

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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6-1988

## Volume 17, Number 1

Post Amerikan

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midwifery/candidates and gays/Reagans

Bloomington-Normal

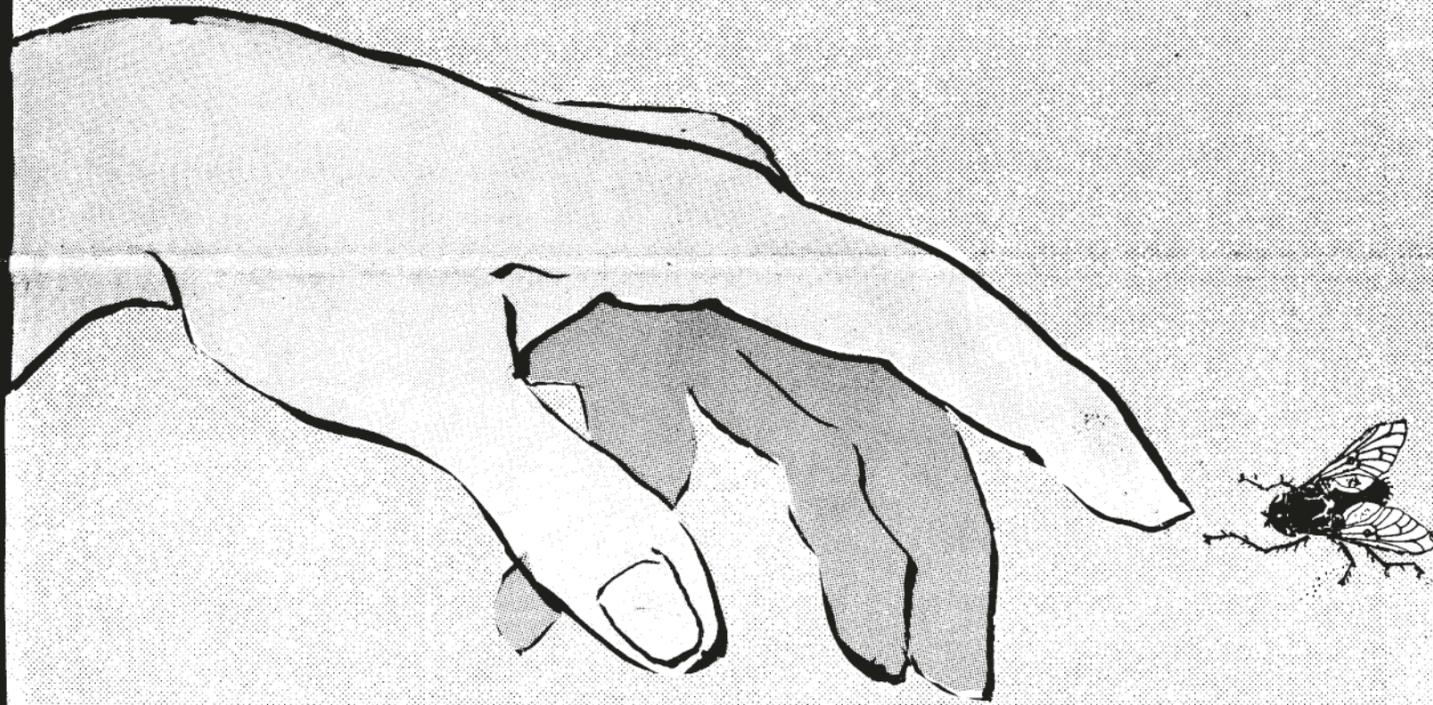
June/July 1988

25¢

# POST AMERIKAN

Vol. 17, No. 1

Post trashes  
so-called Creator  
p. 8-9



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
POST AMERIKAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

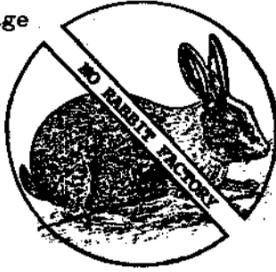
BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 168  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

# Bloomington-Normal Post Amerikan



## In this issue:

- 2.....Helpful table of contents, benefit ad, other page 2 stuff.
- 3.....A look at the ideal future of birthing.
- 4.....OSHA works against safety and health.
- 5.....Brutal and dangerous rabbit factory approved.
- 6.....Community news breakthroughs.
- 7.....Underground artist remembered; movie review in alternative form; the controversial Ask Ms. Hippie
- 8-9.....Is God dead? You tell us.
- 10-11....Nancy Reagan ridiculed and berated.
- 12-13....Praiseful and vitriolic letters.
- 14-15....Presidential candidates' stands on gay rights.
- 16.....The Underground Barfly hits Mugsy's and Pub II.



## About us

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or down played by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media.

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe it is very important to keep a newspaper like this around. If you think so too, then please support us by telling your friends about the paper, donating money to the printing of the paper, and telling our advertisers you saw their ad in the Post Amerikan.

The next deadline for submitting Post material is Thursday, July 14. Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed.

## There is a cure for the Summertime Blues.

# Post Amerikan

## Benefit Weekend July 15 & 16 The Gallery



111 e. beaufort, normal

Friday: Folk, Blues, Jazz 7pm  
Saturday: Electric Music 7pm

**\$3** each night

late-nite SoberUp® Breakfast \$2

## 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 & Morrisey  
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, southpast corner  
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway  
(in front)

## 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  
Gay & Lesbian Resource  
Phoneline (11-4 M-R).....438-2429  
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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanks

This paper is in your hands due to the work of Val, Laurie (coordinator), Peter, Susie, Bill, Bumper, Ralph, Marty, Deborah, and Sue.



# Midwifery and homebirth: the future

A big factor in the year 2000 was the insurance industry's awakening to the obscene waste on obstetrics when the low-cost, high-satisfaction and greater safety of midwifery would make much bigger profits! In the mid-80s they had reaped similar financial benefits by stopping the funding of unnecessary circumcisions. They paid out less when the public quit because insurance didn't cover it or were caused to explore the issue and then decided against it.

While you are being born, a publicly-funded "flying squad" emergency vehicle (complete with operating room, an OB, and two RNs) pulls into the driveway quietly and parks. The staff inside sits through yet another birth playing cards and watching videos.

Their service is offered to all, but is seldom used now that real prevention of problems is practiced through good nutrition and midwifery care. Most importantly the public perception of birth has changed to one of taking responsibility and having confidence in birth to work most of the time.

Birth is no longer secret and kept in institutions. Birth knowledge is not hoarded by professionals. Birth is once again just a special part of the normal cycles of life and death.

Children grow up getting childbirth education at school. They see births of their siblings. Their grandmothers probably help at an occasional birth and their mothers eventually serve as attendants of some kind also.

The half-joking comment "a midwife on every block" is almost literally true. Helping each other birth is just something women do in Amerika by 2028. Each ethnic group has its own attendants they feel comfortable with. Women have a lot of choices and get much better care.

With the solid re-emergence of midwifery and homebirth, the malpractice "fever" broke. Informed choice and respect for clients (not "patients") became the standards women came to expect of all caregivers.

The rise of midwifery was also partly responsible for more employment and greater status for women of all ages, but especially older women. Traditional "granny midwifery" worked out best as a system. Midwives and attendants could raise their own families first. Young women could earn more and even take their kids as they worked as home postpartum visitors. They would gradually gain experience that way and occasionally be at births also. Apprenticeships in middle years were easily entered, sometimes after courses at a junior college.

The two local hospitals are still around in 2028, but their roles in birth are back to what they should be--for extreme cases. Perhaps an occasional mother will be involved in a car accident. Even then her supporters accompany her into the operating room to help her stay safe and have a good birth.

Each hospital has a long list of independent doulas and midwives who accompany their few clients who birth there. Experienced "wise women" and hospital folks have laid to rest the old power struggle that embittered them. The circle of birth has been healed; everyone recognizes and respects each other's being a part of it.

## Celebration

At your home, the mood turns festive now. As your mama catches you, you look at her and cry a little. She cradles you close and coos to you. Others cover you both with warmed blankets. Everyone celebrates! Birthday cake and champagne get passed out to everyone--including the flying squad folks who are invited in.

Does this scenario sound just too visionary? Last issue I pictured the dystopia of today. I hope you were as outraged as I feel that we continue to tolerate birth practices that are unkind, unsafe, and unnecessary. I hope after reading of this baby's future birth, you feel like helping bring a better reality closer.

For future reading, I highly recommend

Diana Korte. A Good Birth, A Safe Birth.

Rahima Baldwin. Special Delivery. (She supplied materials for part of the "Miscellaneous Birthing Briefs" last time.)

Janet Isaacs Ashford. Whole Birth Catalog and "Childbirth Alternatives Quarterly." (The Madre Committee of Midwives information last issue came from CAQ.)

Other journals include "Maternal Health News" (Canadian), "The Compleat Mother" (Canadian), "Mothering" magazine (Amerikan), and "Midwifery Today."

--A Local Birth Activist

Imagine you are an Amerikan baby being born in the year 2028. Your mother has chosen the cultural norm, of course, of having you in the safety, control, convenience, and pleasure of her own home. Things have changed a lot in forty years!

## The gathering

As many family members and friends as she wants join her for the birth. She also has invited a circle of caring, experienced "wise women" to help her--one or two as midwives, some as doulas (or labor companions), and likely an apprentice or two.

