Illinois survive without the Post-Amerikan? Can local politicians and developers be allowed that much peace and undisturbed sleep?

For the past 15 years, the Post has managed to do its share of upsetting the placid waters of lily-white all-amerikan all-republican middle-amerika.

Through its evolution from a campus-protest rag to a sophisticated chronicle of the local underbelly, the Post has filled a void that every community needs filling, and one which goes sadly unfulfilled in this day of canned newscasts and USA Today.

The Post has always been there to speak the unspeakable. It has recognized interests and communities of people that the straight media largely ignores or unfairly stereotypes.

And now, unless it receives a transfusion of new blood and new energy, the Post-Amerikan might become an artifact of local history, rather than a continual pinprick to the status-quo.

Looking back at those 15 years of the Post's activity, one can see some journalism that rose above the simple rant-n-rave to real investigative digging.

Thanks to the Post, the foolishness of local narcs was exposed,

cops learned how to tread a little more lightly, mistreated workers found a champion, and ignored local groups, particularly the gay community, found an accessible and ready voice.

Perhaps the high point of the Post came during the mid-seventies, when the paper was maturing, actually supporting a full-time staff member for a brief period, and having the money to add color to some issues.

Perhaps the time has come to let the Post go, and remember the long evenings that numerous volunteers spent haggling over semantics, typing away at an odd assortment of typewriters that never matched, and mastering the intricacies of design and layout.

The Post survived its initial rush of campus activity because a committed group of people emerged in the local community and made the paper theirs.

First and foremost are always the readers. The Post has found readers from many walks of life. Some read for amusement and edification, finding a link to an alternative local community through the Post's pages. Others, in positions of power, the mayors, developers, cops and the phone company PR department, probably read the Post with a mixture of dread and apprehension, seasoned with a little titillation, as they hurriedly scanned the pages for the

latest exposé of their crimes against the people.

Post volunteers were always a diverse group, too, who came to the paper with different needs, ideas and inspirations.

Perhaps the finest thing that marked the continually shifting collective of Post staffers was their real commitment to the local community and their championing of the oppressed, which was coupled with a rejection of ideology. This left the Post a lively mixed bag, separating it from many other left-wing publications. One thing that has always marked Post folks is their ability to party and enjoy life, and not get stuck in the muck and mire that bogs down most of left-dom.

Should the Post fade from the scene?

I certainly hope not. I hope that you the reader will let the committed people that have been bringing you the Post know of your support. Financial contributions are nice, but most necessary are people willing to take up the pen, or come monthly to a layout weekend, and learn the simple skills of pasting up a page.

The Post-Amerikan has never lacked the thing that sets it off from the straight press--passion. Hopefully there is enough passion left in all of us who believe in the Post, that we are willing to make some effort to keep it biting, barking, alive and inspiring.

If not--thanks for the memories. It's been fun.

--MgM

Your dog eats better than this hippie.



That's right. Sprouts, bean curd, Blatz beer. And do you know why? Because she works for the Post Amerikan. And the Post Amerikan is a non-profit organization and that means no salaries, wages, tips or other compensation for Ms. Hippie. But Ms. Hippie and the others like her at the Post Amerikan aren't complaining for their own sake--no, they just want to keep bringing you their wild propagandistic opinions and delightfully wry observations of the world around us. But that gets difficult when we have no money. Think of us as the Underprivileged Newspaper. And you could help. A \$10 donation costs a measly ten bucks. A subscription to the Post costs a measly \$4.00. That's just 33¢ a month. For the price of a lousy cuppa coffee you could make a group of needy lefties so happy. Think of it. Or buy one of our classy T-shirts. Or write us a letter telling us you love us. Is there anybody out there?

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