The house is quiet and warm, although everyone is free to talk and laugh as usual. The lights are lowered the way your mother prefers. She eats and drinks as she feels to keep her strength up. She bakes some cookies, then walks outside with friends that drop by. She is in early labor and breathes only a little more deeply. She smiles and strokes her belly some.

During active or mid-labor, the rest of the birth circle arrives. Hugs are freely exchanged.

## The rhythm of birth

Now your mother feels like being inner-focused and quiet. People around her help her keep cool with wet cloths on her forehead and help her take off her clothes. She breathes more deeply and closes her eyes sometimes. She loves having her face and arms stroked and having people tell her they love her. The midwife and others as unobtrusively as possible check your heart tones and your mother's progress.

The energy and caring flow in all directions at the birth. People feel good. Your birth is helping them to grow by taking responsibility and giving of themselves.

After her cervix is fully dilated, she starts to feel like pushing. She squats to help you come down the birth canal. Perhaps she sits on your father's lap as she moans. The sound helps her labor go faster and better.

She knows well that birth is sexual pleasure and orgasmic. The old canard about its being all danger and pain has been replaced in the culture. The image your mother has seen on television and at her friends' births is a positive, strong one.

She reaches up inside her to touch your head and help her stretch as you crown. Her eyes are dilated and others can sense the power in her body and in her breath. You and she are following the rhythms and messages of your own unique birth. It is timeless inner wisdom that your birth attendants do not interfere with. She knows "a good birth is a safe birth" for both you and her.

## The social enlightenment

She and others since 1988 have seen how the freedom to be oneself is only possible in the home with midwifery as the philosophy. Women's magazines finally led some campaigns in the 1990s on these issues. The middle class got more and more enlightened--and also just plain fed up with 50% and higher Caesareans!



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August 27

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Operation Recycle is a not-for-profit community recycling center

# Unsafe conditions at OSHA

**"We've tried over the past twenty years to talk safety to employers and get them to be good," Ray McClure, an industrial hygienist for the federal government, told me, "but as long as it costs money, they're not going to do it."--Rachel Scott's 1974 groundbreaking book on industrial safety, Muscle and Blood.**

Employers are not always the world's best at caring for worker safety, but the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) just flatly doesn't give a damn.

Back in 1983, a film processing plant worker died of cyanide poisoning while working in Chicago. Assistant Labor Secretary John A. Pendergrass called it a tragedy and said, "It's something we don't want to happen again."

For, you see, six months before the death, OSHA, after inspecting only the company's records--not the plant--pronounced the company in compliance with safety regulations!

This horror story was told in the March 24, 1988, issue of the Wall Street Journal. Why was this brought up five years after the man died from unsafe working conditions? Because it wasn't until March 22 of this year that OSHA finally ordered its inspectors to examine hazardous areas of the plant where accidents occurred instead of just reading the company's accident records without an inspection!!

**"Most companies find...that it is more profitable to plan for disability and to compensate the sick and maimed workers than it is to install safety measures to protect them."--Muscle and Blood.**

OSHA, under the Reagan administration, has performed so badly that it not only cut down on inspections, but dragged its feet on safety complaints and even helped get workers fired who complained about plant safety! More on this shortly.

The Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (WISCOSH)--a group of workers, attorneys, and health and safety professionals--issued a November 1987 report stating OSHA was so corrupt that "we found overwhelming evidence that OSHA not only fails to take worker discrimination complaints seriously (where workers have been fired by employers for making safety complaints to OSHA), it seems to do everything possible to discourage and deter workers from pursuing such complaints at all."

WISCOSH said OSHA was so bad that if nonunion workers had an unsafe plant, they should first try to organize a union before making a safety complaint because OSHA only tended to act when a union was involved--particularly after it roped in a local member of Congress to help.

OSHA has done poorly when one considers the U.S. Bureau of Labor began investigating industrial diseases in 1903, passed the first plant safety act (the Esch Act) in 1912 on manufacture of phosphorus matches, formed the Department of Labor in 1913 "to improve working conditions," and ordered the first Labor Secretary William B. Wilson to report on industrial diseases and accidents.

The bill establishing OSHA passed in 1970.

Under President Carter, his OSHA man, Dr. Eula Bingham, tightened safety inspections. But Ronald Reagan appointed Thorne Auchter, a Florida construction contractor, as the new OSHA man, and called for deregulation of business under OSHA.

In fact, Auchter was so pro-business that he blocked distribution of an OSHA booklet about brown lung disease--a malady often suffered by cotton mill workers. The cover featured a photo of a worker suffering from the illness. The booklet was finally distributed but only after Auchter shot taxpayer money putting a plain cover on the booklet.

In January 1983, OSHA postponed a proposal calling for the government to publish a list of cancer-causing chemicals and agents in the workplace.

OSHA did so poorly under Reagan that Jimmy Carter's OSHA man, Eula Bingham, told the House Government Affairs Committee that most of Auchter's efforts had been to relax existing health standards and to send signals to employers that they were free to ignore health regulations.

In Auchter's first nine months, OSHA inspections dropped 21 percent, there were 33 percent fewer citations, total dollar penalties against businesses declined 48 percent and complaints from workers who said they were fired for calling OSHA about unsafe plants rose 189 percent!

OSHA did so badly that Steve Wodka, a former health and safety representative for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, said Auchter "has been put in there with a specific purpose: to dismantle any effectiveness the agency might have."

**As Jack Sheehan, a steelworker union lobbyist, pointed out, the federal law (OSHA) was enacted "in response to the historic failure of the states to provide adequate protection to the working man."--Muscle and Blood**

In 1982, under Reagan, the OSHA enforcement budget was hacked by 15 percent.

The courts stepped in when OSHA refused to set required safety standards, one example being when the U.S. Circuit Board of Appeals ordered OSHA to set a federal standard for safe levels of exposure to formaldehyde.

OSHA's reputation is so bad that in June 1982, Environmental Protection Agency officials told their bosses to issue a standard for diethylene dibromide and not wait for OSHA. OSHA didn't issue its standards until September 1983.

Then, two House subcommittees probed OSHA's failure to act earlier. Auchter claimed OSHA would not have been able to make a good enough case in court if the standard was challenged by a business.

California Congressman George Miller, chairman of the House subcommittee on labor standards, became enraged.

"What would have been the harm if you lost?" he bellowed. "Your pride? Your agency's batting average? The bottom line is you did nothing and workers are still being covered by a twelve-year-old standard everybody agrees is inadequate."

But OSHA, under Reagan, doesn't want to act and is willing to let workers die and unwilling to help workers trying to expose unsafe plants.

**"In the short time I was in the plant, the thick dust stained my shoes and permanently ringed my socks. My throat and nose were black with the dust and when I blew my nose, the mucus was black too."--Muscle and Blood.**

It was the Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (WISCOSH) who uncovered some of the really sleazy OSHA activities, or lack of activity.

WISCOSH was investigating OSHA performance on Section 11c of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. That section states that employees cannot be fired for reporting unsafe working conditions to their firm or OSHA.

On December 9, 1986, WISCOSH filed a Freedom of Information Act request with OSHA for copies of 11c complaints filed with the Milwaukee area OSHA office between 1983 and 1987.

OSHA stalled, then asked for more than \$1,000 in fees. WISCOSH contacted Congressmen Jim Moody and Gerald Klecka, who intervened. Even with this high-powered support, OSHA did not start sending WISCOSH the documents until May 15, 1987--six months later!

Out of 249 cases in the Wisconsin area, where workers had filed complaints saying they were fired for filing safety protests, workers won 15, lost 18 and 216 were closed. Only 50 inspections and 105 citations resulted. The average penalty per violation was only \$74!

Richard Murray, a former OSHA investigator, told OSHA "most of OSHA's investigators are retired military and civilian police officers. That goes a long way toward explaining why they treat 11c cases and complaints as they do--many people in those jobs believe that their role is to preserve and protect the status quo. Workers who insist on their right to a hazard-free workplace are--to OSHA--at best, time consuming nuisances, and at worst, rabble-rousing troublemakers with a personal vendetta against OSHA."



## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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## Rape Crisis Center

# For the love of animals

## OSHA, cont.

"On my first day in 11c," Murray said, "my supervisor took me aside and seriously oriented me to the 'real world out there in the streets: 85 percent of the complainants who come in here are the scum of the earth.' He was dead serious--and I soon discovered that the entire office operated on just that premise."

OSHA was so hostile to workers that on two occasions, the documents revealed, an OSHA supervisor, on visiting a plant, told the business, in violation of all rules, the name of the employee who filed the complaints. Legally, such information can only be revealed with the employee's approval.

In one case, the complaint resulted in 12 citations and fines of \$780. When the OSHA man leaked the name, the employee was not only fired during a layoff but was not rehired when the plant added old employees back on payroll the next year.

In the second case, the OSHA people not only refused to press to get the man rehired but sent him a letter saying they would not handle the case because the employee had complained about OSHA's performance to his Congressional representative!

No action was taken against the OSHA official who gave the names to the employers.

Small wonder that WISCOSH noted in its report, "...the deadly dilemma workers face today: Risk your life by continuing to work in hazardous conditions, or risk your job by trying to get your employer or OSHA to correct the situation."

### WISCOSH found such abuse as:

(1) The food service employee who was fired because he told one business on his route it had a safety problem. OSHA refused to act, saying that since his safety concern hadn't been with his own company, he could be fired for pointing out another firm's safety problem!

(2) A safety inspector for a tire company threatened to notify OSHA if a safety problem wasn't corrected. He was fired. OSHA then inspected and found 23 violations. But OSHA decided to agree with the company that the safety inspector had a "personality conflict with his boss"!

(3) A man was called in and fired because, his employer claimed, he had reported a safety problem to OSHA. The man, contrary to what the employer thought, had done no such thing. But OSHA said that since the employee had not filed a complaint with OSHA they would take no action against the company, even though it would be a violation to fire someone for notifying OSHA in the first place!

These events should not surprise us since President Reagan called for abolishing OSHA in a speech in 1979. In its February 6, 1988, issue, The Nation noted Thorne Auchter, before resigning in 1984, approved the dismissal of \$12,000 in penalties against a Kansas company owned by a firm of which he was president. Auchter also owned almost \$22,000 in DuPont stock when he refused to issue a federal formaldehyde safety exposure standard--a standard DuPont opposed.

The article also noted OSHA execs used red-baiting to discourage their employees from doing their jobs. Robert Rowland, Auchter's successor and a fundraiser for Reagan in the past, said during Congressional testimony there were "commies" at OSHA. OSHA Health Standards Director Leonard Vance was quoted in the same article as having told a woman on his staff that she sounded as if she'd been "trained in Moscow."

--Steve LaPrade

Until the April-May Post Issue, I did not realize how vital this humble column could be to animal rights education. (In light of the 'anti-animal slant published in the daily rag, I should have known alternative, pro-animal issues would be welcomed by a compassionate readership.)

That column set in motion a chain of events which did this old heart good. On April 14, I received a phone call from Scott Curry. As one of the proprietors of Electric Coffee, Scott offered the facilities for a World Lab Animal Liberation Week educational benefit. The space, music and coffee would be provided--all I needed to do was plan a presentation.

A week and a half is not really the optimum amount of time to prepare such a social occasion, but with optimistic ignorance, I jumped at the opportunity. Calling all the local animal rights activists I could think of, I begged for any suggestions they could offer.

Untold long distance calls later, I had assurances from other central Illinois activists of their willing participation. Lauri Buchna from Citizens for Animal Rights, based in Peoria, and metaphysician Trisha Holmes from Champaign promised to attend. Lauri also offered to provide video tapes of several lab exposes, including the award-winning movie The Animals' Film, a disturbingly graphic experience. Fearing public alienation, I vetoed that one, but urged Lauri to bring whatever mainstream material that she could.

The 24th arrived, with much left to be accomplished. But we plunged ahead. To our dismay, The Pantagraph misprinted the times, shortening the event by 2 hours. We could only hope that the 200 fliers which Scott and Diane Perris had contributed would make the difference.

Looking back on it now, I feel very positive about the experience. Attendance could have been better, but fifty enlightened participants is not too bad. Viewings of Tools for Research and a slide presentation, a panel discussion by Lauri, Trisha and our very own Marty Greenberg, incidental music provided by three local jazz musicians and recordings of the Animal Liberation album (Nina Hagen, Howard Jones, et al), as well as pamphlets and petitions offered food for thought.

If even one of those fifty conveys to others the abomination of laboratory cruelty... or just thinks before blindly subsidizing drug and cosmetic testing when buying products which have compassionate alternatives... then our goal was met.

The Animal Protection League of Illinois was instrumental in providing support and information, and in association with Electric Coffee has forwarded a check for the door proceeds to P.E.T.A., so that the concept of animal liberation may reach people worldwide.

\*\*\*\*\*

Disregarding the objections of residents and even members of its own ranks, the McLean County Board has approved the construction of a rabbit factory east of Bloomington. This facility, which will be operated by Hazelton Research Products, Inc., a Pennsylvania firm, will raise 20,000 rabbits for use in laboratory research.

Setting aside the moral issues, there are vital environmental problems which were either ignored or white-washed. Newspaper clippings and phone interviews with reporters from Denver, PA, site of an existing factory, reveal horrors of environmental mismanagement. Mountains of excrement, corpses, and litter were allowed to accumulate unchecked. Hoards of flies, spawned in blood and shit, invaded neighboring residents. "Unclean" rabbits, ones who had touched the floor, were killed by slamming cage doors on their necks, and then were added to the pile.

The stench from this "unholy acre" of gruesome waste cannot be described. But, the flies were the worst problem. Not your average housefly, these insects, nourished by blood taken from horses and cattle and stored in huge holding tanks for serum extraction, grew to enormous size and population. At a meeting of DER investigators and township supervisors, a bucket was passed among them, filled with dead flies. This was a one-day accumulation, vacuumed from windows, doors and walls of a victim resident. "The flies accumulate... during the evening hours when they are seeking warmth."

"We are afraid of infection.... If you get eggs in your system, maggots will actually develop inside you." Most residents claim they must purchase hundreds of dollars worth of bug spray every year. And these flies, a "hardy" strain, seem immune to ordinary pesticides.

This information, collected by Dee Dankoehler from reporters and newspaper clippings from The Ephrata Review which investigated the Pennsylvania situation, was deliberately squelched at the McLean County Board meeting. Efforts to bring the matter back to the Zoning Board of Appeals were defeated by a tie-breaking vote.

"I have not seen documentation to contradict the finding of the Zoning Board concerning the environmental impact," stated board representative Dean Davis. The problem is that agricultural EPA guidelines do not address the impact of wastes from such intensive rabbit factory facilities.

I guess, when the creeks and wells reveal fecal contamination, when the midsummer stench overwhelms the odor of hog farms, when massive hoards of super-flies descend on home and community, we'll realize what impact it has had on our environment.

--RAF, with help from Dava Zschau, David Emswiler, The Ephrata Review, and The Pantagraph

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# Community News

## Recycling Action Alert

Major solid waste legislation that would require larger counties and the City of Chicago to develop and implement solid waste management plans that place substantial emphasis on recycling has passed the Illinois House of Representatives and is now being considered in the Illinois Senate. It's vitally important that we begin to address this problem in a comprehensive manner; we shouldn't be relying on just one method, whether it is a landfill or an incinerator, to manage our solid waste.

Please write or call your state Senator and urge him or her to

- 1) Vote for H.B. 3878, the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act.
  - 2) Become a co-sponsor of H.B. 3878.
- Also, if you belong to a citizen group, please ask other members to contact their state representatives. H.B. 3878 is sponsored by Rep. Peg McDonnell Breslin (D-Ottawa).

The major provisions of H.B. 3878 include

- 1) By 1991, each county with a population of more than 100,000 and the City of Chicago must develop plans that detail how they will manage their solid waste over the next twenty years. Counties may delegate planning authority to individual municipalities or a municipal joint action agency.
- 2) The solid waste plans must include a recycling program that will reduce the amount of solid waste generated in the county by 25% within 5 years. Counties are allowed to establish

curbside recycling, drop-off sites, buy-back centers, or a combination thereof to meet the 25% recycling goal. The program must include public education to foster understanding of recycling.

- 3) The Department of Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to issue matching grants to communities with more than 25,000 people that want to establish recycling pilot projects. These projects must include a curbside recycling program that requires occupants of at least 5,000 homes to separate at least three materials, including glass, newsprint and aluminum cans.
- 4) Municipalities and landfill operators are encouraged to set up composting facilities for leaf waste. In fact, landfills are prohibited from accepting truckloads consisting primarily of leaf waste by July 1, 1989.
- 5) The state is required to provide funding for solid waste planning and recycling efforts from the state Solid Waste Management Fund.

Write or call your state Senator today. Their mailing address is Illinois Senate, State House, Springfield, IL 62706. The State House operator's phone number is (217) 782-2000. Be sure to mention the number and title of the bill. For more information, call Steve Apotheker, (217) 351-4584.

Also, if you belong to a citizens' group, please ask other members to contact their state representatives. H.B. 3878 is sponsored by Rep. Peg McDonnell Breslin (D-Ottawa).

## Neighborhood Recycling Teams

Earn money this summer and help our environment, too, by participating in Operation Recycle and Pepsi-Cola's Neighborhood Recycling Teams. Young people from age 4 through age 16 are eligible for this drive, which begins on June 1 and ends on September 30.

Participants need to collect and save beverage cans, container glass, and newspapers and then bring them to Operation Recycle. All participants will receive

- \* An Operation Recycle magnet and membership certificate the first time they recycle;
- \* A Burger King hamburger or cheeseburger when their total reaches 200 pounds recycled;
- \* A Pepsi-Cola/Operation Recycle t-shirt when their total reaches 400 pounds recycled.

Operation Recycle will keep a record sheet for each participant documenting their total pounds recycled.

Participants in the Neighborhood Recycling Teams should bring their recyclables to Operation Recycle, 923 East Grove, Bloomington, from 9am to noon Monday through Saturday. Call Community Action/Operation Recycle at 829-0691 for more information.

## Miller Park Summer Theater

Bloomington's Outdoor Theatre promises an exciting summer for playgoers this season, offering something for almost everyone. The first three plays will be performed, as usual, at the Miller Park stage. The final play of the season will be performed at Ewing Park II on the Bloomington Parks & Recreation's mobile stage, and the audience should bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating. All of the Bloomington outdoor theater productions are free of charge.

### 6 AMS RIU DU

May 27, 28, 29, June 2, 3, 4 - 8:30 pm  
This delightful two-act romantic comedy situates a man and a woman, who have never met before, locked in an apartment that has been open for inspection by prospective tenants. What ensues is a state of humor and charm.

### A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD/ A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE

July 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 - Miller Park - 8:30 pm

These two one-act musicals provide a double feature more hilarious than any presented in Hollywood's heyday. "Hollywood" is a nostalgic spoof on Hollywood and the movies of the 1930's. "Ukraine" is the comedy the Marx Brothers didn't make, but could have.

### A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH: or, Adrift on Life's Sea

August 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 - Miller Park - 8:00 pm

Hiss the villain and applaud the hero and heroine in this wildly funny "mellerdrammer."

## A ROSE FOR MISS ALCOTT

August 19, 20, 21 - Ewing Park II - 8:00 pm

The Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department presents the premiere production of "A Rose for Miss Alcott"; an original play written by Megan Sebastian. The play chronicles the struggles, both personal and professional, of Louisa May Alcott and how she ultimately resolves them.



## Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood is conducting a letter and telephone campaign to raise drastically needed funds. Failure to meet their \$25,000 goal this spring will mean the elimination of at least three staff positions and one significant program.

Without your help, expect the following in addition to the staff reductions:

1. Less money from patient fees and less federal family planning money will reduce the number of public education programs and Planned Parenthood's visibility in our community.
2. A record low level of unrestricted funds will severely harm the Consumer Loan Fund (from which women borrow money for needed reproductive health care services unavailable from public sources) and curtail legislative actions and alerts.

## Bookmobile schedule

The 1988 Spring/Summer Bloomington Public Library bookmobile schedule begins Monday, May 2nd and runs through Saturday, July 30. The bookmobile will run its bi-weekly schedule of twenty-eight (28) stops throughout the City of Bloomington as well as in Old Town, Downs, Dale and Bloomington Townships. New stops have been added at: Oakridge Subdivision, Chelsea at Preston (at the pool), 7:30 - 8:30p.m., and at Buchanan and Wright, 4:00 - 5:00p.m.

Patrons may apply for library cards on the bookmobile, and the same card is used at the main library. The bookmobile carries a wide selection of books for adults and children as well as records and compact discs. Large print books are available for those unable to read regular-sized type. Patrons may reserve adult books and make special requests for materials to be brought from the mail library.

Bookmobile schedules are available at the library and on the bookmobile. For more information about the schedule, call 828-6091.

3. Less grant money from Ounce of Prevention will mean that the teen parent program will cease to exist after June 30 and eliminate about 25 volunteer positions.

Please do what you can to continue adequate reproductive services in our community. Send your contribution to:

Planned Parenthood  
of Mid Central Illinois  
318 W. Washington, 3rd Floor  
Bloomington, IL 61701.



# Dear Ms. Hippie

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I was taking the bus to a yoga retreat last month. When we pulled into Omaha, I went to claim my baggage from the driver. But I discovered that I couldn't find my claim ticket, and the driver was a militant type who wouldn't just bend the rules a little. So while all the other passengers stood there waiting for their own baggage, I went digging through my backpack for the ticket, accidentally spilling some of the contents on the pavement. My diaphragm flew out of its case, bounced along the ground and rolled under the wheel of the bus, just out of reach. How embarrassing! My question is this: should I go out with the driver? And if I do, do you think I'll get my stuff back?

--Out of Control

Dear Out,

If the bus driver asks you, you should definitely go out with her. Not only will you get your stuff back, but you'll not need that messy diaphragm! What a relief.

Dear Ms. Hippie:

Maybe you can help me. I'm desperately in love with my fiance, and I thought she felt the same way about me. But lately, she's been acting sort of preoccupied. Now, I consider myself more understanding than most guys--I know all about PMS and stuff like that. So I said nothing when she stopped shaving her legs. And I kept quiet when she got the crewcut. And I didn't even mind so much that she burned up all my Rolling Stones records. But now she wants to postpone our wedding so she can take a motorcycle trip to Ann Arbor with some of her girlfriends. Somehow, I sense that something's amiss. What's going on, Ms. Hippie?

--Confused

Dear Confused,

Your girlfriend seems to showing signs of becoming a Lebanese, sometimes also called a Thespian. Check her writing: has she come up with bizarre ways of spelling the words "women" and "woman"? She probably has. If so, Ms. Hippie is sure you'll understand her new feelings. After all, you prefer the company of women yourself, don't you?

AND NOW A WORD FROM DANDY DURWARD DATELINE!!...

DO YOU LOVE THE MUSIC OF THE SIXTIES? ME, TOO! BUT, HEY GANG, THE SIXTIES WERE MORE THAN JUST GROUPS FROM ENGLAND: THE EARLY SIXTIES WAS A LOT OF STUPID DANCES!...

MASHED POTATO! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!

SHAKE HER TAILFEATHER BAYBEE!

HERE WE GO LDDP-DE-LOOP!

SET TO THE BEAT OF GREAT OBSCURE DANCE TOONS, THE FLICK CONCERNS ITSELF WITH THE CRAZED CAREER OF TRACY TURNBLAD, A "BIG AND BEAUTIFUL" TEEN WHO BECOMES A CELEB ON A TEEVEE DANCE SHOW!

HEY, LET'S DO THE LIMBO ROCK!

TRACY FINDS LOVE AND INFAMY PARTAKING IN A BATTLE TO INTEGRATE SAID DANCE SHDW!

WITH ITS COMICALLY TALKY AMBIENCE, PERIOD PERVERSITY AND FAT SEXINESS, "HAIRSPRAY" IS THE BEST EDUCATION OF URBAN ROCKITIDE SINCE "AMERICAN HOT WAX"!

THERE'S A DANCE! IT'S CALLED THE ROACH!

YEH!

(BUT WITH ALL THE HAIRSPRITZ USED IN THE FLICK, I'M GLAD IT WASN'T MADE IN ODDRAMA!

## Lonely Nights artist dies

Underground cartoonist Dori Seda, a graduate of ISU's Art Department, died last February. A comparative newcomer to the underground scene (her first broad-based comix work appeared in the mid-eighties), Seda was one of a group of rising bohob brought to light by R. Crumb's Weirdo anthology title. Personal and exhibitionistic, capable of writing and illustrating either slice-of-life or dada fantasies, Seda had found herself a place in the sometimes excessively insular world of comix. She appeared in established comix titles like Wimmen's Comics, Rip Off, San Francisco Comic Book, and Crumb's Weirdo, as well as more arcane themebooks like Cannibal Romance. In 1986, she produced her first solo title Lonely Nights Comics.

Subtitled "Stories to Read When the Couple Next Door Is Fucking Too Loud," Lonely Nights is the fullest realization of Seda's obsessions. Largely autobiographical in its recreations of solitary moments, lovers' arguments and sexual fantasies, the book is frank and funny. Its frankness was enough to get copies of the book burned in a recent British customs seizure (along with several other underground titles), but to my eyes Seda's openness has none of the nastier-than-thou upfolkship of some of her older comix peers. In a 1986 Comix Journal review, in fact, I wrote the following about Lonely Nights:

"Using the mock confessional mode popularized by R. Crumb (who contributes an introduction to the book), Seda devotes most of her premiere issue to a larger-than-life vision of herself as both single woman and artist. Seda's light rendering style mitigates her more perverse 'confessional' moments (most of which involve her dog); unlike Crumb, who somehow manages to unsettlingly balance the cartoon and the personal, Seda never convinces us that she's as degenerate--or potentially degenerate--as she'd like us to believe. The results are far more likeable than Crumb in his grubbier mode, although probably not as artistically 'pure.' Me, I find Seda appealing both as an artist and a person. Anybody who'll admit their embarrassment at their dog's public erection (fully rendered on-panel, of course) is delving into areas of

experience untouched by any other underground artist, male or female."

In Seda's eyes, a trip to the laundromat was as worthy of comix reconstruction as a discourse on sexual politics. You might want to argue her sexual politics at times (I did: I thought she typically gave too much credence to the idea that anything is okay so long as it's "art"), but her honesty was unimpeachable. Seda's rendering style was light and full of flourishes, but her approach to her material was unblushingly straightforward. If underground comix accomplished one thing beyond opening up the field's subject boundaries, it was in reinstating the idea of the cartoonist as individual. A lot of mainstream and alternative comic book artists have benefited from this legacy, but the closest Seda ever got to the mainstream was with her scripting of a body image strip (in Wimmen's Comics) for former paper doll artist Barb Rausch. Seda clearly saw herself as an underground artist, though.

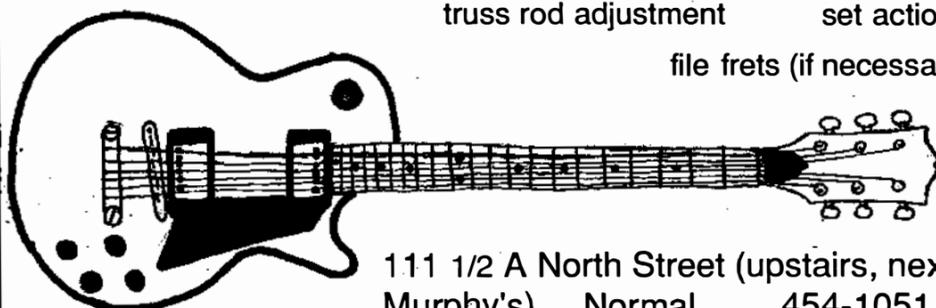
At the time of her death, Dori Seda had completed some twenty pages of Lonely Nights #2. Her comix publisher, Last Gasp, intends to publish them in the near future, most likely in a memorial issue.

--BS88

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# Miscellaneous Radical Apocrypha

Once upon a time, they had a vote to decide what was biblical and what wasn't. The stuff that didn't make it into the Protestant version is known as the Apocrypha. The use of the word apocrypha is now more general, referring to any writings of questionable authorship or authenticity.

During the sermons they squeeze in between politicking and fundraising, the twice-borns love to quote the apocrypha of their holey bible. This is their way of proving that leftists, communists, homosexuals, feminists, and other miscellaneous liberals have absolutely no conscience or morals. Simultaneously, those born-two-too-many-times use the old and almost-as-old testaments to justify their own perverted version of morality, which includes supporting contra atrocities, racist South African supremacists, and Meesian sleaze.

The fundamentalists believe that total and unquestioned belief in the book-with-the-sacred-red-words-of-Christ is the only prerequisite to reach their black-and-white moral compartmentalization of life. No independent interpretation of biblical apocrypha is required, because the readers (like the writers) are divinely inspired with the Holey-Moley Spirit.

However, the twice-borns have conveniently overlooked some biblical fables that don't quite fit their checkerboard universe. The next time you are molested by the door-to-door Christians, ask for their interpretations of the following miscellaneous radical apocrypha.

## Is God a Republican?

God and Satan were having one of their frequent tête-à-têtes over tea when God asked Satan if he had noticed His perfect and upright servant Job. Satan, munching on a crumpet, replied that Job was loyal to God only because of God's blessings.

So in His usual sadistic manner, God decided to test Job by allowing Satan to curse Job to his heart's delight.

And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that [Job] hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thy hand.

--Job 1:12

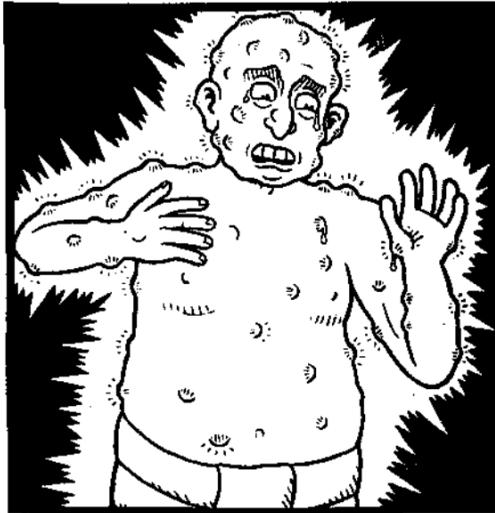
Well, Satan went to work and did a damned good job, so to speak. Thieves stole Job's oxen and camels and slew his servants. A fire fell from heaven and burned Job's sheep and killed more of his servants. A great wind smote the house, killing all of Job's children. Job's body was stricken with boils from head to foot.



From these tests of Job's faith, we learn the true nature of the Christian God. He guaranteed the safety of Job's life against Satan's curses, but allowed Satan to take the lives of the lowly servants and children. Obviously God, like Reagan, doesn't think your life is important unless you're a good capitalist earning at least \$50,000 a year.

## Heaven to force twice-borns to grow up

You've probably heard Christ's line "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Well, that really shouldn't be any surprise; if I were God, I'd have my calls screened too.



Just a few verses before that famous line is an interesting tidbit straight from the dead carpenter's mouth.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

--John 14:2

Contrary to popular belief, heaven isn't solely for the Christians. They only get "a place" in a heaven of "many mansions." So who's the rest of heaven reserved for?

Miscellaneous deities must be preparing other mansions in heaven for people who have chosen alternative, equally moral, non-Christian lifestyles. I hope the mansion for retired drag queens will be next door to Swaggert's.

With any luck, the Falwells of this world will reach the heaven implied by John 14:2. Then they'll finally have to grow up and learn to live with gays, communists, ACLU members, and the Church Lady. The fundamentalists may think they've been sent to the wrong place, but those true believers will be getting exactly what they've always wanted and certainly deserve.

## God's words teach beauty of gay love

Take your favorite Christian out to lunch sometime and read them these excerpts from I Samuel 16-20 and II Samuel 1:1-27. Be sure to put lots of feeling into your rendition.

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David...

--I Samuel 19:1-2



Uh-huh. And just how much did Jonathan delight in David?

And David swore moreover, and said [to Jonathan], Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes...

Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee.

--I Samuel 20:3-4

Really? I can't imagine what David might desireth.

Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen [David] the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?

--I Samuel 20:30

It doesn't sound like Jonathan's confused to me. Just what did Jonathan choose David the son of Jesse for?

[While lamenting over Jonathan's death, David said,] I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

--II Samuel 1:26

Now isn't THAT special?

--The Balrog



## Sexism is a sin, BUT...

In April the U. S. Catholic bishops issued a draft of a document that declares sexism a sin. Motivated by pressure from the mostly-female body of Catholics, the pastoral letter still refuses to assert women's right to be ordained priests, in a typically Catholic act of moral acrobatics. Even so, the suggestion that females should be altar helpers or deacons may earn the Vatican's sexist wrath.

# IS GOD DEAD? \*How 'bout Elvis Presley? Paul McCartney? JFK?

## Post Amerikan Opinion Poll

### #1: Contemporary Religious

### Attitudes

#### Post Amerikan Opinion Poll #1: Contemporary Religious Attitudes

Dear Reader:

This survey has been designed with the highest concern for ethical statistical analysis. Please read all questions carefully and allow yourself sufficient time for a thoughtful consideration of each answer. Feel free to add your own answers (or questions!) in the unlikely event that we have not thought of everything. Rest assured that your responses will be analyzed only by highly trained personnel from our publication.

**1. Do you belong to an organized religion?**

- A. Christian
- B. Jew
- C. Moslem
- D. Buddhist
- E. Hedonist
- F. You kidding? It's all a bunch of jive.

**2. How do you perceive the role of religion in today's society?**

- A. Organized religion is our best resource for teaching a sense of morality to future generations.
- B. Considering the chaotic state of the world's affairs, we need religious guidance now more than ever.
- C. Religion is an archaic behemoth left from the Dark Ages which should have no place in a modern, scientific world.
- D. Most organized religion serves as a haven for people who crave a sense of affiliation and provides them with a rickety soapbox from which to look down on the rest of the world.



**3. Which description is closest to your conception of "God"?**

- A. Your basic old white man with a white beard and a white robe.
- B. God can be anything to anyone.
- C. A blinding white light of pure truth.
- D. A benevolent judge.
- E. A hanging judge.
- F. "God" is just a mythic figure humans have created as a catchall explanation for our incomprehension of the world.
- G. The George Burns character works as well as anything.



**4. How do you feel about the concepts of Heaven and Hell?**

- A. I don't see how they could be any better or worse than some concerts I've been to.
- B. They are states of mind--a mental prison or paradise that exists after death.
- C. They are real places.
- D. It's all a lot of hooley.
- E. If God is truly just, they must exist, in the interest of fair play.
- F. If God is truly benevolent, there is no Hell, because He knows we're just miserable idiots down here, and can forgive us our trespasses, so to speak.

**5. How do you imagine life after death?**

- A. Ask a stupid question.
- B. There is none. Death is like extinguishing a candle.
- C. It's something like going to Oklahoma City.
- D. You walk out of the darkness towards a warm, blinding light. (See #3 C.)
- E. You're greeted by deceased friends and relatives and you have a bar-be-que.
- F. You stand before St. Peter and God, who are kind of like Siskel and Ebert, and you watch a movie of your life, hoping there were a lot of really bad ones ahead of you.

**6. Do you believe in the antithesis of God---the Devil?**

- A. Yes, and if he doesn't put away that accordion, I'm going to scream.
- B. The Devil is just a bogeyman created by humans to exploit our natural fears and manipulate vulnerable people.
- C. Yes, and he's running your newspaper.
- D. I believe in a whole host of lesser demons, but they're all in politics.
- E. How else would you explain these voices I've been hearing?

**7. How much control do you feel you have over your life?**

- A. Everything is predestined.
- B. I'm lucky if I can control my bladder.
- C. Government aside, you have control over and sole responsibility for your life.
- D. Ultimately, I have control, but God tells me what's right and wrong.
- E. About as much as a frog in a blender.

**8. How do you feel God could improve to better meet your changing needs?**

- A. This is blasphemy. You're going to bum.
- B. I wish He/She would carry a pager.
- C. Every hundred years or so, He/She should hold a press conference and answer a few questions.
- D. I wish He/She would remix himself as a groovy environmental compact disc.
- E. He/She could quit being so picky. (See #9.)

**9. What does God do with His/Her boogers?**

- A. The air is clean and pure in heaven, thus eliminating their raison d'etre.
- B. He/She wipes them in a hidden fold of the immaculate robe.
- C. He/She eats them and they become part of the divine being.
- D. He/She deposits them on Earth as republicans.
- E. He doesn't have any, and this time you've gone too far.

**10. Do you believe in God?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Maybe.
- D. Only in foxholes, singles bars and unregenerate Pintos.

Comments:

May we use your comments?



**Classy Fried Ads**

Non-smoking roommate/boarder wanted. Own room & bath in historic house in downtown Bloomington. Age/race/gender/sexual orientation not issues. \$250.+ share of utilities. Contact Paul at 827-0629.

# First Lady: A Portrait of Nancy Reagan

Behind that great straight man Ronald Reagan stands a woman with a kitchen knife, Nancy. Probing deep beneath the wrinkled surface of public relations, this reviewer has found some startling things in this lavishly illustrated book about the decent white folk inhabiting the White House.

**First Lady** shows the undercurrent of unreality that threatens the sea anchor of the ship of state. Not only is the book a slavish bit of unctuous sycophancy, but the Reagan sleaze factor is quite evident. The most ardent bootlicker and yes-men in the interviews can now be found in federal courts facing bribery and influence-peddling charges.

### Nancy says...

I hope people like me.

...I always knew I wanted to be involved in the drug problem, and then I had more time. I was more ready for it, and it just evolved.

...I feel very strongly about marijuana. I think it's a good deal more harmful than most children realize.

...Am I really committed to this issue? Of course I am. Because it's so dangerous. Because we do stand a chance of losing a whole generation to drugs.

...All I can do is be myself. I'm not going to be like anybody else. I'm going to be Nancy Reagan.

...My meeting with the Pope was one of the most moving, wonderful experiences I've ever had. I've met with him twice before but this was the first time alone.

...I want more pomp, though I'm not going to criticize any other administration.

...Do I like "Hail to the Chief"?

### Michael Deaver (convicted of influence-peddling) says...

In California, during the Vietnam War, once a week, without any press around, she'd quietly go to the Veteran's Hospital and sit there and hold a vet's hand, then go home and call their mothers and cry with them and go back the next week and do the same thing over again. She didn't do it because she was trying to change her public relations image. She was doing it because Nancy really cares about people.

...She is not the kind of person who would call up and say, "You know, I think the SALT talks ought to begin February second."

### Lyn Nofziger (convicted of influence-peddling) says...

How much trouble are you in if she's down on you? I suspect it depends on who you are.

### Donnie Radcliffe says...

And I do believe that she has had a longstanding interest in drug abuse.

### Nancy Reynolds says...

For years and years and years, we had all been saying, here's this wonderful, witty, funny, caring, loyal, intensely dedicated woman, but no one ever wanted to hear it.

...I think she sees her husband as a man of peace. He is a man of peace.

### Richard Allen (ex-director of the CIA) says...

She never happened to be at cross-purposes with me.

...I maintained a cordial relationship with Nancy Reagan in the years after my departure from the White House.

### Richard Wirthlin says...

Queen Nancy was the image that was being portrayed.

### Bonite Granville Wrather says...

I think criticism of her lifestyle is erroneous. She's always been a lady who is well dressed, has grace and style, and she brings that to the White House. And that's very important. After all, we have all the other countries in the world looking at us.

### Sheila Tate says...

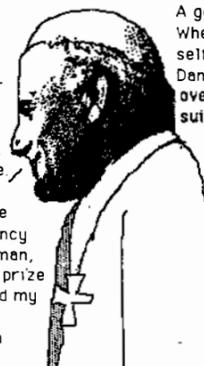
It was the day ketchup was declared a vegetable for school lunch programs that the White House china story broke. I haven't thought the same of ketchup since.

--DXL



### BEHIND THE SCENES

It was a mistake, a terrible terrible mistake. It'll never happen again... I don't know. Maybe it was the night. It smelled of jasmine. Like a summer in Krakow, next to the steel factories. Nancy is a wonderful woman, you've really got a prize there... I've betrayed my vows of chastity. I should resign from the Vatican...



In the official hot tub! My wife! That slut! And you! A goddamned holy fether! Where's your sense of self-control? Dan Rether will be all over me like a cheap suit!



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# Nancy's a Boar: No kidding!

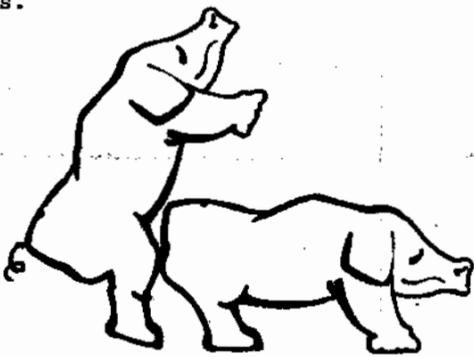
Thanks to Don "Knife 'em in the Back" Regan, we've all learned about Nancy's use of Western astrology to help rearrange her hubby's schedule. Sure it cost the taxpayers a little bit more, but the extra piece of mind was worth it. (And when you consider how much of Ronnie's mind is left, every extra piece counts!)

But a fine woman like Nancy couldn't have a culturally-biased bone in her body, now could she? No, Nancy wouldn't just rely on Western astrology. In this Post Amerikan exclusive, I reveal how Nancy used Chinese astrology to help shape the powers that run the White House.

This reporter wouldn't be satisfied with basing his research on the placemats at a Chinese restaurant. I instead went to the Larousse Encyclopedia of Astrology, which describes in detail the twelve animal signs and five elements of Chinese astrology. Armed with this information, I've given you totally precise, accurate, and unbiased astrological readings.

## Ronnie and Nancy: Pigs in love

Ronnie and Nancy are a match made in hog heaven--both are natives of the sign of the Pig (also called the sign of the Boar). However, in Chinese astrology the year you are born determines your element in addition to your sign. Ronnie and Nancy are ruled by different elements, so their Pig personalities are manifested in distinctively different ways.



Ronnie was born (or was he hatched?) on February 6, 1911, making his element metal. The Pig exhibits a natural chivalry, and metal adds an artistic and affectionate touch to this quality, resulting in teflon.

The gentleness of the Pig is only on the surface however; underneath the Pig has authoritarian tendencies. In Ronnie's case, this is enhanced by the self-indulgent and obstinate qualities imposed by metal. Metal also exerts laziness on Ronnie, offsetting the usual hardworking nature of the Boar.

Nancy's birthdate is July 6, 1923. In Chinese astrology, she is a Boar whose element is water. Water enhances the hardworking, intellectual nature of the Boar with wit, adaptability, and studiousness. But water also adds to the authoritarian tendencies that boil beneath that quiet red-dress exterior. It makes Nancy impressionable, nervous, and worrisome--no wonder she needs astrology! Water also gives Nancy a tricky, quibbling, and unscrupulous personality, as the many heads that have rolled in the White House would testify.

## Meese: getting people's Goats

Who better to keep the conservative flames burning in the White House than a good Goat? Not only are Goats compatible with the First Boars (and vice versa), but they are willing to remain in obscurity as long as their security is assured.

Goats are rarely satisfied with their fate, capricious, undisciplined, and sometimes neurotic. Ed Meese (born in 1931) combines these traits with the obstinateness and self-indulgence of his element metal. No wonder special prosecutors always think they have to investigate this poor old Goat!

The Attorney General manages to survive these negative qualities because he is also endowed with the charm, elegance, and sweetness that are typical of the Goat. And just like the top Pig Ronnie, his element is metal (ruled by the planet Venus) which enhances his charm with harmony and affection. This explains why so many congressional committees love to keep Meese busy with that unnecessary testifying that keeps him away from his desk so often.

Any good Chinese astrologer could have told you about Meese's obsession with pornography. The Goat is a feminine sign, and male Goats often suffer from a lack of virility.

This makes Meese immune to the overwhelming negative effects of porn, making him the perfect person to head the Presidential Commission on Pornography.

## Bush: the vice-Rat

Bush was born on June 12, 1923, making him a native of the Rat and under the influence of the element wood. Rats and Pigs are compatible signs, and wood adds some desirable characteristics. So Nancy's Chinese astrologer told her there wasn't a better sign/element combination for a vice-president.



Wood contributes generosity which serves to enhance the Rat's capability of placing its own personal happiness after that of the people it loves and respects. Yes, Bush has the perfect personality to be either a lap dog or vice-president.

Neither Nancy nor her astrologer dreamed that Bush's Rat personality would allow him to inherit the top Pig's position. Ronnie avoided any early endorsement because they advised him that Dole (who has the same sign and element as Nancy) would easily beat out Vice-Rat Bush.

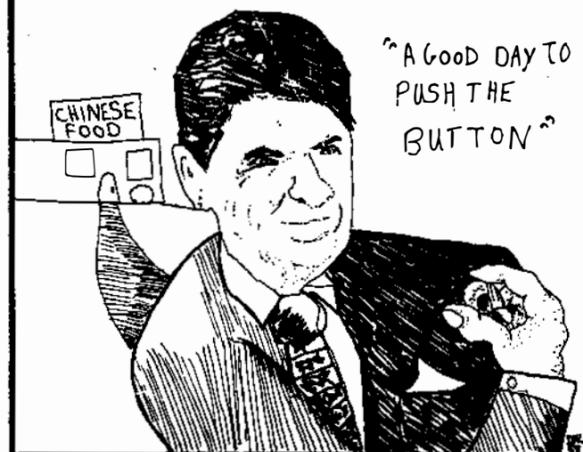
This prediction was based on the fact that the nervousness, anxiety, and meddling of the Rat would combine with the boastful, pretentious, vacillating, and fanatic qualities of wood to make Bush a waffling wimp! It should be no surprise that the Rat is already trailing that clever, courageous Cock Dukakis. (Duke was born on November 3, 1933, so he is a native of the sign of the Cock and his element is water).

However, should Bush become President, he will be added to the list of notable Rats which includes Richard Nixon, John Poindexter, and Ayatollah Khomeini.

--The Balrog

## THE NEAR SIDE

THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERS A NEW POLICY DIRECTION



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# letters




## Pissed at Hip

Dear Ms. Hippie:

I have just recently picked up the latest issue of the Post Amerikan and I am quite disturbed with the alleged advice you gave to someone called "Supportive Sweetie."

I would like to state several contentions I have for this letter. First, this "Supportive Sweetie" need not be concerned with fashion, but more with the true reason why her boyfriend refuses to pay child support. If he had taken the time to enter a commitment with this ex-wife and to father his children, then he should not neglect his responsibility, regardless of this alleged agreement or the fact that the marriage is null and void. This "Supportive Sweetie" should stop and assess the potential, that in the event they were to marry and have kids and subsequently divorce, whether or not he would pay the child support that is rightfully theirs. She needs to come back to reality and see the situation for what it really is and the detriment it can create.

Secondly, the advice you gave, if that's what you call it, seems to be a deleterious attempt to undermine democracy when it's needed most. What sort of advice encourages a person to blatantly break the law by attacking the judge with Molotov cocktails and threats stating "Death to Pigs"? You emphasize that the judge is in the wrong by allegedly "picking on healthy men who don't make good on measly child support payments." Obviously you, Ms. Hippie, have never had to struggle to make ends meet on a limited income. When "Supportive Sweetie's"

boyfriend entered into this marriage, he knew his responsibility and that it did not end with the divorce. You, as a so-called giver of advice, should encourage him to pay this child support as part of his continuing duty to the family institution. But no, instead you hope to instigate and incite a nihilistic movement. What point is to be made from this?

Finally, your P.S. addressed to the ex-wife, what do you mean by stating that she shouldn't get so hung up on materialistic items? Perhaps you should come out of that utopia which surrounds you and see just what the real world is composed of. Perhaps you have forgotten what necessities are, such as food, clothing and shelter. How do you suppose these items are obtained? By entering some utopian state of nirvana? Sorry, it doesn't work that way in our society, for it takes money to acquire these necessities in life.

In closing, I would seriously suggest you withdraw your column from the Post Amerikan before your debilitating advice further contributes to the paper's demise. It is apparent you have good advice to offer anyone, except Hitler youths, Nazi war criminals and fascists. While all of us await your resignation, why don't you do something spiritually transient, to prove the commitment you hold? Some examples are publicly setting yourself on fire, swallowing a Molotov cocktail, or how about just simple Hari Kari for the cause. Whatever the cause may be or however meaningless it may be. **JUST DO IT!!**

Signed,

Pissed Off

P.S. I expect to see this printed in the next issue, unless you are afraid of further contention and dissention.

Ms. Hippie replies:

We're very sorry if our extremely piggish response to "Supportive Sweetie" was taken as serious advice rather than satire.

## Well, somebody likes us!

Please keep the change [from this check for my subscription renewal] (such as it is), and give my love to Ferdurke and the Balrog.

MSA of Champaign

## Thanks

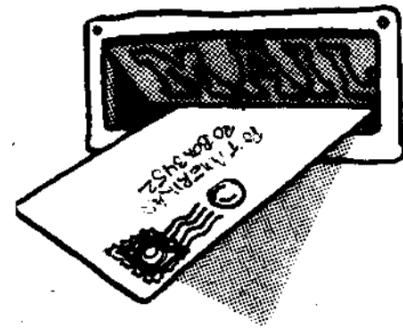
Dear Blanche, Stella and a Gentleman Caller,

With people like you, we may make it in downtown Bloomington (usually without much parking).

Thank you for the great write-up on Step Inn --you made us very proud. Do come back.

Sincerely,

Marge Racki



## Prisoner Loves Mail

Dear Friends,

I am a native of St. Louis with connections all over Missouri and Illinois. The news I get of "back home" is so scanty and irregular, and I'm so hungry for it!

I wish I could find the words to tell you how much it would mean to me to be able to read news of the Midwest. I wish I could convey to you how precious mail is to a prisoner.

I realize you probably operate on a tight budget; but could you possibly start a free subscription for me?

Thank you if you can. If you can't, thank you anyway. I understand how it is.

Sincerely,

Marta Helm  
04086-045  
FCI-Numen  
3301 Leestown Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40511-8799

## Clever Caller

One of our readers called in to tell us about a Ronald Reagan television special that he had the misfortune of watching. Some clever PR person had the tremendous idea of letting a group of children sit down and have a cozy interview with the old man. (I hope the snot-nosed brats could make more sense out of his answers than I can.)

Well, a well-rehearsed, properly ethnic-balanced gaggle of gorgeously groomed youngsters was gathered, and they actually went through with this ridiculous television program. But as our caller pointed out, it was blatantly obvious that these were all "upper crust kids" with good capitalistic upper crust juvenile questions. Reagan's message was clear to our caller, who summed it up, "Poor people means nothin' to him."

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# Defends ROTC; Pissed at Hip

Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed the space-filler provided, for the complimentary issues. I will, from time to time, offer an item you may want to use.

By the way, the "Dear Ms. Hippie" section sucks. I'm 35 years old, and I was on the tail end of the hippie movement, heavy into the "freak" movement. What do a bunch of 22 year old kids know about, or how can they appreciate the humor that is attempted to be generated?

Anyway, I hope you can use my piece, and I hope you can afford to comp me issues in the future.

Love,

Hop

To: Major Drag  
From: Viet Nam Draft Evader Hop  
Re: Military Course Rammed Into ISU's Curriculum

Dear Major Drag:

I am very disturbed by your attitude. One should speak out in favor of true peace, democracy and freedom.

I've heard most of your arguments before. I've spoken the same words. I've participated in the R.O.T.C. off-campus demonstrations at UC Santa Barbara in '69 (a major occupation of administrative offices with National Guard presence). But, with age, wisdom will come.

Some condemn armed forces for moral reasons. I ask them and all who share those views: since when is it immoral to defend and promote liberty, justice, freedom, democracy and peace throughout the world? Since when is it immoral to combat murderous, brutal, repressive, oppressive, aggressive, expansionist, revolutionary, fascist communist regimes by aiding those who fight such tyranny and by defending our own country properly?

Major Drag, you wouldn't want to live in a communist country. And yet you condemn the very armed forces that have kept the U.S. from becoming a communist country. What kind of logic is that?

Perhaps you prefer diplomatic negotiations instead of armed force? First realize that the Soviets have broken every single one of the 66 treaties they've signed with other countries, and they've violated agreements with the U.S. alone 175 specific times since World War II.

Signing treaties with tyrants, dictators, communists and other murderous liars like Hitler, Brezhnev, Stalin, Gorbachev, Khrushchev, etc., is suicide. Trusting in treaties signed by double-crossing, power-hungry dictators is utterly, insanely absurd and seismically dangerous. The historical record is very clear in backing up this truth.

Major Drag, you say "I do not see the point in killing, when there are peaceful alternatives." If "peaceful alternatives" means treaties, then re-read the discussion above. Nuts, communists, and other fascist monsters like Quadaffi do not respond to anything but military force. According to Lenin himself, those of us in the West who believe that communists can be dealt with in a non-military manner are "useful idiots."

I am sick and tired of hearing "peace"-niks blasting President Reagan for bombing Libya in retaliation for Quadaffi's terrorist attacks on innocent people. I ask you: how else would we have stopped his killing and maiming of innocents? By going up to him and saying, "Look, Mr. Quadaffi, military and armed forces are immoral. Instead of giving you what you deserve, can we instead be friends? Pretty please stop the killing, okay?" Double nuts!

# THE GALLERY

111 E. BEAUFORT, NORMAL

## JUNE

1	WED.	Speedy Baker Project	JAZZ	9 PM
2	THU.	STEVE SIMMS	GUITAR AND VOCAL	9 PM
3	FRI.	MOJO STEW	ROCK	9 PM
4	SAT.	LOOSE CHANGE	ROCK-N-ROLL	9 PM
5	SUN.	LIFE SENTENCE/PLAGUE	HARDCORE	6 PM
9	THU.	ARMAGEDDON	HEAVY METAL	8 PM
10	FRI.	Last Gentlemen	POP AND ROCK	9 PM
11	SAT.	10-96	HARDCORE	4 PM
		BEAUTIFUL BURT & the CATCH CRICKET *		9 PM
		AZTEC NEIGHBORS	PROGRESSIVE ROCK	
15	WED.	Speedy Baker Project	JAZZ	9 PM
16	THU.	STAMP ACT	ROCK	9 PM
17	FRI.	SOMETHING BROTHERS		9 PM
18	SAT.	ZERO BALANCE	POP ROCK	9 PM
23	THU.	HIP POCKET	R & R	9 PM
24/25	FRI. + SAT.	DEADHEAD FESTIVAL	PERFUNCTORY THIS BAND	9 PM
28	TUES.	STATIC ATTIC	60'S BEST	9 PM
29	WED.	Speedy Baker Project	JAZZ	9 PM
30	THU.	ZERO BALANCE		9 PM



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Your  
Mama  
Do?

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Dropping an atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a last resort to end World War II. "Peace"-niks condemn the act as "immoral." I ask them: how else would we have stopped the war? We repeatedly demanded that the Japanese surrender or else, and they ignored our warnings.

Which is worse: putting a quick end to a war that claimed millions of lives by killing a hundred thousand, or letting them kill millions more innocent people while we sat around on our self-righteous, anti-military "peace"-nik butts and let them die without doing anything?

I oppose the use of military force if it can be avoided. But, since our world is imperfect and contains those who would use "peace"-nik naivete to gain world domination, it often cannot

be avoided. This is a truth the Buck Private Drags of the world sometimes fail to realize.

Keep R.O.T.C. on campus. Teach Military Science. I want my great-great-grandchildren to have the same right to dissent as I now enjoy. I want the colleges to offer courses that explain what the military is all about. I want a strong army, and I want the personnel to be well-educated and willing to serve.

The draft is gone. Let those who serve be able to make a clear, well-informed, intelligent choice to serve. How else can this be done except to teach "Military Science" in our schools?

Sincerely,

Robert "Hop" Cassity



# Presidential Candidates' Stands

Like the other Democrats, Jackson supports the federal lesbian and gay civil rights bill. But Jackson's campaign positions also include:

--A presidential executive order banning discrimination against gays in the government and the military.

--Establishment of a full-time liaison to the lesbian and gay community.

--Legislative action to repeal the effects of the infamous Hardwick v. Bowers case, which granted states the right to regulate private homosexual activity between consenting adults.

--Removal of immigration policies that discriminate against gays.

--Child custody rights for lesbians and gays.

--Granting to gay couples the same benefits employers grant to heterosexual couples.

--Further AIDS education efforts that include "discussion of explicit sexual practices and risk-reduction techniques."

These aren't just lines that Jackson is spouting to get the gay vote. A recent interview in The Advocate shows that there is substance behind these stands.

What does the typical candidate know about AIDS? Would the typical candidate shake hands with a PWA (person with AIDS)? Jackson, an invited keynote speaker to the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, recalls his experience there. "...I saw the people in front of me who had contracted AIDS, who were dying but reaching out to make a statement... Immediately after I spoke, [I went] down there, embraced them, and let them know that I really cared as a human being...."

No doubt that part of Jackson's strong concern about AIDS was formed by a personal experience. "...One of the young friends of my family, Keith Barrow, [the son of] Rev. Willie Barrow, who is the head of Operation PUSH now... was gay. Keith grew up with my children. Keith baby-sat for my children.... He was a friend of the family--and grew up singing [in] the choir I organized.

"Then Keith contracted AIDS, which really brought my family face-to-face with AIDS as a killer disease. We watched the disease eat him up. I know the hospital costs of AIDS. I know of the pain the family goes through... from shame to pain to cost.... And I watched his family go through the process."

When was the last time you heard a politician admit that he or she knew a lesbian woman or gay man, let alone have one as a family friend?

In the Advocate interview, Jackson also makes an interesting comparison between the civil rights struggles of blacks and gays. "Some liberals joined [the campaign for black civil rights], which was welcomed, but it was not initiated by them.... People who want their full rights [including gays and lesbians] must reach out for coalition and must have enough sensitivity in coalition to make sure [not only] that their interests are affirmed but that their interests converge with other people's interests.... When you reach out bigger than yourself, you get bigger than yourself."

Just like the black community could not simply rely on liberal friends to secure their rights, neither can the gay community. We, like the black community, must use the political process to the utmost in waging the war to secure our rights.

We should not simply form coalitions to trade votes. We must see the broader scope of our issues and realize that our struggle and others' are battling different symptoms of the same problem.

## The Republicans

I will never understand how gay and lesbian Republicans can reconcile their sexuality with their politics. The NGLTF survey reveals how concerned the Republicans are about our civil rights.

Of the six Republican candidates (in alphabetical order: Bush, Dole,

Bush continued, "I believe that education is primarily a local matter.... I don't want the federal government to mandate some insensitive educational program." I find it strange that it's okay for the federal government to educate the public about cancer, lung disease, heart disease, and birth defects, but it's not okay to have federally mandated AIDS education. This is just another example of the hypocrisy that arises when it's time to use a piece of the pie to help the disenfranchised. (Of course, after the Reagan administration, we really didn't need another example of hypocrisy.)

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DuPont, Haig, Kemp, and Robertson), only Vice-President Bush returned the NGLTF questionnaire, despite repeated requests from NGLTF to obtain the replies. Although his questionnaire was returned, Bush failed to reply to many questions, including all the civil rights questions.

So, forgive me if this article seems biased with regard to the time I spend on the Republicans relative to the Democrats. This simply reflects the fact that Republicans say and think little about lesbian and gay issues.

## Bush--typical insensitive Republican

With regard to AIDS, Bush generally supports the insanity of the Reagan administration. This is no surprise since that loyal puppy-dog continues to support all the Reagan crap and has yet to show that he has opinions of his own.

Bush supports AIDS testing for immigrants, prisoners, aliens, visitors to clinics treating drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases, and couples seeking marriage licenses.

There is no doubt that testing marriage license applicants is just plain stupid. Obviously the costs far outweigh the benefits, and the obvious has been proven true by the Illinois experience. (See Ferdydurke's article "State AIDS Law: Dumb, Dumb, Dumb" last issue.)

Bush has an equally stupid view on AIDS education. In a speech to the Third International Conference on AIDS, Bush stated, "The most important thing we can do is tell our people the facts about AIDS and what they can do to protect themselves... We've got to put into the hands of parents and students and people throughout America [sic] essential facts about AIDS in a thoughtful sensitive manner...." In other words, talk about the disease but don't mention any of those dirty homosexual practices that more states should outlaw.

As reported by Newsweek, Bush gave us some more of his insights about AIDS when asked why so many Americans use drugs: "Yeah, I think there's some social change going on... AIDS, for example, uh, is a, is a, uh, disease for, disease of poverty in a sense. It's where the hopelessness is. It's bigger than that of course..." Yeah, George, your message comes through loud and clear.

Bush declined to answer any of the NGLTF questionnaire's questions on civil rights. Avoiding any specific policies addressing the issues, he replied with the following general statement.

"Politics in America [sic] is a personal decision. There is no objectively 'right amount' of political activity for any individual or group. We live in an open and pluralistic democracy where everyone has the right to participate in the political process."

This is a strange civil rights policy. Apparently we have the right to vote and that's about it. If the majority wants to vote the minority into the closet, it's okay by George Bush. On the other hand, maybe it's not such a strange civil rights policy for someone contaminated by Reagan and Meese.

--The Balrog

#### Sources:

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, "Presidential Candidate Profiles on Lesbian/Gay and AIDS-Related Issues--1988."

Peter Freiberg, "Dukakis Undermines Insurance Legislation." The Advocate, Issue 479, August 18, 1987.

Mark Vandervelden, "Jesse: Putting Jackson into Perspective." The Advocate, Issue 498, May 10, 1988.

George Hackett and Ann McDaniel, "Trying to Be His Own Man." Newsweek, May 23, 1988.

# The Underground Barfly



## Pub II and Mugsy's



Your regular Barflies brought a couple of burger experts with us when we spent a recent Wednesday evening hopping from Mugsy's to Pub II. Both pubs boast a basic Amerikan menu (and a guys-being-guys crowd), with a few special effects.

Pub II in Normal (102 N. Linden) is clearly a sports bar dominated by three TVs showing sports and by local softball teams relaxing after a game. Mugsy's in Bloomington (1310 N. Main) might be characterized as kind of a townie hangout.

Mugsy's was our first stop. This location seems to have had bad luck for the last few incarnations of restaurant/bars in its place--we older folks remember it as Chimis, Schooner's, and even the old Burger King. However, as Mugsy's it appears to be doing all right; every time we've stopped in, there have been a decent number of customers.

Mugsy's has admirably transcended its Burger King beginnings. Sitting in the low light at the bar or in one of the booths, where daylight is filtered by venetian blinds, you might never know that the place is an island in a sea of parking lot. (By the way, there's plenty of parking.)

As for ambiance, there's not too much to speak of. Loud rock 'n' roll music makes this the type of bar to avoid if you're searching for a place where you can actually talk. True enough that some folks don't need to talk. Then this might be the place for you. However, if you sit in the back, sometimes the management will be glad to turn the speakers there down for you.

Mugsy's Cheesemuggers (your basic 1/4 pound cheeseburger--choice of swiss or amerikan) were decent, but failed to deliver us to the greasy gates of cheeseburger heaven. However, we have it on very good authority that George's cooking at lunchtime can make you hear a chorus of angels.

The menu offers a few variations on barfood fare: a pork chop sandwich, french dip, roast beef, chicken cordon bleu, and turkey; cheese covered french fries; and a raw veggie plate, in case you're having a fit of self-control. Sandwiches range from 1.95 to 4.50 and usually come with chips or fries.

Speaking of service, we've usually found the people at Mugsy's ready and willing to please. Our waitress on Wednesday night behaved as though we had a plane to catch, whisking a beer off the table before it was finished and handing us the total bill while we still might've ordered another.

The truly grilled flavor of burgers at both Mugsy's and Pub II won our burger eaters' hearts, but our burger test-driver says that Pub II wins out, due to a better bun and a less greasy taste. (Yes, here is a contradiction--Barflies who hardly ever get hamburgers love a drippy bit of grease.)

Pub II's menu is famous for its daily specials, which feature one of its delicious sandwiches at a discounted price, and for its delicious fried veggies at 2.19-2.29. The sandwiches here run from 1.39 for a burger to 2.39 for the yummy sodium-sub Pub Boy.

Perhaps because of the softball teams, the service at Pub II was slow. But it was friendly--we had no feeling that our booth was desperately demanded by more desirable clients.

The jukebox features a CD option with classics from the Beatles, Doors, Stones, and Cougar. The clamor of the sports fans, however, drowns out the vibes.

Oh, yeah! We're supposed to be barflies, not just atmosphere testers, aren't we? Well, both joints have your usual real and light draft beers. Mugsy's has Beck's or Heineken at 1.60; Pub II offers 12 kinds of imported beers. Foster's and Grolsch are 2.25, and other imports are 1.75.

Our advice overall is this: When going to Mugsy's or Pub II, bring along your own charming companions, as we did, and you'll have a wonderful time. The food, beer, service, and atmosphere will support your rapport.

--Blanche, Stella, and two (!) gentlemen callers



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## look again.

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